## WARREN MONTHLY NJ

**WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER** 

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**ISSUE 43 • JULY 2016** 

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#### ATHLETICS NIGHT ACQUAINTS STUDENTS WITH SPORTS PROGRAM

Parents and students, including current eighth graders, who hope to play Fall sports at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) attended a Fall Athletics Night in May to hear from Athletic Director Chris Van Vliet, and speak to team coaches.

After welcoming remarks and a presentation by Van Vliet about the philosophy, mission and information about key upcoming dates, students and parents went to breakout sessions throughout the school to meet and speak with coaches. There were coaches representing Football, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Field Hockey, Boys and Girls Soccer, Girls Tennis, Girls volleyball, Fall Cheerleading, Gymnastics and Competition Cheer.

"I was very pleased with our fall athletics night," said Van Vliet. "We had a nice turnout, and the feedback I received was all positive. My hope is that our fall athletes are now more informed about our athletic department and the important items that need to be completed before practice begins, as well as the expectations of our coaches in each of our fall programs."

The WHRHS Athletic Department has two athletic

trainers, Terry Marcazo and Michelle Armonda. There are 33 head coaches and 92 coaches in all. The Athletic Department promotes the following qualities for our student-athletes, he said, including: Competitive excellence, resilience, leadership, integrity, and teamwork.

Academic eligibility is extended to all freshman athletes for teams that compete during their first Fall and Winter season, Van Vliet said. To be academically eligible to compete during the Spring season, freshman athletes must have completed 15 credits during their first semester at WHRHS. For sophomores, juniors and seniors, students must have completed 30 credits from the previous school year to be eligible to compete during the Fall and Winter Seasons. For the Spring Season, they must have 15 credits at the end of the first semester.

Students interested in participating in fall sports will faced key deadlines for forms and physicals even before the end of school in June, Van Vliet said. First day for all Fall sports is Monday, Aug. 15th, except for Football, which starts Wednesday, Aug. 10. More information can be found on the department web site at www.whrhs.org.

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(above, l-r) Among the students and coaches who attended are Assistant Coach of Boys and Girls Cross Country Cara Yuknis, Head Girls Cross Country Coach Gena Pinto, incoming freshman Alyssa Blocker of Stirling, incoming freshman Reecie Kirchofer of Green Brook Township, sophomore Robert Fippinger of Warren Township, and Head Boys Cross Country Coach Dominic Tasco.

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## SOLAR-POWERED EXCELLENCE AT WARREN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Warren Middle School 8th graders Esme Abbot, Anna Ramos, Eliana Sussner, and Sarah Young took first place with their solar car "The Millennium Pigeon" as best overall in the Junior Solar Sprints competition held on May 23 in Florham Park, NJ. The girls placed 1st in craftsmanship, 1st in engineering and 2nd in "Kids' Choice."

After months of designing, building and testing the Millennium Pigeon, the girls competed against fellow middle school students to advance to the inter-county finals. There, the Warren Middle School team won first place over 70 other contenders from surrounding counties, all vying for the chance to show off their innovative and expertly engineered efforts.



(above l-r) Eliana Sussner, Esme Abbot, Sarah Young, and Anna Ramos won first place for their solar car, "The Millenium Pigeon" at the Junior Solar Springs intercounty finals held on May 23 in Florham Park, NJ. Photo by Warren Township Schools



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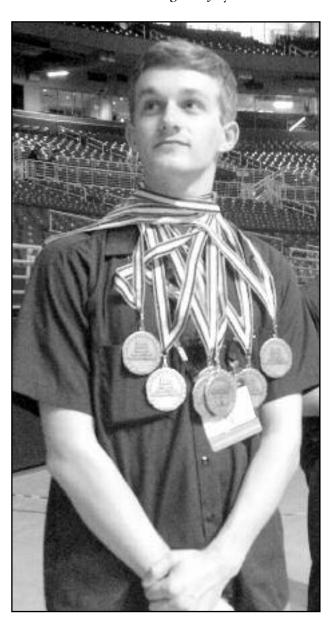
#### **ROBOTICS NATIONALS FOLLOW - UP**

The WHRHS Team 41 Robotics Team accumulated numerous medals, banners, plaques and trophies during the season and at the World Championship, held on April 27-30 in St. Louis. The success at the World Championship completed the most successful Team 41 season since 2008. Along the way, the team scored an 8th place finish at Regionals, and a 2nd place and first place at seasonal contests at Mount Olive High School and Montgomery High School, respectively.

