



# WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Noteworthy Achievements and Accomplishments 2014 – 2015

Weston High School - WHS    Weston Intermediate School - WIS  
Weston Middle School - WMS    Hurlbutt Elementary School - HES



### ACADEMIC KUDOS

The *Washington Post* named WHS one of America's *Most Challenging High Schools* based on Excellence and Equity



ranked WHS #1 in Fairfield County, #2 in Connecticut, and #264 nationally

- The Class of 2015 had 15 AP Scholars, 8 AP Scholars with Honors, 44 AP Scholars with Distinction, and 8 National AP Scholars
- Two WHS seniors won scholarships in the National Merit Scholarship Competition
- 89% of the 536 AP exams taken in the spring of 2015 scored 3 or better on a 5-point scale
- Both WHS and WMS placed first in the *State Mock Trial* competition; the WHS team was 11<sup>th</sup> in the nation
- The WHS Science Olympiad team participated in 23 science and technology events at UCONN and won a gold medal in their event
- An 8th grade student participated in the statewide *National Geography Bee*
- WMS grade 7 and 8 students took first place and second place at the *National History Day* state competition
- A WHS sophomore had her short story published in the *Claremont Review*
- Three WMS students' writing pieces were published in *kidzermag.com*
- Over 40 fourth and fifth grade students participated in the Mathematical Olympiad
- With the support of the WIS PTO, over 110 fourth and fifth graders took part in the first annual Science Fair
- More than 175 eighth grade Spanish and French students participated in the National French Contest and National Spanish Competition for the first time
- Four eighth grade students were recognized at the state and national level for a 99% final score on the National Spanish Competition

### SERVICE TO OTHERS



- HES students participated in the annual mitten drive, helping families in need from neighboring towns
- One WHS art teacher received the David Trigaux Award from the Weston Education Foundation for her ability to encourage students to use creative solutions through visual problem solving
- WIS students collected over 25 containers of food during the holiday season for the Weston Food Pantry and many toys for the pediatric unit of Norwalk Hospital

- Almost 800 toys were delivered by WMS students to the K-8 school Columbus Annex in Bridgeport through a holiday toy drive
- WMS and WHS raised more than \$87,000 for the American Cancer Society during Relay for Life
- Members of the WHS Trojan Football Team helped Weston Kiwanis and Weston Warm-Up Fund split wood for getting ready for next year's sales
- WHS Spanish 4 classes held a bake sale, raising over \$300 to aid in the relief efforts in Nepal
- Forty WHS students traveled to Guatemala with Builders Beyond Borders to assist in building classrooms
- WHS swim team raised over \$3,800 in their annual Swim for Cure fundraiser, benefitting the Susan G. Koman Foundation
- WHS Pink Aid Club donated over \$3200 to the Pink Aid Fund
- Inspired by the One School – One Book read, *Mercy Watson to the Rescue* by Kate DiCamillo, HES collected over 400 breakfast items, donated to the Weston Food Pantry
- The Class of 2015 donated over \$250 to the Ben Franklin School in Norwalk for school supplies
- The HES book fair penny drive raised almost \$2000 to purchase books that were donated to local hospitals – Scholastic matched the dollar amount and purchased books for their charity
- Every HES classroom donated a holiday gift basket filled with food and gifts for local families
- A class of 2nd grade students sang for Weston seniors at their holiday luncheon in December

### THE ARTS



- Art Jam!** – the first district-wide art show was held, celebrating the visual and performing arts
- 68% of the WPS band program is in 9th and 10th grade
- 70 fourth grade students participated in the new *Beginning Strings* program
- Weston Public Schools music department was recognized as one of the 2015 Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants
- At the Music in the Parks Adjudication Festival, the WMS Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Singers took honors, with the Chamber Singers receiving 1st place in their division with a superior rating; the WMS Jazz Band received a 2nd place honor and an excellent rating; WMS Jazz Lab Band received a 3rd place honor and an excellent rating, and won the award for Best Overall Middle School Choir
- Six band and three choral WHS students were selected to participate in the Western Regional High School Festival
- Two WHS band students were selected to participate in the Connecticut All-State Festival

