

WHITESBORO

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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THE RICHARD & HELEN ROBINSON CONCERT SERIES

During the week of February 6, the Whitesboro CSD welcomed the Mark Kellogg Quintet as part of the Richard & Helen Robinson Concert Series. The Quintet held a midday concert for the elementary students, and workshops with both the middle and high school band students.

The visit was sponsored by the OHM BOCES through Program and Professional Learning Arts in Education. The students of Whitesboro enjoyed a unique view of the Arts.

In addition to the school visits, an evening concert was held and open to the public.

The middle/elementary school visit featured members of the Mark Kellogg Quintet who rehearsed with the seventh and eighth

grade bands in their classroom. The Quintet rehearsed and educated them through a workshop in which they discussed musicianship. They also performed for the fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes in the auditorium, and educated students on various elements of jazz music.

During the middle and high school day, high school students, seventh and eighth grade band members participated in workshops to perfect their instrumental performance. Amy Azzara, vocalist in the Mark Kellogg Quintet, gave the chorus a vocal workshop in the morning. Following the workshop, other members of the Quintet rehearsed with students in the high school jazz band. Following the rehearsals, the Quintet performed for the students at the high school.

Members of the Mark Kellogg Quintet include: Erik Schmitz, *associate professor at SUNY Oswego*; Christopher Azzara, *professor at Eastman School of Music*; Mark Kellogg, *professor at Eastman School of Music*; Kyle Vock, *professor at Nazareth College*; and Amy Azzara, *vocalist*.

MAY 2023
**SPECIAL
BUDGET ISSUE**



**PUBLIC BUDGET
HEARING**

**TUESDAY,
MAY 2, 2023**

7:00 p.m., High School Cafeteria

**BUDGET VOTE
AND BOARD
OF EDUCATION
ELECTION**

**TUESDAY,
MAY 16, 2023**

7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Parkway,
Deerfield & Marcy Schools

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Whitesboro School Community:

I hope this message finds you well and looking forward to the many exciting events that remain this year for our school community including athletic contests, concerts, advancements and graduation. These are just a few of the many wonderful events planned for our students and their families. I look forward to seeing you there!

In this issue, you will see much attention paid to the financial plan for the upcoming year. Our goal was to develop a budget driven by our Five-Year Plan that addresses the needs of all our students and provides equitable opportunities for success.

The public budget hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. This is an opportunity for our community to learn more about our financial plan for next year and to hear from candidates seeking election to the Board of Education. The budget vote and Board of Education election will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Parkway School

65 Oriskany Blvd., Whitesboro, NY 13492

Deerfield Elementary School

115 Schoolhouse Rd., Deerfield, NY 13502

Marcy Elementary School

9479 Maynard Dr., Marcy, NY 13403

As always, thank you for your unwavering support of our District and programs. Together, we will continue to provide the best opportunities for our students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian K. Bellair

Superintendent of Schools



DISTRICT HOLDS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM MEETING

On March 21, the Whitesboro CSD held an Emergency Response Team (ERT) meeting. Members of the ERT present included District Administration, NYS Police, Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Whitesboro Police Department, Whitesboro Fire Department, Deerfield Fire Department, Central Oneida County Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Oneida County Emergency Services, Whitestown Police Department, Yorkville Fire Department and Maynard Fire Department.

The ERT meets two to three times per year to proactively address safety protocols, procedures and responses to various emergencies. The Committee had a full agenda, including emergency contact lists, access control capabilities, security devices, Raptor Visitor Management System, FEMA grants (AFG, fire prevention), emergency trainings and naloxone (Narcan) policies and procedures.



PROPOSED BUDGET

The District budget vote and Board of Education election will be held on **Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.** at Parkway, Deerfield and Marcy Schools. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, it will be enacted for the 2023-24 school year. If not passed, the Board of Education can:

- Place a revised budget before district residents for a vote.
- Place the same budget before district residents for a vote.
- Immediately adopt a contingency budget.

If a contingency budget is adopted, only ordinary contingent expenses necessary to provide the minimum services legally required to operate and maintain school buildings and the educational program, preserve the property of the district and ensure the health and safety of students and staff, are budgeted. Additionally, when on a contingency budget, school districts must charge fees to non-district organizations that use school district facilities, including groups such as little league, biddy basketball, boy scouts and girl scouts.

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

THE BALLOT WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

Be It Resolved, that the District voters be asked to approve the following propositions at the Special District Meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Election on May 16, 2023:

Budget Proposition

Shall the budget for the school year 2023 – 2024, in the amount of \$80,101,970, as adopted by the Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education, be approved, and a tax be levied upon the taxable property of the school district to raise same?

