

# WHITESBORO

## CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

INSPIRE | CULTIVATE | EMPOWER



## WHITESBORO HOMECOMING



NOVEMBER 2024

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2024 OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS AWARDED  
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Whitesboro Lights Up Homecoming Blue and White Parade and Senior Night Celebrations Culminate in Football Victory!

*Turn to page 15 to read more!*

**Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:**

Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:

We have had a very busy and productive beginning to our school year. As you can see in this issue, we have so much taking place in our schools including academic and athletic achievements by our students; the continued development and implementation of our Five-Year Plan and the forging of new partnerships to assist and support students and families academically, socially and emotionally with strategies and programs that help ensure they can be fully engaged with our District.

As announced previously, we are extremely proud that the Whitesboro Central School District was selected by the Mohawk Valley Choice Awards as the Best Public School in the Mohawk Valley for the second year in a row! On behalf of our District, I share our immense gratitude to our entire school community; we greatly appreciate the fact that so many of you supported us for this prestigious award -- it is truly an honor and a privilege to be a part of such an outstanding community.

We are also very proud to announce the following staff members and outstanding district program which was selected by the Genesis Group for the 18th Annual Celebration of Education. Congratulations to our award winners and outstanding program on this amazing accomplishment!

**Outstanding Educators**

- Elizabeth Bellair - Marcy Elementary
- Daniel Everson - High School
- Dana Linfield-Wadnola - High School
- Alissa Sparace - Marcy Elementary
- Lisa Spina - Deerfield Elementary
- Holly Yardley - Middle School

**Outstanding Program**

Instructional Coach Program - Samantha Hula and Bettina Toth - Middle School Campus

With the holiday season nearly upon us, I would like to thank each of you for your continued commitment to our District and programs. Working together, we provide the best educational opportunities for our students. I wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to our continued collaboration in the new year.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Brian K. Bellair**

*Superintendent of Schools*



**DISTRICT LEADERS**

**WHITESBORO PRESENTS AT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE**

From October 20 to 22, school board members, educational administrators, and stakeholders from across the state gathered in New York City for the New York State School Boards Association (NYSSBA) Annual Convention and Education Expo. Presentations from a diverse range of speakers, representing various education-related institutions, addressed a broad array of topics impacting schools statewide.

The Whitesboro Central School District marked a significant milestone by delivering its first-ever presentation at the conference. Board President Brian McQueen, District Superintendent Dr. Brian Bellair, and Assistant Superintendent for Business Joseph Muller led a 60-minute session titled "Are You Ready if an Emergency Hits Your District?"

The event was widely regarded as a success, providing valuable insights and best practices to help enhance educational programs across the state.







# WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT EMERGENCY RESPONSES

Below is a description of the New York State standardized terminology that the District is using during emergencies. Depending on the nature of the incident, the school will implement one of the following protective actions:

- S** **SHELTER-IN-PLACE**  
Used to shelter students and staff inside the building in the event it is safer inside the building than outside. For example, this response might be implemented in the event of severe weather.
- H** **HOLD-IN-PLACE**  
Used to limit movement of students and staff while dealing with short-term emergencies, such as maintenance issues or medical emergencies.
- E** **EVACUATE**  
Used to evacuate students and staff from the building. When an evacuation is necessary, students can be moved outside on school grounds or to a predetermined shelter site depending on the situation, such as in the event of a fire.
- L** **LOCKOUT**  
Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an imminent concern outside of the school.
- L** **LOCKDOWN**  
Used to secure school buildings & grounds during incidents that pose an immediate threat of violence in or around the school.



## BLUE LIGHTS

External and internal blue lights are used to inform students, staff, and visitors that the building is in Lockdown. The Lockdown may be a drill or in response to an actual emergency. Prominently posted signs regarding our blue emergency lights are located at each main building entrance. These signs advise all visitors to leave the campus if the lights are on. (call the main office to confirm it is safe to return to the building in the event it was just a drill).



