



# Watchung Hills Regional High School District

## Newsletter

February 2016



### From the desk of the Superintendent

On March 8, 2016, you will be asked to vote on a referendum to replace the turf field at Watchung Hills Regional High School. I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with information on the upcoming referendum.

First and foremost, the decision to replace the field is not arbitrary - it is necessary to ensure the safety of all Watchung Hills students and community organizations that utilize the field. Regardless of whether the referendum passes or is defeated, the Watchung Hills Regional High School District must and will replace the turf field utilizing capital reserve funds for emergency maintenance such as this. **By passing the referendum for the field, the State of New Jersey will reimburse the Watchung Hills Regional High School District up to 40% of the cost of the project.** This savings will go back into capital reserve for future emergencies without burdening taxpayers in the future. The Board of Education and our architect are currently investigating alternative materials to serve as fill for the new turf field to further ensure the safety of all who utilize the field.

**I need to reiterate that this bond referendum has no impact financially on taxpayers.** An affirmative vote will save the district up to 40% of the total cost of the project. The Board expects to fund the remaining local share (approximately 60%) of the project using our own capital reserve funds. For additional information, please visit our web site at [www.whrhs.org](http://www.whrhs.org). If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our School Business Administrator, Timothy Stys, at 908-647-4800, ext. 4850, or my office at 908-647-4800, ext. 4890.

Thank you for your attention to this significant financial issue impacting the Watchung Hills Regional High School District.

Regards,

*Elizabeth C. Jewett*  
Superintendent

### *Special School Election Referendum Vote March 8, 2016*

**The poll locations are as follows:**

#### **Warren Township**

Districts 1 and 3  
Districts 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13  
Districts 11 and 12

Mt. Horab Firehouse, 19 Elm Avenue  
Our Lady of the Mount Parish Center, 167 Mt. Bethel Road  
Warren Township Library, 42 Mountain Boulevard

#### **Watchung Borough**

All Districts

Fireman's Exempt Hall, 31 Mountain Boulevard

#### **Long Hill Township**

Districts 1 and 2  
Districts 3 and 4  
Districts 5 and 6

All Saints Church Parish House, 15 Basking Ridge Road  
Stirling Firehouse, 321 Somerset Street  
Senior Community Center, 769 Valley Road

**The polls will be open from 2pm to 9pm at all locations.**

## From the Offices of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology



**Mary Ellen Phelan**  
Director of Curriculum &  
Instruction



**Brian Bayachek,**  
Director of Information  
Technology



**Michael D'Alessio**  
Director of Science, Instructional  
Technology, and Assessment

### Technology Update

Watchung Hills Regional High School has been busy making technology improvements. We have researched and purchased both hardware and software that have helped our students in a variety of academic settings.

Google Apps has been implemented this year. Faculty, staff, and students use Google Apps for Education which include Google mail, drive, docs, sheets, slides, classroom, hangouts, and more. Some parents may have already noticed classes that are using the Google Classroom app; students and teachers have adopted readily to the change. Teachers now have the ability to provide feedback more quickly and more strategically, and students have utilized the calendar to ensure that all assignments are handed in by the due date.

The Google Classroom and Hangouts apps may be used in an academic, athletic, or co-curricular environment. For those who are less familiar with the classroom applications—Google Classroom is a free web-based platform that integrates all Google Apps services, including Google Docs, Gmail, and Google Calendar. It is a more efficient system for delivering many educational materials without having to use paper or printers. Teachers can attach material from their Google Drive folders to assignments they create. Students can also attach files from their Drive folders to coursework they submit in Classroom. Students can collaborate more easily and virtually with one another on projects, labs and presentations.

Google Hangouts is a unified communications service which

is used most frequently for our athletic teams and co-curricular clubs. This new service allows our coaches and advisors to initiate and participate in a group and a one-on-one text/instant message environment which is invaluable for last minute changes in schedule. The Hangouts app is built into Gmail, and mobile apps are available for iOS and Android devices.

