



# PAWPRINTS

*A Newsletter for Residents of the Western Wayne School District*

## CONSTRUCTION SET TO BEGIN ON NEW SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!

The contracts have been awarded. On October 5, 2009 the Western Wayne Board of Education approved the intent to award contracts for the new South Elementary School. That means a new elementary school is on the horizon for the Western Wayne School District. The new school, located on Route 191 just north of Hamlin, will be a true 21st century learning facility and is tentatively slated to open in September of 2011.

Among the more exciting aspects of the new school is its environmentally friendly design. For example, heating and cooling will be controlled by geothermal wells and heat pumps, and the water treatment facility uses biological processes to break down sewer waste.

There are numerous other environmentally friendly technologies involved as well. In short, the building's design will have earned its LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification. According to Superintendent of Schools Andrew Falonk, the district will save significant amounts on energy costs because of the forward-thinking design.

As reported in the Wayne Independent on October 17, 2009...The two-story, 104,000 square foot, 33 classroom school has come in at a price tag of \$18.3 million, according to bids submitted by 14 contractors, financed by a \$20-million loan school directors approved earlier this year.

It will replace two, pre-World War II constructed schools, Hamlin Elementary Center and Lake Ariel Elementary School, thus consolidating 649 early intervention, pre-kindergarten through 5th grade students at one location.

As members of the Western Wayne community, please look for more information and updates on the new school in future editions of *PawPrints* or on the web at [www.westernwayne.org](http://www.westernwayne.org).

Our thanks to Steve McConnell of the Wayne Independent for contributing to this article.



## W.W.S.D. PREPARES NEW CURRICULUM WEBSITE

Beginning November 1, 2009 when you visit [www.westernwayne.org](http://www.westernwayne.org) you will be able to access many different curriculum resources offered by the District by selecting the curriculum tab at the top of the page. For example, you will be able to look at all standards by content area. In addition to this, you will be able to see some of the curriculum writing, assessment, and instructional resources available as well. Our goal is to eventually make the entire pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade Western Wayne School District Curriculum available to the public through this site.

# WESTERN WAYNE IS WILD ABOUT WELLNESS

All public and private school sponsors of the National School Lunch Program have been mandated to have local wellness policies in place. These policies must include:

1. Nutrition guidelines for all foods available on every school campus during the school day.
2. Goals for nutrition education.
3. Goals for physical activity.
4. Goals to promote student wellness in other school based activities.

In response to this mandate, the Western Wayne School District has developed the District Wellness Policy. The committee includes school board members, administrators, school nurses, health and physical education teachers, professional staff, the director of food services, members of the community and students. The district's focus will be to improve the nutrition and physical activity of our students and staff. Pennsylvania childhood obesity rates are higher than the national averages and the district is committed to work to help address this problem.

## Western Wayne Wellness Tips for Eating Healthy on a Budget

- ◆ **Shop in the outer perimeter of the supermarket:** Think of what's there-produce, dairy, meats and fish. The outer perimeter has less processed unhealthy foods than the aisles and usually at less cost.
- ◆ **Use smart shopping tactics:** Use coupons. Write down a list. Don't shop hungry.
- ◆ **Look for older foods:** Bruised fruit, foods close to expiration or end cuts of meat are usually cheaper, yet just as good.
- ◆ **Avoid Shortcut Foods:** It may be easier to buy unbuttered popcorn or bottled iced tea but you'll save a lot more money if you make your own from scratch.
- ◆ **Buy in bulk:** Whether you use a warehouse like Sam's Club or your regular supermarket, you may be able to buy cheaper and healthier in bulk. Buying in bulk is especially good for grains, legumes and other healthy foods that can be easily frozen.
- ◆ **Look beyond the supermarket:** You may find cheaper, healthy foods at farmers' markets, ethnic food stores, co-ops, food stands and other specialty places.
- ◆ **Cook more at home:** Eating out is expensive. Healthy eating out is even worse on your wallet.
- ◆ **Grow your own food:** One of the cheapest ways to eat healthy is to grow your own food, especially vegetables and herbs.

The Western Wayne School District Food Service Department is committed to serving our students top quality and nutritious meals everyday. The goals of our wellness policy will combine nutritious meals with education on healthy eating and exercise. We will monitor the calories, percentage of fat per calories and the percentage of saturated fat in all our food products. The following policy will be in effect in the district cafeterias:

- ◆ No soda will be offered during lunches or in our vending machines.
- ◆ Milk containing no fat or 1% fat will be served.
- ◆ Only plain bottled water, bottled flavored water and 100% fruit juice will be served during lunches and on our ala carte line.
- ◆ None of our food is deep-fried.
- ◆ Our products will contain no or little trans fatty acids.
- ◆ Fresh fruits and vegetables will be offered daily at every lunch station.
- ◆ Snacks such as baked chips will be offered.
- ◆ Desserts will be reduced fat varieties.
- ◆ Snacks and desserts will follow a target of less than 200 calories per serving, less than 30% of calories from fat and less than 10% of calories from saturated fat.
- ◆ We will follow the required procedures stated in the National School Breakfast/Lunch program requirements.
- ◆ Education materials will be supplied on the back of our school menus monthly.