## EMERGENCY AWARENESS FOR PARENTS

### PREPARATION FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS:

1. Make sure emergency contact information is correct: mailing address, phone numbers, and pick-up information. Your child will only be released to parents and persons identified on the emergency contact list.
2. Keep medical information and medications up to date with the school nurse.
3. Review the emergency response information with your child. Remind them to listen to their teacher/staff for instructions and to remain calm. Explain to them that they may be moved to a different location in the event of an emergency. Talking with your child ahead of time can help to ease anxiety and fear if an emergency occurs.
4. Keep alert. Report any suspicious behaviors or activities to school administration or law enforcement.
5. "See Something, Say Something!"

### IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY AT SCHOOL:

1. If an emergency occurs, student safety is the first priority.
2. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE SCHOOL UNTIL NOTIFIED TO DO SO.** Listen for further instruction. Monitor the District's school messenger system and the District's website for official information. Be accessible through the emergency phone numbers you provided to the school.
3. **Students will be held in school custody until the emergency has been declared safe.** If your child will be dismissed directly to your custody or the custody of persons identified on the emergency contact list, they must be signed out.
4. When picking up your child, ensure that you have proper identification with you. During an emergency, pickup procedures may be different and ID may be required to release your child.

## DISTRICT INFORMATION

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
315.266.3303  
315.266.3306

**HIGH SCHOOL**  
315.266.3200

**PARKWAY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
315.266.3175

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
315.266.3100

**DEERFIELD  
ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3410

**HART'S HILL  
ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3430

**MARCY  
ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3420

**WESTMORELAND  
ROAD ELEMENTARY**  
315.266.3440

# COMMUNITY/LOCAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

## INFO - REFERRAL SERVICES

**MVCAA/Runaway and Homeless Youth Program**  
315.624.9930

**Neighborhood Center**  
315.272.2600

**Oneida County Dept. of Social Services**  
315.798.5804

## FOOD - CLOTHING - SHELTER

**Food Bank of Central New York**  
315.437.1899 or visit [www.foodbankcny.org](http://www.foodbankcny.org)

**Evelyn's House**  
*Serves pregnant/parenting women ages 16-24*  
315.733.0236

**Housing Info & Referral Center**  
315.735.5246

**It Takes a Village Diaper Bank**  
315.841.8512

**Oneida and Herkimer County  
Department of Social Services**  
*HEAP, SNAP, medical assistance, rental assistance*  
315.798.5700 or 315.867.1291

**\*Rescue Mission**  
*Serves males 18+, 212 Rutger St.*  
315.735.1645

## WHERE TO GET A MEAL

**\*Hope House**  
*112 South St., Mon.-Sat.: 10-11 a.m.,  
12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.; Sun.: 12-1 p.m. & 4-5 p.m.*  
315.793.3723

**\*Rescue Mission of Greater Utica**  
*201 Rutger St., Mon.-Fri.: 7-7:30 a.m.,  
12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.; Weekend: 8-8:30 a.m.,  
12-12:30 p.m. & 4-4:25 p.m.*  
315.735.1645

