

Whitesboro

Inspire, Cultivate, and Empower

Central School District Newsletter

★★★ Awards Issue ★★★

www.wboro.org

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Teen Traffic Safety Program Comes to Whitesboro High School

Whitesboro High School, as always, is encouraging its students to make smart decisions behind the wheel.

On April 21, the high school offered a "Teen Traffic Safety Education Program" for juniors and seniors. The program, coordinated by the Oneida County Office of Traffic Safety and STOP-DWI Program and sponsored by the Whitesboro High School Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Club, included several educational displays. The following organizations had a booth near the cafeteria:

Center for Family Life and Recovery (CFLR) – Dangers of using marijuana (activities simulated the loss of short-term memory, altered vision and motor coordination)

Department of Transportation – Dangers of driving through a work zone

Insight House – Dangers of alcohol, drugs and tobacco

Oneida County Sheriff's Department – Dangers of texting and driving

Oneida-Herkimer-Madison (OHM) BOCES – Dangers of cyber bullying, courtesy of the OHM BOCES' CORE Anti-Bullying Program

YWCA – Discussed teen dating and sexual violence

The New York State Police was also on hand to present its Passenger Restraints Program. A roll-over simulator, using an actual vehicle, was set up outside in front of the high school and using dummies, replicated a roll-over crash with passengers not wearing seat belts. Back inside, the DWI "One Second Everything Changes" Display presented actual cases of underage driving fatalities in a sensitive, but compelling manner. The Oneida County Sheriff's Office also asked students to sign a pledge not to text and drive.

"It is very important that we continue to bring awareness to teens of the dangers of drinking/drugging and driving and distractive driving," said High School Health Teacher Mrs. Delay, who also is the advisor for the high school SADD Club. "This program makes that possible each and every year."

The Teen Traffic Safety Education Program concluded with a powerful presentation in the high school auditorium. Guest speaker, Marianne Angelillo of Skaneateles, discussed the dangers of drinking and driving. Angelillo lost her 17-year-old son, Matthew, in 2004 in a drinking and driving crash. Since the tragedy, Angelillo has written a book, *Sharing My Stones*, and has taken her story to schools across the state to educate teens about the dangers of drinking and driving and to encourage good decision making.

Every year, the Oneida County Office of Traffic Safety and STOP-DWI Program offers a Teen Traffic Safety Education Program to area school districts during prom season. In an effort to reach more students, for the last five years, the program has "hit the road." During this time, the program has visited every school district in Oneida County at least once, educating more than 10,000 students.



WHITESBORO
RUNNING
STAR GOING
DIVISION I
FULL STORY
PAGE 10





A Message from the Superintendent

The Whitesboro Central School District has much to be proud of. After a great 2015-16 school year, we are already preparing for 2016-17. Please take some time to read the newsletter highlighting some of the many accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff and programs from this past school year. Listed below are some of those achievements and honors.

- Of the 431 school districts in upstate New York, the *Buffalo Business First Periodical* ranks the Whitesboro Central School District in the:
 - Top 5% in cost effectiveness**
 - Top 15% in academic achievement**
- 82% of our students are going onto post-secondary education
- More than half of our seniors graduated with an Advanced Regents Diploma
- For 28 straight marking periods, the percentage of students on the high school honor roll has increased
- Whitesboro became just the fourth school district in the country to own a scanning electron microscope for students and teachers to use on its campus
- Westmoreland Road Elementary School again served as a rest stop for the Ride for Missing Children
- High School hosted the 41st Annual Foreign Students Day, opening its doors to foreign exchange students from five different continents
- High School social studies classes donated more than 3,000 pounds of food to the Rescue Mission of Utica in December; the largest annual donation the organization receives
- High School successfully hosted four state regional boys and girls varsity basketball playoff games in March
- New artificial turf at Wadas Field was played on for the first time this spring
- A number of our teams and individuals either won or played for Section III championships and competed at the state level

It has been an honor to serve as the superintendent of the Whitesboro Central School District for the past eight years. As a community member, I look forward to following the future success of our students and school district.

Sincerely,

Dave Langone

Superintendent of Schools

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

The following areas will be undergoing renovations throughout the next several months:

High School:

- Asbestos abatement
- HVAC upgrades
- Restroom renovations
- Ceiling and light replacement in select areas
- Site work

Middle School:

- Roof work
- Asbestos abatement
- Restroom renovations

Hart's Hill:

- Roof replacement
- Seven exterior doors being replaced
- Restroom renovations

Marcy:

- HVAC upgrades
- Restroom renovations

Transportation Garage:

- Three new safety bus lifts
- Office renovations
- Site work

The following work is scheduled to start in November:

Chiz Frye Field:

- Press box renovations



District Commended After Audit

The Whitesboro Central School District was commended after an audit by the State Comptroller's Office found that 75 claims totaling \$3 million from 2014-15 were adequately supported, audited and approved prior to payment.

