



Wood Road Times

Wood Road Student Newspaper

MARCH 2019

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Students Celebrate 100th Day of School

By Katie Garrant

In February, the kindergarten and first grade students celebrated being in school for 100 days. This special day is celebrated in many ways at Wood Road. In Mrs. Walz's classroom, Mrs. Walz's 100-year-old grandma comes in and help out the class. Her grandma started the tradition in 1999. Grandma Walz said she feels that she is forever 100 years old and not a day older. People often say that Mrs. Walz looks a lot like her grandmother.

"My Grandma and I look very alike, don't you say?," Mrs. Walz said. "She and I look very similar to our Italian genes."

Mrs. Walz said the students are usually shy when they first meet her grandma.

"But then they help her with things, since she forgets a lot," she said.



Kindergarten students celebrate being 100 days smarter on the 100th day of school.

Grandma Walz's favorite part of the day is when the previous kindergarten students come into the classroom and say hello to her.

Mrs. Walz thinks the students really enjoy having Grandma Walz visit on the 100th day of school. Students also celebrated the day by dressing up as 100-year-old people and making posters and other creations which included 100 items.

**Congratulations
to Wood Road's
Super Scotties
for January,
February and
March!**



Wood Road Times

Reporters - Samantha Beatley, Alexandra Beck, Emily Bednarczyk, Amelia DeLuke, Katie Garrant, Aidia Hunter, Emily Hye, Karsyn Messina, Avery Santoro, Olivia Smith

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TWITTER: @Wood_Road_Elem

Questions, comments, story ideas?
Reach us at dbianchi@bscsd.org.



Student Spotlight

Devon Beck

By Karsyn Messina

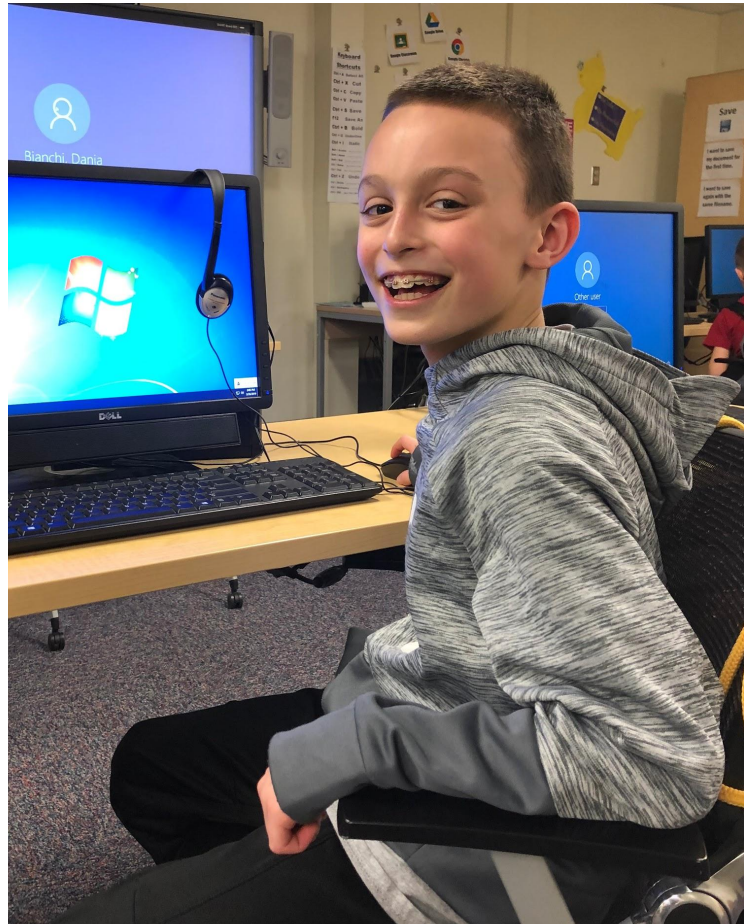
Devon Beck is in the spotlight for this issue of Wood Road Times. He is a third-grader in Ms. Smith's class.

Devon was honored as a Super Scottie in September. He thinks he was chosen for being kind and helpful. Devon said one of his favorite subjects is math.

