

Washington Township Schools



"Making a Difference"

Save the Date!

2015 Brass Castle Talent Show
Wednesday April 1st at 7:00pm

Archery Club News

Archers from grade 6 competed in the New Jersey State Tournament via a virtual competition on March 10th at Brass Castle School. Two of our Washington archers were very close to qualifying for Nationals in Kentucky: Julia Fox - 5 points away with a score of 232 and Jason Merrill - 7 points away with a score of 230! Congratulations to club advisor, Mr. Hornyak, and our 2015 Archery Club on



Tyler Ostrander and Coach Hornyak during the 2015 Virtual Archery Tournament

Congratulations to our 2015 PTA Reflections County Winners!

Literature (Primary): Laney Adie - 1st Place

Literature (Intermediate): Jennifer Drevitch - 2nd Place;
Raina Teter - 1st Place
(Middle): Michael Fink—2nd Place

Photography (Intermediate): Bailey Asbury - 1st Place; Abigail Tolkacz - 3rd Place

Visual Arts (Primary): Rylie Werneke - 1st Place

Honorable Mentions: Brodie Adie, Regan Asbury, Gianna Cazzolino, Sarah Schlaffer, Destiny Sheppard, Allison Slovak, Edward Conklin, Shrenik Patel, Elizabeth Schlaffer, and Hannah DeVoe

Participation Certificates: Alexis Amey, Rebecca Anema, Emily Boniface, Kaitlyn DeGeorge, Ryan Galka, Julia Monico, Ashley Moskal, David Oranye and Ethan Suiter

A PTA reception was held for our recipients. Thank you to all participants...your projects were remarkable!

Students, start writing, dancing, producing and taking photos that capture the theme for 2016: "Let your imagination fly..."

Family Scrabble Night

The Brass Castle Scrabble Club hosted its second annual Family Scrabble Night. Scrabble club members and their families, along with other Brass Castle families and staff members got together for some friendly competition. The Scrabble Club members had a chance to show off their word skills while teaching the game to Scrabble newbies. It was a fun night of strategy, small talk, and snacks. We hope to see everyone at next year's Scrabble Night!



Taylor Fabian and Sabrina Nunez display Scrabble tile cupcakes made by Taylor's aunt.

Building Bridges!



Mrs. Page's class studied different bridges and analyzed how they were built and what made them strong. The class found that shorter pieces of material were harder to bend than longer pieces, and they also found that triangles, diagonals, and Xs were strong shapes that were used in many of the bridges they observed. Students then worked in groups to design and build a bridge made of straws, tape, and rubber bands. As a class, the bridges were tested to see how much weight they could hold. The class found that all the bridges were able to hold at least 400g and one heavy dictionary, and some bridges were able to hold even more!

Child's Play Theatre Assembly

A tradition in our district is the arrival of the Child's Play Theatre from Chicago. What makes this tradition so special to our students is that the scripts used for the acts are actual writing pieces that our students submit in January. Three writing pieces are selected from each school and the students find out if they move from "writer" to "scriptwriter" status on the day of the performance. It is great fun for students and staff to see our young writers' work come alive on stage!

This year our "scriptwriters" were Keely Hunter, Juliana Matsil and Vinnie Montero from Port Colden as well as Isabel Bourne, Stephanie Dunlap and Jessie Olson from Brass Castle.



Brass Castle Child's Play Scriptwriters: Stephanie Dunlap, Isabel Bourne and Jessie Olson

STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Mitch's 5th grade class recently completed a STEM activity utilizing simple machines. This problem-based learning activity required the students to use everyday items to construct a model pulley system that could be used to keep hungry bears away from food while on a camping trip. The students each designed a pulley system on their own, and then combined into small groups where they compared the pros and cons of each system. This data was used to create a group pulley system. After many trials and errors, the groups designed a presentation to demonstrate their pulley systems to their classmates. The students demonstrated patience and perseverance as they planned and problem-solved together. Perhaps if you are planning a camping trip in the near future, you could ask a 5th grader from 5P/M for some advice on keeping your food safe.



