



HAT'S HAPPENING

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

DECEMBER 2016



Holiday Events



5th and 6th Grade Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 pm (Middle School Auditorium)

4th Grade Holiday Concert

Tuesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium)

7th and 8th Grade Holiday Concert

Thursday, December 15th at 7:00 pm (Middle School Auditorium)

High School Holiday Concert

Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00 pm (High School Auditorium)



Old English M Awards

The Old English M Award is presented to the student in each class who had the highest average in the course. (Not all students listed appear in photo)
Joseph Allman, Joshua Bailey, Jessica Brandt, Aubree Brothers, Gavin Buehler, Jeffrey Cantwell, Avery Carlson, Abram Collier, Dennis Cooney, Drew DiSanto, Zalya Doebring, Claire Donovan, Eryn Grell, Sarah Haak, Hannah Haws, Matthew Kuhl, Rachel Miller, Andrew Niles, Nate Palmer, Jillian Parker, Michelle Post, Rachel Ramsdell, Autumn Ressue, Elijah Schlottman, Olivia Tunley, Anton Wendler, Cora Blunden, Lucas Rochevot, Bailey DiSanto, Irini Konstantinou, Autumn Frost



Greg Macaluso
Superintendent of Schools

Message from the Superintendent . . .

Building Capital and Capacity

Reading through this edition of the “What’s Happening”, you will see that the 2016-2017 school year brings a great deal of building. We are in the beginning phases of preparing for a new capital improvement project while building new ways to improve instruction. All with our imperative of “Doing What’s Right for Children” in mind.

There will be a public vote to approve a new Capital Reserve on December 15th of this year. The purpose of this reserve is to prepare us financially for our upcoming capital improvement project. This project will help us to maintain and improve our facilities; maintaining the history and nostalgia of our facilities while upgrading our capacity to deliver a world class education to our students. Further details on this Capital Reserve and vote can be found on the pages within this publication.

Also within, you will find information on our Personalized Learning Initiative. Technology has grown to a point that it can enhance teaching and learning to better reach all students; those who need a little more instruction as well as those who are ready to excel. The technology of today and tomorrow will build upon the capacity of our teachers to do what they already do so well. Peter Drucker said, “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” Our educators do a great job of doing just that every day.

In order to prepare our students for an ever changing future, we must have the capacity within our faculties and our teaching methods to do so. I am very proud of our team and the work they do to keep us on the cutting edge and always providing the best for our students. Our faculty, staff, Administration and Board of Education all do a great job of building our capital and capacity toward our mission, “to provide a learning community that inspires character, service, knowledge, and wisdom.” Please join us at our Capital Reserve vote on December 15th in the Middle School cafeteria from 1:00 to 8:00 pm. Also be sure to check out our web page and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to see all of the great things that are going on in the Williamson Central School District. #WCSpeoplelikeyou



High School . . .

Our school year started off in high spirits as we finished a successful athletic season and a fantastic Homecoming celebrating the 50th anniversary of the building construction. All of our teams went on to participate in sectional play, with students selected for exceptional senior games. Select Choir students serenaded guests at the fall Cabaret in late October. All of our ninth graders have been benchmarked using the district's new software iReady. This replaces MAP assessments and families have received an assessment overview with the 5 week reports. Our School Resource Officer Deputy Klinkman has made great connections with students here at the high school. We want to thank the Wayne County Attorney's office and Probation for partnering with Deputy Klinkman to inform students about the effects of sexting and cyberbullying. All of our juniors and seniors are actively using their chromebooks for a variety of purposes and building those 21st century skills. There are outstanding and innovative things happening in our classrooms and halls, and we hope to see you at our winter events!



*Kathryn Avery
High School Principal*

We have a number of upcoming events this season:

December 6, 7 pm National Honor Society Induction

December 22, 7 pm Holiday Concert Snow Date

January 28, 1 pm Intergenerational Dance

January 28, 7 pm SnowBall Winter Formal





Ellen Saxby
Elementary School Principal

Elementary School . . .

We have kicked off the 2016-2017 school year with many exciting events and wonderful learning opportunities. Students, teachers and staff are all working hard to make this year a successful learning



experience. We have a strong emphasis on reading, writing and math skills here in the elementary school which is evident in all our classrooms, including the special area classes. In addition, we have launched a kindness program called Have You Filled Your Bucket Today? Our launch included a wonderful assembly from the Peaceful Schools organization at the end of September. We continue to fill our buckets as a school, in classrooms and on our own!



