



# Washington Township Schools

## "Making a Difference"

### Behave on the Bus!

When riding in a school bus, Washington Township students are responsible for their behavior. This is such an important message to our children because behavior could affect the safe operation of the bus. Misbehavior could result in the bus driver becoming distracted, which could endanger the lives of all students being transported.

It is important that parents explain the importance of appropriate behavior when riding on the school bus. Please communicate your expectations to your child(ren) to promote self-regulation and compliance of bus rules.

The primary responsibility of the bus driver is to safely transport the students to and from school. While transporting students, the driver also has the responsibility of maintaining discipline on the bus. Therefore, the driver will report any behavior infractions to the proper authority and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the established guidelines.

#### Bus Rules:

- Follow directions the first time they are given;
- Sit in the assigned seat, facing forward with feet on the floor;
- Swearing or loud, obnoxious behavior will not be tolerated;
- No eating or drinking on the bus;
- Students should not litter, write on or damage the bus or anyone else's property in any way; and
- Students are not allowed to get off the bus at any place other than their home without written permission from their parent/guardian, along with the Principal's signature.



Port Colden School  
Brass Castle School

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### Spring Concert

This is a reminder that the Brass Castle Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, April 10th at Warren Hills Regional High School at 7pm in the auditorium. The concert will feature the Blue and White Band and the Panther Band, as well as the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth grade choruses. Please contact Mrs. Dahmer or Mr. Rizzo with any questions or concerns.



## Brass Castle 2014 Talent Show



With much excitement, our students held the Talent Show on Wednesday, March 19th with truly inspiring performances. We had singers, a flutist, a pianist, a trumpeter, dancers, an orator, and gymnasts all putting their best foot forward to the delight of many friends and family in attendance at our school. Ballet, boxing, and bee-bopping...Brass Castle staff members do it all! Our famous staff and Mr. Jinks were also enthusiastic participants who helped make our show great. With a little help from Mr. Hornyak and Mr. Rizzo, a clever crew of teachers got together to perform at this year's talent show. While it wasn't easy to follow all of the amazing student acts in this year's show, these staff members dressed up as students to dance to a medley of popular songs. Even though there were a few minor wardrobe malfunctions (Mrs. Cambria-you really need to keep your pants on!), our silly staff members had a blast putting on their routine.

Lastly, we need to thank Mr. Flumerfelt for his integral part in managing the sound system, it was amazing. Congratulations to our participants, thank you for your contribution to a very memorable show!

## Get a Gold Medal Smile

"Get a Gold Medal Smile" is the 2014 slogan for the National Children's Dental Health Association and how appropriate for just finishing up winter with an Olympic year. February was Dental Health Month and our third graders are right at the age where they are losing their baby teeth.

Students' smiles were easy to find on Thursday, February 27th in Mrs. Melhem's third grade class. They were celebrating both February's Dental Health month and the unit study of their 'Personal Health' chapter. In this unit, students learned about how to care for their teeth, gums, eyes, ears, skin and hair. To have fun applying what they learned, Mrs. Melhem, and her entire class flossed and brushed their teeth together! It was hard not to laugh at each other for the two straight minutes they brushed. Giggles and smiles were everywhere when on a count of three, the class spit into their paper cups. Paper towels couldn't wipe off their fresh



## Women's History Month

Do you know who the first woman was to receive a medical degree in the United States? If not, you should be checking out the Women's History Month trivia bulletin board outside of Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Pare's classroom and listening for the answers on the morning announcements. Mrs. Peterson's students researched important people and events in women's history and created a display of their work. In addition to learning something new, they had a great time coming up with questions to challenge their schoolmates. By the way, Elizabeth Blackwell was that famous woman. For more information about famous women and their contributions to our world, visit the National Women's History Museum online at [www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org).

# Spring Clubs Update



## Test Taking Skills Club

Happy April! In the Test Skills Club we have been working on Reading and Writing skills! The students have learned strategies for taking Reading tests such as using context clues to find the meaning of difficult words, looking back in text to help find clues to answer questions, and using substitute names when names are very difficult to read. They have learned to focus on important elements of a story-like plot, setting, main characters, and main events. The students have even been working on written-expression skills like writing topic sentences, organizing thoughts for writing, staying on topic, and directly answering questions! The students in the club are truly wonderful and we are having such a good time in the club!

## Scrabble Club

Scrabble Club just wrapped up its year with one of the biggest groups yet! Each week members competed against each other in teams with the hopes of being named the Scrabble Star, the team scoring the biggest play. Students were able to learn new words and practice vocabulary, strategy, and spelling. Currently, the club is planning a Family Scrabble Night for the school community on May 1st at 7pm in the Brass Castle all-purpose room. Stay tuned for our eblast invitation!



