

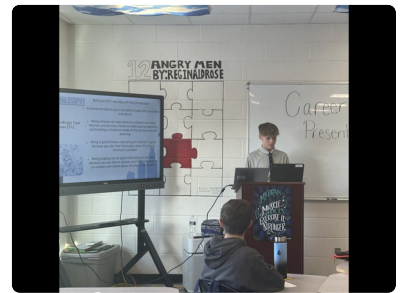
WMS Paw Print 2024.01.26

Bringing you the middle school scoop...

Principal's Message

January 26, 2024

It's a packed version of The Paw Print today. We always enjoy highlighting great learning opportunities, especially ones that build on learning opportunities in other areas of the school and previous years. Starting in 6th Grade our teachers and counselors explore what it means to be a successful learner. As this builds in 7th and 8th Grade we ask students to think about strengths and interests. By the time students reach 8th Grade they are asked to connect all of this to their potential futures.

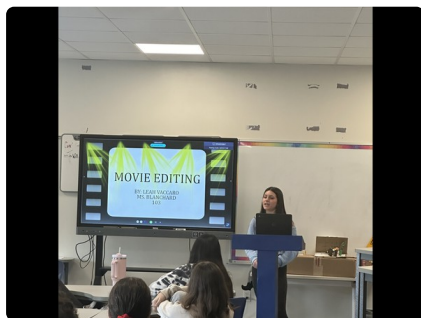


Our 8th Graders have been guided throughout the year to think more deeply about college and careers. The [National Career Clusters Framework](#) serves as an organizing tool for understanding career pathways. In ELA, Students used initial research about the 16 Career Clusters to choose a career to research more deeply. Over the course of the past few weeks, students have explored potential career goals and worked to develop their own career philosophy in connection to their future professional endeavors. When selecting a career, students considered the personality survey they took using Naviance with the help of our Guidance department. Furthermore, as part of their research, students mapped out educational pathways including colleges, graduate schools, internships, trade schools, and residencies that would help them achieve these goals. Making specific connections to educational institutions that would put them on these pathways, students used information from databases and college board websites to help them make informed decisions about which schools align with their goals and values, and the merits needed to attend those colleges. Additionally, students capitalized on the opportunity to include a person who has inspired them on a professional/personal level. Students created an infographic on their person of inspiration and included them in their final Career Research Presentation. Overall, students were assessed on their pose, voice, and engagement with their audience as well as their research skills.

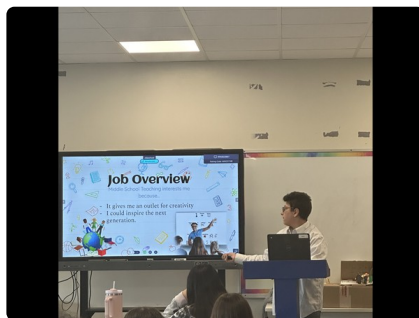
Similarly, 8th Graders have putting their Community Leadership Project ideas into action the second half of the year with direct connections to specific career clusters. See below for some highlights of the projects that we see in action.

KEEP THE PAW PRINT BOOKMARKED!

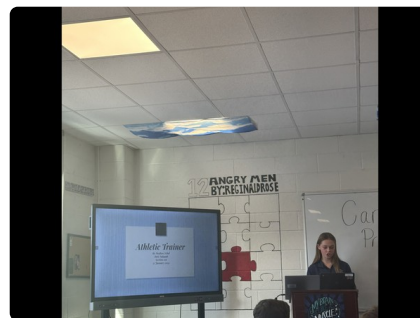
Once you have access to the newsletter the link will update automatically, so go back at any time to see the latest version.



Shining



Bright



Futures

CLICK HERE: Older Versions Of The Paw Print Are Archived On Our Webpage

A glance at the upcoming week...

Week of 1/29-2/2

Monday - Day A

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (Math)
- 2:45-4:00 pm: Science Olympiad

Tuesday - Day B

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (Chess)
- 2:45-4:00 pm: Science Olympiad
- 7:00-8:00 pm: 8th Grade Parent Course Selection Meeting

Wednesday - Day C

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (ELA)
- 2:20-3:20 pm: Environmental Club
- 2:45-4:00 pm: Science Olympiad

Weekly
Bulletin

- 2:45-4:45 pm: Baker's Club

Thursday - Day D

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (Social Studies)
- 2:30-3:15 pm: Yearbook

Friday - Day E

- 2:30-3:30 pm: Art Club

Upcoming Dates:

- February 19th-23rd: School Closed for Winter Recess

Important New Information, Upcoming Events, and Reminders

February 2nd - Disconnect Day

March 1st is National Day Of Unplugging, but we couldn't wait. While technology is great, being connected day after day makes it seem like Groundhog Day, so we are designating next Friday as "Disconnect Day" at WMS. We will all try to limit our use of technology. While there may be a Smartboard used here or there, we are encouraging classes to think about the merits of using technology along side the need to disconnect from time to time and go back to some analog learning opportunities.



