Western Students Selected For Honors

Congratulations to our students accepted to 2013 CIMEA Region Ensembles: Clayton Beyert - Region II Wind Ensemble, Trumpet; Jonathan Clancy - Region II Symphonic Band, Timpani; Alex DiFabio - Region II Symphonic Band, Battery and Francis Wong, violinist, made Region II Orchestra.

These students were selected through audition amongst hundreds of other auditioning students from throughout the Central New Jersey Region to perform in the CIMEA Region Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Orchestra. The Region II Orchestra performed on Sunday January 6th at Montgomery HS in Skillman, NJ. On Sunday January 13th, the wind/percussion students performed with their respective ensemble at Montgomery High School.

On Saturday January 19th these students auditioned for the New Jersey All-State Ensembles with hopes of joining the best musicians in the state at the New Jersey Music Educators Association Conference held in New Brunswick in February.

Congratulations to the following WHS students for being accepted into the 2013 Region II Chorus: Anna Bloomfield, Isabella Gelfand, Aidan Hughes, Hasitha Kakileti, Maddie Kevelson, Katherine Ko, Megan Pinna, and Melanie Snyder.

A few outstanding students will represent WHS and NJ in the All Eastern Choir. This choir is an incredibly selective group from the New England area. Five singers were selected from WHS: Liz Griesmer, Allie Hecht, Michael Kirkland, Matthew Lynn, and Jack Mustard. They will perform at the National Association for Music Education Conference in April. Cindy Xiao, violinist, will represent WHS and NJ in the All Eastern Orchestra!

Congratulations to the following Intermediate students, who were accepted into CIMEA Region II Ensembles. At RIS, 6th grader Erica Lawrence, one of 6 Bassoonists will participate in the Concert Band and 7th grader Jack Butera, Percussionist will be in the Percussion Ensemble. At EIS, Alistair Kapadia, 2nd Bassoonist out of 6 who auditioned (Concert Band), Dale Beyert – 2nd Trumpet out of 76 who auditioned (Concert Band), Sofia Gonzalez-Nolde – 5th Trumpet out of 76 (Concert Band), and Arthur Xiao – 10th Trumpet out of 76 who auditioned (Concert Band).

Congratulations to our Intermediate students for making the CIMEA Region II Orchestra: RIS: Charlotte Perez (8th grade) placed 78th out of 176 Violins that auditioned, Mira Yang (7th grade) placed 9th out of 40 Violas that auditioned, and Jane Krause (8th grade) placed 10th out of the 13 Basses that auditioned. EIS: Amy Liang (8th grade) placed 15th out of 58 cellists who auditioned, and Soo Min Chung (8th grade) placed 22nd out of 176 violinists who auditioned.

EIS 8th grader Lucy Hale and RIS 7th grader Leah Andrews were recently accepted into the Region II Chorus for intermediate schools. The Chorus will perform on Sunday, March 17th at Monroe Township Middle School.

Congratulations to WHS Junior Yixue Lily Wang for being awarded a Gold Key Award, and two Honorable Mention Awards, in the Northern NJ Regional Scholastics Art and Writing Awards. The Scholastic Golden Key Award art work will be displayed at the Montclair Art Museum from February 12th – March 10 11 2013 (one piece pictured to left).
Mr. Chambers’ Foundations of Art classes are transitioning into color with monochromatic drawings/paintings of bicycles. Students are observing bicycles and sketching three separate compositions based on principles of design using watercolor colored pencils. Each bicycle composition will have its own monochromatic range of color with a different view of a bicycle, and will be combined on one paper. The students will first sketch dry with the watercolor colored pencils, then choose areas to apply water to achieve a watercolor consistency.

Finishing out the fibers unit, Lauren Schwarzebek’s Crafts Exploration and World Crafts Sampler courses learned how to read a macramé pattern in order to create some amazing bracelets. Here are just a few examples of the work done by several high school students.

The sculpture unit has recently begun in Mrs. Schwarzenbek’s Crafts classes. The Crafts courses learned about several cultures in which mask making plays an important role. Crafts Exploration students were asked to create an additive method mask by building up on an existing paper mache face using cellu-crete and additional embellishment options. World Crafts Sampler students were required to create a plaster face using a mold and then follow subtractive methods in order to alter the face. Make sure you check out the District Art Show in May to see some of finished additive and subtractive method masks!

Students enrolled in the Foundations of Art course with Mrs. Jarvis, have focused an artistic eye on Color Theory. The art students honed their skills of mixing hues from three primary colors creating color schemed tempera paintings. The students are drawing from the elements of art; highlighting shape, form and positive/negative space to develop a paper cut still life composition. The classes appear to be successful in transferring three dimensional objects into two dimensional works of art.

WHS DRAWING classes are incorporating everything they have learned up to this point in the course and are creating beautiful watercolors, with a developed pencil drawing underneath. They have learned how to stretch watercolor paper and are studying dried flowers as their subject matter.

After these works are complete they will move on to the study of perspective. They will focus on learning sighting methods and the study of ellipses to create the
COMPOSITION students continue to learn how to intentionally use active space. They are now in the painting segment of this course. Working achromatically, they study value scales and value dominance within famous works of art and their own pieces. They then learn traditional paint applications - applying gesso, a toned ground, underpaintings and wiping out methods to create a strong foundation for their work. Eventually moving on to a limited pallet and later color, they will become familiar with the tools of the trade logging brush time!

