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February 9, 2022

Food for Thought

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Maya Angelou

Superintendent's Corner

There are many exciting things going on throughout the District! Please note that Countdown to Kindergarten (A Kindergarten Information Night) has been changed to Monday, March 14th at 6:30 p.m. at WWHS (English in the PAC and Spanish in the Forum,). Also, please note that Registration for the 2022-23 school year will be available as of February 1, 2022.

Special congratulations to WWHS Junior, Hannah Saks, on her recent internship and research at SUNY Stony Brook where she was accepted to the Polymer Engineering Program. Her hard work this summer has now been submitted for publishing - way to go Hannah!

Proud to annouce that the following students have been selected to participate in the American Legion Boys' and Girls' State Conference to be held this summer. This program recognizes emerging young leaders from across the nation and provide invaluable training in the areas of government and leadership. The Walt Whitman students selected are John Villella, Jack Jenkins, Adelrhany Georges, Joseph Decker, Brayden Zalbert, Kaiet Coraizaca, Hasham Choudrey, Declan Hill and Alana Marzigliano.

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.

<u>Concerts</u> Congratulations to all of our Birchwood, Maplewood and Silas Wood student musicians and their teachers for an absolutely wonderful Winter Concert series!

Digital Arts

South Huntington is very proud to announce that Walt Whitman High School Senior, Brianna Conroy's Digital Photograph, "Into the Fantasy," will be included on the back cover of the winter/spring Huntington Arts Cultural News publication. Congratulations go out to Brianna and Art Teacher Gina Tinucci, for this prestigious recognition.

SCMEA Day of Horn

Good luck to all of our students performing virtually this Friday, February 11 for the SCMEA Day of Horn.

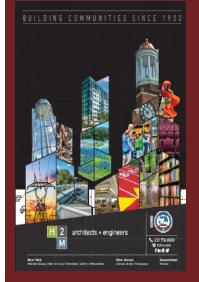
Theater Productions

Birchwood & Maplewood Theater Productions: Saturday, February 12 (Whitman PAC)



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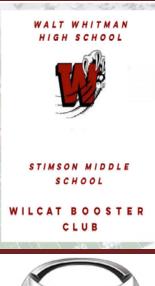
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Birchwood: 12 pm

Good luck to our student actors!

Winter Guard

The Winter Guard's next competition will be at West Orange High School in New Jersey on Saturday, February 12.

Dance Competition Teams

This Sunday, February 13, Walt Whitman High School will be hosting the Long Island Dance Team Association (LIDTA) competition. Both the Stimson and Whitman Dance Teams will be performing. Good luck to our Dancers!

Festival of the Arts

The district's Festival of the Arts is being rescheduled from its original date of February 3 to May 17.

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

Our Intermediate School and Sixth Grade Center musicians did an amazing job at their winter concerts. The energy and enthusiasm seen by both students and staff members was palpable. It was great to see our students perform in person, along with their parents in the stands watching on, after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. Thank you to our music teachers and parents for their support in making this evening a success. We are grateful for opportunities to showcase the amazing fine arts program that South Huntington offers across all grade levels.

Kindergarten Information Night

Fliers with details about our Kindergarten Information Night have been shared with our local preschools and posted on our District Website. The event will take place on Monday, March 14, 2022, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Walt Whitman High School. We are excited to welcome a new group of families and young learners to our South Huntington School Community for the 2022-2023 school year. Although the district kindergarten registration has already opened, we want to ensure that families experience a seamless transition into our schools. Please share this information with any families in our community that may benefit from attending this informational evening regarding our kindergarten program.

Tutorcats Winter Camp

We are happy to announce that the Tutorcats tutoring program will be offered during our Winter Recess. Tutorcats is a program where Walt 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.

New Courses at Walt Whitman High School

South Huntington is proud to announce an array of new courses that will be offered to high school students for the 2022-2023 school year. These courses, recently approved by the Curriculum Council, will provide more opportunities for students to take courses that they may find beneficial. Please see the list of courses below and if you have any questions you can always contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction or the Counseling Center at Walt Whitman High School.

