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December 1, 2021

Food for Thought

"Always act as if what you do makes a difference."

~ William James

Superintendent's Corner

I hope you had a wonderful holiday and enjoyed precious time with family and friends. Thanksgiving recess offers the perfect opportunity to recharge our batteries and store some much-needed energy for the holiday rush to come. December is always an exciting time of year in our schools, as we work to harness the positive energy and build upon the season's natural enthusiasm. Of course, we were blessed this past weekend to enjoy a perfect kick-off event, as our Winter Wonderland treated hundreds of grateful families to holiday fun.

We thank everyone who organized and supervised this wonderful activity, and look forward to more warm, small-town memories to come.

News from Deputy Superintendent/Business Dr. Joseph Centamore

This past holiday weekend the Whitman Varsity Dance Team was very busy. They had an outstanding performance at the Long Island Football Championship half-time show in Hofstra's Shuart Stadium, followed by a march onto Main Street as part of the Town of Huntington Red, White & Blue Holiday Parade. The team will next be performing at various Varsity Basketball games throughout the month of December.

The holiday season is upon us, and with it brings our music department's exciting winter concert series. To ensure an enjoyable, as well as, safe and healthy concert experience, the performing groups will be spaced over multiple venues, dates, and times.

The December winter concert schedule is as follows:

<u>Stimson Middle School</u> December 7th – Orchestra - Walt Whitman HS PAC at 7:30 pm

December 9th – Chorus - Walt Whitman HS PAC at 6:30 pm Jazz Band & Band, Walt Whitman HS North Gym at 7:30 pm

<u>Walt Whitman High School</u> December 13th – Concert Band & Wind Ensemble - Walt Whitman HS North Gym at 7:30 pm



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Symphonic Orchestra - Walt Whitman HS North Gym immediately following the Band/Wind Ensemble

December 16th - Chorus - Walt Whitman HS PAC at 7:30 pm

News from Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. John Murphy & Dr. Gayle Steele Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent leacher Conferences The remaining Parent Teacher Conference for Walt Whitman

will be on Thursday, December 2nd. 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.

"Show Your Coding Spirit During the Hour of Code"

Computer Science Week is December 6th – 10th! Students across our district will have the opportunity to learn Computer Science. Coding or programming is an interactive way to create step-by-step instructions to tell the computer what to do. Have you ever played a computer game or app? A "Coder" had to create the program for the game or app you played. Show your coding spirit during Computer Science Week.

11th Grade Chromebook Replenishment

On Dec 2, 2021, all students in 11th grade will be swapping out their old Chromebooks for a new one as part of the device replenishment cycle during their US History class. All 11th graders must show their ID cards and bring their old Chromebook to swap for a new Chromebook. Chromebooks will be checked out directly to the student when they receive it.

PSAT Scores Available on December 6th

Score reports for PSAT-related assessments will be available for parents and students on December 6th. Students who provided their email address on their PSAT/NMSQT answer sheets will receive an email reminder to view their October PSAT/NMSQT scores online. If you have any questions, please contact your child's guidance counselor at your earliest convenience.

Balanced Literacy Training

This week, teachers in Birchwood and Maplewood will continue with the second phase of this year's Balanced Literacy Professional Development. Teachers have been collecting student performance data from various literacy assessments throughout the school year. Our consultant, Mrs. Enid Martinez, will facilitate training on how to best utilize this information to enhance our instructional strategies. Teachers will engage in analyzing data as well as observe a model lesson lead by Mrs. Martinez. Thank you to our literacy coach, Mrs. Patricia Wilkinson, for her continued work in organizing these valuable sessions.

