Roosevelt Students Race Ahead!

Community volunteer and Tool Shed Captain, Bill Bertakis, had a dream to help students understand the basic concepts of physics and kinetics while having fun. The Tool Shed is a small workroom within the Roosevelt iCenter used for STEAM projects. A generous donation from Lowes enabled creation of the Tool Shed and the generous time donation from Mr. Bertakis and his “tool men” keeps it going. Projects in the Tool Shed are part of the iCenter technology curriculum.

Bill and Tool Shed volunteers Al Bussey, Jim Bugg and Jim Hochthanner put together a Pinewood Derby event for the fourth and fifth grade classes of Mrs. Elise Arnoldi, Mr. Mario

There are many components and conditions that a transportation department considers when examining their fleet. Supervisor Lynne Robertson offers this informative look at a West Bloomfield school bus.

**GPS on every bus tracks location and usage.**

**Bus number**

**2004, the year this bus was built. Our fleet is 10-12 years old**

**Price Tag $90,000**

Our drivers run 26 regular routes per day...

...and special education routes all over the county...

...and field trips, athletic trips, summer camp trips, and...

...parochial school routes, and even boat trips to Apple Island.

We have 50 buses in our fleet.

Durham School Services operates our fleet.

We have a full staff of about 50 drivers, with an average of 12 years of service, up to 30 years in WB!

No driver shortage here.

The typical bus driver logs 80 miles per day.

Our fleet consistently rates high in the annual State Police inspection. Maintenance Supervisor, Hank Loos, won his profession's top award in 2016.

New auxiliary engine heaters improve winter start-up time.

**WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**100,000 - 200,000 miles on almost every WB bus.**

Use the Remind app for transportation updates.

Regular emergency exit drills, annual bus safety assemblies, and daily child checks keeps our focus on child safety.

**Anatomy of a school bus**

WBSD Transportation is known as a great place to work, has a strong relationship with Oakland County Road Commission, and a commitment to community service with events like WB Parks and Recreation's Touch-A-Truck, a massive water delivery to Flint, and a training simulation for our West Bloomfield Police Department.
After many years of enrollment decline and related budget challenges, our school district is now poised to make unprecedented advancements to both its financial health and educational quality.

On May 2, 2017, West Bloomfield School District voters will decide on a $120 million bond proposal designed to provide benefits for our schools and our community. Successful passage of this “4 Rs Bond Proposal” will enable us to “Right size, Re-imagine, Renovate and Refresh” the school district. If approved by the public, the proposal will positively impact every WBSD student, every school, and every facility while positioning the school district to better serve current and future generations of students. In addition, there will be a one-half-mill reduction in the current tax rate!

Benefits focus on Teaching and Learning, and Student Safety

The bond proposal is focused on enhancing student safety and student learning. Transportation to and from school, security at each school and improved teaching/learning environments are major components of the proposed investments.

Our fifty district-owned school buses will be replaced. After they have been on the road for 12 years, school bus reliability decreases while annual maintenance costs increase. Currently, WBSD buses have an average age of 11 years. Replacement of the fleet will ensure that our students ride in new vehicles while our maintenance costs are minimized.

Another benefit to the bond proposal is that existing learning spaces will be reimagined and also refreshed. We will construct a completely new, state-of-the-art middle school. The bond proposal will enable students in all grades to experience re-imagined and redesigned classrooms, iCenters (libraries), fine arts areas, physical education spaces and learning labs, where the focus will be on the flexibility, mobility, collaboration, creativity, and problem solving essential to 21st Century learning. Each of these spaces will be equipped with updated technology designed to support teaching and learning. For more details on our proposed learning environment enhancements, see the Frequently Asked Questions section under Bond Election Information on our website at www.wbsd.org.

Another major focus of the bond proposal is to enhance teaching and learning. There will be significant upgrades to instructional spaces and technology. Teachers will be actively involved in the design, planning, specification development, and selection process of furniture, equipment and learning resources.

All technology upgrades included in the bond proposal have been designed to support classroom instruction and enable collaborative learning environments. Because technology changes rapidly, we are establishing a process that assures consistently current technology will be available in every classroom. The bond proposal calls for student 1:1 learning devices to be replaced in year one of the bond and again in year six of the bond. Additionally, other instructional technology infrastructure and equipment will be upgraded or replaced as needed.

The proposal also has benefits for parents and other community members. The proposal increases the financial health of the school district, improves the educational quality for the community’s students, and is designed to increase property values. A successful bond election will result in a one-half mill reduction in the current tax rate. This reduction saves taxpayers’ money while simultaneously allowing for investments in current and future educational excellence. The right sizing of the school district, from two middle schools to one middle school, will generate significant savings in operational expenses. These savings can be directed toward enhancing teaching and learning.

A successful bond proposal will provide significant educational improvements that promise continued enhancement of the overall educational quality in the West Bloomfield School District. It is common knowledge that real estate values tend to be higher in communities where school districts offer quality education programs and have up-to-date school facilities. It is also common knowledge that families seek out these school districts when choosing where to live and raise their children. History shows that quality schools have a direct and positive impact on property values. This is a benefit even for those residents who do not have children enrolled in the school district.

This is the right time

A successful bond election allows the community to make $120 million in educational improvements with a one-half mill reduction in the tax rate. The significant educational enhancements described above will be implemented and will have a positive, lasting impact on our schools and our community.

Please exercise your constitutional right to vote on May 2.
Promoting a Culture of Literacy

As students transition from elementary through high school, many students who previously read frequently for pleasure begin to read less for enjoyment as they get older. However, in the West Bloomfield School District our goal is to foster a lifelong, intrinsic love of reading. One of the best ways to build skill and enhanced enjoyment for reading is by working together as a school community that values teamwork, and shared learning. It is important to establish common expectations that students repeatedly encounter at every level, elementary, middle, and high school.

**Schools, parents, and community members can partner by employing the following strategies to create a lifelong love of reading and writing:**

- **Publicly Celebrate Reading**
  - Proudly display or share favorite books. This can stimulate further dialogues about books.

- **Create Reading Nooks or Libraries**
  - Establishing a comfortable, defined space for reading is not only inviting, but encourages reading. Classroom or home libraries should be filled with high interest books from a variety of genres.

- **Get Students Talking**
  - Literature circles, book talks, inquiry projects, presentations, fishbowl discussion, and interviews are just a few examples of ways to get students talking about what they read and write. “Student thinking” is at the center of all of these activities.

- **Read and Write Across Content Areas**
  - In a successful culture of literacy, all members value and model the importance of rich language experiences.

- **Value Disciplinary Literacy**
  - Although it is important to value the pedagogical content knowledge of all teachers and disciplinary areas, it is important to discuss the integration of literacy in science, math, social studies, fine arts, world languages, etc.

- **Provide Authentic Writing Experiences**
  - School communities have numerous audiences for authentic student writing. Writing and mailing letters; reading work aloud; sharing writing with family members; or looking for external ways to validate student writing via publications, websites, and contests are all practices that strengthen a writing community.

- **Invite Browsing**
  - Provide opportunities for students to explore genres and authors. Displays can pique students’ interest and entice readers.

- **Promote Reflection and Goal Setting**
  - If we want students to read and write more, it is important to help them set goals and understand the value.

  The greatest measure of success in establishing a culture of literacy is not whether a student finishes a certain number of books, reads the most complex tests, or scores the highest on a test. It is providing an environment where students explore, inquire, and continuously reach for the next book!

We appreciate your partnership on this journey as we create lifelong learners who enjoy reading.

**Spring 2017 State Assessments**

During the 2016-17 school year, students in grades 3-11 will take part in state assessments starting the week of April 10th. In conjunction with local assessments, these assessments provide information about student performance on Michigan’s instructional standards for English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. This information is used to inform content alignment and deepen instructional practice.

Each building has created their testing schedules, within these windows, and will communicate more specific information. Listed below are the general testing windows for each grade level.

