



Washington Township Schools

"Making a Difference"

Welcome to our School Resource Officer

A warm welcome to School Resource Officer Jon Loprete to our district! Officer Loprete started in our schools in February and has quickly become part of the school community for students, staff and parents. Officer Loprete earned a degree in Criminal Justice from New Jersey City University and Basic Police Officer Training from Morris County Police Academy.

Officer Loprete is a retired Detective Sergeant from the Chester Township Police Department. In addition, his background includes serving as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator for Chester Township as well as a Life Member of the Schooley's Mountain Fire Company.

Officer Loprete reports, "I really appreciate the opportunity to work in the district! The staff at both schools have been very welcoming to my presence and I have received nothing but positive feedback from the parents with whom I've had the pleasure to meet."

Port Colden School
Brass Castle School

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SRO Loprete welcomes Alex Disbrow to school.

Grade 6 All Star Band

Congratulations to our 2014 Warren County All Star Band members! The Warren County All Star Band is a collection of the most outstanding sixth grade musicians from each school in Warren County. Students are selected through a rigorous audition process that stresses the benefits of practice and hard work. It is a great honor to be selected! This year's All Star Band members are Phoenix Dougherty, Rachel Fitz, Paulina Georgoutsos, Emma Kaiven, Daniel Pitsch, Alanna Smith, and Jordana War.

As members of the All Star Band, students will participate in a rehearsal at North Warren High School on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 that begins at 11:45am. The students will perform a concert the same night at 7:30pm at North Warren High School.

We wish our grade 6 musicians good luck at this special event. We are very proud of their accomplishment. To be selected for this honor is a testament to their hard work and perseverance.

Congratulations to our Teachers of the Year — New Jersey Governor Teacher Recognition Award

Washington Township has outstanding teachers, and the four teachers nominated for the honor of Teacher of the Year illustrates that fact! The four teachers nominated for this prestigious award include: Sarah Baratta, Janine Barzdines, John Hornyak and Deb Tierney. A committee of parents, teachers and Board members selected two finalists from those nominated and they are: Mrs. Barzdines and Mr. Hornyak.



Mr. John Hornyak will represent Brass Castle as Teacher of the Year. Mr. Hornyak is a dedicated physical education teacher who celebrates his ninth year at Washington Township. Mr. Hornyak earned his Bachelor of Science degree in health and physical education with a coaching minor from the University of Delaware. (Mr. Hornyak says, "Go Blue Hens!") Mr. Hornyak was influenced by his uncle, who is also a physical education teacher. Mr. Hornyak lives in Sussex County with his wife of six years, Meghan, his son, Colten (age 4) and his daughter, Avreigh (age 2). His interests include spending time with his family and friends as well as participating in a variety of sports/activities including golf, fishing, snowboarding, hockey and basketball. Mr. Hornyak enjoys being able to participate in all of the activities he grew up playing and values that he can still do them. Mr. Hornyak encourages his students to participate in physical activities "now and hopefully for a lifetime".

Mrs. Janine Barzdines will serve as Port Colden's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Barzdines has been a registered nurse for 33 years. She graduated from Trenton State College (now known as The College of New Jersey) with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and later received her School Nurse Certification. Mrs. Barzdines' background includes experience as a nurse in a Medical Intensive Care Unit and Trauma Unit, visiting nurse and CPR instructor. In addition, Mrs. Barzdines is a contributing researcher representing hospital for national study in critical care medicine; president of the Warren County School Nurses Association (2007 to 2011); and Executive Board, New Jersey State School Nurses Association (2011 to present). She is married to her husband, Greg, for 33 years and has two children, Thomas and Emily. When Mrs. Barzdines is not busy with nursing, she enjoys reading suspense and mysteries as well as kayaking.



Mrs. Barzdines says, "Being the School Nurse at Port Colden School is never the same two days in a row! That is one of the exciting and satisfying things about working here. With each student that I see, I hope that I make them feel better by not just taking care of their physical needs, but also making them feel comforted when they need it, and safe and happy when they return to class."

Both Mrs. Barzdines and Mr. Hornyak thank the staff at Port Colden and Brass Castle Schools for their support and acknowledgement. They feel very fortunate to be a part of such a great community of people - including staff, parents and students.

