



PAW PRINTS

A Newsletter for Residents of the Western Wayne School District

ACADEMIC FAIR, ART SHOW, FLIP THE SWITCH & SPRING CONCERT

Spring 2008

Western Wayne High School's Annual Academic Fair, Art Show, and Spring Concert took place on Saturday, May 10th.



Visitors could walk in the "Whimsical Garden" at the art show in the high school gym; senior displays showed off what the seniors accomplished in their four years. The center of the gym housed a culmination of the work created this past school year by all other art students. Also on display was the work of the students who won Scholastic Art Awards, American Visions Award and a display about our guest artist, Frank Goryl, who taught the students more about clay and sculpture.

After enjoying the visual arts, guests could walk over to the High School Performing Arts Center to enjoy the musical performances of our concert band, concert chorus, and jazz band.

The band portion of the concert featured 76 instrumentalists with special appearances from members of our 18-member color guard. Along with traditional band fare such as marches and contest pieces, the program included selections from some of the newest hits on Broadway and the movie music of Danny Elfman. The jazz band featured several popular tunes from the late 1900s as well as "real jazz" a la Miles Davis.

The chorus, consisting of 95 singers, performed a variety of music from classical to Broadway and finished with a spiritual medley. The theme of our music this spring was "The Rhythm of Life" featuring intricate vocal rhythms.



Another part of this year's Academic Fair was to "Flip the Switch" on our Classrooms for the Future (CFF) initiative. Each of the core subject areas of English, math, science, and social studies displayed how technology integration has been transforming our classrooms to better equip students for the ever-changing 21st century.

Technology that teenagers are accustomed to using every day in their lives outside of school is becoming an ever-increasing part of their studies at Western Wayne High School. As guests visited the subject-area classrooms, they saw students and teachers using laptop computers, high-speed wireless Internet access, state-of-the-art software, and interactive white boards.



FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

We are happy to announce that the Pennsylvania Department of Education has selected the Lake Elementary School to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for the 2008-09 school year. We submitted our application for consideration in April 2008 outlining why we felt our students at Lake Elementary School would benefit from this program by making available to them healthier fruit and vegetable snacks during the school day.

Pennsylvania is one of 14 states selected in the country to participate in the FFVP. The laws that enacted the FFVP permit each state to select 25 schools. The goals of the FFVP are to:

- create a healthier school environment by providing healthier food choices
- expand the variety of fruits and vegetables children experience
- increase children's fruit and vegetable consumption
- make a difference in children's diets to impact their present and future health.

We look forward to implementing the FFVP in our school for the 2008-09 school year.

W.W. ADMINISTRATOR EARNS PRESTIGIOUS APPOINTMENT

Dr. Lorna Johns, Director of Instructional Services for the Western Wayne School District, was recently appointed to a seat on the State Interagency Coordinating Council.

Western Wayne is the only school district state-wide that is on the council. Nominated by Mr. Mark Ishman, Director of Early Intervention (EI) for the Eastern Region Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Dr. Johns was appointed by Governor Rendell on March 1, 2008 and given the Oath of Office by Judge Raymond Hamill on March 17, 2008. The appointment is a three year term.

Dr. Johns will also be a member on sub-committees involving college preparation of early childhood and special education teachers, transitioning EI children to school-age programs, and providing professional development to early care providers.

The Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC) for Early Intervention is an advisory body which consists of 15 members representing parents, early intervention providers, state departments, education agencies, county government, legislators and professional associations. The role of the SICC is to advise and assist state agencies by making recommendations to the Departments of Education and Health and Public Welfare about the implementation and maintenance of the statewide early intervention system. Across Pennsylvania, there are 49 active Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs) that meet regularly to discuss local concerns. There is ongoing communication between the state and local entities in the continuing efforts to develop comprehensive services for children.

The entire Western Wayne school community would like to congratulate Dr. Johns on her appointment to such an influential and important advisory body and we thank her for all of her hard work.

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PAINTED LADY BUTTERFLIES AT R.D.WILSON

Groups of excited children have been caught outside with their teachers clustered around Painted Lady butterflies. This annual event marks the end of an experiment that began 10 days prior when caterpillars no longer than 2 centimeters arrived at the school. It was fascinating to see the rate at which these caterpillars matured.

During the 10 days, the students scientifically observed the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly. It was the focus of classroom discussions, note-taking skills, journaling, and creative writing.

