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January 19, 2022

### **Food for Thought**

"One kind word can warm three winter months." - Japanese Proverb

### **Superintendent's Corner**

I want to thank the South Huntington Learning Community for your patience as we reschedule some of our school district events. Some of the rescheduled events are listed below. If necessary, please refer to the calendar on each school building's webpage on the District website (shufsd.org) for the exact dates and times of rescheduled events. We hope you will be able to join us at these wonderful events!

On Wednesday, January 26th, at Walt Whitman High School at 7:30 p.m., we will be celebrating seven (7) outstanding teachers at the Board of Education meeting. We look forward to honoring their expertise, dedication and commitment in assisting the students of our school district. Each one of them represents what is so special about our South Huntington Learning Community!

### News from Deputy Superintendent/Business Dr. Joseph Centamore

Dance Competition Teams

The National Dance Alliance (NDA) has cancelled the Winter Dance competition that was scheduled to be held at Walt Whitman on January 23. The Varsity Dance Team's next competition will be held on Saturday, January 29 at the Stephanie Belli Festival in Smithtown West High School. The Stimson Dance Team will be in competition on Sunday, January 30 at Kings Park High School.

### Winter Guard

The Walt Whitman Winter Guard performed their 2022 production, "A Sweet Adventure," at West Milford High School in New Jersey this past weekend for their first performance in almost two years. Congratulations! The Winter Guard's next competition will be at West Orange HS on Saturday, January 29.

### UPDATED CONCERT AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

<u>Concerts</u>

Maplewood Concerts: Wednesday, February 2 (Whitman PAC) Orchestra: 6:30 pm Chorus: 7 pm Band: 7:30 pm

Birchwood Concerts: Thursday, February 3 (Whitman PAC) Orchestra: 6:30 pm Chorus: 7 pm Band: 7:30 pm



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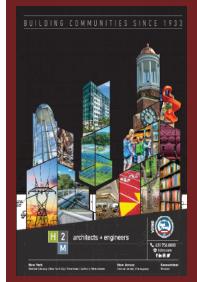
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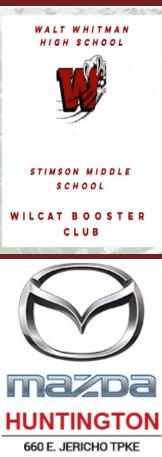
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157 F Main Street Huntington, NY 11743 SignaturePremier.com Office: 631 673 3700 Mobile: 631.742.1774 Fax: 631.673.3359 LisaLeggioRealtor@gmail.com Silas Wood Concerts: Monday, February 7 Chorus: 6:30 pm (Whitman PAC) Band: 7:10 pm (Whitman North Gym) Orchestra: 7:45 pm (Whitman North Gym)

#### Theater Productions

Birchwood & Maplewood Theater Productions: Saturday, February 12 (Whitman PAC) \*Maplewood: 10 am \*Note: This is an updated time for this performance Birchwood: 12 pm

### News from Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. John Murphy & **Dr. Gayle Steele**

i-Ready Testing

Students in Grades K-8 are continuing with the i-Ready Reading and Math Diagnostic Assessments. The testing window will close on February 4th. All schools will designate times for each class to take the diagnostic during the assigned testing window. The data received from this diagnostic assessment provides teachers with valuable information regarding each student's academic progress, which is used to influence and individualize instruction. Student performance on this assessment will dictate their lessons and learning while using the My Path Individualized Instructional tool. This along with classroom assignments and other benchmark assessments provide us with data from various resources that help to create an informative and well-rounded curricular path for each child.

### Reminder to Return Student Chromebooks and Chargers

This is a reminder for all parents with students, grades kindergarten to 5th grade, to please return their Chromebooks and Charger to your child's teacher. Given that many of our students utilize these Chromebooks during their instructional class time throughout the day, it is important that we are able to provide this technology in the classroom. If there are any issues or concerns regarding returning the equipment mentioned above, such as a lost or stolen item, please contact the technology department at 631-812-3666.