**A Couple of Clay Characters from the high school Ceramics students!**

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**Music**

Following an excellent Winter Concert on December 5th, the WHS Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band jumped right in to to their Festival season. Performing traditional band repertoire by composers such as John Philip Sousa, David Maslanka, Brian Balmages, Pierre LaPlante, and Karl King. The bands are diligently working on this challenging music to ensure a successful season. Be sure to come out and support the bands the week of March 18 at the CJMEA Concert Band Festival, which is held at South Brunswick High School! A detailed schedule will be made available on the band website ([www.westfieldhsbands.org](http://www.westfieldhsbands.org)) once given by CJMEA. The bands will also be performing their Festival pieces at the Spring concert on May 8th.

Amidst the chaos and confusion of the school week, it's nice to have WHS Jazz Ensemble rehearsal once a week where students can get together, relax, and play some cool jazz and blues music. The Jazz Bands plan to attend several jazz competitions throughout the winter and spring and have begun tackling some difficult charts. This year, the band is working on pieces such as Gordon Goodwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue” and Chick Corea’s “Armando’s Rhumba”, but is also pulling out some classics like “Woodchopper’s Ball” and the famous “In the Mood”. From the fiery rhythm section, swinging saxophones, blazing trumpets, to the powerful trombones, the WHS Jazz program is an awesome extracurricular opportunity and there is a place for everyone wishing to play some cool jazz. In addition to the Jazz Ensemble, WHS students have many opportunities to participate in jazz this year including the Stage Band, Jazz Lab, and even a group for new instruments. The WHS Jazz program has grown to include over 50 students this year. Be sure to save the dates for WHS Jazz Night (May 3) and the WHS Jazz Concert (May 29).

Even in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, the WHS Marching Band had a hugely successful season, achieving some of the highest scores and honors in recent memory. At the end of their season, the band traveled to New Brunswick, NJ to compete in USBands New Jersey State Championship and traveled to Navy Stadium in Annapolis, Maryland to compete in the USBands National Championships. In States, the band placed fourth in their group with a score of 95.05 along with winning the best percussion award and the Cadets Award of Excellence for Overall Effect, Creativity, and Pursuit of Excellence. In Nationals, the band placed 10th in their group with another high score. Above all, however, is the camaraderie formed over the course of the season. While the band did hit some rough points and challenges through the season, they bonded over these challenges and allowed the obstacles to bring them together as a family. Everything from bus rides to football games to inside-jokes has created friendships and memories that will remain with the students involved for the rest of their lives. The band plans to once again march in the Westfield Memorial Day Parade in May for their final performance of the 2012/13 school year.

The WHS Winterguard is back again this year to provide Marching Blue Devil Colorguard members or any other interested students with practice and performing opportunities during the winter and spring. The ensemble will once again be performing at a competition later this year, as well as at the May 29 Jazz Concert along with the WHS Jazz Bands and Percussion Ensemble. The guard rehearses once a week at Franklin School and is open to any WHS student interested in Music and Dance. It’s never too late to get involved, so contact Mr. Vitale, the high school band director if you are interested.
The WHS Chamber Orchestra is preparing repertoire for its Spring concerts. With 2013 being the 100th anniversary of the birth of English composer Benjamin Britten, the Chamber Orchestra is rehearsing his "Simple Symphony", a four-movement work based upon compositions the composer wrote between the ages of nine and twelve. On February 27th at 12:00 noon, the ensemble will perform the work along with a Concerto Grosso by Torelli and "Arietta" by Dello Joio at the Mid-Day Musicales concert series at the UCC on Elmer St.

The WHS Symphony Orchestra is rehearsing a medley from the "The Phantom of the Opera" which is celebrating its 25th year on Broadway. Other works in preparation is Richard Meyer's "Bailles para Orquesta", and the Berceuse and Finale from Stravinsky's "The Firebird".

Drama

The Westfield High School drama students are once again engaged in furthering their studies of the world of theatre. In Drama 1, the students have just completed their exploration of Medieval Theatre and its contributions to world theatre. In addition to the historical aspects of the period, the students also examined the specific elements from the time period still seen in contemporary theatre via the performance of scenes from Arthur Miller's classic drama All My Sons. The Drama 2 students are completing their study of Shakespearian theatre, focusing this marking period on comedy. This study will conclude with performances of scenes and monologues from Much Ado About Nothing.

In Drama 3, the students have been exploring Realism and contemporary American drama. This study will conclude with performances from the Sam Shepard drama Fool for Love. WHS students are also continuing their exploration of the world of theatre behind the scenes in the newly developed Stagecraft course. The students are engaged in learning the various jobs that exist in the technical theatre and the numerous employment opportunities they present. Currently, the students are learning the fundamentals of scenic painting and the various techniques used within the theatrical production process.

Featuring over 100 student actors, technicians and musicians, the production clearly demonstrates the myriad talents of the WHS fine arts students and their various disciplines. Tickets will be available for pre-order in late February by contacting: WHSTickets@westfieldnjk12.org.

Roosevelt Intermediate Art

In Mr. Greenwood’s 6th grade classes students are finishing up works utilizing the Art Elements. These drawings focus on line, shape, color, and shading. Last month students completed Square One projects are part of an annual department fundraiser as the artwork can be placed on line and ordered. This quarter students worked on a co-curricular project with the Technology Department, Creating Game Boards. Students researched types of historical games in the Media Center and worked in groups with Technology students to design their own original game designs. Game names and logos were required as well as a working layout of their games. Later this 2nd quarter students will be completing artworks based on the artists Georgia O’Keeffe and Vincent Van Gogh. Finally, 6th grade students will be creating some fantasy food item creations in preparation for Downtown Youth Art Month. Last month Mr. Greenwood’s 8th grade students completed 3 dimensional double sided miniature billboards. These works combined opposite concepts of before and after illustrations put together as one in
order to give the illusion of a transformation as the viewer walks past. Eighth grade students also explored balance and pattern design while creating black and white marker illustrations. Currently Mr. Greenwood’s 8th grade students are finishing an Art History collage where each student was to select 3 or more famous images from the art world and combine them in a new way using drawing and painting.