Comparative Mythology: Poetry, Myth & Metaphor

This is a comparative mythology course that explores myths representing diverse global cultures. The course will investigate the functions and origins of common mythological themes while tracing myth's relationship to philosophy, psychology, anthropology and the arts.







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Finding Answers: an interdisciplinary introduction to college and career writing

This course invites students to explore practical writing in a handson format by participating in a research and presentation course that encourages them to ask great questions and find smart answers. Students will have the opportunity to design thoughtful research questions and then explore a variety of primary and secondary research sources, including databases, document images, articles and journals, while also evaluating and understanding online source evaluation techniques.

Bob Dylan: American Poet

This course will focus primarily on the poetry and poetics of Bob Dylan's work. Textual analysis will lead to understanding of syntax, imagery, narrative tactics, and other poetic elements. Students will gain familiarity with the range of Dylan's poetic genres.

Mental Health

This course exposes students to the basic principles, theories and techniques to effectively manage mental and emotional health. Students will gain a greater understanding of the mind-body connection, learning techniques to reduce personal stress, adopt effective cognitive practices to regulate emotions, cope with difficulties and trauma, provide aid to others and improve lifelong health.

Mindfulness and Yoga

Students will learn basic and advanced yoga practices including mindfulness techniques, physical postures, relaxation methods and positive thinking. Benefits include reduction of stress and anxiety and increased physical strength.

i-Ready Winter Diagnostic is Complete

South Huntington would like to announce that the second round of i-Ready diagnostic testing is complete. Parents will have an opportunity in the coming week to be able to access these scores through the use of Infinite Campus Parent Portal backpack. These scores allow the teachers to change and adapt current instructional techniques to better fit the needs of students, with the goal of having them reach academic benchmarks at the end of the year. As always, if you have any questions about the diagnostic testing, we ask that you please contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction or your child's principal at any time.

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

Post-Season play is upon us! Best of Luck to our Varsity teams and individual athletes who will be competing for this weekend and next week. Visit our Athletics website and SectionXI.org for the full schedule and spectator guidelines for each sport.

Saturday, February 12, 2022

Varsity Wrestling at Bayshore High School Varsity Swimming at Stony Brook University Varsity Bowling at Sayville Lanes Varsity Fencing at Walt Whitman High School

Monday, February 14, 2022

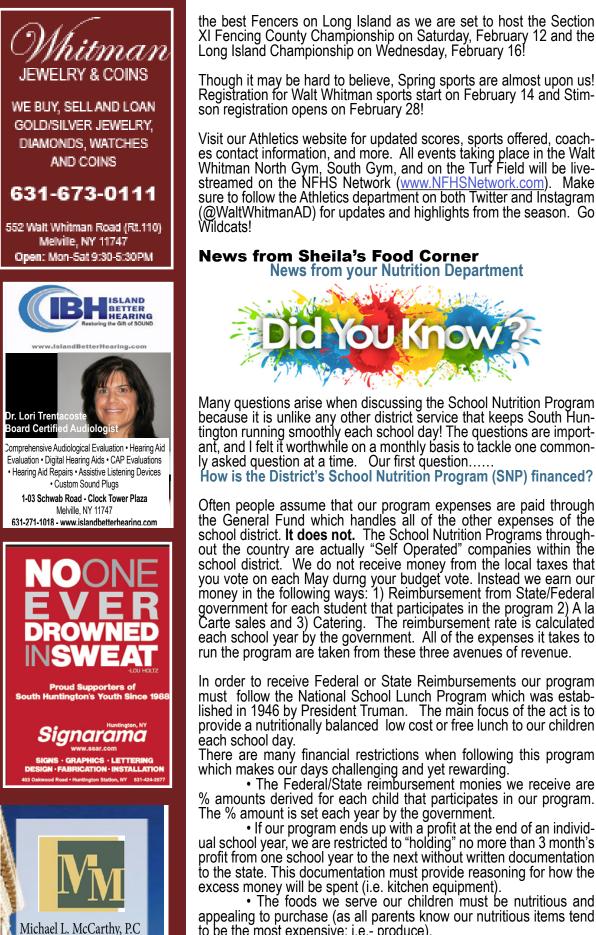
Varsity Girls Winter Track at Suffolk Community College Varsity Girls Basketball- TBD

Best of Luck to our Varsity Cheerleading as they travel to Orland Flordia for Nationals! The team qualified to compete in this prestigious competition and will compete at the ESPN Wide World of Sports facility at Disney World showcasing Walt Whitman to the rest of the country! Good Luck!

