



**GEOGRAPHY BEE...**Jasper Lemberg, center, won first place for the second consecutive year in the Geography Bee held at Roosevelt Intermediate School in Westfield. Next to Jasper are, at left, Andrew Dazzo, eighth grader who earned second place, and sixth grader Declan LeWarn, who placed third. Principal Stewart Carey, far right, and Assistant Principal Brian Gechtman were on hand to congratulate the winners. Jasper will take a written test as the next step to advance to the state level competition in the spring. Tests are reviewed in the next few months, with the National Geographic Society notifying schools of state contenders.

## Deadline To Apply For WF Pre-School Announced

**WESTFIELD** — The Westfield Public School District is now accepting applications for the Pre-school Program for the 2014 – 2015 school year. Located at Lincoln School's Early Childhood Learning Center at 728 Westfield Avenue, the integrated program, which uses the Creative Curriculum for Preschool, is comprised of general education students and students who have been found eligible for special education. General education students will be selected for this program by lottery. Deadline for applications is Friday, February 7. Preschool classes will meet Monday through Friday, from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. for the 3 year old morning session and from 12:30 to 3 p.m. for the 4 year old afternoon session.

The lottery drawing will be held at Lincoln School, 728 Westfield Avenue on February 7, at 3 p.m. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by phone and/or email.

An original birth certificate with raised seal and proof of residency will be required for those new students admitted to the program. A tuition fee of \$330 per month will be charged for participation for general education students in this program for the 2014-2015 school year. Students who qualify under the income eligibility guidelines set forth under the Federal Child Nutrition Program may be eligible for a reduced charge.

For more information, call Lincoln School at (908)789-4455.

### WF BOE to Meet January 21

**WESTFIELD** – The next public meeting of the Westfield Board of Education will be held on Tuesday, January 21 at the offices located 302 Elm Street in Westfield.

### WHS Newspaper Awarded Gold Medal

**WESTFIELD** — Westfield High School's student-run weekly newspaper, *Hi's Eye*, has been awarded a gold medal by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in the print and web hybrid category for the 2012-13 school year.

For many years, *Hi's Eye* has been an award recipient for its printed newspaper. Since its venture into both a print and web presence in 2011, *Hi's Eye* has captured the gold medal from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for two consecutive years.

The judges wrote the following in their decision: "The *Hi's Eye* demonstrates exactly what a school publication should do; it informs, entertains and provides a forum for student opinion. When a reader picks up the print edition, the quality of the writing impresses. When the reader goes to the digital edition, he finds a website with energy and talent. Kudos to the student designers. It captures the high school's spirit, culture and personality."

*Hi's Eye* advisers are Westfield High School teachers Rosemary DiBattista and Nicole Scimone.

### WF PTSO to Host Study Skills Expert

**WESTFIELD** – Parents of students in third through twelfth grades in the Westfield Public Schools are invited to attend the Westfield High School PTSO meeting on Wednesday, January 22, to hear author and study skills expert Richard P. Gallagher share his Study Skills to Last a Lifetime." Secondary school students are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Mr. Gallagher will cover memory methods, note and test taking, reading to remember, confidence building and concentration techniques. This special event will take place from 7:30 – 9 p.m. in Cafeteria B of Westfield High School, and there is no admission charge. For more information, contact [whsptso@westfieldnj12.org](mailto:whsptso@westfieldnj12.org).

## UC Students Travel to Haiti During Thanksgiving Holiday

**SCOTCH PLAINS** — Union Catholic High School (UC) students Julia Hayes, Class of 2016, and Logan Guzman, Class of 2014, recently spent their Thanksgiving volunteering at orphanages in Haiti. This was the second time in a four-month period that the two friends traveled to Haiti to teach, feed, and play with the children at Julia's aunt's orphanages.

The two taught children English and math classes and helped run the Saturday program where many of the neighborhood children would come to get a hot meal, vitamin, and a bible verse. Logan also taught the kids soccer and helped a local pastor rebuild houses that were lost in the earthquake.

Julia and Logan very clearly demonstrate UC's core value of compassion.

The Thanksgiving trip was Logan's second trip, and he had to use the money he was saving to buy a car to pay for his travel expenses. Logan noted that it was during his first trip this past August that he knew he would be making a second trip.

He promised the children, who were all so sad about his leaving to go back to the United States, that he would be back. He said that as soon as first saw the children in the orphanage, "they jumped all over me, hugging and kissing me. I felt as if I

had known them for my whole life..." He added that the kids taught him more in a short period than he had learned in his whole life.

Julia shares Logan's sentiments and has now traveled to Haiti nine times over the past two years. She has loved the experiences, but also noted that it can be very sad learning what the children dealt with before coming to the orphanage.

