# South Huntington Schools Weekly Newsletter Sponsored by Huntington MediCenter & Ten Tigers Kung Fu Academy

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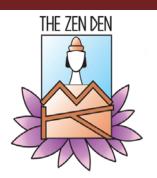
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November 3, 2021

### **Food for Thought**

- "The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts."
- Marcus Aurelius

### **Superintendent's Corner**

November is most definitely upon us and there is an unmistakable autumn chill in the air. We will soon close the first marking period and look with anticipation at the days to come. The members of our school district family have established a solid academic, artistic, and athletic base this year, and that special energy will carry us through the opportunities and challenges ahead. This is always a special time of year in school districts as families prepare for the holiday season, while simultaneously juggling the countless events that seem to fill the air. We look forward to continuing the collaborative work that has characterized the opening months of school, and know that productive relationships and teamwork will characterize all we do. We encourage you to follow the Wildcat action by checking the district calendar (<a href="shufsd.org">shufsd.org</a>) and follow us on Facebook (<a href="facebook.com/southhuntingtonufsd/">facebook.com/southhuntingtonufsd/</a>), Instagram (<a href="instagram.com/southhuntingtonuschools/">instagram.com/southhuntingtonuschools/</a>), and Twitter.

# News from Deputy Superintendent/Business Dr. Joseph Centamore

The Whitman Varsity Dance team performed on Monday at Birchwood's Academic Pep Rally, and will be back in action to help bring some extra spirit this Friday night at the Varsity Football home playoff game against Riverhead.

At Countrywood's Halloween parade last week, students from the Walt Whitman band performed, while at Oakwood's Halloween parade, students from the Stimson band, as well as several district music teachers, also performed.

It was an extra special Halloween this past Sunday as the Whitman Marching Band took 3rd place at the New York State Field Band Conference (NYSFBC) Championships in Syracuse amongst a very strong competition pool, finishing just 1.4 points from 1st place. Director, Mr. Modelewski, described it as a thrilling and incredible experience for the band, staff and parents, as well as, a true team win! The success of the Marching Band, both in terms of achievement and the strong character they demonstrate, is a credit to the efforts of all of the district's band directors and the incredible support from our parents. The Marching Band will next travel to New Jersey this Saturday to perform at the US Band competition in MetLife Stadium. Good luck to our student performers.

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



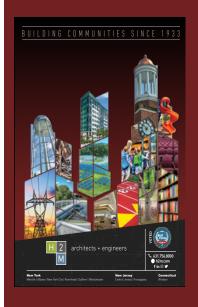


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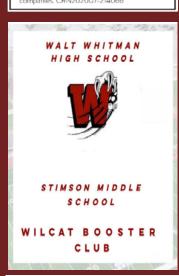
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& Dr. Gayle Steele **Upcoming Parent Workshops** 

We are excited about our continued training for parents on various digital tools and technologies utilized within the classroom. These tools allow parents to be an active part of their child's education through the review of academic and attendance reports. Please see below the upcoming training that will be provided to parents wanting to participate. All these training sessions 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.

### Chromebook 101:

November 3, 2021- Chromebook 101- English- 7 PM- E. Weis https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYgdO2spjkpHNbWNW5ZgFkS6T-

November 3, 2021- Chromebook 101- Spanish- 7 PM- P. Ramirez https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlrcu6rpzggEtB9o6anLUr0gggc-

ClassLink 101:

November 8, 2021- ClassLink 101- English- 7PM- S. Wyhowanec https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJctdeChrjsrGdHoEkYp\_JW1JnmcY3YQL8 z

November 8, 2021- ClassLink 101- Spanish- 7PM- P. Ramirez https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpdOGrrT4iGdPf4LZ9HkuRJNz-P2EFpLKOv

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 https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvdemsqTMrHtRaLgUf-54kga4zXseYwNiD

### **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 months 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 buildings conference dates. As always, if you have any questions about the signup 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 15th and 18th – Evening conferences November 19th - Daytime Conferences

### Silas Wood 6th Grade Center

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

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





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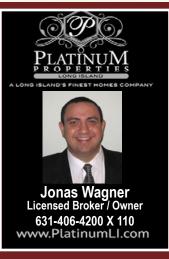
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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

Mailing Address: PO Box 369 Huntington Station, NY 11746

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Monday, November 29th- Evening Conferences

Countrywood Primary School/ Oakwood Primary School

Tuesday, November 23rd and Wednesday, December 1st - Day-time Conferences

Tuesday, November 30th- Evening Conferences

# 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 <u>The Crucible</u> by Arthur Miller on Friday, November 19th, and Saturday, November 20th. 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.

Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for Student Services April Poprilo

In an effort to help families in need in our school community, our building-level social workers are coordinating collections for Thanksgiving through an online donation site called Givebutter. Givebutter is an online platform wherein donations in any dollar amount can be made to one or more of the school buildings. If you wish to make a general donation, this can be done through the District Office page on this site. The funds collected through Givebutter will then be distributed accordingly. Donations are being accepted now through November 17, 2021. Please click here to access the <a href="2021 Thanksgiving Donation Drive">2021 Thanksgiving Donation Drive</a> webpage. There is also a shortcut posted on the District's homepage.

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

Though we are now in November, we are still in the midst of our fall athletics season. After a successful regular season, where we saw 11 of our varsity programs qualify for post-season play, we are now in week two of the playoffs. This week we have 14 individual competitors and 1 team participating.

Cross Country runners Ryan Hill, Ryan Hansen, John Adams, Sam Lopez, Mike Coppola, Tom Bass, Porter Chetty, and Emma Kowalczyk will be participating in the Section XI Championships on Friday, November 5 at Sunken Meadow State Park. Carly McEntee (Floor Exercise) and Jordyn Nicholls (Vault) will be competing in the Individual Gymnastics County Tournament on Friday, November 6, at Connetquot High School. Venus Stewart (Diving), Bianca Santaromana, Isabella Alvear, and Maria Petkovits will be participating in the Section XI Swimming/Diving Championships held this weekend at Hauppauge High School (November 4 - Diving) and Stony Brook University (November 6, 7 - Swim). Good luck to all of our individual athletes!

Our Varsity Football team completed the regular season undefeated for the first time in school history! The team went 8-0 and earned the #1 seed in the Division 1 playoffs. They will play the Riverhead Blue Waves on Friday, November 6, 2021- 6:00 PM, at Walt Whitman High School. Congratulations to the team and best of luck in the playoffs.

The winter athletics season is almost upon us. Registration on Final Forms (<a href="https://southhuntington-ny.finalforms.com/">https://southhuntington-ny.finalforms.com/</a>) is open for









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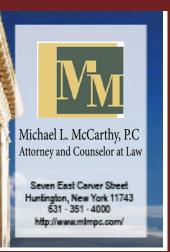


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all levels. Tryouts begin at Stimson on Monday, November 8, 2021, and at Walt Whitman on Monday, November 15, 2021.

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 livestreamed on the NFHS Network (www.NFHSNetwork.com).

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

Wow, what a weekend for the Whitman Marching Band. Everything went as smoothly as possible. The kids had an incredible performance at Syracuse and represented South Huntington well. Our 8th graders, who were probably the most excited/nervous about the trip, really acted beyond their years. Having such an age range in this ensemble is very unique, but they were most impressive.

The scoring system is based on 10 judge's ratings across 6 categories/sub captions. Here was our breakdown out of the 7 total bands in our division. We came in 1st in 3 sub captions.

Field Music (1 Judge) - 3rd Ensemble Music (Ž Judges) - 1st, 1st Overall General Music Effect (2 Judges) - 1st, 2nd Field Visual (1 Judge) - 5th Ensemble Visual (2 Judges) - 3rd, 4th Overall General Visual Effect (2 Judges) - 3rd, 3rd

With a score of 84.2, Whitman finished on the podium (3rd or higher) for the first time since 2006. The first place band finished only 1.4 pts higher, and the 2nd place finished .7 pts higher. Mr. Modelewski and Mr. Lucas were so proud of our band members who went to each group in our division, and congratulated them after the scores/awards were announced. Very classy on their end.

This was a team effort from Matt Hoffman's day program at Whitman, and with the Stimson Marching Band feeder program run by Jen Schmelter. Without both of them, the MB program couldn't have achieved what it did this past weekend. The season comes to a close on Saturday, November 6th, at Metlife (we are performing with our other conference, US Bands). Currently, performance time is scheduled in the 2:30-3:15 pm range, but it could be subject to change.

**Upcoming Events:** 

Senior Blood Drive: Friday, November 5, 2021 – South Gym 8 am to

Friday, November 5 at 6 pm, our Varsity Football team will be hosting the first playoff game against Riverhead. We are asking all fans to wear black for the "Black-Out with Neon Game" in support of our undefeated football team.

