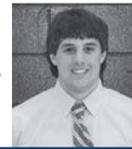


SUPERINTENDENT LANGONE TO RETIRE,
BRIAN BELLAIR NAMED SUCCESSOR
DETAILS | PAGE 2



WHITESBORO ATHLETE RECEIVES
NATIONAL AWARD
FULL STORY | PAGE 11



Whitesboro

Inspire. Cultivate. and Empower

Central School District Newsletter

www.wboro.org

BUDGET EDITION 2016-2017

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Scanning Electron Microscope Lets Students See World in "Different Light"

"Wow! That really looks like that?"

That's the reaction from most students -- and even teachers -- after using the newest, state-of-the-art piece of technology that the Whitesboro Central School District has to offer.

In March, the high school's science teachers participated in a training on how to use the district's new scanning electron microscope. The powerful microscope, which is located in the science wing of the high school, is a type of electron microscope that produces images of a sample by scanning it with a focused beam of electrons. Samples can be magnified up to 20,000 times or to as small as 300 nanometers. The Whitesboro Central School District is also one of only four school districts in the entire country to have its own scanning electron microscope for students to use.

Mr. Dwight "Buzz" Putnam, a science teacher at Whitesboro High School who teaches physics and Introduction to Nanotechnology, marvels at the opportunity to utilize such a potent tool.

"There are a few other high schools across the country that have access to a scanning electron microscope, but most of the microscopes are located on and owned by college campuses," said Putnam. "Whitesboro High School is now one of the elite high schools in the United States to actually have its own scanning electron microscope, just a few feet outside of the science classrooms."

Whitesboro's scanning electron microscope was purchased through a grant from Oneida County Executive Anthony Picente's office. The funding is part of the initiative, "Partners in Prosperity: Partnerships for STEM Education," which

is designed to enhance education opportunities for students enrolled in science, technology, engineering and math classes.

So far, Whitesboro's students -- who just started using the scanning electron microscope -- have studied samples like a record, CD, dog hair and a light bulb filament. Before, students could only view those samples, and others, using older, light-based microscopes with a magnification power of 400 times, not 20,000 times or 300 nanometers.

To put that into perspective, consider that just one nanometer is one one-billionth of a meter and that if all of the people on planet earth were the size of one nanometer, everyone would fit inside a Hot Wheels car.

"What we have and what we are now able to incorporate into the classroom, is taking science to the next level," said Putnam. "A scanning electron microscope used to be the size of a wall and take a long

time to produce an image. Now, it's the size of a computer and it only takes 30 seconds for images to appear."

Starting next school year, Putnam says high school teachers will have the ability to stream images to every school building in the district, allowing elementary and middle school students to reap the benefits of the scanning electron microscope, as well. The images can also be archived.

"Our students are using something that many colleges don't even have, so it gives them a big edge," said Putnam. "It may even be enough to put one of our Nanotechnology students, who is on Harvard's waiting list, over the top."

All while getting to see the world in a different light.



To view a photo gallery, log onto www.wboro.org.

VOTE!

**BUDGET VOTE
AND BOARD
OF EDUCATION
ELECTION**

MAY 17

**7 a.m. to 9 p.m. |
Parkway, Marcy &
Deerfield Schools**



Superintendent Dave Langone to Retire, Brian Bellair Named Successor

As you may have read last month, I will be retiring as the Superintendent of the Whitesboro Central School District on August 31, 2016. It has truly been my pleasure to serve as the Superintendent of Schools for such a great school district and community these past eight years. My time at Whitesboro has resulted in very rewarding experiences due to the outstanding commitment of our Board of Education, staff, students, parents and community. It is my hope that this incredible support for the school district that I have witnessed in the past eight years grows even stronger for my successor.

To ensure the continued success of our District, the Board of Education has selected Brian Bellair, Director of Special Programs and Services, as the next Superintendent of Schools. Brian began his service in Whitesboro as the Marcy Elementary Principal in 2000. He has also been an assistant principal, teacher and teaching assistant in other districts. This well-rounded background makes Mr. Bellair an excellent choice as our next superintendent. If you see Brian, please congratulate him and wish him well as he embarks on this new endeavor.

Get to Know New Superintendent Brian Bellair

At its regular meeting on March 22, the Whitesboro Central School District Board of Education appointed Brian Bellair, the current director of special programs and services at the Whitesboro Central School District, to be Dave Langone's successor. Bellair will assume the role of superintendent on September 1.

