



Washington Township Schools



“Making a Difference”

Save the Date!

Important Dates

Brass Castle Spring Music Concert

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Warren Hills Regional High School

7:00pm

Ensemble Night Concert

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

at Brass Castle School

7:00pm

Selected musicians will
perform in small groups

Grade 6 Farewell Ceremony

The Sixth Grade Farewell Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd 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.

This part of the evening is for the students only. The PTA and school staff will chaperone the dance.

Warmer Weather Dress Code Reminder!

As per our handbook we continue to deliver a learning environment conducive to our mission, which is to provide an environment where opportunities for learning experiences, designed to deliver the best possible educational opportunities, are eagerly provided. In so doing, we ask for parental support in enforcing the following dress code policies:

Shoes not be worn at all times. Plastic or rubber beach/shower-type footwear is not permitted – no “flip-flops”. Shoes should be properly laced, buckled, or tied for safety in walking;

Skirts / dresses must be at least finger tip length;

Shorts must be no shorter than 4 inches from the top of knee;

Tank tops, cami-tank tops, half-shirts, halter tops, spaghetti straps, backless tops, spandex pants, and bare midribs may not be worn;

Shirts and outerwear that include graphics, or inappropriate language, advertisements or slogans which advertise alcohol/drugs or contain questionable language or pictures, or are offensive to the community at large are not allowed;

Pants should be worn at waist level and at no time should undergarments of any kind be visible;

Undergarments are not permitted attire for outerwear. Underwear should not be seen through garments, above or below pants, shorts or skirts; and

Any other attire deemed inappropriate by the administration or school nurse will be prohibited.

If a student’s attire comes into question, the student will be sent to the principal where a determination will be made regarding a dress code violation. If the outfit is contrary to the dress code, the child will be sent to the nurse’s office for a change of clothes or to call home for a change of clothes. Again, your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

PARCC TESTING

The second part of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessments will be administered to students in grades 3 & 4 during the week of May 4th and students in grades 5 & 6 will be testing the week of May 11th. Students will be taking the PARCC – End of Year Assessments during these times. This is the second part of the PARCC Assessment that students started in March. Students need to complete both sections of the assessment to receive a score report.

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 as testing will take place in the morning. Students will not be permitted to enter the classroom once testing has begun.

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 2015/2016 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: Katie Wikander, RN, 689-1188, ext. 607

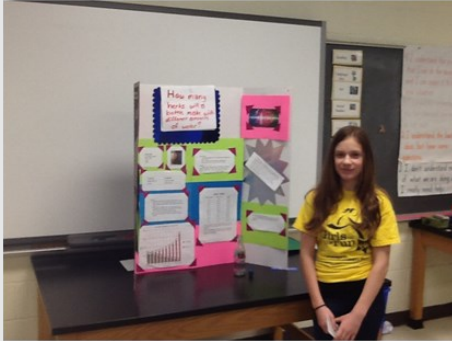
News from 3P

This month, Mrs. Page's class has been learning about emergencies and safety in health class. Mrs. Gaughran came in to speak with the class about her job as a paramedic nurse. She showed the class what someone working on the ambulance would wear. She also explained what is done to help people in certain emergencies. Also, the class learned how to find and feel for their pulse and got to hear their heart beat! The class is so grateful to have been able to have Mrs. Gaughran visit and share her knowledge! Thank you, Mrs. Gaughran!



Science Fair

Mrs. Penner's sixth graders completed their Science Fair projects. We had a great turn out for the Open House with over fifty families in attendance. The judges selected the top eight projects. Lauren Kohansby won first place with her project about frequency, pitch, and sound. Angela Pawloski won second place with her project about tie dye and different fabrics. Joey Acceturo won third place with his project about confusing the senses. The students recognized for honorable mention included Daniel Kuster, Nathan Tarras, William Colavito, and Beck Nemeth. Alex Stanneck was recognized at the Open House as the crowd favorite.



First Place: Lauren Kohansby



Second Place: Angela Pawloski



Third Place: Joey Acceturo

Phabulous Physics

Our students worked with the Laws of Motion and the Four Forces of Flight during a Phabulous Physics Event held in Mansfield. Fourth graders, Allison Slovak and Ilya Chernykh, worked together to build a roller coaster that would have its marble come to a rolling stop only from the forces of friction and gravity. Meanwhile, sixth graders, Joey Acceturo and Alex Yahara, built airplanes intended for longest time aloft, greatest distance, and best accuracy.



Ilya Chernykh and Allison Slovak



Alex Yahara and Joey Acceturo

PTA Reflections

On Wednesday, March 25, 2015, the Washington Township PTA honored those students who participated in Reflections, a national PTA arts competition.

