



Building the road to success

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, as well as a point of reference for upcoming events.

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

## Important dates to note

Monday, Sept. 30 - Memorial School photo day

Monday, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m. - BG HSA "glow" social event

Tuesday, Oct. 1, 6:30 p.m. - CO HSA pre-k welcome event

Friday, Oct. 4, 7 p.m. - CO HSA storytime

## Teamwork Challenge



Mrs. Wilson and Miss D'Astolfo's fourth grade students took part in a STEM teamwork challenge. Students learned about what it means to work as a team, how to communicate effectively within a group, and why courage is so important to have when working with others and having your ideas heard. The students were challenged to work in groups to create the tallest free-standing tower they could with only 20 sticks of spaghetti, a yard of masking tape, a yard of string, and one marshmallow. They could use the materials in any way they could think of, but the marshmallow had to remain whole and be present at the top. The students did a great job working together, and had so much fun!



# Bridging to Brownies

Congratulations to Girl Scout Daisy Troop 97702 scouts Leah, Ava, Avi and Maribel, who bridged from Daisies to Brownies last week. The girls are all in second grade.



---

## Back to school nights offer parents wealth of information

All three Borough schools held their Back to School nights this week. For those unable to attend, here are some important updates and notes.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Students are 1-1 with laptops from second to eighth grade and utilize their laptops for nearly all subjects. Students have access to a student portal where they can access a suite of programs. The district is moving from Microsoft to Google Suite this year.

**COMMUNICATION:** Parents and guardians were asked to make sure that their information is up to date on the Parent Portal. The profile can be found on the child's portal profile page under "contacts" on the left side. Include an email address to ensure that important updates and information can reach you, as all schools are paperless. If you are unable to access the portal, please contact your building principal.

**HEALTH:** The school nurses stressed the importance of keeping students home when they are sick. Students must be fever (100+), vomiting and diarrhea free for 24 hours before returning to school. Any student that has asthma, allergies or any chronic illness that does not have medications/permission forms filed with their school nurse should do so immediately so that an action plan is available for your child. All medications, including over the counter, must have a signed permission slip on file, which can be found on the website under the nurse's tab. Also, any changes at all in a child's medical history should be communicated with the school as soon as possible.

**CURRICULUM:** Supervisor of Math Mrs. Calderon noted that parents can find a wealth of math information and resources to help support their child on the district's website including the Happy Numbers program, IXL, and the district's math standards based rubric. Resources are available as well for English and Language Arts online.

**LIBRARY:** Alfred H. Baumann Free Public Library Director Linda Hoffman attended all three events, to encourage parents to take advantage of all the library's resources and to ask that all students and their family members sign up for a free library card. "Make reading a priority in your home," she stressed at all three events. At Memorial, she stressed reading was more important than ever as middle school is where we start losing kids as readers.

**GYM:** Students at CO and BG should come appropriately dressed for their physical education days in navy athletic attire and sneakers. No jewelry should be worn on these days.

"Your participation is key in your child's education," said district Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michele Pillari at BG's Back to School Night, adding that parents/guardians with any questions or concerns can contact her or the building principals any time. "We are always here for you and are always available."

# Curriculum supervisors give presentation to school board

At the Sept. 23 Board of Education meeting, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Triglia, Supervisor of Language Arts Mrs. Castrovinci, and Supervisor of Math Mrs. Calderon led a presentation called the “Math and English Language Arts Roadmap,” a look at where the district has been, is now and will be going in terms of math and language arts curriculum.

In beginning the assessment, looking at where the district was, curriculum changes were needed in all content areas, according to Mrs. Triglia. Resources were disjointed in each of the three schools. School based data analysis was minimal. Technology usage was limited to shared carts. And professional development was needed. The starting points included a whole curriculum audit, overview of math and ELA resources, and look at PARCC and NJSLA test scores.

## MATH

Mrs. Calderon noted that the data was showing improvements, especially in third grade math and Algebra I. It also showed areas in need of improvement. Curriculum revisions were made, and truncated units of study were created to create a scaffolded standard alignment.

A cohesive pre-Algebra based curriculum was created and digital math programs were instituted. These programs provide online assessments and daily tracking of student progress.

The district worked on community outreach for math by posting all curriculum online, providing mobile apps for math support and math websites that offer insights to parents/guardians.

## ENGLISH - LANGUAGE ARTS

Mrs. Castrovinci said that data and core analysis since 2014 showed growth in balanced literacy overall. Curriculum was looked at as a living document while being adjusted and continues to be so. New units of study were created and implemented as per the 2018-2019 QSAC requirements.

The district is currently in year three of a three year partnership with the State Department of Education called Tiered Systems of Support. In the first year, a universal screening tools were implemented along with other diagnostics. In the second year, screening tool DIBELS 8th was implemented district-wide. Word study program Foundations was fully implemented for grades K-3 and Words Their Way for grades 4-5.

An increase of professional development occurred district-wide. Memorial School added a period 9 which allows for intervention time as well as enrichment. Standard based report cards were rolled out. In addition, the Edulastic and Flocabulary programs were implemented.

The district worked on community outreach for ELA by visiting giving presentations on raising readers at all three schools during Home & School Association meetings, implementing summer reading assignments for all students, taking part in the Libraries = Success program with the Alfred Baumann Library, as well as planning a spelling bee at Memorial School this year.

The presentation given at the board meeting will be available to be viewed online under the “Curriculum & Instruction” tab under “departments” at [www.wpschools.org](http://www.wpschools.org).