



# WESTHILL

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vol. XCIII • No. 2 • October 2018 • A Publication of the Westhill Central School District

## Maker Club

Maker Club is in full swing at OHMS with 37 students attending our first meeting! They had a great time working in teams on the Pipe Cleaner Challenge. Each team was given 16 pipe cleaners and 10 minutes to build the tallest tower. A few obstacles were added to this challenge. After a few minutes, they could only use one hand, and after a few more minutes, a “virus” spread throughout the class and they lost the use of their voices. It was a great beginning to what will surely be an awesome year of exploring and learning together!



## Building Teamwork

The students at Walberta Park take part in the Positivity Project movement. Each week, the students learn about different character strengths to help them build positive relationships. The students in Ms. Balla’s first grade class were working on teamwork, and students had to work together to create a letter from the alphabet. Can you guess what letter these students made?



## Important Announcement

**Annual Emergency Release Drill  
Early Dismissal  
Tuesday, November 20, 2018**

K-12 students will be released from school fifteen minutes prior to the normal dismissal time.



Please mark your calendar!

# Walberta Park School

## Fall Walking and Running Club

The Site-Based Team at Walberta Park held a Walking and Running Club this fall on Friday mornings before school. Over 40 students participated in the group and collectively walked or ran over 160 miles during the three-week group. What a fun and healthy way to start the day!



## Tool Challenge

The students in Ms. Balla's first grade class are learning about different kinds of tools and how they make a job easier. The students were given a challenge to choose the best tool for flipping cookies. The students had to choose between different cooking tools such as; a whisk, a funnel, measuring cups and tongs. The students performed hands on experiments and decided that the tongs were the best tool for the job.



## Kickoff to Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have been working hard to learn the school routines. During the month of September, the children learned about classroom routines, places in the school, the playground rules, listening skills and proper grip. We're off to a great school year!



# Cherry Road School

## The Marshmallow Challenge

In Mrs. Geiss' 2nd grade class, students started out the year by participating in the Marshmallow Challenge to review how teammates work together during group work.



## Making the Most of Rainy Days

Mileage Club for fourth graders began a month ago, and every Tuesday morning it seems to rain, but the students have been demonstrating the character strength of perseverance! Mr. Connelly, CRS physical education teacher, rewarded the small group that showed up on a rainy school picture day the first week of October. They each got "toe tokens" for their sneakers and a drawstring bag.



## Cultural Comparisons

Third graders worked on an inquiry-based social studies unit that allowed them to compare and contrast the culture in the United States to the culture of a country of their choice. Students were immersed in online research via Chromebooks as well as researching cultural elements through text. They enjoyed learning about "what makes culture" through reading about what children from other countries enjoy and take part in (sports, foods, languages and daily life). Students worked in partnerships or small groups to research and then complete an essay independently highlighting what they learned through their research. Pictured here are students hard at work from Mrs. Jackson's and Mrs. Person's classes.



# Onondaga Hill Middle School

## Wishtree

This summer, the students at OHMS were asked to read *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate. This story is told from the perspective of an ancient oak tree, alongside animals that come to depend on it. In the book, a community puts ribbons of dreams, desires and wishes on the tree named "Red" that is central to the community. As an opening P2 exercise, all grade level homerooms were asked to share a wish for our community at OHMS for this school year. It's a great read and a nice family discussion starter!



## Students and Staff Stick Together

Have you ever worked on a Stick Together Mosaic? It is a color-coded sticker mosaic, and the students and staff at OHMS love them. This Halloween-inspired mosaic took less than a week for us to complete. The students are already asking to do another one!



## 5th Grade Art

Mrs. Feyerabend's incredibly creative 5th grade students are completing their own "wishtree" masterpieces. Anita Olesh, Gabe Amorese and Peter Stroman are shown here constructing the bark on their trees. The artists employed some cool techniques and used several art materials to create their trees; crayon texture rubbing with ballpoint pen, watercolor pencil, oil pastel, tempera paint, sponge painting, splatter painting, drawing and collage. The trees are "growing" into beautiful artistic compositions, inspired by *Wishtree* written by Katherine. The finished tree shown here was created by Hadley Goode.



# Onondaga Hill Middle School

## 5th and 6th Grade Science in Action

The 6th grade is learning about Energy, Forces and Motion using the new Smithsonian Units, an inquiry-based science curriculum. Within the investigation, students are gently pushing a tennis ball and timing how long it takes for the ball to pass certain distances. By doing so, students are learning about gravity, friction, acceleration and speed through hands-on activities. Students are really enjoying learning these concepts firsthand!

In 5th grade, Mrs. Smith's class is hard at work trying to figure out the volume in a cylinder.



