



Watchung Hills Regional High School District

Newsletter

May 2017

From the desk of the Superintendent



As the end of the year rapidly approaches, signaled by the finalizing of plans for the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2017 along with the welcoming of our future Class of 2021 during our recent 8th Grade Orientation, I find there is no better time to reflect upon a year of amazing accomplishments throughout our learning community.

In the pages that follow, you will read about the outstanding achievements of our students during the past year. The newsletter also includes updates from members of our staff regarding our focus on interdisciplinary learning, professional development, technology upgrades, and an active hub of student learning and collaboration in our school - our media center.

I encourage you to attend our upcoming Board of Education meetings on May 23rd and June 6th to hear more about the innovative endeavors of both our students and staff during the 2016-2017 school year. At our May 23rd meeting, faculty members will provide an update on progress toward our performance indicators outlined in our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. At our June 6th meeting, faculty members and students will share their work this past year toward cultivating a culture of collaboration and authentic learning, a theme that permeates all of our Strategic Plan goals.

I am truly awe-inspired as I reflect upon the past year of growth and achievement across our district, and I am proud to be a part of the world-class Watchung Hills Regional High School learning community!

Warm Regards,

Superintendent

WHRHS Strategic Plan Goals 2015-2020

With an intentional focus on putting students first, the WHRHS District will provide the resources, technology, and organizational change to achieve the following goals:

- ***Create and expand programs and services that enhance the social and emotional wellness of all students within a compassionate learning community.***
- ***Build and strengthen support structures that engage students in developing their individual potential, enable students to experience success in high school, and empower students to plan and prepare well for post-secondary learning.***
- ***Integrate creative, innovative, and interdisciplinary learning throughout the district to empower and inspire students to succeed in a changing global community.***

Our Professional Learning Community

Embracing a culture of inquiry, Watchung Hills educators have enthusiastically engaged in a wide range of professional development activities this school year. Individually, faculty have participated in workshops on diverse topics including: robotics programming, instructional strategies for students with autism, and counseling techniques to support the wellness of students. The school year opened with two professional development days welcoming new faculty and a dynamic presentation from Dr. Gene Kerns, author of *The True Story of Talent and Expertise*. Collaborative workshops on Google applications, supporting LGBTQ students, and a book discussion were some of the events educators participated in on the second day. The majority of these workshops were developed and delivered by faculty members who shared their interests, knowledge, and skills with colleagues. Two days of professional development in October afforded the opportunity for the entire educational community to come together as a team of pre-K through high school educators to share ideas and support each other's professional growth. A few examples of the topics offered included: developmental aspects of writing research papers, instructional strategies for computer science, preparing students for SAT and ACT testing,



Beth Scheiderman
Director of Human Resources
& Professional Development

and a discussion of shared services in special education. Events were held at Warren Middle School and here at Watchung Hills. All events were developed and facilitated by the faculty and staff of this community. The second October professional development day was facilitated by experts in the field who spoke to the faculty on best practices in the classroom. Experts included a university writing instructor, an expert in trauma studies, a working artist, a mathematics and technology leader and the chief implementation officer from the DOE responsible for evaluating the Next Generation Science Standards. The feedback from teachers about their professional learning this fall revealed the benefits of the professional development program. A few of the comments on the follow-up survey were: "This training was directly related to what I do every day." "I will definitely use the many tricks and techniques I learned for my SMARTboard." "These two days were the best ever for me professionally." The educators of the Watchung Hills Regional High School learning community made the professional development events of the school year dynamic and demonstrated the true meaning of lifelong learning through their active participation and leadership in all professional development activities.

Cross-Curricular Collaboration

One of our three overarching goals in the Strategic Plan focuses on helping students see interdisciplinary connections between and among their diverse course offerings and in their co-curricular and athletic activities:

Integrate creative, innovative, and interdisciplinary learning throughout the district to empower and inspire students to succeed in a changing global community.

For those of you who attended our spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, you observed the tangible evidence of the cross collaboration and teamwork of our staff and students. Our teachers and students worked together to market, design and execute many additional activities in addition to the performance itself. The business students, the actors and actresses, the tech team, and the culinary club collaborated and planned a story hour in the community libraries and a



Mary Ellen Phelan
Director of Curriculum &
Instruction

character breakfast at the high school in the weeks leading up to the show and the morning of the matinee, respectively. Students were gratified at all they learned from each other whether it was a lesson on elocution and tone from Belle or how to calculate profit and loss from the members of the accounting club.

