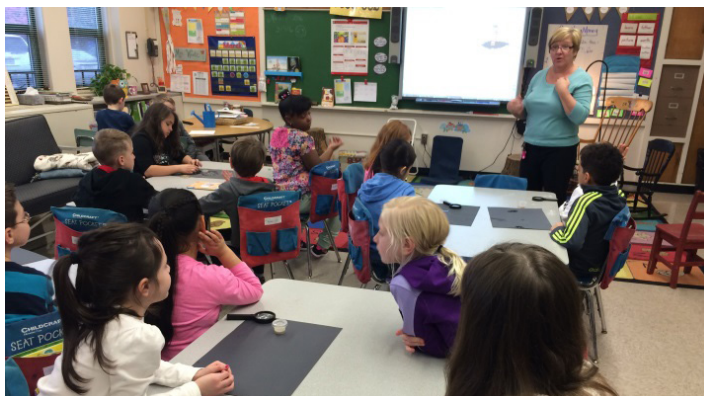
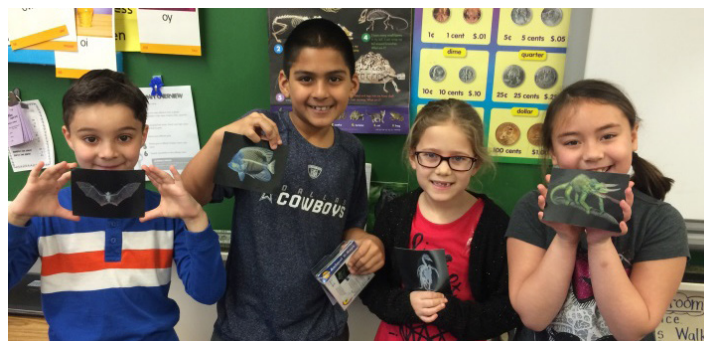


# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

## Oakview Explores the Sciences

As we know, the most important academic goals of students in grades Kindergarten through second grade is to learn how to read, write and understand basic math skills. Science is a content area we try to embed into our weekly schedules but often gets lost in the mix due to our heavy focus on emergent literacy skills. However, here at Oakview, teachers understand the importance of exposing students to science and discovery learning.

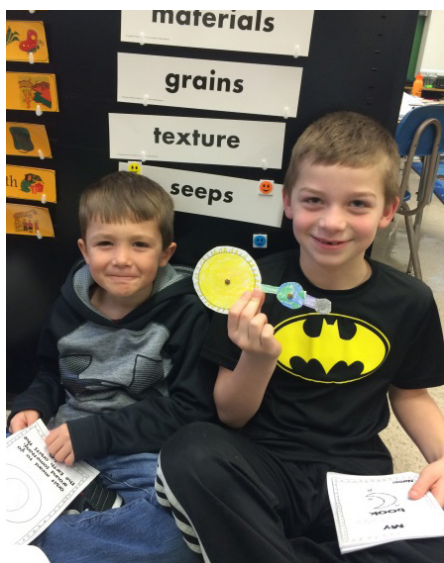
During our second grade RTI (Response to Intervention) block, we have implemented three-cycle areas focusing on science to provide students with authentic, hands-on learning experiences. These cycles include fossils, soils, compost & worms, and space exploration. Throughout the school year, all second grade students will receive instruction in each of these areas to activate their background knowledge, deepen their understanding of concepts, and make connections to their personal lives. Within each enrichment cycle, students are engaged in relevant learning activities that are both standards-based and motivating. In fossils, Mrs. Kensil introduces students to paleontology, the responsibilities of a paleontologist, and how fossils are formed. Students also have opportunities to examine real fossils and learn about how fossils give scientists information about how animals and plants lived many years ago.



humus. They also explore the fundamentals of composting by creating their own compost bags. Students observe and read about the creatures that facilitate composting, and show the benefits of compost for plants.

Finally, space exploration takes students on visits to the sun and moon, as well as educates them about stars and the planet Earth. Mrs. Pappalardo has captivated students' attention through video clips, projects and role-playing activities, specifically highlighting the phases of the moon and the sun orbiting the Earth. Students have been fascinated about space and have been coming to school discussing the phase of the moon they noticed in the sky the night before. In addition, all second graders will be visiting the Edelman Planetarium at Rowan University as an extension of this cycle.

Our teachers have worked extremely hard in designing creative lessons that promote the value of science in students' lives. These enrichment classes have helped deepen our students' content knowledge and expose them to a variety of hands-on learning experiences.



Finally, students each make their own fossils of a dinosaur of their choice! Soils, compost & worms are a popular RTI cycle class because it involves working with real, live worms. Mrs. Wentz has made this a student favorite and has them investigate the chief components of soil, sand, clay, and

## Green-Field's Students Support Ronald McDonald House

For the past few years, Green-Field's students have participated in initiatives to incorporate Service Learning projects into the curriculum. Recently, our District's fourth grade students were challenged to think big and come up with a proposal to meet these initiatives.

