



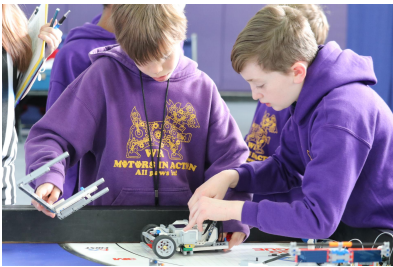
Wood Road Times

Wood Road Student Newspaper

December 2018

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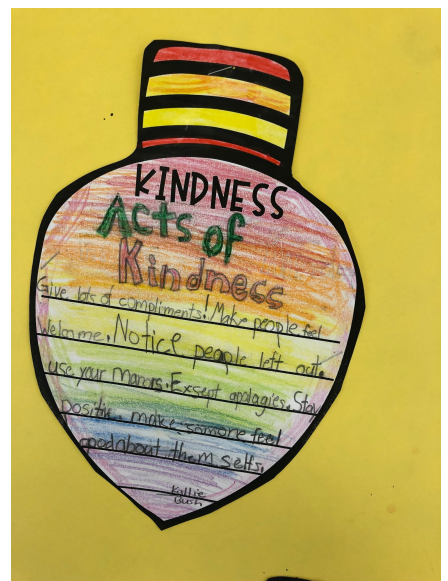
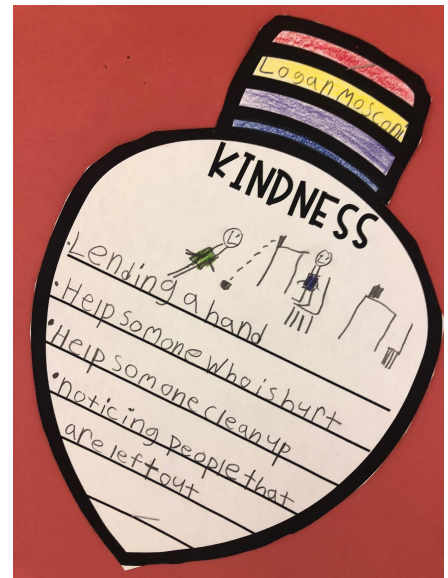
Focusing on Being Kind

By Karsyn Messina

Kindness is a popular word at Wood Road this year. Students and staff have chosen to make the simple act of kindness a school-wide focus. The initiative is a way to make everyone more aware of thoughtful behaviors and ways to show compassion towards others. The staff at Wood Road feels that highlighting kindness will create more conversations about having compassion for others and doing good deeds.

For many years, Wood Road has encouraged kindness through the three B's - be safe, be respectful, and be responsible.

"Part of being respectful and showing respectful behaviors is acting kind towards one another," said first-grade teacher, Mrs. Osinski.



Students show how coloring the world with kindness goes a long way.

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We hope you enjoy this
issue



Wood Road Times

Reporters - Samantha Beatley, Alexandra Beck, Emily Bednarczyk, Amelia DeLuke, Katie Garrant, Aidia Hunter, Emily Hye, Karsyn Messina, Avery Santoro, Olivia Smith

