



Washington Township Schools

"Making a Difference"

NJASK Testing

The Spring 2014 New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge will be administered to our students in grades 3—6 during the week of May 12th.

All grade levels have two days of Language Arts Literacy testing followed by two days of Mathematics testing. Only 4th grade will be tested in science on day five.

Attendance on these days is very important! Please try to reschedule any appointments that are not critical so that your child will be in school. *In addition it is vital that your child arrive to school on time. They will not be permitted to enter the classroom once the test has begun.*

Port Colden School
Brass Castle School

Volume 6, Issue 9

May 2014



Reminder for All Parents from the School Nurses

When you take your child to the Doctor or Emergency Room for immunizations, physicals, stitches, broken bones, surgery, etc., *please provide documentation for the School Nurse.* This should indicate date and name of immunization(s), diagnosis of injury, illness, and gym status as necessary. Gym/Physical activity restriction notes should indicate participation level (if any) and date student may return to all activities without restrictions. This ensures maintenance of your child's optimal health during school and keeps health records current.

Now that we are experiencing warmer weather, please remember to apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school. Children may not carry sunscreen on their person to school, and it cannot be applied by staff members at school.

In preparation for next school year, if your child will require medications for the 2014/2015 school year, visit the district's Health Office webpage and download the appropriate forms to be completed by your child's physician. Links are provided on the left hand side of the webpage for the appropriate forms (ie, asthma, food/insect allergy, diabetes management, seizure management, and all other medications, including over the counter medications). The Health Office website can be found at the following address: <https://sites.google.com/a/washtwpsd.org/wtsd-health-offices/home>

Any questions, please contact your child's School Nurse:

Port Colden: Janine Barzdines, RN, 689-0681, ext 507

Brass Castle: Ashley Colnett, RN, 689-1188, ext 607

Save the Date—Grade 6 Farewell Ceremony

The Sixth Grade Farewell Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, June 19th at 7pm, in the Warren Hills High School auditorium. Presentation of the class, individual awards and promotion certificates will take place at this time.

The Sixth Grade Farewell Dance will be held in the Brass Castle School all-purpose room immediately following the Farewell Ceremony. The theme for the dance this year is the "Summer Olympics." This part of the evening is for the students only. The PTA and school staff will chaperone the dance.

Boys Running Club Runs 5K at Metlife Stadium

Congratulations to our boys for doing such an excellent job at our 5K. It was great to run the 3.1 mile race and get to finish on the 50 yd line of Giants and Jets stadium. Students also were able to play catch on the football field and some even had the chance to kick a field goal before the race.

Runners pictured below from left to right:



Third Row: Mr. Hornyak;

Second Row: Tyler Ostrander, Nathan Taras, Kein Dimaculangan, Wyatt Gruber, Zachary Read, Ryan Monahan, Damien DeMarco, Brendan Daly, Eddie Conklin, Brooks Reehl

Front Row: Dmytri Kicak, Colin Volckmann, Jonathan Oliver, Eric Wian, Daniel Kuster, Josh Mornick, Connor Gruber, Patrick Caffiero.

Science Fair 2014

This year the Science Fair was a success! We had fifty sixth grade students and their families attend the open house on Tuesday, April 8th. That week the Science Fair judges narrowed the projects down to the top eight. I know it must have been a difficult job because there were 91 projects!

I would like to thank all of the sixth graders for participating, the staff members who worked independently with individuals on their projects, and all of the judges that gave up time away from work or other responsibilities to help evaluate the projects. Each sixth grader received a certificate for participation in the 2014 Science Fair.

After careful evaluation by the judges they narrowed the projects to the top eight. The students were recognized for First place, Second place, Third place, and five students were recognized for honorable mention. These students all received certificates and Science Fair medals.

Winning first place with his project about overclocking a computer was Jake Stria. Winning second place for her project about aquaponics was Samantha Dugan. Winning third place for his project about hydroponics was Daniel Pitsch. The five students recognized for honorable mention were; Alina Pringle, Alex Suero-Amparo, Brandon Donoghue, Nicole Tagliareni, and Simon Ribeiro.

