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February 2, 2022

Food for Thought

"If you want the cooperation of humans around you, you must make them feel they are important - and you do that by being genuine and humble." - Nelson Mandela

Superintendent's Corner

There are many exciting activities going on throughout the District this week! The elementary schools are celebrating PARP (Parents as Reading Partners) and this week there will be many performances by our schools. Please take a moment to look through this newsletter to experience all the great things happening in South Huntington and please join us!

News from Deputy Superintendent/Business Dr. Joseph Centamore 2022/23 Budget Development Process The public workshops for the 2022/23 budget development process

begin on February 16 with the Budget Overview presentation.

SCMEA Festivals

Good luck to all of our students performing this Friday, February 4 in Sachem at the SCMEA Day of Percussion, as well as, virtually next Friday, February 11 for the SCMEA Day of Horn.

Our South Huntington students participating in the SCMEA Festivals are:

A. J. Prisacarlu Jacob Ranieri Lyanie Torres Alejandra Portillo Vasquez Richie Lenares Moreira Maeve O'Connor

Percussion Festival Percussion Festival Percussion Festival Percussion Festival Horn Festival Horn Festival

We would also like to take this opportunity to especially thank these Festival students' Music teachers; Jennifer Schmelter and Shannon Zaykoski. They are part of an amazing, dedicated and talented Music Team we are privileged to have here in South Huntington!

UPDATED CONCERT AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Concerts Maplewood Concerts: Wednesday, February 2 (Whitman PAC) Orchestra: 6:30 pm Chorus: 7 pm Band: 7:30 pm

Birchwood Concerts: Thursday, February 3 (Whitman PAC) Orchestra: 6:30 pm Chorus: 7 pm Band: 7:30 pm

Silas Wood Concerts: Monday, February 7 Chorus: 6:30 pm (Whitman PAC)



Offering Two Free Weeks of Unlimited Classes to New Members

We will be conducting both Live Interactive Classes via Zoom and Safe On-Site Classes beginning 09/08/2020.

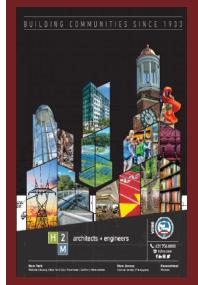
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Whitman High School student leaders will be available to provide small group tutoring sessions for our elementary students to help them practice various literacy skills, such as comprehension, decoding, and fluency. This will give select students an additional opportunity to address any unfinished learning due to the pandemic. Students are invited based on teacher recommendation.

Silas Wood, Birchwood and Maplewood Concerts Rescheduled

As discussed in previous newsletters, South Huntington School District has recently rescheduled the Birchwood, Maplewood and Silas Wood winter concert series. We are proud to announce that these concerts have been rescheduled and students will be performing in the first week of February, showcasing the amazing fine arts program that South Huntington offers across all grade levels. Please see the dates and times below. Also, please be reminded that all intermediate and Sixth Grade Center concerts will be performed at Walt Whitman High School in the Performing Arts Center. As always if you have any questions, please contact your child's school at any time.

Maplewood Intermediate School February 2nd, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Birchwood Intermediate School February 3rd, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Silas Wood 6th Grade Center February 7th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Technology Update

A student survey was shared with all building principals for students in grades 5-12. The data collected will help inform the district's technology plan from the student's perspective on technology in the classroom, allowing us to adjust and inform our decision making as it relates to the needs of technology throughout the district. We ask that you please make sure that your child participates in this survey to gain the best understanding of our district's technology needs.

Some Thoughts from Assistant Superintendent for Student Services April Poprilo Kindergarten Registration for 2022-23 - The online registration

Kindergarten Registration for 2022-23 - The online registration portal (OLR) is now open to parents/guardians for kindergarten registration on February 1, 2022. Students who will be five-years of age on or before December 1, 2022, are eligible to register for kindergarten. Students who currently enrolled in the District's UPK program will need to register for kindergarten as well.

I encourage parents/guardians to visit the website to view the OLR tour videos that are available in English and Spanish. The video tour is intended to familiarize parents with the OLR platform and the various sections needed to be completed for registration. These videos are accessible by clicking on the <u>Online Registration</u> (<u>OLR</u>) Info button at the top of the home page. If you have any questions regarding the registration process, please email, registration@shufsd.org.

