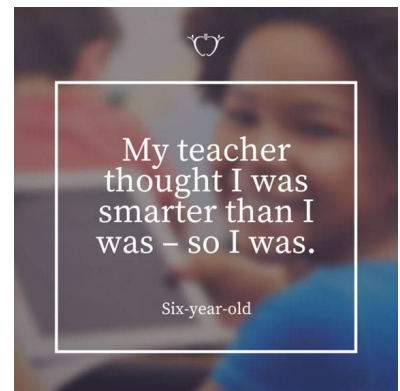


WPS Update

September 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

To keep parents and the community up to date on developments of our school system, we will begin communicating with you regularly through newsletters such as this one. To give you a more complete picture of the broad spectrum of operations across our school system I have asked many of our school and district leaders to contribute to this effort. I hope that you will find these communications useful and encourage you to reach out to any of the authors here should you have any questions or ideas that you'd like to contribute.

This month, I'd like to recognize the deep sense of civic engagement that we have seen in the wake of terrible hurricanes in Texas and Florida and other charitable causes. In one way or another, each of our schools has mounted a charitable effort this month and students and teachers have come together for these good causes. I'm proud to work with these teachers and administrators and to serve these students who have such a feeling of caring and sense of duty to their common man.

I hope that you will enjoy this newsletter and I encourage you to follow us on Facebook for frequent updates about the great things that our students and staff do.

In partnership,

Tony Gasper, Ed. D.

Superintendent of Schools
agasper@wolcottps.org



From the Board of Education

The Board of Education has been working hard on a variety of important issues over the past six months. As you may have already read, they are conducting critical analyses of our school buildings, their condition, and uses in the future. The Board has also negotiated contracts with three separate unions and are currently in negotiations with our teachers union. Throughout these processes the Board works hard to be fiscally prudent while ensuring that we are competitive with nearby districts to ensure that we attract the best and the brightest. Also, the Board is currently conducting an extensive review of the 1000 Series of its policy manual - looking for any necessary revisions or updates.



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Family Connections

The first Combined Parent Educator Council (CPEC) meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18th at 6:00 pm in the Wolcott High School Resource Center. The CPEC meeting gives the PTO from each of the schools and administration an opportunity to share ideas and collaborate. Each PTO will hold their monthly meeting immediately following the CPEC meeting. Please consider coming to the meeting and share your ideas. For information about CPEC, contact Mrs. Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School: dosvald@wolcottps.org



Alcott School:

On Friday September 1st, Alcott held its first community giveback of the school year. "Hats for Houston" was a great success. Students, teachers, staff and administrators were able to wear a hat all day in school on Friday for a monetary donation to be given to Red Cross, to support relief efforts for Houston residents affected by Hurricane Harvey. Together, students and staff raised almost \$1000! Everyone is very proud of our Alcott family and their willingness to give back. Awesome job All-Stars!

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



Frisbie School:

Frisbie's first school community activity titled Coin Toss for Texans was held Wednesday, September 13th through Friday, September 15th. The school held a Penny War and the money will be donated to Mitchell Elementary School in Houston that has been impacted by the flooding. Working together, staff students, and families raised \$1,000! The school also teamed up with the Scholastic Publishing and are giving a needy elementary school in Florida \$1,000 Scholastic Dollars with our proceeds from our book fair.



On September 11th at the Board of Education meeting, Abigail DiCarlo, a fifth grade student, was honored with the *I See Her Invent Award* by Computer Associates. This award honors girls who show exceptional promise of a female inventor in the area of her choice. Abigail represented Wolcott in the National Invention Convention in June. Contact Kim Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie School: kmurtaugh@wolcottps.org

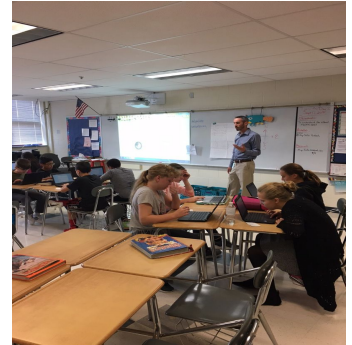
Wakelee School:

On Tuesday, September 12th the Wakelee School community held a fundraising kick off with the Alzheimer's Association in support of the 5.5 million people fighting Alzheimer's disease and their families and caregivers. Students and staff wore purple all week to raise awareness. The Wakelee Student Council members sold purple flowers on Monday and hung them in the lobby. They also organized a Penny Wars. Altogether students raised \$1180.21 and it was given to the Wakelee Wildcat Walkers for the Walk Against Alzheimer's in Litchfield on Sunday, Sept. 24th. There were almost 20 Wakelee families walking. What an amazing turn out! Contact Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School: dosvald@wolcottps.org



Tyrrell Middle School:

The School Counseling Department has been visiting classrooms throughout the school to conduct needs assessments in an effort to gather information and input from students. The information and student needs gleaned from these visits is used to inform lessons that are tailored to specific student needs in each grade level. Counseling lessons include a variety of topics that incorporate, career interest, internet safety, study skills, tolerance, and self-advocacy. In addition to whole class lessons, each counselor has begun their twice annual individual meetings with students. These meetings include reviewing personal needs data and college and career information provided to us by students via Naviance software, which students have used during School Counseling visits to classrooms.



