



GIFTED HANDS...Henry Hershey, 15, of Westfield recently met the internationally renowned Dr. Benjamin Carson, professor of neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md., and director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Henry was in Baltimore attending the summer program of the Center for Talented Youth at Johns Hopkins University.

Westfield Schools Announce Back-to-School Nights

WESTFIELD - Parents and guardians of public school students in Westfield are invited to back-to-school nights scheduled in September and October on the following dates:

Early Childhood Learning Center - Lincoln School: Thursday, October 1, 7 p.m. for morning students; 8 p.m. for afternoon students

Elementary Franklin: Tuesday, September 22, at 7 p.m. for grades 1 and 2; Wednesday, September 23, at 7 p.m. for grades 3, 4 and 5

Jefferson: Wednesday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. - Grades 3 to 5; 8:15 p.m. - Grades 1 to 2

McKinley: Wednesday, September 23, at 7 p.m.

Tamaques: Wednesday, September

23, 7 p.m.
Washington: Wednesday, September 23 - Grades 1 to 2, 7 to 7:45 p.m.; Grades 3 to 5, 8 to 8:45 p.m.

Wilson: Thursday, September 17 - Grade 1, 7:15 to 8 p.m.; Grade 2, 8 to 8:45 p.m. Wednesday, September 23 - Grade 3, 7:30 p.m.; Grade 4, 8 p.m. Wednesday, September 30 - Grade 5, 7:30 p.m.

Intermediate Schools Edison Intermediate School: Wednesday, September 30 - 7 p.m. Roosevelt Intermediate School: Monday, September 21 - 7 p.m.

Westfield High School Thursday, September 24, beginning at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Please check individual school websites at westfieldnj12.org for any changes to the schedules.



Westfield High School Through the Eyes of a Senior

By ALEXA ZEPKA
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

"Mom, don't wake me up. Mom, don't wake me up," I chanted to myself as I tossed and turned within the coolness of my satin pink sheets. My heart thrashed inside of me when I heard my mother's three infamous knocks on the back of my door. They were the most disheartening sounds affirming that summer had truly ended, and school was bound to resume in less than an hour.

Groggily trudging into the bathroom, I flicked on the light and was instantly blinded by its effulgence. The sun had barely risen outside, and there were no cars zooming up and down the streets quite yet. Staring down at my watch, I noticed that it was only 6:28 a.m. I was already beginning to feel nostalgic for sleeping until noon.

All of a sudden, my younger sister came shuffling into the bathroom. Smiling, I chirped, "good morning!" She stared at me with confusion, then rapidly brushed her teeth and bolted into her room to dress. I was still donning my plaid pajamas and gargling with mouthwash when I heard her zip down the stairs, already fully made up and ready to leave. I worried me slightly that my final year of high school had not officially begun; yet, I was already coming down with symptoms of senioritis.

I leisurely dressed myself and then calmly strolled into the kitchen, where I ate my breakfast without worrying about being late or failing to locate a classroom; qualms which burdened me for the past three years of my life.

As I observed my sister, I was compelled to giggle, for she was the mirror image of myself as an incoming freshman. Sitting by the kitchen computer, she stared at the clock and tapped her foot on the ground. Shared feelings of excitement and tension were radiating from her eyes, and reaching for my car keys, I assured her that everything would be okay.

Since my sister and her friends would be leaving a little later, I slipped out of the front door, bid my parents farewell, and set forth towards school on my own (I was determined to be prompt to guarantee myself parking). It was one of the greatest feelings in the world when I pulled up into the second spot on Coddling Road.

Smiling, I pulled my keys out of the ignition, walked into the street, and

began to watch my fellow seniors arrive in their cars. It was strange how just one year ago, our parents were dropping off my peers and me on the curb, but now, we were completely independent.

Before I knew it, the five-minute bell rang. I ambled towards homeroom with a newfound sense of confidence and, for lack of a better word, seniority. Both the hallways and the younger students looked discernibly smaller.