Due to the compliance, no corrective action by the District is needed.

"As stewards of the taxpayers, the Whitesboro Central School District has been committed to developing necessary procedures and systems to ensure fiscal responsibility while providing a strong comprehensive program for our students," said Superintendent of Schools Dave Langone.



Awards & Recognitions

Highest Honors Graduates:

Mark Arcuri, Jr., Dylan Asfur, Tori Barone, Julia Bora, Kevin Brennan, Kaley Brindisi, Andrew Buck, Alexander Filmer, Steven Gassner, Nicholas Heintz, Taylor Klosek, Paige Lupini, Kaitlin Mahardy, Thomas Manna, Merissa Marthage, Ryan McAndrew, Claire Parisi, Jacob Scott, Jordan Upson, Allison Warmuth, Robert Wenner

Academic Excellence (NY State):

Mark Arcuri, Kevin Brennan, Alexander Filmer, Steven Gassner, Kaitlin Mahardy, Ryan McAndrew, Claire Parisi, Jacob Scott, Jordan Stealey

AAPT Physics Award:

Julia Bora, Kory Pollicove

Ali Afzal Memorial Scholarship:

Joshua Gregory

Whitesboro High School Art Club Scholarship:

Christina Borza

Bausch & Lomb/University of Rochester Service Award:

Sylvia Kryszczuk

Thomas F. Berle Memorial Science Award:

Steven Gassner

Fred Bragg Memorial Award:

Thomas Manna, Jessica Sardina, Claire Parisi, Allison Warmuth

Bryan Brosemer Memorial Award:

Kaitlin Mahardy

Cahill Scholarship:

Anthony LaGatta

Donald Cantwell Award:

Rena Collandra

Clarkson University Leadership Award:

Michael Le

Clarkson University Achievement Award:

Bryce Hartnett

New York State Corrections Officers & PBA:

Trevor Pletl, Alexiz Webster

Deborah Prue Memorial Award:

Jacob Scott

Deerfield Skeleton Run:

Alexander Filmer, Danielle Royal, Morgan Steere

Jeffrey DeRosa Memorial Award:

Brent Schultz, Brian Passiatore

Etude Club:

Mark Morreale

Excellence in Poetry:

Jacob Scott, Emma Taylor

Family and Consumer Science Food and Nutrition Award:

Victoria Pellegrino, Corinne Filippelli

Family and Consumer Science Human Development Award:

Courtney Metacarpa

The Fitzgerald Family Scholarship in Memory of Laurie Fitzgerald:

Nicole Kuhn

Foreign Language Department Achievement Awards:

French – Steven Gassner

Spanish – Jacob Scott

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award in Humanities and Social Sciences:

Courtney Metacarpa

Joseph Furgal Art Award:

Sara Heaton

George Eastman Young Leaders Award:

Constantino Cirusuolo

Kathleen Giannico Memorial Scholarship:

Taryn Beattie

Anthony Gifford Memorial Award:

Thomas Manna

Maren Wells Hanno Memorial Award:

Kaitlin Mahardy

Robert W. Herthum Blue Sweater Award:

James Bushey

Margaret Holdridge Steward Scholarship:

Shelby Carrigan

Interfaith Coalition of Greater Utica Scholarship:

Tori Barone, Kaitlyn Maggiolino

Italian Heritage Club of Mohawk Valley:

James Bushey

Gene Kaczor Golf Award:

Alexander Rich

Kazanjan Family Scholarship Fund:

Taylor Klosek

James P. Klauser Memorial Award:

Merissa Marthage

Kuth Memorial:

Victoria Pellegrino

Daniel LaGasse Memorial Scholarship:

Kaitlyn Maggiolino

James B. Leach, Jr. Athletic Trophy:

Jacob Hyer

Lennon Award:

Jennelle Fallon

Masonic Lodge Award:

Robert Wenner

Whitesboro's Section III Scholar Athletes Recognized

Seniors Kaley Brindisi and Ryan McAndrew were selected as the Section III Scholar Athletes from Whitesboro. Both were formally recognized at the 28th Annual Section III/Otis Sennett Scholar-Athlete Dinner at the SRC Arena on the Onondaga Community College campus on June 13.

Kaley is the daughter of Dan and Sheila Brindisi of Whitesboro. She played JV and Varsity Field Hockey, JV and Varsity Softball and JV Basketball. She plans to attend Siena College in the fall and hopes to become a secondary math teacher.