### **Advanced Placement Informational Night WWHS**

Last Tuesday, Walt Whitman High School held an Advanced Placement Information Night for interested students and parents to discuss the many options and pathways that their child can participate in relating to AP courses. The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, parent within the community, and former Walt Whitman High School Principal, Dr. John Murphy spoke about the importance of APs and how they relate to the college process as well as the benefits and obstacles associated with Advanced Placement courses. In addition, the Walt Whitman High School PTA was also on hand to provide parent resources and information to those present. With 70 parents present, and over 130 parents attending virtually, the night was a tremendous success.



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# Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for Student Services April Poprilo

An exhibition, titled, ArtABILITY: an Inclusive Exhibition Celebrating Artists with Special Needs, is currently open at the world-famous Agora Gallery, a contemporary fine art gallery located in the heart of Chelsea's Arts District. The opening reception occurred last Thursday, January 11, 2022, wherein current and former South Huntington students' artwork was introduced as a part of the exhibit. The following individuals were hand-selected by Agora Gallery and the Spirit of Huntington Art Center to represent the creative talents from within our South Huntington school community:

Current WWHS students: **Devin French** and **Timothy Gudaitis** WWHS Graduates: **Erika Lopez, Danny Sgaraglio,** and **Edward C. Nitkewitz** 

We are so proud of these students' talents and for being selected to be a part of this special exhibition! The exhibition will be on view from now until January 22, 2022, at Agora Gallery. Accompanying this exhibition is a selection of work from the Spirit of Huntington Art Center's private collection. Proceeds from the sales of both ArtABILITY and the private collection will go directly back to the Art Center and its partner organizations in an effort to support the enrollment of more participants and to create similar opportunities for members of the special needs community. For more information about ArtABILITY or to view, purchase select works, please visit, <u>https://www.artability.spiritofhuntington.com/</u>.

### News from David Barth, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, Athletics & Recreation

Congratulations to our Varsity Wrestling team who qualified for the Section XI Dual Championship. The team will participate in a 4 team Bracket on Wednesday, January 19 at Brentwood High School. Playoffs are starting to take shape for all Varsity Sports. Visit <u>SectionXI.org</u> for updated standings and playoff brackets.

Stimson Winter II Tryouts started this week with gameplay set to begin in early February.

Congratulations to the winners of the annual Walt Whitman High School Physical Education Winter Wonderland School-Wide Volleyball Tournament. The winners this year were from period 6 day 2: Nicholas Bottoni, Rasahn Thompson, Mason Rudnick, Andy Flores Ramirez, Garrett Goodwin, Cristian Interiano Monge, and Ronan Rattazzi. They used teamwork and cooperation to make this happen and deserved the win!

Visit our Athletics website for updated scores, sports offered, coaches contact information, and more. All events taking place in the Walt Whitman North Gym, South Gym, and on the Turf Field will be live-streamed on the NFHS Network (www.NFHSNetwork. com). Make sure to follow the Athletics department on both Twitter and Instagram (@WaltWhitmanAD) for updates and highlights from the season. Go Wildcats!

### News from Mr. Kenneth Costa, Principal of Walt Whitman High School

• Over the next few weeks the high school Guidance Counselors will be meeting with their students to discuss the



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scheduling process for the 2022-2023 school year. Please take a few minutes to review the courses offered next year in the Walt Whitman Course Catalog. The link for the course offerings can be found on our Guidance webpage. Course request will be complete on February 9, 2022.

 Students who missed their 2022-2023 academic scheduling do to an absence, counselors will be calling them down to reschedule by the end of January.

 The NY State Regents exams will not be offered in January this year. We will follow normal class schedules during the traditional Regents week of January 24 -28. Individual course will be administering midterm or final exams during this week.

 Congratulations to Mr. Feraco for his selection as a 2021 2022 STEM Research Grant Recipient. His hard work and dedication to our students is incredibly important to the Society for Science and to the sponsor of this program - Regeneron. The STEM kits will help foster student research both in the classroom and at home! In addition to the Regeneron Grant, Mr. Feraco was also awarded a \$4726.00 grant to be used for specific research projects.

