

## THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

### Snow, Like Holidays, Can Be Welcomed And Dreaded

By WILLIAM J. VOGT  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

It was Thursday afternoon. I was sitting in class when I turned my head towards the window.

The sky was dark gray, and I had known since I had woken up that morning that winter weather was on the horizon.

But, like many other school kids, I was nonetheless amazed when those first few flakes hit the freezing ground. Maybe there will be a snow day, and I'll be able to relax, catch up on some reading and possibly go sledding, I thought.

I knew my friend was thinking the same thing when he asked me, "Hey Will, what's that Native American expression you always use when there's snow?"

This simple question dashed whatever hopes I had for a school closing because the answer to his spoken question also unfavorably answered his tacit question – "Hey Will, do you think we're going to have a snow day?"

With these thoughts in mind, I immediately replied with the words I learned when I was a little boy: "Big flake, little snow. Little flake, big snow."

This expression, which seems to be proven accurate each and every winter, means that with larger snowflakes comes smaller accumulation amounts, and vice versa.

My friend soon picked up on my unspoken response of "no," as he

#### Westfield Drafts 2008-2009 School Calendar

WESTFIELD – The Westfield Board of Education approved the draft of the 2008-2009 school district calendar on December 11. The calendar can be accessed at [westfieldnj12.org/calendar](http://westfieldnj12.org/calendar).

The tentative calendar includes a starting date of Wednesday, September 3, with school ending in a four-hour session on Monday, June 22, (also the date for graduation).

The holiday break in December would last from December 24 to January 2. The proposed spring break is April 6 to 10.

Next year is a presidential-election year, and on November 4, 2008, Election Day, it is recommended that K-to-5 schools operate in a four-hour session, with parent conferences scheduled during the afternoon.

November 3 would also be scheduled for half-day conferences, and November 5 would be a four-hour session for curriculum planning for K-to-5 teachers. The Teachers Convention is November 6 and 7.

Julia Walker, chair of the Policies Committee, reported that the tentative calendar includes three built-in snow days.

Comments to the Board can be e-mailed to [boe@westfieldnj12.org](mailto:boe@westfieldnj12.org) prior to the final vote on January 15.

noticed that the large snowflakes were indeed not sticking to the ground.

"Yeah," he sighed begrudgingly, "I guess you're right."

As I was observing my friend's disappointment, I realized that this frozen precipitation, in all its beautiful and nasty forms, parallels the many peculiarities of the holiday season.

Snow, like the holidays, can be welcomed and dreaded almost simultaneously. Snow is welcomed because it represents the beauty of our lives as well as nature itself.

These pretty flakes are also dreaded because of the danger they pose on roads, telephone poles and other forms of infrastructure, causing many headaches for motorists and workers alike.

Thursday epitomized this apparent paradox. That evening, the school was planning to host a concert for high schoolers and their parents. However, the snow that fell in the early afternoon was reported to be only the beginning of a much bigger storm. As a result, the event had to be postponed, and student drivers were encouraged to leave early.

The postponement brought another reality of the holiday season to light – the sometimes overwhelmingly hectic schedules each and every family seems to have in the month of December. In this case, moving the concert to another day meant interfering with family reunions, midterm exams and other important outings.

Even after these above conditions were addressed, another key question loomed – What happens if it snows like this again?

Although the concert plans to take place this Thursday, it still shows how messy weather can lead to some stressful (and equally messy) situations. This is something I will remember the next time the temperature plummets, the sky blackens and those small flakes fall gracefully down.

Will attends the Wardlaw-Hartridge school in Edison.

#### Kathy Cline Graduates From South Dakota U.

WESTFIELD – Kathryn Cline of Westfield received her Master of Science degree in Biomedical Science during South Dakota University's 32nd winter commencement exercises held December 15.

Caroline Koellhoffer for The Leader/Times

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN... State Assemblyman Jon Bramnick (LD-21, Westfield) explains the state's proposed education aid formula at Tuesday night's board-of-education meeting. Looking on is board member Anne Riegel, left. (See related school-aid stories on page 1).



CULTURAL LESSON...On November 15, Vikas Goel, the mother of Anuva Goel, a third-grader at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, led a special discussion on the significance and symbolism of Diwali. Pictured, above, Anuva explains the role of Lakshmi, an Indian goddess, to her peers, including Samantha Anastasiou of Scotch Plains.

### St. Barts Announces First Marking Period Honor Roll

SCOTCH PLAINS – Saint Bartholomew Academy (SBA) in Scotch Plains announced its first marking period honor roll.

#### GRADE 5

##### Principal's Award

Aileen Conroy, Darren Fields, D.J. Florendo, Isabel Fourre, Mary Patricia Livingstone, Daniel Lopez, Joey Ponderdolph, Matthew Marino, Brienne Trollo

##### First Honors

Tessa Fourre, Marcel Green, Annie Luongo, Ryan Pilego, Alex Sabatell, Peter Tomljanovic

##### Second Honors

Ryan Jensen, Joseph Viviano

#### GRADE 6

##### Principal's Award

Douglas Cassidy, Jane Lestarchick, Danver Quintin

##### First Honors

Matthew Biaggi, Olivia Buttighieri, John Ferry, Gabriella Guardascione, Yohance Huggins, Daniel Leahy, Gregory Mayers, Arielle Minott, Claude-Valerie Viard

##### Second Honors

Alton Lutz, Bridget Pepe

#### GRADE 7

##### Principal's Award

Caitlin Carroll, Caitilin Conroy, Colleen Dow.



