



Important dates to note

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 7 to 9 p.m. -
Memorial School HSA
Halloween dance

Mon. Nov. 5 - Fri., Nov. 9 -
District schools will be closed

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 students enjoy Omegaman assembly

Charles Olbon School marked Red Ribbon Week this week, a national effort which aims to raise awareness in the community about drug abuse and promoting healthy drug-free living.

Students and staff supported the initiative through a pledge signing, door decorating contest, an assembly and spirit dress down days.

On Tuesday afternoon, the students enjoyed a visit from the Omegaman & Friends assembly funded by the CO Home & School Association. The assembly ties in to October being National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month.

Omegaman Titan delivered messages to the students by using strongman feats such as breaking a wooden bat over his knee, bending steel with his teeth and a book called the "Book of Bad Choices" in half.

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"It's My Life" assembly encourages students to make smart choices

Memorial School marked Red Ribbon Week with an assembly sponsored by the Woodland Park Municipal Drug Alliance on Tuesday.

"It's My Life," by Camfel Productions, is a three screen program that aims to erase the insecurities and fears students face daily, replacing them with an understanding of their true potential and the desire and motivation to be the best they can be in whatever circumstances they face.



Teachers were provided a program discussion guide and worksheets the students completed following the assembly. Presented on three screens, and filled with topical songs by Bon Jovi, Taylor Swift, Imagine Dragons and others, "It's My Life" showed a number of teens talking about their circumstances and obstacles they have faced.

The program focuses on the desire for control, independence, respect and the power to choose. However, the power to choose comes when we make responsible choices. Making the responsible choice isn't always the easy choice. Everyone likes to have fun, but too often the fun choices are in direct conflict with the responsible ones.

"Life is not what I expected," A.J. said on screen. "I turned to drugs to cope with life." After he realized his drug use was keeping him from getting what he really wanted in life, he finally decided to turn things around. "I was a nobody. I want to be a somebody."

No excuses, the students were told. Time management must be a priority for them in their middle and high school years, putting the important things first. When you are organized and have good time management, you gain freedom. When you are responsible, you gain respect.

The program also covered coping with stress and bullying. Oftentimes, insecurity is at the root of bullying. "Prove them wrong," one student said on screen. "Prove them wrong with your reaction."

Students were encouraged to work to find their passion. One teen, Hailey, showcased her love of art. She said she sees herself as a work in progress, just like a painting. "Improvement takes time. I wake up and say, 'Today will be a productive day and I will work to improve.'"

To find out more about the program and download a free discussion guide, visit www.camfel.com/pages/its_my_life.

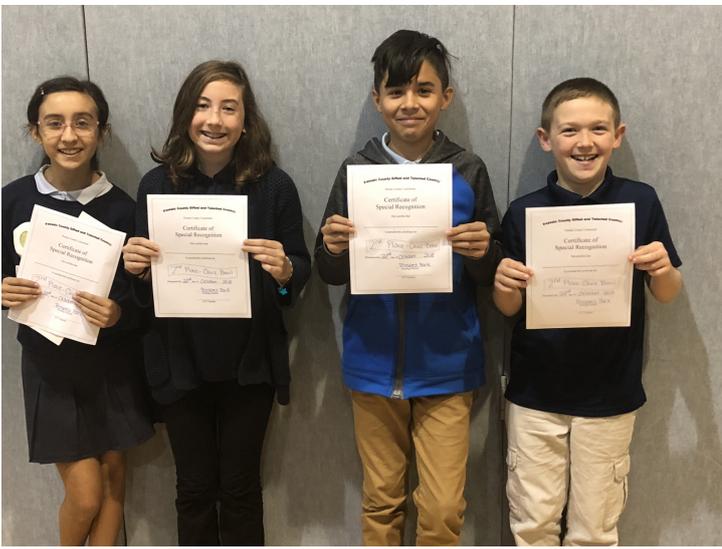


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As Titan tore the book in half he explained that the kids can erase bad choices they've made and start fresh. When he bent the steel bar, he noted how bad choices can stop someone from being on a straight path but they can keep going on a straight path by making good choices.

The lively presentation covered numerous themes. Students were encouraged to be a "dream-maker," not a "dream-breaker." They learned that they can all be heroes by following the H.E.R.O. way: Helping Everyone Respect Others. Titan also stressed to students that it's important they recognize and report bullying. By doing this, they are an upstander, not a bystander.





