

SKROBACZ AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE EDUCATORS

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NETWORK
MEETING**

**FRIDAY,
JULY 24TH
8:00 AM**

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TO ATTEND**

Elizabeth Skrobacz of Gillette has been awarded the 2015 Watchung Hills Education Association (WHREA) Scholarship for Future Educators.

She received the award at the annual Senior Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, June 16, at the school. Attending the awards ceremony were her parents, Amy and Steve Skrobacz, and her grandmother, Betty Skrobacz.

Skrobacz received the award “for her outstanding academic record, as well as her commitment to helping others,” said WHREA President Kenneth Karnas. Karnas teaches U.S. History at Watchung Hills.

“Elizabeth Skrobacz is energetic and enthusiastic as a student and is very dedicated to helping others,” Karnas said. “She has many fine qualities that will aid her in the pursuit of becoming a teacher someday.”

Karnas said the association has granted \$15,000 to future educators in the last nine years. The scholarship is largely funded by members through an annual WHREA fundraising event. The WHREA has always been supportive of students who choose to pursue education as a career, Karnas said.

“In today’s political climate, the field of education has been focused on emphasizing high stakes testing and competition,” Karnas said. “While there are benefits to these, they must not distract from or diminish the things that are truly important within the profession of education. Education works best when educators, students, and community collaborate with and support one another in our path towards achievement.”

WHREA strives to encourage this atmosphere of support and collaboration by raising money to provide a scholarship for future educators, Karnas said. “As educators, members of the association are aware of the challenges that future educators face and are happy about helping Elizabeth Skrobacz achieve her goals,” he said.

For Skrobacz, her goal of becoming teacher has been brewing for a long time.

“I knew that I’ve always wanted to be a teacher since I was a little girl,” Skrobacz said. And as she has matured as a teen, her interest in becoming a teacher only grew stronger. According to Skrobacz, her experience as a babysitter and camp counselor also helped to foster her passion for becoming a teacher. She has been a babysitter since grade 8, working with children in both elementary and middle school. Prior to high school, she volunteered as a counselor in training and after her freshman year, she became a paid counselor working with elementary school children.



(above,) Kenneth Karnas, right, president of WHREA and U.S. History teacher at WHRHS, presents annual WHREA “Scholarship for Future Educators” to senior Elizabeth Skrobacz, second right, as her family looks on, from left, grandmother, Betty Skrobacz, and parents, Steve and Amy Skrobacz. The award was presented at the annual Senior Awards daytime ceremony, Tuesday, June 16, at the school.

Later in high school, Skrobacz was able to take an advanced course in Child Development and it was a great experience for her, she said.

“It was wonderful because I got to interact with and teach preschool-aged children and I’ve never worked with that group before,” Skrobacz said. “I learned to be more interactive with the children and get on their level so my lessons made sense to them.”

Skrobacz was also a student in the Peer Outreach program this year, and she said it had many benefits for her as a future teacher. According to Skrobacz, working with students with different learning profiles was “eye opening” for her.

“I’m glad I got to see that not all students learn the same way. It will certainly help in college,” she added.

In addition to learning about the field of education at Watchung Hills, Skrobacz supplemented that experience with meaningful volunteering and service oriented activities. In addition to being a member of several service organizations at our school, Skrobacz earned the Silver Award in Girl Scouts. She is also a strong student with outstanding grades that have earned her membership in both the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. Next fall, Skrobacz plans to attend the University of Delaware, Newark, Del., and plans to major in Elementary Education.

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on Main Ave., Stirling.

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LONG HILL EDUCATIONAL LEADERS ATTEND WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY NASA

Submitted by René Rovtar

Most of us deal with technology on a daily basis. From ATMs to Xerox machines technology is something that we have come to take for granted. When computers are down or a power outage makes the television inoperable we become disgruntled at the loss of the ability to do work or to be entertained. What we have more limited exposure to on a routine basis is pure science and engineering. The ability to visit the home of the United States' largest assemblage of scientists and engineers and how this knowledge base can be tapped to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education in New Jersey school districts was the focus of a workshop for educational leaders sponsored by NASA and the New Jersey School Boards Association at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Participants in the workshop had some very unique opportunities to see the application of science and engineering as it relates to the space program. Dr. Lucy McFadden, described her work which includes investigating the surface composition of the solar system's small bodies (asteroids, comets, and meteorites) as well as natural satellites, such as the moons of Earth and Jupiter. She provided an overview of NASA's Dawn mission to the asteroid 4 Vesta and the dwarf planet Ceres which were discovered in the

early 1800's.

