



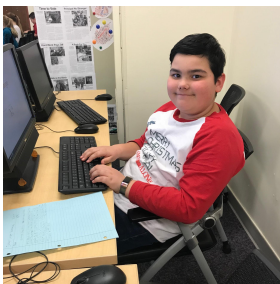
Wood Road Times

Wood Road Student Newspaper

#1 2017-2018

INSIDE

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



PAGE 7

GIVING THANKS



PAGE 6

CHECK MATE



PAGE 12

Real Science

Students Learn About Outer Space

By Emily Sayre

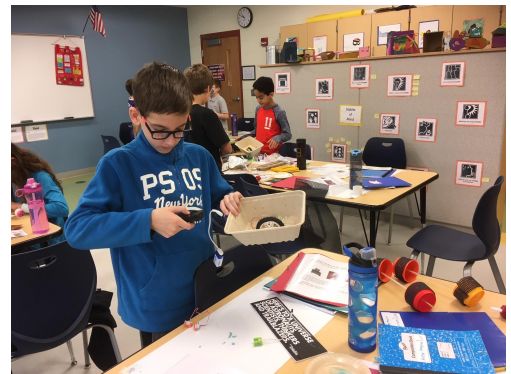
Students in Wood Road's Scholar's class had the opportunity to learn from a real scientist. Mrs. Welch, a scientist from the MiSci museum in Schenectady, visited the fifth-grade scholars. Hands-on experiments, informational texts and videos were used to help the students understand the work of NASA and other similar companies.

Welch is also a lawyer and a certified teacher. This was the first time she visited Wood Road.

"I wanted to become a scientist because I just love learning about new things," Welch said. "My goal for the students is for them to learn to love space."

Some of Welch's curiosity about outer space goes back to when she was young. Welch's father worked for Grumman, a global aerospace and defense technology company under NASA.

"He helped build the spaceship that landed on the moon," Welch said. "It was a very exciting time. He used to come home everyday and talk about what it was like on the moon."



Students conduct experiments during Mars Exploration program.

In the program, students have conducted experiments, such as building their own miniature Mars rovers to shoot off straw rockets. Mrs. McCarthy, Wood Road's Scholar's Teacher, and her students have also turned themselves into Mars rovers by being blindfolded and walking through a maze. One member from every team created their own set of commands for their rovers. The blinded rover followed these commands and tried to make it to the end safely. The students became citizen scientists looking at pictures of Mars and identifying strange landforms. Connor Hall, a fifth-grade scholars student, has enjoyed the program.

"I think it's pretty cool, especially because we're doing stuff actual scientists do," Hall said.

Cont'd PAGE 13

News Club Updates

New Reporters Bring Changes



Fourteen new fifth-grade students started with the Wood Road News Club in the fall.

Wood Road Times

Reporters - James Haughton, McKenna Szmarz, Kate Fletcher, Camryn Wodzinski, Peter Hinckley, Emily Sayre, Juanita Rust, Lila Zalucky, Audrey Bedell, Joe Vivian, Kyle Fives, Kendyl Wasserman, Ayla Hathaway, Ben Taylor

Editor - Mrs. Bianchi (dbianchi@bscsd.org)

Website: www.bscsd.org/Wood.cfm



In September, 14 fifth-grade students began their jobs as Wood Road reporters. Each student has been working hard learning what makes a good story, how to seek out the important information, the importance of effective interviewing skills, and how to write tight.

A change you may notice this year with our paper is the overall look. In the past, the paper was designed with Adobe InDesign. InDesign is a professional newspaper program used in major newsrooms. We decided to stop using InDesign and begin designing our paper with Google Drawings. We did this because the students are using Google products including Google Drawings, on a regular basis in school. Using Google Drawings instead of Adobe InDesign gives the students a chance to not only write the stories, but also design the pages. The students also decided to include a book review and movie review in this issue.

