



# Wood Road Times

Wood Road's Student Newspaper

June 2017

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# Capitol Visit

## Student Council Tours State Capitol Building

By Isabelle Sikoryak

On Monday, May 8, Wood Road's Student Council took a bus to the Albany State Capitol. The field trip was a payoff for their hard work and a chance to see how government runs at the Capitol.

"It's a nice way to end the school year," said Mrs. French, one of the student council advisors

Students spent the morning touring the building and meeting with Senator Tedisco. Fifth grader, Andrew Brooks said his favorite part was meeting the Senator. Tedisco commended them for their hard work and posed for a photo with the students. Students were excited to learn about the history of New York State government and how government works.



**Students had the opportunity to meet Senator Tedisco during their visit to the State Capitol.**

Third grader Jayden Osinski said the most exciting thing that he learned about the building was that there is a little demon carved into the wall. It was explained that during construction of the building, a carver was fired and was very upset. So, the man snuck in late one night and carved a little demon into the wall.

Parent chaperones

helped supervise the students along with the two student council advisors, Mrs. French and Mrs. Brunson. Students went home with a book about New York State history.

"I think it's important to see how government works," said French.

Members of student council serve as representative for the

Capitol • Page 17

# Changing of the Guard



Wood Road's Newspaper Club says goodbye to six reporters. Isabelle Sikoryak, Maddox Minarik, Emily Bagan, Ashley Hu, Natalia Guthrie and Alisabeth Dreher have covered Wood Road news since September. The six reporters began in April of last year as rookies. They quickly learned what it took to be school reporters and got used to coming up with story ideas, interviewing people, writing and editing. One of their more recent jobs is as a mentor to this year's rookies who began in April. Fourteen fourth-grade rookies are learning to become the school newspaper reporters for next year. The rookies have shadowed their mentors on interviews as well as gone to their mentor for questions. Good luck to our fifth grade reporters in middle school next year! We will miss you!

## Wood Road Times

**Reporters** - Emily Bagan, Alisabeth Dreher, Natalia Guthrie, Ashley Hu, Maddox Minarik, Isabelle Sikoryak

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

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# Student Spotlight

## Andrew Brooks

By Alisabeth Dreher

Andrew Brooks is a fifth grade student in Mrs. Nickson's class. Andrew is a very busy kid involved in a number of clubs and activities, but if you ask Andrew what most people know him for, he would say his artistic mind and the amount of books he reads.

"I read a lot of books," Andrew said. "And I have had artwork in the Saratoga County Fair."

Andrew has been playing piano for four years and cello for two years.

"My parents said it was a good life skill to play piano, so they started teaching me. My dad plays the cello, that's why I chose the instrument, so he could help and teach me," Andrew said.

He also enjoys writing stories, drawing and playing soccer.

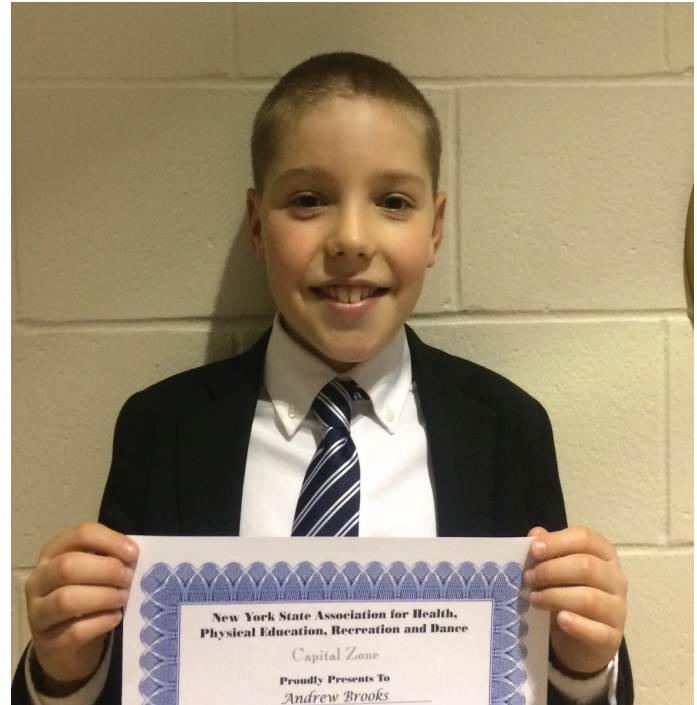
"I really like to be active and get exercise," he said.

