VEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

"Good Egg" Program Kicks Off at Red Bank

Each day our students enter the building ready to learn. They are learning to be readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, historians, listeners, and speakers. Our teachers design instruction to engage their classes and pique their interest in all the content areas. However, equally as important are the lessons that teach our students the importance and value of good character. Respect, kindness, responsibility, compassion, friendship, are just a few of the character traits we work so hard to instill in every one of our students.

To help us reinforce positive character traits, Red Bank uses the "Good Egg" program. We want to catch our students being good citizens and celebrate their efforts to be kind classmates,



respectful students, and valuable members of our Red Bank School family. Students caught making good choices are presented with a Flight Ticket. Parents sign the Flight Tickets and the student hands it in to his/her teacher. We want parents to applaud their children's good behavior in school. Each classroom has a collection box for the tickets. Every



other Friday, tickets are collected for our lunchtime drawing. Tickets are pulled, and the lucky winners get a chance to spin the wheel. Some of the prizes they can win are a beanbag chair in class, wearing our good egg cape or sash, reading to a kindergarten class, lunch with Officer Jiles, or Treatz from Scheetz.

The big kick-off of the Good Egg program started with a special drawing for any students who saved the ticket given to them during the end-of-year kindergarten visits. The two winners of the special drawing were Zack Beidle and Alyssa Still. The Good Egg program officially began during the Week of Respect on October 2nd. Students were excited to start collecting their tickets for the chance to spin the wheel on Friday. Not only does the "Good Egg" program reward positive behavior, but also promotes meaningful interaction and communication between the Red Bank staff and students. Anyone can give out Flight Tickets, so the students

are always on task, never knowing where or when they can earn a ticket. They absolutely love the suspense and randomness of the Flight Tickets. Team Red Bank is on the path to good citizenship!

Character Matters at Oakview



Oakview has placed an emphasis on boosting our Character Education Program and recognizing Students who are demonstrating positive behaviors. Our School Climate/Safety Team has worked together to develop monthly character traits we expect all students to gain an understanding of and embody throughout the school year: caring, respect, citizenship, generosity, tolerance, trustworthiness, friendship, self-control, responsibility, and fairness.

Our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Durham, will be conducting classroom lessons to review what each trait means and provide students with background knowledge that will help them understand how they can be a student of character. During our Week of Respect, we had an assembly for all students to introduce them to the ten character traits that matter at Oakview, along with explaining how students can be rewarded for exemplifying such behaviors.

Each teacher will be selecting one student per month who best represents the specified character trait. These deserving students' pictures will be displayed in our "Character Matters" hallway and will receive a certificate, along with a prize, to acknowledge their wonderful efforts in making a difference at Oakview. In addition, we will be implementing "bucket filler" tickets for students and staff to complete on behalf of another student. Bucket filling is actions or words that show you care about someone, which include saying or doing something kind, giving a heartfelt smile, being respectful to others, helping without being asked, and.....Continued on Page 2

Oakview Continued from Page 1

giving sincere compliments. These bucket filler tickets will be used to recognize random acts of kindness throughout each day and we will randomly select three winners each week to receive a reward out of our prize box. These winners will be announced on Fridays and their bucket filler tickets will be read to the school to reinforce their actions.

We feel strongly about continuing to improve and build upon the climate of our school and believe implementing our "Character Matters" campaign is a great way to involve the entire Oakview School community in this process. We encourage all families to discuss these traits with your children at home and continue to reinforce the importance of being a character citizen!



West Deptford Middle School's Eagle Launch Sets the Tone for the 2017 School Year



On Friday, September 22nd, positive behavior took flight and soared at the West Deptford Middle School's Fourth Annual Eagle Launch. This school wide event promoted the Middle School's Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS) program, which emphasizes teamwork, positive communication, setting and achieving goals, leadership, good decision-making, and kindness to others. Throughout the school year, students are rewarded with "Winning Wings" when they are "seen" demonstrating respectful, responsible, and kind behavior. To capture the spirit of this positive, goal-oriented program and set high expectations for the school year, the students and staff at the Middle School participated in an entire day's worth of exciting activities that reinforced the program's missions.