Ms. Savage's third grade class shared their butterfly poetry, short stories, and art work with grandparents on April 25th. The students took great pride in their finished work and the opportunity to share it with their grandparents.



CHANGE OVER TIME

Reading First is the academic cornerstone of the No Child Left Behind legislation. Western Wayne District elementary schools were among the first schools in Pennsylvania awarded a six-year Reading First Grant. One of the key components of the grant has been a commitment to high-quality professional development that has provided Kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers with the skills they need to identify and overcome specific reading barriers. Over the past six years, teachers in our elementary schools have received professional development in five areas of reading instruction. These include phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. This professional development has been pivotal in changing instruction in the K-3 classrooms and has resulted in substantial change in student achievement over time.

Reading First coaches have been instrumental in orchestrating the professional development. Reading First coaches receive on-going, in-depth training in each of the five areas of reading instruction by attending summer institutes, academies, and periodic regional meetings. This year, the K-3 teachers received professional development from their coaches that targeted those children who require more intensive reading instruction to succeed.

Parents who are interested in learning more about the Reading First initiative may visit the Western Wayne website [www.westernwayne.org]. From the home page, click on the 'District Info' tab on the left-hand side of the page. When the menu opens, go to 'Federal Programs' and under it, click on 'Reading First'.



F.B.L.A. STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

"If we're growing, we're always going to be out of our comfort zone."

~ John Maxwell

At Western Wayne, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is one of the largest organizations numbering 103 active members. According to chapter advisor, Fran Vitovsky, this is the largest group in the chapter's 30-year history.

More than half of these students (57) recently traveled to Hershey for the annual State Leadership Conference. Members competed in more than 50 different competitive events. The top 10 winners in each event were then recognized on stage during the Awards of Excellence program.

The following were honored: Mitchell Kowalchick, 1st place, Electronic Career Portfolio; Emma Lambertson, 1st, Jenna Clauss, 2nd, and Chloe Karnick, 3rd place, FBLA Principles & Procedures; the team of Chynna Bragg, Michael Callahan, and Mitchell Vitovsky, 2nd place, Business Presentation; Renee Reeke, 2nd, Katie Quinn, 3rd, and Tatiana Samson, 4th place, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure; the team of Rachel Waters and Braden Zeiler, 3rd place, Emerging Business Issues; the team of Tanner Vinton, Cassidy Clauss, Lyndsey Matoushek and Monika Ferrer, 3rd place, Parliamentary Procedure; Amber Curtis, 3rd place, Public Speaking I; Austin Krompasky, 4th place, Business Calculations; Clare Bateman, 5th place, Business Communication; and the team of Alessandra Orehek and Kim Troiani, 4th place, Business Presentation; Joe Romanowski, 4th, and Stephen Gershey, 7th place, Accounting I; the team of Stacy Skates, Anthony Kovalski and Joe Fischetti, 10th place, Banking & Financial Systems; and finally, Mitchell Vitovsky placed fourth in the Who's Who in PA FBLA event while the Western Wayne chapter placed fifth overall in the Outstanding Chapter event.

C.A.T.S. CLUB

The Western Wayne High School C.A.T.S. Club is reaching out to assist the school and local communities through their participation in and planning of a number of local service projects. The C.A.T.S. Club, which stands for Community Attitude Towards Success, has a mission to increase school and community collaboration while serving those in need. In the first year of operation, the C.A.T.S. Club has been recognized by The Salvation Army for their service during their annual Christmas Drive, they also collaborated with R. D. Wilson Elementary School to collect and ship care packages to local servicemen stationed overseas, and they recently organized a "Dress Down Day" at the high school to benefit The American Cancer Society and the annual Relay for Life.

The C.A.T.S. Club's most recent project was a Donkey Basketball Game in which all proceeds will benefit two local families who are courageously battling cancer. In June the C.A.T.S. Club will be participating in the Relay for Life held at the Wayne Highlands Sports Complex. Please be on the lookout for upcoming C.A.T.S. Club events and "Help us help the community!" If you or someone you know is in need, or if you are interested in having the Western Wayne High School C.A.T.S. Club assist you with a service project, please contact Kari Kromko at 937-3190 ext. 3233.

MYSTERY QUEST

The R.D. Wilson Elementary School fifth graders participated in a Mystery Quest, Where in the USA? via video conference on Wednesday, March 12th. Our fifth graders researched and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the state of Colorado and the city of Montrose to students from Barrett Elementary Center and Pocono Elementary Center, Daniel Boone Area School District, Eastern York School District, and Perkiomen Valley School District.