Thanks for reading this issue of the Wood Road Times. Look for our next issue in the spring.

--Wood Road Times staff

More Sound, More Music

New Instruments Bring New Sounds to Band

By Ayla Hathaway

Three instruments joined the Wood Road band this year. The baritone horn, oboe and tuba can now be heard in the Wood Road band.

Miss Soulia, Wood Road's band instructor, said the instruments have been available to students the last couple of years, but it wasn't until this year that students chose to play them. Soulia said she added these options a couple of years ago because she believes all instruments should be available to students.

"I think that if a student wants to play a certain instrument, then they should be able to," she said.

She said she really enjoys the addition of the instruments explaining that the oboe helps to tune the band and the baritone horn helps to provide the pyramid of sound.

"You will definitely hear them," she said.

Fourth-grader, Alexandra Beck, chose to play the baritone horn this year. This is Beck's first year in band.



Students get ready for their band lessons in preparation for the next band concert on Jan. 11.



"I like the sound and shape of the low brass," Beck said.

Alex Rejiester, also a fourth grader and his first year in band, chose to play the oboe.

Rejiester said playing the oboe was a little challenging

at first, but it has been getting easier and easier with practice.

Get a chance to hear these instruments live at Wood Road's concert on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 7 p.m., at Wood Road Elementary School.

Staff Spotlight

Mrs. O'Connor

By Audrey Bedell

Each day Mrs. O'Connor walks into her classroom ready to teach her second grade students. Mrs. O'Connor has been teaching at Wood Road since 2014. Before coming to Wood Road she worked in an elementary school in Schenectady. O'Connor said she grew up knowing she wanted to be a teacher.

"When I was a little girl I decided that teaching was what I wanted to do," said Mrs. O'Connor. "I wanted to be a teacher so that I could help the children learn."

She said her elementary school teachers inspired her to become a teacher. She was excited to teach second grade at Wood Road because her favorite year in elementary school was second grade. Mrs. O'Connor has taught every grade from first to sixth.

Mrs. O'Connor says she loves working with children because they just want to keep learning new things and they can be really funny sometimes. She loves when her students feel proud and accomplished of themselves for learning something new.



Second grade teacher, Mrs. O'Connor, with her daughters Ella and Josephina.

Mrs. O'Connor lives in Malta with her family. Her passions are shopping, fashion, running and being a mom to her two daughters Ella and Josephina.

Student Council Begins Planning

Council Members Plan First Fundraiser

By McKenna Szmaz

At the first student council meeting on Nov. 8, student council members elected officers. Students that were elected to be in Student council will meet to discuss items for the next meeting.

In the meetings, student council members discuss ideas for school fundraisers as a way to raise money for the school.

Mrs. Brunson, one of the advisors of student council, said a new fundraiser planned for this year is Wood Road apparel sales.

Some of the ideas by the council are to have the Wood Road symbol on water bottles, sweatshirts, gym bags and hats.

"We sell a whole bunch of things to raise money for our school," said Mrs. Brunson.

Student council is for students in grades three through five.

"It's meant for third grade and up because it's preparing for the beginning stages of learning about government and positive things to do in our school," said Brunson.



Student Council members welcome veterans at the November Veterans Day Assembly.

General membership meetings are the second Wednesday of each month after school through the end of the school year. Student council consists of 24 students, or two from each class, elected as a member of student council. Students need to run and be elected by classmates. The election process begins with a student essay explaining the reasons they should be in student council.

"The essays are read to classmates and then the class votes," Brunson said. "The top two are in."

Jayden Osinski, a fourth-grade student council member said he enjoys being a part of improving the school.

"You can improve the school in many different ways," he said.

Cont'd - PAGE 13

Wood Road Gives Thanks

Students and Staff Honor Veterans and Servicemen

By Kate Fletcher

In November, Wood Road students and staff once again honored veterans for their service with an assembly, an honor wall, and by collecting candy and cards for those currently serving overseas.

