#### http://www.westhillschools.org



A Publication of the Westhill Central School District

January 2024- Issue 4

### True Crime Class Explores Podcasting at LeMoyne College's Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity

The True Crime class at Westhill High School visited LeMoyne College's Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Creativity to delve into the power of podcasting. After listening to a local podcast entitled Firecracker, The Murder of Carol Ryan, students had the opportunity to talk about the local cold case and obtain expert advice from its creator Katrina Tulloch, a journalist for Syracuse.com. The students are now exploring a true crime case of their own choosing, uncovering the facts through in-depth research, and learning the art of storytelling by creating their own podcasts. After touring the Keenan Center facility, students received a "Crash Course" in the essentials of podcasting, covering best practices, storytelling techniques, and technical aspects. Students then collaboratively created a podcast trailer that would entice the audience to listen to their full episode. Students were able to record their trailers with the Keenan Center's digital media/recording studio - a real-world professional experience. Students will finish recording their podcasts at Westhill High School on USB microphones and headsets funded by a generous Westhill Educational Foundation grant. Through scripting, recording, and editing their podcasts, students are gaining valuable skills while learning about the ethical considerations involved in discussing real-life events, ensuring that their work is informative, compelling, and respectful. Stay tuned for the unveiling of their podcasts in the near future.





## Walberta Park School

## WINTER PARTY

First graders had a great time at their winter parties before break! Here are students enjoying playing pin the tail on the snowman and challenging themselves to see how they could build the tallest structure with toothpicks and marshmallows. Thank you to parents and WEST for making the party a success!









### Walberta Wellness: Gymnastics Classes

The Site-Based Team at Walberta Park is pleased to have West Side Gymnastics School return to teach classes before school on Friday mornings. We are holding two 3-week sessions for 60 students. The children are learning tumbling, balance, flips, cartwheels, handstands and using a springboard. What a fun and healthy way to be active in the winter!



## Holiday Sing-along

Students at Walberta Park School enjoyed a holiday sing-along on the last day before holiday recess. They sang holiday songs from multiple traditions led by music teacher Sarah Colaluca. Students also celebrated the school's giving tradition by donating several hundred dollars to help kids and families in our community over the holiday season. Students were able to donate money by collecting coins from their homes. Some students did extra chores to earn additional coins to donate to the cause. Altogether students raised \$695.15!







## Walberta Park and Cherry Road Schools

## Kindergarten Students Sing Along with Special Music Guest, Len Cisternino

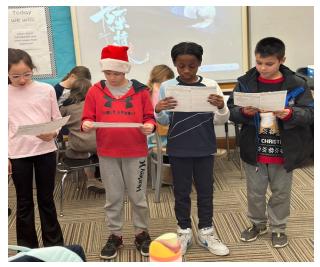
Kindergarten students sang holiday songs and childhood classics with special musical guest Len Cisternino in the weeks leading up to the holiday break. What an exciting way to get ready for the holiday season!



## Cherry Road's IDEAS Club Celebrates the Holidays

During the month of December, we often hear about what holidays we celebrate, so in IDEAS we also want to know more about others. In small groups, we researched and learned about Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Kwanzaa, St. Lucia, and Ramadan. Each group presented the holiday they researched in front of everyone. The students each took turns discussing one important fact they learned. We also wrote in our journals about the holidays we celebrate as a school/community.





## Onondaga Hill Middle School

## IDEAS Club Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

In November, the 5th grade leaders of IDEAS had a visit from Onondaga Nation leader, Mr. Poweless (Dehowähda•dih), during Native American Heritage month. We learned about the family lifestyle of Indigenous peoples. Mr. Poweless also spoke about the six different nations here in New York. The leaders were eager to share all the information they learned about Native Americans in 4th grade. Mr. Poweless was so proud of the students and grateful for all the questions they asked.

## Harmonizers Carol for the Community!



On December 16th, Onondaga Hill Middle School's select choir, the Harmonizers, took to the community to spread some winter cheer! Students caroled to homes in the Cherry Road School neighborhood, traveling from one home to the next and serenading residents with songs of the season! After their time caroling, singers and family members enjoyed time with each other over cocoa and cookies. The first Cookies, Cocoa and Caroling event was a great time.



### Students of the Month

#### November

#### 5th Grade

Somayah Altheblah: Somayah is an amazing student and person. Her smile and kindness positively affect everyone around her. She is a good friend to all of her classmates and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Somayah makes OHMS a kinder and better place!

