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January 7, 2020

### Food for Thought

"Keep on beginning and failing. Each time you fail, start all over again, and you will grow stronger until you have accomplished a purpose - not the one you began with perhaps, but one you'll be glad to remember."

~ Anne Sullivan

### News from our South Huntington Educational Foundation (SHEF)



The SHEF family wishes you and yours a safe, happy and healthy new year.



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### Superintendent's Corner

I want to wish the members of our school community a very Happy New Year. I know in my heart and soul that 2020 will bring great things to our wonderful district. We all look forward to following the accomplishments of students and staff alike.



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## News from Deputy Superintendent Dr. Joseph Centamore in the Curriculum Office

Our South Huntington School District remains incredibly proud of the outstanding staff members who nurture our students and bring life and energy to our schools. With this in mind, we like to honor both the teachers and priceless support personnel who comprise our district team. The first of these exciting celebrations will be held on January 29th at our 7:30 pm Teacher of the Year ceremony, which will be held in the Whitman PAC. Please mark your calendars and join us in this very special tradition. Also, keep your eyes out for activities which showcase our outstanding staff members in the months to come.

## News from Assistant Superintendent for Business and District Operations Dr. Vito D'Elia

The new year ushers in our budget development process, which typically begins with the Governor's Executive Budget Proposal that serves as the baseline for New York State Aid allocations. Traditionally, the Governor has announced an aid number, which is far below the district needs, and Long Island Legislators have refused to support an overall state budget that does not include an increased allocation for suburban public schools. Unfortunately, last year's process was different in that the Governor's initial allocation and the final aid were historically low. It is our sincere hope that this year's outcome is different, and we will be energetically lobbying to promote our community's cause. We have already written our local legislators, and on January 15th, 9 am, we will be holding a press conference in the Leadership Conference Room at the JKAO building. Dr. Bennardo will be sharing the details of the public press conference as soon as they are available, and inviting our community members to join in the cause.

## Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for Student Services April Poprilo

The Student Services Department wishes to thank the South Huntington community for demonstrating such generosity and compassion during the holiday season. The members of our learning family displayed a record level of benevolence, and we could not be more proud of the individual and collective kindness that characterizes our South Huntington people.

A perfect example of collective kindness was demonstrated by our very own Project Excel students at Birchwood and Maplewood Intermediate Schools, who recently participated in a fundraiser for Make-A-Wish Foundation, donating a grand total of \$2,124! Creating opportunities for Project Excel students to engage in charitable service, helps them to develop leadership, compassion, and accountability within their school community, which is a key component to the program. Congratulations to the Project Excel students on their charitable efforts. Kudos to the program teachers and coordinators who facilitated the students' fundraising efforts.

Project Excel Members/Birchwood - **Anderson Aparcio Granados, Keily Guevara Ponce, Aleyda Amaya, Antonio Villatoro Bonilla, Josue Hernandez Contreras, Valeri Lara Ordonez, Keith Hill, Edwin Alfaro, Fernanda Hernandez, Briana Castro, Anthony Gomez**



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Castillo, Angel Pareja, Christopher Valencia Ticas, Genesis Lara Ordonez, Eileen Marcia Vasquez, Ethan Burke, Jarone Park, Holly Chase, Christopher Martinez, Jamel Macer, and Ms. Beth Springston, Coordinator; Mr. Sean Ryan, Ms. Sarah Friedman, and Ms. Melissa Gomez, teachers/mentors.

Project Excel Members/Maplewood - Komar Blagrove, Cole Carmosin, Giovanna Gedeon, Colin Hargreaves, Antwan Jones, Xavier Keith, Brandon Lane, Luis Lizama, Andrea Melendez, Noah Mulcahy, Matthew Santamaria, Kyle Schreiber, and Ms. Anissa Rasdall, Coordinator; Mr. Joel Rolon, Ms. Rochelle Leiba and Mr. Anthony Vissallali, teachers/mentors.



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### News from Dr. James Wright, Supervisor of Physical Education, Health, Athletics & Recreation

As January begins, our Middle School, JV, and Varsity teams enter the hearts of their winter seasons. We invite you to log onto [sectionxi.org](http://sectionxi.org) or visit our athletic website at [waltwhitmanhsstimsonms.schoolteams.com](http://waltwhitmanhsstimsonms.schoolteams.com) to find the schedules of your favorite team.