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Treating the Troops

Wood Road Continues Tradition of Sending Candy to the Troops

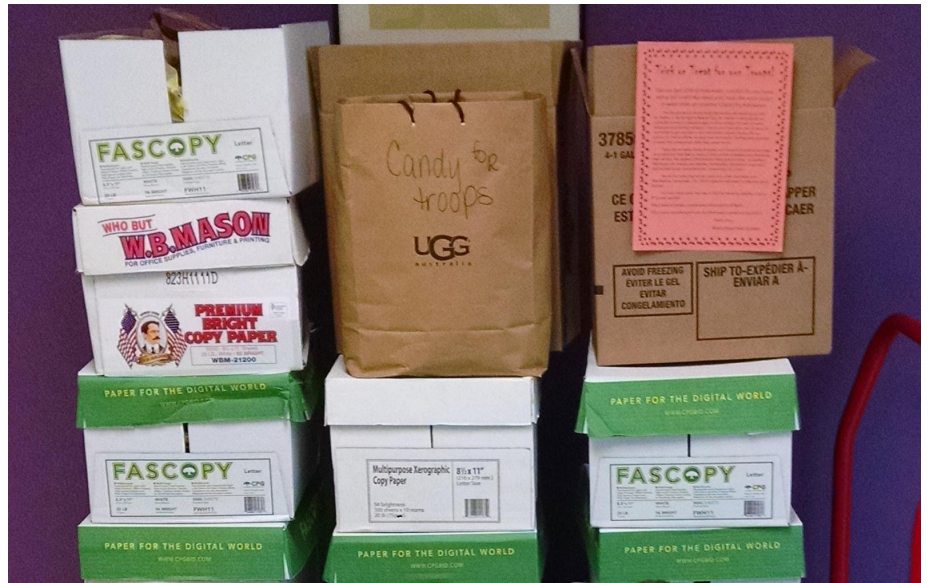
By Amelia DeLuke

In November, students at Wood Road sent their extra Halloween candy to soldiers across the sea. The annual tradition has come to be expected every year at the school. The Trick or Treats for Troop collection is an easy way for students to make a difference in someone else's life, and the students look forward to the donation.

"This is a great way for kids of all ages to make an impact on others," said Mrs. VanVolkenburg, third-grade teacher.

Mrs. VanVolkenburg, who organizes the event, said the opportunity doesn't involve money or fundraising.

"It is as simple as sharing what you have with others," she said. "Many of us



Over the years, Wood Road has sent hundreds of boxes of candy to soldiers and local veterans.

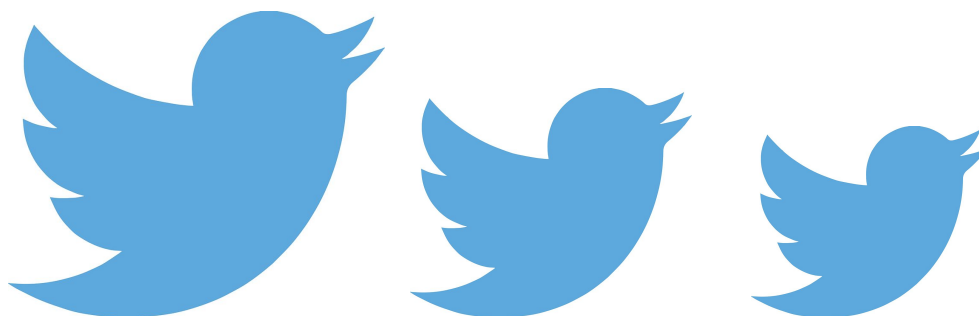
have family or friends who have served in the military. This is a way for us to say thank you to the troops for all they do for us."

Mrs. Van Volkenburg said Wood Road teams up with Dr. Dreher, a local dentist.

"Dr. Dreher sends the candy we collect along with donated toiletries, activity

books and new toothbrushes and toothpaste to soldiers serving overseas and local veterans," she said.

Wood Road students have been sending donations through Dr. Dreher for more than seven years. This year, 13 boxes full of candy were delivered to Dr. Dreher and sent on to the soldiers.



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Healthy Competition

Robotics Team Takes Part in Competition

By Samantha Beatley

On Saturday, Dec. 1, Wood Road's robotics team, Motors in Action, competed in the FIRST LEGO League Robotics Competition at the Ballston Spa Middle School. At the competition, the team took part in a robot game, presented a research project, and spoke in a core values presentation.

During the robot game, the team ran the programs that they created. Each program was coded by the students in order to complete a specific mission. Their robot, which they named Rover, was programmed to move across the game table to accomplish the tasks. The robot game consisted of three rounds. In each round, Rover had to complete as many missions as possible in two-and-a-half minutes.

