



# Washington Township Schools



## “Making a Difference”

### School Drinking Water Tested – Safe!

The Washington Township School District is always striving to ensure a safe school environment for our students. With this in mind the District contracted with RK Occupational & Environmental Analysis Inc. to test the schools' drinking water for lead and copper contamination. We are happy to report that the schools' water supply passed all State and Federal standards for drinking water. On March 23, 2016 sixteen water samples were taken from Brass Castle and Port Colden schools for testing of lead and copper. Sampling results showed that lead and copper levels were far below the recommended action levels required by the State. In addition, fourteen of the sixteen samples taken, had no detectable levels of lead.

The District will continue to monitor its drinking water to ensure that it is safe for students and staff!

### 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.

### Calendar Updates

Just a reminder that since we did not utilize all of our weather emergency days this year there are some changes to the end of the year calendar.

May 26, 27, and 30 – Schools will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday.

Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> will be an early dismissal for students.

Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> will be the last day of school for students and will be an early dismissal day.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Ceremony will be held on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at Warren Hills High School at 7:00pm.

Continue to check the District's on-line calendar for updated school events.

In preparation for next school year, if your child will require medications for the 2016/2017 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 1507

Brass Castle: Katie Wikander RN, 689-1188, ext 1607

## First Grade Reading Fair

The first grade students at Port Colden School participated in a reading fair in April organized by Ms. Graham and Mrs. Cooper. It was a part of a school-wide enrichment project that supported our reading curriculum. The students chose a book, read the book, and then created a presentation board highlighting the story elements. The students were so creative! The projects were displayed in the gym for all of their families to see. Thank you to all of the students, parents, and first grade teachers for your support!



## Port Colden Craft Club!

On April 19<sup>th</sup> the Port Colden Craft Club visited The Chelsea in Belvidere for an intergenerational afternoon. The students and residents had a great time making decorations for the rooms at The Chelsea. It was a fun filled afternoon and we hope to visit again!



## Counselor's Corner — May 2016

I've come to look forward to my 5:00 am text each morning from one (or both) of my college kids. Rowing practice starts bright and early and I guess they just like reminding me of how much they miss me J ... or something like that. Having the convenience of a quick text to my daughter, Caeley to see what time she needs to be picked up after practice is so convenient... but, do you remember the days when we could only reach family members by the 'land line' phone attached to a wall? I get worried now if I don't hear from my mom daily or multiple times a day... - and yes, I did actually call the police once when she didn't answer my texts and phone calls – she was not happy answering the door at midnight in her robe – um... her phone was off.

One of the greatest challenges with our technology is that it is ever-present in our lives. We are reachable 24/7. This also means that our children are reachable at all hours of the day and night, in their rooms, at their friends homes, on holidays and weekends – their social circles are no longer limited to school hours and 'playdates.' Inappropriate use of technology which may lead to *Cyberbullying*, was once predominantly a middle or high school problem. However, this is increasingly an issue with our younger, elementary school population. Texts, facebook, email, tweets, skype, instagram, snap chat etc. are how many of us socialize; we should not be surprised that our children are doing so as well.

As our children get older, their social lives get more complex and their access to technology and social media continues to expand. I would like to share some developmentally appropriate guidelines with you all as parents/guardians. It is our mutual responsibility to educate our children and encourage responsible, respectful, safe behavior that allows our children to benefit from technology while curbing online misuse or cruelty.

Please take a moment and review my personal reminders and helpful tips regarding 'healthy' use of technology:

*-First and foremost, elementary school age children should all have their electronic use monitored. See what they are posting, check their messages, limit usage. This is the time to teach proper use of technology. It is as important and basic as teaching a toddler proper table manners...*

*-Make sure that your child is comfortable with real-world social skills before they start interacting on line. There is a sense of 'make-believe' and a detachment from reality that exists with technology. That feeling of anonymity is the heart of inappropriate cyber use.*

*-Do not share passwords with friends. This is a life lesson – passwords are private (yes – they should share their passwords with parents.)*

*-'Chats' that are part of online games (such as Xbox Live) can get out of control fast; be wary of communication with anyone that your child does not know (I mean really know as a personal friend.)*

*-Reminder: all private information can be made public quickly and easily; digital footprints are real. Everything is searchable.*

*-There are definitive consequences, social, punitive, legal, for online discriminatory and/or harassing behavior.*



*-Innocent bystanders can become perpetrators if they pass on, forward or share inappropriate emails/texts/photos.*

*-Always let your child know who they can speak to when they are aware of inappropriate cyber use. Our students know that they can speak with me, and I encourage you to reach out if you are aware of a specific situation.*

It is a good time to remind our kids that the Golden Rule applies online - if they wouldn't say something to someone's face then they should not text it, post it, tweet it, or share it ... There are social challenges that we all face with expanding technology. Instructing our children in the proper use of social media/technology is as essential as reminding our youngest of basic manners like 'please and thank you.' It is our obligation to make technology a tool that our children use safely and responsibly.

