

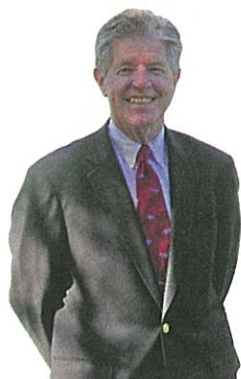
CommunityLink

Summer 2016

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District Leadership

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Fried has been out of the office for the last month, recovering from an illness. We all wish him a speedy recovery. In order to allow him to concentrate on his recuperation, the Board of Education has appointed former Superintendent Timothy Connors as Acting Superintendent to oversee the district. Mr. Connors returned to the district on June 13th and will remain through the summer.



Congratulations, Class of 2016!



At this year's White Plains High School graduation ceremony at the Westchester County Center on June 23rd, there was a common message among the addresses delivered to the 500+ graduates: embrace diversity. Principal Ellen Doherty said: **"You've learned so many things — from physics to lacrosse, from world history to culinary arts, from math to Mozart. But most impressive of all is that you've learned how to be a part of a community and still be yourselves... how to make sense of people who think differently than you do... how to accept that your neighbor is worthy of the same kindness and respect that you are... how to make room at the table for those who are hungry."**

Valedictorian, Jacob Brady reminded his fellow graduates to listen and learn from others: **"The world is full of a diverse array of voices and narratives, and a huge part of learning is hearing from**

others who don't look like us, don't talk like us, don't even agree with us."

In her salutatory address, Sarah Samaranayake said that the WPHS student body represents more than 50 countries and all walks of life — some new to America and White Plains, others lifelong residents — and school brings them together.

"Education is the most powerful tool for obtaining equity because it fosters tolerance, constructive conversation, and respect for one another. Regardless of race, religious preference, or sexual orientation, White Plains High School has always been a safe environment for us to learn, explore, and discover ourselves."



Valedictorian Jacob Brady and Salutatorian Sarah Samaranayake

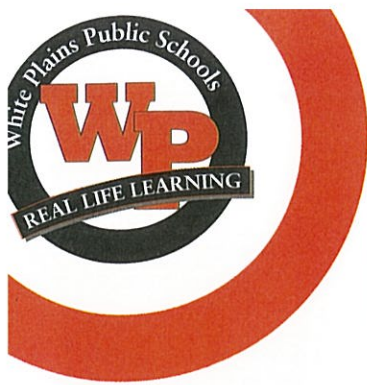
From Highlands to High School

Earlier in the day, 533 Highland Middle Schoolers also took place in a ceremony at the County Center, to celebrate moving up to the High School. Students from every team participated in the program, and five offered greetings in different languages: Nick Berio Castaneda (English), Angie Alvarez (Italian), Dominick Bacchus (French), Gurveen Dhallu (Spanish)

Highlands Middle School Moving-Up Ceremony

and Lily Nguyen (Mandarin Chinese). The choir sang the national anthem and the chorus and jazz band performed a musical medley.



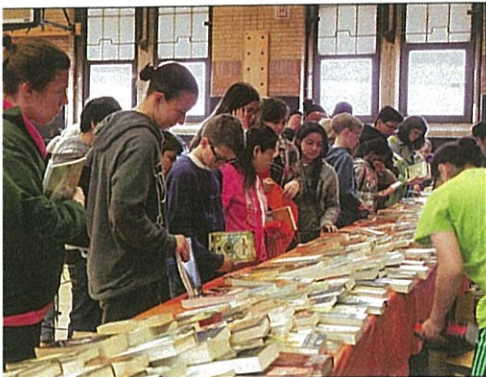


BOE ELECTION

On May 17th, Board of Education members Sheryl Brady and Charlie Norris were re-elected for three-year terms.

Free Book Fair Draws Over 1,100

More than 10,000 books were given away (in less than 90 minutes!) to 1,120 people who attended the 4th Annual White Plains PTA Free Book Celebration at Eastview Middle School in May. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this event such a huge success, by donating, collecting, sorting and storing books, and those who came out in support. The event was chaired by Caroline Furry who created this literacy initiative four years ago.



Welcome! New Assistant Superintendent

Ann Vaccaro-Teich was appointed to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Business at the May 9th Board of Education Meeting. On July 1st she will replace Fred Seiler who retired in June, after 10 years with the district.