"It is more enjoyable because Ms. Smith does fun things in math," he said.

He said that one time the class was timed on how long something will take to finish multiplication facts. Ms. Smith's class also does things called Ninja Fact Challenge, which Devin enjoys.

Devon is a member of student council. Other than math, some of his favorite things to do in third grade are going to Friday Night Fever and Scholars. Devon also enjoys doing many activities outside of school. He plays hockey and baseball. Devon has played hockey for four years and baseball for five years. When he grows up he wants to be a professional hockey player.



September Super Scottie, Devon Beck, has many talents. His artwork is displayed in the hallways of Wood Road.



WOOD ROAD'S Spring CONCERT

JUNE 4TH AT 7 P.M. IN THE WOOD ROAD CAFETERIA

Keeping Us Safe

Deputy Lyons Says It Is Her Job to Keep Students Safe

By Emily Hye

This school year, Wood Road's staff and students have welcomed Deputy Lyons, the district's Elementary School Resource Officer, to the school. Deputy Lyons is from the Saratoga County Sheriff's office and now spends her days keeping the school's elementary buildings safe. Deputy Lyons has been a police officer since 2015. She has also served on the Community Preparedness and Youth Services team. She said she wanted a job where she could help people when she decided to go into law enforcement.

"At the same time, a part of me thrives under pressure, loves adventure, and at times, taking risks," she said. "I knew that I could be a positive impact on the people around me, while doing what makes me happy, all at the same time."

In addition to keeping everyone safe, Deputy Lyons also teaches students healthy behaviors including respecting others, drug awareness, internet safety, and conflict resolution. She said the best part of her job now is interacting with the kids.

"I also go into the classrooms helping with lessons, being a mystery reader,



Deputy Lyons visited Wood Road on Halloween and found her mini-me's.

presenter, and get to know students and staff on a more individual level," she said.

Deputy Lyons said that some of the students may have been nervous when they first saw her, but now, she feels they are more comfortable with her.

"That initial fear has passed, and most every student recognizes me, knows who I am and why I am here! Many kids get excited to see me, and I love that," she said, adding that the district as a whole has been very welcoming.

"Administrators, staff, teachers, students, everyone," she said.

Deputy Lyons said a lot of attention this year has been put on safety, such as drills and protocols.

"Of course, I always have safety goals for my schools, we constantly look for ways to improve safety and be one step ahead of any issue that may arise," she said.

Before law enforcement, Deputy Lyons worked for a computer company called InfoEd Global and was also a teacher. In her free time she loves to read books, spend time and play with her dog, Rollo, and her horse, El Jefe.

Follow Deputy Lyons on Twitter @DeputyLyons.

Staff Spotlight

Mrs. Oddy (Miss. Anne)

By Avery Santoro

Mrs. Oddy spends each day at Wood Road helping students go home with a book to read. As the Library Aide at Wood Road, Mrs. Oddy enjoys the creative opportunities she has in the library. She often comes in on her free time to create wall scenes such as the snow scene on the outside of the library door for the annual door contest. She also built a mini Magic Tree House out of books and popsicle sticks which is displayed on one of the bookshelves. Mrs. Oddy said she also loves the opportunities she has to see, talk to, and get to know the students on a regular basis.

Mrs. Oddy began working at Wood Road in the fall. Before that, she could often be found volunteering in classrooms and as part of the Wood Road PTA. She has two kids of her own at Wood Road. When the position for the library opened, she decided it would be a great fit.



Above:
Mrs. Oddy performs a rap battle with her son Elliott at the PARP assembly.



One of Mrs. Oddy's many creations in the library - a Magic Treehouse.

Passing the Torch

Empire Games Torch Passes Through Wood Road

By Samantha Beatley

In January, the Empire State Games Torch Relay made its way through Wood Road's hallways. The torch started in New York City and two days later was in Ballston Spa after making several stops in the Hudson Valley on its way to the Opening Ceremony in Lake Placid.

"The Winter Empire State Games Association called us and chose our school to stop and show the torch so we decided to do a relay through the school to show it to the school," said Coach Dayton, Wood Road's Physical Education teacher.

