

Concepts & Thought



BECOMING "TECHIES"...Five faculty members of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison earned free computers by dedicating their time to learn, as part of the Tech 2000 program of Middlesex County. Middlesex County Freeholder, John Pulomera, receives thanks from the staff.

Presentation on New Gifted Program Slated on Monday

WESTFIELD — The Advanced Learning Program Parents Association (ALPPA) will host a presentation on Westfield's new gifted program for the third and sixth grades on Monday, November 25, at 7 p.m.

Scheduled guest speakers from the school district include Supervisor of Gifted Education Programs Lindsay Keilley, Cheryl O'Brien, Edison Intermediate School Principal, Tamaques Elementary School Principal Michael Cullen, and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and

Instruction Dr. Janie Edmonds. The talk will be at Edison Intermediate School, which is located at 800 Rahway Avenue, in the room next to the school library where the prior ALPPA meetings have been held. The Westfield community is invited.

While registration is not necessary, please e-mail ALPPA@MCCREADY.COM to indicate attendance, as this will give information regarding providing refreshments and planning of future meetings.

Union Catholic Reports Honor Society Inductees

SCOTCH PLAINS — On October 17, Union Catholic High School in Scotch Plains inducted 71 students into the Aquinas Chapter of the National Honor Society.

Admission to the society requires that a student have a 6.5 grade point average, demonstrate service to the school and/or community by showing strong leadership and good character in three areas such as clubs, activities or sports.

Senior students inducted were Westfield residents John Bialick, Elizabeth D'Antonio, and Deborah Oravez, Scotch Plains students Sean Bennett, David Ritter and Thomas Ritter, and Michael Puzyk of Mountainside.

Junior students inducted included Scotch Plains student Ashley Whittemore, Fanwood residents Rachel Diken and Kimberly Schurtz, and Kyle McPherson of Mountainside.

Highlights of the induction ceremony included the invocation by Union Catholic Principal, Sister Percylee Hart, and presentation of certificates by Guest Speaker, Christine McCoid. The Club Advisor is Patricia Mascolino, who also organized the evening's event.

Emma Hiatt Accepts Society Membership

SCOTCH PLAINS — Emma Katherine Hiatt of Scotch Plains accepted membership into The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and will be honored during a campus ceremony this fall at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The Society was established on the principle that with scholarship comes a responsibility to develop leadership and a duty to perform service.

WF Assistant Superintendent Named to State Commission

WESTFIELD — Dr. Janie Edmonds, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction in the Westfield Public Schools, was appointed as the New Jersey Association of School Administrators Representative to the New Jersey Commission on Programs for Gifted Students.

Her appointment was confirmed in a congratulatory letter from State Senator Richard Bagger, Assemblyman Thomas Kean, Jr., and Assemblyman Eric Munoz.

In the letter, the legislators commended Dr. Edmonds for her "expertise and enthusiasm." They wrote, "Our gifted students of today will surely be our leaders of tomorrow in all areas of life, so we look to you to make a positive contribution to their development."

In accepting the honor, Dr. Edmonds said, "So many people know that Westfield is working hard to do the right thing for gifted students, and they want to learn more about what Westfield is implementing. I will be pleased to share our experiences and look forward to bringing back what I



Dr. Janie Edmonds

learn to our district." Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley noted, "Janie has been the driving force behind our new Gifted and Talented Program. She has brought in experts from around the country and is familiar with serving the needs of the profoundly gifted student. I am pleased that she is receiving state recognition effort and expertise."

DECA's Thanksgiving Dinner Will Aid Homeless and Needy

SCOTCH PLAINS—The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School DECA Chapter, an association of marketing students, will sponsor its 12th Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for homeless and needy families on Thanksgiving Day at the Black United Fund Community Center Complex, which is located on the corner of West Seventh Street and Central Avenue in Plainfield.

The dinner will include home-cooked turkey with all of the trimmings, served from noon to 3 p.m.

More than 80 students, with the aid of their parents, will cook and serve the dinners. Those attending will be served by DECA students at

a sit-down dinner, and will also be given take-home dinners, so they, like all families might enjoy their turkey leftovers after the holiday.

DECA student Emily Caballero said, "Last year, the dinner was a huge success. This year, we are hoping to serve even more families in need during this holiday. The families appreciated the dinner and the DECA students, and we look forward to doing it again this year."

Any agency or organization with clients interested in attending should call DECA at (908) 889-8600. Residents who would like to contribute a dinner or donate a turkey may call DECA.

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

Peak Into College Years, Compels Student to Stay Devoted to HS Aims

By JORDAN ZAKARIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Sitting in my dad's 2000 Volvo, laptop on my thighs, I watch the Susquehanna River go by, the neon foliage setting the boundary of my sight.

We're on our way back from an intense Teacher's Convention Weekend college hunt, fresh off the campuses of Delaware, Maryland and George Washington Universities.

As a junior in high school, the time has come for me to start looking toward my future, a thought that tears at me because I haven't yet fully begun to understand my present.

It is 4:15 in the afternoon, and, as my father eases his way along the almost barren highway, I take time to reflect on the eye-opening experience that was my weekend.

I go over and over the grade point averages (GPA) and SAT scores required to attend the difference schools. My head spins at the thought of all the work I'll have to do in over the next year and a half to boost my grades. It is going to be a rough road ahead, a road full of applications, long nights of studying and SAT classes.