The team also presented their research project for the judges. The presentation described a solution they came up with for this year's FIRST LEGO League problem. The problem was in regard to challenges that are faced in long-time space expeditions. The team brainstormed ideas and came up with the idea that people in space can suffer from muscle atrophy. The solution the team came up with was to add virtual reality to a treadmill which people in space can use to get exercise.



Wood Road's Robotics Team, Motors in Action, competed in the FIRST LEGO League Robotics Competition in December.

They also decided to add the use of resistance in the form of rubber bands to give the arms a workout while running on the treadmill.

After this, the team went to the core values part of the competition. Core values are the pieces a team needs in order to work together. For example, a team must understand that they are a team, what they discover is more important than winning, and to have fun. The team presented their core values by reading a script about how they incorporate the values into robotics. They also made a presentation board, which can now be found in the robotics display case in the Wood Road hallway.

Many hours were spent preparing for the competition. Student mentors from the high

school robotics team shared with the team their coding expertise. To film the recorded portion of the research presentation, the team took a field trip to the high school virtual reality lab. This gave the team a way to show the judges how their solution worked. One of the teammates demonstrated the solution by running in place with the virtual reality goggles on.

Participating on the robotics team this year were: Christopher Adams, Matthew Adams, Samantha Beatley, Saisha Birotte, Liam Brooks, Lyla Charlebois, Zachary Dambaugh, Riley Mercado, Erika Miller, Nicholas Sharp, Charlie Brady, Hunter Groff. Cole Fobare, Madilyn Herbst, Colin McKay, Eliza Perkins and Peyton Bondi.

Student Spotlight

Aliyah Gilmore

By Katie Garrant

Fifth-grader, Aliyah Gilmore received an award for a painting she created during art class last year. Aliyah's painting was of a birch tree.

Aliyah was presented with the award at the Saratoga County Fair and was recognized by the Board of Education in a September school board meeting. The Saratoga County Fair Education Committee judged her artwork and gave her the award. The artwork was on display in the fair's Education Department Exhibit area and was one of the many pieces created by students from across the region.

Mrs. Busch, Wood Road's Art Teacher, said that Aliyah received the award because her artwork was beautiful, creative and showed good craftsmanship. She added that Aliyah made the art with her observational drawing skills and mixed media art supplies like paint and pastels. Aliyah said that she was very surprised that she won adding that she thought her painting looked like a carrot.



Aliyah's piece was chosen from hundreds of works of art at the Saratoga County Fair in July.



WOOD ROAD'S WINTER CONCERT

JANUARY 10TH AT 7 P.M. IN THE WOOD ROAD CAFETERIA

Back to First Grade

Tech-savvy Teacher Joins First Grade

By Olivia Smith

A new face can be seen in Wood Road's first grade hallway this year. Ms. Haessig joined the team as a first-grade teacher after Mrs. Forgea's retirement last year. The move was an exciting one for Haessig, who has been teaching for 21 years. While she began her teaching career with first-grade and kindergarten students in California, she most recently has taught fifth-graders and even taught teachers as a Technology Specialist. She has worked in the Ballston Spa School District for 17 years. Ms. Haessig said she has enjoyed something unique about each grade level. This year, she is enjoying using technology with her first-grade students.

"We use Google Classroom everyday and do some fun things with Nearpod," she said.

The students have also made their own digital maps with Google Drawings and are currently working on a Google Slides story.



Ms. Haessig finds ways to integrate technology into each school day.

Turkey, Basketballs and Giving

Annual Turkey Shoot Gives Families a Thanksgiving Meal

By Emily Hye

In November, kids from Wood Road School gathered in the gymnasium for the Annual Wood Road Turkey Shoot and Food Drive.

The event is a time for fun and an opportunity to give to families who need a little help during the holiday season. Food items are collected at the Turkey Shoot as well as throughout the month of November. The food that is collected goes back to the Wood Road families in the form of Thanksgiving food baskets. Any extra food is sent to the local food pantry.