**21st Century Flexible Learning Spaces**

The West Bloomfield School District Technology Integration Committee has been conducting research, and visiting businesses and schools to understand more about flexible learning environments. 21st Century business and instructional environments are changing and being reconfigured in ways that enhance collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. Flexible learning environments are student-centered with the teacher facilitating a more personalized learning experience for each student. The Technology Integration Committee is comprised of district stakeholders including board members, administrators, teachers and parents. One of the changes for this committee is to re-imagine our learning spaces including classrooms, iCenters, and common spaces. The primary focus is to create learning environments for teaching and learning that support multiple modes of instruction and flexible seating.

In order to gather data, committee representatives visited Steelcase, a premier furniture company since 1912 and a leading researcher on education spaces. We observed carefully planned educational spaces that create an active learning environment, moving away from the traditional rows of desks configuration that most classrooms have had for decades. The group also visited the Mary Idema Pew Library at Grand Valley State University and Kent Innovation High School; both of these learning environments were designed by Steelcase, and place an emphasis on student choice, and collaboration.

Some committee members attended a presentation hosted by VS Furniture. Dr. Dieter Breithecker, Europe’s foremost expert on the relationship between ergonomic design in school furniture and the physical development of school children, was the featured speaker. He discussed how VS seating supports movement in the learning environment, and the importance of senso-neuro-muscular interplay. Students need to move!

Throughout this school year, the technology integration committee has also visited several school districts that have already begun the transition to flexible learning environments. In Saline School District, it has been an elementary, middle, and high school to learn how they approached this challenge. Novi Community School District shared great insight about the transformation of their learning spaces and partnership with VS Furniture when they toured their elementary and middle school spaces. At Bloomfield Hills West Hills Middle School and Bloomfield Hills High School, we observed how their learning spaces were redesigned to enhance collaboration and smaller learning communities. We spent time in K-8 learning spaces of Hillel Day School, and talked with staff and students regarding the benefits and challenges associated with their transition. The technology integration committee also visited the Contact Source Group Showroom in Bloomfield Hills to learn about various furniture companies and their products for flexible learning spaces.

Our committee has learned a lot during these visits, and this information will help inform decisions in the West Bloomfield School District. It has been extremely important to see designs and products being used in classrooms while benefiting from the experiences of staff members, students, and community members who have already begun this transformation.

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**Are you or a friend interested in touring our schools?**

Our new School Tour Tool makes it easier than ever to set up a tour! Just go to www.wbbsd.org/tour to fill out and submit a request form to the appropriate principal. This new tool is available 24/7.
Why the May 2nd bond proposal makes financial sense

The Bond proposal on the May 2 ballot presents a perfect window of opportunity for the West Bloomfield School District. If passed by the voters, the proposal will provide significant capital for the district to invest for the future, while reducing the tax levy on school district residents. Lower taxes and enhanced schools. How is it possible to have both at the same time?

Perfect Timing
Several factors have come together to make this proposal possible in 2017. The school district has been consistently paying off previous bonded debt. Low interest rates have allowed us to aggressively refinance existing debt to lower our payments and keep more money in the classroom. The Board of Education strategically waited until conditions were right to raise capital, while still lowering taxes on our constituents. Further, the proposed bond sale would be done in two series to distribute the levy and proceeds over time. This strategy stabilizes the impact on taxpayers while delivering the funding at the time it is needed. The bond ballot lays out the details in legally required but somewhat confusing language. Let me clarify.

If approved, WBSD residents would see a total bonded school debt on their 2017 summer tax statements of 7.0 mills. The 2017 millage rate of 7.0 would be a reduction from the 7.5 mills levied in 2016. The total debt mills would hold at 7.0 for four years, and then begin a projected steady decline to zero over the life of the bond.

The ballot language indicates that the school district would levy 1.14 new mills in 2017 if the proposal is approved. That 1.14 is a component of the total 7.0 mills levied; they are not in addition to the 7.0.

The ballot also mentions that the average mills over the life of this bond would be 3.68. This is a component of the total mills levied, and is already “built in” to the 20 year projection; so the total debt levy will never spike or increase by that rate in any year. See the complete taxation schedule at www.wbsd.org, under the Bond Election Information tab.

One factor influencing the tax rate is that the West Bloomfield community has seen a growth in property values over the past several years. The outlook appears good for slow, steady growth to continue in the years ahead.

Michigan’s weak economy in the recent past sent many families out of state to seek better opportunities. School districts all over the state have seen their enrollments decline as graduating classes exceed the number of new kindergarten students. West Bloomfield School District was no exception. However, due to the implementation of innovative curriculum enhancements such as STEAM and Transitional Kindergarten, and a rebounding local economy, West Bloomfield enrollment is showing signs of stability for the first time in several years. Projections suggest this trend will continue, lending confidence to our plan to right-size the school district for the future.

The timing and structuring of the proposal is an example of the Board fulfilling their responsibility to improve our school facilities and educational programs while being sensitive to the tax burden on the community.

Benefits
The benefits of the bond proposal are many and far-reaching. If approved, the taxpayers of West Bloomfield will see a reduction in their local property taxes. The community will receive a new, state-of-the-art middle school, intentionally designed to support the technology and teaching strategies of 21st century learning. The existing schools are each over 50 years old, originally designed long before technology transformed instructional practices. The new middle school will be built on district-owned, vacant property behind the Orchard Lake Middle School. The construction plan allows students to remain in the existing schools until the new one is ready for occupancy. Therefore, the district will not incur the disruption of temporarily relocating students, nor the cost of portable classroom trailers which is common in projects like this.

The new middle school, sized to accommodate projected resident enrollment, will help West Bloomfield School District retain its status as a destination district.

The combined, recurring savings from consolidating Abbott and Orchard Lake Middle Schools is expected to exceed $600,000 annually. Additionally, the Administration and Community Services (ACS) building is scheduled to be closed with all functions moving to another district building. The recurring annual savings from closing ACS will be approximately $250,000. The district also will avoid significant costs related to deferred maintenance on the ACS building. These dollars can be redeployed to preserve and improve educational and co-curricular opportunities for our students, district-wide.

All other school buildings in the district will receive some level of remodeling to enhance proven teaching strategies, including project-based learning. The school entryways will be remodeled to add secure vestibules with key card access and improved video cameras. Buses will be purchased in two waves to replace our buses as they end their useful life. Without bond dollars, new buses would have to be financed from the district’s general fund, taking up to $90,000 per vehicle away from classroom funding.

This is just a short list of the potential benefits of the bond proposal. With over 100 individual projects, touching virtually every corner of the school district, the bond proposal is designed to positively impact every WBSD student, school, and school facility. It will help attract new residents to the district now, and into the future. And, the unique window of opportunity to make significant improvements with a reduction in the tax rate will help assure that West Bloomfield retains the positive reputation enjoyed by our community.
Demystifying WBSD School Bond Ballot Language

The official May 2nd ballot is reproduced below. Some of the legally-required language can often be confusing. In the highlighted areas, we have provided some clarification.

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT BOND PROPOSITION

Shall the West Bloomfield School District, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, borrow the sum of not to exceed One Hundred Twenty Million ($120,000,000) Dollars and issue its general obligation unlimited tax bonds therefore, in one or more series, for the purpose of paying for the cost of the following projects:

- Erecting, equipping and furnishing a new Middle School building;
- Erecting, equipping and furnishing additions to or demolition to or for school buildings and other facilities, including playgrounds;
- Remodeling, equipping, re-equipping, furnishing, re-furnishing school buildings, athletic fields and other facilities to enhance safety and security and for other purposes;
- Purchasing School Buses;
- Acquiring and installing technology equipment and technology infrastructure in school buildings and other facilities; and
- Preparing, developing and improving sites for school buildings, playgrounds, athletic fields and other facilities?

