



Wood Road Times

Wood Road Student Newspaper

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Farewell

Mrs. Forgea says goodbye after 24 years of teaching

By Kate Fletcher

On Friday, June 22, Mrs. Forgea will walk out of her classroom one last time. Mrs. Forgea began teaching in 1993. She began in the Ballston Spa School District in 1998 as a third-grade teacher in the Milton Terrace Primary School. Throughout the years, she found herself teaching kindergarten, first, second, third, and fourth graders.

"I've loved every year," she said. "Every year inspired me to be a better teacher."

Mrs. Forgea said she will miss all of the kids she has taught and her friends at Wood Road.

"The excitement of teaching new things, seeing the smiles on the kids faces when they learn something new... also, I will miss the hugs," she said.

She said she has been very fortunate to have been able to work in a strong community and with strong friends.

"They are people who care about kids and who always give 100 percent," she said.

She hopes the kids in Wood Road remember to dream



Mrs. Forgea said if she were given a chance to do it all again, she would be a teacher over and over.

big, be kind, and have a great sense of humor.

"I always tell my kids to try your hardest and be kind to each other, that's what is important," she said. "My role here is more than a teacher. I care for them. Isn't that what it's all about," she said.

Mrs. Forgea said she hasn't thought much about what she will do with all of her free time yet, but she knows she will spend time with her daughter and grandchild.

"But first I am going to take a trip to Hawaii," she laughed.

Job Well Done



Wood Road news reporters pose for one last picture before heading off to middle school.

The end of year tends to be a time for goodbyes, this year even more so. We say goodbye to Mrs. Forgea who has touched so many lives here at Wood Road. We also say goodbye to Principal Karas who has made Wood Road a better place over the last two years. We wish them both the best and will miss them very much.

We also say goodbye to our fifth-grade students. This chapter of their lives has come to an end as they move on to the middle school. I had the pleasure of spending two mornings a week with 14 of these fifth-grade students. They spent mornings brainstorming, researching, interviewing, and writing, writing, and writing more, always with a smile. They used technology to brainstorm story ideas. Some of them broke out of their shell and walked into a classroom to sit down with a teacher and be the one to lead and conduct an interview. They learned about how to structure news stories and how to write a good lede. They mustered through revision after revision in order to publish a story. I hope they continue to love writing and keep digging for good news stories. Good luck Wood Road reporters and good luck to all the fifth-graders. Make Wood Road proud!

- Mrs. Bianchi

Wood Road Times

Reporters - James Haughton, McKenna Szmaz, Kate Fletcher, Camryn Wodzinski, Peter Hinckley, Emily Sayre, Juanita Rust, Lila Zalucky, Audrey Bedell, Joe Vivian, Kyle Fives, Kendyl Wasserman, Ayla Hathaway, Ben Taylor

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

Website: www.bscsd.org/Wood.cfm



School Dog



Students read stories to dog at school

By Camryn Wodzinski

One may not expect to see a dog in a school, but at Wood Road students may run into Chloe, a reading therapy dog. Chloe and Ms. Effrimson, Chloe's owner, have been working with students many years. Chloe comes to school to listen to kids tell stories and hang out with them. Ms. Sausville, a reading teacher at Wood Road, said that Chloe helps increase motivation and ease anxiety. The students relax, pet Chloe, and focus on reading.

"Reading to Chloe gives kids a chance to read to someone without being graded or judged," she said. "And kids enjoy getting a chance to see the dog."

Jade, a student at Wood Road, said she looks forward to seeing Chloe at school.

"It's better with her there, because my dog is gone and it makes me happy to see a dog in my life," she said.

Chloe is an 11-year-old Goldendoodle and was trained through Therapy Dogs International.



Chloe, Ms.
Sausville, and
Ms. Effrimson

Staff Spotlight

Mrs. Thomas

By Juanita Rust

Wood Road staff and students welcomed Mrs. Thomas to the library this year as the school librarian. Mrs. Thomas came to Wood Road as a classroom teacher. She has taught kindergarten, first, and second grade in the past. Mrs. Thomas said that she is enjoying changing gears and collaborating with the classroom teachers from the library.

Mrs. Thomas resides in Ballston Spa with her family. She enjoys spending time with her kids and can often be found on sports fields and at dance recitals with her children.