## COVID-19

**COVID-19 Therapeutic Locator**  
1.800.232.0233

**Oneida County Health Dept.  
COVID-19 Questions**  
315.798.5748

**COVID-19 Hotline for Individuals  
Without Insurance**  
888.873.2869

## SUPPORT SERVICES

**ACR Health: LGBTQ Support Group**  
315.475.2430

**Catholic Charities**  
315.724.2158

**Empowered Pathways**  
315.724.1718

**Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York**  
315.793.7000

**On-Point for College**  
315.790.5588

**The Salvation Army (Utica)**  
315.724.8736

**Underground Teen Center**  
315.733.7768

**Working Solutions**  
315.793.2229

## HEALTH: ADDICTION, COUNSELING & WELL-BEING

**Addiction Stabilization Center**  
315.735.1645

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
315.732.6880

**Beacon Center**  
315.366.4100

**Behavioral Services**  
315.798.8868

**Center for Family Life & Recovery**  
315.733.1709

**Central New York Health Home Network**  
315.624.9670

**Clinton Therapy and Testing Center**  
315.859.1973

**Health Friends**  
315.724.0988

**Integrated Community Alternatives  
Network (ICAN)**  
315.792.9039

**Mohawk Valley Counseling Associates**  
315.765.0121

**Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center**  
315.738.3800

**Maria Horan and Associates**  
315.724.5344

**Oneida County Dept. of Mental Health**  
315.768.3660

**Planned Parenthood**  
315.724.6146

**Resource Center for Independent  
Living RCIL**  
315.797.4642

**Samaritan Counseling Center**  
315.724.5173

**Utica Community Health Center**  
315.793.7600

## CHILDCARE

**The Neighborhood Center**  
315.272.2600

## OTHER SERVICES

**Affordable Connectivity Program**  
*(\$30 savings per month through Spectrum)*  
<https://www.fcc.gov/acp>

**Government Phone Program**  
[www.assurancewireless.com](http://www.assurancewireless.com)

**Mobile Crisis Assessment  
Team (MCAT)**  
315.732.6228 or 1.844.732.6228

**Oneida County Child  
Advocacy Center**  
315.732.3990

**Oneida County Child  
Protective Services**  
315.798.5364

**PINS and Pre-PINS**  
*(Persons in Need of Supervision) for  
incorrigible and/or truant youth*

**For more information,  
visit [www.211midyork.org](http://www.211midyork.org)**

## HOTLINES

**American Pregnancy Hotline**  
1.866.672.2296

**Child Abuse Hotline**  
1.800.342.3720  
text "START" to 88788

**LGBTQ National Hotline**  
1.888.843.4564

**MVCAA Runaway and  
Homeless Youth 24hr Hotline**  
315.624.9930

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
988

**National Runaway Safeline**  
1.800.RUNAWAY

**NYS Domestic Violence 24hr Hotline**  
1.800.942.6906 or text 1.844.997.2121

**Teen Line**  
1.800.852.8336 or text "TEEN" to 839863

**YWCA Confidential 24hr  
Crisis Hotline  
(Domestic Violence)**  
315.797.7740

**In an Emergency - Dial 911**



# Welcome NEW STAFF



On August 14 and 15, the Whitesboro Central School District held a two-day orientation for new teachers at the District Administration Building.

At the orientation – which was led by Kelly Smith, a kindergarten teacher at Marcy Elementary School, and Dawn Zielenski, a second grade teacher at Marcy Elementary School – the new teachers were introduced to District administrators, District policies and procedures and basic expectations. Specific topics included: District technology, teacher evaluation procedures, special education, fire inspection and safety information, union membership and Whitesboro Teacher Center offerings. New teachers also had the opportunity to work with other teachers in their subject area.

The Whitesboro Central School District welcomes all of its new instructional and school-related staff members and wishes everyone a great 2024-25 school year!

The collective mission of the Whitesboro Central School District is, “To inspire, cultivate and empower all learners to maximize their potential.”

## OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS AWARDED

The District is proud to inform you that the following Whitesboro staff members were selected by the Genesis Group as Outstanding Educators for the 18th Annual Celebration of Education.



**ELIZABETH BELLAIR**  
Marcy Elementary

**DANIEL EVERSON**  
High School

**DANA LINFIELD-WADNOLA**  
High School

**ALISSA SPARACE**  
Marcy Elementary

**LISA SPINA**  
Deerfield Elementary

**HOLLY YARDLEY**  
Middle School

## High School Welcomes Families for Annual Curriculum Night

On September 25, Whitesboro High School held its annual Curriculum Night for the parents, guardians and caregivers of high school students.

Family members were able to visit each of their children's classrooms on a condensed bell schedule, learning more about the classes they'll be taking, meeting their teachers and becoming familiar with the school building. In the high school pit, tables were set up with information about the different high school clubs and extracurricular activities that are available for students to join.

It was an informative evening and a great way to kick off the start of a new school year.



