

South Huntington Schools Weekly Newsletter

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October 30, 2019

Food for Thought

"Believing in negative thoughts is the single greatest obstruction to success."

— Charles F. Glassman

Superintendent's Corner

We are immersed in a high energy week filled with Halloween celebrations and good spirits throughout the district. We plan to fill the website (shufsd.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/southhuntingtonufsd) with wonderful pictures, and encourage you to log on and see our students and staff dressed in their Halloween best. We also wish the safest of holidays to all of our district students, and look forward to beautiful school and community celebrations in the days to come.

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

Thank you to all of our parents and staff members who have joined our building Parent Teacher Associations and Booster Club. These dedicated organizations provide vital support for our district programs and illustrate the special partnership that binds our staff and parents.

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

As you prepare your winter calendars, please make note that this year's District Tree and Menorah lighting will take place at 5 PM on Saturday, November 30th, immediately following the afternoon Winter Wonderland celebration.

Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for Student Services April Poprilo

Congratulations to Dr. Pamela Mitchell, pre-K School Psychologist, and Jessica Ficaro, pre-K Speech teacher, who were awarded a \$500 mini-grant after submitting a proposal to the Long Island Kindergarten Transition Summit. Dr. Mitchell and Mrs. Ficaro proposed a project to enhance the transition of our preschoolers to kindergarten with an English/Spanish **Kindergarten Welcome Kit/Paquete de Bienvenidos a Kindergarten**. This kit will be provided to students in the district's UPK program. The kits will include suggestions for parents to assist with transition, a book about transitioning to Kindergarten, and helpful information regarding the school each child will be attending, such as important contact numbers, school hours and location, and PTA information.

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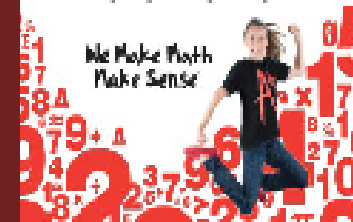
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The Spirit of Huntington Arts Center will be hosting the largest Art Show for Special Needs Artists in the region this coming weekend. "ARTABILITY" will hold a reception on November 1st, from 6-9 PM, as well as an exhibition on Saturday, November 2nd, from 10 AM-2PM, at 2 Melville Road in Huntington Station. Please join us for this "one-of-a-kind" celebration.

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

Congratulations to our Men's Varsity Soccer Team on their playoff win against North Babylon. This thrilling "come from behind" win sends our talented squad on to the quarterfinal round this Friday at 2 PM, where they will take on the Commack Cougars.

Congratulations, as well, to junior **Grace Weigle** for qualifying for her second appearance at the Cross Country County Meet with a blistering personal record in the 5K at Sunken Meadow with a time of 19:59:22.

We also join in congratulating our Men's Cross Country Team (**Trevor Galgano, Jacob Veeder, Ryan Hansen, Dan Donovan, Branco Garrido, Kyle Lutz, and Kevin Wrobel**) which had a 5 man average of 18:59 on the Sunken Meadow 5K course. This strong performance qualifies the team for the County Championship Meet to be held at Sunken Meadow Park.

We also wish the best of luck to **Emily Teplansky, Bianca Santaromana, Dana Keogler, Isabella Alvear, Abigail Velasquez, Venus Stewart and Catherine Muller** who will swim at the League meet tonight at Sachem North, and to **Emily Teplansky, Bianca Santaromana, and Dana Keogler**, our County qualifiers, who will swim on November 9th at Suffolk Community College.

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

Walt Whitman would like to congratulate our Virtual Enterprise students who took part in the LIU Kickoff on Friday. A special congratulation's goes to **Dominic Bosco** and **Christopher Grillo** for competing in the live elevator pitch competition. Chris's performance gained recognition as top 10 out of 100 Long Island schools! Great job Virtual Enterprise!

This is a reminder that Lifetouch photography will be back on Monday, November 4th for any undergraduate student who was not photographed in September. All students must sit for a picture, as these will be used not only for the yearbook, but also to update student ID photos and our student information system.

The Walt Whitman High School Fall Blood Drive is this Friday! Students must complete and turn in their donor registration form to the box in the Main Office as soon as possible. Wednesday is the last day to register and be guaranteed a spot to donate. Sign up and be part of a special day, and remember, each donation reaches approximately three people.

