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September 15, 2021

Food for Thought

"Life is never easy. There is work to be done and obligations to be met obligations to truth, to justice, and to liberty."

John F. Kennedy

Superintendent's Corner

While the calendar shows only a few school days "under our belts," there is already a steady set of mid-year routines settling in all across the district. Our classrooms, gymnasiums, cafeterias, music halls, art studios, and science labs are alive with activity, and there is a spirit of exploration and discovery all throughout our schools. We are also fortunate to see strong, home-to-school relationships forming all over the district, and look forward to building upon these partnerships with each passing week. We also look forward to supporting the numerous teams, clubs, groups, and activities that form the fabric of our district's soul, and welcome you to check the district website (shufsd.org) for a full listing of events.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that schools will be closed tomorrow in honor of Yom Kippur, and we wish all who are observing the sacred day a peaceful fast.

We also remind everyone that there is a "full plate" of action this coming weekend as our athletic teams, marching band, and numerous clubs, don the maroon and proudly represent the Wildcat spirit.

News from Deputy Superintendent/Business Dr. Joseph Centamore

Congratulations to the Varsity Dance Team on receiving the following awards and recognition at camp this past weekend ...

All American Nominees

Anna Sabellico Kate Sabellico Gabrielle Cali Harley Guarisco

All American Team Members Gabrielle Cali Harley Guarisco

Stand Out Style Award Kate Sabellico

Heart of Gold Award Edward Pena

Pin it Forward Award Julia Dong

NDA Achievement Award and the Herkie Teamwork Award



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157 E. Main Street Huntington, NY 11743 SignaturePremier.com Office: 631.673.3700 Mobile: 631.742.1774 Fax: 631.673.3359 LisaLeggioRealtor@gmail.com Congratulations to the entire team on receiving a bid to the National Dance Championship held in Orlando, Florida! It's all about the journey!

In addition, the Whitman Marching Band will be in competition this Sunday in Brentwood.

News from Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, Dr. John Murphy & Dr. Gayle Steele Program Orientations/Curriculum Nights in September

Thank you to all that attended, either in person or virtually, the Curriculum Nights at Birchwood and Maplewood. Both were well attended and we appreciate your support. As a reminder, the remaining Curriculum Nights are as follows:

School Countrywood/Oakwood Grade 2 Countrywood/Oakwood Grade 1 Countrywood/Oakwood Kindergarten Stimson Middle School Silas Wood 6th Grade Center

Walt Whitman High School Grades 9-12

Date/Time Monday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Monday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m.

For those attending in person, we will be following the CDC guidelines for social distancing, which is a minimum of 3 feet of distance between each individual. Therefore, we ask that families try to limit the number of in-person attendees to one parent/guardian per student.

Those parents that will be participating virtually will receive an email from their child's school providing the sign on procedures. Should you have any questions, please contact your child's Principal.

i-Ready Professional Development

This week our new elementary teachers participated in an i-Ready Mathematics professional development workshop. i-Ready Mathematics is a diagnostic tool that assists teachers in assessing student progress. We were happy to provide this training in-person this year. Teachers were able to participate in professional conversations about our mathematics program while enhancing instructional strategies to be used in the classroom. We are in the second year of the implementation of i-Ready Mathematics and look forward to the workshops that are scheduled for all of our elementary teachers throughout the school year. Thank you to Dr. Matthew Murphy for organizing this training for our staff.

New Technology at Whitman - Anatomy and Life Sciences

At Walt Whitman High School, the students and staff were able to utilize our newly-developed student forum, along with our digital anatomy tables. These digital anatomy tables, referred to as Anatomage Tables, utilize 3D graphic imagery to create a realistic structure of both humans and mammals. Walt Whitman High School was lucky enough to be able to secure three of these tables to be utilized in our anatomy, living environment and marine biology classes. This cutting-edge technology allows our students to get real-world experience with regards to the physical structures within the human body. It is amazing to think of the technological advances we have experienced within the educational field over the last 20 years. These tables allow us to see and teach much more than ever before.