As always you can reach me via email [dtierney@washtwpsd.org](mailto:dtierney@washtwpsd.org) or by phone 908-689-1188 ext 611. Look for an update on our Township initiative for Habitat for Humanity – grand total from Penny Wars coming soon (our amazing volunteers are still counting the pennies ;))

# MAY 2016 – Respect for Technology

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 	3 Please set your privacy settings on your devices to protect yourself	4 Sharing photos of yourself should be saved for your real friends	5 Gossiping and sharing rumors online is just like saying it in person... Be Kind, don't spread rumors	6 When doing your homework, turn off your phone and t.v. so you can focus better	7
8	9 Think of some activities that you can do this month without your phone, computer or t.v.	10 Make sure the messages you are sending on your phone are respectful	11 Cyber-bullying is serious and can even be considered a crime... always be kind online	12 When playing video games with others (like Xbox Live) don't share personal information	13 Be aware of who you are contacting on line – if you don't know them in person, they are a stranger	14
15	16 Let an adult know if you are uncomfortable with something you see online	17 Let your true character shine online – be kind, respectful and polite	18 When asked, do not share your user name or password information (except to share with your parents)	19 Instead of texting your friend this afternoon, call them on the phone ;)	20 Ask your friends and family to play an old fashioned game this weekend – how about Monopoly?	21
22	23 Remember: your text messages never go away – even when you delete them	24 Respect the privacy of others when you are on your phone or computer	25 When you are eating a meal with friends or family – put your phone away and enjoy each other!	26 Turn off your phone this weekend and play outside ;)	27 No School	28
29	30 No School  Happy Memorial Day! Celebrate someone who served our country today!	31 What activities did you discover this month when you left your video games, phone and t.v. behind?				

***"Turn off your email; turn off your phone; disconnect from the Internet; figure out a way to set limits so you can concentrate when you need to, and disengage when you need to. Technology is a good servant but a bad master." G Rubin***

# Washington Township School District

April 2016

## 2016-2017 Budget

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 dollar amount budgeted for the year is set.

With the current total assessed value of properties in Washington Township, the 2016-2017 budget will raise the tax levy by 1.5¢ per \$100 assessed value or about \$43 a year on the average Washington Township home.

### The proposed 2016-2017 budget

- ★ Provides an exceptional instructional program for students.
- ★ Provides students with safe and secure facilities
- ★ Provides students with educational technology.
- ★ Provides professional development for staff
- ★ Provides students with opportunities to explore their talents and interests, including co-curricular activities.
- ★ Provides an educational program that is fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of Washington Township.
- ★ Allows the District to remain debt-free with no outstanding bonds or interest payments.

### 2016 2017 Budget Revenues

Revenue Source	Amount	Notes
Local Tax Levy	\$5,960,118	Increase of \$116,865
Other Local Income	\$100,792	From Warren Hills for Transportation Services
State Aid	\$2,638,245	Increase of \$4,520 (Professional Learning Community Aid)
Capital Reserve	\$239,729	From the District's Capital Reserve Account
Fund Balance	\$922	From District's Unrestricted Fund Balance (this account cannot exceed \$250,000)
Extraordinary Aid	\$20,000	Anticipated Reimbursement
NCLB Grant	\$45,000	Anticipated Grant Funding
IDEA Grant	\$189,430	Anticipated Grant Funding
Non-Public Funding	\$46,000	Funding for Washington Township non-public schools (Good Shepherd)
Total Revenues	\$9,240,236	

### Washington Township Board of Education

Karen Graf—President, Anita Smith—Vice President

Joseph Armstead, Jude Mohan, Kimberly Morris, Lauren Schlaffer, John Trush

### Highlights of the 2016-2017 budget — What's new?

- ✓ Additional extra-curricular activities to offer more opportunities for students.
- ✓ Updates to science curriculum and textbooks.
- ✓ All students will be provided with a Microsoft 365 account.
- ✓ \$43,526 budgeted for new computers to replace old Windows XP systems and to purchase additional iPads.
- ✓ \$239,729 will be transferred from capital reserve and an additional \$204,676 is budgeted for HVAC upgrades at BC.
- ✓ Complete the paving of the Port Colden parking lot.
- ✓ Replace 10-year old window air conditioning units at PC.
- ✓ In response to a decline in expected enrollment, there will be three fewer certificated staff positions next year.
- ✓ Increases in general insurance / liability / workers compensation and increases in health insurance.