Veterans from students and staff member's families were invited to the schoolwide assembly in November. Second grade teacher, Mrs. Cousineau, led the assembly. Veterans were invited on stage while students held flags high and sang songs. Kendyl Wasserman, a fifth-grade student, sang a solo at the assembly.

"It felt good because I was singing to all the veterans that were away from their families for a long time," she said.

Dino Guthrie, a veteran at the assembly and father of a Wood Road student, said he was grateful for the support.



Wood Road students thank veterans at assembly.

The honor wall was once again displayed in Wood Road's main hallway during the month of November. Hundreds of Wood Road family members who once served or are still serving were honored with a photo and short write-up by the family member.

Again this year, candy was collected to send to troops overseas. Third grade teacher, Mrs. VanVolkenburg, organized the collection.

"We have been doing this for about six years now," VanVolkenburg said. We collected 300 pounds last year."

Students donate Halloween candy, cards, and other helpful items. The collection is sent to the troops in conjunction with a local dentist, Dr. Dreher.

"It's a great way for our students to contribute to our community," she said.

Student Spotlight : Jayden Sweet

By Juanita Rust

Jayden Sweet is a fifth-grade student in Mrs. Nickson's homeroom who started at Wood Road this year. Sweet came from a school a little over an hour from Ballston Spa. He said he is enjoying Wood Road and is happy with the move.

"I like it better here at Wood Road because the school is much bigger than my old school. This school is twice the size," he said.

Sweet said the kids have been very welcoming and kind.

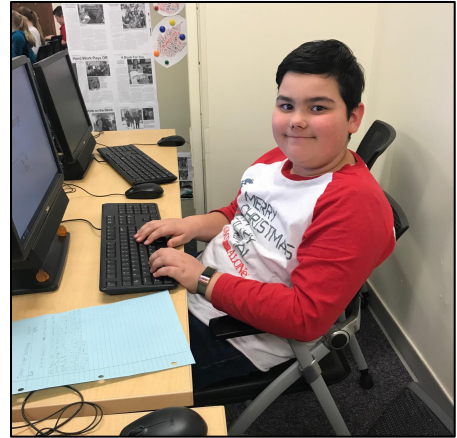
He also is happy with his teachers.

"This school has more quality teaching methods," Jayden said. "The teachers spend their time with a variety of students, not just focused on one."

Jayden said he has become used to being the new kid in school.

"It was weird, but afterwards, I got used to it," he said.

Sweet plays the trumpet and was on a competition swimming team in the past. He



We are so happy to have Jayden here at Wood Road. He certainly makes a great addition to our school.

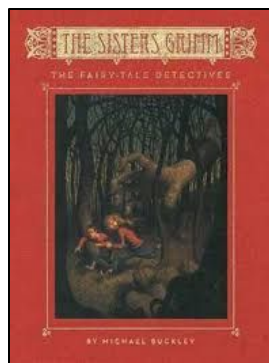
likes to play video games and play with his dog in his free time.

Book: The Fairytale Detectives

Review by Lila Zalucky

"The Fairytale Detectives" is a series by Michael Buckley about two sisters named Sabrina and Daphne Grimm. The sisters go to live with their grandmother and discover their family has a long history of solving mysteries.

I recommend this series to anyone in grades 3-5 who enjoy



fairytale and funny mysteries. The series is a perfect combination of both with awesome twists.

"The Fairytale Detectives" series is available in the Wood Road Library.

Movie: The LEGO Batman Movie

Review by James Haughton

"The LEGO Batman Movie," released in February 2017, takes place in the center of Gotham City. "Batman" needs to fight crime again and find a way to save Gotham City from Joker. The main character of Batman is played by Will Arnett. His sidekick, Robin, is played by Michael Cera. The funny, action packed movie directed by Chris McKay is even better



and more interesting than the last LEGO movie. I recommend this movie to people of all ages. "The LEGO Batman Movie" is action-packed and provides a lot of laughs.