### News from Jackie's Art Corner

Next week, our very talented Birchwood, Maplewood and Silas Wood young musicians will bring to a close South Huntington's Winter Concerts for the 2019/2020 school year. The hard work and preparation of our teachers and students will most assuredly guarantee an evening of festive musical enjoyment for all!

Listed below are dates, times, and locations of each building's concert:

Maplewood Intermediate	WWHS PAC	7:30 pm
Birchwood Intermediate	WWHS PAC	7:30 pm
Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center	Silas Wood	7:30 pm

On Saturday, January 11, 2020, the Maplewood and Birchwood Theatre students will present "The North Pole Star." Our young actors have worked so very hard, and we hope you will come and support them in this most entertaining Elementary theatre presentation. The North Pole Star will be showcased in Walt Whitman's PAC. Tickets are \$5.00, and show times are as follows:

Birchwood	12 pm
Maplewood	4 pm

### News from Mr. John Murphy, Principal of Walt Whitman High School

This is a reminder that WWHS would like to formally invite all 8th grade parents and students to two programs that offer us an opportunity to learn more about Walt Whitman High School, and allow us to begin the process of getting to know you and your child.

•8th Grade Parent Orientation: Thursday, January 9, 2020 Performing Arts Center: 7- 9 pm.

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This event is designed to help you learn about the diverse curricula and array of programs offered at Walt Whitman High School. This meeting will also help you to understand your options as you and your child proceed through the course selection process.

• **Whitman Today:** Friday, January 10, 2020 Forum: 8:25 – 11:40 am

This program provides an exciting opportunity for you to visit us during school hours. The event will begin in the Forum, at which time you will experience a presentation from our students on academic preparation, extracurricular participation, and campus life. We will subsequently invite you to visit certain classes, thus allowing you to experience live, high school instruction. It is asked that parents wishing to attend the Whitman Today program please contact the WWHS Main Office at 812-3800.

Walt Whitman is getting ready to host this year's Senior Follies on January 17th at 7 pm in the Performing Arts Center. Come and be a part of the excitement as our seniors poke fun at the Whitman staff. It should be a night to remember. Tickets are 10 dollars at the door and all proceeds go to the Senior Class.

The Whitman Dodgeball Tournament is Saturday, January 11th at 4 pm in the North Gym. The cost is \$5 per player and your team can have up to 5-6 players. No co-ed teams. The registration deadline is Tuesday. Students can create their own school appropriate uniforms. Registration forms are in the Main Office or on the Booster Club e-Board.



Walt Whitman High School would like to congratulate **Jaden Wedner**, a 3rd year science research student who has been conducting and proposing behavioral neuroscience the past 3 years. Jaden has been inspiring other science research students to also embark on this new branch of behavioral science. Due to his efforts, the science research program has been awarded \$3,000 to purchase more efficient equipment to accurately collect brain activity data from the Society for Science and the Public. A special thank you to both Mr. Feraco and Jaden for a job well done.

### Athletics

Congratulations to our Girls Track team for their outstanding efforts at this year's Crossover D. The 4 x 200m B Relay Team of **Kim Hoppe**, **Mary Teresky**, **Marie St. Charles** and **Jessica Doddo** ran a personal best. **Gianna Paul** and **Aniyah Walters** were double winners, winning the Long Jump, Triple Jump, 300m Dash and the 55m Hurdles. Also,

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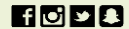
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**Antonette Pommells and Lizzie Schreiber** placed 2nd in the 55m and 300m Dash.

Congratulations to Girls Varsity Basketball on the Team's 47-31 win over Sachem North Saturday to improve to 3 and 0 in League play and 7 and 3 overall. **Dana McGowan** hit 3, three-pointers and led all scorers with 11 points, while **Ashley Magee** added 10 points. **Mia Stampfel** had 6 points and **Gianna Conte** added 4. The team played outstanding defense keeping Sachem's leading-scorer scoreless in the 2nd half. The team plays Commack on Thursday at 6 pm in the South Gym for sole possession of first place. Good Luck girls!

Last Saturday, the Boys Varsity Track team competed at Suffolk Community College. Winning the high jump with an impressive personal best of 6 feet was **Jovany Philippe**. Running a personal best in the 2 mile was **Jacob Veeder**, with a time of 10 minutes and 37 seconds. Also, congratulations to **Jeremy Forman** who threw a personal best of 36 feet and 8 inches in the shot put.

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

Congratulations to the Stimson Dance Team on placing 2nd in the Jazz category at Sunday's competition at Nassau Community College. Thank you Coach Corcoran for all you do, supporting the team, and showcasing the talent that exists in South Huntington.

