

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

## West Deptford High School Presents *Mary Poppins*



Yes, she is practically perfect, that Mary Poppins! *Mary Poppins* FLEW onto the West Deptford High School stage this spring. Under the direction of Bill Yerkes, both cast and crew worked diligently to bring Disney's iconic characters to life (as well as to have some of these characters fly). At the beginning of the show, Mary arrives at 17 Cherry Tree Lane to answer an advertisement written by Jane and Michael Banks, whose recent nanny quit. As the show progresses, the kids begin to see that "this one is tricky." Mary introduces them to her friends Bert and Mrs. Corry. Bert shows how being with Mary can be a *Jolly Holiday* and Mrs. Corry helps teach them how fun words can be in *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*. Also, Mary shows

them to "look past what they see" when they *Feed the Birds* with the Bird Woman and, in the end, Mary saves them from "the nastiest nanny in the world" who insists on giving them *Brimstone and Treacle*. Overall, through her unusual "games" and "lessons," the children as well as the rest of the family, come to realize that family is one of the most important things in life. The whimsy of the movie is captured on stage in all the musical numbers, including *Let's Go Fly a Kite* and *Step in Time*, but new songs like *Anything Can Happen*. The audience left with a message of hope that if you believe in yourself and if you reach for the stars, anything *can* (and hopefully *will*) happen.



Green-Fields Named as an  
Honorable Mention  
New Jersey School  
of Character

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## West Deptford Middle School Welcomes Our New Rising Fifth Graders

On April 5th, West Deptford Middle School was pleased to welcome our rising fifth graders to learn about the new adventure they will embark at the start of their 2017 school year. During the visitation, parents and students learned about the Middle School curriculum, schedules, procedures, and extracurricular programs. In addition, a tour was provided to expose students and parents to the layout of the school and meet some of their future teachers.

During the information session, West Deptford Middle School eagerly announced our first annual “Welcome to the Middle School Dance” scheduled to take place on Friday, May 12, from 6:30-8:30 pm for current and upcoming fifth graders. While attending the dance, students will have the opportunity to participate in games and contests, take pictures in the photo booth,



purchase snacks and beverages and enjoy amazing dance music. All of the proceeds raised will benefit the WDMS Student Council.

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## Green-Fields Named as an Honorable Mention New Jersey School of Character

The New Jersey Alliance for Social, Emotional and Character Development (NJASECD) has selected Green-Fields Elementary School as a New Jersey Honorable Mention School of Character. The NJSOC Committee received and reviewed a total of 48 applications state-wide from schools and districts with character education programs that are rated as high quality. The Honorable Mention award indicates that Green-Fields has demonstrated a very strong commitment to character education and will continue to move forward based on the extensive information provided within the application process.

Green-Fields School has made a conscious and deliberate effort over the years to emphasize quality character through specific daily practices and routines. In fact, the school was recognized as currently having much of the award criteria in place when reviewed in light of the Eleven Principles of Effective Character Education. The NJASECD will continue to offer guidance through this proven framework and will provide helpful feedback in the school’s continuing efforts to embody the standards, and models of character excellence.

Congratulations are in order for the School’s Character

Education Team including, Guidance Counselor, Kelly Hansbury, teachers Kim Dupper, Jodi Purvenas, and Dawn Susco, and parent representative, Lynn Herbst. Mr. Corbitt also serves on the committee as the building administrator. Many hours of training, preparation, and discussions went into the application process and the committee is to be commended for their efforts on behalf of Green-Fields School.

The Character Team, along with a member of our Board of Education will be honored at a special recognition ceremony during the NJASECD Conference on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Rider University. Also, our Green-Fields’ representatives will have an opportunity to participate in workshops on addressing continuing state mandates, curricular connections, service-learning, and steps to prevent bullying. Green-Fields will also share some of our ongoing character strategies by submitting at least one Promising Practice that may be implemented by other schools as they apply for consideration as a School of Character.

Congratulations once again to the staff and students of Green-Fields Elementary School for their hard work and commitment to quality character through their words, acts of kindness, and daily practices.