Proposition 1 – School Buses

Shall the resolution authorizing the Board of Education of the Whitesboro Central School District to undertake the acquisition of six (6) diesel fueled large school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$827,048 and two (2) gas fueled small buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$213,893, all at an estimated maximum aggregate cost \$1,038,316, less trade-in value, if any, and that such costs, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the school district as may be necessary not to exceed \$1,038,316 shall be issued, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the School District to finance the purchase in that method, be approved?

Proposition 2 – Capital Reserve Fund

Shall the resolution authorizing the Board of Education of the Whitesboro Central School to establish a capital reserve fund pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law to be designated, “2023 Capital Reserve Fund” created to defray the cost of equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings and expenses in connection therewith, and for the purchase of school buses and maintenance vehicles (for use in the transportation and maintenance departments of the School District), and to defray the cost of, in whole or in part, and in order to accomplish the same, the Board is hereby authorized to establish the ultimate amount of such reserve fund to be Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) inclusive of accrued interest and other investment earnings, with a probable term of ten (10) years. The Board of Education is hereby authorized to pay funds from the available fund balance, unexpended funds from the 2017 Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Five Thousand Dollars plus accumulated interest (\$2,505,000 plus accumulated interest), state aid reimbursement to the School District on account of capital projects, such other monies as the voters may direct, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such reserve fund in an amount determined by the Board of Education up to the maximum authorized amount.

VOTER INFORMATION

TO VOTE YOU MUST BE:

- A U.S. citizen;
- A resident of the Whitesboro Central School District;
- At least 18 years old; and,
- Registered to vote with the Oneida County or Herkimer County Board of Elections

TO VOTE YOU:

- Do NOT have to own property
- Do NOT have to be a parent/guardian
- Do NOT have to have children in the school district

It is important to note that the proposition to establish a Capital Reserve allows the District to create a “savings” account for future capital projects; the proposition is not asking taxpayers to fund the account, and has no impact on the 2023-2024 budget or taxes. Should funds become available in future years, the District can make deposits into the account, which will later be utilized to fund future capital improvement projects with little or no impact to local taxpayers, as is the case with our current capital project. The maximum amount that could be deposited into this Capital Reserve is \$10M (cumulative), over a ten-year period.

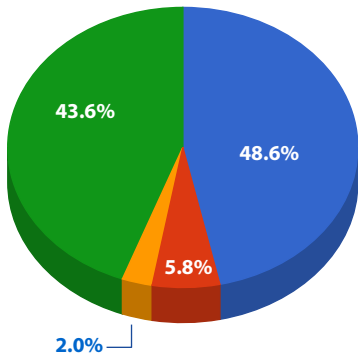
BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

There are two (2) candidates running for two (2) seats, each for a three (3) year term.
The candidates will appear on the ballot in the following order:

1. Mr. Brian McQueen
2. Dr. Jonathan Henderson

ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

REVENUES

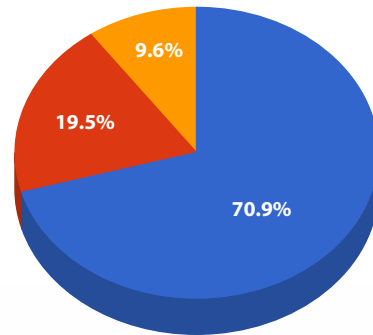


2023-24 ANTICIPATED REVENUES

	2023-2024 Estimates	%
New York State Aid	\$38,961,787	48.6%
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$4,665,000	5.8%
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$1,538,921	2.0%
Tax Levy	\$34,936,262	43.6%
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$80,101,970	100%

2023-24 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

	2023-2024 Estimates	%
Program	\$56,754,933	70.9%
Capital	\$15,638,196	19.5%
Administrative	\$7,708,841	9.6%
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$80,101,970	100%



EXPENDITURES

Electric Charging Stations Installed at the Middle School

The Whitesboro CSD recently installed two electric charging stations on the middle school campus. The equipment and installation costs were covered under grant money provided by National Grid and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

The District partnered with Plug-In Stations Online (PISO) on the installation of the stations, and worked alongside Energetics, National Grid and NYSERDA to bring this forward-thinking initiative to life.

As New York State continues to take steps to increase electric vehicle usage, the District will also take steps to educate our students on this technology.

The Whitesboro CSD is the first educational facility in the region to receive these grants and is excited to experience the benefits that this technology can provide.