With every step that I took, it felt as though I was walking further and further into a time machine. The last three years of high school had flown by, and now, I was suddenly a part of the eldest class. "Hey, is it just me or do you feel like we're the oldest ones here?" I asked a senior friend. They laughed at me and exclaimed, "We are the oldest ones here!"

The first day of senior year was one that will live in infamy, and not only because it was the last first day of school. All the former teachers I ran into in the hallways knew my name; some of them even used nicknames such as "Lex" and "Z," which made me feel as though I have been attending the same school for so long that it was like a second home.

It is also comforting to have a few of the same teachers for the second or third year in a row. You know you left an impression on someone when they say: "I know you're already here," while taking attendance rather than saying your name.

Most exciting and saddening of all is that fact that this is the last year of high school; the last year of writing a column about high school life through the eyes of a specific grade level.

Every day is a day to be optimistic and look forward to because the year is one that will inevitably soar. Since embracing a positive attitude is so vital for a rewarding experience, I happily accepted a 10-month after-school job: driving my sister and her friend home.

Wardlaw-Hartridge Names D'Amore Trustee

SCOTCH PLAINS - Scotch Plains resident Anthony D'Amore, the father of Nicholas D'Amore (seventh grade), Cecily D'Amore (sixth grade), and Logan (second grade), is a new trustee at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison. He owns and manages 16 Dunkin' Donuts locations, 15 with Baskin Robbin ice cream shops.

Green Team Launches Water-Bottle-Free Initiative

WESTFIELD - The new district-wide Green Team, comprised of PTO members from the town's six elementary schools along with Lincoln Early Childhood Learning Center, launched its first collaborative, environmentally friendly campaign this past week.

The Disposable Water-Bottle-Free Initiative encourages families to eliminate plastic water bottles by switching to reusable ones.

The Green Team will encourage students to bring reusable water bottles to school for lunch and snacks. Together with school PTO's and administrators, the Green Team will also encourage the use of environmentally responsible alternatives to selling or providing disposable bottles at school-sponsored events.

For example, class parents are encouraged to use refillable pitchers and thermoses instead of disposable drinks at class parties.

The Green Team will sell lunchbox-size stainless steel water bottles at each school. These Back2Tap bottles feature the newly designed Westfield Public Schools "Earth Day, Every Day" logo.

Each year, roughly 38 billion plastic water bottles end up in U.S. landfills, and these bottles can take more than 700 years to decompose. The Disposable Water Bottle-Free Initiative will not only help the environment, but also provide substantial savings (approximately \$500 per year for a family of four) by switching to tap water, school officials said.

The Disposable Water Bottle-Free Initiative will be measured and celebrated by students and their families throughout the school year.

FLAG Offers French, Spanish, Mandarin

WESTFIELD - For more than 20 years, FLAG (Foreign Language Awareness Group) has provided creative and thoughtful language programs to Westfield children. While being taught basic world language skills, they become aware, at an early age, of the culture, customs and lifestyles from around the world. They gain confidence communicating in another language, simply applying basic vocabulary and conversational skills in a fun and safe environment.

This year, FLAG is offering French, Spanish and Mandarin classes with levels appropriate to each child. The French classes provide excellent preparation for children who will elect that language in middle school.

The Spanish II class complements the public school curriculum allowing the children to reinforce the skills they learn in school. Finally, Mandarin II has been added for returning and more advanced students. Class size is small, ensuring that the students feel comfortable and supported.

For more information or questions concerning the FLAG program, contact Sylvie Macdonald at (908) 232 4429 or e-mail lasylvie@aol.com.

Holy Trinity Hosts Self-Guided Tour in October

WESTFIELD / MOUNTAINSIDE - Holy Trinity Interparochial School of Westfield and Mountainside will host a day of touring and tasting in Westfield on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attendees will visit seven homes on a self-guided tour. Each home will feature some of the best local cuisine available for tasting as well as cooking demonstrations. Guests will also have the opportunity to meet and greet local contractors and designers.

