

Weehawken Update
Superintendent of Schools- Dr. Terrance R. Brennan
April 8, 2019

Finally spring has arrived. I hope you are all enjoying the nice weather shaking off cabin fever as a result of the winter blues. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of some activities in which the Weehawken School district has been involved.

To begin Mrs. Rudowsky, principal of the Daniel Webster School has reported that a special family math night took place on March 14th. Hundreds of students and parents participated. Eight hands-on math activities were set up for the students to complete. The schools' teachers and staff volunteered to coordinate and run this special evening. It was a packed house and the students had quite an enjoyable evening showing off their math skills to their parents.

Another special event that took place at Webster School was that the mobile food laboratory visited for two days. This lab is sponsored by Ramapo College and the Meadowlands Environmental Center in Lyndhurst. It is a special mobile lab that provides for small group interdisciplinary lessons in science when visiting schools. All of the second graders had a special experience working on science, nutrition, mathematics, and cooking. Our second graders were able to make and eat their own salads directly from the items grown on the bus.

Mr. Orecchio, the interim principal of the Theodore Roosevelt School, has reported that the fourth grade students celebrated National History Day by completing a biography on an important historical figure from the American Revolution. He further reported that the students created display boards, Google slide presentations and skits for their projects. Some of the

biographies included George Washington, Abigail Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Tadeusz Kociuszko as well as others.

The fifth grade social studies classes are continuing the road trip through history by researching the mounting tensions that occurred between the colonists and the British. The students, as well, reviewed the components of the Declaration of Independence and how it was written. It provided the insight as to how the United States was a separate country from Great Britain. They further learned, as they continued their trip through history, that the constitution outlines a citizen's rights and responsibilities and establishes a system of checks and balances to ensure a balanced democracy.

TRS 5th and 6th grade chorus and bell choir have been practicing in order to present their great talent during the spring concert. The concert was held in TRS auditorium on Friday April 5th at 9 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. The following week, on April 11th, their performance will be repeated in the high school auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Please be informed that the following students have been accepted to the North Jersey School Music Association Elementary Honors Orchestra Festival :

Connor Mc Ginley

Fiona Garofalo

Icelin Gonzales

Brianna Sigaran

Congratulations to the aforementioned students!

Additional accolades go to the following recipients of the Samuel and Minnie Narushinsky Young Scientist Award at the STEM Showcase: Marion Buzzelli, Daniel Gill, Kaelyn Stinson, Marielyz DeLeon and Alexa Palma. The awards ceremony will be held on May 1st.

Mr Robert Ferullo high school principal has informed the superintendent of the following honors:

- Rex Fukuda has been accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy
- Sophia Axtens was accepted to the Air force Summer Academy
- Angelica Sanchez was accepted to Carnegie Mellon

- Rex Fukuda and Alice Yao were named unsung heroes by Hudson County School Boards
- Girls basketball team made it to Group 1 section 2 state finals for the first time ever
- Nicole Molano Group 1 third team all state basketball
- Chris Hernandez was named NJIC coach of the year for girl's basketball
- Weehawken High School earned the College Board AP science diversity award

I think you will all agree that the aforementioned are some very nice accomplishments in which Weehawken can be proud. Additionally please be informed that the theater arts department performed Grease on Friday April 5 and Saturday April 6th. It was an outstanding performance with great attendance. Thanks, goes to Ms. Tammy Jacobs and her staff for their hard work in getting the performance to stage.

We can all be proud that the Black Student Union celebrated Black History Month by hosting a fashion show. Thanks goes to Mrs. Andrea Eberhard and the Black Student Union for their dedication and hard work in putting it all together.

Please be informed the NJ School Performance Report, for school year 2017-2018, has been published on line. The report provides information pertaining to an overview, demographics, student growth, academic achievement, college and career readiness, graduation, climate and environment, staff accountability, and a narrative about the Weehawken Township School District. The reader can find the performance report at: www.state.nj.us/education . Please review the report to discover the many different data provided.

It is with excitement to report that through coordinated efforts between St Peter's University, Hudson County Community College and the Weehawken School District that it has been made

possible for high school seniors to attend one of the aforementioned colleges. Dual credit (both college and high school) is provided to participating students. Weehawken students can leave midday and attend one of the two colleges to take a college course of their choice. The students get a head start on college credit and save some tuition money regarding their future college careers. The district thanks Ms. Jenna Wendolowski for her hard work in assuring this college program came to fruition.

The state department of education, specifically the professionals from Hudson County Department of Education, will be on site April 30th to undertake QSAC (quality single accountability continuum) monitoring. John Gomez, county business administrator, has already monitored the district's facilities and found that we passed with flying colors! Components of QSAC monitoring include instruction and program, governance, operations, personnel, and facilities. Our assistant superintendent, Ms. Francesca Amato, will be taking the lead and coordinating district efforts specific to this endeavor.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the staff and students for the warm greeting they have provided this interim superintendent. The entire student population is a wonderful diverse community who are respectful and appreciative of all of the teachers and activities provided. The faculty and staff are dedicated Weehawken employees who give a 100% to the Weehawken School District. Thank you Weehawken!

Lastly, please be reminded to vote on **Tuesday April 16, 2019.**