Halloween isn't just about candy anymore! S(CARE) For Halloween is collecting male and female toiletries, and socks for the homeless. Think about these



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items while you're out shopping for Halloween candy. Drop items off in the Main Office now through November 4th.

Come to Chipotle on Wednesday, between 4 and 8 PM, and tell the cashier you're supporting Walt Whitman DECA, and 33% of the proceeds will go to the Club.

Guidance News

The following colleges/universities will be coming to Walt Whitman to speak to students and parents about potential admissions, or questions, about the programs offered at their school. Please contact the Counseling Center at 631-812-3820, if you have any questions.

College/University	Representative	Date	Time
Ohio Wesleyan University	Catherine Kocian	Thu October 31	8:25 AM
Washington College	Shannon Whitaker	Thu October 31	9:15 AM
Hofstra University	Lindsay Salvucci	Thu October 31	10:05 AM
Manhattan College	Nick Marter	Thu October 31	12:35 PM
University of Saint Joseph	John Provencher	Wed November 6	8:25 AM
Molloy College	ON-SITE ADMISSIONS DAY	Wed November 6	10:00 AM
University of Hartford	Miguel Badillo	Wed November 6	10:05 AM
Millersville University of Pennsylvania	Joshua Belice	Wed November 6	12:35 PM

Athletic News

The Walt Whitman Booster Club is holding their 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament again this year. Come and show off your skills, as well as raise money for athletic scholarships. This year's 3 vs. 3 basketball tournament will be held on Saturday, November 9th. Please visit the Walt Whitman High School Booster Club website for further details.

Congratulations to our Girls Varsity Gymnastics team. The team did a stellar job competing against William Floyd on Friday. Many of the girls improved scores, especially on Vault and Uneven Bars. Nice job by **Aniyah Walters** on Uneven Bars for the 1st time. **Sarah Astegher** always performs with grace and poise on Balance Beam. Excellent job **Becca Horner** and **Carly McEntee** all around!

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

Thank you Ms. Schmitt, Ms. Voorhees, and Stimson's GO for organizing an amazing Halloween Dance on Friday night. I know all our students, and even some staff members, had a lot of fun.

Just a reminder that the PTA's "Clean Up Your Closets for Scholarships" fundraiser will be held on November 9th, from 8 AM-3:30 PM, at Walt Whitman High School. Mark your calendars to support a great cause.

Penny Wars continues at Stimson. Please see Mr. Sansotta's e-board for more information.

Congratulations to Stimson English Teacher, Ms. Kerry Chapman, on being



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

Last Friday, Silas Wood held its first costumed, evening Halloween Dinner Dance--a smashing success! Silas students turned out in high-spirited force, and it was terrific to watch them socialize, already coming together as a united, cohesive team. Now it's our faculty's turn, as Silas students eagerly anticipate teachers and the rest of the staff arriving in costume on Halloween Day.

Per the quote of W. Somerset Maugham included on our donation-request flier: **"Look after your laundry, and your soul will look after itself."** Donations are generously pouring in for our "Laundry Project" collection drive, as the Silas family teams up with The New York City Football Club and Current Initiatives to assist low-income families with the means to keep up with their laundry! Through November 1st, a collection bin is in our front lobby for donations of detergent (pods, liquid, powder), fabric softener (or dryer sheets), and other laundry-related items. These will be delivered to a Bronx-based laundromat for use by families in need.

Preparations are gearing up for the Silas Wood Family Fun Night on November 15th. Staff teams are forming for the creation of themed raffle baskets, and teachers are eagerly signing up to run various events, such as Volleyball, Bingo, and the ever-popular Silas Mania.

The Silas/Stimson PTA would like to invite you to attend our Annual Wildcat Bash at Bowlmor Lanes on Thursday, November 14th from 7:30 to 10:30 PM. \$50 per person includes bowling and a buffet dinner. Pay in advance or pay at the door. The choice is yours. Help support all the wonderful cultural arts programs this event makes possible and get your ticket now!

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

As the cooler weather arrives, please label all jackets, sweatshirts, hats, etc., so we can return them to your child if they get misplaced.

If your child stays for any of our after school programs, please make sure you send in a note, or call the main office, if they are not staying on a specific day. Please do not rely solely on an e-mail to a teacher.

