



STORYTELLERS... Author Margie Palatini, writer of children's books such as "Piggie Pie!" and "Earthquake!", recently spent a day visiting students at Scotch Plains' Evergreen Elementary School. She shared stories of her many books and how she became a writer, and she had lunch with students who would like to pursue careers in writing when they grow up.



GETTING ALONG SWIMMINGLY... The first grade classes at Jefferson Elementary School created this fish wall based on the book "Swimmy" by Leo Lionni. This activity helped to prepare the first graders for their field trip to see three Mr. Lionni stories presented by puppeteers at the State Theater of New Jersey.

St. Bart's Announces Second Marking Period Honor Roll

SCOTCH PLAINS - St. Bartholomew School in Scotch Plains congratulated the following students for their academic achievements during the second marking period. Students earning the Principal's Award are:

Eighth Graders:

Joseph Carroll, Colleen Cassidy, Kara Gaynor, Diana Ngo, Laura Sammon, William Shore and Ellen Tomljanovic.

Seventh Graders:

Sabine Cardio, Mary Soorial, Anthony Krajcsik, Antony Livingstone, Amanda Searls, and Ananya Sen Gupta.

Sixth Graders:

Caitlin Carroll, Caitlin Conroy, and Nicole Viviano.

Fifth Graders:

Douglas Cassidy, Jane Lestarchick, Apriele Minnott, and Gabriella Guardascione.

St. Bartholomew Holds Annual Pot of Gold

SCOTCH PLAINS - St. Bartholomew Interparochial School will once again host its annual Pot of Gold Raffle and reception on Saturday, March 10.

Tickets can be purchased for \$100 (50 percent of which is tax deductible) by contacting the school office at (908) 322-4265 or after all Masses this weekend at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church as well as Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, both in Scotch Plains. Six hundred and fifty tickets will be sold. Last year's winner received more than \$22,000.

WF's Hild Earns George Mason Honor

WESTFIELD - R. Christopher Hild, a 2005 graduate of Westfield High School, has been named to the dean's list at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. for the fall 2006 semester.

A member of the university's honors program, the Student Ambassadors and the university trap and skeet team, he is an administration of justice major.

Christopher is the son of Robert Hild and Karen Stark.

ROOSEVELT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

2nd Marking Period

WESTFIELD - Westfield Roosevelt Intermediate School Principal Stewart Carey announced that the following seventh and eighth grade students were named to the second marking period honor roll for the 2006-2007 school year at Roosevelt.

7th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll

Loren Ball; Tara Bange; Alana Basil; Daniel Berke; Morgan Bowen; Madeline Chandler; Sarah Chandler; Gabrielle Cruz; Nicholas Ertman; Allison Faktor; Rory Fitzpatrick; Victoria Gagliano; Caroline Gelinne; William Geoghegan; Alex Goldschmidt; Zoe Greenburg; Caitlin Hering; Alexandra Hoffman; Taylor Ingber; Katharine Jaruzelski; Alexandra Jason; Kaitlyn Johnson; Kelly Kalis; Elizabeth Kuehn; Thomas Lutz; Carolyn Maguire; Cali Mazzara; Marc Mazzucco; Peter Mebane; Kavita Mehta; Emily Miller; Amanda Mongiove; Katie Morris; Julianne Mucci; Olivia Pecora; Keith Peterson; Gabriella Pirrone; Emma Polini; Brian Pollock; Ilana Rood; Madeline Rosenberg; Megan Roth; Rebecca Sarkos; Charles Scott; Kendra Simcox; Emily Smith; Mercedes Smith; Samantha Sterba; Stephanie Tepper; Brian Vnder Schaaf; Hannah Weeks; Michael Woods; Ross Workman; Katherine Yamano; Caroline Zee; Jacob Ziff.

