



EAGLE NEWS – February 5, 2016

NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As you are aware, the January 22nd event regarding students posting bias comments on social media lead to many concerns and posed questions on what we could do to work with our student body in better understanding tolerance and in practicing appropriate behaviors. Many of our staff and students are still extremely upset over these past events because the remarks brought out an underlying tone on what some students perceive about the diversity of our school. As a school community, it is our job to collectively remind and teach our students to respect and embrace one another's differences.

I would like to thank our students, parents, and staff for participating in the brainstorm of some solutions that could best fit our school environment. When it comes to social media and internet use, parents are the first line of defense. Many of the issues we deal with in school are oftentimes a result of activity that occurred outside of school hours. Inappropriate comments, pictures, and/or threats are usually brought to our attention by an alleged victim or observers of the inappropriate behavior. As parents, there are a few things you can begin doing immediately that will help teach our children responsible and respectful social media use.

1. **Monitor social media use.** If you don't do this now, please begin to monitor your child's social media activity and address inappropriate behavior immediately. Create your own account and follow your child. It only takes one regrettable post for your child to lose privileges here at school and impact their future.
2. **Think before you post.** As parents, we model the behavior our children replicate. Unfortunately, too many adults engage in inappropriate behavior when using social media. Keep in mind that our children see this behavior and may act similarly. Parents who model appropriate social media behavior help to teach our children how to conduct themselves respectfully.
3. **Report suspicious activity.** Anytime you see suspicious activity or potentially threatening comments, please report them to law enforcement immediately. If comments are geared toward the bullying and/or harassing of other students, please report those comments to the school administration immediately.
4. **Social media is not a reliable source of information.** If you have questions regarding your child's school, please go to the district website for more information. You can also call your child's school for accurate information. Too often we see comments on social media attempting to address or clarify a school-related issue that are often inaccurate, misleading, and/or irresponsible. If you want to know, call us, we are always happy to provide accurate and reliable information.

I am asking that our parents reiterate these important points with their children. Unfortunately, we have had far too many uncomfortable parent meetings where students have gotten themselves in a lot of trouble as a result of social media misuse. The phones our kids carry today can be dangerous and too often are used as "weapons".

In the upcoming weeks, we have scheduled our 2nd **annual Climate Focus Group** session with high school students. This session is an annual forum for our students to discuss our school culture/issues as they view it so as to help us get a pulse of the climate in the school from a student perspective. During our first Climate Focus Group last year, students voiced some very good ideas and legitimate concerns on which we listened to and acted. One idea the group forwarded to the administration last year was to present more group assemblies on

racial and gender relations. With that, we organized one of our more fantastic assemblies to date with Dr. Michael Fowlin. He is an actor, psychologist and poet that performed a program at WDHS on the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention and personal identity this past fall. His original and powerful presentation “You Don’t Know Me until You Know Me” helped to bring a heightened awareness of these issues to our school. In addition to the assembly, the school administration has purchased four 40” flat screen message boards to place in our hallways. These message boards are going to help send reminders to students of upcoming events, but more importantly to praise and support our student body (clubs, athletes, organizations) for all of their accomplishments throughout the school year. These message board monitors should be installed very shortly.

After our upcoming Climate Focus Group meeting commences, a collection of our high school service groups will begin taping public service announcements (PSA) during homeroom that highlight the goals this group came up with to focus on this year. This is just one way our school staff and students are going to continue working together to support the ideas of our focus group discussions.

