



Washington Township Schools



“Making a Difference”

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 2nd, Tuesday, November 3rd and Wednesday, November 4th. Many parents were able to sign up for a conference at their child’s Back-to-School Night. Those parents who did not attend Back-to-School Night or were unable to sign up for a conference, should watch for a letter coming home about conference schedules. If you have any questions, you may call your child’s school.

School-wide Enrichment Project

Operation Chillout was founded in 2000 by concerned volunteers to help a group of homeless Vietnam Veterans living in the open under a railroad trestle in northern NJ. This organization believes in the inherent worth of every homeless man, woman and child and provides emergency supplies and survival gear to the most vulnerable members of our communities.

This year, as a school-wide project, we would like to support this very worthwhile organization by collecting needed supplies. These supplies will go into backpacks that will be distributed throughout Warren County to homeless men, women and children to help them during the cold winter months.

Our Washington Township families and community members were beyond generous last year when we collected supplies for our active service members. We are hoping that you will consider contributing to this worthwhile cause. Anything you can donate from the list would be greatly appreciated! We will accept items from now until October 30th. Our goal is to fill 25 backpacks! Together we can all make a difference in these people’s lives!

Items Needed: New and unused Men’s L,XL, or XXL and Women’s sizes L or XL

Wool/Nylon/Acrylic heavy socks, thermal tops, thermal bottoms, zipped hooded sweatshirts, acrylic knit caps, waterproof –non leather gloves, heavy flannel shirts.

Grandparent’s Day

In the middle of September all of the First Grade classes honored their Grandparents by celebrating Grandparent’s Day on Monday, September 14th. In celebration of the national holiday, grandparents were invited into the classrooms where a story was shared about a girl who visits her grandparents for the day and made an apple pie with their help. After the story, our grandparent visitors decorated an apple and their grandchildren shared a special poem with them. It was a great time for everyone!



News from 3P

Mrs. Page’s class has been busy learning to use technology this month. The class has created a PowerPoint slide all about themselves, and they have learned to change the fonts and colors of text, add backgrounds and pictures, and insert transitions and animations. Not only have they learned to use PowerPoint, but they have also been busy using iPads to type wonderful stories that include many wonderful, descriptive details.

General Education Inclusive Preschool Program

The Washington Township School District offers a General Education Inclusive Preschool program at the Brass Castle School. The program is open to all four-year-old children who reside in Washington Township, Warren County. The child must be four (4) years old by October 1st and not age eligible for kindergarten.

The class is taught by a certified teacher and supported with highly qualified paraprofessionals. This program provides an inclusive educational environment for preschool children that is aligned with the Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations, and includes both general education and special needs preschool children.

The preschool program will take place during the afternoon session. The afternoon session hours are from 12:40pm -3:20pm. The preschool program follows the Washington Township School District calendar. There is no tuition cost for this program, but transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Applications for this program can be found on the Washington Township School District website, www.washtwpsd.org or by contacting the Washington Township School District Child Study Team at 908-689-1188 x 3610. Applications for the **2016-17** school year are now being accepted. Applications for the 2016-17 school year will be accepted until May 13, 2016. A limited number of openings are available for this program. In the event that the district receives more applications than students can be placed in the program a lottery system will be utilized to select students into the program. The lottery for selection into the General Education Inclusive Preschool will occur on Wednesday, June 29, 2016 at 10:00am. The lottery will take place in the library of the Brass Castle School. In the event that the date for the lottery drawing needs to be changed, all applicants will be notified.

Welcome New Staff!



Mrs. Jessica Garcia: I am enthusiastic and honored to have been chosen to serve as Principal of Brass Castle School. As an educator, I recognize the value in great educational experiences. I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from William Paterson University, Supervisory Certification from Centenary College, and Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Jones International University. Through educational and professional experiences, I have been able to gain a deep understanding of core values, beliefs, and ideologies, which make a school remarkable. Brass Castle School and the Washington Township District possess these essential qualities, which makes me truly fortunate to become part of your community.

If you had a chance to visit Brass Castle School during Back to School Nights, you may have noticed Mrs. Garcia's Corner bulletin board. As mentioned on the board, I have a loving and supportive family, including my husband, three girls and a dog. Another fun fact on the board is that I enjoy great quotes. Following is one of my favorites by C.S. Lewis. "Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work." Thank you for allowing me to do the most important work with your children. As always, consistent communication is key to continued success, so please contact me at any time.

Joining me as new staff members this year at Brass Castle School are Mrs. Stacie Paruta, 6th Grade Inclusion Teacher, Miss Shannon McEvoy, Kindergarten Teacher, and Mr. Thomas Graham, 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher. Port Colden School welcomes Miss Courtney Dunn.

Mrs. Stacie Paruta – 6th Grade Inclusion Teacher : Mrs. Paruta joined the Brass Castle school community last year, as a long term substitute. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary and Special Education from Alfred University and a Master’s Degree in Special Education from Syracuse University. Mrs. Paruta gained professional teaching experience in Virginia and New Jersey at various grade levels. Prior to returning to teaching, she spent time at home raising her two sons who are now 15 and 12. Mrs. Paruta, her husband, and children have been members of the Washington Township community for over nineteen years. Her children attended and graduated from Port Colden and Brass Castle Schools. This year, Mrs. Paruta is excited and honored to once again be working with sixth grade teachers and students as a Special Education teacher. Mrs. Paruta states, “As a parent and educator, I know the Washington Township School District is a wonderful place to be. I am looking forward to a successful year and to helping my students grow and challenge themselves as learners.”