Rising to this challenge were students from Mrs. Campana's Class. After some detailed research and fact finding, students decided that support of the Ronald McDonald House located in Camden, NJ, was indeed



Students in Mrs. Campana's class, Sydney Newshel, Alana Huesser, and Jose Martinez proudly hold items collected for the Ronald McDonald House in Camden.

the project for them. The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well-being of children. RMHC believes when you change a child's life, you change the lives of a family, which in turn changes a community and, ultimately, the world. As pioneers of providing family-centered care, RMHC strives to be part of the solution in improving the lives of children and their families, providing programs that strengthen families during difficult times.

What does this support look like? Mrs. Campana's class began by collecting soda can tabs. Collecting soda tabs is a great way to recycle while raising funds to help children and their families at the same time. In addition to the tab collection, students will also be collecting wish-list items for the families who are staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Campana and her students for accepting such a worthwhile challenge. What a wonderful way to impact those who need our assistance...and to change the life of a child, their family, the community, and the world.

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## West Deptford School District Officials Embrace the Arrival of Full-Day Kindergarten in 2016 – 2017

Just as the school year begins to unfold towards the advent of summer break, School Board Members, along with Superintendent Kitchenman finalized the unveiling of a full-day Kindergarten program for our District. This announcement, for the upcoming 2016 – 2017 school year, is a celebrated step for District stakeholders, supporting their dedication to their long-term goals and their steadfast commitment to the students and community of West Deptford Township.

The foreshadowed Kindergarten program piggy-backs off the Pre-kindergarten Program that will also be in place for the upcoming school year. "Building on what we know about our children and what is needed to help our students achieve at their highest potential is our greatest goal," stated Kitchenman. Board officials were pleased at the unanimous approval, highlighting the collaborative quality of sound decision making throughout this process.

This, being another glimpse into the direction the District is going, demonstrates perseverance in changes that will continue to grow students, socially,

emotionally, and academically, beginning at the earliest ages.

Information on the Kindergarten program will be made available on our District website, which will include enrollment meeting dates and locations, phone numbers for further inquiry, program offerings, and guidelines for registration.





# Red Bank's Learning is Fun

The second half of the 2015-2016 school year was the beginning of many great initiatives and exciting activities at Red Bank Elementary School. Our students experienced record-breaking fundraisers and reading goals. Memories were made and friendships were formed as our teachers and staff made learning fun.

January opened with a bang as we rolled out our "WIN" (What I Need) Program. WIN is Red Bank's personal take on response to intervention. First thing in the morning, the students rotate to various cycle areas or intervention areas based on individual needs. Our interventionists address specific skills that some of our students need to make progress in the classroom. The enrichment areas provide exposure to various content areas that may pique our students' natural curiosity to explore their world. Examples of our cycles are Retellings, Author Studies, Solids & Liquids, Math Exploration, Gardening, Health & Nutrition, Fine Arts, and Animal Life Cycles. All students have the opportunity of experiencing the different enrichment areas. Each cycle runs approximately 20 days and then the students rotate to a new area. One of the high points of the WIN program is that random selection is used to create each new cycle group, so our students are constantly making new Red Bank friends. ALL the teachers are getting to know ALL of the students. WIN has really allowed us to become a true learning community.

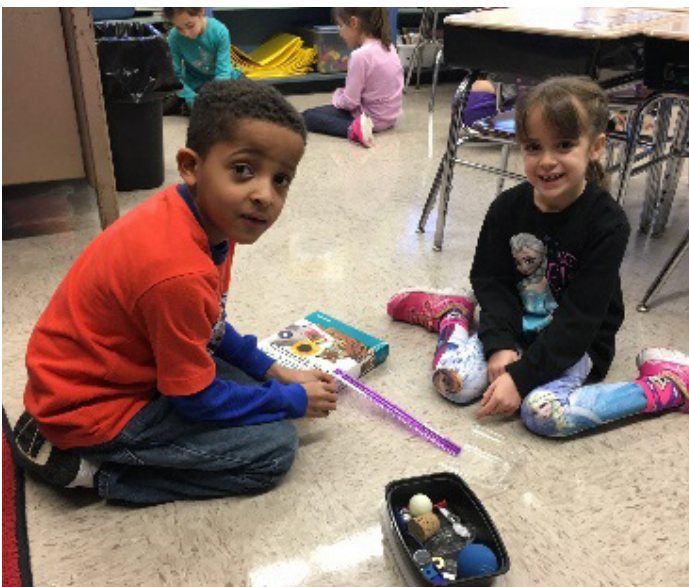
In addition to the WIN initiative, Red Bank also gets to brag about some exceptional goals that were set and broken this year. The annual "Jump Rope for Heart" facilitated by our Phys. Ed. teacher, Ms. English, was a tremendous success. Our students crushed the previous goal and raised a grand total of \$9,149 for the American Heart Association; not too bad for a school of only 243



students. We were so impressed with their motivation, compassion, and desire to help their community and make their world a better place! Of course, knowing you get the chance to smash a pie in your favorite gym teacher's face always adds to the excitement.