## HIGH SCHOOL EARNS SILVER ON 2024 AP SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FOR OUTSTANDING COLLEGE-PREP SUCCESS

**Congratulations to Whitesboro High School for being named to the 2024 AP School Honor Roll!**

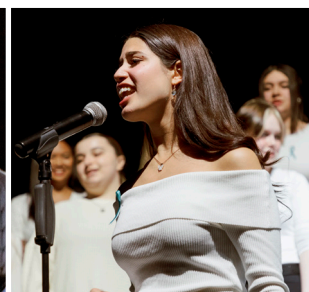
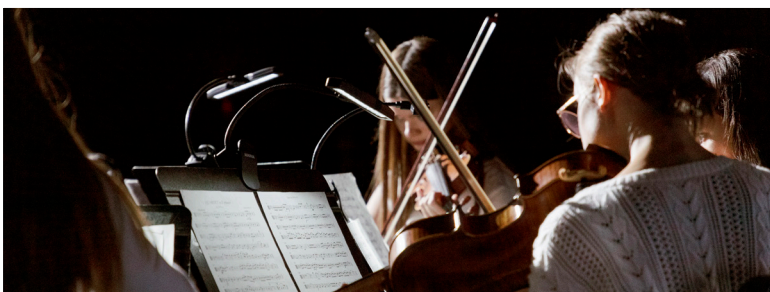
The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose Advanced Placement programs are delivering results and broadening access for students. Whitesboro High School has earned a Silver level of distinction.

Schools can earn the Honor Roll recognition annually based on their ability to increase their school's college-going culture, to provide opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

Whitesboro High School had 50% of seniors who took at least one AP exam during high school, 37% of seniors scoring a three or higher on at least one AP exam, and 8% of seniors who took five or more AP exams.

## 52nd Annual Optimist Collage Concert

Wows with Nonstop Music Showcase



On October 24, the Whitesboro High School music department held its 52nd Annual Optimist Collage Concert to showcase the talented and dedicated student-musicians in band, chorus and orchestra. The concert was 90 minutes of continuous music featuring full ensembles, quartets, A capella and soloists under the direction of Mrs. DePalma, Mrs. Ruggio and Mrs. Williams. Students performed 25 pieces of music from four locations within the theater surrounding the audience with incredible performances showcasing the depth and breadth of the music program.



## WHITESBORO HOSTS NINTH GRADERS FOR 3RD ANNUAL OVERCOMING OBSTACLES CONFERENCE



Area ninth graders gathered at Whitesboro High School on October 16 for the 3rd Annual Overcoming Obstacles Conference with former teacher, education activist and founder of the Freedom Writers Foundation Erin Gruwell.

Overcoming Obstacles: A Message of Connection, Resilience and Hope encourages ninth graders to “find that adult in your life” as they transition from junior high to senior high and to continue to navigate the many challenges created by the pandemic.



Gruwell is best known for her work with the Freedom Writers, a group of students she taught at Wilson High School who overcame challenges and rewrote their futures. Her story is the basis for the 2007 film “The Freedom Writers,” starring Hilary Swank.

## HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES NYS REGENT FOR AN INSIDE LOOK AT INNOVATIVE LEARNING AND STUDENT SUCCESS

Students and staff at Whitesboro High School welcomed Regent Patrick Mannion to the District on October 4. Regent Mannion is a member of the New York State Board of Regents, representing the 5th Judicial District which includes Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego counties.

During his visit, Regent Mannion and Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES District Superintendent Dr. Kilburn toured the building and spent time with Whitesboro’s building- and district-level administrators.

Regent Mannion also had the opportunity to see a presentation of the District’s electron scanning microscope by Mrs. Wadnola and Mr. Ryan, who explained how this piece of equipment enhances our curriculum and is used in various science courses at the High School. Whitesboro is one of only four school districts in the entire country to have its own scanning electron microscope for students to use. The powerful microscope is a type of electron microscope that produces images of a sample by scanning it with a focused beam of electrons. Samples can be magnified up to 200,000 times.

Before leaving Whitesboro, Regent Mannion spoke with members of the class of 2025 including Briana Finch, Lauren Levatino, Kayleigh Marr, Reid O’Byran, Anthony Tobiasz and Matt Yardley about their curricular and co-curricular achievements in addition to their post-graduation plans.

We had a great visit with Regent Mannion and hope that he enjoyed his time with some of the students and staff of the Whitesboro CSD!