Over the next week, Walt Whitman High School will be home to



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XI Fencing County Championship on Saturday, February 12 and the Long Island Championship on Wednesday, February 16!

Though it may be hard to believe, Spring sports are almost upon us! Registration for Walt Whitman sports start on February 14 and Stimson registration opens on February 28!

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 live-streamed 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 Sheila's Food Corner News from your Nutrition Department



Many questions arise when discussing the School Nutrition Program because it is unlike any other district service that keeps South Huntington running smoothly each school day! The questions are important, and I felt it worthwhile on a monthly basis to tackle one commonly asked question at a time. Our first question.....

How is the District's School Nutrition Program (SNP) financed?

Often people assume that our program expenses are paid through the General Fund which handles all of the other expenses are paid through school district. **It does not.** The School Nutrition Programs through-out the country are actually "Self Operated" companies within the school district. We do not receive money from the local taxes that you vote on each May durng your budget vote. Instead we earn our money in the following ways: 1) Reimbursement from State/Federal government for each student that participates in the program 2) A la Carte sales and 3) Catering. The reimbursement rate is calculated each school year by the government. All of the expenses it takes to run the program are taken from these three avenues of revenue.

In order to receive Federal or State Reimbursements our program must follow the National School Lunch Program which was established in 1946 by President Truman. The main focus of the act is to provide a nutritionally balanced low cost or free lunch to our children each school day.

There are many financial restrictions when following this program which makes our days challenging and yet rewarding.

 The Federal/State reimbursement monies we receive are % amounts derived for each child that participates in our program. The % amount is set each year by the government.

 If our program ends up with a profit at the end of an individual school year, we are restricted to "holding" no more than 3 month's profit from one school year to the next without written documentation to the state. This documentation must provide reasoning for how the excess money will be spent (i.e. kitchen equipment).

 The foods we serve our children must be nutritious and appealing to purchase (as all parents know our nutritious items tend to be the most expensive; i.e.- produce).

These guidelines make our job a challenging one, but equally as rewarding.

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

During the month of February, we will be celebrating Black







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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.

 This past Thursday, Brooke from P.S. I Love You Day came in to meet with our 11th grade students. P.S I Love You Day was founded in 2010 in memory of Joseph DiPalma after his unfortunate suicide. His daughter formed P.S I Love You Day to stand up against bullying, help end depression, and ultimately prevent suicide. The goal for the event is to create positive messages that make someone feel special, loved, and remind them that they are never alone.

 Congratulations to our Seniors and staff who participated in the 2022 Senior Follies this past Thursday night. Another great event highlighting some of the "best" moments of the 2021-2022 school year.

Upcoming Events:

- 2/17 Black History Program
- R.I.S.E. at WWHS 3/2
- 3/4 72nd Annual Girls Sports Night - Hippie vs. Hipster
- 3/23
- Day of Unity Conference sponsored by MSA Club WW Center Stage Productions Musical is *Legally Blonde* 4/8
- 4/9 WW Center Stage Productions Musical is Legally Blonde

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

Please be aware that all second guarter report cards have been posted to the Parent Portal. It is critically important to engage your children in conversation regarding their achievement and goals for the future. Recently we asked our students what their resolutions were for the New Year! We asked them to make them something meaningful and achievable.

A special thank you to all our Winter I coaches for an amazing sports season. I would like to congratulate all of our student athletes for their participation. There is no doubt something magical happens when we become part of a team. It was a joy watching all of you compete.

Stimson proudly presents the second issue of the Stimson Newspaper. A special thank you to Ms. Allen and Ms. Fiorenti for inspiring our students to make it such a success. Congratulations Sabrina Beck, Tyler Biblow, Nic Castillo, Aryaa Shah, and Shayaan Siddiqui. It is so inspiring to see your hard work become a reality. Please follow the link below for the latest issue.

