COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Hosted at Hart’s Hill Elementary School

The Whitesboro Central School District remains committed to keeping students and staff safe and healthy; opening up Hart’s Hill Elementary School for Oneida County to host a COVID-19 vaccination clinic is just one such example of the District’s efforts.

The vaccination clinic, which was held at Hart’s Hill Elementary on April 22, was an opportunity for students, staff and the general public ages 16 and up to receive the first dose of the Pfizer vaccine. A total of 109 doses were administered from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the school.

Among those administering the Pfizer vaccines were four Whitesboro Central School District nurses: Jill Bauernfeind, Wendy Karas, Shelly Pasquarelli and Sharon Scharbach.

During the vaccination clinic, District administration also handed out boxes of assorted produce and dairy products that were donated by the American Dairy Association of the Northeast and the Food Bank of Central New York. A total of 100 food boxes were provided to the District to distribute.

Those who received their vaccine on April 22 will receive their second dose on May 13.

Thank you to Oneida County for working with the District to provide this vaccination opportunity to the local community!
SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Guardians and School Community Members:

I hope this issue finds you well and optimistic about our continued progress navigating the pandemic. Having students return to school full-time has been such a positive step forward. While much remains ahead, it’s important that we celebrate the accomplishments along the way. We know the impact on our society will be widespread and difficult to measure, especially for our children who find themselves dealing with a crisis unlike any we have experienced. They remain our priority and focus both during this pandemic and beyond. We realize the interruption to their normal school routines will undoubtedly create gaps that will need to be addressed. It is with those in mind that we formulated our financial plans for next year.

To that end, we have engaged our school community in the budget development process, producing a spending plan that is mission-driven, fiscally responsible, and responsive to the needs of our students.

Some highlights of the 2021-2022 proposed budget include:

- Tax levy increase of 1.96%
- $100,000 capital outlay project for repairs at the High School
- Purchase of six new school buses, as part of the district’s bus replacement program
- Continuation of 29 Dual Credit, 10 AP (Advanced Placement) and 5 Project Lead the Way courses
- Expansion of Mandarin Chinese to include grade 9
- Expansion of American Sign Language (ASL) to include grade 11
- Addition of the following course:
  - Thompkins Cortland Community College Dual Credit: Issues and Ethics in Science
- Continued presence of Special Patrol Officers (SPOs) in each of our seven school buildings

The public budget hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in our Parkway School gymnasium. This is an opportunity for all community members to learn more about our financial plan for next year, and to hear from the three candidates seeking reelection to the Board of Education. The budget vote/board election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2021.

Thank you for your continued support of our District. Together, we will help shape the future of our students and broaden the opportunities that lie ahead for them.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian K. Bellair
Superintendent of Schools

Science and Technology Teachers Get Fire Extinguisher Training

During Superintendent’s Conference Day on March 19, science and technology teachers from the middle school and high school were given fire extinguisher training by members of the Maynard Fire Department.

For the first half of the training, two members of the fire department gave a presentation in the high school auditorium about the different kinds of fire extinguishers, how they work, which ones to use in different fire scenarios, and more.

Then, teachers had the chance to put their knowledge to use by putting out controlled fires in the high school parking lot with different fire extinguishers. Firefighters were on hand to light the fires, supervise fire extinguisher use, and answer any questions that teachers had.

It was an important and informative training to help keep both students and staff safe in their science and technology classrooms.
2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET | What You Need to Know

The District budget vote, along with the Board of Education election, will be held on May 18, 2021, from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Parkway, Marcy and Deerfield Schools. If the proposed budget is passed by voters, it will be enacted for the 2021-22 school year. If not passed, the Board of Education can:

- Place a revised budget before district residents for a vote.
- Place the same budget before district residents for a vote.
- Immediately adopt a contingency budget.

If a contingency budget is adopted, only ordinary contingent expenses necessary to provide the minimum services legally required to operate and maintain school buildings and the educational program, preserve the property of the district and ensure the health and safety of students and staff, are budgeted. Additionally, when on a contingency budget, school districts must charge fees to non-district organizations that use school district facilities, including groups such as little league, biddy basketball, boy scouts and girl scouts.

