

West Essex News

February 17, 2012

Introduction

Hello everyone! Welcome to the second edition of the West Essex News in the new format. I have received so much positive feedback on the new format. I am glad that you like it.

Board Meeting

The West Essex Regional Board of Education will have a regular meeting February 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the middle school.

Keep up-to-date with West Essex News at our website at www.westex.org and on Facebook!

Board Election

The Board of Education has adopted a resolution to move its April election to the November General Election. School board candidates must file their petitions by June 5. For more details, visit our website at www.westex.org.

If you would like to subscribe to this newsletter or if you have a submission, please contact Allison Freeman at afreeman@westex.org or call (973) 228-1200 ext. 101.

Of Special Note:

Please note that we will not have school on President's Day February 20, 2012 and we will have an Early Dismissal on Tuesday February 21 at 12:17 p.m.



Even teachers showed off their school spirit at the Middle School pep rally! Jim Quinless and Justin Schwindel com-

West Essex Regional School District

Important Dates:

- **Feb. 18 & 25: HSPA Extra instruction**
- **Feb. 20: All Schools Closed**
- **Feb. 21: Early Dismissal**
- **Feb. 24: Blood Drive**
- **Feb. 27: Board of Education meeting**
- **Feb. 29: Mr. West Essex**
- **March 3 & 4: SAT Boot Camp**
- **March 6-8: HSPAs for Juniors**
- **March 8: WEMS Student Council Game Night**
- **March 12, Board of Education meeting**
- **March 17: First Educational Technology Symposium at West Essex**

Technology Symposium

Mark your calendars for **WETECH-the First Educational Technology Symposium at West Essex March 17, 2012!** This special free event has been designed to educate K-

12 teachers, administrators, media specialists, school boards and interested community members on the **innovative use of technology in education**. It will feature **keynote addresses** by leaders

in the field including **New Milford High School Principal Eric Sheninger**, who will speak on educational leadership in this ever-changing digital world. **Lisa Thumann**, a Google Certified

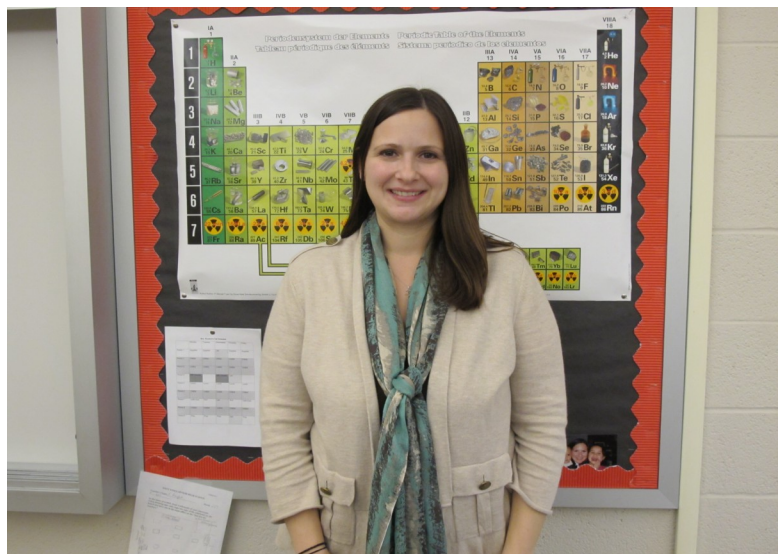
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District News, New Science Supervisor

teacher and trainer and (Tech Symposium cont.)

Director of Innovative Learning Technology at the School for Global Education and Innovation at Kean University, will also address how students, educators and administrators are using digital tools to communicate, collaborate and create in New Jersey classrooms. For information, contact Raquel Williams at rwilliam@westex.org. To register, visit www.westex.org/wetech.



West Essex BOE Approves Elizabeth Ricafort as New Science Supervisor

Elizabeth Ricafort, a chemistry and forensic science teacher at West Essex High School, will be the new Teaching Instructional Supervisor of Science/Industrial Arts for the 2012-13 school year. Ricafort, pictured on this page above right, is a 1995 graduate of West Essex High School, and a resident of Denville.

Ricafort will succeed Science Supervisor Ryan Gupta, who is the new Director of Instruction of Curriculum and Instruction and is currently serving as acting science supervisor until the end of the school year.