Before becoming director of special programs and services in 2005, Bellair, a 25-year veteran in education, began his service in Whitesboro in 2000 as principal of Marcy Elementary School. Bellair previously held positions as CSE chairperson, assistant principal, special education teacher and special education teaching assistant in various schools, including the Adirondack Central School District, Madison-Oneida BOCES and Utica City School District. In 2011, Bellair was selected as the School Administrators Association of New York State's Outstanding Educator of the Year.

"I am excited to continue my career in such an outstanding district," said Bellair. "The board, administration, staff, students, parents and community are committed to excellence and success. Together, we will continue to create opportunities for our students that will prepare them for what lies ahead."

Bellair earned his associate's degree in Accounting from Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) in 1989. After graduating from MVCC, he earned his bachelor's degree in Business and Public Management from SUNYIT and then his master's degree in Vocational Technical Education from SUNY Oswego. In 1999, Bellair received his certificate of advanced study from SUNY Cortland in Education Administration. Bellair is completing his Ph.D. in Education Administration and Policy Studies from SUNY Albany, and is expected to graduate in August.

Bellair is an active volunteer in the community and currently serves on the board of directors at the Oneida Lewis Chapter of the Arc and is involved in his neighborhood association. Former involvement includes, foundation board member at the Arc, co-vice president at the New York State Council of Administrators of Special Education, planning committee member for the Whitesboro Relay for Life and a rider in the Ride for Missing Children.

Bellair and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in the Whitesboro Central School District with their three children.

Proposed Budget and Other News

Thanks to the support of our community, the Whitesboro Central School District continues to provide many high quality programs for our students. Please closely review the proposed 2016-17 budget, which is presented in this newsletter. The District has worked very hard to prepare a fiscally responsible budget, while improving our high quality educational program.

The proposed budget calls for a 1.62 percent increase in the tax levy. Almost half of the budget-to-budget increase is related to our ongoing capital projects from 2009 and 2013. Although our legislators and governor significantly increased state aid for next year, this is the first time that public schools have reached 2009-10 funding levels in the past six years. However, Whitesboro, like all school districts, still faces challenges due to inadequate state funding and no guarantee of consistent, predictable, fair, and transparent funding in the future. Hopefully, our state representatives will act soon to address a long-term solution regarding state aid for education.

Also, I am proud to announce that the Whitesboro Central School District has adopted a new mission statement, "To inspire,

cultivate, and empower all learners to maximize their potential." Our mission statement was developed as a result of several meetings involving input from stakeholders throughout the District. The new mission statement will be easier for people to relate to, remember and utilize as the main focus of the District. I have no doubt that the new mission statement will inspire, cultivate and empower our students and staff to even greater heights.

Lastly, Phase B of our Capital Project, approved by voters in 2013, will begin this summer. Work will be occurring in most buildings throughout the District.

On behalf of the Board of Education and the entire Whitesboro Central School District, thank you. Your continued support is imperative in pursuing and accomplishing our mission.

"Inspire-Cultivate-Empower"

Sincerely,

Dave Langone

Superintendent of Schools



2016-2017 Proposed Budget

Budget Information

The District budget vote, along with the Board of Education election, will be held on **May 17, 2016**. If the budget is passed by voters, the spending plan will be in place for the 2016-2017 school year.

- If not successful, the Board of Education can:
 - place a revised budget before the taxpayers
 - place the same budget before the taxpayers
 - immediately adopt a contingency budget
- Ordinary contingent expenses are those 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. Additionally, when on a contingency budget, school districts must charge fees to non-school district parties that use school district facilities, including groups such as little league, biddy basketball, scouts, etc.

New Voting Method

The Whitesboro Central School District will no longer be using lever machines for the budget vote and Board of Education election. Instead, the District will be using electronic voting machines from the Oneida County Board of Elections.

Each voter will receive a pre-printed ballot and after filling it in, will be asked to simply feed the ballot through the machine.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the District Office at 315.266.3303.

To Vote You Must Be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old
- Registered with the Oneida County Board of Elections

To Vote You:

- Do NOT have to own property
- Do NOT have to be a parent
- Do NOT have to have children in the school district



BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTION CANDIDATES

There are two vacant seats for three-year terms. Candidates will appear on the ballot in the following order:

John Harmon, Jr.

Donald Henderson

Edward Blake

Propositions on the Ballot

Budget Proposition

Shall the budget for the school year 2016-2017, in the amount of \$64,998,856 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 following resolution be adopted to, wit:
 RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Whitesboro Central School District is hereby authorized to undertake the acquisition of school buses, at an estimated maximum aggregate cost of \$480,505 less trade-in value, if any, and that such cost, 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 adopted ?