# CREEK WEEK

Seventh grade students at Whitesboro Middle School recently had the opportunity to play a part in determining the overall health of the Sauquoit Creek.

On September 30 and October 1, Whitesboro Middle School was a host site for "A Day in the Life of the Mohawk River." Participating students, ranging from elementary school to college-aged, partnered with environmental education centers from around New York to use hands-on field techniques to collect scientific data from eight different sites. The sites ranged from Peebles Island to Rome, NY.

During their science classes, Whitesboro seventh graders tested the waters of the Sauquoit Creek, a tributary to the Mohawk River that leads into the Hudson River Estuary. Students first learned about the geography of the Sauquoit Creek and the Mohawk River Watershed, then tested the waters of the creek for turbidity, dissolved oxygen levels, temperature, pH, velocity and water depth. They also collected macroinvertebrate specimens and completed a full site environmental observation.

All of this data combined indicates the overall health of the creek's ecosystem.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERGENERATIONAL

# FALL CLEAN-UP

Whitesboro Middle School students recently took part in the Intergenerational Fall Clean-Up, a collaborative event organized with the Oneida County Youth Bureau and the Oneida County Office for the Aging and Continuing Care. Under the coordination of social studies teacher Mr. Burns, students and faculty worked together to provide yard clean-up services to local residents.

This event brought together students and staff who rolled up their sleeves to rake leaves and tidy yards, all while fostering a sense of community. Participants enjoyed a rewarding day of hard work and teamwork, creating meaningful connections with local residents.

This initiative not only beautified the neighborhood but also emphasized the importance of service and collaboration across generations. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved for making the day a great success!





# Teachers Go Gold



## for Childhood Cancer Awareness

In a show of solidarity for childhood cancer awareness, Middle School Campus teachers donned gold on September 20. This initiative aims to raise awareness and support for children battling cancer and their families. By wearing gold, educators not only demonstrated their commitment to this important cause, but also fostered a spirit of community and compassion within the school. Thank you to all the teachers for your support in shining a light on childhood cancer awareness!

## Middle School Campus Celebrates



# SPIRIT WEEK



During the week of October 7-11, the Whitesboro Middle School Campus celebrated Spirit Week which culminated in a Blue and White Day and pep rally.

On October 11, the Middle School Campus was thrilled to welcome the varsity football team captains and the cheerleading squad for an exciting Pep Rally. Mrs. Nobis' students sang the National Anthem and Ms. Hughes' students performed the Alma Mater. The accomplishments of the fall athletic teams – including modified football, soccer, tennis, JV cheerleading and more – were celebrated during the Pep Rally; and middle school clubs such as the STEAM Club, Art Club, Book Club, Chess Club and more were also recognized for their hard work.

The pep rally featured activities such as a pie-in-the-face contest, dance routines from the cheerleaders and a spirited talk from the girls varsity soccer captain, Jillian Davis, encouraging the school community to support Whitesboro athletic teams.

During Spirit Week, homerooms participated in a poster contest that represented school spirit and showcased the students' creativity and enthusiasm. The winning homeroom was rewarded with a special breakfast party to celebrate their achievement.

The Blue and White Day and pep rally was a fantastic way to end an exciting week. Go Blue!







### Deerfield Second Graders Toast Great Behavior with S'MORES AND SMILES

Miss Karajic's second grade class at Deerfield Elementary School has been working very hard since the beginning of the school year. On October 4, the class filled up their reward jar and chose to have a Camp Day to celebrate!

Activities for Camp Day included a camp-themed word search and coloring page, creating students' own s'mores names, laying under the twinkly lights, and of course, eating s'mores! It was a fun-filled day to celebrate the great behavior exhibited from these spectacular second graders.

The class is looking forward to the next celebration!

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTERGENERATIONAL

# FALL CLEAN-UP



On October 20, the Marcy Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) participated in the 2024 Oneida County Intergenerational Fall Clean-Up. This special event provides a venue where younger persons in the community can become engaged to assist their older neighbors with general yard clean-up.