Ms. Vaccaro-Teich comes to White Plains with 19 years' experience in that position, most recently in the South Orangetown Central School District, where she was also Deputy Superintendent. Prior to that, she was in public accounting for 14 years and served as Senior Audit Manager for the firm which was the auditor for the school district.

Ms. Vaccaro-Teich has been President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Lower Hudson Council of School Business Officials and has been active in various accounting and financial officers' associations. She has a bachelor's and a master's degree from Pace University and is currently working toward an Educational Doctorate in Executive Leadership.



School Budget & Proposition Pass!

The 2016-2017 school budget of \$208,750,000 and a proposition authorizing the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund were passed by the voters on May 17th with more than 80% in favor of each. We are grateful to everyone who participated in this process, including parents and staff members, who provided valuable input in the budget development. Thanks to

the voters, we are able to enhance our technology curriculum at the elementary and middle school levels; add additional elementary school teachers, a new HS art teacher, and additional assistant coaches; and offer more in-district special education. Thanks also to Fred Seiler, who recently retired as Assistant Superintendent, for his hard work on this budget.

Thank You for Your Service

The Board of Education honored 30 retirees and eight 25-year staff members at its June meeting. Board President Rosemarie Eller and Assistant Superintendent of Schools Fred Seiler congratulated and thanked these staff members for their years of service to the students of White Plains. They presented certificates to the following:

25 Years of Service

Lea Baxter	Richard Kaufmann
Margaret Cavanagh	Filomena Rubillo
Karen Clark	Gail Sansone
George Davison	Bari Slatas

Retirees

Barbara Ammirato	Kathleen D. Junge
Jane Bailey	Robert Laub
Domenica Borsellino	Katrin Laube
David Cabrera	Amy Luck
James Cassavecca	Diane Markert
Beniamino Cipriano	Odessa McGill
Robert J. Efferen	Sandra Mitchell
Cynthia Evans	Marilyn Nieves
Susan Fried	Gail Peluso
Inge Gellatly	Filomena Rubillo
Maria Giardina	Fred Seiler
Lisa Giordano	Rina Slavin
Maria Gonzalez	Carol Ann Tito
Margaret Indelicato	Lesley Tompkins
Rose Jamison	Lorraine Weatherhogg

Rochambeau Students Clean Up National Landmark



Thirty students from Rochambeau School recently spent several hours at Stoney Hill Cemetery in Harrison, a National Historic Landmark, in an effort to clean up and help create a walking path where visitors can pay their respects. Mayor Roach awarded the students Certificates of Commendation from the City of White Plains.

Committed to Computers

Mamaroneck Avenue School 5th grader Joshua Ilberg was named Code.org's Student of the Month for June, in recognition of his efforts to ensure that his classmates who want to learn coding have the opportunity to do so. What Josh learned during enrichment classes, he would share with fellow students during "coding recess" – an idea for which he helped develop and design the curriculum and schedule.

Josh's interest goes beyond coding to everything related to computers and digital

technology and how they can make daily tasks simple and improve lives. One of his teachers shared an example: on a day Josh was home sick, he used FaceTime to log into Office 365 to participate in a group project with fellow classmates. **"He's a great example of a kid who's finding ways to use technology to enhance his own learning,"** said Lisa Fillat, who teaches Math Enrichment.



Science Research Accomplishments

WESTLAKE SCIENCE FAIR

Four WPHS sophomore research students won awards at the Westlake Science Fair in June, the only competition in Westchester for first year (usually sophomore) science research students. This year, 469 students from 28 Westchester high schools competed.

The White Plains winners were:

Benjamin Covello - *2nd Place in Behavioral Science II*

Kelly Marx - *1st Place in Behavioral Science VII*

George Kalyvas - *2nd Place in Cellular & Molecular Biology II*

Caitlin Sergi - *1st Place in Medicine & Health III*

The Science Research Program is a three-year commitment – students apply as freshman, typically present proposals as sophomores and then collect data through lab or field work. About 100 students are expected to participate during the upcoming school year. **"This program is what education should be about: student-directed, hands-on, with teachers acting as more of a coach. We are not**

giving students content, but rather empowering them to find it themselves. They're in charge of determining what they want to learn and how deep they go," said Science Research Teacher Kimberly Fleming. **"They also learn lifelong communication skills that will serve them in college and career, like interacting with professionals and present publicly to an audience."**

REGENERON INTERNSHIPS

Caitlin Sergi and her teacher, Kimberly Fleming, were both selected by Regeneron to participate in internships. Caitlin will take part in the Regeneron Science Research Mentorship Program this summer and next. Ms. Fleming will complete the research mentorship part of her year-long Regeneron STEM Teaching Fellowship through the STEM Leadership Center, in collaboration with Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Teachers College of Columbia University and the U.S. Satellite Laboratory.