Something Andrew's friends might not know is that he and his family have a passion for volunteering and donating. He participates in Wood Road's Turkey Shoot every year, and once every month he helps at a food bank.

"My parents send money to people that have lost their homes," he said.

Andrew is excited but also a little scared about heading off to the middle school next year.

"It's kind of frightening knowing I'm going to a school that there are kids that are a



**Andrew is pictured here at the Morley Award Ceremony where he was awarded for character and leadership in physical education.**

lot bigger than me. I haven't felt that way ever since kindergarten," Andrew explained.

Andrew's favorite subject in school is science, which he said is mainly because of the solar system research project he was working on. He added that he likes doing research on

different topics.

On Andrew's list for next year is Launching Pad, the Middle School Robotics Club and scholars.

*Teachers! Nominate one of your students for our next Student Spotlight by contacting us at Wood Road Times.*

# Final Act

Emily Bagan writes about her last few days at Wood Road Elementary School

I remember when I came to Wood Road Elementary School on the first day of kindergarten. I was really scared. But now, I am about to leave fifth grade and go to middle school. I will really miss Wood Road. I loved all of my teachers and I felt really comfortable here. These years have gone by super fast. In fifth grade, we got one last field trip to the Bronx Zoo to finish off our time at Wood Road.

It was an early morning. At about 6:15 a.m., we had already left for our bus ride to the Bronx Zoo. I was really excited. The day I have been waiting for most of my life had finally come. It took almost four hours to get there, but it didn't feel that long. On our way to the zoo, there were so many pretty scenes to see out the bus window. At 10 a.m., we were finally there. I was literally jumping out of my seat to get off the bus, I was so excited. My mom was my chaperone, so she got to carry all of my stuff. There were so many exciting things to see and do, we didn't even get to see everything. We saw tortoises that were huge, hissing cockroaches that were small, and everything in between. My favorite animal is a giraffe, so when we

got to see them, I was squeezing my face and I was jumping up and down. They were super tall and super cute. I love giraffes. Then there was an ostrich sitting in the middle of the giraffe's area. We saw polar bears, herons, fish, crocodiles, lemurs, gorillas, flamingos, and much more throughout the zoo. In the lemur exhibit, people were videotaping the animals. I happened to be in one of the videos, and they asked my mom if I wanted to be on TV. Of course we said yes, so I am going to be on Season 2 of Animal Planet. We also went on the monorail and saw deer, rhinos, tigers, horses, elephants and more. We even got Dippin' Dots after the monorail. It was exactly what I imagined.

The day after our Bronx Zoo field trip, we were supposed to have Friendship Games. It is a day when fifth graders from all four elementary schools are put onto different teams in an effort



**Emily, on the left, poses with classmates Libby Barnes and Alana Biosse**

to mix the fifth graders up so the kids are with kids they may not know and make new friends before going to the middle school. The weather was bad that day, so it was moved to Monday. It rained that day too, so the Friendship Games were canceled this year. At least it didn't rain while we were on our field trip. The Bronx Zoo field trip was a great way to end the 2017 school year, and my last year at Wood Road Elementary School.