The Birchwood staff and students enjoyed "The Power of One" anti-bullying assembly last Friday. The program supports the message provided to our students during our Anti-Bullying Workshops run by Mrs. Provda, our school Social Worker, Mrs. Mandaro, our School Psychologist, Mrs. Callaway, our Behavior Consultant, Mr. Kehoe and myself. We will continue these discussions by visiting classrooms and reading books to the children during the school year.

Come out and cheer on our teams at the Birchwood PTA Staff vs. Parent Volleyball game next Wednesday, November 6th, at 7PM, in the Walt Whitman High School North Gym. Admission is free, and 5th graders will be selling snacks to fundraise for their end-of-year trip.

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

Thank you to the PTA for a wonderful Halloween Carnival/Dance. The school was decorated, inside and out, and it created a happy, festive environment. Students, parents, and staff looked great in their costumes. Thanks to our teachers that came out to help run the carnival games. It was truly a wonderful community experience.

We also kicked off our book fair this past Friday. Students will visit the book fair during their library period throughout the week.

Fourth grade classes are continuing their visits to the Lighthouse this week as part of their Long Island History unit of study. And special thanks to the members of the Huntington Manor Fire Department that visited two of our fourth grade classes to discuss fire safety. We appreciate them sharing their expertise and the work they do in the community every day.

We are looking forward to all of the Halloween class activities and hoping for a nicer weather forecast so we can have our first parade. Students are allowed to wear costumes to school. Please adhere to the safety guidelines previously sent home.

Have a happy and safe Halloween!

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

The positive energy is high as the smiles of our students brighten the halls of Oakwood Primary Center!

We began this week with a special assembly by Mr. Toledo, our School Social Worker, who introduced the new Character Education program known as Project Happiness. This program focuses on a special quality each month, teaching our students the skills on how to create long-lasting happiness. We opened the program with sharing the quality of gratitude. We look forward to the many opportunities to share these skills with our Oakwood learners!

This week we also celebrated the additions of our student work, specifically the books the children created to place in our Oakwood Welcome Center! Our second-grade authors included their special books to add to the bins in the Main Lobby of Oakwood for all of our families to see! We are so proud of our Oakwood authors from Ms. Jones's and Ms. Villanueva's class!

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

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Our annual outdoor Halloween Parade is scheduled for Thursday, October 31st,

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at 9:30am! Should the weather be inclement, and the forecast has shown several various outcomes, we will continue on with an indoor parade for students only. Unfortunately, should the parade be indoors, we cannot host families and our students in the same space. Information will be shared to inform our families of the plan for the day. We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we navigate the day. We are going to continue to monitor the weather, and make a decision that allows our students to enjoy the many special opportunities this day has to offer!

Finally, Oakwood families are invited to join us as we host our first SBM Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, November 2nd, from 12-2 PM at Oakwood! Let's bring the costumes out one more time for a fun event that allows our families to participate in trick-or-treating fun! You can participate in two ways:

1. Register your car to decorate your trunk with a theme, and provide treats (stickers, pencils, candy, etc.) to all who trick-or-treat at the event.
2. Just come and trick-or-treat among all of the cars with decorated trunks!

Please fill out the slip that was sent home regarding this event, and return it to the Main Office as soon as possible. Reminder: If you have registered a car to participate, please plan to arrive between 11-11:45 AM. The lot will close at 11:45 to prepare for our trick-or-treaters at noon.

Wishing everyone a safe and wonderful week ahead!

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

It is hard to believe that it is already the end of October. As a primary school principal, the hot topic of the week is Halloween. Unfortunately, the weather does not appear to be in our favor, but please rest assured we have a contingency plan in place. We will be making a final decision as to whether to hold the parade indoors or outdoors by Wednesday evening, and will communicate that decision to all of our families. Unfortunately, in the event that the parade is held indoors, we will not be able to have our parents and guests joining us due to safety concerns. However, as a way to still have you with us "in spirit," we will Facebook Live our parade on Countrywood's page, and will publish the revised parade schedule (15-minute blocks of time for 4-5 classes to parade around the building and through the All-Purpose Room to enjoy the Live Band from Walt Whitman High School). We are still hoping that the weather forecast changes, so please join us in thinking sunny thoughts for Thursday.

