

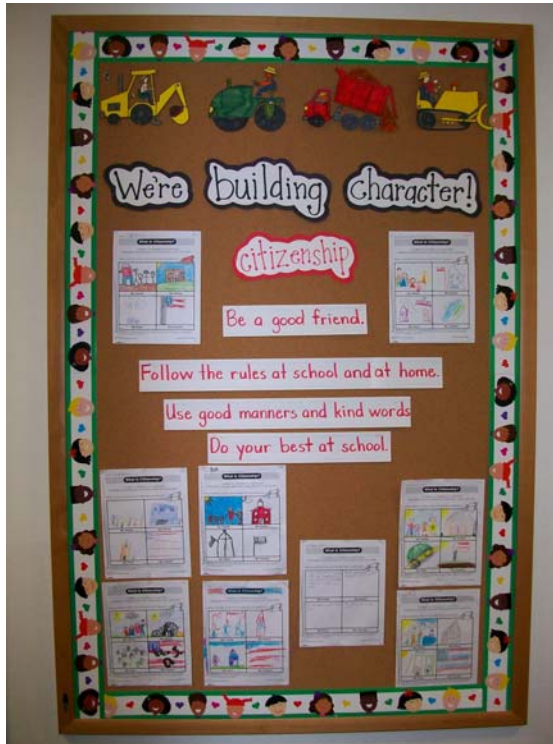


Washington Township Schools "Making a Difference"

Character Education Update

This month, students learned about Citizenship. Mrs. Bradley taught students about cooperation, being a good neighbor, obeying laws and rules, protecting the environment and being helpful. In Kindergarten, Mrs. Bradley read the story "Working Together", teaching children to cooperate in work and play. Mrs. Bradley used puppets to read the story "Pride" to first graders, teaching students what it feels like to be proud. Second and third graders completed a worksheet involving art or written reflections on the four communities to which we all belong: Family, School, Town, and Country. All students at Port Colden received and decorated a Good Citizen Certificate upon completion of the first lesson. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders worked in small groups to complete their "Class Crest". Using images and / or words, the students

expressed what it means to be a citizen in their classroom. One submission from every class will be displayed on the bulletin board outside the office.



Port Colden School
Brass Castle School

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Reminder to Parents About Cell Phone Use

Bus drivers report that children are taking their cell phones out while riding on the bus. If your child take his/her cell phone to school, please remind them to keep it turned off and in their backpack while riding on the bus. Thank you for your cooperation..

Kindergarten Parents Go Back to School

Kindergarten parents are invited to attend several workshops this year. Topics include: Reading Workshop, Helpful Handwriting Hints, Math Workshop, Science Workshop, Family Fun Night (parents & kindergartners for a night of gross motor fun, including listening skills to music as everyone exercises with rhythm sticks, bean bags, parachute, etc.) Workshops will be held from 7:00-8:00pm at Brass Castle School.

International Day of Peace 2009

Pinwheels were everywhere on September 21st. This year Washington Township schools celebrated International Day of Peace by participating in the "Pinwheels for Peace" project. "Pinwheels for Peace" is an international program where children around the world create pinwheels representing their thoughts and drawings related to the topic of peace. This year it is estimated that there were 3 million pinwheels spinning on September 21, 2009 in countries around the world. Here in the Township, pinwheels were placed all around the hallways of Port Colden and Brass Castle. We hope that by reflecting on the idea of peace, we bring a little more joy and happiness into our everyday lives.



Old Schoolhouse Update

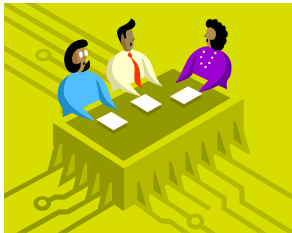


On Sunday, Sept. 13th the Washington Township Board of Education invited the community to attend an open house and dedication ceremony of the Old Port Colden Schoolhouse. Everyone was pleased to see the beautiful old building restored and in use.

