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November 17, 2021

### Food for Thought

"Gratitude turns what we have into enough." - Aesop

#### **Superintendent's Corner**

Mark your calendars for one of our most exciting events of the year as Sunday, November 28th, brings the annual Winter Wonderland to the South Huntington community. This beautiful tradition gathers children, parents, staff, and community members of all ages for a day of good cheer and holiday fun right here in our own district. This years' program, which begins at Noon and continues until 4 PM, will be held at Stimson Middle School, and will include both indoor and outdoor activities designed to kick off the holiday season in style. Of course, you can learn a great deal more about this exciting tradition by visiting the district website at <u>shufsd.org</u>, or from the communications we will share as the event gets closer. However, for today, we ask only that you mark November 28th on your calendar, and join us for holiday crafts, treats, and music, and check out our new surprises at the wonderland ice-skating rink and petting zoo.

There is truly something for everyone, so please mark your calendars now for the annual Winter Wonderland to come.

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

The week is finally here! The Walt Whitman Main Stage Production, The Crucible, under the direction of Ms. Susan Radin, will hold performances in the high school's Performing Arts Center on November 19th, at 7:30 p.m., and November 20th, at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Come out and enjoy a great show performed by Whitman's talented student actors!

The Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 20th, at Walt Whitman High School, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the South Gym and Cafeteria. Admission is free. Proceeds support the district's Art programs.

Good luck to the Varsity Football team, as they play William Floyd this Friday night at Stony Brook University, 7 p.m., for the Suffolk County Championship. Go Wildcats!

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

Walt Whitman High School drama presents The Crucible by Arthur Miller

South Huntington School District and Walt Whitman High School is proud to announce its fall drama production of *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller on Friday, November 19th, and Saturday, November 20th.

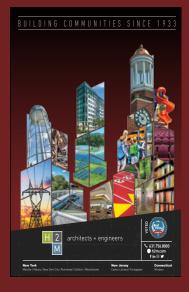


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Please come and support our wonderful students and staff as they put on this historic literary piece for our community to enjoy. Tickets are currently on sale at the high school, but can be purchased at the door. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the Walt Whitman High School Main Office at 631-812-3800.

#### Student Requests/Scheduling at Walt Whitman High School and Stimson Middle School

In the upcoming weeks, Walt Whitman High School students, as well as 8th grade students, will be able to start the scheduling process for the 2022/2023 school year. This process begins where students will go on Infinite Campus Student Portal and start making requests for what classes they would like to take for the upcoming school year. After receiving this information, your child's guidance counselor will then process and review the requests, and meet with your child individually to review and adjust their upcoming schedule. This process, which starts very early, allows parents and students to be a part of the scheduling process in its entirety by providing them multiple opportunities to speak and discuss about their courses and curriculum before their new schedule starts. We ask that you please be on the lookout for any information provided by your child's school building in the weeks to come, as well as log on to the student Infinite Campus portal to review the process of selecting course requests. As always, if you have any questions please contact your child's principal at any time.

#### Upcoming Parent Workshops

Thank you to all that were able to attend our parent training sessions for information regarding our digital tools and technologies utilized within the classroom. Please see below for the remaining upcoming session. This training will be virtual, allowing parents to participate from the comfort of their home. We ask that you please click on the links provided to sign up for the event before classes become full. If you have any questions regarding this, we ask that you please contact the office of curriculum and instruction at 631-812-3100.

#### Seesaw 101:

November 23, 2021- Seesaw Elementary- English- 7PM- B. Hall https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJApfuChrDwuG9N0Q8V9PESrdRrQKGs8CONx

November 23, 2021- Seesaw Elementary- Spanish- 7PM-A. Lopez <u>https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvdemsqTMrH-</u> <u>tRaLqUf-54kga4zXseYwNjD</u>

#### Parent Teacher Conferences

As we move into the winter months of the school year, South Huntington School District would like to remind all parents that each building will be having a parent-teacher conference within the month of November and December. These conferences are to allow parents the ability to learn about their child's attendance and academic progress, as well as get a chance to meet with the teacher and connect. Please see the following dates below for your child's school building conference dates. As always, if you have any questions about the sign up procedure or scheduling an appointment, please contact your child's teacher or principal. If you need further assistance, contact the office of curriculum and instruction at 631-812-3100.

