



PAW PRINTS

A Newsletter for Residents of the Western Wayne School District

Fall 2008

NEW SCHOOL EDITION

Look for articles throughout this edition on the progress of our new elementary school...

pages 1, 4 & 6.

WHAT IS LEED SILVER?

LEED silver has nothing to do with the Lone Ranger's horse...it has everything to do with building an eco-friendly "green" school. In its quest to construct an environmentally friendly and fiscally responsible elementary school, the Western Wayne Board of Education has charged the district's administration and building designers to attain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the new elementary school. Let's examine what LEED silver certification really means.

The United States Green Building Council established LEED standards at the platinum, gold, and silver levels based on a points system. The more points you earn, the greener the building, and the higher the status. The LEED standards focus on several aspects of building design including: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. The sustainable site standard focuses on, among other things, the size of the building's footprint and the efficiency of the building's storm water management plan. The water efficiency plan focuses on low-flow, high efficiency water fixtures, while the energy and atmosphere plan looks at high efficiency lighting plans and other strategic methods to reduce the building's energy consumption. The materials and resources plan concentrates on the use of recycled building materials and construction procedures designed to decrease landfill use due to waste production. Finally, the indoor environmental quality plan includes the use of low fume adhesives, paints, and carpets.

The LEED silver certification ensures that on some level, all of these standards are met or exceeded. Provided the new Western Wayne Elementary School attains LEED silver certification, it will be one of the few buildings in the country to have done so, and it will serve as a model for buildings of the future. According to Michael Spearnak of the Poudre School District in Fort Collins, Colorado, "Building a LEED certified school is the right thing to do, the right thing to teach kids, and the right message to send to the community and it doesn't cost more." Western Wayne thinks so too!

References: Building Green Schools (<http://www.buildgreenschools.org/leed/index.html>) is a quality site in which to find more information from the United States Green Building Council on green school construction.



FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLE PROGRAM AT LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program is now underway at Lake Elementary! One fresh fruit or vegetable is served as a snack three days each week. Students are served the nutritious and delicious snack in the classroom by their teachers.

Maria Liptak, Western Wayne Director of Food Services, has planned each month's snacks around a color theme. For example, September has been Blue and Purple Month. Some of the snacks offered have been blueberries, prunes, plums, and figs. A 5th grade student reads some interesting facts about the day's snack during morning announcements, and the teachers repeat it at serving time. October will be Red Month so the students can look forward to having red foods, including dried cranberries, pomegranates, radishes, and raspberries.

Throughout the year a wide variety of items will be offered. We've all heard "I don't like it!" from our children, sometimes before they've even tried a new food. So the teachers model eating all the tasty treats, even unfamiliar ones. All students are encouraged to try each item.

On fig day, some of Miss Larkin's 3rd graders were eager to try the fruit, while others were more skeptical. David Frisbie said they were "fuzzy on the outside and a little bit good on the inside." Jason Telese thought they looked like a little blue pear. Ellen Dwyer and Macy Martino didn't care for the taste or texture, while Makayla Griffith and Taylor Reinert thought they were delicious!

Hopefully the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program will impact our students' health, now and in the future, by expanding their ideas about food choices. Perhaps while grocery shopping with your child, the produce section will soon be as appealing as the chips and cookie aisles!

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W.W.H.S. HOSTS FREE WINTER CAR CARE CLINIC

On November 8, 2008 the Western Wayne Hot Rod Club will host a Free Winter Car Care Clinic at the Western Wayne High School Auto Shop from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Tire tread, air pressure, fluids, and much more will be checked to make sure your vehicle is ready for winter!

"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."

~ Thomas Alva Edison

LEADERSHIP WAYNE TO PRESENT “ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A WAYNE COUNTY 5TH GRADER?”

If you have ever thought about participating on a television game show, now is your chance. See for yourself just how smart 5th graders can be. On Saturday, October 25, 2008, the Leadership Wayne Class of 2008 will host *“Are You Smarter than a Wayne County 5th Grader?”* at Honesdale High School beginning at 5:30 p.m.

According to Mr. Pete Chapla, Western Wayne Middle School Principal and a member of the Leadership Wayne Class of 2008, the event is a community service project involving local businesses, county and public school leaders, and will raise funds for local charities here in Wayne County. “The format for the show puts 10 fifth grade student contestants from schools in Wayne Highlands, Wallenpaupack, and Western Wayne school districts against several local celebrities and business owners,” said Chapla. Like its television game show counterpart, the event is designed to have student contestants compete against the likes of Wendell Kay, Wayne County Commissioner, Larry Witt of the Honesdale Police Department, and Molly Rodgers of the Wayne County Public Library to name a few.

Students who will represent Western Wayne School District include Luke Wildenstein of Robert D. Wilson School and Adam Mattern and Taber Starnes of Lake Elementary School.

