



HAT'S HAPPENING

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

MARCH 2014



High School High Honor Roll

Grade 9

Maria Aguilera
Fonseca
Joseph Allman
Clayton Belmont
Jessica Brandt
Abram Collier
Bailey DiSanto
Hannah Ferland
Sharayah Fisher
Matthew Kuhl
Chantel Smith

Grade 10

Angelena Barclay
Logan DeRue
Alexander Steurrys
Alyssa Williams

Grade 11

Reilly Carlson
Ciara Chelini
Elizabeth DeFisher
Elizabeth Kuhl
Samuel Kuhl

Dennis Mowers
Mark Saile
Jonah Sharp
Matthew Sperr

Grade 12

Marcella DelPlato
Jamie Dodge
Thomas Ferland
Carissa Havranek
Ali Henderson
Matthew Lindsay

Anderson Luke
Victoria Mason
Kira McCall
Mickayla Miller
Alexandra Prater
Luisa Scarrone
Hunter Secor
Nicholas Vitalone
Alex Woodhams

High School Improvement Roll

Grade 10

Noah Eaton

Grade 11

Zoey Lee
Morgan Manktelow
Ashley Meyer
Jacob Willis

Grade 12

Ashley Baker



8th Grade Achievement Roll

Karlinn Adams
Beau Burlee
Avery Carlson
Rose Casanzio
Drew DiSanto
Zalya Doehring
Nicole Garritano
Khyeria Hall

Matthew Hamill
Alexa Jordan
Anna Lalone
Jacob LaPlant
Michelle Miller
Rachel Miller
Brian Noger
Nicholas Piazza

Annaliese Reuter
Lucas Rochevot
Soula Russell
Kristina Stein
Patrick Steinmetz
Mykaela Valcore
Emma Vos

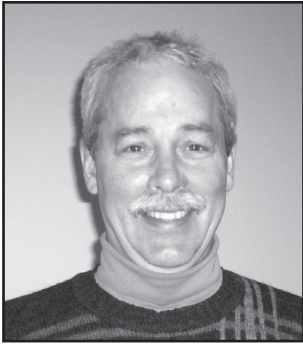
7th Grade Achievement Roll

Joshua Bailey
Joseph Belmont
Brooke Bishop
Aubree Brothers
Donavin Bruni
Gavin Buehler
Kayli Burggraaff
Hunter Byron
John Cooney
Skylar DeMinck
Kayley DeNagel
Madeline Dinehart

Justin Eaton
Serena Eaton
Maxwell Farrington
Adam Fisk
Autumn Frost
Mareasa Giudici
Michaela Graves
Eryn Grell
Charlotte Hance
Christian Havranek
Jason Homman
Tyler Ingham

George Konstantinou
Irina Konstantinou
Timothy Lake
Mackenzie LeBerth
Mackenzie Mangos
Kaden Martinez
Collin McCall
Tyia McCarthy
Erika Meyn
Ryan Morse
Colton Murphy
Andrew Niles

Marissa Peets
Samuel Rochevot
Adam Schreiber
Dustin Secor
Trayton Schmeelk
Abigail Sheahen
Tyrese Smith
McKenna Tingle
Olivia Tunley
Madison Weber
James Williams



Michael Collins
Board of Education President

Message from the BOE President...

"Democracy does not guarantee equality of conditions - it only guarantees equality of opportunity."

Irving Kristol - American writer, columnist, 1920-2009

When you follow the news out of Albany concerning education, it appears that the governor and some of the legislature are the undisputed "champions for our children." On closer examination, you will find that their claims are rather hollow. State aid to education is actually lower today than it was in 2008. There are many contributing factors and I urge you to go to our website and review the budget presentation. One of the most devastating elements is the so called Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA). The GEA was implemented in 2010 as a **one-time reduction in education aid to balance the NYS budget. The GEA has continued in every budget since then.** In short Albany is balancing their budget on the backs of the very communities for which they were elected to serve. The impact on our district and every other relatively low wealth district is to widen the educational opportunity gap based on outdated aid formulas and a disregard for the fundamental philosophy of fairness. We are working with several statewide organizations to address this inequality. Williamson children are not worth less than those from other, more wealthy areas simply based on a tax base. We will keep you informed about our progress. The entire district team is committed to preserving the hard-won levels of excellence and achievement that you expect. We will continue to advocate for the future of our children and our community. There has also been much consternation concerning the Common Core Learning standards. Our district has been at the forefront of implementing the new program in a thoughtful and measured approach that takes into account the needs of every stakeholder. Of course there have been bumps. However, we are seeing benefits to our students that instills a deeper understanding of the curricula and fosters a sense of pride in a job well done. Our students want to learn. Our teachers are dedicated to their success. We are on a path of progress. It is time for our elected officials in Albany to recognize that a fiscal policy based on "smoke and mirrors" is unsustainable. We need their fiscal support to return the funding that has been promised but not delivered. Instead of posturing for political headlines, politicians should be working to do what is right for children. On behalf of the entire board, thank you for your continued support. Please stay informed, engaged and in touch. As always, if you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Collins, President
WCS Board of Education

"Until we get equality in education, we won't have an equal society."
- Sonia Sotomayor - Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1954 -

Message from the Superintendent . . .