On one of her previous trips, she went to the house that one of the boys in the orphanage had been found in. She was horrified to see that it was made of sticks and unbelievably tiny. His parents had left him there to starve. Luckily, since staying at the orphanage, she reports that he went from being a malnourished 12 pound one and a half year old to a healthy and happy boy.

Julia's mom and aunt's organization is called Mission Haiti Helping Kids, which is now an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. As of December, there were 29 children living with them in two different homes in Haiti. For more information on Mission Haiti Helping Kids, visit [www.missionhaitihelpingkids.org](http://www.missionhaitihelpingkids.org).

For 50 years, Union Catholic High School has earned its reputation as one of New Jersey's foremost Catholic secondary schools. For information, visit [unioncatholic.org](http://unioncatholic.org).



**STUDENT VOLUNTEERS...**Union Catholic High School students Julia Hayes, Class of 2016, and Logan Guzman, Class of 2014, recently spent their Thanksgiving volunteering at orphanages in Haiti. This was the second time in a four-month period that the two friends traveled to Haiti.



**GOLD MEDAL...**Westfield High School's student-run weekly newspaper, *Hi's Eye*, has been awarded a gold medal by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in the print and web hybrid category for the 2012-13 school year. Pictured is the student team responsible for the digital edition, standing left to right, are Jake Katz and Eric Shor; seated are Caitlyn Tierney and Geneva Gleason. Missing from photo is Kelly Mazzucco.



### Mountainside Board Of Education

Beechwood School, 1497 Woodacres Drive, Mountainside, NJ 07092

#### P.E.A.K. PROGRAM

(Preschool Education for All Kids)

- Available to children who will be four years old on or before October 1, 2014 and who are Mountainside residents
- General education students are selected through a lottery
- Lottery will be held on February 4, 2014

Please access the homepage of the district website, [www.mountainsideschools.org](http://www.mountainsideschools.org), for an application. All applications are to be returned by Friday, January 31, 2014, to:

Mrs. Julia Goerlich  
Deerfield School  
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Mountainside, NJ 07092

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**SHARING SUCCESS...**Lily Hughes, a student at McGinn Elementary School in Scotch Plains, wrote a story about Olympic swimmer Missy Franklin. John Lohn, media specialists at McGinn sent the story to Missy who sent one of her under 18 swimming medals to Lily. Pictured, left to right, are: Mr. Lohn, Lily, Andrea Felcone and Principal Dr. Sasha Slocum.

## THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

### Meeting Missy Franklin

By LILY HUGHES

"Are you getting ready?" asked mom. Lily had a big meet that day. She was going to swim her favorite event, the I.M., in the state championships. "Yes, I am getting my cap on!" yelled Lily. Just as her mom was coming up the stairs, Lily's room started to spin. "What is happening?" screamed Lily. When the room stopped spinning Lily was so confused. Lily looked around and she could not figure out where she was.

"Are you swimming today?" asked a man who was all dressed in white. Lily looked down and saw that she had on a bathing suit. "Umm, I guess so," answered Lily. "Do you know what you are swimming?" "Umm, I'm not sure where I am so I am not sure what I am swimming," said Lily. "OK, let's find out," answered the man in white.

Together they looked through the program. Then they found it. It was on the very last page. "That event is coming up soon," said the man in white. "Great! Before you leave, can I ask a question?" "Sure," said the man. "Where am I?" asked Lily. "Look up," said the man. Lily looked up and saw the viewing seats were filled with excited spectators holding signs. Then she heard a familiar voice, a voice she had heard many times on TV. Lily's mouth fell open.

Lily was in shock. Standing right in front of her was the person she could

not take her eyes off for an entire week in 2012. A person she had seen in magazines. It was her idol Missy Franklin. "Are you swimming in this race?" asked Missy. "Umm, yes," Lily said, with her voice shaking. "Well then let's get going!" replied Missy.

"Take your mark...beep." Lily's heart was beating fast. Missy as usual had a great start, but Lily was right there with her. Missy's streamline was like a torpedo and Lily stayed with her. Another stroke and a great turn. Lily could see that she was not very far behind Missy. The third part of the race was breaststroke and that was Lily's favorite stroke. Lily managed to catch up to the best swimmer in the world! If she could just hang on through the freestyle.

The last two laps went by in a blur. Lily was so excited she thought her heart would burst. Lily reached for the wall at the end of the race and just as she touched she started to feel the room spinning again.

Lily's eyes shot open and she was back in her room hugging her swim team towel. "Wow, that was a great dream! But I wonder who won?" Lily rolled over to get out of bed. Lying on her pillow beside her was a gold medal and a note that said, "Great race. Keep swimming," signed Missy Franklin.

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Editor's Note: Lily Hughes is a student at McGinn Elementary School in Scotch Plains.

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