Benefits of Propane Buses

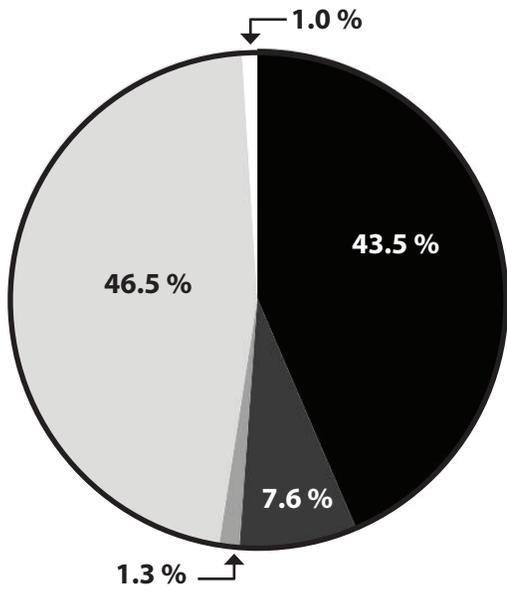
The Whitesboro Central School District has purchased six propane buses over the last two years.

Propane buses:

- Have a positive impact on the environment
- Reduce maintenance costs over time
- The District has taken advantage of grants and rebates to greatly reduce the cost of propane fuel

There are three more propane bus purchases in the 2016-2017 budget proposal.

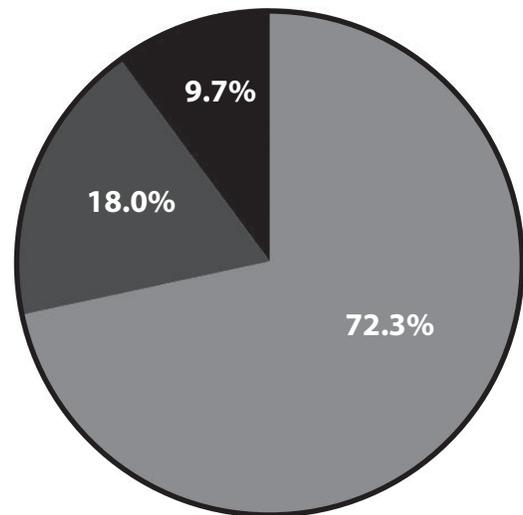
Revenues



2016-17 Anticipated Revenues

	2016-17 Estimates	%
New York State Aid	\$28,300,506	43.5 %
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$4,950,000	7.6 %
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$856,377	1.3 %
Tax Levy	\$30,247,234	46.5 %
Interfund Transfer – Debt Service Fund – ERS Retirement/Tax Cert. – Legal Fees	\$644,739	1.0 %
Total Anticipated Revenues	\$64,998,856	100%

Expenditures



2016-17 Proposed Expenditures

	2016-2017	%
Program	\$46,981,820	72.3%
Capital	\$11,724,375	18.0%
Administrative	\$6,292,661	9.7%
Total Proposed Expenditures	\$64,998,856	100%

Whitesboro Warrior Neck Ties on Sale



The Whitesboro Middle School PTO is selling Whitesboro Warrior neck ties. Only 150 of the royal blue ties have been ordered, and they are being sold on a first come, first serve basis.

If interested in purchasing a tie, fill out an order form and return it, along with payment, to Mrs. Butka at the Middle School. An order form can be found online at www.wboro.org/neckties.

The cost per tie is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to: Whitesboro Middle School PTO.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Butka at 315.266.3100 or bbutka@wboro.org.

Thank you for your support!

Congratulations Josh Gregory

After a little research, add Josh Gregory's name to the Whitesboro record book.

The senior, who just wrapped up his final season on the Whitesboro Boys Varsity Basketball team, set the record for most points scored in a game on January 5 against VVS. Gregory scored 41 points, and Whitesboro won the game, 79-59.

The standout forward was Whitesboro's leading scorer this season, averaging 21.8 points per game, guiding the Whitesboro Warriors to a 14-8 overall record.

After defeating Mexico at home in the first round of sectionals, Whitesboro lost to Jamesville-DeWitt on the road in the quarterfinals.

Gregory plans on playing basketball at the collegiate level next year, and is considering several colleges that have expressed interest.

Congratulations, Josh, on the record!