# Using Technology & Writing to Develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

Red Bank Elementary School Teachers put their collaborative heads together to brainstorm activities to develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and improve hands on technology with their students. Why not start using iPads in the classroom for direct instruction, enrichment, and reinforcement? A schedule was designed to ensure that each teacher has a class set for a period of instruction and a small-group set for an entire morning or afternoon every week. The iPads are being used to allow our students to use their imaginations and be “producers” instead of just “consumers” of information. During our WIN cycle, they are using Scratch Jr. to make their own animations and videos. Watching the process and observing the diverse learning styles is amazing. The students have control of their own learning and can adjust the level of the video game complexity to match their own needs, talents, and comfort levels.

The iPads are also being used within the classrooms to align with the standards in both reading and writing. Teachers are using Storybird as a tool for creative writing and Writers’ Workshop. Students are writing stories that reinforce literary elements such as character, plot, and setting. They create characters and settings using descriptive, “juicy” adjectives. Storybird allows



them to add illustrations to go along with their written work. Using technology as a writing tool adds another dimension to learning that piques student interest and keeps them motivated.

21<sup>st</sup> Century skills are also being developed through technology. QR codes are being used to increase independence and self-assessment. Students in one class are working with students in another class to teach each other new apps and activities. The best part of using iPads is the amount of excitement that you can feel coming from both the teachers and the kids. Our new technology is helping Red Bank Elementary School break down the walls of individual classrooms and become a true community of learners!



## The State of New Jersey Selects West Deptford School District with an Exclusive Partnership as Recipients of the Coveted NJTSS-ER Grant Project

When the New Jersey State Department of Education presented West Deptford officials with information outlining a five-year, multi-million dollar State personnel development grant from the United States Department of Education, stakeholders in our District were eager to jump on board. Understanding the magnitude of such an esteemed honor which comes at no cost to the District, includes a partnership between the State of New Jersey and Rutgers University. Our District representatives recognized selection was competitive, as only ten schools across all counties, would be hand-picked to participate in this exceptional endeavor.

We are pleased to share that our District was selected for the upcoming 2017–2018 school year as a grant participant. One of the unique features to highlight in this grant is the emphasis on improving reading achievement in Kindergarten through Grade 3. Additionally, our District will be assisted in the implementation of the New Jersey Tiered System of Support (NJTSS-ER). The grant will also be pairing State-level coaches with our District coaches, and incorporate leadership and learning for our faculty, school, and District administration, and students.

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# Oakview Reading Challenge Exceeds Expectations

Each year Oakview School students and staff celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America Week. This is a nationwide event that inspires children to read every day. This year, all classes participated in a spirit week with daily themed events organized by



our coaches, Mrs. Cathcart, Mrs. Staley, & Mrs. Zlatkin. Each teacher conducted various interactive activities within their classrooms to instill the love of reading in our students. Throughout the week, Dr. Seuss books filled the School and each day was represented by a different book. Students and staff participated in crazy hat day, crazy hair day, crazy sock day, dress as your favorite Dr. Seuss character day and red, white, and black day.

In addition, we had mystery readers read to each class, ranging from parents, members of the West Deptford Junior Women's Club, and even Miss West Deptford, Rose Cairns. As a culmination activity, Oakview ended the week with a school-wide D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) event, where students found a comfortable, quiet place in the school and read silently for 20 minutes. This celebration really helped promote a positive school environment and led into our first annual reading challenge for Kindergarten and First Grade students.

The reading challenge, which took place over the entire month of March, was organized by a committee of teachers and instructional aides to motivate students to READ! The event started with our exciting school-wide kick-off assembly, where students learned about the history of Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss), as well as the details of the challenge, including individual incentives, classroom rewards and special prizes for the top readers! Other highlights of the assembly were a special visit from the Cat in the Hat and a door decorating contest where all students had an opportunity to vote on their favorite.

As a School, the goal in Kindergarten and First Grade was to read 5 books a week over the course of 5 weeks, setting the school goal at 6,925 total books. Students monitored their own reading by completing weekly reading logs and obtaining their parents' initials for each book read at home during the challenge. Results

were tallied, announced and posted weekly in our Dr. Seuss hallway. Students graphed these totals each week on the wall to provide an awesome visual display for all classes to see. We awarded weekly class prizes to the "book worms" who read the most books that

particular week, as well as a complimentary lunch for their teacher. Students embraced every second of this exciting challenge and were recognized for their efforts at our celebration assembly for meeting our goal. Not only did we meet our lofty goal of almost 7,000 books, we came close to doubling it by reading a total of 13,917 books!!! Congratulations are in order to all our students who completed this challenge and to Mrs. Maska and Miss Grace's classes for reading the most books at each grade level and winning a pizza party for their classes.

