

THE MESSENGER



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CALENDAR EVENTS:

- 11/16 Eid-al-Adha
- 11/17 Development Mtg. 8:30 a.m.
- 11/18 MS **Coffee House** 7:45a.m.
- 11/18 Friends Meeting 8:40 a.m.
- 11/24-26 Thanksgiving Recess
No School/NO ENRICHMENT
on **11/25 OR 11/26**
- 11/29 Bylaws proposal informational meeting 6 p.m.
- 12/1 Hanukkah Begins
- 12/3 Fall Extracurricular Classes
End
- 12/3 Water Club Craft Fair 5-7 p.m.
- 12/3 *Willy Wonka Junior* 7 p.m.
- 12/4 *Willy Wonka Junior* noon
- 12/6 Annual Board Mtg. 6:30 p.m.
- 12/9 Hanukkah Ends
- 12/10 Primary Winter Show and
Primary Violin Concert 10 a.m.
- 12/10 EL/MS Winter Show 6:15
p.m.
- 12/15 El/MS Violin Concert 6 p.m.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO WHMS BYLAWS

By Michael Endler, President, WHMS Board of Trustees

The last 10 years has brought about great change, growth and development at WHMS. Moving from a series of rented spaces to the building of a beautiful 11-acre campus allowed the school to grow not only in the number of students, teachers and programs, but also to develop and mature as an important educational institution serving the greater Capital District region.

During this period, the Board of Trustees has endeavored to keep pace with the evolution of the school and we believe we have also made significant strides including, for example: successfully guiding WHMS through the reaccreditation process, developing and implementing a strategic plan, planning for and building two additions to the building and the soccer field, and growing a culture within the community which recognizes the importance of providing financial support to the school. While we are proud of these achievements, we recognize that important work needs to be done to continue to build upon these past successes.

While the school has changed dramatically, one area that remained static is the school's bylaws, which govern the manner in which the school is structured and managed. The Board of Trustees discusses and reviews the bylaws on an ongoing basis and we have recently focused on the manner in which members of the WHMS serve on the Board of Trustees.

The current bylaws require that seven members of the Board of Trustees must be selected by a vote of the WHMS community. The current Board of Trustees recently unanimously approved recommending that the bylaws be amended to do away with these annual elections and move to a system whereby the members of the Board of Trustees would be determined by a vote of the Board of Trustees rather than of the full WHMS community. As set forth below, we believe this will bring WHMS in line with current views of best practices for not-for-profit independent schools, maximize the likelihood that the composition of the board includes a wide range of indi-

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A NOTE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL SUSAN KAMBRICH

It was such a pleasure to see you all at Parent Child Night. The children are so excited to share their classroom with their parents and the teachers and staff are always delighted to see the parents too!



Most of you have received an invitation to attend a class party. These parties, hosted by one of the parents in your child's room and WHMS, are intended for parents to get to know one another. Our school is a community for children and parents, too. We hope that you make friends, not only

for play dates for your children, but also to share parenting stories and help each other as you watch your children grow and develop. We have several opportunities this year for parents to get together and we hope you can participate.

This past week, I attended the annual New York State Independent Schools Association Heads of School conference. The conference is an opportunity for Heads of School around New York state to share ideas, brainstorm, and enjoy fellowship. Speakers this year included Patrick Bassett, president of the National Association of Independent Schools, who

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WRITERS' WORKSHOP



Did you know that the teacher updates are on our website?

Keep up to date on news from your child's classroom from any computer. Go to [woodlandhill.org](http://www.woodlandhill.org), click on **Campus Community**, then **Faculty & Staff**, then **Teacher Updates**.

www.woodlandhill.org/campus-community/staff/teacher-updates/

Susan Kambrich also has a blog on our website:

<http://www.woodlandhill.org/category/susan-kambrich-head-of-school/>



Julie and Kristi's Lower El class spent the last month writing personal narratives in Writers' Workshop. Last week, they shared their writing with the other Lower El classes. Their writing reflected hard work, and their pride was evident.

Come experience the charm of downtown Troy at this traditional holiday event.

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

28th Annual Troy Victorian Stroll

11:00 am to 5:00 pm



This popular annual holiday tradition transforms the historic streets of downtown Troy into a magical stage of song, dance, and family enjoyment.

Woodland Hill African Drummers will be performing from noon to 2 p.m. at 45 Third Street (The Peaceful Center) in downtown Troy.