Trial Run

Fifth-graders had the opportunity to visit the middle school in May. The visit is a way for students to see the school, meet some of the teachers and administrators, as well as ask current middle school students questions. Seventh-grade peer leaders lead the students on a tour of the school and showed the fifth-graders the sixth grade lockers and classrooms.

- Kendyl Wasserman

Solo Sounds

Students participate in music festival

By Ayla Hathaway

Eight Wood Road students were chosen to participate in this year's NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Festival in March at Saratoga Springs Middle School. Students who participate in the festival play a graded solo, play scales, and sight read. Participants need to be able to play three major scales to be chosen. Fourth and fifth grade students are eligible. Judges give each participant a score on their performance.

"NYSSMA is like getting a private lesson from a professional," said Ms. Soulia, Wood Road's band teacher. "It helps you get better and feel more comfortable presenting."

Mr. Norris, Wood Road's orchestra teacher, said he likes the festival because it gives students another opportunity to perform.

"Students that really enjoy playing their instrument get to challenge themselves into playing a solo that helps them become a better musician," he said.

NYSSMA was started because the New York Music Association wanted to advance music education all across the state.



The event is not a competition, but more about personal improvement.

Fifth grader, Lucas Weeks, participated in NYSSMA in fourth and fifth grade. He said he likes the challenge.

"I like playing the saxophone and challenging myself," he said.

This year he played "Rondo," "Canzo," and "Prelude." He said he felt a little more comfortable this year than he did last year because he already knew what to expect.

This year's NYSSMA participants are Kate Fletcher, James Haughton, Anthony O'Leary, Joe Vivian, Lucas Weeks, Ayla Hathaway, Juanita Rust, and Audrey Bedell.



ABOVE:
NYSSMA participants receive awards at Wood Road's end of the year assembly.

BELOW:
Ayla with Ms. Soulia the day of the festival.

Leadership Quality

Students awarded for leadership

By Ben Taylor

Eight Wood Road students were chosen to receive the Sandra G. Morley award, an award for showing good leadership and sportsmanship inside and outside of physical education class. Coach Dayton, Wood Road's Physical Education Teacher, said the students were chosen because they always did the right thing and behaved all the time. The students were recommended by their teachers and Coach Dayton.

The ceremony was held at Hudson Valley Community College in May. Each student received a certificate. The awards and ceremony happen each year in May. Coach Dayton has participated in the event for many years.

The students who were awarded are on the right: Amy Taylor, Luigi Fiorini, James Haughton, Ayla Hathaway, McKenna Szmaz, Joseph Vivian, and Kyle Grevelding. Not shown is Gianna Cater.



Pennies for Good



In May, students from Wood Road's Penny Harvest Roundtable presented a check for \$1413 to the Brave Will Foundation. The pennies were donated by Wood Road families as part of the yearly Penny Harvest collection. The students in the round table presented four charities to the students at Wood Road. The charities were then voted on by the students, and it was determined that the Brave Will Foundation would receive their collection.

- Peter Hinckley

Students Present Trial

Fifth-grade scholar students participated in a mock trial about a modernized version of "The Three Little Pigs." The trial, which encourages the students to be persuasive, is an activity Mrs. McCarthy, the scholar's teacher, likes to do each year with her fifth-grade students.

"It helps the students develop interpretive, persuasive, and collaborative skills," she said. "They also have to answer extemporaneously,

which means they answer without prepared notes."

The class was divided into two teams, the prosecution (or the pigs) and the defense (or the wolves). The judge was one of the student's grandfathers, who is a lawyer, and the jury was the student's parents, who were invited to watch.

- Ben Taylor

Time For Moving On



Fifth-graders move on to middle school

By Ben Taylor

On June 19, the fifth grade students walked across the Wood Road stage one last time. They have seen the stage many times before for kindergarten shows, chorus, band and orchestra performances, second-grade plays, reading awards, and more. This time, however, the stage was set for their final walk - a walk to middle school.

The cafeteria was filled with proud friends and family trying to get a perfect picture of their special fifth-grader. Principal Karas spoke about the memories made and the future to come. The students sang "Hall of Fame" by The Script and awards were given to students for attendance, achievement, leadership, and literacy.