Since the students met the school goal, they earned the best prize of all, watching Mr. Dougherty kiss our miniature pony friend named Misty! In addition, each student who completed the challenge received a personalized certificate, the top reader in each classroom was recognized, and individual prizes were awarded to the top 3 readers in both grade levels. The final component of the challenge was using our Music Teacher, Ms. Bradshaw's creative mind to edit the lyrics to Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling" to make our own song, "Can't Stop the Reading!" Students practiced the lyrics, as well as an organized dance, and recorded a music video that we watched at our closing assembly. This video is available on the Oakview School's website and is a must see!

Our reading challenge was such an amazing event that promoted a positive school culture and encouraged the love of reading! It was a total team effort and we are so grateful for all the hard work of our students, staff, parents and community partners. We would like to personally thank Gina Ciconte from Safe Haven at Keneva Farm in Mullica Hill for allowing Misty to come to our School, Joe's Pizza for donating pizzas to our winners, TJ Habina for volunteering to record/edit our video using his drone, and, of course, Mrs. Zlatkin for creating this wonderful idea and making this special memory for our students!

## West Deptford Aide of the Year...*Mrs. Janet Fair*

Green-Fields Elementary School is proud to recognize Mrs. Janet Fair as West Deptford's Aide of the Year. Mrs. Fair has been a valued member of the staff at Green-Fields for the past two years and has served West Deptford School System since 2011. In her role as an instructional aide, Mrs. Fair demonstrates a strong commitment to the academic and social well-being of the students in her classroom, and throughout the building. This is evident each and every day as she gently guides and encourages children to be the best they can be.

Mrs. Fair is an example of a caring adult in the classroom and demonstrates the perfect temperament for working with elementary children. She loves hearing the stories of their lives, making personal connections, laughing with them, and listening to their problems and concerns. She has a unique ability to make every child feel special, comfortable, and cared for.

In addition to her time spent with children, Mrs.

Fair has cultivated wonderful working relationships with the staff at Green-Fields. Her enthusiasm, fun nature, and encouraging spirit are qualities that add to the enjoyment of each day and set a positive tone for our school climate. In the words of the classroom teacher, Mrs. Dupper, "Mrs.

Fair has been an asset in any classroom in which she has worked regardless of the grade level or building. She has served the District working with multiple staff members and has made it a wonderful experience for everyone." Beyond this, Mrs. Fair has assuredly contributed to the exceptional instruction provided for our students through her dedication to the profession, and is most deserving of her recognition as West Deptford's Aide of the Year.



## Educational Professional of the Year...*Mrs. Kate Donocoff*

West Deptford Middle School would like to congratulate Child Psychologist, Mrs. Kate Donocoff, for being honored as the Educational Service Professional for the 2016-2017 School Year. Mrs. Donocoff earned her Bachelor's Degree from Ursinus College in Psychology and Spanish, her Master's Degree in School Psychology from Rowan University, her Education Specialist Degree from Rowan University, and earned a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Applied Behavioral Analysis.

Mrs. Donocoff, or "Miss Kate" as she's known by the staff and students, was nominated by her peers due to the tremendous impact she has had on West Deptford Middle School since joining the District in 2014. Mrs. Donocoff runs eight group-counseling sessions throughout the school year, in which she meets with each group biweekly to provide psychoeducational lessons. In addition to group counseling, Mrs. Donocoff also meets with students on a daily basis in scheduled individual counseling sessions and unscheduled individual sessions, as crises arise. Her calm and gentle demeanor puts even the most agitated child at ease. Her ability to build a trusting and close rapport with all of the students is one of the many reasons she is so effective and unique.

As a school psychologist, Mrs. Donocoff administers

various assessments and tools to measure students' cognitive ability, while frequently conducting in-class student observations to collect data to fully gain a better technical understanding of the students' needs. She actively collaborates with colleagues in all areas to collect feedback to gain the best understanding of the students' needs. Mrs. Donocoff

epitomizes poise, eloquence, and the ability to maintain composure during the most critical times. Whether it is a need for psychoeducation for students and staff, responding to and de-escalating crisis situations, assisting with positive behavioral programming, working to improve policy changes, collaborating with community services and families, Mrs. Kate Donocoff is involved and is working tirelessly for our school community. Her intelligence and compassion are limitless and the students and staff at West Deptford Middle School are in a much better place with her at our core. To say she has our respect and admiration is a vast understatement! Without a doubt, she is our Educational Services provider of the Year!