TO VOTE YOU MUST BE:
- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of the Whitesboro Central School District
- At least 18 years old
- Registered to vote with the Oneida County or Herkimer County Board of Elections

TO VOTE YOU:
- Do NOT have to own property
- Do NOT have to be a parent/guardian
- Do NOT have to have children in the school district

BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION

There are three (3) candidates running for three (3) seats. The candidates will appear on the ballot in the following order:

1. Steven Szatko
2. Thomas Schoen Jr.
3. Michael Head

PROPOSITIONS ON THE BALLOT

Be It Resolved, that the District voters be asked to approve the following propositions at the Special District Meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Election on May 18, 2021:

Budget Proposition

Shall the budget for the school year 2021-2022, in the amount of $74,702,240, as adopted by the Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education, be approved, and a tax levied upon the taxable property of the school district to raise the same?

Proposition 1 - School Buses

Shall the resolution authorizing the Board of Education of the Whitesboro Central School District to undertake the acquisition of four 66-passenger school buses, one 30-passenger school bus and one 30-passenger wheelchair bus, with an estimated maximum aggregate cost of $723,000 and that such sum or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax to be collected in annual installments; and, in anticipation of such tax, debt obligations of the School District as may be necessary not to exceed such estimated maximum aggregate cost shall be used, or the School District may enter into an installment purchase contract if the Board of Education determines that it is in the best interest of the school district to finance the purchase in that method, be approved?
Dunham Public Library Budget
Shall the proposition set forth in the notice of this meeting authorizing the adoption of the proposed 2021-2022 operating budget of Dunham Public Library in the amount of $1,280,293 and providing for $1,161,177 of said total amount to be raised by a tax levy collected in annual installments, with school district obligations, to be collected in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, be approved?

Dunham Public Library Proposition #1: Library Capital Improvement
Shall the proposition set forth authorizing the appropriation of $50,000 to be used for capital improvements, be raised by an additional tax levy collected in annual installments, with school district obligations, to be collected in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, be approved?

2021-2022 ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

2021-2022 ANTICIPATED REVENUES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>2021-2022 Estimates</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York State Aid</td>
<td>$34,591,146</td>
<td>46.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriated Fund Balance</td>
<td>$4,800,000</td>
<td>6.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenues</td>
<td>$1,977,507</td>
<td>2.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Levy</td>
<td>$33,333,587</td>
<td>44.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Anticipated Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>$74,702,240</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2021-2022 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>2021-2022 Estimates</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$53,573,956</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital</td>
<td>$14,101,903</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>$7,026,381</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Proposed Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$74,702,240</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Capital Outlay Information
The capital outlay account is an account funded for the purpose of completing specific capital improvements within the 2021-2022 budget year. This allows us to perform the necessary work to our facilities independent of a capital project while generating 100% of the building aid in the following year (unlike the 15-20 year aid reimbursement payment schedule of a typical capital project). Our building aid ratio for 2021-2022 is 86.5%, meaning next year’s expenditure of $100,000 will be followed by building aid revenue the following year in the approximate amount of $86,500. The plan for next year’s work includes window, door and façade improvements at the high school.
### BUDGET DETAIL

#### Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2020-2021 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2021-2022 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Increase or (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inservice Training - Instruction</td>
<td>$73,343</td>
<td>$150,250</td>
<td>$76,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching - Regular School</td>
<td>$35,185,592</td>
<td>$36,606,641</td>
<td>$1,421,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Transportation Services</td>
<td>$3,537,875</td>
<td>$3,678,590</td>
<td>$140,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefit ts</td>
<td>$12,603,735</td>
<td>$13,123,475</td>
<td>$519,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to School Lunch Fund</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL PROGRAM</td>
<td>$51,415,545</td>
<td>$53,573,956</td>
<td>$2,158,411</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Capital

