



Wood Road Times

Wood Road's School Newspaper

April 2016

INSIDE



Mrs. French helps out a cause that is dear to her heart.
PAGE 6

The Scoop

Find out what is going on in Wood Road classrooms with The Scoop.
PAGE 4



Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Hodgson, donated her hair to kids in need.
PAGE 3

Acting it out

Second graders bring test to life with performance

On March 16, Wood Road's second graders shined.

Students from all five second grade classes lit up the stage with, "What Genre is That!?!." The story took place in a classroom where students were taking a test. As each student read a passage, the events that were taking place in the student's imagination were being played out on the stage.

Michael Nittinger from Mrs. O'Connor's class began by reading a passage about fiction. This part had students acting out a fairy tale about princesses and princes. The students had no problem getting into character. Each dressed the part and took their job very seriously with full expressions and part-appropriate voices.

Camden Cramer from Mrs. Morgan's class perfected an Italian accent as the baker in a passage about how to bake a pizza pie. Elizabeth Henson from Mr. Ferrone's class made a perfect little mouse who wanted to ex-



Students in Mrs. Morgan's class act out a passage about how to make a pizza pie.

pand her horizons by leaving her small mouse hole and finding some cheese.

The script was written by Andrew Ferrone, second grade teacher. "I noticed that a lot of students love reading, but dislike reading tests, so I wanted to bring a reading test to life," said Ferrone.

Ferrone said the five different genres allowed each second grade class to act out a different scene. "Since our schedules are different, we didn't have time to practice together," he said.

Ferrone added that using different genres allowed the students to learn more about

the topics.

"For example, scene four was all about the history of Ballston Spa and the life of Isaiah Blood. Using a historical nonfiction genre allowed me to teach about history, reading, and acting all at the same time," he added.

The script took multiple re-writes according to Ferrone. "I started it a while ago, but I worked on it little by little as I got new ideas. I had to change things constantly to add more parts for new students, fix errors and make the characters

Dear Principal, Your's truly, A third-grader

Ms. Ernst's third-graders wrote persuasive letters to Ms. Talmadge

I would really like to have more science experiments in class or in the library or in the computer lab, because they are super fun. – *Lila*

Please can we from now on pick our own experiment in science? People would go home saying how much fun they had just because of science and all the great ideas the class had. – *Ayla*

May we please get some nice spray in the bathroom? – *Joseph*

I think we should have more playtime, because we need to refresh our minds. After recess we can think and learn better. – *Guinevere*

I want to learn different languages in school. Languages are important because it would be good if you go to Mexico or Japan. – *Gizele*

I think we should have more after school activities. Some of them are stained glass, water animals, endangered plants and animals, the human brain and creating video games. – *Grady*

Yearbook Sales

Order Wood Road's 2015-2016 school yearbook before supplies run out. This year's yearbook can be ordered online at www.balfour.com. A paper order form is also available on the Wood Road website (www.bscsd.org/Wood.cfm). Yearbooks cost \$16 and are available until supplies last. Please note, Wood Road PTA does not provide free yearbooks to fifth-grade students.

Wood Road Times student reporter wins award

Congratulations to Sarah Lewza for being selected as a winner in the Iroquois Reading Council's Newspapers-in-Education Contest.

Members of the newspaper club submitted entries to the contest, which was sponsored by Iroquois Reading Council and The Chronicle Newspaper in Queensbury. Sarah was one of 11 students from across the region to be chosen. The contest required each student to submit interview questions to a Presidential Election Candidate of their choice.

Sarah will have the chance to be a reporter for the afternoon at The Chronicle. Each winner will conduct an interview of a local personaility. The day will end with a special reception where winners will share their writing.

Wood Road Newspaper Club was also awarded four honorable mentions: Mia Bedell, Abby Bednarczyk, Maia Bianchi and Cameron McKay.

