



**PROOF POSITIVE...**The Optimist Club of Westfield and Jefferson Elementary School recently announced the winners of the first Jefferson School Essay Contest. From left to right, Jeannette Munoz, Jefferson School Principal, is pictured with Irv Brand, Project Chairman for the Westfield Optimist Club, and Jeffrey Feldman, President of the Westfield Optimist Club, as Mr. Brand and Mr. Feldman present each of the finalists with a certificate of achievement and the winners with a medallion.

## Optimist Club, Jefferson Announce Essay Results

WESTFIELD – The Optimist Club of Westfield and Jefferson Elementary School announced the winners and runners-up of the first ever Jefferson School Essay Contest. The winners and runners-up (in alphabetical order) are as follows:

### Kindergarten

Winner: Michael Luo.  
Runners-Up: Julia Clifford, Andrew Cohen and Mathew Viscido.

### 1st Grade

Winner: Vicky Lan.  
Runners-Up: Catherine Barry, Samantha Berger and Cindy Qiang.

### 2nd Grade

Winner: Shanna Kelly.  
Runners-Up: Joseph Bruno, Lizzie Diamantopoulos and Fiona Rosenthal.

### 3rd Grade

Winner: Colin Barry. Runners-Up: Mary Harbaugh, Mariah Russo and Kristen Toth.

### 4th Grade

Winner: Leo Rosenthal.  
Runners-Up: Samantha Gruskin, Zach Sheil and Maria Tata.

### 5th Grade

Winner: Julia Miller.  
Runners-Up: Katelyn Kelly and Jessie Miller.

At an awards ceremony on May 24, Jeffrey Feldman, President of the Optimist Club, and Irv Brand, a member of the club's board of directors, presented each of the finalists with a certificate of achievement and the winners with a medallion.

In addition, the Jefferson PTO will make a \$50 donation to the charity of each winner's choice, and the Junior Optimists will select one of the winning proposed projects for possible implementation in the next school year.

Some 70 students participated in the essay contest. Each student wrote an essay (or drawing in the case of kindergartners) proposing a project that could make a difference in the community. The contest was part of Jefferson's annual character education theme, "Optimism Counts!" Jefferson Elementary School for a Brighter Future.

The program focused on the character trait optimism and its sister traits: perseverance, open-mindedness and risk-taking. The primary objective of the themed program was to teach the students about optimism and provide them with strategies for optimistic

## Students Receive \$35,000 In deLeeuw Scholarships

Twenty-four students shared \$35,000 when the Adele deLeeuw Scholarship Fund announced its annual winners Thursday, June 8. The awards bring the fund's total gifts to \$769,000.

The awards dinner was held at the Spain Inn in Piscataway. Five area Rotary Clubs act as selectors for the deLeeuw Fund, which is a fund of the Plainfield Foundation. This year, after 11 years of service, John Wood Goldsack of the Plainfield Rotary Scholarship Foundation passed leadership of the deLeeuw Fund to Michael R. Townley of South Plainfield.

The scholarships are financed from a bequest by Adele deLeeuw, long-time Plainfield resident, author of 80 books, journalist and arts activist.

Three college seniors who have won scholarships for four consecutive years were honored as Adele deLeeuw Senior Scholars. They are Alexander Huynh of South Plainfield, mechanical engineering major at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; Derrick Shallcross of Warren, English major at Villanova University; and Jennifer Gutierrez of North Plainfield, journalism major at Rutgers University. Each received \$1,000.

Winners from the graduating class of 2006 included, from Plainfield High School, Lindsey Hickman, \$1,000, and Kenya Nesbitt, \$1,000; from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Elaine Piniat, \$2,000, Chloe Webb, \$2,000, and Faye Bi, \$1,000; from Mount Saint Mary Academy, Alejandra Fernandez, \$2,000; from South Plainfield High School, Zachary Gray, \$2,000; from John P. Stevens High School, Jeremy Messenger, \$2,000.

thinking.

The program's secondary objective, supported by the essay contest, was to teach the students how optimistic thinking can be used to serve their community.