This year's Team 41 robot as seen from above, with a boulder on board, which could be flung by catapult at a tower window target to score points. The robot needed to contain its computer brain for remote control, propulsion mechanisms, and other mechanisms, such as the hydraulic piston that gives the catapult power. The bot had to be relatively quick, nimble, durable, with its vital components protected and easily repaired if the rough and tumble of competition caused damages.



(above) WHRHS Team 41 Robotics Team



(above) Junior Julian Bisci of Warren, one of the members of the WHRHS Team 41 Robotics Team, makes a dramatic statement about just how successful this team was this year at divisional competitions, regionals and nationals.





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#### **SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO AREA STUDENTS**

students received scholarships from the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund at a dinner held Wednesday, June 8th, at the Spain Inn in Piscataway. The scholarships are financed by a bequest from Adele DeLeeuw, longtime Plainfield resident, author of 75 books, journalist, and arts activist.

The Plainfield-North Plainfield Rotary Club administers the Adele DeLeeuw Scholarship Fund and is one of five local Rotary clubs that provide scholarships from the fund to students in their communities who pursue a course of study

Two Warren Hills Regional High School in poetry, art, journalism, writing or engineering. Sixty thousand dollars was distributed this year to twenty-two area students by the Fund, a fund of the Plainfield Foundation. This year's awards bring the Fund's twenty-one-year distribution to \$1,143,500.

> Brenda Okereke was the scholarship recipient from the graduating class of 2016. The Scholarship Fund also provided a continuing scholarship to college student Melody Njoku. This year's Adele DeLeeuw Senior Scholars,

college students who were recognized as a scholarship recipient from the Fund for each of their four years in college included Charlotte Brockway. An additional nineteen students from area high schools received scholarships from the Fund.

Applications for the 2017 Adele DeLeeuw Scholarships will be available in January from North Plainfield High School guidance office. For further information, call Johanna Salvemini, Scholarship Administrator, at (908) 755-8098.



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(above, top, l-r) Christopher Silva (WHRHS), Rebecca Mehorter (SPFHS), Anthony Raphael (WHRHS), Nicholas Ruzicka (SPFHS), Cody Decker (SPFHS); (middle, l-r) Stephanie Bohn (SPFHS), Tyler Curtis (SPFHS), Thomas Riccardi (SPFHS), Nolan Berry (SPFHS); (bottom, l-r) Charlotte Brockway (NPHS), Emily London (SPFHS), Melody Njoku (NPHS).



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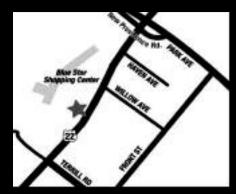
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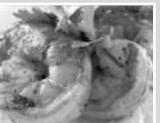
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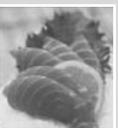
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#### **BOY SCOUT ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER**



(above) Photo taken of Troop 228 at their 2016 Spaghetti Dinner held on April 16th at Our Lady of the Mount Church. It was a huge success, attended by 340 people. The troop would like to thank all of their supporters who came to the dinner, paid for an ad in the journal, or donated to the troop in any other way. Funds raised from the spaghetti dinner help to purchase equipment for the troop, offset camping costs for trips throughout the year, and aids in youth and adult leadership training.

## **NOMINATING PETITIONS FOR SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS DUE BY JULY 25**

On November 8th, in the General Election, school board members will be elected in more than 90 percent of New Jersey's school districts, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA).

"While November may seem a long way off, the time to decide to run for the local board of education is now," says NJSBA President Donald Webster, Jr. "Nominating petitions for this year's Annual School Election must be submitted to county clerks by 4 p.m., Monday, July 25, 2016."

This fall, voters in Warren will elect local candidates to three seats on the Warren Township Board of Education. Those interested in serving on the Warren Township board are encouraged to review the NJSBA's School Board Candidate Kit (www.njsba.org/candidacy), which includes information on the responsibilities of local school boards, qualifications for membership, the filing process, and a brief video produced by the NJSBA, "Consider Serving on Your Local School Board."

"New Jersey's 5,000 volunteer school board members govern the education of approximately 1.4 million public school students," Webster says. "No other public officials – elected or appointed - have as great an impact on the lives of our children."

A sample nominating petition is included in the NJSBA's candidate kit. However, in order to explain the process, the Somerset County Clerk's Office prefers that candidates pick up the petition in person at 20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ 08876, Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. Please call (908) 231-7013 with any questions.