Upcoming Informational Events in February- Partners for Transition is scheduled to provide an informational presentation about the Office of Persons with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and Social Security/Medicaid Benefits for our families whose home language is Spanish. The presentation will take place virtually on February 9, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. To register for this event, please contact Mrs. Michelle Siragusa, Transition and Vocational Specialist, 631-812- 3871, <u>msirgausa@shufsd.org</u>.

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

The 36th annual National Woman and Girls in Sports Day is today, February 2, 2022. This day was established by the Women's Sports Foundation as an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of female athletes, the positive influence of participating in





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athletics and the continuing struggle for equality for women in sports.

Senior student-athlete **Gianna Paul** and Athletic Director David Barth went to MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ to attend the official unveiling of the Spring High School Girls Flag Football League sponsored by the NY Jets and the NYSPHSAA. The season will begin in April 2022 and will include an 8 game regular season schedule culminating in a Suffolk County and Long Island Championship! Included in this event was a panel discussion with various women employees from the NY Jets and the NFL to celebrate National Women and Sports day. Walt Whitman High School is just 1 of 8 schools in Section XI who will be providing the opportunity to play this Spring!

Good Luck to our Varsity Wrestling and Varsity Boys Swim teams as they compete in their respective league championships this week.

Though it may be hard to believe, Spring sports are almost upon us! Walt Whitman sports start on Monday, March 14th and Stimson sports start on Monday, March 28th, . Registration opens on Final Forms 30 days in advance. Visit the athletics website for more information.

Visit our Athletics website for updated scores, sports offered, coaches 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 (<u>www.NFHSNetwork.com</u>). Make sure to follow the Athletics department on both Twitter and Instagram (@WaltWhitmanAD) for updates and highlights from the season. Go Wildcats!

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

• During the month of February, we will be celebrating Black History and Mindfulness. Each week for the entire month, we will be celebrating various historic figures, ideas, and events of Black History while drawing connections to lessons of inclusivity, empathy, gratitude, and integrity. Black History is more than a historical recollection of people and events that help build our nation, it brings awareness to the core values that help shape our minds and our social and emotional wellbeing.

• The Whitman High School Internship program is having a strong debut year, with 21 interns currently placed in 14 different locations, ranging from business to art to healthcare. Please contact our Guidance office for more information regarding internships.

• Thank you to members of the Health, English, and PE Departments for creating several new courses for our students to take next year. The diversity of learning opportunities for our students is rivals any school on Long Island. The students are excited about the new courses offered next year!

• We currently have over 80% of our seniors applying to colleges for this fall. We would love to see the percentage of students attending a four-year, two-year college, or technical school increase to over 90%. Together we can make a difference in lives of our students.

• Thank you to Ms. Casey for coordinating the application process for the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society providing another opportunity for our students to showcase their academic accomplishments.

• This afternoon, News 12 Sports will come to Walt Whitman to challenge our Varsity Football team to a game of "Paper Football." They do this event every year as a Super Bowl Special. We will have the Varsity Football players and Varsity Cheerleaders attend this exciting event. This will be a fun event and one more opportunity to celebrate and show off our school.

• One of our new teachers, Amanda Barbuto, has started the Red Cross Club. This club has been very successful and continues to grow with many motivated members. Congratulations to Ms. Barbuto and keep up the good work!

· Whitman now has a peer tutoring program that runs Tues-







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day-Thursday after school in the library. If your child could benefit from tutoring from a peer, please encourage them to sign up utilizing the link located in Classlink.

Upcoming Events:

- 2/1 Start of Black History and Mindfulness Month
- 2/7 Report Cards Posted & ELL Parent Teacher Conferences
- 2/9 End of student course requests
- 2/10 Senior Follies
- Black History Program R.I.S.E. at WWHS 2/17
- 3/2
- 3/4 72nd Annual Girls Sports Night - Hippie vs. Hipster
- Day of Unity Conference sponsored by MSA Club WW Center Stage Productions Musical is Legally Blonde 3/23
- 4/8

4/9 WW Center Stage Productions Musical is Legally Blonde On behalf of the staff at Walt Whitman High School, we wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year!

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

It is hard to believe that we are officially halfway through the school year! Just a friendly reminder that Second Quarter Report Cards will be posted to the Parent Portal on Tuesday, February 8th.