One student from each grade had the opportunity to carry the torch through the school as students lined the halls and cheered them on. Coach Dayton said the students who passed the torch are students who show leadership in school and participate in sports outside of school.

The Empire Games Torch represents a symbol of unity and lights the big cauldron to start the games at the opening ceremonies. After the torch left Wood Road, it went to Gore Mountain Ski Area. Coach Dayton said that the people who brought the torch to Wood Road



Students from each grade were chosen to carry the Empire Games Torch through the school hallways.

said the school was one of the best stops they have had in years.

The Empire State Winter Games is a multi-day sports event hosted in Lake Placid in January and February. The torch was

headed to the 30th Empire State Games. The games bring together athletes from across New York State and beyond to compete in more than 30 winter sports events.

5th Grade Survivors

Annual Survivor Tournament: A Fun Day For All

By Alex Beck

In February, students took part in the 10th Annual Survivor Tournament at Wood Road School. The tournament is a 5th grade dodgeball game in which Wood Road students play against other fifth-graders in the district.

Coach Dayton, Wood Road's Physical Education Teacher, said that the elementary schools began this event ten years ago.

"My good friend, Coach Immel, and I came up with the idea to do a tournament of this dodgeball game" he said. "He is a professional dodgeball player and has done many tournaments. He is even in the Guinness Book of Records for playing the longest Dodgeball game ever. He used to give me T-shirts from his tournaments, so that's how the idea of this got started"

The Survivor Tournament is held every year on the last Tuesday of February. Five games are typically held, each lasting seven minutes. The event lasts about an hour.

"Many parents will come and watch but do not participate in this," Coach Dayton said. "A great thing about this event is that adult staff are encouraged to play. We usually get 20 teachers and staff."



5th Graders get ready as the other team tries to knock them out in dodgeball.

There is no charge for the event. This year, about 80 Wood Road fifth-graders participated in the tournament. Coach Dayton said he loves to see how excited students get when their shirts are handed out the day of the tournament. He added that the students usually look forward to the event in fifth grade.

"It usually is one of the best events we have at Wood Road," he said. "This is my favorite event to plan and play. The kids get so excited, and I am always proud of the way our Wood Road kids play and behave during the games."

It makes Coach Dayton happy to see kids running around and enjoying the game so much.

"It is not something that needs a screen or video game," he said. "Kids sweat and go home tired and happy."

Find more
photos of the
Survivor
Tournament on
page 11

Kids Helping Kids

Fifth-graders and Kindergarteners Spend Time Together

By Olivia Smith

The fifth-grade students and kindergarteners meet almost every month to read or do fun activities together. The students call it, Kindergarten Buddies. The meet-up is something the fifth-grade students look forward to when reaching fifth grade at Wood Road. Each kindergartener is paired with a 5th grader to meet with throughout the year. The students serve as role models to their Kindergarten buddy and help them feel welcomed at Wood Road.

"They look to them as big siblings and get excited to see them around school and at special events," said Mrs. Srokowski, one of the kindergarten teachers.

Fifth-grade students have been busy reading to their kindergarten buddies, making self portraits and "about me" buddy pages. They also get together during the holidays and play games and do activities together.

"Watching them read together is always a favorite activity of mine," said Srokowski.



Fifth-graders spend time reading and drawing with their kindergarten buddies at a recent meet-up.

Nature Walks



Second-graders have been getting out for some fresh air on the nature trail. After finding the perfect maple tree, students tapped the tree and collected sap. Then, they boiled the sap and made maple syrup.

