



PAWPRINTS

A Newsletter for Residents of the Western Wayne School District

Winter 2009

W. W. WEBSITE TO RECEIVE NEW LOOK

Anyone who is familiar with www.westernwayne.org knows that you can find a great deal of useful and relevant information about Western Wayne whenever you visit. That said, we want you to be on the lookout for a new and improved website that will make its appearance in the spring of 2009. We hope the new interface will allow visitors more efficient access to all of the current information we have to offer in addition to some new information. For example, look for an updated and content-rich teaching and learning page with information about curriculum and instruction. Also, we plan on offering a photo chronology of the construction of the new elementary school.

TECHNOLOGY GRANT

The Western Wayne Middle School recently received over \$50,000 from the United States Department of Education to upgrade the educational technologies used in its science department. The grant, called Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT), was open to select schools in Pennsylvania through a competitive proposal process. The grant itself will be used to upgrade wireless access in our Middle School, and it will provide our students access to laptop computers and data collection equipment.

The wireless access points funded by the grant will allow students to access the Internet using laptop computers right from their classroom desks! This immediate access enables students to do research right in the classrooms without losing time traveling to a remote computer lab.

The laptops and data collection equipment will enable students to collect and analyze large amounts of data in a very short time period. The data can then be displayed and analyzed by computer using any number of software programs. As an example, students will be able to collect data related to temperature, pressure, acidity and alkalinity, light intensity, and many other commonly studied variables.

Just as the Western Wayne High School has used the Classrooms for the Future (CFF) grant to help students learn, the Western Wayne Middle School now has the EETT grant to help its students as well. As we deploy this equipment in the fall of 2009, ask your middle school student just what it's like to collect and analyze data using high-tech equipment at school!

NEW SCHOOL UPDATE

You may have noticed some activity in and around the site of the new elementary school. For example, the house situated on the property is in the process of being removed, and there are drilling rigs present drilling monitoring wells. We are still awaiting some of the necessary permits prior to beginning construction. Rest assured, however, the project is moving forward!

N.H.S. ASSISTS AT FOOD PANTRY

Members of the Western Wayne High School National Honor Society volunteered their time at the Honesdale food pantry recently. The students packed over 400 bags for the needy families of Wayne County assuring them the ability to enjoy a delicious Thanksgiving meal. They also donated several pallets of food.

WAYNE WOODLANDS

Robert D. Wilson fourth grade students visited Wayne Woodlands Manor to share creative narrative stories. Students worked through the writing process to create and publish creative stories with illustrations. The young authors were nervous that the residents of Wayne Woodlands would not like their work and were pleasantly surprised to experience the support and encouragement of the residents.

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TITLE I AWARDS

Both Robert D. Wilson and Lake Elementary Schools received Title I Academic Achievement Awards for their students' outstanding academic progress. The schools were awarded \$1000 each. This money will go back into the Title I reading program to help with early literacy learning. Congratulations to both schools!

C.A.T.S. CLUB



The Western Wayne High School C.A.T.S. (Community Attitude Toward Success) Club has been back in action during the 2008-2009 school year. C.A.T.S. Club members have been participating in a number of community related service projects since the start of the school year, and they have many more activities planned for the future.

Members volunteered their time this past fall by directing traffic for the Steamtown Marathon and by packaging and distributing goody bags to local children at the Honesdale Area Jaycees Halloween Parade. Students also collected items and monetary donations for the Dessin Animal Shelter following their tragic fire last year. Over the holidays, students supported the American Cancer Society's Holiday Luminaria by decorating ornaments in honor of loved ones diagnosed with cancer. In addition, they assisted the Salvation Army with their Christmas Food Drive by packaging items for distribution to families in need. C.A.T.S. Club members also purchased Christmas gifts for high school students with families experiencing financial hardship.