#### <u>6th Grade</u>

Asha Omar: Asha's unwavering commitment to academic excellence is truly commendable. With a relentless work ethic, she approaches each day with enthusiasm and an infectious positive energy. Asha consistently goes above and beyond, demonstrating a genuine passion for learning and a remarkable dedication to personal growth. Her continuous pursuit of excellence serves as an inspiration to both peers and educators alike.

#### 7th Grade

Annie Horning: Annie works hard and goes out of her way to support her classmates. She is an incredibly empathetic kid who looks out for everyone and is kind no matter who it is. Her smile can light up any room. We are lucky to have Annie as a student at OHMS.

#### 8th Grade

Hayden Platt: Hayden is a responsible and hard working student. He has been in the Books and Bites Club since its inception when we met online during Covid. He is always an active participant! He has a great sense of humor and a vast knowledge about books. Hayden was also a valued member of iStaff.

#### December

#### 5th Grade

Luke Colangelo: Luke is responsible, kind and genuinely goes out of his way to help or include others. He works hard on his academics and brings your spirit up any time you talk with him.

#### 6th Grade

Macie Grome: Macie is hardworking, kind to others and is helpful to her peers. She comes to school every day with a positive attitude and consistently puts forth her best effort.

#### 7th Grade

Logan Cobb: Logan is a hard working and responsible student. He participates actively in class and always has all his work handed in on time. He takes pride in his accomplishments, and his strong grades reflect his commitment to school. In addition to his academic success, he is kind and respectful to both his peers and his teachers.

#### 8th Grade

Jade Eldred: Jade is always responsible and hardworking. She is diligent about her school work, focused on her learning and is always willing to put forth extra effort. Jade is kind to all of her peers and approaches each task/challenge with a smile.





## Onondaga Hill Middle School

## OHMS Choirs Collaborate with IDEAS Club!

Congratulations to our OHMS 5/6 and 7/8 Choirs on their December 12th concerts! During the 5th and 6th grade portion of the concert, audience members were treated to a special collaboration between the 5/6 Chorus and IDEAS Club. Students performed "We Are the World", and sang the song in a handful of languages including English, Spanish, French, Arabic and ASL. As students sang and rapped, audience members were treated to a visual display of Flags, created by our OHMS IDEAS Club. These flags represented countries from around the world. The singing, visual displays and side-by-side collaboration of so many students and teachers during the performance was meant to share a unifying experience and message that together, We Are the World!



#### **IDEAS Club Brings Awareness**

The 6th grade IDEAS leaders visited the 5th grade IDEAS club. They gave a wonderful presentation on "Gender Discrimination". The leaders in the 6th grade are bringing awareness to this issue. Thank you Emma W., Hailey D., Maysa M,, and Nora W.

#### IDEAS Club Celebrates Asian American Month

In December, we began learning about Asian American Heritage. We learned about the achievements in American history from Asian Americans. We discussed the Asian Hate Bill; we also talked about hurtful words and false narratives. The leaders had a visit from Profesora Maglente, who shared wonderful information about the culture!



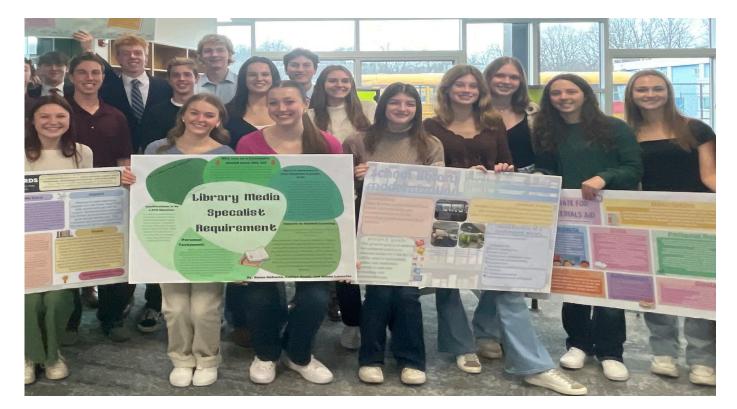
### Westhill High School Engages in Civic Dialogue at Legislative Breakfast

On December 8th, Westhill High School hosted the Central New York Library Resources Council's (CLRC) annual Legislative Breakfast in the high school library. The purpose of the gathering was for librarians and advocates representing school, public, and academic libraries to meet with New York State legislators to discuss the legislative priorities outlined by the New York Library Association (NYLA) and explore ways these priorities could positively impact the local community.