Students watch as their fellow classmates receive their certificate of completion at the fifth-grade Moving Up Ceremony.



Living Museum

Mrs. Cousineau's second-grade students presented a Living Museum for students, teachers, and parents. Previous to the presentation, students researched a person, wrote essays, and collected artifacts from that person's life. The students dressed up as the person they studied and presented their information at the tap of a button.



Friendship Games

The annual Friendship Games were held once again. The annual event brings all fifth-grade students districtwide together for fun and games. The purpose of the day is for fifth-graders to meet one another before heading off to the middle school in September.

End of the Year Field Trips

BY CAMRYN WODZINSKI



Third graders went to the 4-H Environmental Center in May where they learned about turtles and other animals.

They also investigated other parts of the environment such as trees, water, and soil. Third graders have been taking part in this field trip for at least four years.



One Last Hurrah

Fifth graders celebrated the end of grade school at the zoo. One early morning in June, the the students piled on a bus and traveled three hours to the Bronx Zoo. The trip is like a rite of passage at Wood Road that all students look forward to in fifth grade.

- Joe Vivian



Kindergarteners went to Proctors Theatre in Schenectady to see a play called “Nugget and Fang” about a shark and a fish. The play gave the students a chance to learn about the arts. The kindergarteners have been attending Proctors shows since 2011. As part of a social studies unit about communities, the kindergarteners also went to the Village of Ballston Spa and visited the police station, the firehouse, the Village Mayor, and other community locations.

In May, first graders went on a field trip to the Misci Museum. The teachers split students into groups with one chaperone in each group. For the first part of the day, the students were allowed to go around the museum with their groups. The students interacted with a bubble station, a grocery station where they had a little store and a cash register, and an energy station where they played with sand and magnets. The students also went into the planetarium where they learned about seasonal stargazers. The students enjoyed the hands on activities, being with their friends, and learning about science outside of the classroom.



Fourth graders took a trip to the New York State Museum in June. The students took part in a self-guided tour and learned about birds, mammals, and an Erie Canal Program.

Goodbye Wood Road

Thoughts about my years at Wood Road and going to middle school

By Audrey Bedell

I don't remember everything about my first day of kindergarten, but I do know that I was really nervous. I was nervous that the teachers were going to be mean, that everything would be too hard to learn, and about making friends. I already made one friend, Camryn, and it wasn't long before I started making tons of friends and had so much fun with all of them.

I have so many great memories at Wood Road. One of my favorite memories is when me and my best friend Camryn were laughing really hard in first grade. Our teacher, Mrs. Snyder, kept having to tell us to stop laughing over and over. We didn't want to get in trouble but we just couldn't stop. I don't remember why but I know it was so funny. We were laughing from the beginning of lunch all the way to class. We had so much fun. Another one of my favorite memories was in fourth grade in Mrs. DeLeonardis' class. My friends Ayla, McKenna and Juanita and I were staying in for lunch and recess. We were helping the teacher and finished early.



Third from the left is Audrey with her friends since Kindergarten, Ayla, McKenna, and Juanita.

We were dancing to the song "Cootie Shot" and making up a really crazy dance to go with it. I was laughing so hard because when we first came up with the dance none of them knew how to do it. We kept doing it over and over again. Then we all started laughing so hard we could barely breath. I'm not really sure how we became friends but we were on the first day. I wasn't sure if people were going to want to be my friend or if I would even be able to make

friends with anyone. I found out that there was nothing to worry about, and I was able to make many friends. I even made friends with my teacher.

I have definitely changed since the first day of kindergarten. I have grown a lot and I'm able to do a lot more things in school. I can also talk to teachers without being scared of them. All six years of elementary school have gone by so fast. I have learned so many

CONT'D ON PAGE 15

What you need to know...