Congratulations sixth graders on a job well done! You proved you mastered an understanding of the scientific method and displayed it in so many ways with your interesting and unique Science Fair Projects! Thank you for your hard work. ~Mrs. Penner



Left to right: Daniel Pitsch, Alex Suero-Amparo, Simon Ribeiro, Samantha Dugan, Jake Stria, Mrs. Penner, Brandon Donoghue, Alina Pringle and Nicole Tagliareni.

Puppetry at Brass Castle

By Bridget Asbury, PTA Chair - Cultural Arts Committee

On April 8th, the PTA Cultural Arts Committee presented "Fun On A String" puppeteer, Miss Penny Rapicano, to the Brass Castle students in preschool, pre-K, and kindergarten. She introduced students to several kinds of puppets, including hand, rod, and marionettes. Our students delighted in each character's personality and appearance, as Miss Penny's hand crafted puppets danced, talked, and interacted with them! They even got to experience a special glow in the dark session with a not-so-scary dancing ghost!

This performance was sponsored in part by the Warren County Cultural and Heritage Commission. For information about the PTA Cultural Arts Committee, please contact Bridget at Bridgetasbury@gmail.com.



School Resource
Officer Jon
Loprete, puppet
friend and
Bailey Asbury



Puppeteer Miss
Penny directs
the students.

2014 Battle of the Books

Fifth and sixth grade Battle of the Books took place on April 2nd and our eager readers had a good time. The competition has teams answer questions about ten different books from an event's list. Students traveled to Great Meadows School and faced off against twenty other schools from Warren and Sussex County. Kudos to: Alexis Amey, Phoenix Dougherty, Ryan Elbassiouny, Michael Finke, Eddie Kaiven, Emily Kovascy, Emily Leidner and Isaiah Trainor.

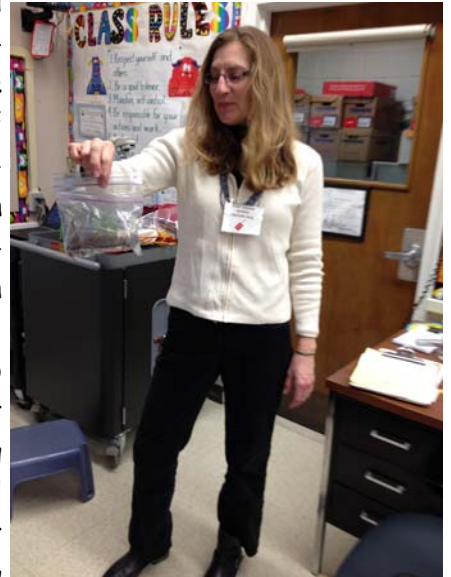
3rd Grade Presentations

Miss Price's third grade class is busy working on PowerPoint presentations in computer class. They started off doing research on an animal of their choice. They are now working on creating 6 slides including their research facts. The students were allowed to choose a design as well as add transitions and illustrations on each slide. Everyone is having fun creating their own presentation and can't wait to share their creations with the class!

Under Your Skin

Mrs. Melhem's class just finished their health chapter entitled Personal Health. The chapter focused on personal care, dental hygiene, caring for your eyes, ears and skin. Spring is the season where we are finally able to spend quality time in the outdoors. Because of this additional time in the sun, we must have extra skin-care protection. What better mystery guest could our class have this month than Tess Errickson's mother, Dr. Carla Errickson, Dermatologist. Dr. Errickson discussed many topics related to skin care. Her presentation generated many questions from the students about poison ivy.

Dr. Errickson demonstrated to our students what happens to our skin on the cellular level to cause a poison ivy rash. One student was chosen to be "Hans", the Langerhans cell. Hans' job was to bring the poison ivy molecule to the nearest lymph node and find the T-cell that reacts to that molecule. To help the students understand what happens in the lymph node, several students stood in a group holding different items. Hans was then blindfolded and given the challenge of matching those items by the sense of feel. Once the match was found the cell was then activated and copies of itself were made. The copy, represented by a student, was the activated T-cell (paper plates with smiley faces on them). Hans and the copies then traveled to the skin and "attacked" the poison ivy oil.