Mr. Thompson’s 6th grade classes are finishing up a multimedia lesson on Australian aboriginal art. Through examples and discussion students learned about the culture, complex spiritual beliefs, and art of native Australia. Each student chose an animal for their subject, drew it on large brown paper, then incorporated traditional patterns and symbols. Colored pencil and markers were used for base colors. Mr. Thompson then gave a demonstration on using various tools to paint dots and students are finishing up their projects creating pattern and texture with paint.

Mr. Thompson’s 7th grade classes are working on a two project unit on Surrealism. We started with a discussion on Dali, Magritte, and other surreal painters, students then completed a stunning project where they altered, added to, and morphed a drawing of their own hand. Working in lights and darks with colored pencil was the skill set for the lesson, and students completing a separate exercise, students did a great job of incorporating this skill into their compositions.

7th graders are now working on the second lesson in our surrealism unit: “Eyes On Art”. The creative challenge is using a human eye in a context other than in a face. The results so far are strange and fantastic! In addition to using the colored pencil skills gained in the previous lesson, students will be presented with another exercise to complete: colored pencil blending. Students will be using both value and blending in the colored pencil portion of this lesson.

Mr. Thompson’s 8th grade Arts and Crafts class is hard at work carving abstract sculptural forms out of a soap stone compound. We looked at the art of twentieth century sculpture Henry Moore, which inspired a fascinating discussion the value of abstract art. Students then did a series of thumbnail sketches for ideas, drew their chosen design on the carving block, then viewed a demonstration by the teacher on carving methods. The whole class is now enjoying the experience of watching their forms emerge from a solid block of stone!

The Roosevelt Art Club is now underway! We are meeting weekly to work on projects to beautify our hallways. Our first undertaking is a permanent display on our main bulletin board based around our Roosevelt Rewards. Anyone is welcome to participate at any time.

Music

Mr. Doyle and the Roosevelt Bands are excited to start the second half of the year. The winter concert and elementary school tour were a hit, and all of the RIS bands are looking forward to upcoming performances.

On January 15, the WHS music ensembles invited the RIS 8th grade band, orchestra, and chorus to the first Recruitment Day at the high school. High school students performed a short concert for the Roosevelt students, followed by a clinic with the high school teachers and ensembles. Mr. Doyle and the 8th grade band joined Mr. Vitale and the WHS Wind Ensemble on the stage to rehearse “Colonel Bogey March”, a piece the 8th graders have just begun studying. The entire afternoon was a huge success, and the students from both schools enjoyed the opportunity to collaborate and learn more about each other’s programs.

In March, Mr. Doyle will be taking the RIS jazz bands on the road. The first performance will be at WHS for the annual pancake breakfast fundraiser sponsored by the Westfield Rotary Club. This is always a fun morning, where community and school groups in Westfield provide entertainment while members of the community enjoy breakfast and some good company. This year the event is on Saturday March 2, and The Accidentals and Morning Jazz will begin performing at 11 AM.

The Accidentals and Morning Jazz will be participating in the first ever “Terrill in Tempo” Middle School Jazz Festival on Wednesday
March 20. This festival will take place at Terrill Road Middle School in Scotch Plains, and each group will have the chance to perform for professional adjudicators and clinicians, as well as listen to other groups from different middle schools. Morning Jazz will perform at 6:30, followed by The Accidentals at 7:00. An awards ceremony will take place at the conclusion of the festival. The event is open to the public, and Mr. Doyle is inviting all family, friends, and community members to attend. It should be a fun and educational experience for the students.

The Afternoon Ramble has officially begun rehearsing! Mr. Doyle and Mr. Losco are excited to have a new group of Ramblers this year, and many are in the 6th grade. Instruments in this year’s group include drums, guitars, sax, trombone, and vocals. They have started learning Elvis Presley’s “Jailhouse Rock”, and it’s improving fast. The group will also spend time learning some tunes from Creedence Clearwater Revival, Johnny Cash, and Bruce Springsteen. Their first performance will be on Fine Arts Day on March 22. ALL musicians are welcome to join at ANY time—there’s always room to ramble!

Mr. Doyle and all of the students in RJS bands wish all of the readers a happy and healthy New Year. Please stay safe this winter, and we’ll see you in the spring!

Roosevelt 6th grade students are honing their music reading skills playing the piano and singing fun classroom songs. They are looking forward to writing skits and profiles of famous composers of the Baroque and Classical periods.

The 7th and 8th grade vocal music Holiday Concerts went very well this year! Both groups performed four selections with great response from parents and all in attendance. The concerts were very well attended this year, which provided a great environment for our enthusiastic singers. The Sharps and Flat (the auditioned vocal ensemble) also had an outstanding performance. A big thank you to our talented students!

We now begin the New Year offering piano and guitar sectionals for eighth grade students. The chorus class is divided into two sections spending approximately 4 weeks on each instrument. The students love this part of the year and are excited for the learning opportunity.

The 8th grade music students (band, orchestra and strings) just participated in the first recruitment day at WHS. The response was fantastic with many students excited to take chorus next year.

Our seventh grade chorus students are learning how to build major scale in various keys so they can label melodies using solfeggio. This work has improved their sight-singing skills. You can see the light bulbs going on as they increase their skill level. They are also working on a Stomp rhythm project using ostinato patterns to make a composition. "Everyone is having a blast and the students are learning a great deal" states Mr. Losco.

6th, 7th, 8th grade and Advanced Orchestra (now known as The Dynamics) just completed their holiday concerts and were extremely successful.

