



Central School District

P.O. Box 648 • 374 Lake Street • Wilson, NY 14172

Message from Your Superintendent:



Dear Wilson Families,

The first snow fall of winter has arrived. However, no matter what the weather is outside, inside the halls of Wilson Central Schools the students are warm-hearted and hard at work learning.

Our Building Principals and Department Directors have been busy working collaboratively to build their Comprehensive District Education Plan (CDEP). When completed, the District leaders will share their work with the Board of Education. The CDEP's align with the District goals that were created over the summer by the District Administrators and Board members using input from the staff:

1. Continue to improve internal and external systems of communication including the use of the latest technology. Continue to build upon and reinforce open lines of communication between the school and the community.
2. Continued fiscal responsibility with declining resources that reflects community needs, while keeping current programs and standards.
3. Continue to focus on maintaining a clear and secure school environment that utilizes all district resources. Special emphasis on illicit substance awareness and improvements for the mental, physical, and emotional wellness of all stakeholders throughout the District.
4. Continue with our strong academic traditions, during a time of rapid change, by maintaining high standards while focusing on student participation and academics.
5. Offer professional development opportunities for staff and leadership that foster teamwork, collaboration, growth, and effective communication within buildings and across the District. Provide opportunities for staff and leadership to network with others across the region to enhance professional practice.
6. Students with disabilities will receive a continuum of supports and services delivered by highly trained professionals.

At this point in the school year students have already developed solid relationships with their teachers, have learned the daily routines and should be ready to excel in their school work. Academic success is not something that occurs, it is a habit that must be formed by hard work, perseverance, dedication and a willingness to be in school every day. If you have questions about your child, please first call your child's teacher.

The capital project is in full swing. Over the summer, the turf field and new track was completed. It was awesome watching the first games played on the new field. Other site work included two new parking lots, drainage and safety bollards at the elementary loop. At the HS/MS new windows were put in along with rooftop heating units and a new roof for a part of the HS/MS. At the elementary school there was work completed in the kitchen, cafeteria, nurse's suite and the new secure front entry. Also all classrooms are receiving classroom phones. The ones at the elementary school are operational, the MS/HS will be connected over the holiday break. There will be more work to come next summer.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season and I extend the wishes of the entire Wilson school community that you have a healthy and happy New Year.

Best Wishes,

Timothy P. Carter
Superintendent

Wilson Welcomes New Principal

The Wilson Central School District is pleased to welcome Paul Galgovich as the new High School Principal.

Mr. Galgovich most recently was an Assistant Principal at the Niagara Wheatfield CSD before joining the administrative team at Wilson. He is a graduate of SUNY Fredonia where he earned a Bachelor in Education and History. He continued his studies at Nazareth College where he attained his Master's degree in Educational Technology. Mr. Galgovich then earned a certificate of advanced study at SUNY Brockport.

During and after his schooling, Mr. Galgovich was a special education teacher for the Penfield and Perry Central School Districts. "I loved being a special education instructor, I just knew I could make a bigger difference in administration. A day doesn't go by that I don't miss the classroom," he said.

As a proud father of an active five year old son, Mr. Galgovich loves spending his spare time "Being Dad". He recently started as an assistant coach to his son's soccer league and recently decided to do the same for hockey. "When I was working for the Penfield CSD I was the head coach for the JV hockey team and assistant coach to the varsity team. I really enjoyed being a part of the program," he said. If he's not at the hockey arena, chances are you will find him on a ladder or building something at his home. "I really enjoy tackling projects and constructing" he said.

Welcome to Wilson Mr. Galgovich!



Agriculture Club Meets and Announces Officers

The Agriculture Club had the privilege to have John Farfaglia, a horticulturist from the Niagara County Cornell Cooperative, make a presentation at their first meeting.

Plant propagation was discussed and students had the opportunity to prepare their own plants based on what they learned. The lecture concluded with plant-based snacks, which were enjoyed by all!