2016-2017 Budget Detail

	2015-2016 Approved Budget	2016-2017 Proposed Budget	\$ Increase or (Decrease)
Program			
Legal	\$ 92,263	\$ 93,845	\$ 1,582
Inservice Training & Curriculum Dev.	\$ 134,216	\$ 164,493	\$ 30,277
Teaching-Regular School	\$ 31,441,727	\$ 32,548,174	\$ 1,106,447
District Transportation Services	\$ 2,976,192	\$ 2,968,571	\$ (7,621)
Employee Benefits	\$ 11,437,462	\$ 11,206,737	\$ (230,725)
Total Program	\$ 46,081,860	\$ 46,981,820	\$ 899,960
Capital			
Operation of Plant	\$ 2,914,699	\$ 2,956,467	\$ 41,768
Maintenance of Plant	\$ 748,896	\$ 705,157	\$ (43,739)
Refund on Real Property Taxes	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 0
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,942,321	\$ 1,902,365	\$ (39,956)
Debt Service- Capital	\$ 5,196,110	\$ 6,150,386	\$ 954,276
Total Capital	\$ 10,812,026	\$ 11,724,375	\$ 912,349
Administration			
Board of Education	\$ 59,296	\$ 59,111	\$ (185)
Central Administration	\$ 1,850,333	\$ 1,881,527	\$ 31,194
Business Office	\$ 558,618	\$ 551,172	\$ (7,446)
Legal	\$ 15,300	\$ 15,450	\$ 150
Personnel	\$ 244,611	\$ 247,875	\$ 3,264
Records Management	\$ 15,355	\$ 15,526	\$ 171
Public Information	\$ 75,500	\$ 79,905	\$ 4,405
Other Central Services	\$ 672,893	\$ 669,784	\$ (3,109)
Other Special Items	\$ 1,112,296	\$ 1,117,616	\$ 5,320
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,637,089	\$ 1,654,695	\$ 17,606
Total Administration	\$ 6,241,291	\$ 6,292,661	\$ 51,370
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	\$ 63,135,177	\$ 64,998,856	\$ 1,863,679

Total Budget
2016-2017
\$64,998,856

Program
Component
\$46,691,820
72.3 %

Capital
Component
\$11,724,375
18.0 %

Administrative
Component
\$6,292,661
9.7 %

2016–2017 Tax Levy

The approximate tax levy increase for 2016-17 is **1.62 %**. The tax levy percentage is an estimate. The levy is set by the Board of Education in August. *The levy is not the same as the tax rate. There are variables that impact the tax rate such as property assessments and the New York state equalization rate.*

Budget to Budget Increase **2.95 %**

Almost half of increase is related to capital project improvements.

Overall Budget Proposal

	Budget Adopted for the 2015-16 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2016-17 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2016-17 School Year*
Total budgeted amount, not including separate propositions	\$63,135,177	\$64,998,856	\$64,781,270
Increase/decrease for the 2016-2017 school year		\$1,863,679	\$1,646,093
Percentage increase/decrease in proposed budget		2.95%	2.61%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		0.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount, Net of Reserve	\$29,764,114	\$30,247,234	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	0	0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	0	0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	0	0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$29,764,114	\$30,247,234	\$30,029,648
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$763,502	\$1,099,622	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$29,000,612	\$29,147,612	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E-B-F+D)	\$29,000,612	\$29,147,612	
I. Difference: (G - H); (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	0	0	
Administrative component	\$6,241,291	\$6,292,661	\$6,259,983
Program component	\$46,081,860	\$46,981,820	\$46,873,100
Capital component	\$10,812,026	\$11,724,375	\$11,648,188

Should the proposed budget be defeated, pursuant to Section 2023 Education Law, the contingency budget shows the reduction in student supplies, certain employee salary increases, deletion of specific equipment and community use of facilities.

List Separate Propositions that are not included in the
Total Budgeted Amount: Proposition 1 - School buses

Description	Amount
Three 65 passenger buses, one 30 passenger bus and one 24 passenger wheelchair bus, not to exceed \$480,505, which impacts the 2017-2023 budgets.	Not to exceed \$480,505 which impacts 2017-2023 budgets.

Basic STAR Exemption Impact

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings:

	Budget Proposal for the 2016 - 2017 School Year
Maximum Basic STAR Tax Savings**	\$630

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2016-17 by the qualified voters of the Whitesboro Central School District, Oneida County, New York, will be held at Deerfield Elementary School, Marcy Elementary School, and Parkway Middle School, in said District on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., prevailing time in Deerfield Elementary, Marcy Elementary, and Parkway schools, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

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

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 LR Bliss at abliss@midyork.org or call 736-9734 if you have questions.



