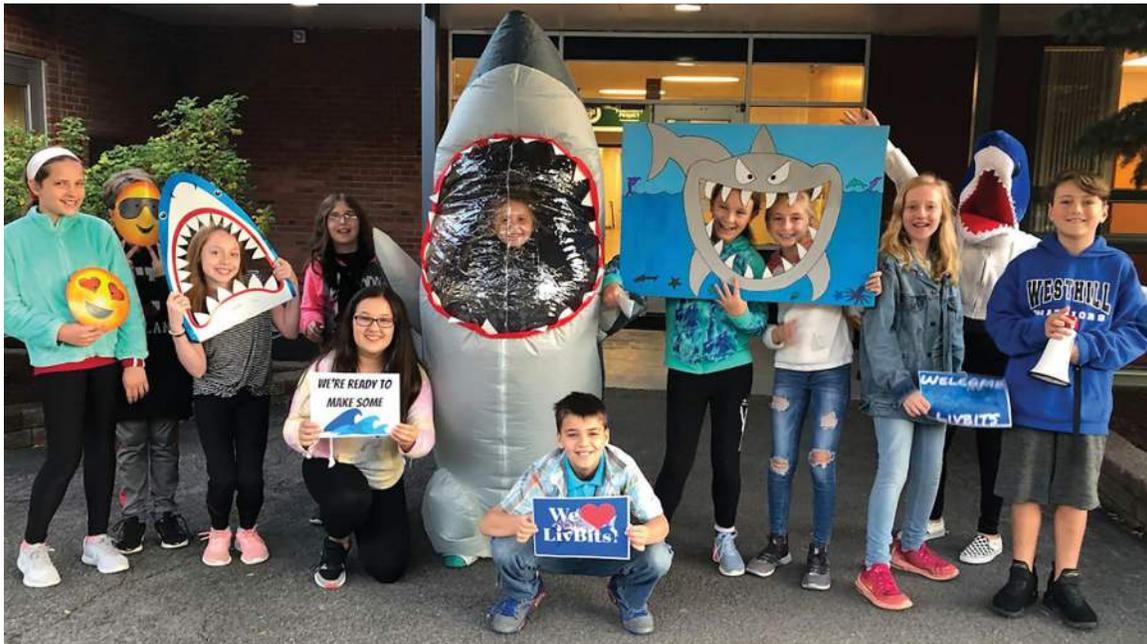


## OHMS Welcome Team

If you have you ever driven by OHMS on a Friday morning and seen an excited, boisterous group of students at the front of the school, then you've probably witnessed our Welcome Team in action! Every Friday morning, rain or shine, this small but mighty group greets all staff and students that enter our school. These students believe that the mission of the Welcome Team is to:

- Start the day on a happy note.
- Create excitement for the school day.
- Make people happy, smile and laugh.
- Make it enjoyable walking into school.
- Make sure every student feels welcome at OHMS.

If you want to start your Friday off with a smile, take a drive by OHMS where you can see the Welcome Team putting a little cheer in everyone's day. #otherpeoplematter



# Westhill High School

## Warriors of the Month

### NOVEMBER

9th Grade: Mary Snyder is a positive role model for everyone at Westhill. She comes into class everyday with a positive attitude and represents the other people matter mindset. She is a leader in the classroom, taking charge with group activities and offering help and support to others that need it. She shows gratitude in the classroom and kindness towards her friends and peers. Keep up the great work, Mary!

10th Grade : Franny Argentieri shows bravery everyday in class with her willingness to try new things, even if the result might not be perfect. Her bravery is an example for all students to follow. She shows that taking risks in class without the fear of being wrong is a fun and effective way to learn. Franny always starts each day with zest and enthusiasm. She has a passion for learning and creatively demonstrating her understanding of content.

11th Grade: Nate Juman is a leader in the classroom and is not afraid to participate and ask questions during guest presentations and class discussions. He is open-minded and non-judgmental. Nate has a kind heart and is well liked by his peers. Congratulations, Nate!

12th Grade: Alyssa Terek is a great student who exhibits so many positive characteristics during class. She works well with her classmates and helps keep the class active and engaged. She has a great sense of humor that comes out in class and never lets what is affecting her outside of school change her positive attitude in class. She never puts others down and continues to build those around her up in a humble way.



### DECEMBER

9th Grade: Nicole LoFaro is a perfect choice for “Warrior of the Month” because of the kindness she shows others. During group work, she makes an effort to listen to and include every person’s ideas, and she makes more reluctant group members feel comfortable. She also shows perseverance by always putting forth her best effort with her academics and making school a priority. Nicole embodies the idea that other people matter through all of her social interactions. We are lucky to have her at Westhill High School!