YES ☐

NO ☐

The maximum number of years any series of bonds may be outstanding, exclusive of refunding, is not more than twenty (20) years; the estimated millage that will be levied to pay the proposed bonds in the first year is 1.14 mills (which is equal to $1.14 per $1,000 of taxable value); and the estimated simple average annual millage that will be required to retire each series of bonds is 3.68 mills annually ($3.68 per $1,000 of taxable value). The estimated mills for all of the School District’s debt was 7.50 mills in 2016; however, if this millage is approved, due to refunding of prior indebtedness and the need to levy less millage to service the School District’s indebtedness, the estimated levy will decrease by 0.5 mills, for a total levy of 7.00 mills.

(Pursuant to State law, expenditure of bond proceeds must be audited, and the proceeds cannot be used for teacher, administrator or employee salaries, repair or maintenance costs or other operating expenses.)

May 2nd provides a unique window of opportunity for the school district to raise capital while reducing the millage rate.
Focus on our Schools

West Bloomfield High School DECA Earns Top Honors At The State Competition by Julie Zalla

82 WBHS DECA students attended the State Career Development Conference, a weekend long leadership and business conference and competition held in Detroit, March 10-12. West Bloomfield performed admirably with 49 finalists and 31 qualifiers for the International Career Development Conference to be held in Anaheim this April!

In order to move on to the International conference, students had to place high enough at the DECA State Career Development Conference event. WBHS students competed against 4,200 marketing students from schools around the state. Below are the students who qualified for Internationals:

Max Barash, (9), Sports & Entertainment Operations Research
Nolan Beaty, (10), Business Growth Plan
Hafsa Bilal, (12), Franchise Business Plan
Brian Bemus, (11), Creative Marketing Project and Virtual Business Challenge Sports
Sydney Bruce, (11), Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research
Jack Budde, (11), Sports and Entertainment Operations Research
Joch Cooper, (12), Public Relations Project
Brandon Crawford, (12), Public Relations Project
Zachary Crawford, (10), Public Relations Project
Krish Dodia, (10), Public Relations Project
Vetress Feller, (11), Virtual Business Challenge Hotel
Lauren Gazett, (11), Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research
Mania Kaoos, (11), Virtual Business Challenge Hotel

About West Bloomfield High School DECA-
DECA is an International Competitive Business Organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in four fields of business: marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Our DECA chapter integrates classroom instruction, applies learning, connects to business, and promotes competition in order to prepare the next generation to be academically prepared, community oriented, professionally responsible, and experienced leaders.

Employee Wellness Committee

Our Mission Statement is to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of every West Bloomfield School District employee by having fun, fostering relationships, building comradery, promoting work-life balance, and providing wellness experiences.

WBDS Gets Cooking!
We recently introduced our healthy cookbook, WBDS Gets Cooking, featuring over 100 recipes, submitted by West Bloomfield School District staff. The cookbook begins by taking you on a journey through our district’s rich history, followed by scores of healthy and delicious recipes. Order your copy today for just $10 by emailing Shari Rozenberg at shari.rozenberg@wbbsd.org. This is sure to be an excellent coffee table conversation starter as you enjoy dishes shared by your favorite educators.

Staff Promotions and Appointments

Ashleigh Larkin - Promoted to Assistant Principal at West Bloomfield High School. Formerly a social studies teacher and student leadership advisor at West Bloomfield High School, Ms. Larkin holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Michigan State University and a Master of Arts Degree from Wayne State University.

Dana Finneker - English as a Second Language Teacher at Gretzchko, Scotch and Sheiko Elementary Schools. Ms Finneker earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kalamazoo College and a Master of Arts Degrees from Madonna University and Wayne State University.

Mackenzie Peguese - Guidance Counselor at Abbott Middle School. Ms Peguese holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Michigan Dearborn and a Master’s Degree from Central Michigan University.

Kelly Rothe - Resource Room Teacher at Abbott Middle School. Ms Rothe earned her Bachelor of Science Degree from Eastern Michigan University.

Congratulations to Monica Burgess, former Guidance Counselor at WBHS who recently retired. Jo Wergrynowicz, former Guidance Counselor at Abbott, has joined the WBHS Counseling staff.

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FOCUS ON OUR SCHOOLS

Dairy Day
Sheiko Elementary had the chance to participate in Dairy Day! All classes were given a lesson on dairy from our Building Healthy Communities Coordinator, Brooke McGregor, from the Center for School Health at Wayne State University. Each student received a free gogurt, a cheese stick, and a milk mustache sticker, courtesy of the United Dairy Industry of Michigan. Before the event, staff members donated a “milk mustache”, had their pictures taken and cropped to show only their nose to their chin. Students had to guess which teacher was shown in each picture. Those who guessed correctly were treated to extra gym time.

Scotch Students Pay It Forward
As part of Scotch Elementary School’s yearlong emphasis on fostering a positive school environment, students recently celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week, emphasizing a simple act that brightens someone’s day. As a school project, students collected over 200 new or gently used socks to donate to the Baldwin Center of Pontiac. They also wrote their individual acts of kindness on paper hearts and hung them on our Kindness Tree in the lobby. Kindness is contagious!

Scotch Helps Protect The Environment!
In February, Scotch installed a water bottle filling station in our main hallway. Students and staff are now able to reuse bottles by filling them with cold, clean, filtered water from the station. The Scotch family already has saved over 2000 water bottles! Scotch recently became a Green School Emerald Status. Contributions to finance the filling station included a grant awarded by the WBF; the Scotch PTO and a returnable bottle drive held at school by the students.

A Boat, A Bear & Tents, Oh MY!

By Cindy Carson

Scotties went all out to kick off March is Reading Month. The Scholastic Book Fair camping theme took on a life of its own as the iCenter was transformed into the Scottie Campground. Students enjoyed reading inside the large camping tent, the reading row boat, and the comfy camping chairs! At Family Reading Night, luminary bags lit the pathway to the school entrance as over 160 family members joined together for the evening activities at Scotties Campground.

Principal Mr. Scrivo, sat beside the campfire to welcome the group with the first story. Superstar Gretchko & Roosevelt teachers joined in on the fun, while middle & high school NHS student volunteers assisted with set up & supervision of activities. WB Librarian Laura Bott, (West Acres), shared library programming and support services for our readers. Tents and cots were set up in the cafeteria for families to experience the spirit of camping out. The gym was busy with “Minute to Win It” activities: stacking ’Smores, Word Scrambles, and Pine Tree reading challenges. Students created bookmarks and Mad Lib stories. Ozobots and coding activities were featured in the Robot Room and students & parents went on a QR code scavenger hunt. Mr. Smith & his guitar lead a campfire sing along! We send a huge shout out to all members of our school community for making this event successful.

OEC: A Focus on Community And Collaboration

by Lisa Maddalena

Last October, OEC students teamed with Oakland Community College in its first annual 5K Run/Walk for Oakland County Charities. West Bloomfield High School students also joined the successful event which yielded over 5,000 donated items that went to the Lighthouse, Gleaners Food Bank, the Humane Society, Sweet Dreamzzz, the National Council of Jewish Women, and Children’s Services.

In November, Mrs. Maddalena’s Focus class joined OCC’s Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in hosting an event for the Farmington Youth Assistance Holiday Angels program. The students collected over $300 dollars in donations. They then purchased items for area teens between the ages of 13-17 who needed assistance. Sadly, in late December, two students in that same Focus class lost parents who passed away from cancer.

To honor those parents, the class began making Total Cancer Awareness Bracelets from Hidden Hollow Beads. To date, over $650 has been collected in donations, which will be given to the American Cancer Society in remembrance of the two parents and all who have been affected in some way by cancer. The class has a goal of donating $1000. If you are interested in helping the cause, contact Mrs. Maddalena at lisa.maddalena@wbisd.org. Bracelets will be available until the supply runs out. The suggested minimum donation for a bracelet is $3.

In February, the OEC National Honor Society teamed up with OCC’s Phi Theta Kappa in a “Step Up” challenge for National Heart Month. Donations were collected and given to the American Heart Association. Prizes were awarded to the 5 people who walked the most steps in one week. Congratulations to our own Mrs. Rosenthal and Morgan Rodeheffer for winning first and second place.