Ricafort has worked as a science teacher at the high school for eight years and initiated the high school's forensic science program in 2005. She previously taught science at Pequannock High School

before coming to West Essex. Ricafort has a degree in chemistry from the University of Rhode Island and a master's degree in education from Montclair State University. She is working towards a second master's degree in administration from Caldwell College. She is also married to West Essex graduate Rob Shaw.

Ricafort said she is looking forward to her new position. "I am excited because for 13 years, I have influenced students in my classroom," she said. "I hope I can influence every science classroom. I want to make sure they get everything they need for the 21st century."

The new science supervisor said she would also like to "infuse more technology" in the curriculum and the classroom and commends the District for its technology initiatives.

Attention Parents of the 2012 Senior Class: Project Graduation plans are being finalized and it will be a great party. If you have not paid your \$200 fee, pay it now. Make checks payable to WEPG-2012 (by March 1, 2012) and mail them to Anne Gasbarro, 55 Fleetwood Ave., Fairfield, NJ 07004. If your child will not attend or for questions, email WEPG2012@aol.com or call Julie at (973) 227-4438.



Members of the MS Student Council enjoy the MS pep rally last week. Students shot baskets, played musical chairs and showed their spirit.

District News: (continued)

The **West Essex High School Guidance Department** is planning a **Career Day** at the high school **April 18 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.** and is **looking for presenters**. Parents or community members who would like to talk to the students about their professions should contact Linda Grancagnolo at lgrancag@westex.org.

Seniors will have the opportunity to participate in the **Senior Service Project** which should run from approximately May 22 to June 12. To participate, students must meet certain eligibility requirements. For information, read the **letter** on the website at [Senior Service Letter](#).

This year's **Middle School Yearbook** sales are stronger than ever. We have already increased the number of books to be printed, but there are **only 25 books left**. If your child would like to **reserve a copy**, do it now. You can check our sales list to see if you have already purchased a **y e a r b o o k** at www.westex.org/Page/2233. The book price is now \$45. If you would like to make a purchase, **please order at www.yearbooksforever.com** and do it quickly before we run out.

Students ages 17 and 18 and age 16 with a parental permission form may **donate blood February 24** from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the **3rd Annual American Red Cross Blood Drive** in the

West Essex High School gym. All students who wish to donate must make an appointment with Mrs. Paula Frisch, the high school nurse.

The HSPA's, New Jersey's High School Proficiency Assessment, will be administered to **West Essex Juniors in school on March 6, 7, and 8**. Juniors must pass the Mathematics and Language Arts sections of the HSPA as a graduation requirement. We are offering **extra instruction** outside of the classroom for this test at no cost to families on **Saturday, February 18 and Saturday, February 25**. The two sessions, Math and English, will run from 9-10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For information, or to register, please email Anna Morse, Language Arts Supervisor at amorse@westex.org or Diana Schoenblum, Math Supervisor at dschoenb@westex.org.

Juniors can learn to **Outsmart the SAT at Catalyst's SAT Boot Camp at West Essex High School Saturday March 3 and Sunday March 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Many students do not have time for weekly prep classes and it takes a long time to get your mock scores. In just one week, students will learn every strategy they need for the test. The course also costs **\$100 for the entire weekend**, which includes course and prep materials. To register, call (800) 235-0056 after 11 a.m.



The West Essex Middle School Art Club painted a mural with the "Tolerance" theme.

"Tolerance" was the theme for this colorful mural now on display in the **Middle School hallway**. The mural is in support of the middle school's program on character education.

Seventeen **West Essex High School students** will have their artwork featured in the **7th Annual Teen Arts Jam** at



One of the creations by our students featured in the 7th Annual Teen Arts Jam.

Caldwell College today through Feb. 29th. An awards ceremony is scheduled from 5-7:30 p.m. February 29 in the college Visceglia Gallery.

West Essex graduate Luciana Contuzzi has been named the **winner of Seton Hall University's Ventures Fund Competition** and has her picture featured on mailers

Middle School News

Three WEMS students have been named winners of the **Knightlights Dystopian Story Writing Contest**. They are: **first place: Anne-Marie Lee (grade 8); second place: Daniella Ignacio (grade 7) and third place: Gianna Cielo (grade 7)**. Knightlights is the middle school literary magazine. Dystopian novels focus on an imaginary place where everything is as bad as it can be.