BUDGET DETAIL

PROGRAM	70.9%	2022-2023 APPROVED BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Inservice Training - Instruction		\$132,250	\$131,250	\$(1,000)
Teaching - Regular School		\$37,510,528	\$38,747,141	\$1,236,613
District Transportation Services		\$3,662,259	\$3,828,478	\$166,219
Employee Benefits		\$13,314,050	\$14,033,064	\$719,014
Transfer to School Lunch Fund		\$15,000	\$15,000	-
TOTAL PROGRAM		\$54,634,087	\$56,754,933	\$2,120,846

CAPITAL	19.5%	2022-2023 APPROVED BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Operation of Plant		\$3,263,775	\$3,269,696	\$5,921
Maintenance of Plant		\$869,366	\$943,634	\$74,268
Refund on Real Property Taxes		\$15,000	\$15,000	-
Employee Benefits		\$2,246,286	\$2,336,283	\$89,997
Debt Service - Capital		\$8,501,902	\$8,973,583	\$471,681
Transfer to Capital Fund		\$100,000	\$100,000	-
TOTAL CAPITAL		\$14,996,329	\$15,638,196	\$641,867

ADMINISTRATION	9.6%	2022-2023 APPROVED BUDGET	2023-2024 PROPOSED BUDGET	INCREASE OR (DECREASE)
Board of Education		\$68,587	\$71,591	\$3,004
Central Administration		\$2,223,562	\$2,273,431	\$49,869
Business Administration		\$675,552	\$720,442	\$44,890
Legal		\$169,503	\$172,257	\$2,754
Personnel		\$239,681	\$254,948	\$15,267
Records Management		\$17,640	\$18,346	\$706
Public Information		\$136,409	\$229,184	\$92,775
Other Central Services		\$1,174,220	\$1,146,344	\$(27,876)
Other Special Items		\$1,117,659	\$1,165,892	\$48,233
Employee Benefits		\$1,574,543	\$1,656,406	\$81,863
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION		\$7,397,356	\$7,708,841	\$ 311,485

TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$77,027,772	\$80,101,970	\$3,074,198
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General Fund Appropriations by Component

Total Budget 2023-2024	Program Component	Capital Component	Administrative Component
\$80,101,970	\$56,754,933 70.9%	\$15,638,196 19.5%	\$7,708,841 9.6%
Budget-to-Budget Increase 3.99%		2023-2024 Tax Levy Increase 2.16% Tax levy limit is 2.16%.	

While the tax levy limit is often referred to as a "2% tax cap", each district is required to annually calculate their specific tax levy limit in accordance with a formula that accounts for individual district conditions and variables. For districts across New York State, this calculation rarely results in a limit of exactly 2%; calculated rates can vary as high as 6% or more. For Whitesboro CSD, the proposed tax levy increase of 2.16% does **not** exceed the tax levy limit, and requires a simple majority of votes for approval.

BUDGET NOTICE

OVERALL BUDGET PROPOSAL

Budget Adopted for
the 2022-23
School Year

Budget Proposed for
the 2023-24 School Year

Contingency Budget for the
2023-24 School Year*

Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$77,027,772	\$80,101,970	\$79,362,693
Increase/Decrease for the 2023-2024 School Year		\$3,074,198	\$2,334,921
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		3.99%	3.03%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		1.02%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$34,196,985	\$34,936,262	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$34,196,985	\$34,936,262	\$34,196,985
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$1,510,606	\$1,339,861	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$32,686,379	\$33,596,401	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$32,686,379	\$33,956,401	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	0	0	
Administrative Component	\$7,397,356	\$7,708,841	\$7,568,824
Program Component	\$54,634,087	\$56,754,933	\$56,461,693
Capital Component	\$14,996,329	\$15,638,196	\$15,332,176

Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the contingency budget shows the reduction in supplies, deletion of specific equipment, and elimination of the funds budgeted for the Capital Outlay.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:

Proposition 1 - School Buses

Proposition 2 - Capital Reserve Fund

Description	Amount
Authorization to purchase six (6) 66-passenger diesel buses, Two (2) 30-passenger gas buses.	Not to exceed \$1,038,316, which impacts the 2024-2030 budgets.
Authorization to establish a capital reserve fund to defray the cost of equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, furnishings and expenses in connection therewith, and for the purchase of school buses and maintenance vehicles.	An ultimate amount of \$10,000,000, with a probable term of ten (10) years, the source of the funding being funds from the available fund balance, unexpended funds from the 2017 Capital Reserve Fund not to exceed Two Million Five Hundred Five Thousand Dollars plus accumulated interest (\$2,505,000 plus accumulated interest), state aid reimbursement to the School District on account of capital projects, such other monies as the voters may direct, and/or other legally available funds of the School District to such reserve fund in an amount determined by the Board of Education.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023- 2024 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings	\$606

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-24 by the qualified voters of the Whitesboro Central School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at the Parkway Middle School, Deerfield Elementary School and Marcy Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Parkway Middle School, Deerfield Elementary School and Marcy Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot or machine.

