



## **WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT**



### **Board Highlights - February 2023**



*The following information is intended to inform staff and community members of recent action taken by the Board. The information included in this brief is not intended to be complete and does not replace official Board minutes. Please see the Board agenda on the District Website for the complete action of the Board.*

**ENROLLMENT:** 2,808 as of February 2023

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT, DR. DREW RICCHIUTI:**

It seems amazing that 100 days of school have already passed by. We are just about done February and warmer weather is on the horizon. Many things have happened in our schools and so much more is about to.

The Elementary students had fun with their 100th day festivities. They are all eagerly practicing for their Spring concerts.

The Middle School and High School students are now into the 3rd Marking period. Spring Sports are about to begin, while Winter Sports are coming to a close. The Board would like to congratulate all the winter athletes on a successful season and wish good luck to all Spring athletes. Also, at the MS and HS, students are diligently rehearsing for Spring concerts and musicals.

The Board encourages our community to attend both the athletic and performance activities. Our students are extremely talented and you will not be disappointed.

Dr. Drew Ricchiuti  
West Deptford Board of Education President

## STAFF RECOGNITION:

### NATIONAL SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER DAY

February 15<sup>th</sup> was National School Resource Officer Day. We are fortunate to have an SRO assigned to each and every one of our schools. The safety of the students and staff in our school buildings is very important, and we are fortunate to have such a great partnership with the West Deptford Police Department. Our SRO's go over and above to participate in school activities and form positive relationships with both students and staff. Throughout our district, students and staff provided our officers with cards of appreciation, gifts, and recognition to show gratitude for keeping us safe and supporting a nurturing school environment! We love our officers, and are grateful for the positive impact they make in our schools each day!



District School Resource Officer Kienholz



High School SLEO III Officer Scirrotto



Middle School SLEO III Officer Barney



Green-Fields SLEO III Officer Beck



Oakview SLEO III Officer Henry



Red Bank SLEO III Officer Kramer



National Park SLEO III Officer Hemphill

## STUDENT RECOGNITION:

### SOARING EAGLES

The West Deptford Board of Education recognized the following individuals at their February Meeting. These students have been selected by their teachers for demonstrating outstanding character and for their commitment to their schools.



#### *Red Bank Elementary School*

- Le'Veon Howard
- Sydney Summers

#### *Oakview Elementary School*

- Gianna Fenuto
- Owen Westbrook

#### *Green-Fields Elementary School*

- Marissa Morro
- Jonathan Lundy

#### *West Deptford Middle School*

- Jaeana SanFilippo
- Ethan Lawyer

#### *West Deptford High School*

- Olivia Tropea
- Mykia Oden



### WDHS SEAL OF BILITERACY AWARD 2023

This school year, West Deptford has participated for the third time in the nationally accredited initiative: the Seal of Biliteracy. By achieving the Seal of Biliteracy, graduating students demonstrate that they can speak, read, listen, and write at a high proficiency. The following students have achieved the Seal of Biliteracy Award for 2023. All of our students worked extremely hard this year - what a prestigious accomplishment!

- Chitapon Chiangnow -Thai
- Brady Clark -Spanish
- Natalie Currie -Spanish
- Luke Gallagher -Spanish
- Halilibrahim Pul -Turkish
- Albert Rivera -Spanish
- Nyla Tillman -Spanish



## WDMS JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



## OAKVIEW HARD HAT WORKERS

We are very proud of our January Hard Hat Workers for modeling our character theme of Tolerance.



## RED BANK BUCKET FILLERS

In January, we had our first ever "Whole Classroom" bucket filler. Mrs. Everwine's class accepted the challenge to design kindness posters for every classroom in the school. They didn't sign their names because they wanted to surprise each teacher. Thank you so much for filling everyone's bucket!



We just love it when our kiddos thank the important adults in their life. Great job, Mr. Marty and Mr. DeHart!



## PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
  - Substitute Teachers (6)
  - Substitute Nurse
  - WDHS Counselor

- WDHS LTR Special Education Teacher
- WDHS PM Custodians (2)
- WDHS Spring Sports Coaches
- WDMS Special Education Instructional Aide
- WDMS Student Council Co-Advisor
- GFES YEP Care Provider
- Per Diem Substitute YEP Junior Care Providers (2)
- OVES Instructional Aides (2)
- OVES Non-Instructional LPC Aides (2)
- RBES LTR Preschool Teacher
- Resignations/Retirements:
  - Retirement WDHS School Nurse
  - Retirement WDHS Math Teacher
  - Resignation WDMS Student Council Co-Advisor
- Change of Status:
  - Voluntary Transfer PM Custodian (WDMS to WDHS)

**THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:**

- School Business Days
- Cafeteria Donations
- Resolution with Alliance for Competitive Energy Services
- 2023-2024 Nonpublic Technology and Nonpublic Textbook Purchasing Contracts
- Facilities Use by Outside Organizations
- Addition to Transportation Route
- NJ State FY2023 ARP SDA Emergent Needs & Capital Maintenance in School Districts Grant
- Transfer from Capital Outlay to General Budget
- WDHS Spring Sports Schedules & WDMS Spring Track Schedule
- WDHS, WDMS, and Preschool Field Trips
- WDMS 5th Grade Orientation
- Preschool Parent Information Nights
- Preschool/Kindergarten Registration
- School Nurse Workshops
- Connections Matter Workshop
- Numerous Policies and Regulations
- Updated Job Descriptions
- 2023-2024 Facilities Calendar
- NJ QSAC 21-22 District Improvement Plan Submission
- WDHS Counselor Overloads
- WDHS Overloads
- Leaves of Absence

- Amend Leaves of Absence, Start Dates, End Dates, Salary, Overload and Hours
- Contracts with GCSSSD - CRESS and NeurAbilities Neurohealth Services
- Homebound Instruction
- OOD Placements

### **BUSINESS, FACILITIES, & FINANCE:**

- The Board approved the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports, Transfers, Payroll, and Bills Lists.

### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Numerous other requests for approval for workshop attendance, student activities, and education items were approved by the Board of Education. These approvals will be reflected in the formal minutes of the meeting, which are available in the office of the Board of Education Secretary, as well as posted online after Board approval. The next regularly scheduled meetings of the Board are a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 20, 2023 at 6pm to adopt the tentative budget, and an Action Meeting which will be held immediately following, in the West Deptford Middle School at 7pm. The date and time are subject to change.

### **NOTES FROM THE NURSES**

February is National Children's Dental Health Month. Cavities, also known as caries or tooth decay, are the most common chronic disease of childhood, yet cavities are preventable. Untreated cavities can cause pain and infections that can lead to problems eating, speaking, and learning. More than 1 in 5 children aged 2 to 5 years has at least one cavity in their baby teeth. More than half of children aged 6 to 8 have had a cavity in at least one of their baby (primary) teeth. More than half of adolescents aged 12 to 19 have had a cavity in at least one of their permanent teeth.

#### ***Here are some tips for your child's dental health:***

- Brush teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste.
- Help younger children brush their teeth until they have good brushing skills. *If your child is younger than 6, watch them brush. Make sure they use a pea-sized amount of toothpaste and always spit it out rather than swallow.*
- Eat fruits and vegetables for snacks rather than candies and cookies. Bacteria in the mouth produces acid when a person eats sugary foods. This acid eats away minerals from the tooth's surface, making the tooth weaker and increasing the chance of developing cavities.
- Serve water at mealtime rather than juice or soda.
- Drink tap water that contains fluoride.
- Ask your child's dentist to apply dental sealants when appropriate.

Oral health can affect a child's self-esteem, school performance, and even their attendance at school. Perhaps now may be a good time to schedule your child's dental visit.

### **OAKVIEW ELEMENTARY WINS \$1,000 GRANT FROM NFL PLAY 60!**

Click [here](#) to view the American Heart Association's NFL Play 60 that aired on Thursday, February 9th at 1pm. Oakview Elementary school is shown as the winning recipient of the \$1,000 grant for the New York Jets (around 10:25 min mark). Great job, Oakview!

## AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN

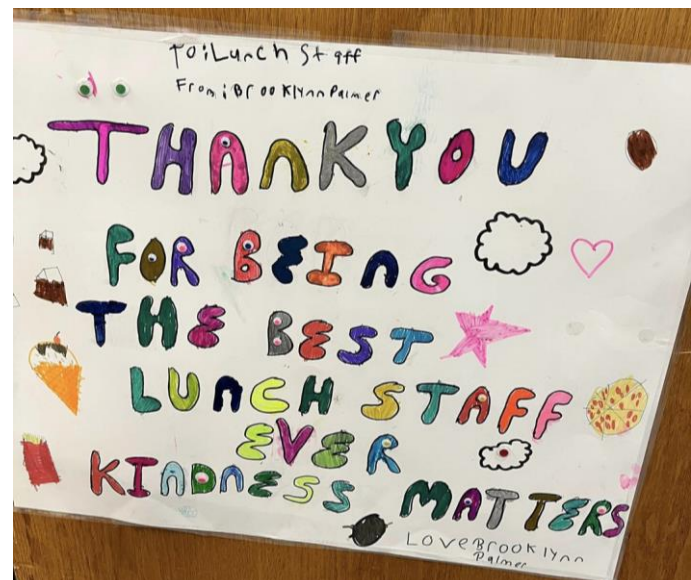
The National African American Read-In is the nation's first and oldest event dedicated to diversity in literature. It was established in 1990 by the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English to make literacy a significant part of Black History Month. Our schools will participate by having guest readers come in and read a book written by an African American author or written about an influential African American. Each visit will include a reading and a little discussion about the author. Through this event, we continue to support diverse authors and showcase their contributions to the world of literacy.

- [WDMS African American Read-In](#)



## ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE

Elementary students across the district celebrated the International Great Kindness Challenge the week of January 23. This is a national program that was created to encourage the spread of kindness and give our students an appreciation for the impact made by random acts of kindness. We held spirit week, and each day came along with a specific theme to help our staff and students show their enthusiasm for kindness.





# West Deptford Elementary Schools Celebrates the Great Kindness Challenge



Monday 1/23: Team up for Kindness. Wear your favorite team's clothing.

Tuesday 1/24: Wear bright colors to remind us that kindness brightens our day.

Wednesday 1/25: Kindness ties us together. Wear a tie, bow or tie dye.

Thursday 1/26: Wear your shirt backwards as a reminder that we can't take our words back.

Friday 1/27: Kindness is comforting. Wear comfy clothes.

Kindness  
MATTERS



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATIONS

During Black History Month we want to help our students understand the value of diversity and the importance of inclusion and acceptance of all. Black History Month is a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions, and histories, and acknowledge African Americans' significant contributions to our U.S. History.

RB Second grade students celebrated their diversity by creating a "quilt." Our differences are what make us special and beautiful.



The WDHS Computer Science classes celebrated Black History Month by researching Black leaders and pioneers in STEM fields. They compiled their research into a presentation they set to music and uploaded it to YouTube. Check it out here! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mix2doz3Q1w>

## ELEMENTARY BUDDY BONDING

So many great things are happening across the elementary grade levels. It's nice seeing everyone working together and being such great role models.





### 100th DAY OF SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS

February 10th was the 100th day of school. Elementary Art Teacher, Mrs. Gina Hicks, opened her heart and home to share her 100-year-old "nanny" with our students. Mrs. Hicks had the students of RB and OV compile a list of questions for her very special interview. Please enjoy "[Nanny's 100 Day Interview](#)." When you see Mrs. Hicks in the community, please thank her for giving these kids an amazing learning experience. I bet you'll enjoy it just as much!



WDMS got into the 100th day spirit too, as you can see from the photos below!



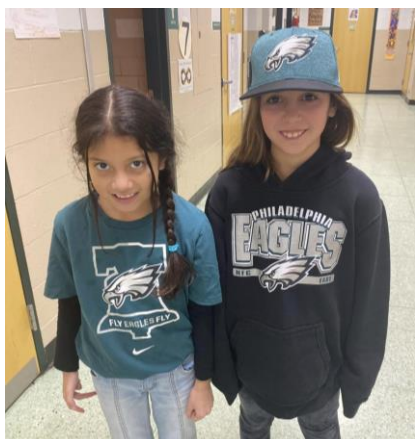
## WDMS CHOIR SELECTED TO PERFORM "FLY EAGLES FLY" ON CBS NEWS

On February 9, the WDMS 7th & 8th Grade Choir performed "Fly Eagles Fly" which was aired on CBS News! Click [here](#) to see their performance. Great job, choir, and GO EAGLES!!

### E-A-G-L-E-S!

Throughout the past month we held many spirit days through the district to root for our hometown Philadelphia Eagles as they traveled the exciting road to the Superbowl. As you can see from the photos and video links below, we really got into the spirit!