- Emily Bagan



# Staff Spotlight

## Mrs. Bentley - School Nurse

By Maddox Minarik

Wood Road's school nurse, Mrs. Bentley, is a hard-working staff member who is always treating students and their injuries. When asked how many students come to see her in one day, Mrs. Bentley replied "too fun to count!" Throughout a typical day, she can see anything from scraped knees, to stomachaches to a twisted ankle. Mrs. Bentley has been seeing kids for these ailments for three years and counting.

Mrs. Bentley started her career in nursing in 2002 at a hospital working with babies. She studied to become a nurse while attending Albany



**Mrs. Bentley has been Wood Road's school nurse since 2014.**

Medical College. Mrs. Bentley said she became a nurse because she just loves kids, and explained that her job is important because she helps keep kids healthy and in class.

Outside of work, Mrs.

Bentley spends a lot of time with her kids, Sam and Hannah.

Mrs. Bentley said she loves coming to work every day, "because the staff and students are awesome."

## Update: Students Receive Letters Back from Great Mail Race

Fifth-graders have been receiving letters back from the students they wrote to in "The Great Mail Race." The goal was to hear from all 50 states. So far, they have received seven letters back. Responses have come from students in Hawaii, Vermont, Alabama, Illinois, Nebraska and Indiana. One of the most interesting facts students have learned is that in Alabama there is a store that sells unclaimed bag-

gage. If you lose your baggage, a company buys it and then sells it at this store. Alisabeth Dreher received a letter from a student in Indiana. Alisabeth learned is that at this public school in Indiana, one of their classes is bible class. Alisabeth hope to become pen-pals with the student she connected with from Nappanee, Indiana.

-McKenna Szmaz

# Next Up - 5th Grade

Our rookie reporters caught up with some of their peers during recess and asked them what thoughts they have about starting fifth grade next year.

"I'm nervous about not knowing what I am doing, but I am really excited to have lockers." - Sophia

"The one thing I am nervous about is the teachers I might have, but I am also excited about being one of the leaders of the school and being a 5th grade buddy for one of the new kindergarteners." - Anneliese

"I'm excited about kindergarten buddies and field trips." -Gianna

"I'm excited about the Bronx Zoo" - Zachary

"I feel good about it, it feels good being the oldest." - Leah

"I'm excited for science and I'm not worried about anything." - Gianna

"I'm excited to have lockers" - Guinevere

"I'm looking forward to being a role model" - Cameron

"I'm a little bit nervous. I'm kind of happy that it is my last year. I'm excited to be a kindergarten buddy." - Ashlee

"I feel really excited. I'm a little nervous but a little excited to be a kindergarten buddy. I'm always nervous for the first day of school." - Courtney

"A little scary and exciting. I am thrilled that I am going to be a fifth grader and a leader of the school." - Michaela

"I'm excited about the field trip." - Aidan

"I am positive I will do good in fifth grade, because I'm in Gold Scholars and I was in robotics." - Ciaran

"Sad because I really like fourth grade. I'm also a little excited because my brother was in 5th grade and he can tell me about the teachers, like who's nice and who's not so nice." - Erin

"I am excited about being a 5th grade buddy and having lockers. I am nervous about too much homework." - Katelyn

"I'm excited to be a leader and I'm also excited to go to the Bronx Zoo." - Chris

"I'm excited about the homework, but I'm a little nervous that I will struggle and not get everything done" - Amy

"I'm kind of nervous because I don't know what's going to happen in fifth grade, but then again I'm excited because it's going to be my last year in elementary and I'm also going to be in middle school soon which is a big change. I really want to be a kindergarten buddy because I get to be with the little kids." - Anonymous

"Nervous but excited at the same time" - Sarah

"I am looking forward to being a kindergarten buddy and having lockers. I am excited and nervous about the teachers. I am also nervous about how much homework there will be." - Jasmyne

"I think I will get a good teacher and do good." - Graydon

"I'm excited because next year I'll be able to go on the Bronx Zoo field trip." - Abagael

"I feel like I will have more responsibilities and more leadership. I'm excited that I will face more challenges like the fifth grade kickball game and the fifth grade survivor tournament." - Gavin

