



# The Journal

## Staff instrumental in supporting our students

by Carl Weckerle, M.Ed.  
Warren Consolidated Trustee



Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. I love being outside in the cool air, visiting cider mills, watching football, and seeing kids

go back to school.

While the start of the school year is an exciting time for many, for some, going back to school may be a stressful event. As a child myself, it was sometimes difficult to start the school year in a new school or district when I was concerned about new classes, new teachers, and new classmates.

Along the way, I always had support to make that transition easier. I remember the front office staff helping me find my way as a new student, the custodian stepping in when a fight was about to start, or several teachers who showed concern if they saw my grades slipping. These actions are what helped me be successful in school and beyond.

One of the things I love most about our district are the people that are here to support our kids. As I visit each of the schools, I get to see first-hand how the staff and parents are so invested in helping our kids be successful.

In Warren Consolidated Schools, we are very fortunate to have so many caring adults that make a difference each and every day in our kids' lives. Many probably don't even realize the impact that they have on the kids they work with. Sometimes, it's just a smile, a hug, or asking, "How's it going?" that shows students people care.

Thank you to the front office staff, bus drivers, kitchen staff, teachers, principals, and parent volunteers who work with our kids and make a difference in their lives.

## Summer bond work complete, additional work slated for 2018

It was a busy summer in Warren Consolidated Schools as bond work took place throughout the district.

All elementary, middle and high school buildings received renovations inside and outside of the classroom.

The improvements were made possible through a \$134.5 million bond proposal, which was approved by voters in May 2016, to preserve the district's facilities and remain competitive as one of Macomb County's leading school districts.



Playground upgrades at Holden Elementary.

Work at the elementary level included playground equipment, under-drainage and wood chip replacement, repairs and replacement of the ball fields, parking lot repavement and repair, the installation of new electronic school signs, replacement of stage curtains, boilers, and parking lot lights to energy efficient LED lights.

Security and technology upgrades included the replacement of secure entry equipment at selected areas and the installation of new security cameras at each building. A new phone system and upgrades to the network's wireless system, network switch gear and installation of information technology cabling rounded out the work at the elementary buildings.

Several improvements took place at the middle school level such as new ovens in each kitchen, the installa-



A running track, football field turf and stadium sound system were installed at Sterling Heights HS.

tion of new LED digital exterior marquees, the replacement of secure entry equipment at selected areas and the installation of new security cameras at each building. A new phone system and upgrades to the network's wireless system, network switch gear and installation of information technology cabling.

Butcher Educational Center received a new state-of-the-art kitchen and theatre A/V and lighting upgrades, as well as security and technology upgrades and a new phone system.



State-of-the-art kitchen at Butcher.

Cousino, Sterling Heights and Warren Mott High Schools rededicated their newly renovated athletic facilities in August, which included the installation of new tennis courts, running track, football field turf, and stadium sound system.

All three schools also received parking lot repaving, sidewalk repairs and concrete collars. Security upgrades included new security cam-

eras at the buildings and athletic stadiums. Parking lot lights were replaced with LED lighting, and a new phone system and upgrades to the network's wireless system also took place at the high schools.



Parking lot re-pavement at Susick Elementary.

New stage curtains, lighting system and audio visual system were installed at the Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of Sterling Heights High School.

The total cost for the 2017 work was \$32,500,000. All schools opened on time, safe and secure. The bond projects are within the overall bond budget. The district's bond project manager Plante Moran CRESSA is expected to conduct a bond audit in the Spring of 2018.

Additional work at the elementary, middle and high schools is slated for Spring/Summer 2018. Warren Consolidated Schools will continue to update the community on bond work progress through the district website WCSKIDS.NET.



## Third Grade Reading Law

The State of Michigan passed Public Act No. 306, "The Third Grade Reading Law" in October 2016. The purpose of this law is to ensure that all students are reading at or near grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. By the end of the 2019-20 school year, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who do not demonstrate proficiency on the state assessment, may be recommended for retention. In certain circumstances, a student may be eligible for an exemption. This will affect students who are currently in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and those thereafter.

Warren Consolidated Schools offers a balanced literacy approach to reading instruction, with a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) to address the needs of all of our students. All K-3 students will be assessed three times per year by the classroom teacher using either the Developmental Reading Assessment 2 (DRA2) or the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP). Students who are a year or more behind in reading will be given a formal Individual Reading Instruction Plan and a Read at Home Plan to address reading deficiencies. Parents/guardians will receive written notification from the school to review the student's plan with updates on progress throughout the school year.