The learning for our elementary students extends past the classroom. Our students have also had wonderful learning opportunities outside the classroom, including a trip to the Williamson Fire Hall and Heritage Square. In addition, we have had some special guests visit us here at school....such as Mr. Fiegl and his lamb.



Big Pumpkin Day continues to be a highlight in the elementary for the fall. A big thank you to the 120+ parent volunteers and the 70+ high school students who helped make this a special day for all the students. A HUGE thank you to our Big Pumpkin Day coordinators.... Mrs. Jody Schmeelk and Mrs. Michelle Kuhl!



*John E. Fulmer
Middle School Principal*

Middle School . . .

Our students have successfully completed their first 10 weeks of the school year. Students are continuing to learn, grow and develop. The faculty encourages students to stay organized and to give their best effort. Academic and behavioral expectations remain high for all students.

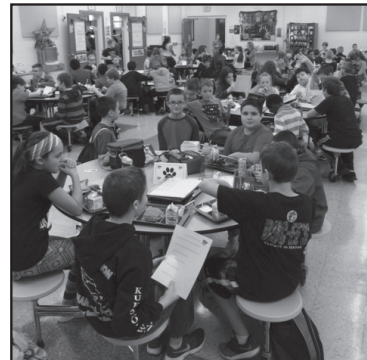
Our report card accurately identifies student's progress toward meeting the new Common Core Learning Standards. Students' work habits are in a separate column, alongside individual assessment scores for each class. Students are proud of their accomplishments and teachers are continuing to work diligently to instruct and challenge them. Students are encouraged to seek assistance if needed and be responsible for their learning. Together with families, we encourage students to put forth their best effort and engage in learning and participating in the whole school experience.

Activities that have occurred in the first quarter and into the second quarter of this year at the Middle School include:

- Student Association – Officers have been elected and many activities are planned for the future.
- Roller Skating – 5th and 6th graders have the opportunity once again this year.
- Spelling Bee – The annual spelling bee begins in December.
- Book Fair – All students were given the opportunity to purchase discounted books and school supplies in November. More book fairs will occur this year.
- Travel Club – Thirty-six 8th grade students (along with 6 staff) traveled to historical Philadelphia in October.
- International Club and Newspaper Club – Active clubs with over thirty participants.
- Radio Club (PAWS2listen) – Taped radio programing is in full swing again this year. A successful fundraiser took place in October in support of PAWS2listen.
- Odyssey of the Mind – Two teams from the Middle School will participate regionally.
- Red Ribbon Week – A week-long focus on educating a drug and bully free lifestyle school wide. A great deal of school spirit was evident. Forty-two students participated in hall decorating. Mix-it-up day was also a success, with students involved in activities allowing them to interact with new friends.
- 100 Mile Club – Over 50 students are participating in running/walking activities.
- PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention Strategies) – Monthly forums have continued, promoting our PAWS (personal responsibility; attitude; work ethic; social responsibility).
- PTSA fundraisers – Box tops are currently being collected with grade level competition
- Modified Athletics – Over 90 students participated in extra-curricular athletics at the Middle School during the fall season.
- Report Card Night – Over 70% of Middle School parents picked up their students' report card and had an opportunity to speak directly to classroom teachers.
- iReady – Our new online diagnostic assessment and instructional tool has begun supporting students and their unique educational needs.
- Volunteer Club – Shoeboxes will be filled with essential personal items and delivered to the Open Door Mission. Other activities are planned.
- Veteran's Day Celebration – This celebration (held on November 10th) honored our community's Veterans and their families.
- Robotics Club – This first year club will focus on design of robotic tools.
- Wizard of Oz – Tryouts will take place in December and the performance will be in February.



8th Grade Students in Philadelphia



Mix It Up Day

Special Vote Planned to Establish New Capital Reserve Fund

A resolution was passed by the Board of Education on October 21st to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund and to hold a special meeting of the qualified voters of the Williamson Central School District to be held on December 15, 2016 to approve the new fund. As part of the District's long term planning to help finance future capital improvement projects, a public vote for the reserve fund is required. By approving the proposed capital reserve fund, residents will help to ensure adequate financing for the next project scheduled for a vote in May 2017 and for other future projects. Funding from capital reserves is used to offset the local share of project costs that help provide for the longevity and preservation of district assets. Please visit the District's website at <http://www.williamsoncentral.org> for more information!