"I feel great about fifth grade because I get to show the kindergarteners how to behave." - Jade

"I'm excited because I'm about to be a leader of the school." - Hayven

"I'm excited because it'll be the last year in Elementary school and I'm excited to go to middle school." - Lila

"I'm excited about learning more science and getting deeper into it." - Drew

"I'm excited about the teachers and what they are like and what it's like to go to the Bronx Zoo" - Lauryn

"I am excited to have a locker and switch four times." - Anthony

"All the fun activities we get to do." - Teagan



# That's a Wrap



On June 20, 89 fifth graders walked across a stage that is all too familiar to them. A stage where some of them may have played an instrument or sang in the chorus. A stage where they sang “You Are My Sunshine” as a kindergartener. A stage on which they watched numerous shows and assemblies. On this day, it was a stage where they made one final walk as an elementary student. Moving Up Day - Not only a day to recognize moving up from elementary school to middle school, but a day to say one final farewell to Wood Road and all the memories made there. Each student walked across the stage and received a certificate. Students sang the song, “Home.”

The following awards were presented:

**Presidential Academic Excellence Award:** Connor Garrant, Aidan Driscoll, Tyler Lake, Kieara Snyder, Brayden Dambaugh, Tatiana McCray, Maddox Minarik, Teagan Morabito, Emily Bagan, Mark Vadnais, Hannah Smith, Ashley Hu, Andrew Brooks, Amanda Duffy, Natalia Guthrie, Isabelle Sikoryak, Caroline Sturm.

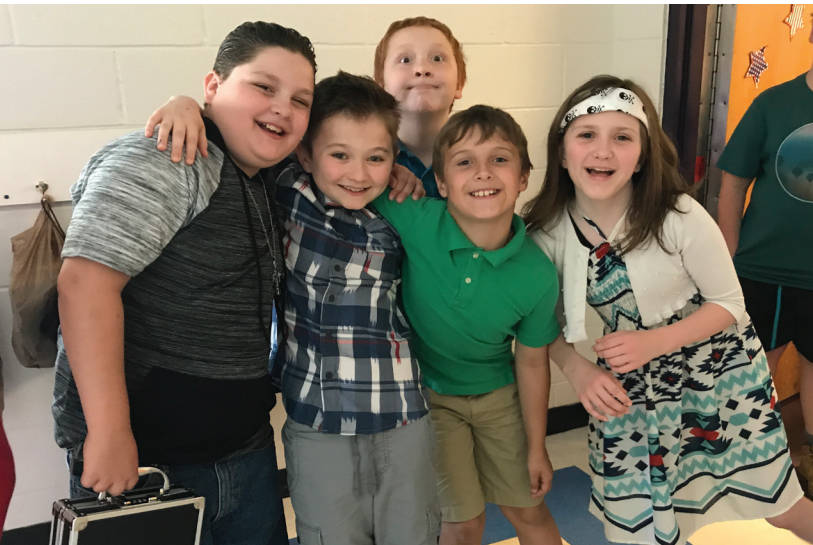
**Presidential Academic Achievement Award:** Marianna Jansen, Neveah Brooks, Baylei Seror, Alisabeth Dreher  
**Comptroller's Achievement Award:** Connor Garrant

**Maurice Morley Award:** Maddlynn Newman

**Triple C Award:** Dylan Waters, Alisabeth Dreher

**Perfect Attendance:** Conner Garrant, Ashley Hu, Jackson Melnyk, Maddlynn Newman, Hannah Smith

- Kate Fletcher



# Memories will Remain

Fifth-graders talk about some of their favorite memories and what they will miss most at Wood Road.