Coach Dayton said he got the idea from a friend whose kids attend a similar event at another local school. He went to the event and was so impressed with the idea that he decided to put it together at Wood Road. The Turkey Shoot has been taking place for 10 years now.

"We do the Turkey Shoot and the food drive because it brings our community closer and help others who need some help during this stressful time of year," said Coach Dayton. "We continue doing these events because community service is one of the most important things we can do for others."



ABOVE: Coach Dayton and Coach O'Reilly prepare for the Turkey Shoot.



LEFT: Student Council members put together the Thanksgiving baskets.

At the event, the students took part in games such as Taps, Vegas Basketball, Tic-Tac-Toe Basketball and Knockout. There is also an opportunity for a free throw contest, and the winner

gets a new basketball. As a result of the event, 12 families were given a Thanksgiving meal.

Welcome to Wood Road

Wood Road Welcomes New Principal

By Emily Bednarczyk

Staff and students welcomed Mr. Rasmussen in September as the new Wood Road principal. Mr. Rasmussen came to Wood Road with many years of experience in education, and said he has always wanted to work with elementary-aged students and be part of their learning.

"It is fun to watch kids learn and have fun at the same time," he said.

In addition to his regular principal responsibilities, Mr. Rasmussen finds time to stop into classrooms and dress up like Mr. Incredible for Halloween. Students also have a chance to duct tape him to a wall at an upcoming Scottie Day activity and have lunch with him if they win a scottie raffle.

Mr. Rasmussen has been with the Ballston Spa School district since 2012. He served as an assistant principal at the Ballston Spa High School prior to coming to Wood Road. Before that, he held administrative positions at the Greenville School District and was an English teacher and coach at Ichabod Crane Middle School.



Mr. Rasmussen is enjoying being part of the elementary world as Wood Road's new principal.

Mr. Rasmussen has lived in the area for 20 years and grew up in Connecticut. He has four children and

enjoys spending time with his family. He also likes to play golf and exercise.

Golden Paintbrush

New Award encourages Three B's in Art

By Avery Santoro

Each week, Ms. Busch awards one class the Golden Paintbrush award. The Golden Paintbrush award is a trophy with a paintbrush sitting on top which is awarded to Wood Road classrooms who are showing good behavior and responsibility in the art room. Ms. Busch began awarding the Golden Paintbrush to classes because she felt it was a nice way to recognize students for good manners in the art room. She said humanity teachers have to be creative when it comes to classroom management since they only see the students once a week.

Ms. Busch said if the entire class is doing an excellent job and doing exactly what they are supposed to do, they earn a sticker on her chart.



Mr. Ferrone's class proudly accepted the Golden Paintbrush in December.

The class that has the most stickers on the chart at the end of the week gets the Golden Paintbrush Award. The trophy is then placed in their classroom where it remains until the next class is awarded. Ms. Busch thinks that students are working

harder because of the Golden Paintbrush and plans to continue the recognition as a way to motivate students in the future.



Scottie Day Dance Party

In November, students let loose with a PBIS dance party DJ'd by Coach Dayton. The students and staff had fun dancing to music while celebrating the three B's.

Staff Spotlight

Aaron Romano

By Alexandra Beck

Aaron Romano drives the Parrot Bus for the Ballston Spa School District. Aaron decided to be a busdriver because it was a great opportunity that gave him a lot of time off so he would have time to write, work in plays and even swing dance.

Aaron has been a busdriver since 1999. Before this, he worked in a “boring old factory” where he shipped drill bits, he said. Aaron’s favorite part about being a busdriver is that he gets to hear all the great stories the kids tell. He likes being with the kids, and when he tells jokes the kids sometimes don’t understand, it makes him laugh.

“I have a lot of fun with the kids,” he said.

Aaron said that he also likes that he gets to see the kids grow. When Aaron is not working, he spends time with his sons, Parker and Spencer. He also runs his own dance company out of his house.



