

WHITESBORO

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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HIGH SCHOOL FEMALE ATHLETES READ TO YOUNGER STUDENTS

Female athletes from the High School Girls' Athletic Association (GAA) took time out of their busy schedules to visit Hart's Hill Elementary and read to students.

Turn to page 8 to read more!

WINTER 2025

ATHLETICS NEWS
Page 3

DEERFIELD COLGATE BASKETBALL GAME
Page 7

Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:

I hope this issue of our newsletter finds you well as we begin the second half of our school year. In this issue, you will see many examples of the accomplishments and successes of our students and staff. We look forward to all those we know will be coming in the remaining months of school!

It's now that time of year in which we find ourselves deeply engaged in the financial planning for next year. Our building and departmental administrators have worked with their respective staffs to develop next year's plans with the aim of providing the best opportunities possible for our students in the most cost effective manner possible.

The budget development process includes opportunities for community input at the Budget Development Workshop meetings of the Board of Education. We welcome your input and appreciate the opportunity to engage with you regarding this fundamental function of our District. Please check the website for the most current list of dates, times and locations.

Thank you for all you do to support our school community. Together, we focus our efforts and energy in pursuit of our mission, "To inspire, cultivate, and empower all learners to maximize their potential."

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian K. Bellair

Superintendent of Schools



ELECTED OFFICIALS SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Whitesboro High School was recently chosen as the site for several elected local officials to take the oath of office. Many distinguished guests, members of the media and local officials were present at the ceremony on January 9, hosted by High School Principal Mr. Cognetti.

Assemblywoman Buttenschon (a Whitesboro High School alumna and resident of Marcy), Assemblyman Miller and Senator Griffo were sworn in by Judge Brindisi. Reverend Dr. Mary Webster was also in attendance to provide an invocation.

Students in AP United States History, dual credit government and Syracuse University Project Advance government classes were invited to attend. The event also featured members of the high school chamber choir, who performed "The Star-Spangled Banner."



TWO ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT



Kaelyn Barry has committed to attend Bryant University to play women's lacrosse. She will be majoring in business marketing.

Jason Roberts Jr. has committed to attend Post University to play baseball. He will be majoring in business administration.

Congratulations to both students on their future endeavors!



NYS SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD

All fall varsity sports teams earned the New York State Scholar Athlete Award with a combined GPA of 95.15%.

SPRING SPORTS SIGN UPS

Spring sports sign ups begin on February 17 through Family ID/Arbiter Sports for all levels (modified, JV and varsity).

SPRING SPORT START DATES

Practices begin for JV/Varsity on March 17.
Please check the website for updates on Modified Sports start dates.

PIZZA WARRIORS

For the third year in a row, food and nutrition students competed for the coveted title of "pizza warriors." The competition spanned five days, highlighting their skills in budgeting, recipe creation, cooking, creating flavor and many other culinary skills.

Teacher judges came down each period for pizza tasting, sitting alongside the one and only Big Jay (Jason Jaegers), owner of Big Jay's Pizzeria. Students presented their pizzas, describing their creations and giving them a fun, unique name.

Each class competed against each other, with judges crowning a winner each period. Then, Big Jay picked his favorite from the winners to crown the pizza warriors champions.

This year featured lots of twists on traditional favorites. Class winners included spicy chicken bacon ranch, meat lovers, chicken bacon alfredo, garlic chicken, chicken bacon ranch and sausage and peppers.

The winner this year was the sausage and pepper pizza created by Kaydence Schmidt, Ella Anderson and Shea Engelhart.

Congratulations to all class winners and the overall champions! We are already excited for next year.



RED CROSS CLUB DONATION

The Red Cross Club once again participated in the Stuff the Bus School Challenge. Students and staff donated toys to help those in need this holiday season. Thank you to all who donated!



HIGH SCHOOL VR Career Development



On December 13, students at Whitesboro High School explored various careers through an engaging VR (virtual reality) career development activity during Mrs. Jen Collela's English class. Using VR headsets, students experienced career scenarios across diverse fields, including agriculture, technology, healthcare and more. This initiative highlights the potential of VR technology to transform career exploration and inspire students to envision their future paths.

Approximately 30 students participated in the activity over six class periods, making it a successful and impactful event. Special thanks to the Department of Labor and the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES Pre-Employment Transition Service (Pre-ETS) team for making this opportunity possible.