For more information on our wellness policy please call Maria Liptak, Food Service Director at 937-3085.



## THE PA VERBAL BEHAVIOR PROJECT GIVES WESTERN WAYNE SITES HIGH MARKS

Western Wayne currently has three PA Verbal Behavior Project Model Sites, which provide intensive teaching and behavioral support for students with autism. Classrooms achieving Model Site status, awarded by the PA Verbal Behavior Project following annual site reviews, demonstrate a high degree of program implementation, and serve as “models” of best practice for other sites within the Project and interested outside agencies.

In April 2009, the Robert D. Wilson Early Intervention Program obtained Independent Model Site status, demonstrating 100% of the program implementation requirements for a second consecutive year. The other two sites are located in Robert D. Wilson and Western Wayne Middle School. These sites were informed that they were two out of eighteen sites involved in the Project that had met Model Site status in 2009. These PA Verbal Behavior Project endorsements make Western Wayne School District one of only three districts in the state to have all participating classrooms achieve model status.

Model Site teachers and support staff include early intervention teacher Michele Mistishin, elementary autistic support teacher Jessica Schield, middle school autistic support teacher Nadine Taylor, and instructional aides Carol Opalka, Patty Shelp, Carol Zawislak, Kim Anderson, Carrie Henwood, Leighann Wildenstein, and Andrea Covey. Internal coaches include school psychologist Jennifer David, school psychologist Kristin Johnson, and speech and language therapist Danielle Vokes.

## PAINTING THE TOWN **BLACK** & **GOLD**

Look around the community and you will see signs everywhere, “Go Cats”, “Good Luck Cats”, and “Wildcat Country” just to name a few. School spirit is alive and kicking in the Western Wayne School District as well as in the community! The football cheerleaders are responsible and have been working really hard at literally painting the town black and gold!

“The community has responded really well. We encourage other businesses, as well as individual households to keep on decorating,” says Maria Rupp, football cheerleading coach and Western Wayne High School faculty member.



In addition to their hard work the cheerleaders are also getting involved in community service. They recently donated their time to cheer at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure in Scranton. Cheerleaders from all squads (football, basketball, and wrestling) participated. They are also selling “Wildcat Wavers”- rally towels which are for sale for \$5.00 at the High School or during the games. Profits from the sale will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Scranton.

For more information, please call the High School office at 937-4112.

### Questions or Feedback about Paw Prints?

If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback to us about *PawPrints*,

please contact us at (570) 937-4270 or e-mail Clay LaCoe at [clacoe@westernwayne.org](mailto:clacoe@westernwayne.org)



## MUSIC & TECHNOLOGY... PERFECT TOGETHER


Music teachers in the Western Wayne High School are using SmartMusic technology in their classrooms. SmartMusic allows teachers to choose individual pieces of music which are displayed by computer. As the student plays the music, the computer “listens” and assesses the student’s playing for quality. The student receives immediate feedback on the performance and the software also sends a recording of the student’s piece to the teacher. For a nominal cost, the students can have the program at home. Also, the practice rooms have never been busier in the high school. This is just another example of the application of cutting edge educational technology in the Western Wayne School District.

## HAPPENINGS AT HAMLIN & LAKE ELEMENTARY

Through the use of economic stimulus money the Western Wayne School District has partnered with 95 Percent Group Inc. 95 Percent Group believes that when kindergarten through third grade students are provided with appropriate initial instruction and focused small group intervention, a minimum of 95% of them will read at or above their third grade level.

Consultants from their firm spoke to our elementary faculty during a teacher in-service in August 2009 where they shared their philosophy and plan for using data to drive reading instruction. Each elementary building will also have two personalized follow-up visits from a consultant during the school year. During these visits our goal will be to improve upon our reading intervention lessons, so we can “catch-up” any struggling readers before it is necessary for remediation. We will achieve our goal by using student data and research-based teaching methods to develop valuable lessons for our children and to make our Hamlin and Lake theme “Learning for All,” possible. 95 Percent Group Inc. will also do the same work at Robert D. Wilson Elementary this year.

## ROBERT D. WILSON ELEMENTARY HAPPENINGS

Third grade students of Robert D. Wilson Elementary extended their knowledge of working dogs with a visit from Ms. Dawn Finley and Taz of the North Pocono Search and Rescue Team.  Taz is a highly trained canine handled by Ms. Finley. They presented valuable information about personal safety. They also addressed strategies to use if in fact one of the students became lost. The students thoroughly enjoyed the discussion and video. They had the opportunity to ask questions about personal safety, Ms. Finley’s occupation, and what it is like to work with Taz.