One home on the tour will offer raffles and a book signing by New Jersey culinary expert Ellen Postolowski, author of "It's Just Personal."

Westfield resident Marlene Perez-Santalla, chair of the Kitchen Tour, said: "The Hearth and Home Kitchen Tour has a beautiful assortment of styles of homes ranging from Victorian, classic center hall colonial and custom construction. Attendees will take home

WHS '05 Grad Earns Magna Cum Laude

WESTFIELD - Westfield High School Class of 2005 alumnus Michael Fantini, the son of Bev and Mauro Fantini, graduated from New York University Stern School of Business in May. He graduated magna cum laude with a double major in accounting and finance.

Ryan Gundrum Earns Traders Scholarship

WESTFIELD - Ryan Gundrum of Westfield, a senior at the University of Maryland, has been awarded a scholarship by The Mid-Atlantic Traders Foundation. This scholarship is awarded to an economics major based on GPA, academic honors, extracurricular activities and references.

Ryan, a member of the Westfield High School Class of 2006, currently is president of the Zeta Psi Fraternity at the University of Maryland and will graduate in May 2010.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL...Holy Trinity Interparochial School students had their numbers aligned as they started school on September 9. These sixth-grade boys were having fun as they lined up to go into their classroom.



BOTTLED UP...Donning their individual school's spiritwear, students from each of Westfield's elementary schools and early childhood learning center show off their new Back2Tap "Earth Day, Every Day" water bottles. The stainless-steel bottles are available for purchase as part of the district-wide Green Team's collaborative initiative to eliminate the use of disposable water bottles in favor of more environmentally-friendly options.

Documentary to Spotlight Ongoing Crisis in Darfur

FANWOOD - Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School's Amnesty International will hold an informational and fund-raising event on Wednesday, September 23, at 7 p.m. at the Fanwood Memorial Library for "The Crisis in Darfur." Participants are invited to learn about the crisis and how they can help.

There also will be a screening of the award-winning 2007 documentary *The Devil Came on Horseback*, which exposes the tragedy taking place in Darfur as seen through the eyes of an American witness who has since returned to the United States to take action to stop it.

Through the use of exclusive photographs and first-hand testimony of former U.S. Marine Captain Brian Steidle, viewers are taken on a journey into the heart of Darfur, Sudan, where

an Arab-run government is systematically executing a plan to rid the province of its black African citizens.

As an official military observer, Captain Steidle had access to parts of the country that no journalist could penetrate. Ultimately frustrated by the inaction of the international community, he resigned and returned to the United States to expose the images and stories of lives systematically destroyed.

Directed by Ricki Stern and Anne Sundberg, the film allows viewers to witness Captain Steidle's transformation from soldier to observer to witness and, finally, to passionate activist and moral hero.

The Fanwood Memorial Library is located at North Avenue and Tillotson Road. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call the library at (908) 322-6400.

Local Teens from WF, SP Are Named AP Scholars

AREA - College Counselor Ann Geissler at Oratory Prep Schoolin Summit was notified that 20 students from the classes of 2009 and 2010 have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement Exams in the spring of 2009.

Three local students were among the 20 teens recognized from the Summit Roman Catholic school.

John Caldora '09 of Westfield qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 out of a possible score of 5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Two local students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing

three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are: Chester Baker '09 of Scotch Plains and Joseph Macri '10 of Westfield.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

About 18 percent of the nearly 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to earn an AP Scholar Award.

For more information about Oratory Prep School, visit at oratoryprep.org.

Westfield Adult School Expands Class Offerings

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Adult School begins its fall 2009 semester on Monday, September 21. Those interested can visit WestfieldAdultSchool.com for registration and class fees.

The Adult School has a host of new offerings this semester. People who have watched "Whose Line is it Anyway?" and would enjoy the Adult Improvisation Workshop starting on October 19.

