Green Brook Gazette

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ISSUE 26 • NOVEMBER 2015

Green Brook Cultural Heritage and Historic **Preservation Committee and** The Green Brook Historical Society meeting:

3RD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH 7:30 pm

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HILLS' BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT FEATURES STUDENT DISPLAYS

One of the highlights of the annual Back To School Night on Thursday, Oct. 8, at Watchung Hills Regional High School were the displays sponsored by extra-curricular activity groups, class and student-wide government representatives, and sports teams.

Representatives, including students and parent booster groups, from as many as 14 such student groups greeted parents, faculty and administrators with smiles and welcoming remarks, as well as fundraising Watchung Hills paraphernalia and apparel, displays and information.

Among the groups included were representatives from all four years, Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors, the Script & Cue student theater group, the Choir and the Environmental Club, and the Softball, Field Hockey, Girls Lacrosse, Frisbee and Robotics teams. Representatives from the All School Council (ASC) staffed the School Store, which is open at various times throughout the school week in the South Cafeteria.

In addition, the Watchung Hills Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) had an informational display in the center atrium, adjacent to the main office. Student volunteers at that display also offered starter kits with four LED long lasting light bulbs as a fundraiser to support PTO programs.

PTO parent volunteers distributed maps. Members of the Student Peer Leaders group staffed key major corridor intersections in the sprawling Watchung Hills building complex throughout the night. The Peer Leaders answered direction questions posed by the hundreds of parents attending Back To School Night.

One of the key activities for parents that night is for parents to use their child's actual class schedule to meet their various teachers, and to get a taste of what it is like to be a student at Watchung Hills. Just like their children, the parents for some 2,000 students navigated corridors filled with their fellow parents, walking swiftly, from one classroom to the next, sometimes right next door, but sometimes also in an entirely different corner of the sprawling, in places two-story school building.



(above l-r): senior Rachel Tigol of Green Brook Township, senior Jessie Sun of Warren Township, and senior Manav Anand of Warren Township, all members of the Watchung Hills Warrior Frisbee Team, greets visitors on behalf of their team at Back To School Night. The team offered Watchung Hills Frisbees.



(above, l-r) Parents Patrick Jones of Millington and Jennifer Reedman of Green Brook Township, freshman Lili Jones of Millington and parent Bruce Meringolo of Stirling.



(above, l-r) Robotics Team members, junior David Schlingloff of Warren Township, senior Matt Battipaglia of Green Brook Township, senior Claire Barrameda of Watchung, and senior Nathan Schwartz of Watchung.

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on our Acts of Kindness wall at IEF. On

Wednesday, October 21st, Officer Larry

Green Brook Gazette

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos of recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email Lynn Sjurset lynn@rennamedia.com.



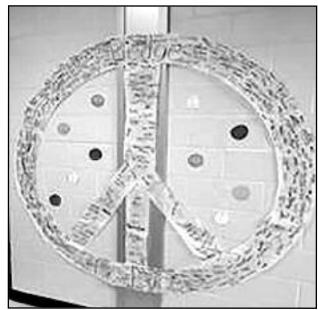
GREEN BROOK'S IEF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROMOTES RESPECT & PEACE

During the week of October 5th, IEF School acts of kindness" with certificates that are posted celebrated a "Week of Respect". Each day, a character quote was read during morning announcements; students participated in creating/signing two murals now adorning the halls of IEF - a peace sign, and a poster respect pledge. On Friday, October 9th, students attended the YoJo Anti Bullying Assembly. A respectful week was had by all!

During the week of October 19th, IEF School observed Violence Awareness & Prevention Week. Throughout the week, students and staff focused on the virtues of peace and kindness. We recognized students who committed "random



Goldstein and Principal Lamberti presented a Violence Awareness and Prevention assembly for all IEF students.













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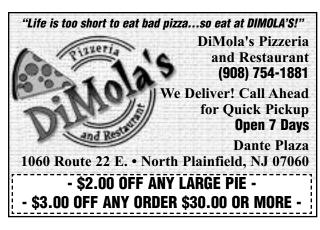
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STUDENTS SAY HILLS' ANNUAL CHALLENGE DAY IS THE BEST DAY OF THEIR LIVES

Submitted by Denis Kelly

interactive empathy-building and communication program offered annually for a group of 100 sophomores, juniors and seniors at Watchung Hills Regional High School, will be held this year Thursday, Nov. 12, at the school.

