

Westmoreland Community News

Issue 34

November 2017

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Resident:

As I sit to write this message we are just finishing our first marking period of the school year in both the middle and high schools, we are nearing our parent/teacher conferences in the elementary school, we are planning and writing our quarterly benchmark assessments in each of the buildings, we have begun the planning for the grade reconfiguration that will occur next year and we are reviewing the revised ELA and mathematics standards. As you can see, this school year is in full swing.

The Board of Regents recently approved a new set of learning standards in ELA and mathematics. The New York State Next Generation ELA and Math Standards will better support educators in their instructional practice and prepare all students to become lifelong learners. So as not to make the same mistakes we made with the rollout of the Common Core Learning Standards, the process of developing these standards and the timeline for their implementation have been very well thought-out. The development of these standards was a collaborative process that took place over a two-year period of time and included input from parents, teachers and child development experts.

Some of the more significant changes to the English Language Arts Standards include:

- *The addition of lifelong practices of readers and writers*
- *The merging of the reading for information and the reading for literature standards*
- *The development of an early learning task force*
- *The revision of grade-level reading expectations*
- *The revision of the writing standards*
- *The reduction of the number of standards from 34 to 28*
- *Ensuring literacy is included in other content areas*

Some of the more significant changes to the mathematics include:

- *Moving of standards to different grade levels making sure they are grade level appropriate*
- *The clarification of standards*
- *The addition and consolidation of standards to improve coherence*
- *Balancing the need for conceptual understanding and procedural skills and applications*

This school year we will only review these changes to the standards and conduct a cross-walk between these new standards and our current ones. We will then take the next two school years to revise our current curriculum to meet the new standards. The new learning standards will not be fully implemented until the 2020-2021 school year. This will allow us the necessary time to get comfortable with the changes and to make sure our curriculum is robust and complete. We will share much more with you over the next few years as we work with these standards and curriculum.

Again, thank you for the support.

Rocco Migliori

A Message from the Town Supervisor

Another summer has passed, it was cold and wet. We are now having a beautiful fall to make up for it.

Some may have noticed we replaced the parking lot at the Town Hall, which was long overdue and it looks great.

We have new hours at the Reading Center. We are now open on Monday 2-5pm, Tuesday 5-8pm, Wednesday 8-12pm, Thursday 1-4pm, Friday 2-5pm and Saturday 9-1pm for your convenience.

We have completed the trail from Rising Stars to the Railroad tracks behind the Town Park. We are working on marking it now.

As always, please thank our fire fighters for keeping our community safe and volunteering their time.

We are working on the Town Budget now and will enjoy another year of **No Town Tax**.

Thank you,

Ken Eiskov

Town Supervisor

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Work: 853-8001 Ext. 1

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Bulldog Adventure



Westmoreland Elementary this year with 37 different schools for the Bulldog's Adventure!

Our school mascot will be passed between his travels. Each school will contribute to the cant feature of the new location! It could be a geographic Phenomenon, or Landmark. Join us on his journey! By Mrs. Davis

School is proud to partner across the United States and Canada

schools allowing students to share in Bulldog Travel Journal showing a significant National Park, Historical Monument, Geographic Phenomenon, or Landmark. Join us on his journey! By Mrs. Davis



Fire Safety

Small Blessings Pre-School class learned about fire safety with the help of Firefighter Haggerty. They learned STOP, DROP and ROLL, firemen are our friends and how to get out of the house safely during a fire. By Mrs. Murphy



One Room School House

The first grade classes visited the One Room School House to learn more about how children went to school long ago.

They were greeted by former Westmoreland CSD teacher Sharon Yager (pictured left) who hosted the classes.

By Mrs. Bonomo



Mrs. Hecklau's Class

Mrs. Bonomo's Class



Mrs. Beck's class can create code to move an Angry Bird to a Naughty Pig. This may seem like child's play, but they are creating real code and using their minds to picture each step. Later they will test their programs and resolve any errors or bugs that they find, just like an adult coder would do! By Ms. Reynolds (pictured



above right Bryce is looking sharp as he debugs his code. Below left Marilyn is visualizing her algorithm before choosing her blocks while below right Gabe is testing the first step of his code)



ART Class

Second grade students created a variety of painted papers in the style of Eric Carle. In the following class students used the papers to make a landscape collage inspired by the artist Eloise Renouf. By Mrs. Bevins



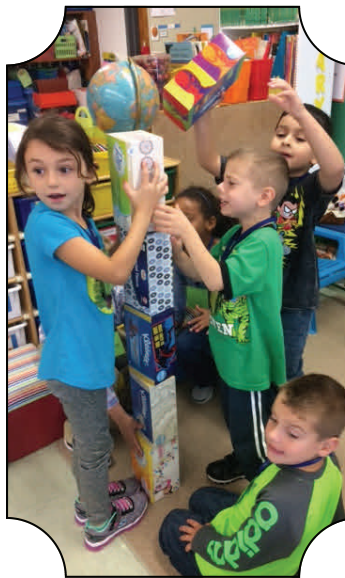
Marshmallow Challenge

My 3rd grade class worked in groups to complete a marshmallow challenge. They built structures out of spaghetti to support a marshmallow. By Mrs. Kirk



1st Graders Building on the 1st Day of School

On the first day of school my 1st grade students put their critical thinking skills to work and collaborated in small groups in an attempt to build the tallest free standing tower using the tissue boxes they brought to school with their supplies. By Mrs. Hecklau



"Just Right Books in the Library"