Not only were our Red Bank students great at raising money, they were exceptionally good at reading books. During March, which is "Read Across America" month, the teachers and staff set a goal to read at least 4,000 books as a school. That number sounded daunting at first, but these kids proved that they can do anything when they set their minds to it. Red Bank students combined to read a whopping 4,609 books in one month. Many different activities were happening throughout the month as well. The kids really enjoyed the many guest "Mystery Readers" who popped in to share favorite books. The number of parents, aunts/uncles, and grandparents who came in to surprise the classes was amazing.

Great things have been happening at Red Bank, but there are still more to look forward to before the school year winds down. Seussical the Musical, the Philadelphia Zoo, and field day are sure to be wonderful memory makers yet to come!



# High School Presents Grease

Grease is...the word! That's right! The fun, iconic music of *Grease* rang out through the halls of West Deptford High School as this spring, under the direction of Bill Yerkes, the High School musical program presented *Grease*. Audiences were thrilled to see the whole gang back together! The Pink Ladies were fully present and accounted for when Marty, Jan, Frenchie and Rizzo took the stage in their Pink Lady jackets. The T-Birds were represented by Danny, Doody, Sonny, Roger and Kenickie. And, we can't forget about Sandy, Patty and Eugene who rounded out the cast!

*Grease*, being set in the 1950's, still manages to connect with audiences (as well as cast members) who can relate to the roller coaster ride through high school. Young love, unrequited love, new cars, alternate career paths, trying to fit in, and of course the importance of friendship are all explored through song. And, for this show, songs from the 1970's movie, such as *Hopelessly Devoted to You* and *Sandy* were included with original pieces from the musical like *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightening* and *Freddy My Love*. In the end, *Grease* ended the show and reminded audiences it "Doesn't matter if you win or lose it's what you do with your dancin' shoes!"

## Cast List

Danny Zuko .....	Addison Hennequant
Sandy Dumbrowski.....	Regan White
Rizzo .....	Rasha Abouelsaadate
Kenicki.....	Tom Grassi
Marty.....	Sydney Cargill
Sonny .....	Josh Legg
Doody.....	Avery Hennequant
Frenchy .....	Isabelle Nicholas
Jan .....	Danielle Houpt
Roger.....	Chris Watts
Johnny Casino.....	Christian Hoedt
Eugene.....	Steven Bobo
Miss Lynch.....	Willow Bethke
Patty Simcox .....	Emily Magyar
Cha-Cha .....	Cammi Arseneau
Teen Angel .....	Michael Krasting
Vince Fontaine .....	Sean Kelly

## T-Birds, Pink Ladies, Students of Rydell High



Hailey Albinson, Haven Allen, Lindsay Allen, Francesca Amoriello, Grace Arseneau, Tyler Barna, Rachel Bathurst, Grace Becker, Amy Buscemi, Jamie Cesaro, Nathan Collier, Mac Conaway, Anaya Curtis, Emily Davis, Michayla Dayoc-Briggs, Kyra D'Costa, Hailey Finocchio, Selena Flanigan, Gabrielle Friel, Karley Friel, Caterina Gismondi, Elaine Gismondi, Michelle Grover, CJ Heineman, Morgan Hill, Jacquelyn Kephart, Jessica Levy, Jimmy MacMichael, Arina Maier, Ashley May, Allison McCormick, Nicoletta Muriel, Walter Oehler, Vickie Ofidis, Nicole Poulos, Jaden Snyder, Juliana Stauffer, Kelly Van Fossen, Jesse Vitale, Annette Wanjiku, Michael Watts, Micaela Wilner, Gabriella Young



# Middle School People's Choice Awards

West Deptford Middle School rolled out its “green carpet” on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, to host the ninth annual People's Choice Award ceremony. This prestigious award is given to students nominated by staff members of West Deptford Middle School for an outstanding achievement or act of kindness towards others. This evening is dedicated to celebrating the compassion and goodness exemplified in the daily lives of the honored nominees in a truly star-studded fashion.

For this year's award ceremony, sixty-four WDMS staff members participated in the event, including presentations from Detective Cpl. John Craig and School Resource Officer David Jiles of the West Deptford Police Department. Each participating staff member nominated one student from the Middle School for a People's Choice

Award. The presentation of awards was personalized by the staff members to highlight the uniquely specific reasons for each student's selection. The nominations were secured in confidence leading up to the big event, leaving the award recipients and their special guests to eagerly anticipate the announcement of their names during the ceremony. This year's celebration was particularly memorable due to the record-breaking number of attendees who gathered to support the recognized students.

Students, staff, and family members gathered for a brief reception at the conclusion of the award show to enjoy refreshments and take photographs together. It was truly an unforgettable evening. These deserving award-winners will now be retired in the PCA Hall of Fame, honorably secured in West Deptford Middle School history.