For more information regarding the Reading Law, please visit the district website parent resources page at <http://www.wcskids.net/Departments/Curriculum/Docs/ReadingLaws.pdf> or your school website under parent resources. To view the law in its entirety visit:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2015-2016/publicact/pdf/2016-PA-0306.pdf>

Warren Consolidated Schools will continue to communicate any new information regarding the law with parents/guardians. If you have specific questions about the law or your child's reading development, contact your school's principal.

- John C. Bernia Jr.  
Chief Academic Officer

## Our Children, Their Voice

by Robert D. Livernois, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



If you have not yet heard the news, the very popular TV show *American Idol* is returning in 2018 with new celebrity judges. I am sure many of you have seen the

show and the popular variation of it, *The Voice*, on NBC.

*American Idol* began in 2002, at a time when many of our students were not even in preschool, and then years later in 2011, *The Voice* first aired on our own local Channel 4 WDIV-TV.

As you may be aware, a distinct difference between the shows is how contestants are initially selected or move on past the first round.

On *American Idol*, contestants sing directly in front of the judges who then determine whether they make it through to Hollywood.

On *The Voice*, contestants sing

while the judges have their backs turned to them, and if judges like them, they press a button and their chair turns around, signaling to the contestants that they have been chosen.

For me, *The Voice* is a better assessment of the contestants' singing ability because they're not being judged by what they look like or how they are dressed. They are simply being judged on their voice.

I highlight this example because I believe that as each one of our students steps out into the world, they have the opportunity to be judged by one of our greatest freedoms of all, the ability to use their voice.

Our children will be able to use their voice to express opinions, respect, and encouragement to others. Our children will be able to use their voice to make a difference in the world.

Above all, our children will be able to use their voice to love and

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## AdvancED Accreditation

WCS was recognized by State Superintendent Brian Whiston and AdvancED with a Certificate of Accreditation at the annual AdvancED conference awards breakfast. District accreditation is valid through 2022.



## Leah Berdy appointed to WCS Board of Education

The Warren Consolidated Schools Board of Education appointed Leah A. Berdy as board trustee at their October 4 Special Board of Education meeting.

Berdy fills the vacant seat of board member Kaitlynn Schwab, who resigned on September 30. Berdy's term will expire on December 31, 2018.

Berdy, a Warren resident, has lived in the district for the past 22 years. Her two sons attended Warren Consolidated Schools since preschool and are recent graduates of Warren Mott High School.

Berdy holds a degree in Psychology and Sociology, as well as an elementary teaching certificate. Berdy was a PTO member and Cub Scout leader at Harwood Elementary, and currently helps coach the Science Olympiad team at Warren Mott High School.

"I am looking forward to working with the other Board members to achieve the educational goals that will benefit our community," Berdy said.

Outside of Warren Consolidated Schools, Berdy works in the retail and fitness industry.

## 2017 Teachers of the Year Honored

Warren Consolidated Schools honored **Jeff Olind**, **Jamie Steinman**, and **Jessica Syswerda** as the district's Outstanding Teacher of the Year recipients for 2017.

**Jeff Olind** is a World History and Economics instructor at Warren Mott High School. He has been with the district for the past 12 years.



**Jamie Steinman** is a Title One Intervention teacher at Wilkerson Elementary. She has deep roots in the district, having attending WCS throughout her youth educational years. Steinman has been a teacher in the district for the past 14 years.

**Jessica Syswerda** is a Language Arts teacher at Carleton Middle School. She has been with the district for the past 13 years.

The 2018 Teacher of the Year honorees will be announced in January.



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Welcome WCS Board Trustee Leah Berdy.



## DAY OF THE DEAD DISPLAYS

Students in Ms. Elizabeth Brett's level 3-4 Spanish classes at Cousino High School observed *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), by honoring iconic figures who passed.

The students created display altars with offerings or ofrendas. The altars were decorated with mementos such as pictures, bright flowers, candles, and favorite foods and beverages. Students were required to research and present their displays to their peers.



## SIERSMA DIVERSITY CIRCUS



The Siersma Social Studies committee recently held a Diversity Circus. Students learned the importance of being fair and accepting of others.

## STUDENT NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALIST

Warren Mott student Jonathon Leckrone was named a semifinalist in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. The nationwide pool of semifinalists includes the highest scoring entrants in the state. To become a finalist, semifinalists must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed by a high school official, write an essay, and earn a qualifying SAT score. Leckrone will be notified if he advances to the finalist level in February 2018.

