



WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Highlights - November 2022



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: 2,811 as of November, 2022

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

The Board of Education would like to **thank** all of our students for an incredible first marking period. We have heard so many positive comments regarding students' academic and extracurricular success. We would like to **congratulate** all of our Fall Athletic Teams in the Middle and High School for another successful season, especially our WDHS Girls Field Hockey Team for bringing home a State Title as **Group I State Champions**. Special **congratulations** also go to our award-winning Marching Band for their first-place win in TOB States and second place overall in the Atlantic Coast Championships.

As we enter the **Thanksgiving** season, we continue to have a lot to be **thankful** for in our schools. In our elementary schools, we continue to model character education through the various activities occurring in each of our schools. Our middle and high schools continue to impress our town with all of their stellar accomplishments and successes. We are looking forward to the community-wide Operation Blessing over the next month that supports families in need to provide for a **wonderful holiday season**.

On behalf of the Board of Education, we wish everyone a healthy, relaxing, and safe holiday.

Dr. Drew Ricchiuti, Board of Education President



STAFF RECOGNITION:

A warm welcome to Elementary Assistant Principal, Kristen Reid. She brings with her lots of experience and understanding of the educational world, and her enthusiasm is sure to ignite both our students and staff. Her introduction letter is below. We look forward to her rounding out our elementary admin team!

Greetings All!

I am extremely excited to become a part of the Oakview and Red Bank families! My daughter, Naomi Reid, has been a student in both schools and is currently a student at Green-Fields. As a parent, I can attest to the level of dedication and professionalism of staff in our district and I have always been impressed by what I have seen and experienced in the schools.

I've proudly called West Deptford my home since the turn of the century! I have been an educator for over 20 years and a school leader since 2011. As a school family, I look forward to working together with each and every one of you for the good of our students.

Looking forward to meeting and greeting everyone. Thank you, and I'll be seeing you all soon.

*Warm Regards,
Kristen Reid*



STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Soaring Eagles

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

Red Bank Elementary School

- Quinn Pluta
- Adrianna Roots

Oakview Elementary School

- Tristan Holmes
- Henry Rebilas

Green-Fields Elementary School

- Emir Yavuz
- Lucialla Kenney

West Deptford Middle School

- William Graham Pisarek
- Ian Champion

West Deptford High School

- Nyla Tillman
- Jeremiah Cromer



WDFH STATE CHAMPIONS!!!

Congratulations to the West Deptford High School Girls Field Hockey Team for winning the NJSIAA Group I State Championship game on Saturday, November 12. This is only the second time ever that West Deptford has achieved the title of State Champions (the first was 26 years ago). It was a nailbiter of a game, and our Lady Eagles fought hard to win 3-2 in the second overtime. Amazing job, ladies! You make us proud!!!



WDMB - 2022 NJ STATE GRAND CHAMPIONS!!!

Congratulations to the West Deptford High School Marching Band - 2022 NJ State Grand Champions! It was an awe-inspiring performance. We are so proud of you!!! The Marching Band ended their season with an impressive 2nd place in the Atlantic Coast Championship. Congratulations for another successful season!



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (NHS) INDUCTION

Congratulations to our high school students who were inducted into the National Honor Society on Thursday, November 17. What an HONOR!! Special thanks to Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Stuart for organizing the ceremony!



WDHS OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Business/Marketing Ed – *Jordyn Dreger*
Applied Technology – *Brayden Black*
Visual & Performing Arts – *Nina Viola*
Guidance – *Riley Blymer*
Mathematics – *Khaled Alhamwi*

Health/PE – *Nathan Bassett*
Science – *Jocelyn Martin*
English – *Sara Parra*
Social Studies – *Wyatt Horne*
World Languages – *Noe' Brown*



WDHS ESPORTS TOURNAMENT

Pictured to the right are Head Coach Mike Seeley and some of the members of the West Deptford High School ESports Team at the New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Convention in Atlantic City the week of October 24. These students competed in a tournament, and they proudly represented West Deptford and Garden State Esports in promoting scholastic esports across the state!



WDMS OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



RED BANK ROCK STARS AND BUCKET FILLERS

Student leadership is something that can be achieved no matter the age. Our goal is to make sure every student plays a part in making THEIR school awesome. We call them our Red Bank Rock Stars, and the group below took good care of our Preschool Trikers! Our Bucket Fillers demonstrate that random acts of kindness go a LONG way! Great job, kids!



PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - Administrative Assistant to the Director of Special Education and Related Services
 - Substitute Teachers
 - Substitute Administrative Assistant
 - Substitute Instructional Aide
 - WDHS PM Custodian
 - WDHS Boys Lacrosse Head Coach
 - WDHS Girls Lacrosse Head Coach
 - WdHS ESports Team Volunteer Coach
 - WDMS STAMP Mentors
 - WDMS Volunteer Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
 - GFES LTR Special Education Teacher
 - OVES LTR Kindergarten Teacher
 - OVES Instructional Aide
 - OVES Non-Instructional Aide
- Resignations/Retirements:
 - Resignation GFES Non-Instructional LPC Aide
 - Resignation OVES Non-Instructional LPC Aide
- Change of Status:
 - Voluntary Transfer GFES Custodial Day Leader to RBES Custodial Day Leader
 - Voluntary Transfer RBES Custodial Day Leader to GFES Custodial Day Leader

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

- School Business Days
- Cafeteria Donations
- Donations
- PEA Grant FY2023
- Amend IDEA Grant
- FY 2023-2024 Budget Preparation Calendar
- Facilities Use
- Sale of Cumberland Avenue Property
- Inspired Instruction PD
- Student Teacher Placements
- Various WDHS, WDMS, and OVES Field Trips
- Revised 2022-2023 District Calendar

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 meeting of the Board is an Action Meeting which will be held on December 19, 2022 in the West Deptford Middle School at 7pm. The date and time is subject to change.

OPERATION BLESSING

Operation Blessing is a district-wide initiative that provides assistance to 100 West Deptford School District families during the holiday season. WD schools and the High School's National Honor Society work closely to bring holiday cheer to our local families. We are reaching out to our community for help - please see below to learn ways in which your family may spread some holiday cheer this year.

ADOPT A FAMILY - This involves committing to "adopting a family" to provide specific wish list items requested by a family in need. Our goal for each family is to have donated a few toy items for young children, gift cards for older children, and winter items for all the children (each child requires a coat, shoes, socks, pj's, underwear, and toys). The WDHS Key Club will also provide bags of non-perishable food items for each family. **Since there are a variety of items needed for each family, you may choose to team up with neighbors, family members or friends to all pitch in to provide for one family. If you are interested in adopting a family, please click the link below:

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DDkpiYVvkZcvaQVozqclDvHZuo0k_klO/view?usp=sharing

FEED A FAMILY - It is Key Club's tradition to provide families with food. Key Club is reaching out to the community to provide groceries for local families as part of OPERATION BLESSING: FEED-A-FAMILY. If interested in participating, please click on the link below for details and to sign up:

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DRUi0eTeZbcUYN0YKbTlqaguRMPCpNC/view?usp=sharing>

DONATIONS - We can also use individual donations of any item. Gift cards are accepted (ShopRite, Acme, Target, Walmart, etc), socks, hats & gloves, family board games, and blankets. Students can bring donations to their teacher or to the main office, or NHS will be accepting monetary donations which can be made payable to West Deptford High School.

ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW, UNWRAPPED and SUBMITTED BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1st. For any questions, or if you would like to commit to "adopting" a family, please contact: Jody Davis jdavis@wdeptford.k12.nj.us or Jennifer Stuart jstuart@wdeptford.k12.nj.us

ILLNESS REMINDERS FROM THE DISTRICT NURSES

In regards to illness, please keep in mind the 24-hour rule. If your child suffers from fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or any other contagious illness, it is the school district policy that he/she remains out of school for at least 24 hours after the symptoms have cleared up. If we all work together, your child can have a very healthy classroom. If you are not sure if your child is well enough to attend school, ask yourself if you would want a child with the same symptoms sitting next to your son or daughter. If the answer is no, then it is best to keep your child home for the day.

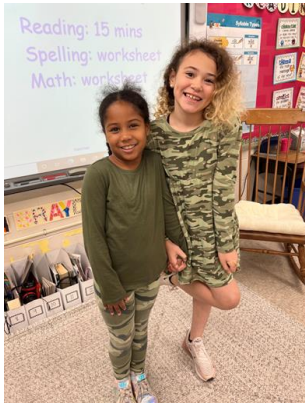
When your child becomes ill or injured at school, the health office will attempt to contact the telephone numbers listed on the emergency information you completed at the beginning of the school year. It is critical that the school have current emergency contact numbers. If your home, work, or cell phone number(s) change during the school year, please call the school immediately to update them. We will always attempt to contact parents first unless we have been instructed otherwise. Only those individuals listed on the emergency contacts are allowed to pick up students. If alternate arrangements need to be made, you must inform the school who will be assuming responsibility for your child.