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#### **WARREN TEEN FEST**

Warren Township Recreation Commission is proud to announce its annual Teen Fest! Join us at the Municipal Library Field on July 27th from 6 to 10 pm for an evening of games, music, food, and fun. The event is open to WHRHS sending district students (middle & high schoolers) and will feature live local bands, a rock climbing wall, inflatable twister, rapid fire powerball, Trainer Joe's Teen Extreme Challenge, games like human foosball, and skeeball, plus a special presentation by Warren PBA Local #235. Serving ice cream, drinks and Mo's tacos for a small fee.

For videos from last year's event, visit warrennj.org/recreation and look under our Picture Gallery. This is a free event but you Must pre-register

www.warrennj.org/recreation/register.

We are still looking for teen bands and musicians to perform at Teen Fest! If you are interested, please contact Warren Recreation department at 908-753-8000 x 270 or fill out an application form found at warrennj.org.

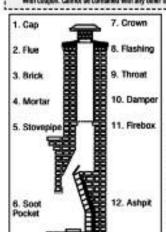
Adult volunteers are also needed. Call Recreation office if interested. We look forward to seeing you at this year's Teen Fest!



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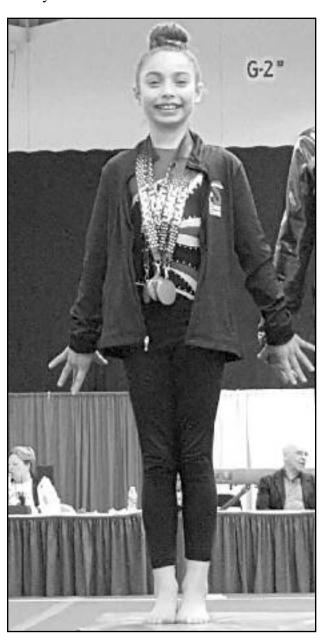
By: Edir Coronado

Local Warren superstar, Francesca Salas, recently took first place in the New Jersey State Gymnastics completion for the Bronze Diamond Level, while representing the Summit Summies in Summit, New Jersey.

Francesca is a fifth grade student from Central school and has been involved in gymnastics for three years now and her talents continue to grow.

Gymnastics is not the only athletic activities Francesca is involved in, she is also a completive dancer. It is no wonder her favorite event is the beam routine, it gives Francesca a chance to show off how multi-talented she is.

Earning the Bronze Diamond All Around championship with a score of 36.45 was not an easy task for this young gymnastic elite. Francesca dedicates three days a week to gymnastic practice and each day of training involves hard work and commitment, which she clearly exhibited.





#### WHRHS DANCING WITH THE TEACHERS

and parents filled the Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, May 25th, at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) to witness and participate in Dancing With the Teachers.

Dancing with the Teachers is one of a yearlong series of fundraising and awareness raising events sponsored by student groups in support of Project ALS (Amyotropic Lateral Sclerosis, also called Lou Gehrig's Disease). Project ALS is the non-profit organization started by the late Jenifer Estess, who died from the disease, and her family to seek out and support leading edge research to find treatment and a cure for ALS.

The Project ALS has special significance to the students and staff of WHRHS because of English Teacher Laura Goodson. Goodson's brother battled ALS, like Jenifer Estess, and it was Goodson who first discovered Project ALS, and encouraged the WHRHS student government to adopt ALS as their year-long community service effort.

"Thank you for all of your support this year," Goodson said. "As you know, this is a cause that is near and dear to my heart."

Ms. Goodson welcomed everyone to Dancing With the Teachers, and thanked the co-sponsors of the event, the Sophomore Grade Level Council and the WHRHS Dance Ensemble. Student Masters of Ceremonies for the night were Suchir Govindarajan and Schuyler Weisberg.

Students from the WHRHS Dance Ensemble, which had just staged its three-night Spring Dance Concert May 12th, 13th, and 14th, to rave reviews, provided the framework for the 14 dance numbers performed at Dancing With the Teachers. A number of teachers and administrators were featured performers in each number, with Dance Ensemble students and their Faculty Advisor, Marisa Joshi, a talented dancer and choreographer in her own right, providing guidance and spirited support for the teachers.

Among the dances were many of the numbers that highlighted the Spring Dance Concert. The Dancing with the Teachers event benefited from having the services of the Performing Arts

An enthusiastic crowd of students, teachers, Center's technical director Chris Valenti and his crew, according to event organizers. Valenti and his crew bathed the stage in appropriate and professional mood lighting and theatrical spot lighting, just as they had for the Spring Dance Concert.

