

PAW PRINTS



Western Wayne School District Newsletter for the Community

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WESTERN WAYNE WAY – Andrew Falonk, Superintendent



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The Western Wayne School District is deeply committed to improving education in our community. We, as a school community, recognize that our children are our greatest resource. The fact that you entrust your children to our care on a daily basis is indeed an honor. The administration, faculty, and staff of the Western Wayne School District want to let you know about some of the new initiatives in the district designed to help us become better at what we do.

In the coming months you may hear about the *Western Wayne Way*, which

is a plan that we have devised to help us grow and improve as a school district. We truly believe that Western Wayne is a great place for children to learn and grow; the *Western Wayne Way* will help us become better. The plan itself has three components... instructional, evidence-based, and public. The first two components are designed to help improve student achievement while the public component is designed to help us engage the larger community in a discussion about the importance of our children's education.

The Western Wayne School District has a vision



Andrew Falonk, Superintendent

for the future. This vision states that the district will work for excellence...for everyone...in all things...always. Western Wayne has a bright future ahead of it; we look forward to embracing that future with you so that, together, we can make Western Wayne even better than it already is.



SUMMER READING –Ellen Faliskie, Hamlin & Lake Elementary Principal

Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, all students in the Hamlin and Lake Ariel Elementary Schools went home this summer with a book to read. The new students who registered over the summer also received a copy of the book.

This program has two purposes. First, we want children to read over the summer; and second, we feel

that it provides an excellent opportunity to involve parents and other family members in extending what we do at school. As you may know, children who consistently read together with a family member are more likely to experience school success. Children will be assessed on the book they read, and it will be part of the child's reading grade for the first quarter. We have had

overwhelming feedback from parents thanking us for the project.

In addition to the summer book, we also sent home a suggested reading list with each child. You can also find copies of the reading list in the Community Library of Lake & Salem Township, at Borders in Dickson City, and on our district web site at www.westernwayne.org.

We are pleased to see that parents are using the library more and one family even went to the library while on vacation! We'll be providing more information on the Summer Reading Program at Western Wayne in the future.

Happy Reading!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

-Patrick Farley, Technology Teacher, High School

With fuel prices rising and more media attention being given to global warming, naturally I jumped at the opportunity to attend an instructor seminar at Ohio Technical College focused on alternative fuels. I participated in a three-day class instructed by Mark Schmidt, Director of the Alternative Fuel Program for the college.

During the course I heard two excellent guest speakers. The first was Dr. Mark Daroux, President and CEO of Stratum Technologies. Dr. Daroux's company is getting ready to

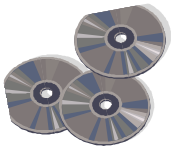
manufacture a plug-in conversion kit for the Toyota Prius. Toyota has been the front-runner in hybrid technology since it introduced the Prius in 2001. The Prius runs on an electric motor until it reaches 42 miles per hour when the engine takes over. The batteries are charged while the engine is running or while the car is going downhill. Stratum technologies is developing a battery pack that will allow the car to be charged at home by plugging it in.

The second guest speaker was Kenneth Burke, a NASA engineer, who spoke about

hydrogen fuel cells. Mr. Burke brought a working model of a hydrogen fuel cell, which splits apart water molecules to produce hydrogen, which in turn can be used as fuel for automobiles. The course covered many other topics such as bio-fuels, electric cars, hybrid buses, and the Toyota Prius and Ford Escape hybrid.

I am thankful for Ohio Tech's invitation and for their donation of a \$2,500.00 scholarship that we can award to a Western Wayne student. As a

technology teacher specializing in automotives, this conference provided me with a rich set of valuable and timely information that I will now use with my students. The automotive world is changing, and we are bringing some of that change to Western Wayne.



CLASSROOMS FOR THE FUTURE...What is it?

-Michael Burke, CFF Coach, High School

Classrooms For the Future enables teachers to use technology as an effective tool for educating students, and preparing students to enter and successfully compete in the ever expanding high-tech global marketplace.

Originally, many people thought of CFF as a "laptop" program or "technology" grant. While the state has invested a tremendous amount of money in the technology for this

initiative, the main goal of CFF is not simply technology. The main goal of CFF is for teachers and schools to fine-tune their educational practices and, if necessary, to restructure them to best prepare our students for an ever-changing future. Many of our current students will select careers which do not exist today. In order to prepare our students for such an uncertain future, we have a responsibility to ensure our lessons

incorporate necessary 21st-century skills. Chalk, blackboards, and textbooks are still essential components for educating students today; however, there is no question that in order to adequately prepare our students for life beyond the classroom we must incorporate a greater level of technology into our schools. By introducing students to these resources, we are helping to ensure our students will be best

"Never be afraid to do something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic."
-Anonymous



prepared to grasp new technological trends and utilize them to their fullest advantage.



