



PAWPRINTS

A Newsletter for Residents of the Western Wayne School District

THINK! ENERGY

Robert D. Wilson Elementary School

Robert D. Wilson Elementary School 3rd and 5th grade students are participating in the **"THINK! ENERGY"** Program sponsored by the National Energy Foundation, PPL Electric Utilities, and Pennsylvania Department of Education. The students will learn easy ways to use energy and water more efficiently in their own homes. Families who participate in the program receive a "Take Action" kit with energy efficient products for use in their home.

The planned investigations and experiments supported by home and school will benefit the children. Interactive lessons prepared by the energy experts provide students with up-to-date and relevant to energy use today and for the future. Topics include, but are not limited to, renewable and non-renewable resources, conservation, energy efficiency, and alternative energy sources. It is a wonderful opportunity to apply reading, math, and science-related skills and concepts to real life experiences.

Lake Elementary School

Our new South Elementary School may not be fully built yet, but we are already thinking "green". The 5th grade students at Lake Elementary School participated in PPL Electric Utilities new program for students and their teachers. The **"THINK! ENERGY"** program helps teachers and students "think" about energy, "talk" about energy, and "take action" now. The program, which was sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the National Energy Foundation, took place on October 6th at the Lake Elementary School. PPL energy experts showed us how we can make our homes more energy efficient. Each participant was given a "Take Action" kit to take home and use to start making our homes a little "greener".

After School Tutoring Program

The middle school will soon offer an after-school tutoring program for students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Permission slips and information on the tutoring and homework help after school will be sent home by mid-October. Middle school teachers from all three grade levels will be supervising the students from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. several days per week. Participating students will have the opportunity to ride the late bus home or be picked up at the school by their parents. For further details, please contact Mrs. Coyne, Assistant Principal, in the middle school office at 1-800-321-WWSD.

Reading First Grants Awarded

Pennsylvania Reading First offered a competitive \$1000 mini-grant opportunity during the Spring of 2010. Teachers submitted proposals to enhance instruction and learning at the classroom, grade, or school level.

Student engagement in the learning process, the focus of the professional staff, is improving at Robert D. Wilson Elementary School. Dian Altemier, Kerrie Fitzsimmons, Allison Gillis, Nancy Savage, Laurie Wagner, and Lorrie Zeiler were awarded grants allowing the purchase of exciting instructional materials.

Four document cameras provide teachers with another amazing tool to increase student interaction. Teachers can more easily zoom in on specific details during instruction with text, maps or primary documents, and students can more clearly observe a teacher's demonstration of a math formula or science experiment.

Kindergarten students are enjoying the new manipulatives for building words and then sentences that they can read. Hands-on materials are always helpful in the kindergarten setting.

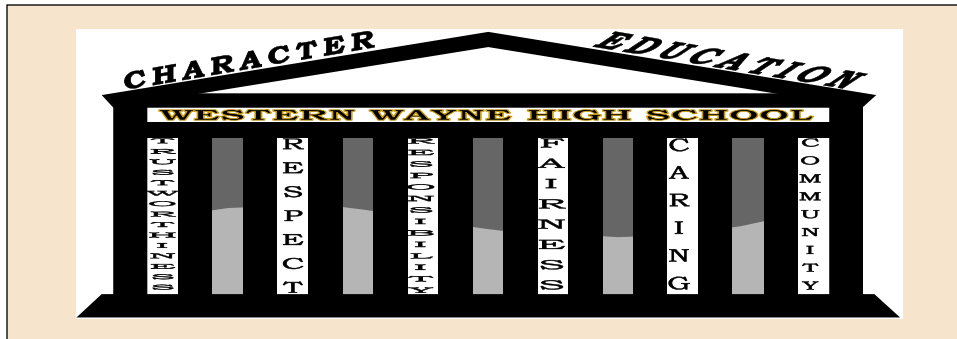
Students in 3rd and 4th grade will enjoy reading additional non-fiction reading materials including science related books and magazines. High interest literary magazines were purchased as well.

Teachers received a copy of a resource entitled 40 Reading Intervention Strategies – Research Based Support and are implementing interventions to help students improve their performance.

