Utica College Regional Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to Sylvia Kryszczuk on her 2nd place win at the Utica College Regional Science Fair! Her project on The Freeze Resistance, Flammability, Porosity, and Tensile Strength of Certain Fabrics earned her 2nd place overall and a half tuition scholarship for one year to Utica College. She also won several other awards at the Science Fair.

Congratulations to Autumn Riesel for placing fourth in the Physical Science category, at the Science Fair. Her project was on The Correlation Between the Sun and the Aurora Borrealis.

Other prizes were awarded to Alaina St. John for her project on The Effect of Substances on Light Velocity, and to Andrew Salie for his project on Solar Energy.

I would also like to congratulate Vinsent Brucker, Tyler Astour, Kyle Cardone, Alexis Nassar, Benjamin Collis, and Katrina Sadler for representing Whitesboro at the Regional Science Fair. The participating students are all 9th grade Earth Science students. They spent many hours preparing for the fair and we are extremely proud of their efforts! Nice job to all of you!
On May 4, 2014, at 2:00 p.m., Brian Gadbow will be soloing with Syracuse’s professional orchestra, Symphoria, at St. Paul’s Episcopal Cathedral in Syracuse. Gadbow won the 43rd Annual Civic Morning Musical Youth Concerto Competition held in Syracuse. His prize is the opportunity to play his solo with the symphony on a Symphoria concert. Brian Gadbow, an 11th grader at Whitesboro High School, is the son of James Gadbow and Susan Tarpinian Gadbow who are both teachers in Whitesboro.

Brian began studying the cello in his public school music program with Mrs. Nancy Paul in 3rd grade. In 4th grade, his school instruction was supplemented with the mentorship of a talented Whitesboro High School senior and cellist, Sharon Rose Driscoll. In 5th grade he began private study with Mr. Florent Renard-Payen, and later studied with Mrs. Susan Beevers. Brian currently studies privately with Mr. Gregory Wood, professor of cello performance at Syracuse University, and member of Syracuse’s professional orchestra, Symphoria. Brian is a member of his High School Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and String Quartet, directed by Mrs. Sharon Wormwood, as well as A Cappella Choir, Chamber Choir and Barbershop directed by Ms. Jane Beck. As a member of Grace Episcopal Church in Utica, N.Y., Brian has belonged to the Grace Church Choir, directed by Mr. Bruce Smith. He routinely solos on the cello there and at St. Peter’s in Cazenovia, where he collaborates with Ms. Ida Tili-Trebicka, professor of piano studies at Syracuse University, who accompanied him for the CMM competition. For the past few years, Brian has studied with Mr. Carmen Caramanica to learn guitar and explore improvisation, and with Mrs. Fiona Peters to learn music theory and basic piano.

Brian’s five-year connection with Syracuse Youth Orchestras has provided him with much musical growth. In 7th grade, Brian first became a part of the Syracuse Symphony Youth String Orchestra program and Chamber Orchestra under Mrs. Muriel Bodley. In 9th grade, he auditioned for and became a member of the Syracuse Youth Orchestra under Dr. James Tapia, of which he is still an active member. Brian has routinely participated in NYSSMA evaluations, All-County Music Festivals, Area-All-State Festivals and most recently he performed at Conference All-State as a member of the NYS All-State String Orchestra. During the past three summers Brian attended Crane Youth Music Camp at SUNY Potsdam, and was selected to perform in the Honors Recital all three years. He was awarded Outstanding Musician of Symphony Orchestra in 2012. Brian was selected to attend the School of Orchestral Studies at the New York State Summer School of the Arts held in Saratoga, N.Y., in 2013. He is a member of the Jr. B Sharp Club and won first place in the Scholarship Competition for strings last year. He was also awarded a scholarship for Summer Study from the Central New York Association of Music Teachers. He has recently been inducted into the National Honor Society.

Brian wishes to express gratitude to all those teachers, family and friends who have supported his music. His goal is to study cello performance at the college level. He will be performing the 1st Movement of the Violoncello Concerto in C Major by Joseph Haydn on May 4. Brian is grateful for the wonderful opportunity to perform with the professional musicians of Symphoria, and wishes to thank Civic Morning Musicals and Symphoria for this honor. Websites: www.civicmorningmusicals.org and www.experiencesymphoria.org. Tickets are available through the Symphoria website.
Fifth Grade Marcy Elementary School Teacher Earns Award

Kris Oczkowski, a fifth grade teacher from Marcy Elementary School, was recognized for her commitment to education at an Excellence in Education Awards Dinner that was sponsored by the Genesis Group. Ms. Oczkowski earned this recognition due to her dedication and commitment to providing the best education to her students inside the classroom as well as for her support and active participation in school activities and functions outside the classroom. We are proud to have such a passionate educator as a member of our Whitesboro School District’s team! Congratulations Ms. Oczkowski!

