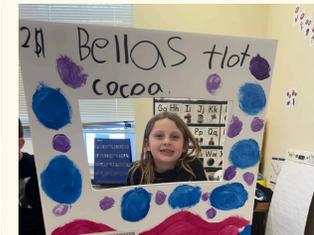


THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 5 Issue 21



Superintendent's Corner

This week, we are pleased to highlight student leadership, learning, and community engagement across the district.

At Columbus, the Student Council met to plan initiatives focused on student voice, school spirit, and service. Students launched a Suggestion Box today and are working on projects including a school-wide Smile Project, bracelets for children in hospitals, and Valentine's cards for Mt. Pleasant senior citizens. Thank you, advisors Christine Galbo and Maureen Valvano!

Hands-on learning was on display in the Career Research Academy, where students designed and built bridges that were stress-tested for strength and efficiency. The top-performing bridge, built by Roman Monaco, supported more than three times its own weight.

The Westlake varsity girls' basketball team gave back by leading a youth basketball clinic. Under the guidance of head coach Sean Mayer, team members worked with younger students on skill development, teamwork, and game play, modeling leadership and mentorship.

Congratulations to Isabella Munnick and Ryan Newell, whose works were selected for the New York State MLK Art and Essay Exhibition, highlighting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of The Beloved Community.

View the online exhibit: <https://www.empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking>

Finally, Stephanie Georgioudakis's 2nd graders hosted a hot chocolate stand today as part of a collaborative, project-based learning assignment. Students proudly shared their work with visitors, answered questions about their learning, and enjoyed serving cups of hot cocoa as they put their skills into action.

Noticing the Good

We are proud to recognize our January Wildcats to Watch, students from across the district who exemplify leadership, empathy, initiative, and our Portrait of a Learner qualities.

At Hawthorne, kindergartner Samik Gupta is already a leader among his peers. Samik consistently demonstrates empathy and kindness, making sure everyone feels included and understood. He is often seen helping classmates and offering encouraging words, setting a strong example at a young age.

At Columbus, third graders Evan Littlejohn and Winston Riccobono were honored for their meaningful service project. Motivated by a desire to help children around the world, they independently researched charities, selected Action Against Hunger, and created handmade holiday cards to raise awareness and support. Their creativity, collaboration, and compassion reflect true global citizenship.

At Westlake Middle School, sixth grader Rocky Zerbo was recognized for his empathy, leadership, and commitment to learning. Rocky is a focused, thoughtful student who supports classmates, contributes positively to class discussions, and seeks opportunities to get more involved in school, including service and leadership activities.

At Westlake High School, senior Elizabeth Singh was honored for her exceptional academic achievement and groundbreaking science research. Elizabeth was named a Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholar, becoming the first district student to earn this prestigious national distinction. Her innovation, dedication, and scholarly work represent excellence at the highest level. Congratulations to all of our January Wildcats to Watch!

The Week Ahead

1/28 - WMS/WHS 2nd Quarter Report Cards

1/29, 30, 31 - WMS Musical Newsies 7 PM

2/1 - WMS Musical Newsies 1 PM



Tickets:

cur8.com/22038/project/136518



Are you ready to show your heart on February 12?

Hearts for Heroes T-shirt sales end TONIGHT!

<https://my.cheddarup.com/c/hearts-for-heroes/items>

In Awe of the Paw – Science Research Excellence

Congratulations to WHS Science Research teacher Lawrence McIntyre, who was recently recognized as a Regeneron Science Talent Search Teacher of Merit for his dedication to supporting student research and participation in this prestigious national competition. Westlake is one of just 206 schools nationwide with a Regeneron STS Scholar this year – an achievement that reflects the strength of our science program and the commitment of educators who inspire and guide young researchers, even in the face of ongoing challenges.