 Congratulations to Ms. Savelli who was recently approved as CodeHS (computer science) Certified Educator.

 Congratulations to Mr. Schmidt who was a guest panelist for Long Island University to answer questions and share his experiences with potential teachers.

 Walt Whitman senior Victoria Isernia is running her third annual book drive. In the past she has collected over 4,000 books for a Long Island Nonprofit called Hindi's Libraries. She is asking for donations of new or gently used children and teen books to spread her love of reading to children in need. All donations can be brought to the main office by February 18th. Contact Victoria at visernia@ shufsd.org with any questions and thank you for your support.

### Upcoming Events:

- 1/28 2nd Quarter Ends
- Start of Black History and Mindfulness Month 2/1
- 2/7 Report Cards Posted / ELL Parent Teacher Conferences
- 2/9 End of student course requests 2/11
  - Xanadu Benefit Concert Black History Program
- 2/17
- 3/4 Girls Sports Night
- Walt Whitman Center Stage Productions Musical is Legally Blonde 4/8
- 4/9 Walt Whitman Center Stage Productions Musical is Legally Blonde

On behalf of the staff at Walt Whitman High School, we wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!

### News from Mr. Eddie Smith, **Principal of Stimson Middle School**

It is hard to believe that we are about to end the second guarter. As a reminder, the second quarter ends on January 28th. If you have not already done so, please check the Parent Portal regularly to review your child's grades. Over the last few weeks the counselors have met with our entire 8th grade to begin the scheduling process for the high school. If you have specific scheduling questions, please contact the guidance office at (631)812-3720.





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At next Wednesday's Board of Education meeting we will celebrate Stimson's Teacher of the Year, Ms. Jennifer Hohner. Congratulations Ms. Hohner! Your dedication to our students and the South Huntington community is recognized and appreciated.

### News from Mr. Steve Toto, Principal of Silas Wood Sixth-Grade School

SW will administer the i-Ready Reading Diagnostic on Thursday January 20 followed by the i-Ready Math Diagnostic on Friday, January 21. Students will take these on their Chromebooks. Please remind students to fully charge their Chromebooks before each school day and especially in advance of these dates. As you may know, i-Ready provides a diagnostic assessment designed to provide teachers with actionable insight into student needs, offering a complete

# Great Kindness Challenge Spirit Week



picture of student performance and growth. Our school-day periods will be adjusted for the days of the i-Ready diagnostics, so we are providing our adjusted bell schedule for your reference.

As we near the end of our first semester/ second quarter, next week (January 24 – 28) Silas Wood students will be happily involved in one of our most treasured and fulfilling projects: *The Great Kindness Challenge*. Along with schools across the entire nation, students and staff dedicate the entire week to embracing Kindness. Each student will be given a GKC checklist of 50 kind acts; everyone is challenged to complete as many acts of kindness as possible. All that is needed is a kind thought, some creativity, and hope



of doing good. Kindness Stations are set up in our building so that students may use recess periods to try to complete all 50 Kindness Challenges. For more information, please access www.thegreatkindnesschallenge. Part of the celebration is The Great Kindness Challenge Spirit Week in which we hope all our students and staff enjoy participating!



Presenting an opportunity to help others who are in need, we invite SW students to take part in this year's Heavenly Hats fundraiser. Details of this event which benefits those suffering from hair loss are presented here. Thanks to all who participate.

Speaking of wonderful causes – Here is a Date to Save! Silas Wood is thrilled to participate in our third Long Beach Polar Bear Plunge. Please see (green) flier attached here for all

information. Hope to see you there – either as a Polar Bear or a Cheerleader! Polar Plunge Date is February 6 – please watch for more details to follow.

Good luck to all the teams who will be participating in the Silas-Stimson Dodgeball tournament on Saturday. Watch this space for the name of the winning team.