Middle School Welcomes New Teachers

When the new school year began, the middle school welcomed a few new teachers to the faculty. In the 7th grade, Mr. Joseph Totsky, a veteran Western Wayne High School history teacher, joined the 7A team. Across the hall also on the 7A team is Mr. Thomas Lodini, who previously taught the computer class, now teaches 7th grade math and pre-algebra. He also brings high school math teaching experience to our 7th grade. Mrs. Maria Arneil now teaches 6th and 7th grade band and is the assistant to Mr. Stedenfeld with the marching band. Mrs. Bernadette Martarano from the high school business department teaches the computer class and keyboarding to our middle school students. Mrs. Devon Farley is spending the year as a long-term substitute for Mrs. Ganser in the art department. Finally, we welcome Mr. Michael Burke to our 6th grade team as a language arts teacher. Mr. Burke has taught elementary grades for many years in the district and has also served as our Classroom for the Future coach.

The right way is not always the popular and easy way.
Standing for right when it is unpopular is a true test of moral character.
~ Margaret Chase Smith



Welcome back to the 2010-2011 school year! This year the guidance department will be starting a school wide Character Education Program. The Character Education Program will contain six pillars representing trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. The six pillars of character will be displayed as banners in the cafeteria. As a student at Western Wayne High School (WWHS), you can expect to be introduced to these pillars through a variety of school based activities.

Pillar 1: Trustworthiness~ Promoting Healthy Relationships

Providing Awareness of the College Transition (PACT) are trained college students from the University of Scranton. PACT will come to speak with the 12th grade students in Spring of 2011 about healthy relationships, stalking, cyber-stalking, healthy choices, and how it relates to the college transition process.

An assembly in October for 9th and 10th graders entitled 'Dare to Move' will show students that hardships force us to ask questions, explore new options, and make responsible decisions by standing up to those bullying others, encouraging those who need help, and saying "No" to drugs and alcohol.

Pillar 2: Respect~ Anti-Bullying & Cyber-bullying

A representative from *Victims Intervention Program (VIP)* will come to speak with 9th and 11th grade students about bullying, cyber-bullying, tolerance, acceptance, non-violence, courtesy, and following the Golden Rule of treating others the way you want to be treated.

Pillar 3: Responsibility~ Anti-Drug & Alcohol Use

The high school organization called *Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)* will conduct various activities during Red Ribbon Week in October to promote anti-drug & alcohol use at WWHS.

Pillar 4: Fairness~ Peer Mediation

For the 2011-2012 school year, WWHS would like to train students to be peer mediators. Peer mediators will learn how to mediate for others and will learn how to use negotiation skills to help resolve conflicts among their fellow students.

Pillar 5: Caring~ Promoting 'Acts of Kindness'

'Acts of Kindness' is designed to recognize students who go out of their way to do something kind for another student, teacher, or staff member. This can include opening the door for a faculty member or classmate, helping a classmate who dropped their books in the hallway, sharing a lunch with someone who forgot their money, or giving someone a pen or pencil when they forgot their own. Students who are caught performing an act of kindness will be acknowledged in school and possibly the local newspaper. The identified students will also receive a prize. In order to recognize a student for performing an act of kindness, student and staff members can fill out a nomination form found in the guidance office and put the nomination form in the 'Acts of Kindness' jar, also found in the guidance office.

Pillar 6: Citizenship~ Promoting Volunteering and Involvement in Extracurricular Activities & Sports

WWHS will promote and highlight students who participate in their own volunteer activities, involve themselves in extracurricular activities in the community, or excel at sports. These highlighted students will be recognized on the Citizenship banner in the café with a picture, brief biography, and a small write-up on the activity. Students may be announced over the school announcements or in the local newspaper.

Western Wayne Continues to Benefit from Technology Grant

Each year for the past two years Western Wayne has been the recipient of the state and federally funded Enhancing Education through Technology Grant (EETT). The 2008-2009 grant focused solely on technology applications in our middle school science program. As a result of the 2008-2009 grant, our middle school science students have wireless access to the Internet, access to mobile laptop computer labs, and access to state-of-the-art data collection equipment for use in scientific and mathematic experimentation.

Our 2009-2010 grant focused on middle school and high school language arts and social studies. In particular, we used this grant to purchase professional development and technological resources that are designed to help our students become better readers of academic texts. As a result of this grant, our students have higher levels of access to wireless laptops. Also, each faculty member in these two departments now has access to a document camera in their classroom. These cameras allow the teacher to display and annotate all sorts of texts. They can instantly display everything from textbook passages to student work in the blink of an eye. Finally, part of the grant was used to purchase Apple iPads which are currently being used in various capacities in both the middle and high schools.