- [Green-Fields Super Bowl Pep Rally](#)
- [Oakview Super Bowl Pep Rally](#)
- [Red Bank Pep Super Bowl Rally](#)





### WDHS SPRING MUSICAL TICKETS

The WDHS Musical Department is excited to announce that tickets for "The SpongeBob Musical" are now on sale. The performances will be held on:

- Friday, March 17th at 7pm
- Saturday, March 18th at 7pm
- Sunday, March 19th at 2pm

Reserve your tickets online at the link below. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door but don't delay! The best seats in the house will sell out early!!

Book your tickets here: <https://wdhs.booktix.com/>. All questions about ticket sales can be forwarded to Jody Davis - [jdavis@wdeptford.k12.nj.us](mailto:jdavis@wdeptford.k12.nj.us).

### KIDS HEART CHALLENGE

The week of 2/21-2/24 was Wellness Week in our District, where staff and students exercised throughout the day together, and learned the importance of being heart healthy. In gym class, students put their endurance and muscles to the test as they worked out at various stations. Elementary students also participated in the Kids

Heart Challenge throughout the month, where staff and students raised money to donate to the American Heart Association. Our Middle School students participated in Jump Rope for Heart. We are so proud of our student's hard work and their family's support! Our district raised a significant amount of money to donate to this worthy cause, and we learned about the importance of living healthy in the process!



## ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GET A “MOOD BOOST”

Something fun is happening in the cafeteria starting in February; our elementary students will have the opportunity to experience a brand-new program called “Mood Boost!” Designed to help students make the connection between what they eat and how they feel, Mood Boost brings new lunch menus, fun activities and a collection of characters called “Moodie's” into the cafeteria. Emerging research has shown that the foods we eat the most often may have an effect on how we feel, not just physically, but mentally. When eaten regularly, Mood Boost foods, especially nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables, can help to elevate a person’s mood and enhance our sense of well-being. These foods contain vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that communicate with our brain to support personal characteristics such as happy, alert, strong, calm, and confident. This is the foundation for Mood Boost! Click below to view more about the program, as well as to view the weekly options!

- [Introducing...MOOD BOOST!](#)
- [Weekly Options](#)

## CAFETERIA INFORMATION

- Please click [here](#) to view your school’s cafeteria menu.
- All parents are encouraged to fill out a Free/Reduced Lunch Application. For more info, click [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### *District-Wide Events*

- February - Black History Month
- February - Children’s Dental Health Month
- March - Women’s History Month
- March - NJ Arts in Our Schools Month
- 3/15-3/16 - Early Dismissal All Schools
- 3/15-3/16 - Elementary Spring Conferences
- 3/17 - Inservice - No school for students

### *Red Bank Elementary*

- 2/27-3/3 - PTO Scholastic Book Fair
- 3/2 - PTO Family Fun Night

### *Oakview Elementary*

- 2/21-2/24 - Buddy Bonding Week
- 2/21-2/24 - [Wellness Week](#)
- 2/24 - WD Eagle Pride Day - Wear WD Eagle Colors and/or Gear
- 3/1 - One Book, One School Assemblies
- 3/6-3/10 - Buddy Bonding Week

### ***Green-Fields Elementary***

- 3/2 - 5th Annual Service-Learning Night to Benefit Cathedral Kitchen 5:30-7:30pm
- 3/21 - 3rd Grade Field Trip to Franklin Institute

### ***Middle School***

- 2/21-2/23 - African American Read-In
- 2/20-3/16 - [Student Council Sock Drive for the Homeless](#)
- 2/23 - WDHS Informational meeting for current 8th grade students
- 2/25 - 7th & 8th Grade Gifted & Talented Students National History Day Competition
- 2/28 - Living Wax Museum 8:15-9:15am WDMS Cafeteria
- 3/9 - Staff vs. Students Basketball Game 6pm RiverWinds
- 3/16 - People's Choice Awards 6:30pm

### ***High School***

- 2/20-3/16 - [Key Club Sock Drive for the Homeless](#)
- 2/28 - NHS Red Cross Blood Drive
- 2/28 - Senior Trip Parent Meeting 6pm HS Auditorium
- 3/10 - High School Musical Presentation "The SpongeBob Musical"
- 3/25-3/28 - Senior Trip