

EdTalk: December 3, 2021

Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools

We are excited and energized by the community support of everyone who came out to vote for our 2021 Capital Project. More than 75% of voters approved the measure. It was one of our highest approvals on record for a capital project. Thank you.

The community's support of the \$13.8 million capital project allows the District to move forward with making important upgrades and vital renovations. These improvements will benefit our students, staff and the community. Because of this approval, our schools and facilities will continue to reflect the pride we all have in our school district and our community.

In addition, with your support of the second proposition on the ballot, the creation of a new capital reserve fund, we will continue to maintain our tax neutral strategy for capital improvements to our buildings and grounds. This strategy of planning and saving for future improvements maximizes state building aid and reduces the costs of these upgrades to our taxpayers. This proposition was just as important and your support of this proposition (76% approval) keeps our future bright.

If you would like to learn more about the WVCSD 2021 Capital Project – including a list of project descriptions and estimated costs – you may visit the District's website: <http://www.warwickvalleyschools.com/capitalproject2021>.

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

Pine Island Elementary School

Be kind is the theme for the year in Katherine Caswell's and Lorie Ingber's co-teach class. At the beginning of the year, the students identified what being kind meant. They discussed the people in their lives and the many different ways they could show kindness. If the students are "caught" being kind, their name goes on the classroom Kindness Tree. In the days leading up to the winter recess, the students created a Kindness Countdown paper chain. They filled the chain with kind behaviors such as *Saying thank you to your bus driver for being a safe driver and getting me from home to school and back safely*. Another behavior on the chain was *Saying thank you to someone who does something nice for you*. One student wrote, *Thank you, mom, for your cooking*. Another student wrote, *Thank you, mom, for naming me Owen*. Each day the students take a link from the chain and practice being kind with the hope that being kind will be contagious.

Park Avenue Elementary School

As we begin the holiday season, the Park Ave PTA holds a *Month of Giving* throughout December. Up to Dec. 17, we are collecting different items each week to donate to local charities. The PTA will also donate 50 cents to Backpack Snack Attack for every item donated, up to \$500. If you want to participate, you can send donations to the school with your student. Last week, the school collected nonperishable items for the food pantry. This week, we are

accepting new and unwrapped Toys for Tots. The week of Dec. 13, items for the Warwick Valley Humane Society (paper towels, garbage bags, wet cat food, or monetary donations).

Sanfordville Elementary School

Casey Besimer, Sanfordville's Instructional Technology facilitator, has challenged our young engineers in the STEM Lab. Our fourth-grade students are working on sense receptor research using Google slides. Our third-grade students are working on recording their hazardous weather FlipGrids. Our second-grade students are testing their wall structures against wind and water erosion. Students are having meaningful discussions about improvements to their structures to make them more effective and efficient. Our first-grade students are creating plans with their partners for their hand pollinators. Next week they will be building their hand pollinators and testing them.

Warwick Valley Middle School

Auditions for the Middle School Spring Musical have ended, and our students are ecstatic about their upcoming roles in Spongebob the Musical. Rehearsals have begun, and we are looking forward to a spectacular performance from our students.

Warwick Valley High School

Arden Hallett received Senator Mike Martucci's recommendation to the NYSED Commissioner Betty Rosa as a candidate for the U.S. Presidential Scholarship. Senator Martucci chose Arden to be the female student candidate out of all high schools in the 42nd District. Arden is enrolled in all college and AP level courses and was recently named a National Merit semifinalist. She volunteers in the community and works at a local fast-food restaurant.