Mr. Freeman’s Advanced Orchestra will perform at the Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast on March 2. Come enjoy some pancakes and wonderful music!

The 8th grade orchestra (along with the 8th grade band and chorus) took a field trip to the high school for "Recruitment Day." We listened to the high school ensembles perform, then we were able to perform alongside each group (8th grade Orchestra performed with the high school Chamber Orchestra). The day concluded with a Q&A session at the end. The 8th graders got a true feel of what a high school day is like. It was a wonderful day!

Drama

The 8th Grade Drama class performed Three Greek Myths in Reader’s Theatre style for the 7th Grade Social Studies Classes that are currently studying Greek Mythology.

The students selected three Myths to present and then lead a group discussion with the audience. Student directors lead the rehearsals. One 8th grader expressed, "It was really interesting to read the stories and then to act in the stories that have been passed on for so long," Sophie Hurwitz.

Seventh grade students saw the stories they were reading and learning about come to life!
Edison Intermediate Art

Eighth grade fine arts students are studying different portrait artists. They are learning more about portraits by Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and other Pop Artists. They are using the grid technique to complete the drawing portion of the project, and using differing techniques in acrylic paint for the background. In addition in Mr. Black’s classes they are creating clay plates with famous paintings inspiring the design. The students are using slump molds and reviewing use of the slab technique. This lesson reinforces what the students have learned previously and also what they may use in the Crafts 8th grade course. Mrs. Frees and Ms. Hooper are using Drawing Monday to create Pop Art drawings of soda cans as they slowly get crushed to show repetition and change in a work of art. The students are also beginning to work on a silhouette/collage painting about themselves with water based oil paint. The 8th grade Fine arts classes of all three teachers went to the Morris Museum on January 15th to see the gallery and have a hands-on lesson at the museum.

Crafts students in Mr. Black’s class have been experimenting with creating handmade molds and using glass. Students are also exploring various ways of working with clay. Students in Ms. Hooper’s class are working on a Native American inspired Storyteller project in clay.

Both Ms. Hooper and Mr. Black are working on printmaking techniques such as the collagraph and linoleum cut prints. The students are currently finishing a lesson using string to print a moving print. The students revisited what they learned in seventh grade about the printmaking process and how printmaking originated in Japan from woodblock prints. They learned about artist Hokusai again to reinforce what they had learned the previous year.

Seventh grade students are finishing up a lesson on perspective using the orthogonal lines that Da Vinci taught us to create sketch paintings. They are using tint and shade with tempera paint to explore the concept of value in painting. The painting serves as a final assessment of their knowledge and skills in perspective drawing. Seventh graders are going to be doing a clay project that encompasses the stone work from ancient Egypt and Europe. All three teachers Mr. Black, Mrs. Frees and Ms. Hooper are working on this lesson at various times to share materials.

Sixth grade students are working on a lesson in clay. They are using some recycled object as a mold to create a mug with decorations of their choosing. They are learning how to roll out a slab of clay, coil and score, slip and smooth. They are then going to make a project using plaster from recycled objects and newspaper collage of birds for a large display in the display case.

As a reaction to the tragedy in Newtown, Mrs. Frees created a lesson for all of the students on Chinchitos, a Chilean form of clay art. The chinchito is a little three legged lucky pig, a gift to be given to a friend. Mr. Black, Mrs. Frees and Ms. Hooper explained that we should treat people and each day as a gift and we created the chinchitos for someone we care about. The students loved the lesson and were extremely successful.

Music

The EIS eighth grade chorus members have been off to a busy start for the new year. The chorus members participated in the first Fine Arts Recruitment day at WHS on Tuesday, January 15th. After listening to performances by the WHS Concert Choir, Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra,
the EIS students participated in joint rehearsals with the high school groups. Afterwards, the high school students spent time with the intermediate students, answering questions about the high school music experience and about high school life in general. The intermediate music students were very excited about becoming part of the high school ensembles next year, which was the purpose of the experience.

Back at EIS, the 8th grade chorus is rehearsing for their upcoming performances for Black History Month assemblies, to be held in February. Many of the students are also beginning a course in songwriting, which is a new offering for this year within the 8th grade choral experience. Students will learn to create lyrics and melody, and will then use Garage Band software to create accompaniment for their songs. The first project will be a joint effort to write an original piece based on the text of Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, which was first delivered 50 years ago.

The 7th and 6th grade choral students are presently conducting research on composers, both older (from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods) and newer (contemporary greats such as John Williams and John Lennon). They will present their findings to their classmates later this month.

The 8th Grade Strings are preparing an ambitious program of works by Richard Meyer, Geometric Dances, Percy Grainger Mock Morris, and Karl Jenkins Palladio. The 7th Grade Strings are rehearsing “Four Royal Dances” by Eric Ewazen, “Appalachian Sunrise” and “Country Hoedown by Soon Hee Newbold.

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**EIS & RIS Spring Musicals**

**The Wizard of Oz**

Hello everyone! Welcome to the Land of Oz! The Edison Intermediate School is proud to present that perennial children’s classic, The Wizard of Oz.

Little Dorothy Gale of Kansas, like so many girls her age, dreams of what lies over the rainbow. One day a twister hits her home and carries her away—over the rainbow. Come join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion and Toto as they travel the universe of Dorothy’s imagination.

The Wizard of Oz will be presented on April 11-13 in the EIS Auditorium. Thursday, April 11th will be a 4:00 children’s matinee. The Friday and Saturday performances on April 12th and 13th will start at 7:30 pm.

Further details and ticket information will be in the Spring Arts a la Carte and the Edison flash.

Roosevelt Intermediate School presents “Seussical”!