1st Grade Poetry Club



The Port Colden Poetry Club had the great honor of attending a poetry class at Warren County Community College on April 8th. The class was taught by Professor B.J. Ward, a former Washington Township student and father of one of the poetry club members. The college students were asked to write kid-friendly poems that they shared with our first graders. The children loved the poems and understood all of them. The first graders impressed the class with their knowledge of personification, similes, haikus and acrostic poetry. Our students will be reciprocating as they write their own poems to send to Professor Ward's class. Thank you, Professor Ward, and students for making this a great experience!

Mrs. Cooper and Mrs. Dugdale

Is There a Super Hero in Your Neighborhood?

Writing in Mrs. Melhem's class is always fun. This week her third graders wrote to this writing prompt: "Imagine you are given the power of a superhero! Write an essay describing your super ability. What would be your superhero name? What would your super ability be and how could it be used to help the people in the community."



After Mrs. Melhem, dressed up as the Gluten Gladiator's sister "Cooking Queen", modeled how she would answer the prompt. She wrote that her character would help all

the people of the community who had celiac disease by creating gluten-free drive-thru restaurants. Cooking Queen could also wave her magic wand so all food would be gluten free. It would be packaged in bright green as to stand out so that people who had celiac disease did not have to read labels.

Students were then so excited to write, dress up and present! The laughter could be heard down the hall as the heroes read about their abilities to help their community. Here are some of the heroes they created and their super powers:

- The Homeless Saver: helps the homeless and gives them food, blankets and a place to sleep;
- The Flying Fishy: a lifeguard that can fly and breathe underwater;
- Dare Devil: stops people from getting nightmares;
- The Bully Basher: stops bullies in the act;
- The Pollution Punisher, Protector of the Planet: gives ideas how to keep the air, land and water clean;
- The Song Bird: sings to cheer people up;
- The Costume Customizer: gives people who don't have money costumes to get ready for birthdays or Halloween; and
- The Peace Maker: the hero of goodness and believer of peace; and
- The Hairy Helper: gives people hair who are bald or are sick and losing their hair.

Sixth Grade Rocks...and Bowls

On April 8th, several sixth grade students participated in the annual "Rock 'N Bowl" fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters. The event was held at Oakwood Lanes, and students were able to have fun with unlimited bowling for an hour. They also were given a T-shirt, free snack and prizes in return for their efforts to raise money for BBBS. This organization serves children throughout our community and sponsors a lunch time mentoring program at our school. We are already looking forward to next year's event!

National School Nurse Day 2014

The School Nurse: Caring for Others & Caring for Ourselves

National School Nurse Day, May 7th, is a time to celebrate the specialty practice of school nursing. National Association of School Nurses (NASN) applauds the contributions school nurses make every day to improve the safety, health, and academic success of all students.

The theme this year, "The School Nurse: Caring for Others ~ Caring for Ourselves" is reflective of the significant roles school nurses have in the healthcare in their school communities, as well as in modeling health and resiliency. That healthy children learn better is a simple truth, and school nurses work to remove barriers to learning.

"School nurses focus on prevention and wellbeing for students and families through education regarding healthy lifestyle choices and management of chronic diseases. Chronic conditions such as asthma, allergy and obesity require a plan of care that school nurses create and implement through communication with parents and healthcare providers," said NASN President Carolyn Duff, MS, RN, NCSN. "Quality school health services demand school nursing skills and practices based on the strongest scientific evidence, and updating knowledge is continually necessary for the health and safety of students. School nurses are healthcare connectors who keep students in classrooms ready to learn."