It is no wonder that Mrs. Barzdines and Mr. Hornyak are being recognized by their colleagues, administration and parents to represent their schools for this prestigious award. We are all very proud of their accomplishments and congratulate them! Both teachers will attend a luncheon to celebrate Teacher of the Year candidates from all Warren County school districts.

2014 Brass Castle Talent Show



*Save the
date:*

Wednesday
March 19th
7:00pm

(Snow date
Thursday
March 20)

"You have to have a strategy and you have to predict what your opponent is going to do next."

Recently, students from Brass Castle participated in Warren County Consortium for Student Enrichment's Chess Tournament in Allamuchy's Rutherford Hall. Here is what some of our participants had to say.

"Our chess tournament was pretty good", said 6th grader Rey Watts. "Fun and hard was one way to describe it. Ok, about chess, not an easy game. You have to have strategy and you have to predict what your opponent is going to do next."

Since it was Nic Read's second year participating, we asked him how this compares to last year's experience. "Ummm, last year I didn't win any matches, but this year I won three! There were a lot more teams so it was harder this year. Next year I'm hoping we can get in first, second, or third."

It's good to make goals, pretty good indeed!



Rey Watts, Alex Stanneck, Nic Read, Adam Stanneck, Daniel Pitsch, and Simon Ribeiro

Black History Month



Do you know who the American civil rights activist is that was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988? (Hint: He is the founder and president of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition.) If not, you should check out the Black History Month trivia board outside of Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Pare's classroom. These are the types of questions and answers posed to our students during morning announcements. Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Pare's students researched prominent African Americans, and then 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. Oh, and just in case you didn't know, the Reverend Jesse Jackson was that famous African American.

Winter Band Concert



Despite an uncooperative winter season, the fifth and sixth grade band students performed wonderfully during their Winter Concert assembly during school on Tuesday, February 11th. Mr. Rizzo would like to congratulate the students on a fantastic concert, as well as the parents for supporting the decision to hold the concert during the school day to avoid further weather issues.

Our next concert will be the Spring Music Concert on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at Warren Hills High School at 7pm. The snow date will be on Friday, April 11th. There will also be an Ensemble Night concert on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, at the Brass Castle School at 7pm where selected musicians will perform in small groups.

Congratulations to our 2014 PTA Reflections County Winners

Literature (Middle School): Emma Kaiven - 3rd Place
Dance (Middle School): Connor Gruber - 1st Place



Honorable Mentions: Primary Visual Arts - Bailey Asbury & Laney Adie; Intermediate Literature - Eniola Ajayi, Alexis Amey & Avery Acevedo; and Middle Literature - Kelly Banfield & Skylar Warren

A PTA reception will be held on Wednesday, March 12th at 7pm in the Brass Castle library for our recipients. Good luck to Connor who now moves on to compete at the state PTA level. Thank you to all participants... your projects were remarkable!

Students, start writing, dancing, producing and taking photos that capture the PTA Reflection's theme for 2015: "The World Would Be a Better Place If ..."

The Cat in the Hat Visits Kindergarten and Pre-School

On February 4th the Kindergarten, Pre-K, and Pre-School students were treated to a visit from a very special guest. To kick off the Read Across America celebrations, the Cat in the Hat made an appearance at Brass Castle. He visited our youngest students and donated a copy of *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss to our school library. From the moment his tall, red-and-white-striped hat appeared around the door, just like Sally and her brother from the infamous book, students and teachers knew this would be the most mischievous cat to visit their classrooms! To be sure, our Cat in the Hat caused some mischief during his visit by trying to take some puzzles and books from the classrooms he was visiting. Students were entertained and excited to see our special guest. We can't wait until he comes again!

Counselor's Corner - March 2014

Integrity

"Integrity is an uphill marathon not a sprint. It's not something 'once taught, forever caught.'"

Recent events involving members of a sports team in a fairly local school district spurred me to re-evaluate the concept of Integrity. Integrity is not easily defined. It is really the combination of honesty, patience, responsibility, respect, dependability, accountability, tolerance and empathy. Wow - no wonder instilling the value of integrity is so challenging. Having these individual values is important. We all strive to teach our children to tell the truth, to be kind to others, to respect differences, but ultimately having these values is not enough *unless* we teach our children to *stand up for them*. Standing up for what is right is hard. Peer pressure is real and the drive to win often trumps good sportsmanship.