Tickets are available at the Western Wayne Middle School, Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, Southern Wayne Chamber of Commerce, and the News Eagle in Hawley. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the event. Adult tickets are \$5.00 each; children 12 and under are \$3.00 each. Proceeds will benefit local charities here in Wayne County. For further information, please contact Mr. Pete Chapla at the Western Wayne Middle School at 937-3010.



WESTERN WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL IMPLEMENTS MATH LABORATORY

For the 2008–2009 school year the Western Wayne High School has implemented a new Math Lab program, designed to help students experiencing math difficulty to improve their skills. Through the use of direct teacher instruction combined with online remediation resources in a low student to teacher ratio, this great new program allows the math teachers and administration to provide immediate additional math help to whomever needs it. The concept behind the math lab is to provide extra help to students as soon as they begin to struggle with a math concept. The program provides the necessary help to the students and then releases them from the program as soon as the remediation is complete. Students are recommended for the math lab through a number of different ways such as PSSA test scores, 4Sight test scores, and/or teacher recommendation. This is a great way for the students to receive the additional math help they need in an immediate manner. If you have any questions about the math lab, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s guidance counselor or Mrs. Diane Scarfalloto, High School Principal.

ELECTION 2008 AT ROBERT D. WILSON

Presidential elections draw added attention and excitement to the electoral process. Robert D. Wilson students are not immune to this phenomenon. They are eager to share what they know about the presidential candidates.

On October 30, 2008 the student body will cast their vote along with thousands of other Pennsylvania students in the Pennsylvania Student Mock Election Program. The program teaches students about the voting process by having them participate in a variety of real life activities prior to and during the actual casting of votes. Students will cast votes for United States President, Pennsylvania Attorney General, Auditor General, and State Treasurer. Very important ballot questions will also be posed: "What is your favorite food?" and/or "Should school run all year?"

We are looking forward to the planned activities and casting our vote with students from across the state.

Visit <http://www.dos.state.pa.us/mockelection> for more information.

"Nine tenths of education is
encouragement."
~ Anatole France

GOLD CARDS DISTRIBUTED TO SENIORS AT WESTERN WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL



If your senior comes home with a gold card, do not be alarmed. No, we are not talking about a Gold Card credit card; we are talking about a new rewards system for seniors scoring advanced and/or proficient on both the math and reading sections of the PSSA tests. The PSSA test is administered to high school students in their junior year. As a result of their hard work, 71 seniors received Gold Cards. The Gold Cards will entitle the card holders to free admission to all home sporting events and school dances (excluding the prom and semi-formal). Gold Card holders will also receive free monthly "treats" during lunch sections and free admission to class day at the end of the school year. Also, all Gold Card holders will be entered into drawings for free items throughout the school year including prom tickets, semi-formal tickets, a yearbook, and a tuxedo for the prom, just to name a few. Through this incentive program, we are hoping to encourage more and more students to strive for their best work on the PSSA. A challenge to the junior class...can you beat 71?

BDA ARCHITECTS ANTICIPATE JANUARY 2009 BID

According to Todd Wescott of Burkavage Design Associates, the project manager for the new Western Wayne Elementary School, the necessary approvals to take this exciting project out to bid will likely be in place by January 2009. As of press time, the three permits that the District continues to seek are related to the PA Department of Environmental Protection's NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System), the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit), and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Sanitary System permit. We look forward to continually updating the community on the progress of this exciting project.

HOW OUR TEACHERS HELP CHILDREN BECOME BETTER READERS

Over the past five years, elementary teachers in grades K-3 have received extensive professional development funded through the Reading First grant. Professional development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and vocabulary has positively affected student achievement with Western Wayne enjoying steadily rising reading scores throughout the elementary grades. Now in the last year of the Reading First grant, teachers will explore the fifth and final pillar of effective reading instruction – comprehension – using a book study format.

Assistant Superintendent Clay LaCoe has obtained grant monies allowing the district to purchase a professional book about effective comprehension instruction for *all* elementary teachers. Over the course of the year, Reading First reading coaches will lead K-3 teachers in a book study of the text and guide them in implementing effective comprehension strategies within their classrooms.

Comprehension is the goal of all reading instruction and is perhaps best illustrated by this story from the study group book's opening pages:

After their 8-year-old daughter carefully studies the sign in front of Space Mountain at Disney World warning riders about the speed of the rollercoaster, her parents were surprised when she informed them that she would not go on this ride. The year before, she had read the words on the sign out loud, but rode the rollercoaster repeatedly and talked about nothing else for days. Even though her parents encouraged her to ..., She steadfastly refused, declaring, "This year, I know what the words on the sign [mean]!" [Teaching Reading Comprehension to Students with Learning Difficulties, J. Klingner, S. Vaughn, and A. Boardman. The Guildford Press, 2007.]