From: National Association of School Nurses, Silver Spring, MD, 2014

Counselor's Corner



I am writing this on a beautiful late afternoon enjoying the warm sunbeam filtering in through the window. The house is quiet- a rarity- because my younger children are spending some time with their Grammy. In the chaos of any given day, I search for a moment of 'peace.' Time not spent in the car driving somewhere, time not spent on my ever ringing cell phone, time not spent doing chores, helping with homework, signing permission slips, helping my in-laws, feeding the cat, what's for dinner?... ok you get the idea. So, today, I had *that* moment... several of them in fact. Only thing is I find myself missing the noise and constant motion. I think that too soon my youngest will be on her own and 'moments of peace' will be plentiful. I am thankful for the quiet gift today but am reminded that our children grow up and life evolves.

I'm writing this because heading into the next two months there will be a lot going on with our children—standardized testing in May, class trips, perhaps a teacher conference, final report cards, field day, planning for summer activities, end of year celebrations, the end-of-year dance (always a spectacular event) and the graduation of our wonderful 6th graders, all amazing moments, milestones and wonderful memories in the making. So for me, I am going to embrace the joyful chaos of our lives for a while...

Counselor's Corner (Continued)

Washington Township School District will be administering New Jersey ASK tests from May 12th—16th for grades 3 - 6. It is important to understand that even students who are very well prepared academically may experience pre-test anxiety. Encourage your child to relax and look at the test as a chance to show what they have learned (and not to focus on what they don't know.) I have found that nervous feelings go away once the actual testing begins; often it is the anticipation and build up that is the hardest part. If you know that your child is prone to test anxiety, please call me ahead of time and I'll be happy to work with him/her to ease their mind - and yours!

A few pre-test tips include:

- Keep your child's routine very similar to 'normal' because consistency is important;
- Don't make any major changes during test week. Though well intentioned a 'special' breakfast is not the way to go during test week. Stick with what works - a mix of carbs and protein is ideal (toast, eggs, low sugar cereal) - throw some fruit in the mix and your child is good to go;
- It is worth repeating - do not hesitate to contact me or your child's teacher if you feel your child would benefit from extra support during testing; and
- Take every opportunity to build your child's self esteem - when they feel good about themselves they will be more positive in general.

"The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure."

I am happy to embrace the chaos and joyful noise of the spring season with you. As always, I am available for questions, concerns or conversation at dtierney@washtwpsd.org or 908-689-1188 ext 611, 908-689-0681.

Happy Spring!

May 2014 — Perseverance

Sunday	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Saturday
				1 The word 'quit' should never be in your vocabulary	2 <i>"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary"</i>	3
4	5 Do something new without help today	6 Challenge yourself in class today	7 Make a choice to do your best even if it takes a bit longer	8 Say, "Yes I can!" even when the work is hard	9 <i>"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."</i> Take one day at a time next week during testing	10
11	12 NJ ASK Testing this week - take one question at a time and relax - YOU GOT THIS!	13 It takes climbing one step at a time to reach the top - stay focused and work hard	14 <i>"Working hard is important, but there is something that matters even more - believing in yourself"</i> H. Potter	15 <i>"I may not be there yet, but I'm closer than I was yesterday."</i> Great job on your testing!	16 Did you know that Thomas Edison failed 10,000 times before he made the electric light - never give up!	17
18	19 Support your friends by listening to their ideas	20 Take your time and work neatly	21 Be happy with a small accomplishment today	22 Early Dismissal	23 School Closed	24
25	26 Memorial Day - School Closed	27 Anything is possible through hard work and a positive attitude	28 Be a team player, work hard and help others to be their best selves too	29 Decide to improve on one thing today (your attitude, your homework, your handwriting?)	30 What do you do really well? What can you work on? Keep working hard on both	31

"Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you haven't planted." D. Bly