New High School Club Sparks Interest in 2016 Presidential Election

Just because most of Whitesboro High School's students aren't old enough to vote, doesn't mean they aren't paying attention to the race for the White House.

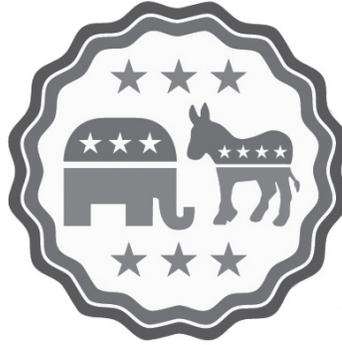
Leading the discussion -- a brand new club at the high school called the Political Discussion Club.

The club was founded at the beginning of the school year by senior Jacob Scott and is advised by Mr. Stealey, a science teacher at the high school.

The club, which already has around 60 members, meets every Tuesday afterschool in Room 508. Members discuss a range of topics, including issues at both the national and local level.

"People always say teens don't care about politics, but there is an interest, there just isn't always a forum for it," said Scott, who will be studying political science in college next year. "So, we just decided to organize our own club."

One of the club's first big projects -- and a way to get the entire high school to start talking more about current events and political issues -- was a poll, which asked students a series of questions,



touching on topics like the presidential election to general interest in politics.

On February 8, every high school social studies teacher posted the poll on Google Forms, encouraging each of their students to participate. By the end of the week, approximately 750 students in grades 9-12 had completed the poll -- an impressive 75% participation rate.

Scott says the poll goes along with the theme of the Political Discussion Club.

"I think it's important to have discussions because we are a democracy," said Scott.

"Whether you are to the left, to the right or in the center, you are becoming an informed citizen just by talking and debating with others."

For the results of the poll, please visit www.wboro.org/politicaldiscussionclub.

High School Physics Students Experience How Electricity Works

High School Science Teacher Mr. Putnam is accustomed to pulling out all the stops to ensure his students are fully taking in the topics he's teaching.

For one of his lessons in early February, Mr. Putnam was up to his usual methods.

After spending a couple of weeks lecturing about static electricity, voltage and currents, Mr. Putnam thought it would be a good idea for his Regents Physics students to experience, firsthand, how electricity works.

To do so, Mr. Putnam used something called a Van de Graaff generator. The electrostatic generator uses a moving belt to collect electric charge on a hollow metal globe, which is on top of an insulated column, to create very high voltage -- around 400,000 volts and microamps of current. One by one, each willing student took turns touching the Van de Graaff generator and its globe, while standing on an insulated platform.

The result -- hair that would stand straight up and the ability to "shock" another person.

"Instead of doing simulations, we are doing something that is hands-on," said Mr. Putnam. "Students get to experience real static electricity."

When turned on, electrons are deposited on the Van de Graaff generator's globe. After touching the globe, a person can relay those electrons to another person or object to create a shock.

All of the students who took part in the lesson had a fun time and, at least for a day, had a good excuse for having a "bad hair day!"



To view a photo gallery, log onto www.wboro.org.



Middle School and High School Students Compete in Mohawk Valley Technology Education & Pre-Engineering Showcase

More than 70 high school and middle school students from Whitesboro attended and competed in the 2016 Mohawk Valley Technology Education & Pre-Engineering Showcase at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Marcy on March 10.

The showcase included more than 400 students from at least 25 area schools and clubs, and gave students the opportunity to display and demonstrate projects that they have been working on in technology class.

There were a total of 11 competitions: CAD, Projectile Devices, FLL TRASH TREK Game, Digital Photography, Sumo Robots, CO2 Car Races, Balsa Bridges, Spaghetti Tower, Junkyard Wars, Mousetrap Vehicles and Kid Wind (turbines). Junkyard Wars was a team competition. Teams had to use random "junk" to solve a problem.

Some of the items built by Whitesboro students included a dragon and a Whitesboro Tech Club sign made out of wood, a chess set, robots and race cars.



CAD:

1st – Dominic Della
Posta

Mousetrap Vehicles

(High School):

1st – Todd Mull
2nd – Claire Parisi

The following Whitesboro students placed in the showcase:

Balsa Bridges (High School):

1st – Trevor Backun
2nd – Mike Le

Balsa Bridges (Middle School):

1st – Alex St. John
2nd – Nick Abbe
3rd – Renee
Potasiewicz

CO2 Car Races (High School):

1st – Josh Rood
2nd – Connor
Shulsky
3rd – Vadim
Shramovich

CO2 Car Races (Middle School):

1st – Demetri Lopez
2nd – Sam Celia

Junkyard Wars (Team, High School):

2nd – Whitesboro

Projectile Devices (Team, High School):

1st – Whitesboro
2nd – Whitesboro
3rd – Whitesboro

Spaghetti Tower:

1st – Team M&D,
Whitesboro
2nd – Team D,D,M,
Whitesboro

Congratulations to all of the Whitesboro students who participated and placed in the showcase!