Writing this newsletter for the last time as the principal of Stimson has officially hit me that I am moving on. For those of you that do not already know, I begin my new role as the Executive Director of Personnel on Valentine's Day. Stimson will be left in good hands with Mr. Michael Duggan taking over as principal. Mr. Duggan is a passionate educator that loves middle school students. I would like to thank our entire school community for all the well wishes. Thank you to my Stimson Family for all the wonderful memories over the last eight and a half years. Any of the success I have enjoyed in this role is due to my team. Thank you Anthony Sansotta, Stephen Kellerman, Karen Mushorn, Matt Murphy, Joann Hili-Carbone, and Jay Corcoran. Finally, a very special thank you to Michele Pastore. You are quick to laugh and even quicker to always help with a smile. You are truly irreplaceable. Best of luck Stimson. You will forever be in my heart!

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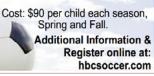
News from Mr. Steve Toto, Principal of Silas Wood Sixth-Grade School A huge thanks to every frosty friend who participated with Silas Wood

in the Make-A-Wish Foundation Polar Plunge in Long Beach last Sun-

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The U6, U7 & U8 program offers twice a week professional training: Wednesdays after school with the Red Bulls and Saturday mornings with ATSC Training. Games are on Sundays with referees.

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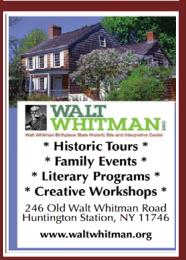
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day! Ignoring the iciness in the air while shaking off their shivers, our gallant group charged the waves and ducked right in proving that Silas Wood hearts are the biggest and bravest of all! Way to go, Silas Superstars (and friends)! Your efforts will help to make a happy difference in the lives of so many young folks who are facing health crises. Thank you to the Silas Wood and SH Families for helping to raise \$1,545.00 for the Make-A-Wish foundation.

The sweet sounds of harmony and melody, of singing strings. soaring saxes and trilling trumpets filled the air when Silas Wood's Chorus, Orchestra, and Band performed for friends and family at our Winter Concert on Monday evening. Congratulations and thanks to our music teachers for all their dedication and hard work and to all our talented musician-singer-performers!



Thanks to all who contributed premade meals on behalf of Silas to SHEF's Giving Through the Heart Campaign. Your generosity is much appreciated!

Please be sure to review my Feb. 7 post on Parent Square for all information on our upcoming STEAM FAIR.

Silas Wood students and staff look forward to joining the rest of our SHFSD family in wearing purple on Friday, February 11, in support of Mental Health Awareness-PS I Love You Day with this year's theme of One Step at a Time.





Monday, February 14, Valentine's Day, will bring a sweet surprise for all Silas Wood students when they will be treated to complimentary holiday-themed ice cream sundaes personally served up by none other than Mr. Toto and friends! Each lunch period promises to be a luscious event with whipped-cream topped delectable, scrumptious, ice cream confections for one and all!

SILAS WOOD 2021-2022 Yearbook Cover Contest! Our PTA invites all Silas students to enter drawings for the Silas Wood yearbook cover contest. Four winners will be chosen. Their artwork will become the yearbook front cover (1st place); back cover (2nd place); inside front cover (3rd place); and inside back cover (4th place). Each winner will be given a free copy of the yearbook from the PTA. All entries due to the main office no later than FRIDAY, February 18th - details as provided in my email sent on February 7th.

Continuing a tradition near and dear to my own heart, Silas Wood will continue to support the MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER WORLD CHAM-PION New York City Football Club – NYCFC – at Silas Wood Day! Mark your calendars and watch backpacks and this newsletter for more



info coming soon. Oh, and did we happen to mention that the NYCFC won the Soccer World Championship last season???!!!



April will be here before we know it and, along with springtime showers it will bring a month-long observance of Autism Awareness month. Fliers have been backpacked home offering purchase





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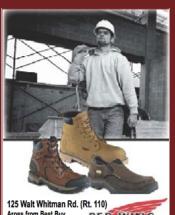


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of tee-shirts, supporting the cause, to be worn each Tuesday in April!