Advice from a fifth-grader

"Always do your homework." - *Chris H.*

"Do your work and you will succeed in the future." - *Aidan W.*

"Try your hardest and do your work." - *Aidan T.*

"Always listen to your teachers." - *Devin C.*

"Don't be afraid to make a mistake. We all have." - *Lauryn L.*

"Do your best work." - *Katelyn C.*

"Do your best, good luck in class, you'll do great." - *Isabella O.*

"Do your best, stay out of trouble." - *Luigi F.*

"Try your hardest, never give up." - *Kate T.*

"Work hard all the time." - *Genevieve M.*

"Enjoy school and your teachers." - *Gianna C.*

"Have fun and enjoy school." - *Leah G.*

"Enjoy recess because you won't have it in middle school." - *Emma G.*

"You have lots of opportunities." - *Kala'i L.*

"Always work hard." - *Aiden C.*

"Don't talk when the teachers are talking, and raise your hand." - *Matt. M.*

"Always bring your homework." - *Aidan W.*

"Never give up." - *Chris H.*

"Be good and get good rewards." - *Grady M.*

"As long as you do your work, you will do great!" - *Aidan T.*

"Try your best and take your time on tests and study!" - *Sarah H.*

"Always do your homework." - *Sophia D.*

"Try your hardest and do your best!" - *Devin C.*

"Stay calm. If you are scared, you might not get used to the teachers". - *Courtney L.*

Think Positive

Second grade students put on play about growth mindset

By James Haughton

The annual second grade play took place in March. This year's theme was about growth mindset. Growth mindset means to think in a positive way, or to think like you are going to win. A fixed mindset means you think negatively or think like you are going to lose. Each scene had students acting out ways to have a growth mindset. Every second grader participated and helped prepare for the play.

"The kids helped write the script, memorized lines, created programs, and got costumes," said Mr. Ferrone, second grade teacher.

Second grader, Eric Mullins was the narrator in one of the scenes.

"I had to memorize lines and get costumes for this play," Eric said.



Second-grade students encourage classmates to use a growth mindset.

This is the fourth year second graders performed a play for the school. The rest of the study body as well as parents had an opportunity to see a performance of Growth Mindset.



Special People

On May 10th, students at Wood Road enjoyed having lunch with a special person. The students in Wood Road enjoy this event very much because they get to be with their special person for a half hour of the day. Wood Road has been holding the special person lunch event for about 13 years. This event is important because it allows the students to have someone important in their life come in and spend time with them.

- McKenna Szmaz



Poetry Celebration

Mrs. Damico's third-grade students presented their written work at the Poetry Celebration in June. Each student chose one of their pieces of work to present to parents at the event.

GOODBYE (From Page 12)

things. Middle school will definitely be different, but I know that I will be able to use everything I've learned over the past six years from making friends to math facts and much more. I'm so excited for middle school. We won't have to walk in lines in the hallway and we can also talk to our friends without getting in trouble. There aren't as many rules so everyone gets to have a little more freedom. You also get to sit with anyone you want to at lunch. However, I'm not looking forward to all the homework we are going to get and how many tests that I will have to take. I also will have the smallest

locker ever, so it will probably be impossible to get anything in there. Plus, I'm going to have to use a lock, and I've never used a lock in my life before. So, I'll probably end up late to all my classes because I won't be able to open my locker. I'm looking forward to going to the same school as my older sister again even though she probably won't be so excited about doing that. I'm nervous that all the classes that I take will be too hard. That is probably one of my biggest fears, but I think that I'll be fine. I'm also nervous about forgetting my classes or where they are in the school.

My advice for the kids who are still at Wood Road is to enjoy not having a lot of work and also enjoy recess and all the fun holiday projects and parties because they are not going to have that for long. Also have as much fun as possible on the fun days and spend them with your friends. I'm really going to miss Wood Road a lot. There have been so many good memories that I have in this school and all the teachers have been so nice, but I'm ready to go to the middle school.



Spelling Wiz

This year's spelling bee winner is Genevieve McKeever. The fifth-grade spelling bee took place in May. All four classes participated. The competition takes place every year. Genevieve moved on to finals at Maple Avenue Middle School in Saratoga Springs.

- Lila Zalucky



Kickball Finale

On the last day of school the fifth grade students will faced the teachers in the annual end-of-the-year kickball game. Coach Dayton arranges the game each year because he wants to send off the fifth-graders off with a fun event to remember. It is also a way to celebrate their six years in Wood Road and how much they have grown.

- James Haughton



Time for Fun

On Friday, June 15, the entire Wood Road school spent time just having fun. Fun Day is a day when all the students get together to have fun and celebrate a successful school year. Activities were available for the students all over the school and included water games, face painting, a photo booth, and more.

- Kyle Fives