Jefferson had fully integrated the "Optimism Counts!" theme across all curriculum (where appropriate) and PTO events. Among the events that have embraced the theme were the Jefferson Fall Walk and Jefferson Jubilee (which will donate a portion of the profits to a school damaged by Hurricane Katrina), the school Book Fair, which promoted books with optimistic themes and biographies on well-known optimists (e.g. Thomas Edison), the Book Fair Art Contest, school sing-alongs and school displays/decorations.

## WHS Graduate Makes Penn State Dean's List

WESTFIELD – Pennsylvania State University announced that Adam Osborn achieved Dean's List for the recently completed spring semester. A student must earn at least a 3.50 grade point average to merit Dean's List honors.

An Environmental Resource Management major, with a minor in Water and Wetlands Resources, Adam will begin his senior year during the fall semester.

A 2003 graduate of Westfield High School, Adam is the son of Peter and Claudia Osborn of Westfield.

## Matthew Velderman Named Lehigh Scholar

WESTFIELD – Westfield's Matthew Velderman has been declared a President's Scholar by Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Matthew, a member of the Lehigh class of 2006, graduated Summa Cum Laude receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. A 2003 graduate of Westfield High School, Matthew is the son of Pat Velderman and Helaine Donnelly.

As a President's Scholar, he has been awarded a full-tuition fellowship to Lehigh University and is pursuing a Masters of Engineering in mechanical engineering.

## THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

## Kids Don't Take Advantage Of Proximity to New York

By VINCENT FITZPATRICK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Since Westfield was first settled, its citizens have benefited from being relatively close to the city that many consider the best in the world: New York.

Westfielders who work in the city can commute by bus, train or car. Broadway plays and upscale restaurants are easily accessible, and the fieldtrip possibilities for younger children are endless. Unfortunately, many teens do not take advantage of the many fun opportunities the city has to offer.

Now that summer has arrived, it is time to explore these opportunities. For teens that have not spent time in the city alone, the train is an easy way to get into the city. Trains leave often, even on the weekends, and one train switch in Newark Penn station will take you into the heart of New York. After that you can take the subway, a cab, or just walk to your destination.

One common misconception, which kids hold, is that you cannot have a good time in the city without spending a lot of money. In fact, there are lots of different ways to enjoy the city for twenty-five dollars or less. Central Park is, of course, free, and the Summer Stage concerts in the park are relatively inexpensive.

Though visiting a stuffy museum may not be the most appealing idea for a student who just got out of school, but the city's museums have some unusual and fun exhibits that anyone can appreciate. The Bodies exhibit at the South Street Seaport displays perfectly preserved dissected bodies (yes, real bodies) and is meant to educate about the systems of the body, providing an unusual biology lesson kids might actually enjoy.

In addition, the Hayden Plan-

etarium in the Museum of Natural History allows visitors to watch the SonicVision show, a musical and visual program that mixes songs by artists like U2, David Bowie and Coldplay with computer-generated images in the Planetarium's huge dome theater. This shows on Friday and Saturday nights, and is a fun way to experience good music and get into the city.

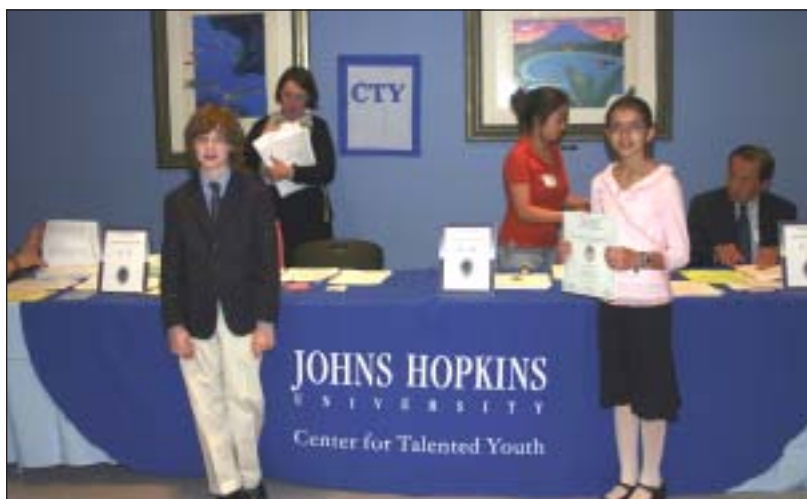
Teenagers should also not feel bad about reliving their childhoods through visiting the city's major museums. The suits of armor and Egyptian mummies in the Metropolitan Museum of art are still awe inspiring, and with dozens of museums to choose from there is no shortage of new exhibits and old favorites to choose from.