"All the fun books we read." - Teigan

"Fun day." - Tatiana

"I say the Survivor Tournament because I enjoyed seeing all my friends and getting to play against other schools." - Will

"When in third grade we all went to the 4H center because we got to do activities and see Native American... like they had things we could see so it was really cool and fun." - Daisy

"I think it is called Animal Land. We went in first grade. I got to see animals I have never seen before." - Kayla

"My favorite memory at Wood Road is intramurals because we do something different every week." - Ayden

"The fun days." - Camryn



"The survivor tournament." - Andrew

"Survivor. That's pretty fun." - Ryan

"The teachers. They're the best." - Keiara

"A really good memory in 5th grade is about the 'Westing Game' book. Everyone thought Crow was the murderer when Sam Westing wasn't dead. Also, everyone thinks the house next to Wood Road is haunted but I think they hold

extra school supplies in there." - Travis

"Probably the times where we can play cards inside the school." - Hannah

"Probably going to the zoo in first grade. I had a lot of fun there. It was a learning experience. I saw animals I've never seen before" - Emma

"My favorite is in kindergarten when we walked all around Ballston Spa." - Amanda

"Getting my Kinder-

garten buddy." - Caroline

"My favorite memory was dancing in the classroom." - Alana

"Everyone and everything." - Libby

"The Bronx Zoo and the Survivor Tournament." - Lucas

"Everything, because I've always loved Wood Road and the teachers are nice." - Marianna

"When I got a solo in chorus." - Kiersten

"Mr. Blanchard, when he would come out and spray all the teachers with water on Fun Day." - Jersey

"Playing kickball because it's fun." - Mark

"The Survivor Tournament because it was just really fun to run around and throw balls at people." - Elijah



# Kids Helping Kids

## Wood Road Students Shave Heads for Cancer

By Ashley Hu

Once a year, people in Ballston Spa shave their heads for cancer. The event is called St. Baldrick's, and Wood Road students and staff look forward every year to participating. The shaving events happen throughout the country. People shave their heads in honor of kids who had childhood cancer.

Conner Garrant, a fifth-grader, shaved his head this year.

"I thought it was right for the community to give back to those who had cancer," Conner said.

Conner used to know a boy that was affected by cancer. This is the second year he has participated.

Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Walz, attends the event every year. Her son, Riley, shaves his head.

"A student in my class, Eli, had cancer, and he shaved his head. When he came in that next day, we cheered for him," Walz said.

Mrs. Walz said she became involved with St. Baldrick's because her best friend's cousin was affected by cancer and passed away at a young age. She also got involved because of Hannah Hughes, a former student at Wood Road.

Fourth-grader, Matt Cook, said this was his seventh time shaving his head.

"I participate in St. Baldrick's because people donate money for the people that have cancer," he said.

"I shave my head so they don't



**Riley Walz and Eli Schneider shave their heads for childhood cancer at a local St. Baldrick's event in Saratoga.**

feel alone with no hair and it makes them happy not sad."

Matt said it makes him feel happy because it is for a good cause.

"I do feel a little scared because my hair is gone," he added.

Conner, Matt, and Mrs. Walz's son went to the Saratoga City Tavern to shave their heads. Mrs. Walz said that each year, about 150 people participate.

"It's easy. You sign up and volunteer. All of it is usually online," Walz explained.

Walz said participating makes

her feel good.

"When you go to St. Baldrick's, you feel good when you see all the people. You think about how people are so giving, and you feel good about participating. It makes you feel like you're part of the community," she said.

Matt encourages people to take part in the event next year.

"I would like for more people to do it, because the kids have a bad sickness and will feel very happy and they will not have that very bad sickness anymore because they will have money for medicine," he said.

# Spell it Out Loud

## Fifth Grade Students Compete in Spelling Bee

By Natalia Guthrie

In May, the fifth graders competed in a spelling bee. After competing in their classrooms, five students from each class were finalists and moved on to the next round against all fifth grade students in Wood Road.

Fifth grade teachers hold the spelling bee every year.

"I like that it showcases different kids," said Ms. Tomlinson, 5th grade teacher. "It gives them a chance to show their talent."