"Start With Hello" at Eastview

As part of an ongoing effort to promote unity and eliminate bullying, Eastview Middle School recently received an Award of Excellence from the Sandy Hook Promise

Organization for participating in National Start With Hello Week. Students were trained to recognize classmates who

might feel isolated and reach out to them, starting with a simple "hello." This was one of many activities of the Eastview Anti-Bullying Committee during the school year. The group, comprised of staff and students who meet regularly to plan at least one activity a month, will incorporate Sandy Hook Promise activities into 2016-2017 initiatives. **"We empower our students to take a stand against bullying and promote kindness,"** said Activities Specialist Julie Pastore, who leads the committee.



WPHS Senior Earns Scholarships

Graduating WPHS senior Rose Reiken, who will attend Barnard College in the fall, has been recognized with two prestigious scholarships. From The Financial Service Centers of New York she received the William Siegel Memorial Scholarship Award of \$7,500 plus a laptop computer. Rose was also selected as one of 250 high school seniors nationwide, out of more than 87,000 initial applicants and 2,100 semifinalists, as a regional finalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars Program, receiving a \$1,000 educational stipend.



The mission of the White Plains City School District is to educate and inspire all students, while nurturing their dreams, so they learn continually, think critically, pursue their aspirations and contribute to a diverse and dynamic world.



White Plains Public Schools
5 Homeside Lane
White Plains, NY 10605

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Acting Superintendent of Schools

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Critical Literacy Museum of Human Rights

Highlands Middle School 7th grade Critical Literacy II students were given the task of promoting awareness and celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed by the United Nations in 1948. They worked in small groups to choose one of the 30 human rights described in the Declaration to research and showcase in a museum exhibit, displayed to the school community on June 15th.

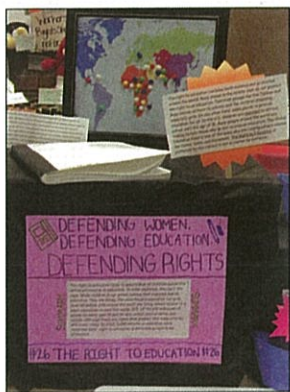
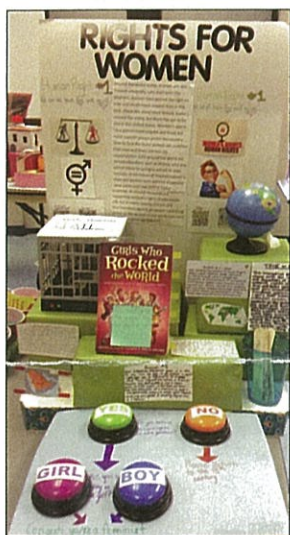
"This project provided learning opportunities in the areas of architectural engineering, layout, teamwork and critical thinking," said teacher Caryn Friedman. **"It also required students to master the aspects of a museum exhibit that include designing artifacts and labels and engineering**

a layout to support the theme of their exhibit."

Students began exploring this theme by reading *A Long Walk to Water* and watching *Rabbit Proof Fence* and discussing that certain rights which are supposed to be guaranteed are often violated.

"Creating this type of problem-based learning where students can advocate for issues they care about, not only promotes ownership, but also encourages students to become compassionate global citizens,"

said Jessica O'Donovan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.



Students Visit Chinese Consulate

Thirteen students in the WPHS Chinese Language Program enjoyed a visit to the Chinese Consulate-General in New York in May, as part of an event designed to increase interest in learning about Chinese language and culture by students of all ages. The group sang a famous Chinese song, "The Moon Represents My Heart," and participated in various activities including Chinese calligraphy writing, dumpling-making, a vocabulary game, and Chinese paper cutting. They also enjoyed a delicious Chinese buffet.