Common Core Learning Standards and Assessments



Greg Macaluso
Superintendent of Schools

At the February meeting of the Board of Regents, a Work Group of the Board presented 19 options aimed at improving the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) at the State and District levels. The recommendations came in a report entitled - The Path Forward: Common Core Learning Standards, Assessments, and Teacher & Principal Evaluation in New York State.

Full Common Core Implementation will be delayed to 2022. What does this really mean? One of the Regent's adjustments reflects the intent to phase in over time the graduation requirement to demonstrate proficiency on the Common Core standards in high school courses. With this change, the class of 2022 (i.e., students who first enter grade 9 in the 2018-19 school year) will be the first group of students required to pass Common Core Regents Exams (ELA and one exam in math) at the aspirational college- and career-readiness level indicating that they met Common Core course-level expectations.

These changes, among others, will work to slow the accountability levels of implementing the new Common Core standards to a reasonable pace. This will take a great deal of pressure off students and teachers when it comes to testing time. The implementation of the new learning standards will continue as planned and that is a positive thing.

I have worked with hundreds of educators across the state on the implementation of CCLS. Educators agree that the new standards are the way to go. The new ELA standards will better prepare our students to read, write, and react to literary and technical works. The new math standards will impart a deep conceptual understanding of mathematics rather than teach algorithms or "tricks" to finding answers without understanding. The standards are good.

The pushback among educators, parents, and students has been the pace of the implementation. Students were being tested and teachers evaluated on standards that were not yet fully implemented or understood. I am very pleased that the Board of Regents has slowed the accountability pace so we can continue the good work we are doing here in a thoughtful way without undue consequence.

I am very proud of the efforts of our administrative, teaching, and support staff in rolling out the new standards. As I am in the buildings I see evidence of the standards at work. I have heard many positive comments from parents who like to see the level of rigor and conceptual learning that their children are engaged in. Most importantly, I am proud of our students who are working hard, taking risks, and taking full advantage of the learning opportunities before them.



Douglas Lauf
High School Principal

High School . . .

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
~Nelson Mandela

Dear Williamson Residents,

It is hard to say goodbye after 11 years in this wonderful district. I have truly enjoyed working with all the dedicated stakeholders in Williamson.

This community values education and the students are second to none. I am thankful for the opportunities I've had during my tenure as high school principal and will miss the relationships that have been built. I will look back on my time in Williamson fondly and cherish the memories that were created. I wish the district the best of luck and immense success moving forward.

Respectfully,
Douglas W. Lauf

Congratulations to our new National Honor Society inductees! The following students truly epitomize the four pillars of NHS; scholarship, character, service and leadership.

Ciara Chelini
Jamie Dodge
Jena Eaton
Anna Kostakis
Elizabeth Kuhl

Samuel Kuhl
Mark Saile
Jonah Sharp
Matthew Sperr
Samantha Zimmerman



Intergenerational Dance

Middle School . . .

Highlighted Activities

The Middle School is full of activity, opportunity and advancement. There are a number of clubs, activities and educational opportunities that students are currently participating in.

Clubs that students can participate in all year long include: Yearbook Club; Newspaper Club; and Student Association.

Activities that are scheduled at different times of the year include: Cooking Club; RC Club; Ski Club; Peer Tutoring; Robotics Club; Spelling Bee; Intramurals; Masterminds; Odyssey of the Mind; and Running Club. Most of these activities are available to all Middle School students.

This winter over 60 7th and 8th graders participated in modified sports including basketball; swimming; cheerleading; and wrestling.



*John E. Fulmer
Middle School Principal*

Other activities in the Middle School:

- 12 students participated in the oral round of the spelling bee after qualifying in the written round. Two finalists will go on to participate in the regional competition in Geneva.
- The Learning Fair is scheduled for March 15th from 1-4 pm in the Middle School.
- 6th graders participated in “Mission to Mars” at the RMSC in November.
- Nearly 50 8th grade students in MS Travel Club went to Boston for three days in October.
- “Red Ribbon” spirit week took place in October with celebrating healthy living.
- The building wide “Olweus” anti-bullying program has been very successful in curbing bullying behavior. Eight high school students worked with our 7th and 8th graders on a special presentation.
- Student Association placed a heart on all student lockers and every classroom in celebration of Valentine’s Day.
- 8th graders will be participating in the Skills Competition at BOCES in April.
- The Marauder Leadership Counsel has developed a service learning project “Growing Strong in Williamson” garden.
- Approximately 65 students and staff participated in the Fuel Up Play 60 initiative promoting healthy living by eating right and 60 minutes of exercise per day.
- Over 20 students actively participated in a distance learning workshop with new members of the Woman’s Hall of Fame.