Each student was presented with a word in typical spelling bee-fashion. The student had to say the word, spell the word, and then say the word again. The student was not permitted to change their spelling once spoken.

"Spelling words out loud is harder than spelling it on paper, it's a lot more challenging than you



**Ms. Sausville, Ashley Hu and Marianna Jansen after the Fifth Grade Spelling Bee.**

think," said Mrs. Tetu, 5th grade teacher.

When it was down to two people, the rules changed. If the student spelled the word wrong, the other student had a chance to spell that word and another word correctly.

The winner moves on to the Saratoga County Fair Spelling Bee. The runner up will spell in their place if they cannot make the event. This year's winner is Ashley Hu. Runner-up, who will take Ashley's place if she cannot go, is Marianna Jansen.



# Learning is Fun



Fourth graders explore MiSci and see a planetarium show all about the Earth.



Third-graders visit the Saratoga County 4H Center.



Kindergarteners explore the Village of Ballston Spa.



Second-graders watch demonstrations and participate in hands-on activities all about the processing of wool, from shearing a sheep to making a shawl.



First-graders visit MiSci and learn about the five senses.

- Lila Zalucky



# Hooked on Fitness

Spring was all about being active at Wood Road. Students and staff participated in the Elementary Fun Color Run, the Districtwide Scottie Stampede and Bike to Work Day.



In May, students and staff ran in the second annual Scotties Stampede. More than 200 people ran in the district wide 5K race. Wood Road won the award for the second year for having the most participants. The event supports the district's Ballston Spa Partnership for Innovation in Education Fund.  
-Camryn Wodzinski



Staff members chose their bikes over cars on Bike to Work Day.



## Fitness Testing

In the spring, students in grades 2-5 take part in fitness testing. Students spend two gym classes participating in five different activities. The test is a way for students to get information about their fitness level and set goals for next year. Activities include the PACER test, shuttle-run, right-angle push-ups, curl-ups and the V-sit. Coach Dayton and Coach Williamson lead the testing. Students partner up and keep each other's score on a score sheet. Once testing was over, students bring home their sheets to compare it to past year's tests and look for improvement. Fitness testing started in 1966 when President Lyndon Johnson wanted kids to become more active. According to Coach Dayton, the overall goal of fitness testing at Wood Road is for students to improve their fitness so they can lead a long and active life.

- Emily Sayre





## Fifth-Graders Visit Middle School

In May, Fifth Grade students had a chance to see what life is like at the middle school. Middle School Peer Leaders led the students around the school showing them the in's and out's of the building and what to expect in September.



## Morley Award Winners

In May, six Wood Road students were awarded for character and leadership in physical education. The Morley awards were presented at a ceremony, which took place at Hudson Valley Community College. Each year, Coach Dayton chooses students who show leadership in and out of school. This year's award recipients are Andrew Brooks, Conner Garrant, Isabelle Sikoryak, Natalie Guthrie, Aidan Driscoll and Fiona Hughes.

-Ben Taylor





## Did you know?

Wood Road has 14 sets of twins this school year.

## Perfect Attendance

The following students received an award for perfect attendance for the 2016-2017 year: Tyler Ordon, Hailey Penree, Cash Aburto, Damen Guthrie, Stephen Levandusky, Ryeanna Wilkins, Natalia Croft, Jadyn Fives, Alexa Grevelding, Lacey Hewitt, Gabriel Laudicina, Sadie Maudin, Colin McKay, Matthew Adams, Alexandra Beck, Zachary Mox, Audrey Bedell, Kaylee Brooks, Kate Fletcher, Kyle Grevelding, Ayla Hathaway, Lila Hiegl, Cameron Killion, Tyler Maul, Matthew Meerdink, Jasmyne Munafo, Nicholas Orzel, Conner Garrant, Ashley Hu, Jackson Melnyk, Madlynn Newman, Hannah Smith

## Kickball Game

Fifth-grade students and staff once again competed in the annual kickball game. The game is a chance for everyone to get together one last time on the last day of school before the kids move on to the middle school. All Wood Road students attend the game and root their team on. After the game, the fifth grade students compete in a tug of war. The end-of-year event has been taking place since 1999 when former fifth-grade teacher, Dave Smith, came up with the idea. Nowadays, Coach Dayton plans and leads the game. Coach Dayton said the fifth grade kickball game is a great way for fifth grade students remember their teachers and other staff at Wood Road.