At several houses in Marcy, the Marcy Elementary PTO team (consisting of staff members, students and their families, as well as Whitesboro Cross Country runners) raked leaves, picked up sticks, swept driveways and more. This was a rewarding experience for all involved, and one that we plan on continuing in the future.

Thank you to our staff volunteers Mrs. Emerson, Mrs. Leogrande, Mrs. Nolan, Mr. Rothdiener, Mrs. Scarafile, Miss Sutliff and Mrs. Taylor; as well as our student and family volunteers the Beach Family, Cosamano Family, Graves Family, Leisner Family, Mariani Family, Marscher Family, Zabek Family, Mark LaBuzzetta, Lizzie Schoen and Colin Vella.

HART'S HILL AND WESTMORELAND ROAD

# Stand Up to Bullying

Hart's Hill students and teachers participated in an Annual Bullying Prevention Walk on October 25. The event aimed to raise awareness about bullying and promote a culture of kindness, respect and inclusion within the school community. Each classroom created a poster that highlighted the various themes that have been discussed in school related to Bullying Prevention Month.

On October 7 and 8, Mike Kohli, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Coordinator for the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Safety Office, presented to fourth and fifth grade students at Westmoreland Road Elementary to kick off Bullying Prevention Month.

Mr. Kohli discussed the difference between normal conflict and bullying, shared the importance of being kind and presented an overview of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA). The presentation was a great way to keep students educated and informed on bullying prevention.





# Deerfield Elementary Kicks Off School Year with

# PARTY ON THE PLAYGROUND

On September 19, Deerfield Elementary School held its annual Party on the Playground and Hotdog Roast. Deerfield students and their families had fun playing on the playground, playing basketball and other outdoor games, and socializing with other families from the school community. Hotdogs were cooked and served by Deerfield Elementary staff along with snacks and drinks for everyone to enjoy.

The annual event is a great way for the Deerfield school community to get together and kick off the start of a new school year.



## DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY HONORS A LEGACY OF KINDNESS WITH Community Fundraiser and *Celebration of Joy*

In celebration of Olivia Rose Sacco, whose joy and kindness touched countless lives, Deerfield Elementary School recently held the second Love Like Olivia Day.

Students celebrated by holding a school-wide lemonade stand, which serves as a symbol of Olivia's optimism. Messages of spreading kindness were also decorated throughout the school, and award-winning singer and songwriter Jared Campbell performed songs about how to be a world changer and how to spread kindness.

A foundation has been established in Olivia's name, which will sponsor a new memorial scholarship. Students and staff from Hart's Hill, Marcy and Westmoreland Road elementary schools joined Deerfield Elementary to help raise money for the scholarship. Students from all buildings wore purple or tie-dyed shirts, which were among Olivia's favorite colors. Together, the schools raised nearly \$5,000 for the Olivia Rose Sacco Memorial Scholarship, which will be given to a Whitesboro senior who exemplifies kindness.

Olivia's legacy of spreading love and kindness continues to shine in the community she cherished. Love Like Olivia Day will serve as a beacon of hope, inspiring others to embrace her joyful perspective and pay it forward to make a difference.



## WESTMORELAND ROAD TRUNK OR TREAT

On October 23, teachers, staff, students and their families celebrated the Halloween season with a festive Trunk or Treat at Westmoreland Road Elementary School.

Teachers and support staff dressed in their favorite costumes and decorated their car trunks, handing out candy to trick-or-treaters. Students showcased their creative costumes as they traveled from car to car with their families, collecting treats along the way.

It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together and enjoy each other's creativity. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated Westmoreland Road PTO for organizing this fantastic event for our students!





# WHITESBORO CRUNCHES INTO LOCAL FLAVOR CELEBRATING 9 YEARS OF **BIG APPLE CRUNCH** AND FARM TO SCHOOL SPIRIT



On October 10, the Whitesboro Central School District, once again, celebrated the annual Big Apple Crunch.