All of the favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, and Jojo, a little boy with a big imagination, have lovingly been brought to life in this musical for the entire family! The story centers around Horton the Elephant, who finds himself faced with a double challenge - not only must he protect his tiny friend Jojo (and all the invisible Whos) from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must guard an abandoned egg, left to his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him, the only one who recognizes "his kind and his powerful heart." Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant in a story that will make you laugh and cry.

March 8th & 9th at 7:30pm
March 10th at 2:00pm
Franklin Elementary

The first grade students at Franklin School, under the direction of Mrs. Coveney, studied the basic shape of a circle. They compared their sizes and with the appropriate placement, a dog or a cat was created. Construction paper crayons proved to be the best medium of choice. Fur, eye color, and highlights were discussed, then names were given to these animals and personalities could be seen.

The second grade students learned a technique by using black paint and a cardboard strip to create Birch trees. This cardboard was dragged through the paint and pulled along the paper creating the bark of these trees. The trees were the focus of the landscape and warm and cool colors enhanced the sky and ground. Oil pastels were the medium.

The third grade students studied the importance of recycling. Radial design came alive by using the top portion of a plastic water bottle. This recycled portion was cut and transformed into a flower blossom. The study of tints and shades using acrylic paint, assisted in some colorful petals.

The fourth grade students opened their time capsule and revisited their portrait project. As first grade students they completed a drawing of themselves and it was stored away in the capsule. Now as fourth grade students, we will assess their artistic growth and development by doing a self-portrait drawing again. We will be displaying the before and after drawings for a night of excitement.

Mrs. Massenzio’s fifth grade students were fascinated with the history and concept of Russian nesting dolls. This popular Russian toy is a set of wooden dolls, of decreasing size, placed one inside the other. Usually, the outer layer is a woman, dressed in a long Russian peasant dress. Traditionally, the egg shaped dolls have anywhere from 3-8 smaller dolls inside the large one. This lesson proved to be perfect, as we emphasized space, shape and proportion. In the Russian style of colorful painting, the students created their own paper versions of the nesting dolls.

Through fun games and songs 1st grade students at Franklin are learning note reading and rhythm skills. In addition, they are having fun learning the instruments of the orchestra, through listening to the music, reading the story, and making puppets of the characters of Prokofieff’s Peter and the Wolf. Have your children been coming home asking to download Dropophone or Loopseque or Melody Street? If so, then they most likely heard about these fun new musical apps during music class. At Franklin, the students have been introduced to some educational apps on the iPad that relate to music. The exciting part is now many of them can reinforce these activities at home.

In second grade, the students learned about the different families of the orchestra through Melody Street, an app shared with the rest of the music department through Ms. Toulios. The students became familiar with the timbre and names of the orchestral instruments through this app and have thoroughly enjoyed the stories that accompany each instrument.

During the month of January, the students learned about their composer of the month, Philip Glass who is still composing and contributing to the musical world today. Using an app called Dropophone, the students composed a piece in class that uses Glass’s minimalistic approach to music. The fourth and fifth grade students are continuing their study in form as they also compose more complex rhythms using an app called Loopseque. They’re also learning about syncopation and beat subdivisions through this app.

Our fifth graders are especially excited for the All City auditions. Many of our Franklin students are auditioning for these three ensembles and will anxiously await the results. This exciting event has been a tradition in Westfield for many decades now and has seen many directors throughout the years. Mr. Geyer is especially excited to be directing and accompanying the All City Chorus with Mr. Hendricks again, and Ms. Naylor will continue to bring her expertise and energy to the All City Orchestra. Other directors of the All City ensembles include Mrs. Gant and Mr. Stouffer.

Jefferson Elementary

Helloooo Jefferson School! Mrs. Ciotti is BACK!!! It feels great to be back as the Art Teacher of Jefferson School. Having two babies in two years is pretty amazing and life-altering; but I definitely missed all my creative little Jaguars at Jefferson. I know that you were in good hands with Mr. Roig while I was gone. He did SUCH a great job with you that he earned a permanent teaching
position at McKinley and Lincoln Schools!! Congratulations Mr. Roig!

In First Grade the children have completed their overlapping hands project, a lesson that tests their hand-eye coordination as well as their ability to render positive and negative space in a work of art. They are now finishing up their "Snowmen at Night" collages where they learned to tear paper in a controlled line, cut curves in paper, use glue, markers and their imaginations to give their snowpeople secret exciting adventures when they come to life at night, when no one is watching.

Second grade students are just finishing up their Birch Tree Paintings, which they have been working on for three weeks. They are VERY fancy, and some of them will definitely be seen in the art show!

Third grade artists have started their Aboriginal X-ray paintings while studying Australian art. In the past, these paintings were done in groups on HUGE canvases. Unfortunately, we lost our art room this year, so the paintings have to be scaled down a bit in size. The good news is that EVERY student will make his or her own personal Aboriginal X-ray Painting, so everyone gets to take the project home instead of one lucky group member. And the children are doing a great job using tertiary colors and analogous color groupings. They are fast little learners this year.

Students in Fourth grade have been super-busy. First they took a creativity test. Then they learned about the American artist, Jackson Pollock, who made huge, famous paintings where he flung, threw, whipped and tossed large quantities of paint onto gigantic canvases that were laid out on the floor of his barn. Students used their lungs and a straw to move color India Ink and Watercolor paint all over their paper "canvases". In the next lesson, they studied origami and made their own paper fold/curl or combination which were glued, white on white, to create origami shadowboxes. Now they are just starting their very relaxing weaving projects where they learn to make more complicated weaves than last year's "tabby weave". They are learning verticals bars, basket weave, and some of the more adventurous students will be attempting manipulated weft.