Washington Township School District

2014/2015 Calendar

Revised 2-6-14

			Student Days	Student Cumulative Days	Staff Days	Staff Cumulative Days
September			19	19	21	21
Sept. 1	Mon	No School - Labor Day				
Sept. 2/3	Tues/Wed	No School Teacher In-Service				
Sept. 4	Thurs	Opening Day - Students				
Sept. 9	Tues	Brass Castle School: Back to School Night				
Sept. 10	Wed	Port Colden School: Back to School Night				
Sept. 16	Tues	Gr. 6 Back to School Night				
October			22	41	23	44
Oct. 10	Fri	Early Dismissal - No Lunch				
Oct. 13	Mon	No School - Columbus Day - Tchr In-Service				
November			16	57	16	60
Nov. 3/5	Mon-Wed	Early Dismissal-(No lunch) Parent Conferences				
Nov. 6/7	Thurs/Fri	No School - NJEA Convention				
Nov. 19	Wed	Reports Cards Distributed				
Nov. 26	Wed	Early Dismissal-(No lunch/Aftercare)				
Nov. 27/28	Thu/Fri	No School - Thanksgiving				
December			17	74	17	77
Dec. 23	Tues	Early Dismissal-(No lunch/Aftercare)				
Dec. 24/31	Wed/Wed	Winter Recess				
January			19	93	19	96
Jan. 1/2	Thurs/Fri	No School - New Year's Day				
Jan. 5	Mon	School reopens				
Jan. 16	Fri	Early Dismissal-(No lunch) Tchr In-Service				
Jan. 19	Mon	No School - Martin Luther King Observance				
February			18	111	18	114
Feb. 5	Thurs	Report Cards Distributed				
Feb. 12	Thurs	Early Dismissal-(No lunch) Tchr In-Service				
Feb. 13/16	Fri/Mon	No School - Presidents' Holiday				
March			22	133	22	136
Mar. 20	Fri	Early Dismissal-(No lunch) Tchr In-Service				
April			16	149	16	152
Apr. 2	Thurs	Early Dismissal-(No lunch/Aftercare)				
Apr. 3/10	Fri/Fri	No School - Spring Break				
Apr. 13	Mon	School Reopens				
Apr. 21	Tues	Report Cards Distributed				
Apr. 23	Thurs	Early Dismissal-(No lunch) Tchr In-Service				
May			19	168	20	172
May 21	Thurs	Early Dismissal-(No lunch) Tchr In-Service				
May 22	Fri	No School - Tchr In-Service				
May 25	Mon	No School - Memorial Day				
June			17	185	17	189
June 22	Mon	Early Dismissal-(No lunch) Tchr In-Service				
June 23	Tues	Final Student Day - Early Dismissal-(No lunch/Aftercare) - Report Cards Distributed				
Total Student Days			185			
Total Teacher Days				189		
			BOE Approved - March 10, 2014			

There are five (5) emergency days in this calendar. If necessary, the Washington Township School District Board of Education reserves the right to alter this calendar at its discretion, as per Title 18A:36-2, to meet New Jersey attendance standards and employee contracts. In the event the district has used the majority of scheduled emergency closing days, the following days may be added back to the calendar as student/school days: Feb. 13th, April 10th, April 9th, April 8th, April 7th and May 22nd. In the event that the district does not use all/some of the scheduled emergency closing days, days will be removed from the calendar beginning with Wednesday, June 24th and working backwards.

Washington Township School District

April 2014

2014-2015 Budget Message

The school budget reflects our educational program in dollars. It is the basis for every phase of the district's operation - personnel, curriculum, buildings, instructional materials, equipment, transportation, after-school activities, etc. We face the same challenges that school districts across the state face — a 2% cap, enrollment changes, increases in health insurance premiums, utilities, textbooks and supplies, unfunded state mandates, and facilities maintenance.

The budget was carefully scrutinized for efficiency and effectiveness. All expenditures, existing and new, were carefully considered and any possible savings were explored. Once the budget is approved by the county, on behalf of the state, and adopted by the Board of Education, the total amount budgeted for the year is set. However, since budget development begins months before it is implemented, there is some flexibility to permit line-item transfers during the year to meet changing circumstances and needs.

The 2014-2015 budget provides funding to address the district's challenges and meet our goals. As the budget is developed we look toward the future to safeguard our ability to consistently, responsibly and sustainably serve our students and community.