Watching the students in the weeks leading up to the play demonstrated that they were engaged in authentic learning, and so too were their teachers. Over the past year, teachers have met with colleagues from across the district to share insights, strategies and content with one another. The goals of this initiative include highlighting the strengths of the curriculum, modeling collaboration among adults in a professional setting and highlighting the interrelatedness of the critical thinking skills that are evident in diverse classes. Inquiry and higher level questioning are evident whether students are outside climbing ropes for project adventure,

Cross-Curricular Collaboration (Cont'd)

studying for the AP government test, cooking dinner in foods, calculating acceleration in physics, writing code for a robot, dancing the salsa, writing a poem in English, or singing an aria in Italian for the first time. The time set aside to plan during monthly department meetings has been valuable in expanding our professional capacity as learners as well as growing our empathy for our students. This initiative was helpful because it helped teachers learn more about the number and diversity of assignments for research, writing and collaborative projects our students receive from their teachers regardless of discipline. As one supervisor remarked, "As a result of this initiative, students are being better prepared to see the world from a variety of lenses, to take ownership of their learning, and to embrace diversity." As a learning community, we will continue to collaborate, in order to discover at a much deeper level, the connection between and among the disciplines we teach our students.

Since it is impossible to detail all of the innovative projects teachers completed with their colleagues, here are a few highlights across grades and levels. The social studies and math departments have particularly enjoyed creating new meaning from what at first glance appears to be unrelated content. They experimented by co-teaching lessons with one another which included studying the history of the IRS as well as the way tax tables are calculated. The study of Supreme

Court cases was another topic that received more attention from students when issues of race and class were aligned with statistical tables outlining the educational deficits of convicted felons. Students also analyzed the Dakota Pipeline from a variety of perspectives. Several science and arts teachers collaborated on the properties of transition metals present in personal creative jewelry pieces, and other teacher teams taught each other and the students about the chemical composition and the efficacy of the different glazes used in ceramics. Teachers from the physical education department reached out to 11th grade science teachers to analyze the physics of ziplines by using accelerometers to capture real time data. The students then analyzed the data and displayed their findings in graphs. Our drama students worked with our science students to more deeply understand color and light optics. An interdisciplinary project generated by teachers of English and world languages focused on strategies to support students in our ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. Other world language teachers worked collaboratively with the arts teachers to help students understand the origins of cultural dance in French and Hispanic cultures. To hear more about these collaborative efforts, plan on attending the Board of Education meeting on June 6th where teachers and supervisors will present in more detail on their interdisciplinary collaboration this year.



Technology Corner



Brian Bayachek,
Director of Information
Technology



Michael D'Alessio
Director of Science, Instructional
Technology, and Assessment

We are continually seeking to reevaluate and refine our technology infrastructure to keep pace with the evolving needs of our learning community. Below is an outline of recent and upcoming upgrades.

District Website Upgrade

This summer, we will be launching a completely redesigned website that is more user friendly and will allow for enhanced communication via our district website. The new website architecture will help visitors navigate to find content more efficiently and the responsive design will easily adapt to fit the screen of any mobile device. The user friendly content management system will allow WHRHS staff members to easily post various content to pages as needed. Stay tuned for additional updates on the launch of a new and improved whrhs.org!

1:1 Initiative for Incoming 9th Grade Class

This summer, Watchung Hills Regional High School will begin moving towards a 1:1 initiative that will benefit both teacher and student classroom experiences. As our first step of migration toward a 1:1 environment, the district will provide a Chromebook to each incoming 9th grade student (WHRHS Class of 2021). As the devices are district owned, the district has the ability to manage and maintain these devices. All students will be on the same platform. It will be easy to push out applications and settings, and teachers will also know the best applications that will work for their classes. Currently our staff has a high degree of knowledge with the use of Google Classroom and Google Apps which supplement and enhance teaching and learning.

Our roll out of the initiative for the Class of 2021 will serve as a pilot to determine next steps. More information will be forthcoming regarding plans for distribution, usage

agreements, and insurance fees based on recommendations made by the district's Technology Committee. A standard fee may be applied to the issuance of the device to cover accidental damage and replacement costs (Insurance Plan).