Middle School Students Once Again Lend a Hand to Those Fighting Cancer

For the second year in a row, the Whitesboro Middle School Student Council, with the help of Ms. Potter and Mrs. Yardley, collected items for a "Chemo Comfort Bag Drive" during the month of February.

The drive is spearheaded by Yardley's sister, Heather Judd, a teacher in the Poland Central School District. In the past, Judd has had students whose parents were battling cancer and undergoing chemotherapy treatments. The chemo comfort bags are given to people undergoing treatments, with the hope of creating a more comfortable setting.

In all, more than 500 bags were donated to local cancer centers. Some of the bags were given to members of the Whitesboro community currently battling cancer.

According to Mrs. Yardley, the Whitesboro Middle School Student Council collected and donated 12 boxes of items, along with cash, to the cause. The items were used to fill each chemo comfort bag with a blanket, snacks, activity books, journals, warm socks and hats, books, lotions, hand sanitizers and other items.

Yardley, Judd and other organizers hosted a paint night to raise money to purchase the bags from Thirty-One Gifts Company.

Thank you to all who participated and donated to this great cause!





Hart's Hill Elementary School Celebrates World Down Syndrome Day

Being different is not only common, but makes each person special.

That's the message Hart's Hill Elementary School gave its students on March 21, when, for the first time ever, it celebrated World Down Syndrome Day.

To mark the occasion, students gathered in the school cafeteria for an assembly spearheaded by Mrs. Huggins, a teacher aide at Hart's Hill. For Huggins and the entire Hart's Hill community, the celebration carried extra significance.

Michael Delia, a kindergartener at Hart's Hill, along with Veronica Loubier, who's sister, Mikayla, is a fifth grader at Hart's Hill, both have Down syndrome. Mrs. Sardina, a teacher aide at Hart's Hill, also has a son with Down syndrome. Tommy Sardina, now 22, is a former Hart's Hill student, who after the eighth grade, attended the Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES. He graduated from high school a year ago, and currently works five days a week for "Kirkland Dayhab," a program offered through the local ARC, which works to enable persons with disabilities and their families to achieve their potential.

"Our students see someone like Michael going up and down the hall every day," said Mrs. Huggins. "Everyone at Hart's Hill has

been very accepting and very supportive."

That support was evident during the school assembly.

After an introduction by Mrs. Huggins, Mrs. Sardina and Mikayla addressed the students. They both spoke about the ups and downs of living with someone with Down syndrome, and how just like everyone else, those with the disorder still have a heart, feelings, interests and like to have fun.

"Hart's Hill has always been very accepting of others abilities and disabilities," said Mrs. Sardina. "The school does its best to educate its students to accept the differences of others that they will encounter throughout their life and prepare them for those experiences."

Third Grade Teacher Mrs. Holmes also addressed the students, using a bag of different colored gumballs. She explained how the gumballs represent people -- who are also special in their own colorful ways.

In addition to the assembly, and after Michael Delia's mom suggested the idea, Hart's Hill had a "Rock Your Socks Day." Each student decorated a sock made out of paper by illustrating their interests to prove that everyone is more alike than different. The paper socks were then hung up in the hallways. Students also wore mismatched socks the day of the assembly to spread awareness about Down syndrome.

Down syndrome is a genetic disorder that alters the course of development caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21. It's why World Down Syndrome Day is celebrated, every year, on March 21 (3/21).

According to the National Down Syndrome Society, one in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making Down syndrome the most common genetic condition.



To view a photo gallery, log onto www.wboro.org.

Marcy Fifth Graders Participate in the Great American Mail Race

The fifth grade students at Marcy Elementary School recently participated in the Great American Mail Race, a project challenging Marcy's fifth graders to write to a class in each of the fifty states.

All of the fifth grade students completed a questionnaire and wrote a letter, with each student assigned as many states as necessary to make sure a letter was sent to a school in each state.

As Marcy's fifth graders receive responses, they will track them on a map in their classrooms.

They all look forward to hearing back from schools located across the entire country!



Mrs. Mayo's First Graders Prove "Reading Can Take You Anywhere!"

