



Photo credit: Michael Mullan
ALL THAT JAZZ...Members of the Westfield High School Jazz Band recently played alongside world-renowned saxophonist Jaleel Shaw, pictured, left front, during a recent performance at the Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair as part of a jazz education initiative.

Music Education in Westfield Public Schools Receives Ntl. Recognition

WESTFIELD — For a second consecutive year, the Westfield Public School District has been named one of the “Best Communities for Music Education” in the nation for its outstanding commitment to music education.

The 2019 Best Communities for Music Education designation is awarded by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation to districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students. The award is based on music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, funding, graduation requirements and community music-making programs.

“I’m very proud of the music department on receiving this honor for a second year,” said Thomas Weber, Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts for Westfield Public Schools. “It is the support of the Board of Education members, administration, teachers, staff, community and our talented students that make this national recognition possible.”

Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational/cognitive and social skill benefits for children who make music.

“I congratulate Mr. Weber and all of our music instructors, conductors, directors and our student musicians for this prestigious recognition,” said Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan, Ed.D. “Each year, many of our talented students are recognized for musical honors which is a testament to the hard work of both our student musicians and our dedicated music staff.”

Recent recognition of the district’s music program included an invitation to the Westfield High School (WHS) Wind Ensemble to perform at the New Jersey State Band Gala on May

5 at Bridgewater-Raritan High School.

“Each region in the state selects four ensembles to represent them at the state gala event, totaling only 12 bands from all of New Jersey,” said WHS band director Christopher Vitale. “This is only the second time in school history that WHS has been invited, which is pretty exciting.”

After rigorous auditions, 15 WHS choral students were accepted to the New Jersey All-State Chorus. Ninth grader Mia Johnson will perform with the New Jersey All-State Treble Chorus while the following singers will join the New Jersey All-State Mixed Chorus: Juniors Daniel Andrade, Vincent Mora, Lydia Nisita, Elisa Saint-Denis and Rachel Seiden (who scored second in the state); sophomores Luke Barry, Olivia Ebel, Sam Horvath, Zaria Katz, Finn McGurn, Matthew Meixner, Aishik Palit, Elisa Saint-Denis; and freshmen Charles Garretson.

The WHS Jazz Band recently was invited to play alongside world-renowned saxophonist Jaleel Shaw at the Trumpets Jazz Club in Montclair, as part of “Students of Jazz Program,” an educational initiative created by the professional jazz band, “One More Once Big Band.”

The WHS jazz band played a 30-minute opening set for “One More Once Big Band.” “It was a unique experience for our young students to perform in a professional environment,” said band director Trevor Sindorf.

Prom Night Pics

Please send us your prom pictures and we will print them in *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times*. Send photos to edu@goleader.com.

Outstanding Inter. Teacher Award Noms. Due May 10

WESTFIELD — The Optimist Club of Westfield has announced that the deadline for receipt of nominations for the 22nd Annual Intermediate School Outstanding Teacher Award is Friday, May 10. Two intermediate school teachers – one from Edison and one from Roosevelt Intermediate Schools – will be chosen to receive the award at an Optimist Club dinner and will be honored at a Board of Education meeting in June.

Nominations should specify ways in which the teacher has demonstrated outstanding teaching, interest in children and continued pursuit of professional growth. The nominee must be a full-time teacher in the Westfield Public

Schools in grades 6-8 for a minimum of five years.

Students, parents and staff are encouraged to submit nomination letters to: Outstanding Teacher Award Committee of the Optimist Club of Westfield, c/o Office of the Superintendent, Westfield Public Schools, 302 Elm Street, Westfield, New Jersey 07090.

Letters can also be e-mailed to: optiaward@westfieldnj12.org.

According to Margaret Dolan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools, “The Outstanding Teacher Award gives deserving credit to our intermediate school teachers who provide an educationally stimulating and supporting environment during a critical stage of adolescence.”

Debate Team Announces Recruitment, Info. Session

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Debate Team will have a recruitment and information session for rising seventh- to 12th-grade Westfield public-school students on Tuesday, May 14, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Westfield High School Student Center. Award-winning public forum debaters will square off in a demonstration debate to show potential recruits what competitive academic debate looks like.