Ryan is the son of Paul and Renee McAndrew of Whitesboro. He played Varsity Basketball and Varsity Baseball and plans to attend Clarkson University in the fall to study mechanical engineering.

Both Kaley and Ryan rank in the top five percent of their class academically.

Congratulations to both, and best of luck in college!



Robert Mercurio Memorial Scholarship:
Kaley Brindisi, Kaitlyn Maggiolino, Jacob Scott

Jim Moore Memorial Award:
Samuel Puckey

Michael Cleveland Orchestra Award:
Kaitlyn Tripp

Music Department Awards:
Choir – Mackenzie Flihan, Danielle Handzel, Paige Lupini
Orchestra – Tori Barone, Mary Elizabeth Boswell, Paul Phipps
Band – Mikaela Maiolo, Derrick Sica, Morgan Steere

Sarah (Nelson) McManus Memorial Award: Berina Ajanovic

National Honor Society Service Award:
Claire Parisi

New York Mills Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary: Kaitlyn Maggiolino

North Utica/Whitestown Rotary Club in Memory of Jackie Wolber Lawler:
Rachel Head

Notre Dame Club of the Mohawk Valley:
Alexander Filmer

Niagara Mohawk Employees Memorial Scholarship: Victoria Pellegrino

NU Chapter Alice Palen Memorial:
Kaley Brindisi

Sean O'Neill Memorial Award:
Lindsay Jennings

Carolyn Cooney Partyka Memorial Award:
Kaley Brindisi

Thomas J. Price Memorial Scholarship:
James Bushey

Rochester Institute of Technology Computing Medal: Aidan Uvanni

Rochester Institute of Technology Creativity & Innovation Award:
Benjamin Collis

Roger Scharf Music Award: Emma Taylor

SADD Club Awards: Alexis Keida, Christie Kerr, Anthony LaGatta, Claire Parisi, Zachary Shepard, Alexandria Whitney

SADD Club Award in Memory of John & Betty Czytajlo: Julia Bora, Allison Warmuth

Whitesboro High School Scholar Athlete Scholarship: Kevin Brennan, Rachel Head, Ryan Humphrey, Jessica Sardina

Senter Cole Memorial Scholarship:
Berina Ajanovic, Holly Clark

Kim Simon Memorial Award:
Corey Schofield

Joan Skahan Memorial Award:
Justine Strzepek

Debra Stevener Memorial Award:
Jordan Upson

St. John Fisher Foreign Language Scholarship: Hunter Brown

Edward Synakowski Trophy:
James Bushey

Thread of Life Thrift Store Award:
Kaley Brindisi, Steven Gassner, Allison Warmuth, Victoria Wyman

Helen Townsend Trust: Julia Bora

David F. Trad Memorial: Taylor Klosek

Utica Men's & Women's Bowling Jim Gallicchio Award: Jacob Ravinski

United Food & Commercial Workers:
Kevin Brennan, Mia Ciancaglini

Utica College Agency Scholarship:
Mary Elizaeth Boswell, Taylor Klosek, Brian Passiatore, Danielle Royal, Brent Schultz, Joshua Zaleski

Michael VanHatten Award:
Joshua Zaleski

Edwin Wadas Service Award:
Ryan McAndrew

Dorothea Waddell Music Award:
Jennelle Fallon

Wajda Family Scholarship in Honor of Ted, Mary, Kathleen and Suzanne Wajda:
Alexandra LeDoux, Samantha Staley

Wendy Geller Memorial Scholarship:
Paige Lupini

Whitestown American Legion Post 1113:
Danielle Handzel, Thomas Manna

Whitesboro Administration Organization Scholarship: Kaley Brindisi

Whitesboro Administration Organization in Memory of Laurie Fitzgerald:
Breanna Langett

Whitesboro Alumni Association Scholarship: Julia Bora, Steven Gassner, Jacob Scott

Whitesboro Boys Soccer: Faris Barakat, Andrew Buck, Anthony LaGatta

Whitesboro Girls Soccer: Berina Ajanovic, Alexandra LeDoux

Whitesboro Cheerleading Boosters:
Taylor Mason

Whitesboro Cross Country Boosters: Taryn Beattie, Ryan Humphrey, Justyna Wilkinson, Bryan Williams

Whitesboro Golf Award: Augustus Whitting

Whitesboro Music Boosters Award:
Emma Taylor

William Washburn/Whitestown Optimist:
Trevor Pletl

Whitestown Optimist Scholar Athlete Trophy: Steven Gassner

Whitestown Police Benevolent Association: Zachary Shepard

Whitesboro Teachers Association Scholarship:
Winner – Trevor Pletl
Runner-Up – Jacob Scott, Christina Borza
Finalists – Mark Arcuri, Julia Bora, Christina Borza, Kaley Brindisi, Alexander Filmer, Steven Gassner, Rachel Head, Claire Parisi, Trevor Pletl, Jacob Scott, Morgan Steere, Allison Warmuth, Victoria Wyman

Whitesboro Employees Union Scholarship: Justine Strzepek

D. Michael Wuest Memorial Scholarship:
Justyna Wilkinson



Two Whitesboro Seniors Named "Utica Observer-Dispatch Teen All-Stars"

Whitesboro High School seniors, Steven Gassner and Jacob Scott, were named "Teen All-Stars" by the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*.