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After-School and Extracurricular Activities in South Huntington

With the start of the new school year, South Huntington is focused on providing our students the ability to participate in after-school and extracurricular activities at all building levels. This may include Coding Club, Intramurals and Musical Theater at the elementary level, as well as a variety of clubs and activities at both the middle school and high school. These activities give our students time to explore ideas outside the classroom, while fostering an environment for healthy socialization with their peers. Within these school events, we will follow all Department of Health guidelines for all activities as the health and safety of our students remains a priority. Please look for information in the weeks to come regarding these activities from your building Principals.

Academic Recovery at South Huntington

Over the last two weeks, the Office of Curriculum and Instruction has been able to visit each and every building within the South Huntington School District in an effort to review and survey the current progress being made by all students. I have to tell you that it has been an amazing two weeks, filled with teachers and students enjoying a return to the normal school day. We have looked forward to visiting every building and watching the engaging and dynamic lessons being taught at all grade levels. As we continue to improve upon the current progress made within our academic recovery plan, it has been such an enjoyable start of school seeing the growth our students and district have already made. We look forward to providing you more information and context in the months to come.

Visit our Athletics website for updated scores, coaches contact informa-

tion and more. For the most up-to-date game schedules, please visit

Section XI's website at www.SectionXI.org. 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). Make

sure to follow the Athletics department both Twitter and Instagram (@

WaltWhitmanAD) for updates and highlights from the season. Go Wild-





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

During the month of September, we celebrate many holidays, national and local events, and cultural celebrations. Our students and staff have been participating in beautiful displays of remembrance leading up to and after September 11th. A special thank you to the Huntington Manor Fire Department for supporting the school community with a fire truck, which hoisted the American flag over the driveway as our students, parents, and staff drove onto campus. We had over twenty student volunteers, security guards, building and district administrators, and staff members help line the entrance way with flags from West Hills Road to the entrance of the PAC.

September also represents Suicide Prevention Month. To kick off suicide awareness, our student leaders distributed yellow ribbons to be worn in a show of support and solidarity supporting those who have lost loved ones and are in need of our support.

September 15, 2021 marks the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month. "Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th to October 15th, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The day of September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries - Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12th, falls within this 30-day period." Please support our Latino Heritage Club by visiting <u>https://sites.google.com/shufsd.org/latinoheritageclub/home_forupcoming_events and activities.</u>

Registration for the 2021 Wildcat Homecoming began this week with Powder Puff sign-ups. Please use the links below to sign up for Powder Puff 2021! The sign-up period ends on Wednesday, September 22nd, so don't miss out on one of the best events of the year.

click here for GIRLS

click here for BOYS

Upcoming events and dates:

• Program Orientation Night will be in a hybrid model for parents with the option of either in-person or joining virtually on September 23, 2021 from 7 - 9 p.m. More information regarding class links and the format will be sent out via ParentSquare.

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

I hope the start of the 2021/22 school year has been great for you and your child. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us at **Curriculum Night** for Grades 7 and 8 on Monday, September 20th. The evening will begin promptly at 7 p.m. and conclude at 9:02 p.m. Curriculum Night provides us with an opportunity to share our passion for education and our goal is to make your child's middle school experience one to remember. You are welcome to join us in-person; however, we are also offering a virtual option to all our families. If you decide to join your child's classes virtually, please follow the steps below:

1. Follow your child's "Day 1" schedule and the 10-minute bell schedule listed below.





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2. Using your child's Chromebook, please navigate to their Google Classroom.

3. Click on the Google Classroom that is assigned to your child that period. For example, Joseph Smith has Social Studies first period. Using his Chromebook, you would access his Social Studies Google Classroom and click the Google Meet Link. On Curriculum Night, Period 1 is scheduled from 7:14 p.m.-7:24 p.m. When the teacher's presentation is completed, you would then proceed to Joseph's second period class via Google Classroom.

