

# THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

## A Note from Dr. G

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## Superintendent's Corner

Lunar New Year provided opportunities inside and outside the classroom for our students this year. At Hawthorne, Melissa Mancini's 2nd graders eagerly folded and glued colorful strips of paper into paper chains, transforming them into snakes to celebrate the Year of the Snake. Many members of our girls varsity basketball team spent their day off from school for Lunar New Year working with some rising Wildcats basketball stars at the 4th & 5th Grade Basketball Clinic. I was thrilled to attend the opening night of our WMS Musical, *Legally Blonde Jr.* This well-loved story of a sorority girl who follows her ex-boyfriend to law school is flawlessly presented by 133 of our students - 89 between the two casts and 44 in the crew! Their hard work and dedication to their craft, guided by co-directors Toni and Mike Williams, musical director Erin Sica, choreographer Gina Horan, crew director Amanda Nailor, costume designer Evelyn Varga, and rehearsal pianist Ben Appel was quite evident. The show is sold out, but I am delighted that hundreds of ticket-holders will enjoy it tonight, tomorrow, and Sunday. Break a leg, Wildcats! Earlier this month, we welcomed Wendy Guagenti as the art teacher at Columbus. She and her students have already studied mandalas and pencil sketching, both of which are on display in the halls. They have now moved on to the study of tangrams. These Chinese puzzles are made by cutting squares of thin material into seven geometric pieces and combining them in many different figures. Be sure to check out all the bulletin boards when you are at Columbus!

## Noticing the Good

The Colonial Day experience at Columbus was a huge success! Dressed in period clothing, students transformed into ladies and gentlemen and took on the jobs and chores of real colonists. They had the opportunity to churn butter, spin wool, and make candles - tasks that would have taken up a good part of a colonist's day. They also enjoyed learning the art of stenciling and tin-smithing, which were much easier to master than writing their names with a quill pen. A strict schoolmarm kept even the most fidgety students in their seats and on their best behavior. She made sure the ladies knew their basic lessons and delivered a much more rigorous education to the male students, as in Colonial times they would be responsible for leading the nation one day. There were also lessons about colonial musical instruments and a community dance. The activities, brought to Columbus by Adventure Game, Inc. and supported by many volunteer parents, turned classrooms into historical stations that mirrored the daily work and play of early American settlers. Costumed activity leaders came "in character" to explain how life long ago was lived. This highly anticipated annual event supports the current social studies curriculum as well as the state learning standards for the arts. Thank you to everyone for making it a success even with the two hour delay!

Kindergarten  
Registration is now  
open!

Visit the registration  
link on our website or  
use this QR code.



## The Week Ahead

2/3 - WHS PTA Meeting 7 pm

2/4 - English Honor Society  
Induction Ceremony 2:30 pm, Audit  
Committee Mtg 6 pm, WAC  
Meeting 7 pm

2/5 - Italian Honor Society Induction  
Ceremony 2:30 pm, WMS PTA  
Meeting 7 pm

2/6 - 4th Grade Recital 9 am

2/7 - First Grade Vocal Performance,  
See HES email for times

## In Awe of the Paw - County-wide Recognition

More than a thousand cheerleaders representing schools from Westchester and surrounding counties ran, jumped, and tumbled at the annual Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational earlier this week. We are pleased to share that Senior Wildcat Emma Ciliberti earned the highly coveted Annette Hroncich Westchester County Cheerleader Scholarship at the event. This prize is given annually based on candidates' academic average, interview, written essay, school and community involvement and cheerleading ability. Congratulations Emma!