We encourage families to continue discussions at home to think critically about the role of technology in our lives. We appreciate and value the feedback we get from families, including your thoughts about the role of technology and hope the ongoing conversations help us adjust as a school in ways that are beneficial to all. We'll share some highlights and thoughts about our experience and look towards March 1st as another possible opportunity to continue these conversations.

LINK: <https://nationaltoday.com/national-day-of-unplugging/>

January 30th at 7:00 p.m. - WMS Incoming 8th Grade Course Selection Parent Meeting

We will be hosting a meeting on January 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the WMS Cafeteria to share information about Mathematics and Science courses available in 8th Grade. Students will receive information in school prior to this meeting and we will share additional information in the coming weeks.



January 31st - National Junior Honor Society Interest Form Due

All students have the Google Classroom Code for NJHS. A primary goal of the process is to foster motivation and independence. We encourage parents to use this as an early teachable moment for future experiences in high school and college, such as college applications.



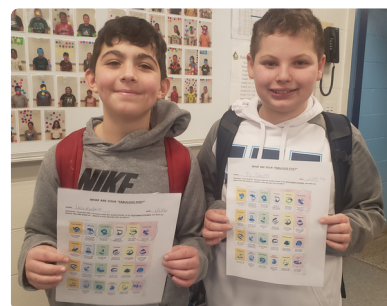
Students are responsible for meeting deadlines. The deadline for The Interest Form and Teacher Recommendation Requests is January 31st. All other materials are due April 15th.

Additional prompts and questions for the writing requirement have been added to the Google Classroom page. The expectation is that students reflect and share the merits that make them a strong candidate for The National Junior Honor Society. They DO NOT need to write a long essay. They can answer one or more of the questions or prompts.

Principal's Leadership Group - Snapshots of What's Happening

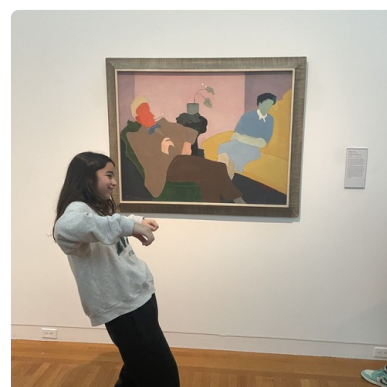
6th Grade Naviance Career Development - Guidance Corner

Our 6th graders have just become acquainted with Naviance, and now have access to their own accounts. They have been engaging in conversations about career development and how their strengths, values, and interests, along with their merits and hard work, will influence their vocational choices. They learned how to use Naviance tools to discover different career paths, research their career clusters, and set related goals for the future. Students in Westlake Foundations identified their 5 Best Character Strengths, among the 24 traits we all possess to some degree.



7th Grade Trip to The Wadsworth Athenaeum

On Wednesday a group of 7th Graders visited the Wadsworth Athenaeum. These cultural experiences help students grow and develop a love of the arts. We are grateful to Dr. Cowles for making sure students receive these enriching experiences.



8th Grade Visit From Groundwork Hudson Valley - The "Science Barge"

8th graders engaged in two workshops hosted by the sustainability team of Joel Rodriguez and Zoe Camhi from Groundwork Hudson Valley, (Science Barge). This is the 6th year that this program has been funded through the Pleasantville Garden Club and the first one that has been in-person at Westlake for several years. Today's visit focused on the **Living River and You** workshop, in which students learned about the wildlife that are a vital part of the food chain and estuarine ecosystem of the Hudson River.



Other highlights included:

- Discussions on feeding habits of eels, blue herons, bald eagles, blue crabs, sturgeon and oysters.
- Oyster beds and their comeback in the Hudson River and how they are being cultivated.
- The Atlantic Sturgeon's comeback and importance in the Hudson River ecosystem.

These naturalists fielded questions and kept our students engaged at the end of the workshop through a board game played by all students that focused on macroinvertebrates living in the Hudson River.