Quiz wizards

The 6th grade STRIVE class won second place at the Passaic County Quiz Bowl hosted by Prospect Park last week. Members of the winning team included Daniella Mencia, Lily Aspirany, Rique Pires, and Sebastian Nayda. "They were awesome in both their knowledge and their sportsmanship throughout the competition," noted Miss Ament, technology/gifted and talented teacher.



Upstander Jayden Perez talks to peers about giving the boot to bullying

As students wore boots as part of a dress down day for Red Ribbon Week, Beatrice Gilmore's Jayden Perez, 9, spoke to his peers yesterday afternoon about "giving the boot to bullying" as well as his efforts to help people and animals in need. Principal Sharon Tomback afterwards presented Jayden with a "Beatrice Gilmore Upstander Award" for his efforts.

Mrs. Tomback told the students a story of a boy who walked the beach, picking up and throwing starfish back in to the sea. A man stopped and told him there were too many beaches and too many starfish for him to be making a difference. The boy told him, "It makes a difference to this one," as he threw another in.

"No matter how old you are, no matter how small the gesture... you can make a difference," Mrs. Tomback told the students. She challenged them to work every day to be an upstander like the boy and like Jayden.

Jayden last fall organized a toy drive that garnered over 1,100 toys and \$10,000 for those affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, has been working on several charitable efforts in the last few months.

Jayden and his parents returned home earlier this month from Puerto Rico, where he hand delivered \$10,000 worth of clothes from Kid Box, a clothing service which he serves on the 2018 kids board of directors for. He has also worked to raise funds for a 3-year-old girl from New York, Adelyn, and her mother, who lost her father to gun violence.

In addition, Jayden collected and sent 120 lanterns to people in Puerto Rico still recovering and recently sent the people and animals in Florida affected by Hurricane Michael supplies.

Jayden's efforts began after he received a gift of tickets to see the N.Y. Giants last fall. He decided to pay it forward, wanting other children to experience the same joy and happiness he felt when he received the tickets.



Memorial School HSA will run used clothing drive this Saturday

The Memorial Middle School Home & School Association is planning a clothing drive on Saturday, Oct. 27. Clean out your closets and help raise funds for the students. Drop off gently used items in tightly tied bags at the WP Boys & Girls Club, 8 Memorial Dr., Woodland Park, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The HSA will receive a donation based on the total poundage collected.

Items being collected include: adult and children clothing, shoes, sandals, sneakers, boots, jackets, coats, rain gear, leathers, belts, ties, pants, shirts, sweaters, vests, blouses, dresses, skirts, robes, undergarments, curtains, sheets, pillowcases, bedspreads, blankets, comforters, towels, linens, tablecloths, hats, scarves, gloves, handbags, purses, wallets, jewelry, watches, uniforms, jerseys, backpacks, new diapers and stuffed animals.



Taking a stand against bullies



Students at Charles Olbon created this bulletin board to take a stand against bullies. Each student signed their name on a hand cutout and wrote what they could do to stop bullying in their school.



[It is with great pleasure that we announce our new online Program Registration portal.](#)

Basketball 2018/2019

Registration for the 2018/19 Basketball season is now open. Online registrations will be open through November 18th so please be sure to register your child by then. A \$25 late fee will be applied to those who register after that date.

Online Registrations can follow this link.
<https://tshq.bluesombrero.com/Default.aspx?tabid=2464466>

We will have two in-club registration dates for those wishing to pay by cash or check but we encourage everyone to use our online portal. Our in club registration dates are as follows:

Saturday November 3rd, 9am-12pm
Thursday November 8th, 4pm-8pm

Please note your yearly Club Membership is also due at this time. You will incur an additional payment of \$35.00 during online checkout. This does not apply to the registration fee.

If you are paying in club, please have a **exact change** in cash or **three separate checks** payable to West Paterson Boys & Girls Club (WPBGC)

Cost per player: **K thru 2nd - \$65.00 3rd thru 4th - \$80 5th thru 8th - \$130**
Returned checks will be subject to a minimum \$25.00 bank charge.



In the event of rain Saturday, the annual Borough Halloween Parade & Party will still be held at Memorial School at 9:15 a.m. Children will parade through the school prior to the party in the cafeteria. For event updates, visit the Borough of Woodland Park's website, www.wpnj.us, or its Facebook page.