**The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

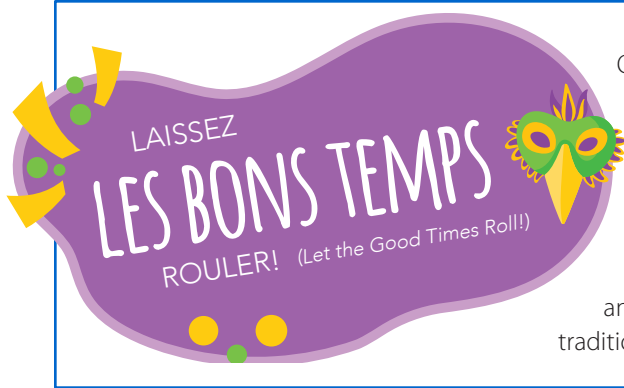
Based on state law, the STAR exemption is capped at **2%** of the prior year's maximum savings.

NOTICE

The Dunham Public Library budget and proposition vote and trustee election is separate and distinct from the school district propositions.

The proposed operating budget and proposition for Dunham Public Library is available at
www.whitesborolibrary.org.

Please contact April L.R. Bliss at abliss@midyork.org or call (315) 736-9734 if you have questions.



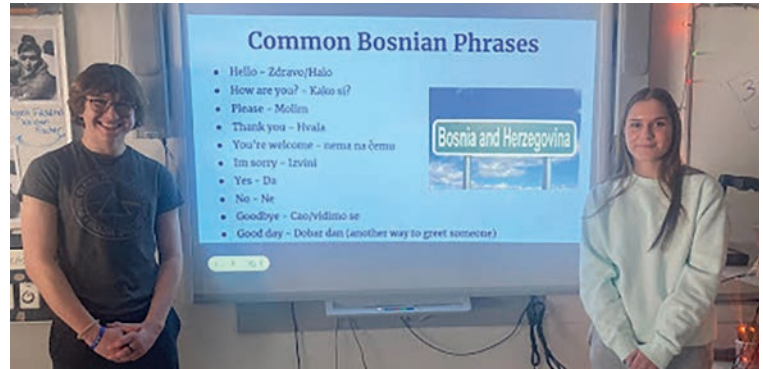
On February 17, Mrs. Cidzik and Mrs. Kostolecki's French classes in (grades nine through 12) participated in a fun-filled cultural event. With masks in hand and jazz music to set the mood, students took part in the making of crepes. Students also read about Mardi Gras and Carnival celebrations and answered questions during the cultural event. Students who answered correctly received Mardi Gras beads in the traditional colors of purple, gold and green.



World Language Classes Celebrate Whitesboro's Linguistic Diversity



Many students in our school district speak another language at home. During National Foreign Language week, Whitesboro students shared their heritage languages in Mrs. Cidzik and Mrs. Kostolecki's classrooms. They prepared presentations and taught their classmates some basic phrases.



FOREIGN STUDENT DAY

On March 24, the International Club hosted Foreign Student Day at the High School. A total of 15 foreign exchange students studying abroad in central New York from all around the world came to the school for the day. Each foreign student was paired up with a Whitesboro student guide from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

The day began with a delicious breakfast, followed by an introduction of all students at an assembly of Whitesboro students. After they were introduced one by one, the club hosted the Alfred University Confucius Institute, a Chinese cultural exchange. The group presented many songs and played traditional Chinese musical instruments. Additionally, some students had the opportunity to go up on stage and participate in a Tai Chi Fan dance led by one of the performers.

After the assembly, the foreign exchange students and guides were treated to a catered lunch from Club Monarch followed by panel discussions in the World Language classrooms. Students were able to meet and learn more about the daily lives of the foreign exchange students and vice versa.

In the ninth period, students relaxed, enjoyed snacks and played board games. After school, the exchange students traveled with their guides to various spots in the region, such as Hoopla, Pinz, the Sangertown Square Mall and Dunkin Donuts.

The foreign exchange students and their Whitesboro student guides attended a dinner and dance at Valentino's from 6 to 9 p.m., and danced to music courtesy of Scotty's DJ service.