## CPC hosts Veterans Day Celebration



More than 35 veterans were in attendance for the annual CPC Veterans Day Celebration.

169, while taps was played by band students.

The veterans were also treated to a brunch prepared by the CPC Culinary Arts students and were able to visit with fellow service members.

The Career Preparation Center recently hosted a Veterans Day celebration honoring service members for their courage, dedication and service to our country.

Students, staff, and veterans gathered around the flagpole for a flag raising ceremony performed by the Polish Legion of American Veterans, Post

## Students experience *A World in Motion*

Warren Consolidated Schools has partnered with the Society of Automotive Engineers to bring *A World in Motion* (AWIM) to elementary students as part of the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education program.

*A World in Motion* is a teacher-administered, industry volunteer-assisted program that brings STEM education to life in the classroom. The AWIM program incorporates integrated STEM learning experiences through hands-on activities that reinforce classroom STEM learning.

Currently second graders are making and testing straw rockets and fifth graders are building Jet Toy Cars with balloon powered motors.

Materials for designing and testing the rockets and Jet Toy Cars is provided by SRG Global of Troy, Fiat Chrysler Automotive (FCA), and Faurecia. Volunteers from these companies have been working with students to guide them through the engineering design process as they think creatively, work collaboratively, and communicate effectively.



Students in Ms. Audri Carter's second grade STEM class at Harwood Elementary work on testing straw rockets with their corporate partner from SRG Global of Troy.

## District Calendar

**December 19**— K-12 Half Day, NO PM ECSE

**Dec. 20-Jan. 2**— Traditional and Year Round NO SCHOOL (Holiday Break)

**January 3**— Classes Resume

**January 12**— Year Round NO SCHOOL

**January 15**— NO SCHOOL, MLK, Jr. Day

**January 17**— 9-12 Half Day, HS Exams 1 & 2

**January 18**— 9-12 Half Day, HS Exams 3 & 4

**January 19**— K-12 Half Day NO AM ECSE; PM ECSE reports AM; HS Exams 5 & 6

**February 14**— Supp. Student Count Day

**February 16**— K-12 Half Day, NO PM ECSE

**February 19-23**— Traditional and Year Round NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)

**February 26**— Traditional Classes Resume

**February 26-March 2**— Year Round NO SCHOOL, Intersession #2

**March 5**— Year Round Classes Resume

**March 9**— K-12 Half Day NO AM ECSE; PM ECSE reports AM

**March 15**— K-12 Half Day NO PM ECSE; Afternoon and Evening P/T Conf.

**March 28**— K-12 Half Day, NO PM ECSE

**March 29**— K-12 Half Day, NO PM ECSE

**March 29**— Year Round NO SCHOOL, Intersession #3

**March 30 - April 6**— Traditional and Year Round, NO SCHOOL (Spring Break)

**April 9**—Classes Resume

**April 9 - 16**— Year Round NO SCHOOL, Intersession #3

**April 10**—9-12 ONLY Half Day (SAT testing)

**April 17**— Year Round Classes Resume

**May 4**—K-12 Half Day, NO PM ECSE

**May 24**— Full Day, Senior Exams 3 & 4

**May 25**— K-12 Half Day NO AM ECSE; PM ECSE reports AM Senior Exams 5 & 6

**May 28**— NO School, Memorial Day

**May 29**— Full Day, Senior Exams 1 & 2

**June 12**— 9-11 Half Day, Exams 1 & 2

**June 13**— 9-11 Half Day, Exams 3 & 4

**June 14**— K-12 Half Day Exams 5 & 6; NO AM ECSE; PM ECSE reports AM, Last day of school

**June 20**— Year Round Half Day, Last day of school



**Warren Consolidated Schools**  
31300 Anita Drive  
Warren, MI 48093  
**1.888.4WCS.KIDS**  
**WCSKIDS.NET**

## 2017-18 Board of Education

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## Let's get social...



## Nutrition Services offers breakfast to students

Warren Consolidated Schools Nutrition Services Department offers a variety of easy to eat nutritional breakfasts served out of the cafeteria each morning 15 minutes prior to class.



The school breakfast program gives hardworking parents a hand in meeting their child's nutritional needs without interrupting the school day or taking away from important learning time. Warren Consolidated recognizes the established link between eating a healthy breakfast and academic success, and encourage all students to eat breakfast whether at home or at school. Students who routinely start their day with a good breakfast will learn healthy eating habits that will serve a lifetime.

## Livernois—continued from page 1

respect those people closest to them.