Winter Wonderland

Thank you to all of our teachers and staff that volunteered to read a holiday book at our Winter Wonderland. We appreciate you taking the time to provide the enjoyment of reading a good book to the children in our community. And special thanks to Dr. Michaelian, principal at Oakwood Primary School, for organizing the schedule for our teachers. It was great to see our staff and community come together to ensure this event was enjoyed by all





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Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for Student Services April Poprilo

Please join a virtual workshop hosted by SEPTA, *Preventing Parent Burnout: Stress Management for Parents of Children with Special Needs*, on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7:30 pm. Extraordinary parenting responsibilities create extraordinary pressures on parents. At the same time, parenting a child with special needs requires energy, focus, and enthusiasm to be effective in a caregiving role. Ms. Dodie Daniels, Regional Coordinator, from Parent to Parent of NYS will be presenting. Registration is still open, <u>https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8651313047185438992</u>. This webinar was coordinated by SH SEPTA with Parent to Parent of NYS exclusively for SHUFSD families. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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

The Fall athletic season officially came to a close this past weekend. Congratulations to all of our coaches, student-athletes, and teams on a phenomenal season that saw over 600 students participate and 12 varsity programs represented in postseason play.

Winter sports are now in full swing, with gameplay already starting. Good Luck to all of our student-athletes and coaches as they embark on the new season. Visit <u>SectionXI.org</u> for the most up-to-date schedules. Spectators are welcomed at all home events, and away contests vary based on the school. Please reach out to your child's coach with specific questions. Currently, spectators are not permitted at Suffolk Community College for indoor track meets.

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 (www.NFHSNetwork.com).

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

We want to thank all of the staff and families that helped make this past Thanksgiving a special day for so many South Huntington families. It is holidays such as this that truly demonstrates the care and sense of community that we try and instill in our students. A special thank you for those who organized our food pantry, our students service and counseling departments, and the various clubs and individuals that put in the time and effort to host food collection sites. Your efforts and care do not go unnoticed, thank you!

Upcoming Events:

Winter Concerts for the WWHS Orchestra and Band: Monday, December 13, 2021 in the North Gym at 7:30 pm
WWHS Chorus Winter Concert: Thursday, December 16, 2021 in the PAC at 7:30 pm

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





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"Be curious, not judgmental." ~ Walt Whitman

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

The Winter Wonderland celebration this past Sunday was a phenomenal start to the holiday season. It was so nice to see so many families in our community enjoy the different crafts and activities that both students and staff of South Huntington organized. An extra special thank you to the art teachers and the students of the Walt Whitman Art Honor Society for turning the hallways of Stimson into a magical winter wonderland.

It's that time of year where we get to hear the sounds of holiday cheer and watch Stimson Middle School's winter concerts. Tuesday, December 7th, Orchestra 7 and Orchestra 8 will be at 7:30 pm in the Walt Whitman PAC, and Thursday, December 9th, will be for our Chorus 7 and Chorus 8 at 6:30 pm in the PAC. The Band 7 and Band 8 concert will begin at 7:30 pm in the Walt Whitman North Gym. ***Please note the time and location differs from the school calendar.** All of the hard work and dedication by the students makes these concerts an enjoyable evening. I look forward to seeing everyone.

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

It is the most wonderful time of the year--Holiday Time at Silas Wood. Students, faculty and staff arrived back after our long Thanksgiving break filled with time spent with loved ones. We hope the Hanukkah Season, 2021 was filled with light, love, and joy for all.

Congratulations are in order for Ms. McEntee's Homeroom 212 -- Silas Wood's Biggest-Collection 2021 Food Drive winner. With an astonishing and heartwarming collection of approximately 20 full meals, the hard-working winning homeroom will celebrate with a bowling party field trip. Close behind was Room 212, Mr. Glassberg/Ms. Cirillo's Homeroom Teams, followed closely by Ms. Bernard/Ms. Sefcik's Homeroom Teams. Many congratulations and thanks to our winning teams and all those who made our Food Drive a wonderful success.

Speaking of congratulations - - we are very proud of Silas Wood's PTA "Reflections" winners, listed here! Those with the prize level of "Excellence" will be moving on to the Suffolk County level of competition. Good luck to all!

