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Inside this Issue:

Looking for Members to Adopt a Family	2
Van Wyck Homestead Museum Open House	2
Oak Grove Peer Mediation Club Hosts Blood Drive	2
Sheafe Road School is Rewarded Funding to Change the Health and Wellness of Students and Their Families	3
Good News!	4
Upcoming Events	4
2008 - 2009 Pay Days	4
Members' Classified Ads	5
Board of Education Meeting Schedule	6
Financial Advisor Dates	6

Principal for the Day at Gayhead Elementary School

By: Kelly Hanna and Nicole Scalzo
Gayhead Elementary School

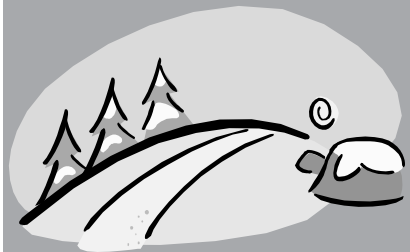


Brielle Miano, in Mrs. Hanna's first grade class at Gayhead Elementary School, raised the most funds for Gayhead's playground walkathon.

To celebrate her hard work, Brielle was given the opportunity to be the "Principal of the Day," while Mr. Olavarría, principal at Gayhead Elementary, had his hair dyed green for the cause.

Brielle was picked up at her house by a donated limousine and taken to school where she was greeted by her peers and staff. Upon arrival, Brielle read the morning announcements. She conducted a building safety drill and visited her staff and students in various classrooms. Brielle did "walk-throughs" in each hallway, greeting students and teachers alike. Later that day, Brielle was taken by limousine to lunch at Tiramisu with her family, her teacher, Mr. Baird and Mr. Olavarría.

Brielle had an amazing experience and thinks that being a principal may be something she may pursue in her future!



Looking for Members to Adopt a Family

This year, the Adopt a Family program is swamped with requests for help. Adopting a family often means buying gifts and a holiday meal for families who basically have nothing. Some of the adoptive families have two kids and others have as many as five.

It is suggested that friends and family join together to make the holidays brighter for these innocent children. That would ease the burden on any one donor and it's also a lot more fun to shop together.

If anyone is interested in adopting a family for the holidays please call WCRT member Gail Buckle at 896-5087 or 914-474-5186.



Van Wyck Homestead Museum Open House



Mark your calendar for *December 30, 2008, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM*. There will be an **OPEN HOUSE** at the Van Wyck Homestead Museum, at the junction of Route 9 and I-84, Fishkill. The activities will feature a reading of the "Night Before Christmas" as written by Henry Livingston - and children's activities relative to the many holidays falling in the end of December and beginning of January: St Nicholas Day, Hannukah, Dia de los Tres Reyes, etc. Refreshments and music will enhance the holiday atmosphere. There is no admission fee to attend this event. For more information please call 845-896-9560 or send an e-mail to vanwyckhomestead@aol.com.

Oak Grove Peer Mediation Club Hosts Blood Drive

One of the goals of the Oak Grove Peer Mediation Club is to reach out to the community and help those in need. There is a severe shortage of blood in our area. 350 pints of blood are needed everyday. Unfortunately, only 2% of the population donates blood. The Peer Mediation Club decided that they would like to help alleviate the blood shortage. They did a great job hosting their second Blood Drive on Thursday, November 20, 2008, from 3:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Oak Grove Gymnasium. Our 5th grade peer mediators, former peer mediators, and six students from Ketcham High School helped to make our blood drive

successful by escorting donors to the registration booth and to the canteen for juice and cookies, babysitting, and greeting at the main door.

WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE 59 LIVES WITH THE HELP OF THE TEACHERS AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you for your support of our school and the New York Blood Center.

IN PHOTO, Dr. Hill, peer mediators in scrubs, and Dawn Turpin-Orgetas (PE Teacher at Oak Grove)



Sheafe Road School is Rewarded Funding to Change the Health and Wellness of Children and their Families

Summer may be a long time gone to many, but for Sheafe Road Elementary School, this summer was the start to improving the health and wellness of their community for a lifetime. The Wellness Committee at Sheafe Road Elementary School worked hard this summer, as they tirelessly dedicated time and energy to the development of projects to improve the wellness of their school. They were invited, by Eat Well Play Hard (an initiative of the New York State Department of Health) and its community partners, to submit a “Seed Project” that would create sustainable change in the area of physical activity and nutrition.

Time was not on their side, as a matter of fact, seven schools were asked to participate and only four were able to pull together an amazing team of people to get the job done by September. Each one of the schools submitted projects that were based on a tool called a School Health Index, staff and faculty observations and community information. The Sheafe Road Committee included Sherry Clark, Rebecca Caulfield, Erin Kolachik, Clare Curtis, Rose Neckles, Barbara Rothman, Tiffany Devincenzi, Nelly Carretero, Sharon Chiarulli and Franco Miele.

Sheafe Road’s award was a 48ft. traverse climbing wall permanently installed in the gymnasium. In addition to the climbing wall, the students will have the opportunity to sample various fruits and vegetables during their lunch period, compliments of Shop Rite Supermarket.

Physical Education teacher Sherry Clark had this to say about the project: “I am very grateful to Shayna Russo and the Eat Well Play Hard Project for this wonderful opportunity for our school community. I would like to thank the Sheafe Road Wellness Committee for their dedication and hard work in completing the proposal. As a result of this project we hope to increase our students’ understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through proper nutrition and physical activity.”