The week leading into the Holiday Break was filled with a ton of festivity and fun. Stimson's GO, with their advisers Ms. Voorhees and Ms. Schmitt, scheduled a number of events that helped spread the joy of the holidays. Congratulations to Homeroom 220 on winning the Holiday Door Decorating competition. The students closed out the week's festivities with the Second Annual Staff v. Students Holiday Volleyball game.

As we transition officially to 2020, the Stimson educational family looks forward to working with a wonderful group of students. Please join us at our STEAM/National History Day Curriculum Fair this Wednesday, from 6-7 pm. This informal evening showcases all of the student's projects.

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

The entire Silas Wood family wishes one and all a very Happy New Year as we join in the excitement of beginning the second decade of the twenty-first century!

Among upcoming exciting events at Silas Wood is Tuesday's Cultivate Kindness Assembly, provided by our wonderful PTA. On October 27th, 2012 the unimaginable happened to the family of Mr. Richard Specht. They lost their little son, Richard Edwin-Ehmer Specht (Rees) to a drowning in the backyard pond. Seeking to give some meaning to their loss, Mr. and Mrs. Specht started a foundation called ReesSpecht Life. The foundation represents their commitment to make the world a better place in Rees's name by promoting working together to

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do small things that make a big difference. Their primary goal is to remind people, especially school-aged children, of the importance of community, compassion and respect, all goals Mr. Rees speaks to in his very moving and inspirational assembly program. This assembly will be the kick-off for "The Great Kindness Challenge," which will take place January 27- January 31, 2020, at Silas Wood. This week-long event will help our students understand and appreciate the importance of being kind and compassionate citizens of not only Silas Wood and the South Huntington community, but of the world at large.

On Thursday, we look forward to our STEAM Curriculum Fair Parent Information Night, where our parents and guardians will learn about the requirements and possibilities for participation in the upcoming Fair. Our teachers have prepared a one-hour presentation to shed light and answer questions on the requirements and focus of each of the possible Fair projects.

Let's all have a wonderful, safe, healthy and happy 2020!

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

Birchwood is looking forward to seeing our amazing students perform at our Winter Concert on Wednesday, January 14th at 7:30. All students performing must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, no drop-offs please. Our students have been working hard to prepare some wonderful entertainment for us.

Our Musical Theater students will be performing the "North Pole Star," this Saturday, at 12 Noon, at the Walt Whitman Performing Art Center. Tickets were sold through Mr. Slawitsky. Please come and see our students perform.

Birchwood would like to thank the Circle of Dance Company for providing our third grade students dance instruction. All third grade classes performed and did an outstanding job!!!

A special thank you to Jackie Tartaro for facilitating this opportunity for us at Birchwood.

## News from Dr. Gayle Steele, Principal of Maplewood Intermediate School

Welcome back to what we know will be a wonderful New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and got to spend some quality time with family and friends.

Thank you to the members of Voices, a select choral ensemble from Walt Whitman High School. This group of 10th-12th graders performed a musical concert enjoyed by our Maplewood fifth graders just before the holiday break. They were fantastic, and we appreciate them sharing their talent with us.

Our first PTA meeting of 2020 will be Tuesday, January 7th, at 7pm. Please join us in the cafeteria.

We will have our Geography Bee this Friday for grades 4 and 5.

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Thank you to our wonderful student council for coordinating this annual event.

We look forward to our Winter Concert on Monday, January 13th. Our students have been working hard to prepare for their performance. Come join us at the WWHS Performing Arts Center at 7:30 pm to enjoy what we know will be a wonderful evening.

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

Happy New Year! Welcome back to our students, staff, and families! We hope you had a festive and relaxing time with family and friends during the break. Upon our return, it was evident by all the smiles and excitement that a new year brings a renewed energy and commitment to excellence!

Our days back at Oakwood proved even more exciting as Mrs. Schwartz's First Grade Class ventured to the main lobby for their special Publishing Party. Our student authors shared their "How to" writing, showcasing colorful illustrations. They then placed their writing pieces in the Oakwood Welcome Center for all to see. If you have a chance, please take a moment to read their writing which describes the very things they know how to do! We congratulate Mrs. Schwartz's class on their writing achievements.

Student writing and reading continues to be a focus this week at Oakwood as we welcome back Ms. Enid Martinez, our wonderful staff developer, who will be working with teachers in developing additional strategies and ideas on continuing to implement the Reader's and Writer's Workshop model into all classrooms!