The group also had the privilege of meeting with the 2006 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics. Dr. John Mather, a Senior Astrophysicist in the Observational Cosmology Laboratory and a New Jersey native, received the Nobel Prize for his precise measurements of the cosmic microwave background radiation using the COBE satellite.

Dr. Mather gave an overview of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) project that he had led since 1995. The JWST is an 8.8 billion dollar project that will provide seven times more light collection than the Hubble telescope. The group visited the NASA Integration and Testing Facility and saw scientists and engineering constructing some of the components of the JWST. The JWST is an international collaboration which involves not only NASA but the European Space Agency and the Canadian Space Agency.

The need for the development of STEM programs was clear to all of the participants on this field trip. NASA is committed to working with school districts and teachers to share resources to help support the study of these subjects and to generate student interest in pursuing further study to prepare them for these exciting careers.



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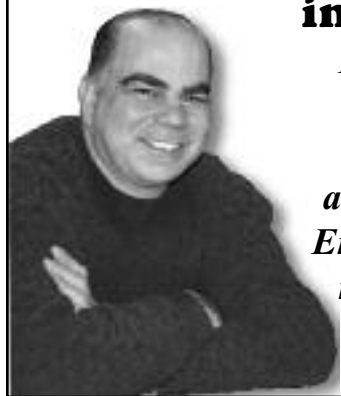
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MATH TEACHER AND MEDIA SPECIALIST CHOSEN AS TEACHERS OF THE YEAR AT WHRHS



(above) Watchung Hills Regional High School Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett, left, and Principal George Alexis, right, congratulate this year's two recipients of the Teacher of the Year Award: Math Teacher Susan Van Doren, second left; and Media Specialist Vivian Swartz, second right. This is the second time that Van Doren has been selected as Teacher of the Year at Watchung Hills. She was also selected for the honor for the 2001-2002 School Year. By coincidence, both honorees are retiring this year. Teacher of the Year candidates are nominated by students, parents and faculty, and selected by a committee that includes the previous year's Teacher of the Year.

HILLS' STYS WINS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Timothy Stys

Timothy Stys, Business Administrator and Board Secretary at Watchung Hills Regional High School, was among six school business officials in New Jersey to be honored with a Distinguished Service Award by the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) during the group's Annual Conference, Wednesday, June 3, in Atlantic City.

The recipients were presented with a plaque recognizing, "Distinguished service during his career as a School Board Official," and a personal check for \$100. As part of the award, Stys was also given a scholarship check in the amount of \$1,000, which will be presented to Anthony Garcia, a graduating student.

Stys is an active Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has been a School Business Administrator for more than 20 years.

During his 20 year tenure as Business Administrator, Stys has been involved in serving the NJASBO community on various committees, including legislative, accounting and budgeting. He has also served as president of Somerset County ASBO on two separate occasions.

He received his associate's degree in Business from Raritan Valley Community College, a bachelor's degree in Accounting from Rutgers University School of Business, and a master's degree in education administration from Rider University.

Stys and his wife of 26 years, Patti, are graduates of Hillsborough Township High School. He has coached ice hockey, baseball, basketball, and soccer, mostly with his son, Randy. He said he has become a "dance dad" as a result of watching his daughter, Natalie, dance.

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HUNDREDS OF HILLS' STUDENT SINGERS PERFORM AT SPRING CONCERT

Supporters of the Vocal Music program at Watchung Hills Regional High School flooded the Performing Arts Center on Friday, June 5, to hear hundreds of student singers bring down the house at the annual Spring Vocal Concert.

Some 64 singers performed in the Watchung Hills Chorus at the Vocal Concert, while 127 sang in the Advanced Choir. Many of the members of both choirs sang in select vocal ensembles and/or in senior solo performances. Ten student musicians performed as accompanists.

The Vocal Concert was conducted by Vocal Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird.

Two nights earlier, a packed Performing Arts Center gave retiring Music Teacher David Udell several standing ovations as they witnessed his last concert as conductor of the String Orchestra, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble as they performed 11 compositions at the annual Spring Instrumental Concert on Wednesday, June 3, at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Some 28 students performed in the String orchestra, 71 in the Concert Band, and 61 in the Wind Ensemble at the instrumental concert.

Two seniors were recognized at the Spring Concert for their dedication to the extra-curricular group vocal ensembles. They are:

Julia Golkin and Jaytin Gupta.