The annual Foreign Student Day ended with lots of hugs and some tears because they had to part ways, but lasting friendships were surely made that day!



Two Distance Learning Students Receive Recognition in Chinese Language Essay Contest

Two students studying Mandarin Chinese through the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Interactive Video Courses (IVC) program recently received silver awards in the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS) National Essay Contest.

This is the third year in a row that students from the Chinese program have participated in the competition, and the first time the students have won silver awards. The contest is open to all students studying the Chinese language and culture in the United States. A total of 650 students nationwide participated this year.

From the high school cohort, two students from Whitesboro High School won silver awards; both ninth grade students Kaydence Dapre and Chayse Fischer.

For the high school 2022 essay contest, students were asked to describe something they love about their life, something going on in the world that they don't like and something that they wish were different. In the essay, Dapre and Fischer both expressed their appreciation of the Chinese culture.

According to their teacher Mrs. Chang, Dapre and Fischer are both willing to help when needed, self-motivated and willing to overcome any challenges they face.

The competition aims to promote the study of the Chinese language and culture among students in the United States and to foster greater cross-cultural understanding. The students' depth of thought, creativity, sympathy and empathy to their peers are all shown in their compositions. Their success is a testament to the hard work of teachers as well as the support from each school in promoting the study of the Chinese language and culture.

Students who study Mandarin Chinese through the OHM BOCES can take up to seven years of courses, including the opportunity to earn both high school and college credit for successful course completion in their sixth and/or seventh years of study. Alternatively, independent of the seven-year language sequence, high school students can study Mandarin Chinese for up to two years and receive both high school and college credit.

AWARD WINNERS

SILVER HIGH SCHOOL

Kaydence Dapre, Whitesboro High School
Chayse Fischer, Whitesboro High School

PARTICIPANT AWARDS

Juliana Delpico, Whitesboro High School
Sawyer Michel, Whitesboro High School



On March 27, Wilson's Cops and Kids came in during lunch periods at Whitesboro High School to work one-on-one with students. Wilson's Cops and Kids is a free, non-profit boxing gym that focuses on providing a safe atmosphere for local youths to learn the fundamentals of boxing. Wilson's Cops and Kids is open to all youth ages 8-18.

The visit from Wilson's Cops and Kids is part of Wellness Monday and serves as an opportunity for students to learn more about healthy ways to manage stress and boost their self-esteem.

French Students Learn About Highly Endangered Dialect of French

Paw Paw French, also known as Missouri French or Illinois Country French, is a North American, highly endangered dialect of French spoken in the Ozarks. There is a movement led by local historians and linguists to keep the Illinois Creole culture alive.

Students in Madame Cidzik's French 202 class are doing their part to revive this endangered dialect through studying it, learning some of the pronunciations and vocabulary words and reading a story with Nathanael Alire, a linguist and teacher of Illinois Country French.



BLOOD DRIVE

HOSTED BY THE RED CROSS CLUB



On March 29, the Red Cross Club hosted a blood drive for all district staff, students and the community members. Local blood drives help people in need and they help people in the community. When you give, others live.

Thank you to the volunteers and everyone who participated. We hope everyone had a great donation experience!

FRENCH NIGHT AT THE SYRACUSE CRUNCH

French students, teachers and their families from all over central New York enjoyed the annual soirée de hockey on January 13. The Syracuse Crunch took on the Laval Rocket, a Québec team playing in the same league as the Crunch and the affiliate of the Montréal Canadiens. French Night at the Crunch has become an annual event that French teachers across upstate New York look forward to each winter. This year was our largest attendance since starting this event in 2013, with 14 school districts attending the game.



In order to create a true soirée de hockey, hockey vocabulary words and phrases were presented on the screens around the arena in French. Popular French music was also played during the game. Lastly, a trivia contest was held during the game and a student from each school district was chosen to answer multiple-choice questions about Francophone culture – Matt Brinck represented Whitesboro.

This year's French Night was an exciting game as 10 goals were scored with Syracuse winning 7-3. The American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) of CNY appreciates the incredible participation this year and is committed to continuing this hockey night tradition.

Middle School Spanish Teacher Selected to Leaders of Tomorrow Program

Whitesboro Middle School Spanish teacher Shannen Discavage was one of four teachers in New York State selected for the 2023 cohort of the Leaders of Tomorrow program.

The program, sponsored by the New York State Association for Language Teachers (NYSALFT), develops leadership skills through attending conferences and workshops across the state. Mrs. Discavage will work on a project that gives back to her profession and promotes world languages. In October 2023, she will present her findings at the NYSALFT annual conference in Syracuse.