Art Club Students Beautify Local Community Spots

Mrs. Wander's sixth grade Art Club students spent a day taking part in a holiday project at a community staple, the Boulevard Diner. The middle school students had the opportunity to create decorative images on the windows spanning across the diner. As they painted, patrons admired their hard work and effort. More of their festive designs were displayed on the windows of the Whitesboro and Maynard Fire Departments.



STUDENT COUNCIL BAKE SALE FUNDRAISER

The latest bake sale fundraiser organized by the Middle School Student Council was a huge success! Thanks to the generosity of our students, staff and families, the middle school campus raised \$1,300 for the Anita's Stevens Swan Humane Society.

In addition to the monetary donations, a generous collection of items for the shelter was gathered which will directly benefit the animals in need. The support received made a truly meaningful impact.

EXPLORING SPACE: Reid Burkdorf Brings NASA to Parkway

Sixth grade science classes were treated to a special guest speaker Reid Burkdorf, a 2019 graduate of Whitesboro. Reid shared his inspiring journey from having a passion for space to his exciting career with NASA, offering real-world insights into the connections between math, science and his work. Our students had the unique opportunity to ask questions about Reid's role at NASA, his typical day and how he contributes to keeping astronauts safe. A big thank you to our sixth grade science team for providing this out-of-this-world learning experience!



-YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT-



Seven students represented Whitesboro Middle School at the Youth Climate Summit. The Summit was open to students from CNY school districts in grades 7-12. They participated in morning workshops on topics such as zero waste, composting, forestry, homesteading, the Mayfly Film Festival and stream ecology. They met scientific professionals from many different fields as they shared their experiences with the Sauquoit Creek ecosystem during an hour-long tabling event at lunchtime. Students then spent the afternoon developing two climate action plans for the school after participating in an in-depth training.

METRICS BY THE SHORE

Whitesboro Middle School hosted a fun and interactive event, Metrics by the Shore, where students in grades 6-8 teamed up with a parent or guardian to take on a series of metric measurement challenges. Teams rotated through stations, engaging in tasks such as estimating weights, volumes and lengths, all while applying their knowledge of metric conversions in a hands-on way. The event was filled with learning, excitement and friendly competition.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL News

DEERFIELD ELEMENTARY STUDENTS KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH A GROWTH MINDSET

During social-emotional learning lessons presented by school social worker Mrs. Scalzo and school psychologist Mrs. Flo, Deerfield Elementary students are focusing on six key words: practice, mistakes, courage, effort, goals and success.

Students in grades kindergarten through five are focusing on developing self-awareness skills to build positive thinking. Our students have been participating in group discussions and activities to share what they think of when they hear our key words of the month. Students have been engaging in group discussions with a focus on recognizing strengths, achieving goals and developing a change of thinking from "I can't do this," to "I can't do this... yet!"

Our classes are working together to create visuals for our school hallways as daily reminders to focus on our strengths and to help us achieve our goals.





Deerfield Colgate Basketball Game

Deerfield Elementary School students had an unforgettable experience during a special kids fun day at Colgate University, where they cheered on the women's basketball team as they faced Navy. The students packed the stands at Colgate's Reid Athletic Center as they rooted for the Raiders. The game not only gave the kids an up-close look at competitive sports, but also served as an opportunity to introduce them to the collegiate atmosphere.

The teachers and students thoroughly enjoyed the day, emphasizing how experiences like this can inspire students to dream big. For many of the kids, it was their first time on a university campus, making the day all the more memorable.

The Colgate women's basketball team put on an exciting show, with their skill and determination leaving a lasting impression on the young spectators. Though the final score was secondary to the day's excitement, the kids left the game buzzing with enthusiasm and plenty of memories to share.

Events like these demonstrate the power of sports to bring communities together while inspiring future generations. Deerfield Elementary students will surely remember their day at Colgate University for years to come.



Deerfield Elementary ISN'T SO GRINCHY!

It's true - Deerfield Elementary may have had a Grinch in its midst, but don't let that fool you. Beneath the green fur and grouchy glare, there's a heart that's grown three sizes (or maybe even more)! This year, the school proved it has even more holiday cheer than "Whoville" by hosting a fundraiser that jingled all the way to nearly \$900!

Here's how it worked: Students and staff could "vote" for the school's official Grinch by donating in quarters. At just 25 cents per vote, it was a quarter-fueled competition with the fate of Christmas spirit on the line, and boy did the school deliver!