Virtual 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**

Please join us next Wednesday, November 10th, for the SW/SMS PTA Night Out Fundraiser. The PTA has a great night planned and hopes that you will consider attending and/or purchasing raffle tick-



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ets. The event will be held BOTH indoors and outdoors at Stimson from 6pm to 9pm! This event is ADULT ONLY. Admission is \$40, which includes the Shrimpy's Taco Truck, live music by StrumBowLI, amazing raffle baskets and a hefty 50/50 raffle. Please check the SW/ SMS Facebook page @smsswpta or the PTA google page to view raffle packages, basket list, and basket photos. RSVPs for the event will be accepted until next Monday, November 8th, in cash, check, or Venmo @Silas-Stimson-PTA. A copy of the invitation was also sent via Parent Square. If you need more information, please contact the PTA at <a href="mailto:smsswptaloop@gmail.com">smsswptaloop@gmail.com</a>.

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

Silas Wood is privileged to enjoy visits from Suffolk County Police Officer Jesse Levy. He will provide our students with one-on-one information on why violence occurs with emphasis on bullying and how it is defined, plus repercussions from bullying--on not only the person victimized but on the bully, as well.

Reminder that photo retakes will be this Friday, November 5. If you did not order your child's photo and would like to do so, please follow the instructions on the photo ID card that was sent home. If your child is new to Silas or was absent on photo day they will have their photo taken. If you ordered prints and are unhappy with your child's photo, you must return the entire package on retake day; a replacement picture will be taken.

Silas Wood's second marking quarter will commence on November 11th. Note, please, that First Quarter report cards will be available on the Parent Portal beginning Monday, November 22, 2021.

Something very exciting will take place at Silas this Friday, a wonderful PTA sponsored event: a virtual visit from author Max Brallier! This visit promises to be fantastic for fans of the series or excellent as an introduction to his fun, digestible stories presented fully illustrated in graphic novel form! Max Brallier is a *New York Times, USA Today,* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author. His books and series include The Last Kids on Earth, Eerie Elementary, Mister Shivers, Galactic Hot Dogs, and Can YOU Survive the



Zombie Apocalypse? He is a writer and producer for Netflix's Emmy-award-winning adaptation of The Last Kids on Earth and will be highlighting Last Kids on Earth-Thrilling Tales from the Tree House. Visit him at MaxBrallier.com.

As all our Silas families have been advised, *Parent Teacher Conferences* will take place on two dates during the month of November, 2021. Our first Conference date will be Friday, November 19th with appointments available *either* in-person at Silas Wood, or virtually (online), between 12noon and 3pm. Our second Conference date, which is for virtual (online) appointments *only*, will take place on Monday, November 22nd between 5pm-8pm. Parents/guardians have been asked to sign up for specific appointment slots through Parent Square; parents/guardians have until Monday, November 8th to sign up for their appointments on Parent Square. Please use this link for further instructions and directions. This site has videos and information, in both English and Spanish, to help guide you in the appointment-signup process.

Remember: As it is a Conference Day, Friday, November 19th will be an early-dismissal day for all Silas Wood students with dismissal for *all* students at 10:45a.m.

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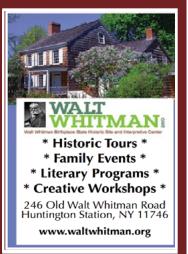












SW/SMS Night Out- Please join us next Wednesday, November 10th, for the SW/SMS PTA Night Out Fundraiser! The PTA has a great night planned and hope you will consider attending and/or purchasing raffle tickets. Event will be held BOTH indoors and outdoors at Stimson! Event is ADULT ONLY and admission is \$40 from 6pm to 9pm, which includes the Shrimpy's Taco Truck, live music by StrumBowLI, amazing raffle baskets and a hefty 50/50 raffle! Please check the SW/SMS Facebook page @smsswpta or PTA google page to view raffle packages, basket list, and basket photos. RSVPs for the event will be accepted until next Monday, November 8th, in cash, check or Venmo @ Silas-Stimson-PTA. A copy of the invitation was also sent via Parent Square. If you need more information please contact the PTA at <a href="mailto:sms-swptaloop@gmail.com">sms-swptaloop@gmail.com</a>.

Also note that on Wednesday, November 24th (the day before our Thanksgiving break), all Silas Wood students (along with the rest of the District) will be dismissed fifteen minutes early (with Silas Wood Dismissal at 2:40pm), as we all practice our Emergency Management Plan.

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

Birchwood would like to thank the Walt Whitman High School Kickline, along with two members of the very successful Varsity Football team for joining us this week for our Academic Pep Rally. We would also like to thank a very special group of teachers who did a terrific dance performance for our students. Both groups showed Birchwood and South Huntington Spirit, and had amazing performances. This was the final event in a month-long of special activities celebrating our students hard work and dedication to learning and supporting Social and Emotional Growth.