## NYS Fair

Many amazing OHMS students had artwork entered into the NY State Fair. Their artwork was on display in the Art and Home Center during the Fair (August 22-September 3) and many ribbons were won. We are very proud of our OHMS artists!

Row 1: Molly Dorfman, Shannon Conley, Laura Stanton

Row 2: Ashleigh Belcamino, Olivia Antoine, Mica Klamm, Rocco Cuismano, Jessica Khairallah, Sophia Finnegan, Iris Markham, Morgan Bealer, Peyton Deno

Row 3: Mary Snyder, Gisselle Colon, Austin Townley, Mallory Clos, Gianna Spasevski, Gabby Allahar, Emma Villa, Lily Young, Za'Mear Harley, Kara Rosenberger, Owen Maines

Row 4: Hannah Tjaden, Kate Bendell, Charlotte Ross, Anna Rosenberger



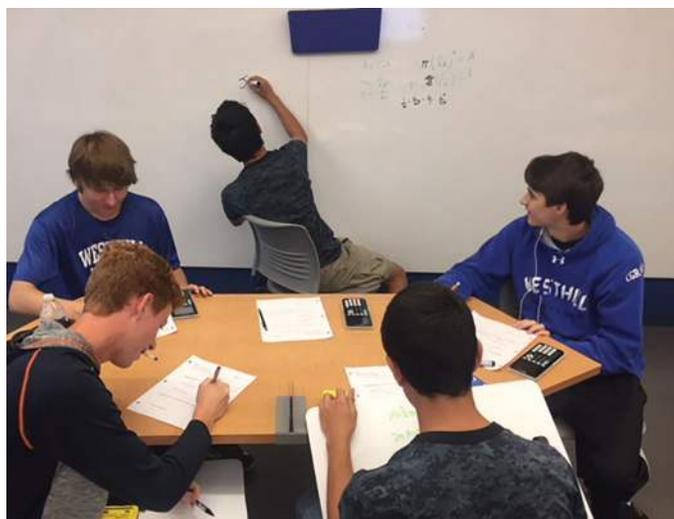
# Onondaga Hill Middle & Westhill High Schools

## French Comes Alive for Madame Jimenez

Congratulations to Marjorie Jimenez, middle school foreign language teacher, who attended an immersion course in French this summer in Quebec. The sessions included varied topics about Quebec such as the impact on nature, culture and territory from a geographical perspective of Quebec and Canada; missionaries and their impact on aboriginal tribes of Canada; the British conquest and its impact on French Canada; history of aboriginal tribes Huron-Wentek and Micmacs; political revolution, “the quiet revolution” and history of the political parties in Quebec among others. The week long session culminated with a seven-minute oral presentation (in French) on how teachers would utilize their learning in the classroom. Madame Jimenez discussed Westhill’s mission to work on PBL projects and presented an outline of a PBL project about the rich history of Quebec and its role in Canada. Needless to say, this immersion trip offered incredible insights and certainly an unforgettable experience. Nice work, Madame Jimenez!

## Classrooms for Innovative Learning

Teachers are taking full advantage of the new learning spaces in the high school’s third floor classrooms. Designed to foster a greater level of student engagement, teachers are providing students with the opportunity to work collaboratively, solve open-ended questions and share their results. Lots of white board space, moveable tables and chairs and multi-media display options have allowed students to be more engaged in their learning. Pictured are students in Ms. Berger’s OCC Stats and Pre-calculus working together to solve problems.



## AP Spanish Language and Culture

AP Spanish Language and Culture students shared their top and bottom character strengths, according to Positive Psychology, and what role social media plays in our relationships. Students named people in their lives who exemplify the different character strengths, discussed their most meaningful relationships and how knowing the character strengths of themselves and others helps those relationships. These seniors then led their own discussion to create a mission statement for using social media as it pertains to creating and fostering positive relationships... all in Spanish!



## Positivity Project Kick-Off

WHS kicked-off the Positivity Project with guest speaker Dick Beardsley at our first school-wide assembly. Dick Beardsley shared his life story as a world class distance runner and the many personal obstacles and personal tragedies he overcame. He is best known for his second place finish in the 1982 Boston marathon, finishing less than 2 seconds behind the winner. Mr. Beardsley shared with the students his struggles to overcome pain medication addiction after multiple surgeries as the result of a serious farm accident and two vehicle accidents. He also spoke about living through the tragedy of having a son commit suicide after returning from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. His message of hope, resilience and perseverance resonated with our students.

# Westhill High School

## McPeak Named National Merit Semifinalist

Congratulations to senior, David McPeak, for his selection as a semifinalist in the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Selection of semifinalists is based on student performance on the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Of the 1.6 million students who took the test, only 16,000 were selected as semifinalists. With this designation, David can apply to advance to the finalist level and possibly receive a National Merit Scholarship. Finalists will be announced in the spring of 2019. Good Luck, David.