Literature - Award of Excellence -**Matthew Russotto** Visual Arts - Award of Excellence- **Melody Jaeger Ezell** Visual Arts - Award of Merit- **Brayan Velasquez Losa** Photography - Award of Excellence- **Matthew Russotto** Photography - Award of Excellence- **Riley Holzweiss** Music Composition - Award of Excellence- **Matthew Russotto**

Silas Superstars are enjoying their change to second-quarter "Curriculum Wheel" classes, rotating in their Wheel sequences made up of Art, Coding, Home & Careers, and World Languages.

We live in a world surrounded by technology! Whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will hinge on understanding how technology works. Classrooms across our district will be joining the largest learning event in history, "The Hour of Code," during Computer Science Week -





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December 6th-10th. Over 100 million students worldwide have tried "The Hour of Code," and this year all Silas Wood students and staff will participate. During "The Hour of Code" week, we will be

celebrating with various events and activities at Silas Wood, including a super-fun-filled Hour of Code Spirit Week.



Silas Wood is pleased to offer an <u>After-School STEAM Enrich-</u> <u>ment Program.</u> This STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) program will immerse students

in cutting-edge technology and student-centered probsolving incorporating lem computer programs using the NAO Robot, Z Space, 3D printing, and microscopes. This hour-long program is offered to students at Silas Wood on Mondays or Wednesdays, from 3 – 4 pm. The first official day of this program for those participating on Mondays, will be December 13, 2021; the first official day of this program for those participating on Wednesdays will be December 15, 2021. There is no after-program transportation

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SILAS WOOD 6/ ¹⁰ GRADE CENTER 23 Harding Fian. Husington Station, NY 11744 Telephone 821421-5400 Fax: 631-822-365	elisious and Spiritual Awarenes
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Dear Silas Wood Families:	The second se
The Silas Wood Sixth Onde Center is offering an <u>dffer-School STE 4M Derichment Program</u> . This program will immeers students in cutting-edge technology and mudeat-centered problem solving incorporating computer programs using the StAO Ecolor, S Jones, 1D Pointing, and microscoper	SUCION
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There is no after-program transportation home provided by the district. Therefore, all students must be picked up promptly at 4:00 pm.	
There are a limited number of openings available, so please understand the commitment you and your child are making if you decide to apply. Once the deadline date has been reached, itselents who will participate will be addeeded by lottery. Person will be notified follow child add Departicipate.	
Please tear off the bottom portion of this letter and return it to the main office by Friday, December 3, 2021.	
2021-2022 AFTER-SCHOOL STEAM ENRICHMENT PROGRAM	
I understand that my child may be selected for participation in the After-School STEAM Enrichment Program. I understand that there are a limited number of Jors available and that students will be chosen by lottery. Parents will be actified if that child will be participating.	
I am aware there is no transportation available. I and agree to provide transportation home from the program promptly at 4.00pm.	
Essas Clack One of the Full rules: • MY CHILD CAN PARTICIPATE <u>OVET</u> ON MONDAY1 • MY CHILD CAN PARTICIPATE <u>OVET</u> ON WEDNESDAY3 • MY CHILD CAN PARTICIPATE ON <u>EFFERT</u> MONDAY1 OF WEDNESDAY3 (I under sund that Full be negligible which dip op which it is suffraged to)	
Child's Name	
Homeroom Teacher	
Parent's Signature 2015	
Parent Telephone Number	

home provided by the district. Therefore, all students must be picked up promptly at 4:00 pm. There are a limited number of openings available, so those interested should look for the info sheet backpacked home earlier this week which is also provided here.

Happy December!

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

Birchwood would like to congratulate our Student Council Officers for the 2021-2022 School Year. We are extremely proud of all our students who ran for a position in Student Council. Thank you to Dr. Kosak and Mrs. Gruttadauria for all their hard work.