This spring, Mrs. Mayo's first grade class at Westmoreland Road Elementary School celebrated "PARP" -- or Parents as Reading Partners.

While celebrating the reading challenge, the class had its own, unique theme, with a number of activities. This year, the theme was, "Reading Can Take You Anywhere!"

For seven weeks -- or the total duration of PARP -- Mrs. Mayo asked each of her students to keep track of the amount of time they read each week with a parent on a recording sheet. If each student read for at least ten minutes for a minimum of five days during the week, and handed in their recording sheet on time at the end of the week, they received a small prize.



To view a photo gallery, log onto www.wboro.org.

PARP was developed in 1978 by the late New York State Senator James Donovan, encouraging reading not only in school, but at home, and stressing that reading can be fun, as well as informative.

Impressively, at the end of seven weeks, Mrs. Mayo's class had read 399 books for a total of 74 hours and 12 minutes.

Great job to all of the students, and keep reading!

To make things a little more fun, there were also several classroom activities. They were:

March 8 Wear a shirt with words

March 11 Dress as your favorite character from any book

March 15 Read in day

March 16 Dress as your favorite superhero

March 22 Dress like a tourist

March 29 Dress as what you want to be when you grow up

April 1 Reading celebration party with parents to conclude PARP

Deerfield Elementary's 4th and 5th Graders Learn About the Realities of Concussions

"When in doubt, sit out."

That's the national slogan for concussion protocol, which over the past decade, has become more prominent -- and followed -- by sports teams at every level across the country.

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. It is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head or body that causes the head and brain to quickly move back and forth.

Unlike most other injuries, a concussion is not visible to the naked eye, although its symptoms, like difficulty thinking, a headache and nausea, often are. It's also an injury that is serious, and shouldn't be taken lightly.

On April 7, Deerfield Elementary School's fourth graders listened to a presentation on the symptoms and dangers of concussions. The presentation, which was spearheaded by Deerfield Elementary School Nurse Kim Kraeger and Physical Education Teacher Tom DiGiorgio, featured two guest speakers -- Emily Alicea and Rodney Roberts, Jr., both students at SUNY Polytechnic (Poly) Institute.



To view a photo gallery, log onto www.wboro.org.

Although she has never suffered a concussion, many of her friends have.

"It's not an injury that you can see, so if someone is feeling the symptoms of a concussion, they should realize how serious it is and always tell someone," said Emily. "I have had a lot of friends who have suffered concussions; I have seen it happen to the ones I love."

Rodney, a freshman psychology major, just wrapped up his first season on the SUNY Poly Men's Basketball team. Unlike Emily, he has suffered a concussion before -- twice. Both of them happened while playing basketball, one in 8th grade, and the other in 10th grade.

Rodney remembers his first concussion very vividly.

"I was very nervous and didn't really know what was happening," said Rodney, who is still bothered by bright light. "After I got to the hospital, I started to feel better."

"After going through it, (it's nice) to tell the kids you can be a great athlete, but you still have to be careful."

Both Emily and Rodney take a public health class at SUNY Poly, which requires its students to talk to an audience about a health topic.

On April 14, Deerfield Elementary School's fifth graders were given a similar presentation on concussions by Emmanuel Koonson, RN. Earlier in the school year, SUNY Poly students visited Deerfield Elementary's kindergarteners and first graders to talk about the importance of handwashing and dental hygiene.

For more information on concussions and how to treat them, contact SITRIN'S Concussion Management Program, headed by Dr. James Wallace -- the only evidence-based certified concussion management specialist in Upstate New York -- at 737-2246.



Senior Jimmy Bushey Recognized for Outstanding Character and Sportsmanship

"It's Jimmy Bushey."

Those words were spoken by longtime Whitesboro Varsity Football Coach Tom Schoen when he learned that high school football players -- from across the country -- were eligible for a new national award.

"When I saw this award being offered and I mentioned it to staff, it was an easy decision," said Schoen.

James "Jimmy" Bushey, a senior, is a three-sport athlete at Whitesboro High School. He started on the varsity football team as an offensive and defensive tackle in the fall, winning a Section III Class A title, started on the varsity basketball team in the winter and is currently on the varsity baseball team.

He is now the recipient of the Burlsworth Character Award -- a national award -- given to just 1,000 high school football players across the country, after being nominated by Coach Schoen.

The award is named after Brandon Burlsworth, who today, is referred to as the greatest walk-on in the history of college football.

