



OHMS Annual Food Drive

Every year the week prior to Thanksgiving, National Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week is held. The annual OHMS canned food drive to help eliminate hunger and homelessness this holiday season was a success. The students, staff and families worked together to collect a total of 3,338 food and can donations to benefit our local Rescue Mission. Mrs. Beauvais' 6th grade class collected the most items, and helped load them onto the Rescue Mission truck. We thank everyone for their participation in helping our community!



Winter Break

February 21-
February 25



Walberta Park School

Guest Reader

Superintendent Dunham stopped Mrs. Byrne's kindergarten class to read them a story.



Pillow Polo

Mrs. Merritt's kindergarten class enjoyed a game of pillow polo in Mr. Hoag's physical education class.



Pajama Day

On December 22, Walberta Park students celebrated pajama day.



Cherry Road School

Fourth Grade Drama Club

The 4th grade Drama Club did a fantastic job performing “Alice in Christmasland” this year. The students and their directors worked for several months to memorize lines and stage the performance. We were able to have families in to watch the performance on our newly renovated stage here at Cherry Road. All students at Cherry Road School were able to watch the performance via livestream. Kudos to the performers!



Winter Clothing Drive

Cherry Road students helped WEST organize winter clothing for the winter clothing drive. They sorted clothing by size and type to be donated to local charities. It was a great opportunity for students to participate in a service learning project.



IDEAS Club

During the month of January, which is poverty awareness month, fourth graders in our IDEAS club are collecting socks. They will distribute the socks as well as cards to homeless shelters for individuals in need. Socks are traditionally the most requested but least donated item to the homeless. It is a great way for our Cherry Road community to participate in some service learning. Pictured are students putting together bags of essential items to distribute to people in need at their most recent meeting.



Cherry Road and Onondaga Hill Middle Schools

Hour of Code

For one week in December, Onondaga Hill Middle and Cherry Road Schools participated in the Hour of Code. Hour of Code is a world-wide event that introduces computer science concepts to students such as coding or programming. Students can work on coding puzzles using critical thinking, collaboration and problem-solving. The students absolutely loved it!

Here is what students had to say: "It's fun because I get to use my imagination." ~Griffin J.; "It's like a new experiment. If you like video games, you can learn how to code them." ~Ethan W.; "It's like a game but it's learning!" ~Katie C. and "I like hour of code because I get to be creative." Kierra M.

To find out more about how students can learn to code, visit www.code.org. It's a great at home cold weather, rainy day activity!



Pride Club Welcomes Guest Speaker

The OHMS Pride Club has been off and running this year. Many students gather together to show support, take time to be together and do activities for our school. Guest speaker from the Onondaga Free Library, Alyssa Newton, joined us at our last meeting. Mrs. Newton presented about many activities available at the library on nights and weekends, shared several popular novels to our group and did a creative activity making pins. We are so very grateful for the opportunity and support!



Creative Instruction

Mrs. Martin's 5th grade class made yarn dolls as a fun way to wrap up the first EL Module. The students read *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan and other stories that focused on human rights. The yarn doll is a significant symbol in the text as it represents a turning point in the story for the main character.



Onondaga Hill Middle School

Students of the Month

November

5th Grade: Brynna Sisack's enthusiasm and kindness she shows toward her classmates is contagious. She is an excellent student who loves to learn and to be challenged. Brynna is a role model student and friend.

6th Grade: Leigh Mathews is a wonderful young lady. Leigh is a leader in the classroom and chooses to lead by example. She is kind and compassionate towards everyone she comes into contact with. She always goes above and beyond and is adamant about meeting her goals. Her attitude is a model for all scholars as she constantly shows perseverance and resilience. Leigh is a valuable member of the OHMS family.

7th Grade: Bella Domick is kind, attentive, hard-working, open-minded and optimistic. She has made a great transition to OHMS. Her attitude and upbeat personality make her truly one of a kind. Keep up the good work, Bella. We are lucky to have you as part of our Westhill family.

8th Grade: Lorenzo Rice knows every one of his classmates and goes out of his way to greet them with his contagious enthusiasm. He works hard to participate in class. He studies for his tests and quizzes so he can do his best. He is an important member of our school community.

December

5th Grade: Madilin Speer is a kind and compassionate person. Her positive outlook is reflected in both her school work and interactions with others. She always brings the sunshine to the classroom and demonstrates the P2 trait that other people matter. Congratulations!

6th Grade: Bilal Abraham is a charismatic and thoughtful young man. He is always fully engaged with classroom discussions and activities. He is a perfect example of how working hard in the classroom can be fun with the right perspective. He is friendly and works well with everyone he comes into contact with. He brings positive energy and thoughtful insight to the classroom and is a valuable member of the OHMS family.

