



HAT'S HAPPENING

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

FEBRUARY 2010



High School High Honor Roll



High School Improvement/Sustained Improvement Roll



Middle School High Honor Roll



Middle School Improvement Roll

High School High Honor Roll

Grade 9

Catherine Bonke
Karly Byron
Alex DeMay
Christine Dobie
Megan Fitzgerald
Alison Hassett
Paul Sperr
Benjamin Yackel

Grade 10

Laura Allard
Christian Baker
Carly Bean
Brandon DeRue
Angelle Flores
Efrosyni Kostakis
Emily Lindsay

Rayanne Luke
Ashley Neal
Tricia Phillips
Kyle Robinson
Douglas Smith
Gregory Stitt
Richard Yackel

Grade 11

Charity Baker
Cody Chelini
Nicholas Frawley
Evangeline McClure
Brian Redder
Samantha Scott
Christopher Timmerman
Mary William
Zachery Willis

Grade 12

Gregory Akins

Kristen DeMarree
Kyle Dobie
David Ferland
Kayla Flanders
Gabrielle Frawley
Eric Hepler
Mark Montondo
Brian Storrs
Kathleen Swingly
Chelsea VanAcker
Aaron VanNostrand

High School Improvement/Sustained Improvement Roll

Grade 10

Tiffany Bloss
Brandon DeRue
Justin Juerek
Samuel Ninowsky

Austen Reid
Alexander Shumski

Grade 11

Valerie Jopek
Alex Longo
Emily Morlock
Greg Reuter

Grade 12

Melissa Cervantes
Colton Ginther
Keelan Jurek
Katlyne Sexton
Christopher Shumski
Joshua Westfall

Middle School High Honor Roll

Grade 6
Jacob Bailey

Angelena Barclay
Alyssa Williams
Ryan Winn
Lindsey Yackel

Grade 7

Ciara Chelini
Jena Eaton
Anna Kostakis
Elizabeth Kuhl
Samantha Mayo
Alec McCall
Mark Saile
Thomas Saile
Matthew Sperr
Casey Winn

Grade 8

Marcella DelPlato
Jamie Dodge
Thomas Ferland

Anderson Luke
Alexandra Prater
Nicholas Vitalone

Middle School Improvement Roll

Grade 5

Michelle Post
Ryan VanDemortel

Grade 6

Jacob Kommer

Grade 7

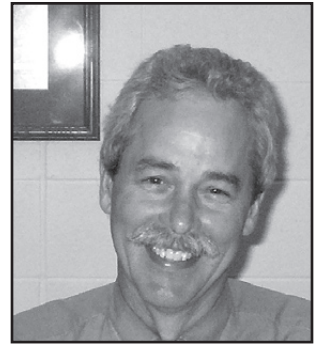
Matthew DeMarree

Grade 8

Angelina Metcalfe
Ross Tesch
Dustin Wiemer

Message from the BOE President...

“Abraham Lincoln did not go to Gettysburg having commissioned a poll to find out what would sell in Gettysburg. There were no people with percentages for him, cautioning him about this group or that group or what they found in exit polls a year earlier. When will we have the courage of Lincoln?”
- Robert Coles (1929), American writer



Michael Collins
Board of Education President

The current state of affairs at every level of government is having a profound impact on the daily lives of every citizen in New York. From economic development to health care, environmental initiatives to education, the task of doing the people's business, i.e. governing, appears to be reduced to political posturing. Politicians are taking a path of expediency at the risk of ransoming our future. Phrases like: "It doesn't matter." or "There's nothing I can do." are becoming all too common. It can be disheartening. However we are not powerless. You still have a voice. On the school website you will find a letter that you can download, print and send to your representatives. We have also included their addresses, email and telephone. Let them know about your concerns.

Every district in NY is preparing for budget cuts. On the local level, your school district is facing a combined shortfall of \$1.9 million for the coming year. We have already had to deal with delayed payments and the threat of continued cuts during the current year. We anticipated challenging times and have made adjustments. We will continue to keep the community informed about ways to address the changing economic climate we face together.

Education and health care are seen as "low hanging fruit;" clear targets for cuts due to their sheer size and complexity. However, our elected officials are slow to address the root causes of the expense: unfunded mandates, pre-existing contracts and a cultural of blame. It's important to remember that communities working together can present a powerful voice.