STUDENTS PERFORM AT *Oneida County Junior High All-County Festival*

On March 17 and 18, Whitesboro Middle School and High School students came together with other students in grades seven through nine from throughout the region to participate in this year's Oneida County Junior High All-County Festival held at Clinton High School.

In order for students to be eligible for the festival, they had to prepare a select piece of music as a solo and perform sight reading in front of a judge on January 11. Those students from each school with the highest scores were accepted into the 2023 festival.

On March 17, students from across the county joined together and began rehearsing their repertoire and concluded with a live concert performance on March 18.

Students were instructed by Mrs. Chantelle Nobis (Middle School), Ms. Lori Sedgwick (Middle School), Ms. Erin Joslin (Middle School), Ms. Lisa Close (long term substitute for Ms. Joslin, Middle School), Mrs. Millicent Ruggio (Middle/High School), Mrs. Nicole Williams (High School) and Mrs. Sarah DePalma (High School).



Hart's Hill Celebrates

JAPANESE CULTURE

On February 27, students in Mrs. Huther's third grade class were treated to a Japanese lunch. Their meal included pork Tonkatsu and chicken Tonkatsu, both served with Tonkatsu sauce, steamed Japanese rice with soy sauce, vegetable sushi, green tea iced tea, vanilla soy milk and an assortment of Pocky for dessert. Thank you to the Hart's Hill PTO for funding for this homemade meal.

Since no forks were allowed at the luncheon, the students learned how to eat with chopsticks. Students also researched the geography, festivals, foods and fun facts of Japan and displayed posters demonstrating their knowledge. They had a blast celebrating their new knowledge of Japanese culture.

Another fun activity included the creation of carp banners to use during the celebration. The class will continue their education through learning to write haikus (Japanese poems) and making origami animals with Japanese paper before the end of the year.

Interested to know more about Japanese culture?
Ask a third grader!



Deerfield Elementary PARP

Deerfield Elementary School recently participated in the annual National PTA Program, "Pick a Reading Partner." The goal of this program is to promote the joy of reading, word recognition and comprehension skills by reading at home, as a family. PARP took place from January 30 through February 17! This year's theme was "Wild" about Reading!

Students engaged in various theme days to maintain their engagement in the reading program. Theme days included a sports team day, dance parties, pajama day, twin day and workout Wednesday!



Assemblywoman Buttenschon Visits Marcy Elementary

Marcy fourth graders had the pleasure of hosting a guest speaker for their government unit. Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon came to talk to them about how government works, the three branches of government and what she does daily.

Students enjoyed this special opportunity, and would like to thank Assemblywoman Buttenschon for taking the time out of her busy schedule to come and teach them about government!



National Social Work Month

March was National Social Work Month and some of the core values of social work are support, advocacy, hope and encouragement, which Whitesboro strives to provide to students every day. It is essential to teach students lessons focused on social-emotional learning (SEL), to build healthy relationships, strong minds and kind hearts.



Hart's Hill celebrated SEL Week from March 6 through March 10, with a variety of activities that were spearheaded by the school social worker and MSW Intern. The SEL activities correlated nicely with the timing of National Social Work Month.

Activities kicked off with reflection messages delivered to classrooms by the students for morning check-in ideas.

Next, positive motivational messages were designed with the help of students and displayed throughout the building. The posters encouraged a positive mindset and a sense of empowerment for the school community. Additionally, bookmarks were made available with the phrase, "Keep Going," for students to give to one another for encouragement.

Finally, "Mix It Up Lunch" marked the last day of SEL Week, with students encouraged to sit with someone new from their own class or another class in order to help build new relationships. All of these activities helped bring awareness to the importance of mental well-being for our students.

On a regular basis, many SEL activities and lessons occur throughout the day in classrooms by teachers and staff. Efforts are also coordinated outside of the classroom, in cooperation with other support staff, such as the psychologist and Connected Community Schools (CCS).

For example, the "Trusted Adult Tree" is in the cafeteria and it serves as an old favorite. The students love to see their teachers' pictures on display! The pictures on the tree are a helpful tool for students, reminding them of all the trusted adults available to assist them at school. Another visual displayed in the cafeteria was, "A Sprinkle of Random Acts of Kindness," which was designed by CCS and highlighted examples of caring gestures for students to reflect.

Hart's Hill continues to embrace social-emotional learning throughout the building every day!



On March 1, Kara, a dental hygienist from Mosaic Health visited the Kindergarten and first grade students at Westmoreland Road Elementary School.