*“We are proud to announce the following award-winning students of the 2016 People's Choice Awards, along with their respective nominating staff members...”*



Bassey Abit (Mr. Greene), Kyle Adams (Ms. Mazeika), Chase Austin (Ms. Seher), Gillian Blades (Ms. Rooney), Tyshawn Bookman (Ms. Costantini), Morgan Boyce (Ms. Beck), Brooklyn Castellano (Ms. Thurston), Joshua Castro (Ms. Gottschling), Derek Champion (Ms. Cech), Shane Cole (Mr. Penny), Jeremiah Cromer (Ms. Soltner), Eric Cruz (Ms. Schultes), Sean Denny (Ms. Weber), Ben DeGirolamo (Ms. Headley), Jackson Downing (Ms. Mason), Halle Dreger (Mr. Jakubowski), Ellen Duffy (Ms. Romeo), Emma Engle (Ms. Argo), Jennica Everly (Ms. Bonner), Allison Flynn (Ms. Melcher), David Forman (Ms. Capocci), Michael Goepel (Mr. T. Cross), Michalina Grant (Mr. Kappre), Katelyn Green (Mr. Schwantes), Gianna Gulisano (Mr. Shown), Jack Harverson (Ms. Redkoles), Logan Helder (Mr. B. Cross), Karly Hentz (Ms. Breece), Alexis Hill (Ms. Paterna), DJ Hilliard (Mr. Cottone), Lindsey Holdstein (Ms. Lattanzio), Liza Laxton (Ms. Stephens), Kyle Maska (Ms. Dearlove), James Mayer (Mr. Badt), Lianelys Mestres (Ms. Huepfel), Aiden Kates (Ms. Porter), Adam Kinsley (Ms. Donahue), Brooke Lerch (Ms. Allen), Brianna Mattie (Ms. Ciacciarelli), Kaitlyn McCormick (Ms. Ward), Ryan McCormick (Ms. Dzinski), Raymond Milano (Ms. Sperduto), Michael Miller (Ms. Cardillo), Aniyah Moody (Ms. Kroll), Katie Moore (Ms. Dahlquist), Hannah Phiher (Ms. Zola), Ibrahim Pollard (Ms. Donocoff), Dustin Powell (Officer Jiles), Andrew Reifenrath (Mr. Zimmerman), Vincent Rocco (Ms. Christman), Grayson Rosales (Ms. Farreny), Robert Royal (Ms. Trampé), Vincent Scirrotto (Ms. Ramagli), Ryan Shemeley (Mr. DiLorenzo), Abigail Smedley (Ms. Mullin), Arianna Still (Ms. Proffitt), Brooke Thomas (Mr. Becker), Madison Thomas (Ms. Drewes), Cody Thurston (Detective Cpl. Craig), Olivia Tucker (Ms. Jones), Haleigh Walker (Ms. Rullo), Samantha Walker (Ms. Lee), Erin Walters (Mr. Baker), and Maddie Watts (Mr. Stanwood).

## West Deptford Instructional Aide of the Year...*Mrs. Pat Mellohusky*

The Instructional Aide of the year for West Deptford School District is Mrs. Pat Mellohusky. Mrs. Mellohusky is a 1:1 aide in the multiply handicapped classroom at Red Bank Elementary. Mrs. Mellohusky has her B.S. in Economics, but discovered that her true passion is working with our special needs population.

Mrs. Mellohusky embraces each day with a resilient sense of humor, especially when dealing with challenging situations. In the classroom, she is extremely flexible. She can adapt to unexpected changes in schedules, routines, or her assignment for the day, while remaining composed and willing to “go with the flow”. She possesses an innate ability to understand the nature and needs of individual students. She demonstrates excellence in working effectively either one-to-one, or with small groups of students in the classroom. Mrs. Mellohusky has established an excellent rapport with students, parents, and staff, and is always willing to lend support or a helping hand to any one in need. She is confident in taking appropriate, undirected initiative to manage, instruct, guide, or regulate students as needed. Her personal contributions to the classroom go above and beyond the call of duty.

She has taken an interest in researching and learning

all she can to enhance her knowledge and understanding of student disabilities. Recently, Mrs. Mellohusky completed course work to become a certified Autism specialist. When the going gets tough, Mrs. Mellohusky never gets discouraged; she just gets “going!” She expertly applies her acquired knowledge in all aspects to the students and the classroom.



In addition to all Mrs. Mellohusky offers within the classroom, she also has a genuine interest in the welfare of others in the local community. She actively engages her personal time to contributing and procuring donations in helping many needy families in West Deptford.

Mrs. Mellohusky is most definitely a “team” player. She is an extraordinary and valuable asset to the District of West Deptford. She is a dedicated, knowledgeable, and enthusiastic paraprofessional. We are extremely lucky to have Mrs. Mellohusky working with the students not only in Red Bank School, but the entire West Deptford community.

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## Governor’s Educators of the Year...*Mrs. Karen Berry*



It is with great pride that Red Bank’s Governor’s Educator of the Year recipient is Mrs. Karen Berry. Mrs. Berry is a graduate of Rowan University with a B.S. in Special Education. It is her undeterred quest for excellence that makes her the perfect honoree for this award.