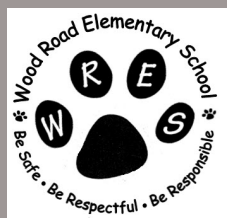
Wood Road Times

Reporters - Mia Bedell, Abby Bednarczyk, Maia Bianchi, Sarah Lewza, Cameron McKay, Madalyn Wilson, Lauren Wodzinski

Editor - Mrs. Bianchi (dbianchi@bscsd.org)

Website: www.bscsd.org/Wood.cfm

Twitter: [@Wood_Road_Elem](https://twitter.com/Wood_Road_Elem)



Hair for good

Mrs. Hodgson donates hair to make kid's wigs

By Abby Bednarczyk

After a full year of growing out her hair, Mrs. Hodgson stepped into a hair salon last summer ready to cut it all off and donate it to someone in need.

"It was a personal challenge," Mrs. Hodgson said, explaining how her granddaughter wanted to donate her hair, and Mrs. Hodgson wanted to show her perseverance and how to work toward a goal.

It took about a full year for her hair to grow the 6 inches of hair she needed to donate.

Mrs. Hodgson donated her hair through British 360. The hair is prepared and made into wigs for children with cancer who are undergoing treatments that make them lose

their hair.

"It was scary to see the hair come off," said Mrs. Hodgson. "It felt funny. "It was the shortest hair I've had since I was 12 years old."

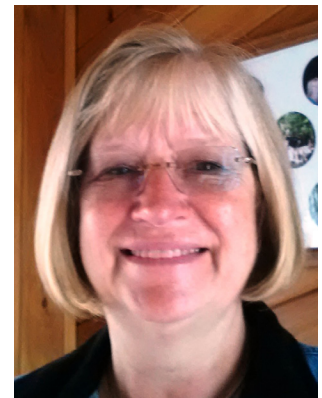
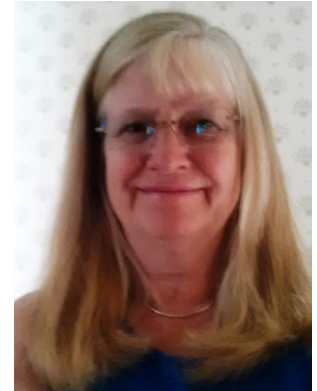
The hair was braided and cut. It was then put into an envelope and mailed to 360 Hair out of British Columbia where it will be made into a wig. Hair must be 6 inches in length.

Mrs. Hodgson said she chose 360 Hair because she knew it would go to children.

"I had some gray hairs and they would accept that, and I wanted it done for children," she said.

The short hair took some getting used to, as Mrs. Hodgson said she has always had long hair, but she doesn't regret making the donation.

"I would strongly encourage anyone with long hair to donate," she said. "Then you will feel a big accomplishment of meeting your goal."



Mrs. Hodgson before and after donating her hair.



Wood Road students love a good story

Throughout the year, Wood Road welcomes visitors who would like to share a story with students. The month of PARP has brought many visitors. On St. Patrick's Day, Mrs. Sansone read an Irish Tale to first graders. In December, one of Ballston Spa's Board of Education members shared a story he wrote with his own children entitled, "Caroline and the Chocolate Mop."

Mr. Leva and his daughter Caroline shared the book with one of her favorite teachers, Mr. Gronau, and his first grade students. They provided copies of the book to all the students.

The Scoop

What's happening in Wood Road's classrooms?



On the 100th day of school, kindergarten celebrated with activities focused on the number 100. Mrs. Walz's class dressed up as 100-year-old men and women. Mrs. Walz's grandma even stopped in for a visit.

The kindergarteners went on a field trip to Proctors Theatre to see "Lady Bug Girl and Bumble Bee Boy." Their next field trip will be a trip to the Village of Ballston Spa as part of a "My Community" unit. The students will visit a number of localities including the firehouse, the post office and the mayor's office.

On the first day of spring, kindergarteners celebrated with a "Spring Fling." The students moved from classroom to classroom and enjoyed a number of spring activities. - *Madalyn Wilson*

In January, first-graders learned about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and what he did for the people of the country. To teach first grade students that heroes don't have to be superheroes, Mrs. Brunson asked students to choose a hero in their life and explain why that person is their hero.

In science, students are learning about matter, solids, liquids and gasses and have spent time researching all about penguins. Students are also learning how to add and subtract double digit numbers.