OEC Receives Prestigious Michigan College and Career Transition Award

Oakland Early College has been selected as the Michigan College and Career Transition Award recipient from among all of the applicants for the 2016-17 ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign.

As the high school exemplar, OEC will receive a banner and recognition certificate and will move forward in the consideration process for national recognition. National semifinalists will receive awards in recognition of their achievement and four national exemplars will be chosen by the selection committee composed of national education and workforce leaders. The national exemplars, along with all state exemplars and semifinalists, will be honored at an ACT event in fall 2017.

WBHS Goes to Washington D.C.!!!

by Brandon Crawford

On February 26, 13 WBHS students accompanied by Alycia Chase, WBHS Teacher and Law Club Sponsor, departed on a weeklong academic trip to our nation’s capital, Washington D.C., through the nationally recognized Close-Up program. In this program, students gather from around the country to actively witness their government in action.

Our first stop was to the United States Holocaust Museum. 10th grader, Zachary Crawford said, “This museum was incredibly moving. Without a doubt, I learned a lot more about the Holocaust.” Afterwards, students went to the Air and Space Smithsonian Museum and then participated in a Liberal vs. Conservative debate. We participated in workshop discussions and visited D.C. area monuments, memorials, and museums. “My favorite was the Lincoln Memorial. It was very historical, plus I got to see where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his I Have a Dream speech,” said 11th grader Hannah Niskar.

WBHS students toured the United States Capital building and also met with Michigan Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow and Michigan 14th Congressional District Representative, Brenda Lawrence. That evening, we went to the historic Union Station for dinner and then on to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to watch “Shear Madness.”

We also went to the White House, Arlington National Cemetery and an historic D. C. neighborhood. 9th grader Hasnat Ahmed observed, “From this program, we take with us the realization that everyone has the ability to learn, everyone is capable of achieving their goals and dreams with determination and motivation.”

Stay Connected With Us:
Web: www.wbsd.org
Talk To Us www.wbsd.org
Broadcast Email: To subscribe to the district’s broadcast email list, email pamela.zajac@wbsd.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/West-Bloomfield-School-District/94438708466
Twitter: @wbloomsfield and @gphill123
Alumni on Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=327406076968&_a=1
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/wbodk12

West Bloomfield School District
Educating Students to be their Best IN and FOR the World!
**FINE ARTS CALENDAR**

**March**
- AMS High School Musical WBHS, 7:00pm
- AMS High School Musical WBHS, 7:00pm
- WBHS Pre-Festival Orchestra Concert, WBHS, 7:00pm
- 04 OLSM Musical, Aladdin, WBHS 7:00pm
- 05 OLSM Musical, Aladdin, WBHS 2:00
- 26 Gretchko 2nd Grade Concert, Gretchko, 6:30pm

**April**
- 27 WBHS Musical, Shrek, WBHS, 7:00pm
- 28 WBHS Musical, Shrek, WBHS, 7:30pm
- 29 WBHS Musical, Shrek, WBHS, 2:00 & 7:30pm

**May**
- 15 26 WBHS Senior Student Art Show, WBHS, 7:00am – 9:00pm
- 17 WBHS Choir Concert, WBHS, 7:00pm
- 18 OLSM Choir Concert, OLSM, 7:00pm
- 22 WBHS Senior Student Art Exhibit
- 23 Open House, WBHS, 6:00pm-8:30pm
- 23 WBHS Band Concert, WBHS, 7:00pm
- 24 AMS Band Concert, Abbott MS, 7:00pm
- 25 WBHS Orchestra Gota Concert, WBHS, 7:00pm
- 30 OLSM Band Concert, OLSM, 7:00pm
- 31 AMS Theatre II Play, Abbott MS, 7:00pm

**June**
- 1 AMS Theatre III Play, Abbott MS, 7:00pm
- 1 AMS Choir Pop Concert, Abbott MS, 7:00pm
- 1 AMS String Concert, Abbott MS, 7:00pm
- 3 OLSM Orchestra Strings Concert, OLSM, 7:00pm
- 8 AMS Theatre II Play, Abbott, 7:00pm

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**BAND NEWS**

**Solo & Ensemble**

Congratulations to the soloists and ensembles earning first and/or second division ratings at the January MSBOA District IV Solo & Ensemble. Students who received first division ratings at district-level Solo & Ensemble are eligible to participate in State Solo & Ensemble on March 18, 2017.

First Division Solos
- Ishan Biswas- Trumpet Solo
- Aidan Brice- Alto Sax Solo
- Eriq Carey- Oboe Solo
- Matthew Elliott- Piano Solo
- Robert Elliott- Piano Solo
- Gia Evans- Flute Solo
- Jared Grimes- Trumpet Solo

First Division Ensembles
- Ishan Biswas, Mitchell Carroll, Abby Freitag, Abbaas Hakim and Sundeep Ravella - Brass Quintet
- Gia Evans and Eleanor Goldkamp - Flute/Clarinet Duet
- Cameryn Neal and Abbey Karow - Flute Duet
- Jon Michael Sinanis and Jack Bull - Oboe/Bass Duet
- Brian Semrau, Eleanor Goldkamp, Emma Long and Diana Odin - Clarinet Quartet
- Valerie Walls and Gia Evans - Flute Duet

Second Division Solos
- Matthew Elliott- Trumpet Solo
- Lea McDonald- Euphonium Solo
- Jon Michael Sinanis- Oboe Solo
- Simran Singh- Piano Solo

Jazz Band

The band performed at the United We Walk Celebration on Sunday, January 16. Upcoming gigs include the Spring Swing II fundraiser on May 5, the May 23 WBHS Spring Band Concert, and the Hard Rock Café in Detroit. The Jazz Band has an exciting repertoire, including the Children of Sanchez, Harlem Nocturne, Sweet Georgia Brown and Manteca.

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**Winter Guard, Winter Percussion and Winter Winds Winter Invitational**

The band Boosters Association of West Bloomfield (BBABW) hosted its annual West Bloomfield Winter Invitational on February 4, 2017 at WBHS. The show, featuring 82 groups from all over the state of Michigan as well as Ohio, was the largest in the Michigan Color Guard Circuit history! In addition to 1,600 performers, WBHS welcomed their directors, instructors and staff, as well as approximately 2,300 spectators. The BBABW wishes to thank the parents, students, siblings, alumni and community members who volunteered for the event. We also want to thank the WBHS custodial staff for keeping the building clean and functioning during the day!

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**SPECIAL!**

**Friends and Family Show**

All Winter Guard, Winter Wind and Winter Percussion groups will perform at the annual “Friends and Family” show on Thursday, March 30 at Abbott Middle School. Don’t miss this free exhibition which is open to the public. Performances start at 6:45pm.

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**Spring Fundraiser**

The Band Boosters Association of West Bloomfield is pleased to announce its spring fundraiser, “Spring Swing II,” which will take place on Friday, May 5 at the Orchard Lake Community Church. The event will feature music and entertainment, light dinner/appetizers and a silent auction. The BBABW is seeking sponsorships. Companies and individuals interested in sponsoring the Spring Swing can contact BBAWB President Christine Karow at president@wbbands.info.

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**MSBOA Results**

Congratulations on outstanding performances at the MSBOA District IV Band and Orchestra Festival. Each one of our ensembles performed very well and represented WBDS with class and enthusiasm.

**WBHS Concert Band** (freshmen) and **WBHS Symphonic Winds** (top band) received straight first division ratings from the judges (the highest score possible).

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**WBHS Regional Honors Choir**

Congratulations to all WBHS Regional Honors choir members for auditioning and advancing to the State Chors. These members are Austin Albert, Olivia Bowyer, Ilyssa Brunhild, and Joseph Thomas. They performed in January at the Michigan Music Conference in Grand Rapids.
On May 2nd, residents living in the West Bloomfield School District will vote on a school bond proposal, which will positively impact every student, every school and every facility.