Twenty six students from Brass Castle and Port Colden elementary schools entered in three different categories: literature, visual arts, and photography. They reflected on this year's theme, "The world would be a better place if..." and utilized their talents in their respective art forms.

Those students honored with Certificates of Participation were: Kaitlyn DeGeorge, Ethan Suiter, Ryan Galka, David Oranye, Emily Boniface, Rebecca Anema, Julia Monico, Ashley Moskal, and Alexis Amey. Those who were recognized with Honorable Mention were: Brodie Adie, Regan Asbury, Sarah Schlafter, Destiny Sheppard, Allison Slovak, Gianna Cozzolino, Hannah Devoe, Shrenik Patel, Edward Conklin, and Elizabeth Schlafter. Those who won at the Warren County level were: Rylie Werneke, 1st place in Visual Arts at the primary level; Lanie Adie, 1st place in literature at the primary level; Abigail Tolkacz, 3rd place in photography at the intermediate level, Bailey Asbury, 1st place in photography at the intermediate level; Jennifer Drevitch, 2nd place in literature at the intermediate level; Raina Teter, 1st place in literature at the intermediate level; Michael Finke, 2nd place for literature at the middle school level.

Congratulations to all who participated! Continue to inspire and create!

First Grade News!

This month the first graders have been busy bees. They sprung right back into learning after a restful break. Science has been a favorite the past few weeks. Two shipments of insects have made their way into the classrooms and the kids are having a blast learning about Milkweed Bugs and Mealworms. It has been a neat experience observing the changes the insects have made as they filter through their life cycles. The kids are excited for the other critters to arrive in the coming weeks, as they prepare for "Bug Day".

Not only have the first graders transformed into Entomologists, as they studied bugs, but they have also been working hard as doctors too! Learning about contractions has been fun for all, as we put on doctor masks, and performed surgery on our memory words. Cutting apart words, and stitching them back together with a Band -Aid sure was fun for the kids!

The month came to an end with a bang, as we celebrated Earth Day. Some of the classes wrote poems, planted flowers, read stories, and worked together coming up with ideas on how to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

David Buchanan, a pitcher for the Phillies, visited Miss Piccione's class this month. The kids enjoyed lunch in the classroom, playing "Telling Time" Bingo, and actively participating in a Read Aloud.

The first graders are soaring through their first grade year, and are preparing for their bright futures ahead. May is quickly approaching, and so are the memories that are in store for this group of SuperKids!



Counselor's Corner — May 2015

I am grateful for the technology that allows me to keep in touch with my son in college – though he just turned 20 (not sure how that happened...) he sends me a 'good morning' text with some words about his plans for the day. Mind you that morning text comes mighty early as he is on the crew team and heads to the lake at 5:45 some mornings... and I often get a 'Good night momma' when he's in the for the night. Though not a substitute for hearing his voice, texting is a nice way to fill in the gaps when he is short on time. It's still treasured contact.

Now on the other hand, my 13 year old has been the brunt of the vicious side of texting. Though she has only had her phone for one year, and yes, I have questioned this decision wondering whether I threw her into a den of lions – 'mean' peers who take advantage of hiding behind the screen to tease and belittle each other. There are too few manners in cyber-space...

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 are how many of us socialize; we should not be surprised that our children are doing so as well. 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.'

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.

Counselor's Corner — May 2015 (continued)

I will be taking time as the school year winds down to work with our older students on issues related to *Cyberbullying* and use of technology. I will remind everyone 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.

Please let me know if you would like additional information on this subject; I am always happy to share resources or have a chat with you. Contact me any time as I am available via email dtierney@washtwpsd.org or at Brass Castle 908-689-1188 ext 611 or Port Colden 908-689-0681.

May 2015-Respect for Technology

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

"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 2015

2015-2016 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 2015-2016 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 (66.1%), state aid (29.8%), federal aid (2.9%). The remaining money (1.2%) 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. For example, last month we were able to purchase a new telephone system and a new door access system for both buildings. The district remains debt-free with no outstanding bonds supported by taxes.

The district is receiving the same state aid as last year. The 2015-2016 state aid figure of \$2,633,725 is \$318,102 less than the amount the district received in 2008-2009.

The tax levy required to fund the 2015-2016 budget is within the state's 2% tax cap regulations and guidelines. The overall increase to the tax levy will be \$111,167 which is \$71,588 less than last year's increase.

With the current total assessed value of properties in Washington Township, the 2015-2016 budget will raise the tax levy by 1.7¢ per \$100 assessed value or about \$43 a year on the average Washington Township home.