One unique aspect of Westhill's involvement in this civic event was the participation of Mrs. Johnson's Advanced Placement (AP) Government class. For weeks leading up to the Legislative Breakfast, students delved into in-depth research on the NYLA's legislative priorities. They translated their findings into engaging and informative infographics, which were proudly displayed throughout the library. Attendees were invited to engage in a meet-and-greet and poster session, providing students with the invaluable opportunity to present their research directly to the legislators and/or their staffers, as well as other attendees. This interactive session allowed for insightful discussions on critical issues related to library services, education, and community development.

After the meet-and-greet and poster session, a warm welcome was given by WHS librarian, Jessica Regitano, followed by speeches from superintendent Steve Dunham and CLRC director Ryan Perry, and students were given the chance to sit alongside the attendees and engage in small group discussions with the legislators. This direct interaction not only showcased the students' dedication to their research, but also allowed them to express their perspectives on how legislative priorities could impact them and their community. Mrs. Johnson's AP Government class played a pivotal role in elevating the event beyond a simple gathering. Their active involvement demonstrated the importance of incorporating students into discussions about legislative priorities, emphasizing the role young minds can play in shaping the future of their communities.

As the Legislative Breakfast concluded, the impact of the event was palpable. Westhill High School not only served as a venue for meaningful dialogue but also proved that the spirit of civic engagement is alive and well within its student body. The collaboration between the school, the Central New York Library Resources Council, and the New York State legislators exemplified the power of community partnerships in driving positive change. The event was not only a testament to the school's commitment to fostering community engagement, but also an opportunity for students to actively participate in the democratic process.



Students at Westhill High School have been busy exploring different career opportunities in the community for work-based learning hours. To start the year, they had the opportunity to explore the roles associated with being a clerk, librarian, page and circulation supervisor at **Onondaga Free Library**. Then they visited **Springside Farm** to experience what it takes to execute a wedding and run a Christmas tree farm. After this, they explored trail maintenance, summer camp roles and office manager responsibilities at **Baltimore Woods Nature Center.** Next up, they were immersed in the life of an **OnCenter** employee as they learned the roles of a security guard, a lead concession stand employee and enjoyed viewing a gala transformation from morning to afternoon. Then, onto Brookdale Independent Living to see how the kitchen is run and who plans and organizes all of the events and activities. Next up...Southwest YMCA and job shadowing placements at Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Bellevue Nursery School and the Town of Onondaga Parks and Recreation, to name a few. It's an exciting time at Westhill High School and if you're an employer interested in being a part of our work-based learning journey, please scan the QR code and let us know!







## Fall Teams Earn NYSPHSAA Academic Honors

At the end of each sports season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) honors those teams and individuals who excel in the classroom. Those student-athletes, teams, and schools work very hard throughout the year and deserve to be recognized for their academic success. To receive Scholar-Athlete team recognition the team's average GPA for 75% of the roster must be greater than or equal to 90%. If a team does not meet the Scholar-Athlete Team Criteria, the individuals on that team with a 90% or above GPA are considered individual Scholar-Athletes.

This fall, Westhill had eight out of our eight varsity teams earning the team honor. Scholar Teams included football, girls' tennis, boys' soccer, girls' soccer, girls' cross country, boys' cross country, girls' volleyball and boys' golf. We had 178 varsity student athletes participating in the fall sports program with 126 of them earning a 90% or greater average for the 1st quarter. Congratulations student athletes!

# Our Belgian Correspondantes are Coming to Westhill and We Need Your HELP!

Westhill's High School French program is pleased to announce that our Belgian correspondents will be visiting us for the third time this spring! Around 40 students, aged 16-18, will begin their North American adventure in Boston, then they will arrive "chez nous" on Saturday, April 27th and depart on April 30th. They look forward to learning about American culture by spending time with their host families and attending school activities.

These students are learning English and are looking forward to practicing their skills and to experiencing a slice of American life in Central New York. Our students can practice their French AND their Spanish, as many of the Belgians are also studying Spanish. We thank those families who have already opened their homes, and we welcome any other families (even if no one in your family is studying a language) who wish to participate. We promise unforgettable experiences for all!

We have found Host Families for about half of these students and WE NEED YOUR HELP to house the other 20! If you and your family are interested in this opportunity to make a lifelong friend and to open the door to an incredibly enriching experience, please contact your friendly neighborhood language teacher.