Kids Running the Show

Students Solve Problems Their Own Way in OM

By Ben Taylor

Confidence, teamwork and problem solving. That is what Odyssey of the Mind is all about according to Ms. Ernst, Wood Road's OM advisor. Ask the kids and they say, it's a program for kids where they do not get told what to do - they run the show. They are both right. Odyssey of the Mind is an educational program for kids that provides creative problem-solving opportunities.

Students are presented with a problem. The problem may involve the arts, engineering, technology and literature - all wrapped up with creativity and thinking. Coaches leave the process of solving the problem up to the kids.

This year's problem is, "We're Cooking Now." Teams will create their own cooking show. The show will take place in a kitchen with an object of the team's choosing. A special guest will visit and learn to cook from the student chefs using the items the team created. Students will also need



OM students compete in last year's tournament.

to include a name for the show, theme music and a story about the meal they are cooking. Basically, the kids are creating a skit to solve the problem.

Ms. Ernst said Odyssey of the Mind is an amazing opportunity for teamwork and creative thinking and no adult is telling the kids what to do. All decisions are up to the students. The adults are there to keep the kids on track. Actually, it is against the rules to have the adults give kids ideas or suggestions.

This is Ms. Ernst's ninth year involved with Odyssey of the Mind. She said she enjoys advising because it's different every year. She also likes to see

the kids excited when their project comes together.

"I started in 2008 as a judge for the competition, and then I became a coach for a few years. Lastly, I became an advisor like I am now," said Ms. Ernst.

An advisor is someone who leads the program for the school. Coaches are typically parent volunteers and are there to keep kids on track and safe. Ms. Ernst explained that every year it is a challenge to find coaches. Coaching requires one hour a week October through March. Ernst said anyone who is willing to coach a Wood

Michael Times Two

Wood Road Welcomed Mrs. Michael in September

By Camryn Wodzinski

Miss Michael joined Wood Road in the fall of 2016 as the principal's secretary. This year, Mrs. Michael, Miss Michael's mother, joined the office as the attendance secretary.

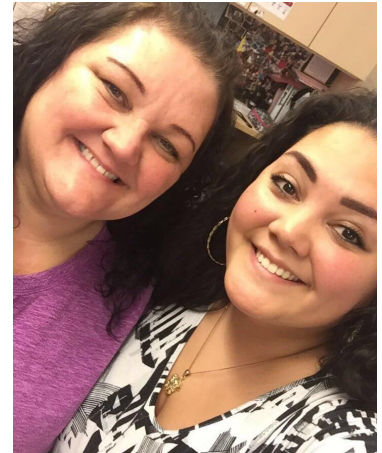
Mrs. Michael is happy about the change. She previously worked as the principal's secretary at Malta Avenue for many years. Mrs. Michael said she was ready for a change, and Miss Michael said she

is thrilled to have her mother join her at Wood Road.

"It's awesome because my mom taught me what to do and how to do it," Miss Michael said.

Mrs. Michael spent many years as a principal's secretary at Malta Avenue. Miss Michael feels very fortunate to have her mom's expertise any time it is needed. Mrs. Michael also said working together helps her in her job.

"I love working with my daughter, because we know each other so well," she said. "I know



Mother and daughter say working together makes their jobs easier.

what she needs and how she likes it done."

New Face In Gym

Wood Road Welcomes Coach Maybee to Phys. Ed.

By Kyle Fives

There is a new face in the Wood Road gym this year. Coach Maybee is the new coaching assistant at Wood Road.

Coach Maybee is enjoying his new job with Coach Dayton and the Wood Road students.

"I've always loved sports growing up,

and I want kids to love it too," he said.