Photojournalism - Community Leadership Project

Many of the photos, images, and description you see and will be seeing are part of a project that Lucas and Kleidi have started. They are interested in documenting and sharing the great work that is being done. We look forward to seeing the middle school through your lens.



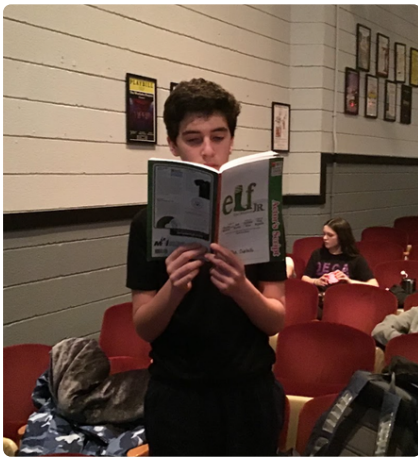
Elf Jr. OPENING NIGHT!

The first of four performances was a power packed fun ride. The energy in the theater and back stage was palpable. Those attending any of the next three performances are in for a treat. A very deep and special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Williams. Your talent is no secret, but is the sense of community and belonging that the our musical performances bring to Westlake Middle School that elevates the experience and makes us a great school and great community.



Check out this NBC News New York piece on Mr. and Mrs. Williams and our stellar theater program.

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/on-air/as-seen-on/the-blair-witch-project-actor-reacts-to-found-footage-film-25-years-later/5064207/>



Studying The Script

We're proud of the impressive work that the cast put in to learn the script and come together as a team.



Long Days and Nights of Rehearsal

The time that staff and students invested in this production is remarkable.



Behind The Scenes

The impressive dozens of students working to build sets and manage the back stage workings.

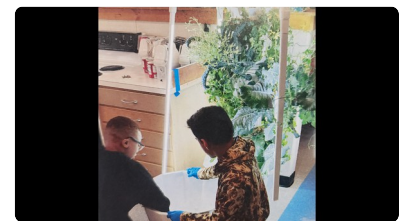
Helping The Lost Become Found - Community Leadership Project

Liliana and Isabella have undertaken a project to inventory and share descriptions of misplaced clothing so we can get them back to you. We'll share their information as soon as it is ready.



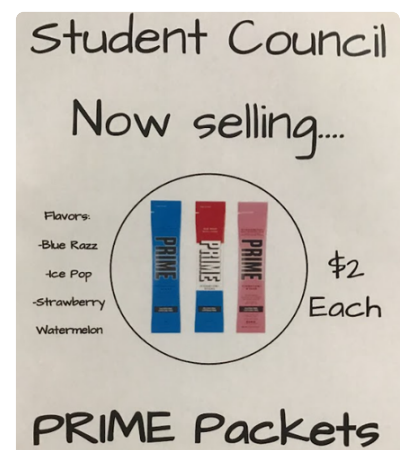
The Hard Work of Hydroponics - Community Leadership Project

Phoenix, Joahn, and several other students have remained dedicated to maintaining our hydroponic grow towers. The next question is what to do with all of the leafy greens that we are growing? We know they'll come up with a few good ideas.



Marketing and Finance - Community Leadership Project

A group of 8th graders is using their entrepreneurial spirit to bring new items to the school store, while figuring out how to track inventory, expenses, and profit. As we challenged them to think deeply about what to offer students, they determined that hydration for all of our athletes would be a great product to offer. In addition to thinking more concretely about career pathways and choices, we want students to develop a sense of agency and ownership over their school environment.



Save The Dates and Flyers

THE CAVE

Located in Bethel, CT

For Grades 6, 7, and 8


FEBRUARY 21st

Join us for mini-golf, laser tag, ropes course, bumper cars! Each participant will receive a \$10 game card!

The bus will leave the Mt. Pleasant Community Center at 10am and return at 4pm

Resident Fee: \$60
Non Resident Fee: \$72
Activity #: 911234 A

Scan to register!



Register with the Mt. Pleasant Recreation Department!

Made with Canva



Registration is now open for the following:

Tee-Ball 5 & 6 (Co-Ed)

Baseball AA/AAA 7 & 8

Minors Baseball 9 & 10

Majors Baseball 11 & 12

Softball 8U, 10U & 12U

Please visit Shermanparkll.com to register

Early Bird discount ends 1/15/24

Registration closes 2/24/24

Westlake Middle School

CLASS OF
2024

Save the Date

8th Grade Moving Up Dance

Sponsored by the WMS PTA

Club Infinity

404 Irvington Street
Pleasantville

June 25th

7:00-10:00

Full Buffet Dinner

&

DJ



Westlake Wildcat Sports

Please check the Westlake Wildcats Sports Calendar for ANY updates or changes.