The presentation was a culminating activity to the story Officer Buckle and Gloria. In the story the students learned about a police officer and canine team. It is traditionally one of the students’ favorite reading selections. The opportunity to learn more about service dogs and the special people that handle these dogs was exciting for the students.

Parents and students of Robert D. Wilson Elementary received valuable information about services provided through Wayne Libraries at Open House on September 22, 2009. Parents and students filled the large group instruction area as Tracy Schwarz of Wayne Public Libraries shared information about online services. Information included a demonstration of links to reliable and child safe research data bases. The group was also informed of valuable online tutorial services for homework help.

Several parents and students took the opportunity to activate library registrations. These registrations will help students access the valuable resources offered through Wayne Public Libraries. Tracy Schwarz will visit our school to work cooperatively with school librarian Mrs. Jill Mackarey in training students how to successfully navigate the online resources.



# EARLY INTERVENTION

## What is Early Intervention?

The Wayne County Consortium for Early Intervention serves families with developmentally delayed children from the ages of three to entrance to kindergarten. Children must reside in the Western Wayne, Wallenpaupack, or Wayne Highlands school districts. Services may include: specialized instruction, speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, hearing therapy, and vision therapy. All services are provided free of charge in regular preschools, daycares, or in a school-based classroom setting. Early Intervention program staff consist of certified teachers and therapists who will work in cooperation with parents to help children succeed.

## Who is eligible for Early Intervention?

Children with a diagnosed disability, as well as children with a developmental delay may be eligible to receive services. Eligibility is determined by a multidisciplinary team evaluation. Parents are active and important team members.

## How do I make a referral?

Anyone can make a referral: parents, doctors, teachers, grandparents, agencies, etc. The consortium leadership gathers information from the family, and with parent permission, a comprehensive evaluation is completed. The team, including the parents, determines need, level, and location of services. If you have any questions or if you would like to make a referral, please call 937-3065.

# 100 BOOK CHALLENGE COMES TO WESTERN WAYNE MIDDLE SCHOOL !



The Western Wayne Middle School, in partnership with the American Reading Company, has begun the 100 Book Challenge program. The premise of the 100 Book Challenge is quite simple... in order for children to become better readers, they must read! Seems simple doesn't it? It is simple; however, it is also very thoughtfully designed and well structured to support the specific needs of middle school students.

For example, students are allowed to choose what they read from among many different types of literature from poetry to non-fiction and everything in between. This choice component is critical for adolescent readers. The other critical component is that the reading material they choose be *easy* for them to read. Since the reading associated with the 100 Book Challenge is to be done independently, we do not want students to become frustrated with their choices; therefore, we have taken the time to know and understand each and every one of our middle school students' independent reading levels. Students are tasked to read independently for 30 minutes each day at school and for another 30 minutes at home. Over time, this reading translates into our students being exposed to literally millions more words than they would have otherwise encountered. This exposure to words helps develop comprehension skills and academic vocabulary that they will need in high school and beyond. Look for these books if you have a middle school student or a freshman in high school and take the time to ask them about the book or to listen to them read. It will be the best part of your day!

## ACADEMIC LITERACY TAKES OFF AT WESTERN WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL!

The Western Wayne High School has a new literacy focus called Academic Literacy. Every freshman in the high school takes a required Academic Literacy course taught by a certified reading specialist in which they learn to become better academic readers. In particular, the course focuses on “metacognition”. That is a very fancy way of saying that we teach students to “think about their own thinking”. In doing so, we are trying to get students to slow down and to reflect on the meaning of the text at hand. In becoming more disciplined metacognitive readers, students learn to become more strategic by picking out the important pieces of text and by understanding what to do when they encounter difficult text. These are vital skills that must be taught to even our best readers!

The Academic Literacy course is also directly related to the Reading Apprenticeship model developed by the WestEd Corporation. The Reading Apprenticeship model places the teacher as the master reader and the students as the apprentice reader. Research based strategies such as journaling, annotation, summarizing, thinking aloud, and talking to the text are emphasized and taught in all core content areas in addition to the Academic Literacy course. In essence, our students are learning how to be smarter by strategically approaching a difficult text and breaking it into manageable components. The hope is that our students will be better equipped to succeed in whatever post-secondary avenue they pursue, be it the workplace, the military, technical school or college.