In their presentation, students learned about plaque and proper brushing and flossing techniques. Students also learned about which types of foods either promote healthy teeth or contribute to plaque and cavities. All students were given a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss with a calendar to utilize at home.

Thank you Kara for your amazing presentation!



UTICA COMETS Day

Marcy PTO recently hosted a Utica Comets Day at the team's March 5 game.

Before the game, students and their families were able to meet the players and receive high fives from them. While the players were in action, the students had a great deal of fun hanging out with Naudie, the Comets' mascot and cheering on the team. The highlight for everyone was having the opportunity to skate with the Comets players after the game!

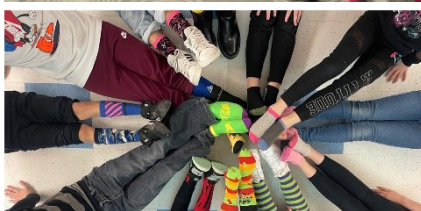
Thank you to the Utica Comets for hosting such a fun day!



Westmoreland Road and Deerfield Elementary schools celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on March 21 by wearing different, special or mismatched socks and/or blue and yellow attire! Students and staff "rocked their socks" to help raise awareness and show support for World Down Syndrome Day.



Down Syndrome, or Trisomy 21, is a genetic disorder, caused by three copies (instead of two) of the 21st chromosome. That is why World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated on March 21 (3/21). The idea behind wearing socks is that they are shaped like a chromosome and wearing mismatched styles and colors helps promote the celebration of differences.



West. Rd. COMMUNITY HELPERS



Ms. Webster's kindergarten students recently came to school dressed as community helpers they had researched and wrote about for the community helper unit of study, in collaboration with Ms. Carrol.

They paraded to the library and students spoke to others along the way about who they were dressed as and why.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



JACOB LUVERA
CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATE

Jacob Luvera is a 2017 Whitesboro High School graduate. Luvera now works as a legislative aide for Senator Joseph Griffo, where he interprets bills, meets with constituents and helps accommodate the needs of the people in the central New York area.

During his time at Whitesboro High School, Luvera played football and ran on the track team. He was also a part of the Honor Society throughout his time in high school. Upon graduation, he studied business economics and finance at Utica University and graduated in 2021.

Luvera became interested in politics and working in government during and after college. As he grew older, he began to see the impact that decisions made by those in government had on all individuals and wanted to be part of that change.

Luvera shared that his time in high school enabled him to become a learner and be more empathetic towards others, their learning patterns and goals. Luvera believes that you should always stay true to yourself as an individual. As such, he enjoys traveling, attending sports games and spending time with his friends and family; helping them to accomplish their goals in life.

"I would like everyone to know that you should decide the type of person you want to be and prove it to yourself, as that is where change can commence," Luvera said.

ATHLETICS

Congratulations

GIRLS VARSITY

GYMNASTICS

2023 Section III State Title Winners



On March 4, members of the Whitesboro gymnastics team successfully defended the Section III State Championship title in Buffalo.

This is the third year in a row that Section III has won the State Title. The team turned in a winning total of 184.450 points, followed by Section VI at 183.975 and Section XI in third place at 181.600.

Members of the team include: Aubrey Hughes, Karley Hughes, Kiara Sahn-Khiamdavanh and Lilyanna Wehrle. They were joined by gymnasts from J-D/FM, New Hartford, New York Mills, Oriskany and Sauquoit.

The team won by a very small margin of .475 over the host team from Buffalo - Section VI. It was tough competition and the girls worked hard and came together to win the State Title once again! Junior, Aubrey Hughes won the Sportsmanship Award for the section. Senior Kiara Sahn-Khiamdavanh also placed sixth on the balance beam in the individual awards.

Coaches, families and teammates are very proud of the team. Congratulations on the State Title!

EDUCATORS:

Help parents talk to their kids about **TECH**

The average public school student in the US spends about hours in school each day, 180 days per year. That may seem like a lot, but it pales in comparison to time spent outside of school. In fact, over the course of a year, students are in school only 15 percent of their time.

As teachers can attest, it's hard to teach important skills and impart content knowledge in such a small amount of time. That's why teachers need the support of parents and caregivers. If lessons are not repeated and reinforced outside the classroom, students cannot internalize them and truly learn.

This is not only true about traditional subjects like math, reading and science, but it also applies to digital citizenship education, which needs to be reinforced, taught and demonstrated outside the classroom.

But what to do? And where to start? It can be difficult for parents to talk to their children about technology. Parents may be afraid of technology and that fear may permeate their conversations.