- *Cameron McKay*



Second grade has been busy preparing for their play by preparing sets in art class, creating brochures in computer lab using Microsoft Publisher, researching biographies, practicing lines and more.

In math, the students are learning how to add and count money. Science has been about the three states of matter. In social studies, Mrs. O'Conner's class is just wrapping up their community unit and Mr. Ferrone's class is learning about the history of Ballston Spa.

Second grade teachers are planning a "historic" field trip yet to be determined.

- *Abby Bednarczyk*



Third grade has been working on opinion writing, story structure, and using context clues to help find the meaning of an unknown vocabulary word. In math, students are learning division, memorizing facts, and relating multiplication and subtraction to division. They recently finished a land and water unit in Science and learned how water affects land and how land affects water.

The students have been studying Pompeii and volcanoes. They read "Day of Disaster," which was about a volcano eruption. The students worked with Mrs. Williams to do inquiry work about volcanoes and Pompeii. The students will write a letter to a relative explaining how they escaped the volcano. The students are also learning about politics, economics and voting.

Third graders will be taking a field trip to the 4H Center to learn about plants and animals.

- Mia Bedell and Sarah Lewza



Fourth-graders took part in a service learning project called, Project: Cameron Story. Books were collected and donated to hospital NICU's.

Students are reading "Series of Unfortunate Events," "Spider Wick" and "Holes." They just finished an electricity unit where students tested objects to see if they were conductors or insulators. They also just completed a Colonial America unit and have learned about Christopher Columbus in an Explorers Unit.

Students are using Classlink to access math and science games and multiplication videos.

New this year, every time students finish an iReady lesson, they earn tickets for a fourth-grade raffle.

- Maia Bianchi

Fifth graders have been busy working on a project about a rainforest animal. Each student chose an animal and researched the animal. Students created a newspaper article about their animal in Microsoft Publisher.

They are reading novels about civil right and starting a Jackie Robinson unit.

Science has them learning about the human body and green engineering. In the computer lab, students used Microsoft Excel to chart a healthy versus not so healthy meal at a fast food restaurant.

- Lauren Wodzinski



Bonding Books

Wood Road sends more books for babies

By Maia Bianchi

In 2010, Mrs. French gave birth to her first son Conner – six weeks early.

“He was so little he had to go to the NICU,” Mrs. French said.

Connor spent 10 days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Albany Medical Center. Mrs. French was told she could not stay at the hospital during his stay, but she visited every chance she had.

“During that time, we received a brand new children’s book,” she said. “By reading to Conner, we were able to bond, even though we were not able to hold him.”

The book was given to her from Project: Cameron’s Story. To this day, Mrs. French holds the organization dear to her heart. Project: Cameron’s Story collects books and gives them to parents of babies in local NICUs.

It started in 2009 in memory of Cameron Jace Quartiers who was born 16 weeks premature. According to the organization’s website, the books would calm Cameron down when he was upset. When Cameron’s mom wasn’t able to hold him, she would read to him. Cameron would hear her voice and they formed a connection.

The Quartiers’ started Project: Cameron’s Story to support parents with premature babies in



Students in Wood Road’s fourth grade classes led the school in collecting books for Project: Cameron’s Story.

NICUs through children’s literature. Their goal is to place a brand new children’s book in the hands of every parent of a premature baby upon admission to the NICUs at Albany Medical Center, St. Peter’s Hospital and Crouse Medical Center.

Not long after her son was born, Mrs. French brought the service project to Ballston Spa Schools.

“I know what it is like to have a baby in the NICU,” she said. “The books provide comfort.”

In 2014, Mrs. French was asked to join Project: Cameron’s Story Board of Directors.

Each year, all six schools in the Ballston Spa School District collect books for donation.

This year, Wood Road donated 291 books to Project: Cameron’s Story. The district donated 991 books in all for the organization this year.

The school was one of the 127 collection sites throughout New York State.

Project: Cameron’s Story is always accepting donations. Books must be new because they will be delivered to babies in a sterile environment. Books should be medium-sized with a lot of words. Go to www.projectcameronstory.com to find out where to donate the books.