And the fifth grade artists... They were mourning the loss of the art room when told that we wouldn't be able to do the big paper mache project based on the works of Dan "The Monster Man" Reeder, a contemporary paper mache artist AND high school Math teacher in Seattle, Washington. Paper mache is simply too messy, and these multi-media sculptures are just too big to be stored in general ed. classrooms. Or so Mrs. Ciotti thought. Well, our highly creative 5th grade team of teachers all voted to keep the project in the art curriculum as long as the students PROMISE to do their best to clean up... so it is in! They have already planned their sea creatures through sketching. They will sculpt with assorted materials including newspaper, fabric, wire, clay, and glass. Some creatures will even have parts that really light up! It is truly the art highlight of their years at Jefferson and it is wonderful that they get the opportunity to create these works of art. Mrs. Ciotti has spoken with Dan Reeder and he has agreed to publish pictures of a select few exceptional works of art on his website: gourmetpapermache.com. This is truly an honor and would be an asset to put on the resume of any young, emerging artist. To think, by the end of 5th grade, some of our little artists will be PUBLISHED! Amazing!

The Winter Celebrations Unit continues through January for Grades 3-5 at Jefferson School with songs focused upon Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, Journeys to Freedom, Martin Luther King, Jr. and various African American Spirituals; including "Follow The Drinking Gourd", "We Shall Overcome", and "Keep Your Eyes on the Prize".

February will bring new Winter songs, Chinese New Year, Groundhog Day songs, Valentine Songs, and American Patriotic songs; including a celebration of birthday songs for Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

Throughout March, Jefferson School will celebrate "Music In Our Schools Month" with a very entertaining morning Music Trivia Game. The students will have fun finding the answers to musical questions; some easy and others more difficult. Also, during the month of March, Mr. Hendricks and Mrs. Woodfield will lead a student-only Music In Our Schools Day Sing-A-Long (date to be determined) in the gym. Wear school clothes with a shirt in pink, red, white, and/or blue?? Your choice. Sorry, this sing-a-long is just for students.

Excitement Ahead: the Fifth Grade Band and Chorus Concert will be May 21, 2013 - 1pm (only for the school) and 7pm for all parents/guests. The Chorus will be performing a Mini-Musical called "Pirates!!"... So - Arrr - Meet us in the gym ye mateys for a fun evening you will never forget !!
McKinley Elementary

First grade students in Mrs. Massenzio’s art classes learned all about cardinals, one of the most popular songbirds of North America. They created a very picturesque winter scene of a beautiful cardinal resting atop a snow covered lamp post. They learned about these brightly colored birds and their habitats. A very famous painter of American birds was John James Addobon. Students learned about this famous artist, and developed an appreciation for his unique contribution to the study of birds in their natural habitats.

Mrs. Massenzio’s second grade class enjoyed creating large 3-D butterflies which will hang from the ceiling. After learning all about the different types, sizes, and colors of butterflies, the children used white glue to “draw” their own butterflies, and create beautiful patterns and shapes. After the glue dried, chalk pastels were used to fill in the shapes created. Symmetry, size, and shape were emphasized in this lesson. 

1st grade students will be identifying various types of lines through an array of different works of art. Students will understand that lines can express emotions, lines can show movement making drawings of optical illusions and that lines can create textured works of art. Students will pair this learning with new mediums to produce moving mobiles with string, 3-D line sculptures using pipe cleaners, and oil pastels, scratching tools and feathers to make textured bird creations.

2nd grade students have begun an investigation of negative and positive space through cut paper designs. Furthering their understanding, they will reverse their negative and positive space with a tape art project. Moving into printmaking projects the students will apply their previous learning of shapes and space to make paper stencil prints, mono-prints, and stamped prints. Soon after, abstract paintings will take center stage when students make mixed media textured paintings in their unit on the balance of color.

3rd grade students will be investigating their senses as they compose works of art identifying sensations of color void of visual prompts. What does blue taste like? What does green feel like? What does red sound like? The students will then include their short descriptions with a raised 3-D line drawing to understand how blind people read, how blind artists create their art and how blind people see their world through touching. We all experience color differently and through this out of the box lesson, the students will be sure to explore their own creativity through activating different senses. From here, the students will begin a lesson on complementary colors using paint and oil pastels to make textured creations as well as other imaginary themed projects.

4th grade students are learning how to create emphasis in their works through composing areas of high contrast using ink wash. Motivated by self-guided themes, their works will speak to their own aesthetic as they discover this new medium. Later, as a follow up lesson, the students will translate their sketches into colorful paintings. This will provide them with an understanding that colors can also be constructed with various values and achieve areas of emphasized contrast. Following this representational unit, the students will explore conceptually abstract concepts through a unit on surrealism that will begin with making a collage of images cut from magazines and newspapers.

5th grade students are currently using a quadrant gridding system to make elaborate tonal pencil self-portrait drawings. Using different approaches to creating shadows and value, the students will construct realism through an understanding of light’s movement. From here, the students learning will move in a more abstracted way using their photographs to aid cubist self-portraits that will break their drawings down into abstracted color shapes with the use of oil pastel. Finalizing this portraiture unit, the students will create pop art portraits of themselves in the style of Andy Warhol’s famed screen prints.

The 1st graders in Mrs. McGarry and Mrs. Krihak’s classes have been learning about musical instruments and their families. They have also been learning how to read music on the staff, and sight sing simple melodies. Over the next few months, students will start to create more complex melodies and rhythms becoming amazing composers! The students have also been learning about Peter and the Wolf, getting the chance to act out the story with music and illustrate the different parts. Below is a picture of a student illustrating her scene of Peter and the Wolf.
The 2nd graders in Mrs. Spier and Mrs. Quinn's classes have also been working on reading melodies and rhythms. They have also learned a variety of songs, including one with sign language! Below is a picture of the student's "Rondo" Burgers as they learned about musical form.

"Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," and "Frere Jacques," just to name a few. The first concert is always a memorable one and the students are working especially hard to make every piece note-perfect for their premier performance!

**Tamaques Elementary**

Lauren Schwarzenbek's 1st grade classes at Tamaques have begun working on the always loved bas relief animal project. Students learn that some art can be a combination of 2D and 3D. Here is an example of some works in progress. These first grade students have completed the sculpting of their chosen animal head and are now coloring in the face. The next step is to draw the body and the environment of each animal. The very creative first grades have covered animals like hippos, flamingoes, gorilla, and even an ostrich!

The 5th graders at McKinley did a wonderful job at their recent winter concert, performing a variety of winter songs. They are already starting to work on music for their spring concert. In class, students are learning about Opera, and the musical form, instrumentation and history that go into it. Students have been invited to see an Opera production at Mason Gross School of the Arts in February complete with a backstage tour! In class students are using the iPads to record video questions for members of the cast, which will be answered via video to create a student produced film about operas.

The 4th Grade String students are about to make their concert debut with several well-known pieces, including "Mary Had a Little Lamb,"

The second grades at Tamaques have been learning about unusual ways to paint. These are a few works in progress where students learned that they could paint by blowing through a small straw. This project is called "Bad Hair Day." Students first painted a head and ears. Then they added a puddle of paint and used a straw to blow the paint in all different directions. The next step in this project is to add a face using scrap paper.

Make sure to check out some of the various art shows (Youth Art Month in Downtown Westfield, District Art Show at WHS, Elm Street Gallery at the Board of Education, and The Tamaques Art Show) to see some of the finished first grade Bas Reliefs and second grade Bad Hair Day projects.

**Washington & Tamaques Bands**

The Tamaques and Washington 4th grade bands are busy preparing for their Music In Our School's Assembly. In addition to their weekly lessons, the students are participating in weekly before school band rehearsals. Selections for the assembly include favorites such as "Hot Cross Buns", "Go Tell Aunt Rhodie", "Au Claire de la Lune", "London Bridge" and many others! The students are excited to "make" music and perform for their teachers and friends.

Many of the Washington and Tamaques 5th Grade Band students are busy practicing for their All City Band audition. The All City Band is open to any student who is a member of the Tamaques or Washington 5th grade band. The Washington 5th Grade Band students will audition at Washington school on Tuesday: February 12th. The Tamaques 5th Grade Band students will audition at Tamaques School on Thursday: February 14th. The students are required to memorize the concert Bb, Eb, F and Bb chromatic scales as well as prepare the solo material found on page 38 in the Essential Elements 2000 method book. Good luck to all the Washington and Tamaques Band students who are auditioning for the 2013 All City Band!
The third grade has just finished their weaving unit. They were very excited to learn how to prepare cardboard looms and create beautiful textile designs. They had many options to create colorful patterns. Always a favorite project, the students loved taking the looms home to work outside of class! Some of their finished work will appear in downtown Westfield during Youth Art Month.

Fourth grade students have begun creating value scales. They are learning about tinting and shading and differences in hue. They will apply their new skills to create a monochromatic painting of a rainforest animal!

The fifth grade has begun their unit on sculpture. They are studying the works of many Pop Artists such as Claes Oldenberg and contemporary artist Jeff Koons. They will be working with assorted media to create individual works inspired by their research.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the school, the upper grades are beginning a project to compose and create a school song. All components from lyrics to chord structure to writing melodies will be entirely student driven. The 5th grades are also gaining knowledge through their research presentations on various composers throughout history. The exposure to the music of various time periods will provide unique perspective for their composition project. In 4th grade, students have studied the musical and lyrical components of 12-bar blues music. The 3rd graders are developing their pitch notation skills with learning about sharps and flats as well as half-steps and whole-steps. Their work on learning about the piano keyboard will be able to correlate to their knowledge of Solfege and the major scale.

In between our Winter celebration songs and spirituals, Grades 1 and 2 at Tamaques school will be learning and practicing rhythm and the names of the lines and spaces of the Treble Cleff, "Empty Garbage Before Dad Flips" (or perhaps you would prefer "Every Good Bird Does Fly" and "Every Good Burger Deserves Fries") and "F A C E" (which rhymes with space). Don't forget - Perfect Practice Makes Perfect!! Can you draw a "G Cleff"... and "F Cleff"? Learning to read music is fun!!!

Celebration song units will include: Spirituals (and songs of Martin Luther King, Jr.) in January, Groundhog’s Day, Valentine's Day songs, American Presidential Birthdays (Lincoln and Washington in February), and some Irish Jigs to liven up the month of March. The Spring “Spotlight” for March’s "Music In Our Schools Month" will be Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ("Mozart's Magical Voyage") in 1st grade, and the 2nd Grade "Spotlight" will be Ludwig von Beethoven "Beethoven Lives Upstairs".

Washington Elementary

Washington School artists have recently been “brushing up” on their art history. First grade students are studying the culture of Ancient Egypt. Pyramids, mummies, and hieroglyphics have all been the subject of recent projects. Students have been enjoying learning about these famous icons and can even walk like Egyptians!

In the second grade, children have also gone back in time to learn about Ancient Greece and Rome. They have discovered some of the amazing art and architecture that make these cultures so fascinating to us all.

Native Americans are the context of the historical studies in third grade art. Students have learned new ways to represent the “Sun God” using crayon, marker and collage. Maybe all their hard work will pay off with bright and sunny weather soon!