Yesterday and continuing today and into next week, all of our Kindergarten classes are in for a special treat as the Owl Program from Sweetbriar comes to visit our Kindergarten classes. This visit is always one that is talked about for a long time to come by our students. If your schedule allows, please join us this evening, at 7 PM for our monthly PTA meeting. Our wonderful PTA will be updating us on the book fair that just finished, as well as share information on upcoming shows and assemblies, and of course, the biggest fundraiser of the year – Countrywood's Night Out, which will be taking place at the Huntington Hilton on Friday, November 15th. Our week wraps up with a one-night performance of Shrek, with our very own Music Teacher – Mr. Slawitsky as the Donkey. Tickets will only be sold in advance, and an order form has already gone home. Please call the school should you need additional information.

LONG ISLAND OUTLAWS

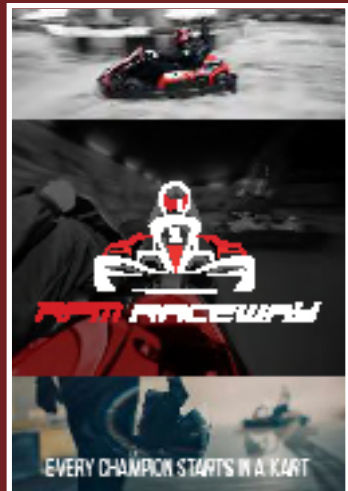
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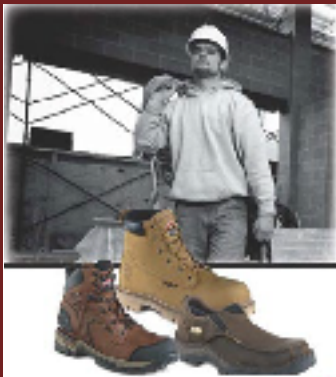
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Thinking sunny thoughts for Thursday, and wishing everyone a wonderful week!

News from Jackie and the Arts

Our very talented Walt Whitman freshman, **Julia Crapanzano**, was accepted in the Huntington Arts Council Juried Exhibition "Nightmare on Main Street." Congratulations to Julia for her amazing Art creation!

"Nightmare on Main Street" is a *spooktacular* Exhibition of Fall and Halloween themed artwork and photographs submitted by art students across Long Island. This is a Juried Art competition, and we are very proud to have Julia receiving this prestigious recognition and representing our South Huntington School District.

The Huntington Arts Gallery, on Main Street in Huntington, will showcase this haunting exhibit, "Nightmare on Main Street" through November 16th. Come by and enjoy an afternoon of outrageous young talent and magical color!

School Board Notes – A Message from the Board of Education

The Board wishes to thank everyone involved in last week's wonderful display of support in the Board of Education Recognition Night that took place at their meeting on October 23rd at Birchwood. The students and staff members who assisted did a fantastic job with the preparation and presentation with each student reading their own letter to an individual board member, and then presenting a special book just for that board member. A duplicate copy of the book—dedicated to each board member—was donated to the Birchwood Library for students to enjoy for years to come. Additionally, there was PTA Council, Wildcat Booster Club, residents, and South Huntington Teacher Association representation with gestures of appreciation for the Board. Also in attendance was Assemblyman Steve Stern who provided a proclamation from the New York State Assembly to the Board of Education and announced a \$250,000 grant for our South Huntington learning family! A wonderful moment indeed!

The Board looks forward to the next meeting on November 13th at the James Kaden Administrative Offices where Dual-Language students will perform a song that they recently sang at the Town of Huntington's Hispanic Heritage Night, and recognition will be provided to the students involved with the Project Excel Summer Youth Program. We hope to see both residents and staff members that evening to enjoy the pride of our South Huntington learning family.

News from our South Huntington Educational Foundation (SHEF)

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News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

Come join us on Thursday, November 7th, 2019 at the JKAO Building. We will have L.I. Music Therapy coming to discuss how music programs and resources benefit all our children. Ambassador Club students will also entertain your children. Pizza and water will be served at 6:30 PM, and the meeting begins at 7 PM. Please RSVP SEPTA President Peggy Berdat, 631-835-4059. Happy Halloween! Happy Thanksgiving to you all and your families!