Imagine for a moment if our children, or you or me for that matter, did not have the ability to be heard as is for so many people in the world. In fact, for many parts of the world, people are oppressed, not allowed to speak freely, and are judged harshly if they do so.

Thirty years ago this plight of so many people was eloquently captured by the great rock band U2 when they sang the lyric "You gotta cry without weeping, talk without speaking, and scream without rais-

ing your voice." Imagine for a moment what it would be like to scream without raising your voice.

However, here in America, our children have the opportunity to use their voice. In fact, my youngest daughter Ava, a recent 2017 honors graduate from Sterling Heights High School, is now in college using her voice to make a difference in the world.

Like her, I know there are thousands of other WCS alumni doing the same thing in many parts of the world and that is using their voice.

## Student Services Update

**Enroll Today!** - Warren Consolidated Schools is always looking to welcome new families. Families that reside within the district and do not attend one of WCS's award winning schools are encouraged to stop by the Office of Student Services or visit the district website WCSKIDS.NET.

**Parent Portal** - Parent Portal provides parents the ability to securely view a student(s) grades, attendance, teacher comments, and other information via the internet. Access the PowerSchool Parent Portal at WCSKIDS.NET (Parent Portal Link).

## Join Our Team

Warren Consolidated Schools has the following substitute position available:

**Latchkey**  
**Classroom aides**  
**Clerical**  
**Custodian**  
**Bus drivers**  
**Nutrition Service workers**  
**Preschool aides**



Apply to become a valuable member of the WCS team.

**Apply NOW at WCSKIDS.NET** or call Human Resources at 586-698-4521 for more information regarding these and other opportunities.

## Annual Notices

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

The State of Michigan law requires that schools that may apply pesticides on school property must provide an annual advisory to parents or guardians of students attending a facility.

Please be advised that Warren Consolidated Schools utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize sanitation, pest exclusion and biological controls. One of the objectives of using an IPM approach is to reduce or eliminate the need for chemical applications of pesticides. However, certain situations may require the need for pesticides to be utilized.

As required by State of Michigan law, you will receive advance notice regarding the non-emergency application of a pesticide such as an insecticide, fungicide or herbicide, other than a bait or gel formulation. That is made to the school grounds or buildings during the school year. Please note that notification is not given for the infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application.

Advance notification of pesticide applications, other than a bait or gel formulation, will be given by at least two methods. The first method will be by posting at the main entrance to the school. The second method will be posting at the school's main office.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school are entitled to receive the advance notice of a pesticide application, other than a bait or gel formulation, by first class United States mail postmarked at least three days before the pesticide application, if they so request. If you prefer to receive the notification by first class mail, contact Kenneth Matheny at Elite Pest Management who is contracted and responsible for all inspections and pesticide procedures. Elite Pest Management can be reached at 586-294-7055. Forms are also available in the main offices of each school.

Please be advised that parents or guardians of children attending the school may review the school's Integrated Pest Management program and records of any pesticide application, upon request.

### Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response ACT

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each year district workers and building occupants receive notification about asbestos activities such as response actions and inspections. The purpose of this correspondence is to meet those requirements and familiarize you with the asbestos related activities that have been conducted in Warren Consolidated Schools this past year.

**Management Plans**—In 1998, Warren Consolidated Schools contracted with Asbestos Management Inc. to conduct inspections for asbestos containing material with all district owned buildings. This information was then compiled into Asbestos Management Plans. These Management Plans are kept in each building and are available for review. A copy of each building management plan is also located in the Educational Service Center.

**Surveillance Activities**—The AHERA regulation requires surveillance of the condition of AMC every six months and re-inspections every three years. The periodic surveillance was conducted in September 2014. Since the last re-inspection was done in 2013, the next three years re-inspection will be conducted in 2016. Both of these surveillance activities will be included as part of the buildings' Management Plans.

**Asbestos Abatement**—It is anticipated that Warren Consolidated Schools will need to conduct only minor amounts of asbestos abatement within its facilities over the next year and will continue to maintain all ACM under the Operations and Maintenance Program.

Any removal projects will be performed by a Michigan Licensed Asbestos Abatement Contractor and managed by Nova Environmental, Inc., the District's environmental consulting firm.

Asbestos documentation is available for review in each building file and at the Educational Service Center. For information, please contact Kerry Weishaupt, Supervisor of Auxiliary Services at 586-698-4446.

For more information on the Warren Consolidated Schools Integrated Pest Management program or the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, please contact Kerry Weishaupt, CFD, CTD—Manager of Auxiliary Services,