7th Grade: Mary Detor displays so many of our P2 character traits: Leadership, Love of Learning, Humility, Gratitude and Honesty. Mary also has a positive attitude no matter what is happening. She is a really sweet soul, and goes out of her way to help her peers. Mary is truly selfless in this because she helps those around her as she is completing her own work rather than finishing first and then helping.

8th Grade: Alex Tyszka is a responsible student. He is friendly to others and is always willing to help. He works hard and makes excellent contributions in class discussions. He is insightful and willing to share.

STEM and Social Studies Working Together

Fifth grade students have been learning about the Maya, Aztec and Inca civilizations and how these societies were very complex. In particular, they studied the advanced agricultural farming methods of the Aztecs. Because their capital city was located in the middle of a lake, the Aztecs created floating gardens or "chinampas" which became an aquaculture for them to fish, farm and raise animals. The students were engaged in a STEM challenge to design and build their own floating garden in which they would grow chia seeds. A huge thank you to the Parent Council who donated the funds to make this project a hit for all.



Onondaga Hill Middle and Westhill High Schools

Art 7 Masterpieces

Ms. O'Brien's 7th grade art students shined a light on their creativity. Their radial design projects required planning and perseverance and each student produced beautiful works of art!



ECOS Participates in CNY Youth Climate Summit

ECOS members met with local leaders, experts and neighboring high school groups to better understand the complexities of climate change. They spent time engaging in dialogue centered around how we are contributing to the problem, and how to make a positive impact in their school and homes. Students used the knowledge gained from guest speakers to develop a year-long action plan. Members began implementing some ideas right away, starting with a reusable utensil sale. Students sold reusable bamboo silverware sets, which included stainless steel straws (and brush cleaners) in an effort to encourage both students and staff from using plastic one-time-use silverware. The sale was a huge success! The group can't wait to begin implementing their other ideas.



Letter of Intent Signing

In the November 2021 edition, it was incorrectly reported that Marisa Rosati signed a National Letter of Intent to play lacrosse at Sacred Heart. Marisa will be playing lacrosse at The College of St. Rose in the fall.

Westhill High School

DECA Competition

On Saturday, December 11 at Solvay High School, our newly formed DECA club (WHS business club) competed against schools around the area. Congratulations to all competitors! Members: Brian Allen, Franny Argentieri*, Ella BenYehuda*, Ashley Bolesh*, Bodie Centore*, Karly Dillabough*, Luke Gilmartin, Gracelyn Gray*, Lee Hynes*, Anthony Maglisco, Iris Markham*, Karlie McGann*, Sean Rogers*, Charlotte Roth, Aidan Ryan, Mia Scott and Dominic Zawadzki.

*won first place



Holiday Gift Giving

On December 3, DECA students went to St. Lucy's to help volunteers set up for their holiday gift giving program. They worked very hard organizing clothes, toys and household goods for the event the next day. It was a wonderful experience for all.



Agricultural Connection

Mr. Speziale's Global 9 class has been focusing on the development of ancient civilizations. One essential question was, "What factor led early humans from the Stone Age into the more developed and advanced society of early civilizations?" The leading cause of the development of civilizations was the introduction of systematic farming with access to fresh water. In order to cement this idea into students' thinking, they have been introduced to a classroom garden to make connections to the content. The students planted beets, arugula, spinach and carrots using a system of planned rows and tools. With access to a kitchen nearby, students continue to water the plants and care for them as they grow. The garden has allowed students to make connections to the vocabulary words agriculture and domestication through the use of real-world application skills and hands-on learning. The classroom garden is not only integral to the current social studies topic, but has an interdisciplinary component as well.



Every day, Mr. Patrie's class has been measuring the plant growth and tracking the data. The students will be showing this data on a graph. Additionally, Mrs. Kurro's English class is reading the *City of Ember*, a novel by Jeanne DuPrau, in which they are making connections between the underground society to the specialized jobs and farming that keeps that civilization in order. The garden allows for visuals, connections and hands-on learning that can be used in both academics and the real world. We are looking forward to continuing to make those connections as we go forward with our school year!

Westhill High School

Scholastic Art Competition

Students in Miss McHale's photography classes competed in the annual Scholastic Art Competition. The Scholastic Art Competition is open to all students in grades 7-12 who submit artwork in 28 categories. Two students from the high school won a total of three awards this year. Ilham Thabet (Collision, top left) and Kahlil Franks (Frozen Heart, top right) won Silver Key Awards. Ilham Thabet also won Honorable Mention for Golden Hour (bottom). All three pieces will be on display at OCC in the Whitney Applied Technology Center starting January 18 through March 4, 2022.



Scholar-Team Athletes

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%. If a team does not meet the Scholar-Athlete Team Criteria, the individuals on that team with a 90% or above GPA are considered individual Scholar-Athletes.



This fall, Westhill had eight out of our nine varsity teams earning the team honor. Scholar-Athlete teams include girls' tennis, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' cross country, boys' cross country, girls' swim, volleyball and boys' golf. We had 168 varsity athletes participating in the fall sports program. Out of this 168, 121 earned a 90% or greater average for the 1st quarter. Congratulations, student athletes!