This year is the first year for the Middle School Agricultural Club. They announced their student leaders for 2020. They are: Emerick Muck, Tyler Duerr and Colton Frerichs. Advisors for the Agricultural Club are Mr. Muck, Mrs. Sweeney and Mrs. Reagan.



Six Wilson Niagara Career and Tech Ed students inducted into National Technical Honor Society



Congratulations to the six Wilson students who attend the Niagara Career and Technical Education Center, who were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Out of all the high school students in the United States, the National Technical Honor Society students who receive this honor comprise 1.6 percent of that population. The students represent the four pillars of the National Technical Honor Society: Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character.

The students were honored at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES' Technical Education Center in front of their teachers, families and school district representatives. The students had to maintain an 89.5 grade average in their career and technical education programs and an 84.5 average at their high schools, have superior attendance, exemplary behavior, be a member in good standing with SkillsUSA and have a recommendation from a faculty member.

Congratulations to: Emily Baumgartner (Graphic Communications), Savannah Porter (Graphic Communications), Orianna Rzucidlo (Early Childhood Education), Wyatt Schultz (Diesel Technology / Heavy Equipment), Marcus Schwarzmuller (Conservation) and Kathryn Vandermast (Early Childhood Education).

Kindness Challenge Kick-Off



One of the nation's top youth speakers, Brian Williams, led students in a massive 15 day kindness challenge. The entire Wilson Elementary student body was challenged to carry-out acts of kindness in the halls, classrooms, at home and throughout the community.

Brian speaks to over 100,000 students each year. He has documented over 1.5 million acts of kindness, traveled to Africa 14 times and collected over 500,000 pairs of shoes for needy children and families.

During the assembly, students heard stories, saw pictures and watched videos of kids their own age in Kenya, with one big difference, these children have never worn a pair of shoes in their lives. The students did an amazing job at meeting the challenge of collecting gently used sneakers that were sent to needy children and families around the globe.

Thank You to Our Veterans

In appreciation for their military service, the Wilson and Ransomville American Legion members celebrated together with elementary students and enjoyed a Veterans Breakfast!

After breakfast, the Legion members went to several classrooms to read stories and talk to the students about their time in the military.

Thank you for your service!



Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage



2020 will signify an important anniversary in our nation's history, as it marks 100 years since the 19th Amendment was ratified. The amendment granted women the right to vote. In the decades leading up to the amendment, activists emerged who fought a sometime vicious war to secure women's suffrage. Since special events and celebrations are planned all over the country recognizing this historic milestone, teachers at the Middle School and High School are collaborating on some projects featuring the topic of Women's Suffrage.

Before the end of the school year, every student in the Middle School will read the short biography by Pam Pollack entitled *Who Was Susan B. Anthony*. The book will prompt classroom discussions, and students will learn about how Anthony became a leader in the Women's Suffrage movement.

In the high school, Mrs. Andres, Mrs. Fournier and Mrs. Payne are coordinating activities aimed at raising awareness of the 100th anniversary. The Drama Club will be producing the musical *Beehive* in November, directed by Mrs. Andres and Mrs. Fournier. It is an all-female cast with a female choreographer and stage crew advisor, Ms. Clarissa Malloy and Ms. Paige Hardison, respectively. The show is an exuberant celebration of the women musicians and writers who made the music of the 1960's truly memorable. The musical features chart topping hits from the Supremes, Janis Joplin, Aretha Franklin and many more.

Ms. Mahar has created two year-long displays in the Library Media Center (LMC), highlighting many of the suffragists who paved the way for all the women behind them. In addition to the displays in the LMC, there is also a slideshow featured on the homepage of the library website: wilsoncsd.org/librarymedia.

One Big Crunch at Wilson Elementary

Students at the Wilson Elementary School participated in the statewide Big Apple Crunch challenge. They joined students from around the state on October 25th in biting into a New York State grown apple to create what can only be described as a "Big Apple Crunch". The purpose of the event is to celebrate locally grown food and the New York apple industry.