SMARTBoards

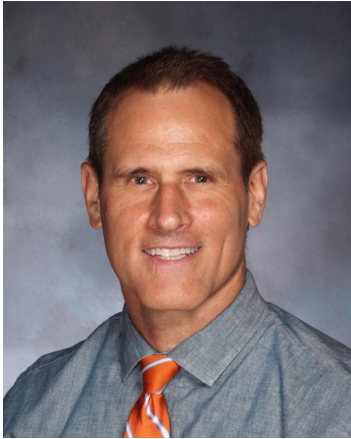
WHRHS has had much success with our SMARTBoard implementation. Teacher feedback was solicited last year and utilized to plan professional development during Fall 2016. Faculty members have indicated the technology is easy to use and assimilates very well with our new Lenova Yoga Touchscreen devices that are currently being tested by some of our teachers. This summer, the district will install SMART Interactive Flat Panels in 12 additional classrooms and continue to provide professional development for staff around effective integration of the SMARTBoard technology to enhance instruction.

PARCC Testing

PARCC testing was held on March 28th and 29th and will continue on May 15th, 16th, 18th, and 19th. The first session went very well while also giving us our highest participation rate since the implementation of PARCC. We look to keep the momentum from the first round of testing going as we approach the second round. We would like to extend thanks to the students, parents, faculty, and staff for their cooperation and understanding during these testing sessions.



Happenings in the Media Center



Scott Keele
Media Specialist

In the last decade we have all witnessed advances in technology and the proliferation of information readily available through many new online resources and the rise of social media. Therefore, we believe the library mission is more important than ever. To help all of our students acquire the skills to not only become information and media literate, but to also learn how to identify, organize

and cite information, protect their own intellectual property, and critically evaluate the credibility and relevance of information sources.

The WHRHS Media Center has become more relevant than ever in this new information age. Before school begins, the media center frequently hosts more than 100 students who work on a variety of tasks. Some are studying for a test while others are collaborating on class projects, a few are watching videos, and several students are finishing web assigns for their science homework. Classes conducting research, teachers and students from study halls frequent the library throughout the school day. After school, the usage of the media center has also been on the rise. In the past six months of this year, the media center has had over 6800 visitors and approximately 90 classes a month.

This year, in addition to acquiring an assortment of print and digital resources and databases, the media center has introduced three new resources to help our students embrace 21st century learning and prepare for postsecondary research success: LibGuides, EasyBib EDU, and EBSCO Discovery have all made their successful debuts.

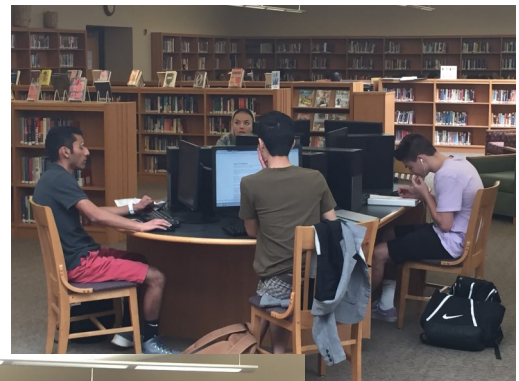
LibGuides is a content management system used by public and academic libraries worldwide. Librarians use this resource to curate knowledge and share information, organize classes, conduct subject specific research including databases, print books, videos and web sites. With over 40 LibGuides created so far, LibGuides is proving to be a valuable tool for student research.

According to their website, EasyBib is “an intuitive information literacy platform that provides citation, note

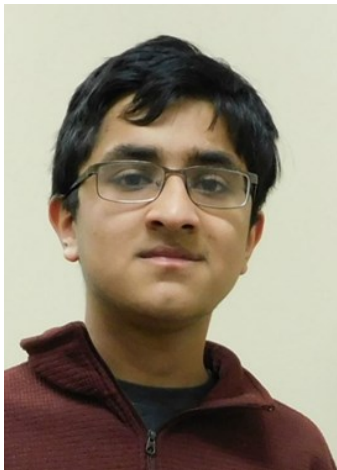
taking, and research tools that are easy-to-use and educational.” EasyBib has been quite popular with both teachers and students because it is not only accurate, fast, and comprehensive, but helps educators teach and students learn how to become effective and organized researchers.

Additionally, in the library's bid to combat Google as the students go-to source for their scholarly research needs, we announce the addition of EBSCO's Discovery Search to our library's resources.