Teacher Susan Giordano's eighth grade reading classes are writing letters to West Essex graduate Matt Guido, an explosives technician in the U.S. Navy who was recently deployed to Afghanistan. Guido was a standout lacrosse player at West Essex and even went to school with Mr. Ferrara, an eighth grade social studies teacher, and Ms. Iannarone, a seventh grade science teacher. Guido was also a former stu-

dent of Mrs. Giordano and Mr. Montgomery and had Mr. Glenn as his lacrosse coach. The students wrote Guido 100 letters so far and plan to write more. Mrs. Giordano said she hopes the students will be able to Skype with Guido, who is also the uncle of eighth grader Zac Cascio.

The **WEMS Student Council** will host a **Minute to Win It Game Night March 8 at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$5.

High School News



David Shields with Superintendent Barbara Longo

Senior David Shields has been named a **National Merit Scholarship finalist** after he was recognized as a semi-finalist a few months ago. In the photo to the left, Superintendent of Schools Barbara Longo congratulates David Shields on his accomplishment at a West Essex Board of Education meeting.

Students from the **English National Honor Society** visited **Paterson Public School No. 7**

and **donated more than 600 books** to the school. The society also recognized students who participated in a special poetry contest.



Julie Kayzerman and Allie Gasbarro with Paterson students.

In Brief:

High School Special Education teacher **Robyn Paglia** will take the **2012 Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics New Jersey February 25** at the Aztec Ocean Resort in Seaside Heights. If you would like to make a donation, you can give checks made payable to Special Olympics New Jer-

sey to Paglia or for information or to make a credit card donation, visit www.NJPolarPlunge.org and click on "Sponsor Plunger."

The senior class will host its annual **Mr. West Essex February 29 at 7 p.m.** in the high school auditorium. Twelve

senior boys will perform and compete in categories including Sleep Wear, Swim Wear, Formal Wear, Talent and Question and Answer. Tickets are \$10. Raffles and contest like guess the baby picture are part of the fun.

WEFE News

The **West Essex Foundation for Education** will host its annual **Cut-a-thon March 27th from 3-7 p.m. at Panico Salon**, 763 Bloomfield Ave., West Caldwell. **All haircuts will cost \$25** and ALL proceeds will go to WEFE. Parents or students interested in volunteering should e-mail rorilisa@aol.com.

WEFE will also host its regular **meeting Tuesday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m.** in the High School Cafeteria.

Mark your calendars for the **WEFE 5K "Trotting For Technology" Run/Walk** for the morning of **May 19th**. Interested volunteers should contact iharamis@aol.com or christinegrasso61@gmail.com.



Even School Administrators plan to grow their hair long for the event.

PTO News

The **West Essex PTO** will initiate a **second membership dues request** through e-mail. Please be on the lookout for this very important e-mail. Dues are \$35 per family, which help fund many activities and programs including scholarships for graduating seniors. For information, contact Jenifer at jpetrocca@optonline.net.

Athletics

West Essex swimmer **James Lovey** finished in first place in the Essex County Tournament for the 200 freestyle (time 1:47.45) and 500 Freestyle (time 4:56.51).

The **West Essex Regional High School Wrestling Team** will host the **District 13 Tournament** this week-

end. Ten wrestling teams will compete in the event, which runs Friday and Saturday.



High School students can get help with their writing at the Writing Center. Sign up in the HS library.

Community News

The **North Caldwell Partnership for Education** will host a **Casino and Club Night March 30 at 7 p.m.** at the Green Brook Country Club. This fundraiser will feature a casino and silent auction. Tickets are \$100 each and include drinks, hors d'oeuvres and a

buffet dinner. Texas Hold'em entries are \$40. Ticket information is available at www.ncboe.org/ncps/NCPE/.

Parents of **boys age 11 and under** interested in the playing for the **Fairfield Spring U-11 Boys Soccer Team** should contact Coach Jim Don-

tas at jdrex@msn.com or Dave Calabrese at cee1988cee@yahoo.com.

The **Fairfield Home School Association** is seeking **donations** for its May 10, 2012 **Tricky Tray**. To make a donation, E-mail kellyhricko@yahoo.com.