Making winter musical

Students perform in winter concert

By Lauren Wodzinski

Musical talent filled the cafeteria at January's winter concert.

The school's chorus, band and orchestra performed for a crowd of almost 500 family and friends during the night time concert. Students also performed a day-time concert for students and staff.

The chorus performed four songs, "Music in the Air", "The Dream of Martin Luther King", "The Gifts You've Given to my Life", and "Viva La Vida."

"The songs all had to fit the season and have good harmony," said Mr. Bailey, Wood Road's music teacher. "I based the songs on the season, slow and fast and if they had good harmony."

Seven students performed a solo during the performance of "The Gifts you Have Given to my Life". Bailey said he chose students based on voice and behavior.

"The students had to audition and get a solo on how they matched pitch," he said.

The fourth grade band played "Hot Cross Buns," "Pre-ordor, and "Mary had a Little Lamb." The fifth grade band played "Cadets March," "Japanese Folk Song" and "African Folk Trilogy."

"I based the songs on ability level, tempo and something students might like and have interest in," said Miss Soulia, band instructor.

The band began practicing



Fourth grade student, Fiona Hughes warms up before the winter concert.

in October of last year.

"The students are learning harder rhythms and a wider range on their instrument," said Miss Soulia. "Fourth graders can now play a whole scale instead of only five notes."

The fourth and fifth grades are now practicing blending, balance, pyramid of sound, reading rhythms, tone, tapping to the steady beat, and order of flats and sharps.

"The fourth grade band is also learning lip slurs and overtones," said Mrs. Soulia.

Soulia explains that the most important thing to learn at this stage is creating good sounds and using your ears and note rhythms.

Mrs. Soulia said students start in band at fourth grade be-

cause before that the body is not big enough and the motor skills are not there.

The Wood Road fourth-grade orchestra played "Three note March," "Hot Cross Buns," and "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." The fifth grade orchestra played "Can-Can," "Soul Strings," "French Folk Song" and "When the Saints go Marching In."

Mr. Norris, the orchestra instructor, said he chose the songs according to style.

Casey Reddon, a fifth-grade violin player said her favorite piece was "Can Can."

"It was my favorite because I thought it sounded good and it was easy to play and a lot of people liked

It's more than Legos

Anyone involved in Lego Robotics will tell you - "It's more than Legos"

By Madalyn Wilson

Month's of hard work paid off when Wood Road's robotics team placed first in this year's Lego robotics competition.

The 12 team members began meeting in September with a lot of work ahead of them. Presented with a box of Lego pieces, they were told they would need to create and program a robot to complete a number of missions, research a solution to a worldwide problem, and come up with a presentation for that problem all in a matter of weeks.

The team had to be ready to compete at the FLL Lego Robotics Competition in December. With a team of only one returning member, it was essential they got to work.

It began with learning how to program the NXT robots. Mrs. Lovett, one of the team's coaches, showed them how to program a robot to make turns, go forward and go backward. The students soon learned that using sensors on their robot made some of the tasks a bit smoother.

"Students don't need to have any prior knowledge of programming to be on the robotic's team," said Mrs. Bianchi, another one of the team's coaches. "The kids learn how to program when they join the team."

Students soon learned that Lego Robotics is about more than programming robots when they



The Wood Road Robotic's Team, Motors In Action, competed at December's regional competition.

were presented with the challenge, "Trash Trek." The team needed to identify a problem with the way trash is made or handled and come up with an innovative solution for the problem.

After brainstorming, researching, more brainstorming, creating a skit to present the solution and practicing the skit over and over, the team was ready to present their project to the judges at the competition. Their solution? Using old smartphones as security cameras on school playgrounds.

The team, named "Motors in Action," went to the competition confident, yet worried their robot which they nicknamed, "Dropper," would cooperate.

"We would have our mission all set and saved, and then we

put the robot on the table it would not work at one time then work the next," said Lauren Wodzinski, a 5th grade team member.

The team won first place for Robot Design and Robot Performance.

"We were almost the youngest group there but we worked hard and won," said Maia Bianchi, a 5th grade team member.