RED RIBBON WEEK

A huge shout out to our guidance counselors who organized Red Ribbon Spirit Week for WD schools. We stand strong together making great choices! The elementary schools had different dress up themes for each day. The Middle School's theme this year was "Celebrate Life, Live Drug Free," and the High School drew chalk pictures around the school property as well as within their Art classes, coming together to promote a "DRUG FREE" lifestyle and environment.







UNITY DAY

On October 19, we celebrated National Unity Day. We joined the nation in wearing orange to show kindness, acceptance, and unity against bullying.





ANNUAL PRESCHOOL TRIKE-A-THON

Mrs. Cross deserves a HUGE shout out for once again organizing our annual Trike-A-Thon. We are so proud of our preschool gang for participating in their very first service learning project; over \$5,800 was donated to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Special thanks to the HS Friends of Rachel Club, led by April Sanford, who helped out at every school by setting up the course, preparing the bikes for the event, and for helping our "trikers" around the track. The Red Bank Rockstars and Green-Fields' Mentor & Model Club assisted by making posters and cheering on the students as well.





OAKVIEW & RED BANK PUMPKIN PATCH

We had a wonderful two days of pumpkin picking with our Preschool and Kindergarten students. We turned the open field into a magical pumpkin patch. Our room parents came in to help classes as they picked a pumpkin of their choice and enjoyed a tasty apple cider donut donated to us by ShopRite of West Deptford.





ELEMENTARY HALLOWEEN PARADES & PARTIES

Each year, our elementary Halloween Parades and Parties are some of our most highly anticipated school events. Students outdid themselves this year with their unique costumes, and families could feel the excitement

in the air as they enjoyed watching the parades, spent time in their child's classroom, and witnessed the smiles on the children's faces!

- [Red Bank Halloween 2022](#)



5TH GRADE PUMPKIN WALKS

The 5th Grade Classes had a great day walking to DeHarts on October 26-27 to pick out their pumpkins. This is a long-standing tradition here at WDMS that we are proud to see ongoing!



WDMS STAFF vs. STUDENT SOCCER GAME

On November 8, the WDMS Students were victorious in their first ever win over the staff in the Staff vs. Student Soccer Game! It was an energetic and fun-filled night!



WDMS VETERAN'S DAY ASSEMBLY

On Monday, November 14, WDMS hosted a Veteran's Day Assembly to honor the Veterans living in our school community. Guests at the event enjoyed the following presentations and performances:

- Presentation of the colors by Army/Navy Garrison 52 Honor Guard
- Singing of the National Anthem
- "My Pledge to Veterans" - student presentations
- Musical Performance by the WDMS Choir
- Guest Speaker Arlene Baker, National Commander of the Army/Navy Union

It was a touching way to honor our Veterans, a chance for our students to learn more about their service and sacrifice, and a way to thank them for serving our country and defending our FREEDOM. God Bless America!



WORLD KINDNESS DAY

World Kindness Day is officially on Sunday, November 13, but we celebrated this with our students on November 14. On World Kindness Day, participants attempt to make the world a better place by celebrating and promoting good deeds and pledging acts of kindness, either as individuals, as a class, or as a school.

Each Oakview student and staff member was given a strip of construction paper to write or draw a picture to show or tell how they pledge to provide kindness. The strips will be connected to create one large chain as a way to represent how our school will unite to be kind.