Mrs. Berry is the teacher in our multiply handicapped room. She has students of varying levels and diverse learning styles. She has students with Autism, processing disorders, medical issues, speech delays, and even students learning English as a second language. Mrs. Berry makes every effort to reach each child at the level they are learning. With such a diverse group of student this is an on-going responsibility which she takes very seriously. She develops specialized assessments and tools for each child. She continually looks for new ways to reach her students. She is constantly searching for alternative ways to teach the material. Mrs. Berry uses a multitude of approaches to reach her non-traditional learners. She uses manipulatives for tactile learners; songs for auditory learners; modeling for visual learners, and technology to bring it all together.

Mrs. Berry continues to seek out experiences that will help her to grow professionally. She participates in any and all seminars, training, and classes that she feels will enhance her instruction. She is constantly searching for new “tricks” to add to her toolbox. Mrs. Berry willingly shares her plethora of knowledge with her peers and colleagues. She routinely assists teachers who may be struggling with an individual student. When she finds something that works with a student, she shares the techniques and information with the parents as well. Mrs. Berry is often sought out for assistance, advice, and support by her peers and administration.

In addition to her everyday class responsibilities, Mrs. Berry participates on committees and facilitates after school clubs that affect all the students in the school. This year, Mrs. Berry is hosting a building club that develops students’ critical thinking and collaboration skills in a creative manner. She is also an integral member of the Little Growers’ Garden committee which is working to sustain Red Bank’s vegetable garden that allows our students to be 21<sup>st</sup> century thinkers.

Mrs. Berry’s enthusiasm and passion for teaching have made Red Bank an amazing school and learning experience for our students.



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## Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year...*Mrs. Kathy Laughlin*



Red Bank is proud to announce Mrs. Kathy Laughlin as its Governor's Educational Professional recipient of the year. Mrs. Laughlin has various degrees that she earned from Rutgers University and Glassboro State College. She has been serving the students of West Deptford for the past 18 years. She

began her West Deptford journey at WDMS and then traveled to her current position at Red Bank.

Mrs. Laughlin proudly calls herself the Red Bank School Nurse. However, she is and does so much more for Red Bank School and for the West Deptford community. She takes on her role with pride to fix cuts, bumps, scrapes, and sickness. That is only the surface of her presence in our School. She teaches CPR courses, certifies staff on epipen procedures, runs the elementary portion of Operation Blessing, wrote, and was awarded our garden grant to

support healthy eating, mediates conflicts among students, takes on many duties, and is an amazing listener. There are probably so many more other tasks that Mrs. Laughlin undertakes, but she does them without recognition.

Her day does not end when the students leave. She is often found, way after the school day has ended, filing, making phone calls, or following up on things that happened during the day. She supports staff and students whole-heartedly on so many issues. She is the epitome of a team player.

You know Mrs. Laughlin genuinely cares for each and every person with whom she has contact. She always puts the needs of others before herself. She is a selfless giver and care-taker. Red Bank students are confident that every day they will come to school knowing they will be loved and cared for by Mrs. Laughlin. Thank you so much for your service and dedication to our students.

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## Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year...*Dr. Kathleen Pilarz*

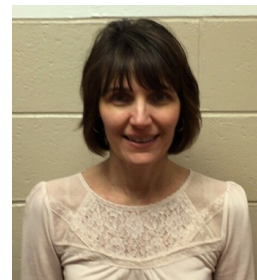
Dr. Kathleen Pilarz serves as a case manager for our Child Study Team, as well as our school psychologist for the District. She has been in the District for 9 years and is a consummate professional, always advocating for students and making it a priority to develop a trusting rapport with staff members and parents. Dr. Pilarz impressively manages over 100 caseloads of students and has a concentrated number of these cases in the Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade setting. She works tireless hours to ensure compliance of all student IEPs, while keeping all stakeholders informed of relevant information.

Dr. Pilarz possesses a tremendous amount of knowledge on student disabilities, developmental levels, and school law. She comes to work each day eager to make a difference in students' lives and is highly passionate about her craft. She often collaborates with staff members to gain input on student progress and knows each of her students on a personal level. Dr. Pilarz spends time in classrooms on a daily basis and leads instructional activities each week.

Dr. Pilarz genuinely cares about the success and well-being of every student. Her work day/week extends far

beyond her contractual hours and she invests many nights/weekends to complete evaluations, type reports, write student IEPs and plan for future meetings. She is regularly sought out by colleagues for professional advice, guidance, and recommendations to use within their classrooms. She makes accommodations for

parents who cannot meet during the school day and has even conducted meetings at their homes and local library. Dr. Pilarz maintains confidentiality of each student and always meets deadlines and mandates with integrity. She is highly respected within the school and community and comes to work each day with a positive attitude. Dr. Pilarz takes her position very seriously, has tremendous pride in the services she provides students, and is a valuable asset to the Oakview School community. She is well deserving of this prestigious award to be recognized for the outstanding work she does for our Districts' youngest learners!