**How will this affect Fine Arts?**

The bond proposal projects fall into eight basic categories including enhancements to fine arts facilities at West Bloomfield High School. A new kiln room, band storage room, musical instruments, and multiple improvements to the auditorium affecting the lower level dressing room, stage lighting, orchestra pit, sound booth, light and mixing boards, projector with retractable screen, and new stage curtains are planned.

These improvements will enhance the Fine Arts experience for the students as well as the viewing audience.

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**WBHS Art Students On Tour**

On March 3, four advanced drawing students, Jonathan Skidmore, Mercedes Hunter, Casey Littlejohn, and Elianna Orel, were honored to take special workshops at the College for Creative Studies. They learned about Photoshop editing and created a stop motion film about peanut butter and jelly. Stop motion is an animation technique that physically manipulates an object so that it appears to move on its own.

Ms. Marshall’s art students recently spent time at the Detroit Institute of Arts where they enjoyed the Detroit After Dark photography exhibit. Seeing Thalassa, an installation by street artist Swoon, was another highlight. All are looking forward to the next field trip, which is a Detroit Graffiti Tour.

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**Southeastern Michigan 2017 Scholastic Art Awards**

Abbott Middle School student, Paige Harris, received a Silver Key Photography award for her picture taken in China on the River Li. Her teacher is Margaret Squires.

WBHS student Sarah Rasmussen received a Silver Key Drawing award while Brianna Cohen took Honorable Mention in Drawing. Their teacher is Molly Marshall.

The winning artwork was displayed along with 1100 other works by middle and high school students at the College for Creative Studies.

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**Optimist Student Photographer Winners**

Last fall, the Optimist Club of West Bloomfield sponsored a contest for student photographers in grades Kindergarten – 12. The first place winners in each bracket were:

**K-3:** Dominic Bigelow (Doherty, 2nd grade, “Pumpkin Eater Cheater”)

**4-5:** Devon Solgot (Sheiko, 4th grade, “Hot Dog in Leaves”)

**6-8:** Melanie Castello (Abbott, 7th grade, “A Leaf”)

**9-12:** Ariana Rice (WBHS, 10th grade, “Closer Perspective”)

Winners received cash prizes at a reception held in their honor.

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**OLMS Musical Theatre presents Shrek the Musical**

Thursday, April 27 7:00pm
Friday April 28 7:30pm
April 29 2:00 & 7:30pm
West Bloomfield High School
4925 Orchard Lake Road
Advance Tickets $10: www.showtix4u.com
At the door $12

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**OLMS Musical Theatre presents Aladdin JR.**

Friday, March 24 at 7:00pm
Saturday, March 25 at 2:00pm
West Bloomfield High School
4925 Orchard Lake Road
Advance Tickets $10: www.showtix4u.com
At the door $12

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**West Bloomfield School District**

**THE LAKER**

_Educating Students to be their Best IN and FOR the World!_
Focus on our Schools

DECA Supports Inclusive Opportunities For Students With Special Needs

Over 200 students and staff competed in the WBHS DECA 3v3 Basketball Tournament fundraiser in December. The event raised $1,200 to provide inclusive social opportunities for high school students with special needs. Juniors Nick O'Shea, Nick Seidel, and Raquel Kassa organized the event as part of their DECA community service project. 54 teams including teachers and 208 students participated in the double elimination game. The winning team was WBHS employees, Jed Jones, Ron Bellamy, Josh Johnson, and Antonio Harrison. Raffle tickets were sold with the winner taking home a new iPhone 7.

“We are over the moon with how the WBHS student body and faculty responded to the announcement of the tournament. We have received great support from LakerNation! We are all excited to help a great cause, giving each student the opportunity to achieve great things! The donations will provide inclusive social opportunities for students with special needs at West Bloomfield High School” - Nick Seidel and Nick O’Shea, (11), Creative Marketing Plan

“I wanted to do this project to raise money for a good cause, one that I am sure needs the help. Not only is this a great way to raise money for the WBHS Special Needs Program, but it is a perfect way to unite the school within a positive light” - Raquel Kassa (11)

Laker Hockey Connects with Community

As the season for the 2016-17 West Bloomfield High School Lakers Hockey team, coached by Logan McLean in his inaugural year with West Bloomfield, came to a close, what more fitting conclusion than ending with an evening in which all proceeds were donated to benefit the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition (GWGCC). WBSD Superintendent, Dr. Gerald Hill and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Arthur Ebert, did the honors of the puck drop and were joined at the game to cheer on our Lakers by Lisa Berkey, Executive Director of the GWGCC and Cindy Hill, GWBC board member. Although the Lakers fell short by one goal to Livonia Franklin, the $600 contributed by fans of both schools in support of the GWBCC was a highlight.

Community responsibility is not the only way in which this Lakers team has shown exemplary commitment. A series of unpredictable road bumps, hurdles and injuries arose mid-season presenting challenges, yet, their resilience and determination to compete every night and uplift each other remained strong. Their resolve paid off with wins in 3 of the 4 final games, leading them to a 4th place finish in the OAA White Division. Another demonstration of commitment to the WBSD community was the parents’ undertaking of locker room renovation in their new home rink at Lakeland Ice Arena. Cleanup and fresh paint by parent volunteers, new carpet, wall signs, equipment for game video review and a stick rack made by Head Coach Logan McLean transformed the storage space into a locker room oasis.

Dr. Nelson Hersh, School Board Vice President, helped recognize our seniors at Senior Night. His passionate support and commitment to our district is a stellar example of maintaining connections with your community for our 6 senior Laker team members. The foundations established and leadership in place will continue the tradition of strength and commitment in Lakers Hockey history. The upcoming off-season program will begin mid-June. Contact Coach Logan McLean or Marty McCotter at martywblakers@gmail.com.

Kevwe Okagbare Hits a Hole In One

When he was in eighth grade, Kevwe Okagbare saw a job ad for caddies at Orchard Lake Country Club. Okagbare didn’t play golf and didn’t much care for the sport, but since there weren’t many job opportunities for kids his age, he applied and was hired. The next summer of caddying, he found out about the Michigan State University Chick Evans Scholarship, a full tuition and housing scholarship given annually to a golf caddie. “I heard about the scholarship and it really motivated me to get up through the ranks,” he said.

Last summer, he applied for the Chick Evans Scholarship and was one of 25 finalists. The last step in the process was an interview with 100 scholarship board members. He obviously presented himself well since he was named the winner of the scholarship. “My mom was definitely the happiest. It was a huge relief for her. It was very exciting.” Okagbare is on the varsity golf team, is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, the African-American Awareness Club and DECA in addition to having a 3.9 grade-point average. He has aspirations to major in finance with the goal of being self-employed one day.

Emma Ryden - MTU Presidential Scholarship and NCWIT Award Winner

Senior, Emma Ryden, was named one of 39 state-wide winners of the Michigan Affiliate National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing. This honor is awarded to students for their computer-related aspirations, good academic history, demonstrated aptitude and interest in technology/computing and their future plans for secondary education. Ryden and the other winners will be honored in a ceremony at Michigan State on April 1.

Emma also earned a Presidential Scholarship from Michigan Tech University where she will attend next fall. Her major will be computer science/software engineering with her goal of going into artificial intelligence one day, but as she rightfully points out, there will be plenty of career options once she graduates from MTU. “There are so many different directions you can go with a computer science degree because it is needed in almost every field.”

With all this in mind, there is one fact about Ryden that many will find nearly impossible to believe. “I actually still don’t own a computer at home,” she said. “It’s kind of funny given I am going into computer science.”

Joanne Wisley Awarded E.M.U. Presidential Scholarship

Joanne Wisley is one of 21 recipients of the Presidential Scholarship at Eastern Michigan University. The scholarship value is $88,000, which includes free tuition, room and board at EMU for four years. Wisley was selected from over 550 applicants. “When they called me, I was home alone and about to go to drum line practice,” said Wisley, who plays the snare in the marching band. “I was in total shock! I had to call both my parents because I wasn’t going to see them for hours!”