Habitat for Humanity of Warren County



Second graders in Miss O'Rourke's class participated in an art project that involved painting vases for table centerpieces at the upcoming Warren County Habitat for Humanity auction. The students were very motivated and enthusiastic about painting beautiful vases. While they painted away the students began talking about other ways they could help Habitat for Humanity. They decided to build a basket that could be auctioned off at the event in April that would raise money to help support the cause. Deciding on a theme was a little tricky but after some brainstorming and voting sessions, they decided to create a sports/outdoor themed basket. The

students are collecting items like sunscreen, Band-Aids, socks, re-useable water bottles, exercise balls, and much more! Above is a picture of the second graders showing off the colorful vases they made! If you are interested in donating any sports/outdoors items to our basket, please email Miss O'Rourke or stop by our classroom.

Can You Get Soup from a Stone?

Mrs. Melhem's class can! All you need is a story, a stone, and people who are willing to share....(the work that is!) After completing our wonderful new Reading Wonder's Literature Folktale Unit with a theme of 'Choices' our class celebrated the end of the first round of P.A.R.C.C. testing by making Stone Soup.



This third grade class read two stories, Nail Soup *Eric Madden* and The Real Story of Stone Soup by Chang Compestine. Students compared and contrasted these stories and then had fun acting out yet another version from Reader's Theatre. After all that hard work, students were truly hungry. "Can *we* make stone soup?" they asked. Well, the teacher thought, if you are willing to make good choices by participating and sharing the work ...it can be done. Students provided vegetables and broth. Mrs. Melhem provided the stone and cook pot. Smelling the aroma of chicken vegetable soup simmering all day made their mouths water! "EWW, is that spinach you're adding Mrs. Melhem?" Yes, she answered.

A few hours later, it was soup time. "Wow, this is so delicious!" they each cheered. "Can I have seconds, please?" "Of course," answered a pleased Mrs. Melhem. Did we really make this?" they asked. "Yes,... and it all began with just a stone!" 'See what wonderful things come from making the choice to share the work?' she ended.

Sambulance Visits Port Colden

Students from Miss Baratta's, Miss Grochowicz's, and Mrs. Maurer's classes at Port Colden participated in the Sambulance program on Wednesday, March 25. The Sambulance Program travels to schools and organizations to offer complimentary, hands-on programming designed to educate children about first responders, 9-1-1 emergencies and basic first aid. Students practiced safety awareness, basic first aid, and explored the inside of an ambulance. Thanks to Sambulance for a fun and educational afternoon!



Mrs. Campagna's kindergarten class gets a surprise visit from the Cat in the Hat on Dr. Seuss Read Across America Day - March 2nd

Sixth Grade Students "Rock" Oakwood Lanes in Support of Big Brothers Big Sisters

On March 24, a fun and enthusiastic group of sixth grade students raised \$750.00 for the local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters. Each student collected pledges from family and friends for the annual "Rock 'N Bowl" event at Oakwood Lanes. Students bowled on a team with their friends, enjoyed a tasty snack and received a T-shirt, along with prizes for strikes and spares. Hannah DeVoe was awarded tickets to Dorney Park for raising the most money. Emily Boniface came in second and received tickets to a Somerset Patriots baseball game. Mr. Neuhs, Mrs. Casserly and Mrs. Motzenbecker enjoyed watching the students having fun and knowing that their efforts would benefit children in our own community. We look forward to next year's event!

Is There a Super Hero in Your Neighborhood?

Writing in Mrs. Melhem's class is always fun. This week her third graders wrote to this writing prompt: Imagine you are given the power of a superhero! Write an essay describing you as a new superhero! Explain what you would call yourself, what would your ability would be and how it will help the people in the community?

After Mrs. Melhem dressed up as the *Gluten Gladiator's* sister, *Cooking Queen*, she modeled how she would answer the prompt. She wrote that her character would help all the people of the community who had Celiac by creating gluten free drive through(s) She could also wave her wand so all food that was gluten free, would be packaged in bright green as to stand out so that people who had Celiac didn't have to read labels anymore.

Students were then so excited to write, dress up and present! The laughter could be heard down the hall as the heroes read about their abilities to help its community.

Here are some of the heroes and their powers.

The Baker Man: Fed the hungry

Bubble Boss: Spread joy over the planet with bubbles

The Twister Tornado: Roll in and wipe away sadness on rainy days

Miracle Man: Heals the sick

Pink Power: Helps the elderly; visits people in nursing homes and hospitals

Game Warrior: Helps people win at video games

Feel Better Felicia: Helps people get through their nightmares

Swag Saver: Helps people be beautiful

Magic Mood Man: Helps people change mood and attitudes

Allergy Avenger: Helps people get through allergy attacks



The Public Hearing on the 2015-2016 Washington Township School District Budget will take place at the April 27th Board of Education Meeting.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM in the Brass Castle Media Center.