The selection of songs performed included voice solos performed by Sarah Kelly, Mariella Zijdel, David Kim, Hannah Melillo, Silas Baker Michael Weinfeldt, Amelia Stepperfenne, Allison Horvath, Katrina Dumapit, Brianna Valente, Jonathan Reid, Stephen Schwartz, Julia Golkin, Krishti Bhaumik, Veronica Mu, William Steffe, Julia Sluyter, Rejy Drayton, Veronica Mu.

Dance solo performed by Courtney Zawodniak, and a monologue was performed by Judy Tounsi. Percussion solos by Joe Bouffard and Matt Renzo.



(above) Vocal Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird, center, conducts the Advanced Chorus at the Spring Vocal Concert, Friday, June 5, at Watchung Hills Regional High School. The concert included performances by the Advanced Chorus, the High School Chorus, select ensembles and senior soloists. For the last selection of the evening, in a Watchung Hills tradition that goes back for years, alumni, friends and family who are familiar with the piece were invited to join the student singers in performing *The Hallelujah Chorus* by George Frederic Handel.




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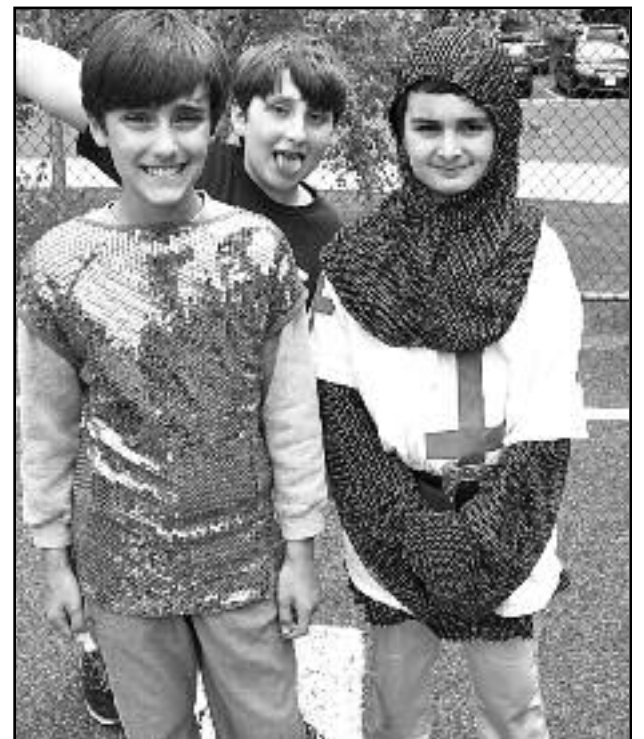
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THE SPIRIT OF MEDIEVAL TIMES IS ALIVE AT CENTRAL SCHOOL

On Thursday June 4, sixth graders at Central School participated in the 16th annual Medieval Day Festival. Students were transported back to medieval times by wearing costumes, feasting in

the great hall, participating in tournaments, and experiencing period appropriate activities including music, crafts, skits, a historical performance and more!



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WATCHUNG HILLS SOCCER INAUGURAL REC PROGRAM OFF TO A GREAT START!

The Watchung Hills Soccer Association is proud to recognize and congratulate the players in the inaugural High School Recreational Program. The season for each group included warm ups, ball control, skill training, situational game awareness, scrimmages and cool downs. Most players in this program are experienced soccer players from past Recreational or Travel programs - despite their skill level differences on the field, the players performed their best and quickly bonded with each other and became good friends. Yes, they learned and played hard,

but there was lots of fun and laughs too.

United Soccer Academy trainer Adam Lowdon commented, "I had a lot of fun with this program, the Boys and Girls enjoyed it, and so did I - it was great fun for me too."

This program will continue in the fall and is open to Boys and Girls (grades 9th through 12th) from Warren, Watchung, Longhill and Green Brook.

Congratulations to all 37 Boys and Girls and thank you for helping make the inaugural season of this program a success!



(above, top row, l-r): William Gitoneas, Jonathan Fessock, Jash Soni, Matthew Ransom, John Oliveira. (bottom row, l-r): Henry Engel, Joe Conant, Alex Mammone, Adam Lowdon - USA Soccer Academy Trainer, Christian Novoa, Jason Krakower, Gavin Van Skiver, Shane Checko.



(above, l-r): Alexandra Terry, Lizbeth Torralba, Melanie Vitorino, Adam Lowdon - USA Soccer Academy Trainer, Daisy Portillo, Jen Walpow, Olivia Molnar, Mary Hardy



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