"It is not all about building robots," said Mrs. Lovett. "It is a lot of work. There are lots of different parts of the program like core values and showing how to work as a team every day."

A large part of FLL Robotics is learning how to work as a team. At the center of the program is Core

Students show off science skills

science is where it's at for Wood Road students

By Mia Bedell

In January, Wood Road students and staff once again attended the annual elementary science fair in the Wood Road/Milton Terrace cafeteria.

The fair included all of the district's elementary schools. Students had the opportunity to sign up to participate in the fair.

"Science is a part of everyone's daily life and it is everywhere. Also science is vital in understanding how the world works," said Mrs. Osinski, Science Fair Committee member.

Osinski teaches Science to fifth-graders in Wood Road.

"I encouraged them to do it because we learned about the scientific method," she said. "It is a great opportunity to apply that to your project and work with your friends on your own experiment. It is also a cool opportunity to meet other kids and learn about others projects."

The displays were set up on tables. The students stood by their projects as the judges came around.

The judges were members from the high school First Robotics Team, National Honor Society and the International Baccalaureate Biology and Physics classes. Teachers also viewed the displays wearing lab coats and asking questions. If the student answered correctly, they received a sticker. At the end of the fair, a Scientific Investigator Award was given to everyone who participated. The students were judged



Student's earn their Scientific Investigator's License at Elementary Science Fair.

on their presentation and how they answered questions. Students were awarded with a Scientific Investigator's License.

Science fair participants were required to have a question, steps on how the experiment was figured it out, a hypothesis and the answer.

Kindergarten and first grade students did a collection based project.

Fifth-grader, Cadence Kilion's project was an egg drop.

"I wanted to do it because I like science a lot," said Cadence. "I put the egg in Fluff and straws for protection."

Cadence said it only took her a couple of tries to get it right.

Some of Osinski's favorite projects are the ones created by the

younger students.

"I like the younger kid's projects to see what they are interested in," she said. "They always get so proud of themselves."

The 2nd annual Elementary Science & Engineering Fair was organized to encourage students to get students thinking more about science and engineering.



Fitting in fun

Students break on Valentine's Day for a little fun

By Sarah Lewza

Between reading, writing and arithmetic, teachers and students were able to squeeze in some time to celebrate Valentine's Day in February.

"I have been doing Valentine's Day in my class for 16 years and have always loved it," said Mr. Gronau, First Grade Teacher. He said he likes to remind everyone that Valentine's Day is a day to be nice.

"It makes my day when people are nice to each other," he said.

On that day, Mr. Gronau's class was decked out in red, white and pink, and enjoyed sweet fruit, strawberry parfaits and traded valentine cards.

Third graders in Mrs. Damico's class were able to mesh Valentine's Day celebrations with learning.

"We blend in math with graphs that makes a picture of a heart," she said. "In ELA, we read about the history of Valentine's Day and a Valentine's story in modern time."

Every year Mrs. Damico incorporates what she calls the heart project.

"Parents write on a red heart what they love about their kids," she said. "And the kids write something they love about their family. Then they hang them up for everyone to see. The



(Above) Fifth grade students and teachers had fun with a contest about who could wear the most red, pink and white on Valentine's Day.



(Left) Scottie Day festivities included picking up marshmallows with chopsticks.

hearts make the room look very festive."

Mr. Fersch said his second-graders get very excited for Valentine's Day and passing out valentine cards.

"I am always looking over the kid's shoulders and wondering what valentine's they get," he said. Fifth-graders celebrate with a Valentine's Day color contest. The student

wearing the most pink, white and red was the winner. Students packed on layers of clothes, socks, hair ties, headbands and nail polish.

Scottie Day also took place that day to reward everyone for hard work. The day's activities included a "Minute To Win it" game with cup stacking, cotton ball scooping, heart stacking and picking up marshmallows with chopsticks.

PLAY (from page 1)

more interesting,” he said.

In the final scene, Katie Garrant, Eric Lake and Jacob Schalk from Mr. Fersch’s class played the parts of News Channel 13’s Paul Ciano, Subrina Dhami and Phil Bayly. The three interviewed the rest of the class who played the parts of random famous people. The students were excited to find out that the real Paul Ciano, Subrina Dhami and Phil Bayly would be showing up to see their play.