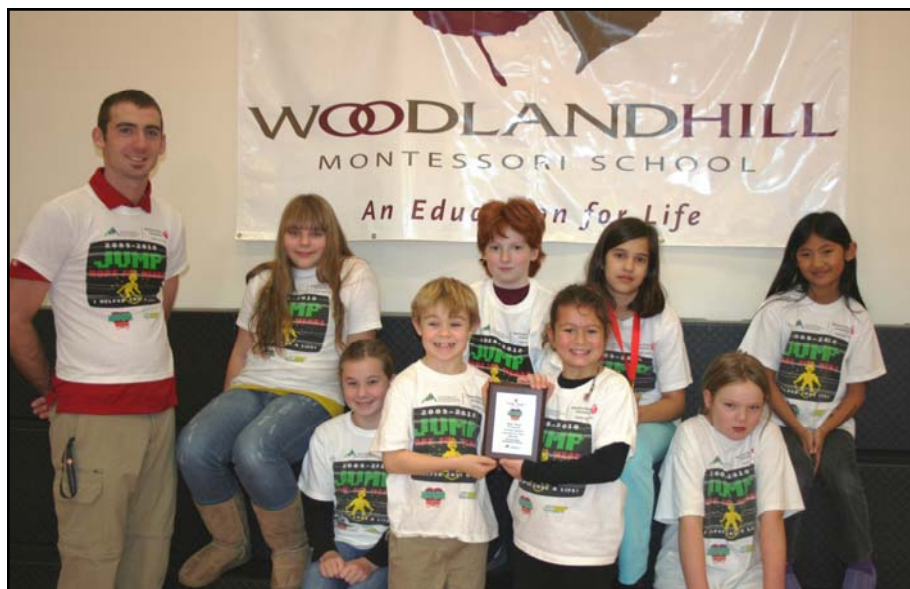
Stop by and watch them perform!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Woodland Hill Montessori School was the **highest earning school** in our division throughout the **state of New York** with our *Jump Rope for Heart* program last spring. There were hundreds of schools throughout the state raising money for the **American Heart Association** last year, and we were the best in our school size.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts, Woodland Hill was awarded a plaque to proudly display.

Thank you all for your support and assistance with the event.



DIWALI



Thank you to Sonalee Hardikar and other WHMS parents for helping to organize the wonderful Diwali event that took place on Friday, November 5. The celebration was

attended by all of the Primary classes and the three Lower Elementary classes. Thank you, also, to Jill Malouf for taking photographs of the event.

BERSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Maryann and Ann's class visited the Berkshire Botanical Garden on Tuesday, October 28. Students enjoyed the gardens, which encompasses 15 acres of cultivated land and greenhouses in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

The program focused on the uses of herbs and spices in cooking and for medicinal purposes.

Students were taken on a tour and introduced to plants that are indigenous to, or thrive in, the Berkshires; more than 3,000 species and varieties are represented.



Each child planted a pot of catnip to bring home.

PARENT CHILD NIGHT

Hallways and classrooms were bustling on Wednesday, November 10, as the children shared lessons and materials with their parents.

Parents were able to share an evening with their children and were guided through classrooms. Students proudly showed what they LOVE to do and parents were able to see the Montessori Method in action.



The great aim
of **education**
is not
knowledge,
but action.

Herbert Spencer
(British social Philosopher,
1820-1903)

FREE-CYCLE

Our After Care loves to cook. They are looking for kitchen supplies: baking pans, mixing bowls, etc. If you have any extra that you care to donate, please send them into the front office.



November Enrichment



Wednesday, November 24 *Thanksgiving*

Please note that there is no enrichment on Thursday, November 25 or Friday, November 26.

****Please note your child will need lunch and snacks. ****

*****This is a peanut free program.*****

It is very important for us to know the number of children attending so we are able to staff the program properly.

If you are in need of enrichment care, please e-mail or call Diane Carusone-McGinn

dmcginn@woodlandhill.org or 283-5400

There are no refunds for Enrichment days.

A three-business day cancellation notice is required for you to receive a credit (\$5 cancellation fee will apply.)

**Woodland Hill
Montessori School**

100 Montessori Place
North Greenbush, NY 12144

Thank you so much to everybody who has already donated to the Annual Fund! We have already raised \$12,693!

Make your gift on-line now at www.woodlandhill.org/giving-at-whms/annual-fund/

Juliette	Christopher	Amber	Amelia	Natahe	Anya
Hunter					Graham
Jack	Samilla	Ben	Yusef	Kunal	Smritya
Wai	Quire	Jalen	Chen	Sarah	
Molly	Aniella	Grace	Coltrane	Ryan	Avery
Olivia	Sophia	Ka	Lola	Isabela	Samuel
Daniel	Samantha			Bashir	David
Nick					Mehar
Erik	Caroline	Jordan	Alexa	Simone	Aidyn
Kylie	Gregory	Matilda	Georgia	Kabir	Isabella
Nico	Aidan	Abigail	Amari	Ana	Ada
Justin	Dixie	Edward	Makenna	Abigail	Emmeline