- President Jaxon Chandler
- Secretary Valentina Valle
- Treasurer Sadie Singer
- 4th VP Lila Berman
- 3rd VP Arielle Julien

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Please have your children prepared for outdoor recess and outside classroom time by bringing jackets, gloves, and hats with them to school every day. We will go outside whenever the temperature is above 32 degrees. It is also helpful to have all items labeled with your child's name, so we can return any items that get misplaced.

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

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving break with family and friends. An amazing time was had by all who attended our Annual Winter Wonderland, and it was great to see so many Maplewood faces amongst the crowd. Things here at Maplewood continue to be busy, as we head into the holiday season.

This week our PTA is hosting the Holiday Boutique where all students have the opportunity to purchase items ranging from \$.50 - \$12. We would like to thank all those who have volunteered to set-up, decorate, and assist students with their shopping. Without you, this event would not be such a huge success. Our Parent/ Teacher Conferences wrap up this week, and our students are working hard on all the new skills to be worked on during the second quarter.

Next week, our students will participate in an "Hour of Code" where they will work with high school students, their teachers, and Mrs. D'Elia on various coding projects. Don't forget after-school Intramurals begin on Monday, starting with our 3rd graders, and continue on Tuesdays with our 4th graders, and Thursdays with our 5th graders. We look forward to all the excitement that December will bring.

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

Oakwood's halls were filled with smiles and excitement, as our students entered the building refreshed and recharged from the Thanksgiving holiday. Our young learners were eager to get back into the classrooms and begin a new week of learning at Oakwood.

Our Student Council Advisors, Mr. Toledo and Ms. Savitz, have coordinated some wonderful leadership activities in which our Student Council Representatives will assist in completing. This week, the Student Council "Gratitude Board" has recognized Ms. Mayra Natale, one of Oakwood's wonderful Teaching Assistants, and Ms. Schubert, our Pre-K SHIP teacher. We thank them for being a special part of the Oakwood Family.

Thank you to all of our staff, students, and families who joined the Winter Wonderland festivities! We know the children enjoyed all of the winter-themed activities. A special thank you to our amazing District for organizing such an incredible event.

Please take note that this Friday, Dec. 3rd, Oakwood is scheduled for Photo-Retake day. If you are having your child re-take their photo, please be sure to also inform your child's teacher.

Kindness continues at Oakwood and our students are loving our program. As explained at a recent assembly, students will get paper pom-poms for exhibiting positive character traits at school. Pom-poms are given to students while entering and leaving the building, in the hallways, at recess and lunch, and of course, in



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our classrooms. Students have to be responsible for putting them in a safe place so they can use them to go to the Oakwood Kindness Store every five weeks. Our first shopping day is coming soon, so please encourage your child to continue to be safe, respectful and responsible, it's the Oakwood Way!

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

Have a wonderful week ahead! #theoakwoodway

News from Mr. Mitchell Levy, Principal of Countrywood Primary Center We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving filled with family, friends, and food. For those who celebrate, we hope

you are enjoying your Hanukkah celebrations as well. It is hard to believe that we are already turning the calendar to December as we prepare for all of the upcoming holidays and celebrations.

We would like to thank all of our families who joined us for our Fall Parent Teacher Conferences. We truly value your support and the strong home / school connection that we have here at Countrywood. Please be reminded that we are always here to support our families, and that if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out immediately.

Even though we still have several weeks left of after-school coding for our 2nd graders, earlier this week we opened up signups for our next session, which will be for our 1st graders. Registration is available via Parent Square on a first come, first served basis, and once the session is full we will start a wait list. We are also putting the finishing touches on our after school Theater program and hope to have signups for that wonderful program out very shortly.

Next week, Countrywood, along with the entire district, will be participating in the "Hour of Code." Students across our district will have an opportunity to learn Computer Science. Ms. Hall, our technology integration coach, along with WWHS student volunteers, will be on hand to assist our students and teachers as we complete various activities. Please check your Parent Square for important information and spirit activities for next week's coding.