If you have not returned your child's Emergency Dismissal Form, please do so as soon as possible. It is important that in case of an emergency early dismissal the bus driver knows who can take your child off the bus if you are unable to make it to the bus stop. If we do not have a form and you are not at the stop, your child will come back to Birchwood to wait until you can pick them up

Become part of our wonderful Birchwood PTA Join at <a href="bit.ly/BirchwoodPTA">bit.ly/BirchwoodPTA</a>

### 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. We will also hold a virtual parent-teacher conference from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 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

We had another outstanding week at Maplewood that culminated with our First Fall Festival Parade led by Dr. Steele and Mrs. Gillen, as well as our Trunk or Treat Family Night hosted by our PTA. Thank you to everyone who came out to show their support. It was great seeing so many people.

As we enter a new month, we have plenty of exciting activities planned for both inside and outside of the classroom. Students are busy learning new concepts in mathematics, and are really perfecting their writing skills. In Social Studies, we will focus on all those who have served our country, as we honor Veterans Day. As the weather begins to get cooler, please remember to dress your child in layers, so they can remain



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

Thank you to all who made Oakwood's Halloween Parade such a success! The students, staff and families truly enjoyed this very special morning. A special thank you to the Stimson Band for their lovely performance for Oakwood that morning. Thank you to our District Technology and Public Relations Departments for setting up the live stream cameras so all families and friends could enjoy the parade from any location. We appreciate all of your hard work.

We are continuing to practice our safety drills at Oakwood. The students and staff have been doing an excellent job in reviewing the procedures for keeping safe during a practice drill.

As the weather changes, please be sure to send your child to school with a sweatshirt or jacket for outdoor time. Please be sure to label all of these personal items so they can be returned to your child if they are misplaced.

Oakwood's SBM team and PTA are partnering up to host Oakwood's 2nd Annual *Trunk or Treat* event this Saturday, November 6th, from 11am-1pm, in Oakwood's parking lot. The day is sure to be packed with fun. Come see our mascot, Willie the Wildcat, Trick or Treat safely, and listen to festive tunes by our DJ.

In support of World Kindness Day on November 13th, please consider supporting the SEPTA Smile Gram Fundraiser. Information has been sent home regarding this very special opportunity to put a smile on our students' faces.

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 am from the parking lot. Also, see below for the evening conference date.

Tuesday, November 23rd-11:30 am dismissal Wednesday, December 1st-11:30 am dismissal

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

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

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

Wishing everyone a wonderful week ahead! #theoakwoodway

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

It was wonderful to see our Countrywood family return to "normal" last Friday, as our ever popular Halloween Parade was in full force. The weather was touch and go for a while, but we were lucky, as the weather held for a beautiful parade. Thank you to all of our parents, relatives and guests who came out to cheer on our students as they circled the front driveway in their creative Halloween costumes for all



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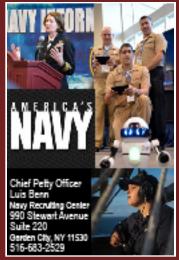
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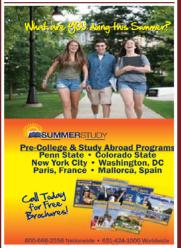
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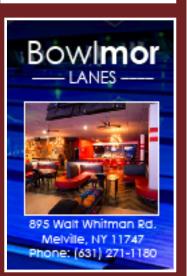
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to see. Thank you to Mr. Hoffman and the WWHS Band who provided live music for our parade. We always appreciate this partnership and were happy to be able to bring back this wonderful tradition this year. A huge thank you goes out to our Technology and Public Relation teams who partnered to live stream this event on the Countrywood Youtube Channel. For anyone who missed the event, it is still available on our Countrywood Youtube Channel (the link has been shared several times via Parent Square).

Monday morning brought the return of another crowd favorite as the Huntington Manor Fire Department came for our annual Kindergarten photo. A huge thank you to Ms. Sheila Buhse and her team for arranging this annual tradition. This photo will soon decorate our hallway walls and join past photos.

Now that we are into November, a friendly reminder that whenever possible we will still be going outdoors for recess, physical education classes, and outdoor classroom time. With that in mind, please be sure to send your child dressed for the weather, including, when necessary hats and gloves. We want to provide our students as much fresh air and mask breaks as possible.

We wish you a wonderful week ahead!

