The Connection

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FALL 2019

WILL IT MAKE THE BOAT GO FASTER?

These are the words that Superintendent Giard cast out to staff to kickoff the 2019-2020 school year. Modeling after the British Rowing Team of the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the motto that helped them achieve gold, Superintendent Giard encouraged staff to look at every action and measure every decision based on the concept “Will it make the boat go faster”; essentially is it core to our mission and goals? Superintendent Giard noted that “Students are our boats – the actions we take, the decisions we make have to make our boat go faster – help this child reach his/her maximum potential”. He encouraged staff to ask themselves and each other...Will this decision help me/us achieve our mission? Will this action help us/me achieve our mission? Staff were inspired to stay focused and visualize the ultimate goal of inspiring students and creating an opportunity for a better life for each member of the WPS community.

WPS in the Community

Waterford Public Schools in collaboration with Waterford Senior Services will host the first annual Senior Services Tour on October 22, 2019 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. This event is open to our Waterford Senior Citizen community and will showcase a tour of Waterford High School. Interested community members can register with Senior Services at 860-444-5839 before October 11th.
Elementary students in the district recently participated in an interactive read-aloud with New York Times best-selling author Susan Verde. Verde shared her new book I am Love: A Book of Compassion that relays a message that is consistent with the social-emotional learning work that is a focus in the district. Students were encouraged to be kind and show love to others, embracing a sense of unity and community awareness. Through this event, students were reminded that “love allows us to act with compassion and kindness, to live with gratitude, and to take care of ourselves by practicing self love” (Verde). Verde also wrote I am Peace: A Book of Mindfulness, which was a good segue for students at Great Neck Elementary as they focused on preparing for the celebration of World Peace Day on September 20th.

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Waterford High School hosted a debate between First Selectman candidates Beth Sabilia and Rob Brule in the WHS Library on Thursday, September 26th. The debate was organized by WHS Civics teachers Brett Arnold and Doug Sherman, along with the students in their Civics classes. To prepare for the debate, Civics students researched local government, economic development, environmental, and quality-of-life issues and composed a list of questions for the candidates about each of these issues. Mr. Arnold moderated the debate between the two candidates, which was attended by well over 100 WHS students. Mr. Andre Hauser, Principal at Waterford High School noted that he “felt a real sense of pride in our students due to the fact that recent members of Lancer Nation are key members of both candidates’ teams – Beth Sabilia’s running mate Joshua Steele Kelly is a member of the WHS Class of 2013, and Rob Brule’s campaign manager is WHS Class of 2017 alum Eddie Aledia... It was great to see young Waterford residents taking such an interest in our community’s future!”
WPS Achievements

Three Waterford High School members of the Unified Sports program, Shannon Carter, Peter Hynek, and Madison Nott were selected by the CIAC Unified Sports committee to receive scholarships to attend the New England Student Leadership Conference this past July. The conference ran from July 16-19, 2019 at Worcester State University with over 200 student and adult leaders from all six New England states who participated in the interscholastic athletic and activity programs. The conference is modeled after NFHS National Student Leadership Conference. All three student representatives reported having a fantastic time and loved making new connections with other athletes from various states.

On September 20th students at Great Neck Elementary celebrated World Peace Day, a day focused on building a worldwide culture of peace. Students made a commitment to help build a peaceful community by respecting others and pledging to be kind and show compassion. The Great Neck family assembled in a Heart on the blacktop and sang in unison “Light a Candle for Peace”. Visit the Great Neck Elementary Website at https://gn.waterfordschools.org/OurSchool/news/announcements/international_day_of_peace to view the song video.

Recently our district was recognized for the increase in math scores at Clark Lane Middle School on statewide testing. Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan contacted Superintendent Giard to discuss the district’s approach and instructional practices that assisted our students in their academic performance. A team from Waterford has been invited to be presenters at the statewide Performance Matters Conference on October 17th. Also the CSDE will schedule a site visit to Waterford to observe our district’s approach to math in action – Illustrated Math and job-embedded instructional coaching. Information on the site visit will be featured in upcoming newsletters.

WPS was honored to recognize Mari Dow - Occupational Therapist for dedication of service to the students of Waterford Public Schools for 30 Years.

Ms. Dow joined Waterford Public Schools in July of 1989 as an Occupational Therapist for the district. Throughout the years she has served our students with care, compassion and the utmost professionalism. Ms. Dow continues to be an essential part of the Waterford Team and we are thankful for her years of service.
WPS Opening for the 2019-2020 School Year

The 2019-2020 school year at Waterford Public Schools is off to a great start! All schools welcomed students on August 28th and have had positive first month experiences.
Join the Waterford Team!

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
One Team, One Purpose Putting Our Students First

WPS is hiring qualified

⇒ Substitute Teachers
⇒ Substitute Paraprofessionals
⇒ Substitute Food Service Workers

Earn up to $500 a Week

Apply online at www.applitrack.com/waterfordschools/onlineapp
860-444-5832
EOE
WATERFORDrama presents The Diary of Anne Frank

WATERFORDrama, the drama club at Waterford High School, is proud to present The Diary of Anne Frank. The shows will take place October 17th-19th at 7:00pm in the Waterford High School Auditorium.

