

## **WVCSD EdTalk: June 8, 2022**

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

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It was my honor and pleasure to recognize a number of our dedicated district employees who will be retiring at the end of this school year. The following list of retiring employees was announced on June 2, 2022: Fifteen faculty and staff members were recognized for their years of service to the students of this district. I wish them health and happiness for the future, as they embark on new adventures.

- Shari Blauner, Art Teacher (30 years)
- Lorraine Boccia, Teacher 1-6 (22 years)
- Shelley Carr, Physical Education Teacher (28 years)
- Michael Careccia, Guidance Counselor (25 years)
- Mary Lou Carson, Executive Secretary (24 years)
- Mary Fitzgerald, Teacher Aide (21 years)
- Karen Laiso, Teacher Aide (23 years)
- Jean Laroe, Teacher P-6 (29 years)
- Kathleen McCormick, Typist (22 years)
- Geraldine Myrick, School Monitor (25 years)
- Donna Nestor, Typist (25.5 years)
- Mary Ann Niblo, Food Services (17 years)
- Jennifer Pasquale, Teacher Aide (19 years)
- Lynn Price, 7-12 Math Teacher (35 years)
- Bonnie Schafer, World Language Teacher (17 years)

The following district employees retired from the district earlier during the 2021-22 school year and were previously recognized at the time of their retirement.

- Linda Belokostolsky, Typist (25 years)
- Scott Cakouros, Buildings & Grounds (21 years)
- Doreen Faliski, Typist (17 years)
- M. Winifred Foster, Teacher Aide (28 years)
- Natalia Iwanow, Custodial (18 years)
- Charles Meli, Custodial (21 years)
- Steve Salvato, Director of Facilities (34 years)
- Janet VanDuzer, School Nurse (21 years)

***This week, we've had a few notable events at our schools:***

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

Kindergarteners had a virtual visit with Eric Litwin, the well-known author of the original *Pete the Cat* read-aloud stories. Smiles broke out on the students' faces as Mr. Litwin began to sing, "I love my white shoes," from the book series. Students also knew all the words and movements

to "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons." After each song, Mr. Litwin shared lessons learned and discussed how Pete always tries to stay positive and turn his sadness into gladness. The virtual storytelling and concert event were brought to all the K-2 classes by Library Media Specialist Scott Sibilla and the Park Avenue PTA. Pine Island kindergarteners say THANK YOU very much!

### **Park Avenue Elementary School**

The efforts and achievements of Park Avenue's Student Council were acknowledged during a pinning ceremony that took place on the school's front lawn. Thirteen students were recognized for their community service, student leadership, citizenship, and school spirit. All of the students addressed the audience of parents and family members, sharing some of their favorite moments and memories from their work with the Student Council. There was a clear consensus about the satisfaction received from serving the community and working as part of a team.

Principal Bill Biniaris awarded each student with two pins, a Student Council Membership Pin and an ASCA Excellence Pin, recognizing them as a Student Council of Excellence. Congratulations to: President Leah Scalo, Vice President Angelina McKnight, Treasurer Layla Wright, Secretary Arianna Gonzalez, Media Coordinator Adriana Prestigiacommo, PTA representative Samuel Ramos, fourth grade representative Briese Vargas, third grade representative Xylia Martinez, second grade representative Mikayla Wensley, first grade representative Lia Elias, the Pine Island representative Eva Sandfort, Specials representative Arden Shera, and the historian Marly May Tosh. Lastly, thank you so much to the advisors, Mrs. Amy Buluing and Mrs. Theresa Canfield. Congratulations to all!

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

Ms. Aberasturi and Ms. Quackenbush's third grade students wrapped up a unit on animal research in reading and a persuasive unit in writing. Teachers integrated these units by having students create a poster to persuade their audience to stop deforestation. To go along with their poster, students created a brochure that focused on how deforestation is impacting a specific rainforest animal that they researched. The teachers thought it would be beneficial for our students to present to an authentic audience of their peers, so Ms. Marais and several classes were invited to hear the presentations.

The WVMS Honors Symphony visited Sanfordville to perform for our third graders. Under the direction of Mr. Vandewater and Ms. Brown, the seventh and eighth grade musicians played three songs for this eager audience. Students sang and danced in their seats to a medley of Disney favorites, including the show stopping "We Don't Talk About Bruno," and a medley of Michael Jackson songs! It was a great way for students to learn more about music and play instruments in an ensemble setting.

We are excited to welcome our Pine Island kindergarteners to Sanfordville as our new first graders! We are confident the journey here will be filled with wonderful experiences that will help foster their love for learning. An orientation took place this week to help our new students and their families become more familiar with their new building. The orientation included a welcome from the building principal; an introduction of some faculty and staff; and a walk-through of the building—including a glimpse of our classrooms, gym, cafeteria, library, and outdoor areas. Close to 100 students and their families visited and enjoyed learning more about Sanfordville.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

The annual 8th-grade kickball tournament kicked off last week. Eighth graders were given the opportunity to create teams of 10 students to compete against each other in a rigorous kickball tournament. Ten teams competed last week, and we are down to the final four teams that will compete in the semifinal round. The winning team will play against our staff team on Friday. Tensions are running high as our final four teams all have an excellent opportunity to face off with the staff. This friendly competition has bonded our eighth grade class with a common goal: to beat the teachers! They have been cheering each other on despite having lost an earlier game. It is delightful to watch them demonstrate their sportsmanship during a competitive game of kickball.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

The high school hosted its annual awards night. Over 100 students, mostly seniors, received recognition. Almost \$60,000 in local scholarships were awarded. Every year, this night is a wonderful representation of the connection between the community and the school district. WVHS is grateful for the showing of support by local civic organizations, businesses, and families that recognize our students for their academic, community, and social achievements.

The 2022 WVHS Yearbook was distributed to students last week. Under the direction of the yearbook advisor, Terri McLoughlin, yearbook editors Brendan Perez, Nicole Kellan, Ryan Morales, and Silvana Montalvo produced a real winner! They committed to meeting strict deadlines, maintaining a tight budget, discussing and approving layouts and designs, maintaining a balanced representation of school life, and recognizing the importance of documenting social, athletic, and academic events throughout the year. They have demonstrated leadership at the highest level and are recognized as project managers. The yearbook committee included more sections in the yearbook this year than ever before; it was printed in full color (not often seen in high school yearbooks); and the photos were printed with distinguished quality. With all of these added enhancements, they ran a well-managed budget so that the price of the yearbook was not increased. It seems as if every individual student is featured. The yearbook is beautiful, and students will be able to look back and be reminded of this school year with complete documentation of life at the high school during 2021–2022.