10th Grade: Anthony Simonds has been a great addition to our Westhill student body. In class, he is polite, patient and hard working. He offers helpful feedback to his peers during collaboration times, and really appreciates his education. Anthony is a leader and role model in the classroom and emphasizes the other people matter mindset.

11th Grade: Rylee Barcza demonstrates kindness each and every day. Rylee goes out of his way to say hello and listen to what others have to say. Rylee makes everyone feel important. He demonstrates what it means to be a good friend and puts others before himself.

12th Grade: Gianna Militi is a great friend and is always looking out for others. She builds others up when they are feeling down and is willing to sacrifice her time for others. She is a natural leader whose confidence spreads to those around her.



# Westhill High School

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## Award Winners

Congratulations to the Westhill Literary Magazine club and the Yearbook staff for winning awards in the National American Scholastic Press Association contest! Literary Magazine received a first place prize for the issue, *Profile*, and Yearbook placed second for their publication, *Playback*. Club editors and student staff deserve special recognition for their outstanding work ethic and creative designs concerning the fundamentals of editing and publishing. It is nice to see, the efforts of the talented writers and artists who contribute work to Lit Mag and the dedicated students who work diligently to craft the yearbook did not go unnoticed. We are Westhill proud!



## National Technical Honor Society

On November 21, 2019, eight Westhill High School students were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. The mission of the NTHS is to honor student achievement and leadership, promote educational excellence and enhance career and scholarship opportunities for members. Congratulations to Dominick Carfagno, Kevin Kelly, Adam Amaya, Hannah Sheridan, Amal Aboushanab, Madelyn Wheelden, Angelina Camardella and Alyiah Geiger.



## Chemistry Club

Members of the American Chemistry Society Club, led by Paige Agostini, raised \$1,195 for Special Olympics. They braved the frigid temperatures and cold water to support a wonderful organization. They were one of the top 12 money-raising teams for the Polarity Plungers event. They hope to continue the tradition next year.



# Westhill High School

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## Volleyball Wins State Championship

Another dream season has ended with a championship crown for the Warrior Volleyball team. For the second consecutive year, the Warriors brought home the New York State Championship after beating Ardsley of Section One on Sunday, November 25, 2019 at the Glens Falls Civic Center. After the win, Sara Galante was named All-State Tournament MVP and Gianna Militi and Sarah Schwartz were named to the All-State Tournament Team. Well done, Lady Warriors. Congratulations on another outstanding season!



## Fall Teams Earn NYSPHSAA Academic Honors

At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) honors those teams and individuals that excel in the classroom. Those student-athletes, teams and schools work very hard throughout the year and deserve to be recognized for their academic success. To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition, the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90.00. If a team does not meet the Scholar-Athlete Team Criteria, the individuals on that team with a 90.00 or above GPA are considered an Individual Scholar-Athlete.

This fall Westhill had a total of eight out of nine fall varsity teams earning the team honor (75% of team greater than a 90% average). The teams that earned this honor included boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' tennis, boys' cross country, girls' cross country, boys' golf, girls' swimming and volleyball. We had 187 varsity athletes participating in the fall sports program. Out of this 187, 117 earned a 90% or greater average for the 1st quarter (63% earned greater or equal to 90%). Westhill student athletes are committed in the classroom and on the athletic fields and courts. Congratulations fall athletes on your successes in the classroom!

## World-Famous Composer Visits Westhill High School

In late fall, the Westhill instrumental music department hosted composer, Brian Balmages, for a residency comprised of clinics, masterclasses and Q&A sessions with concert band, symphonic band and wind ensemble students. Brian Balmages is the world's foremost composer for young-adult ensembles. His presence at Westhill with the bands was akin to an English Department hosting Suzanne Collins, Rick Riordan or J.K. Rowling; Mr. Balmages is a superstar in the band world!



Each ensemble prepared one of Mr. Balmages compositions ahead of time and then had the opportunity to play through and deeply rehearse the piece with him. Our band students played beautifully and asked thoughtful questions about his compositional methods, musical intent with their specific pieces, inspiration for his compositions and about creativity and the creative process. Repertoire performed throughout the residency included Mr. Balmages' *Moscow, 1941* (Concert Band), *Hypnotic Fireflies* (Symphonic Band) and *Shrine of the Fallen* (Wind Ensemble).

# Onondaga Hill Middle School

## Students of the Month

### November

5th Grade: Lucy DeMore is a role model student who demonstrates many of the P2 character traits. She shows kindness towards students and teachers every day and proves her love for learning with putting her best effort into all of her schoolwork. Her creative efforts and active participation brighten the classroom.