Principal Franco Miele added: “Our students’ health and wellness is one of our top priorities here at Sheafe Road School. I am very proud of the work the Wellness Committee put into writing this grant proposal. Our entire school community will benefit from their efforts and hard work.”

“I could not have asked for a more dedicated and determined group of people,” stated Shayna Russo, Eat Well Play Hard Coordinator. “These schools did an astonishing job addressing the needs of their schools and the objectives of Eat Well Play Hard. They developed a great working relationship with each other and some wonderful projects that will

benefit the students and families of these schools for years to come.”

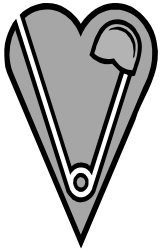
Eat Well Play Hard (EWPH) was developed to help prevent childhood obesity and reduce long-term risks for chronic disease through the promotion of targeted dietary practices and increased physical activity. The EWPH “Seed Projects” were developed in order to facilitate permanent, sustainable change to a school’s policy, system or the physical environment in order to increase physical activity and change that will outlast the funding awarded.

(Top picture: Sheafe Road Gym before. Bottom picture: Sheafe Road Gym after)



Good News!

- Congratulations to **Kelly Hanna** on receiving tenure effective January 27, 2009.
- Congratulations to **Katherine Hughes** on receiving tenure effective January 10, 2009.
- Congratulations to **Patricia Murray** on receiving tenure effective January 30, 2009.



• Congratulations to **Betsy Solomon (KR)** on the birth of her first grandchild, Alexander Michael Solomon. Alexander was born November 21, 2008 and weighed in at 5 pounds 12 ounces, and was 18 1/2 inches long. Father, David, mother, Allison, and Alexander are doing great.

Upcoming Events: Roundtable Discussion

Members are invited to a Roundtable Discussion on Advanced Placement, Honors and Enrichment programs offered at WCSD. The meeting will take place on Monday, December 8th at 7:30PM in the RCK cafeteria. The Roundtable discussion was initiated at the request of our Board of Education. Joe Porpora, BOE member, will be facilitating the discussion. In order for the District to prepare for adequate seating, please RSVP to the Office of Curriculum & Instruction via e-mail or EXT. 142 if you are planning on attending.

2008 - 2009 Pay Days

- Wednesday, November 26, 2008
- Monday, December 15, 2008
- Tuesday, December 30, 2008
- Thursday, January 15, 2009
- Friday, January 30, 2009
- Friday, February 13, 2009
- Friday, February 27, 2009
- Friday, March 13, 2009
- Monday, March 30, 2009
- Wednesday, April 15, 2009
- Thursday, April 30, 2009
- Friday, May 15, 2009
- Friday, May 29, 2009
- Monday, June 15, 2009
- Friday, June 26, 2009

Members' Classified Ads

FOR RENT: 1 bedroom apartment in Hopewell Junction. Beautiful, quiet neighborhood, close to many district schools. Large closets, great outside deck, pool. \$900 a month includes everything. Contact Carrie -505-7444. Available January.

FOR SALE: 1997 Ford Truck F 150, XLT, V-6, super cab with third door, 5 speed manual transmission, 80 K miles, original owner, red, very good condition, asking \$5,000. Call: George @ 226-5071.

FOR RENT: Village of Wapp. Falls. 2BR apt. on 2nd flr. \$1,400/mo. heat & hw incl. Avail. 1/1/09. Call Anne: 297-1643.

(continued on page 5)

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**NYSUT 13-270
AFT 1989**

phone:
(845) 227-5065

fax:
(845) 227-1977

email:
wct@WCTeachers.org

WCT President:
Pasquale Delli Carpini

**Editor & V.P. of Internal
Communications:**
Meredith Inkeles

Proofreader:
Diane Davis

Distribution:
Peg Nikola & Alice Heusinger,
WCRT



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* Next issue of the
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December 19, 2008.

Board of Education Meetings

Schedule (*meetings are held at the District Offices at 8:15 PM*)

- December 15, 2008 - Gayhead, Kinry, Vassar
- January 12, 2009 - Ketcham, Orchard View, Sheafe
- January 26, 2009 - Fishkill, Fishkill Plains, Wappingers
- February 9, 2009 - Evans, Myers, Van Wyck
- February 23, 2009 - Brinckerhoff, John Jay, Orchard View
- March 9, 2009 - Gayhead, Sheafe, Vassar
- March 23, 2009 - Ketcham, Kinry, Oak Grove
- April 6, 2009 - Evans, Fishkill, Wappingers
- April 26, 2009 (TUESDAY) - Fishkill Plains, Myers, Van Wyck
- May 4, 2009 - Brinckerhoff, John Jay, Vassar
- May 18, 2009 - Gayhead, Orchard View, Sheafe
- June 8, 2009 - Ketcham, Wappingers

Financial Advisor Dates

A financial consultant from Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. will be in the WCT office:

- December 17
- January 7 & 21
- February 4 & 18
- March 4 & 18
- April 15 & 29
- May 6 & 20
- June 3 & 17



Appointments are one (1) hour in length from 2 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on a first come first served basis. Since these slots fill up very quickly, **call as soon as possible**. The WCT office number is 227-5065. If the above dates are not convenient for you, call Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. 1-888-949-1925 directly and other arrangements may be possible.