Another technology upgrade to the classroom projector is being piloted in ten classrooms presently. Every department will receive more training in February at our Professional Development Day. The SMART Board 6065 is a 64.5" LED interactive flat panel display. The 4K ultra-high-definition resolution display provides optimal image clarity and viewing from any angle. The SMART Board provides a brighter / clearer image, longer life span, no bulbs to replace, built in speakers, no casted shadows, and Kapp iQ feature.

Faculty, staff, and students also have the ability to access a WHRHS virtual desktop via VMware from almost any device with an internet connection around the clock. This Windows 7 desktop provides access to network drives/files and applications used throughout the day including Logger Pro, Adobe Creative Cloud, Media Center Databases, Eclipse Java, and more.

In an effort to increase availability of technology in the classroom, future projects will include: upgrading our wireless infrastructure, deploying more Chromebook carts and purchasing more interactive devices for our classrooms.

## From the Offices of Curriculum, Instruction and Technology (Cont'd)

### Articulation Update

The curriculum supervisors from the sending districts continue to meet monthly. Last month we discussed 8th grade recommendations and appropriate placement in academic and elective courses to ensure that all students are growing and learning with the appropriate amount of rigor but without undue stress. The 8th grade parents will attend a Curriculum Night at the high school on Monday, February 1, 2016 where the supervisors will outline the outstanding course offerings for 21st century learning available to students at WHRHS. Next month the supervisors will share testing data and program observations about the math curriculum at all four sending districts. The new Supervisor of Mathematics and Business, Mr. Dan Twisler, will be introduced, and he will also share his observations of all the high school mathematics and business classrooms he has visited since his arrival.

### PARCC Update

We have been planning for the second year of the PARCC test administration since October. We are happy that the New Jersey Department of Education has reduced the number of mandatory testing days/requirements this year. We have allocated six days to complete the PARCC testing in mid-April. All of our 9th, 10th and 11th graders will take the ELA test, and math will again be tested by subject: Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. The supervisors will be head proctors and all the teachers will be trained at an upcoming faculty meeting. We have completed a preliminary testing schedule, and the 11th graders will go first to give them enough separation from the AP testing window which is always the first two weeks of May. Again all students who are not in mandatory testing will attend their regular classes to not disrupt the pace and sequence of their daily learning. Student rosters have already been uploaded to the Pearson-Access Website, rooms for testing with strong access points have been chosen, and teacher proctors have been assigned during times their students are testing so no class can be held.

## School News

### Art Honor Society Induction

Some 47 students at Watchung Hills Regional High School were inducted into the National Art Honor Society at a ceremony Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the school.

Family and friends gathered in the school atrium to witness the students being called up by name and receiving the pin and certificate as the newest members of the school's Art Honor Society chapter.

Watchung Hills first-year art teacher and Watchung Hills alum, Emily Jordan, a graduate of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y., was the guest speaker. She, herself, had been inducted into the Art Honor Society when she was a student at Watchung Hills. In fact, she was inducted during the first year Watchung

Hills had a chapter.

The students who were inducted are: Hannah Ambinder, Fariha Asim, Sydney Bark, Elizabeth Bard, Sylvia Bae-yens, Rosemarie Baratta, Rebecca Bintley, Jilian Carbone, Sara Choudhury, Jenna Charko, Laura Cunningham, Martina Cruz, Brian DiDonna, Minna Gannon, Olena Hadlet, Rachel Minhee Han, Alyssa Inacio, Ashly Kang, Julia Kang, Kathleen Lee, Emily Lough, Megan Ma, Kate McGann, Kelly Mosquera, Hannah McCracken, Darain Napodano, Kelly Novak, Tess Novek, Amy Obuch, Nicole Parisi, Abigail Pedroso, Giuliana Popolillo, Natalie Przybylski, Micaela Rebelo, Anna Ricci, Rachel Sabnani, Amy Sautner, Puloma Sen,

Rachel Simmons, Miranda Smith, Brooke Stanicki, Lauren Stone, Katie Tiarks, Dana Timpert, Olivia Valentino, Jordan Wiln, and Edson Wong.