Westfield Debate Team Co-Directors Marty Collett and Amisha Mody Mehta will answer questions, explain team requirements and distribute applications at the event. Stefan Bauschard, a Westfield Debate Team coach, and coach of many prominent debate teams including Harvard University, will be available to answer questions.

Competitive debate has been shown to have many benefits, including in-

creased academic performance and civic engagement. Debaters develop their public-speaking, research, writing and critical-thinking skills. Past topics have included paying college athletes, ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia, moving from the electoral college to a national vote, abolishing the capital gains tax and imposing price controls on pharmaceuticals. The Westfield Debate Team provides opportunities to compete locally and nationally.

Among its successes are NJSDEL State Semifinalists, Georgetown International Semi-Finalists and University of Pennsylvania Quarter-Finalists.

The Westfield Debate Team is a partnership among the Westfield PTC, the Westfield Public Schools and the Westfield Area YMCA. For more information, contact westfielddebate@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy Susan M. Dougherty
VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH...The Kiwanis Club of Clark has announced that Kamryn Lombardi has been named Volunteer of the Month of the Westfield High School Key Club. Kami was honored for her service of organizing and spearheading the service club’s December toy drive for the Specialized Children’s Hospital. Through her flyers and communications, she elicited the help of the whole school in the effort. Pictured, she is congratulated by 2019-2020 Key Club president Emily Klag, left, and the outgoing president Matthew Paden, right. Kiwanis Club is the parent organization of the Key Club whose International motto is “Caring...Our Way of Life.” For information about the philanthropic global organization, contact the Kiwanis Club of Greater Westfield’s president JM Jones at grayfdjr@gmail.com.

Wardlaw+Hartridge Students Inducted Into Honor Societies

AREA — The Wardlaw+Hartridge School in Edison held its annual World Language Honor Societies induction ceremony on May 1.

Twenty-two Upper School students were inducted into three honor societies – Chinese, Latin and Spanish. Esther Faus, World Language Department Chair, delivered the welcome, which was followed by the Introduction to the Honor Societies, Candle Ceremony and Honor Society Oaths. This year’s honorees are:

Chinese – Ryan Brace of Scotch Plains, Shane Kornecki of Colonia, Sydney Kuo of Edison, Sidharth Kumar of Parlin.

Latin – Anshuman Apte of Watchung, Noah Apter of Springfield, William Rehwinkel of Scotch Plains, Sydney Sweeney of Cranford, Nadia Valcourt of South Plainfield, Tianyu (Max) Wu of Plainfield.

Spanish – Olivia Brown of South Plainfield, Emily Calderón of North Plainfield, Mikayla Cole of Plainfield, Ariana DiLandro of Carteret, Simone Erachshaw of Iselin, Nicolas Hernández-Webster of Edison, Shaan Jasti of Colonia,

Mayah Nissim of Scotch Plains, Michele Peruzzo of Scotch Plains, Anna Razvi of Somerset, Suniti Shah of Edison, Kevin Vásquez of North Plainfield.

All inductees received certificates and graduating seniors were presented with honor cords.

Honor Roll

Honor Rolls for Third Marking Period for Terrill Middle School, Park Middle School and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School can be seen this week at Ballyhoo. The format is made to print at home. See www.goleader.com/ballyhoo

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- Case Western Reserve University
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- Duquesne University
- Fordham University
- Harvard College
- Lafayette College
- Marywood University
- Mount Holyoke College
- Northeastern University
- Purdue University
- Syracuse University
- Towson University
- University of Delaware
- University of South Carolina
- Villanova University

- Boston College
- Bryn Mawr College
- Colby College
- Columbia University
- Emory University
- Georgia Tech
- Ithaca College
- Lehigh University
- Miami University of Ohio
- New York University, Shanghai
- Oberlin Conservatory of Music
- Rutgers University
- The College of New Jersey
- Univ. of California, Davis
- Univ. of Maryland, College Park
- University of Southern California
- Wake Forest University

- Boston University
- Bucknell University
- Colgate University
- Drexel University
- Fairleigh Dickinson University
- Hamilton College
- James Madison University
- Lynn University
- Monmouth University
- New York University, Stern
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