

WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Highlights - October 2023

The following information is intended to inform staff and community members of recent action taken by the Board, as well as highlight some exciting events happening in our District. 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: 2,787 as of October 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION PRESIDENT:

It's hard to believe we are about to finish October already. Before we do though, I wanted to take a moment to highlight some great things that have occurred or will be occurring. Elementary students will get to dress up for their annual Halloween parties and parades. Everyone in the district always enjoys the pictures of the students in costumes as they try to scare all the staff. Middle School students have their upcoming 5th/6th Grade Halloween dance. The 6th-Grade annual Camp Ockanickon trip was, as usual, a great success. The High School had its annual Homecoming game and dance. Both events were thoroughly enjoyed. Congratulations to **Trevor Lundfelt** and **Ava Yates** (pictured above) for becoming royalty as they were crowned 2023 Homecoming King and Queen!



The Board would like to welcome Mr. Jason Morrell as the new Principal of the West Deptford Middle School. The Board is excited for his leadership. We would also like to welcome the new student representatives to the Board, Kathryn Pitts and Macey Harrold. The Board is looking forward to working with you and hearing the insights of the district from a student perspective.

Enjoy Fall, Happy Halloween, and Go Phils!!!

Drew Ricchiuti

Board of Education President



STUDENT RECOGNITION:

SOARING EAGLES

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



Red Bank Elementary School

- Ve'Layha Robinson
- Vera Wakely

West Deptford Middle School

- Bruce Clark
- Mackenzie DiLorenzo

Oakview Elementary School

- Miriam Montanez-Palillero
- Andrew Ruth

West Deptford High School

- Corey Ratcliffe
- Gavin Yoder

Green-Fields Elementary School

- Leilani Stokes
- Luke Kaiser



PERFECT SCORE ON NJSLA (NEW JERSEY LEARNING ASSESSMENT) OR NJGPA (NEW JERSEY GRADUATION PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT)

- Holden Colone (NJSLA – ELA)
- Roman Quesada (NJSLA – Math)
- Graham Baldwin (NJSLA – Math)
- Emily Breslin (NJSLA – ELA)
- Piper Lynch (NJSLA – ELA)
- Luciana Morina (NJSLA – ELA)
- Lily Avila (NJSLA – ELA)
- Evan Hall (NJSLA - Algebra 1)
- Ryan Lawrence (NJGPA – ELA)
- Mya Rauchut (NJGPA – ELA)
- David (John) Wright (NJGPA – ELA)

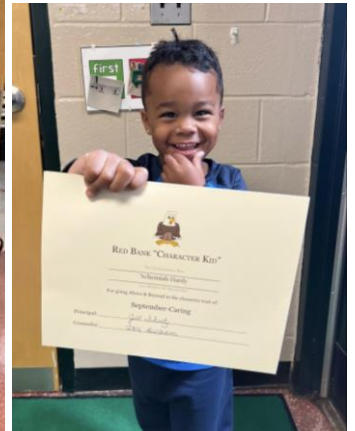
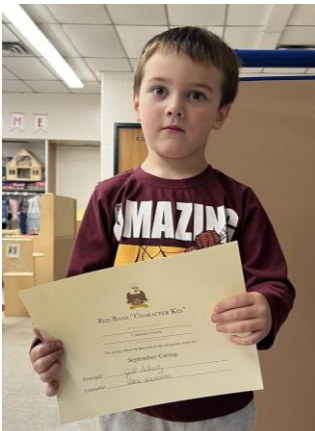


OAKVIEW HARD HAT WORKERS



RED BANK CHARACTER KIDS OF THE MONTH

Check out this bunch of kind and caring Red Bankers. What a great way to begin the new school year! They make us proud!