## National Honor Society Induction

Some 97 seniors were inducted into the Watchung Hills Regional High School chapter of the National Honor Society, on Thursday, Dec. 3, in the school's Performing Arts Center. Inductee David Kalwicz led the Pledge of Allegiance. Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett welcomed parents and students to the ceremony, and Principal George Alexis gave congratulatory remarks. Chapter Student Vice President Carbone played piano as guests gathered in the Performing Arts Center.

Watchung Hills chapter inductees reviewed for the audience the National Honor Society's cardinal principles: Character, Scholarship, Leadership and Community Service. Discussing what character means was Natasha Hunter; what Scholarship means was Vivian Chen and Isis Zhang; what Leadership means was Lauren Stone and Giuliana Popolillo; and what Community Service means was Allison Bernstein and Parima Kadikar.

The National Honor Society Pledge is: "I pledge to uphold the high purpose of the National Honor Society to which I have been selected. I will be true to the principles for which it stands: to maintain my high scholastic standing, to hold as fundamental and worthy an untarnished character, to endeavor intelligently and courageously to be a leader, and to give myself freely in service to others."

Inductees received certificates and gold honor cords from Vice Principals Steven Searfoss and Terry MacConnell, Principal Alexis and Superintendent. Honor cords are worn at graduation. Student inductee Rohan Shah presented closing remarks.

This year's National Honor Society Inductees are: Brooke Aldrich, Hannah Ambinder, Sylvia Baeyens, Rosemarie Baratta, Claire Barrameda, Matthew Battipaglia, Indeevar Beeram, Dana Bernhaut, Allison Bernstein, Kevin Bhattacharyya, Elizabeth Buckley, Jillian Carbone, Timothy Cardona, Jenna Charko, Stephanie Chavanne, Claire Chen, Vivian Chen, Kristin Chin, Olivia Ciraulo, Matthew Corbin, and Lauren Cunningham; and

Also, Brian Dempsey, Lori Engler, Palmer Ferrara, James Finnegan, Joshua Gallic, Ajey Gangwani, Molly Garyantes, Ryan Goldberg, Adam Goldstein, Michelle Guo, Ross Heilberg, Alexandra Hentschel, Rachel Hertzberg, Amanda Hopeck, Timothy Hsueh, Jeffrey Huang, Shailaja Humane, Natasha Hunter and Abigail Ingber; and

Also Parima Kadikar, David Kalwicz, Sohil Kapadia, Christina Karsos, Jake Karossy, Jack Lane, Devon Lauderdale, Tiffany Lin,

Kevin Liu, Natalia Livcha, Lauren Loesberg, Brianna Martins, Paula Moszczynski, Teresa Nguyen, Kelly Novak, Rachel Oberman, Justin Panzarino, Nicole Parisi, Kunwoo Park, Anjali Patel, Pooja Patel, Shivam Patel, William Patterson, Giuliana



Popolillo, and Kayla Purcell; and

Also, Connell Rae, Anthony Raphael, Alyssa Rosenblum, Anirudh Sagi, Alisha Sahay, Kaitlyn Santucci, Ari Scherzer, Benjamin Scherzer, Kayla Schinik, Greg Scott, Rohan Shah, Christopher Shao, Abigail Shieh, Molly Shulan, Christopher Silva, Hana Spavan, Demetrios Speros, Lauren Stone, Michelle Sucre, Annalise Suitovsky, Lizann Sung, Emily Tang, Matthew Tong, Tinpei Tung, Juhee Vaidya, Timothy Voorhees, Kiera Vrindten, Kristina Woo, Simon Yang, Isis Zhang, Eric Zhu, and Henry Zhu.

## NFL Super Bowl Honor Roll

Former New York Giants and Green Bay Packer left guard Billy Ard of Watchung, a 1977 graduate of Watchung Hills Regional High School, presented to Principal George Alexis an NFL Foundation Golden Football on Tuesday, Nov. 17, welcoming his alma mater into the Super Bowl High School Honor Roll.