8th Grade Honor Roll

Edward Allen; Grace Antonelli; Arjun Asija; Meghan Bachmann; Arjun Bailey; Sam Baldwin; Mia Ballan; Zachary Bebel; Caroline Bertoni; Joy Binder; Markian Borkowsky; Alexandra Caggiano; Eleanor Callinan; Katherine Chan; Robert Ciardullo; Emily Clauss; Sarah Collins; Maura Colwell; Rebecca Daaleman; Jonathan David; Alexandra Davidson; Rives De Rosa; Brian Doles; Sydney Doskow; Patrick Dyer; Max Edelsack; Caroline Ehrhard; Samantha Ellner; Katie Faxio; Andrew Felix; Abraham Fertig-Cohen; Katherine Fox; Sarah Friedman; Christopher Froelich; Samantha Furst; Brittany Gallagher; Rebecca Ganz; Alec Garrity; Christopher Gerckens; Sabrina Greene; Emily Gretskey; Kendall Hagan; Brennan Haley; Kelsey Hall; Hannah Hays; Nick Hering; Kelly Higgins; Matthew Huff; Erica Jakob; Patrick Johnson; Michael Kalimtzis; Nicoletta Kalos; Jenna Karnofsky; Ashley Kattak; Spencer Kerkhof; Nicholas Knepper; Kurt Kowalski; Marilyn Kowalski; Kayla Krasno; Eumbi Vivian Lee; Dara Levy; Analisa Lopez; Richard Malacrea; Max Mancini; Anna Margolis; Katie Marino; Nicole Marques; Finbar Martinson; Erika May; Joseph McDonald; Hannah Millen; Jillian Mongiove; Jessica Morse; Sarah Murphy; Caroline O'Connor; Mary Jane O'Connor; Stephanie Olson; Brendan Oster; Kevin Oster; Sarah Panayiotou; Audrey Peterson; Julia Queller; Sarah Ramire; Patrick Reilly; Jack Rickles; Henry Ritter; Sam Rosenburgh; Alexa Rothenberg; Alexandra Rubin; Jack Santangelo; Abigail Sawers; Kate Schell-Sheehan; Casey Schuster; Brendan Seery; Kayla Seigelstein; Sara Shields; Ashley Simmons; Jessica Sipe; Rebecca Skowron; Malcolm Spurlock; Max Tabak; Rebecca Tunis; Alex Turitz; Tyler Varian; Christopher Walsh; Brandon Vassallo; Victoria Wang; Aimee Wenta; Kieran Windorf; Daniel Wolf; Jordan Yarusi; Madison Yarusi.

8th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll

Jenelle Abbattista; Mark Androconis; Alissa Anzevino; Kerry Austin; Jane Banta; Zina Bazarsky; Adrian Bizzaro; Kathryn Bullek; Peter Cozzi; Rebecca DeLaFuente; Meghan Dunn; Daniel Eliades; Danielle Fields; Colin Fitzhenry; Alexandra Frankel; Sarah Frantz; Katherine Frega; Georgia Gleason; Joseph Greenspan; Rachel Gross; Matthew Hartzell; Alyssa Hatch; Alexandra Hawkins; Megan Hoerner; Ibrahim Khedr; Nikki Koll; Madeline Komar; Emily Mack; Anne Maguire; Jessica Manna; Melissa Morawski; Ryan Murray; Priyanka Nayer; Christopher Neylan; Emma Partridge; Eric Rackear; William Reynolds; Robyn Rosenzweig; Eric Schoenbach; Jenna Sharkey; Joshua Simmons; Meghan Sullivan; Margot Tishberg; Sirena Van Epp; Madison Weist; Jeffrey Yang; Zachary Zagorski.

Astrid Adriaens; Nia Ali; John Allen; Victoria Aloupis; MacKenzie Anderson; Zachary Archambault; Ethan Barnes; Chloe Birkenthal; Alison Birbaum; Michael Blutfield; Taylor Brand; Robert Bunting; Devin Cash; Jakob Cerra; Emily Chan; Sean Clark; Sarah Crawford; Oreste D Agosto; Lauren Darchi; Mc Manus Dolan; Bruce Dunnan; Nicole Eniclerico; Parker Enix-Ross; Casey Federbusch; Daniel Fitzpatrick; Margaux Fleschler; Emma Foley; Emma Franks; Josh Friedman; Andrew Garfinkel; John Gentile; Gabrielle Gold; Emily Goldstein; Brittany Goncalves; Erik Gozdieski; Edward Han; Julia Harbaugh; Ryan Heine; Charli Ann Herrington; Madeline Horowitz; Gregory Howard; Lucas Hudelson; Melanie Johnson; Catherine Johnston; Michael Jones; Tracy Kaplan; Megan Kaveny; Kevin Kessler; Hannah Kronick; Roman Krywlyuk; Ian Kuhn; Jeffrey LaForge; Martina Landeka; Michael Levidy; Jeremy Lin; James Lisoocy; John Lorentzen; Kyle MacKechnie; Christopher Mannino; Mikhail Maslyuk; Nicholas Matthews; Matthew Mc Evoy; Katherine McKinley; Christopher Mench; Charles Milrod; Amanda Minken; Brian Monteiro; Kevin Morris; Christopher Morrissey; Charlotte Murtishaw; Dylan Olson; Christine Pyo; Rachel Rickles; William Riggs; Adel Roff; Nicholas Roth; Jessica Russo; Matthew Santry; Megan Sharkey; Dylan Shepcar; Jordan Siegel; Caitlin Storcks; Kevin Summers; Nathaniel Suri; Adrian Szykowski; Rachel Tabak; Gabrielle Tanji; Matthew Tice; Joseph Toresco; Nathaniel Ward; Isabelle Weisman; John Yingling; Timothy Younger; Adam Ziering.

8th Grade Honor Roll

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WF's Ruhl Makes Coastal Dean's List

WESTFIELD - Kelly Ann Ruhl of Westfield was named to the dean's list for the fall 2006 semester at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina.