Richard Robinson Memorial Concert Series to Present Mark Wood and Electrify Your Strings

The WCS Music Department is proud to present the Third Annual Richard C. Robinson Concert on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. This year’s performance, Electrify Your Strings, will be presented by Mark Wood, and will also feature our High School and Middle School music students.

Electrify Your Strings (EYS) is a music educational phenomenon that fires up students, teachers and local communities by injecting a high voltage of rock into a school’s music education program.

Conceived by world-renowned musician, Emmy-winning composer, and electric violinist Mark Wood, EYS is celebrating its 10th year anniversary, and the premise is simple: Wood works with the school’s music directors, (Sharon Wormwood, strings, Nikki Williams, percussion and Jane Beck, vocals) to tailor design a two-day workshop event culminating in a live performance. Ticket sales directly benefit the school. There is also an Electric Violin donated by one of his sponsors, Music & Arts, which will be raffled off. EYS visits up to 60 schools per year and there is a waiting list of schools wanting to participate. EYS has been featured on the Today Show, and CBS News.

Violinist Wood, with his distinctive rocker style, is a Juilliard trained, Emmy-award winning composer, and internationally acclaimed electronic violinist (dubbed the ‘Les Paul of the violin world’) and has shared the stage with many well known musicians, including Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Steven Tyler, Kanye West, Lenny Kravitz and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra (of which he is a founding member). But for Wood, it’s all about the students. “It’s not about turning students into professional musicians - though if that’s the path they choose, great. It’s about empowering them to dream big, take chances and break down barriers so that they can achieve success in any field.”

Laura Kaye is the recording artist and session vocalist who will coach the choir and encourage them to express and explore their individual creativity. She is also Mark’s wife. She has worked with legendary musicians such as James Brown, Aretha Franklin, Lenny Kravitz, and Sean Lennon.

Elijah Wood is their 17 year old son and a drumming prodigy who will work with our percussionists. He attends New York’s Professional Children’s School where he studies drama, audio and video production in addition to his music. He was the 2008 winner of Drumfight and is a featured drummer on many TV musical scores.

Whitesboro is very fortunate to have EYS coaching, teaching and inspiring our High School and Middle School Music Students. Certainly, this will be a concert you do not want to miss!

Tickets are $15 for Adults, and $10 for Students/Seniors. Contact Helen Robinson 736-2331, Peggy Corbett 336-0527, Big Apple Music 732-3502, or Gary’s Music Store 337-0122.
The West Rd. Rockers took to the ice again for the Charity Challenge at the Utica Curling Club on March 8. The annual event is an opportunity for non-curlers to raise money for worthy causes while trying out the sport of curling and having some fun. The West Rd. Rockers raised money for The Ride for Missing Children riders at Westmoreland Rd. Elementary School. While they did not win the entire event, they were successful in winning their game and scoring some well-earned points.

West Rd. Rockers Raise Money for The Ride for Missing Children

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Pictured are: Paula Candella (Lead), Stephanie Aiello (Vice Skip), Dave Palazzoli (Coach and UCC member), Teale LaBarbera (Skip), and Sean Steere (Second).

(Submitted by Teale LaBarbera)
A Message from Food Service

Dear Parents,

This year we have seen several changes in our school food service program. Two of the biggest and most obvious being the adoption and implementation of a new charging policy and the installation of a new point of sale system. We appreciate all of the support and cooperation we have received from parents, students, school faculty and staff, as well as community members as we have made these changes.

The new charging policy is as follows:

I. Students may charge in accordance with the following rules:
   A. Students may charge complete meals only.
   B. All students will be provided with meal charge opportunities pursuant to this policy, regardless of whether they receive full price, reduced price, or free meals.
   C. All students in grades 6 through 12 who owe money for more than three lunches will begin receiving an alternate lunch of peanut butter and jelly (or allergy specific alternate) until their account balances have been paid in full.
   D. All students in grades K through 12 who have a negative balance will not be allowed to purchase snacks, extras, drinks other than milk, or anything other than a complete meal, even if they have cash in hand. Students can choose to put that cash on the account, or keep it, but they will not be permitted to purchase the item.

II. The District is committed to ensuring that federal reimbursements, children’s payments and other non-designated nonprofit food service revenues do not subsidize meals for adults. The District therefore adheres to a “no charge” meal purchase policy for adults.

III. The District will communicate this policy to parents and students by newsletter and website.

Our new point of sale system, NutriKids, allows cashiers to more easily identify students, their account restrictions and dietary and allergy information. NutriKids works with the online payment system MySchoolBucks. To sign up to use this service go to www.myschoolbucks.com. You will need an active e-mail address, your student’s nine digit ID number, name and birthday. There is a $1.95 charge per transaction. Once you have made one payment you can use the service to check account histories for the past 90 days. Please call us at 266.3315 if you have questions or need assistance.

Thank you all for your continued support. School lunch is a challenging program but we are always striving to serve the healthiest meals we can that meet federal and state guidelines, fit into our tight budget, and most importantly are desirable and tasty to our students.