Future activities include a Pennies for Patients Campaign to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a visit to local nursing homes for Valentine's Day, and participation in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in June. Our biggest fundraiser, the 2nd Annual Western Wayne Donkey Basketball game, will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. We appreciate your support, and we hope to see you there!

WHAT IS CAREER CRUISING?



Career Cruising is an internet-based career exploration and planning tool used to explore career and college options and develop a career plan. Career Cruising can be accessed from school, from home, or wherever you have access to the Internet. Features of the program include an Interest and Skills assessment, a Career Matchmaker to help start the career exploration process, a Career Profiles section with thorough and up-to-date information on hundreds of different occupations, an Exploring Careers section, a College and Financial Aid Information section, and an Electronic Career Portfolio so you can develop your career plans and resume and access it from the Career Cruising program. Grades 8-12 will be utilizing the new program.

Take a look. Log onto www.careercruising.com User name: wwhs Password: wildcats.



VIRTUALLY CONNECTED

In uncertain times, keeping up with the latest technology and software necessary for your child's education can be daunting and very costly. Take, for instance, the \$435 list price of Office 2007 Professional. At Western Wayne, we have created an online resource that students can connect to via the internet from home, which allows you to see Windows workstation preloaded with all the required district software at no cost. Some applications include MS Office 2007 Professional (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) Adobe Creative Suite 3, Microsoft Student/Encarta, Microsoft Visual Studio 2008 and Western Wayne Library applications. If a student creates a file utilizing one of the these products at school, no longer will parents need to purchase the product for their child's computer at home. Since the district employs a state-of-the-art internet filter, you can mandate that your child stay in the Virtually Connected session to prevent him/her from straying to inappropriate sites while at home. To get your student virtually connected, visit <http://virtuallyconnected.westernwayne.org> today!

WILKES UNIVERSITY PRE-MED DAY

Five Western Wayne High School students attended the Ninth Annual Pre-med Day on September 26, 2008 where they participated in tours of Wilkes University's Science Laboratories. They were actively involved in labs that included biology, chemistry, physics, pharmacy, and geo-environmental sciences. These labs included: Finger on the Pulse, Solar Pasteurization, Planarians in Regenerative Medicine, What's in My Analgesic? and Exploring the Skeletal System. Students in attendance were juniors Kristine Nilsen, Emma Lamberton, Renee Reek, Felicia Piccolo, and Glen Butler. The day concluded with a panel of representatives of doctoral health professions including allopathic and osteopathic medicine, dentistry, optometry, podiatry, and veterinary medicine. The representatives described their profession and discussed qualifications for that profession.

"Sometimes we're so concerned about giving our children what we never had growing up, we neglect to give them what we did have growing up."

~ Dr. James Dobson

W.W. RECEIVES EARLY LITERACY GRANT



The Western Wayne School District, in partnership with Duffy Books in Homes-USA, will embark on a literacy project in the Robert D. Wilson School and the Lake School in the spring of 2009. Duffy Books in Homes-USA (DBIH-USA) is a not-for-profit corporation created for the sole purpose of providing an outstanding literacy opportunity for elementary students. Students "self-select" high quality books from an age-appropriate listing of Scholastic books. Students are able to keep their books and take them home. All books are FREE to the student! Duffy Books in Homes-USA originated in New Zealand by author Alan Duff.

More information regarding the Books in Homes events at Wilson and Lake is coming soon! Find this information by checking out our website at www.westernwayne.org. Happy Reading!

**"You always pass failure on the way to success."
~ Mickey Rooney**

W.W. COMPLIES WITH UPDATED RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in the updated Right-to-Know law, please log on to www.westernwayne.org and click on the Right-to-Know link. Here you will find information on record requests and contact information for Pennsylvania's state Right-to-Know office.

SAT MATH PREP AVAILABLE

The Western Wayne School District, through its Adult & Community Education program, will offer a SAT mathematics preparation course in the spring of 2009. The course is scheduled for Tuesdays, March 31 through May 19 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Please look for our Adult & Community Education brochure at www.westernwayne.org or call us at (570) 937-4270 for a copy.