## Westhill Family Welcomes Belgian Student

Belgian student, Laurane Vandeweyer, began her American adventure in August, becoming our first eight week exchange student. Thanks to her host “sister”, senior Carolyn Tetley and her family, she became familiar with beautiful Central New York in the summertime. Since then, Laurane has made many American friends and participated in our classes and sports activities. She has been a welcome addition to our school community, offering her unique point of view and providing French practice to our French students. Laurane leaves us on October 14th, and we will be sad to see her go. Carolyn will depart for her eight weeks of life in Belgium beginning in February. Bon voyage, Laurane. Reviens vite!



## Homecoming 2018

The Westhill High School Student Council organized a fantastic homecoming celebration! Students and staff participated in spirit week. On game day, the entire school gathered in the newly renovated gymnasium for our first pep rally. The pep band played classic march tunes and helped to lead the student body in some special cheers. Each of our fall sports teams was recognized out on the floor and the captains recognized individual players and spoke about their seasons. Following the pep rally, seniors attended the senior tailgate party and enjoyed some burgers and hotdogs grilled up by senior parents and Mr. Maimone and prepared themselves for the lighting of the bonfire.

The bonfire theme was “camo” in honor of our armed service men and women and veterans. Half-time was marked with a special recognition of Westhill employees who have served in the military and a presentation of a donation to the Wounded Warrior Foundation.



Big thanks to our Student Council officers: Quinn Etoll, Danielle Lougen, Cami Cortez and DJ Caloia and their advisor, Mrs. Kathleen Hall, for all the work they put in to organize homecoming week. We would also like to thank our band members and our band directors Mrs. Erin Tapia and Mr. Corey Riley for all their work.

# Welcome New Staff Members



Sarah Colaluca  
WPS/CRS  
Music



Brianna Condon  
CRS/OHMS  
School Social Worker Intern



Kristen D'Agostino  
CRS  
Teaching Assistant



Lisa DiPaola  
WHS  
Teaching Assistant



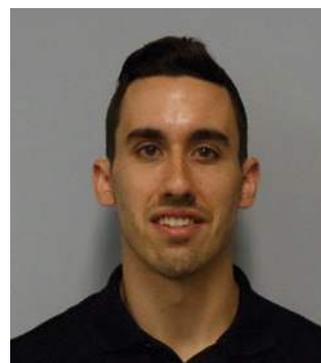
Maria Geiss  
CRS  
Grade 2



Katie Glavin  
WHS  
Spanish



Kim Kennedy  
CRS  
Grade 2



Zach Kiggins  
WHS  
Physical Education



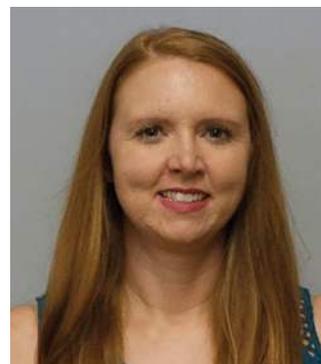
Tom LaClair  
CRS  
Occupational Therapist



Trish Lasher  
CRS  
Teaching Assistant



Connie McQueeney  
WHS  
Typist I Guidance



Sarah Paquette  
OHMS/WHS  
School Psychologist Intern

# Welcome New Staff Members



Beth Piorkowski  
WPS/WHS  
School Social Worker



Corey Riley  
OHMS/WHS  
Music



Maria Rotella  
WHS  
Food Service Helper I



Amanda Smith  
OHMS  
Grade 5



Laura Snyder  
CRS  
Cafeteria Aide



Joe Sweeny  
Districtwide  
School Resource Officer

## Empire State Games

On September 26, 2018, several of our Westhill staff and students joined together to participate in the Adapted Sports Clinic presented by the Empire State Games. The clinic was held at the CNY Family Sports Center on Jones Road in Baldwinsville. Our students engaged in several adapted sports games, group activities and obstacle courses that were set up around the sports center. Alongside their peers, students were able to work on their social, cooperative play, language and fine and gross motor skills in a fun and exhilarating way. Our staff and students made great memories, shared laughs and had a fun-filled day. We are already looking forward to next year!



# District News

## Free and Reduced Meal Program

The Westhill Food Service Department would like to bring attention to our Free and Reduced Meal Program by making parents aware that any student who qualifies for free or reduced lunch also qualifies for free or reduced breakfast.

National studies have found that a healthy breakfast is an important key to learning. Every morning our cafeterias offer a variety of whole grain products, fresh fruit and low fat milk. When children eat a well-balanced breakfast, they enjoy the benefits of improved attentiveness and have more energy. Let us help your child start the morning right!