WEST DEPTFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER



WEST DEPTFORD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH - SEPTEMBER



Business/Marketing Ed - Nathan Basset
Applied Technology - Dante Reid (not pictured)
Visual & Performing Arts - Maya Waiters
Guidance - Colin Dilks
Mathematics - Anthony Nguyen

Health/PE - Sean Wiggernhorn
Science - Steven Brasberger
English - Ayden Tighe (not pictured)
Social Studies - Makayla Laxton
World Languages - Sohail Khan

PERSONNEL

- Appointments:
 - District Media Specialist
 - WDHS Assistant Principal for Athletics and Activities
 - WDHS Special Education Aide
 - WDMS Full Time PM Custodian
 - RBES Special Education ICR 1st Grade Teacher
 - School Bus Drivers (2)
 - Substitute Teachers (3)
 - Substitute Custodian
- Change of Status:
 - Voluntary Transfers (2)
- Resignations/Retirements:
 - Retirement WDHS Health/PE Teacher
 - Resignation District Media Specialist
 - Resignation OV/RB Instructional Aide
 - Resignation School Bus Driver
 - Resignation GFES LTR Preschool Teacher
 - Resignation RBES Special Education Instructional Aide

THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:

- School Business Days
- Facilities Use
- Cafeteria Donations
- Bank Signatures
- Jointure Agreement - GRSD
- Comprehensive Maintenance Plan and M-1
- Nonpublic Services Agreement Chapters 192 and 193
- Delta-T Group
- Annual School Health Conference
- Changing the ADHD Brain Workshop
- RBT Training
- PECS Level 1 Training
- CPR/First Aid Training
- The Marvel of Magical Realism in Art PD
- Student Interns Field Placements - WGU
- Student Interns Clinical Practicum Placements - TJU
- WDHS & WDMS Winter Sports Schedules
- 7 WDHS Field Trips

- 11 WDMS Field Trips
- HIB Summary Report (SSDS) - Report Period 2
- The Eagle Flight Forward 2023-2024
- Staff Model for the Delivery of School Health Services
- Numerous Policies & Regulations
- WDHS Partial Overloads
- WDMS Stipend Positions
- GFES Students First Coordinator
- In-Service - Preschool and Special Education Instructional Aides
- WDHS Creative Writing Pilot Club
- Amend End Date RBES Preschool Teacher
- Amend Stipend WDHS Computer Technology Coordinator
- Amend Leaves of Absence
- Leaves of Absence
- Advanced Degree
- Special Education Contracts

BUSINESS, FACILITIES, & FINANCE:

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

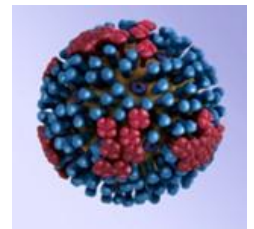
MISCELLANEOUS:

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 scheduled meeting of the Board is a Board Retreat on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 6pm in the West Deptford Middle School Library followed by the November Action Meeting at 7pm. The date and time is subject to change.

NOTES FROM THE NURSES

Community Flu Facts and Prevention Tips from the School Nurses

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year.



Flu symptoms usually come on suddenly. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms:

- fever* or feeling feverish/chills (*not everyone with the flu will have a fever)
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- muscle or body aches
- headaches
- fatigue (tiredness)
- some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults

Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes.

You may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as when you are sick with symptoms. The time from when a person is exposed and infected with the flu to when symptoms begin is about two days, but can range from about one to four days. Complications of the flu can include bacterial pneumonia, ear infections, sinus infections and worsening of chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes.

The first and most important step in preventing the flu is to get a flu vaccine each year. Flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death. You are encouraged to see your healthcare provider for a flu vaccination, however, the Gloucester County Health Department schedules flu shot clinics every flu season. Please visit this link to find a location to receive a free flu shot for your family. ([2023-Flu-Vaccine-Clinic-Schedule \(gloucestercountynj.gov\)](https://www.gloucestercountynj.gov/2023-Flu-Vaccine-Clinic-Schedule))

Everyday preventive actions such as staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent handwashing help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu. Please keep your child home should they be displaying any signs and symptoms of illness. Let's all do our part to keep our community healthy!