Please mark your calendars for the PTA's Friday Night Holiday Sing-A-Long, which is scheduled for Friday, December 17th. This year, in order to keep our group sizes limited, we will be holding three, abbreviated sessions with capacity limits. Please be on the lookout for a flyer from our PTA with the details. Thank you to Mr. Slawitsky for partnering with the PTA for this wonderful event.

Please be reminded that whenever possible, we are going to continue to go outdoors for recess, as well as utilize the tent for lunch. We realize that there may be days when it is too cold to go outside for lunch, but still warm enough for recess. We



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We wish you a wonderful week ahead!

News from South Huntington Educational Foundation, SHEF



Around the world and here at home, #GivingTuesday is celebrated in concert with Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, and Cyber Monday. Each year, the South Huntington Educational Foundation invites you to join us today in supporting and inspiring our Wildcats!

Our goal is to increase the number of SHEF Senior Scholarships to support more students in more diverse fields as they pursue their next steps in the arts, STEM, volunteerism, service and vocational programs.

Kindly click <u>HERE</u> to make your tax-deductible gift today through SHEF's website using PayPal or donate through <u>Face-book</u> as well! **SHEF** will continue to accept donations through the end of year to support this important cause, as your participation will directly make a difference in the lives of our Wildcats.



In addition, SHEF creates monthly raffles for year-round fundraising that support initiatives and goals for Wildcat faculty, students and the learning community as a whole. Be sure to visit <u>SHEFINC.ORG</u> and take your chance at winning each month!

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

News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

SEPTA would like to thank our South Huntington Teacher for the Deaf, Ms. Lang. She presented an amazing virtual "Sign Along Holiday Program". All of our families and students were very excited to learn holiday songs and greetings through sign language, and share with their families over the holiday weekend.

Our Holiday Raffle Fundraiser is ON! Buy a raffle for a chance to win a TD Bank \$500 gift card. Also, please join us on Wednesday December 1st, with Parent-2-Parent Agency webinar. The virtual "Parent Burnout" program teaches strategies in helping parents with Special Education children. You MUST register for program.

Happy Holidays to all families and students.

News from South Huntington Council of PTA

We are partnering with Minted this holiday season. Enjoy 20%





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Reminder again - The Whitman PTA is running a gift card fundraiser through Friday, December 3rd. It's called Shop with Scrip, and with every gift card you purchase the PTA will receive a percentage back. You just need to download the RaiseRight App that is attached and use our organization code E85L972273882. The gift cards will be distributed the week of December 15th. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Lesli DeRobertis at lesliderobertis@optonline.net.

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Booster Club Wildcat Chalk Talk Forum by The Booster Club

The Wildcat Booster Club is excited to introduce another membership perk this year! Our "Chalk Talk Forum" provides our South Huntington parents with a community specific forum to engage with other athlete families. Be it, general discussions, community talk, Stimson or Whitman athletics; the questions and conversations are yours. The forum is officially live and available to all booster club members. We hope our Wildcat families will take advantage of this new member exclusive resource. If you are not a member of the Booster Club, you can join online today at www. wildcatbc.org.

Wildcat Booster Club Membership

Did you know that the Booster Club makes money available to every sports program in the South Huntington UFSD. 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 the South Huntington school district, you certainly should consider becoming a member, to help support the program that supports them. Join the booster club online at www.wildcatbc.org.

Annual Booster Club Raffle

Tickets for the Annual Booster Club Raffle are available for purchase online, at the Booster Club Concession, and from our student athletes. The drawing will take place live at the Murph-A-Thon on May 30, 2022. This year's raffle prizes are a Macbook Air and Air Pods donated by Carma Auto Concierge. The second prize is a 65" Smart TV donated by the Booster Club. Tickets are \$10 each. Don't miss out on your chance. Get your tickets today.

The Weeks to Come

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