Now in its ninth year, the Big Apple Crunch is an annual initiative that not only provides students and staff with a delicious and nutritious apple to “crunch” into, but more importantly, it serves as an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the hard work and dedication that goes into the tireless work of local farmers and the agricultural community, who provide many of our day-to-day healthy, fresh foods. Participating school districts, state agencies and businesses throughout New York State share the goal of celebrating and recognizing the importance of the Farm to School program, which allows for the purchase of fresh, local foods year-round thanks to the hard work of farmers and agricultural workers.

The District’s Food Service Department purchased the apples for this year’s Big Apple Crunch from North Star Orchards in Westmoreland, a local business that has been a big supporter of this annual event.

## **BIG SCREEN ADVENTURE: MARCY ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES “THE WILD ROBOT”**

Our Marcy elementary students got to experience the beloved chapter book “The Wild Robot,” on the big screen! On September 28, Marcy students and families visited the Marquee Cinemas in New Hartford for a special, early showing of “The Wild Robot” movie! Every student who attended the event got a pre-made snack box, complete with popcorn, fruit snacks and a drink. Not only was this a fun event, but it was a great way to kick off our school year together. Thank you to the Marcy PTO who made this special morning possible!



## **VETERANS DAY/ELECTION DAY CELEBRATION**

Hart’s Hill fifth graders prepare for Veterans Day and Election Day by placing more than 100 flags to honor the men and women who served our country. The flags will remind students of our veterans and the many sacrifices they have made for our country, while also sparking conversations about the upcoming presidential election and the process behind it.

A special thank you to the Whitestown Vets Club for donating the flags and to our PTO members for their help in organizing the pickup and drop-off.





# FIRE SAFETY IN ACTION: Elementary Students Explore Fire Trucks and Safety Skills



On October 10, as part of Fire Prevention Week, students at Marcy and Westmoreland Road Elementary Schools were visited by firefighters from their local fire departments for a special lesson on fire prevention and safety.

Members of the Maynard Fire Department visited Marcy Elementary with their apparatus and equipment. Students had the opportunity to learn about the gear and equipment needed by firefighters, go inside a fire truck, learn how to safely navigate their way through an inflatable “smokehouse” and practice what it would be like to jump through a window if they ever needed to exit safely during an emergency situation.

Members of the Whitesboro, Yorkville and New York Mills Fire Departments visited Westmoreland Road Elementary School with interactive, age-appropriate presentations.

Students at the K-4 grade levels participated in an interactive show in which the firefighters familiarized the students with their uniforms, “stop, drop and roll” and “stay low and go.” All students visited the emergency response personnel, and had the opportunity to view the apparatus from each department.

Thank you, firefighters for keeping us safe and taking the time to teach students about fire prevention and safety. A special thank you to School Board Member and member of the Whitesboro Fire Department Mr. Brian McQueen for many years of making events like these happen for our students!



## Westmoreland Road Elementary Celebrates Unity Day

On October 15, Westmoreland Road Elementary School students celebrated Unity Day this year with classroom discussions about how to prevent bullying. Students also wore orange as a commitment to building a community of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion at West Road. The building was lucky to have Jared Campbell perform his uplifting music and even treated him to their own song about togetherness.



# HALLOWEEN MAGIC AT HART'S HILL FALL FEST



On October 25, Hart's Hill teachers, staff, students and community members came together for an exciting, fun-filled evening of festivities and fantastic costumes! Students had the opportunity to visit each classroom in the building for a special trick-or-treat experience. In the gymnasium, students participated in a “Monster Stomp,” where they could win even more treats. At the end of the evening, families enjoyed delicious cider and cider donuts in the cafeteria.

A great time was had by all. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Hart's Hill teachers and staff for making this event possible. Special thanks to the Hart's Hill PTO, the various organizations that generously donated treats, and all the parents and guardians who contributed candy. Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated!







# HART'S HILL KICKS OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR WITH ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND BOOK FAIR FUN



On September 27, Hart's Hill Elementary PTO hosted its annual Ice Cream Social and Scholastic Book Fair. Students, parents/guardians and teachers enjoyed the opportunity to purchase Scholastic books, educational resources and fun items in the gymnasium. Meanwhile, ice cream sundaes were served in the cafeteria, giving families time to mingle, meet one another and build relationships as we kick off the school year.