Watchung Hills is one of 2,000 high schools across the country who has been or will be welcomed into the Super Bowl Honor Roll this year as part of the NFL Foundation's celebration marking the playing of the 50<sup>th</sup> Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 7, 2016 at Levi Stadium, San Francisco, Calif.

The High School Honor Roll program asks more than 3,000 players and head coaches who have been active participants in the 50 super bowls to recognize "the schools and communities that have contributed to Super Bowl history and positively impacted the game of football."



## Division One Signing

Eleven students at Watchung Hills Regional High School have declared their intentions to play lacrosse, softball, baseball, soccer or swimming next year at Division 1 NCAA colleges or universities.

The students, together with their parents and coaches, gathered at the school on Monday, Nov. 16. Soccer and Football players actually sign letters of intent in February. Students playing other sports sign letters of intent for Division 1 colleges and universities in November.

The students are:

To play lacrosse: Gabrielle Burton of Warren Township, who plans to attend

LaSalle University, Philadelphia, Pa; Lindsey Carroll of Warren Township, Radford University, Radford, Va; Tyler Furlong of Warren Township, Lafayette College, Easton, Pa; Sean Mullaney of Warren Township, The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.; Kelsey Reed of Stirling, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.; and Kiera Vrindten of Warren Township, Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.

To play baseball: Brian Reiss of Watchung, Monmouth University, West Long Branch.

To play softball: Amanda Hopeck of Green Brook Township, Monmouth University; and Madison Scuderi of Warren Township, Fordham University,

The Bronx, N.Y.

To play soccer: Alexandra Grunstein of Warren Township, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn.; and

To be on the swim team: Kayla Purcell of Millington, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.



## Challenge Day

Challenge Day, started in 2002 as a day-long, interactive empathy-building and communication program offered annually for a group of 100 sophomores, juniors and seniors at Watchung Hills Regional High School, was held on Nov. 12, at the school.

Challenge leaders, including teachers and community members, guide participants through a day of thought-provoking games, activities and discussions to address teen issues, such as bullying, alienation and self-destructive behavior. Activities are designed to increase respect, empathy and healthy emotional expression among students.

The “challenge” refers to an empathy-building exercise, a way to explore anti-bullying responses, and a communication and community-building experience.

A group of about 100 sophomores, juniors and seniors participated in the day-long, interactive empathy-building and communication program..

Local funding for the Challenge Day program at Watchung Hills is provided through the Youth Service Commissions of Warren Township and Green Brook Township, and the Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance (WHRMA).

Several weeks after attending their first Challenge Day, five

students and some of the adult facilitators said they didn’t know what to expect heading into the one-day opportunity, but all said they came away with a greater capacity for empathy and understanding. Among the participants are: Seated, from left, sophomore Alex Constantinou of Stirling, senior Kyle Mabric of Warren Township and senior Justin Johnson of Stirling; and standing, from left, Social Studies Teacher Evan Oftedal, junior Emily Graf of Green Brook Township, Student Assistance Counselor and co-organizer Julie Kumpf, sophomore Emily Snead of Stirling, and Student Assistance Counselor and co-organizer Gwen Blake.



## Script & Cue Fall Play, "The Skin of Our Teeth," by Thornton Wilder

The drama, "The Skin of Our Teeth," by Thornton Wilder, was presented by the student theater program, "Script & Cue," on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 19, 20 and 21, in the Performing Arts Center at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

A matinee performance for senior citizens was also presented on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

The Skin of Our Teeth was first published in 1942, and first performed on Oct. 15, 1942, at the Shubert Theater, New Haven, Conn. It was first performed on Broadway on Nov. 18, 1942. The leading role of Sabrina was originated by the actress, Tallulah Bankhead, and her performance earned her a Variety Award for Best Actress as well as the New York Drama Critics Award for Best Actress of

the Year.