Miss Shannon McEvoy – Kindergarten Teacher: Miss McEvoy joined the Brass Castle school community this summer, as a Kindergarten teacher. She is a graduate of Moravian College, and is currently attending Centenary College, as she continues her learning goals for certification in Special Education. Miss McEvoy has taught various grade levels in Sussex County schools, over the last few years. She enjoys many outdoor activities, including skiing, snowboarding, hiking, biking and horseback riding. Miss McEvoy volunteers her time at the Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center to assist students with special needs learn how to ride horses. Miss McEvoy loves teaching and is excited to be working with her Kindergarten students this year.

Mr. Thomas Graham – 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher: Mr. Graham graduated from Monmouth University, majoring in History and Secondary Education. After graduation, Mr. Graham gained valuable teaching experience in Mount Olive Middle School. He spent the last five summers working as a group leader at Meadowbrook County Day Camp. He enjoys fishing, the outdoors, and restoring and driving vintage cars. Mr. Graham is eager to continue to get to know his students and become a part of the Washington Township community.



Welcome to Port Colden School —Miss Dunn: Miss Dunn is a recent graduate from Centenary College. She majored in Elementary Education K-6 and received her Special Education certification. Miss Dunn student-taught at Brass Castle last year in fourth grade and is excited to be a part of the Port Colden family this year! In addition to teaching, Miss Dunn enjoys hiking, baking and traveling as often as possible. Miss Dunn states that “I always wanted to be a teacher since as long as I can remember – I love to help others and watch my students’ curiosity catch fire. My students keep me on my toes and make me laugh; that’s my favorite part!”

Counselor's Corner

October 2015 - RESPECT

Our school community is one where kindness and nurturing hearts live in our classrooms and on our sports fields. When we receive sad news about one of our own, it affects us as part of the greater Washington Township community. Recently we experienced collective sadness and disbelief over the loss of one of our high school students. Please know that we have provided support to all our children and staff members during this very trying time. Our children know that they are safe here and that they always have someone to listen to their thoughts, fears and concerns.

For parents, it is important to remember that children will look to you to help them cope with loss. When speaking with our young ones about death it is good to be respectful of developmental age.

Our youngest children in pre-school through age 8 may see death as 'magical.' They think that someone can come back, they can write them letters or they make bargains. 'if I'm really, really good then they will come back.'

Our children ages 9-11 start to see death as being more real though it is something that happens to someone else. Reactions can come in bursts, fine one minute, questioning the next – lots and lots of questions.

Early middle school children are very clear that death is a final event. Acting out, emotional outbursts, anger and denial are common. They may focus on the greater meaning of life and the 'why' questions.

For children and adults alike, grief is a process not an event. There is no predictable or 'right' way to grieve. Allow yourself and your children time to be sad before moving towards healing.

Keeping schedules similar to 'normal' is important. If you go to football practice every Monday – stick with the schedule. Our children will feel safer when their routines are consistently followed especially after a traumatic event.

With October being the Month of Respect, we quietly acknowledge our respect for others and the fragility of life. Live each day with joy and simply... Be Kind.

As always, I can be reached anytime via email dtierney@washtwpsd.org or at 908-689-1188 ext 3611.





OCTOBER 2015-RESPECT

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
				1 Be extra kind today as we remember a friend, coach and student who inspired many	2 You show Respect for others by standing up for a friend who is not being treated respectfully by others	3
4	5 WEEK OF RESPECT!!! Let's Celebrate Respect for Each Other!	6 Remember we must give respect to get it in return	7 Honesty will always be respected - Tell The Truth	8 Respect is catching- show respect and others will follow your lead	9 Respect your bus driver-follow your bus rules every day!	10
11	12 NO SCHOOL for Students Show respect at home by doing your chores without being reminded...	13 SMILE - this shows you have a positive attitude! Have a great day!	14 Doing your best shows you respect yourself-be proud of your efforts	15 Respect the differences you see in others - you may learn something new	16 Listening is a wonderful way to show respect to your teachers	17
18	19 It's worth remembering to Treat others the way you want to be treated	20 Accept and Respect people who are different than you	21 Even when you do not agree with your friends, please respect their opinions	22 Our environment deserves respect too - if you see trash pick it up	23 "Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up"	24
25	26 We have 2 ears, 2 eyes and only 1 mouth - show respect by listening more than you speak	27 You are accountable for your own actions - Make respectful choices	28 Use your manners in the cafeteria - <i>please</i> and <i>thank you</i> show respect	29 You have to give respect to get it!	30 Happy Halloween! Say 'thank you' when you are trick or treating J	31

"Tomorrow is never promised..." Enjoy today. Respect others, Have fun, Smile (a lot,) Be happy, Work hard, and most of all BE KIND!