> For the last scheduled dance of the evening, all were invited, including audience members, to come on stage to dance the currently popular funky line dance, "The Cha Cha Slide." Many in the audience filled the stage, caught up in the fun.

> The Dancing With the Teachers line-up of dances included several from the Spring Dance Concert, including "Phishy," "Collateral Damage," "Incandescent," "Becoming Human," and "Masala Chai." The rest of the program for Dancing With the Teachers included popular favorites, "The YMCA," "Uptown Funk," "Whip/Nae Nae," and "Thriller."

> For more information about Project ALS can go to its Web site, www.projectals.org, and/or can



(abover, l-r) Outside the WHRHS Performing Arts Center after the performance are some of the members of the WHRHS Football Team who danced in the Dancing With the Teachers" dance number "Incandescent.": junior Nadir Beyah of Warren Township, junior Nick Ugarte of Warren Township, and junior Michael Montecalvo of Green Brook Township. Not in the photo, fellow football players Michael Bereheiko, Clayton Bush and Jack Smith.



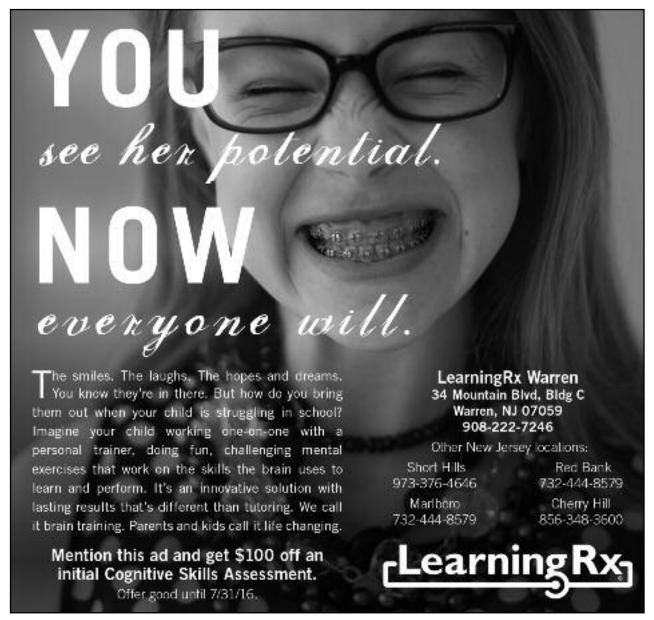
(above) For the grand finale to Dancing With the Teachers, all were invited, including the audience, to get up on stage to participate in the last dance number, the currently popular funky line dance, "The Cha Cha Slide."



(above, kneeling, l-r) Students Michelle Shui, Lauren Loesberg, and Kaitlyn Santucci, Dance Teacher Marisa Toshi, and students Anna Paterson, Morgan Pravato, and Molly Garyantes. (standing, l-r) Students Michelle Du, Victoria Pantagis, Michelle Sucre, Dena Vayas, Katey Berger, Arielle Ostry, Sevoula Tsivgas, Sabrina Lane, and Camryn Graf.



(left) Among the staff members who participated in the "Dancing With the Teachers" Are (in white shirts, l-r) Principal George Alexis, his Administrative Assistant, Susan Obuch, and Front Desk Secretary Pam Sasso. Flanking them (l-r) are two of the students who helped lead them through their dance number, titled, "Collateral Damage." Dance Ensemble dancer junior Michelle Shui of Green Brook Township, and sophomore Michelle Du of Warren Township.









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#### DANCING SCIENTIST AT MT. HOREB SCHOOL



(above) Wearing a bespangled lab coat and white sneakers aglow in red and blue lighted trim, the Dancing Scientist (a.k.a. Jeffrey Vinokur) wowed Mt. Horeb students on May 31, combining music, dance moves and jawdropping science demonstrations. "I'm a real scientist," said Vinokur, a Biochemistry PhD candidate at UCLA who has appeared on the Discovery Channel, NBC's "Today" Show, the Weather Channel and other major media outlets. "I like to dance and I like science." The Dancing Scientist is the last in a series of educational and entertaining assemblies provided to Mt. Horeb students this year by the PTO and its cultural arts program.

#### **ALT'S NEW PRINCIPAL**

Christine L. Smith joined the Warren Township School District as the new principal of Angelo L. Tomaso School, effective as of July 1st, 2016.

