WTSD Summer Academic Classes

Washington Township School District will once again be holding Summer Academic Classes this summer. Classes will be held at the Port Colden School and will run from July 9th – July 27th. All classes run Monday through Friday from 8:45am - 11:45am. If your child is participating in the Washington Township Summer Recreation Program, he/she will be called from the program to attend the coordinating SAC class. At the conclusion of the SAC class(es), students will be returned to the Township Recreation Program. If your child is only attending the SAC program, please make sure to drop off and pick up your child at the designated times at the front entrance of the building. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Neuhs at the Port Colden School.

Dive into a Good Book!

The Washington Township School District is diving right into summer with a new summer reading program! The “Dive into a Good Book” program is designed to encourage all students to read over the summer. Information about the program was sent home with all students on May 31st. Please review the program information with your child and return the reading contract to school as soon as possible. All students returning their reading contract before the end of school will receive a special bookmark.

How do you spell “appreciate”? The faculty and staff at Washington Township School District spell it:

We Truly Appreciate All you do!

Thank you for all the enriching assemblies that you bring into our schools; the activities that you support, such as Family Fun Art Night, student dances, Field Day; the Angel Network; class parties; and a HUGE thank you for being so thoughtful during Teacher Appreciation Week!

Port Colden School
Brass Castle School

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Hear Ye...Hear Ye... I Do Declare Thee an Honoree Day!

Each year we celebrate our retiring staff members and teachers with a day named in their honor. Washington Township issues a proclamation declaring it the respective person’s “day”.

This year we celebrate:

Mrs. Fiore: Mon., June 4th
Mrs. Johnson: Tues., June 5th
Mrs. Tillson: Thurs., June 7th
Battle of the Books 2012

The 2012 Battle of the Books was a huge event right here at Brass Castle School on Thursday, May 24th! Many teams from around the county converged at 16 Castle Street for the opportunity to face off in the classroom with their county peers. Our students had to read ten required books to be able to bring their best knowledge to the table. Congratulations to Samantha Dugan, Simon Ribeiro, Phoenix Dougherty and Emma Kaiven and for their commitment and perseverance throughout the year on this adventurous journey!

Congratulations to the Third Grade Battle of the Books Team: Eddie Kaiven, Mackenzie Mueller, Colin Volckmann, Ashley Moskal, Julia Fox and Michael Finke. They battled through a lightening round to qualify for a position in the finals of the competition on Thursday, May 24, 2012.

They completed the competition with a Fourth Place Medal. Way to go Third Grade!

From Caterpillar to Butterfly

The preschool students in Miss Nancy’s class have been very busy learning about insects and the changes they go through during their life cycle. They learned that all insects have three body parts, six legs and two antennae. They created insects using play-doh, viewed insects under microscopes, looked at different insects using View Finders, made and flew butterfly kites and even created their own snack of Butterfly Toast! They created a page for their writing journal by illustrating the four stages of a ladybug’s life cycle (egg, larvae, pupa, and lady bug). Did you know there are many different types of ladybugs...about 150 species to be exact!

We read many stories about insects including Butterfly Express. The preschoolers had hands on experience of making clothespin caterpillars, spinning chrysalis and placing their caterpillars safely inside. They waited patiently and one day found a wonderful surprise! Out of the cocoons came beautiful butterflies!
Bugs, Bugs, Bugs!

The first grade classes have been busy learning about insects. They have studied darkling beetles, ladybugs, butterflies, crickets, and milkweed bugs. It has truly been a “hands on” unit. The insects were raised and cared for by the students of Port Colden School. In addition, the students created some cute “buggy” projects which were displayed in the classrooms. The culminating activity was “Bug Day.” It was held on Tuesday, May 22nd. Each classroom hosted an insect science fair. Then, the students sang insect songs in the gym lead by Mrs. Dahmer and the first grade teachers. Finally, the unit concluded with a butterfly ascension. This was quite a memorable experience for the Port Colden first graders!