In addition to band involvement, Joanne is a member of the National Honor Society and the Volunteer Impact Program. She has a 4.2 cumulative grade-point average and is an active volunteer at her church. Ultimately, Wisley wants to pursue a doctorate degree and become a history professor. “I do love to learn and study. Becoming a professor gives me the best of both worlds - being able to teach, which I am very passionate about, but also being able to conduct my research, travel and write,” she said.
On February 1, twelve student athletes signed National Letters of Intent to attend prestigious colleges and universities. There were a variety of sports represented. Chosen seniors played Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Baseball, Volleyball, Softball and Tennis during their high school careers.

Mia Dronchi
Signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Siena Heights University where she will major in Biology and play soccer. Mia has worked hard both on and off the field. She is proud to be awarded an academic scholarship as well as a soccer scholarship.

Davion Johnson
Signed to attend Miami University (Ohio) where he will play football for the Miami RedHawks. Davion began his WBHS football career as a sophomore. This year, he was named MVP and also was a captain of the team. His skills drew the attention of many college coaches and earned him 10 Division 1 offers.

Christopher Kalaj
Has received a football scholarship for Davenport University. Awarded “Most Athletic Male” while at Abbott MS, Chris also played soccer, basketball and competed in wrestling and track before devoting himself to football. He was a captain in his senior year.

Nathaniel Lewis
Is signing to Albion College to continue his academic and baseball career as a pitcher. Nate chose Albion not only for the great coaching staff, winning tradition and outstanding academics but also for the opportunity to help out in surrounding communities since the Albion baseball program is very involved in community service activities.

John-Paul Morris
Signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Wayne State University on a softball scholarship. Nicole began her WBHS softball career as a freshman and has held starting positions each season.

Kyle Prewitt
Has committed to playing lacrosse at Chatham University in Pittsburgh. Noted Kyle, “I have been accepted into a six-year Doctorate of Physical Therapy program so I get the best of both worlds. I get to play lacrosse and move directly into studying for my career.”

Nicole Schwerin
Is signing her National Letter of Intent to attend Lawrence Technological University on a softball scholarship. Nicole began her WBHS softball career as a freshman and has held starting positions each season.

Joshua Turner
Has a football scholarship for Davenport University on a scholarship and play football for the Panthers. As a WBHS senior, Joshua was the starting right corner, received Honorable Mention, the spirit award and maintained a 3.0 grade point average.

Vanessa Vigier
Will attend Kalamazoo College and play volleyball. She started playing sports as a child and was named MVP and also was a captain of the team. Her skills drew the attention of many college coaches and earned him 10 Division 1 offers.

Kyle Wilson
Signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Hocking College and play football for the next two years. Kyle was a starter on the varsity football team for two years. He was a team captain in fall 2016. Kyle credits his WBHS teachers with providing a great experience and helping him become a better student and person.

Garrett Winn
Signed his National Letter of Intent to attend The United States Naval Academy and play football for the Midshipman.

Lakers Basketball WINS Class A Regional Title in Instant Classic!

On March 10, the Lakers defeated Orchard Lake St. Mary’s 57-43 clinching the District 21 Championship for the first time in 14 years. The team next won the Class A Regional Semi-Final game over Howell High School with a final score of 59-51. The Lakers advanced to the Regional Finals at Northern High School defeating Novi in double overtime 67-66 on March 12. After the game, Lakers Head Coach Jeremy Denha stated, “I don’t know what to say, I’m at a loss of words, that was an amazing game we just experienced. We’ve been responding all year and we responded when the chips were down tonight in this game. I don’t know if there’s a more battled tested team out there still alive.”
And, what a fabulous night it was…..for the third consecutive year!
The West Bloomfield Educational Foundation’s (WBEF) third annual Fabulous Casino Night held Friday, February 10 was a big hit! Over 400 “big time gamblers” gathered just across the border at Edgewood Country Club to play Blackjack, Roulette, Craps, and Bingo, spin the Color Wheel, bid on an array of silent auction items, socialize and dance to the superb music of Byron in Motion - all for a great cause. Over $30,000 was raised on this one night alone!
The WBEF was established in 2002 and since its inception has raised in excess of $1 million with all of those funds going directly back to our schools. Each year, the foundation holds a community event to raise money to fund a variety of programs and to purchase equipment and other educational items.
Over the years, the WBEF has purchased textbooks, interactive white boards, laptop computers, iPads, graphing calculators, Kindles, document projection systems, microscopes, and software programs that support reading. We have also funded important programs such as Religious Diversity Journeys, Capturing Kids Hearts, Leader in Me, Chef/Farmer for a Day, Viking Huddle, anti-bullying campaigns, a literary garden, science fairs and FIRST Robotics at West Bloomfield High School. Most recently, the foundation’s focus has been on supporting the district’s STEAM initiatives. In addition, $200,000 in educator grants has been awarded to classroom teachers for innovative projects that support student achievement. Most of the proceeds from 2017 Fabulous Casino Night will be dedicated to the Educators’ Grant program.
An absolutely essential ingredient to any successful event is community support. And, this we had! Dozens of volunteers, including many of our principals, an extremely hard-working planning committee, strong support from the business community, our vendors and of course, the evening’s patrons all added up to a hugely successful event.
Sincere appreciation is extended to our sponsors of Fabulous Casino Night:

GCA Services
LaPointe & Butler, P.C.
Spaulding Dedeecker Associates

Additional Event Sponsors
Berger, Ghersi & LaDuke
Birmingham Bloomfield Credit Union
Byron in Motion
C&G Newspapers
Entech Medical Staffing
Forestei Design
Forhan & Associates
Kaye Financial
Laura Clays
Lifetouch
Lusk and Albertson
Mathnasium of West Bloomfield
Midas Auto Service and Tires,
West Bloomfield
Plante Moran CRESA
Randi & Stuart Sakwa
Sylvan Learning Center
WB Education Association MEA/NEA
Abbott Middle School PTO
OLMS Middle School PTO
Doherty Elementary PTO
Gretchko Elementary PTO
Roosevelt Elementary PTO
Scotch Elementary PTO
Sheiko Elementary PTO

We wish to thank the many businesses and individuals who donated wonderful items to our raffle and our silent auction and to the 65 volunteers who worked the event! Last, but not least, much appreciation to all of our guests. You made it a truly fabulous evening.

Donations are always welcome on-line at www.wbef.org or call, 248-865-6463.

Save the Date!
2018 Casino Night
February 9, 2018

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C&G Newspapers
Entech Medical Staffing
Forestei Design
Forhan & Associates
Kaye Financial
Laura Clays
Lifetouch
Lusk and Albertson
Mathnasium of West Bloomfield
Midas Auto Service and Tires,
West Bloomfield
Plante Moran CRESA
Randi & Stuart Sakwa
Sylvan Learning Center
WB Education Association MEA/NEA
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Save the Date!
2018 Casino Night
February 9, 2018
WELCOME NEW WBEF BOARD MEMBERS

Erin Smith
A resident of West Bloomfield for eleven years, Erin Smith and husband, Matt, have an 8th grader at OLMS, a 4th grader at Sheiko and a first grade student at Doherty Elementary. Erin is a stay-at-home mom who loves volunteering in her children’s classrooms. She also has been an active PTO member and officer. Additionally, Erin has served on numerous committees throughout the district.

Alex Ho
Alex owns Sylvan Learning Center and Midas Auto Service and Tires in West Bloomfield. A native of Oakland County, he and his family are strong supporters of the West Bloomfield School District. Past contributions include free after-school tutoring at Orchard Lake Middle School, complimentary STEM sessions and free after-school tutoring at Orchard Lake School District. Past contributions include Willowbrook Elementary, PTOs, and student-led organizations. Alex holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and International Business.