The Diary of Anne Frank is a stage adaptation of the book Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl. Anne Frank’s writings chronicle both her time in hiding during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands and also her hopes and dreams for the future. Though Anne died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, her diary survived and was published by her father. The book has sold over 30 million copies and has been translated into 70 languages.

The show, which kicks off WATERFORDrama’s 16th season, features Amanda Rowe as Anne Frank, David Sugrue as Mr. Frank, Nina Pezzello as Mrs. Frank, Madison Gates as Margot Frank, Jack Lange as Peter Van Daan, Jameson Kelly as Mr. Van Daan, Alicia Hensley as Mrs. Van Daan, Justin Wujtewicz as Mr. Dussel, Liam Ward as Mr. Kraler and Julie Morrison as Miep Gies.

“We live in a world in which the passion and power of youth activism is growing while at the same time, division and hatred are also sadly on the rise. I believe that Anne’s story – and it’s incredible legacy – is such an important reminder about the positive impact we can have on others,” said Shane Valle, WATERFORDrama Director. “I think it is so important to keep having conversations about social justice and activism and to inspire our young people to remember that their voices matter and they have the power to create positive change. This show – and Anne’s story – does just that.”

Tickets for The Diary of Anne Frank will be on sale during school hours at Waterford High School starting on October 1st. Reserved seating tickets are $12 for adults and $7 for students if purchased in advance or $15 for adults and $10 for students if purchased at the door. For more information or to reserve tickets please call 860-437-6956 x. 7407.
Waterford Music - Concerts and Events

OCTOBER 2019
23 - Waterford High School: Wednesday, Music Department Concert, WHS Auditorium, 7:30 PM

NOVEMBER 2019
13 - Waterford High School: Wednesday, Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction, WHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM

DECEMBER 2019
11 - Waterford High School: Wednesday, Music Department Concert, WHS Auditorium, 7:30 PM (snow 12/12)

JANUARY 2020
13 - Clark Lane Middle School: Monday, Concert - Grades 7/8, WHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM (snow 1/14)
15 - Clark Lane Middle School: Wednesday, Concert - Grade 6, WHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM (snow 1/16)

FEBRUARY 2020
26 - Waterford High School: Wednesday, Orchestra FAVE 5, at CLMS Field House, 5:45 PM (snow 2/27)

MARCH 2020
9 - Waterford High School: Monday, Jazz Night, WHS Band Room, 7:30 PM (snow 3/10)
18 - Waterford High School: Wednesday, Music Department Concert, WHS Auditorium, 7:30 PM (snow 3/19)
27 - Waterford High School: Friday, WHS Jazz Festival, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, WHS Auditorium

APRIL 2020
6 - Oswegatchie Elementary: Monday, Music Department Concert, Oswegatchie School, 7:00 PM
7 - Great Neck Elementary: Tuesday, Music Department Concert, Great Neck School, 7:00 PM
8 - Quaker Hill Elementary: Wednesday, Music Department Concert, Quaker Hill School, 7:00 PM

MAY 2020
12 - Clark Lane Middle School: Tuesday, Concert - Grades 7/8, WHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
14 - Clark Lane Middle School: Thursday, Concert - Grade 6, WHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
20 - Waterford High School: Wednesday, Music Department Concert, WHS Auditorium, 7:30 PM
28 - Waterford High School: Thursday, District Orchestra Festival at WHS, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

JUNE 2020
3 - Waterford High School: Wednesday, Music Department Pops and Awards Concert, WHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM
TBA – Waterford High School: All Bands and Chamber Orchestra play at Graduation – last day of school, 6:30 PM
Required Notifications

Annually school districts are required to notify parents and students of important policies and procedures in the district. At the beginning of the school year, WPS families received the Annual Notification Manual and School Handbooks either electronically or hard copy. The Waterford Public Schools would like to remind parents and students that the Annual Notification Manual and School Handbooks can be found online at the WPS website at:

https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents_family/policies_procedures/AnnualNotificationManual

and

https://www.waterfordschools.org/parents_family/policies_procedures/SchoolHandbooks.

Please refer to these manuals for pertinent information on District and School Policies and Procedures. All students and parents are asked to review these important documents. If parents/students would like a hard copy of either manual, please contact the school offices where the student attends. As a reminder all of the Board of Education Policies can also be found on the WPS website at:


Throughout the year, videos and photographs may be used for various school activities and events. Representatives from the media or Waterford Public Schools will photograph, videotape, and/or interview students in connection with school programs or events for printed/online publications, such as newsletters, news releases, website stories, videos, social media, and other school publications. A parent may withhold permission to have a student photographed and/or videotaped during school-sponsored activities and/or media events. Parents/guardians have received the Media Opt Out form to complete if they wish to not have their child(ren) photographed. Please contact school offices if you would like to exercise this option and not have your child photographed and/or videotaped during school-sponsored activities and/or media events.

Stay Connected…

- WPS Website - Visit www.waterfordschools.org for up to date BOE, school and event information.
- BOE meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month. For the complete schedule of meetings, go to the BOE section of the WPS Website.
- Download the WPS App to ‘stay abreast’ of all the happenings at our schools.
- Follow us on Twitter: @WPS_CT and @WaterfordSuper