## Educational Professional of the Year...*Mrs. Toni Durham*

Red Bank School is proud to announce Mrs. Toni Durham as its Governor's Educational Professional recipient of the year. Mrs. Durham earned both her B.S. in Elementary Education and Sociology and her M.A. in Student Personnel Services from Rowan University. Mrs. Durham began her career as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher before joining the West Deptford School District. She has been our dedicated Guidance Counselor for Red Bank and Oakview Schools for the past 17 years. In addition to be an exceptional elementary school counselor, Mrs. Durham also serves as our 504 Coordinator and our Anti-Bullying Specialist.

Our students affectionately call her "Miss D". Her kind, loving, and nurturing way is ever-present in her interactions with the students in grades K-2. Throughout the day, Mrs. Durham is constantly on the go, floating from classroom to classroom offering assistance when needed. Her calming manner and reassuring words help bring situations under control swiftly. Even though "Miss D." may only spend a few minutes with a child, her connection with them is strong and an immediate rapport is built, making future encounters easier. This is no small task considering "Miss D." is responsible for two schools and over 500 students. Her ability to communicate between two buildings is amazing. The fact she can accomplish these tasks so

effortlessly speaks volume of her character and dedication to the students she serves. "Miss D's" kind-heartedness stretches far beyond the classroom. She is heavily involved with the Students First Committee, Operation Blessing, 504 meetings, and the School Safety Committee.

"Miss D." will find the time to help any and all students, staff, and families in addition to her duties.

Whether it is offering a smile to a child or kneeling down to assist with an emotionally struggling child, "Miss D." is a constant, positive support within our Schools. "Miss D." encourages positive peer relationships and good problem-solving skills. She is quick to positive reinforcement for good decision making throughout our building. The skills she conveys to the children of the District are ones that will help them become happy and successful members of our community. Both Red Bank and Oakview School students are confident knowing that every day they come to school, they will be loved and cared for by "Miss D." Thank you so much for your service and dedication to the youngest students of West Deptford.



## Educational Professional of the Year...*Mrs. Kelly Hansbury*

Green-Field's Elementary School is proud to recognize Mrs. Kelly Hansbury as the Educational Services Professional of the Year for 2017. Mrs. Hansbury has been an essential part of the Green-Field's family for the past 12 years, and has cultivated trusting relationships among our faculty and staff, the students we serve, their parents, and the West Deptford community as a whole. Her influence and professionalism extend well beyond the District's defined standard as demonstrated by her daily commitment to our children and their families.

From both an academic and social perspective, Mrs. Hansbury is to be commended for her involvement in multiple facets of the building operation. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to, her work as the 504 Coordinator, Students First Committee team member, and Coordinator of the PBSIS and School Safety Team. Additionally, she takes on District responsibilities as the building HIB Specialist, School Test Coordinator, and serves on the Teacher Recognition

and Retirement Committee. Finally, Mrs. Hansbury has made a quite an impact throughout the West Deptford community through her work with Operation Blessing, the Thanksgiving Food Basket appeal through the local food pantry, and the Spring Personal Care Drive.

One may ask how she has time to accomplish the regular tasks that come with her position as a Guidance Counselor. The simple answer lies in her ability to multi-task within the limits of a determined work ethic. She is an excellent example of how the guidance program should operate at the elementary level. She is knowledgeable, empathetic, and has an innate ability to quickly understand and address difficult student and parent issues. Beyond



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**...Mrs. Kelly Hansbury** *Continued from page 6*

this, she is an exceptional communicator, and students and staff view her as an adult leader in the building, sometimes even referring to her as the “Assistant Principal”. In that regard, Mrs. Hansbury maintains a positive presence in the face of rapidly changing situations and is always willing to lend a hand when called upon.

Recently, she was featured in most recent edition of the *B+D News*, a fourth grade classroom newspaper. Quoted within the body of the article was a statement that provides an accurate summary of her influence upon children...”Mrs. Hansbury is always there for you

when you need her. And, if she doesn’t give up, you don’t give up!”