The part of Sabrina in the Watchung Hills performance was played by Judy Tounsi. Other lead roles included:



Charles Buscarino as Mr. Antrobus and Victoria Magali as Mrs. Antrobus; Ryan Prestera as Mr. Fitzpatrick; Blake Shapiro as Gladys; David Kalwicz as Henry; Alex Bird as Announcer 1 and

Homer; Eric Bautista as Announcer 2 and Professor; Brigita Przybylski as Dinosaur; Derek Prestera and Jillian Ferrara as Mammoth; Sam Sinnott as Telegraph Boy; Julia Sluyter as Fortune Teller; Leinwand as Broadcast Official 1 and Kira Anchel Dhir as Broadcast Official 2; Caitlin Iannella as Ivy; Julia Piela as Hester and Lynsey Stanick as Miss E Muse.

Wilder is an American playwright and novelist who lived from 1897 to 1975. In addition to winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1943 for *The Skin of Our Teeth*, he also won a Pulitzer Prize in 1938 for the classic American play, *Our Town*, and in 1928 for the novel, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.

## Winter Choral and Instrumental Concerts



Hundreds of instrumental music students at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) filled the stage at the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC), Wednesday, Dec. 16, for the annual Instrumental Winter Concert. Among the performances was by the String Orchestra, which opened the concert with three eclectic compositions which set the tone for the evening: The dramatic and haunting "Theme from House Of Cards," by Jeff Beal; three excerpt from the classic seasonal favorite, "The Nutcracker," by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky; and a contemporary piece with classic themes, "And The Mountains Echoed: Gloria!" by award-winning composer Robert Longfield, the band and orchestra director at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Miami, Fla.



Hundreds of choral music students filled the stage of an equally filled Performing Arts Center (PAC) two nights later, on Friday, Dec. 18, for the annual Winter Vocal Concert. This Combined Chorus included members of the Chorus and Advanced Chorus. They performed the final three songs of the concert, ending with "We Are The World for Haiti," by Michael Jackson and Lionel Ritchie.

## Coffee House

Some 40 students, teachers and staff shared poems, musical performances and dance interpretations at “Coffee House” on Thursday, Jan. 14, at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

To affect the sensation of being a 1960s era Coffee House, the stage area of the school’s Performing Arts Center (PAC) was darkened and bathed in blue light. A smaller stage area was set up at one end of the stage, with its exposed bare-brick wall and metal studs as a backdrop. The audience were invited to gather on the cozy, transformed stage, and either sit in a limited number of folding chairs, or at small tables and chairs, or at standing happy hour coffee bar table-ettes. An array of happy hour snacks were on a side table and delivered by mingling student “wait staff.” The Coffee House audience filled the stage.

The Coffee House occurred simultaneous with the publication of the 2016 Winter Issue of Folio, the literary magazine at WHRHS. Editor-in-Chief of Folio is Neha Saju, who read her short story, “Hope,” at the Coffee House. Several of the student poets and writers who read at the Coffee

House have entries in the Winter Edition of the Folio. In addition to writing, Folio’s 31 submissions include photography and art.

Faculty facilitator for the Folio is English Teacher Daniel Larkins. He is also faculty facilitator for the student newspaper, The Arrowhead. Faculty Facilitator for the Coffee House is English Teacher Katy Corrigan. English Supervisor Marlene Stoto welcomed everyone to the Coffee House at the beginning of the night.

“This event has grown since we first conceived it and organized it last year,” Stoto said. “There are so many talented writers, musicians and dancers among us. Thank

you for participating and supporting our celebration of the arts.”

Opening the night were a medley of songs performed by the English department band, “Air Castle” a student band and other musical performances. There were two dance performances, written works read by students and poems read by members of the faculty and staff of WHRHS.