P.S. I Love You Day is held the second Friday of February each year, making our next celebration on February 11th, 2022. On this day Stimson is asking everyone to wear purple to stand up against bullying, help end depression, and ultimately prevent suicide. Also, throughout the day, students will engage in thought provoking conversations with other students and our staff. It is our hope that everyone takes a moment to reflect and realize that they are loved! A special thank you to Mr. Gravina and the SADD Club for organizing this activity for our students.

Just a reminder that Stimson is supporting SHEF's Giving from the Heart. SHEF has partnered with a local homeless shelter to donate items needed for cold winter months. Stimson was asked to have our school community donate deodorant. There is a collection box in the main office. The last day of collections will be this Friday, February 4th.

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

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." ~ Barack Obama

Looking forward to the start of Black History Month, Silas students are working on a display that will highlight their dreams for America. Stay tuned for the results of this very special project.

Coming on Sunday, February 6 -Silas Wood is chillingly-excited to be participating in this year's Long Beach Polar Bear Splash. We are committed to raising money for Make-A-Wish to help grant the wishes of children with critical illnesses. Wish kids are some of the bravest and sweetest kids you'll ever know. They wish to work in a pickle factory, become a superhero, go snorkeling, give their baseball team new uniforms, or push all of the buttons in a tall building's elevator. Their innocence and unexpected wisdom stays with you. Make-A-Wish grants thousands of unique wishes each year-that's a lot! But that's only 50% of eligible kids. We are fundraising so more deserving kids and their families can know the happiness, relief and renewal a wish can bring. Please help us support this great cause by joining our team and/or making a donation to our \$1,000 Long Beach Polar Bear Splash fundraising goal. http://site.wish.org/goto/silaspolarplunge



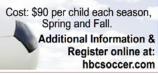


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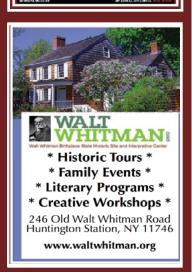
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Silas Wood Chorus, Band, and Orchestra Winter Concerts: Monday, February 7, 2022

This is an exciting moment for our Silas Superstar Musicians as it is our very first public performance! COVID protocols are in place: distancing and masks are required of all in attendance. We are excited to showcase our beginner music students. They have been working hard on the basics of note reading, proper posture, and breathing techniques. I hope you can all join us and make their winter performance a special one!!

<u>CHORUS: 6:30 PM at Walt Whitman High School – Whitman PAC</u> Report time for all chorus students is 6:00 PM. Students will report directly to the South Cafeteria. Parents, please note, doors will not open úntil 6:25 PM

BAND & ORCHESTRA: 7:00 PM at Walt Whitman High School - North Gym The band and orchestra students will have an opportunity to watch and support their peers as they perform for the audience.

Report time for all band and orchestra students is 6:30 PM. Band students will report directly to the North Gym; Orchestra students will report to the North Cafeteria. Parents, please note, doors will not open until 6:55 PM.

We hope you have an opportunity to stop by the James Kaden Administrative Offices sometime during February and March when Silas Wood and Stimson students will be pleased and proud to have their artwork on display!

Please be reminded that Silas Wood no longer mails Report Cards. All student grades will be viewable on the Parent Portal beginning February 8. Review of Report Cards also presents an excellent opportunity to discuss each of their classes with your child.

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

Our wonderful PTA will be hosting a Book Fair for our students on February 8th -February10th. All students will receive a \$5.00 Scholastic Gift Certificate to put towards the purchase of a book. Thank you to our PTA for providing the students with this generous gift.

Thank you to Mrs. Gruttadauria, Dr. Kosak, our Student Council and the entire BW community for raising over \$5,000.00 for St. Jude's by participating in the Mathathon.

Congratulations to our PTA Reflections Winners: Award of Excellence (1st place – advanced to be judged again at the Suffolk County region level)

- Elizabeth Beirne Dance Choreography
 Alexis Forlenza Music Composition
- Gabriella Galli Visual Arts
- Andv Ghibaudi Visual Arts
- Joséph Occhiuto Visual Arts
- Sophia Occhiuto Literature; Photography
- Sadie Singer Literature
- Rebecca Tripoli Visual Arts

Award of Merit (2nd place)

- Charlie Edwards Literature
- Joseph LaSorsa Literature
- Valentina Valle Visual Arts

Award of Achievement (3rd place)