Dr. Gismondi

FRIENDS OF RACHEL NEWS:

February 8th through February 11th is *Random Acts of Kindness Week*. The Friends of Rachel Club encourages you to participate. The ripple effect starts with one. One person to hold a door; one person to offer a compliment; one person to be a spark of kindness when another really needs it. No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Pride and Awareness of All Cultures (PAAC) CLUB NEWS:



In celebration of Black History Month, our PAAC club has been monumental in sharing “Influential Moments in Black History”. Our first influential person for this week’s Eagle News is Inventor, Jan Ernst Matzeliger. Matzeliger successfully invented what many before him attempted: an automated shoemaking machine that quickly attached the top of the shoe to the sole. This process is called “lasting”. Matzeliger’s machine could produce more than 10 times what human hands could create in a day. This invention revolutionized the shoemaking industry and made shoes affordable to the average person.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT:

WDHS students performed with the All South Jersey Chorus this past weekend at Eastern Regional High School. They performed two concerts, Saturday night at 8pm and Sunday afternoon at 2pm. Mr. Yerkes had the honor of accompanying the Junior High Chorus and the combined finale. (*Missing from the photo is Jesse Vitale*).



FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT:

1. Our guidance counselors gave presentations to all the 10th grade English classes this week on the Naviance career / college planning software program. Students received their access to this program and were shown how to use it. Students also completed a career interest survey and identified careers that are a good fit for them! Naviance is a wonderful resource for both students and parents so be sure to ask

them to show you! Counselors also reviewed the course selection process for the 2016 – 17 school year. Students will receive their course selection sheets in the next week.

2. Students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades will meet with their guidance counselors during the months of February and March to discuss the courses they wish to take for the 2016-17 school year. We encourage students to start thinking about what they would like to take. The 2016-17 curriculum guide has been posted on the high school website under the Curriculum tab. Please refer to this guide for specific course information.
3. Mid-year transcript updates will be sent out to all the colleges to which our seniors have applied. Seniors do not need to request this. This will happen automatically through Naviance.
4. Feb. 5th is the deadline to register for the March SATs. Go to www.collegeboard.com for more info.

ATHLETIC NEWS:

ATTENTION SPRING STUDENT-ATHLETES! March 4th is the start of the spring season. Be sure to complete all necessary paperwork ASAP!

SPRING SPORTS MEETING will be held on Monday, March 21st at 6:30pm in the auditorium. Student-Athletes and at least one parent are required to attend. Sport specific meeting sessions will follow the full group meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS to Melissa Bartley, Samantha Bergin, Emily Gilligan, Ciara Girouard, Sydney Haley, Kristina Jakubowski, Erin McConville, Allison McCormick, Taylor Moore, Christina Petito, Rebecca Solimeo, and Samantha Souder for being selected to the 2015 NFHCA / Keith Waldman - Optimal Performance Associates High School National Academic Squad. The High School National Academic Squad program recognizes high school seniors and juniors who have achieved a minimum cumulative, unweighted GPA of 3.5 out of 4.0 or the equivalent through the first quarter of the 2015-16 school year.

CONGRATULATIONS WDHS Swimmer Matt McSorley for breaking the WDHS Record in the 50m Freestyle swim at the Gloucester County Championships last Friday! GREAT JOB MATT!

CONGRATULATIONS WDHS Winter Track athlete Annette Wanjiku who broke the WDHS Indoor Record in the 400m with a time of 62.12! GREAT JOB ANNETTE!

CONGRATULATIONS WD LADY EAGLES BOWLING who secured a Division Co-Championship with their 4-0 victory over Lindenwold on Wednesday! GREAT JOB WDHS BOWLING!

The WDHS Eagle Wrestling Team has secured a #2 seed in the Group II South playoffs and will host the winner of Cinnaminson v Delran on Wednesday night, February 10th at 7pm in the Eagles Nest! BEST OF LUCK EAGLE WRESTLING!

CONGRATULATIONS WDHS Football player, Nick Diaco, on his commitment to Colgate University this past Wednesday.