Robotic Rumblers!
Community Education First Lego League team, The Robotic Rumblers, recently competed in the State FLL Tournament in Monroe after finishing in 1st place at their qualifying event. The team is coached by Sean Gleason and Rene Gobeyn. Team members include Kyle Gleason, Arianna Gobeyn, Audrey Phipps, Sophia Kamoo, Mireia Garrigo, Milin Sharrow, Varun Talluri and Pearce McCallion.

Let’s Go Fly a Kite...
A FREE West Bloomfield Community Event
The West Bloomfield Community Education Department will be hosting their fifth annual “Kiddie Kite Day and Summer Camp Fair” event on May 6, 2017 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the Administrative & Community Education Services (ACS) building located at 5810 Commerce Rd, WB, 48324. Families can participate in a variety of activities and learn about our high quality Early Childhood and Sensational Summer Camp programs. “Kiddie Kite Day” highlights include:

• Kite making, dancing, bounce houses, raffles, refreshments, face painting sand-play, crafts and giveaways.
• Free animal show with the “Safari Guy”
• Summer programs and materials from the West Bloomfield Public Library
• Early childhood information from Great Start Collaborative
• A Scholastic Book Fair
• Lakeshore Learning products supporting the STEAM initiative.
• Summer Camp information: Sun & Fun, Camp Superstar, Get Real, Greg Kelser, DPR Educational Services, Skyhawks, Lacrosse, Volleyball, Mr. Genius Education, Game Crazy Technology, Sunset Theater, True Martial Arts, and Pat Watson Baseball and Basketball Camps.
See www.wbcommed.org for more information about our camps.

We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have about our programs. A special thank you to our sponsors: Early Childhood Parent Group, Meijer, and Whole Foods. Without them, this event would not be possible. To help sponsor this event, please contact Deborah Kshiminskiy at 248-865-6457.

High School Academic Summer School
West Bloomfield High School
June 26 - July 28, no classes July 3 & 4
8:00 am - 10:35 am and 10:45 am - 1:20 pm
Class offerings and registration forms available at WBHS, Abbott and Orchard Lake Middle Schools and Community Education office. Register at www.wbcommed.org. All courses. 5 Carnegie units.
Tuition per class:
$285 In-District
$325 Out-of-District
Early Bird Registration Special through June 23
$260 In-District
$300 Out-of-District

NO REGISTRATION ACCEPTED AFTER JUNE 27, 2017

WBEF
Community Education

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

WEST BLOOMFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT
7071 Orchard Lake Rd., Suite 100
West Bloomfield, MI 48322
(248)539-2390
Dawn Hanford, Coordinator

Adult Education ESL
Spring/Summer 2017
1 Day: $105,
2 Days @ $215
4 Days: $425

Session 4:
February 27 - April 13
(6 weeks, omit April 3-7 and 14)
Level II
T-Th 9:30-12:00
Level III
M-W 9:30-12:00
Advanced Conversation/Current Events
Th 9:30-12:00

Afternoon Classes
Monday through Thursday
Advanced Conversation/Pronunciation
T-Th 12:00-2:30
Advanced Conversation/Current Events
T 12:00-2:30
Intermediate/Advanced Writing
Workshop
Th 12:00-2:30

Session 5:
April 17 - May 26 (6 weeks)
Level II
T-Th 9:30-12:00
Level III
M-W 9:30-12:00
Advanced Conversation/Current Events
Th 9:30-12:00

Afternoon Classes
Monday through Thursday
Advanced Conversation/Pronunciation
T-Th 12:00-2:30
Advanced Conversation/Current Events
T 12:00-2:30
Intermediate/Advanced Writing
Workshop
Th 12:00-2:30

Call for information on Level I Class

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE
Only ‘30 In-district ‘55 Out-of-district
by May 31

CALL TODAY TO REGISTER
248-865-6466

THE LAKER
West Bloomfield School District
Educating Students to be their Best IN and FOR the World!

THE LAKER
March 2017

13
**FOCUS ON OUR SCHOOLS**

(Continued from page 1)

Inchaustegui, Mrs. Kristi Law, Mr. Eric Malisow, Mrs. Pam Starr, Mrs. Christine Sipla and Mrs. Stephanie Donnay. A pinewood derby car is a simple machine that demonstrates fundamental concepts of physics including potential and kinetic energy, force of gravity, friction and aerodynamic drag. Lowes donated the cars, primer and paint. Keego Harbor Optimists also provided paint and brushes. The students worked on and personalized their cars by setting the wheels, painting, naming and numbering them. Each class entered a competition car into the big race.

February 24 was race day. The excitement was infectious! Each class cheered on their car as it whispered down the track. The winners were Mrs. Arnoldi’s, 5th grade and Mrs. Starr, 4th grade. Next, it’s the Kindergarten through Third grade’s turn to rev up their engines. They will be holding their own competition in March.

Learning in the Tool Shed is ongoing and the Tool Men are in residence weekly as members of the WBSD School Board discovered on a recent visit. Students receive a Journeyman’s Card for their time in the tool room. They are learning how to use a tape measure, level, chalk line, crescent wrench and square in their initial visits and then build projects such as helicopters, picture frames and model buses. Advanced lessons include using precision calipers, hanging curtains, measuring for distance and clearance.

After hearing about the Tool Shed and its volunteer staff, civic leader Deb Macon observed, “We all win when students, parents, teachers, businesses and talented volunteers come together for high impact learning. While a Pinewood Derby may not have initially been in the curriculum, all parties seized the unique opportunity to teach and learn skills critical to student success.”

**Help The EARTH Club Save Energy**

The West Bloomfield High School EARTH Club has been offered a grant to purchase all the equipment needed for a 20-kilowatt solar array. The grant is valued at $35,000. To qualify, we must secure $10,000 in matching funds.

This solar array, large enough to power all science classrooms in the building, would save the district thousands of dollars in electricity costs each year and would prevent 25 tons of carbon emissions annually.

YOU can help the EARTH club make solar powered scenes reality by donating to The Lodge in Keego Harbor on April 12 & 13. 20% of your purchases will go toward our project. Go to wbhs.org, click on Community/ Fundraising and print out the coupon.

**Jen McQuillan To Speak On Hemingway At Petoskey District Library**

Petoskey District Library is hosting a special program for tweens and teens to discuss the life of young Ernest Hemingway in the Petoskey area on Saturday, March 25. WBHS teacher, Jennifer McQuillan, who is a member of the Michigan Hemingway Society will lead the discussion. Ms. McQuillan specializes in teaching modern American literature and teaches Hemingway’s “Nick Adams” stories in her ELA classes.

It was the Nick Adams stories set in Northern Michigan that brought the young writer to the attention of major authors and publishers in the early 1920s. Hemingway wrote his first Nick Adams story in a style that transformed American literature and led to the 1954 Nobel Prize in literature.

**Coding in the iCenter**

In conjunction with the national program, “Hour of Code,” Sheiko and Doherty students worked on coding skills during their media class time. Each student was registered in a coding course from Code.org, which also sponsors the “Hour of Code.” The courses system helps teaching coding skills including the concepts of loops and conditionals, a way for computer programs to repeat one or more various steps depending on conditions set either by the programmer initially or real-time by the actual program. Students are learning a programming language called “block” coding which offers commands that are dragged and dropped into a coding space.

At Doherty, students worked on their iPads with OSMO, a gaming accessory and Scratch Jr. a programming language. The second grade acted as coding buddies to our kindergarten classes who learned a coding board game called “Robot Turtles.” Sheiko students were introduced to Ozobots, mini robots that they coded using an app on our iPads.

Coding is an important 21st Century learning skill. Coding teaches logical reasoning and problem solving skills in addition to helping develop an ability to persevere and collaborate with others. Thank you to the West Bloomfield Education Foundation (WBF) for providing funds to purchase the OSMOs and Ozobots. Students will have more coding opportunities during the remainder of the school year. We are a “Community of Coders.”