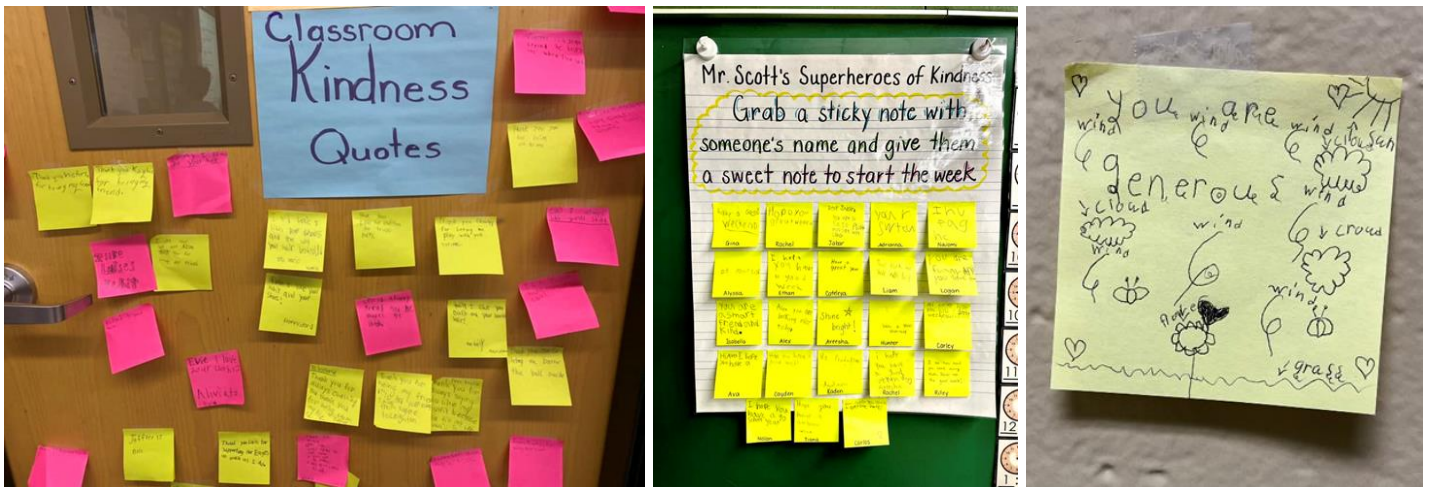


Red Bank Students participated in school-wide counseling lessons based on the book, *Kindness Grows*, by Britta Teckentrup. They created a Red Bank Family Kindness Tree, using handprints instead of leaves for their tree,

which promotes a sense of belonging and connection between all students between grade levels and for the students to understand they have the power to be kind no matter what their circumstance.



At Green-Fields, one of the themes was "Making Kindness Stick." Mr. Scott's and Mrs. Clark's classrooms did just that by placing sticky notes throughout the building and within the classroom sharing messages of kindness.



PAJAMA DAY FOR CHOP

On Friday, December 2, Oakview & Red Bank Elementary Schools will participate in Pajama Day to raise funds for Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). On this day, we invite all students to wear their favorite pajamas and bring in an optional donation to help raise money for the children and families cared for at CHOP. If you would like to make a donation by check, please make it payable to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and put "Pajama Day" on the memo line. Cash or checks will be collected by the classroom teachers from November 28-December 2. We are also accepting donations online (Click: [Oakview Elementary](#) or [Red Bank Elementary](#))

Giving back and creating a sense of community are important experiences that we want to provide our students with. We thank you in advance for helping us make this effort a success! Every dollar makes a difference in the life of a child at CHOP. Please know that ALL students are invited to wear pajamas even if a donation is not provided.

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

- 11/23 Early Dismissal
- 11/24-11/25 Schools Closed - Thanksgiving Break
- 12/10 Operation Blessing at WDHS
- 12/23-1/3 Winter Break

Red Bank Elementary

- 12/2 - CHOP Pajama Day
- 12/5-12/9 - Holiday Shop
- 12/13 - Winter Concert (one performance @1:30)

Oakview Elementary

- 12/2 - CHOP Pajama Day
- 12/12-12/16 - Holiday Shop
- 12/20 - Winter Concert

Green-Fields Elementary

- 12/5-12/9 - Holiday Shop
- 12/20 - 3rd Grade Winter Concert (Group A)
- 12/21 - 3rd Grade Winter Concert (Group B)

Middle School

- 11/28-12/2 - HSO Scholastic Book Fair & "Coin Clash Royal" Coin Drop
- 11/28-11/29 Girls & Boys Basketball Tryouts
- 12/6 - Hour of Code 2:15-3:15pm
- 12/14 - 7th & 8th Grade Winter Concert
- 12/15 - 5th & 6th Grade Winter Concert

High School

- 11/30 - NHS Blood Drive
- 12/2 - World Language Honor Society Induction
- 12/20 - Holiday Arts Festival & Concert