Washington Township Board of Education

Karen Graf—President, Anita Smith—Vice President

Joseph Armstead, Sally Christine, Jude Mohan, Lauren Schlaffer, John Trush

**The 2015-2016 budget maintains all existing programming and supports the district's goals.
What is new in the 2015-2016 budget?**

- ✓ Additional teacher support for in-class and resource programs in Kindergarten and Grade 6.
- ✓ Additional ABA and BCBA time and therapies for autistic students.
- ✓ Child Study Team Secretary increased to full-time.
- ✓ Replacement of Brass Castle Gym floor
- ✓ Repair Port Colden driveway and parking lot.
- ✓ Repair concrete pathway between Brass Castle Gym and Playground
- ✓ Computer lab upgrades
- ✓ In response to a decline in expected enrollment, two fewer homerooms are planned for next year.

Tax Rates — What does 1¢ Mean?	For a home assessed at	Monthly increase	Yearly Increase
Tax rates are based on the total assessed value of the municipality. In 2015, for Washington Township, this value is \$679,368,501. This means for the 2015-2016 budget, each 1¢ on the tax rate equals \$67,936.85	\$100,000	\$1.42	\$17
	\$200,000	\$2.83	\$34
	\$300,000	\$4.25	\$51
	\$400,000	\$5.68	\$68

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
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¢

The overall change in the tax rate since the 2003-2004 school year is 14.2¢ 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 2014, the percent of your total tax that supports the elementary school has gone from 32.5% down to 24.2%

Budget Comparison

	2014-2015 (Actual)	2015-2016 (Budgeted)	Difference
Local Tax Levy	\$5,732,086	\$5,843,253	\$111,167
State Aid	\$2,633,725	\$2,633,725	\$0
Other Aid (includes Federal, interest & shared services)	\$467,351	\$363,700	-\$103,651
Total Revenues (Operating Budget)	\$8,782,816	\$8,584,678	-\$198,138 -2.26%

Washington Township School District

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

Washington Township School District 2015-16

September 2015						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2015						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2015						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2015						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

March 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

June 2016						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

There are 5 built in Incentive weather days in this calendar. If necessary, the 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 Incentive weather days prior to the end of February, the President's Day Recess may be eliminated, Spring Recess may be reduced, and/or days will be added at the end of the school year. The district will do everything in its power not to have the school year extend beyond June 30, 2016 to make up Incentive weather days.
BOE Approval - 4/27/2015

School Closed
School Closed/Teacher In-service
Early Dismissal

Notes

- September 1 & 2 - Teacher In-service Program
- September 3 - First Day for Students
- September 7 - Labor Day - Schools Closed
- September 9 - Port Cadden Back to School Night
- September 10 - Brass Castle Back to School Night
- September 16 - 6th Grade Back to School Night
- October 9 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served
- October 12 - Teacher In-service Program - Schools Closed
- November 2-4 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches - Parent / Teacher Conferences
- November 5 & 6 - NLEA Convention - Schools Closed
- November 20 - 1st MP Report Cards Distributed
- November 25 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served - NO AFTERCARE
- November 26 & 27 - Thanksgiving Recess - Schools Closed
- December 23 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served - NO AFTERCARE
- December 24-31 - Winter Recess - Schools Closed
- January 1 - New Year's Day - Schools Closed
- January 4 - Schools Reopen
- January 15 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served - Teacher In-service Program
- January 18 - Martin Luther King Day - Schools Closed
- February 2 - 2nd MP Report Cards Distributed
- February 11 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served - Teacher In-service Program
- February 12 & 15 - President's Day Recess - Schools Closed
- March 7-11 - PARCC Assessments for Grades 3 & 4 (tentative)
- March 14-18 - PARCC Assessments for Grades 5 & 6 (tentative)
- March 24 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served - NO AFTERCARE
- March 25 -31 - Spring Recess - Schools Closed
- April 1 - Spring Recess - Schools Closed
- April 4 - Schools Reopen
- April 29 - 3rd MP Report Cards Distributed
- May 2-4 - PARCC Assessments for Grades 3 & 4 (tentative)
- May 9-12 - PARCC Assessments for Grades 5 & 6 (tentative)
- May 25 - NJASK Science Assessment for Grade 4
- May 26 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served - Teacher In-service Program
- May 27 - Teacher In-service Program - Schools Closed
- May 30 - Memorial Day - Schools Closed
- June 20 - Early Dismissal - No Lunches Served - Teacher In-service (tentative)
- June 21 - Tentative Last Day of School - Early Dismissal - NO AFTERCARE