This year in the library, in conjunction with the teachers, we taught the students on how to pick a book that they can not only enjoy but also read. We taught the students how to pick a book they would not only enjoy but also be able to read. We told them to choose a book they thought they'd enjoy, read the second page and hold up a finger for each word they were unsure of or do not know. If there were five or more words they did not know, they needed to choose an easier book. If they knew all the words, they needed to choose a harder book. They loved showing me how they picked a "Just Right Fit Book". By Mrs. Livermore

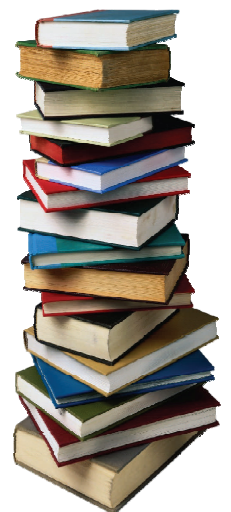
Wyatt and Justin worked together to read *Magic Bone: Follow that Furrball!* in reading. The book inspired them to learn more about the setting, Italy. They created a poster with pictures and descriptions to show what they learned. By Mrs. Scoones



First graders worked on reading blends by writing in "pudding". It was a messy but fun lesson in reading with Mrs. Scoones.



The students say thank you to their reading buddies.



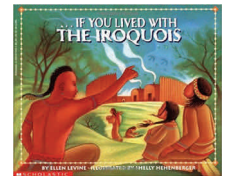
S.T.E.A.M.

Fourth grade students are learning about energy in S.T.E.A.M. Students are exploring the types of energy and how it is converted from one form to another. Pictured here, Mrs. Kanclerz's class is inferring about how mechanical energy is converted to sound energy. Students will use this knowledge to design, build, test and improve energy powered cars. By Mrs. Riggles



"If You Lived with the Iroquois" This year in the library the 4th grade classes are learning about the Native American tribes in NYS with a focus on the Iroquois tribe. We have begun to read the book "If You Lived with the Iroquois" by Ellen Levine. Mrs. Kanclerz's class reads and discusses the path that the Iroquois creat-

ed between the Five Nations' and how today the Erie Canal and the NYS Thruway follow the same path. By Mrs. Livermore



Erie Canal Village

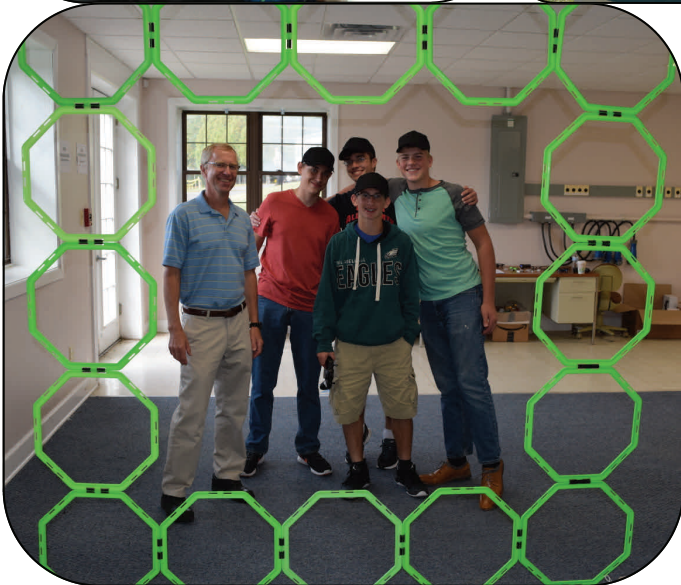
"The 4th grade classes went on their yearly field trip to Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum. They participated in an archaeological dig and learned how artifacts can teach you about the past." By Mrs. Kanclerz



DRONE DAY

Two teams of Westmoreland students recently participated in the third annual Drone Day. The workshop, put on by The Project FIBONACCI Foundation, took place at The Beeches in Rome. Students had the opportunity to manually fly drones as well as program drones to deliver packages using the Global Positioning System (GPS). They also operated flight simulators, learned the rules of the National Air Space, as well as learn the safe operation of drones.

Juniors Mike, Ben, Bryce and Collin made up the high school team. Eighth graders Nick, Maggie, Alessandra, Nate and Josh represented Westmoreland Middle School. By Mr. Lalonde



Girl Scout Troop 20810

Girl Scout Troop 20810 is one of the great troops based in Westmoreland. The girls are 7th graders in the Cadette program. Last year they spent time studying media and the messages that are sent to preteen girls in our society. They surveyed those who worked in the media as well as studying the images and messages that came their way on a daily basis. As their "Take Action" project they decided to do a public service announcement with a photo spread sharing a message they wanted girls their own age to receive. Their message...**Be Yourself! Embrace who you are. You are beautiful when you are true to you.** In short...Be You...Be Beautiful! They worked with area photographer Kara Milianta to capture images that demonstrated their interests. One of the best moments was when troop member Abbey said - "Let's take a picture with our arms around each other because we all really like each other." The result is what you see here. Thank you girls for reminding us to be ourselves. By Mrs. Davis



Earth Science

The 7th grade Earth Science classes have been learning about the Earth's rotation and revolution around the sun, and how this affects seasons and daylight. To further elaborate, we went outside to observe our shadows and learn how sundials work. The students traced each other's shadows with chalk and had to guess where

their shadows would be at 2:08pm. Also, students were able to read a sundial and see how accurate it was to our digital clocks; all relating back to the Sun's position in the sky and the Earth's rotation on its axis and revolution around the Sun. By Mr. Pacicca



1st picture above left: Mackenzi tracing Kiera's shadow
 2nd picture center: Michael, Connor, and Meghan reading the Sundials
 3rd picture right: Alessandra and Bailee tracing Mr. Pacicca's shadow

More DRONE DAY pictures