We remain hopeful that the EETT program will be part of the 2010-2011 state grant program. If it is, you can be certain that Western Wayne will lead the way in applying for funding of more unique and interesting technologies that can help our students learn more!

Keystone Exams to Measure Student Achievement

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's web site, "The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in various subject areas: Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Civics and Government, English Composition, Geometry, Literature, U.S. History, and World History." The real question becomes: How do these new assessments affect the students of the Western Wayne School District?

Beginning with the class of 2015 (the current 8th grade) and in all subsequent years, high school students will have to take and pass a battery of Keystone exams to graduate from high school. The class of 2015 will need to pass exams in Literature, Biology, and Algebra I. The classes that follow will have to take these exams along with other exams. When the program is fully implemented each high school student in the Commonwealth will need to take and pass six Keystone exams, two in Language Arts (English), two in mathematics, and one each in science and social studies respectively. Full implementation is expected for the class of 2017.

The Western Wayne School District, like all other school districts in the Commonwealth, is currently planning for the implementation of Keystone exams. Many questions about the exams and their implementation remain unanswered; however, rest assured that the Western Wayne School District will prepare its students to not only meet the standards set by the keystones, but exceed them. If you have any questions about the Keystone Exams, please call District Assistant Superintendent Clay LaCoe at 1-800-321-WWSD.

Determine the thing that can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way.

~Abraham Lincoln

Strategic Plan Mid-point Review: WWSD Successes and Challenges 2008-2010

The Strategic Planning Committee, which consists of community members, members of the Board of Education, faculty, staff, and students gathered at the District Office on the evening of September 27, 2010 to discuss Western Wayne's current Strategic Plan. The current version of the Strategic Plan was originally written in 2007 and 2008 and subsequently approved by the Board of Education and the Strategic Planning Committee. The plan expires at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year. However, the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires that each District conduct a mid-point review of their plan. This review is designed for constituents to reflect on the plan and to decide what needs to be updated or changed.

As the meeting progressed, the Committee received updates on all facets of the plan, including a discussion on student achievement over the course of the past three years. In terms of student achievement, the Committee discussed student performance as measured by the PSSA test (PA System of Student Assessment). The past three years have seen solid growth in students' mathematics and reading achievement at most grades levels in the district. Some of the highlights include: 93% of 3rd grade students performing proficient or advanced on the 2010 PSSA mathematics test, 93% of all 7th grade students performing proficient or advanced on the 2010 PSSA mathematics test, and the 11th grade students posting double digit gains on both the 2010 PSSA reading and mathematics tests.

Despite all of the success, challenges remain. Our school community still needs to work very hard, for example, to improve our graduation rate and our early adolescent and adolescent literacy performance. Rest assured, we will all work together to improve in these areas. If you have any questions about the Strategic Plan or you would like to view a copy, please call the district office at 1-800-321-WWSD.

Questions or Feedback about Paw Prints?

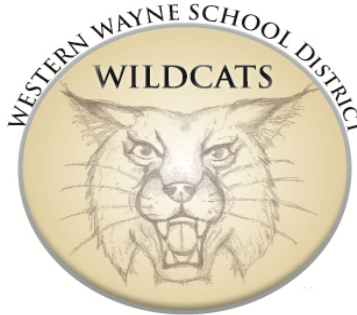
If you have any questions or would like to provide feedback regarding *PawPrints*, please contact us at 1-800-321-WWSD or e-mail Clay LaCoe at clacoe@westernwayne.org.

Western Wayne Adult & Community Education Seeks Instructors

Each fall and spring the Western Wayne School District offers members of the community low cost informational, educational, and recreational classes through its Community Education Program. In the past we have offered everything from Appliqué to Zumba. Whether you want to learn about personal finance, how to sew, cook, or even weld, you can learn it through Western Wayne's Community Education Program. We are always looking for new instructors and for new ideas. If you or anyone you know has a special talent or skill that you would like to share with the community, please call the Western Wayne District Office at 1-800-321-WWSD and ask for Mrs. Kim Field. To view the latest Community Education brochure, please visit www.westernwayne.org and click on the Adult and Community education link in the top right corner of the page.

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.
~ Helen Keller

WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT



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

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