The Board of Education approved Smith's appointment at its June 6th meeting. Smith, who was principal of Memorial Middle School in Spotswood, will succeed Kathryn Bond, who retired at the end of the June after 18 years with the district, 11 years as ALT principal and 7 as dean of students at Warren Middle School.

Smith says she looks forward to serving "as the instructional leader with talented staff at a level that matches my experience as a teacher." And she says she is eager to get back "to the elementary world and to work with our youngest learners."



(above) Board of Education president Tia Allocco welcomes Christine L. Smith as the new principal of Angelo L Tomaso School.

#### **CLSNJ WARREN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BRANCH**

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#### **MEET GEORGE WASHINGTON**

Meet George Washington on July 20, 7-8:30 p.m. at the SCLSNJ's Warren Township Library branch.

In celebration of Independence Day, Dr. Michael Norris of Armchair Art Tours will be honoring one of the most important founding fathers in American history. Through works of art often drawn from area museums, explore how his peers saw him and how his country remembered him.

#### **ALL AGES**

#### Elizabeth Resolutes vs. Central Base Ball Club 1870's Vintage Baseball Game

July 9, 12-4 p.m.

(Rain date: July 30, 12-4 p.m.)

Watch a historically accurate baseball game from 1870. There will be a presentation before the game where you can learn, see, and touch the equipment they used in the very beginning of America's Pastime.

#### **Game Fest**

July 16, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Games for Children, Teens, & Adults

#### **ADULTS**

**Mah Jongg Players Afternoon** July 12, 19, & 26, 1-4 p.m.

#### Relax, Renew & Rejuvenate - Seated Yoga

July 14, 21, & 28, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

\*This is a very popular program and space is limited. Registration for each class is required to participate.

#### **Bridge Players' Group**

July 11, 18, & 25, 1-4 p.m.

#### **Mediterranean Lifestyle - Food & Activity**

July 13, 7-8:40 p.m.

#### **Afternoon Book Discussion**

July 14,1:30-3:15 p.m.

"Age of Innocence" by Edith Wharton

#### **Open Knitting with Pam MacKenzie**

July 18, 10-11:30 a.m.

#### **SCLSNJ B2B Support Group**

July 19, 8:45-10:15 a.m.

#### **Meet George Washington**

July 20, 7-8:30 p.m.

#### **Film Discussion**

"Age of Innocence" by Edith Wharton July 21, 1-5 p.m.

#### **Warren Workshops**

July 25, 7-8:30 p.m. Calligraphy on

#### **BROgrams - Interest Group 4 Men**

July 26, 7-9 p.m.

#### **Evening Book Discussion**

July 27, 7:15-8:45 p.m. "Lottery" by Patricia Wood

#### KIDS

#### **Snap Circuits**

July 11, 4:30-5:45 p.m. (grades 3-6):

#### **Popup Storytime**

July 12, 6:45-7:30 p.m. & July 14, 10-10:45 a.m. (2-5 years old)

#### The King's Castle - A Chess Club for Kids

July 13, 20, & 27, 7-8 p.m. (grades 1+)

#### **Piccirillo Sciencetellers presents**

July 14, 7-7:45 p.m.

Power & Energy (grades K-5)

#### **Preschool of Rock**

July 18, 10:30-11:15 a.m. (0-5 years old)

#### **Meet Author Corey Rosen Schwartz for Ninja Storytime**

July 18, 3-3:45 p.m.

(4-8 years old)

#### **Eating the Rainbow**

July 19, 11-11:45 a.m.

Lesson and Healthy Snack (3-4 years old)

#### **Tiny Time Rhymes**

July 20, 10-10:30 a.m.

(2 years old and under)

#### **Fun with Food Groups**

July 21, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. (5-9 years old)

#### **Yoga for Kids**

July 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. & 12:30-1:15 p.m. (2-5 years old)

#### **Creature Comfort -- Let's Read**

July 23, 2-3 p.m.

(children of all ages)

#### Beach in a Cup

July 25, 4-4:45 p.m. (grades 1-3)

#### Kids' MusicRound

July 26,10-10:45 a.m. & 11-11:45 a.m. (0-4 years old)

#### **Youth Stages Presents**

The Enormous Potato for children 3-5 years old on July 28, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

& The Mud Flat Olympics for children 6-9 years old on July 28, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

#### **Angry Bird Challenge**

July 29, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (grades 3+):

Teens (grades 6-12)

#### **Cupcake Wars**

July 11, 7-8 p.m.