If you have any questions about the school breakfast program or how to take advantage of the Free and Reduced Meal Program, please feel free to call Rich or Mark at 426-3153.



## Revisions to Mandated Health Exams and Screenings for the 2018-2019 School Year

- **Health examinations** will be required for new entrants and in grades **K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11.**
- **Vision screening** for color perception, distance and near vision acuity will be required for new entrants within 6 months of admission to school. Distance and near vision acuity will be **required in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.**
- **Hearing screening** utilizing pure tone testing will be required for new entrants within 6 months of admission to school and in **grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 and 11.**
- **Scoliosis screening** will be required in **grades 5 and 7 for girls and grade 9 for boys.**
- Changes for screening grades are effective starting 7/1/18 and will be **implemented starting with the 2018-2019 school year.**

**\*\*Physicals can be emailed or faxed to your child's nurse.**

This info can be found at <http://www.westhillschools.org/> under Health Services, Contact Info.

# District News

## I. Introduction

Providing an orderly plan for dealing with an emergency is part of the responsibility of Westhill Central School District officials. Emergency situations range from man-made problems such as power outages, fires, and bomb threats, to nature-made situations like windstorms, ice/snow storms, and floods. Emergencies range from highly dangerous, life-threatening situations to problems that are mere inconveniences. School and parents need to have general plans for dealing with a wide range of emergencies. The following information is intended to familiarize you with our general procedures for school emergencies.

## II. Possible Response Actions

The nature of the emergency will determine the type of response action. If possible and timely, an emergency response team will convene at a command site to implement response actions. If possible and appropriate, the assistance of the fire department, ambulance, and police will be sought. The primary consideration in determining response actions will be the health and safety of students and staff.

- A) **Cancellation of School** - School officials may determine that school will not be in session for one or more days due to an emergency.
- B) **Evacuation** - Evacuation is necessary for situations ranging from routine fire drills to conditions where it is no longer safe or appropriate to have students in the school building. Evacuation requires all building occupants to exit the building and wait a safe distance from the building until the danger has passed. In some circumstances, however, the nature of the emergency may deem that the students be transported and held temporarily at another location.
- C) **Early Dismissal** - An early dismissal is announced in the event of a system failure such as loss of heat or other utility in the building, or in response to inclement weather. In inclement weather, due to the time it takes to coordinate early dismissal, many times it is better to wait until dismissal time to send students home. Road crews normally schedule their time to coincide with the dismissal time of the schools.
- D) **Sheltering in Building** - School officials may decide to keep students in school in an emergency until the situation returns to normal or until dismissal or evacuation can be arranged, if it is determined that it is not safe or practical to send them home. A lock down drill is a type of sheltering situation where students remain in their classrooms and windows and doors are locked.

## III. Communication Systems

Internal: Communication inside the building will be via the public address system if possible. Otherwise, messengers will be used to relay warnings. Administrators have access to cell phones/radios to assist them with emergency communications.

External: In the event of an emergency, we will notify the following radio/television stations:

RADIO STATIONS	TELEVISION STATIONS
WSYR - 570 AM	3 - NBC
WHEN - 620 AM	5 - CBS
WYYY - 94.5 FM	9 - ABC
WBBS - 104.7 FM	10 - YNN
WPHR - 106.9 FM	
WHHT - 107.9 FM	

## IV. Emergency Planning Committee

- Steven Smith..... Emergency Management Coordinator
- Edward Wittkowski..... 1st Alternate Coordinator
- Sarah VanLiew..... 2nd Alternate Coordinator
- Casey Barduhn..... Superintendent of Schools
- Lee Roscoe..... Westhill High School Principal
- Daniel Dolan..... Westhill High School Assistant Principal
- Mark Bednarski..... Onondaga Hill Middle School Principal
- Jennie Smarrelli..... Onondaga Hill Middle School Assistant Principal
- Maureen Mulderig..... Cherry Road School Principal
- Beth Kramer..... Walberta Park School Principal
- Marietta Lachenauer..... Director of Special Education
- Richard Gunther..... Food Service Director
- Jeri Burke..... School Transportation Supervisor
- Tammy Sterling..... Coordinator of Health Services

## V. Communication Liaison for the District: Casey Barduhn, Superintendent of Schools

We hope we will never have to implement our plans, but we will strive to be prepared just in case. It is very important for every family to have a contingency plan explained to students should an unplanned early dismissal occur. Calls directly to or from parents would not be practical in a true emergency. We urge families to plan ahead for possible school related emergencies, especially early dismissal.

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The Westhill Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, sex or race in its employment practices or educational programs.

## Westhill District News

School Board Recognition Week  
October 22 - October 26, 2018



"Alone we can do  
so little; together  
we can do so  
much."



Helen Keller

Thank you to the Board of Education  
for your many hours of dedicated service!