## THE ARTS CONTINUED



The WHS Jazz Band performed in the Darien High School Jazz Festival where they participated in a clinic with Jazz educator Joyce DiCamillo

The WHS Concert Band was selected to work with Grammy Foundation Teacher of the Year winner Jarred Cassidy at the 2015 Connecticut Music Educators Conference

Eight WHS chorus members performed at the American Choral Directors Association Conference

Nine WMS choral students and three WMS band students were selected to participate in the Connecticut Music Educators Association Western Regional Middle School Concert Festival

Four WIS students were selected to participate in the Connecticut Music Educators Association Elementary Honors Chorus

A chapter of the National Art Honor Society was chartered at WHS and inducted 16 junior and senior members

The Tri-M Music Honor Society inducted 32 junior and 32 senior members of WHS

The WHS theatre group, Short Company, staged *The Laramie Project* and *Barnum*, using the talents of student artists, musicians, actors, designer and technical theatre personnel

The WMS theatre group, Short Wharf, staged *The Music Man Jr.* using the talents of student artists, musicians, actors, designers and technical theatre personnel

The WIS theatre group, Show Stoppers, staged *At the Bandstand*

The WMS 8th grade orchestra participated in the Music for Youth Orchestra Exchange with the Haven String Quartet and students from High Horizons and Multi-Cultural Magnet schools in Bridgeport

WHS students exhibited at the Sacred Heart Regional high school art show at Sacred Heart University

Over 300 WHS and WMS students performed in the band Spectrum Concert



## ATHLETICS

WHS was the site of the 2015 Western Connecticut Time Trials for *Special Olympics*, with *Team Weston* competing for the fourth straight year in track and field and aquatics

Six state championships: Girls Swim and Dive, Boys Swim and Dive, Girls Skiing, Boys Skiing, Boys Outdoor Track and Field, Boys Tennis

Seven SWC championships: Girls Indoor Track, Boys Indoor Track, Girls Skiing, Boys Skiing, Boys Tennis, Girls Outdoor Track and Field, Boys Outdoor Track and Field.

707 athletes, out of a possible 914 or 77%, earned academic awards while participating with a GPA of at least 3.0

Of the 22 teams eligible, 19 were recognized for Sportsmanship by the SWC

WHS has been honored for the 9th year in a row as a Michaels Achievement Cup Award recipient for excellence in overall high school athletics

WHS has twice in the last 5 years received the *Overall Michaels Cup* as the most exemplary, outstanding athletics program in the state of Connecticut



## COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY



With the help of Weston Education Foundation, WIS began a robotics club with over 40 participants  
The WMS Robotics Club began with over 70 students participating

A WHS junior videography student has joined Teen Kids News as a reporter

Four WHS students participated in the annual Yale Physics Olympics, winning one of the five events

The Class of 2016 spearheaded technology workshops at the Weston Senior Center

Over 40 WMS students participated in the Hour of Code as part of National Computer Science Week

A WHS student created a documentary on a fellow student, coinciding with Light it up Blue for Autism Awareness Day

A third delegation of teachers and students from WHS visited our sister school in Qingdao, China

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING



Nearly 100 eighth grade students volunteered for our career mentorship experience

A WHS art teacher received the David Trigaux Award from the Weston Education Foundation for her unusual level of originality and dedication toward creative teaching

A WHS school counselor was named the New England Association for College Admission Counseling Professional of the Year

A WHS Spanish teacher had an article published on 21st century learning in *Fairfield Neighbors* magazine

A WHS English teacher was selected to participate in a seminar located in Siena and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities

Two WHS English teachers presented *From PB&J to World War II and Everything in Between: Stimulating Creativity While Building Interdisciplinary School-Wide Portfolios* at the New England Association of Teachers of English conference

An EdTalk was presented by a WHS social studies teacher at the Kappa Delta Pi convention, an international honor society in education

HES students read for 2,752 miles to complete the trip from Weston, CT to Weston, OR during Read Across America week. Each reading minute was equal to one mile on the trip

For the fifth year, Weston Service Center applied for and received a \$500 grant for HES through the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program, which is used to enhance math and science programs

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