The primary sources of funding for our school budget are local tax (65.7%), state aid (30.2%), federal aid (2.7%). The remaining money (1.4%) comes from extraordinary aid, shared services and interest.

Through careful planning and budgeting, the district has been able to fund many improvements to our buildings without going to the voters for additional funds. In 2014-2015 we will be withdrawing \$205,500 from our capital reserve account to fund a roofing project at Brass Castle School. The district remains debt-free with no outstanding bonds supported by taxes.

The district is receiving an additional \$9,900 in state aid this year. While it is helpful and appreciated to have an increase, we need to note that this year's state aid of \$2,633,725 is \$318,102 less than the amount received in 2008-2009.

The tax levy required to fund the 2014-2015 budget is within the state's 2% tax cap regulations and guidelines. The overall increase to the tax levy will be \$182,755.

With the current total assessed value of properties in Washington Township, the 2014-2015 budget will raise the tax levy by 2.7¢ per \$100 assessed value or about \$68 a year on the average Washington Township home.

Washington Township Board of Education

Karen Graf—President, Anita Smith—Vice President

Sally Christine, Shelia Dempski, Jason Ford, Jude Mohan, John Trush

**The 2014-2015 budget maintains all existing programming and supports the district's goals.
What is new in the 2014-2015 budget?**

- ✓ Expand Kindergarten to a full-day program.
- ✓ Building Security – provide a full-time school security officer (SRO) - (was not in 2013-14 budget).
- ✓ Reading Series – partial implementation of new reading series in grades K—2.
- ✓ PARCC – technology upgrades needed for implementation of New Jersey Department of Education's new assessment tool – (Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers).
- ✓ Contractual salary increases and projected 9% increase to medical insurance premiums.

Tax Rates — What does 1¢ Mean?

Tax rates are based on the total assessed value of the municipality. In 2014, for Washington Township, this value is \$680,267,141. This means for the 2014-2015 budget, each 1¢ on the tax rate equals \$68,026.71

Enrollment is declining — Why are taxes increasing?

Enrollment has declined 22.6% since the 2000-2001 school year. The cumulative inflation rate for the same period of time is 32.6%. Although per pupil state aid has increased, it has not kept up with inflation. For the 2014-2015 school year, we will receive \$4,762 per pupil in state aid. When we adjust for inflation, this is \$327 less per pupil than our 2000-2001 state aid.

Tax Rate History

	2003 2004	2004 2005	2005 2006	2006 2007	2007 2008	2008 2009	2009 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2014 2015
Change per \$100 assessed value		-1.8¢	0.2¢	3.8¢	2.5¢	-3.1¢	1.1¢	2.8¢	0.9¢	2.0¢	1.5¢	2.7¢

The overall change in the tax rate since the 2003-2004 school year is 12.5¢ per \$100.

Elementary School Tax as a Percent of Your Total Tax Bill

In addition to the tax levy for the elementary school, homeowners also pay taxes to support the Warren Hills Regional School District, Warren County, and the municipality. Between 1997 and 2013, the percent of your total tax that supports the elementary school has gone from 32.5% down to 25.1%

Budget Comparison

	2013-2014 (Actual)	2014-2015 (Budgeted)	Difference
Local Tax Levy	\$5,549,331	\$5,732,086	\$182,755
State Aid	\$2,623,825	\$2,633,725	\$9,900
Other Aid (includes Federal, interest & shared services)	\$391,090	\$361,901	-\$29,189
Total Revenues (Operating Budget)	\$8,564,246	\$8,727,712	\$163,466 1.90%

Washington Township School District

One East Front Street, Washington, NJ 07882 — (908) 689-1119 — www.washtwpsd.org
 Mr. Roger A. Jinks, Superintendent; Mrs. Jean Flynn, Business Administrator/Board Secretary;
 Mrs. Valerie Mattes, Brass Castle School Principal; Mr. Keith Neuhs, Port Colden School Principal