Rebranded as Warrior One-Search, students can now search most of the school's databases simultaneously. With limiters such as Keyword, Title, and Peer Reviewed, searches can be designed to yield narrowly focused results. The Discovery search engine also uses the EBSCO interface, so results can be modified, edited and connected in order to answer precise questions. Our students are becoming prepared to manage information, but, more importantly, they are also learning how to read deeply and research strategically in order to demonstrate their capacity to become 21st century global learners.



Sophomore Neelay Trivedi Wins at State Regional Science Fair



Sophomore Neelay Trivedi won the ISEF (International Science and Engineering Fair) Finalist Grand Prize Award at the New Jersey Regional Science Fair (NJRSF) on Friday, March 10, and Saturday, March 11, in the College Avenue Gym at Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

Trivedi's science Fair project is titled, "Predicting Lung Cancer Onset Using Segmentation and Classification."

"In this project, I used lung CT scans and machine learning to determine the probability of a lung nodule becoming cancerous, thus saving time for doctors who can now focus on high-priority patients," Trivedi said.

Trivedi explained further about his project, which focused on developing an algorithm that would train computers to more precisely assist physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients.

"I used a machine learning technique called convolutional neural networks to identify what features in lung nodules made them cancerous," he said. "I then trained my algorithm to identify these features and predict whether the patient's scan would become cancerous in a 12-month timespan."

At the regional science fair, a student's project was capable of winning more than one award. Trivedi's project actually won five awards in addition to winning Grand Prize.

Trivedi project also won the following category awards: First Place in Mathematics and Computer Science; First Place in ACM Computing Award; First Place Intel Computer Science Award; Innovation Award; and Statistics Award Honorable Mention.

He now has the opportunity to travel to Los Angeles, Calif., between Sunday, May 14, and Friday, May 19, to compete at the national ISEF. The project he entered and won with at this New Jersey Regional Fair will be evaluated against a field of projects from students from around the country.

Science, Mathematics and Engineering are a common theme in Trivedi's extracurricular activities at WHRHS. He is active in the Waksman Biology Club, the Science Competition, League and Bowl, the Math Team and Robotics. He is also on staff at the School Newspaper, Arrowhead.

Senior Daniel Lee Wins Recognition for Science Achievement

Senior Daniel Lee has been named one of the top 300 young scientists in the 76th annual Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS).

WHRHS is one of 183 high schools across the U.S. and one of five comprehensive high schools in New Jersey to have a student selected for this honor. Lee was awarded \$2,000, and WHRHS received \$2,000 to support excellence in science, math, and/or engineering education.

Lee, who has been a center on the WHRHS Varsity Ice Hockey team for four years, is one of the captains of the team. He is also President of the school's Math League and founder of the school's Neuroscience Club. Lee is also committed to environmental awareness and clean water issues.



Lee has been a member of the Borough of Watchung Green Team for the past two years, where he help organize environmental events for the town, including the weekly Farmers Market and the Annual Green Fair.

Lee is now working on possibly having his paper published in a scientific research publication. He is leaning toward pursuing studies in material science and applied physics while in college.

Lee conducted research at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab (PPPL) in Princeton during the spring and summer of 2016. where he studied electrical discharges in underwater gas bubbles. Lee said "This process can be developed as a more comprehensive alternative to current water

Senior Daniel Lee Wins Recognition for Science Achievement (Cont'd)

treatment techniques because plasma-based water treatment decomposes volatile organic compounds and sterilizes bacteria. In my research, I characterized several significant mechanisms of the discharge phenomena which have potential for improving energy efficiency and scalability of this form of water treatment which had not been studied previously.”

He began his research there as a volunteer intern last Spring two to three days a week until school ended in June. Thereafter, he obtained a paid internship at the lab, working eight hours a day, five days a week until school started up again in September.

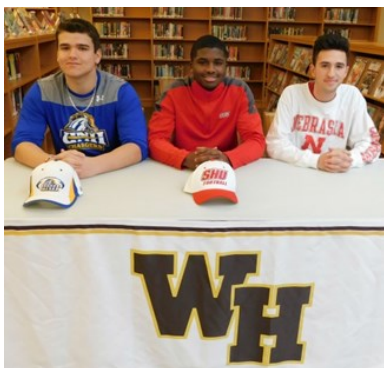
Lee submitted the paper he produced from his research to two academic competitions: The Regeneron Science Talent Research, and the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. Lee was a semifinalist in the Siemen’s Competition and Lee’s application caught the eye of Regeneron. Lee said he was drawn to Regeneron because it takes a “holistic” approach, recognizing young scientists, both for their output and for their development as a scientist.