Aaron, pictured here with fifth-grader Alexandra Beck, drives the Parrot Bus for the school district.

Upcoming PTA Dates

Jan. 15 PTA Meeting 7 p.m. in the Wood Road Library

Jan. 19 Super Science Saturday

Jan 24-25 Talent Show

Super Scotties

Students Awarded for Scottie Ways

By Aidia Hunter

Every month, Wood Road staff recognizes students as Super Scotties. A Super Scottie is a student who has been safe, respectful, responsible and kind.

Any staff member can choose a student who they feel should receive the Super Scottie award. Students who win the award are given a Super Scottie bracelet, their name is announced during the morning announcements, and their picture is hung on the bulletin board.

"Teachers think it is important to recognize students with the Super Scotties reward, because students feel good when people tell them they are doing a good job," said Mr. Gronau, first-grade teacher. "Also, they will keep doing a good job."

Mr. Gronau also feels that it helps to create a community feeling in the building.

"That is good for our school because when people are kind to one another it makes our school a better place to be in," said Mr. Gronau.

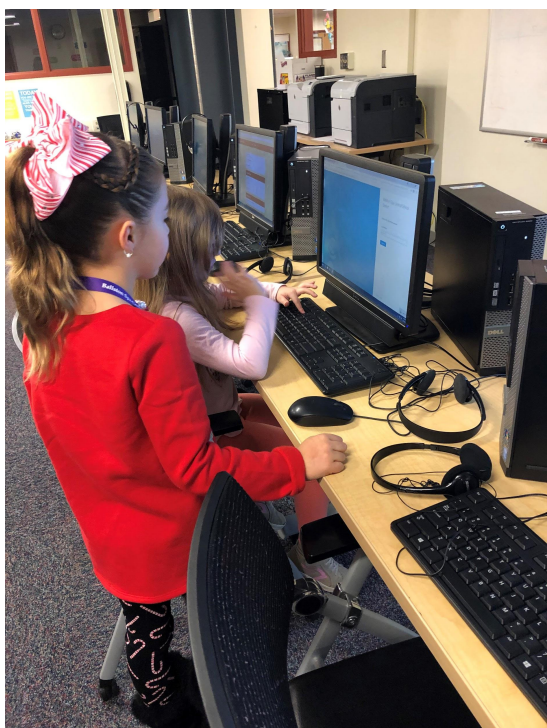


Pictured above are students who have received the Super Scottie Award in October, November and December.



Penny Harvest

The Penny Harvest group recently gathered all the donated pennies and sent them to SEFCU Credit Union, where they will remain until the school decides on a local charity to send them to.



Tech Helpers

First-grade students are becoming great tech helpers in the computer lab. Each week two students help their classmates with tech questions.



Art Happy

Students use paint to create sunflowers and blue skies, making the day brighter.



Halloween Fun and Games

Students enjoyed the annual Halloween festivities which included many classroom parties, a haunted obstacle course in the gym, and a costume parade. Deputy Lyons found a couple of helpers in the library that day.



Showing School Spirit

Finn, Liam and Elliott love to show their school spirit.





Third-graders show the ways they will light up the word with kindness.

Continued from PAGE 1

To kick off the Kindness at Wood Road, Mrs. Thomas read the book "Only One You," by Linda Kranz in the library and students created small rocks which can now be found along the front sidewalk. The rocks represent how everyone is unique. Kindness activities and displays have been popping up all over the school. Mrs. French's fourth-graders decorated their door for the holidays with 10 days of kindness and are writing letters of appreciation to people. Third-grade students made a wall in the hallway about lighting up the world with kindness and Ms. Smith's students are

keeping thankful journals to remind themselves how even the little things around them are things to feel grateful for.

Also, a new Scottie Buck was introduced in September called the Kindness Buck. The Kindness Buck is given to students that are caught being kind to one another.

Mrs. Osinski said that it is important as a school community to be more aware of others and to help others feel good about themselves.