Students are encouraged to participate in different activities along with their academic responsibilities and stay involved in all aspects of the school environment.

If there are questions about available activities, please contact the Middle School office.

High School Honor Roll

Grade 9

Westley Burlee
Jeffrey Cantwell
Grace Caternolo
John Grell
Jacob Haase
Hannah Henderson
Benjamin Ledain
Martha Liddle
Amber Lorah
Cole Masclé
Rachel Montondo
Nathanael Niles
Nathaniel Palmer
Michelle Post

Aaryn Schmitt
Lauren Smith
Adriana Tingle
Emilee VanDemortel

Grade 10

Benjamin Dodge
Andrew Fitzgerald
Haley Haws
Leanna Hess
Malik Jones
Dakota Kolyer
Cassie McCall
Tylea McCarthy-Walker
Emma McLymond

Rebecca Moran
Autumn Pollock
Mason Prater
Amber Raymer
Emily Thompson
Adam Wangler
Brianna Wilson
Lyndsey Yackel

Grade 11

Jacqueline Aguilera Fonseca
Megan Dildine
Jena Eaton
Anna Kostakis
Alec McCall

Jennifer Meyn
Liam Miller
Cory Neild
Arianna Palmer
William Sackett
Thomas Saile
Sarah Swingly
Kendrick Wang
Samantha Zimmerman

Grade 12

Ashley Baker
Christian Barrett
Gordon Barron Jr
Shane Blauvelt

Jacqueline Bouvier
Diana Cervantes-Nava
Allison Decker
James Foisia
Katelyn Gilbert
Courtney Hill
Kathryn Kolyer
Brandon Lucieer
Makenna McKeon
Joseph Montondo
Edward Schlottman
Bennett Schoonerman
Kristina Tunley
Shane Walker

High School Merit Roll

Grade 9

Connor Allman
Deseriee Bresett
Joseph DelPlato
Claire Donovan
Madison Dunning
Abigail Fox
Gary Immesoete
Adriannah Klejment
Autumn Miller
Zachary Reid
Kamryn Schoonerman

Grade 10

Sean Campbell
Serena Doyon
Leaha Eidman
Shania Fonda
Nicholas Hordin
Jacob Kommer
Owen Parshall
Ashley Raymer
Selena Robledo
Emelia Sonnevill
Taylor Walker

Grade 11

Richard Cantwell
Alexander Cook
Alyssa Farrington
Katelyn Flanders
Jesus Flores
Morgan Manktelow
Samantha Mayo
Taylor McCall
Tyler Spence
Madison Thomson
Isaias Verdin

Grade 12

Francisco Aguilera
Kaitlyn Ashlaw
Rachel Beske
Monica Brennan
Keanu Buda
Robert Dean
Joshua Faulks
Axel Joram
Abby Kerr
Samantha Kinley
James Kunz

Votie LaFave-Boughton
Jesse Lake
Katherine Lancy
Mariah Liedmann
Collin Moore
Gerard Moran III
Jamie Mosley
Megan Noger
Alexander Oosterling
Zachary Sewilo
Stephanie Zimmerman



5th Grade Outstanding Work Habits

Annie Alexander
Daeshaun Alexander
Ashtyn Bishop
Evan Blankenberg
Andrew Brandt
Brooklynn Brothers
Elena Bulling
Brianna Burggraaff
Patsy Catalano
Elizabeth Collier
Claire Consadine
Nicholas Cook
Johanna Cottrell
Dharma DeMarco
Connor DeNagel
Jacob Dinehart
Kennedie Dunbar
Jayelle Dunning
Eleanor Erwin
Gavin Fernaays

Brianna Ferreri
Maria Flores
Mackenzie Fox
Julianna Giudici
Flor Gonzalez
Zachary Haase
Gabriella Hamel
Camden Haws
Sarah Hellmann
Nicole Hillyard
Maeve Hoody
Sophia Konstantinou
Alandra Kunz
Ryan LaBarr
Abigail Lamark
Aiden Lane
Zachary LeBerth
Autumn Lee
Alan Moore
Cadie Newby

Ethan Nisbet
Aryn Notovitz
Lauren Pollock
Michael Rojo
Jacob Stein
Austin Steurys
Cameron Stringer
Cadence Suwyn
Laurel Taft
Madison Tarquinio
Arabella Tousey
Ryan Trombly
Josiah Tumminelli
Cynthea Valcore
Grace Weber
Victoria Wilbur
Jean Williams
Lydia Wyble