Partnerships were fostered within the school community as eighth grade students completed "buddy scavenger hunts" with the Middle School's fifth graders; other students participated in summer reading and teacher-trivia scavenger hunts, while enjoying a few laughs at

pictures of when their teachers were in middle school! Students even channeled their inner artists when given the opportunity to participate in the national Kindness Rocks Project. Each child was given a unique rock to paint with a positive, inspiring message. These rocks will be "hidden" throughout the neighborhoods of West Deptford to brighten the days of community members. The students hope that one message at just the right time can change a person's day, outlook, or even their entire life! Along with the kindness rocks,

the entryway to the Middle School has been transformed by a new, beautiful wall mural that encourages students to "Bee the Change you Wish to See in the World". The wall is decorated with thumbprints of students and staff members who represent the hive of bees along the hallway walls.

Lastly, the students and staff extended their positive behavior launch into the community by partnering with members of the West Deptford Police Department at a relay race station. "The Eagle Launch event allows both the students and staff to set the tone for what the school's environment and spirit should look like by promoting positive and kind behavior during fun-filled activities," said School Resource Officer, David Jiles. "My favorite part of the day is seeing all the positive interactions



throughout the day... and making the kids do push-ups!" A great time was had by all, and WDMS is proud to say that kindness and positive behavior have officially "taken off" for the 2017-18 school year thanks to another successful Eagle Launch!





West Deptford Schools Welcomes New Staff!

Elementary School New Staff



Pictured from Left to Right: Katie Newshel Oakview, Carly Lundstrom Red Bank, Sara Feigenbaum Oakview, Rachel Darpino Red Bank, Rebekah Schultz Oakview, Emily Coughlin Green-Fields, TerraAnn Madden Child Study Team and Dave Ortega Oakview.



High School New Staff



Pictured from Left to Right: Sara Kolojejchick, James Shields and Holly Tedesco

Middle School New Staff







Pictured from Left to Right: Tiffani Bennett, Cameron Crawford, Melissa Rappo and Karen Brinich

Board of Education Candidates Tyler Cobb

Tyler Cobb is a senior at West Deptford High School. A product of the District, he has attended Elementary, Middle, and High School at West Deptford and is therefore a firm believer in West Deptford Schools. At the High School, Tyler is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Gifted & Talented, School Climate Committee, and also participates on the football team. Outside of school, Tyler is an avid volunteer at Shady Lane Nursing Home. In addition, Tyler had the opportunity to attend the Envision Presidential Inauguration Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. and is also proud to call himself an alumni of American Legion Jersey Boys State which he attended at Rider University on behalf of Post 100 this past summer. All of these experiences have given Tyler the opportunity to make a difference in the community, whether it be serving meals at Cathedral Kitchen in Camden or acting as treasurer for a St. Baldrick's Foundation fundraiser for childhood cancer research. Whatever the task may be, Tyler is always willing to take it on if it has the chance to make a positive impact on others, and the opportunity to be on the Board of Education is no different. As a student athlete who is involved in multiple programs offered by the High School, Tyler aims to use his unique insight from the daily experiences he has on the frontlines of West Deptford Schools to help uphold and improve the standards of the West Deptford School District.

Matthew Huesser

Matthew Huesser is a product of the West Deptford School system. He began his journey at Oakview School, where fate struck early: it was there he met his wife Lindsey when they were just Kindergarteners. He has been a resident of West Deptford for more than 25 years, where he and his wife are raising their two sons, Connor and Cody.

Mr. Huesser graduated from West Deptford High School in 2000. He is a graduate of Rowan University, where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. He later earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Wilmington University. He has been employed by Thomas Jefferson University for the last 8 years and currently serves as the Associate Director for Administration and Operations for the NCI-designated Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center. In his role at the Cancer Center, Mr. Huesser facilitates the strategic planning process; oversees the cancer center core grant, which allows the center to be recognized as one of the 69 NCI-designated cancer centers in the nation; and prioritizes needs of the enterprise pertaining to programmatic development, communication, and community outreach. This experience will allow Mr. Huesser to bring strong financial and business expertise to the West Deptford Board of Education, which he looks to translate into successful outcomes within the District.