Walt Whitman High School

Tuesday, November 23rd and Thursday, December 2nd - Evening Conferences

• Stimson Middle School November 18th - Evening conference November 19th - Daytime conferences

Silas Wood 6th Grade Center



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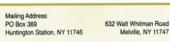


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November 19th - Daytime conference November 22nd - Evening conference

## • Birchwood Intermediate School/ Maplewood Intermediate School Tuesday, November 23rd and Wednesday, December 1st -

Daytime Conferences Monday, November 29th - Evening Conference

• Countrywood Primary School/ Oakwood Primary School Tuesday, November 23rd and Wednesday, December 1st -Daytime Conferences Tuesday, November 30th - Evening Conference

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

After an exciting 45-39 semifinal victory over Ward Melville High School last weekend, our Varsity Football team now holds a record of 10-0 for the first time in school history! The team has now advanced to the Division 1 Suffolk County Championship game for the second consecutive year where they will face the William Floyd Colonials. The game is scheduled for this **Friday**, **November 19, 2021, at 7PM**, at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium on the campus of Stony Brook University.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and can be purchased online in advance by downloading the Go Fan app or by visiting the Go Fan website at <u>www.gofan.co</u>, search '**SectionXI**' to find the Division 1 ticket option. Tickets that are purchased online, will need to be presented on your mobile device. There is no charge for children 12 years of age and under. Please note that Stony Brook University does not allow tailgating on campus, and will allow spectators to enter the stadium following the conclusion of the first game. If you cannot make it to the game, make sure to follow along on Instagram (@WaltWhitmanAD). Best of luck to the team!

Winter sports are in full swing at both Stimson Middle School and Walt Whitman High School. Good luck to all athletes and teams this winter.

Visit our Athletics website for updated scores, sports offered, coach's 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 (<u>www.NFHSNetwork.</u> <u>com</u>).

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

As we approach the holiday season, we are reminded that there are so many things to be thankful for in our lives. I am thankful for my family, my friends, and all of the people who taught me valuable lessons in life and my career. I ask of you to reflect on the past year and look forward to a bright future with family and friends. It is an honor to be the principal of Walt Whitman High School, and share my days with so many wonderful students, parents, and staff members. In the spirt of giving thanks, I thank all of you for your support and care for all of our students and staff. I wish you and your families health and happiness over the holiday season.

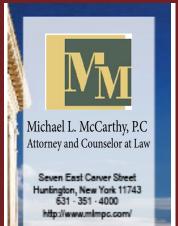
<u>Reminder:</u> The end of the first quarter of school is rapidly approaching. Before you know it the school year will fly by and you do not want to be stuck wondering where the time has gone. Please



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make sure you and your student are aware of their grades and their academic performance. Communication between students, parents, and our staff is essential to your students' academic success. Please do not wait until the end of the year to contact your student's teacher or guidance counselor with your concerns or questions. We are dedicated to ensuring all of our students perform to the best of their abilities. Over the coming weeks, the grade level assistant principals and guidance counselors will be contacting and meeting with the students who are academically struggling. Please take advantage of these meetings and to gain insight on the programs and extra help sessions that we offer to all of our students.

#### Upcoming Events:

• Mainstage Drama Production is performing *The Crucible* on Friday, November 19th, at 7:30PM in the PAC, with Saturday performances at 2PM and 7:30PM.

- $\bullet$  19th Annual Fine Arts Craft Fair this Saturday, November 20th, from 10AM 5PM in the South Gym
- Parent/Teacher Conference Night (1): November 23, 2021 6 8 PM
- Thanksgiving Break: Thursday, November 25 28, 2021

I thank you in advance for supporting all of our students, and please remember to support our various parent/student organizations and boosters.

"Be curious, not judgmental." ~ Walt Whitman

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

Restock the Shelves was an enormous success thanks to our students and their families. Every day, for five days, students turned in daily designated items during homeroom. Thanks to their generosity our local pantry was restocked to the ceiling, and a friendly competition was held amongst homerooms. A special thanks to Mr. Sansotta and all he does to support the South Huntington community. These events not only support our local pantries, but also serve as an opportunity for our students and staff to come together and have fun.

Stimson Middle School is wishing the best to our Whitman Varsity Football Team as they take on William Floyd High School at Stony Brook this Friday at 7pm. Go Wildcats!

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

November 24th (the day before our Thanksgiving break), all Silas Wood students will be dismissed 15 minutes early (with Dismissal at 2:40 p.m.), as we practice our Emergency Management Plan.

Please be reminded that Silas Wood no longer mails Report Cards. All student grades will be viewable on the Parent Portal beginning November 22nd. Review of Report Cards also presents an excellent opportunity to discuss each of their classes with your child.

Are you employed in a job that you love to discuss and share information about? In an effort to make careers come alive, Silas Wood is planning a special *Career Day* to take place on **Thursday**, **December 16**, **2021** (during our Wheel classes). If you are interested in presenting to our students, please send in this form no later than **Wednesday**, **November 24**, **2021**. All speakers will be provided with guidelines and more specific information before Career Day.