**STEAM Students Create and Learn**

Excerpts from an article by Roosevelt 4th grade students, Corey Pittman, Ashir Abbasi and Corinne Kennedy from Mrs. Starr’s and Mrs. Donnay’s classes.

Do you love creating new things out of materials you find in your home or building structures like architects? If you like imaging new designs, you could be an amazing architect like Frank Lloyd Wright. He was famous for creating structures with many straight edges!

Mrs. Starr’s, Mrs. Donnay’s, and Mr. Malisow’s classes are learning how to imagine, design, and create new structures with our awesome STEAM partners at Lawrence Technological University (LTU). STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Our architecture partner, Ms. Meaghan Markiewicz, is helping us learn measurement of 3-D objects. We created a box using multiple 3-D shapes, and then learned how to measure the area. “It was fun to create with boxes, said Dominique Walker, “I like architecture because you can learn how to plan, measure, and build,” said Connor Zaborn. “Everyday you get to learn something new.” said Hailey Pendley.

There is creativity and teamwork involved in architecture and our STEAM program.” In architecture, while we work together, we agree and disagree with respect,” said George Ebert. “If you work hard, at the end, the results will be great!” said Corinne Kennedy.

**iCenters – Not Your Mother’s Library**

In transition, the WBHS “library” to an “iCenter,” we started out by changing the atmosphere. The library followed the traditional model: a quiet space housing books and electronic resources. But, we wanted it to be lively, energetic and collaborative.

Our best information source was the students. Hearing from our patrons about programming, supplies, environment, design and color helped us create a vision for the future. Students want a space that includes adjustable, moveable furniture coupled with daylight, nature, color and textures. A variety of seating means that kids can choose tables/ chairs, quiet areas, bean bags, collaborative work areas or lounge space. The space not only allows students to find areas depending on their mood, but it also supports our STEAM program.

In addressing the feedback, we opened a coffee bar called “The Thinking Cup” which helped create a great ambience. The Class of 2015 donated two fireplaces. We purchased beanbag chairs and put out board games, cards and puzzles for students to use in their free time. When we saw how popular the games were, we added Legos and marble runs. Also, we play music while national news and ESPN are streamed in at select times during the day.

The WBHS “iCenter” is now a destination where students want to learn and collaborate. But there is more work to be done! The intent is to continue transforming every “iCenter” in every school to a warm, inviting atmosphere where students want to gather and learn.

**Gretchko’s Garden Fresh Cooking**

Mrs. Mary Ann Ayar is cooking up a storm with ingredients from Gretchko’s hydroponic garden. She encourages healthy eating habits while combining math and science. Students tasted something new eating sautéed mushrooms, then graphed their mushroom growth. Students were introduced to fresh salad dressing that students tried on kale grown in the hydroponic garden. Mrs. Ayar cooks for classes throughout the school. Students love watching her cook and are learning that fresh is best.

**Gretchko Has A Lot of Buddies!**

Kindergarten and second grade students are bonding through Gretchko’s Buddy Program headed up by Mrs. Costello. Second graders help kindergarten students write stories, then they dictate their story back to a second grader. The second grade students also read books to their buddies demonstrating reading skills while improving their own reading fluency. A kindergartner can visit their buddy classroom to take a break and turn their day around. The second graders love being role models. They are working hard to show their kindergarten buddies what amazing things they will soon learn.
COMMUNITY

2017 TOP CHIROPRACTORS

Howard Rosenberg, DC, has been selected by a vote of his peers to be included in the 2017 Top Chiropractor section for Hour Detroit magazine. He is an expert in relieving lower back pain and is the only Cox Certified Spinal Decompression Specialist in West Bloomfield and Lakes area. Dr. Rosenberg assures you that you will receive the best possible treatment.

Along with expert chiropractic care, Dr. Rosenberg offers:
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DR. WARREN E. WOODRUFF & DR. AMIRA MAY WOODRUFF

Our Children’s Fund
~ Recipient of the ~
Greater West Bloomfield Community Achievement Award

Our Children’s Fund meets emergency needs and provides resources to help ensure that every student in West Bloomfield School District is able to participate in academic and enrichment activities.

Steering Committee members of Our Children’s Fund wish to thank our schools, students, organizations, and the individuals who have contributed so generously throughout the year to ensure that OCF can continue providing emergency needs and educational enrichments to West Bloomfield School District students facing financial hardship.

Our Children’s Fund Tribute Cards are available year-round at all schools and are great to have on hand when you want to acknowledge someone special or a special occasion. Your contribution is tax-deductible and thanks to the generosity of the WBSD, 100% of your contribution goes directly to helping those in need.

Please make checks payable to:
Our Children’s Fund,
C/O WBSD, Special Services
5810 Commerce Road, WB, MI 48324

We thank you for all of your support!

Joanne Bellet, M.A.
Educator

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The Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business for the greater West Bloomfield area. The Chamber is a diverse network of businesses and organizations dedicated to “bringing business and the community together”. Membership benefits include member discounts, monthly networking events, leadership/business development, website/newsletter/television visibility, health insurance options, and educational and outreach programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate the 11th Annual Key to the Township Awards - May 9, 2017

Fabulous Networking at The Studio for Hair! Wednesday, April 5th 5:30-7PM

Everything’s Coming Up Roses at English Gardens Mix and Mingle! Wednesday, April 12th 5:30-7:00PM

Wake Up & Smell the Networking Mix & Mingle Costco Commerce Wednesday, April 26 8:00-9:00AM

248.626.3636 westbloomfieldchamber.com

West Bloomfield School District
Educating Students to be their Best IN and FOR the World!
Jeremy Kaplan – Class of 2007

Jeremy Kaplan is employed by the U.S. House of Representatives as the Constituent Outreach Coordinator and Interim Deputy District Director for Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence in Michigan’s 14th Congressional District. He developed a passion for campaigns, politics, and public service during his tenure at West Bloomfield High School.

In 2004, Jeremy volunteered with the Oakland County Democratic Party as Precinct Captain for John Kerry’s presidential campaign. In 2005, Jeremy won a seat on the West Bloomfield Village Civic Association Board of Directors where he served until May 2016. He was Co-Chair of West Bloomfield High School’s Political Action Group (now part of the Law Club) to raise awareness about political issues and activities in 2006 and worked as a Poll Challenger with Governor Jennifer Granholm’s re-election campaign. While a WBHS student, Jeremy wrote an editorial arguing in favor of the national popular vote that was published in the Detroit Free Press. He received recognition from the West Bloomfield Optimist Club for his achievements.

Jeremy next attended Beloit College in Wisconsin. He majored in political science and held various leadership roles in the college community while also interning for Barack Obama’s Campaign for Change in 2008 and Senator Russ Feingold’s re-election campaign in 2010. After graduation in 2011, he returned to West Bloomfield and worked on a number of campaigns including his own. In 2012, he ran for West Bloomfield Township Trustee, a race he narrowly lost. By 2014, Jeremy was working for Brenda Lawrence, then Mayor of Southfield, who was running for Congress. After her congressional win, he became a member of her district staff.

How did WBHS help Jeremy on his current path? Jeremy believes that the education he received played a major role in developing the person he is today. His teachers believed in him, encouraged him, and challenged him. His parents and teachers taught him the value of a strong work ethic and what it means to be an effective leader. His experiences at WBHS taught him to have an open mind, make a difference, experience the rich diversity we are so fortunate to have in our community, and to learn from mistakes.

Jeremy Kaplan’s advice for current WBHS students? Develop a strong work ethic, network with community leaders, embrace what is different, and take advantage of the opportunities in front of you. “West Bloomfield High School offers high quality education that every student can benefit from. Take a moment and recognize the potential it offers you and then take action. Follow through on your commitments and do what you say you are going to do. Life is about learning and having experiences, academic and non-academic. We grow as individuals by learning from our experiences and I encourage all students to experience and learn as much they can about themselves, the community, and the world around them.”