Regeneron selected Lee as one of 300 young scholars from among more than 1,700 applicants. According to the STS Web site, the applicants were selected "on the basis of their exceptional promise as scientists, excellent record of academic achievement, and outstanding recommendations from teachers and other scientists.” The students are conducting “independent science, math or engineering research.”

The Regeneron STS is a research-based science competition in the United States for high school seniors. It has been referred to as "the nation's oldest and most prestigious" science competition. Alumni have made extraordinary contributions to science and have earned many of the world’s most distinguished science and math honors, including 12 Nobel Prizes.

In his speech at a dinner honoring the 1991 Winners, President George H. W. Bush called the competition the "Super Bowl of science." The competition had previously been known as, first, the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, and then the Intel Science Talent Search.

Athletic Signing Day



Three graduating student athletes at WHRHS declared on College Signing Day that they have committed to play sports in the college of their choice next year.

Two students intend to play football, one to run cross country. They are:

Michael Montecalvo of Green Brook Township, offensive and defensive lineman, a WHRHS Warrior football standout, who plans to play football for the University of New Haven, West Haven, Ct.;

Lamar Evans of Warren Township, receiver and cornerback, a WHRHS Warrior football standout, who plans to play football for Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Ct; and

Ryan Martins of Green Brook Township, a WHRHS Warrior cross country standout, who plans to run cross country for the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.



Girls Basketball Team
Skyland Conference Champions



Ice Hockey Team
Winter Classic Holiday
Tournament Champions



Girls Fencing Team
District 3 Overall Team Champions &
District 3 Èpee Team Champions

Spring Musical “Beauty and the Beast”

When audiences packed the Performing Arts Center at WHRHS March 30 to April 1 to see the school’s annual Spring Musical, “Beauty and the Beast,” they were seeing more than performances of student actors, singers and dancers on the stage and hearing more than student musicians in the orchestra pit.

They were also seeing an “interdisciplinary learning”

experience that engaged more than 150 students, teachers, staff, parents, volunteers, and community supporters. According to school officials, the annual drama productions are being seen as vehicles to learn a whole host of skills.

An example of this evolution this year was a new special event, “Breakfast with Belle,” from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, April 1, in the school’s media center. The event was held in anticipation of the Saturday Matinee performance of the musical. The event was sold out, as were earlier-in-March similar special events at the Warren Township and Long Hill Township. Student actress Hannah Melillo made personal appearances as fully costumed and in-character Belle, to the delight of young children, who had pictures taken with her, and enjoyed various other typical Saturday Morning at the Library activities, such as face painting, craft-making and imagination building.

Then, at the WHRHS Library on April 1, the cast of costumed characters who appeared at the event expanded, since the student actors were preparing to take to the stage for the show’s Saturday matinee. In addition to Belle, other characters appeared, including: “Beast,” portrayed

by Sam Sinnott; the enchanted candlestick, “Lamiere,” portrayed by Jacob Lesser; the enchanted clock, “Cogsworth,” portrayed by Scott Romankow; “Gaston,” portrayed by Will

provided for story time activities in the Media Center.

The event was organized by the business manager of the Drama Department

Theater Arts organization, Script and Cue -- WHRHS

Business Teacher Dianne Krutz. She also engaged her business students in a variety of “real life” living learning



Johnson; and Enchanted Objects, “Knife” portrayed by Katie Napell, “Spoon,” portrayed by Amelia Stapperfenne, and “Fork,” portrayed by Claire Vickery.”

Children could have formal and informal portraits taken with the costumed characters.

In addition, members of the high school’s Culinary Club baked, created, prepared and assembled a smorgasbord of treats for the children and their guardians. High school students in the Art Department and student volunteers led the children in craft-making activities. Students also provided face painting, temporary tattooing and hair braiding. Space was

business tasks required for the staging of Beauty and the Beast, or any school drama or musical. Among the items they covered were budgeting, business planning, marketing, gate receipts, ancillary merchandising, and other related applied business tasks.

This production of Beauty and Beast also received standing ovations from the audiences.

