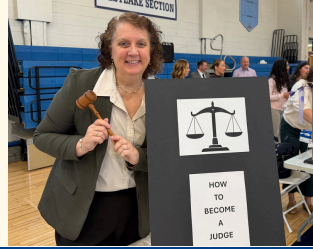
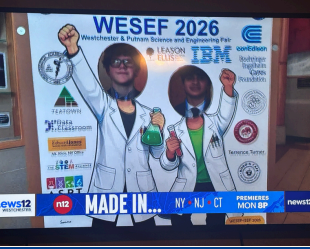


THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 5 Issue 28



Superintendent's Corner

At the 2026 Regeneron WESEF, Westlake students excelled among 827 participants from across the region. Highlights include Senior Tycho Force (read more about him below), along with top placements and awards for Keira Borello, Nareh Hovsepyan, Logan Piñeiro, Christina Rodrigues, Elizabeth Singh, Oliver Wu, Gabe Pardo, Yash Parikh, and Nathaniel Nolan. The Westlake Science Research Program, led by Lawrence McIntyre, also received the Best Forms and Paperwork Award. We will share more details on these winners next week.

Career Week 2026 offered students district-wide opportunities to explore future pathways. Activities include résumé workshops, Career Vision Boards, and interview-based career projects. The week culminated at WHS with today's career fair. Dozens of carers were highlighted, including BOE trustee and WHS alum Laura Michalec Olszewski, who spoke to students about becoming a judge. Thank you to Nick DiPaolo for coordinating!

At Hawthorne, students participated in a hands-on SoundWaters program, rotating through interactive stations to learn about and handle live animals. Thank you to our PTA Cultural Arts Committee for supporting this experience.

Our March Superintendent's Conference Day featured teacher-led, choice-based professional learning aligned with district priorities. Thank you to all facilitators and to Dr. Rufa for organizing a successful afternoon.

Congratulations to our All-County musicians, who were selected among the top performers in Westchester and represented our schools with distinction at the concert.

Please plan to join us on Monday for the Visual Arts Festival Opening Night to celebrate our students' creativity.

Noticing the Good

At the March Board of Education meeting, we proudly recognized this month's Wildcats to Watch, a district-wide program honoring students who exemplify kindness, leadership, perseverance, and our Portrait of a Learner qualities.

At HES, 2nd grader Leah DeBlasio was celebrated for her kindness, empathy, and positive leadership. Known by her classmates as the "Kindness Queen," Leah consistently supports and includes others, offering help, encouragement, and friendship. Her resilience, enthusiasm for learning, and dedication both in and out of the classroom make her a shining example for her peers.

CES 5th grader Brian McNamara was recognized for his strong character and leadership by example. A thoughtful and hardworking student, Brian is known for quietly supporting classmates, asking meaningful questions, and creating a welcoming environment for all. His kindness, humility, and sense of responsibility make a lasting impact on the Columbus community.

At WMS, 8th grader Marcarlo Mannello was honored for his exceptional achievements as both a student and an athlete. A New York State Wrestling Champion, Marcarlo brings the same discipline and determination to the classroom, where he demonstrates strong work habits, self-reflection, and active engagement in learning.

At WHS, 9th grader Vincenzo Mannello was recognized for his outstanding success in wrestling, including multiple Section 1 titles and over 100 career wins. His dedication, work ethic, and sportsmanship reflect pride in representing Westlake.

These students truly represent what it means to be a Wildcat to Watch.

All County!



The Week Ahead

Visual Arts Festival Week

3/21 - WHS Musical 8 pm

3/23 - Visual Arts Festival Opening Night 6:30 pm, Westlake Library

3/24 - 1st Grade Celebration of Learning 6:30 pm

3/25 - Science Honor Society Induction Ceremony, 2nd Grade Celebration of Learning 6:30 pm

3/26 - Kindergarten Celebration of Learning 6:30 pm

In Awe of the Paw – Science Research

Senior Tycho Force won top honors at the Regeneron Westchester Science & Engineering Fair Awards Celebration! He placed 2nd Place in Animal Sciences and was named a Grand Prize winner, placing in the top 20 out of more than 800 projects. He has earned an all-expenses-paid trip to compete at the Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair in Phoenix, AZ, where he will join 1,700 students from over 60 countries!