Mrs. Hansbury continues to contribute to the excellence of Green-Fields Elementary School. She is so much more than a Guidance Counselor. She gives of her time for both students and staff to not only listen, but to see individuals as well. She is a friend that responds to ongoing challenges with valued judgment and accepts her role, regardless of the scope of responsibility, often going above and beyond the requirements. In that regard, she is more than deserving of her recognition as our Educational Services Professional of the Year.

**Educational Professional of the Year...Mrs. Hillary Laganella**

Mrs. Hillary Laganella serves as the speech/language therapist for our entire preschool disabled population of students, as well as identified kindergarten students. She has been a pivotal member of the District for the past 9 years. She possesses strong knowledge of students’ strengths and weaknesses, as well as State mandates and IEP goals. Mrs. Laganella is a consummate professional who brings a wealth of experience to work each day. She services both individual and small groups of students and collaboratively plans integrated lessons within the classrooms with teachers and other related service professionals. Despite carrying a heavy caseload of students, Mrs. Laganella meets all deadlines and provides individualized services particular to student needs.

She is always available to answer questions, provide assistance to fellow colleagues in need, and communicates with parents. She attends countless meetings, assesses/screens many new students, and

completes detailed evaluation reports. Mrs. Laganella helps promote a positive school culture and is an excellent resource to have in the building. She is well respected by her peers, acts as a mentor to novice therapists, and consistently advocates for the best interest of students.



Mrs. Laganella maintains the confidentiality of each student and is a true team player. She comes to work each day with a positive attitude and has tremendous pride in the services she provides students. Mrs. Laganella is a valuable asset to the Oakview School community. She is well deserving of this prestigious award to be recognized for the outstanding work she does for our District’s youngest learners!

**Educational Professional of the Year...Ms. Priscilla Pujols**

Priscilla Pujols was selected as the Governor’s Educational Professional Recognition Honoree for West Deptford High School due to her active commitment to the West Deptford High School, as well as her, real dedication to our students. Ms. Pujols has been working as an Instructional Aide in West Deptford for years as well as a former substitute teacher that was highly sought after by our staff.

She has proven to be an integral member of the Special Education Department. In addition to providing outstanding support as a one-on-one aide, she can be

observed assisting all students within the classroom. She provides incredible guidance and assurance to all students with whom she has contact. Ms. Pujols treats every student as though they are the most important person in the room. Even the most challenging



students to motivate or connect to open up to being

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**...Ms. Priscilla Pujols** *Continued from page 7*

around Ms. Pujols because they feel comfortable.

Ms. Pujols immerses herself to be a part of the High School community. She is involved in various activities throughout the school environment including sporting events and club activities. She can “connect” with any student she comes into contact with and is quick to provide encouragement and support whenever needed.

When students see Ms. Pujols inside and out of the classroom, they are quick to acknowledge her with excitement. She has become a prominent supporter, motivator and an influential person to our students at West Deptford High. With this, we are proud to honor Ms. Priscilla Pujols!

**Governor’s Teacher Recognition...Mr. Aaron Burr**

Mr. Aaron Burr was selected as the Governor’s Teacher Recognition Honoree for West Deptford High School due to his excellent teaching style, active leadership within the High School Math Department, and true dedication to our students. Mr. Burr began teaching in West Deptford High School in 1995. He is a graduate of West Chester University and was hired at West Deptford immediately following graduation.

Throughout his time as a teacher, Mr. Burr has been providing the Math Department with ideas on how to integrate new resources into their classroom. Mr. Burr has provided the students of West Deptford a level of rigor in terms of academic and behavioral expectations that has proven to be both productive and beneficial for his students. Mr. Burr assures students that he cares for them on the “whole” and not just on an academic level. He attempts to reach students of all backgrounds and interests to become a part of something in their school,

as he believes and assures them that being a part of something is important in high school.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Burr has dedicated countless hours to WDHS beyond classroom time. He is currently the Advisor to the Anglers’ Club. He provides students opportunities for kids to hike, canoe/kayak and fish. Additionally, he is the proud Head Coach for the Bowling Team. Currently, Mr. Burr is participating in the South Jersey Mathematics Ambassador Project Summer Institute at Rowan University. He shares new ideas and strategies he gleans from these seminars with members of our Math Department. Congratulations, Mr. Burr, for an honor well deserved.