Contact your representatives. Tell them you want responsible change. Tell them it is time to listen to the voices of their constituents and get back to the business of governing. Addresses and a sample letter are on the facing page.

It is also important to remember that there are many positive aspects about our district. We are still performing well. Our students receive a relevant and quality education. We have great teachers and staff who are dedicated and willing to go "the extra mile" every day. The community can take pride in all of the accomplishments that are made possible by working together.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your support. Please stay engaged, informed and in touch.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear _____,

This letter is to officially object to the proposed Executive budget for 2010-11 relative to State Aid for School Districts. The proposed Governor's state aid cut for schools is unfair to upstate New York school districts when compared to downstate schools. Moreover, the education of our children, who are the future of our society, must be the top priority in any budget. Cutting school aid would severely undermine our mission and the economic development of upstate.

In Williamson alone the proposed \$1.1 million cut in State aid coupled with estimated expense increases equals a shortfall of \$1,900,000. If this happens, we will need to make cuts so that class sizes would swell, electives and programs would be lost, athletics downsized, and property taxes increased.

We understand the State's financial difficulties during this time however, due to the importance of education we request that EVERYTHING else in the State budget be scrutinized for the funding necessary to keep our schools solvent and productive.

Keep in mind that the adopted State Budget will signify the State's priorities and that we would expect a funding commitment to education and our youth to top your priority list. Our future as a State depends on maintaining our ability to educate all of our children effectively.

Thank you for your consideration.

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New York State Legislative Addresses

Feb. 2010

Name Address		Telephone Number	E-mail
Governor David Patterson			
Executive Chamber Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224			Must complete form on webpage: http://www.state.ny.us/governor/contact/index.html
Malcolm Smith, Senate President Pro Tempore			
Office of New York State Senator Malcolm A. Smith 909 Legislative Office Building Albany, NY 12247		(518) 455-2701	masmith@senate.state.ny.us
Suzi Oppenheimer, Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Education			
Office of New York State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, 806 Legislative Office Building Albany, New York 12247		(518) 455-2031	oppenhei@senate.state.ny.us
Senator Michael F. Nozzolio			
District Office:	117-119 Fall Street Seneca Falls, NY 13148	(315) 568-9816	nozzolio@senate.state.ny.us
Albany Office:	413 Legislative Office Building Albany, NY 12247	(518) 455-2366	
Assemblyman Bob Oaks			
District Office:	10 Leach Road, Lyons, NY 14489	District Office: (315) 946-5166	Can use on-line form: http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/?ad=128&sh=contact
Albany Office:	LOB 448, Albany, NY 12248	Albany Office: (518) 455-5655	

High School . . .

It's incredible to think that more than half the 2009-10 school year is complete! Williamson High School continues to offer a variety of activities and opportunities that inspire character, service, knowledge, and wisdom in our students. Our goal continues to center on students being well-rounded and achieving their very best! Some highlights from the 2nd marking period include:

- 174 or more than 40% of the student body achieved one of the academic achievement rolls (merit, honor, or high honor roll) during the 2nd marking period while another 17 students achieved improvement roll or sustained improvement roll
- The artistic talents of Brittany Moran, Kelsey Stitt, Efrosyni Kostakis, Ariana Allman, Charity Baker, Katy Hodgson, Mark Montondo, & Hannah Barrett were recognized through the Principal's Choice Art Award program for the months of September through December 2009
- Nicole Darling, Emily Lindsay, Tricia Phillips, Lindsay Rynders, Courtney Dodge, Christine Dobie, Kelsey Stitt, Carly Bean, Caitlyn Pilc, & Meredith Shultes made All-County Band
- We had 6 students earn All-County choir; Mark Montondo, Ashton Bortle, George Verno, Ricky Yackel, Michaela Bristol, and Ashley DeNardo
- The French Club, Spanish Club, and Student Council sponsored and participated in our annual gift giving and caroling event at Blossom View Nursing Home



Douglas Lauf
High School Principal



Intergenerational Dance



- Our Volunteer Club took approximately 30 students to Eastview Mall to "ring the bells" for the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle event
- In sporting news...Congratulations to Girls' Varsity Soccer and Girls' Cross-Country on their Sectional Titles as well as our Varsity Cheerleaders for being the 2010 Wayne County Competition Champions
- More than 70 students are participating in our Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pre-engineering program, either taking Design and Drawing for Production or Principles of Engineering. We hope to add the 3rd course in the PLTW sequence, Digital Electronics, next year.