Burlsworth walked on to the University of Arkansas football team in 1995 -- the same Division 1 football team that is part of the powerhouse Southeastern Conference (SEC). Not only did he make the team, but he earned a full scholarship after just one semester and went on to have an illustrious college football career. The offensive lineman made the All-SEC Team in 1997 and 1998, was an All-American in 1998 and made the SEC Academic Honor Roll all four years he played -- 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998.

In 1999, Burlsworth was drafted by the Indianapolis Colts, but before he ever made it to training camp, he was tragically killed in a car crash. A few years later, the Burlsworth Character Award was established in his memory.



The award is not a performance award. Rather, it recognizes outstanding character, sportsmanship, a willingness to put the team first and academic success -- everything that made Burlsworth who he was.

For the first ten years of its existence, the award was only given to football players from high schools in Arkansas. This year is the first time that the award is being presented nationally.

"Jimmy was never concerned with appearance and all the outside stuff," said Schoen. "He worried about performance, and did it to the best of his ability. He's a great example for all kids."

Bushey was presented with the award by Coach Schoen during a small ceremony at Whitesboro High School on March 30. Bushey received a certificate and a copy of the book "Through the Eyes of a Champion" -- the Brandon Burlsworth Story.

The book is the basis of the movie "GREATER," which focuses on the life and football career of Burlsworth. The movie is scheduled to premiere nationwide this summer, and its producers have agreed to place each award winner's name, his coach's name and the name of their high school in the end credits of the film.

"I think it's a great award," said Bushey. "You have to be a great person and a great teammate."

Bushey will be attending either Utica College or Brockport in the fall. He says he plans on playing baseball at the college level.

For more information on the life of Brandon Burlsworth, the award and the upcoming movie "GREATER," visit www.burlsworthcharacteraward.com.

Congratulations, Jimmy!



Annual Whitesboro Alumni Association Spring Banquet June 5

The Whitesboro Alumni Association will be having its annual Spring Banquet on Sunday, June 5, at Hart's Hill Inn, in Whitesboro.

In addition to awarding scholarships to three high school students, the association is also honoring the Class of 1956 on the 50th anniversary of their high school graduation.

Members of the Class of 1956 are asked to arrive at Hart's Hill Inn at 1:00 p.m. for a mini-reunion and pictures. The banquet starts at 2:00 p.m. for all other guests, with dinner scheduled to be served at 3:00 p.m.

The banquet is open to all alumni and tickets are \$23 per person. If interested in purchasing a ticket, contact one of the following:

Aggie Kane Barry, '78 – 527-3695

Retta Moran Herthum, '48 – 736-4323

Hope to see you there, and thank you for your support!

WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

65 Oriskany Blvd.
Whitesboro, New York 13492

Superintendent of Schools

Dave Langone

Board of Education

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The Whitesboro Central School Board of Education typically meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month during the school year, and once each month in December, July and August. Meetings are held at the Administration Building at 65 Oriskany Blvd. in Whitesboro, or at one of the school buildings in the District. Please refer to our website, www.wboro.org, for updated information regarding the Board of Education meeting schedule.



Estimated Tax Impact

Whitesboro Central School District
2016 - 2017 School Budget

Home with Full Value Exemption	SENIOR Enhanced STAR \$1,262** Exemption * <i>*Income Restrictions</i>	With Basic STAR \$630** Exemption	No STAR No Exemption			
Assessed Value	Estimated Increase Cost per Month	Est. Increase Cost Per Year	Estimated Increase Cost per Month	Est. Increase Cost Per Year	Estimated Increase Cost per Month	Est. Increase Cost Per Year
50,000	\$ 0.11	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.19	\$ 14.32	\$ 2.19	\$ 26.32
100,000	\$ 2.30	\$ 27.64	\$ 3.39	\$ 40.64	\$ 4.39	\$ 52.64
150,000	\$ 4.50	\$ 53.96	\$ 5.58	\$ 66.96	\$ 6.58	\$ 78.96
200,000	\$ 6.69	\$ 80.27	\$ 7.77	\$ 93.27	\$ 8.77	\$ 105.27

Note: * Check with your local assessor concerning these restrictions.

**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 is available online. (<http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/twopercentlimit.htm>)

The costs calculated above used the FINAL 2015 Assessment Rolls as determined by the Towns of Whitestown, Marcy, Deerfield, Trenton and Schuylar. The 2015 Equalization Rates used were established by the New York State Office of Real Property Tax Service.

Homeowners who moved or purchased property for the first time after March 1, will receive a tax rebate check in lieu of a property exemption on their school tax bill. Applications need to be made directly to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance by July 1 in order for a rebate to be received this fall.