Gassner and Scott, along with only 23 other area students, were formally honored during a breakfast at Hart's Hill Inn, in Whitestown, on May 24. They were chosen from 101 nominations representing 24 schools in Oneida, Herkimer and Otsego Counties.



Gassner



Scott

While surrounded by family, friends, teachers and mentors, each 2016 "Teen All-Star" was introduced and presented with a trophy, certificate and \$375 check. Michael Galime, the newly elected common council president in the City of Utica, was the featured speaker.

The *Utica Observer-Dispatch* has been recognizing the most talented students our area has to offer since 1992. In order to be named a "Teen All-Star," a student must be nominated by at least one teacher or administrator. This year, students were then selected by four community judges: David Jones, orthotist/prosthetist practitioner, Hanger Clinic; John Swan, vice president for development and community investment with the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties; Helen Rose, retired business officer for the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center; and Rev. Mary Webster, pastor at the First

Baptist Church in New Hartford.

Gassner, is the son of Kelly and Steven Gassner. His activities include: President of the Class of 2016, Student Council Representative, Vice President of Model UN, Editor-in-Chief of the *Smoke Signal*, Varsity Cross Country, Varsity Track and Field, Varsity Club and Art Club.

Gassner will be attending the SUNY College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering in Albany in the fall.

Scott, is the son of Teresa and Todd Scott. His activities include: Co-founder of the Whitesboro High School Political Discussion Group, Co-founder of the Oneida County Haunted House, writer for the *Smoke Signal*, Varsity Basketball and Junior Varsity Soccer. Scott also volunteers at basketball camps and enjoys reading and fishing.

Scott will be attending Colgate University in the fall to study economics.

Congratulations to both!

It's a Sweep! High School Students Win Congressional Art Competition

For the second year in a row, a student from Whitesboro High School won first place in the 2016 Congressional High School Art Competition hosted by Congressman Richard Hanna. Except this year, Whitesboro also swept the podium.

Emilee Conway took first place, Chanel Chahfe took second place and Lindsay Jennings took third place. For winning, Conway's piece of art will hang in the tunnel of the U.S. Capitol Building for one year. Conway also received \$100, a course scholarship to Pratt-MWPI and was invited to attend a luncheon in Washington, D.C., where she and other winners will be honored. Chahfe's and Jennings's artwork will hang in Congressman Hanna's Washington, D.C. office.

The Congressional High School Art Competition is a federally sponsored program that was launched in 1982 and annually recognizes student artwork from each congressional district in the United States. In Congressman Hanna's district, the 22nd Congressional District, school districts from all eight counties submitted artwork to be judged. The artwork was initially judged at Hanna's Utica and Binghamton offices and then final judging took place in Utica. Sixteen finalists and Whitesboro's three winners were announced at the Utica Public Library on April 9 by Congressman Hanna.

Impressively, Whitesboro High School not only took first, second and third place, but accounted for seven of the 16 finalists in the 22nd Congressional District.

Congratulations to all of Whitesboro's art students who were recognized!



Whitesboro's Justyna Wilkinson Wins Boilermaker Scholarship, Starts Boilermaker with Elite Runners

Whitesboro senior and cross country and track standout, Justyna Wilkinson, started the 2016 Boilermaker 15K in elite company -- with all of the race's elite runners.

The great starting position was for winning the 12th Annual Boilermaker Scholarship for "Outstanding Commitment to Distance Running." Wilkinson, along with three other area high school runners, was awarded with a \$1,500 check during a breakfast ceremony at the Boilermaker Office on June 3.

Wilkinson had an outstanding season for the Whitesboro Girls Varsity Cross Country team. She won the girls large-school varsity race at the 73rd running of the E.J. Herrmann Cross-Country Invitational at Proctor Park, won the Tri-Valley League (TVL) Cross Country Invitational, placed 3rd overall in Class B at sectionals, placed 6th in Class B and 32nd overall at states and placed 44th out of 255 runners at the New York State

Federation Cross Country Championships.

On December 12, Wilkinson competed in the 2015 United States Track and Field (USATF) National Junior Olympic Cross Country Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She finished her 5K race in 3rd place with a time of 20:06.1. She competed against 56 other girls -- from all over the country -- in the 17-18 year-old division.