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2020-2021 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2021-2022 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Increase or (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operation of Plant</td>
<td>$2,990,955</td>
<td>$3,216,702</td>
<td>$225,747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance of Plant</td>
<td>$829,032</td>
<td>$833,298</td>
<td>$4,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund on Real Property Taxes</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefit ts</td>
<td>$2,126,445</td>
<td>$2,214,133</td>
<td>$87,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service - Capital</td>
<td>$7,504,369</td>
<td>$7,722,770</td>
<td>$218,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Capital Fund</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CAPITAL</td>
<td>$13,565,801</td>
<td>$14,101,903</td>
<td>$536,102</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>2020-2021 Approved Budget</th>
<th>2021-2022 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Increase or (Decrease)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board of Education</td>
<td>$68,895</td>
<td>$71,345</td>
<td>$2,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Administration</td>
<td>$2,073,568</td>
<td>$2,077,641</td>
<td>$4,073</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>$627,278</td>
<td>$678,544</td>
<td>$51,266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>$177,609</td>
<td>$178,622</td>
<td>$1,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$199,601</td>
<td>$237,828</td>
<td>$38,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Records Management</td>
<td>$16,903</td>
<td>$16,905</td>
<td>$2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Information</td>
<td>$134,278</td>
<td>$143,877</td>
<td>$9,599</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Central Services</td>
<td>$936,852</td>
<td>$972,982</td>
<td>$36,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Special Items</td>
<td>$1,094,407</td>
<td>$1,096,632</td>
<td>$2,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefit ts</td>
<td>$1,490,539</td>
<td>$1,552,005</td>
<td>$61,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</td>
<td>$6,819,930</td>
<td>$7,026,381</td>
<td>$206,451</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### General Fund Appropriations by Component 2021-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>2021-2022 Total Budget</th>
<th>Program Component</th>
<th>Capital Component</th>
<th>Administrative Component</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
<td>$74,702,240</td>
<td>$53,573,956</td>
<td>$14,101,903</td>
<td>$7,026,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Component</td>
<td>71.7%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Component</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Component</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Budget-to-Budget Increase 4.04%

#### 2021-2022 Tax Levy Increase 1.96%

*Tax levy limit is 1.96%.*
The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Whitesboro Central School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Parkway Middle School, Deerfield Elementary School, and Marcy Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Parkway Middle School, Deerfield Elementary School, and Marcy Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot or machine.

**The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.**

**Should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law, the contingency budget shows the reduction in supplies, deletion of specific equipment, and elimination of the funds budgeted for the Capital Outlay.**

**List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount:**

**Proposition 1 - School Buses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authorization to purchase four (4) 66-passenger buses, two (2) 30-passenger buses, not to exceed $723,000, which impacts the 2022-2028 budgets.</td>
<td>Not to exceed $723,000, which impacts the 2022-2028 budgets.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings**

**$630**

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2021-22 by the qualified voters of the Whitesboro Central School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Parkway Middle School, Deerfield Elementary School, and Marcy Elementary School in said district on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Parkway Middle School, Deerfield Elementary School, and Marcy Elementary School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot or machine.

**Based on state law, the STAR exemption is capped at 2% of the prior year's maximum savings.**

**NOTICE**

The Dunham Public Library budget and proposition vote and trustee election is separate and distinct from the school district propositions.

The proposed operating budget and proposition for Dunham Public Library is available at www.whitesborolibrary.org.

Please contact April L.R. Bliss at abliss@midyork.org or call (315) 736-9734 if you have questions.
High School Presents First Ever Virtual Cabaret, ‘White and Blue Revue’

Even in uncertain times such as these, the show must go on – and that it did!

On March 26, Whitesboro High School presented its first ever virtual cabaret, “The White and Blue Revue.” The show was a virtual performance of Broadway favorites, comedic monologues and show tune classics. Students entertained with a variety of acts, including solos, duets, small ensembles and spoken monologues, from well-known musicals such as “Les Misérables,” “Waitress,” “Phantom of the Opera,” “RENT,” and more.

Students spent many hours learning and rehearsing their performances, which were then recorded, edited and compiled into two parts, Act I and Act 2. The two acts were then uploaded to the District website and the show “premiered” on the evening of March 26.

On the evening of the show’s premier, Mrs. Sarah DePalma, the director, hosted a watch party for the cast of “The White and Blue Revue” at the high school. It was the first time that the entire cast was able to gather in person. While students were unable to participate in the traditional live shows that they normal would have, it was a fun way to celebrate all of the hard work they had put into making sure the virtual show was a success.

“One seeing the show with all of the students was a memory I will not soon forget as I witnessed them cheer for one another after every single performance and take pride in their hard work,” DePalma said. “The seasoned performers encouraged the younger, shyer performers, giving them a confidence I’ve not yet seen from them. The powerful impact of the arts on these students’ well-being was evident at this gathering.”