Memorial Day

On Monday, May 21st, fifth grade students in Mrs. Peterson/Mrs. Pare’s class performed the play “Remember Not to Forget” for Brass Castle students, their parents, and local veterans. The play described many of the traditions and customs associated with Memorial Day, as well as explained how Memorial Day began. Red poppies, luminaries, and a moment of silence observed at 3:00 every Memorial Day are just a few of the things that the fifth grade students learned about as they prepared for their performance. At the conclusion of the afternoon show, local veterans accompanied the students and their parents back to the classroom for refreshments. The veterans shared some of their military stories with the students, and answered questions about life in the armed forces. The play was a fun way for students to celebrate this important holiday.

Port Colden celebrated Memorial Day on Thursday, May 24th with a special program to remind students about the importance and significance of the Memorial Day holiday. The special program included a flag raising ceremony led by local veterans, patriotic songs, and poetry readings by the Port Colden Writing Club. The program concluded with the veterans visiting classrooms and meeting with students about their experiences in the military.

Multi-Genre Projects

Mrs. Motzenbecker’s and Mrs. Casserly’s 6th grade Reading/Language Arts classes are in the midst of a research project, a research project of a different color!

Each student picks a topic that is interesting to them. Some topics this year include Pandas, Penguins, Cape Cod, Broadway Musicals, Chocolate, Lacrosse, Vietnam, The Milky Way Galaxy, The Marines and many others. After the students are taught researching skills, they delve into their subject, spending a couple of weeks finding out all they can about it. They keep meticulous notecards, then write an outline of all the information they have accumulated. Now the best part - presenting their information. Instead of the traditional research report, each student picks 5 different genre pieces to present their information. Some of the choices are ABC books, short stories, poems, songs, jeopardy games, interviews, journals, myths, comic strips. We even have a few video animations! In this project the students can use their creativity while learning and practicing the research process.
Robotics

Putting together Legos has never been such fun! Sixth grade students constructed various forms of robots and accepted the challenge to enter their creation into a ring for a “Sumo - wrestling match!” Programming was necessary to meet the requirements of this task; the robot had to follow steps that the students programmed into it for the performance. Lots of fun, adjustments, and problem solving was involved in the endeavor by Matt Bayne, Eric Lawson, Samantha Monico, Jenna Smith, and Winners of the Day: Amanda Fitz and Maria Martucci!

Boy's Running Club 2012

We would like to say how proud we are of all of the boys who were in the running club this year. The boys showed tremendous dedication at each practice and were eager to run and exercise. The following students attended the 5K known as the Stillwater Stampede on May 20th and are pictured below: from left to right: Owen Healey, Taras McBrair, Xavier Davey, Nicholas Paruta, Joseph Basile, James Fox. We would also like to acknowledge Mr. Hornyak and Mr. Jinks, pictured in the background, who ran with the boys in the 5K Stillwater Stampede.

Dear Mom, I love you...

Mrs. Melhem’s third grade class had a Mother's Day get together. It was a beautiful fun-filled day. Students wrote letters in class and read them to their moms on their special day. Moms were told to write letters to their children too. The exchange of words that filled the air with never ending love and the fulfillment of future of hopes and dreams to come was tearful, heartfelt and promising.

After readings, hugs, smiles and tears... there was a celebration with cake and coffee. Then it was off to the gym for some more fun. Moms were invited to participate in gym class with Mr. Borusovic leading the students in a volleyball match. With music playing and a beach ball bouncing, this surely ended a truly fun and special Mother’s Day get together.
We’ve Got School Spirit!

Where did this year go? The PTA’s last School Spirit Day of 2012 on May 22 was a Patriotic theme. Mrs. Melhem’s third grade class was proud to wear their red, white and blue with Memorial Day just past, and Flag Day around the corner. They won first place and earned the school’s spirit stick for Port Colden!