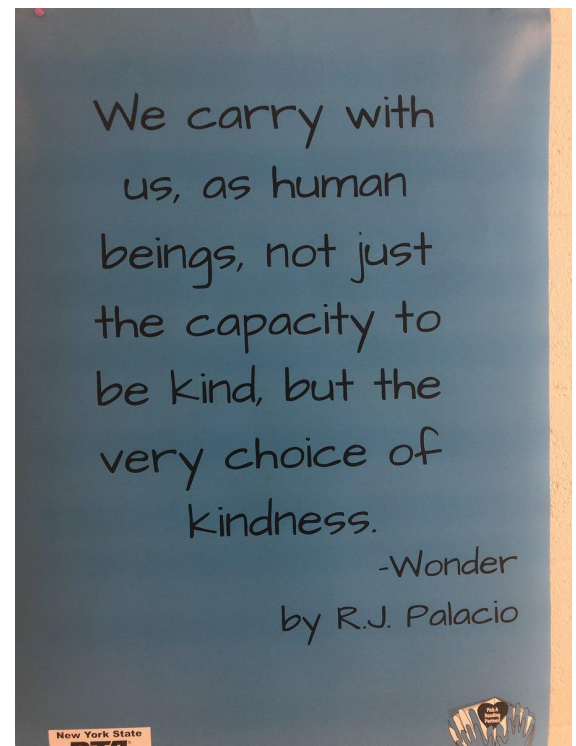




#ChooseKindness



Students had the chance to dump slime on Mr. Rasmussen as part of the PARP assembly, which focused on reading goals and kindness.



Survivor Tournament 2019



Students were placed on random teams for the 5th-grade dodgeball tournament.

Read more about the Survivor Tournament on page 7.

Wood Road's Got Talent

Students Show Off Talents in Annual Talent Show

By Emily Bednarczyk



In January, parents, friends, teachers and classmates watched students perform in 27 different acts during the Wood Road talent show. The talent show, put on by the PTA, was held in the Wood Road Cafeteria. Forty-seven kids took the stage for their performances. They danced, sang and rapped jingles. The most common act was singing.

"That is because when kids hear a song on the radio, they want to sing it," said Mrs. Oddy, Wood Road's Library

Aide, school parent, and the person who puts together the talent show.

There were also comedians, artists and gymnasts. One of the acts, which included seven students from fourth and fifth grade, rapped McDonald's songs. They called themselves the Mickey D's.

Mrs. Oddy said a lot of people came together to put on the show, including members from the PTA, parents, and Mrs. Smith from The BeeHive.

"It's a large group effort," she said.

MORE 100TH DAY FUN



Mrs. Osinski's and Mrs. Tomaso's class celebrated 100 days of school with structures of 100.



Kindergarteners dressed up as 100-year-old people.



Grandma Walz visits Mrs. Walz's kindergarten class every year on the 100th day of school.



Playing Quidditch

Those familiar with Harry Potter know that Quidditch is sport played by witches and wizards on flying broomsticks. Their weren't flying broomsticks, but Coach Dayton and Coach O'Reilly brought the game to life in gym class during PARP month with their own version of the game.



UAlbany Players Visit Wood Road

In March, the UAlbany Football Players visited Wood Road as part of PARP month. The players made their way around classrooms and read a variety of books to the students. Mrs. Clancy's son, Griffin, is seen on the left reading a story to her kindergarten class.



“Let’s Visualize”