Don't Miss The Following High School Musical Events...

Instrumental & Vocal Music Small Ensemble Concert & Student Art Show

March 11, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

Williamson High School Musical Production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown"

March 26 & 27, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

District Vocal Music Concert at the High School

March 30, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

Middle School . . .

Curriculum Highlights

Grade 5 In Social Studies, the students are studying explorers and colonization. Students are working on persuasive writing; spelling; writing short essays (with detail) and reading Bud, not Buddy in ELA. In Science, students are working on a food web project and how plants make food. In Math students are working on equivalent fractions and order of operations. The students are also focused on fractions at this point in the year as well as reviewing for the New York State test coming this spring.

Grade 6 In Math, students are focusing on proportional reasoning, solving proportions and percent of value. In Science they are learning about the atmosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere and finishing up the rock cycle. In Social Studies the students are studying ancient Greece and Rome. In ELA students are reading Maniac McGee, a book that examines racism and cultural differences. Students will also begin studying the medieval cultures as they prepare for Medieval Day at the end of March.

Grade 7 In ELA, the students are reading three books about human diversity: Milkweed; Freak the Mighty; and Al Capone Does My Shirts. In Social Studies students are finishing colonial craftsman presentations while working on a differentiated facebook project and writing colonial protest songs. In Math students are advancing their understanding of geometry and probability and statistics. In Science students are studying the laws of motion.

Grade 8 In Math, students are completing a geometry unit, material that used to be taught in 10th grade. Students taking Integrated Algebra are working on graphs and equalization. In Social Studies, students are learning about the Great Depression and World War I. In ELA class students are reading Three Cups of Tea and completing a poetry unit. In Science they are beginning a unit on ecology and human impact.



*John E. Fulmer
Middle School Principal*

All students in the Middle School continue their involvement in the Olweus anti-bullying program which includes a classroom meeting each week. They have also participated in the “Red Robin – U Act” kindness counts initiative with activities that promote honesty and kindness all year. This has included collecting gifts for the open door mission at holiday time.



Random Acts of Kindness in Rich Rozzi's class



Students during orientation lunch and activity

Upcoming Activities

- “Gathering at the Core” Brown Bag seasonal evening activities have taken place, with more to follow.
- Medieval Day will take place the end of March for sixth grade students.
- A building-wide “Celebration of the Arts Day” is scheduled for March 11th as a celebration of all of the mediums of art.
- The Learning Fair is scheduled for March 13th from 1-4 pm in the Middle School.
- 7th grade students will be visiting historical sites in Palmyra within the next couple months and are also preparing for the Gettysburg trip.
- Travel Club students are going to Ottawa, Canada at the beginning of May for three days.

With the continued support of the community our Middle School students have opportunities to learn and develop into productive and healthy individuals.

High School Honor Roll

Grade 9

Ariana Allman
Matthew Britt
Jamison Brooks
Amanda Farrington
Taylor Flanders
Yaneczka Flores
Alexis Ginther
Kathryn Hodgson
Adam Johnson
Andrew Kruger
Kimberly Marchionda
Alexander Monachino
Sydney Pfaff
Oona Quinn
Kelsey Stitt

Grade 10

Jonathan Beiswanger
Neil Campbell
Haelee Catchpole
Kimberly DeFisher
Trena DeMarree
Dannie Joram
Alexander Kopicki
Nicole Krauth
Emily Mogray
Erik Rangel
Andrew Reid
Andrew Stohr
Shane Walker

Grade 11

Hayley Ameele
Hannah Barrett
Nicole Darling
Cortney Dodge
Brian Doran
Cody Garrod
Jessica Gillis
Luke Moll
Emily Morlock
Kierstyn Palmer
Tyler Picotte

Grade 12

Maria Aguilera-Almanza
Mikayla Bean
Emma Clark
Kathryn Distenfeld
Jessie Evarts
David Garlow
Hannah Hecht
Vann Henry
Corey Hill
Rowan Ketchum
Samantha McIntosh
Brittany Moran
Jennifer Persutte
Lindsay Rynders

Elizabeth Shadduck
Meredith Shultes
Joshua Smith
Ryan Thayer
Danielle Vitalone
Robert Wendler
Kyle Youngs