## Governor's Educator of the Year...*Mrs. Patti Ardito*



Mrs. Patti Ardito serves as a looping 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher at Oakview Elementary School. She is a veteran teacher who is currently in her 20<sup>th</sup> year of teaching in the West Deptford School District. Mrs. Ardito possesses a tremendous amount of curriculum knowledge and has served as a mentor teacher on numerous occasions to help aspiring student/novice teachers. She comes to work each day eager to make a difference in students' lives and is highly passionate about her craft. She often collaborates with staff members to gain input on student progress and knows each of her students on a personal level. She truly is a lifelong learner who stays abreast of best practices and looks to add new techniques to her daily instruction.

Mrs. Ardito goes above and beyond the call of duty

for her students. Her work day/week extends far beyond her contractual hours and she invests many nights/weekends to grade assessments, complete referrals, and lesson plan. She is regularly sought out by colleagues for professional advice, guidance, and recommendations to use within their classrooms. She makes accommodations for parents who cannot meet during the school day and has even conducted meetings during lunch or at home via conference calls. Mrs. Ardito maintains confidentiality of each student and openly communicates with parents to help them reinforce instructional concepts at home. She is highly respected within the school and comes to work each day with a positive attitude. Mrs. Ardito has tremendous pride in the success of her students and always advocates for their best interests. She works tirelessly to ensure all student needs are being met and differentiates every lesson to accommodate all students. Mrs. Ardito deserves to represent Oakview as the teacher of the year.

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## Governor's Educator of the Year...*Mr. Richard Cottone*

West Deptford Middle School is honored to announce Mr. Richard Cottone as the Governor's Educator of the Year Honoree for the 2015-2016 School Year. Mr. Cottone holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Rutgers University. His initial career path after college was Television Production; however, Mr. Cottone found himself called to the profession of education. He saw teaching as an opportunity to apply his social and interpersonal skills in a more significant way, while forging deeper, more meaningful connections with people through his work. In 2006, Mr. Cottone joined West Deptford Middle School and fulfilled his ultimate goal and purpose: to help others.

In the decade since, Mr. Cottone has taught Social Studies in Grades 6 and 8 and served as a Gifted and Talented Teacher. This year, Mr. Cottone teaches Social Studies in Grade 7 and is the Team Leader of Team 7A. Mr. Cottone has served on the School Improvement Panel, fundraised for Operation Blessing, served in the capacity of Cooperating Teacher for practicum and

student teachers, and served on the Scheduling Committee.

Mr. Cottone fosters a cooperative working environment where students know that problems are welcome because they know they can be solved. Mr. Cottone explains his approach to his daily classroom practice by saying, "What I most want students to learn in my classroom is that they have great worth regardless of their background, that they have many contributions to make regardless of their intellect, and that they have an important purpose even though they may not know what it is just yet. I am as concerned with life lessons as I am with history lessons. I want my students to be good learners, but I also want them to be good people." Congratulations to Mr. Cottone for earning this well-deserved honor.





## Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year...*Mr. William Gore*

William Gore was selected as the Governor's Educational Service Professional Recognition Honoree for West Deptford High School due to his active commitment to the West Deptford High School, as well as his true dedication to our students. Mr. Gore began working as an Instructional Aide in West Deptford in 2005. Mr. Gore is furthering his education as he is working on earning his teaching certificate in the area of special education from Wilmington University.

His devotion to our School, along with his patience and understanding with the students make Mr. Gore the person who we all respect. He is a highly motivated, self-starter who is ready to complete any task given. He has a keen sense of humor that helps relax students during stressful situations giving him not only a great rapport with students, but with his fellow co-workers. Mr. Gore's responsibilities are more than just preparing materials

for class, but include one-on-one interactions with the students, monitoring safety, supporting social interactions, implementing instructional goals and recognizing students' strengths and weaknesses.

Mr. Gore immerses himself in the High School community. He is involved in various activities throughout the school environment. He always volunteers for school events, is there when we need him and is always willing to lend a helping hand. He has definitely, and most importantly, become a prominent mentor, motivator and an extraordinary influence to our students and community here at West Deptford High. Congratulations Mr. Gore!



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## Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year...*Mrs. Denise Leaf*



West Deptford Middle School would like to congratulate Mrs. Denise Leaf for being honored as the Educational Service Professional for the 2015-2016 School Year. Mrs. Leaf is a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant (LDT-C). Mrs. Leaf earned her Bachelor's Degree from West Virginia University in

Physical Education with a Minor in Special Education, her Master's Degree in Special Education from Kean University, and earned a Learning Disabilities Teaching Consultant Certification from Rowan University.

Prior to becoming a LDT-C in 2011, Mrs. Leaf taught Special Education for seventeen years, six of which were at West Deptford Middle School. Mrs. Leaf was nominated by peers for her exceptional knowledge of education and how students learn best. Her experience as a former Special Education teacher makes her an effective Learning Disabilities Teaching Consultant. One of Mrs. Leaf's best traits is her ability to bring staff, students, and families together in positive and productive ways.