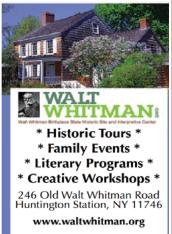












#### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Birchwood will be holding virtual parent-teacher conferences on Tuesday, November 23rd, and Wednesday, December 1st. Both of these days will be half days of school for all our students. Your child will be coming home from school early; we will dismiss at 12:25 p.m. We will also hold a virtual parent-teacher conference from 6 – 8 p.m. on Monday, November 29th. If you have not done so already, please reach out to make an appointment with your child's teacher(s).

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

The learning adventures continue this week at Maplewood Intermediate School as students continue to showcase their reading and writing skills at all grade levels. In the area of Mathematics, students continue to work on their numbers and operational skills as they build a strong base for new skills.

While our attention for last week was on our Veterans, this week we focus on all that we are thankful for here at Maplewood. Our families, friends, teachers, and toys have certainly been popular choices during these discussions. We are coming to the end of our "Dollar for the Holidays" collection to help support those that need assistance during the holidays. Under the guidance of Mrs. Carroll, we have collected over \$400 for this wonderful cause. Just a reminder that should anyone need assistance during the holiday season, please reach out Mrs. Carroll, or one of the school administrators, for more information.

Lastly, don't forget about one of our exciting events that we have planned and organized by the Maplewood PTA. This Friday, November 19, will be a Virtual Family Fun Night and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with "The Laugh Factory." Registration for this event is not required, and the event link will be posted on the Maplewood PTA website. Stay home, sit back, and enjoy some laughs with your family and friends.

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

This week kicks off Oakwood's SEL building-wide initiative where our Oakwood students will be learning about caring for ourselves and others by showing kindness and being Safe, Respectful and Responsible (SRR). While doing so, our Oakwood students earn "pom poms" as an incentive. Our SEL lessons are connected to the book, "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" which incorporate the variety of ways we choose kindness and caring for others at Oakwood!

This week we are celebrating School Related Professionals Day. We thank all of our staff who help support our students' learning with love and care on a daily basis. We are fortunate to have such amazing staff to be a part of our student's positive experiences at Oakwood.

We would like to thank our families for all the *Tommy the Turkey* donations that have been sent into school. We are so thankful to see all of the feathers proudly displayed in the hallway. Donations will be collected through Friday, November 19th.

We are very excited to share our "Thankful for Thanksgiving" Kindergarten show with families. Thank you to our amazing Music educator, Ms. Lisa Morabito, for her special efforts in organizing this show for our Kindergarten students. Due to social distancing, please be reminded that only one parent per child is invited to attend in- person. We will also be setting up live streaming for families who would like to view the event from home. The link will be forwarded to Kindergarten families.

The schedule is shared below:



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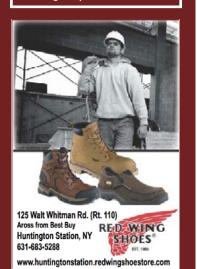
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November 17th 9am: Ms.Castro, Ms. Kessler & Ms.Scacco 9:30am: Ms.McGrorty & Ms.Baumbach/Mr. Scalice 10am: Ms.Negron & Ms. Savitz

November 18th 9am: Ms. Molina & Ms.DeNuzzo 9:30am: Ms. Renda/Ms.Tafe & Ms.Groe

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for later in the month. The following dates are early release dates and Oakwood buses will dismiss at approximately 11:30 from the parking lot. If you are picking up your child at Oakwood, we will begin at 11:15. Also, see below for the evening conference date.

#### Tuesday, November 23rd-11:30 dismissal

#### Wednesday, December 1st-11:30 dismissal

#### Tuesday, November 30th-Evening Conference Date (6-8pm)

Please be sure to send in a note if your child' dismissal plan will be changing for any of the above dates. This communication assists in making a smooth dismissal plan for your child.

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 the home-school connection! If you are interested in following us, please see the information below:

Instagram: oakwood\_primary\_center Twitter: @Oakwood\_PC

Have a wonderful week! #theoakwoodway

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

Our week is off to a great start here at Countrywood. Our Tuesday after-school 2nd Grade Coding Club and Friendship Programs are off to a great start, and we look forward to offering our coding program to our 1st grade and Kindergarten students in the weeks and months to come. Also, in the near future, we will be kicking off our after school Theater Program, details on that will be coming out shortly.

This week we recognize, acknowledge, and thank all of the School Related Professionals who work tirelessly each and every day to support our students and staff in providing all that they need for a safe, and successful school experience.

Please be reminded that the 1st marking period has come to a close, and shortly, the Parent Portal will open up to view report cards. If you need assistance accessing the parent portal, or creating an account, please click here: <u>https://www.shufsd.org/parents/parent-portal-information</u>. An important reminder that next Tuesday, November 23rd will be an early dismissal day for Parent/Teacher Conferences. If you have any questions pertaining to your son/daughter's conference, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher. Also, next Wednesday, November 24th, we will have our annual 15-minute Emergency Management Plan Early Dismissal. School will then be closed on Thursday, and Friday, November 25th and 26th for Thanksgiving.