Thank you PTA for making these special themed school days so much fun. See you next year!
The BC Girls Running Club participated in the Girls on the Run 5K in Flemington, NJ on Thursday, May 31st. The following students participated: Row 1: Mary Studlack, Sophia Page, Rosemarie Caffiero, Grace Kohansby, Daria Wimmer. Row 2: Maria Martucci, Rebecca Sigman, Sydney Moskal, Katelyn McLaren, Carly Berezny, Madison Fluck, Alexandria Szucs, Marisa Felici, Mrs. Melhem. Row 3: Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Pare, Mrs. Casserly, Mikayla Dugan, Sarah Emerich, Sylvie Errickson, Brittany Smith.

Missing from photo: Brianna Tiger and Jessica Smith.

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Project WET: Make a Splash Water Festival
Washington Township School District
September 2012

We are pleased to announce that the Washington Township School District has again become the recipient of a New Jersey Water Education grant entitled Project WET Make a Splash. This is our district’s 5th time hosting a water festival and one of only a few schools in the state to receive funding. The Water Festival will celebrate the wonders of our water resources. The Water Festival will consist of structured learning stations where students in Grades K-6 will be actively engaged in hands-on water lessons and investigations throughout the day.

In addition to our learning stations, we will have presentations from the Clean Communities Presenters - Dave Street, Merrill Creek Reservoir, Warren County Mosquito Commission, the Warren County Board of Health, and the Musconetcong Watershed Association. The students will be engaged throughout the day with presentations, water experiments, a scavenger hunt, and more.

The Water Festival will be held on:
* September 20 (Grades K, 4-6) from 9:30-3:00 (Meadow Breeze Pavilion)
* September 24 (Grades 1-3) from 9:30-3:00 (Port Colden School)

If you are interested in assisting with an activity, helping a teacher with a group of students, or one of the many other tasks for this day, please email Kim Sigman at ksigman@washtwpsd.org
Earth Day Every Day!

Miss Nancy's preschool students prepare to clean up the school grounds on a beautiful day in May to show that Earth Day should be celebrated every day!

Pictured at left: Jeffrey Skwirut, Matthew Civak, Isaiah Ayers, Logan Cole and Trevor Gruber

Pictured at right: Jeffrey Skwirut and Isaiah Ayers

Counselor's Corner

Ah – summer! Though I truly enjoy the gifts of each season, I look forward to summer each year with the same enthusiasm and optimism of childhood. Yet as a parent I see the long, hot days stretching slowing into weeks and months before school begins again. It is helpful to provide your child with some structure in the summer. Determining how much structure is needed really depends on your family. If your children tend to act out and get into trouble if left to entertain themselves, then a summer plan is definitely a good idea. However, even the most easy going child will benefit from summer structure.

Ideally, a mix of both planned activities and down time works best and establishing wake up times during the week (9am for example) keeps children in a predictable routine. Positive routines can help parents manage children's expectations and power struggles can be avoided. When planning for the summer, take into account your child's interests, hobbies and wishes. This is a great opportunity for personal growth and family bonding. The intention is not to be inflexible or strict, but to help children learn to manage their time most effectively during the summer months while enjoying themselves. This will be a positive skill that will help your child transition smoothly back to school in fall.

I wish each of you a very happy, safe and FUN summer! Enjoy this time with your children and take the time to appreciate their uniqueness! Thank you for entrusting me with your children each day and I look forward to seeing you all again in the Fall!
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Saturday</th>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Actions, looks, words and steps form the alphabet by which you may spell character.&quot; Johann Kasper Lavater</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 Do something positive when no one is looking.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4 Your attitude is your choice, you control it - make it positive</td>
<td>5 Thank your teacher for something he/she taught you this year.</td>
<td>6 Start your day off with a smile.</td>
<td>7 Keep a patient attitude with yourself and others</td>
<td>8 When you have done your best - be happy with the success you have accomplished.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11 Make a positive difference in someone's life today.</td>
<td>12 Believe in yourself - you are great!</td>
<td>13 Be kind, make good choices and show positive character.</td>
<td>14 A positive attitude focuses on the good things ahead - Enjoy the summer!</td>
<td>'What happened yesterday is history. What happens tomorrow is a mystery. What we do today makes a difference.' Be a positive person this summer...</td>
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