6th Grade: Aiden Amidon is always contributing to thoughtful conversations and collaborates with all his peers, making him a very valuable member of his classroom community. Aiden is a trustworthy student who models integrity every day.

7th Grade: Riley Sheridan is kind and polite to staff and peers. He is constantly working hard and trying his best to positively attempt all tasks and activities presented.

8th Grade: Elena Kleberg is mature, responsible, hard working and incredibly kind. She has a positive attitude and loves to laugh.



### December

5th Grade: Nicolas Cardoso always has a positive attitude. He shows respect to all of his classmates and teachers. He is an excellent role model.

6th Grade: Kellen Pens understands the value of hard work and aims for his highest potential in all subject areas. He is kind to his peers and teachers and always willing to lend a hand to someone in need.

7th Grade: Nami Sierra is never afraid to let her true colors shine. Her kindness, authenticity and compassion do not go unnoticed; she is the definition of other people matter.

8th Grade: Gracie Gray has an enthusiastic attitude and is a creative thinker who gives her best effort every day. It is easy to see by the way Gracie treats everyone equally that she has a strong sense of fairness and feels that other people matter.



## Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our overall Spelling Bee Champion, Matthew Stephenson, and runners up Cade Caloia, Hannah Williams and Emma Gorman. They will be representing Westhill in the next stage of the Onondaga County Spelling Bee sponsored by the Post Standard. Also, congratulations to all of our participants who qualified through our school wide written spelling test. Other participants were Anthony Cardoso, Alden Carroll, Alex Dacko, Collin Lopez, Caroline Menon, Alexa Perry, Mary Kate Rewakowski, Alex Tyszka and Jack VanEpps.



# Onondaga Hill Middle School

## Art Room Happenings

The enthusiastic artists in Mrs. Feyerabend's 5th grade classes just completed figure drawings of one another. Gesture drawing is a drawing style that allows the artist to draw quickly and minimally, which is a great activity to prepare and warm up for drawing a self-portrait. Students who chose to, posed/modeled (for under 90 seconds) while everyone in the class drew them. One of the 5th graders thought it would be fun to cut up the drawings of their classmates and share them with each "model". Ms. Clemo's class is holding their little portrait books. Next on our art agenda, self-portrait wire sculptures.



Mrs. Feyerabend's 6th grade students viewed a collection of animal collages created by popular collage artist, Michel Keck. The inspired students jumped right in with wonderful renditions of their favorite animals. These unique artworks were constructed with the use of black glue, assorted patterned papers and pastels. Great job, 6th graders! Carter Wilson's "Dog" is shown here.



## Rainforest Conversations

Fifth grade students are learning and building background knowledge about the rainforest and ways in which scientists study and collect data about the rainforest. In addition to reading the text, *The Most Beautiful Roof in the World*, students video chatted with pioneer rainforest scientist, Dr. Nalini Nadkarni. Dr. Nalini Nadkarni is one of the first scientists to study the rainforest canopy and is a leading expert in her field. Her drive to get all students, especially girls, interested in science, led her to create "Tree-Top Barbie" with the company Mattel.

Dr. Nadkarni spoke with students about her work, process and experiences in the rainforest, which connected directly to *The Most Beautiful Roof in the World*. Students were able to brainstorm questions in class and had a chance to ask Dr. Nadkarni to further their background knowledge about the rainforest. The positivity project traits of curiosity and love of learning were on full display both from the students and Dr. Nadkarni. It was an excellent experience for all involved!



# Onondaga Hill Middle & Cherry Road Schools

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## Merry-Go-Round Playhouse Visit

Fifth graders learned about Biodiversity in the Rainforest during their second EL module. One of the guiding questions throughout the module was, "Why do scientists study the rainforest?"

Merry-Go-Round Playhouse came to OHMS and performed a play entitled, "Emilia and the Heart of the Amazon". The students participated in a pre-performance preparatory workshop with the actors, and then enjoyed the entertaining play that helped build background knowledge about the biodiversity of the rainforest and solutions to solve some environmental issues.



## PE Amazing Person Award

At the 2019 annual New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (NYS AHPERD) conference held in November at the Turning Stone Conference center, Mr. Connelly was recognized as the 2019 Central North Zone Elementary/Middle School Physical Education Amazing Person. He was honored for his commitment to excellence and continuing to instill the importance of physical education in our students through multiple measures of instruction.



## 3rd Grade Motion Unit

The students in Mrs. Neumire's third grade class recently learned the game Ringer as part of their motion unit. The game teaches them about the use of force to move a stationary object. To play the game, students arranged marbles in a cross or "X" shape and then tried to knock marbles out of the circle using their thumb knuckle. Not only did the students learn a new scientific concept, they also practiced their skills of self-control, fairness and curiosity.