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

What is the purpose of the Capital Reserve Fund? How is it used?

The purpose of a capital reserve fund is to finance the construction, renovation, additions, or equipment of all buildings and facilities of the District as authorized by the voters from time to time. Capital reserve funds are used to pay the local share of capital improvements as approved by the voters.

Will the Capital Reserve vote raise my taxes?

No. Establishing and funding a capital reserve fund does not have an impact on the school tax rate.

Where does the money come from?

Funding a capital reserve may come from budgetary surplus or through other reserve funds as authorized in New York State Education Law 3651.

How and when will the funds be used?

The proposed new Capital Reserve Fund will have a 10 year life and a funding cap of \$5,000,000 to be used to help finance future capital projects.

How can I get more information?

Questions relating to the establishment of the capital reserve fund may be directed to Gary Barno, School Business Administrator at 589-9661 or email at gbarno@williamsoncentral.org.



**December 15th 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Location - Middle School Cafeteria**

Exploring Personalized Learning

"Personalized learning is tailoring learning for each student's strengths, needs and interests-- including enabling student voice and choice in what, how, when, and where they learn-- to provide flexibility and supports to ensure mastery at the highest standards possible."

(Mean What You Say: Integrating Personalized, Blended and Competency Education. *Patrick, Kennedy, Powell, iNACOL 2013*)

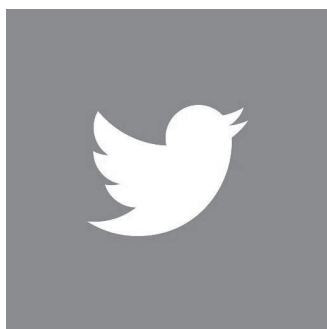


Most of us have changed our expectations in the area of personalization. Not too long ago, everyone had to watch the same television show, at the scheduled time - selected from a very few options. Now, technology affords us the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of shows, watch on a personal device anywhere we want - at any time that is convenient. The move toward greater personalization extends to the field of education as well. We have always worked diligently to differentiate and provide each student with the support and individualized learning they need, but new technology offers some innovative and exciting options. We are currently learning more about personalized learning by working with Education Elements, a company leading the way in school based personalization. The core areas that we are exploring are Integrated Digital Content, Targeted Instruction, Student Reflection and Ownership and Data Driven Decisions. Stay tuned for more information as we establish our path and start to implement pieces of this work in our classrooms.

We are excited and know this will be engaging work for our students and school staff!

Assessment Update

The positive changes made by the New York State Education Department around 3-8 testing are still in place for this school year. If you have any questions about the tests, please contact your child's building principal. You can also find more information by visiting these websites: engageny.org or NYSED.gov



Follow us on TWITTER!

We love to brag about all the great stuff going on in our buildings.

District Feed: @WCSMarauders

High School Feed: @WilliamsonHS1

Middle School Feed: @WMSMarauders

Elementary School Feed: @WESMarauders

Message from the BOE President...

What is in the best interest of our students? Are we being fiscally responsible? These are the main questions the school board asks when making our decisions.

The school board is the governing body of the school district. We are mainly responsible for setting the vision and goals for the district, policies, adopting and overseeing the annual budget, hiring and evaluating the superintendent and managing the collective bargaining process for employees. We pay very close attention to our student's academic achievement and have set high standards for them. Knowing that all students don't learn the same way, we support new ideas and programs to improve how our students learn. We all belong on committees within the district and attend committee meetings throughout the year. Many of us are also involved in other community organizations. We are a very involved and hands on school board that puts the well being of our students and community first.



Caroline Jackson
Board of Education President

We have had some school board member changes in the past year. With change comes a new opportunity for growth. The five members of the school board work well together, respect each other and share the same vision and goals. We have made it a top priority to grow individually and as a whole board. We are taking advantage of opportunities to learn through new training programs and networking opportunities. We are dedicated to serve our district and community by being as knowledgeable as possible.

I would like to invite you to join us at our meetings and get involved in our district. Feel free to contact me or any one of the school board members with any questions or concerns you may have. You can find our meeting schedule and contact information on the school website. It is our pleasure to serve this wonderful community.

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