CALENDAR: <http://www.westlakewildcats.org/calendar>

Athletic Office contacts:

Shawn Baumann, Athletic Director at sbaumann@mtplcsd.org

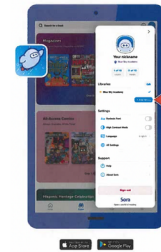
Maria DiNota, Athletic Secretary at mdinota@mtplcsd.org



Sora Access

Keep reading! Sora is a digital reading option that all students have. Students can access Sora through Classlink or by following these instructions. Thank you Ms. Rotanelli.

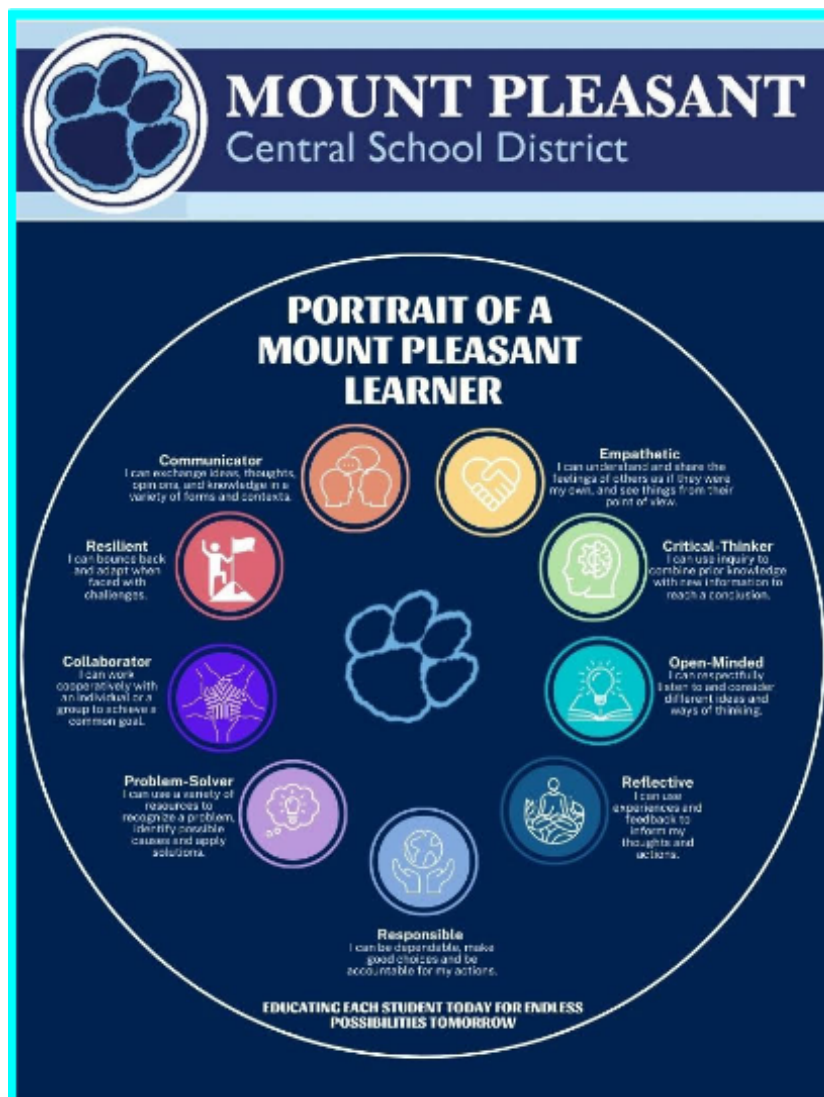
Sora offers the ability for students to explore age-appropriate digital books from NY Reads



- Here's how to access titles from this State-wide collection through Sora:
1. In Sora, sign into Southern Westchester BOCES with your school district credentials.
 2. Click or tap menu icon and select Add library.
 3. Use the search box to find and select NY Reads.
 4. Find and select your school district to continue.
 5. Sign in with your school credentials.
 6. Now when you search for books, it will look in both collections. When browsing, you can choose which collection to look at.

Westlake Middle School Website

Mount Pleasant Central School District Website



Anthony Mungioli

Anthony is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