Farewell Breakfast in 2018



## Westhill High School

## Warriors of the Month

#### **NOVEMBER:**

#### 9th: Dhuha Thabet

Dhuha has asked a new ENL student to sit with them at lunch, reaching out on multiple occasions. She also has volunteered her time during IA to help make connections and practice English with students who are learning the language. She played games and worked hard to engage them. Dhuha is also always engaged in class. She goes out of her way to help others and truly enjoys learning. Way to show that Warrior spirit and be inclusive of others!

#### 10th: Brayden Golembeski

Since the beginning of the school year, Brayden has approached each class with enthusiasm, and he is not afraid to take a chance and answer out loud in class. He constantly wants to make sure he is on the right track and will gladly take constructive criticism. He is friendly with his classmates and helps make the classroom environment a more welcoming one.

#### 11th: Sike (Oluwafeyisike) Ajagbe

Sike is an incredibly driven student who expects the most out of herself. She is continually turning in work that is above expectations and continually pushes herself to be better. While she is incredibly intelligent, she is also a hard worker. She leads class discussions and helps all those who work with her. She is the type of student who makes the learning experience better for her classmates because she is in the room with them. On top of all this, Sike has a great sense of humor and is not afraid to joke around in class. The sky's the limit for Sike as she continues to develop at Westhill.

#### 12th: Tiara Rhode

Tiara is an incredible student who has shown continued resiliency during her time at Westhill. Regardless of what is occurring outside of school, Tiara always comes to class ready to learn and with a positive attitude. She reaches out to others who need help and accepts everyone regardless of their differences. She excels at her BOCES program and will be a great nurse in the future. You make Westhill proud, Tiara!



## Westhill High School

## Warriors of the Month

#### **DECEMBER:**

#### 9th: Jaicier Tolbert

Jaicier can be found always putting 100 percent into his work. He always has a kind word and treats his classmates with consideration. Ja Ja knows how to handle himself under any situation and has a strong sense of social intelligence. Ja Ja is a true "Westhill Warrior"

#### 10th: Gabe Amorese

Gabe comes to class every day ready to learn with an infectious enthusiasm. He is not afraid to try and make a mistake. He truly embraces the learning process. On top of that, he is an excellent partner in class and is willing to work with anyone. He treats his peers with kindness and respect. Gabe is an active participant in class but also encourages others to do the same. There is no question that Gabe's positivity and leadership play a major role in the welcoming atmosphere of the class.

#### 11th: Julian Metzgar

Julian is an incredibly enthusiastic student who has a deep love of learning. He can be laser focused in class but also can joke around and have fun. He is inquisitive, thoughtful and is willing to learn from his mistakes in order to improve himself. Julian loves to have a good discussion and accepts the ideas of other people. He also helps other students study and reach their full potential. Keep up the great work, Julian

#### 12th: Lucy Nagraj

Lucy is an incredible student who is willing to put the work in to succeed. She has a strong work ethic and intelligence that compliments her effort. Lucy is also kind, caring and polite. She takes interest in others and always appears genuine in her interactions with those around her. She is able to overcome setbacks and works hard to be the best version of herself. Lucy has been a wonderful student to teach, and she will be missed when she graduates.



## Westhill High School & District News



## WINTER READS BASED ON AGES

Three - Five

The Mitten, by Jan Brett is a story of a mitten that gets lost in the snow, and eventually is inhabited by many woodland creatures! This is a great read for younger children that love a silly winter story!





The Lights that Dance in the Night by Yuval Zommer is a book about the northern lights and the wonder and they bring to all the creatures who bask in their mysterious glow. From tiny specks of dust to gleaming rays in the dark, the northern lights travel across the Arctic, uniting every creature in a celebration over land and sea.

Six - Eight

Ning - Twoling

The Sea in Winter By Christine Day follows Maisie who is Native American and lives with her mother, her stepfather Jack and her half-brother Connor. After tearing her ACL, Maisie is unable to continue practicing and performing ballet. To help Maisie learn more about her tribal history, the family takes a winter trip to hiking trip.

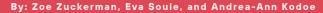


Thirteen - Fifteen

Trapped by Michael Northrup is a pageturning adventure about seven teens who are trapped at their high school during a blizzard. As the snows builds up and the electricity and food run out, the kids must decide how to work together and try to survive.

## Sixteen - Eighteen

Ashes In the Snow By Ruta Sepetys is a comingof-age tale of a young teenager named Lina who, with her mother and younger brother, was deported from her native Lithuania to a Soviet gulag amid Stalin's occupation of the Baltic region during World War II. An aspiring artist, she secretly documents her harrowing journey with her drawings.