The money raised wasn't hoarded atop Mt. Crumpit, though. Instead, it was spent on Christmas gifts to ensure that a few Deerfield students woke up with extra joy this holiday season. How's that for turning Grinchy into giving?

Oh, and speaking of Grinches, it turns out we all knew who the real green machine was. In a shocking (but not really) landslide victory, Mr. Levesque was crowned Deerfield's Grinch Extraordinaire! But don't let the title fool you - this Grinch is more about giving than grouching.

Here's to Deerfield Elementary for turning holiday mischief into magic, one quarter at a time. Remember: Even a Grinch can spread a little cheer!



High School Female Athletes Read to YOUNGER STUDENTS

On January 9, female athletes from the High School Girls' Athletic Association (GAA) took time out of their busy schedules to visit Hart's Hill Elementary and read to students. It was an exciting and interactive afternoon, where Hart's Hill students had the opportunity to ask the student-athletes questions about school, sports, and the importance of trying your best, putting forth effort and never giving up.

The high school students shared valuable insights on maintaining good grades, volunteering and how participating in clubs helps build lasting friendships. Hart's Hill students thoroughly enjoyed the event and loved spending time with their older peers.

A big thank you to all the members of the GAA for dedicating their time to the Hart's Hill students - we truly appreciated it!



STORIES WITH

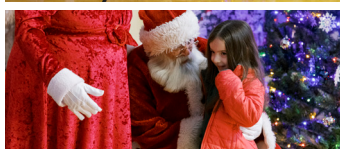


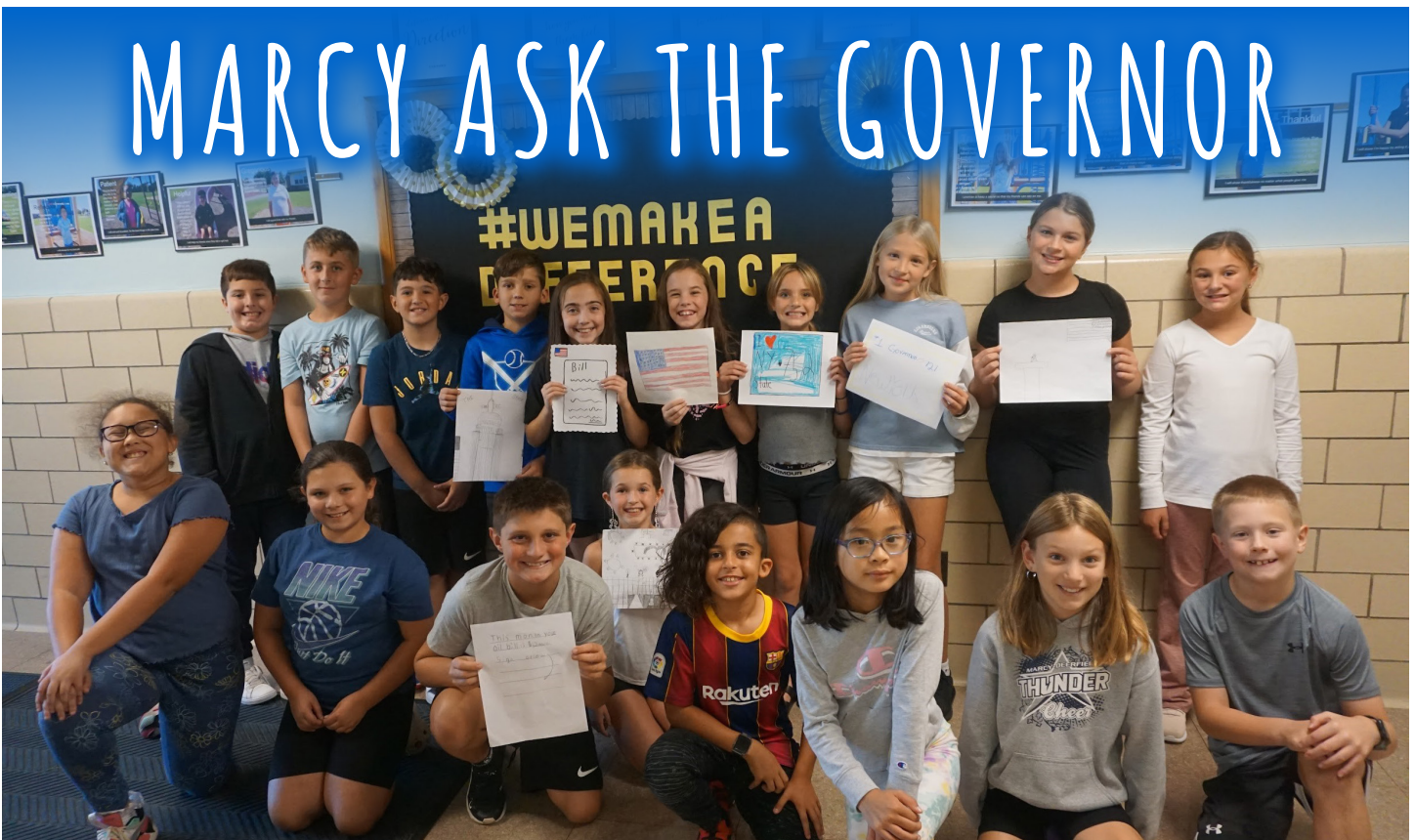
On December 7, Hart's Hill Elementary School hosted its Stories with Santa event, bringing holiday cheer to the entire community. Students and their families had the special opportunity to sit down with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. They delighted young listeners by reading a few holiday stories to students in grades K-2 and 3-5.

