

# THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

## A Note from Dr. G

Volume 5 Issue 3



### Superintendent's Corner

Congratulations to our talented chorus students selected for NYSSMA Area All-State! Regina Sica, Ashley McKiernan, Susanna Palumbo, Giuliana Malaj, Connor Smith, Jeff Sliss, Lucas Finkel, Tycho Force, and Brady Fitzgerald earned this prestigious honor through outstanding auditions. Their achievement reflects incredible dedication and the expert guidance of WHS teacher Emily Denler. These singers scored at the highest levels among hundreds of applicants statewide, and we eagerly anticipate their festival performance. We are also proud to announce that Westlake High School has been named a School of Distinction by NYSPHSAA for 2024–2025 — an elite honor given to only 110 schools statewide! Our Wildcats demonstrate excellence both in academics and athletics.

Our youngest Wildcats have been busy growing as creative learners. First graders enjoyed art class with Melissa Mancini, inspired by *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds and the dot art of Yayoi Kusama. Their unique creations will be proudly displayed throughout the school. Meanwhile, kindergartners in Ann Marie Boucher's class are collaborating on self-portraits and autobiographies to create a special class book, building teamwork and pride in their stories. After pausing to honor 9/11 with a moment of silence and reflection on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> graders joined Mr. Mungoli and Mrs. Outhouse at our memorial behind WMS. They spoke about empathy, remembrance, and gratitude — especially for first responders like SRO Luke Oliveri, who joined the gathering. Thank you alumna Chloe Putter and her family for their dedicated care in maintaining the memorial each year.

### Noticing the Good

During their first few weeks of school, students in STEM classes at Hawthorne are already growing as young scientists and engineers. Under the guidance of Christin Aboulenein, they are beginning to build foundational skills in problem-solving, collaboration, and hands-on exploration. In the STEM lab, students rotate through a variety of stations where they work both independently and in small groups, using different manipulatives and tools to investigate STEM concepts.

From constructing simple structures to exploring materials and practicing communication, these early experiences set the stage for deeper interdisciplinary learning throughout the year. As our kindergarten through second grade students dive into these engaging activities, they're learning to ask questions, think critically, and share ideas — all essential skills for success in STEM and beyond.

### PURPLE OUT is coming!

Join us on Saturday, Oct 18 at Homecoming + during Kindness Week (3/9/26) to honor Gia Gentile and help spread love through Gia's Kindness.

Get your Kindness Shirt here: <https://gias-kindness.myshopify.com/>



### The Week Ahead

9/15 - Modified Fall Sports Begin

9/16 - ELEM PTA Meeting 7 pm

9/17 - BOE Meeting

9/18 - Modified Meet the Coaches Night, WMS Back to School Night 7 pm

*Looking ahead: School closed on 9/23 and 24 for Rosh Hashanah*



### In Awe of the Paw – National Merit News

Jozsef Varadi has been named a Semifinalist in the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program — an achievement that places him among the top 1% of high school seniors nationwide!

What makes this recognition even more remarkable is that Jozsef earned a perfect PSAT score of 1520/1520 — a distinction achieved by fewer than 0.1% of all test-takers each year.

Congratulations Joe!