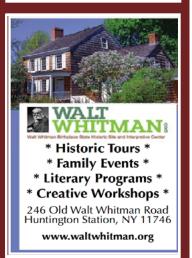


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### News from Mr. Anthony Ciccarelli, Principal of Birchwood Intermediate School

ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND GRAPHIC NOVELIST, DAVE ROMAN, WILL VIRTUALLY VISIT BIRCHWOOD TO PRESENT A LIVELY VISUAL DISCUSSION ON COMICS, AND HOW THEY HAVE SERVED AS AN INSPIRATION THROUGHOUT HIS READING JOURNEY. THE PTA IS HAPPY TO OFFER HIS SERIES, ASTRONAUT ACADEMY, FOR A PRE-SALE COST OF \$9 PER BOOK OR \$24 FOR THE THREE BOOK SERIES. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ASTRONAUT ACADEMY PLEASE VISIT, HTTP://WWW.ASTRONAUTACADEMY.COM/.

### VISIT OUR <u>memberhub</u> store by January 21st to Purchase.



Our Winter concert has been rescheduled to Thursday, February 3rd. Here is the performance schedule for the evening:

Orchestra: 6:30 pm Chorus: 7 pm Band: 7:30 pm

The Musical Theater performance has been rescheduled to February 12th at 12:00

#### News from Mr. William Hender, Principal of Maplewood Intermediate School

After a reflective week learning about and observing Dr. Martin Luther King, we are excited for another week full of fun and learning here at Maplewood Intermediate School. This week students will be embarking on their second i-Ready Diagnostic exams in both Reading and Mathematics. The results of these exams will demonstrate to students all the growth they have made as well as areas where they should continue to focus their learning. We are all very excited to beat our Fall Diagnostic scores!

Our School Based Management Team is pleased to announce the start of our Maplewood Winter-Wear Drive that will run through February 18th. Interested families are asked to donate new winter items including hats, scarves and mittens to those in need.

Lastly, don't forget about two exciting events that are taking place this Friday, January 21st. First, during the day, our Student Council is hosting Crazy Hair Day and then at night, our PTA is hosting a Virtual Family Fun Night. Be sure to show your school spirit and participate in these two great events!

### News from Dr. Annie Michaelian, Principal of Oakwood Primary Center

We would like to thank the Oakwood PTA for hosting our very own PTA Virtual Bingo Night last Friday, January 14th. All of our students, families, and staff enjoyed a very exciting Bingo night with smiles and fun prizes. Thank you to all who joined in making the event an enjoyable one!

Oakwood's PTA PARP "Wild about Reading" Week is quickly approaching and will take place January 31-February 9. Look out for information about student reading challenges, the PARP calendar and how to purchase a copy of our PARP book <u>Ten Ways to Hear Snow</u> by Cathy Camper.

Our Student Council continues to recognize two outstanding members of the Oakwood Family. This week, the Student Council "Gratitude Board" has recognized one of Oakwood's Reading Teachers, Ms. Lem-



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bo and one of our Teaching Assistants, Ms. Blanco. We thank them for always supporting the Oakwood Family!

Please be reminded that it is important that all emergency information is updated at Oakwood. If you have not returned your child's Emergency dismissal form, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a new form, please contact the school at 812-3500 so we may supply you with one. In the case of an emergency early dismissal, the bus driver will need to know who is permitted to pick up your child at the bus stop. Without this important information, the bus driver will bring your child back to Oakwood to be picked up.

Once again Oakwood has signed up to participate in the annual Great Kindness Challenge! Kindness is an important part of Oakwood and we are looking forward to celebrating during the week of 1/24-1/28 as we display random acts of kindness and a spirit week to add to the fun! Please be on the lookout for activities that will be sent home this week. Spirit Week Schedule 1/24-1/28

We are excited to announce that the Oakwood PTA is hosting a Winter Book Fair during the week of January 24th. More information will be coming soon on this special week!

Our Oakwood students are continuing to earn paper pom-poms for exhibiting positive character traits. Our classes have visited the Kindness Store to redeem their pom-poms before the break. Please continue to encourage your child to continue to be safe, respectful and responsible in school as we will be going back to the store in February.