Coach Maybee does not have a favorite sport and said he enjoys all sports. He has played on soccer, basketball and lacrosse teams. He currently assists with the Ballston Spa varsity soccer team.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

Wood Road Staff Participates in Village Holiday Parade

By Joe Vivian

Some walked, some drove, some passed out candy, and some danced. Once again, Wood Road staff had a blast spreading Christmas cheer through the village during the Ballston Spa Village Holiday Parade. This year was the third year that Wood Road staff took part in the parade.

Wood Road's parade organizers, Mrs. Henault and Mrs. Jacko, explained that because the event has been so much fun they continue to do it every year.

"I love seeing all the smiles at the end and it's worth all the hard work," said Mrs. Henault.

The dancers began practicing at least a month beforehand with before and after school practices as well as recorded video lessons for those that couldn't attend the in-person practices. The music this year was a mish-mash of "Do You Want to Build a Snowman," "Let It Go," and "Shake It Off." The



Staff show Wood Road pride in the annual Ballston Spa Village Holiday Parade.

costumes were purchased by the staff members who felt they were very important to the dance.

Wood Road doesn't have a special float, but they do have a festive truck driven by Coach Dayton from which the music plays.

"It's special to me because it's fun to get together," said Mrs. Jacko. "Everyone thinks that teachers just work, but the truth is teachers have fun too."

Mrs. Montayne, the person who started the parade event, no longer works at Wood Road but continues to be a part of the festivities by choreographing the dance.

"I think my favorite part is the last dance at the center of town," said Mrs. Jacko. "It's my favorite part because we get to see most of the family and friends that don't participate in the parade."

School Begins Replacing Laptops

Tech Transition Starts with Fifth Grade

By Peter Hinckley

Two fifth grade Chromebook carts are the first step in replacing the building's laptop PCs. Fifth grade students were the first Wood Road students to switch over. The district transition began in the middle school and high school last year. This year the roll out began at the elementary schools.

The students like that the Chromebooks start up much faster than the PCs.

"They load in about 30 seconds and open right up to your drive so you can take notes right away," said Mrs. Heisig, the district's Elementary Instructional Technology Teacher Leader..

Students have also been using Google products more with the introduction of Google Drive and Google Classroom beginning in January. While students schoolwide have been using Google Drive on PCs, the Chromebooks work seamlessly with these products. Fifth-grade students have been able to communicate



Laptops are being replaced with Chromebooks at Wood Road.

with their teachers quickly and efficiently on the Chromebooks.

The plan is to replace all of Wood Road's laptops with Chromebooks in the next couple of years.



Harvesting Pennies

Since mid-Fall, Wood Road students have been collecting pennies for the annual Penny Harvest. Every Friday the pennies have been weighed in each classroom. On the last day of Penny Harvest students weighed the pennies and the class with the most pennies earned a pizza party. At the end of November, the pennies were gathered. Penny Harvest students will now begin to research community charities to donate the pennies toward. Once a handful of charities are researched, all Wood Road students will vote on the charity of their choice.

-Audrey Bedell

Check Mate

Wood Road Chess Club Hosts Upcoming Tournament

By Kendyl Wasserman

Wood Road's chess club will host a regional chess tournament for a third year in February. The club, which consists of second, third, fourth and fifth graders, meets after school twice a week, November through February. Second grade teacher, Mr. Ferrone, started the club in 2014 because he felt it would be a way for kids to have fun while learning a game that helps them become better thinkers.

"Chess is one of those games that you can play forever," he said. "I hope that when these students are older, they continue to play and enjoy the game of chess. Maybe even teach their kids and grandkids how to play."

Ferrone said he has been spending more time this year teaching opening and closing strategies, so that the players have a better chance of winning the match. He added that teaching kids how to play chess is a group effort.

"I have a few parents who help," he said. "Some of the parents are better at chess than me,



The Wood Road Chess Club will host its third regional tournament in February.

so it's great having their help teaching the students."