6th Grade Outstanding Work Habits

Annalise Allman
Taylor Beedham
Cora Blunden
Alyssa Bond
Madeline Bortle
Kayla Brennan
Austin Brown
Nicole Calus
Nicole Cantwell
Emma Cino
Ryan Fernaays
Evelyn Fonda
Jannette Garcia
Connor Garrod

Sarah Goodenough
Joshua Harder
Lucas Jackson
Rodney Jones
William Kellock
Olivia Kern
Ariana Klein
Samantha Kozak
Jacob Kuhl
Alyson LaBarr
Maxwell Lalone
Skye Lawson
Josiah McIntosh
Connor McVey

Delilah Moore
Erin Noger
Maria Ortiz
Heather Ramsdell
Rachel Ramsdell
Tyler Raymer
Riley Schmitt
Noah Scileppi
Jayden Sherman
Angeleeke Simpson
Caleb Taft
Allyson Wieser
Jordan Williams
Jonathon Wyble

Elementary School . . .

"The whole world opened to me when I learned to read".... Mary Mcleod Bethune

Reading is such an important part of an elementary student's school day. Reading and Literacy are infused into the Williamson Elementary School throughout the day every day. Students have opportunities to read in a variety of settings including reading:

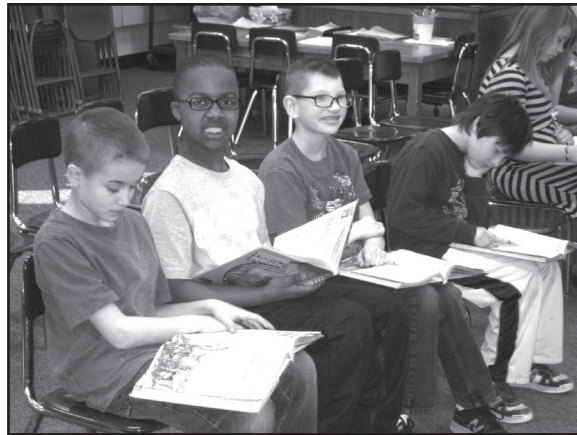
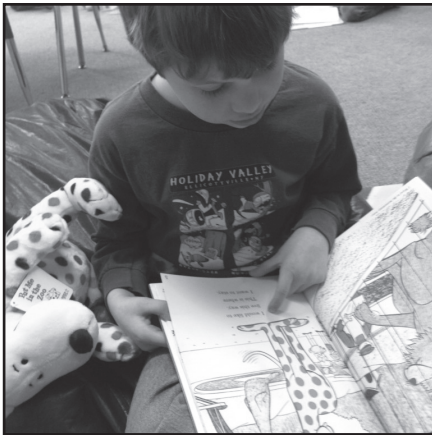
- at their independent level (a book they can read successfully without teacher support)
- at their instructional level (a book that requires teacher support in order to read – this is a time students hone and practice their reading skills)
- during an AIS (Academic Intervention Services) class with their reading teacher
- during content reading classes (math, science, social studies, etc.)
- while visiting the school library
- with a friend or reading buddy



Ellen Saxby
Elementary School Principal

Parents are partners with us as we continue to cultivate our students' reading skills. You can help at home by reading with your child, sharing a favorite book of your childhood with your son/daughter, visiting the public library or local bookstore, and by keeping up to date with what is going on in school.

Be on the look-out for information coming home in the near future about a reading incentive program we are going to do with a community partner. It will be a great opportunity for us to focus on reading in school, at home, and in the community!



NYS STAR Exemption Update

In our last issue of the What's Happening I wrote about the requirement for all homeowners who receive the Basic STAR exemption to register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the STAR exemption in 2014 and future years by the deadline of December 31st, 2013. Hopefully, most of you have already registered to continue receiving your Basic STAR exemption, however if you have not done so yet, **the NYS Tax Department is currently accepting late registrations**. The Basic STAR exemption saves the average homeowner approximately \$700 in their school tax bill. If you need any assistance, please feel free to call me at 589-9661.



*Gary Barno
School Business
Administrator*

Facts about NYS STAR

Two types of STAR exemptions:

Basic STAR

- available for owner-occupied, primary residences where the resident owners' and their spouses income is less than \$500,000
- exempts the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home from school taxes

Enhanced STAR

- provides an increased benefit for the primary residences of senior citizens (age 65 and older) with qualifying incomes
- exempts the first \$64,200 of the full value of a home from school taxes as of 2014-15 school tax bills (up from \$63,300 in 2013-14)

STAR exemptions apply only to school district taxes. They do not apply to property taxes for other purposes, such as county, town or city (except in cities where city property taxes fund schools - Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers).

If you would like additional information about the STAR program, you can visit the website at www.tax.ny.gov or by calling (518) 457-2036

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