## Winter Cabaret

The weather outside may have been frightful, and patrons may have been still sore from shoveling themselves out of a record-breaking blizzard four days earlier, but the stage of the Performing Arts Center (PAC) at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) was transformed into a cozy “Winter Cabaret” on Wednesday, Jan. 27, to hear some 17 acts, mostly singers and musicians, but also some actors delivering monologues, a stand-up comedienne delivering jokes, and an ‘improv’ comedy troupe that sent scores of audience members home with smiles on their faces.

Winter Cabaret was presented by the Script and Cue student acting troupe of

the WHRHS Theater arts program. Theater Arts Teacher Doug Eaton, who introduced all the acts, said the Winter Cabaret was meant to: Raise a little money to augment funding for theater programs; call attention to the upcoming annual Spring Musical, “She Loves Me,” with book, lyrics and music by Broadway award-winning legends Joe Masteroff, Sheldon Harnick, and Jerry Bock; and give a talented groups of WHRHS theater arts actors, singers and musicians opportunities to perform before a live audience.

The WHRHS presentation of “She Loves Me,” will be staged in the PAC on Thursday, March 17, Friday, March 18,

and Saturday, March 19, with a special Senior Citizens’ Matinee/Final Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday, March 16.



## Auschwitz Survivor Tova Friedman Speaks to Freshman Class

Tova Friedman of Highland Park, one of only a handful of children to be liberated 70 years ago from the horrors of Auschwitz, in Southern Poland, Nazi Germany's concentration and extermination camp, told an assembly of first year students at Watchung Hills Regional High School on Wednesday, Dec. 23, she still bears on her arm the tattooed number given her by her tormentors.

"Don't let anyone try to tell you that it didn't happen," said Friedman, 76, who was 6-years-old when she was liberated from Auschwitz. She said she speaks 10 to 15 times a year to church and civic groups, in synagogues and at school assemblies, to keep alive the knowledge that the Holocaust really happened, that millions of people were murdered by bullets and gas. Some were buried in mass graves. Millions were cremated. They were studied and prodded, made to work, and stripped of their art, their heirlooms, their family savings, their

dwelling, their books, their clothing, their families and friends, and their lives. Among them were the elderly, the rabbis, the educated professionals and intellectuals, the teachers, the civic and community leaders... and millions of children.

Friedman said she is a witness. She said she has urged her children and children's children, and she pleaded with the WHRHS students to likewise, to tell their children and their children's children: These atrocities did, in fact, happen. The world must never forget, she said, and must never let it happen again.

Her experiences are captured in a book and a documentary created by 1963 Hope College alum, Milton Nieuwsma. The

book, published in 1998, is titled, "Kinderlager: An Oral History of Young Holocaust Survivors."



It was later made into a 2005 Emmy Award-winning documentary, "Surviving Auschwitz: Children of the Shoah."

***"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it, you will land among the stars."***

***Les Brown***

## Seasonal Food Collection

Watchung Hills Regional High School students in the Action Team Club, advised by Social Studies Teacher Greg Krueger, the Action Against Hunger Club, advised by Social Studies Teacher Sean new, and the classes of Social Studies Teacher Jessica Kelly gather after school on Tuesday, Nov. 24, to organize and send out some thousands of collected canned goods, cases of water, Ramen noodles soup packages, pretzels, and more for donation to the Somerset County Food Bank. The food was collected by a seasonal community food drive organized and staffed by the students. The cans filled 73 paper grocery bags, and the drive also collected 17 cases of water, 18 cases or Ramen noodles and 20 cases of pretzels.