# Cherry Road School

## Positivity With a Twist

During the Month of December, Mr. King challenged the students and staff to create a bulletin board in their section of the hallway that displayed one of the three character strengths taught during the (Kindness, Humility, and Self Control) with some seasonal flair added in. Throughout the entire month, classrooms were very hard at work designing, creating and decorating their board to show their selected strength. As an extra incentive for students and teachers, it was announced that one classroom's board would be chosen by the staff for embracing and displaying their character strength in the most creative way. When all the votes were tallied, Mrs. Tooley's third grade class's "Acts of Kindness Board" was voted the winner by the staff at Cherry Road. As a reward, Mr. King came in the week before the holiday break and did a special reading activity with the class. However, the Cherry Road school community was the biggest winner by being able to see the creativity and beauty that our students were able to display throughout all of the hallways at Cherry Road during the holiday season.



## Annual Holiday Concert

What better way to kick off the holiday season at Cherry Road than with our annual holiday concert? On December 12, the third and fourth grade choruses, under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Colaluca, performed a jaw dropping performance at the high school auditorium. The students of Cherry Road had been having rehearsals since September to prepare for the big night, and did not disappoint anyone in the audience. These concerts were a great way to ring in the holiday season for the Westhill School community. Students and adults alike had an enjoyable evening of music and merriment. Mrs. Colaluca, as well as all of the behind the scenes helpers, deserve a very big thank you for all they did to make these concerts happen for everyone to enjoy!



## Learning With Legos

On November 19 and 21, 2019, third grade students visited the Bricks 4 Kidz Creativity Center as an extension of their motion unit in science. While there, students collaboratively completed activities that allowed them to experience and explore the laws of motion. The third graders loved using their critical thinking and problem solving skills to assemble a motorized seesaw and build small derby cars. Students also enjoyed using their creativity to construct 3-dimensional and mosaics with Legos. It was a fun day of learning for everyone.



# Cherry Road & Walberta Park Schools

## Annual Holiday Play

Cherry Road's 4th graders put on their annual holiday play. This year, under the direction of Mrs. Abulencia, Mrs. Appel, Mrs. Geiss, Mrs. Lootens, Mrs. Ziober, Mrs. DeTomaso, Mrs. Kelly, Mrs. Raven, Mrs. Rolince and Mrs. Sampo, the fourth graders presented A Christmas Peter Pan. In this modified version of the classic tale, Tinker Bell summons Wendy, Michael and John to save Peter and Santa who have been taken captive by none other than Captain Hook and his band of evil pirates at the North Pole. In this rousing adventure, the students were able to bring these beloved characters to life and give some of the students their first taste of acting. All of the students did a fantastic job remembering their lines and were able to learn the art of being flexible theatre performers. Both students and adult directors did a marvelous job at preparing and presenting this beloved tale to community during this holiday season.



## 4th Grade Cultural Experiences

In October, all fourth grade students took advantage of a great local resource to learn more about the Central New York area. Students in fourth grade learn about the history of New York State. In doing so, they learned about the early inhabitants of the State, most importantly the Haudenosaunee, or People of the Longhouse. While learning the history of any people, it is important to see history through the eyes of others. At Skä•noñh – (Great Law of Peace Center), students learn about history told through the lens of the Onondaga Nation. Students attended a half-day trip to the Great Law Of Peace Center to experience this learning first hand. All students returned from this trip with many stories and ideas to enhance their learning from the classroom.

In late November, all fourth grade students were treated to a live production of the Nutcracker performed by the Syracuse City Ballet. Students attended a half-day trip to attend the ballet in downtown Syracuse. For some students, this was their first exposure to the art of dance and performance. Through this excursion, students were able to see, hear and experience performance art in a wonderful venue.



## Fund Drive

Walberta Coins for Kids school fund drive donated to Syracuse Challenger baseball. Mr. Dom Cambareri, Executive Director of Syracuse Challenger Baseball, came to accept the donation and personally thank all the students of Walberta Park School. He also presented Dr. Kramer with a Syracuse Challenger Baseball Top and made her an honorary member.



# Walberta Park School

## Blood Drive

In November, Walberta Park had their second Pint-Size Hero Blood Drive, and it was quite the success. Students asked adult friends and family to donate. More than 60 pints have been collected between the last two drives, which will help over 180 people. Thank you so much for your support. Another drive is being planned for the end of March. Please consider booking an appointment and supporting the American Red Cross and our Pint-Size Heroes at Walberta.