The city also has a huge number of great places to eat, many of which are relatively cheap. Additionally, street festivals are a great way to experience New York culture and enjoy some good food.

Finally, another great way to spend a day in the city is just walking around. The streets and avenues of New York all have rich histories and cultures of their own. Neighborhoods like Little Italy, Chinatown, and the Village are vibrant and distinctive. Even the most tourist-filled spots can be tons of fun, like the stores of Time Square and the Empire State Building.

Overall, the best tip for visiting the city is to find the fun yourself. The opportunities are endless, and all anyone has to do is hop on a train and go. Teenagers in Westfield should be thankful for the ability to access the city so quickly, and should take advantage of their chance to experience all the possibilities it has to offer.

Vincent is a sophomore at Westfield High School.



**BEST AND BRIGHTEST...**From left to right, two Wilson Elementary School students, Charlie Naughton and Alexandra Kapadia, are honored at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children held at NJIT on Saturday, June 10.

## Johns Hopkins U. Recognizes Two Gifted WF Students

WESTFIELD – Alexandra Kapadia and Charlie Naughton, students from Westfield, were honored at a statewide awards ceremony for gifted children held by The Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth (CTY) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) on Saturday, June 10.

Charlie and Alexandra were invited to this awards ceremony sponsored by CTY (www.cty.jhu.edu) based on their performances on above-grade-level tests given to fifth through eighth grade Talent Search participants. Seventh and eighth graders took the SAT or ACT—the same tests used for college

## Tom Weingarten to Pursue PhD at NYU

WESTFIELD – Thomas Weingarten, who was raised in Westfield, graduated this spring from the University of Rochester with high research honors in his Computer Science major. In the fall, Tom plans to pursue his PhD at New York University in Computational Chemistry.

## Area Students Named To Bucknell Dean's List

AREA – Bucknell University released the Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2005-06 academic year.

A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean's list recognition. Local students include: Meredith Davis, Fanwood, daughter of Orville Davis and Sherry Ortiz-Higgins, and a 2002 graduate of New Providence High School; Ashley Flood, Westfield, daughter of John and Marianne Flood, and a 2004 graduate of Lawrenceville School; Alexandra Fredas, Fanwood, daughter of Andrew and Bonnie Fredas, and a 2005 graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS);

Michael Heinrich, Scotch Plains, son of Roger and Beverly Heinrich, and a 2002 graduate of SPFHS; Nicole Impellizzeri, Scotch Plains, daughter of John and Jayne Impellizzeri, and a 2003 graduate of SPFHS;

Elisabeth Salemme, Westfield, daughter of Joseph and Karen Salemme, and a 2002 graduate of Westfield High School (WHS); Anne Siwulec, Westfield, daughter of Andrew Siwulec and Mary Gradolph, and a 2005 graduate of WHS; Renee Souris, Scotch Plains, daughter of Nickolaus and Eileen Souris, and a 2002 graduate of Mount Saint Mary Academy.



**WORLDWIDE GENOCIDE...**Eleventh grade Westfield High School student Skylar Norris of the Project '79 program, displays "Genocide: Let Us Dare Not Turn Our Heads." The wire-and-cement sculpture depicts society ignoring the genocides that are happening worldwide.

## WHS Students' Sculpture Confronts World Genocide

By CASSIE LO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD – Eleventh grade students in Westfield High School's (WHS) Project '79 program were inspired after a particularly thrilling unit in their American Issues class.