In track, Wilkinson holds the school record for girls in the 1500m and 2000m steeple. She is also a two-time 2000m steeple Section III Class A-1 champion.

In addition to her running success, Wilkinson won the Section III Class B Sportsmanship Award this fall.

Wilkinson finished the Boilermaker in 1:05:45. Congratulations, Justyna!



Whitesboro High School Team Competes at State Envirothon



A team from Whitesboro High School competed in the New York State Envirothon on May 25 and 26 at Hobart William Smith College in Geneva.

The team was made up of the following students:

- Sylvia Kryszczuk
- Ben Collis
- Alaina St. John
- Vinsent Brucker
- Aidan Uvanni

The team qualified for the state competition after winning the current event and oral presentation components at the 20th Annual Oneida County Envirothon at Verona Beach State Park on May 10.

Like the county envirothon, the state envirothon included five categories - - Aquatics, Forestry, Wildlife, Soils and Current Events, plus an oral presentation component on the invasive species, hydrilla.

The students were accompanied on both trips by advisors Mrs. Williams and Mr. Greco.

Congratulations to the team for making it to states!

Junior Prom Held at Daniele's Banquet Specialists

A cool and rainy evening couldn't dampen the spirits of the nearly 200 students who attended junior prom.

The 2016 Whitesboro High School Junior Prom took place on May 14 at Daniele's Banquet Specialists, in New Hartford. One hundred seventy-five students wearing the very latest fashion trends attended the gala, which included a sit-down meal featuring stuffed shells, chicken francaise and fresh carved roast beef.

After dinner, students and couples danced to music provided by Adams Entertainment. There was also a photo booth courtesy of Impressions Limousine, where students could dress up using props and get their photo taken with friends.

At the end of the night, the 2016 Junior Prom Court was announced. The following students were named to the court:

Patrick Galer – King
 Alexandria Coughlin – Queen
 Rebecca Brigham
 Ryenn Moore
 Jordan Lee
 Bryce Hartnett
 Sonny Cirusuolo
 Alex Gorgas



A special thanks to Junior Class Advisors Mr. Anthony Coriale, Mrs. Carol Ann D'Accurzio and Mrs. Wenda Davidson for all of their hard work and planning, which ultimately made the prom a great success!



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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS of 2016!

Watch the ceremony, view photos and find out who graduated at www.wboro.org



5th and 6th Graders Participate in All-County Music Festival

Fifth and sixth graders from the Whitesboro Central School District participated in the annual Oneida County Music Educators Association 2016 Elementary All-County Music Festival on April 15 and 16.

The all-county chorus, band and orchestra were made up of students from several schools in Oneida County. In order to participate, students had to be recommended by a teacher.

All of the Whitesboro students and teachers involved worked very hard and spent many hours during and after school and at home practicing for the music festival. The hard work and focus was needed, too. The all-county chorus, band and orchestra only had two days to work with guest conductors to put together the music they were performing as a group.

Congratulations to all of the elementary all-county students on an incredible performance!



Band



Chorus



Orchestra

8th Graders Move Up to the High School

The Whitesboro Middle School 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony took place on June 22 inside the high school gym. One by one, nearly 250 8th graders making up the Class of 2020 walked across the stage in front of hundreds of family members and friends to receive their promotion certificates. All of the 8th graders will be moving up to the high school for the start of 9th grade in September.

Middle School Campus Principal John Egresits welcomed everyone to the ceremony, while Whitesboro Central School District Superintendent Dave Langone offered a few words of encouragement.

Select members of the 8th Grade Chorus sang the *Star Spangled Banner* and *We're All In This Together*. The 8th Grade Band performed *The Final Countdown*.

After the ceremony, the 8th graders - - now 9th graders - - were invited to the "Pit" at the high school for a dance, their very first school function as high schoolers.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020 on "moving up" to the high school, and best of luck in the 9th grade and beyond!



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





Year Two of "One School, One Book" at Hart's Hill a Success

This year, the most popular critter at Hart's Hill Elementary School wasn't Marvin the beetle, but rather Jed, TsTs and Chai. The three squirrels are all characters in the book *Nuts to You* by Lynne Rae Perkins.

The children's book was read by every grade level at Hart's Hill, as well as faculty and staff, during the month of May as part of the school's now annual "One School, One Book" Challenge. The challenge encourages parents and teachers to read with their children and students, stressing the fact that reading can be fun, as well as informative.

