



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

Important dates to note

Mon., Dec. 10 to Fri. Dec. 14 -
Charles Olbon Holiday Shop

Thurs., Dec. 13 - BG Holiday
Concert - performances at
1:30 and 6:30 p.m.

Tower Garden will provide fresh vegetables for Memorial cafeteria

Students in the Memorial School STRIVE program have launched a project to grow vegetables that will be consumed in the school cafeteria. They are utilizing a Tower Garden, a vertical, aeroponic growing system, which enables the growing of up to 20 vegetables, herbs, fruits and flowers in less than three square feet, indoors or out, at a time.

Under the direction of Miss Ament, STRIVE teacher, the students planted seeds for four vegetables and some bibb lettuce sprouts have begun to grow. In addition, rainbow chard, cucumbers, and bok choy have been planted.

The Tower Garden uses aeroponic technology, which is the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment, without the use of soil. It is an effective and efficient way to provide plants with necessary nutrients, hydration and oxygen.

Compared to soil gardening, aeroponic technology has been shown to increase yields by as much as 30% and triple the speed of plant growth, while using only 10% of the water and space.

Tower Gardens grow plants up to three times faster than conventional gardening methods. And many vegetables can be harvest-ready in as little as three weeks after transplanting.



STRIVE students place above state, country averages in thinking challenge

All Memorial School STRIVE students recently competed in the Bebras Challenge, a computational thinking challenge that introduces the students to decomposition, pattern recognition, data representation, generalization/abstraction, and algorithm skills.

Woodland Park students performed higher than both the state and country averages in their respective age brackets. The 5th and 6th graders averaged 102 out of 200 - with the state average being 82 and country average being 94. The 7th and 8th graders averaged 96 out of 200 - with the state average being 80 and country average of 83. Overall, 1st place went to fifth grader Victor Puzio with a score of 136 out of 200 and eighth grader Michael Preziosi with a score of 140 out of 200.

"This is a very challenging test, as students are not familiar with this way of thinking," said STRIVE teacher Miss Ament. "I am so proud and impressed with all these students."

In Remembrance



Members of Cub Scout Pack 31 took part in the American Legion Post #238's Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance program last evening. Brayden McGovern, above left, read about the history of Pearl Harbor, which was researched by the pack. Joaquin Vila, right, read a transcript of President Roosevelt's Day of Infamy speech.

CO Hero Classes of the Month named

Each month at Charles Olbon School, students work to be named among the winning Hero Classes of the Month. Winning classes earn a special treat such as a pajama day or popcorn party, which is up to their teacher.

During lunch, students must work together to follow the rules, such as cleaning up their tables and lining up quietly. By doing so, they can earn "Chipmunk Chips." The classes with the most chips from each grade wins each month. Posters in the lunchroom help the kids see where their class is at and encourages willingness to pitch in.

CO Chip Class Hero for December are as follows:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Trovato and Mrs. Dizzia's Class

First Grade: Mrs. Hope and Mrs. Parker's Class

Second Grade: Mrs. Krasnomowitz and Mrs. Voinov's class

Young Audience Arts for Learning program continues at CO and BG

Charles Olbon and Beatrice Gilmore Schools are again participating this year in the Young Audience Arts for Learning of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania.

The program brings arts experiences by professional teaching artists directly to students. By doing so, it eliminates barriers to participation and make the arts accessible to students of every background, geographic area, and ability.

Both schools have a creativity consultant working with the teachers, an "artist in residence." This year the focus is on storytelling through West African dance and drumming. The teachers have received professional development from the artist, Mrs. Candace.

This past week, Mrs. Candace began to visit with classes at BG, where students learned about the different kinds of Western African drums she brought along and learned dance sequences that they practiced while the drums were played. Throughout the program, students will learn about a new culture through the art of storytelling, dance and music. A core group of students will participate in a performance showcase at the end of the school year.

Last year, select CO classes worked on learning mandala mindfulness, an art form where the students work within a grid to create something all their own. CO classes also did an element on theater as well created a student made garden.

Last year at BG, third graders learned about acting skills. They created tableaux, where they use their bodies to make