Following story time, families enjoyed the chance to create memories by taking pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Afterward, students and families took part in a variety of holiday-themed activities, including crafts, ornament making and cookie decorating, all while sipping some hot chocolate with marshmallows.

The event also supported the local community with the Stuff the Bus toy drive, giving students and families the opportunity to bring in a toy to support students and families in need. Thank you to our wonderful, hardworking fifth grade teachers for organizing the event and all the teachers and staff members that volunteered their time to make it truly special for our students. Thank you to the Hart's Hill PTO for sponsoring and purchasing many of the decorations.

It was a wonderful turnout and family fun was had by all. Happy holidays from Hart's Hill Elementary School!





Fourth and fifth grade students at Marcy Elementary participated in the "Ask the Governor" program. Students submitted questions to Governor Kathy Hochul about the number of bills she has signed into law, protecting wildlife, taxes and her favorite part of her job.

Our students were excited to hear back from Governor Hochul when she answered some of their questions on her "Ask the Governor" YouTube series. Students also received an official letter and pens from the Office of the Governor. Staff and students at Marcy Elementary are extremely grateful for this valuable learning experience.

Fourth Graders Showcase

NATIVE AMERICAN PROJECTS AT MARCY ELEMENTARY

Marcy Elementary fourth graders recently completed a unit on the Indigenous Peoples of New York State, which explored their rich history, culture and contributions.

As part of the unit, students explored how Native Americans utilized natural resources for food, clothing and shelter. For their final project, they showcased their knowledge through creative displays, including longhouses, Iroquois villages, Native American clothing and models illustrating food acquisition methods. The results were truly impressive! Their hard work was proudly displayed in a walk-through museum for the school community to enjoy.

We are so proud of the dedication and creativity our fourth graders demonstrated in their projects!





SANTA VISITS MARCY ELEMENTARY



On December 7, the Marcy Elementary PTO hosted their annual Breakfast with Santa. Santa greeted over 420 joyful guests during a yummy breakfast and posed for pictures with quite a few of them too! The children and their families enjoyed making reindeer food and Grinch dust, ornament making and face painting. They also went shopping at the Book Fair. They enjoyed music from Mr. Lewis and played many games in the gymnasium.

The Marcy Elementary PTO would like to thank everyone who helped to make this such a joyous event. Thanks to the Marcy Elementary staff, parent volunteers and the National Junior Honor Society students who volunteered their time. A very special thanks to Santa for taking time during this very busy season!



WEST. ROAD SING ALONG

The annual holiday sing-along was held at Westmoreland Road Elementary School on December 20. The long awaited finale was a special performance by the West. Road Rockers to get everyone in the holiday spirit.



WESTMORELAND ROAD COMETS VISIT

On November 14, players from the Utica Comets hockey team visited Westmoreland Road to spread the message, "It's cool to be kind."

The Comets shared the "Comets Code:" help others, be a good human, care for others and support and encourage others in the community on and off the ice. Thank you to the Utica Comets for supporting our students!



WESTMORELAND ROAD GRINCH NIGHT



On December 12, Westmoreland Road Elementary School had a very special visit from the Grinch! The Grinch brought with him two special friends: Cindy Lou Who and Max. Students were able to take pictures, make a craft and listen to a story read by the Grinch himself--he even brought an onion to school with him!



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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 for the complete meeting schedule.

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