Booster Club

3 V 3 Basketball tournaments are coming Nov. 9th! Stimson and Silas Wood students at 10 AM; Whitman students at 2 PM. This fundraiser is run in conjunction with the Girls Basketball team. Join us for a great day of fun! See the attached flyer or the main office for more details and to sign up.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Wildcat Booster Club Fall Raffle and made it such a success! We would like to congratulate the following winners:

- Grand Prize Car Winner: **Marquita Moore**
- 2nd Prize Football tickets - **Allison O'Hara**

- Student High Sellers winning a \$50 Models gift card:
Walt Whitman: **Carly Mineo**
Stimson: **Kallie Eichner**

- Student Raffle Winners \$25 Modell's gift cards: (chosen at random)
Stimson Football: **Kyle Gottersman**
Stimson Field Hockey: **Emma Taylor**
JV Football: **Takodah Cielo**
JV Volleyball: **Freddie Steenson**

Special shout out to Stimson Boys Soccer and Whitman Swim teams with 100% participation in selling raffle tickets! The following top participation teams have earned a pizza party, compliments of the Booster Club:

- Stimson Boys soccer, Swim, Varsity Boys Volleyball, JV Boys Volleyball, Varsity Girls Volleyball, JV Field Hockey, Stimson Girls Tennis, Stimson Cheer, Stimson

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Cross Country

Runner up teams with noteworthy participation will be enjoying a congratulatory cake from the Booster Club:

- Stimson Field Hockey
- Stimson Football
- Stimson Girls Soccer

The Weeks to Come

Wednesday, October 30

- MW: Book Fair
- SMS: Career Day
- CW: PTA Meeting, 7 PM

Thursday, October 31

- Halloween
- CW/OW: Halloween Parade, 9:30 AM
- MW: Book Fair

Friday, November 1

- MW: Book Fair
- SW/SMS: Maroon & White Day
- SMS: Fall Photo Retake Day
- WW: Senior Blood Drive
- SCMEA Day of Tuba and Euphonium

Saturday, November 2

- Marching Band US Bands Nationals, Allentown, PA

Sunday, November 3

- DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
- Marching Band US Bands Nationals, Allentown, PA

Monday, November 4

- SMS: Start of Early Winter Sports
- WW: Undergraduate Portrait
- Photo Make-ups
- SCMEA Administrator's Dinner

Tuesday, November 5

- ELECTION DAY/SCHOOLS CLOSED

Whitman Sports

Date	Time	Away Team / Home Team	Level / Sport	NL/S	Contest Location
11/1/2019	5:00 PM	Riverhead @ Walt Whitman	JV FOOTBALL	-	Walt Whitman High School TURF FIELD
11/1/2019	2:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Commack HS	V BOYS SOCCER	-	Commack High School
11/2/2019	1:30 PM	Walt Whitman @ Riverhead (HOMECOMING)	V FOOTBALL	-	Pulaski Sports Complex GRASS
11/2/2019	3:00 PM	Walt Whitman @ Invitational	V FALL GIRLS GYMNASTICS	I	William T. Rogers Middle School

Stimson Sports

Date	Time	Away Team / Home Team	Level / Sport	NL/S	Contest Location
11/1/2019	4:30 PM	Stimson @ Sagamore	B FOOTBALL	-	Sagamore Middle School

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Community and School District Flyers

In an effort to make our weekly newsletter more convenient, each of the flyers we receive are listed below. Click on the one that interests you and you will be automatically linked to that flyer.

**NEYSA/PAL
Tennis
Lessons
starting
mid- Nov**

**WWHS PTA
Scholarship
Brick
Fundraiser**

**South
Huntington
Basketball
Special Needs
Division**

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**Wildcat
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Member!**

**Children's
Music
Classes @
Stony Brook
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**Disney
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**Troop 406
Meetings
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Nights**

**Martial
Arts
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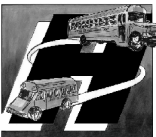
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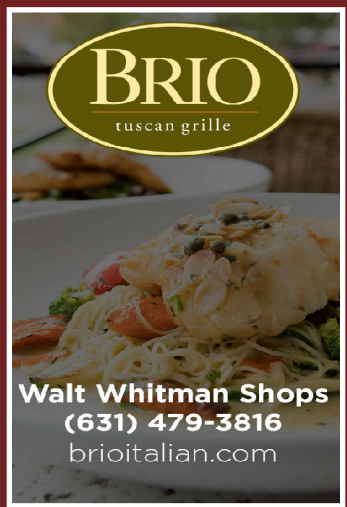
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