

WPS Update

October 2017

The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to promote the academic, social, and emotional development of all students to become contributing members of the global community.

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Superintendent's Message

Hello Families and Staff Members,

These are very exciting times for our schools, the school system, and Board of Education. We've seated a new Board of Education and, as with any change, this will bring opportunities for new vision and new ideas on how to achieve our long-range goals. A key document in this work will be the Board's new Vision of the Graduate - ratified by the Board in September 2017. All of our work to come will be guided by this document as we work to "unpack" it into specific plans at the school, department, and teacher levels. Over the next few editions of this newsletter, I'll take the time to introduce you to this simple-but-rich document (the full document can be found at this [LINK](#)).

The introduction of the Vision is very important to understand. It says *"To guide long-range, strategic planning and implementation of programs, the Wolcott Board of Education has prepared and ratified the following list of skills, knowledge, and dispositions that define its aspirations for all students. It is important to note that this vision encompasses a child's thirteen-year journey through our school system. The word 'graduate' should not be interpreted to pertain only to high school students. These are attributes to be developed in each classroom in each grade level."* We will be working on getting all of the skills and dispositions laid out later in the document into all of our curricula, teaching methods, and experiences from kindergarten through grade twelve. I look forward to updating you further on the Vision in the future.

In partnership,

Tony Gasper, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools
agasper@wolcottps.org

From the Board of Education

The newly elected Board of Education members are:

Lori DelBuono Bartlett, Chairman
Roberta Leonard, Secretary
Christopher Charette
Paul D'Angelo
Kelly Mazza

Cynthia Mancini, Vice Chairman
Thomas Buzzelli
Kathleen Cordone
Anthony Gugliotti

A note from Mrs. Delbuono Bartlett on her appointment as Chairman:

I would like to thank the new Board for appointing me to Chairman. This is a new and exciting endeavor for me in which I will work very hard. As I learn the role and responsibilities of chairman, I have some big shoes to fill. I would also like to wish the best of luck to our former chairman, Pattie Najarian and the other previous board members, Gloria Gubitosi, Kim Lumia, Gloria Clair, and Art Lerz for their service.

Sincerely,

Lori Delbuono Bartlett

Family Connections



The three elementary schools collaborated to hold the annual Trick or Trunk event at Wolcott High School. Canned goods were also collected at the entrance. It was a well attended event and a great opportunity to bring the three elementary school communities together.

For information about CPEC, contact Mrs. Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School: dosvald@wolcottps.org



Alcott School:

On Thursday, November 9th, Alcott students and staff celebrated Veterans Day. We held a town meeting run by students and invited Veterans to Alcott to be honored for their sacrifice and service. Veterans were shown our wall of honor that is on display at Alcott. The students read facts about Veterans in the United States, sang patriotic songs, played a student created slideshow with thank you messages, and also presented the Veterans with gift bags full of handmade pictures and thank you notes. After the assembly members of student council held a question and answer session with the Veterans.



Contact Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott School: ssimpson@wolcottps.org

Frisbie School:

On Thursday, November 9th, Frisbie School came together for the annual Veterans Day assembly. Over thirty veterans were escorted into the assembly by the Frisbie students to whom they are related and were led in by the boy/girl scout color guard. Our assembly opened with the third grade students singing the Star Spangled Banner. Each grade level then presented a song or reading recognizing the veterans who have given so much for their country. Students also took time to write letters to our Veterans letting them know how much we care about them. A student from each grade level read these touching letters aloud to the audience. Then, the letters of appreciation were delivered to local veteran organizations, veterans hospitals and medical centers. Thank you for everyone for making this event such a success. A special thank you to the veterans for their dedication to our country.



Contact Kim Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie School: kmurtaugh@wolcottps.org

Wakelee School:



Wakelee students and staff participated in our Look For the Good Kick-Off on Tuesday, October 24th. The Look For the Good project is about people sharing with one another who and what they are grateful for. It is a way to have students share the positive things in their life, keeping the positive in the forefront which in turn will help them overcome adversity. Our student leaders led the kick-off and gave a presentation explaining the purpose of the campaign and the activities that would be a part of the two week launch. We now have our gratitude wall on display in the cafeteria. We would like to thank Janet Discepolo for helping our student leaders prepare for the kick-off.

Contact Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School: dosvald@wolcottps.org

Tyrrell Middle School:

On Thursday, November 9th, Tyrrell Middle School held its annual Veteran's Day Celebration. The day began with students singing a live rendition of the National Anthem on morning announcements followed by Mayor Dunn and Principal Norcross sharing with students the importance of celebrating and honoring our Veterans. The Tyrrell community was honored by having twenty four Veterans join students for the celebration. Each Veteran visited a classroom and spent an hour sharing their armed forces experiences and answering questions. Several of the Veterans even brought in equipment and uniforms for the students to view and try on. After each Veteran shared their service experience with a class, students were given the opportunity to pose questions to their class Veteran in order to learn even more about that Vet's experiences and knowledge of our armed forces. After the classroom portion of the celebration, visiting Veterans were treated to a breakfast in which they had an opportunity to socialize with each other. Each class presented cards of appreciation and thanks to each of the



Veterans before they left the celebration. On behalf of the Tyrrell community we would like to thank all Veterans, but especially those that gave of their time to bring Veteran's Day to life for our students last Thursday.