Thank you,
Kate Dorr
Food Service Director
kdorr@wboro.org • 315.266.3315

New York State Scholar Athlete Teams

The NYSPHSAA and Section III released the winter New York State Scholar Athlete Teams for the 2013-2014 sport season. The NYSPHSAA has 778 membership schools, 108 of which are in Section III.

The qualifying criteria for a scholar athlete team award is that you be a varsity team with a grade average of 90 percent or better using a specified number of athletes depending on the sport.

The Whitesboro Winter Sports Scholar Athlete Teams are:

Boys
Basketball
Bowling
Ice Hockey
Nordic Ski
Wrestling

Girls
Basketball
Bowling
Cheerleading
Nordic Ski
Volleyball
100th Day of School

February has been a busy month in Deerfield’s Kindergarten classrooms. To celebrate the 100th day of school we rotated between the three classrooms completing a variety of activities centered around understanding 100. The morning culminated with combining a variety of ingredients so that each child enjoyed a trail mix of one hundred different items. In honor of dental health month Deerfield kindergarteners were visited by Dr. Stalker. We discussed healthy foods, proper tooth-brushing techniques and learned healthy tips to keep our teeth cavity free.

S.A.D.D. Fashion Show a Big Success

The S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) Club, Advisor Mrs. Delay, and Fashion Marketing Class Teacher Mrs. Murphy and their students presented the 6th Annual S.A.D.D. Fashion Show on January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

The event included numerous junior prom/senior ball dresses and tuxedos that were modeled by high school students. The female models were: Jenna Anderson, Claire Bramley, Lena Brennan, Alexis Canarelli, Shelby Carrigan, Talia Chumra, Holly Clark, Danielle Dickenson, Gianna Dellerba, Emma Dow, Jennelle Fallon, Devon Gallimo, Katie Heaton, Riley Hyatt, Melanie Klausner, Courtney Lamanque, Rachael Lynn, Kendalyn McVicker, Emilie Mull, Lizzie O’Connor, McKenna Passalacqua, Lexi Pedone, Caitlin Powers, Nicole Sergott, Rachel Sergott and Justine Strzepek. The male models were: Justin Abdallah, Nick Ashton, Kevin Brennan, Kirk Chevrier, Rocco DeRollo, Alex Egresits, Tyler Garica, Tanner Horan, Matt Hadjasz, Mike Jardieu, Andre Nichols, Austin Odell, Brandon Pugh, Mikhael Rahme, Peter Ryan and Madison Wyman.

The dresses were provided by Picker’s Elegant Occasions and the tuxedos were provided by A. Vitullo Inc., both located in New Hartford. Donations to the event for door prizes were a pair of junior prom tickets donated by the Class of 2015 and a pair of senior ball tickets donated by the Class of 2014.

A portion of the proceeds was donated by the S.A.D.D. Club to the Stevens-Swan Humane Society in Utica.
Rachel’s Challenge Impacts Middle School

Rachel’s Challenge was brought to the Whitesboro Middle School as an initiative to improve the culture on the school’s campus. The teachers and administrators are united in their desire to see Rachel’s Challenge have a positive impact on our students by creating a kinder, more compassionate culture on the middle school campus.

Each day 160,000 students across our nation do not go to school because they are bullied, teased and harassed. By turning the story of a tragic death at Columbine High School into a mission for change, Rachel’s Challenge is helping create safer learning environments and making a world-wide impact. From Rachel’s Challenge, the F.O.R. Club (Friends for Rachel) was initiated to provide a series of student empowering programs and strategies that equip students and adults to combat bullying and alleviate feelings of isolation and despair by creating a culture of kindness and compassion.

The programs are based on the writings and life of 17 year-old Rachel Scott who was the first student killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Rachel left a legacy of reaching out to those who were different, who were picked on by others, or who were new at her school. Shortly before her death she wrote, “I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go.”

F.O.R. Club students at our middle school have been participating once a month in various activities to communicate with others about how they are feeling and discuss any concerns they have about our campus. Some activities these students have participated in include walking in the Blue & White parade with inspirational posters, making holiday cards for veterans, making paper chain links that promote good deeds and creating hands with goals which are displayed in both buildings. We are looking forward to participating in the Walk for Autism to support our community on April 26, on the SUNY IT campus. All those who participate in the F.O.R. Club hope to be the answer and evoke positive change in the school, community and beyond.

Harts Hill Fourth Graders Take First Place in Math Competition

Congratulations to the Harts Hill 4th grade students for taking first place in the Sum Dog Math Competition. For one-week, the students logged on to play several math games covering various skills. As a whole class, the students answered over 27,000 math questions correctly beating area school districts within Oneida County.
Cheerleaders Donate Stuffed Animals to KEYS Program

The JV and Varsity cheerleaders brought in stuffed animals to be donated to the KEYS program out of Sherrill, N.Y. The program is run by Colleen Bennett. It is music therapy done in children’s hospitals for children with cancer.