Though everything seems so far ahead of me, I am starting to realize how quickly that time will fly. How did

this happen to me? I'm still just a kid! I still worry about my fantasy football team, think constantly about getting my driver's license and I am looking for a street hockey league to join.

All of a sudden, I am thrust into physics labs that separate the periods of Spanish, English and American History honors classes. I have teachers who drive me to spend most of my nights trying to complete a mind-boggling amount of work so I can raise my GPA two-tenths of a point.

The work is arduous and, sometimes, seemingly without a point, but the bigger picture is what I'm trying to grasp. With every assignment, with every test, I am preparing for my future, although it may not matter to me what the square root of pi is, the work ethic that I build trying to solve that problem is what matters.

I know that now is an important time in my life, and if I happen to forget, my parents are only too happy to remind me. College is the next frontier for teenagers, a place where I'll begin to live independently and discover who I am, both as a person and as a working individual.

This foray into the college world was a real wake up call for me and I've got a sneaking suspicion that it's just the first of many to come.



LEARNING FROM THE PAST...On November 4, Moses Dodeles, a Holocaust survivor and the grandfather of student Alex Weintraub, talked to Ms. Katz's fifth grade class at Tamaques Elementary School in Westfield. He discussed his escape from Nazi Germany when he was six years of age. Pictured, left to right, are: first row and middle row, students from the class, and back row, Alex and Mr. Dodeles.

'Tree of Lights' Program Set at Union Catholic HS

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic will illuminate its Fourth Annual Tree of Lights beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, in the front foyer. The public is invited to attend.

Following the ceremony, there will be the school Christmas Concert in the Auditorium. Light refreshments will follow the concert.

The Tree of Lights can be the start to a wonderful tradition. Through all the changing seasons of life, in times of sorrow and of joy, the tree is a living memorial to all our students and families.

The event builds community awareness and serves as a way for people to honor and remember, any friend or relative who has passed away, in a highly visible way. Each light on the Tree of Lights is representative of the life of a loved one.

The tree is a season-long reminder of those who have touched our lives.

To participate in the Tree of Lights program and to receive more information, please contact the school at (908) 889-9475.

Another way to honor and remember your loved ones, both living or deceased, is to purchase an engraved brick on the walkway surrounding the statue of Our Lady of Grace.

This statue was dedicated to commemorate Union Catholic's 40th Anniversary. All Memorial Bricks will also be recognized on the Tree of Lights.

For more information on Our Lady of Grace Memorial Bricks, please contact the school office at (908) 889-1600.



SAYING 'NO'...Mountainside's Deerfield Elementary School second graders and eight Governor Livingston High School TREND Organization members continue the annual joint program for Red Ribbon Week on October 24. Turning recreational activities in new directions, members read the Dr. Seuss book, "Hunches in Bunches," as part of their discussion with a class about saying no to drugs and making the right choices.

National Fire Safety Week Marked at Wilson School

WESTFIELD—During National Fire Safety Week, the Westfield Fire Department visited Wilson Elementary School in Westfield and taught the students the basics of fire safety.

The children watched a video and listened to three firemen as they demonstrated how to use some of their fire equipment.

The kindergarten students in Kim Conklin's class also spent class time learning about fire safety.

Each student designed a fire escape plan with their family in case of a fire

in their home. They also developed a meeting place outside of their home in case they were separated from one another while evacuating their house during a fire.

In school, kindergarteners were given red flames made from felt to simulate fire on their clothing. Each child had the opportunity to practice the phrase, "Stop, drop and roll," while using their felt pieces.

The kindergarteners are thankful to the Westfield Fire Department for the fire hats they received and for teaching them what to do in case of a fire.

Volunteer Coordinator Post Held By Sarah Bhagat of WF

WESTFIELD — Westfield High School senior Sarah Bhagat, the daughter of Patricia Steckler of Westfield, was the Volunteer Coordinator for the second annual Summit Hi-5: Taking Steps for Women & Girls 5-Mile Road Race on October 20.

The event raised critical funds for the Women's Resource Center in Summit.

According to the Center, Sarah organized the over 100 volunteers needed for the race in an efficient, planned manner.

"We're absolutely delighted with the outcome of the event and the number of volunteers Sarah recruited," stated Julie O'Rourke, Vice-Chairperson.



Sarah Bhagat

"The Center was proud to have Sarah Bhagat as a committee member for this wonderful event. Her enthusiasm and energy brought volunteers young and old to hold the Women's Resource Center with this major fundraising event," concluded Ms. O'Rourke.

For more information about the Center, please call (908) 273-7253 or visit www.womensource.org.

Batorsky Receives Dean's Scholarship

WESTFIELD — Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. has reported that Alexandra Batorsky of Berkeley Heights received a Dean's Scholarship, which acknowledges the student's outstanding academic achievement. Alexandra is enrolled in Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts.

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Dalrymple Receives Youth Ministry Award

WESTFIELD — Jeff Dalrymple, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Dalrymple of Westfield, has been named to the Youth Ministry Recognition Award for Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Mountainside.

The Mass, which was held to honor Jeff's accomplishment, was celebrated by Archbishop John Joseph Myers of the Archdiocese of Newark on October 27 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark.

Jeff received the Youth Ministry Recognition Award for outstanding service to his community, family and parish. He is a senior at Westfield High School.

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