Mrs. Leaf's position as a LDT-C in West Deptford Public Schools encompasses many duties. Mrs. Leaf works collaboratively with teachers and administrators to identify and support students' needs. She evaluates referred students to determine if there are learning disabilities, analyzes results to diagnose students' strengths and weaknesses, works closely with teachers to explain,

teach and model interventions, and assesses the effects on the students' success.

Mrs. Leaf sits on the NJ Epilepsy Community Impact Board and the South Jersey Epilepsy Group. She enjoys traveling and watching her daughter compete as an acrobat and tumbler at college in West Virginia.

Mrs. Leaf plays a special role at West Deptford Middle School. We are very proud and grateful to honor her with this special recognition.

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**We're on the Web!**



[www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us](http://www.wdeptford.k12.nj.us)

## Governor's Educator of the Year...*Mr. Mike Seeley*

Mr. Mike Seeley was selected as the Governor's Teacher Recognition Honoree for West Deptford High School due to his excellent teaching style, active leadership within the High School Math Department, and true dedication to our students. Mr. Seeley began teaching in West Deptford High School in 2007. He graduated from The College of New Jersey where he was the recipient of the TCNJ Merit Scholar and Edward Bloustein Distinguished Scholar Awards.

Throughout his time as a teacher and department chair, Mr. Seeley has been providing the department with ideas on how to integrate new resources into their classrooms and is an advocate for technology. Mr. Seeley has been a valuable resource for staff when we have questions with LinkIt! or Google. He presented Google Classroom to the entire staff in the beginning of the school year and continues to research best practice strategies for technology integration. Mr. Seeley has been in the forefront of STEM education at West Deptford over the past two years, investigating and implementing new STEM courses for the High School and continuing to work hard to ensure the success of these new classes. Mr. Seeley assisted in establishing the initial phase of the Middle School

STEM curriculum a few years ago by presenting mini-workshops on weekends and after school to not only introduce, but increase, interest in coding programs for students in our Middle and High School. To this end, he is currently investigating an additional degree in computer science for his own professional improvement. Mr. Seeley demonstrates the desire to continue to learn not only for his own professional growth, but also for the sake of providing the best educational experiences for our students.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Seeley has dedicated countless hours to WDHS beyond classroom time. He is currently the Mathematics Department Chair, the Head Tennis coach for both Boys' and Girls' Tennis Teams, Assistant Bowling Coach and Class of 2018 Co-Advisor. He was recently awarded the South Jersey Times "Coach of the Year" Award for the fall tennis season. Congratulations Mr. Seeley for an honor well deserved.



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## Governor's Educator of the Year...*Mrs. Elise Wajid, Ed.D.*



On behalf of the students and staff of Green-Fields Elementary School, we are proud to recognize Mrs. Elise Wajid as Green-Field's Governor's Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Wajid demonstrates the qualities reserved for those educators who make a conscious decision each day to demonstrate excellence in all they do for the students in their care.

Throughout her time in the District, Mrs. Wajid's professionalism and commitment to students and staff has been exceptionally apparent. She maintains several roles within the building including Reading Specialist, Literacy Coach, Students First Team Coordinator, and Assistant to the Principal. In addition to these various responsibilities, Mrs. Wajid is always willing to take on further duties as needed in order to enhance the effectiveness of instruction. She is the ultimate "team player" and shares her time and

talent with teachers, parents, and administrative staff.

Mrs. Wajid continues to add to the instructional knowledge base within the building through her ongoing research and leadership through the Professional Learning Community model. Her commitment in this regard is demonstrated through the recent completion of her Doctoral Research in Literacy Instruction, specifically related to student motivation in Reading. The basis of this research lends itself to the improved literacy achievement of our struggling or disengaged students, and provides strategies and interventions for teachers within the classroom.

Dr. Wajid has earned the respect of students, their parents and District staff through her dedication to the children in her care, and commitment to the learning environment. She demonstrates a confident leadership style and has gained the trust of the faculty and staff at Green-Fields as well as colleagues throughout the District. Dr. Wajid continues to demonstrate excellence daily on behalf of her students and is well deserving of this recognition.



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## Governor's Educational Services Professional of the Year... *Mrs. Karen Kitchen*



Green-Fields Elementary School is proud to recognize Mrs. Karen Kitchen as our Educational Services Professional of the Year. Mrs. Kitchen has been a valued member of the Green-Field's family for the past 3 years. In her role as an Instructional Aide,

Mrs. Kitchen demonstrates a strong commitment to the academic and social well-being of the students she serves. However, this dedication to children extends well beyond her assigned classroom. Students throughout the building know her to be a kind, helpful, and nurturing presence each day.