**Governor’s Teacher Recognition...Mrs. Janice Cirone**

It is with great pride that Red Bank School’s Governor’s Educator of the Year recipient is Mrs. Janice Cirone. Mrs. Cirone is a graduate of Rutgers University with a B.A. in Psychology and Elementary Education. Upon graduating from Rutgers in 1993, she began her teaching career in West Deptford. Mrs. Cirone has been teaching grades 1 and 2 for the past 23 years; 17 years at Green-Fields School, and 6 years at Red Bank School. In addition to her commitment to West Deptford, Mrs. Cirone is very active in her community; as a CCD teacher, a member of the Greater Woodbury Jaycees, and president of J. Mason Tomlin PTO in Mantua. It is her quest for excellence that makes her the perfect honoree for this award.

Mrs. Cirone is a teacher in our grades 1 and 2 looping framework. Mrs. Cirone is an exceptionally skilled and dedicated classroom teacher, who inspires her students to set high standards for themselves, and does whatever it takes to support her students in meeting those

standards. She does an incredibly amazing job each and every day. When you enter her classroom, you see children who are engaged in creative and challenging lessons. You see children of different academic, social, and emotional needs working together on assignments and activities. You see children who are kind, respectful, and eager to learn, and who take ownership of their learning. Children in Mrs. Cirone’s class work through challenges instead of backing away from them, knowing that their teacher will always be there to guide and support them. She works tirelessly with families to make sure that her students receive all the support they need from both school and home in order to be successful.

This year Mrs. Cirone volunteered to pilot a new  
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**...Mrs. Janice Cirone** *Continued from page 8*

math program. She has met this task with a positive attitude, and is not afraid to ask for help from coworkers when challenging situations arise. When iPads were introduced as a new tool for classroom teachers to use, Mrs. Cirone, a self-proclaimed novice at using iPads, didn't hesitate to collaborate with peers in order to quickly learn how to use this new tool in her lessons in

new and innovative ways.

Mrs. Cirone is an exceptional teacher. Any child lucky enough to be placed in her class will excel academically, socially, and emotionally. Her enthusiasm and passion for teaching have made Red Bank an amazing school and learning experience for our students. Mrs. Cirone is truly one of the very best!

**Governor's Teacher Recognition...Mrs. Kim Dupper**

On behalf of the students and staff of Green-Fields Elementary School, we are proud to recognize Mrs. Kim Dupper as our Governor's Educator of the Year. Each day, Mrs. Dupper demonstrates the qualities of an educator who places a high emphasis on student achievement, quality instruction, and personal professionalism. She challenges her students to always put forth their best effort with no excuses, regardless of background or perceived ability. Beyond this, Mrs. Dupper works tirelessly to assure the success of each student. When combined with an emphasis on personal accountability and effort, we see a classroom environment that is quite conducive for learning as well as social and emotional growth at a crucial age.

Mrs. Dupper continues to be an example of a life-long learner. Walking into her classroom immediately elicits thoughts of structure, organization, and planning. The space is filled with artifacts that inspire questions, motivate exploration, and stimulate ideas. Students live in an environment each day that is comfortable, safe, and packed with opportunities to thrive. There is an obvious love for reading revealed by the fact that hundreds of books are placed throughout the room within an arm's reach of children. In addition, students are continually reminded of general "life lessons" that provide room for growth and personal maturity... lessons that are so vital important in the lives of third grade students.

Mrs. Dupper is careful to place a high emphasis on

skills that foster collaboration, teamwork, and the cooperative structure necessary when solving problems. These are traits that have served Mrs. Dupper well during her career in education and evident in her associations with her colleagues within the building. The fact that these qualities are passed along to her students demonstrates the importance placed upon the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills that children will need as they navigate their future.



Finally, Mrs. Dupper has established close working relationships with the families of her students. She cultivates these home/school connections in an effort to open doors of success for her students. She understands implicitly the importance of an educational mindset in the home and works to strengthen this concept among the families she serves. She is often requested as we begin the student placement process each year and mentioned frequently in parent conversations as a positive influence for children.

Mrs. Dupper has indeed earned the respect of students, their parents, and District staff through her dedication to the children in her care, and her commitment to the learning environment. She continues to demonstrate excellence daily on behalf of her students and is well deserving of the title, Governor's Educator of the Year.