- Lexy Holzweiss Visual Arts
- Samantha Talento Visual Arts
 Sophia Occhiuto Visual Arts

Honorable Mention (4th place) Lola Bleiman - Visual Arts



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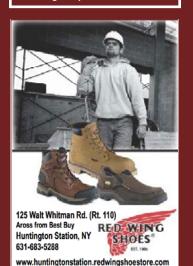


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 Andrew Tedesco - Visual Arts Isabella Valle - Visual Arts

News from Mr. William Hender, Principal of Maplewood Intermediate School The halls of Maplewood are alive with the sound of music as our

5th grade students prepare for their first concert this week. All of our musicians have been working extremely hard with our dedicated teachers and we can't wait to hear all of the beautiful music. Our orchestra kicks off the show at 6:30pm in the Performing Arts Center of Whitman High School this evening and is followed by our chorus at 7pm and concludes with our band at 7:30pm.

The classrooms of Maplewood are also filled with avid readers as we celebrate our PARP week. The week started off with a special virtual assembly by local author Darren Sardelli who shared some of his humorous poems and gave advice for all our aspiring authors. A special "Thank You" to our PTA who has planned an amazing week full of contests, prizes and surprises as our students strive to "Go For The Gold." Don't forget to check our PARP calendar daily so you can participate in all of the fun!

Lastly, as the temperatures outside continue to be cold, please remind your child to check our lost and found for any lost clothing as many items are beginning to pile up and are not labeled.

News from Dr. Annie Michaelian,

Principal of Oakwood Primary Center It has been a busy end to the first month of the year. Again, we'd like to thank the PTA for providing a book for every one of our Oakwood students during the Book Fair last week. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and making sure all of our students leave the Book Fair with a book of their choice!

All of our students who completed the random acts of kindness as a part of the Great Kindness Challenge received a personalized certificate and were recognized on the announcements at Oakwood. It was a successful week!

Oakwood's PTA PARP "Wild about Reading" Week has been great fun as well as spirit days, and our students love the program. A spe-cial thank you to Ms. Sheila Buhse and the School Nutrition Team for providing snacks for all of our students today! Tomorrow, we are looking forward to our virtual assembly with Cathy Camper, author of Ten Ways to Hear Snow. The students prepared questions for her to answer after her presentation and can't wait to meet her!

Our Student Council continues to recognize two outstanding mem-bers of the Oakwood Family. This week, the Student Council "Grat-itude Board" has recognized one of Oakwood's Kindergarten Teachers, Ms. Renda and one of Oakwood's Cafeteria Paraprofessionals, Ms. Abbene. We thank them for always supporting the Oakwood Family! If you would like to send in donations for this program, the Student Council is collecting \$10 gift cards to distribute each week.

Our "Take Home Chrome" Initiative continues to grow as we begin this week with all Oakwood students bringing home their Chromebooks on Tuesdays and Thursdays to complete brief activities. Our students have been doing a wonderful job in completing activities and then returning the devices the next day.

Please be reminded that it is important that all emergency information is updated at Oakwood. If you have not returned your child's Emergency dismissal form, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a new form, please contact the school at 812-3500 so we may supply you with one. In the case of an emergency early dismissal, the bus driver will need to know who is permitted to pick up your child at the bus stop. Without this important information, the bus driver will bring your child back to Oakwood to be picked up.



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

Instagram: oakwood_primary_center Twitter: @Oakwood_PC Have a fabulous week ahead! #theoakwoodway

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

It is hard to believe that the calendar has now turned to February and the first half of the school year is now over. Report cards will be available on the Parent Portal on February 11th. If you have any questions about your child's report card, please reach out to your child's teacher or the main office. We hope everyone weathered this past weekend's storm well. This week has been a fun filled week of PARP activities, thanks to our wonderful PTA. We look forward to concluding our PARP week this Friday night with our in-person PTA Paint Night. Please be reminded that due to social distancing, advance RSVP for the event was required. As always, should you have any questions, please reach out to our PTA.

Next week, thanks to our SBM committee, we will be participating in PS I Love You Day as well as working to do Random Acts of Kindness. We have taken this important day and adapted it to our primary level students. During the week of February 7th, students will participate in various activities and perform random acts of kindness and friendship. Please reference the calendar of events that was sent home with your son/daughter earlier this week.