# News from South Huntington Educational Foundation, SHEF

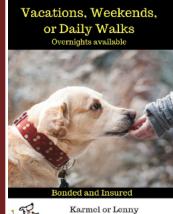




Faculty Reminder: The guidelines, requirements, info and application for this year's Faculty P.I.E. grants can be found on <a href="SHEFINC.ORG">SHEFINC.ORG</a>. Educators may request up to \$500 support for their project by completing the <a href="SHEF 2021-2022 Faculty PIE Grant Application">SHEF 2021-2022 Faculty PIE Grant Application</a> no later than November 10, 2021 and recipients will be announced shortly thereafter!









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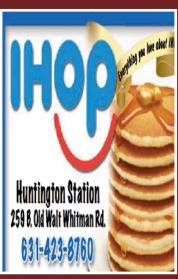
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SAVE THE DATE! Join your community the morning of Saturday, November 20 to do something good for you and be part of something good with your community. Stay tuned!

### **News from SEPTA - Maureen Basedow**

Please join us on Tuesday, November 9th, 2021, at 7pm, at JKAO for our PTA Meeting. Meet our new Educational Technology Director Ms. Reanna Fulton! She is giving a presentation on technology and learning for our students.

SEPTA Launched our HOLIDAY RAFFLE GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER. Buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$500 TD Bank gift card!

### **District PTA Council News**

This year's PTA Discount card has all your local favorites. Just \$10 per card, it can pay for itself after one use. Use every time you make purchases between now and Nov. 2022. Ask a PTA representative at your school for a card.

### **PTA Council Discount Card**



Also, we have "Clean Out Your Closets" coming up on Saturday, November 13th, 8 am to 3:30 pm, at WWHS North Gym. We will be accepting any used clothing, bedding, stuffed animals and bicycles. Clothing drive is to benefit Senior Scholarships.

### **Booster Club**

### Annual 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

The Wildcat Booster Club, along with the Whitman Girls Varsity Basketball team, will be hosting their annual 3 v. 3 Basketball Tournament this Saturday, November 6th, at Walt Whitman. Silas and Stimson students take the court at 10 am. Walt Whitman students battle it out starting at 2 pm. Students can build their team of 3 to 5 athletes to compete. Only one school team athlete is permitted per team (i.e. JV/Varsity). Registration forms can be downloaded at <a href="https://www.wildcatbc.org">www.wildcatbc.org</a>. Completed forms should be returned with payment of \$10 per player (checks made payable to the Wildcat Booster Club) to the main office at your school. Deadline is November 4th.

### **Annual Booster Club Raffle**

The Booster Club's Annual raffle kicked off sales at Homecoming and will continue over the next season. Tickets are available for purchase online, at the Booster Club Concession, and from you team student athletes. The drawing will take place live at the Murph-A-Thon on May 30, 2022. This year's first place price is a Macbook Air and Air Pods donated by Carma Auto Concierge. Second prize is a 65" SmartTV donated by the Booster Club. Tickets are \$10 each.

### The Weeks to Come

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





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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.

Become a Wildcat **Booster** Club Member!

Sign-up here for **SH Public** Library E-Newsletter Donation **Drive for** Veterans Saturday Nov. 6th

Town of Huntington Polar Plunge 12/11/21

Wildcat Youth

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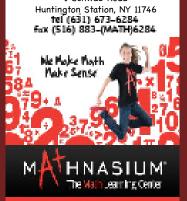
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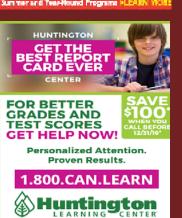
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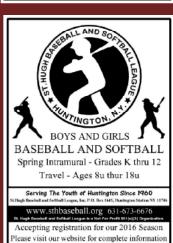


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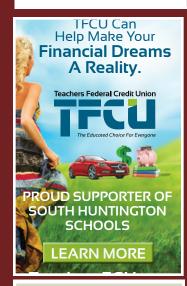




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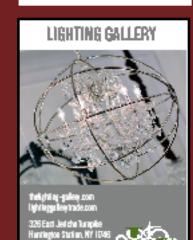




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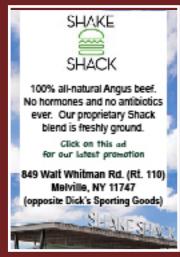


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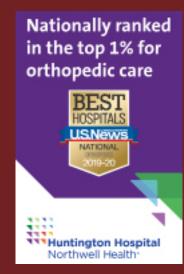


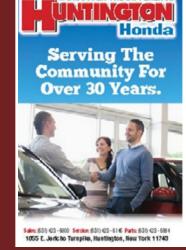


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