Our month-long celebration of Black History Month has the halls of Silas Wood brimming with hearts illustrating students' wishes to make the world a better place. Let's help to make those dreams come true!

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

Congratulations and thank you to Dr. Kosak, Ms. Weiss, Ms. Zaykoski and our talented Birchwood Musicians for an amazing Winter Concert. The hard work of the staff and students paid off! The children sounded amazing!

Thank you to our wonderful PTA for the terrific Author Visit we had last week. The children truly enjoyed the virtual visit with Dave Roman. The children asked many insightful questions and took part in a virtual drawing lesson with the talented author.

Second Quarter Report cards and i-Ready Data will be available on the parent portal on Friday, February 11th.

We are looking forward to seeing our Musical Theater performance on Saturday, February 12th at 12:00 at the WWHS Performing Arts Center.

As the cooler weather continues to be with us, please label all jackets, sweatshirts, hats, etc. so we can return them to your child if they get misplaced. We will be going outside as often as possible for recess. Please remind your children to come to school in the proper attire.

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

Last week was an amazing week at Maplewood Intermediate School. Students all had such a great time participating in PARP, that they are still talking about it this week. A very special "thank you" to our PTA for organizing such a wonderful experience. In addition to PARP, our Fifth Grade students were finally able to showcase their talents in our Winter Concert. There was a great deal of excitement in the air as members in our Chorus, Orchestra, and Band gave their first live and in-person performances. Congratulations to all of the students and teachers who helped make the night possible.

This week the fun continues as our Theater Club students take the stage on Saturday, February 12th at 10am to present Jukebox Time Machine in Whitman's Performing Arts Center. The students have worked very hard learning their parts and we are very excited to watch them perform in front of their friends and families.

Lastly, next week is our "Kindness week" so be on the look-out for more information and ways that you can demonstrate your kindness throughout the week.

News from Dr. Annie Michaelian, Principal of Oakwood Primary Center There are so many things to celebrate in February and we are so

excited to share them with our students and families!

Oakwood is celebrating the 100th Day of School on Friday, February 11th! We can't wait to celebrate our 100 days of learning and growing at Oakwood!

For Black History Month, our students have been sharing information daily about famous people during our morning announcements. So far, we have learned about Ruby Bridges, Coretta Scott King, Barack Obama, Ida B. Wells and Jackie Robinson. We are looking forward to our students sharing more during the next weeks of February.

February is also National Children's Dental Health Month! To begin our dental health awareness, our students watched a video from Kiddsmiles Pediatric Dentistry. Dr. Kaiser shared the correct way to



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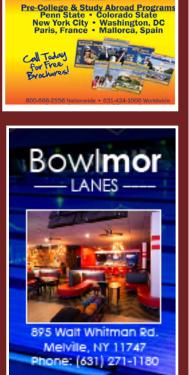
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brush teeth and about the importance of visiting the dentist. We thank Dr. Kaiser for her time and support!

Oakwood's Kindness Store opens this week for students to exchange their earned Kindness pompoms for exciting new incentives such as erasers, fidget spinners, pencil grippers, and much, much more! Our students are enjoying being rewarded for positive acts and displaying safe, respectful and responsible behaviors.

Our ENL After School program started this week with great success! Students in the program were invited to stay after school for language arts lessons and they were happy and excited for the extra period of learning. Please remember to pick up your child promptly at 4:10 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Our Student Council continues to recognize two outstanding members of the Oakwood Family. This week, the Student Council "Gratitude Board" has recognized one of Oakwood's First Grade Teachers, Ms. Nuncio and one of Oakwood's Teaching Assistants, Ms. Geiser. 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 Oakwood students bring home their Chromebooks on Tuesdays and Thursdays to complete brief learning activities. Our students have been doing a wonderful job in completing activities and then returning the devices the next day!

As we approach Valentine's Day at Oakwood, we want to send a friendly reminder that all students who wish to send in class goody bags should prepare one for each classmate and should only contain non-food items.