Prior to the start of the program, the Silas/Stimson PTA will hold its first meeting of the year, in the Stimson Forum at 6:15 p.m. Please take this opportunity to join us. Please show your Wildcat pride by visiting both our Booster Club and PTA membership tables, located in the main lobby, throughout the evening.

Program Schedule for Curriculum Night -

Parents to Homeroom	7:00 - 7:10 PM
Period 1	7:14 -7:24 PM
Period 2	7:28 -7:38 PM
Period 3	7:42 -7:52 PM
Period 4	7:56 -8:06 PM
Period 5	8:10 -8:20 PM
Period 6	8:24 -8:34 PM
Period 7	8:38 -8:48 PM
Period 8	8:52 -9:02 PM

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

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner anywhere." ~Ancient Proverb Now in our third week back to school, Silas Wood students and staff are settling in beautifully! I was very proud of the excellent behavior of all our Superstars during our first Evacuation Drill on Monday, as well as during our first Fire Drill on Tuesday. I would suggest this as a great opportunity for all of our Silas families to discuss home-fire safety by reviewing the following from the American Red Cross: The 7 Ways to Prepare for a Home Fire; Install the right number of smoke alarms. Test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year. Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one. Ensure that all household members know two ways to escape from every room of your home and know the family meeting spot outside of your home. Establish a family emergency communications plan and ensure that all household members know who to contact if they cannot find one another. Practice escaping from your home at least twice a year. Press the smoke alarm test button or yell "Fire" to alert everyone that they must get out. Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1. Teach household members to STOP, DROP and ROLL if their clothes should catch on fire. Remember: Being prepared is the best way to stay safe!

A reminder for parents/guardians to attend our Sixth Grade Curriculum Night to be held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, beginning promptly at 6:45 pm at the Silas Wood 6th Grade Center. Our Curriculum Night will offer an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and listen to an overview of what your child will study this year. Curriculum Night will commence in the Silas Wood Gymnasium with a brief welcome along with a description of the rest of the evening. Parents will then proceed to their children's homerooms where schedules will be provided. From there, you will have the opportunity to follow their schedules and experience a typical (though shortened) school day; you may follow their class schedules for the remainder of the evening. It would be helpful if you know your child's Homeroom Teacher's name/room number on Curriculum Night. Kindly note that students are not to attend Curriculum Night. Please note our introductory PTA meeting of the Silas Wood/Stimson Middle School PTA (the PTA is jointly run between Silas and Stimson) to be held at 6:15 pm at Silas Wood prior to our Curriculum Night on September 21st. This will be an opportunity to join the Silas Wood/Stim-



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.

All Practices/games held at Signal Hill Elementary School, Wolf Hill and Caledonia Roads.















son PTA. Please support this fine organization and the work it does for our children!

Superstars: Bring your best and bring your biggest smiles for Photo Day coming up next Friday, September 24th (makeups, November 24th); fliers for ordering were sent home earlier this week.

A reminder that it's a great idea to put name labels on backpacks, lunch boxes and water bottles, jackets and coats, and (sooner than we can imagine) hats and scarves.

Next time you visit Silas, you will be greeted by our beautiful new sign--in our South Huntington burgundy and white, featuring our very own Silas Wood Pawprint Logo! It is sure to bring smiles to one and all!



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

Thank you to all our families who attended our Curriculum Nights. All of us at Birchwood are looking forward to a great year working together to benefit our Birchwood students.

Please consider being part of our wonderful Birchwood PTA. A flyer was sent home with information about how to join. Be on the lookout for the MOVIE NIGHT FLYER. Save the date September 24th!

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

We have been very busy here at Maplewood Intermediate School. On Monday and Tuesday, we welcomed in our Third and Fourth Grade parents for Curriculum nights. It was great to see so many people both in person and virtually as our staff presented about our wonderful school. As a reminder, should you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Students have been spending time this week learning about all the great applications that our Chromebooks have to offer. Mrs. D'Elia has been going into classrooms and working with students to ensure they have access and understand some of our features including our new Class link application. We are so fortunate to have so many resources that can be utilized on a daily basis.