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

Wolcott High School:

Wolcott High School offers a class during the regular school day called Unified Sports. This is a class where students with special needs (the athletes) and students within the general education population (the coaches) come together and play a variety of sports. The goal of the class is to promote lifelong wellness while providing the opportunity for all students to support each other in social and emotional growth. Right now, the athletes and their coaches are working on developing soccer skills. The athletes are working on dribbling, passing, and scoring goals. The athletes and coaches are also working on team work and what it means to be part of a team. Many students are also involved in after school Unified Sports and there will be a soccer game coming up very soon! Everyone is invited to attend these games and support our students!

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



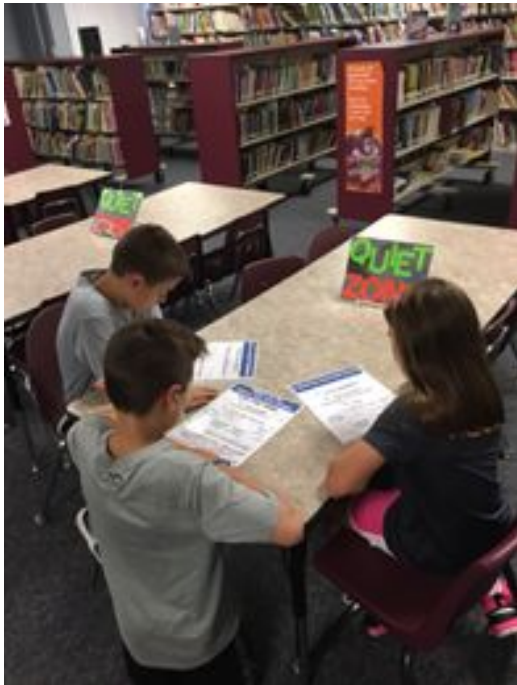
Student Services:

School Social Worker Mr. Cianchetti has begun implementing a program called Second Step along with teachers at Alcott Elementary School. The program teaches social and emotional skills for violence prevention. This researched-based program works best when school and home are in partnership with using the developed strategies. The program is designed to reduce impulsive, high-risk, and aggressive behaviors; and increase children's social-emotional competence and other protective factors.



Preschool to fifth grade teachers have already started conducting lessons for this program which includes a teacher-friendly curricula, training for educators, and parent-education components.

Through the lessons, elementary students learn to practice pro-social behaviors through group



discussions, modeling, role-playing and coaching. By understanding their emotions and how to respond to them, young students are able to remain focused on academics. The group lessons contain child-friendly, poster-size photo-lesson cards and dynamic videos depicting children expressing emotions in real-life situations.

The success of the program was evident last year as many of the children particularly enjoyed the role-playing activities within the Second Step curriculum and often asked their teachers when the next lesson would be implemented.

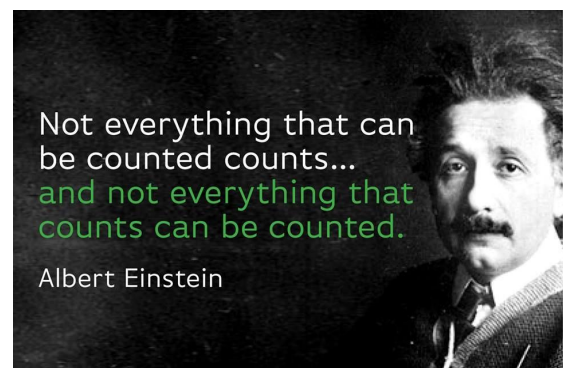
Contact Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services and Alternative Education: khollis@wolcottps.org

Student Learning & Teaching:

Starting in early September, students in grades 3-10 worked diligently through the district's first round of I-Ready assessments for this year. Students in grades K-2 will be administered the assessment starting Oct 1st. I-Ready is an adaptive diagnostic assessment taken entirely on the computer. Students are assessed three times a year in the subjects of English and math in order to determine specific areas of strength as well as those areas in need of improvement. With this detailed information in their possession, teachers apply interventions to help close academic gaps and engage in enrichment to further challenge student learning. As a result, I-Ready has proven to be extremely beneficial when monitoring a student's academic growth over time and the information gained plays a key role in the district's decisions about short and long term academic improvements.



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



Business & Operations:

The Wolcott Food Service Department strives to offer the highest quality food products to our students. We bring in delicious, Connecticut grown, fresh-from-the-farm apples and peaches. We introduced a new organic juice beverage to students at Wolcott High School and Tyrrell Middle



School. The new drink “Plant Fuel”, sources the best fruits from domestic farms that are certified organic and naturally GMO-free. It contains no added sugar, artificial ingredients, preservatives or flavorings. Plant Fuel is a Connecticut-based company and students enjoy the taste! Wolcott Public Schools will be participating in Connecticut Grown for Connecticut Kids week October 2- 6. We will be featuring Connecticut-grown and manufactured products on our menu.

Contact Food Services Director Eileen Girgenti:

egirgenti@wolcottps.org