CONGRATULATIONS WDHS Boys Soccer player, Zachary Peterson, on his commitment to Long Island University-Brooklyn, this past Wednesday. See the most current college commitment list below:

Alexa Anderson - Penn State Brandywine -(Softball); Samantha Budd - Rutgers University - (Women's Lacrosse); Alexa Anderson - Penn State Brandywine - (Softball); Samantha Budd - Rutgers University - (Women's Lacrosse); Nick Diaco - Colgate University - (Football); Jade Freeberg - Rider University - (Field Hockey); Ciara Girouard - University of Indiana - (Field Hockey); Pasquale Gismondi - Widener University

- (Men's Lacrosse); Kimberly Hesser - Neumann University - (Women's Lacrosse); Jarryd Ley - TCNJ - (Wrestling); Jessica Linquist - George Washington University - (Softball); Zachary Peterson - Long Island University - (Men's Soccer); Christina Petito - The College of the Holy Cross - (Field Hockey); Samantha Souder - Temple University - (Field Hockey); Megan Steffney - Widener University - (Women's Lacrosse); Derek Wakeley - Stony Brook - (Baseball); Heather Ward - Holy Family University - (Women's Lacrosse)

KEY CLUB NEWS:

On Thursday, February 4th Key Club members Rasha Abouelsaadate, Brianna Austin, Avery Bailey, Alexia Benson, Mia Forbes, Emily Gilligan, Lexi Meitzler and Katelyn Reichert served dinner at the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden.



Come out and support Key Club's many community service projects by dining out at Joe's Crab Shack in Deptford on Monday, February 8th and Tuesday, February 9th between 11 AM-11 PM. Please bring the attached flyer with you or mention Key Club. Thank you in advance for your support!



CBI NEWS:



Congratulations to Mr. Robinson's homeroom for winning the Super Bowl Breakfast Party! Mr. Robinson's class collected 143 cans of soup!!! The CBI class will be taking the donation of over 500 cans of soup to the South Jersey Food Bank next week. Thank you to all who donated!

ART DEPARMENT NEWS:

Kristin Osgood Lamelas loves to give the students in her Graphic Design and Photography classes as many real world projects as possible. She was recently asked to have her students design logos for some local businesses. The students loved the competition and the chance to win money and have their work published. There were so many wonderful designs. Congratulations to the winners!



Kayla Gardner designed the winning logo and business card for **Robert Creamer's Candid Imaging Company**. She received a \$20 award. Bob does wedding, family and portrait photography on the side.

Cameron Shields designed the winning logo and business card for **Barbara Haulenbeek's new company Bluefield Girls**. Cameron received a \$20 gift card and

a jar of honey! Barb sells delicious honey, tea, bath salts and other homeopathic goods.





Lori-Ann Johnson designed the winning logo for **Barb's Scarves, Barbara Osgood's** business. Lori-Ann received a free scarf for her efforts! Barb sells scarves like the type Lori-Ann is wearing in the photo.

If you would like to have something designed for your business or event and want to offer a reward to the winner, please contact Mrs. Lamelas.

DECA NEWS:

Invitation to Judge at the State Leadership Conference

This letter serves as an invitation to act as a judge at the New Jersey DECA State Leadership Conference (SLC). The SLC is divided into two conferences. The first (**Gold**) will be held **February 21-23** and the second, (**Blue**) **February 24-26**. The actual day that we will need your services is **February 22** for the Gold Conference and/or **February 25** for the Blue Conference. WDHS DECA serves in the Blue Conference.

This year's state conferences will be held in Cherry Hill, NJ. We will be using three hotels. They include the Crowne Plaza, The Holiday Inn, and the ML Hotel. The hotel you are assigned to will depend on which competitive event you will be judging. We will be providing a breakfast and lunch at each hotel. We would ask you to arrive for check-in between 8-8:15 AM and you should be finished by approximately 3PM that afternoon. If at that time you are willing to stay and judge the finalist rounds, they will be taking place later that day.

If you are willing to participate in the State Leadership Conference, please click on the following link to register online: [fill it out in Google Forms](#).

You soon be contacted in the near future with more detailed information. However, if you have questions in the meantime, please reach out to the respective conference coordinator:

- Blue State Leadership Conference (February 25): Liz LaPalomento elapalomento@monroetwp.k12.nj.us
- Gold State Leadership Conference (February 22): Evelyn Minutolo EMinutolo@chclc.org