

## **EdTalk: November 12, 2021**

### **Dr. David Leach, WVCSD Superintendent of Schools**

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You have probably noticed some changes to the Warwick Valley Central School District website. Responding to feedback from some of our regular site visitors, the District has launched a newly redesigned navigation interface on its award-winning website.

The new navigation options were designed with a singular purpose in mind: to simplify and improve the user experience.

All of the trusted information parents, students, faculty, staff and community neighbors need and expect to find on the site is all still there, and now it is easier to find. The new navigation delivers streamlined access to key, day-to-day information, including a For Parents link that redirects to emergency closings and delays, lunch menus, and more. Parent, Student, and Staff Portals are all prominently located, and new navigation buttons lead users directly to resources about Instruction, including curriculum, employment opportunities, and the WVCSD Board of Education, including viewable/downloadable agendas and minutes.

This information is now on the District's homepage, along with a simple yet effective search tool. Users are encouraged to click through the new navigation links to find faster routes to the information they want.

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

#### **Pine Island Elementary School**

On Monday, November 8, Pine Island celebrated Veterans Day. It was a beautiful autumn day as the Honor Guard, the Meistersingers and all staff and students gathered outside to honor our Veterans. It was an appropriate time to note the veterans' love of country and the importance of teaching our younger students the honor of serving one's country. Theresa Canfield, a Pine Island teacher who began this wonderful tradition 22 years ago, has demonstrated her commitment and dedication to this event and to honoring our veterans. She is recognized and very much appreciated by everyone.

#### **Park Avenue Elementary School**

The Park Avenue Student Council has been busy over the last month collecting money for Wreaths Across America. Last week, Student Council Treasurer Layla Wright presented a check to Christian Farrell, the director of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Goshen. Our students raised \$1,145, enough money to purchase 76 wreaths. This money will go directly to purchasing wreaths for the Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The mission of Wreaths Across America is to

"Remember, Honor and Teach." December 18th is National Wreaths Across America Day. Park

Avenue's Student Council will be participating in the Wreaths Across America Day in Goshen, helping to lay wreaths and honor those who sacrificed so much for us.

### **Sanfordville Elementary School**

Maureen Nelsen's second-grade students were learning about using descriptive language in their own writing. During their writing workshop time the teacher referenced the *Owl Moon* by Jane Yolen, to show beautiful examples of using descriptive language to help the reader see the story instead of just reading it. Yolen wrote, "The trees stood as still as giant statues. And the moon was so bright the sky seemed to shine." Students recognized examples and shared their findings with a partner. Then, they went back into their personal narratives to add descriptive details to their existing writing.

### **Warwick Valley Middle School**

Renee Gouveia and the Middle School seventh-grade health classes are working on ways to combat peer pressure. Students have been discussing different ways in which to deal with situations that may feel uncomfortable. This unit culminates with students creating skits where they can act out a situation and provide a positive strategy in which to address peer pressure.

### **Warwick Valley High School**

On November 8th, nine veterans visited some of our social studies classes to share their military experiences and the skills and life lessons that they took away from their service. Students heard stories from local Warwick residents and Assistant Principal Khris Arvanites. They spoke about the importance of communication, teamwork, following and giving orders, trust, compassion and self-discipline. Some veterans spoke to the lifelong educational opportunities they have been given as a member of the military. The conversations between the students and veterans were compelling. We were thankful for the veterans willingness to come to the school and share their personal experiences.