"I look forward to bringing a fresh perspective to the Board, where I can share my expertise with my fellow board members in the hopes of ensuring the children of West Deptford receive the same top-tier educational experience I was fortunate enough to receive"

Board of Education Candidates (Continued) Zachary Kaminski

Zachary Kaminski is a graduate from West Deptford High School in 2017. He currently attends Rowan College at Gloucester County for a degree in K-12 education. For the past three years, Zachary has volunteered as a football coach within the Township. Writing in his free time, he made it his goal of one day teaching high school English.

Zachary's passion for education has made him see our School District with utmost importance. "Education begins with communication to ensure a well-functioning, learning environment. I have always found it exciting how much our classroom lessons have met each students' leaning style. Technology is the most important tool in growing our minds in and outside the classroom, as it has enabled us to become 21st century learners. As a recent graduate, I have seen and used the diverse websites and tools that it has to offer. I will work in a team capacity in providing my views on the progress with our Schools. It is crucial that we have all the information possible to ensure the best decisions are made not only for learners and educators, but for the next generation. It would be my honor to serve our students, staff, and community on the West Deptford Board of Education."

Chris Kane

Chris Kane graduated from Gateway Regional High School in 1983. Chris moved to West Deptford 18 months ago from Glassboro with her two wonderful children. Who attended Glassboro Public Schools.

Chris sat on the Board of Education for nine years, before she left for personal reasons unrelated to the board or district. Leaving the board was one of the hardest decisions she ever had to make. During her nine years as a Board of Education member she served as Vice President for both Glassboro as well as Gloucester County School Boards. She also was chair of the Instruction Committee, sat on the Negotiation Team twice, sat on the NJSBA Audit Team, was a member of the team that trained new board members for NJSBA, was the Glassboro representative for NJSBA Board of Directors, and was on the committee to interview superintendents and was lead negotiator on his/her incoming contract. During her time on the board she met with many legislators throughout the State about school issues. Chris is well versed in the commitment involved being a dedicated and effective Board Member.

"I advocate for all students regardless of their race, gender, economic upbringing or PARCC test score. West Deptford has five schools with roughly 3000 students in the District.... I look forward to helping the Board improve student achievement for each of them."

Gregory Ley

Gregory Ley is a 24-year resident of West Deptford Township and is currently the Superintendent of Public Works for the Borough of Haddonfield. Greg was the Director of Parks and Recreation for West Deptford Township for 24 years and was also an Assistant Wrestling Coach at West Deptford High School and the Head Wrestling Coach at West Deptford Middle School. Greg has been married to his wife, Jane, for 23 years and has two children who both attend and graduated from West Deptford Schools. His son, Jarryd, is currently a sophomore at The College of New Jersey, and his daughter, Camryn, is a senior at West Deptford High School. Greg earned his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Glassboro State College in 1991 and a Master of Administrative Sciences degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2004. In 2016, Greg became a Certified Public Works Manager. Greg was a proud member of the West Deptford Recreation Advisory Committee and engaged in variety of community and volunteer coaching roles and was named the 2014 West Deptford Township Volunteer of the Year. Greg's decision to run for the West Deptford Board of Education was based on his desire to enrich the schools in the District. Greg has a strong background in human services and would love the chance to give back by lending his advisory skills to the West Deptford community. Greg has a strong professional history of working with residents and the facilities in the municipality and understands every student is different. As a parent, Greg knows firsthand how the decisions this committee makes impacts our children, our teachers and the residents. If you choose Greg for this position, he will remain deeply invested and use his experiences and knowledge to help make the right choices for the community.