PSSA TESTING IN READING AND MATH

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 at Lake and R.D. Wilson Elementary Schools have just completed taking their annual PSSA tests. PSSA stands for Pennsylvania System of School Assessment and these standards-based tests are administered in all Pennsylvania public schools in the subject areas of math, reading, writing and science. PSSA assessments in reading and math are given annually in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11.

The primary goals of the PSSA tests are to improve overall student achievement in public schools and to narrow the achievement gap between students of different backgrounds so ALL students learn. The schools have participated in the state testing since its inception in 1998. We use the resulting testing data to improve our instructional programs for our students. The assessments also help us to measure individual student growth and to determine the degree to which our students are proficient in Pennsylvania's academic standards.

Parents interested in learning more about the PSSA can visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education website at www.pde.state.pa.us. At the top of the Home page, click on the PreK-12 Tab. When this page opens, there will be a section on the left-hand side labeled "Learn About..." Then, click on ASSESSMENT. Another menu appears on the left. From this menu parents can click on ASSESSMENT ANCHORS to learn the specific content that is tested on the PSSA at each grade level. A complete list of Pennsylvania Academic Standards can be downloaded under STANDARDS. Parents can find a wealth of instructional materials available by clicking on

"I would rather regret the things I have done than the things I have not." ~ Lucille Ball

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



Representative elementary teachers of Lake and Robert D. Wilson Elementary Schools were chosen to form a core math committee to prepare a well-balanced mathematics curriculum. Their collective vision as presented in Western Wayne School District's Strategic Plan is for students to develop a strong math foundation in preparation for a rigorous middle/high school program consisting of Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry and Calculus.

Early committee meetings were devoted to the analysis of eligible mathematics content as outlined by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Essential questions were formulated by the team to serve as a guide in the development of knowledge and skills that will last beyond the test. These questions are currently being dissected to determine the appropriate experiences, assignments, and assessments necessary to achieve our goals. This information is collectively formatted in a map that outlines instruction.

Western Wayne School District will adopt a new math program for the 2008-2009 school year. Several elementary level math programs were reviewed by the committee to determine if program lessons would provide the needed structure for successful instruction. Two programs were fully critiqued, enVision Math of Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley and HSP Math of Harcourt School Publishers. A final selection will be made prior to ending the 2007-2008 school year.

Members of the committee are Mrs. Clauss, Mr. Hemmler, and Mr. Rodio of Lake Elementary and Ms. Gillis, Mrs. Tomassoni, and Mrs. Willsch of Robert D. Wilson Elementary. This team plans to work during the summer and throughout the 2008-2009 school year to finalize the curriculum mapping project and begin implementation of a new program.



STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN MARYWOOD MATH CONTEST

On Thursday, May 15th six Western Wayne students will travel to Marywood University to join students from approximately 50 other schools for the Dr. Frank J. Sottile Memorial Math Contest. The students will be grouped into teams of fifth and sixth graders and seventh and eighth graders respectively. Western Wayne students will not be on the same team but will be on teams with students from various other schools. Representing Western Wayne are fifth graders Bethany Giombetti and Bradley Shepps, sixth grader William Rennekamp, seventh graders Lucas Karnick and Matthew Poska and eighth grader Joseph Ingaglio.

The contest consists of six to eight problems worked by the entire team, a longer group of easier problems worked on by each member of the team, a group of questions on an announced topic, and a relay race. This year's announced topic for fifth and sixth grade is "application of percents" and for seventh and eighth grade is "Pythagorean Theorem and coordinate geometry." Prizes are awarded to the top three teams as well as the top student in each division. The teams are moderated by Miss Jerri Hanna, Western Wayne Middle School math teacher.

H.S. STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FOCUS GROUPS

Throughout the course of the entire 2007-2008 school year, students from Western Wayne High School participated in focus group research conducted by Mrs. Scarfalloto, Mr. Jeffery, and Dr. LaCoe. The intent was simple...to talk to randomly selected students in an attempt to gain a better understanding of how they understand and perceive their experience at WWHS. The different groups met monthly over lunch and were comprised of roughly equal numbers of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The goal was to take student input from the groups and use it to help us make decisions regarding future directions for the high school. Topics of discussion included school safety, our testing program, academic preparation, the dress code, and what we can improve upon to make Western Wayne even better than it already is. Without having fully analyzed what our students said, one thing is for sure...we have truly excellent students who are not afraid to say what's on their mind! Look for more information regarding the results of these discussions in future editions of Paw Prints.