EARLY INTERVENTION CLASSROOM STATE MODEL

-Kristin Johnson, School Psychologist



The early intervention classroom at R.D. Wilson Elementary was recently identified by the Pennsylvania Verbal Behavior Project as a model classroom site in the state for exceptional programming for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). In order to achieve model site status, Michelle Mistishin and Danielle Vokes devoted three years to extensive training with the PA Verbal Behavior Project to develop state-of-the-art programming for young children diagnosed with autism. Their classroom is one of only a dozen in the state to achieve model status.

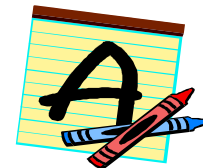
In addition, both Mrs. Mistishin and Mrs. Vokes are newly-minted Board Certified Behavior Analysts, an achievement that required continued graduate coursework, significant supervision, and, finally, the passing of a national certification exam.

The district is pleased to announce that the school-age autistic support classrooms at R.D. Wilson Elementary and the Western Wayne Middle School will also participate in the PA Verbal Behavior Project during the 2007-08

school year. The district's involvement in the Project will enable our staff to receive extensive professional development each week in our classrooms from experts in the field. Our teachers' expertise and dedication to ongoing professional development are examples of the outstanding educational opportunities available to students in the Western Wayne School District.



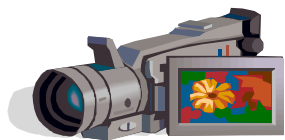
Robert D. Wilson School



3, 2, 1...YOU'RE ON THE AIR

- David Rupp, Technology Teacher, High School

Over the summer, the technology education department at the high school remodeled some existing space into a brand new video production facility. The facility will host a film technology class which is designed to assist students in gaining skills in film and television production along with creating an aware-



ness of film technology's effect on society.

While learning to edit film, design backgrounds, and create audio and video effects, the students will be involved in many projects. These projects include a video yearbook, a morning newscast, and advertisements for local businesses.

If your business would like to be considered for participation in the ad-

vertising project, please e-mail Mr. David Rupp at drupp@westernwayne.org. The Western Wayne School District is thrilled to be able to offer this cutting edge course to our students.



"To accomplish great things we must first dream, then visualize, then plan...believe...act!"
-Alfred A. Montapert



B.U.G. CLUB



– Maria Miller, Principal, R.D. Wilson Elementary School



There are 485 bugs at Robert D. Wilson Elementary, BUT please do not call the exterminator.

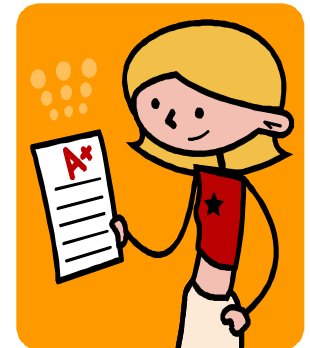
Students of R.D. Wilson, along with their teachers, joined the Bringing Up Grades, or B.U.G. Club. Teachers and their students selected specific academic skills to improve. As individuals and teams the students worked to improve: writing skills, summarization skills, independent reading time, or problem solving.

At the beginning of

October a baseline or starting score was recorded for each student. During the month the students completed their work and assessments. As the scores were recorded the classroom teachers looked for improved performance. Each student was challenged to improve upon his or her previous best grade. Students who achieved quality grades were encouraged to maintain their performance. At the end of the month, students who met the challenge were rewarded. They enjoyed receiving glow

bracelets and attending a Halloween dance in the gymnasium.

The B.U.G. Club made the process of learning and improving a little more exciting. Everyone is looking forward to the challenge in November. Classroom teams may choose to keep their selected challenge or alter their selected academic area. This opportunity is supported through the generosity of the Robert D. Wilson PTA and their ink cartridge recycling program.



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

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ABOUT US...

Western Wayne was formed in 1969 and is composed of the townships of Canaan, Lake, Salem, South Canaan, Sterling, and a portion of Clinton. The borough of Waymart is also part of the Western Wayne School District. Encompassing approximately 174 square miles in western Wayne County, the school district is 25 miles north and east of the city of Scranton in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

As a school district, Western Wayne consists of three elementary schools, a middle and high school. The approximate total student enrollment is 2,500.

The mission of the Western Wayne School District, in partnership with family and community, is to develop, inspire and educate each student to be an adaptable, culturally aware, independent, life-long learner and a responsible citizen of a global society.

Find us on the web at:

www.westernwayne.org

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding our newsletter, please e-mail Dr. Clay LaCoe at clacoe@westernwayne.org.