PA JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCE



Students from both the Western Wayne Middle and High Schools will participate in the upcoming meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS). These students will present the results of research projects they have been working on since the fall of 2008. The projects can cover any number of areas including general biology, chemistry, physics, botany, zoology, earth and space science, ecology, mathematics, computer science, biochemistry, and even behavioral science. Students will present the results of their research to a committee of judges at King's College in Wilkes-Barre. Students receiving a first award at this regional competition are eligible to move on to state competition in May.

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

ROBERT D. WILSON ELEMENTARY RECEIVES GRANTS

The Wayne County Community Foundation awarded three innovative teaching grants to teachers at Robert D. Wilson. Mrs. Haber received funding for second grade students to attend a youth theatre event that will enhance classroom literature experiences. Fifth grade students will benefit from the purchase of interactive Kwik Check II kits. These materials promote group participation through immediate and individual student feedback. Professional staff Mrs. Burke, Ms. Evans and Mrs. Willsch are excited to offer this opportunity to the students. Finally, a new first grade practice "Hungry For Learning" will now be developed as a result of the funding. This program is designed to strengthen the home-school connection through creative home activities designed by our own teachers: Mrs. Farley, Mrs. Fitzsimmons and Mrs. Vinton. The activities will be presented in attractive and sturdy lunch boxes. The students can select "Hungry For Learning" activities to enjoy with family at home. Materials and projects are easily transported to and from school, and lunch boxes can be restocked for a different family to enjoy.

The Robert D. Wilson School has received a \$500 grant from the Exxon Mobil Education Alliance program to support the school's commitment to their students. Firmstone Tire & Auto Service Station in Honesdale worked with school officials to secure the grant. Monies will be used to promote wellness and healthy eating with our pre-kindergarten children.

Robert D. Wilson Elementary, with the help of Ms. Jane Varcoe, has been awarded a grant from the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority. Thanks to this grant, fourth grade students will explore our region's historic, cultural, economic and natural resources. Plans are underway to conduct historical research and entertain guest speakers. Activities will culminate with a walking tour of Waymart's historical sites directed by Ms. Jane Varcoe and the Waymart Historical Society.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The Western Wayne School District will partner with Performance Systems of Mechanicsburg, PA to design and implement a student achievement data analysis system. This system will allow us to aggregate all of our PK-12 student achievement data into one searchable database. Currently, the district uses several different analysis tools, each having its own interface. The advantage that Performance Systems offers is simple...the system is a one-stop-shop that houses all of our students' achievement data from the last several years. The power in this is striking. We will now be able to use more than one data set at one time to determine our students' growth. We can look at data from a very large, district-wide perspective and a very small, individual student perspective. Faculty and administration will now be able to spend less time looking for data and more time analyzing the data and helping students learn and grow.

Western Wayne School District is offering
Adult & Community Education courses for Spring 2009.
Please view our brochure at www.westernwayne.org
and click on the Community Education link.



MOLE DAY 2008 AT WESTERN WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrated annually on October 23 from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m., *Mole Day* commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}). Avogadro's Number is a basic measuring unit in chemistry. Simply described...the baker's unit of counting is the dozen, while the chemist's unit of counting is the mole! The mass of one mole of any substance can be measured in grams and determined from the periodic table. This relationship was first discovered by Amedeo Avogadro (1776-1858), and he received credit for this after his death. *Mole Day* was created as a way to foster interest in chemistry. For more information, visit <http://www.moleday.org/>.

Students at Western Wayne High School celebrated *Mole Day* by creating "moles," eating mole themed treats and even creating a mole themed car. The moles created were based on an element chosen and required information about the element. The moles also needed to resemble the element in some manner. Holey Moley!

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 9TH GRADER?