**Governor's Teacher Recognition...Ms. Nicole English**

Ms. Nicole English serves as a physical education teacher at both Oakview and Red Bank Elementary Schools. She is currently in her fourth year in this role; however, she has been a valuable, dedicated member of the West Deptford School District for 18 years, serving as an athletic trainer at the High School for 15 years. Ms. English provides instruction to students in Preschool, Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grades. She possesses a tremendous amount of curriculum

knowledge and has served as a mentor teacher this past fall to help an aspiring student teacher. She comes to work each day eager to make a difference in students' lives and is highly passionate about her craft. Ms. English often collaborates with staff members to



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### **...Ms. Nicole English** *Continued from page 9*

gain input on individual students and makes it a priority to learn each of her 600 plus students' names. She works tirelessly to ensure all student needs are being met and differentiates every lesson to accommodate students of all grade levels and learning styles. In addition, she modifies instruction for individual students with specific medical needs/restrictions so they all feel included and can experience success.

Ms. English goes above and beyond the call of duty for her students. She possesses strong leadership qualities, is highly organized, and takes initiative to lead school events. Ms. English has worked collaboratively with community partners, such as the American Heart Association, to help educate students on healthy lifestyles and the importance of giving back to those in need. Over the past four years, she has led our Jump Rope for Heart campaign in both schools, raising over \$40,000! She also runs our annual

field days each year, planning a creative theme and organizing fun, engaging stations for students to enjoy. Ms. English always seeks the help of parents/guardians to include in these special events for our students.

Ms. English is regularly sought out by colleagues for professional advice, guidance, and recommendations to use within their classrooms. Ms. English has an excellent rapport with all students and makes gym class the favorite part of their day! She is highly respected within the school and comes to work each day with a positive attitude. Ms. English has tremendous pride in the success of her students and always advocates for their best interests. She stays abreast of best practices and always looks to add new techniques to her instructional activities. Ms. English is well-deserving to represent Oakview as the Teacher of the Year and we could not be more proud of all she does for our students!

### **Governor's Teacher Recognition...Mrs. Carlyne Porter**

West Deptford Middle School is honored to announce Mrs. Carlyne Porter as the Governor's Educator of the Year Honoree for the 2016-2017 School Year. Mrs. Porter holds a Bachelor's Degree in Arts with Honors in English from Rutgers University. She began her teaching career in the West Deptford School District over 20 years ago. After teaching College Prep English courses at West Deptford High School from 1994-2005, Mrs. Porter came to West Deptford Middle School and has since taught Grade 8 Literacy and Creative Writing. In 2010, Mrs. Porter accepted a leadership role as the Area Coordinator of the Language Arts Department and has become a leader and mentor to her colleagues.

Mrs. Porter's own educational experiences as a student at West Deptford Schools inspired her to pursue a career in public education. She brings an intense passion for Reading and Writing into the classroom every day. She raises the bar for her students and works to help them meet her expectations. Recently, Mrs. Porter led the development of a school-wide initiative to emphasize writing skills.

She implemented a standard writing format and collaborated with the Science and Social Studies Departments to create and utilize research simulation tasks to better the writing skills of all WDMS students. Her level of dedication and professionalism provide an excellent example for her colleagues, and allows her to serve as an ideal role model for new educators. All of these qualities are matched with a keen sense of humor that her students and fellow staff members enjoy on a regular basis. Mrs. Carlyne Porter is an inspiring Governor's Educator of the Year Honoree because she embodies what the teaching profession strives to be. Mrs. Porter is a remarkable representative, not only of West Deptford Middle School, but as a former student, of the West Deptford School System as well.



### **...NJTSS-ER Grant Project** *Continued from page 3*

Specificities surrounding the NJTSS-ER Grant Project, which fosters our District commitment to family and community engagement, along with school culture and climate, comprises three years of collaborative professional development training and intensive coaching, including explicit support from State and Rutgers University officials. Reflective throughout this project are skill-building and cooperative opportunities to increase student achievement for all of our team members. Participation provides rigorous teaching strategies and learning

practices, and data-driven supports. Featured, also, is the formulation of a collective project-based leadership team encompassing our three Elementary Schools, our District ambassadors, professionals from Rutgers University and the State of New Jersey Department of Education.

Join us as we observe, once more, pivotal milestones in our District's commitment, empowerment, and dedication to lifelong learning and embracing the significance of our selection for this grant.

# 2017-2018 School Budget



As a result of a decision made by the Board of Education in February, 2012, there is no vote on the school budget as long as the tax levy increase in the budget is at or below the state-mandated 2% cap, which this budget technically is. The 2017-2018 budget was approved by the Board on April 24, 2017, and it is now the final budget for the 2017-2018 school year.