“I also witnessed something incredibly moving: students enjoying themselves and looking truly happy for the first time in a very long while,” DePalma said. “I am overwhelmed with joy knowing that our students will have this memory to fondly look back on!”

Congratulations to the cast of “The White and Blue Revue” on an excellent performance!

Paulina Ashwell
Natalie Barber
Lily Burnett
Madison Butler
Isabella Cirasuolo
Carson Cook
Madison DeStefanis
Amelia Garland
Connor Gassner
Kyra Griffiths
Jillian Houck
Jillian Humphrey
Isabella Lambert
Riley Martin
Elizabeth Porritt
Gabriella Puleo
Jennifer Salie
Aubree Smith
Becky Thomas
Ava White
Abigail Zbytniewski
Earth Science Students Participate in Utica College Regional Science Fair

Several high school earth science students participated in the 42nd Annual Utica College Regional Science Fair, which was held virtually at the end of March.

Louis Misiaszek from Mr. Greco’s class and Mackenzie Seeley, Chris Stilwell, Gianna Spartano and Maryna Zhuk from Mrs. Williams’ class each entered projects into the fair. Students were responsible for uploading their projects to a virtual platform, and judges watched and listened as they talked about their projects. Students, families and teachers had the opportunity to view the projects remotely as well.

Louis Misiaszek, whose project was titled “Vehicle Emissions and Ocean Water Acidification,” won second place in the Senior Division for Natural Science. In addition to his second place win, he was also given several special awards: the American Meteorological Society – Senior or Junior Level certificate, the Asa Gray Biological Society Award – Senior Level, the Copernicus Award – Senior Level, and The Sally Lachut Majka ‘61 and Donald Majka Award in Earth Science or Conservation – Senior Level.

"Congratulations to Louis and his family!" said Mr. Greco. "Louis is very deserving of these awards, having completed this project entirely on his own at home."

Mackenzie Seeley from Mrs. Williams’ class also won the U.S. Metric Association Award – Senior or Junior Level for her project, which involved speed, distance and the angle of a soccer ball.

Congratulations to Louis and Mackenzie on their awards, and to all of the students who entered projects into the Utica College Regional Science Fair!
March - Tyler Kane

The Student of the Month for March is Tyler Kane. Tyler’s extracurricular activities include National Honor Society, JV and varsity basketball, JV and varsity baseball, and American Legion Baseball.

Tyler is a member of the Regional Program for Excellence and he is a Scholar Athlete.

Tyler’s community service includes volunteering as a Biddy Basketball coach, reading to Hart’s Hill elementary students with the basketball team, volunteering at JDRF, helping at Hart’s Hill Elementary School’s Game Day, placing flags on military graves for Memorial Day, and volunteering for spring yard cleanup with the baseball team. He also tutors, is a photographer for Angus Appraisals, umpires for Whitestown Youth Softball, referees for Whitestown Biddy Basketball, score keeps for Whitestown Girls Youth Basketball, and is a camp counselor for Whitesboro Summer Basketball.

April - Grace Stuhlman

The Student of the Month for April is Grace Stuhlman. Grace’s extracurricular activities include basketball, being captain of the girls soccer team, lacrosse, National Honor Society, Art Club, Political Discussion Club, the Girls’ Athletic Association, Regional Program for Excellence, Red Cross Club and Poetry Out Loud.

Grace is an AP Scholar, an Observer-Dispatch All-Star Athlete for soccer, was named Co-TVL Girls Soccer Player of the Year, was awarded the George Eastman Young Leaders Award, and was a member of the second place team at the MVCC High School Math Competition.

Grace’s community service includes volunteering for the Boilermaker Road Race Kids’ Run and being a bell ringer for the Salvation Army. She also coaches for Whitesboro Youth Lacrosse and is a camp counselor for SB Lacrosse Camp.

May - Leah Tracy

The Student of the Month for May is Leah Tracy. Leah’s extracurricular activities include Symphonic and Concert Band, being Concert Band president, JV and varsity field hockey, girls varsity track and field, the MVCC High School Math Competition, the American Mathematics Competition, National Honor Society, Accelerate Winter Field Hockey League, and the Whitesboro Summer Field Hockey League.