- Joseph Vivian





## Mother's Day Tea

In May, kindergarten teachers hosted a Mother's Day Tea for all the special women in their student's lives. The students sang songs and had tea and cookies with their visitors. After gathering in the cafeteria for the tea, each teacher invited the special ladies to their classroom. Mrs. Evola's and Mrs. Clancy's students gave an amazing bell performance. Mrs. Srowkoski's students planted daisies. Mrs. Walz's class shared a movie of memories from the year. Mrs. Smiley and Mrs. Potter's kindergarteners played "Guess that Mom" and shared a movie of memories.

- Juanita Rust



## Penny Harvest

This year, Penny Harvest students chose to donate the \$1312 raised to the 11th Hour Canine Rescue. The funds were given to a representative of the organization at a ceremony at the high school in May. Each student from Penny Harvest gather pennies donated from the school community. The group then works on deciding which local organization to donate the funds to.

- Ayla Hathaway

## Students Perform in Solo Festival

Seven Wood Road students performed solos in the NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Solo Festival, which was held at Schenectady High School.

Each spring NYSSMA sponsors the festival at a local school. Students from all around the Capital District attend. Each

student is given a performance evaluation that involves playing a graded solo from the NYSSMA manual, playing scales and sight reading. Students are recommended by their band and orchestra teachers.

Students who attended this year are Lucas Weeks, Tyler Lake, Hannah Smith, Teagan Morabito, Jude Leight, Andrew Brooks and Fiona Hughes.

- James Haughton



# A day to **Just Have Fun**

Each year in June, students gear up for a day of fun. Fun Day is a day to have fun and celebrate the year. Activities this year included water games, tug-of-war, a professional chalk artist, balloon animals, temporary tattoos, relay races, face painting, basketball, a DJ, photo booth, sumo wrestling and more. Students had an hour-and-a-half to move through the activities at their own pace.

- Kyle Fives







## Staff Gives Blood

On April 30, Wood Road staff members donated blood at Wood Road's first blood drive. Forty-eight people received blood as a result of the donations. The drive was organized by Coach Dayton, Mrs. French and Mrs. Clancy. Wood Road Student Council members also helped with the event. Organizers are hoping to open the event up to the entire Wood Road family next year.

-Kendyl Wasserman



## DEAR is for summer too

DEAR is not just for school. It's a time to relax our minds, sink deep into a good book and take a break. You can DEAR anywhere. DEAR is fun over summer break too. DEAR can happen on any day for however long you want. At school, students read until the announcement says the time has ended or the teacher says stop. But if you are at home, you can DEAR whenever and however you want. How many times will you DEAR?

- Peter Hinckley

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school and help make decisions to make the school better. Fifth graders have the opportunity to run for a bigger role in student council.

"You can run for the treasurer, secretary, vice president or president," said fifth grader Alisabeth Dreher, who serves as vice president.

Students who choose to run are required to write a speech about the role they would like and why. Student council representatives vote on who they feel would do the best job for each role.

Wood Road student council is a group of third, fourth and fifth graders who meet once a month. This year there are 24 representatives in student council. In order to be in student council, students must write a speech and get positive recommendations from former and current teachers. Fellow classmates vote on who they feel would represent them the best.

CONGRATS  
5TH GRADERS!

ENJOY  
MIDDLE SCHOOL!

WE WILL  
MISS YOU!