UPDATES FROM THE WDMS ANIMAL THERAPY ROOM FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR

The Animal Therapy Program provides a safe space where students learn to navigate and develop peer relationships, increase empathy, life-skills, how to effectively identify/express emotions, and how to manage them. All of our animals are rescued through various community agencies, teaching our students the importance of connections with the community, second chances, and responsibility.



- Mr. McAndrew & Mrs. Habina have joined our team! Their classes utilize the Animal Therapy Program to infuse their students' life skills goals, while simultaneously targeting emotional regulation and transferable community-based skills.
- We've added a Peer Leadership program as well for our eighth-graders to work with students to model how to model tasks and utilize effective verbal/non-verbal communication skills.
- Mrs. Cochran from the Child Study Team built garden beds, funded by the WDMS HSO, to incorporate a horticulture component to our program. This has given our students the ability to grow the food they feed to the animals.
- To increase the number of students who are able to access the services offered through the Animal Therapy Program, various service providers in the building are incorporating the space with their

students. This includes Ms. Haider for Speech/Language services, Mrs. Soltner for Occupational Therapy, Mrs. Engel, Ms. Cochran, Dr. Walsh, & Ms. Finocchio for social/emotional support services. Additionally, Mrs. Fahy and Mrs. Breece's students work in the room to help support peers and target various skills.

- You can help support the program through sending items to WDMS from our [Amazon Wishlist](#)

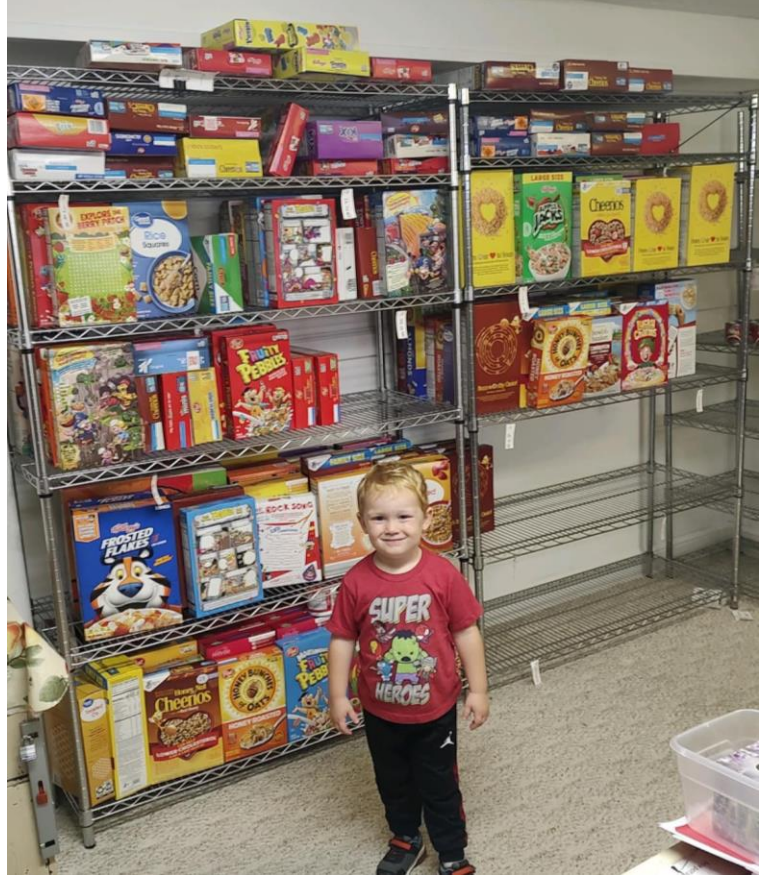
Community partnership recognitions:

- Earthwise Mantua has been a large supporter of our program and provides discounts for our purchases! Gift cards to their store would be greatly appreciated.
- Woodbury Appliance donated a brand-new washer and dryer for the program in order to enhance the applicable life skills that our students are learning!



