



## Food drive provides full Thanksgiving meal to over 30 families in need

Woodland Park distributed over 30 turkeys and all the "fixins" to local families who need a helping hand this Thanksgiving. The Borough sends its thanks to Fairway Market, who generously donates every year to the collection effort. This year, they donated 25 turkeys. A number of residents also donated turkeys and non-perishable food.

Thanks to School District Superintendent Dr. Michele Pillari and each of the schools, which coordinates with families in need. The food collection was coordinated by the Memorial School Student Council, Charles Olbon School, and Beatrice Gilmore School, together with donations from generous families of Woodland Park. In addition, the Borough expresses appreciation to its friends at Burn Boot Camp, under head trainer Joey Merlino, who helped this year by donating numerous boxes of food from its members.

Coordinated by Mrs. Facciollio and Mr. Krakower, the Beatrice Gilmore School community collected over 400 items for the drive and over three boxes of contributions for pets in need. Charles Olbon School collected over 600 items and held a drive for animals in need as well. Mrs. Tundo's class collected the most with 143 items. At Memorial School, students were able to assemble 20 dinner bags. Families also received ShopRite gift cards donated by the staff to cover any additional items they might need.



## Parents are encouraged to become their child's partner in reading

At the last Charles Olbon and Beatrice Gilmore joint Home & School Association meeting on Nov. 13, district Supervisor of Language Arts Elba Castrovinci presented a reading workshop for parents titled, "Raising Little Readers." This informative workshop was designed to provide parents with tips on how to support their children while reading.

Castrovinci encouraged parents to become their child's reading partner and work to inspire a love of reading by finding books that match a child's interest. "Kids who lack a strong foundation of language arts awareness and literary skills early in life are more likely to fall behind and more likely to drop out," she said.

**SEE NEXT PAGE**

## FROM PAGE ONE

The four stages of reading detailed are emergent (kindergarten), early (first grade), transitional (second grade) and extending (third and fourth grade.) Reading involves more than just being able to read the words, Castrovinci said. It also involves understanding the message of the text.

Kindergarten and first graders enjoy repeated reading of favorites, Castrovinci noted. Expect children to retell narratives, begin to understand the message, and attempt to read independently (sometimes relying on memories and illustrations.) Children will begin to identify letters and sounds as well as sight words.

Second to fourth graders are discovering ways to use reading strategies independently and simultaneously. Expect them to retell a story in sequence, backing up literal statements with proof from text, form opinions about the text, increase sight word vocabulary, and use punctuation when reading to become fluent and expressive.

At home, you can be your child's reading partner not only by reading with them but helping them learn letter. Make it fun, Castrovinci said, by using play. Create letter shapes with dough, whipped cream, sand, or on a dry erase board. With sight words, move beyond flash cards by utilizing games like "Post It Bingo" or "Sight Word Memory."

Castrovinci shares tips for sharing books with your child. "Read favorite stories," she said. "Encourage them to chime in when they know a part." Give characters voices. Encourage them to retell the story back to you. Talk about the illustrations as well, she added, and discuss parts that surprise them or how they make them feel.

"Most importantly, build a reading routine to set a great foundation for the future," Castrovinci said. "Spending time with your child fosters their one on one communication skills."

Both Charles Olbon and Beatrice Gilmore utilize a three trimester report card system, rather than quarterly which Memorial School provides. Through a visual slide, Castrovinci showed parents what to expect on their child's upcoming first report card of the school year, which will be coming out in mid-December. The report cards will show grade-appropriate indicators such as "demonstrates stamina during independent reading" and "reads at grade level."

If any parent has any questions, Mrs. Castrovinci can be reached at [ecastrovinci@wpschools.org](mailto:ecastrovinci@wpschools.org). The entire Raising Little Readers presentation can be found at <https://www.wpschools.org/Page/3815>.

## Passaic Valley High School forms partnership with Montclair State

A partnership between Passaic Valley Regional High School (PV) and Montclair State University, School of Communication and Media was signed on Nov. 19 by PV Superintendent Dr. JoAnn Cardillo and MSU Director of Communication and Media Dr. Keith Strudler.

PV is partnering with Montclair State's School of Communication and Media to support the high school's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Broadcasting Program. Students enrolled in PV's CTE Broadcasting Program will have an opportunity to closely explore majors and programs offered by the School of Communication and Media and gain exceptional, real-world experience through structured learning experiences. Students may also earn college credit through a dual enrollment program.



"This partnership with MSU assures us that our students will have structured learning experiences within a new college career sequence, as we now have evolved to a 21st Century college and career pathway," Cardillo said. "Students will see there is no place like home, as home can be just right up the hill at the School of Communication and Media at MSU."