Shortly after spring break, a calendar was sent home to each student detailing the pages to be read each day and all of the activities scheduled for the month. The reading challenge officially kicked off with Mr. Bostic dressing up as Chai the squirrel, looking for an acorn hidden in each classroom. After Mr. Bostic, or Chai, located each acorn, Hart's Hill's kindergarteners sang "The Squirrel Song" throughout the school and Mrs. Huther read the first chapter of the book, along with the author's note, over the school loud speaker.

"'One School, One Book' brings our entire school community together - - students, teachers and parents, and this year, even businesses," said Hart's Hill Elementary School Media Specialist Mrs. Egresits, who spearheaded the "One School, One Book" Committee. "A fifth grader and a kindergartener can go home and read together with their parents and then what was read, can be discussed by everyone back at school!"

In addition to reading the book, a new twist was added to this year's challenge. Signs promoting *Nuts to You* were posted in several area businesses. Students were asked to locate the posters, take a "selfie" in front of as many as possible, and then email the pictures to Mrs. Egresits. In all, 175 "selfies" were submitted and they were hung on a tree outside the main office. The tree was created by Mrs. LaBarbera and painted by Tiara Beattie,

a junior at Whitesboro High School. The "One School, One Book" Committee also held a Scholastic Book Fair to help the Hart's Hill PTO offset some of the costs associated with the reading challenge and daily trivia questions were read during the morning announcements. Miss Goodman's class answered all of the trivia questions correctly, and each of her students was awarded with additional entries into a drawing for several gift baskets.

"It was so special to have many of our local businesses involved this year," said Egresits. "Their support helped take our initiative to the next level!"



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



The closing ceremony for this year's "One School, One Book" took place on June 2. Each grade level was assigned an activity that Mr. Heitz, Mrs. Pezdek and Trevor Heitz, a third grader, created. The activities, which all stressed teamwork, were held outside and inside the gym. After the activities, all of Hart's Hill's students listened to a special video message from *Nuts to You* author, Lynne Rae Perkins. At the very end, Mrs. LaBarbera dressed up as Chai, and drew the winners for the gift basket raffle. Every student had at least one entry in the raffle, but students who took "selfies" were awarded an additional entry for each "selfie" submitted.

The "One School, One Book" Committee, headed by Mrs. Egresits, was made up of several staff members, who all helped ensure a successful challenge.

According to Mrs. Egresits, *Nuts to You* is a funny and moving illustrated novel about two squirrels, Chai and TsTs, going very far to save fellow squirrel and friend, Jed, who is snatched up by a hawk. All three also work together to save their houses from the clearing of trees for "buzzpaths," or power lines. The story, which subtly highlights the threat of deforestation, stresses working together for a common good, while accepting the differences of others.

Marcy Elementary School Celebrates Autism and Disability Awareness

Students, faculty and staff at Marcy Elementary School dedicated the months of March and April to Autism and Disability Awareness.

During physical education class, students were provided with some facts about autism and other disabilities and were lectured on how to be a good friend. Marcy Elementary's hallways were also decorated with hand patterns, all of which included a student's name and a brief description of how they demonstrated being a good friend during the months of March and April. The hand patterns created a chain of "Helping Hands Across Marcy Elementary."

While in physical education class, all of Marcy Elementary's students also participated in mini-walks for autism. Physical Education Teacher Mr. Karas kept track of the miles walked by each class, and the mileage was posted on a bulletin board in the hallway. The walks created a fun, competitive atmosphere all for a good cause, as each class tried to walk the most miles.

During the month of March, bake sales were held each week and the money raised was used to create four gift baskets. The baskets were donated to the Mohawk Valley Walk for Autism for its basket raffle. The walk took place on April 9 at SUNY Polytechnic Institute and was sponsored by the Kelberman Center. The center, located in Utica, employs more than 175 full and part-time staff who provide services to more than 1,000 local children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Great job to Marcy Elementary School for bringing awareness to such a worthy cause!



For Third Year, Westmoreland Road Elementary School Welcomes the "Ride for Missing Children"

For the third time in four years, students, faculty and staff at Westmoreland Road Elementary School pulled out all the stops for the Ride for Missing Children on June 3.

Westmoreland Road Elementary School was one of just four rest stops for the 500 or so bicyclists who embarked on the roughly 90 mile journey from the New York State Police barracks in Oneida to the New Hartford Recreation Center. Whitesboro High School served as a bathroom site. The annual Ride for Missing Children is inspired by Sara Anne Wood, who was only 12-years-old when she disappeared while riding her bike home from church in Frankfort in 1993.



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

Every student, along with their teachers, lined up along the bus circle to warmly greet the riders. Many of the students waved signs in the air, as music played in the background. The fourth grade class also proudly displayed a giant American flag.

In addition to bringing attention to a very important cause, Westmoreland Road Elementary School was also very excited and proud to cheer on three of its own riders, teachers Mrs. Aiello, Mrs. Candella and Mrs. Kulik.