**"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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

6th GRADE SCIENCE CAMP

Once again this year, Western Wayne Middle School 6th grade students will have the opportunity to attend science camp at Camp Watonka in Hawley, PA. Science camp for 6th grade began last year and allows our 6th grade students to participate in hands-on instruction in robotics, GPS hand-held navigation training, a stream study, and a laboratory session using microscopes and laptop computers. Each 6th grade team is bussed to Camp Watonka, participates in 5 science learning stations, eats their meals family style in the dining hall, and participates in team-building games and activities at the end of the day. Students and teachers thoroughly enjoy the experience, bond with the classmates, and learn about the possibilities of a career in science or technology following high school graduation. This year, science camp will be held from May 14-16, 2008. All expenses are paid through a technology grant and there is no cost to the students for science camp.

READING TEAM PLACES 2nd AT THE NEIU READING COMPETITION

Under the direction of 7th grade language arts teachers Ms. Dunda and Mrs. Decker, the Western Wayne Middle School reading competition team placed second out of more than 20 schools. Assisted by Ms. Neri and Mrs. Confer from 6th grade, middle school students read an average of 10 books from a total of 24 books on the required reading list. Led by team captain, Erin Ogozaly, the team met after school for several weeks prior to the competition to quiz one another about the contents of the required reading titles. Winning team members included: Nicole Buehring, Erin Ogozaly, Casey Myers, Stephen Trygar, Jason Sobotka, Thomas Lodini, Brittney Greaney, Hannah Peifer, Allison Hess, Jamie Thorpe and Kaelyn Jacques. Congratulations to our students and teachers on leading the way in reading!

FIRST ANNUAL MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY CAREER FAIR

Marywood University hosted its first annual Education Career Fair on April 24, 2008. The purpose of the fair was to give prospective teachers from area colleges and universities the opportunity to meet with local school administrators looking to hire. The Western Wayne School District administrative team was present, along with representatives from Delaware Valley School District, East Stroudsburg University, Lake-Lehman School District, Pocono Mountain School District, and the Reading School District. We had the opportunity to meet and interact with over 100 teacher candidates from Marywood University, Millersville University, King's College, Wilkes University, and the University of Scranton.

W.W.A.E.C. SCHEDULED TO MEET

The first ever meeting of the Western Wayne Academic Excellence Committee (WWAEC) will take place at 7 p.m. on June 19th, 2008. The purpose of the committee is to serve as an informal "think tank" whose focus is on current academic issues facing the district. The committee will meet at the district's central office in South Canaan. We will send out letters to those community members who have expressed interest in participating on the committee. If you are interested in knowing more about the committee, you are more than welcome to attend the first meeting. Please contact Mrs. Kathy Gershey at 937-4270 for more information.

W.W. ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM PARTICIPATES IN BOOK STUDY

The Western Wayne School District administrative team has been immersed in a book study of *Understanding by Design*, written by Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe. The team began the study in the fall of 2007 and will continue through the summer of 2008. Facilitated by Dr. Lillian DeLeo of the Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit, discussions focus on such key ideas as backwards design, essential questions, transfer tasks, and facets of understanding. The goal of the book study is to help the administrative team begin to better understand how to improve its curriculum for the benefit of student learning. The mathematics curriculum, which will be new to the district in 2008-2009, will be the first to undergo the scrutiny of the Understanding by Design framework.

HIGH SCHOOL ART DISPLAYED

Students' art work has always been appreciated in the hallways of the schools, but recently the community has been able to enjoy it also. During the Spring Art Show in April, 16 pieces were displayed at the Wayne County Courthouse. Some artwork was shown in Judge Hamill's chambers. Local businesses in Hamlin and Lake Ariel have also been eager to showcase the students' talent. In the past few weeks, over a dozen pieces have been sent out into the community with the help of Mr. Mark Bond, a local realtor. Look for the students' artwork currently (or soon to be) at the following locations: **Chant Real Estate, Piero's, Olsommer Clarke Insurance, Century 21, Honesdale National Bank, Community Library of Salem and Lake Townships, Kay's, Trio's, and Pennstar.**



WESTERN WAYNE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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