Mrs. Massenzio’s fourth grade students experienced the ancient art of repoussé, a process of making designs in relief on metal. Knights in shining armor, proved to be a perfect subject for this project! After transferring their drawing onto a piece of metal, the children used a wooden stylus to press into both sides of the metal to create a relief design. The children enjoyed learning about proportion, shape, and unity. Students learned about the history and techniques of repousse, and gained insight into the fascinating culture of the Middle Ages.

The Fifth grade is conducting a serious study of the traditional art of portraiture. They have learned important facts about facial proportion and are working to complete a self-portrait. These will act as a perfect finale piece to their elementary art experiences—by comparing them to their own history of self-portraits starting in the first grade.

There is a lot happening here at Washington School and the year has just started! The 1st through 5th grade general music classes are learning about rhythm and timbre (the sound of instruments). We have been playing a number of games in class including a steady
Wilson
Elementary

The first and second grade students at Wilson are ready for their annual Valentine’s Day & Patriotic Sing Along! We begin with a salute to the flag and a Patriotic song that will even get the audience singing, “My Country Tis of Thee.” The first grade has been practicing “Viva Valentine,” a fun and exciting echo song that even helps them spell V-A-L-E-N-T-I-N-E with Latin flair. In keeping with that same style, the second graders are performing "Bossa Nova Valentine," a tune with a tale about Cupid ditching the February chill by heading down to Brazil’s Beach of Ipanema. As he scouts out the “mocos” (boys) and “mocinhas” (girls) he readsies a love arrow on his bow. Bossa nova is a well-known style of Brazilian music that became popular in the 1950’s and 60’s. A lyrical fusion of samba and jazz, bossa nova remains as part of the standard jazz repertoire. Another favorite for Valentine’s Day is the ever popular "Cupid Shuffle," a dance that will get everybody up and moving. It’s sure to be a fantastic performance!

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Mrs. Massenzio’s third grade class had an opportunity to work 3-dimensionally with Model Magic, and also to learn about undersea life. They mixed the various colored pieces of clay, to create new colors and various tints. The students were learning about fractions, and this was reinforced during the lesson by having students divide the Model Magic into various fractions for each stage of the project. Students enjoyed creating a coral base for their sculptures, adding fish, crabs, starfish, shells, and seaweed.

The third grade has just finished painting flowers in vases. They displayed their knowledge of warm and cool colors as well as an assortment of painting techniques. Some of their finished work will appear in downtown Westfield during Youth Art Month.

Fourth grade students have begun very interesting drawings of zebras! They are studying complementary color sets and will paint their zebras with “Artist Eyes” colors that illustrate their new discoveries!

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Artists such as Claes Oldenberg and contemporary artist Jeff Koons. They will be working with assorted media to create individual works inspired by their research.

**Lincoln School**

Kindergarteners have recently completed a mixed media textured polar bear using white tissue paper, paper plates, construction paper and watercolor. They will be moving on to learning how to put shapes together to create flags of themselves, play with negative and positive space when cutting shapes for stenciled prints, and use many different tools to create a variety of works.

Heading into February, the students will be creating thematic works based upon Dr. Seuss books in preparation to decorate for their concert in March. Working in groups will teach the dynamics of teamwork and provide students opportunities to assume leadership roles. These works will be whimsical to access the children's imagination as well as test for understandings of the stories through their pictures. Artistic concepts like texture and color will be explored through various mediums as well.

The Preschoolers at Lincoln have been busy learning winter songs! Students have also been focusing on musical concepts such as fast vs. slow and loud vs. soft. One of their favorite songs has been Percy the Pale-faced Polar Bear. Below is a picture of two preschoolers with their favorite polar bear! Over the next few months, students will continue to develop basic musical skills of rhythm, pitch matching, and playing musical instruments.

The Kindergarteners had a very busy December, singing songs at our Holiday Readings. Students are now starting to get ready for their Sing-a-Long on March 21st that will be Dr. Seuss themed. They are also learning how to read music, using quarter notes and quarter rests. Not only will they be reading music, but they will be composing it as well in the upcoming months!

Mrs. Magaly Mota started her career in 1986 as a Marketing Coordinator for a top electronics manufacturer. She later turned her attention and dedicated her skills as an Executive Secretary, working for a well-known apparel and accessories designer in NYC.

Maggy enjoys sun, fun & fishing at the beach with her family. She also enjoys taking photographs, tending to her vegetable and rose gardens and is an advocate for autism awareness.
PTSO – WHS TRAYs for Bid...

The WHS PTSO is once again working generously with the high school art department to raise money in an art auction. This year they have purchased wooden trays for students to decorate. Students have created reproductions of famous artworks. Twenty-one trays have been completed by students and art instructors. A wide range of styles have been reproduced and there’s a tray for every one’s taste!

The PTSO will organize websites for display and bidding. The pieces will be sold at the Rotary Pancake Breakfast in the spring. All proceeds go directly back to the High School Art Program. Please go to the PTSO page on the Westfield School District’s site. Last year’s birdhouse purchase was a huge success. We hope everyone takes the time to view and bid on these works.

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Westfield Coalition for the Arts

We are so fortunate to live in a community that reveres the arts and believes strongly in nourishing the diverse talents of our youth. Demonstrate YOUR commitment to the arts by making a donation to Westfield Coalition for the Arts. Last year, the Coalition received donations of nearly $10,000. With your donations we were able to assist the music, art, and theatre programs at the elementary, intermediate and high school levels.

We are an independent, not-for-profit organization, and we depend solely on the generosity of parents and supporters. Please join us in fulfilling our mission as an advocate for the arts by making a tax-deductible contribution to The Westfield Coalition for the Arts. In addition, the Coalition is interested in your ideas, suggestions, and comments and hope that you will take the time to email us at WestfieldCoalition@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing from you! Thank you for your support.

Margaret Smith
President