A huge thank you to the Hart's Hill PTO for organizing the event, coordinating volunteers and managing setup/cleanup. We'd also like to thank our local Stewart's Shop on Middle Settlement Road for generously providing the ice cream sundae kits for all to enjoy!

It was a wonderful event with a tremendous turnout. Thank you to everyone who came out to support Hart's Hill Elementary!



## Marcy on the Move

The grounds of Marcy Elementary School became a cross-country course for Marcy on the Move participants on October 16.

The cross-country race capped off the fall session of Marcy on the Move. Runners were guided by members of Whitesboro modified Boys and Girls cross-country teams. Each finisher received a medal courtesy of the Utica Boilermaker Road Race!

The program also highlights good "sportskidship" and awarded certificates to Nathan Adamczyk, Rayyanah Arnautovic, Jaxson Clarke, Emerson Graves, Gavin Kain and Amil Laboriel for their positive attitudes and support of other students.

The five-week afterschool fitness program for students in third through fifth grades offered instruction in track and field events, running, sportsmanship and teamwork.

A special thank you to Principal Rothdiener, Laura Fasolino and all our amazing staff volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to help give our students a positive experience and introduction to fitness and physical activity!





# BLUE AND WHITE PARADE

*Continued from cover*

On October 11, the Whitesboro CSD held its annual Blue and White Parade, plus varsity football and varsity cheerleading senior nights, to celebrate Homecoming Weekend. The parade started at St. Paul's Church and ended at Whitesboro Middle School's Chiz Frye Stadium.

After the parade, seniors from the varsity football and cheerleading teams were recognized for their dedication to their teams. The varsity cheerleading team recognized its five seniors: Karena Davies, Julie DeMichele, Molly Dowd, Jessica Madison and Kayleigh Marr.

The varsity football team recognized its 19 seniors: Jamir Brooks, Ryan Burt, Ryan Charlebois, Colin Coleman, John Paul DeSantis, Memphis Ferguson, Robert Fuller, James Gilbride, Zachary Griffiths, Jax Hall, Mason Hajdasz, Chris Jennings, Thomas Price, Michael Stilwell, Tyler Thorngren, Lucas Tucker, Brennan Withers, Warren Woodmansee and Matthew Yardley.

Whitesboro won the homecoming football game 56-10.



## Blue and White Week Finale:

### SENIORS EDGE OUT JUNIORS IN 11TH ANNUAL POWDERPUFF GAME, RAISING FUNDS FOR LOCAL FAMILY IN NEED

On October 12, the Whitesboro CSD concluded its Blue and White Week activities with a Powderpuff Football Game between the junior class of 2026 and the senior class of 2025. It was a beautiful night for the flag football game, which garnered an estimated crowd of about 500 people, including more than 120 students, 50 faculty members, administrators and Board of Education members.

This year, the senior class triumphed over the junior class with a score of 20-18 in a very close game. The junior team scored with just 26 seconds remaining, but they were unable to make the two-point conversion attempt to send the game into overtime.

This year's Powderpuff Football Game marked the 11th year of the annual event, which began in 2012 but was not held for two years due to COVID-19 restrictions. During the game, donations were collected from students, families and other attendees to benefit a local family suffering from a cancer diagnosis.

The focus of the Powderpuff Football Game has always been twofold – community service and school pride – and it provides an opportunity each year for Whitesboro students to give back to the local community, including by raising money for cancer awareness. Since its inception in 2012, more than \$30,000 has been raised for local families in need through the Powderpuff Football Game.

Congratulations to the juniors and seniors on a great game, and thank you to all who donated to a great cause!



# WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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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. Visit [www.wboro.org/boemeeting](http://www.wboro.org/boemeeting) for the complete meeting schedule.



ALL STUDENTS

EAT  
FOR  
FREE

DURING THE  
2024-25 - 2027-28  
SCHOOL YEARS

*All students enrolled at the Whitesboro Central School District will be able to receive free breakfast and lunch meals at school beginning on November 1, 2023. This has been made possible by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) expanding access to the Federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Meal Program.*