Kelly is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rory Ruhl and a recent 2006 graduate of Westfield High School. Kelly majors in special education.

Wicks Participates In Semester Abroad

WESTFIELD - Christine Wicks of Westfield is participating in the Bates College Junior Semester Abroad Program.

Christine, a junior psychology major, is studying in Rome through Trinity College.

A 2004 graduate of Westfield High School, Christine is the daughter of Bruce and Victoria Wicks of Westfield.

PT REPORTERS NEEDED

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The Westfield Leader & The Scotch Plains-Fanwood TIMES



AFTER THE GOLD RUSH... Second graders pan for (Fool's) gold during the Pioneer Living event at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield.

THE STUDENT VIEW

The weekly column written by local high school students

Pres. Weekend has Become College-Visitation Season

By Neil FitzPatrick
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

President's weekend is a beautiful thing. That is, unless you're a junior at Westfield High School (WHS) or pretty much any other public school in the continental U.S.

For 11th graders, what should normally be five days of work-free bliss spent avoiding the frigid outdoors at all costs has become, for most, the beginning of the college-visitation season.

Personally, I have seen seven colleges so far; six over the holiday and one over the summer. I am no closer to picking a school now than I was as a happily ignorant fifth grader, but I have learned a few things.

The first thing I have learned is that I hate the cold; the second is that I do want to go to college. Other than that, I am completely and utterly clueless. Now to some, these little bits of acquired knowledge might seem trivial and unimportant. The first is. The second, however, is more complicated.

I hate the cold. My sentiments, I believe, are shared by a majority of those who took tours in the northeast last weekend. Temperatures in the low teens (and lower with the wind chill) had many concerned parents from the south asking if it was always this cold in this strange region.

The guides assured them that New England had a fall and spring as well, but it was a hard fact to swallow in the face of icy quads and shivering coeds.

The normal college tour lasted an hour, consisted of stops at a classroom, an eating hall, the campus library, some form of student housing and any small eccentricities that might have made the campus "unique."

It was usually led by an undergrad who was deft at walking backwards while talking and did his or her best to spend as much time inside and away from the freezing temperatures as possible. Nonetheless, the weather was hard to ignore, and seemed to add an edge to the demeanor of even the sweetest Midwestern soccer mom.

It is hard to avoid pessimism when the sheer act of venturing outdoors is associated with bleak and persistent discomfort. As a result, one's opinion of a given campus was probably lower than it would have been were you to visit that school in the warmer months.

The negative outlook, however, might be more of a blessing than a curse. It occurred to me as I fell in love with college after college (literally all of them - I'll get to that later) that if I liked a school as a frozen, hopeless wasteland, I would truly appreciate it in the warmer months.

This thought carried me across more than a few windblown commons. The second thing I learned was that I do indeed wish to attend college. Regardless of the actual institution, visiting colleges makes you become enamored with the idea of going anywhere.

The classes offered, the freedom, the surrounding towns, parties and

faculty all speak volumes for the value of higher education. As one tour guide said, "I'm convinced I would have been happy anywhere I went."

That's not all, though. Yes, I want to go to college, but more specifically, I want to go to college tomorrow. I've had enough of high school.

I'm tired of getting up at 6 a.m. every day; I'm tired of doing busy work for classes that I have no interest in; I'm tired of averaging five hours of sleep a night and having no say in the matter; I'm tired of parking half a mile from the school because a few neighbors forgot what it was to be a teenager and a few teenagers forgot what it meant to be a neighbor.

Most of all, I'm tired of living in a constant state of anxiety for a process that should be an extremely positive one.

Obviously, life is not all happiness, and I understand that there are certain things that high-school students will always have to just put up with. I also understand that I can't go to college until I have my diploma, but this does not mean everything has to remain the same.

The process can change. It does not have to be so stressful. The point is college is a good thing. Furthermore, the vast majority students will have positive experiences regardless of where they end up going to school. Therefore, we all need to relax, and let the search be as pleasant as it can and should be.

Neil FitzPatrick is a junior at Westfield High School.

Franklin Students

'Pioneer' Experience

WESTFIELD - Second graders at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield recently experienced what it would be like to live during pioneer days through the Journey Back in Time Traveling Museum program.

Students participated in six different learning centers with activities that ran the gamut from panning for gold to pumping water from a barrel to scrubbing clothes on an authentic washboard.

They crafted necklaces from "trade beads," and fashioned toys from buttons and thread. At lunchtime, parent volunteers showed individual classes how to make homemade butter from heavy cream, which they got to sample on cornbread or bagels.

Kevin Smith Makes Colby Dean's List

WESTFIELD - Kevin Smith, a first-year student at Colby College, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2006-2007 year.

Kevin, the son of Edward and Mary Smith of Westfield, attended Seton Hall Preparatory School.

Students whose grade-point averages are in the top 30 percent are named to the dean's list.

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