Leadership Circle

- Marianne DeMario and Paul Simeone
- Michael Endler and Lise Hafner
- Frederick and Laura Galt
- Bob and Nina Green
- Sarah Hazel
- Debbie and Jonathan Ripchick

Friends

- Nancy D. Allen
- American Clothing Recycling Co. Inc.
- Michael Ardman and Cheryl Bovar
- Taeim Bang,* *in honor of Nicholas Bang*
- Leah Blind
- Esther Bruck*

Investors

- Robert and Jocelyn Kivort
- Vincent and Kara LaBella
- Cyril and Lydia Rodriguez*

243 Reasons to Give

- Terry Cunningham*
- Janet and Jason Eveleth*
- Mrs. Eckman*
- Mary-Jo Ehrlich
- Green Fiber
- Danielle and Jake Hall
- Marion Newton and Christian Heller
- Mr. and Mrs. Karl Klein,
*in honor of Caroline and Julia Galt**
- Ye Liu and Zhigang Qiu
- The Ma Family
- Heidi and David Nathanielsz
- Maria Papa
- Meg Parascandola
- Moira K. Rienzo
- Maggie and Luke Schmonsky
- Olaf and Cora Stackelberg*
- Peggy & Larry Suck,*
in honor of Ty Ardman
- Patricia Ward
- Kevin and Jean Wynne

Benefactors

- Chris and Susan Calyer
- Christine and James Chung
- Pat and Emil De'Toffol
- Laura and Geoff Dunn
- Diana and David Ehrlich
- The Gernert-Dott Family
- Susan and Jim Kambrich
- Laura and Josh Mandel
- The Fogel Family
- Target *Take Charge of Education*
- Connie Walsh & Michael Slik,*
in honor of Eleanor and Frances Toomey

* denotes WHMS Grandparent

PROPOSED CHANGE TO WHMS BYLAWS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

viduals with diverse backgrounds and experience, and minimizes the amount of time spent on formal school-wide elections providing the Board with additional time to focus on the continued development of the school.

The National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), an organization which WHMS maintains a membership, is a leader in providing guidance to schools regarding best practices in all areas of school governance. NAIS recommends self-perpetuating school boards, stating:

While parents may think they will be better served by a parent-elected board, in fact the 300-year history of independent schools in the U.S. shows just the opposite: that self-perpetuating boards have the perspective and distance from self-interest to make the more strategic decisions upon which the enterprise's success, growth and future is dependent. Parent-elected, parent-dominated boards are increasingly rare, for this very reason.

<http://www.nais.org/trustees/faq.cfm?ItemNumber=144138&sn.ItemNumber=150898&tm.ItemNumber=150905>

NAIS bases this conclusion in large part on the importance of identifying and selecting prospective Board members based upon the Board's perceived needs in strategic expertise, resources and perspectives to ensure a properly functioning Board. Many times it will be difficult, if not impossible, for those outside the Board to identify the areas in which the Board may be short-handed and the Board will be in the best position to engage in an annual process of identifying per-

ceived needs and identifying appropriate individuals to fill those gaps.

As a practical matter, during the last five years the Board has essentially functioned in a manner consistent with a self-perpetuating board with the added time and expense of holding an election. Each year we have ascertained our needs for the future year, sought out and recruited appropriate individuals and also made a general call to the WHMS community of the opportunity to seek election to the Board. Over this period, we have not had a single parent come us to and say that he or she desired to serve on the Board and as a result, each year we have had a slate of candidates "running" for an equal number of seats. This process requires a substantial amount of Board and staff time to prepare and transmit proxies and then a greater amount of time must be spent tracking folks down to complete their proxies in order to meet the quorum requirements for the election.

The Board of Trustees believes that the time is right to amend the bylaws to do away with these school-wide elections and we seek your support in approving this recommendation at the upcoming **Annual Meeting on Monday, December 6, 2010**. If you have comments or questions, please feel free to contact me at mendler@bsflp.com or any time you see me at school. In addition, we will hold an informational session for any parents who have questions or concerns on **Monday, November 29 at 6 p.m.** Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and we look forward to your support in our continuing journey to fulfill WHMS's mission of creating a diverse and engaging educational partnership of parents, teachers, children and community.

A NOTE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL SUSAN KAMBRICH (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

talked about the top ten trends facing independent schools. We also viewed the movie *Race to Nowhere* about the competitive forces students face in many school cultures and the detrimental effects they impose. Dr. Ned Hallowell, author and psychiatrist, led a discussion on this topic. After a brief talk, he moderated panel of a heads of school and facilitated discussion groups.

