

## **EdTalk: November 26, 2021**

### **Dr. David Leach, WVCSD Superintendent of Schools**

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The District's tax-neutral 2021 Capital Project will go before voters on Thursday, Dec. 2. The project identifies several vital improvements needed to the District's educational facilities. Making these improvements will avoid the need for costly emergency repairs in the future, create valuable energy savings, and make a healthier, safer learning environment for students and staff.

The projects in the \$13.8 million proposal are a new roof at Sanfordville Elementary School, new windows at Park Avenue Elementary, and new unit ventilators at the Middle School and High School. The proposed projects include an expanded multi-sport natural grass athletic field at the stadium, a new eight-lane track to replace the failing existing track, and outdoor restrooms.

The District would fund the Capital Projects through a tax-neutral strategy that combines state building aid -- which NYS created to encourage communities to maintain their schools -- and the District's capital reserve fund.

The District maximizes state tax dollars on capital projects, receiving about 63.8% in state building aid. This approach means that the District will receive about 64 cents in NYS aid for every eligible dollar spent on a capital project. District officials estimate that \$8.8 million of this capital project would be funded by state aid, and \$5 million would come from funds set aside in the District's voter-approved capital reserve.

The vote is scheduled from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 2.

**Details of all projects are listed on the Capital Project 2021 webpage:**

**[www.warwickvalleyschools.com/capitalproject2021](http://www.warwickvalleyschools.com/capitalproject2021)**

The following are some of the highlights from our schools in the past week:

#### **Pine Island Elementary School**

Ms. Urvater's PIE class is having a lot of fun learning about autumn and reading entertaining stories about pumpkins, apples, and leaves. Parents have joined in the excitement by joining the class via Google Meet and reading seasonal stories. The day's schedule now includes a discovery block. Students have had fun predicting whether pumpkins would float or sink in water, sampling apples and graphing which ones are the most popular, and lastly addressing the question, "Is pumpkin pie in a cup as delicious as traditional pumpkin pie?" The Autumn Cafe will be the culminating activity, in which students will have the opportunity to share a book about autumn that they have written and illustrated. Peers and special guests from throughout the school will be in attendance to support them.

#### **Park Avenue Elementary School**

Second-grade students recently finished reading the book *Balloons Over Broadway* by Melissa Sweet. The picture book tells the biographical story of Tony Sarg, a man who taught himself the marionette puppetry style. Eventually, Tony turned his passion into a career that led to the

famous department store Macy's asking him to create a display for their store windows. Subsequently, he helps create balloons for their holiday parade, which morphed into the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade that we all know and love today!

As part of this experience, second-grade students designed their model of a float using pencil and paper. Then, they implemented their plans using balloons to create their floats. The activity culminated with the second graders parading their creations along the first-grade hallway. What a great kickoff to Thanksgiving Day festivities!

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

Kicking off the Native American unit in social studies at Sanfordville Elementary School, students worked in teams to analyze three Native American artifacts each. By just looking at the pictures of the artifacts, the teams had to answer what they thought the artifacts were, what they were made of, how people would have used them, what might this tell us about the people who used them and the type of environment in which they were living. The class wrote out each question on chart paper hanging around the classroom, and each team had to put their answers on post-it notes under questions. Teams then did a gallery walk, making observations and drawing conclusions about commonalities they saw amongst all the teams' answers. On the third day, the teams got their final chance to write down what they thought each of the 15 artifacts was, and then the teacher revealed the answers. These artifacts included: water drum, canoe, rattle, comb, lacrosse stick, grinder, pipe, arrowhead, clothing, fish hook, and clothing. The students had a great time participating in this activity, and it got them very excited for our Native American unit.

Sanfordville students and staff celebrated the day before Thanksgiving with a Pajama Day and donations of new pajamas for Warwick's Four Seasons Kids. The school collected nearly 200 sets of pajamas for children in need thanks to the efforts of our Leadership Club and PTA. Heading into December, the school's Leadership Club will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for the US Marines Toys for Tots through December 10th. The staff is also working to collect gloves, hats, and scarves for the Alamo.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

The Middle School Student Senate organized its annual food drive, creating teams and assigning specific items to bring. Team Green Beans won, bringing in an impressive 500+ cans! In total, the Middle School collected more than 3,000 food items that they will donate to help local families in need during the holiday season.

Ms. Lane had her Home & Careers, and Culinary Arts students organize a Thanksgiving Feast for the specialized classes at the Middle School and High School. Student chefs curated a bountiful menu of turkey, stuffing, yams, macaroni, and cheese, and many other dishes for their classmates to enjoy. The event included formal place settings, and students were required to put their serving skills into practice. Everyone had a wonderful afternoon, filled with good food, friends, and conversation.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

High School culinary students were also involved in the big Thanksgiving feast under the direction of Ms. Layne. The dinner was so bountiful that staff and administrators could join in with students for a taste of the season.

The Meistersingers became the second choral group from Warwick Valley High School to be invited to Radio City Music Hall to open the famous *Christmas Spectacular*. On Tuesday, approximately 30 students took to the stage of the massive, historic theatre. They performed a medley of holiday music that was well-received and met with enthusiastic cheers by the audience. The students were thrilled to have an opportunity to perform on Radio City's iconic stage.

In Wildcats news, two students -- Samantha Killin (Tennis) and Grace Hennessey (Softball) -- signed letters of intent to play with NCAA Division I schools. Grace with the University of North Carolina - Wilmington, and Samantha with Rider University. Congratulations!