Looking ahead, we are excited for our January PTA events, and hope you will save the dates so you can join us! On Friday, January 24th, we will host our annual BINGO Night at 6pm. Also, our next PTA Meeting, in conjunction with SEPTA, is scheduled for Thursday, January 30th. Oakwood families are invited to join us for a special evening Please look for more details about both of these upcoming events!

Wishing everyone a terrific week!

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

Welcome back to the first full week of 2020. Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and break, and are as excited as we are to return. Our teachers have hit the ground running with training last Friday in our new Science Curriculum, and again early this week, with staff developer Enid Martinez who continues to give us tips and pointers as we hone our Readers' and Writers' Workshop skills.

This Thursday at 9:45 am, we will be holding the first PTA meeting of 2020, please join us to hear from our PTA about all that they have in store for us for the remainder of the school year. This Friday, January 10th, starting at 6 pm, will be our PTA's Family Fun Night featuring



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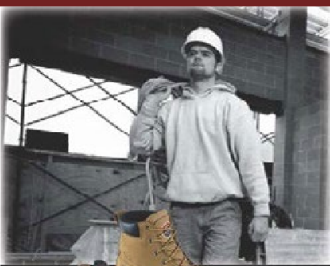
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the Magic of Scott Jameson, as well as the Live TV Game Show Brain Challenge. Please be sure to RSVP (flyers have already gone home).

Starting on Friday and going into next week, all of our students will be taking the second of the three iReady Diagnostic Assessments of the year. This, online assessment in both Reading and Math provides us valuable data on the progress that your child is making. Teachers will be communicating results with you in the next few weeks. As always, a strong home-school connection is key to student success. Please be sure to reach out to your child's classroom teacher with any questions or concerns.

Looking ahead, for those of you who have an incoming Kindergarten student for the 2020/2021 school year, there will be an information night held at Countrywood on Wednesday, January 22nd starting at 6:30 pm. Please be on the lookout for information on this worthwhile evening coming from the district office in the near future.

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

Happy New Year from the entire Board of Education – from our families to yours we wish you good health and happiness in 2020!

Our Board meeting on Wednesday, January 8th will prove to be entertaining and informative! We will have our Board Recognition of our Project Excel Youth Program and our first Curriculum Council Grades 6-12 Academic presentation. We urge our residents and staff to join us at 7:30 pm and witness first-hand what makes our South Huntington School District so special and unique. The meeting will take place in the Leadership Conference Room of the James Kaden Administrative Offices.

We hope you will consider joining us!

### News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

Happy New Year to all from Special Education PTA! Please stop by our table and find out more of the great events/programs SEPTA offers at Kindergarten Orientation at Countrywood, Wednesday, January 22nd.

Please also join us on Thursday, January 30th, at the JKAO, for our New Year Board meeting! Come to this very informative meeting about introduction to OPWDD, and getting information you need for your child and family. Location has changed from Oakwood to the James Kaden Administration Office.

### Booster Club

Dodgeball tournaments are coming!!! Get your teams together and sign up for this annual favorite student event. Tournaments will be held Saturday, Jan 11th - Stimson and Silas tournament at 1:30PM; Whitman tournament at 4PM.

Please see attached flyers for details; all teams must be pre-registered. Any questions, please email [boosterclub@SHUFSD.org](mailto:boosterclub@SHUFSD.org)

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**The Weeks to Come**

Tuesday, January 7

MW: PTA Meeting, 7 PM  
SW: STEAM Curriculum Fair **Parent Information** Night, 5 PM  
WW: PTA Meeting, 7 PM

Wednesday, January 8

SMS: STEAM Curriculum Fair, 6-7 PM  
JKAO: BOE Business Meeting, 7:30 PM

Thursday, January 9

CW: PTA Meeting, 9:45 AM  
WW: Grade 8 Parent Orientation

Friday, January 10

WW: Whitman Today  
CW: Family Fun Night, 6 PM  
LISFA Secondary Rehearsal #1, 4-9 PM

Saturday, January 11

LISFA Secondary Rehearsal #2, 9-2 PM  
Wildcat Booster Club Dodgeball Tournament, 1 PM, WW

Sunday, January 12

LISFA Secondary Concert

Monday, January 13

MW: Winter Concert, 7:30 PM  
@WWHS PAC  
SMS/WW: Booster Club Meeting, 7:30 PM, No. Gym Training Room