Lastly, this week started our PBIS kick-off. Students attended a virtual assembly on Monday where they learned all about positive behaviors and the importance of displaying them throughout the school. As we continue our learning, we will have the following themed days:

- Mindful Mondays the students will learn and practice a mindfulness focusing activity.
- Team Tuesdays the students will participate in team-building activities in their classroom.
- Wacky Wednesday the students will show their spirit by dressing with a certain theme.
- Wednesday 9/15 Show off your team spirit and wear a sports jersey or t-shirt.
- Wednesday 9/22 Wear bright colors to show off your positivity.
- Wednesday 9/28 Show off your character by wearing a shirt with your favorite cartoon character or superhero.
- Thoughtful Thursday the students will learn about ways to keep mentally fit.
- Feeling Spirited Fridays the students will wear Wildcat spirit wear or maroon and white.

We look forward to another exciting and busy week at Maplewood.





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

Oakwood has had a wonderful week filled with smiling faces and fun learning activities. We are excited to welcome families on our Curriculum Nights next week. We begin with our Second Grade on Monday, September 20th and continue with First Grade on Tuesday, September 21st. Kindergarten Curriculum Night will be held on Thursday, September 23rd. This year parents will have the option of attending our curriculum nights in person at Oakwood or virtually via Google Meet. Please note that the in-person attendance will be limited to one parent/guardian per child to allow for social distancing. Information has been sent home to all families regarding the schedule for the Curriculum Nights. Your child's teacher will communicate the specific classroom information. We hope you will join us.

Be sure to send in a note if you are planning on picking up your child from Oakwood. We use this information to plan for a smooth dismissal and allow for your child to end their day in a calm manner. Also, if you are dropping off your child at arrival, it is important that you are pulled over on West 22nd Street with your hazards engaged on your vehicle.

Remember to sign up for ParentSquare, an important communication tool to keep the home and school connection ongoing. You can download the app to your cell phone, follow the prompts to be set up to receive messages from your child's teacher(s), the Oakwood Main Office and the District.

Oakwood is still collecting family photos for our Family Photo Gallery. We are working on a fun project and need your help. We are asking you to bring in <u>one</u>, 4x6 picture to display in our Hallway Family Photo Gallery. The picture can include either your family or someone who is special to you.

We are also excited to announce the Fall PTA Book Fair is coming to Oakwood from September 20th- 24th. Each child will get the chance to visit the Book Fair during their Library special. A special thank you to our amazing Oakwood PTA for putting together an incredible Book Fair experience for our Oakwood students. Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with e-Wallet and online shopping: <u>https://www.scholastic.com/</u> <u>bf/oakwoodbf</u>

Our staff is excited for a special Welcome Back Breakfast this Friday, September 17th. We thank our PTA for organizing such a thoughtful gesture for our amazing staff. Oakwood is very thankful and appreciates the partnership of the PTA.

We are looking forward for many more wonderful days ahead.

Have a terrific week!

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

We hope that everyone's week has been off to an excellent start. Last week we paused to honor and remember the tragedy of September 11th, twenty years ago. At Countrywood our students made kindness chains, as they discussed various ways that they can be kind and helpful in our society.

We once again thank you for your patience as we navigated the first day challenges together. Learning is in full swing, and we are excited to welcome our families for curriculum nights next week. Earlier this week a complete schedule was shared via ParentSquare, and we look forward to seeing our families either in person, or virtually to learn about the year ahead. As a reminder, due to social distancing limitations, only one parent/guardian will be permitted to attend in person, we apologize for this and thank you in advance for assisting us in keeping everyone safe. In addition, representatives from our special areas, as well as support staff, will be available starting at 6:15 each evening, and your time in your child's classroom will begin at 7 p.m. The PTA will be selling spirit wear and offering membership



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The dates are as follows: 2nd Grade - Monday, September 20th 1st Grade - Tuesday, September 21st Kindergarten - Thursday, September 23rd

A huge thank you to our wonderful PTA who provided our staff with a lovely welcome back breakfast last week. We appreciate the strong partnership that we have with our PTA and invite our families to join and become active members.