Leah has been awarded Silver and Gold Key for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, was a member of the second place team at the MVCC High School Math Competition, and was ‘An Artistic Discovery’ honorable mention in the Congressional Art Competition.

‘Smoke Signal’ Focuses on Mental Health for Spring Issue

After publishing its first ever digital issue of Smoke Signal in December, the student-run school newspaper has once again gone digital with its Spring 2021 Issue.

The latest issue focuses on mental health in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month, which is celebrated throughout the month of May. It includes information about mental health and fitness, tips to manage stress and studying, healthy recipes, a book review and more.

To view the Spring 2021 Issue of Smoke Signal, visit sites.google.com/wboro.org/smokesignal/spring-2021-issue
Ladies in STEAM Club Introduces Middle School Campus Students to New Opportunities

With the creation of the new Ladies in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) club this school year, students at the Middle School Campus are being introduced to new career opportunities that they otherwise might not have been aware of.

“I started Ladies in STEAM to expose our middle school girls to the various opportunities that are out there in the STEAM field,” said Mrs. Meghan Dote, a science teacher at the Middle School Campus and advisor of the Ladies in STEAM club.

Until recently, each of the club’s meetings have been virtual, with virtual speakers. The club is now able to meet in person, while speakers continue to join them virtually for discussions.

The various speakers talk to the students about their experiences in the STEAM field, such as classes they’ve taken, decisions they’ve made, what their daily jobs and responsibilities are like, opportunities they’ve had, and more. The speakers also give students advice regarding the things they’ve done in order to be successful in their chosen careers.

Thus far, speakers have included: Alyssa DiLeo, a neuroscientist who studies the effects of alcohol on the brain at Tufts University; Mackenzie Caloia, a Whitesboro High School graduate who works for the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome as a contract specialist; Jill Bennett, a Whitesboro High School graduate who works as a pharmacist for Kinney’s Drugs; Sunshine Stacey, who works at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome as a mathematician; Kelsey Mattison, an environmental scientist who works as a marketing coordinator at Princeton Hydro; Nancy Roberts, a computer scientist; and Stephanie and Courtney Scharbach, who are both Whitesboro High School graduates and currently in medical school.

Serena Rosado, a sixth grade student, said she likes the Ladies in STEAM club because science is so interesting. For Amelia Sheldon, a seventh grade student, the wide range of careers they learn about and the speakers they hear from are why she enjoys the new club.

“I joined STEAM because in STEAM I get to hear many different perspectives from women in the field that I hope to have a career on later in life,” Sheldon said. “I get to learn about jobs that I have never even heard of from women of all different ages and all different points in their careers. The wide variety is the reason why I love STEAM.”

Illusionist Leonne Etienne Joins Middle School Campus for Zoom Assembly

During the Middle School Campus’ first ever Zoom assembly on February 11, students and staff were treated to a virtual magic show by illusionist Leon Etienne.

Known as “America’s Rock Illusionist,” Etienne’s virtual “Magic Rocks!” show was interactive, high energy and full of entertainment. The magic show featured plenty of the rock’n’roll that Etienne has become known for, and jaw-dropping magic that left students and staff in awe.

The Middle School Campus would like to give a special thanks to the BOCES Arts in Education grant for sponsoring the show!

Parkway Giving Tree Garners Donations for Utica Zoo

The Utica Zoo was the latest benefactor of the Giving Tree at Parkway, which is an initiative that was started by the Parkway Student Council.

While the Giving Tree may look like the traditional Christmas tree, it’s used for many different collections throughout the school year. For three weeks in March, students and staff at Parkway donated items from the Utica Zoo’s Wish List, which were collected and placed underneath the Giving Tree.

Items on the Utica Zoo’s Wish List include everything from paper towels and hand sanitizer, to foods like carrots and sweet potatoes, to supplies such as animal water bottles and chinchilla dust.

“I am so proud of my sixth graders, especially my Student Council kids,” said Mrs. Maxwell, advisor of Parkway Student Council. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Utica Zoo!

If you’d like to donate to the Utica Zoo with items from their Wish List, visit uticazoo.org/wishlist.
Two Eighth Graders Selected for NYSBDA Middle School Honor Band

Two eighth grade band students were selected to participate in the New York State Band Directors Association Middle School Honor Band. With approximately 250 applicants, Gavyn Burgdoff, who plays the trumpet, and Derick Figueroa, who plays the euphonium, were accepted into this prestigious ensemble.