When a child asks a question, take it as a compliment and a chance to connect. Always affirm with a statement such as, "That's a great question," "I'm glad you asked" or "I'm sure lots of people wonder about that."

But you can't always depend on the child asking the questions, parents need to prompt and start conversations themselves. Here are some specific conversation prompts for different ages:

CHILDREN 8 AND UNDER:

- *Show me how you do that on (name of the device).*
- *What is your favorite thing to do on (name of the device)?*
- *What do you think will happen next in the (movie/show/game)?*
- *How did it make you feel when you saw that on (movie/show/game)?*
- *When I'm on my phone, how does it make you feel?*
- *Can I have permission to share this (picture/video/quote) of yours?*

CHILDREN AGES 8-13:

- *How would you feel if someone shared something private about you online without your permission? What if I shared it?*
- *What things are private to you? What things are public?*
- *Will you be able to finish your homework on time to (play game/watch show)?*
- *Who are your friends online?*
- *Do your friends ever do things that make you feel uncomfortable online? If so, what are they?*
- *Do you feel (name of caregiver) is on devices too much? If so, how could we be better?*

When talking to your child, use open-ended questions whenever possible. These start with what, how and why, rather than do or when.

TEENS AGES 13-17

- *What do you think that (show/movie/meme) is trying to say? Why do you think it's saying that?*
- *What would you tell a friend who shared something online that probably should have been kept private?*
- *If a friend told you that you shared something that should have been private or made them feel uncomfortable, how would you feel?*
- *How does technology affect dating relationships?*
- *What's something positive you can do online today?*
- *Who do you want to be online?*

Teens may have difficult questions. They are experiencing a time of transition and figuring out who they are in the world. It's OK if you don't know the answers, just discuss the question and model how to find the answer online using safe and trustworthy websites.

Show your vulnerability to your child in order to develop that trust. Treat them like the intelligent, growing humans they are.

Try to be collaborative and empathetic in your approach. Engage in mutual problem solving when possible, rather than using the 'parent voice.' This will deepen your relationship and connection so that future conversations can happen.

NEW YORK STATE MASTER TEACHER PROGRAM

Congratulations to Mrs. Jessica Hamilton and Mrs. Karla Williams on being selected as New York State Master Teachers.

Mrs. Hamilton, middle school science teacher and Mrs. Williams, high school science teacher, will join peers, already members of the NYS Master Teacher Program, to form a network of over 1,600 outstanding K-12 teacher leaders who demonstrate a deep understanding of their content area, pedagogy, students, their families and their communities, as well as, a commitment to growth in these areas. NYS Master Teachers are dedicated to inspiring their students, who are the next generation of STEM teachers. Congratulations, Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Williams!



MRS. HAMILTON

MRS. WILLIAMS

65 Oriskany Boulevard, Whitesboro, New York 13492

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Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Brian K. Bellair

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Local**

The Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education meets at 7:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise. Meetings are held at the Administration Building at 65 Oriskany Blvd. in Whitesboro, or at one of the school buildings in the District. Please visit www.wboro.org/boemeeting for the complete meeting schedule.

Estimated Tax Impact

Whitesboro Central School District
2023 - 2024 School Budget

Home with Full Value Exemption	SENIOR Enhanced STAR \$1,313** Exemption/Credit* <i>*Income Restrictions</i>		With Basic STAR \$606** Exemption/Credit		No STAR No Exemption	
	Estimated Increase Cost Per Month	Estimated Increase Cost Per Year	Estimated Increase Cost Per Month	Estimated Increase Cost Per Year	Estimated Increase Cost Per Month	Estimated Increase Cost Per Year
100,000	\$6.33	\$75.93	\$6.33	\$75.93	\$6.33	\$75.93
150,000	\$9.49	\$113.90	\$9.49	\$113.90	\$9.49	\$113.90
200,000	\$12.66	\$151.87	\$12.66	\$151.87	\$12.66	\$151.87
300,000	\$18.98	\$227.80	\$18.98	\$227.80	\$18.98	\$227.80

STAR Exemptions and STAR Credits are based on the most recent information available. The maximum STAR savings for each school district is calculated by the Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS) and is available online. (<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/eligibility.htm>).

The estimated costs calculated above use the FINAL 2022 Assessment Rolls as determined by the Town of Whitestown. The 2022 Equalization Rates used were established by the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Service.

Homeowners that have purchased a home after August 1, 2015, and have not yet registered for the STAR credit, will need to register with the New York State Tax Department at www.tax.ny.gov/star or call (518) 457-2036 to receive a STAR credit.



**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023,
AT PARKWAY, DEERFIELD OR MARCY SCHOOLS.**