Interest was shown in the engraved paver bricks placed in the walkway in front of the building. There were many inquires about purchasing more bricks. Therefore, we would like to offer our community a chance to purchase a brick to commemorate the restoration of the Old Schoolhouse. If you would be interested in purchasing a brick please refer to our website, www.washingtontownshipschools.org. There is an application and ordering information available for you to print and send in to Denise Jordan at the Port Colden School. If you do not have access to the Internet please send a note in to the Port Colden School main office and a form will be sent home. Any questions please feel free to contact Denise Jordan @ 908-689-0681 ext. 539.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Tues., Nov. 17th, Wed., Nov. 18th and Thurs. Nov. 19th. Many parents were able to sign up for a conference at their Back to School Night. Those parents who did not attend or were unable to sign should watch for a letter coming home about signing up. If you have any questions you may call the main office of your child's school.



Patriot's Day Recognition:

Let's remember to be proud Americans

On September 11th during morning announcements students and staff observed a moment of silence to honor all those lost. Students were able to view a tape of Mrs. Kaiven, our media library teacher, reading of "There's a Big, Beautiful World Out There!" by Nancy Carlson. The book offers young readers the encouragement they need to face their fears and look forward to all the great experiences awaiting them.



School Bus Evacuation Drills

School Bus evacuations are held twice a year to ensure that students are prepared in case of an emergency while riding on their school bus. Our fall drill was held on Tuesday, September 29th. The drills were held during morning arrival.

The drill consisted of teaching the children to exit the rear bus door properly. Students were reminded that they needed to remain quiet in order to hear the driver's instructions. Older children, that typically sit in the rear of the bus, were instructed how to open the rear emergency door and how to assist the other children off the bus. Students were to file out the rear door in single file by rows. Exiting students were told to sit down in the rear exit doorway and then slide off the floor of the bus to the ground. Two students were stationed on the ground at the emergency door along with a staff member to ensure that children safely exited the bus. As the students exited the bus they were told to move away from the bus and line up for further instructions.

Students were not permitted to take any of their belongings with them during the evacuation. After the drill was over, the children were loaded back onto the bus to collect their belongings and proceed into the school."



Commodore Barry Day September 13th

Commodore Barry Day was observed by students and staff on Monday, September 14th. A student read about Commodore Barry, Father of the American Navy, during morning announcements. There is a resource web page posted on our website with the text and some follow-up questions for teachers to use in their classrooms.

Job Posting: Township Crossing Guards

Part time & Substitutes Crossing Guards are needed. If interested please contact the Washington Township Police Department office secretary at 689-1630



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

Message from Lucille Davy, Commissioner of NJ Education

Creating 21st Century New Jersey Schools
A Conversation with Lucille Davy, Commissioner of Education State
of New Jersey and Alan November, CEO of November Learning

"Today's high school students will graduate into a world very different from the one in which most of their parents and teachers grew up, due to rapid technological, economic and social changes across the globe. What kinds of skills are needed to prepare New Jersey's students for success in college, in the workplace and as active citizens in the 21st century? What are New Jersey public schools doing to prepare students as critical thinkers and problem solvers who can effectively connect, collaborate and compete in today's global society?"

The New Jersey Department of Education invites you to watch:
*A Conversation with Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner of Education and
Alan November* available at:

http://cie.kean.edu/CIE/21st_century_videos.html

During this seven minute clip, Alan November, national expert on teaching and learning, and Commissioner Davy discuss what have been identified by American businesses as the critical skills needed for jobs and careers in the 21st century. Information is also provided on Department of Education initiatives created to guide schools in preparing students that are college and career ready. New Jersey schools view parents as valuable partners who inspire their children to achieve and offer support in the education process. This communication is an effort to keep parents informed about the goals of the New Jersey public education system to prepare an engaged citizenry, who are responsible and caring adults and productive members of a world class workforce."