In a typical year, NYSBDA hosts the Honor Bands during their annual Symposium in Syracuse. This year, the activities were virtual. Students received two pieces of music, “Charm” by Kevin Puts and “Irish Rhapsody” by Clare Grundman. They prepared individually, then met with directors and musicians from across New York and beyond in online rehearsals.

The guest conductor for the ensemble was Dr. Cheldon Williams, Associate Director of Bands at West Virginia University. In addition, students had sectional rehearsals with Dr. Allyson Keyser (trumpet, SUNY Schenectady) and Dr. Eric Mordhorst (tuba/euphonium, North Shore School District).

Honor Band students also participated in master classes via Zoom, presented by teachers, college professors and industry professionals. Topics ranged from songwriting and improvising to audition preparation and networking in the music business.

After the four meetings, Gavyn and Derick recorded their music individually and sent their files to an audio engineer, who mixed the audio and video from hundreds of students to create a virtual band performance. Honor Band members met online one final time in March for a “watch party” to see their music come to life together.

“I learned some more advanced time signatures and playing techniques,” Gavyn said. “I also learned advanced improv from the master classes. This was a lot of fun and I hope to return in high school.”

A special thank you goes to the Whitesboro Music Boosters, who sponsored both of our students. If you are interested in joining Music Boosters, please email wboromusicboosters@gmail.com.

WARRIORS HELPING WARRIORS

At the Middle School Campus, students and staff are setting a great example of what it means to come together as a school community to help one another.

After several students and their families experienced devastating house fires recently, the Parkway and Middle School Student Councils rallied together to host Warriors Helping Warriors bake sales to raise funds to help those students’ families out. Hundreds of dollars were raised at the bake sales and donated directly to Warriors within the school community.

Thank you to everyone who donated, and thank you to the Student Councils for reminding us what we can accomplish when Warriors help other Warriors!
District Elementary Schools Honor Healthcare Heroes

The Whitesboro Central School District elementary schools recently joined together to honor healthcare heroes and say “thank you” for all of their hard work.

The students, staff and families from Deerfield, Hart’s Hill, Marcy and Westmoreland Road elementary schools collected individually packaged snack items to make snack baskets for healthcare heroes. All together, the four schools made more than 100 baskets! The snack baskets were delivered to local healthcare facilities and hospitals to show healthcare workers how much their hard work and dedication is appreciated.

Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this endeavor possible!

Marcy, Westmoreland Road Elementary Schools Participate in Cereal Box Dominos

At Marcy and Westmoreland Road elementary schools, students had the chance to combine STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) with community service by participating in cereal box dominos.

In February, a video taken at a school in Michigan showing cereal boxes lined up and falling like dominos went viral. Ever since, schools throughout the U.S. have been participating in the fun challenge.

At Marcy and Westmoreland Road, students were tasked with bringing in unopened cereal boxes to school. On March 15-16 at Marcy and March 29-30 at Westmoreland Road, the cereal boxes were lined up in the hallway to create a long chain that was then knocked over like dominos. Students and staff lined the halls and watched as the cereal boxes fell, with music playing and balloons being released as the chain was knocked down.

At both schools, the fun event was held on two days so that both Cohort A and Cohort B could participate, and it was held twice on each day so that students could be split up and properly social distanced as well.

At Marcy Elementary, a total of 390 boxes of cereal were collected, which were then donated to the Mohawk Valley Food Pantry in Marcy.

At Westmoreland Road Elementary, a total of 464 boxes of cereal were collected, which were then donated to local families and the Feed Our Vets Food Pantry in New York Mills.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these fun events possible for students, while also helping to give back to local communities!
A Trip Along the Iditarod Trail

At Hart’s Hill Elementary and Parkway, Mrs. LaBarbera’s students have been traveling virtually along the Iditarod Trail, a dog sled trail in Alaska where an annual race is held in March.

Each student chose a musher (dog sled driver) to follow along the 857-mile trail on iditarod.com. During the month of March, the students read several articles and books about the Iditarod and Alaska, while also answering questions.