## Fitness Fridays

The Site-Based Team at Walberta Park is pleased to have West Side Gymnastics School return to teach classes before school to our students. The children are enjoying using a springboard, learning tumbling, flips, cartwheels and handstands. What a healthy way to start our winter Fridays!



## Mindful First Graders

Mrs. Piorkowski has been visiting first grade classrooms to teach mindfulness techniques and strategies to help students when they are feeling anxious. Students imagined their personal "snowglobe" was shaken up and then thought about what brings them peace and calmness to settle their personal snowglobe.



## Math Exploration

Kindergarten students are enjoying learning about and exploring shapes. They are learning about hexagons by finding several ways to build a hexagon using pattern blocks.



## Kindergarten Weather Lessons



As part of an ELA and science study on weather, WSYR Meteorologist, Kate Thornton, came to visit the kindergarten classes.

# District News

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## Notice of Annual Inspections

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2019-2020 of the school buildings, concession stand, and bus garage of the Westhill Central School District for fire hazards, which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the district office located at Walberta Park Elementary School, 400 Walberta Road, Syracuse, NY 13219 for inspection by all interested persons.

## Notice of Availability of Asbestos Management Plan

As provided under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, (AHERA-EPS 40 CFR 763), Westhill Central School District hereby makes known the steps it has undertaken to comply with AHERA and the availability of asbestos management plans.

1. Beginning in 1989, all district owned facilities were inspected for asbestos and management plans were developed for each building according to the requirements of AHERA. Triennial reinspections are conducted every three years. Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES of Syracuse, NY completed the 2004 AHERA Triennial inspection and update to the asbestos management plans.
2. Periodic Surveillance of asbestos containing building materials is conducted every six months.
3. All custodial and maintenance staff have undergone 2-hour Asbestos Awareness Training.
4. All response actions taken are within federal and state guidelines.

Management Plans may be viewed at the Westhill CSD Building and Grounds Office during office hours from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information, please contact the following individual: Edward Wittkowski, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3300.

## Transportation to Nonpublic Schools

Following the guidelines of Section 3635 of New York State Education Law, the Westhill Central School District is advising the parents of students seeking transportation to a nonpublic school that a written request must be submitted to the Westhill Board of Education by April 1st of the preceding year. New residents may submit their request after the April 1st deadline, but must do so within thirty days after establishing residence in the district and must also submit a residency affidavit. The school board may refuse to grant a late transportation request where additional expenses and new transportation arrangements would be necessary. A formal transportation request form may be received directly from the nonpublic school at the time of enrollment and must be completed and received at the Westhill Central School District prior to April 1, 2020. The transportation request form and residency affidavit may be found on the Westhill CSD website under Transportation.

On days in which public schools are scheduled to be closed, in accordance with the Westhill school district calendar, the district is not obligated to transport to the nonpublic schools. Under no circumstances may transportation be provided on legal holidays or Saturdays.

## Transportation Personnel Needed

Bus Drivers and Bus Driver Attendants (training provided)

Applications can be found on our website, [www.westhillschools.org](http://www.westhillschools.org), under the District tab. Please submit application to:

Transportation Department, Attn: Jeri Burke  
Westhill Central School District  
400 Walberta Road  
Syracuse, NY 13219

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Westhill Central School District  
400 Walberta Road  
Syracuse, New York 13219-2214

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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.

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## DISTRICT NEWS

### Paint Westvale Purple

The WDEA, your Westhill Teachers Union, will again sponsor a district-wide writing contest in conjunction with Paint Westvale Purple, a 5K Run/Walk held at Cherry Road School.

Last year, PWP donated \$13,100 to eight local charities, including the Westhill Educational Foundation and the Westhill Booster Club. Five of the additional charities were selected by the student contest winners.

Building-wide contests, which this year will include separate categories for 5th/6th and 7th/8th at OHMS, will kick off this winter and all essays will be due March 6, 2020.

PWP will make a donation to the chosen charities of the winners, and in addition, winners receive a small cash prize, a PWP T-shirt, free race entry and special recognition at the event.

Look for flyers in backpacks and announcements at schools. PWP will be held Sunday April 26, 2020. In addition to the 5K, it will feature a kid's dash and a new and improved 1 Mile Color Run. For more information, follow PWP on Facebook or email [pwp5krun@gmail.com](mailto:pwp5krun@gmail.com). Registration for the run is open and can be accessed through our Facebook page or [pwp5krun.com](http://pwp5krun.com).



The Misfits Animal Rescue and Sanctuary was one of last year's charity contest winners. Pictured here is Opie the Misfit, who attend both the race expo and race day, where he greeted children finishing the Kid's Dash.

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