

Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter

Feb. 14, 2019

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Important dates to note

Friday, Feb. 15 and Monday, Feb. 18 - District schools are closed for Mid-Winter Break

Thursday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m. - Beatrice Gilmore Fourth Grade Wax Museum

Thursday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. - Charles Olbon HSA Friendship Night

Welcome to the Woodland Park School District e-Newsletter, which will be sent out weekly when school is in session. This will serve as a glimpse of some of the wonderful things going on in our schools and with our students, as well as a point of reference for upcoming events.

**Your Partner in Education,
Michele R. Pillari, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools**

CO Home & School Association provides free book to every student

The Charles Olbon Elementary School Home & School Association held its first Scholastic Book Fair of the year this week. Students were able to come down at a designated time to shop for books. Due to the success of its spring Book Fair last year, the Home & School Association was able to provide a book to every child in the school.

During the year, sales made at the Book Fairs and through classroom flyers sent home bring in numerous books to the school. The Home & School Association receives 40 percent back in Scholastic Dollars from their Book Fair sales. When students place orders via classroom flyers, they receive points they can redeem towards books or class supplies. Parents can shop any time at Scholastic.com and purchases will benefit the school classrooms.



Memorial's Robert Romeo is named Drug Free Hero of the Year

Memorial Middle School Physical Education and Health teacher Robert Romeo has been named as a 2019 Drug Free Hero by the Foundation for a Drug Free World of The Americas Chapter. He will be honored at an awards gala in honor of the United Nations International Day Against Drug Abuse on May 30 in New York.

Mr. Romeo, who has taught at Memorial School for six years, was nominated by Principal Charles Silverstein. "I was very surprised," he said. "I was just happy knowing Mr. Silverstein recognizes my efforts and nominated me, never thinking I would be chosen. He has always been very supportive and has encouraged me to always do more; so, I cannot thank him enough for that."

Mr. Romeo said that he has seen firsthand what illegal drugs can do. "I don't think there is a family out there that has not been touched by this drug epidemic in one way or another," he said. "I am very passionate about doing my best to educate the children about the dangers of drugs and the consequences they will suffer if they get involved with them."

After doing a lot of research on drug education, he realized that saying "no" to drugs is just not enough. He came across the free resources provided by the Foundation for a Drug Free World and obtained their drug free program booklets and videos that he believes has helped in trying to get the message out to kids not to try drugs.

"My enduring question to my students has always been, 'How do illegal drugs make you better?' I'm happy to say no student has ever been able to answer the question," he said. "I'm motivated to keep looking for new ways to educate my students and to never stay stagnant, our students and the Woodland Park community deserve that."

"I don't claim to have all the answers to the drug epidemic," he continued, "but I will keep trying more than one approach to educate our students so the message sticks. I believe Mr. Silverstein has recognized my efforts and so have the people at the Foundation for Drug Free World. I am humbled by the honor and very thankful for the recognition, but I don't feel I am doing anything that any other teacher wants for their school and community. A drug free community is a goal worth striving for!"

A graduate of Montclair State University with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, and a master's degree in educational technology from New Jersey City University, Mr. Romeo annually attends the New Jersey Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention. He was selected to attend The Spark Institute for Innovative Physical Education in San Diego in 2016 due to Memorial School's participation in the "Let's Move! Active Schools" program. Memorial School received a SPARK digital curriculum set at no cost and four LearnFit Adjustable Desks for students to use in gym class from Active Schools.

Mr. Romeo, in addition, has been a high school coach for many years now, coaching boys' soccer, wrestling and boys' volleyball. He's also worked at several sporting summer camps.



Helping Those In Need

The Charles Olbon School community collected 715 items of non-perishable food for its annual "Souper Bowl" drive. The food was donated to the Food Pantry at St. Agnes Church in Little Falls and will benefit those in need throughout the area.



Greetings From New Jersey



Mrs. Wilson and her fourth grade students at Beatrice Gilmore have engaged in a postcard exchange with students around the United States. In fourth grade, students learn about New Jersey. The postcards they are sending have facts about NJ, as well as a personal message from the students with additional information. They have already begun receiving postcards from other states that they are hanging on the map on the wall. The students are so excited about this project!

STEM Achievement

Memorial School eighth grader Connor O'Brien recently won third place in a STEM Challenge sponsored by Pompton Lakes. Connor worked with other students from surrounding schools to design a cube using only one Manila folder and be able to support as much weight as possible. The cube had specific dimensions he had to follow. Connor and his teammates used engineering concepts, a unique design, and tremendous ingenuity to accomplish this task with their limited supplies. Congratulations to Connor!



School nurses are seeing increase in flu, strep cases

Please be aware that the flu season has been late to arrive and will continue into March. School nurses are also seeing an increase in reported cases of strep throat.

If your child is sick with a fever of 100 degrees or above, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea; significant nasal dripping; or severe coughing please keep them home from school. It is district policy that your child be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and not vomiting for 24 hours, before returning to school. We want to protect all students from being exposed to unnecessary germs.

If you have any questions about the health of your child please contact your school nurse.

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