This budget was once again impacted by the decline in ratables in West Deptford Township. The value of property in the township for 2017 is \$4,549,877 less than it was in 2016, largely due to tax appeals in town. This decline in property values resulted in a reduced tax base, and therefore led to a larger tax increase. This budget results in a 4.55 cents per hundred (3.68 for the general fund; .87 for debt service) increase in taxes for the average home assessed at \$199,947. That translates to \$186.30 per year, or \$15.53 per month. By way of comparison last year's cost was \$95.34 per year for the average homeowner.

## Budget Detail

## Tax Levy Information

This year's General Fund	\$ 46,576,358	This year's Total Tax Levy	\$ 32,518,104
Last year's General Fund	\$ 47,159,428	Last year's Total Tax Levy	\$ 31,755,838
Represents a decrease of	\$ 583,070	Represents an increase of	\$ 762,266

*This budget results in*

# a 4.55 cent increase for the average home assessed at \$199,947

## Referendum Construction Update

As you are aware, the West Deptford Community voted to approve a \$13.8 million referendum on September 30, 2014. The Board of Education, Administration and the Board's engineering firm, Remington and Vernick, have been working diligently since that time to get the myriad of projects underway to improve the infrastructure and instructional spaces in the District. All of the projects listed below are complete.

The below listed projects are completed, excepted where noted.

- HS Elevator – will be done May 2017
- Gymnasium floors (HS, MS, OV,GF), new cafeteria and stage floors (HS ), atrium renovations(GF), bathroom upgrades(OV), exterior wall repairs (multiple buildings)
- Renovations to the sewage lift station at the HS –
- New interior doors(HS, OV, GF, RB), new windows(HS, OV, GF, RB), new exterior doors(HS)- 5 classroom Early Childhood addition at Oakview to house a tuition-based pre-school program and some full-day Kindergarten classes – Please see the photos of the completed addition project.



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**FOCUS ON WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS**  
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## Why is Mr. Dougherty kissing a pony?

.....See page 4



\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*

## RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

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## Child Find

### SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

A wide variety of special education programs are available for students between the ages of 3 and 21 who require specialized instruction and/or related services such as speech/language services, occupational therapy and physical therapy in order to meet their educational needs. Educational program options include: instruction in a general education class with all the necessary and appropriate supports, supplemental instruction, resource center programs, special class programs within the School District, special education programs in out-of-district public or private schools, individual instruction at home, in medical institutions or other appropriate facilities.

### PRESCHOOL DISABLED PROGRAM

The Preschool Disabled Program provides appropriate educational experiences for youngsters between the ages of 3 and 5 who experience developmental delays in the areas of speech and language, motor development, cognition and/or social/emotional functioning. The School District offers an educational program, related services, and door-to-door transportation at no cost to parents. The children are placed according to individual needs and developmental levels. In the preschool programs, they are encouraged to explore new materials, develop emerging skills, and interact in a social setting. Speech/language therapy and occupational therapy are offered as an integral part of the classroom program and/or on an individual basis as needed. If warranted, other services such as physical therapy may be initiated.

**If you have any questions about either of the programs described above and feel that your child may require services, please call the Supervisor of Special Education and Related Services, Mrs. Cheryl Fairchild, at (856) 848-4300, ext. 4213.**

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## Energy Savings Improvement Program Improvements

In 2016, the Board of Education approved Schneider Electric to perform Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) to save the District money for energy costs. Included in the ESIP is replacement of chilled water pumps at Oakview School which were VFS pumps and the freezers at the High School and Middle School motors were updated.

Oakview, Green-Fields, Middle School & High School received a new roof membrane as well as bad areas replaced, along with that the District received a 20-year warranty for GAF for their roof membrane. All Schools had a lighting retro fit take place switching from T8s and high pressure sodium to LED lights. Interior and exterior lighting was also retrofit. Weather sealing/stripping was performed in all buildings.

Also from the ESIP we were able to install 2 additional emergency generators, one at the Middle School and one at the High School, to help with keeping the technology servers working when the building loses power. This will ensure that children will be able to go into the school and do their work.

The District was able to get solar panels for the High School, Middle School, Green-Fields and Oakview Schools to go along with Red Bank which already had them.