#### Diversity Committee Partners with School Tool Box

Last year the Westhill Diversity Committee partnered with the vendor, School Tool Box LLC, to provide a service and fundraising opportunity for our school families. Parents had the choice to buy prepackaged school supply kits for their students entering grades K-8th, including an option to make a donation. We had positive feedback from parents on ease of ordering, reasonable pricing and the quality of the items. Teachers also appreciated the simple kits and having them all ready on the first day.

We had great success with the first launch of this program with approximately 200 students participating and raised \$1500! Thank you to all of the families that participated and made donations! The donations were given to the Social Workers to supply the Westhill Care Closets. The Care Closets provide various supplies to students in each of the four schools, including snacks, school supplies and personal items.

The Committee is excited to offer the kits through 'School Tool Box' again this year! Please look for more information coming this spring if you'd like to participate and learn more. Orders will be due early in July for shipment direct to the school in August before the start of school.



## Westhill Educational Foundation

The Westhill Educational Foundation is pleased to announce our grant recipients from the fall 2023 grant cycle. The grants impact students at each of the four schools in the Westhill School District and cover a variety of disciplines. The spring grant cycle is currently open and will continue to take applications through the end of June 2024 or until the budget limit is reached. Congratulations to all of our recipients! Winners to date are:

#### Walberta Tricycle Program, Kevin Hoag

This grant builds upon the successful bicycle program that was previously implemented at Walberta Park School. Several Intraltrike tricycles will be purchased to allow students with special needs to participate in the bicycle program at a higher level of inclusivity.

#### Insights and Inspirations with Jennifer Nielsen, Penny Feeney

This grant is designed to generate excitement for an upcoming visit to Onondaga Hill Middle School from author Jennifer Nielsen, which will take place in April 2024. In addition to funding a daily author book giveaway the month before the visit, the grant will also help to fund a breakfast and lunch for students to interact with the visiting author.

#### P.S. I Love You, Tracy Derrenbacher

This grant will fund programming for P.S. I Love You Day at Onondaga Hill Middle School in February 2024. This year's program will continue to shine a spotlight on mental health issues and bullying and will also focus on acceptance of others. Students will have the opportunity to hear from guest speaker, Ms. Kayla McKeon, an adult with Down Syndrome who, most recently, is the inspiration for the newest Barbie doll.

#### NASA Globe, Tracy Derrenbacher

NASA Globe offers students a unique opportunity for Onondaga Hill Middle School Students to be global citizens working directly with scientists at NASA. This grant will fund equipment needed for various environmental measurements that will be performed and uploaded to NASA by students. Of special interest is the solar eclipse data that students will collect in April. Onondaga Hill Middle School will be a registered observation station.

#### Life Cycle of Chicks, Jennifer Stanton

This grant will enable each first grade classroom at Walberta Park to experience the incubation and hatching of chicks. They will learn about the life cycle and how to care for living things. This will also be a culminating activity to a month long ELA module on birds, as well as a science kit on how living things stay safe and grow.

#### Picture This: New Graphic Novels and Manga at Westhill High School, Jessica Regitano

This grant will provide funds to the Westhill High School library to add to their collection of Manga and Graphic Novels. The popularity of these books, in concert with their many academic benefits and ability to increase accessibility to literature for students with disabilities and English Language Learners, make this format an essential component of the Westhill High School Library collection.

#### Day of Jazz, Liz Buell

This grant supports Westhill Day of Jazz which brings a professional jazz band to the Westhill Community for a day-long event. On April 11, 2024, there will be two performances for students in grades 5-12, followed by afternoon workshops for instrumental and vocal jazz bands in grades 6-12. The day will conclude with a public performance by the visiting band and Westhill students.

#### Cherry Road School Peace Path, Karen McNary

This grant funded the purchase of Peace Walk mats for the Cherry Road School playground to provide a tangible way to settle disputes during recess and practice for classroom conflicts.

#### Handwriting without Tears, Kyla Pecora

This grant provides funding for Handwriting without Tears teaching materials for the 12:1:4 classroom at Cherry Road School. This program will help students learn proper letter formation and letter identification.

#### Podcast Project, Sarah Starowicz

As part of the English department's elective course, True Crime, Westhill High School Students will be collaborating with the Keenan Center For Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Creativity at LeMoyne College to learn about the essentials of podcasting, covering best practices, storytelling techniques, and technical aspects. This grant provides funding to equip a classroom with podcast stations to give students the ability to record their own podcasts. The equipment will allow students to record, edit, and layer music/sound effects into their podcast to create a more professional and creative project and will also be used in future courses at WHS.