The day is organized by Student Assistance Counselors Julie Kumpf and Gwen Blake.

"Challenge leaders, including teachers and community members, guide participants through a day of thought-provoking games, activities and discussions to address teen issues, such as bullying, alienation and self-destructive behavior," said Kumpf. "Activities are designed to increase respect, empathy and healthy emotional expression among students."

Added Blake, "We have hosted Challenge Day at Watchung Hills annually for the past 13 years, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Many students have called it the best day of their lives."

The Student Assistance Counselors said the "challenge" referred to in the program title is not as it might be used in referring to a "competition." Instead, it is an empathy-building exercise, a way to explore anti-bullying responses, and a communication and communitybuilding experience.

Participation in Challenge Day requires parent permission. The first 100 students to turn in signed permission slips are chosen to participate. Permission slips can be obtained from Student Assistance Counselors or from the Guidance Office. Community members who want to

Challenge Day, started in 2002 as a day-long, participate as adult leaders can get more information from the Guidance Office. Community members who have participated in the past include parents, public officials and clergy.

> Because of the trust-building nature of the program, all students and leaders selected for Challenge Day must commit to participate for the entire program, 7:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

> Local funding for the Challenge Day program at Watchung Hills is provided through the Youth Service Commission of Warren Township and Green Brook Township, and the Watchung Hills Regional Municipal Alliance (WHRMA).



(above) Watchung Hills Regional High School Student Assistance Counselors Julie Kumpf, left, and Gwen Blake stand beside one of several posters at the school encouraging sophomores, juniors and seniors to participate in Challenge Day, Thursday, Nov. 12, at the school. This will be the 13th year the school has offered the day-long interactive empathybuilding and communication program.









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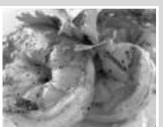
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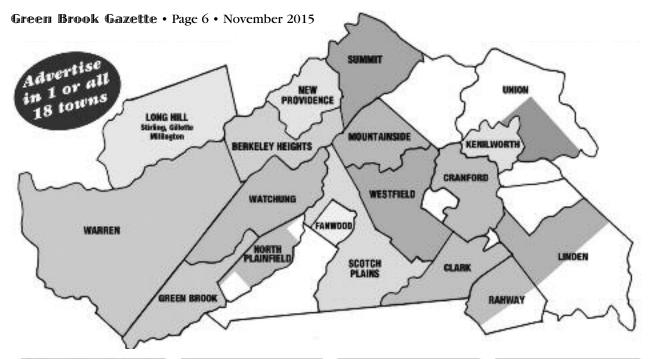
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HILLS MARCHING WARRIORS BAND WINS FIRST PLACE IN CLASS AT COMPETITION



(above) The Watchung Hills Regional High School Marching Warriors Band won first place in their class of schools, and fourth place overall, at the U.S. Bands-sponsored band competition held on Saturday, Sept. 12, at Edison High School, Edison Township. From left are: Senior Tuba player John Ray of Warren Township, who is also the band's Brass Captain; Sophomore Tuba player Ethan Marmolejos of Watchung; Junior Clarinet player Amelia Stepperfenne of Millington; and new Band Director Minesh Shah. The Marching Warriors Band can be seen performing at all home football games, and their program this year is organized under the theme, "A Night with Netflix," and features music from the movies, "Captain America," "The Lion King" and "Slumdog Millionaire."

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WHRHS SCRIPT & CUE PRESENTS "THE SKIN OF OUR TEETH"

Watchung Hills Regional High School Script and Cue will be presenting Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth" on November 19th & 20th at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday the 21st at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at Watchung Hills Regional High School, 108 Stirling Road, Warren, New Jersey. The Pulitzer Winning Play is about mankind's triumph over chaos shifting between modern day New Jersey and the ice age. Great for families!!! Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$5 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or online through www.whpac.org!



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