#### **Summer Salsas & Dips**

July 15, 2-3 p.m.

#### **Escape the Program Room**

July 19, 7-8 p.m.

#### **Jester Jim: Juggling Show**

July 26, 7-8 p.m.

(siblings and family members welcome)

#### THE GARDEN CLUB OF WATCHUNG

We invite the residents of Watchung and by Sue Phillips and create your own fragrance, surrounding communities to join our active club. During July and August we tend our Deer Resistant Garden behind the Watchung Art Center, Blue Star Memorial Garden, and Blue Star Memorial Byway on Somerset Street, Watchung Circle Triangle Garden and Fatima Garden at St. Mary's Stony Hill Church. Funds for these projects are raised from our annual Spring Plant Sale and other events.

This Fall join us for "A Scentsational Night"

October 13th from 7:00-9:00, Saint Mary's Stony Hill in Watchung. \$50.00/person, after September 13th, \$60.00/person. For further information email: gardenclub2016@aol.com

Our meetings are held at various locations on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 from September thru June. Visit our website: http//www.thegardenclubofwatchung.org and Face Book page or telephone (908)754-5766 for more information.

#### **VIDEO CREW VISITS WOODLAND SCHOOL TO HIGHLIGHT TECHNOLOGIES**

Inspired by former Woodland student Peyton Walton, who has been battling a rare form of cancer for the past year, a video production crew recently shadowed Woodland School 5th graders and their teacher Colleen Krumm for two days as part of a project to highlight how adaptive technology can be used to connect homebound students to their classrooms.

No small task given that the six-person crew consisted of two camera operators, sound and lighting technicians, a director and the product marketing manager for Cisco Systems, the California-based technology company that is producing two short videos to showcase collaborative technology and the positive impact it can have in the classroom.

At the heart of the project are Peyton and her mother, Lynn Schaeber, who are on a mission to educate policymakers, healthcare providers, teachers and others about the uses and benefits of video collaboration and other technology for

children unable to attend school due to a critical illness or other reason.

"It's unconscionable that, in today's day and age, children can't attend school just because they physically can't be there," says Schaeber. "We have the technology to keep these kids connected and the benefits far outweigh the costs. This technology costs less than tutors, the kids can go to school in real time, and they can be actively engaged in their own education with their peers."

Peyton, who turns 11 this summer, was diagnosed with Embryonal Hepatic Liver Sarcoma in June 2015, as her family was preparing to move from Warren to Maryland. While undergoing rounds of chemotherapy and radiation at hospitals in Washington, D.C. and New York, Peyton was able to continue her schoolwork with the help of her Chromebook, video teleconferencing and a robot she dubbed PAVS for "Peyton's Awesome Virtual Self."







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## PAINTINGS BY RALPH GARAFOLA FEATURED AT ART SPACE IN WARREN LIBRARY

The Art Space at Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's Warren Township Library branch, located at 42 Mountain Blvd. in Warren Township, showcased the work of local artist, educator, and author, Ralph Garafola in the month of June. Garafola, whose commissioned portraits hang in several countries as well as in private collections throughout the United States, had nine of his paintings on display on the Art Space's gallery wall.

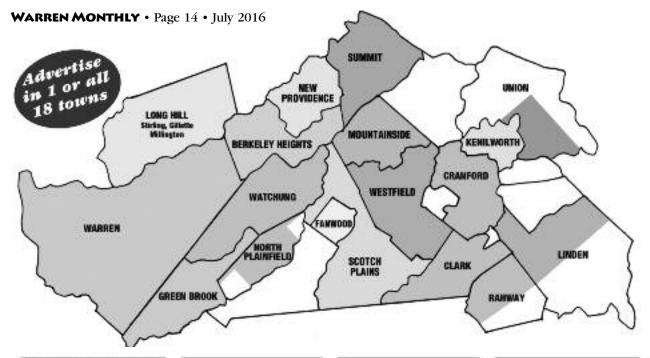
Garafola has been a commercial illustrator and

fine artist for more than 65 years. He brings his style of contemporary realism to his oil and watercolor paintings of portraits, landscapes, seascapes and still life. Garafola is a member of numerous art associations and is the recipient of countless awards.

Artists interested in exhibiting their work in the Art Space at SCLSNJ's Warren Township Library branch, either in the small, glass-enclosed display case or on the gallery wall, should contact Kathy DeCristofaro at kdecrist@sclibnj.org.







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