Our ENL and Dual Language Teachers are in the midst of their midyear conferences with parents of our ELL students. This additional conference is an important step in strengthening the strong home/ school connection of our ELL students and their families. We thank those who have made time to meet with their teachers for this worthwhile meeting.

As soon as the snow clears we will make every effort to get our students outside during recess time. With that in mind, please continue to send your children dressed for the weather of the day, including Hats, Gloves and Winter Jackets. We want our students to get as much fresh air as possible. As always, should you have any questions, or if we can support you and your child in any way please feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher and/or the main office. We wish you a wonderful week ahead.

News from South Huntington Educational Foundation, SHEF



SHEF invites everyone to participate in the **SHEF** Giving From the campaign, supporting our very own neighbors through this cold winter season. Drop off locations are in every building, plus JKAO and the South Huntington Public Library. Especially needed items include Chapstick, deodorant, individual heat-up meals, as well as men's gloves, hats and socks. Thank you in advance to our **SHEF** volunteers who will soon organize and distribute these care packages on Valentine's weekend.



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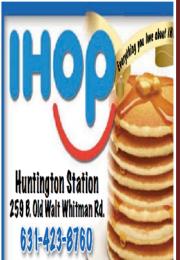


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News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

Please join us on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 for our Transition Workshop - 7pm at Birchwood Intermediate Center with our Amazing Special Education Administrators and Staff. Discuss information about your child's Transition into the next building for September!

Booster Club

<u>First Annual Volleyball Tournament – SATURDAY!</u> Remember this Saturday, the Booster Club is hosting its first Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, February 5th at Walt Whitman High School. The tournament is open to Stimson Middle School and Walt Whitman High School and will be held in the North Gym. Registration forms can be downloaded at <u>www.wildcatbc.org</u>. Completed forms can be handed in with payment to the main office at their respective schools by February 4th. We're looking forward to kicking of this first time event for the booster club!

Annual Raffle Reminder

Tickets are on sale now for The Wildcat Booster Club's Annual Raffle. This year's 1st place price will be a MacBook Air and iPods courtesy of CARMA Auto Concierge! 2nd Prize will be a 65" SmartTV courtesy of the Booster Club! Two great prizes for anyone!! Tickets can be purchased in three ways 1) Online at https://www.wildcatbc.org/annualraffle 2) from one of the Student Athletes or 3) Booster Club Concession stand at any event. Drawing will be held live at the Murph Challenge event on May 30th! Don't miss out!!

SHYLAX – RIPTIDE GAME EVENT

South Huntington Youth Lacrosse invites our entire South Huntington community to participate in their first community event! Bring the fam-ily and enjoy the fun and excitement of a professional box lacrosse game. The NY Riptide take on the Albany Firewolves at the Coliseum on March 26, 2022 at 7pm. Perfect event for families and/or adults who want to enjoy with two ticket options available. Tickets are \$30 per person and available under the EVENTS Menu at www.shylax.com. We look forward to spending some time with our fellow Wildcats!

The Weeks to Come

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

Whitman Sports

| Date | | Away Team / Home Team | | NL/S | Contest Location |
|----------|---------|----------------------------------|---------------------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 2/2/2022 | 6:00 PM | Walt Whitman @ Cheer Competition | V CHEERLEADING | 1 | Comsewogue High School |
| 2/3/2022 | 5:15 PM | Newfield/MP @ Walt Whitman | V BOYS FENCING | MNL | Walt Whitman High School |
| 2/3/2022 | 5:15 PM | Newfield/MP @ Walt Whitman | V GIRLS FENCING | MNL | Walt Whitman High School |
| 2/4/2022 | 4:15 PM | Commack HS @ Walt Whitman | JV BOYS BASKETBALL | - | Walt Whitman High School NORTH GYM |
| 2/4/2022 | 7:15 PM | Walt Whitman @ Commack HS | JV GIRLS BASKETBALL | - | Commack High School |
| 2/4/2022 | 5:15 PM | Walt Whitman @ Commack HS | V GIRLS BASKETBALL | - | Commack High School |
| 2/4/2022 | 6:00 PM | Commack HS @ Walt Whitman | V BOYS BASKETBALL | - | Walt Whitman High School NORTH GYM |
| 2/5/2022 | 9:00 AM | Championships @ WALT WHITMAN | V BOYS WINTER TRACK | 1 | Suffolk County Community College |



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