The performance involved quite a bit of preparation. Once the script was written, students had to memorize their lines, create scenery, read and summarize each scene, create brochures using Microsoft Publisher, memorize and practice songs, practice acting out

scenes and find costumes.

“The students practiced their lines at least three times a week,” Ferrone said. “It was amazing how quickly they learned their lines.”

The parts were decided after the students read the script. “Each student wrote down their top five choices. I tried to give everybody a part that was in their top five,” Ferrone said.

Ferrone received a grant from the Ballston Spa Education Foundation which provided helped provide the majority of the costumes.

The students performed the play twice that day – once for the student body and a second time for parents. “Wood Road students really impressed me with how the audience and actors/actresses were focused and involved

for the full hour,” Ferrone said of the student showing.

The kicker was that evening when News Channel 13 aired a story about the play and the students. “They loved it! They worked so hard to prepare for the play that it was great to see them be recognized for all of their efforts. They deserved it,” Ferrone said.

When asked if the second grade play will become a tradition at Wood Road, Ferrone said he is not sure. “Each group of students is different, so I will wait and see what our students are interested in and go from there. My goal is to grow each year along with my students, so hopefully we come up with something really cool,” he said.

- News Staff



Just in time for spring

Mrs. Clancy’s kindergartener’s proudly wore their spring bonnets as they pawgraded Wood Road’s hallways in March.

ROBOTICS- from Page 8

Values. FLL states that, “by embracing Core Values, participants learn that friendly competition and mutual gain are not separate goals, and that helping one another is the foundation of teamwork.”

“We learned that working together isn’t always easy,” said Maia. “But we learned that learning how to work together can be used in other things in our life such as soccer.”

The Wood Road Robotics team is open to fourth and fifth grade students. Tryouts are held in May each year. Coaches look for kids that can be a productive team member with enthusiasm, interest and is able to follow directions.

MUSIC - from Page 7

it,” she said.

Casey said that even though she enjoys playing the violin, she still enjoys seeing others play.

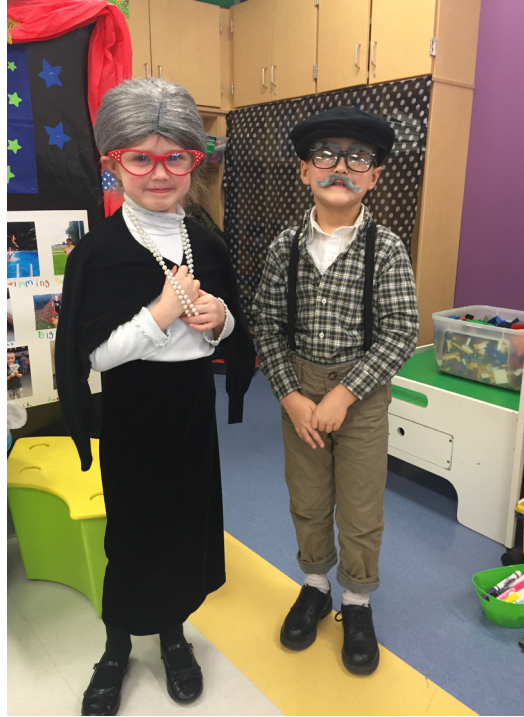
“Wood Road did an amazing job at the concert,” said Soulia. “It was well balanced and all parts were heard. The students enjoyed themselves, and I could not have been more proud of them.”



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News, Events, Happenings & More

**100 Days Young**

In February, Mrs. Walz's kindergarten class celebrated 100 days of school by dressing as 100-year-old men and women.

**5th grade participates in annual tournament**

The 7th Annual 5th grade Survivor Tournament took place in February in the Wood Road/Milton Terrace gym and cafeteria. All four elementary schools participated.

The event is the first of many activities planned for the fifth-grade students at Wood Road. The purpose of the events are to start getting the elementary school's fifth-grade students together before they enter middle school in the fall.