Beginning in the fall of 2009 all Freshmen entering the Western Wayne High School will take an Academic Literacy course that is designed to help them become better readers. We often assume that by the time they are in middle or high school students no longer need formal reading instruction. Upon further inspection, however, we have found that students need help reading complicated and high level texts that often accompany their classes. For example, you cannot read a chemistry book the same way you read a novel.

In order to address this literacy shortfall, the Academic Literacy course will focus on teaching students subject-specific reading strategies that they can use to help them obtain more meaning from their texts and other pieces of literature. Students will also be engaged in a good deal of writing and independent reading as part of this course. So, if you are going up against a Western Wayne Freshman in "Are you Smarter than 9th Grader?"; you'd better be ready... because they sure will be.

HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION APPLIES FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Western Wayne High School Principal Diane Scarfalloto and Assistant Principal Patrick Sheehan have applied to present *Helping High School Students Become Better Readers: A Focus on Adolescent Academic Literacy* at next fall's Pennsylvania Association of School Administrator's conference.

This presentation will outline some of the work that has been and continues to be done at the Western Wayne High School related to academic literacy. The work began in the 2007-2008 school year when administrators, teachers, and students first began to study academic literacy as a way to help students become better readers of textbooks. The work continues this year and will eventually become a permanent part of the academic culture at W.W.H.S. Look for more information about this exciting project in future editions of Paw Prints.

EAROBICS IN THE CLASSROOM

This year our district's Title I program purchased new software entitled Earobics. Earobics is a web-based literacy product developed by Houghton Mifflin that is designed to address specific skills that may affect a child's reading ability. Earobics focuses on skills such as auditory discrimination, auditory memory, compound words, phonics, and vocabulary. Furthermore, this program helps students solidify basic listening, phonics, and vocabulary skills in a fun computer game format. The software is broken down into two programs called Foundations and Connections. Foundations is geared for students in Pre-K through first grade, and Connections is geared for students in second through third grades. Currently we have learning support, Title I and classroom students in Kindergarten through third grade using the different programs. The students really love working on the computer; and while it is very motivating, the students also get to practice basic reading skills to mastery.

In addition to the software, each elementary building has access to Earobics kits. These kits contain lessons for the five big ideas of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. These lessons can be used in developing lesson plans for teachers' intervention lessons and guided reading lessons. This comprehensive program is helping us to better provide appropriate instruction to our varying level learners.

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA



The Future Business Leaders of America (F.B.L.A.) Competitive Events Program consists of more than 40 different events, which have been developed from the nine F.B.L.A. goals and the curricula of the business education program. In Pennsylvania, testing begins on a regional level in early January. Those who qualify advance to state competition in late June. This year's National Leadership Conference (NLC) will be held in Anaheim, California. Students who participate are able to demonstrate their career competencies, business knowledge and job related skills, expand their leadership skills, demonstrate their competitive spirit, and receive recognition for their achievements.

There are a wide variety of events for students in grades 9-12. There are mathematics events including Business Math and Business Calculations. There are finance events including Banking and Financial Systems, Accounting I and II, and Personal Finance. There are also many computer-related events including Computer Problem Solving, Help Desk, Cyber Security, Desktop Publishing, Spreadsheet Applications, Word Processing I and II, Networking Concepts, and Technology Concepts.

In addition, there are events in which students must give oral presentations or speeches including Business Presentation, Emerging Business Issues, Impromptu Speaking, Client Service, and Public Speaking I and II. To find out more information about the competitive events programs, log on to www.pafbla.org.

Here are some fast facts about Western Wayne's F.B.L.A. organization:

- ◆ The 2008-2009 Membership is the largest in W.W. history, 116 students.
- ◆ Eighty-one students competed at the Regional Leadership Conference at Keystone College on January 6, 2009.
- ◆ Fifty-seven students advanced to the state competition. Seven students participated in events that began on the state level and all seven advanced.
- ◆ A total of 64 students will attend the State Leadership Conference in Hershey in late March.



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

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