Westmoreland Road Elementary School looks forward to welcoming the Ride again in the future.

The Ride also passed by Hart's Hill Elementary School, and the riders were cheered on by all of its students, faculty and staff.



First Grade Wax Museum Comes to Deerfield Elementary School

For a day, Deerfield Elementary School was more like a zoo.

Dozens of Miss Femia's, Mrs. Hoffman's and Mrs. Phelan's first graders participated in the "First Grade Living Animal Wax Museum" on May 17.

For the project, the first graders were asked to select and research an animal. After their research, each student had to complete a written assignment and make a diorama out of a shoe box, displaying their animal and its habitat, diet and other interesting details. The project culminated with the living wax museum.

On the day of the museum, each first grader dressed up and posed as their animal in the school gym next to their diorama, transforming Deerfield Elementary School into a living wax museum exhibit. There was a viewing for students during the day and another viewing for family and friends later in the evening.

A leopard, spider monkey, polar bear, prairie dog, gorilla, camel, shark, walrus, snow

owl and tarantula were some of the animals the first graders chose to study and dress up as.

All three first grade classes would like to thank their families and friends for their support of the project.



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



Deerfield Elementary's Second Graders Create Own Communities. Read more at www.wboro.org!



Boys and Girls Varsity Track Teams Cap Off Successful Season, Set New Records

The Whitesboro Boys and Girls Varsity Track teams both had successful seasons. The boys team, coached by Brian Holtslag and assisted by Todd Boudreau, finished in fourth place overall at Class A Sectionals. The girls team, coached by Michael Carney and assisted by Megan Dote, finished in second place overall at Class A Sectionals. During the course of the season, four school records were also broken.

The following individuals on the boys team won at sectionals on May 27:

400m dash – Darnae Camp, 51.19 seconds

***4x100m relay** – Tom Manna, Darnae Camp, Anthony LaGatta and Lucas Casab, 43.64 seconds

4x400m relay – Jerrad Bartczak, Derrick Sica, Anthony LaGatta and Darnae Camp, 3:32.12

** Denotes school record*

Darnae Camp, Derrick Sica, Lucas Casab and Tom Manna competed in the 4x200m relay during the season and broke the school record with a time of 1:33.45.

The following individuals on the girls team won at sectionals on May 24:

***1500m** – Justyna Wilkinson, 4:54.21

2000m steeplechase – Justyna Wilkinson, 7:20.75

4x400m relay – Taylor Klosek, Marissa Burke, Danielle Royal and Morgan Ashton, 4:14.89

High Jump – Marissa Burke, 5' 2" (Holds school record with a jump of 5' 5")

Long Jump – Kelsey Wands, 16' 9" (Holds school record with a jump of 16' 10.75")

** Denotes school record*

Kelsey Wands is also the new school record holder in the triple jump (35' 5").

Marissa Burke was the only Whitesboro track and field athlete to qualify for the NYSPHSAA State Track and Field Meet on June 11 at Cicero-North Syracuse High School. Burke competed in the high jump, cleared 5', and came in 22nd out of 36 participants.

Congratulations to all of Whitesboro's track and field athletes and coaches on a great season!



Wilkinson Going D-I for Cross Country and Track, Two Others Going D-III

Three of Whitesboro High School's standout athletes will be playing at the collegiate level this fall -- one at the Division I level. Seniors Justyna Wilkinson, Ryan Rowlands and Trevor Pletl all made their future plans official when they each signed a letter of intent during a special signing ceremony inside the high school library on April 15.

Justyna Wilkinson will be attending Canisius College, where she will be on both the cross country and track teams. Canisius College, a Division I school, is located in Buffalo and the majority of its sports teams, including cross country and track, are members of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

Ryan Rowlands will be playing lacrosse at Elizabethtown College, located in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. The Elizabethtown College Men's Lacrosse team is a member of the Division III Landmark Conference.

Trevor Pletl, Rowland's teammate, will be staying close to home to play lacrosse at Utica College. The Utica College Men's Lacrosse team is a member of the Division III Empire 8 Conference.

Congratulations to Justyna, Ryan and Trevor, and best of luck next year!





Whitesboro Alum Mike Bunal Selected in MLB Draft

Mike Bunal, the son of Dan and Kim Bunal, and a 2012 graduate of Whitesboro High School, is another step closer to fulfilling his dream of playing in the majors.

Bunal was selected by Major League Baseball's Colorado Rockies in the 17th round of the 2016 Major League Baseball Draft on June 11. He was the 500th overall pick.

Bunal just wrapped up his collegiate career at Binghamton University, where he spent the past four years playing for the Division I Bearcats. He started off as an outfielder, but then became the team's closer during his sophomore season. He spent his final two seasons as a starting pitcher, becoming the team's ace during his senior season.