The students spent several weeks on an in-depth investigation of genocide. During the unit, the class viewed a documentary titled "Paperclips," which was about a school in Tennessee, which constructed a memorial out of 11 million paperclips; representing the lives lost during the Holocaust. After viewing the video, the class, with the help of Project '79 Coordinator Al Lantis, decided to make a sculpture of their own. Each member of the class handed in a sketch of a sculpture for a homework assignment, and they then voted for their favorite drawing. The winning sketch, titled "Genocide: Let Us Dare Not Turn Our Heads," was created by Skylar Norris.

Skylar's design incorporates wire and cement to form two human figures. The lower of the two figures is reaching out for help, while the other is extending his or her arm, but is also turning his head away from the person. Negative space in the lower figure's chest, as well as wire wrapped around the outside of the figure was used to represent the victims of genocide. The other figure represents society ignoring the genocides that are happening worldwide.

The 19 members of the American Issues class spent three weeks studying genocide and then three weeks constructing the sculpture, which is located in the courtyard near the sci-

ence wing. Roy Chambers of the WHS Art Department helped construct the wire and concrete sculpture.

During the unveiling ceremony, Mr. Lantis and three students gave brief speeches before the sculpture was revealed. Next to the sculpture, the class compiled a list of deaths by government in the 20th Century.

Paulina Menares-Brown told the audience why her class decided to make this sculpture. "We all have eyes, ears, a brain and a heart and we saw that put into action with this sculpture," Paulina said.

Next, Brendan Galligan described the sculpture making process. Most impressively, he revealed that the students put more than 100 hours of work into the sculpture. Mr. Chambers then spoke about organizations that work to stop genocide, such as SaveDarfur.org and the International Rescue Committee.

"I encourage you to do something about it after we leave here," Mr. Chambers told the audience. After the unveiling, Skylar explained the meaning of the sculpture, and said that it is "dedicated to the memory of every victim of genocide."

"It was awesome making the sculpture – it brought us all together," said student Jeff Maehl.

"It is a way for us to visualize genocide the way a textbook can't portray," added his classmate Brendan Galligan.

The sculpture is the only piece of art in the new courtyard. "Hopefully, this can turn into a place for other art projects down the road," said Mr. Lantis.

## WF Students Perform at World Languages Showcase

WESTFIELD – Westfield High School was one of 12 high schools in the state invited to the first K-12 Statewide World Languages Student Showcase held at Middlesex County College in May.

The two WHS students who were invited to participate were German language students Jennifer Nemeth and Mia Pafumi. Their work was submitted on videotapes last fall, and the school and the two girls were recognized this spring.

The students' performances "demonstrated the value of long sequences of language instruction that will prepare them to live and work in a world that is more connected," said State Board of Education President Dr. Arnold Hyndman.

\*New Jersey's position in the inter-

national marketplace will depend on our students' abilities to interact with the world community both inside and outside of our borders," she added.

The Department of Education presented certificates of recognition to the students selected to participate in the showcase, their teachers and school districts.

According to the Department of Education, the event was established to build on the momentum begun during the national 2005: Year of Languages initiatives and the current Discover Languages program sponsored by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. Discover Languages is a nationwide effort to raise public awareness about the importance of learning languages and understanding other cultures.



**A GOOD CAUSE...**Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School National Honor Society officers, from left to right, Faye Bi, Kristen Henkels and Danielle Porter, receive a certificate of appreciation from Ximena Gutierrez, right, central regional director for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, as they present a check to the organization for \$1050 that they raised through a recent fundraiser. After many months of planning, the NHS chapter sponsored a showing of the movie *The Incredibles* as their annual group service project where they also held carnival games, sold food and accepted donations. As a special added attraction, the students arranged for Superman, Spiderman, and Batman to make a special appearance and help out the cause.



**PROUD FATHER...**From left to right, Mitsunori Ogihara, Chair of Computer Science Department at the University of Rochester, Thomas Weingarten and Michael Weingarten, father, gather for Thomas's graduation.