Mrs. Kitchen exhibits the qualities associated with those who truly enjoy working with children. Within her instructional role, Mrs. Kitchen spends additional time learning all facets of the curriculum as well as strategies and interventions vital to student success. In the words of Mrs. Dixon, the classroom teacher, "Mrs. Kitchen is a true asset to our classroom. Our students love her and are successful because of her presence each day...I would be lost without her." Mrs. Kitchen has assuredly contributed to the exceptional instruction provided for our students through her dedication to the profession, and is most deserving of her recognition as Green-Fields Educational Services Professional of the Year.

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## Child Find

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

A wide variety of special education programs are available for students between the ages of 3 and 21 who require specialized instruction and/or related services such as speech/language services, occupational therapy and physical therapy in order to meet their educational needs. Educational program options include: instruction in a general education class with all the necessary and appropriate supports, supplemental instruction, resource center programs, special class programs within the School District, special education programs in out-of-district public or private schools, individual instruction at home, in medical institutions or other appropriate facilities.

### **PRESCHOOL DISABLED PROGRAM**

The Preschool Disabled Program provides appropriate educational experiences for youngsters between the ages of 3 and 5 who experience developmental delays in the areas of speech and language, motor development, cognition and/or social/emotional functioning. The School District offers an educational program, related services, and door-to-door transportation at no cost to parents. The children are placed according to individual needs and developmental levels. In the preschool programs, they are encouraged to explore new materials, develop emerging skills, and interact in a social setting. Speech/language therapy and occupational therapy are offered as an integral part of the classroom program and/or on an individual basis as needed. If warranted, other services such as physical therapy may be initiated.

**If you have any questions about either of the programs described above and feel that your child may require services, please call the Supervisor of Special Education and Related Services, Mrs. Cheryl Fairchild, at (856) 848-4300, ext. 4213.**

# 2016-2017 School Budget



As a result of a decision made by the Board of Education in February, 2012, there is no vote on the school budget as long as the tax levy increase in the budget is at or below the state-mandated 2% cap, which this budget technically is. The 2016-2017 budget was approved by the Board on April 25, 2016, and it is now the final budget for the 2016-2017 school year. This adopted budget includes the funding for a Full-Day Kindergarten Program, which will begin in September of 2016! This has been a goal of the Board of Education for a number of years and the funding for it was generated from the savings on healthcare premiums that the Board was able to realize by exiting the School Employees' Health Benefits Program and joining the Schools' Health Insurance Fund. The Board still desires to provide as much information as possible about the budget to the residents of West Deptford, and that is the purpose of this section of the newsletter.

This budget was once again impacted by the decline in ratables in West Deptford Township. The value of property in the township for 2015 is \$25,078,647 less than it was in 2014, largely due to tax appeals in town. This decline in property values resulted in a reduced tax base, and therefore led to a larger tax increase. Also, as stated above, the revenue short fall created by a 0.94% state aid increase, and reduced federal grant aid, led to an increase in the tax levy. This budget results in a 7.15 cents per hundred (5.77 for the general fund; 1.38 for debt service) increase in taxes for the average home assessed at \$199,947. That translates to \$95.34 per year, or \$7.94 per month. By way of comparison last year's cost was \$166.52 per year for the average homeowner.

## Budget Detail

## Tax Levy Information

This year's General Fund	\$ 46,964,395	This year's Total Tax Levy	\$ 31,755,838
Last year's General Fund	\$ 46,036,752	Last year's Total Tax Levy	\$ 30,799,580
Represents an increase of	\$ 927,643	Represents an increase of	\$ 956,258

*This budget results in*

# a 7.15 cent increase for the average home assessed at \$199,947

## Referendum Construction Update

As you are aware, the West Deptford Community voted to approve a \$13.8 million referendum on September 30, 2014. The Board of Education, Administration and the Board's engineering firm, Remington and Vernick, have been working diligently since that time to get the myriad of projects underway to improve the infrastructure and instructional spaces in the District. All of the projects listed below are complete.

- HS Athletic Fields Restoration
- Roofing projects (OV & HS)
- HS Science Lab & Classroom Renovations
- Roof-top HVAC Units (MS), High Efficiency Hot Water Heaters (MS & HS)
- BAS System Controls Upgrades (District-wide HVAC controls)
- Fire Alarms (OV, GF, RB), Electrical Panels (all buildings) and Ceiling Tile replacement in all buildings.
- Security Doors & Vestibules
- HS Media Center Renovations

The below listed projects are currently out to bid, and construction on them will begin this summer.

- HS Elevator
- Gymnasium floors (HS, MS, OV, GF), new cafeteria and stage floors (HS),
- atrium renovations (GF), bathroom upgrades (OV), exterior wall repairs (multiple buildings)

The projects listed below are underway, with completion dates listed.

- Renovations to the sewage lift station at the HS – June 15, 2016
- New interior doors (HS, OV, GF, RB), new windows (HS, OV, GF, RB), new exterior doors (HS) – September, 2016
- 5 classroom Early Childhood addition at Oakview to house a tuition-based pre-school program and some full-day Kindergarten classes – August 25, 2016. Please see the aerial photos of the addition as of April 25.