"Everyone was given a fresh locally grown apple, from Neuman Farms in Barker, that the Food Service Department had purchased for the event," explained Susan Bell, Food Service Director for Wilson School District. "At precisely 2:00 p.m. the participants took a bite out of their apple to show their support of local farms. Given the fact that Wilson is a rural community, the importance of farming is appreciated by everyone involved."



Stella Cooper enjoying her "Big Crunch."

The Big Apple Crunch is an annual event hosted by the FarmOn! Foundation, the New York Apple Association (NYAA) and the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. FarmOn! is a non-profit organization that creates and funds youth educational programs. The organization's goal is to help preserve family farming in America by inspiring students to consider careers in sustainable agriculture.

Fondue Anyone?

Mrs. Sweeney's "Eat Smart" class enjoyed a taste of Switzerland as they learned the art of fondue. The students used fondue equipment, which are communal pots that cheese, chocolate and butterscotch sauces were made in by heating. They also cooked

beef and dipped it in a variety of sauces that they also made.

The students enjoyed the chocolate fondue the best, and were amazed how easy fondue is to prepare. Bon Appetit!



(LtoR) Front row: Maddelena Cornelia, Abigail Couturier, Samantha Herlan, and Emma Hurtgam. Back row: Johnathen Rakowski, Tyler Yousett, Chris Dispenza, Kevin Peck, and Alex Martinez.

BOCES Students Take a Swing at Golf

Orleans/Niagara BOCES teacher Mark Kurtz had a cool field trip with BOCES Life Skills students. The teachers he works with took their students for their second year to the Willowbrook Golf Course in Lockport. Since Mr. Kurtz also coaches the Wilson School District Golf team, he invited his players and Wilson Athletic Director Jeff Roth to meet them there and spend some time with the classes to teach them how to play golf. This helps fulfill the Wilson students' community service requirement and they had a great day on the course sharing a game they love.

The Life Skills students and their coaches spent time on the driving range and the putting green and played four holes of golf. The Wilson students showed a lot of patience with teaching the students the basics of the game and everyone had a great time! Mr. Kurtz would like to thank Willowbrook for being so generous in supporting the classes' adventure.



Wilson Golf Team with the Orleans/Niagara BOCES Life Skills students.

Wilson High School Holds Apple Pie Contest

With the holiday season fast approaching, students in the Eat Smart Class learned how to whip up one and two crust pies and how to work with phyllo dough. With their new skills, students then got down to business creating apple pies for a very competitive bake-off for staff and faculty to vote on.

Wilson Middle School/High School employees tasted and ranked each pie in a variety of categories. Based on their votes, the winners were: Best Flavor – pie made by Kevin Peck, Best Appearance – pie made by Johnathen Rakowski and Alex Martinez and Best Overall – pie made by Samantha Herlan and Emma Hurtgam. Principal Paul Galgovich selected the pie made by Samantha Herlan and Emma Hurtgam as the Principal's Award Winner. He commented, "Although it was a difficult decision, the flavor and texture stood out. I'm already looking forward to next year's contest."



Emma Hurtgam, Principal Paul Galgovich, Samantha Herlan with the winning apple pie.

Board of Directors Needed

Last fall, the announcement was made that an Alumni Association was forming at Wilson Central. The first step involved collecting contact information for alumni and as of now, more than 550 WCS graduates have signed up to receive information. We're now ready to take the second step, and are seeking volunteers to form a Board of Directors. Positions needed on the Board will include the following:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer



Additional future positions may include chairpersons for: Membership, Events, Scholarship, Fundraising, Communication, etc.

Once a Board of Directors is established, leaders will incorporate to form an official Alumni Association that operates individually from the district. They will also take over communication with the network of contacts that has been assembled by the district. Volunteers would assume all leadership duties within the organization and thereby should currently live in the area and be able to commit the time and energy necessary to form an association from the ground up. Prior leadership experience is preferred.