As a senior, Bunal went 6-0 with a 2.39 ERA in conference play, earning him America East Pitcher of the Year honors. He broke the school record with 87 strikeouts in 89.2 innings pitched and tied a school record with eight wins. Bunal also led the America East Conference in wins, innings pitched, complete games and opposing batting average (.214) and ranked eighth in the entire nation with five complete games.

Bunal finished his career at Binghamton with 13 wins, two saves and 157 strikeouts in 163 innings pitched. With Bunal on the mound, the Bearcats also won three conference titles in four years and advanced to the NCAA Regionals this season.

Bunal, the third-highest Binghamton pitcher ever taken in the draft, is playing for the Boise Hawks this summer - - the Colorado Rockies' short-season Class A affiliate in Idaho.

At Whitesboro High School, Bunal was an all-state baseball and football player.



**Photo Courtesy: Binghamton University Athletics*

Artwork of Former Student Featured in Magazine

Nolan Huther hasn't even been out of high school for a year, but his artwork is already being published for all to see.

Huther, a 2015 graduate of Whitesboro High School, is a master of pen and ink and pencil sketching. So much so, that recently, some of his artwork appeared in the 2016 Annual Guide to the Great Outdoors edition of *Adirondack Life*, an outdoors magazine.

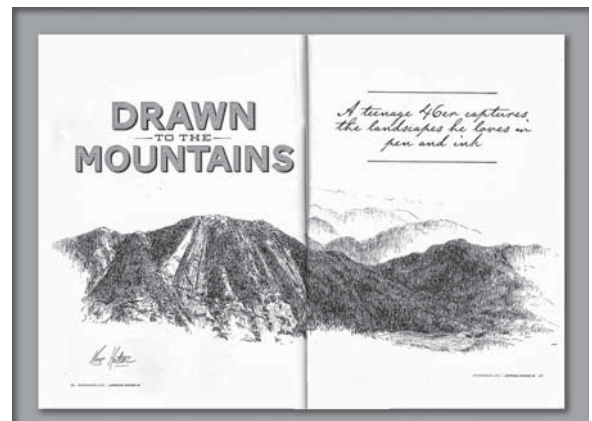
A spread of Huther's pen and ink artwork titled, "Drawn to the Mountains," is displayed on pages 68-72. The spread includes four drawings of Basin Mountain, Upper Washbowl Cliffs, Evergreen Lake and Mount Colden - - all located in the Adirondacks.

In a brief article that accompanies the drawings, Huther says he fell in love with the wilderness, specifically the Adirondacks, at a young age, while spending time at his family's camp on Evergreen Lake, near Piseco. There, Huther says he developed his passion and skill for pencil sketching.

That skill reached new heights when Huther's high school art teacher, Sheila Nadeau, suggested that he take up pen and ink. The rest, as they say, is history!

While not sketching a new masterpiece, Huther is hard at work at Clarkson University, where he just wrapped up his freshman year as a mechanical engineering major. Huther is also an avid hiker and rock climber and has already climbed the "46 High Peaks of New York State." Last December, he visited Hart's Hill Elementary School's third grade class to talk about the science and math behind rock climbing.

Congratulations, Nolan, on your artwork being featured in *Adirondack Life*!



WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

65 Oriskany Blvd.
Whitesboro, New York 13492

Superintendent of Schools

Dave Langone

Board of Education, 2015-2016

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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.

Congratulations, Dave
Langone, on your retirement!



Thank you for all that you have done for Whitesboro as our Superintendent of Schools and congratulations on an outstanding career in education spanning 40 years. Best wishes to you as you embark on the next chapter of your life.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTIAL SENIOR EXEMPTION

The property owner must be 65 years old or older by December 31, 2017. If there is more than one owner, then all must be 65 or older, unless they are husband and wife, then only one spouse must be 65 or older.

All owners must occupy the property, and the property must be the owner's primary residence. Property must have been owned for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the date of filing the application.

Total HOUSEHOLD income must not exceed:
\$18,700 for WHITESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
*If a child attending public school resides on the premises,
NO exemption may be granted for school taxes.

Total income includes: social security payments, salary & wages and interest income, including interest on state and local bonds, earnings from dividends, rental & business income, income from estates or trusts, gains from sales or exchanges, total amount received from government or private retirement plans or pension plans, annuity payments, unemployment, disability and worker compensation payments.

The RP-467 application and income verification must be submitted to your local assessor.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED EACH YEAR
BETWEEN JANUARY 1 AND MARCH 1.**

For more information, contact your local assessor's office or visit:

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/seniorexempt.htm>