Many in audiences said they were very impressed by the performances, including the sound quality, the diction of the actors and singers, the musical beds provided by the orchestra, the coordination of lighting and stage management, and the way that from top to bottom, the cast performed as a cohesive unit.

Junior Julia Cunningham Scores Her 1,000th Career Point

One of the highlights of Watchung Hills Regional High School Warrior Girls Basketball Team came at 5 minutes and 50 seconds in the second period of the home game against Ridge High School on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017.

That's when with a foul shot on the back end of a "and one" three point play, Junior Julia Cunningham scored the 1,000th point of her illustrious career as a Warrior.

Cunningham scored the 1,000th point on her 23rd point of the game. She went on to score 40 points in the game, which set her own personal game best record as a Warrior and set the new WHRHS school record for most points by an individual girls player in a game.

"The game against Ridge was an incredible night for the Lady Warriors basketball program, but was extremely special for my family and myself," said Cunningham. "Hitting my 1,000th point was something that I had been dreaming of since I was a little kid and to break the scoring record and eclipse the 1,000th point mark in the same night was an unbelievable feeling."

WHRHS Girls Varsity Basketball Coach

Reese Kirchofer said of the accomplishment, "The night Julia scored her 1,000th point and individually tallied 40 points in a single game was an unforgettable night for our program. Julia deserves every accolade she receives as she plays a beautiful brand of basketball contributing to the team in so many ways. It has been a joy to have her as a player and a student. She is a credit to herself, her family and Watchung Hills."

Warrior Athletic Director Christopher Van Vliet agreed, when he said, "Congratulations to Julia on reaching the



1,000 point mark. What a tremendous accomplishment. Our athletic department, coaches, and staff are all proud of you."

Cunningham is only the second girl to amass 1,000 points in her career at WHRHS. The school record for scoring among girls

basketball players is 1,234, set and held by Meghan Kopecki. Only varsity points count toward this record, Coach Kirchofer said.

Timeout Taken For Recognition

Immediately after scoring her 1,000 career point as a Lady Warrior, Cunningham was surrounded by her fellow Warriors for a Team Hug.

The game was temporarily suspended for 5 minutes or so, for an on-the-spot commemoration ceremony.

Cunningham was presented with a bouquet of "basketball" balloons, including balloons that featured in large lettering "1,000." Likewise, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

Her teammates rolled out and stood behind a larger than life banner that read "1,000," and "Congrats Julia."



The Hills Roundup

- ◆ For the second straight year, all of our National Merit Semifinalists have been named Finalists in the National Merit Scholar Competition. This year's double-digit total marks our highest number of finalists in this prestigious process. The ten students are Karthik Irakam, Natalie Kim, Daniel Lee, Jonathan Rich, Caroline Rucker, Michelle Shui, Gavin Van Skiver, Nicole Wang, Jenny Yan and Joyce Zhou.
- ◆ We are pleased to report that four of our students have been selected as National Merit Scholarship winners by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. They are Caroline Rucker, Joyce Zhou, Karthik Irakam, and Michelle Lucy Shui each will receive a \$2,500 scholarship. Additionally, Nicole Wang and Jenny Yan have been selected as winners of the National Merit Novartis Scholarship.
- ◆ Meanwhile, the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Competition is underway, and we are extremely pleased that a record-high 68 students have been recognized based on their performance on the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Last year, we had 46 students recognized.
- ◆ Five of our students have been selected as candidates for the United States Presidential Scholars Program. This program recognizes some of our nation's most distinguished graduating seniors for their accomplishments. The candidates recognized for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program are Michelle Shui, Joyce Zhou, Karthik Irakam, Caroline Rucker and Andrew Zheng.
- ◆ Four of our eleventh grade students have been selected to serve on the Municipal Alliance. They are Ashil Jhaveri, Emma Sonta, Caitlyn Park, and Freddie Hayeck.
- ◆ Watchung Hills students Dave Ki, Will Narayanan, Annamaria Newmark, Katie Tan, Kevin Tan and Handini Yellamelli who are also members of the Youth Orchestra of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, have been invited to perform at the prestigious NAFME (National Association for Music Education) Eastern Division Biennial Conference being held at the Atlantic City Convention Center on April 6. This year the top award-winning ensemble will be traveling to Budapest and Vienna to perform and participate in an international competition.
- ◆ Six of our students have earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in scouting. They are Nicholas Haines, Logan Stiles, Joshua Schmidt, Michael Duncan, Karthik Irakam and Joseph Conant. To attain this distinction, a Boy Scout must demonstrate leadership, service, and outdoor skills. They are also required to do a service project that benefits the community.
- ◆ The WHRHS Choir travelled to Disney February 15 to February 20, 2017. They performed at Disney Springs on February 17 and were given top ratings for their choir performance and select ensemble performance where they received the two highest rated golden Mickey's (gold award ranking).
- ◆ Thomas Hemsworth, Arbi Ulaj, and Arlind Ulaj performed outstanding in their individual debates in defense of their proposed bills at the JSA Winter Congress on February 12. All three students won best speaker awards for their performances.
- ◆ The WHRHS Model UN participated in the University of Delaware's Model UN Conference, "HENMUN V" from February 24 to February 26, 2017. The conference, which includes hundreds of student-delegates from high schools across the United States, came together to simulate the actions of the United Nations. After 3 days of debate and hours of research, 4 of our 23 delegates were recognized for their outstanding efforts. They are:

Best Delegate - Vrinda Goel - Representing Brazil in the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations

Outstanding Delegate - Suchir Govindarajan - Representing Congo in the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations

Outstanding Delegate - Victoria Magali - Representing Izvestia in the Press Corps

Honorable Mention - Mariam Ivaniashvili - Representing Brazil in the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee

***"Education is not preparation for life;
Education is life itself."***

John Dewey

The Hills Roundup (Cont'd)

- ◆ The Mock Trial Team made it to the finals on February 1 competing against Montgomery High School at the Historic Courthouse in Somerville. The team won the finals and Keerthi Adusumilli was selected as Best Attorney. The Mock Trial Team then advanced to the Central Regional Championship which took place at the New Jersey law Center in New Brunswick on February 7, where they defeated Oratory Prep, the Union County Champion. The team then advanced to the Central Regional finals on February 28, where they were defeated by a very close decision to Noor-ii-iman Academy, Middlesex County champion. Other members of the team are Ashil Jhaveri, Deeba Shokrani, Phillip Ding, and Freddie Hayeck.
- ◆ The Science Bowl Team competed in the New Jersey Regional Science Bowl competition on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ. The students made it to the 5th round of the competition. Competing members of the team were: Captain Karthik Irakam, Daniel Lee, Olivia Xu, Vineet Parikh, and Neelay Trivedi.
- ◆ The Academic Team concluded its season where they competed against various Somerset County high schools. Varsity finished in second place with a 7-2 record, while JV finished undefeated 9-0 for first place and the first undefeated team in Academic Team history. Members of the Varsity team are Karthik Irakam, Brian Zeng, Jonathan Dong, and Kevin Lu. The JV team members are Kevin Tan, Vamsi Desu, Calvin Li, Jason Ye, Jarett Schwartz, Helen Yang, and Linda Ye.
- ◆ Congratulations to Daniel Lee, Chris Yu, Kevin Lu, and Vamsi Desu for the exceptional performance on the American Mathematics Contest exam which qualified them for the next round, the AIME contest which took place on March 7. They will get the results of this test in early April.
- ◆ On April 19, the annual World Language Honor Society inducted 333 students into six honor societies. Junior Vincent Tartaro received a special mention for his induction into two world language honor societies, Italian and Spanish.
- ◆ The following students are our 2017 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards National Medalist winners:
 - Silver Medal in Photography: Edward Cai
 - Gold Medal, New York Life Award in Film and Animation: Raymond Tang
 - Silver Medal in Poetry: Linda Ye
 - Gold Medal in Flash Fiction: Vivian Zhang
- ◆ The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) club competed at the state level in Atlantic City on March 16 and 17. FBLA members test their knowledge and skills through competitive events, share their successes, and learn new career ideas through workshops and exhibits. Watchung Hills had 8 finalists at the state level and they will be competing at the national level June 29 - July 2 in Anaheim, California. They are:
 - Management Decision Making - 1st place: Kevin Tan and Peter Wu
 - Business Ethics - 3rd place: Reid Baltuch and Renzo Mayhall
 - Global Business - 3rd place: Freddie Hayeck, Sahil Patel and Eris Ulaj
 - Coding and Programming - 4th place: Vamsi Desu

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X



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