PRIDE Club Angels

The Westhill High School PRIDE Club has been busy the last few weeks partnering with ACR Health of Syracuse to brighten the holidays for one local family as part of the "Holiday Angels" program. The program helps clients that struggle with chronic diseases. Most come to ACR Health because they lack extra funds for clothing and sometimes they lack shelter or money for food or medications. Thank you very much to PRIDE members and some students in Mrs. Bower's health classes who purchased items for the family and helped them have more joyful holiday season!



Westhill High School

Warriors of the Month

NOVEMBER

9th Grade: Riley Sheridan enjoys school and learning. He frequently contributes in class discussions, and can often be seen working with other students to complete an assignment. He is dedicated to his studies and works hard to help others. Keep it up, Riley!

10th Grade: Hannah Tjaden is an excellent role model to her peers in class. She is a very hard worker and one of the nicest students in the building. She is always willing to go the extra mile to help others out. Currently, she is connecting with one of our students who cannot physically attend school. Once or twice a week she meets with this student through Google Meet and explains to her what we have been doing in science class. Not only does this help our student academically, but allows her to connect with a peer as well. Thank you, Hannah, for all that you do!

11th Grade: Gage Craven is always looking out for other students' wellbeing. Recently, on a trip to the stream, one student was having trouble navigating the terrain and Gage was immediately there to help when the student lost their balance. Keep up the good work!

12th Grade: Kyleigh O'Hearn comes to class ready to learn something new. She is a dedicated student and gives her all every day. Kyleigh can work well with anyone and isn't afraid to go out of her comfort zone. She has a kind heart that is felt by many around the building. Congratulations, Kyleigh!

DECEMBER

9th Grade: Teddy Popp is always ready to volunteer answers in class and contribute to discussions. He works very hard, is always up to date and his assignments are completed to the best of his ability. He is helpful to both his peers and his teachers. Teddy is a great example of what a great student should be.

10th Grade: Jameson Hogan is a classroom leader and is a hardworking student in Global History. He has a smile on his face, and he is the first to get to work on classroom activities. He always participates and he is a great role model for his peers!

11th Grade: Baillie Nicoll is always excited to learn new things in class and has amazing, unique ideas. Baillie is always enthusiastic and goes above and beyond in her classwork.

12th Grade: Claire Hunter is a positive and kind person that helps Westhill be the place that it is. She is friendly to all and has no problem working with anybody. You can always count on Claire to do the right thing and go above and beyond what is asked of her.

Holiday Cards

Character Ed was busy before winter break writing cards for veterans at the VA hospital and Loretto nursing home residents. The group sent inspirational messages, drew pictures and wrote letters to our war heroes and senior citizens. Thank you for spreading kindness one letter at a time!



Westhill High School

Relay Team Smashes Record

On Wednesday, December 29, the Westhill girls 4x200 relay team set a Section III and Westhill High School indoor track record with a time of 1:45.69 at the Marine Corps Holiday Classic Meet at the Armory in New York City. The team was made up of Elle Herrera, Ashley Bolesh, Angie Mesa-Espinosa and Kate Bendall.



4X200 RELAY TEAM
SECTION III TRACK
RECORD
1:45:69

French Club Field Trip

In December, the French Club visited the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica. They saw an amazing exhibit of Belgian artist Isabelle de Borchgrave's work called "Fashioning Art from Paper". This exhibit focused on her recreations of historical costumes, all life-sized and all in paper. The students enjoyed a guided tour of the exhibit as well as some time on their own to explore the museum's other artworks. The visit concluded with a relaxing lunch in the museum's restaurant, the Terrace Café. Stay tuned for our next field trip and our trip to Québec and Montréal in February of 2023. Be sure to sign up! Ask Mme Amerault or M. Zimmerman for details.



Coats for Refugees

WHS Character Ed and OHMS Student Council held a winter clothing drive for Syracuse Refugees. Both groups have been collecting and donating items for the past 5+ years for incoming refugee families. This year, we collected a record amount, totaling 49 full sized utility bags full of hats, coats, mittens and other assorted winter gear! We would like to thank all the families who helped support the success of this initiative. Your kindness will help spread a lot of warmth this winter.



District News

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, 2022. 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.

Notice of Annual Inspections

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2021-2022 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 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, Director of Facilities, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3396 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, Director of Facilities, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3396.

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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.

Rules to Live By

Sixth graders launched their "Rules to Live By" module by researching, writing and publicly speaking about influential people who left positive impacts on our world. The incredible students in Mrs. Prince's classes launched "Project Inspire OHMS" to spread a culture of diversity, strength, unity and inclusion for all to see as they walk the halls each day. Their inspirational posters can be found throughout the whole school!