Oakwood is posting new pictures on our social media accounts on Instagram and Twitter! We are very excited to share all of the wonderful things happening to enhance and build on our home-school connection! If you are interested in following us, please see the information below:

Instagram: oakwood\_primary\_center Twitter: @Oakwood\_PC Have a fabulous week ahead! #theoakwoodway

#### News from Mr. Mitchell Levy, Principal of Countrywood Primary Center

We hope everyone is having a wonderful week thus far. Please be reminded that if your child tests positive for COVID or is found to be a close contact to someone who is, we ask that you please reach out to the school immediately. The form to share all of the necessary information can be found directly on the district website. As always, should you have any questions pertaining to COVID or anything else, please feel free to reach out to us at the school.

It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the midpoint of the school year. With that, last Thursday and Friday our students took their winter i-Ready Diagnostic. This week staff are analyzing these results, in conjunction with our other student data. If changes in tier are noted and/or if students are recommended to receive / or be dropped from our AIS services our staff will be reaching out to you shortly to discuss these recommendations. As always, should you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress please reach out to your child's classroom teacher, AIS provider, or building administration. We are here to partner with you and provide for your child's academic, as well as social and emotional needs.

Students are in for a wonderful treat this week, thanks to our fabulous PTA. Math Magic, by Brian Richards is providing socially distanced



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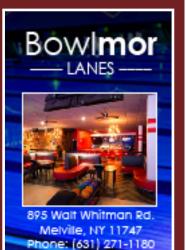






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assemblies for all students this Wednesday & Thursday. As always, we thank our PTA for all that they do in partnering with us and bringing in fun, academically enriching programs for our students.

If your schedule allows, please join us next Wednesday, January 26th at Walt Whitman High School, at 7:30 p.m. as we recognize all of the teachers of the year from all of the schools in the district. We are so excited to share that Ms. Noreen Scileppi was named not only Countrywood's Teacher of the Year but also South Huntington's Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to Ms. Scileppi on this well-deserved honor, your Countrywood family is so proud of you!

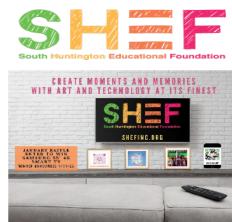
We wish you a wonderful week ahead!

## School Board Notes – A Message from the Board of Education

The location of the **January 26, 2022**, Board of Education meeting has been changed to the **Performing Arts Center at Walt Whitman High School**, 301 West Hills Road, Huntington Station, New York, in order to accommodate the anticipated audience for the Teacher of the Year recognition.

The time of the meeting remains the same at 7:30 p.m.

# News from South Huntington Educational Foundation, SHEF



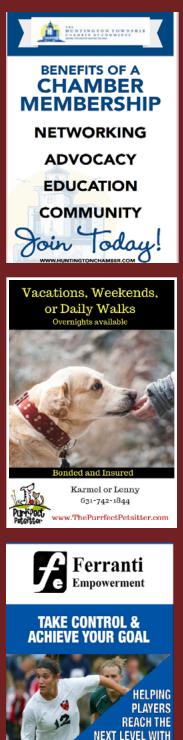
Winter is here for a while! Stay indoors and enjoy all your apps, gaming and the upcoming big game with this month's SHEF raffle! Visit <u>SHEFINC.ORG</u> to enter for your chance to win a new <u>55</u>" <u>Samsung 4k smart tv!</u> Winner will be announced on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> on January 31!



### News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

We are asking all the "T" in PTA to become a member this month if you are not one already! We appreciate all your support! SEPTA is also again able to offer our "Grant Program" to staff and administration. Applications will be out soon! Please Join us on Tuesday, 2/15/2022 – 7:00 p.m. at JKAO for our Transition Meeting with our Principals and Administration.

Thank you for your help!



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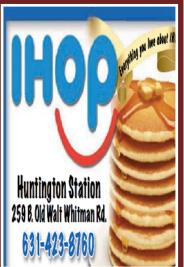


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### District PTA Council News Save The Date!