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:

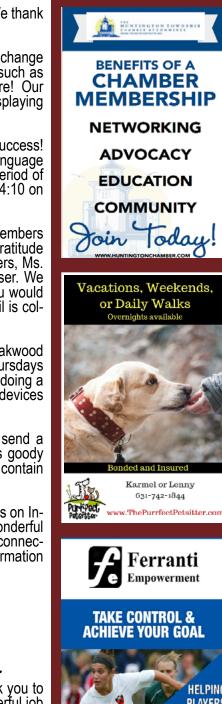
Instagram: oakwood_primary_center Twitter: @Oakwood_PC Have a fabulous week ahead! #theoakwoodway

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

We hope everyone's week is off to a nice start. A huge thank you to Ms. Genovese, our Art Leave Replacement for doing a wonderful job during last Friday night's Paint Night. As always, thank you to our wonderful PTA for the countless hours spent organizing this in person event for our students and families. It may have had to look a little different this year, due to COVID, but we were so happy to be able to see so many of our students in attendance. I have to say, I was blown away by the artistic talent of so many of our students as they painted one of the scenes from a Pete the Cat book.

This week Countrywood is participating in PS I Love You Day as we hold our Countrywood Kindness Challenge all week. Students are encouraged to participate in Manners Monday, Thank you Tuesday, What can I do to help Wednesday, Thoughtful Thursday, and Friendship Friday. Students who participate will have their name announced during morning and/or afternoon announcements throughout the week. Thank you to our SBM team for organizing this worthwhile event as we focus on anti-bullying and being kind to one another.

This week also sees the celebration of the 100th day of school. It is hard to believe that we are already more than half way through the academic year. Please be reminded that report cards will be posted to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal this Friday, February 11th. Should you have any questions pertaining to your child's report card please







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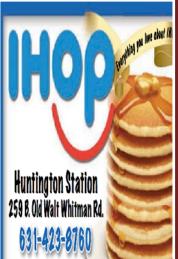


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Kindergarten registration for the 2022/23 school year is now underway. Please visit the South Huntington website for more information on how to register. Countdown to Kindergarten, an information night for incoming Kindergarten parents will take place on Monday, March 14th at Walt Whitman High School (Performing Art Center for the English presentation and the Forum for the Spanish presentation). More information will be forthcoming from the district.

We wish you a wonderful week ahead.

News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

Please Join SEPTA on Tuesday February 15th, 2022, at 7pm at Birchwood Intermediate Center. For our "Transition Workshop". Come and meet all the Principals or Buildings Special Education Staff Member and Special Education Administrators to learn about all the great programs they have for students "Moving Up" into new buildings next year. Plus, hear all the other great events SEPTA is preparing this year!

Booster Club

Volleyball Madness! A Great Inaugural Event

This past Saturday the Booster Club held its First Annual Volleyball Tournament for Stimson and Walt Whitman. We were very excited at the overwhelming reception from our South Huntington students! Both Stimson and Whitman showed up in force with over a dozen teams each competing. It was a fun filled day, with music, concession and of course Volleyball. With parent spectators and other students who stuck around to see how the other teams did, we had a full day. But in the end, there could be only one winner for each school. Stimson Middle School, the winning team, was the undefeated Zen team. They dominated the courts and took home the bragging rights for the next year! Walt Whitman played into the early evening hours and in the end it was "How I Set Your Mother" who wins not only for being the best Volleyball team on the court but we have, unofficially, given them the best Team Name vote as well!! This team of Seniors from the class of 2022 eliminated everyone, including the runners up, in The Four Stooges and Paul who also cleaned house. We want to thank everyone that came out to participate in this event as well as our volunteers who helped to make the day a tremendous success. We look forward to next year and the 2nd Annual Volleyball Tournament!

The Zen



How I Set Your Mother

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
2/9/2022	5:00 PM	Ward Melville @ Walt Whitman	JV GIRLS BASKETBALL		Walt Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
2/9/2022	7:00 PM	Ward Melville @ Walt Whitman	V GIRLS BASKETBALL		Walt Whitman High School SOUTH GYM
2/14/2022	5:00 PM	State Qual Meet @ WALT WHITMAN (STATE QUALIFIER MEET)	V GIRLS WINTER TRACK	1	Suffolk County Community College
2/14/2022	4:00 PM	State Qual Meet @ WALT WHITMAN	V BOYS WINTER TRACK	1	Suffolk County Community Colleg



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