All are welcome and invited to attend.

Counselor's Corner

April 2015

... *I think I can, I think I can, I think I can...* One of the greatest lessons we can teach our children comes in the form of the classic story of The Little Engine That Could. Instilling the skills of persistence and perseverance at a young age will have benefits far into adulthood.

Our children are always watching us and the best lessons are taught by example. Giving up on something is the only sure way to fail. Success rarely comes with a first try at anything. It is the day to day struggles, failures and patience, the 'I think I can' moments that move us toward ultimate success.

I know from my own children that it is painful to watch them fail. We want to protect them and how easy would it be to 'do it' for them. It is worth reminding that letting our children experience failure now sets the stage for the future. They will learn how to navigate life with determination, perseverance and a positive attitude...

Did you know many successful people started out with failure after failure - it was their personal determination, work ethic and sometimes a bit of luck that pushed them through:

Henry Ford: Known for his innovative assembly line and American made cars, he failed at least several times and had no money before he was successful with his Ford Motor Company

Colonel Sanders: Known for his Kentucky Fried Chicken KFC fame, Sanders had a hard time selling his chicken at first. His secret recipe was rejected over 1,000 times before a restaurant accepted it. Now KFC is in towns all over the country

Walt Disney: We all know the magic of Disney... did you know he was fired by a newspaper editor in his younger years because 'he lacked imagination and had no good ideas?'

Thomas Edison: In his early years, Edison's teachers felt he was not able to learn anything and he was fired from his first two jobs for being too slow. As an inventor, Edison failed 1,000 times to create a light bulb... through his perseverance he finally invented a design that worked

J.K. Rowling: While writing Harry Potter, she was penniless, and raising a child on her own. She considered giving up many times, but kept moving forward and within five years her hard work and determination paid off - she is one of the richest women in the world now

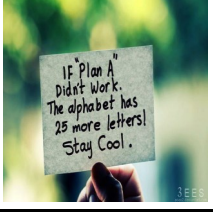

Michael Jordan: Can you believe Jordan was CUT from his high school basketball team? This failure motivated him to work harder and look where he is today

Theodor Seuss Giesel: Known as Dr. Seuss... Twenty-seven publishers rejected his first book. Instead of getting sad and giving up, Seuss worked harder and never gave up. What a gift he has given us with his legacy of wonderful stories and his determination to be heard

Instant success is rare. It is our consistent effort, day after day that moves us forward to success. I invite you to share the Character Calendar with your family this month. There are daily reminders and thoughts that will keep us all moving in a positive direction!

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with me. I am thankful to be a positive piece in their lives helping to guide them forward. Please feel free to contact me any time at dtierney@washtwpsd.org or 908-689-1188 ext 611

April 2015-Perseverance

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
			1 Make a goal to try something new or different this month	2 You work hard - enjoy your time off ;)	3 SPRING BREAK	4
5	6 SPRING BREAK	7 SPRING BREAK	8 SPRING BREAK	9 Perseverance is not a long race; it is many short races one after the other... Keep moving forward	10 Did you know Thomas Edison failed 10,000 times before he made his electric light?	11
12	13 What is difficult for you? Work extra hard on this today	14 The word 'quit' must never be in your vocabulary	15 Work hard with a positive attitude today. That's an unbeatable combination!	16 Remind yourself to never, never, never give up	17 "When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."	18
19	20 Make a choice to do your best even if it takes a little longer	21 Believe in yourself	22 Decide to improve one thing about yourself today	23 Be happy with a small accomplishment today	24 Anything is possible with a positive attitude and hard work	25
26	27 Giving up is the only sure way to fail - Never Give Up!	28 Share your strengths with others	29 Remember-it takes climbing one step at a time to reach the top of the stairs.	30 Did you reach the goal you set for yourself this month? If not use your determination to keep trying		

*Look at a stone cutter hammering away at this rock,
perhaps a hundred times without as much a crack showing in it.
Yet at the hundred-and-first blow it will split in two,
and I know it was not the last blow that did it, but all that had gone before.
~Jacob Riis*