## Girls' Running Club

This year's Brass Castle's Girls' Running Club is the biggest ever! Thirty-three girls got together for the first time on March 24<sup>th</sup> and braved the chilly temperatures to start training for their 5K run. Each year the club participates in the Girls on the Run 5K in Flemington; this year it will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Many of the girls will also be participating in the Run with the Butterflies event on May 4<sup>th</sup> in honor of Brass Castle's beloved Allie Valverde. The goal of the Girls' Running Club is to show support for each other as each member works to improve their personal level of fitness. We are looking forward to warmer temperatures and lots of fun!

## Boys' Running Club News

We have sprung into running club at Brass Castle! The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys are already into their 4<sup>th</sup> week of running. They have been dodging snow piles and puddles in order to get some running in to prepare for their 5K at Met-life Stadium on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The 5K is done in support of a program called Easter Seals that supports students and adults with special needs and disabilities. Please go to [www.easterseals.com](http://www.easterseals.com) for more info and if you are interested in participating in the 5K. Students and adults are also being encouraged to attend the "Run with the Butterflies" 5K on May 4<sup>th</sup> at Meadow Breeze Park. The 5K at Meadow Breeze Park is in support of Ewing's sarcoma cancer research and more info may be found



## Archery Club News

Congratulations to our first Archery Club on their hard work and dedication this year! Students competed in the NJ State Tournament at Oxford School on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-two archers represented our team. Student archers are pictured below as follows from left to right:



Left to right - back row: Zachary Read, Toni Cisneras, Adam Stan-neck, Simon Ribeiro, Dan Racano, Ayden Flynn, Phoenix Dougherty, Wyatt Gruber, Dmytri Kicak, Con-nor Gruber, Ryan Monahan and Jeffrey Crawford

Left to right - front row: Dylan Lubold, Allison Kohn, Julia Stiles, Nicole Tagliareni, Alanna Smith, Aryan Patel, Joshua Mornick, Kelly Banfield, Sofie-Lynn Schaffer and Justice Denmon.



## All Star Band

Brass Castle was proudly represented on March 5th by seven of our most talented student musi-cians at the annual Warren County All Star Band. The music festival draws a select number of partici-pants by audition from each of the elementary schools in the county, bringing them together for a day-long rehearsal and concert later in the evening. It is a tremendous honor to be selected, as the music is very challenging and requires a great amount of dedication. Several music educators from Warren County conducted the students. The participants for Brass Castle were Phoenix Dougherty, Rachel Fitz, Paulina Georgoutsos, Emma Kaiven, Daniel Pitsch, Alanna Smith, and Jordana War. Congratulations!



## Art News

Congratulations to the Port Colden and Brass Castle students selected for the Youth Art Month Exhibit held in the Centenary College library. The show runs from March 21st-April 15th, with a reception held for the artists March 21st. Port Colden participating students included: David Reed, Harry Rosati, Logan Cole, Laura Twohig, Josh Dunlap, Hailey Amey and Jake Arnold. Brass Castle participants included: Gage Graba, Kaitlyn Fennell, Dimitra Georgoulsos, Julia Fox, Amy Twohig, Steven Cole, William Fleck, Avery Aceved, Alexis Amey, Sammy Dugan, Christian Gallardo, Jacob Hudock, Patrick Caffiero, Emma Kaiven, Mary Manolov, Paulina Georgoutsos, Justin Spilove and Vanessa Falzarano.



Jake Arnold



Alexis Amey, Amy Twohig, Hailey Amey and Laura Twohig

## Poetry Meets Engineering: From Words to Buildings to Collaborative Design

Sixth Grade G&T and Enrichment students travelled to Warren County Community College on March 11, 2014 to find out how poetry actually meets engineering! After a day of writing, designing, collaborating, and building, our students came away with unique cityscapes and a fun-filled experience they are not soon going to forget!



Busy as bees,  
Kyle Smith and  
Phoenix Dougherty



Kelly Banfield, Simon Ribeiro, Adam Stanneck, Aryan Patel, Kelcie Mannon, Phoenix Dougherty, Jamison Piatt, Rey Watts, Kyle Smith, Cristian Gallardo, Daniel Pitsch, and Paulina Georgoutsos

## Counselor's Corner — April 2014

I was speaking with two students this week and one said to the other, who was feeling sad, "Don't worry as soon as you get home we can face-time and talk; you'll feel better." Mind you, the girls were sitting face to face with each other at that moment and had the opportunity to talk in a safe environment. *This brings me to an important reminder: Try to assure that your child is comfortable with real world social skills before they interact excessively in an on-line environment.* There is a sense of make believe, a false sense of security and a detachment from reality that exists with technology. That feeling of anonymity is often at the heart of inappropriate use of technology that can lead to cyberbullying.