GREEN-FIELDS GIVES BACK

Mrs. Bosco's enrichment groups worked together to encourage others to help our community. Green-Fields accepted unopened boxes of cereal for the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Food Bank. We asked and you delivered! We collected 270 boxes of cereal and 40 boxes of milk. Check out the before and after pictures at the [Colonial Manor UMC Food Pantry](#). Thanks for your generous donations!



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

From September 15th - October 15th, WD Schools celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month. We learned much about Hispanic culture and customs while highlighting the contributions Hispanic and Latino Americans have made!



On Wednesday, October 11, families joined the fun as WDMS celebrated the Hispanic heritage and culture at Latinx Heritage Night. It was a festive, fun, and amazing time as participants enjoyed cultural food, a musical performance by the members of the 7th and 8th grade band and choir, live music from Son de 609, and artwork and projects from WDMS students. A huge thank you to the WDMS Visual & Performing Arts Department for hosting such a wonderful night!





WEEK OF RESPECT

The week of October 2-6, West Deptford Schools celebrated RESPECT WEEK, encouraging students to think about ways they can show respect to various people, places, and things, including themselves, others, and their environment. We recognize the importance of social and emotional learning and character education and we teach our students to understand the positive impact kindness and tolerance has on our school community.

- [WDHS Respect Week Video](#)

WEST DEPTFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS RESPECT WEEK
OCTOBER 2-6
2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

Accepting someone for who they are, even if they are different.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WILD ABOUT RESPECT OUTFIT: WEAR ANIMAL PRINT, CLOTHING WITH ANIMALS ON IT	DON'T SWEAT THE BULLIES OUTFIT: WEAR YOUR FAVORITE SWEATPANTS AND SWEATSHIRT	RESPECT YOURSELF OR CULTURE OUTFIT: WEAR SOMETHING THAT SHOWS YOUR UNIQUE PERSONALITY OR MAKES YOU PROUD.	BE POSITIVE AND RESPECTFUL OUTFIT: WEAR CLOTHING WITH POSITIVE SAYINGS OR BRIGHT COLORS	WE STAND TOGETHER OUTFIT WEAR YOUR SCHOOL PRIDE; WEST DEPTFORD GEAR OR OUR COLORS





FIRE SAFETY MONTH

The West Deptford Fire Department visited our elementary school students and taught them all about fire safety. We also held a fire prevention poster contest; designs included this year's theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." Congratulations to all of our winners! Great job, everyone!

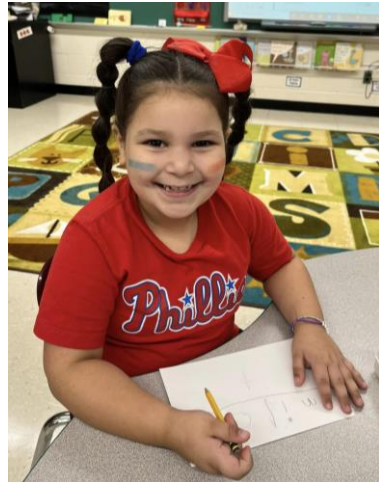




WEST DEPTFORD HAS PHILLIES SPIRIT!

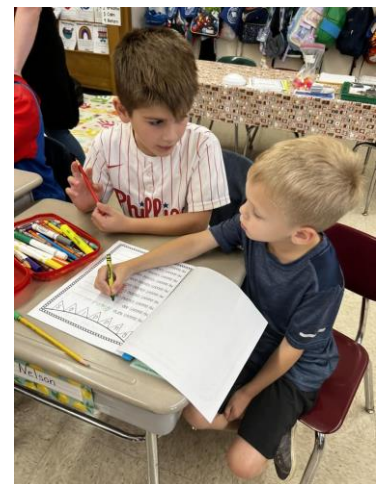
Staff and students have enjoyed wearing their Philadelphia Phillies apparel over the past few weeks to cheer on our home team! Go Phills!!!