PTA Council is hosting a Lip Sync Competition featuring staff performers from each school building. This great event will take place on **Friday, March 11th at 7:00 p.m.** in the PAC at Walt Whitman High School. Join in on the fun!

### **News from South Huntington Public Library** Take Your Child to the Library Day

Introduce your child to the wonders of the public library! Stop by the Children's Department on February 5th for a special scavenger hunt (all day), I Spy challenge (all day) and Valentine's Day crafts (10 a.m. -3 p.m.). If you don't have a library card, get one while you're here! Fill out an application for a free card for you and everyone in your family.

### Winter Reading Challenge

Reading challenges aren't just for summer! Kids, teens, and adults can join "Chill Out and Read," SHPL's winter reading challenge. Sign up via Beanstack, read, and earn prizes from now until February 26. Visit www.shpl.info/wrc for more information.

### 100 Books Before Graduation

Speaking of reading challenges: we've got a new one just for young adults. Teens in grades 6 – 12 are invited to sign up for "100 Books Before Graduation." Use Beanstack to track your progress. You'll earn prizes for every 20 books you read, and when you finish, you'll receive a portable power bank and your name on a star in the Young Adult room! Visit the <u>YA Blog</u> for details.

### Library Survey

We want to hear from you! We are particularly interested in how the library meets – or does not meet – the needs of you and your family. We invite you to complete a brief Library Usage Survey. The survey is available online at <u>www.shpl.info/survey</u> or in the library.

### The Weeks to Come

Please log on to your school's website and social media accounts for more information.

### Whitman Sports

Date	Time	Away Team / Home Team	Level / Sport	NL/5 Contest Location
1/19/2022	5:30 PM	Walt Whitman @ Sayville	V WRESTLING	- Erentwood High School
1/20/2022	5:00 PM	Huntington @ Walt Whitman	V BOYS FENCING	Wati Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
1/20/2022	4:00 PM	Northport @ Walt Whitman	V BOYS BOWLING	- Bow mor
1/20/2022	5:00 PM	Huntington @ Walt Whitman	V GIRLS FENCING	Wall Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
1/21/2022	5:00 PM	Connetquot @ Walt Whitman	JV BOYS BASKETBALL	- Walt Whilmen High School NORTH GYM
1/21/2022	5:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Connetquot	V GIRLS BASKETBALL	- Connetquot High School
1/21/2022	7:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Connetquot	JV GIRLS BASKETBALL	- Connetquot High School
1/21/2022	6:45 PM	Connetquot @ Walt Whitman	V BOYS BASKETBALL	Walt Whilman High School NORTH GYM
1/22/2022	10:00 AM	Bay Shore @ Walt Whitman (Rescheduled)	JV BOYS BASKETBALL	Wab Whilmen High School SOUTH GYM
1/22/2022	12:00 PM	Bay Shore @ Walt Whitman (RESCHEDULED)	V BOYS BASKETBALL	- Wall Whilman High School - SOUTH GYM

### Stimson Sports

Date	Time	Away Team / Home Team	Level / Sport	NL/S	Contest Location
2/4/2022	5:00 PM	Oldfield @ Stimson	B GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Stimson Middle School
2/7/2022	5:00 PM	Stimson @ Babylon Black	B GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Babylon High School
2/7/2022	5:00 PM	Central Islip Purple @ Stimson	B LATE WINTER WRESTLING	-	Stimson Middle School
2/8/2022	5:00 PM	Stimson @ Candlewood	B WINTER BOYS VOLLEYBALL	-	Candlewood Middle School
2/9/2022	5:00 PM	Stimson @ Commack	B LATE WINTER WRESTLING		Commack Middle School
2/10/2022	4:00 PM	Commack White @ Stimson	B GIRLS BASKETBALL		Stimson Middle School







Dr. Joy Scharf, OD Dr. Robert Davidowitz, OD

West Hills Vision family eye care and eyewear

life is good ... when you see it clearly

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