Dr. Kristin O'Neil

Dr. Kristin P. O'Neil ('91') is a proud graduate of the W.D. School System. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Glassboro State/Rowan College of NJ in Elementary Education/Sociology, a Master's Degree from Rowan University in Educational Leadership, and a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership from Widener University. For over 21 years, she has served others as a coach, teacher, and administrator in the NJ Public School System. Dr. O'Neil has also been fortunate to teach at the collegiate level in various institutions since 2006: Salem County Community College, Rutgers University - Camden (Teacher Prep Program), and Rider University (Educational Leadership Doctoral Program). Currently, she serves as a Superintendent in a neighboring school district.

Dr. O'Neil is married to W.D. alum, James Greco ('89'), who honorably serves the community as a W.D. Police Officer. They have three children: Cameron, Kyler, and Carter who attend WDMS and Green-Fields Elementary School. Her family has enjoyed being involved in several West Deptford Youth Athletic Programs over the years: field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, street hockey, softball, and baseball.

Dr. Kristin P. O'Neil feels it is essential that we keep the academic/educational needs of our students first and foremost in all decision making. It is equally as important to ensure that the instructional staff is supported with the necessary materials and tools required to deliver a competitive program in the 21st century. She is confident that she can bring a new perspective and offer a voice that supports ALL children in the W.D. educational school system while ensuring that the W.D. School District continues to be mindful of its fiscal responsibility. For these reasons and many more, Dr. O'Neil believes that it would be a sincere honor to serve the W.D. community as School Board of Education Member.

Board of Education Candidates (Continued) Dr. Drew Ricchiuti

Dr. Drew Ricchiuti is a 15 year resident of West Deptford. He graduated from Washington Township High School in 1993, Rowan University in 1997 with a Bachelor's in Biological Sciences, and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (Salus University) with a Doctorate in Optometry in 2001. He currently practices Optometry in South Jersey, at a very large multi-specialty Ophthalmology practice.

Dr. Ricchiuti and his wife Jennifer, a 1992 West Deptford alum, have three children just beginning their journeys through the West Deptford School System. Their twins, Avery and Evan are currently in Second Grade at Oakview and their youngest Owen is in Kindergarten at Green-Fields. Dr. Ricchiuti is extremely pleased with his children's educational experience and he is looking forward to the success his children and all the children of the District achieve along their educational journey.

Dr Ricchiuti states, "As a Board of Education member, I continue to work with my fellow Board members to ensure that each and every West Deptford student receives the highest quality education."

Anthony Scirrotto

Tony Scirrotto has been a resident of West Deptford Township for over 50 years. He is a 1983 graduate of West Deptford High School. He and his wife, Nicole, have raised two children, Anthony and Derek, who successfully went through the West Deptford School System. Tony and Nicole currently have three children, Dominic, Vincent and Michaela in the West Deptford School System and are very pleased with all the Schools. Tony graduated from the Gloucester County Police Academy in 1992 and began his full time law enforcement career in 1994. Currently, he is a West Deptford Detective in the criminal investigations unit and served as the West Deptford Schools Resource Officer from 2001 through 2004. In 2012, he received his substitute teaching certificate and was a substitute teacher for the West Deptford School District.

"I am looking forward to working with the other members of the Board of Education to establish a VISION for our Schools that reflect a consensus of the BOE, the community and the staff. While staying fiscally responsible to the residents of West Deptford, I want to help provide our children with the best educational experience possible to ensure they fulfill their potential and prepare them for a satisfying and productive life."

Energy Savings Improvement Program

The West Deptford School District embarked on an Energy Savings Improvement Program (ESIP) to accomplish much needed improvements that complimented the projects completed in the District's referendum. The District Administration and Board of Education during the 2014-15 and 2015-16 school years leveraged the benefits of both a capital improvement referendum and an ESIP. Regulated and monitored by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the District's ESIP completed the following capital improvements and sustainability initiatives that were budget neutral, had NO tax impact, and were cash flow positive:

- New LED Interior and Exterior Lighting All Schools
- Lighting Sensors (Large Spaces) All Schools
- HVAC Commissioning All Schools
- Building Sealing of Doors, Windows, and Wall/Ceiling joints
- Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for 1.8 mega-watt array District-wide
- PPA Capital Funding for New Roofs at Green-Fields, Middle School, and High School
- Two 35KW Generators to secure continuous 24/7 power outage protection for District IT Servers and Phone System. One Generator at Middle School and One Generator at High School
- Walk-In cooler Upgrades at Red Bank School, Middle School, and High School
- Replaced Oakview School Chilled Water Pumps and installed new isolation valves on two new control valves
- New Energy Procurement Agreements securing much reduced electrical rates
- NJ Smart Start and PJM Rebates totaling \$105,000

The ESIP project was accomplished through an ESIP RFP process that selected Schneider Electric as the District's Energy Services Company (ESCO) who, in collaboration with the District Administration and Board of Education; designed, developed, and installed the project at their risk, not the District's. Additionally, the ESIP project will garner the district over \$330,000 in annual energy savings which will pay for the capital cost of the project while providing a net \$30,000 annual positive cash flow with a guarantee on all measured savings under Option A of the International Performance Measurement and Verification Protocol (IPMVP).

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Energy Savings...Continued from Page 5

The Solar PPA program was accomplished through a PPA RFP process that selected National Energy Partners, LLC who, in collaboration with the District Administration, Board of Education, and Schneider Electric; designed, developed, and installed a combined 1.8 mega-watt of solar arrays at Green-Fields School, West Deptford Middle School, and West Deptford High School. The solar PPA allowed the District to successfully implement its sustainability initiative, install new roofs at the Green-Fields School, Middle School, and High School while incurring NO capital cost to the School District, reducing the District's carbon footprint and reliance on the power grid, and providing significantly reduced electrical cost.

Overall, the combination of the ESIP and PPA improvements have allowed the West Deptford School District to implement energy savings capital improvements and renewable initiatives that will serve the district well into the future while having NO capital cost impact on taxpayers.

WDHS is Only as Good as its Students...and Once Again, We are Proving to be GREAT!



Every school year West Deptford High School produces award-winning sports teams/ band, excellent extra-curricular activities and high-achieving students. Every year, we support more and more students in their endeavors to earn college credits throughout their high school experience. Each September we reflect on what we accomplished the previous year and how we can grow as a staff and student body. Summer is always a relaxing time to sit back, relax, and take the time to reflect upon these goals. With that being said, not everyone kicks back and takes that "break" over the summer, heading to the beach; some of our students take on jobs and/or participate in on-line schooling. What is of special interest this past summer is that West Deptford High School had students decide that they were going to "shake up" their own personal summer

vacation plans and share themselves with the world at large.

Chae Lee, senior at WDHS, had the opportunity to conduct real-life research in a college lab at Rutgers Camden funded by the Army Education Outreach Program. She spent the summer representing WDHS by creating a DNAzyme for biosensing. She spent the summer collaborating and working with professors, graduate, and undergraduate students from all over our country.

Brooke Cortese, WDHS senior, and Jonas Cameron, WDHS junior, had the opportunity to represent West Deptford High School and the State of New Jersey at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders held in Boston, Massachusetts. This National Leadership Academy is committed to supporting America's high achieving high school students through career and focus areas program and services.

Jasmine Daly, WDHS senior, spent the summer abroad as she visited and participated in a track and field event in Australia. While her family took advantage of visiting another country for vacation, Jasmine used this time to showcase her athletic gift and participated in the "DOWN UNDER Championships" in





Gold Coast City, Australia. This competition is one of the biggest track and field competitions on the Queensland Athletics calendar. Not only did Jasmine compete, but she also captured second place overall in the Women's (under 20 yrs) 100 Meter Hurdles. She not only represented West Deptford, New Jersey, but also the United States of America and she did so with "flying colors".

These four WDHS star students are merely a sample of what talented, driven, and intelligent young men and women walk the halls at West Deptford High School. We are proud, as should our entire West Deptford community, to have shared them with the world but more importantly, that they have chosen to share their "world" with us! We anticipate that WDHS will continue to support these and other students in their aspirations during the 2017-2018 school year, leading them to discovering new talents and a world of opportunities out there for them to grasp!