High School Merit Roll

Grade 9

Zackery Bushart
Carly Catchpole
Elizabeth Cody
Jeanette Homman
Micalah Klejment
Heather Kramberg
Holly Kramberg
Sean Mannix
Nicholas Monachino
Jillian Steves
Cheyenne Traas
Katelynn White

Grade 10

Hugo Alba-Uribe
Nicole Barron
Bradley Blauvelt
Tiffany Bloss
Corrin Bogart
Devon Cristales
Daphne Croop
Heidi DeCann
Ashley DeNardo
Rexford, Fisher III
Amanda Grevell
Rory Hubbard
Colin Lange
Brandon Martinez
Mason Mascle
Lewis Mason
Alexander Miller
Caleb Peters
Randi Ray
Austen Reid
Joseph Sewilo
Emily Stritzel
Jeffery Timmerman
Meghan Willis
Matthew Wright

Grade 11

Heather Ameele
Brittany Barres
Nicholas Bigelow
Natalli Bogart
Michaela Bristol
Robert Brown
Britny Cole
Nicholas Grace
Lee Hamilton
Connor Hannan

Joshua Havranek
Alexandra Intini
Allison Liddle
Jason Miller
Jacob Paquette
Samuel Sherwin

Grade 12

Jermaine Barber
Alisha Cavallaro
Melissa Cervantes
Christian Damico
Dominic D'Augustino
Adam DeMay
Christina DeVille
Andrew Gardinier
Cody Gibson
Noah Inman
Ti Jock
Jared Kinley
Christina Kostakis
Alexandra Madison
Colby Molino
Nicole Mosley
Taylor Shoemaker
Christopher Shumski

Middle School Honor Roll

Grade 6

Sean Campbell
Kailey Castro
Naomi Cobbs
Robert DeMarco
Logan DeRue
John Devendorf
Stephanie Fisk
Andrew Fitzgerald
Silver Fox
Leanna Hess
Nicholas Hordin
Dakota Kolyer
Jacob Kommer
Tyler Ledsome
Cassie McCall
Tylea McCarthy-Walker
Emma McLymond
Autumn Pollock
Mason Prater
Amber Raymer
Emelia Sonnevile
Alexander Steurys
Kendal Ulmer
Taylor Walker
Adam Wangler
Brianna Wilson

Grade 7

Reilly Carlson
Schae Clark
Alexander Cook

Corey Cristales
Elizabeth DeFisher
Megan Dildine
Katelyn Flanders
Samuel Kuhl
Taylor McCall
Liam Miller
Joseph Mohr
Dennis Mowers
Arianna Palmer
Tessa Robinson
Jonah Sharp
Sarah Swingly
Cody VanKouwenberg
Justin Villnave
Samantha Zimmerman

Grade 8

Emma Akins
Christian Barrett
Jacqueline Bouvier
Joshua Faulks
Katelyn Gilbert
Ali Henderson
Kathryn Kolyer
Votie LaFave-Boughton
Matthew Lindsay
Victoria Mason
Kira McCall
Katherine McKay
Mickayla Miller
Joseph Montondo
Gerard Moran
Joshua Neal
Megan Noger
Hunter Secor
Ross Tesch
Brianna Wangler

Middle School Merit Roll

Grade 6

Makenzie Baker
Hayden Beck
Chelsea Brennessel
Claudia Cooney
Sarah Decker
Taylor DeNeef
Benjamin Dodge
Leaha Eidman
Trevor Essman
Shania Fonda
Clayton Hamm
Haley Haws
Jordan Hayes
Garrick Immesoete
Malik Jones
Caleb Jordan
Anthony Lachiusa
Ashley Lang
Brianna McCall
Rebecca Moran

Rachael Niles
Thomas Page
Ashley Raymer
Terry Rogers
Brooke Ruffell
Jagger Secor
Emily Thompson
Austin Whitcomb

Grade 7

Jacob Brandt
Shanoa Brant
Jonathan Burnett
Molly DeFisher
Alyssa Farrington
Benjamin Henner
Tyler Johnson
Daniel Kruger
Griffin Lange
Amy LaVare
Zoey Lee
Sean Lorah
Morgan Manktelow
Jennifer Meyn
Emily Piazza
James Benjamin Reid
William Sackett
Hannah Seniuk
Spencer Smith
Tyler Spence
Madison Thomson
Devon Traas
Rayven Turner
Guadalupe Vargas
Samantha Walton
Jacob Willis

