

EdTalk: October 15, 2021

Dr. David Leach, WVCSD Superintendent of Schools

The Warwick Valley Central School District has more than 3,600 students. Each and every one of them is extraordinary. They volunteer and they create. They face their fears and overcome obstacles. They take on challenges. And, they are kind. Quite simply, they make me proud.

Since 2017, I have been recognizing Warwick Valley students each week who have done something special through Superintendent's Spotlight and Artist of the Week honors. The District shines a light on students who reach goals, win awards, take on tough projects, create an exceptional piece of artwork, or perform a random act of kindness.

Please check out our students who have been recognized thus far this school year. You will find stories of their achievements on our website and on our Facebook page, as well as in our local newspapers. Superintendent's Spotlight winners include: Garrett Judd, Middle School; Madeline Bates, Middle School; Francesca Fitzgerald, Middle School; Joelle Fiol, Middle School; and Arden Hallett, High School. Artist of the Week winners are: Jake Cosco, Middle School; Finn Gormley, High School; Addison Hurd, Sanfordville Elementary School; James Kennedy, Middle School; and Erin De La Mota, High School. And, there will be many more to come throughout this school year!

I routinely highlight our students' accomplishments on my weekly radio show, "Your Schools," which airs on WTBQ every Monday at 12:05 p.m.

The following are some of the highlights from our schools in the past week:

Pine Island Elementary School

The students in Lorie Ingber's and Katherine Caswell's class recently learned about force by conducting a bridge experiment. Each group of students built a bridge made from index cards. The students were fascinated by it and then tried to guess what objects the bridge could hold and for how long. They tested the bridge's strength with various objects such as cotton balls, washers, straws, crayons and paper clips.

Park Avenue Elementary School

Final preparations are being made and rehearsals are taking place for our annual Drama Club performance. This year, 67 third- and fourth-grade students will be performing *101 Dalmatians*. Our students have been working hard on evenings and weekends to prepare. This year, much of the joy behind this work was magnified since children were able to rehearse in-person, albeit outdoors. The performances are sponsored by Park Avenue's PTA and will take place on our main lawn at 6 p.m., October 22nd and 1 and 3 p.m., October 23rd. We hope you will consider joining us!

Sanfordville Elementary School

Melissa Sobotor's second-grade students were learning about words with -y endings during their "Word Work" time. Students practice reading and writing these words while identifying if these -y ending words said the long -e sound or the long -i sound. They practiced with flash cards, word strips, and writing charts. Students reviewed their words with a partner and discussed their agreement of long -e or long -i sounds.

Warwick Valley Middle School

The fifth grade has officially launched their Personal Narrative Unit. Students have been actively reading a variety of personal narratives to gain a stronger understanding of the elements of a narrative. Students have begun exploring various seed story options and working on editing their creations.

Warwick Valley High School

More than 600 students came to the annual Homecoming Dance, which is by far the largest attendance the dance has had in several years. Held in the parking lot between the Middle School and High School, food trucks provided students with plenty of culinary options, and the DJ kept the event hopping. It was a great night for all those who attended, and thankfully the weather held out for the Wildcats.