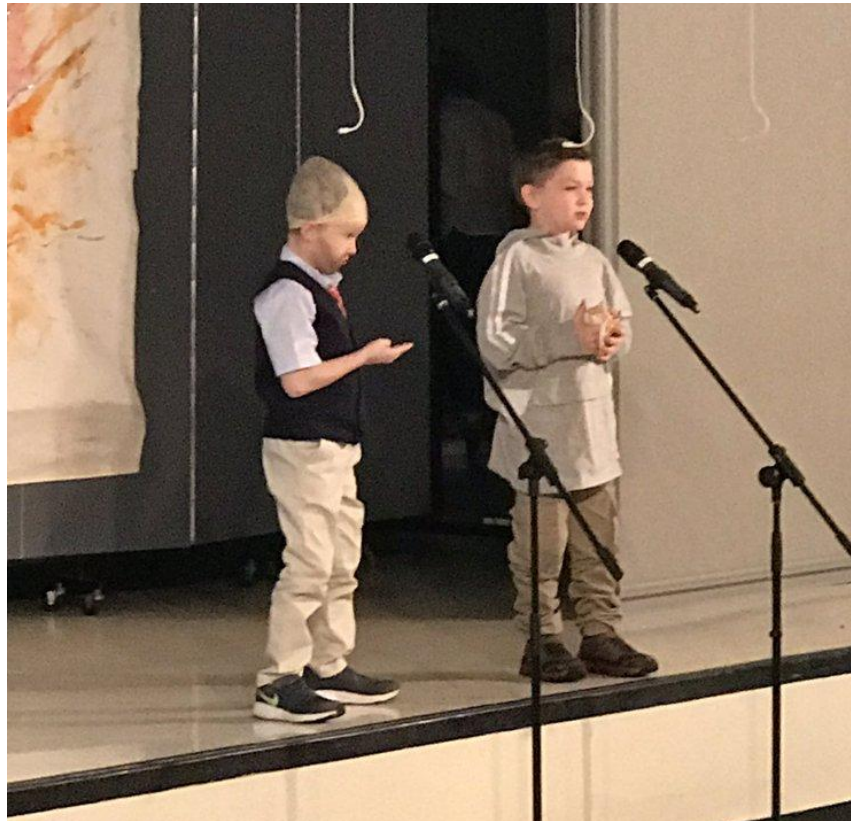
Second Graders Perform Annual Play

By Aidia Hunter

The second grade students and teachers did not disappoint again this year, this time with a play about visualizing. The play, which included every second grade student, was a story - or multiple stories- called, “Let’s Visualize.” Visualizing helps students think and picture what they read more easily. The six scenes brought the audience into stories where the characters were reading different types of materials.

Mrs. O’Connor’s students used a magic seashell to see, or visualize, what their mother is imagining while she makes a meatloaf recipe. Students were dressed as different foods so that the audience could “see” what they were reading.

Mr. Ferish’s class read about local stories and advertisements in the newspaper. One of Mrs. Cousineau’s students played the character of Wood Road’s Music Teacher, Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey is reading a book, “How to Cope with Hair Loss.” He imagines famous people who do not have hair. Mrs. Morgan’s class read “Rainbow Fish.” Students were dressed up as rainbow fish as the story was read, so that the



Students act out a scene with Mr. Rasmussen reading his Twitter feed in the second-grade play.

audience could visualize the characters and story more easily. In the final scene, Mr. Ferrone’s class acted out Wood Road’s principal, Mr. Rasmussen, reading his Twitter feed.

Mr. Ferrone said that the students played a large part in writing the script and helped make decisions about character lines and plot. New this year was the decision to include familiar characters from

Wood Road, such as Mr. Rasmussen, Coach Dayton, Miss Tina, Mr. Gronau, and Mr. Bailey.

The students performed the play two times, once for staff and students and a second time for parents. This is the fifth time the second grade team has put on a play. Each year, the story takes on a different theme.

Recent Tweets

1st grade

WRGrade1 @Grade1Wr · Mar 1

Ms. Clark's class is celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday with a special snack and lots of stories. #NationalReadAcrossAmericaDay #DrSeussDay #TheLorax @Wood_Road_Elem @BSCSD @Grade1Wr



3 9



Mrs. Walz @MrsWalzK · Mar 29

Thank you moms and dads for visiting our classroom and being surprise readers during our PARP month!



1 2 12



Wood Road @Wood_Road_Elem · Apr 15
Wood Road's Student Council helped spread health and wellness at the #BSpaWellness Expo.



2 22



Wood Road
@Wood_Road_Elem

Annual Blood Drive

By Amelia DeLuke

The 3rd Annual Michael Aufiero Blood Drive will take place on Monday, April 15, at Wood Road. The drive is in memory of Michael Aufiero, the late husband of Lana Aufiero, who works in the school district. The drive was the idea of Mrs. Clancy, a Wood Road Kindergarten Teacher and friend of Lana. The drive is open to district members 16 and older and will take place from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Wood Road Gym. Contact Liz Clancy at eclancy@bscsd.org with any questions or to schedule an appointment.



Aidia and Amelia, runner-up and winner of annual 5th-grade spelling bee,



Ms. Clark's class learns about maps with Junior Achievement Volunteer, Mrs. Davidson.