#### Boundless Books, Stephanie Merritt

This grant will provide funding for a kindergarten class at Walberta Park School to partner with a 5th grade class at VanDuyn Elementary School to write and illustrate a book. Students will collaborate virtually to write a book about welcoming new students, which will tie in to social studies lessons. The book will then be printed and each student will receive a copy of their own.

## Transportation to Nonpublic Schools

Following the guidelines of Section 3635 of New York State Education Law, the Westhill Central School District is advising the parents of students seeking transportation to a nonpublic school that a written request must be submitted to the Westhill Board of Education by April 1st of the preceding year. New residents may submit their request after the April 1st deadline, but must do so within thirty days after establishing residence in the district and must also submit a residency affidavit. The school board may refuse to grant a late transportation request form may be received directly from the nonpublic school at the time of enrollment and must be completed and received at the Westhill Central School District prior to April 1, 2023. The transportation request form and residency affidavit may be found on the Westhill CSD website under Transportation.

On days in which public schools are scheduled to be closed, in accordance with the Westhill School District calendar, the district is not obligated to transport to the nonpublic schools. Under no circumstances may transportation be provided on legal holidays or Saturdays.

## Notice of Annual Inspections

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for 2023-2024 of the school buildings, concession stand, and bus garage of the Westhill Central School District for fire hazards, which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, employees therein, has been completed and the report thereof is available at the Westhill CSD Building and Grounds Office during office hours from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information, please contact the following individual: Steven Smith, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3000 for inspection by all interested persons.

## Notice of Availability of Asbestos Management Plan

As provided under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, (AHERA-EPS 40 CFR 763), Westhill Central School District hereby makes known the steps it has undertaken to comply with AHERA and the availability of asbestos management plans.

- Beginning in 1989, all district owned facilities were inspected for asbestos and management plans were developed for each building according to the requirements of AHERA. Triennial reinspections are conducted every three years. Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES of Syracuse, NY completed the 2004 AHERA Triennial inspection and update to the asbestos management plans.
- Periodic Surveillance of asbestos containing building materials is conducted every six months.
- 3. All custodial and maintenance staff have undergone 2-hour Asbestos Awareness Training.
- 4. All response actions taken are within federal and state guidelines.

Management Plans may be viewed at the Westhill CSD Building and Grounds Office during office hours from 8:00AM to 4:00PM. For more information, please contact the following individual: Steven Smith, L.E.A. Asbestos Designee, 315-426-3000.

### **Diversity Committee**

On behalf of the Westhill Diversity Committee, we are excited to prepare to launch our first community cookbook! Our community is full of rich cultures and a variety of great food. We would like to share this through a cookbook. Fill out the form below and share your favorite recipes with us. We'd love a wide variety of appetizers, meals, desserts etc. More information will be shared later about the roll out of the cookbook.

Here is the link- <u>bit.ly/westhillcookbook</u> and QR Code.



BOARD OF EDUCATION Westhill Central School District 400 Walberta Road Syracuse, New York 13219-2214 Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 3523 Syracuse, New York

BOARD OF EDUCATION Lisa M. O'Reilly, President Roseanne Scrimale, Vice President Andrew Starowicz Andrew Hunter Christopher Haigney

The Westhill Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, religion, creed, disability, marital status, veteran status, national origin, sex or race in its employment practices or educational programs.

### Universal Pre-K - 2024-2025 School Year

The Westhill Central School District is pleased to once again offer a 4-year-old UPK program for the 2024-2025 school year.

To be eligible, a child must:

- Have a birthdate between December 2, 2019 and December 1, 2020.
- Reside in the Westhill Central School District.
- Agree to attend the program 6 hours a day for 5 days per week.

Instruction is consistent with the New York State Pre-Kindergarten Standards, which focuses on a child's social/emotional, cognitive and physical development.

Those who submit an interest form online and complete the registration process between January 22 and March 31 will be considered for the lottery selection process to be held in early April. If there are more students interested than seats available, a random, computerized lottery will be held. All families will be contacted to be updated on their child's status of accepted or waitlisted. Registration packets will be mailed to accepted families after the lottery is conducted.

It is important to note the UPK Program is not housed in Westhill Central School District school buildings. Instead, the district partners with the YMCA (OCC campus location). Transportation to and from the program is the responsibility of parents/guardians. Students must attend the program five days a week to maintain their seat.