The focus of character education this month will focus on cyberbullying and the use of technology. Inappropriate use of technology was once a predominantly middle or high school phenomena. However, this is increasingly an issue with our younger population. Texts, facebook, tweets, skype, and facetime are how our children connect and socialize. As our children get older, their social lives get more complicated and their access to technology and social media increase. It is our mutual responsibility to educate our children and encourage responsible, respectful, safe behavior that allows our children to reap the benefits from technology while curbing on-line misuse.

Please share these helpful tips regarding 'healthy' use of technology with your family:

- *Elementary age children should all have their electronic use monitored. See what is being posted, check messages, limit usage time. This is the time to teach proper use of technology. You didn't ignore teaching them basic manners like 'please' and 'thank you' and this is equally as vital.*
- *Do not share passwords with friends. This is a life lesson - passwords are private (yes, they should share their password with you!)*
- *"Chat rooms" are often a part of on-line games (Xbox Live, etc.). This interaction can get out of control really fast; be wary of communication with anyone that your child does not know (in a face to face, personal friend way), when they are playing on-line games.*
- *All private information can be made public quickly and easily; digital footprints are real. Everything is retrievable. Once something is deleted... it is NOT really gone.*
- *There are clear and real consequences - social, punitive, legal parenthesis xxxxxxxxxxxxfor cyberbullying or any behavior considered harassing that occurs on line.*
- *Did you know that innocent bystanders CAN be considered perpetrators if they pass on inappropriate emails, texts or photos?*
- *Be a safe haven for your child. Let them know that they can speak with you if they feel uncomfortable about something they have seen or read (or posted) on-line.*

Each year I find that this topic is more and more relevant. One of the greatest challenges with 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, on holidays and on

## Counselor's Corner — continued...

weekends. their social circles are no longer limited to school hours and 'play dates.'

With this in mind, I am happy to help support the lesson that technology is a tool that must be used safely and responsibly. If you wouldn't say something to someone's face then it shouldn't be posted, texted or tweeted. Be respectful and keep it positive!

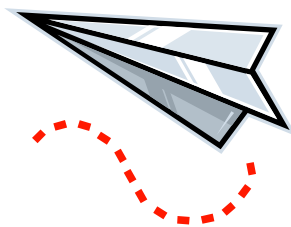
Please let me know if you would like additional information on this subject; I am always happy to share resources with you or have a chat. I am available via email [dtierney@washtwpsd.org](mailto:dtierney@washtwpsd.org) or at Brass Castle 908-689-1188 ext 611 or Port Colden 908-689-0681 ext 567. Thanks for sharing your kids with me. And, by the way, Happy Spring!



### Magic of Flight Competition




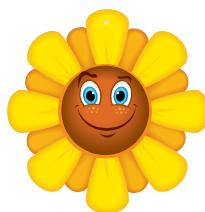
Rollin', rollin, rollin! 4th grade students, Michael Galka and Lucas Ribeiro's roller coaster "cart" slowed to a sweet stop with just 4.9cm left of track space. The challenge, for which they took third place, was to have their "cart" (really a marble) travel the whole distance, including a loop, and come to a rolling stop due to just friction, gravity, and angles and bends.



Aryan Patel and Rey Watts also participated in Magic of Flight, where they soared with paper airplanes. The physics of drag, lift, gravity, and thrust were put to the test using only paper airplanes!



# Be Positive! - April 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<i>HAPPY SPRING! I am POSITIVE just thinking about the long, warm days ahead - Good Times!</i>	1 Positive attitudes are catching - share yours 	2 There is power in positive thinking - THINK POSITIVE!	3 What positive choices will you make this month?	4 Attitude is a little thing that makes a BIG difference	5
6	7 Keep an attitude of patience with others. Be kind.	8 "Success doesn't come to you... you go to it"	9 Show your positive attitude with a SMILE (and when you text use a J)	10 Focus on your successes NOT your failures - Be positive... it matters!	11 Excellence is not a skill its is an ATTITUDE!	12
13	14 With a positive attitude you will not lose your temper as often	15 A positive outlook makes each day happier	16 Surround yourself with positive people and keep your words (and texts) KIND!	17 Your character is your choice - make it positive	18 Day off "...life is 10 percent how you make it and 90 percent how you take it."	19
20	21 Day Off! Do something positive for your family...	22 Welcome Back! Be positive about your ability to succeed	23 Find the good things in your friends - don't look at the negative	24 What are your positive plans for Spring Break?	25 Enjoy your day off... make positive choices; visit friends instead of texting them...	26
27	28. Believe in yourself - Have a positive self image. (Make sure your texts and posts are respectful!)	29 Start the end of the year with a positive attitude!	30 Walk into school each day with appositve attitude - you can do THIS!			

***"What is the difference between an obstacle and an opportunity? Our attitude toward it. Every opportunity has a difficulty and every difficulty has an opportunity." J. Sidlow Baxter***