OAKVIEW BUDDY BONDING

We are excited to continue our Buddy Bonding time for all of our students that will take place bi-weekly for the remainder of the school year. Buddy Bonding is when our older students will have the opportunity to be mentors to our younger students. Our second-grade classes and some of our first-grade classes will become Big Buddies to our younger classes. Every other week, these classes will come together so big and little buddies can read together, complete a craft, play outside, or do a project. At the end of the day, it's all about starting a friendship, providing guidance and inspiring them to reach their potential.



UNITY DAY

On Wednesday, October 18, West Deptford Schools celebrated Unity Day, which promotes kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. On Unity Day, students and staff wear ORANGE to show their support. High School students and staff sent “kindness messages” to one another, spreading positivity through the school. It was great to see our district united to spread such a great and important message!





6th GRADE TRIP TO CAMP OCKANICKON

Our 6th grade students had an amazing time on their field trip to Camp Ockanickon! They were outside taking turns and working together in activities that required balance, patience, fearlessness, perseverance, and teamwork. Most of all they had a blast doing it!



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](#).

**○ PLEASE NOTE: A NEW FREE/REDUCED APPLICATION
NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT EVERY YEAR!!!!**

WDEA TRUNK OR TREAT

WEST DEPTFORD EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

invites you to our 9th annual

Trunk or Treat



Come dressed in your costume or just as you are,
as you go trick-or-treating from car to car!

This is a **FREE** community event provided to you by
members of the West Deptford Education Association!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28TH

11:00 AM-1:00 PM

West Deptford High School

Guidance Parking Lot

RAIN OR SHINE

GAMES~CANDY~CRAFTS~TREATS~PRIZES

for ages 10 & under ~ while supplies last

Questions? Email WDEAPride@gmail.com

*We have food allergy alternatives.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

District-Wide Events

- October Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- October Bullying Prevention Month
- 10/23-10/27 Elementary Schools - [Red Ribbon Week](#)
- 10/28 [WDEA Trunk or Treat](#) (WDHS Parking Lot) 12pm-2pm
- November Native American Heritage Month

Red Bank Elementary

- 10/19 [OV/RB Charlotte's Web Family Fun Night](#) @OVES 5-7pm
- 10/27 Pumpkin Patch (Preschool, Kindergarten & 1st Grade) Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt (2nd Grade)
- 10/31 Halloween Parade

Oakview Elementary

- 10/19 [OV/RB Charlotte's Web Family Fun Night](#) @OVES 5-7pm
- 10/20 [Preschool Trike-a-Thon](#) ([OV Donation Page](#))
- 10/26 PreK & K pumpkin pick at the OV Pumpkin Patch (shhhh.....this is a yearly surprise we do for our students)
- 10/27 Grades 1 & 2 pumpkin pick at the OV Pumpkin Patch (shhhh.....this is a yearly surprise we do for our students)
- 10/31 [Halloween Parade](#)

Green-Fields Elementary

- 10/19 [Preschool Trike-a-Thon](#) ([GF Donation Page](#))
- 10/23-10/27 [Scholastic Book Fair](#)
- 10/26 Book Fair Family Night
- 10/27 Preschool Pumpkin Picking
- 10/31 [Halloween Parade](#)

Middle School

- 10/25 5th Grade Pumpkin Walk to DeHart's
- 10/26 PE Fun Run
- 10/27 Orange & Black Day
- 10/27 5th & 6th Grade Fall Festival Dance
- 11/7 Staff vs. Student Soccer Game 7pm

High School

- 10/29 Girls Soccer Haunted House
- 11/4-11/5 Tournament of Bands - Hershey, PA