### Tax Rates — What does 1¢ Mean?

Tax rates are based on the total assessed value of the municipality. In 2016, for Washington Township, this value is \$680,223,001. This means for the 2016-2017 budget, each 1¢ on the tax rate equals \$68,022.

#### For a home assessed at

#### Monthly increase

#### Yearly Increase

\$200,000

\$2.53

\$30.40

\$300,000

\$3.80

\$45.60

\$400,000

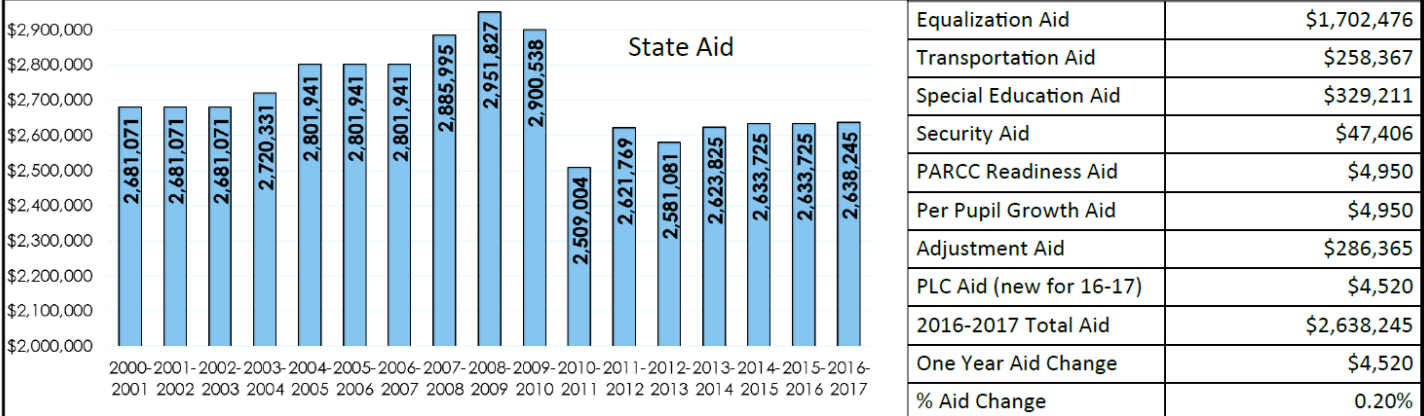
\$5.07

\$60.80

### Tax Rate History

	2004 2005	2005 2006	2006 2007	2007 2008	2008 2009	2009 2010	2010 2011	2011 2012	2012 2013	2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017
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¢	1.7¢	1.5¢

### State Aid History / Summary



For more information on the state funding formula visit: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/stateaid/1617/EAR2017.pdf>

Through careful budgeting and planning, the District has been able to take a “pay as we go” approach to funding projects, equipment purchases and major maintenance concerns. Since 2006 the District has completed over 2.3 million dollars in capital improvements, maintenance projects and equipment purchases without taking on bond debt.

- ⇒ \$1,613,186 in capital projects (new windows at BC, office at PC, roofing at BC & PC, etc.)
- ⇒ \$630,256 in maintenance projects (HVAC at BC & PC, paving, sidewalk repairs, etc.)
- ⇒ \$124,459 in major equipment purchases (tractor for PC, fob system, phone system, computer servers, Meraki wireless access points, etc.)

### Washington Township School District

One East Front Street, Washington, NJ 07882 — (908) 689-1119 — [www.washtwpsd.org](http://www.washtwpsd.org)  
 Mr. Keith Neuhs, Superintendent; Mrs. Jean Flynn, Business Administrator/Board Secretary;  
 Mrs. Jessica Garcia, Brass Castle School Principal; Mr. Michael Neu, Port Colden School Principal