Green-Field's "Bucket Fillers" Honored for Their Acts of Kindness



At West Deptford's most recent Board of Education meeting, a fine group of Green-Field's students were recognized for demonstrating the qualities associated with being "Bucket Fillers." What is a bucket filler you may ask? This is a term we use in our building when a student uses actions or words that show that they care about someone, when they do something kind for another person, show respect to their peers or adults, give a sincere compliment, or help without being asked. Of course, this is a general list of possible kind acts, but there are even more that we see each day at Green-Fields. As a reward for their actions, their pictures are displayed in the main lobby along with a copy of their Bucket Filler form.

On a related note, the Green-Fields Bucket Filler program has been recognized by Character.org as a National Promising Practice Award winner for 2017-18. As quoted in the press release, "we are extremely proud of this year's Promising Practices recipients. Their dedication to character development has proven over time to increase the well-being of so many students, their families and their communities across the United States and beyond. Validating character initiatives is at the core of what we do because it creates fertile conditions for multi-generational character growth where students and those in their lives thrive as ethical members of our society. The educators who have developed these Promising Practices are helping their students develop lifelong skillsets that they will leverage well into their adult lives."

The staff and students of Green-Fields School are certainly proud of this accomplishment along with the life-long lessons being taught and demonstrated each day. In addition, Mr. Corbitt and members of the Character Team will be attending the Character.org convention in mid-October where they will present information about Green-Field's Promising Practices. In the meantime, students geared up for our Week of Respect where students participated in the following activities:

Monday, October 2nd – Omega Man Assembly. This assembly has a Super H.E.R.O. (Helping Everyone Respects Others) theme. Participants wore a super hero shirt.

Tuesday, October 3rd – Respect for Yourself. Students identified their own Super H.E.R.O. traits.

Wednesday, October 4th – Respect for Others. Students focused on being "Dream Makers" and not "Dream Breakers". Pajama Day.

Thursday, October 5th — Respect for the Community. Students identified the Super HEROs in the community (police, EMT, Firefighter, Mayor, Board of Education, etc) and wrote them a thank you card.

Friday, October 6th - Students completed a reflection of what Respect means to them on the back of their H.E.R.O. pledge. School spirit day. Participants wore WD or GF gear or a green shirt.

Congratulations once again to our Bucket Filler winners for September! We're looking forward to a great "Character Filled Year" here at Green-Fields!



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FOCUS ON WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

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Message from the Superintendent



We are pleased to present you with our annual Fall Newsletter highlighting many of the exciting events happening in the West Deptford School District. This includes introductions of our new teaching staff members, information from each of our Schools and an update on the final projects being completed as part of the "Building Excellence" referendum and Energy Efficiency programs. There are great things happening in our Schools and this is just a small sampling of the continued efforts of our staff to provide the best learning experience possible for our students.

As your new Superintendent, I have been thoroughly impressed with the passion and dedication of the West Deptford support, teaching and administrative staff. Everyone here is committed to excellence and works hard to ensure that each student reaches his/her maximum potential. The Board of Education has supported these efforts with the purchase of a new Math program entitled, "enVisions math 2.0", the implementation of LINKIT as a diagnostic and

data management tool and the purchase of new Science kits for K-8. The Board is excited about the benefits these new resources will provide as they continue to look for ways in which they can enhance and support the instructional programs in our Schools.

Included in this newsletter are also profiles for each of the individuals running for the Board of Education. The school board election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2017 and there are six candidates running for three full terms. Additionally there are two candidates running for two unexpired terms. The annual "Meet the Candidates Night" is scheduled for Monday, October 30th at 6:30 pm in the West Deptford Middle School Library. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the candidates and remember to vote on November 7th.

On behalf of the entire staff in the West Deptford School District we wish you the best for a great school year. We look forward to working with all members of the West Deptford community to ensure that our students receive an excellent education in a safe, orderly, technology-rich environment.

Steven Crispin, Superintendent

Please Remember to Vote!