Contact Joseph Norcross, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School: jnorcross@wolcottps.org

Wolcott High School:

Fifty-Seven students from our Model United Nations Club traveled to New York City and the United Nations to meet with ambassadors from Israel, Turkey, Belgium and Greece. The Israeli group was given a private tour of the United Nations by the Israeli Delegates. All of our students are now in the process of writing UN Resolutions on the following topics: Nuclear Proliferation, Walls as Borders, Current Refugee Crisis, Funding of Terrorism, Access to medication and immunizations for developing world, Access to Education for 58 million children currently not enrolled in school, Cyber Terrorism and the Depletion of Natural Resources. We wish them luck in their work preparing for the Model UN summit they will be attending.



The Wolcott High School learning community has begun our Self Reflection process in association with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. This is an arduous examination of our total school and requires us to compare our practices to five rigorous standards. As previously reported, we

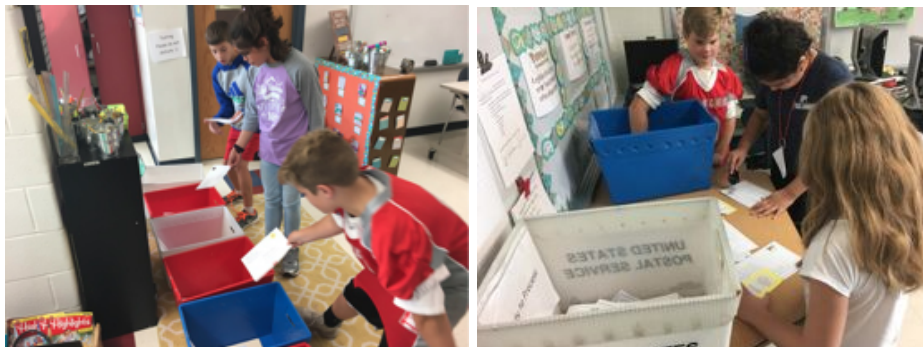
have entered into an agreement with NEASC to utilize and pilot the new 2020 standards for this self-reflection. The Self-Reflection will be completed by the spring and we will develop a school growth plan that will be used to monitor our progress on improvement goals we establish based on the Self-Reflection. We will work on our goals in the time prior to the ten year visit in November of 2019. I will be updating you on this process periodically over the next two years. I want to thank all of our staff members who have embraced this process especially our co-chairs Steven Jasulavic and Michelle Thies.

Contact Walter Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School: wdrewry@wolcottps.org

Student Services:

Fourth grade students of Mrs. D'Ettore at Frisbie Elementary School were sworn in on Thursday, September 21st as this year's WeeDeliver Postal Workers.

Each Friday morning, students in the special education program and a peer helper are responsible for the collecting, sorting by zip code and delivering mail from classroom to classroom. Additionally, students proofread each letter to make sure writers have used proper formatting and cancel stamps as "Received" or "Return to Sender". These jobs incorporate reading, writing, math and socialization skills. Once they have been trained in each position, they are responsible for the job training of their peers in fourth and fifth grade.



Contact Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services and Alternative Education: khollis@wolcottps.org

Student Learning & Teaching:

New Targeted Support for Struggling Learners! District-wide math and ELA support personnel attended a live webinar presentation from representatives of I-Ready on Nov 8th. The webinar introduced the group to a new web-based tool that can be used for additional support for students who are struggling in math and ELA. The program is referred to as the I-Ready Personalized Instructional Pathways. The program uses the results of the I-Ready Diagnostic Assessment to set-up a customizable bank of online lessons for students to navigate in order to build a greater understanding of the skills and concepts in the following areas: Foundational Reading, Reading Comprehension: Literature and Informational Text, Number and Operations, Algebraic Thinking, Measurement, and Geometry. Students in grades 1-10 will begin engaging in the online pathways by the end of November. The additional online support will be delivered outside of the traditional classroom setting and participating students will be encouraged to engage for at least 45 minutes each week. More information about I-Ready and the Instructional Pathways can be found at:



<https://www.curriculumassociates.com/products/iready/i-ready-student-instruction.aspx>

Contact Frank Purcaro, Director of Student Learning and Teaching: fpurcaro@wolcottps.org

Business & Operations:

ENERGY STAR AWARDS FOR ALL FIVE SCHOOLS!

The school district formally received Energy Star Awards for all five of our schools.

Energy Star is an Environmental Protection Agency backed symbol for buildings that have achieved energy efficiency by making well informed decisions. Wolcott Schools received over a 95 percent rating for all of the schools. This was able to be accomplished with the cooperation of all students and staff by reducing their energy use where possible.



Our school district has realized over 2 million dollars in cost savings through this initiative and also has achieved emission reductions that will help the environment.

Contact Director of Facilities, Dave Stankus: dstankus@wolcottps.org