Caroline Koellhoffer for The Leader/Times

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### WF Schools Participate In Project Child Find

WESTFIELD – The Westfield public-school district provides services to children with special needs through its Project Child Find efforts.

According to Ted Kozlik, assistant superintendent for pupil services, "We provide evaluation services for resident children, 3 to 21, who appear to have problems in communication, motor, social-emotional or learning areas."

Screening and evaluation services are available to preschoolers (ages 3 to 5), highly mobile students with disabilities – such as migrant and homeless students – and students who may be disabled even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

Children found to be eligible for special education and related services are entitled to a free and appropriate special-education program and related services.

Information is provided to parents of children from birth through two years through Project Child Find at 1-800-322-8174 or the Union County supervisor of child study at (908) 654-9860.

Anyone who knows of children who appear to have one or more of the following signs is asked to have the children's parents contact Mr. Kozlik at (908) 789-4442, via e-mail at [tkozlik@westfieldnj12.org](mailto:tkozlik@westfieldnj12.org) or fax at (908) 232-5415.

1. Significant delays in acquiring language or significant speech problems;

2. Significant difficulty walking, run-

ning, or manipulating small objects;

3. Frequent health problems or birth handicaps;

4. Consistent trouble seeing or hearing;

5. Tendency toward temper tantrums or excessive anxiety or shyness;

6. Significant difficulty playing appropriately with other children;

7. Significant problems paying attention and listening; and/or

8. Significant learning issues.

All information about such referrals and reports will be kept confidential.

#### Website Posts Principal Survey Results

WESTFIELD – The results of the Westfield High School (WHS) principal search online-community survey can be found at [westfieldnj12.org/whsprinsurvey](http://westfieldnj12.org/whsprinsurvey).

Approximately 200 participants completed the survey, with parents and community members comprising almost 75 percent of respondents.

This process and meetings with WHS faculty/staff, students and district administrators resulted in a candidate profile that is included in the above link.

Human Resources Specialist Barbara Ball summarized the most important attributes listed for the new leader as vision, passion and excellence.

Advertisements for the principal's position will be placed in January, with a start date anticipated by July 1, 2008.

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### The Rotary Club of Westfield



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[www.westfieldrotary.com](http://www.westfieldrotary.com)

### COOLVINES --- WESTFIELD'S 'WINE BUTLER' --- DELIVERS

WESTFIELD, NJ–December, 2007– In just a few months, CoolVines has become known for its extensive selection of fine wines and comprehensive knowledge. Princeton resident Mark Censits opened the fine wine and spirit shop located at 23 Elm Street in September.

The 700 square foot space packs a lot of punch. In addition to wine, CoolVines carries an eclectic collection of small batch spirits and craft beers.

Now, CoolVines offers what suburban wine shoppers have long wanted --- train station valet service, curbside pick up, and home delivery. The addition of a monthly wine or beer subscription program is also available, just in time for holiday gift giving.

Mr. Censits's approach to value is simple: find the best wine for the dollar and put only those on the shelves. "With all the grapes, regions, and producers out there, we know how complicated --- and often how frustrating --- choosing a bottle of wine can be," said Mr. Censits.

His staff includes on-site sommelier, Birk O'Halloran of Westfield. O'Halloran and other staff members of CoolVines will hand-select wines based on customers' preferences. If desired, CoolVines will also assemble customized theme packs, paired with intriguing gifts and accessories found nestled inside rich mahogany shelving. "We make wine shopping easy," added Mr. O'Halloran.

CoolVines takes the guesswork out of choosing the right wine. Customers stepping into the store will be delighted to find the store's hand-selected assortment of wine pairings to match the respective cuisines of local BYOBs along Elm Street's "Restaurant Row."

Utilizing a "take-out" menu of selected white, red, and rosé wines, customers may also call in orders from their cell phones before boarding the commuter train from Manhattan. With advance notice of 45 minutes, CoolVines will meet customers at the Westfield train station with their purchases.

CoolVines' unique remote wireless device allows customers shopping downtown, to do their wine shopping, and later return to the curb to pick up their order by car. "Because you were born to shop, not shlep," Mr. Censits quipped. With the press of a button, a bell rings inside the store, and purchases are brought out to customers' cars.

CoolVines also offers private in-home wine tastings, catering support and off-site wine dinners for groups of 8 or more. "Our approach is unique in the way that we progress from simpler wine styles to more complex ones, allowing participants to learn about wine in a very intuitive and experiential way," said Mr. Censits.

Complimentary in-store tastings are held every Tuesday and Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Home delivery is free to Westfield, Mountainside and Garwood for purchases of \$50 and up.

Visit [www.coolvines.com](http://www.coolvines.com) for a complete schedule of tastings and other wine events.

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