The school is offering classes in calligraphy and a variety of other new classes such as Seniors Teaching Seniors Computers, Magic Class, Homemade Pasta with 7 Great Sauces, Cooking in the Keys, Delicious Soups and Easy and Delicious Entrees.

Returning this semester are popular classes such as Evening of Decorating Cupcakes, Taste of India and Graceful Tradition of English Afternoon Tea.

Class lengths vary from one to eight weeks and start on different dates during the semester. Many classes are held at Westfield High School, located at 550 Dorian Road, on Monday evenings. If Monday nights are not convenient, classes are offered on other evenings and during some daytimes hours as well at other locations.

The Adult School, now in its 71st year, is a non-profit organization run by volunteer board members. Those interested in becoming part of this community resource and joining a board committee should contact President Betsy McQuade at

bmcquade@comcast.net or (908) 389-0989.

To view all courses and register, visit WestfieldAdultSchool.com or call (908) 232-4050 for additional information. People can also register by mail or in person on Monday evenings beginning September 21 in the main office at Westfield High School and throughout the semester, with payment by check or cash.

County Residents Receive FDU Awards

AREA - Many June high school graduates from Union County will attend Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham, located in Madison in September.

Mountainside's Lauren Trimarco, a student at Governor Livingston High School and who will major in mathematics, received the prestigious Colonel Fairleigh S. Dickinson Scholarship, which is granted to incoming students based on their academic records, SAT scores and co-curricular accomplishments.

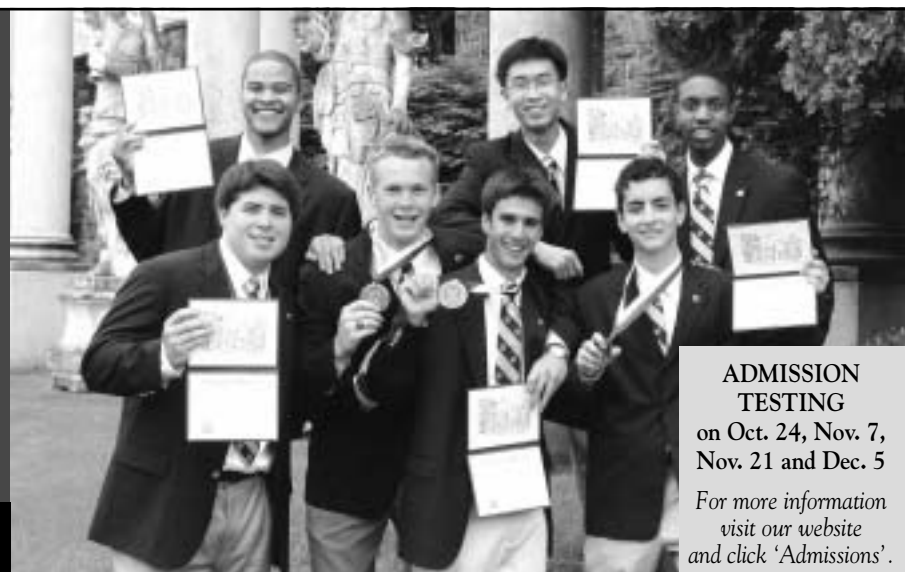
Cranford's Charles Yotcoski, who goes to Cranford High School and will major in business management, received the Provost's Award which is granted to incoming students who have shown strong leadership skills and strong SAT scores and academic records.

Westfield's Ivy Harrigan of Westfield High School will major in Allied Health Technology. He received a Fairleigh Dickinson University Dean's Scholarship Award.

Think. Imagine. Connect. Reach.

www.DELBARTON.org

An independent day school for boys grades 7-12 led by the Benedictine monks of St. Mary's Abbey
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ADMISSION TESTING on Oct. 24, Nov. 7, Nov. 21 and Dec. 5
For more information visit our website and click 'Admissions'.