While the weather cooperates, our staff has been taking the students outside for some fresh air, outdoor reading, nature walks, and other activities. In addition, classes have been utilizing the tent on a rotating basis for outdoor lunchtime as well. We plan to use the fresh air and outdoor spaces as long as mother nature allows. Please continue to check out our Countrywood social media pages where we highlight all of the wonderful activities taking place here each and every day.

As always, we are here to support you and your family and value the strong home/school partnership that we have at Countrywood. Please always feel free to reach out to Ms. Njenga or I with any questions or concerns.

Wishing you a wonderful week ahead.

News from South Huntington Educational Foundation, SHEF



Get in on SHEF's monthly raffle by visiting <u>SHEFINC.ORG</u> to enter This handcrafted

LOOK WHAT I MADE sign was made with love by Wildcat Parent Amanda DeVinney **Y**



Be sure to follow SHEF on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> where monthly raffle winners are announced each month. You'll also find info on student and district-wide community events, and much more!

Another easy and cost-free way to support SHEF is to use this custom link whenever you shop with <u>SMILE.AMAZON.COM</u>



News from SEPTA – Maureen Basedow

Please join us and become a member. <u>https://shsepta.memberhub.store</u>. A membership form will be included in this newsletter. Come and meet the new Special Education PTA Board on Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 at 7





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Please visit our Facebook/Instagram page. We will set up a table at the respective Curriculum nights; please stop by to join.

District PTA Council News

It's Membership season. Please be sure to support our schools by becoming a PTA member now. It's easy to do online, <u>https://www.shufsd.org/parents/</u><u>south-huntington-pta</u>

Show off your Wildcat Pride. Get your Spirit wear, on sale now, through each of our PTA units across the district.

Here is the link to the Walt Whitman PTA online shop. <u>https://whitmanfall2021.</u> itemorder.com/sale

Thank you for all the ways you help our PTA's support South Huntington.

Booster Club

2021-2022 Wildcat Booster Club Donations

The Wildcat Booster Club is happy to announce that this summer the Board of Education approved our request to donate to the South Huntington Athletic Department. These donations totaling \$19,200 included - Competition Strips for Fencing, Branded Golf Bags for our Golf Team, New Mats for Gymnastics, Record Board for Swimming, Ball Machine for Tennis, Spring Board for Track, and funds were given to Cheer and Lacrosse, to offset player costs for extracurricular programs. The Booster Club is very excited to be able to purchase these items for our district programs, and thanks the Board of Education for their acceptance of these donations.

Donations like this are made possible through community memberships and fundraising done throughout the year by the Booster Club. Every member and every dollar spent at a Booster Club event goes to help our Athletic Programs. So we thank all of our community members and supporters for helping to make these donations possible. If you are not a member of the Booster Club, join today! You can sign up online at <u>www.wildcatbc.org</u>.

Let's Go Wildcats!

The Weeks to Come

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

Whitman Sports

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Stimson Sports

Date	Time	Away Team / Home Team	Level / Sport	NL/S	Contest Location
9/21/2021	4:00 PM	Oldfield @ Stimson	B FIELD HOCKEY		Stimson Middle School
9/22/2021	4:45 PM	Stimson @ Oldfield	B BOYS CROSS COUNTRY		Oldfield Middle School
9/22/2021	4:00 PM	Brontwood North @ Stimson	B BOYS SOCCER		Stimson Middle School
9/22/2021	4:45 PM	Stimson @ East Northport	B GIRLS TENNIS		East Northport Middle School
9/23/2021	4:45 PM	Northport MS @ Stimson	B FIELD HOCKEY	-	Stimson Middle School



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