Book studies are highly effective professional development frameworks, allowing participants to share knowledge and experiences to 'problem solve' implementation issues while acquiring new knowledge. In their continuing effort to achieve excellence, Western Wayne School District administrators have also participated in professional book study groups to deepen their understanding of effective classroom practices. As a result, Elementary Principal Ellen Faliskie (Hamlin and Lake) has furthered challenged teachers to explore their use of questions when teaching comprehension. She has provided K-5 teachers with question starters based on "Six Facets of Understanding: explanation, interpretation, application, perspective, empathy, and self-knowledge," as described by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe (2005).

If you are interested in learning more about how to help a child become a better reader, please contact us at clacoe@westernwayne.org.



COMING SOON...

Check out the Western Wayne website for a link on the progress of the new elementary school and a link regarding curriculum so you can learn more about academics at Western Wayne!

www.westernwayne.org

THE LIVING MACHINE: SCIENCE FICTION OR PROGRESSIVE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT?

The Living Machine™ sounds like something straight out of an Isaac Asimov science fiction novel. What if you were to discover that this Living Machine™ was actually coming to Western Wayne's new elementary school? Would you be concerned...excited...at least curious? Well, as it turns out, the Living Machine™ is coming to Western Wayne! Rest assured, however, that this machine is not science fiction but a very real and innovative way to treat large amounts of wastewater in an environmentally friendly manner.

Rather than the traditional wastewater treatment facilities that are both chemically and energy intensive, the Living Machine™ mimics the functionality of a natural wetland to treat wastewater and sewage. It is also accompanied by many "side benefits" for the community. Invented by biologist John Todd, the Living Machine™ uses living organisms, especially bacteria, to consume and break down waste. The natural biological processes that the bacteria use to metabolize the waste actually produce completely safe byproducts. The system will be specifically engineered to handle the waste typically generated on a daily basis in an elementary school. The other benefits of the Living Machine™ include a plan to reuse much of the wastewater for toilet flushing and irrigation. Finally, one of the most valuable applications of the Living Machine™ beyond its use to treat wastewater is the educational benefit it provides to our children. The wastewater treatment facility will most certainly be used as a *living* environmental classroom!

The Board of Education of the Western Wayne School District looks forward to making such an environmentally friendly application available to the communities that comprise Western Wayne. We cannot wait to see the Living Machine™ in action!

References: Worrell Water Technologies (<http://www.livingmachines.com>) is a quality site in which to find information on Living Machines™.

GEOHERMAL SYSTEM TO HEAT & COOL NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Geothermal heat pump systems transfer heat from the earth to buildings. The ground remains at a constant temperature year-round (about 50 degrees Fahrenheit), providing a source of heat in the winter and a means to cool air in the summer.

This type of geothermal heat pump system being considered for the district would circulate water in a closed loop through vertical wells in the ground. The water is then circulated through the school building, where highly efficient heat pumps extract heat from the loop or reject heat to the loop, as needed, to heat or cool the air. A geothermal heat pump system is sustainable, meaning no heating or cooling of the earth is ever required.

An added benefit of this type of system is its flexibility in keeping learning spaces comfortable, since heat can be moved from warm areas that need cooling to cool areas in need of heating. In other words, one room can be cooled while another is heated, ensuring all students are comfortable.

This article was taken in its entirety from <http://www.niskayunaschools.org/district/BoardofEd/geothermalFAQ.htm>.

WESTERN WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL GIFTED AND TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS ATTEND THE PENNSYLVANIA RENEWABLE ENERGY & SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVAL

Western Wayne Gifted and Technology students attended the Pennsylvania Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Festival held at the Kempton Community Center on September 19, 2008. The students participated in a one-day session of a three-day festival celebrating earth-friendly living. The festival was sponsored in part by Kutztown University.

The many exhibits included topics on renewable energy, sustainable living, organic farming, green building, and alternative transportation. Students were offered classroom presentations on topics from recycling to bio-fuels for transportation. Students had an opportunity to observe exhibits dealing with alternative energy and were able to participate in other special activities.

This festival provided a rare opportunity for Western Wayne students to experience the very latest in energy solutions and future ideas. Featured speakers included Colin Beavan, author of several books and national magazine articles, U.S. Senator Bob Casey speaking on "national energy corridors", Greg Pahl, a founding member of the Vermont Bio-fuels Association and author of several books on alternative energy sources, Jeffrey Cramer, C-span contributor, Christopher Weber, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, and Patricia M. DeMarco, Executive Director, Rachel Carson Homestead Association.

In addition to classroom lectures and hands-on activities students sampled a vast array of food items provided by vendors from around the state. The foods were presented on biodegradable products.

The festival allowed students to learn about recent environmental innovations and cutting edge technology and bioengineering.

Questions or Feedback about Paw Prints?

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback to us about Paw Prints, please contact us at (570) 937-4270 or e-mail Clay LaCoe at clacoe@westernwayne.org

"In every community there is work to be done.
In every nation, there are wounds to heal.
In every heart there is the power to do it."
~ Marianne Williamson



WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**The Western Wayne School District will work for excellence...
for everyone...in all things...always.**

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