## The Hills Roundup

- ◆ Our school newspaper, the *Arrowhead*, was awarded a gold medal from Columbia Scholastic Press Association.
- ◆ The Maplewood Glee Club contacted our Arts Department looking for a student to illustrate a cover for their holiday program. The criterion was a 1960's muscle car with a Christmas wreath in the design. Art student Minna Gannon's work was selected.
- ◆ On November 1, Flutist John Ray, a senior at WHRHS, was awarded the 2015 Cynthia Platt Prize given by the Baroque Orchestra of New Jersey. John is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the New Jersey Youth Symphony.
- ◆ On November 5 and 6, Ryan Prestera and Veronica Mu performed at Boardwalk Hall during the Teachers Convention with All-State Chorus. The group is a very select and auditioned choir with students throughout the entire state of New Jersey.
- ◆ On November 21, Henry Zhu won best speaker at the Junior Statesman Convention in Iselin for his debate on "Resolved, Obama's Clean Power Plan is the best way to address climate change."
- ◆ On November 26, a proud musical tradition continued! With the success of the inaugural band in 2006, and the bands that have followed, Macy's asked MUSIC FESTIVALS & TOURS to once again continue to be their proud partner with The Macy's Great American Marching Band for the 89th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Honoring America's finest high school musicians, this band was comprised of select students from across the United States. The 185 musicians were complemented by approximately 40 flags and dancers. We are proud to announce that four of our students were among the students selected: Brandon Huang and Joshua Schmidt for the trumpet, Emilie Riccardi for the saxophone and Lindsay Muller for color guard.
- ◆ The Watchung Hills Regional High School Select Choir has recorded Bruce Springsteen's "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" to enter into the NJ101.5's Holiday Choir Music Contest. Our select choir was chosen as one of fifteen finalists in this year's contest. The WHRHS Choir song was aired on the Dennis and Judi Show on Monday, November 30 at 11:50 am. Voting was open on nj101.5 for a 24-hour period following the song being played "live" on the air. Once the votes were in, the WHRHS Choir won the high school division and was awarded \$1,000.
- ◆ Some of our social studies class students were involved in "Operation Gratitude" where our students wrote over 12 pounds of letters to be sent to our troops overseas for the holidays.
- ◆ Natalie Kim and Evani Ricaldi, each won a distinguished writing award from School Newspapers Online for their respective articles originally published in the *Arrowhead*. Natalie Kim's article, "How to help 62 million girls rise," showcased WH's new Girl Rising Club while discussing the right to equal access to education. Evani Ricaldi's article, "Liquid Possibilities," explored the finding of water on Mars. Both articles were reprinted on the Best of SNO website. Michelle Du, received a certificate from SNO for her article, "The Results Are In: WHRHS 2016 Mock Presidential Election." Her article, which highlighted the results of an online mock presidential election, was also featured on the Best of SNO website which showcases great student journalism from SNO members.
- ◆ Six of our seniors have qualified as semi-finalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Competition. They are Claire Chen, Emily Kim, Kunwoo Park, Isis Zhang, Eric Zhu and Henry Zhu.
- ◆ In the Future Business Leaders of America Regional Leadership competition, we had several students who placed in top eight at the regional level and are eligible move on to the state leadership competition on February: Amrutha Ajarpu place 1<sup>st</sup> and Caitlyn Park placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Word Processing, Lauren Olin placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Introduction to Business Demetra Chang placed 1<sup>st</sup> and Andrew Song placed 6<sup>th</sup> in Introduction to Business Procedures, Anjali Patel and Radhika Thotakura both placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Global Business, Deepta Raghavan placed 4<sup>th</sup> and Vamsi Desu placed 6<sup>th</sup> in Introduction to Information Technology, Lauren DeCastro placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in Insurance & Risk Management, and Sahil Patel placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in Introduction to Financial Math.
- ◆ Seven of our students won individual awards at the Rutgers Model United Nations competition in New Brunswick the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>. Vrinda Goel and Sonali Howe won the distinguished delegation representing the United Kingdom in the UN's Commission on the Status of Women, Carrie Rucker and Meghana Dantuluri won for writing the best position paper representing the United Kingdom in the UN's World Health Organization, Justin Panzarino won for writing the best position paper representing France in the Historic UN Security Council, Suchir Govindarajan won for writing the best position paper representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Egyptian Cabinet and Karthik Irakam was recognized for being the most improved delegate representing Yves Mersch on the European Central Bank's Executive Board.



# Watchung Hills Regional High School

108 Stirling Road  
Warren, NJ 07059

Phone: 908-627-4800  
Fax: 908-647-4853