So what do we as parents and educators do? First off, remember that modeling integrity is vital. If you do not allow texting at the dinner table, but check your work email when you're speaking with your child what is the message? If you spend a weekday skiing and call your child out sick from school, what is the message? Parenting is not easy - ok you got me - its VERY HARD. I am guilty of texting, or checking my mail while "listening" to my Emily tell me the llooonnggg version of her day in 1st grade (sigh.) However, it is worth remembering that even seemingly small moments become building blocks for our children's character. *"Live so that when your children think of fairness, caring and integrity, they think of you."* H.J. Brown

You probably guessed it - this month we will be focusing on Integrity. I will be reminding students in our Character Education lessons and small groups that Integrity is more than simply being honest. It is doing the right thing for the right reasons. We will explore questions like: "How does my decision affect others?"; "Can I imagine myself in that person's place?"; "Am I considering other people's feelings?"; "Will I be proud of my actions ten years from now?" And most importantly, I will be reminding our students that there are consequences to our actions and the decisions we make today will have an impact on our future. When our thoughts and values match our words and actions, we can't go wrong... I'll leave you with a final thought... *"If you have Integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have Integrity, nothing else matters."* A.Simpson

With a few more weeks of winter ahead of us, there will certainly be some 'cabin fever' with our children who are eager to run around outside. This time of year students start to get antsy and may be acting up, or more frustrated than usual. Please know that I am available if you have any specific concerns or would just like to touch base with me. I love to hear from you all. I can be reached via email dtierney@washtwpsd.org or 908-689-1188 ext 611, 908-689-0681 ext 567.

Cambria / Mason PM Kindergarten Cele- brates 100 Days

Back row, left to right: Mrs. Mason, Averi Meissner, Tirsa Wimmer, Jaden Gackebach, Olivia Stone, Sofia Trawin, Mrs. Cambria

Middle row, left to right: Rylie Werneke, Biajio Schiano-Dicola, Inna Meyko, Carmela Tamburro, Matthew Civick

Front row, left to right: Kyle Konya, Joshua Hufford, Brandon Anema, Logan Burd



The 100th Day of School was a wonderful success! Ask the children where 100 steps takes you in our school. Fun learning

centers reinforced counting to 100 by ones and tens. Have you ever seen 100 cotton balls displayed in the shape of a snowman? Or, a rainbow created out of 100 Skittles? How about 100 shells glued onto a beach made out of sandpaper? These are just a few of the cleverly made projects our kindergarten students brought in to share. Other 100 collections included marbles, pennies, macaroni, stickers, sunflower seeds, beads and even 100 feathers!

Kindergarten — 100 Days Celebration!



Logan Healey, Kiara Hooks,
Kaitlyn DeSantis &
Maurice Spann



Regan Asbury shares
his collection of
100 popcorn seeds.

INTEGRITY - March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3 Decide what YOU stand for? Focus on being honest and trustworthy	4 Make sure your actions match your words	5 Don't be too hard on yourself when you make a mistake - that's part of learning	6 Integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on your values	7 You are responsible for your own actions	
	10 Tell the truth - Honesty matters!	11 Keep the promises that you make	12 When a friend confides in you, don't turn it into gossip	13 Do what you say you are going to do - be a person of positive action and integrity	14 Good character begins with integrity - stand for something positive!	
	17 <i>"People may doubt what you say, but they will always believe what you do."</i>	18 When you hear a rumor, don't pass it along - Rumors STOP with you!	19 Trust in your talents - share them with your friends and family today	20 Integrity is the heart of good character	21 Always do the right thing - even when no one is watching you or grading your work	
	24 <u>Wrong is wrong</u> even if everyone is doing it. <u>Right is right</u> even if no one is doing it. Make good choices, do the RIGHT thing!	25 Don't laugh when someone makes a mistake	26 Being honest builds trust	27 Your actions show your true character! It's easy to 'talk the talk' but more difficult to show your positive character!	28 Be able to compromise with others - practice that today	
	31 Surround yourself with positive friendships	<p><i>"If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything." Malcolm X</i></p> <p><i>"It takes less time to do a thing right, than it does to explain why you did it wrong." HW Longfellow</i></p>				