Other speakers included an expert on global warming, Dr. Ben Strauss from Climate Central, and Whitney Tilson, a successful hedge fund manager, who is also involved in a number of charitable endeavors. He, along with Wendy Kopp, was one of the first people to launch Teach for America in 1989. He is also on the Board of Trustees for KIPP Academy charter school in the South Bronx and one of the founders of Democrats for Educational Reform. He also found

the REACH program, a pay-for-performance program in 31 inner city high schools in New York. Mr. Tilson spoke about the failure of U.S. public schools and what must be done to reform our school systems. He had an abundance of interesting statistics and generated a lively discussion.

It was a wonderful conference and I have come back to school with new ideas and a refreshed appreciation of all that we have here at Woodland Hill.

Please be sure to read the lead *Messenger* article by Michael Endler about the proposed bylaw change. The proposed change will be important for the continued success of our school.

- Susan

November 6 Open House a Huge Success!

Did you get a chance to see our front page *Times Union* online ad on Thursday, November 4?

Thank you to everyone who hung a flyer, posted a road sign, encouraged a friend to visit and gave tours. We welcomed a record

number of prospective families to campus. As the tour guides can attest, these eager families arrived early and stayed late - a great time was had by all!

The following parents and students generously gave time out of their weekend to volunteer for WHMS:

Isabella, Cheryl and Eric Ledet, Sharada Alampalli (Sandeep who usually helps with tours was away at a chess tournament), Aniella Day and Carmel Schettino, AtLee, Chris, Claire and Matthew Bender, Cameron and

Melissa Fearn, Jennifer Graham and Lauren Haggerty, Laura Mandel, Tori Gernert-Dott, Justin and Christine Bruck.

Thank you also to Susan Kambrich for her wonderful Montessori 101 overview and teachers - Liz Cahrenger, Kristen McDermott, Valerie Ang, Cassandre Hall, Lourdes Ortega, Ashley Ciccione, Julie Adams, Kristi Favaloro, Olga Febus, Cindy Bishop and Andrew McClain for their wonderful welcome to our visitors.



A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE: DISMISSAL CHANGES



Throughout the school year, you may need to make changes to your child's

dismissal plan. **If you need to change your child's dismissal plan for any reason, please call the school - 283-5400 ext. 10** While e-mails are convenient, if the person you e-mailed is out of the office, your dismissal change may not get processed properly.

We will try our best to accommodate our families and their individual needs, however the safety of the children is our first priority. Thank you for your attention to this matter and please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions.

Woodland Hill's violin teacher, **Marla Bracco**, performed in the Albany Symphony Orchestra's November 13 concert - *Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto*. The program included timeless orchestral classics including Tchaikovsky's ravishing Violin Concerto and Edward Elgar's brilliant masterpiece "Enigma" Variations — a lyrical, luminous, whimsical set of musical portraits of his friends and family.



Save the Date!
The WHMS Theatre Club presents



Willy Wonka Junior

Friday, December 3 at 7 p.m.
Saturday, December 4 at noon

Tickets: \$7 for Adults \$4 for Children

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Come to the Middle School Java Connection



Fresh bagels, croissants and pastries.
Really good (we promise!) coffee, tea and hot chocolate.

Fresh squeezed and organic juices. Delicious vegetarian pasta available for take out lunch

Thursday, November 18

7:30 - 8:20 a.m.

Middle School Great Room

Have a delicious and nutritious breakfast with your child and support the Middle School Coffee House!

We always appreciate the WHMS community's support!

SAVE THE PLANET AND YOU SAVE MONEY!!!

Bring your own mug and save 25 cents per cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate.

~Coffee House Menu~

Bagels (Plain, whole wheat, cinnamon raisin) with butter or cream cheese \$2

Coffee, Regular or Decaf Coffee \$1.50 or \$1.25 with your own mug

Tea \$1.50 or \$1.25 with your own mug

Hot Chocolate \$1.50 or \$1.25 with your own mug

Croissants and Almond pastries \$1.50

Fresh squeezed Juice:

Orange Beauty - a delicious combination of carrots, orange juice and apples \$2.50

The Rainbow - a delicious combination of fruits and vegetables of your choosing \$2.50

Organic Orange Juice \$1.50

Organic Milk \$1.50

A carry-out hot lunch for students, parents and faculty \$5



WOODLANDHILL
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Middle School Winter Greens Sale



12" ring of noble fir, pinecones and juniper berries. **\$14**



16" wreath of noble fir and pinecones **\$18**



24" table centerpiece with a variety of greens, pinecones, and juniper berries with your choice of candle color: Blue, white or red **\$30**

Make checks payable to *WHMS Middle School*.

Quantities are limited!

Sale ends Friday, November 19.