We understand that formal reading instruction must take place as children mature from elementary to middle to high school. However, we also must understand the needs of the reader and instruct accordingly. Look for these exciting changes to help our students become better learners!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL TRAVELS TO POLAND

Western Wayne Middle School Principal Mr. Peter Chapla spent over a month in Poland this past summer as a participant in the Fulbright Hays Seminar Abroad Program. Mr. Chapla was one of sixteen educators from around the United States who was selected for the Fulbright program of study which was started in 1959 by the late Senator William Fulbright from Arkansas. The program provides educators with the opportunity to study the educational system, history, culture and economy of host nations in order to help U.S. students gain a greater understanding of countries with which the United States is affiliated.



During the seminar in Poland, Mr. Chapla visited Warsaw, Gdansk, Krakow, Zakopane, Auschwitz, Plaszow, Wroclaw, and Czestochowa, to name a few places. The Fulbright Poland group studied at Warsaw University, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, and the University of Wroclaw as part of the program. “It was a tremendous experience for me to see how schools operate in Poland, as well as to visit many of the historic sites I have learned about, particularly sites of the Holocaust,” said Mr. Chapla. “After visiting the sites of the concentration camp at Auschwitz and Plaszow, I have a greater understanding of what we can offer our teachers and students in learning about serious issues like genocide.”

Mr. Chapla further added that the program was of no cost to the district’s taxpayers, and is offered each year by the U.S. Department of Education. “I strongly encourage our teachers to consider applying for the program. The friendships I made with our Polish hosts and the colleagues I worked with this summer in Poland were invaluable. It truly enlightened me on the long and proud history of Poland, one of America’s strongest allies,” added Mr. Chapla. If you would like to learn more about Mr. Chapla’s experiences from Poland, you can check out his travel blog at:

<http://www.travelpod.com/travel-blog/pdchapla/1/tpod.html>

# EXCITING PLAN TO OFFER LCCC PROGRAMS IN CULINARY ARTS & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT IN WAYNE COUNTY

As a joint partnership among representatives of Luzerne Community College (LCCC), the Wallenpaupack Area School District, the Western Wayne School District, Woodloch Resort, and Caesars Cove Haven Resort, as coordinated by Workforce Wayne, we will begin offering courses leading to both a Certificate Specialization in Culinary Arts and a Certificate of Specialization in Hospitality Management by Luzerne County Community College in Wayne County. The Certificate of Specialization (CS) is a college credential that prepares graduates for direct entry into industry, but also offers students presently working in industry with opportunities to upgrade their skills and advance in their careers. The CS also represents the first half of the coursework required for an associate's degree in that area. Courses in Culinary Arts will be offered at Western Wayne High School and courses in Hospitality Management will be offered at Wallenpaupack Area High School. The courses will begin in the spring semester of 2010. Look for advertisements in your local newspapers. If you have questions, please call the Western Wayne School District at 937-4270 and ask for Clay LaCoe, Assistant Superintendent.

## H1N1 (SWINE) FLU

Two strains of flu, seasonal flu and H1N1 (Swine) flu, are currently circulating in the United States. Annual outbreaks of the seasonal flu usually occur during the late fall through early spring. In a typical year, 5 to 20 percent of the population gets the seasonal flu.

All types of flu can cause fever, coughing, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headaches, body aches, chills and fatigue. In addition to these symptoms, the H1N1 flu can also cause vomiting and diarrhea.

Like seasonal flu, illness in people with H1N1 flu can vary from mild to severe. The vast majority of people who have contracted H1N1 flu have recovered without needing medical treatment.

There are things you can do to minimize your family's risk for illness. Hand washing is the best way to prevent infection. Wash with soap and water frequently throughout the day and always when you arrive home. Please remind your children about the proper way to wash, for 15-20 seconds with soap and water over all surfaces of the hands and fingers. This is no time to rush! A few extra seconds each time at the sink may prevent the misery of illness for your family. Hand sanitizers are effective in killing microorganisms when soap and water are not available. Apply the hand sanitizer to all surfaces of your hands and fingers and rub until they are dry.



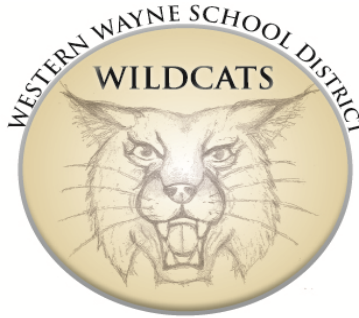
Also, try to stay in good general health, get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food. Avoid touching your face, nose and eyes. Avoid touching surfaces that may be contaminated with the flu virus. Avoid contact with people who are sick.

Contact your health care providers with any questions regarding the seasonal flu, H1N1 flu and flu vaccines. They know your family's history and can best advise you. They will also give you information about when to make an appointment, taking care of a sick person, what medications to take, how long to stay home, and when to seek emergency care.

The following websites referenced in this article are helpful in providing the most current information regarding the seasonal flu and H1N1 flu:

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov); [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov); and [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us)

# WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT



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

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Andrew Falonk, Superintendent of Schools  
Clayton LaCoe III, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent

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