February's chess tournament is not only for club members. The tournament is open to everyone including all students, parents and community members. Last year more than 120 students and adults competed in the tournament which featured a four-round competition with more than 25

schools from all over New York State. The chess tournament is on Feb. 3, at Wood Road Elementary School. More information about the tournament can be found at www.chesstrm.org.

Student Council (From Page 5)

This is his second year as part of the council. Jayden's brother, Austin, a third-grade student, is beginning his first year with the council. Austin said he is also excited to help other kids in the school and wants to make the school a better place.

Veterans (From Page 6)

Guthrie said when he was overseas he appreciated receiving packages like these.

"Everybody got excited when we got care packages," he said.

VanVolkenburg said that many of the troops are not able to enjoy the simple things such as Halloween candy while serving.

"While my brother was serving, he was craving a Hershey Bar. That was all he was craving and he couldn't have it because he was overseas," she said. "It is a welcomed treat and reminds them of home. It reminds them that someone is thinking of them."

Odyssey (From Page 8)

Road Odyssey of the Mind team may contact her at jernst@bscsd.org.

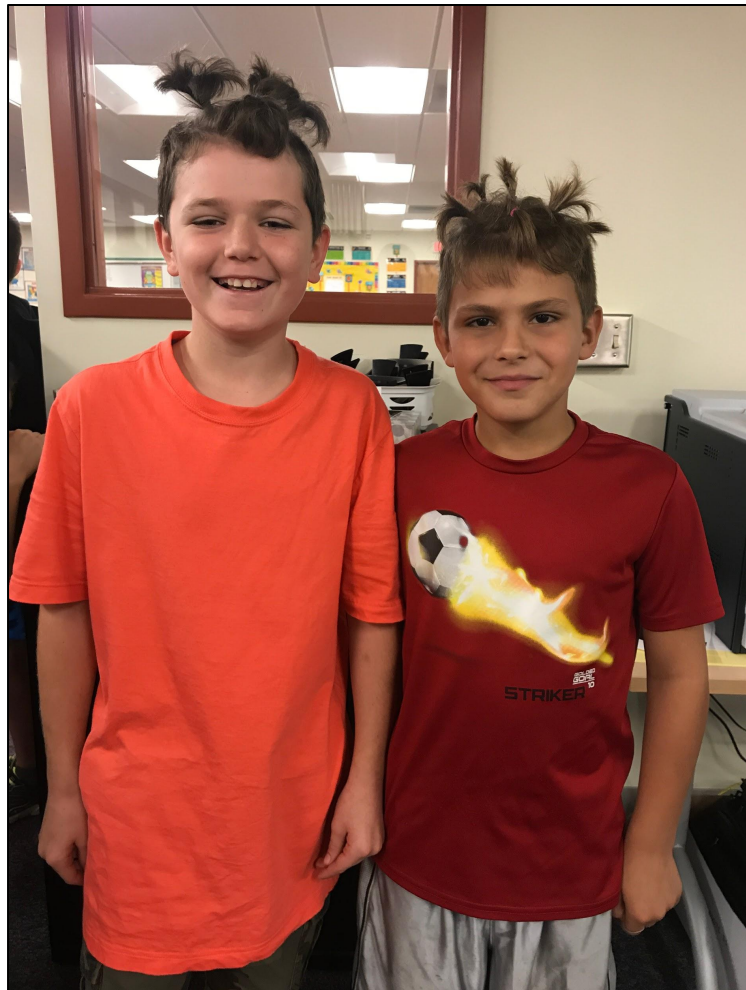
"If there are no coaches, there are no teams," she said.

Wood Road is participating in the Odyssey of the Mind competition in March at Galway High School.

Science (From Page 1)

Students sent their discoveries to NASA and using 3D pictures examined and read about locations on Mars.

McCarthy said she is always looking for challenging programs for her students and is happy the students are enjoying this program.

**CRAZY HAIR DAY**

On Crazy Hair Day students try to make their hair as crazy as they can. They enjoy showing off their creations and look forward to seeing what their friends came up with.