Tuesday, January 14

Birchwood Winter Concert, 7:30 PM  
@WWHS PAC  
JKAO: SHEF Meeting, 7:30 PM

**Whitman Sports**

Date	Time	Away Team / Home Team	Level / Sport	NL/S	Contest Location
1/7/2020	3:30 PM	Walt Whitman @ Harborfields	V BOYS BOWLING	-	Larkwood Center
1/7/2020	6:00 PM	Centereach @ Walt Whitman	V BOYS FENCING	MNI	Walt Whitman High School
1/7/2020	6:00 PM	Centereach @ Walt Whitman	V GIRLS FENCING	MNL	Walt Whitman High School
1/8/2020	6:30 PM	Commack HS @ Walt Whitman	V WRESTLING	-	Walt Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
1/8/2020	4:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Commack HS	JV BOYS BASKETBALL	-	Commack High School
1/8/2020	5:45 PM	Walt Whitman @ Commack HS	V BOYS BASKETBALL	-	Commack High School
1/8/2020	5:00 PM	Commack HS @ Walt Whitman	JV WRESTLING	-	Walt Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
1/9/2020	4:15 PM	Commack HS @ Walt Whitman	JV GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Walt Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
1/9/2020	3:30 PM	Dear Park @ Walt Whitman	V BOYS BOWLING	-	Idolwood
1/9/2020	6:00 PM	Commack HS @ Walt Whitman	V GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Walt Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
1/9/2020	5:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ NewfieldMHP	V BOYS FENCING	MNI	Newfield High School
1/9/2020	5:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Newfield	V GIRLS FENCING	MNL	Newfield High School
1/10/2020	10:00 AM	Walt Whitman @ Tournament	V WRESTLING	-	Sullivan County Community College
1/11/2020	9:00 AM	Connecticut @ Walt Whitman	JV BOYS BASKETBALL	-	Walt Whitman High School NORTH GYM
1/11/2020	11:00 AM	Connecticut @ Walt Whitman	V BOYS BASKETBALL	-	Walt Whitman High School NORTH GYM
1/11/2020	10:00 AM	Walt Whitman @ Tournament	V WRESTLING	-	Sullivan County Community College
1/11/2020	6:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Cheer Competition	V CHEERLEADING	-	Rosy Point High School
1/11/2020	9:00 AM	Walt Whitman @ Tournament	V GIRLS FENCING	-	Huntington High School
1/11/2020	12:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Connecticut	V GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Connecticut High School
1/11/2020	9:00 AM	Walt Whitman @ Tournament	V BOYS FENCING	-	Huntington High School
1/11/2020	10:00 AM	Walt Whitman @ Connecticut	JV GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Connecticut High School

**Stimson Sports**

Date	Time	Away Team / Home Team	Level / Sport	NL/S	Contest Location
1/7/2020	4:00 PM	Hauppauge @ Stimson	B WINTER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	-	Stimson Middle School
1/7/2020	4:00 PM	Stimson @ Hauppauge	B BOYS BASKETBALL	-	Hauppauge Middle School
1/9/2020	4:00 PM	Candlewood White @ Stimson	B WINTER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	-	Stimson Middle School
1/10/2020	4:00 PM	Oldfield @ Stimson	B BOYS BASKETBALL	-	Stimson Middle School
1/15/2020	4:00 PM	Stimson @ Brentwood West	B WINTER GIRLS VOLLEYBALL	-	Brentwood West Middle School
1/19/2020	9:00 AM	Stimson @ Cheer Competition	B CHEERLEADING	-	West Islip High School
1/29/2020	4:00 PM	FINLEY WHITE @ Stimson	B GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Stimson Middle School
2/3/2020	4:00 PM	Stimson @ WEST HOLLOW WHITE	B GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	West Hollow Middle School
2/6/2020	4:00 PM	Stimson @ Candlewood White	B GIRLS BASKETBALL	-	Candlewood Middle School
2/7/2020	4:00 PM	Stimson @ Moses	B LATE WINTER WRESTLING	-	Robert Moses Middle School

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**Martial  
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**Public  
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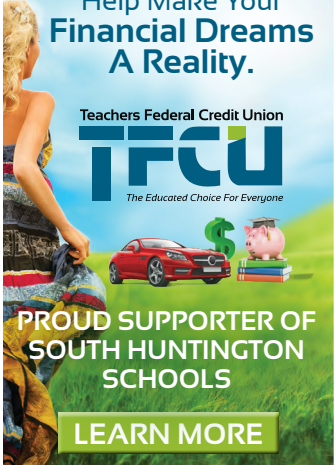
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