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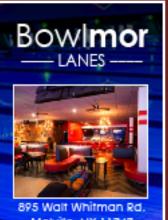


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Melvile, NY 11747 Phone: (631) 271-1180 We ask that you continue to send your children to school dressed for the weather of the day. We will continue to go outdoors for Physical Education, as well as recess, for as long as the weather allows.

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead.

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

Tonight's Board of Education meeting begins with a Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing from all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of various tax exemptions--these tax exemptions can be found on the Notice of Public Hearing posted on the website, <u>www. shufsd.org</u>.

The intention of the Board of Education is to present resolutions for those exemptions moving forward with this process at the December 8th Board meeting. The public hearing is an in-person meeting, but can also be viewed online using the link that is posted on the website.

Directly after the public hearing, there will be a sneak preview of the high school's Mainstage drama production, "The Crucible." Residents can attend the performance this weekend--Friday night, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Walt Whitman High School.

Before moving into the regular portion of the business meeting, there will be a presentation on Mental Health Wellness that will provide important information. We urge our residents and staff to attend this board meeting, either in-person or virtually from home.

## News from South Huntington Educational Foundation, SHEF



This weekend, be sure to shop the annual **Fine Art and Crafts Fair**, an annual tradition that supports the WWHS Art Gallery student showcase coming in 2022, plus local vendors of hand-made crafts and all your shopping needs!

Saturday, November 20th, 10 AM – 5 PM - Featuring 100+ artists and craftsmen with a wide variety of hand-made crafts!



Be sure to follow **SHEF** on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> for updates and more coming in the new year!



South Huntington Schools

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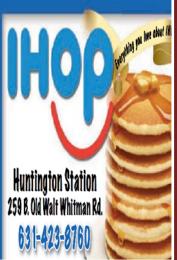


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#### News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

SEPTA would like to give a big thank you to Ms. Reanna Fulton for presenting Technology resources with Parent Square and other applications our children and students can utilize. Also a very big thank you to Melina Pantina, and SEPTA Board Members, for all their hard work in executing our pilot Smile Gram for National Kindness Day at Countrywood and Oakwood.

SEPTA Holiday Raffle for the \$500 TD Bank Gift Card is going on now. Flyer is attached at the bottom of the newsletter.

#### **District PTA Council News**

Thank you to all who donated to our Clean Out Your Closets clothing drive this past weekend. We filled an entire truck! All the proceeds from the drive will go towards scholarships for our graduating seniors.

#### **Booster Club**

#### **Booster Club Introduces Student Board Member Positions**

The Wildcat Booster Club supports the athletic program and our athletes in South Huntington. The 2021-2022 Board is excited to introduce two (2) Student Board Member positions that will be filled by qualifying Student Athletes beginning this season and continuing in the years to follow. This provides a great opportunity for both the Booster Club and the student athletes. It offers the organization the ability to gain feedback and insight from the student athletes and student body via their representation as voting members of the Board. In turn, it provides an excellent opportunity in leadership, and enables the student board members to gain experiences in areas that can benefit them in years to come. We're excited and proud to expand our interaction with the student body and grateful for the support and assistance of the administration in helping to facilitate and bring this initiative to life. The Board will be voting on the candidates at this month's meeting to be held on November 30th.

#### Wildcat Booster Club Membership

Did you know that the Booster Club makes money available to every sports program in the South Huntington School District? Coaches, each year, are able to take advantage of monies set aside for their program. This can be used for whatever they need! Some offset extra programs, while others may put towards purchases for their teams or program. The Booster Club does this in addition to the donations it makes to the district overall. This includes items like the Stimson Scoreboard, the Volleyball Team Staunches, and much more. We are able to do this through money raised in membership, and the events the Booster Club holds throughout the year. The Booster Club benefits all of our students and community! You don't have to be the family of an athlete to join, but if you have an athlete in South Huntington, you certainly should consider a membership to help support the program that supports them. Join the Booster Club online at www.wildcatbc.org.

### 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/S	Contest Location
11/19/2021	7:00 PM	William Floyd @ Walt Whitman	V FOOTBALL		Stony Brook University
11/23/2021	5:15 PM	Walt Whitman @ West Babylon	V GIRLS BASKETBALL	s	West Babylon Senior High School GYM A
11/23/2021	5:15 PM	Walt Whitman @ West Babylon	JV GIRLS BASKETBALL	S	West Babylon Senior High School
11/24/2021	3:30 PM	Holy Trinity @ Walt Whitman	V GIRLS BASKETBALL	S	Walt Whitman High School



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