Each day, following the start of the race on March 6, students logged onto the Iditarod website and checked the status of their musher. At each checkpoint, Hart’s Hill students colored in a large graph in the hallway and moved their musher’s tag along the large hall map. To end the unit, students wrote final reports of how their mushers did throughout the race and wrote a letter to their musher, which was mailed in hopes of getting a response.

This interdisciplinary unit is an annual tradition for Mrs. LaBarbera’s classroom, and it gives students the opportunity to learn about the state of Alaska and the sport of dog sled racing. Former students of Mrs. LaBarbera and other classes also followed the race through the hallway display and discussions with Mrs. LaBarbera’s current students.

Deerfield Elementary Celebrates Down Syndrome Awareness During Kindness Campaign

In an initiative to spread kindness throughout the school, Deerfield Elementary participated in a Kindness Campaign during the month of March. As part of the Kindness Campaign, students and staff also celebrated World Down Syndrome Awareness Day, an annual celebration that students and staff look forward to each year.

During the Kindness Campaign, each grade was responsible for spreading kindness throughout the building. It began with the third grade students, who “sprinkled” kindness on the fourth grade students, who then spread the kindness to fifth grade, and so on, until kindness had been spread throughout the whole school. Classroom doors were decorated, special prizes were given out, and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to brighten someone else’s day.

World Down Syndrome Awareness Day is celebrated each year on March 21, or 3/21, which represents the third copy of the 21st chromosome, the marker for Down syndrome. Since March 21 fell on a Sunday this year, students and staff dressed in blue and yellow and rocked bright, multi-colored and mismatched socks on March 18 as a way to celebrate the joy of being unique. Each year, students and staff enjoy the opportunity to celebrate and spread awareness of Down syndrome.

Thank you to the Deerfield Elementary PTA for supporting the Kindness Campaign, and to everyone who participated and made it successful!
Marcy Fourth Graders Host Walk-By Museum for Native American Projects

Fourth grade students at Marcy Elementary School recently completed a unit on Native Americans of New York State, which culminated in a hands-on project and a walk-by museum for the rest of the school to enjoy.

Fourth graders learned about how Native Americans used items available in nature for their food, clothing and shelter. For their final unit project, students were given the choice of creating a longhouse, an Iroquois village, an item of Native American clothing, or a model that explained how Native Americans found their food through hunting, gathering and planting.

The fourth grade students were then able to display their projects in a walk-by museum in the hallways for other students and staff to view. Students throughout the school were then able to vote on the projects for several categories: most creative, most realistic/authentic and most natural materials used.

Great job to all of the fourth grade students for the hard work that they put into their projects!

Westmoreland Road Celebrates Mrs. Aiello for Social Work Month

During the month of March, students and staff at Westmoreland Road Elementary School put together a surprise for Mrs. Aiello to celebrate Social Work Month.

Students made cards thanking Mrs. Aiello for everything she has done for them, and her classroom door was decorated with the handmade cards and balloons.

Social Work Month is celebrated in March each year, and this year’s theme was “Social Workers Are Essential,” according to socialworkers.org. Social workers have been busier than ever during the past year, and they have gone above and beyond to meet everyone’s mental health needs during the pandemic.

Thank you to all of the social workers throughout the district for everything you do!
SPIRIT WEEK
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. Please see meeting schedule below or visit www.wboro.org/boemeeting for the complete meeting schedule.

Estimated Tax Impact

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Note: * Check with your local assessor concerning various STAR exemptions.
**Beginning with the 2011-12 school tax bills, the savings resulting from the BASIC or ENHANCED STAR exemptions were limited to a 2% increase over the prior year. The maximum STAR savings for each school district is calculated by the Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS) and available online. (http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/twopercentlimit.htm)

STAR exemptions are based on the most recent information available. Rates noted above have not changed from the prior year. The maximum STAR savings for each school district is calculated by the Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS) and is available online. (https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/eligibility.htm)

The estimated costs calculated above use the FINAL 2020 Assessment Rolls as determined by the Town of Whitestown. The 2020 Equalization Rates used were established by the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Service.

Homeowners that have purchased a home after August 1, 2015, and have not yet registered for the STAR credit, will need to register with the New York State Tax Department at www.tax.ny.gov/star or call (518) 457-2036 to receive a STAR credit.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021 AT PARKWAY, MARCY AND DEERFIELD SCHOOLS.