Grade 8

Francisco Aguilera
Paula Aguilera
Kaitlyn Ashlaw
Shane Blauvelt
Carissa Havranek
Courtney Hill
Daniel Inman
Axel Joram
Jesse Lake
Mariah Liedmann
Joshua McIntosh
Makenna McKeon
Angelina Metcalfe
Bailey Musclow
Cory Neild
Alexander Oosterling
Edward Schlottman
Bennett Schoonerman
Anna St. Cyr
Mitchell Steurys
Kristina Tunley
Abram VanHoover
Patrick Walsh
Stephanie Zimmerman

Elementary School . . .

This has been a year that has reinforced to me that children of all ages have an innate desire to help others and a strong sense of how to launch grassroots efforts to support those in need. As a school community we experienced first hand our student's genuine concern and overwhelming generosity offered to the Eodice family after they lost their home to a devastating fire in December. After the fire the students began to come to school with donations of money, food, clothing, books, stuffed animals and personal care items. The most endearing example of a child's generosity came in the form of a wrinkled and tattered envelope left in the Elementary School Main Office. Written on the envelope in green crayon were the words, "I will bring in more after Christmas." Inside the envelope was an assortment of coins most likely taken from a piggy bank or perhaps from a weekly allowance.



Anne Ressler
Elementary School Principal

In the month of January, Haiti experienced a devastating earthquake and again our students sprung into action to help those in need. As we all began to slowly comprehend the extent of the damage, loss of life and horror experienced by this natural disaster our feelings of empathy and a willingness to help mobilized our country to assist in any way possible arose in each of us. Those same feelings of empathy and action were present in even our youngest citizens, so it was not surprising to me when I was approached by several students to organize a grass-roots effort at the Williamson Elementary School to assist the people of Haiti. Jacob LaPlant, a student in Mr. Donahue's fourth grade class, was the first to approach me with a fundraising idea. The following day I received a letter from Maria Ortiz and Evelyn Fonda, second graders from Mrs. Sharp's classroom asking me what we could do as a school to help. Together, Jacob, Maria, Evelyn and I decided to join forces with the American Red Cross to raise money for the relief efforts. Our Haiti relief fundraiser officially began with a series of announcements during the morning message to all students and faculty members. Our venue is a loose change collection although quiet money will also be accepted and we are hoping to raise \$1,000 during the month of February. Jacob, Maria and Evelyn can be seen in the picture below.

I am continually proud of the students at the Williamson Elementary School. They reach beyond themselves and show empathy toward and take action to help classmates, local families or another country in need. We can all be proud of our community's children.



Haiti Relief Fundraiser



Jump Rope for Heart

Message from the Superintendent . . .

Governor Patterson School Aid Proposal The Robin Hood Theory Gone Awry

The governor's budget which was unveiled in January was presented by him as one that distributes funds for schools in an equitable way. He has stated that it takes larger cuts from those districts that are wealthier and less from those who have less. His Gap Elimination Adjustment, or GEA, reduces total aid for most districts by between 4% and 14%, with the higher cuts going to schools that are wealthier.

At first blush, this seems fair. But when one examines the facts closely, there is an underlying inequity. In Williamson, the cut is 10% of the aid we received last year. Schools downstate also received cuts in aid of 10%.

For schools downstate a 10% cut does not mean the same thing. The 10% aid cut for Williamson is 5.5% of this year's total budget. For most schools downstate, that 10% cut represents less than 1% of their budget.

If the Robin Hood theory holds true, Williamson must be on the rich side of the Robin Hood equation?? I think that most of you would agree that that is not the case.

No one can deny that the state is in a difficult financial position. I believe that we all need to tighten our belts. But shouldn't that belt be the same tightness for all? If you believe that it is time for upstate to have an equal voice, I urge you to take action. Inside of this edition is a sample letter that you can send to Albany. Included with it are the addresses and e-mail addresses where your messages can be sent.

I am grateful for your past support. It has helped us develop into a wonderful public school system. But we stand to lose much if we do not take action and speak out. The students of today are the economic drivers of tomorrow. Our future as a state depends on the action we take today.



*Maria Ehresman
Superintendent of Schools*

Regional High School Update

Please visit our website for information from the community meeting held in January (www.williamsoncentral.org). On the left side of the opening page there is a link to the Regional High School Study.

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