If you are interested in filling one of the leadership positions, please contact Superintendent Mr. Tim Carter at 716-751-9341 x120 or tcarter@wilsoncsd.org, by January 17th. Mr. Carter will coordinate a meeting in late January or early February with all interested parties to establish leadership positions. If you have not signed up to receive emails and alumni information yet, and would like to, please fill out the form found online at: wilsoncsd.org/Page/947.

High School Student Creates Historical Marker for the Community



Pictured is the Rodgers Family. Front row (LtoR) Jesse Rodgers and his sister Grace. Back row (LtoR) Jesse's father Todd Rodgers and mother Kristen.

Seventh and eighth grade students in Wilson Middle School are always on the lookout for one thing: blue and gold historical markers. As part of a two-year unit on local history, students are required to photograph themselves next to markers and log visits to historic places in their passports. The unit was conceived in 2012, when Social Studies teachers Brett Sippel and Jim Alderman collaborated with librarian Maureen Mahar, to build more emphasis on local history into their curriculum. The goal of the unit is for students to gain increased awareness of locally significant people and places, and learn more information about important locations and historical events that have taken place in Niagara and Erie Counties. People come from all over the world to witness the spectacle of Niagara Falls, but because it is in our backyard, we often take it for granted.

This year marks a special milestone for the unit, as current 9th grader Jesse Rodgers just unveiled a new historical marker that he created, recognizing Lake Island Park. In 2017, Mr. Sippel polled his students to see if any of them were interested in getting a new marker made for the community. Six seventh graders stepped forward and met a few times, brainstorming ideas for a marker, before the year ended. Those students were: Katrina Nye, Keegan Foxvog, Anthony Cirillo, Linsey Myers, Carter Pytlik and Jesse Rodgers. In 2018, Jesse continued to pursue the project and decided that Lake Island Park was worthy of a marker, and started his research. He consulted materials found in the school and public libraries, including old newsletters from the Wilson Historical Society, issues of the Wilson Star newspaper from the late 1800s, and the Wilson Historical Sketchbook, written by Donald Croop.

Jesse and his teachers offer special thanks and acknowledgement to Charles Horton, former President of the Wilson Historical Society,

who came in to meet with them a few different times, bringing a treasure trove of resources with him. He was very generous with his time and materials, and his help made researching Lake Island Park much easier. Others who were acknowledged for their roles in the project included the following: Mary Clark, John Sinclair, Diane Muscoreil, Francis Gallagher and Melissa Langridge.

When it was time to apply for the grant, made available by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, Jesse completed most of the application himself, with minimal guidance from Miss Mahar. The final inscription that appears on the marker was written 100% by Jesse, and abbreviated only slightly by the Pomeroy Foundation, before approving it for production. On October 24th, a small ceremony was held to officially unveil the Lake Island marker. Jesse presented a history of Lake Island Park, describing it as, "an extremely popular amusement park that brought in thousands of visitors a day." He added that there were many exciting things to do at the park, including a water toboggan, a baseball diamond, Ferris wheel, steam-powered merry-go-round, dance pavilion and amphitheater. "It is strange how something so popular and inviting simply disappears. For many years, Lake Island Park served as a summer home and vacation destination, amusement park, and a place of wonderment for many, many people."

Mr. Sippel and Miss Mahar are very proud of Jesse for taking on this project, and creating a lasting tribute that local members of the community and visitors from all around the world, may enjoy for decades to come. During the unveiling ceremony, Miss Mahar stated that, "he did a fantastic job and we are hoping that his achievement may inspire other students to research additional markers and have them created." The marker is located near 1 Shore Drive in the Village of Wilson, next to the entrance to the Tuscarora Yacht Club.

Spirit Week 2019



Back to School Picnic is Adventure at Elementary School

The Wilson Elementary School PTA kicked off the school year with their second Back to School Picnic. Judging by all the smiles, it was a huge success!

The theme for this school year is Adventure Awaits and what better way to rollout the new theme but in Adventureland! The entire community was invited to come and experience the fun that was in store for the upcoming school year.

Upon entering each person received a hot dog meal, served up by several of our faculty and staff volunteers, to enjoy as they visited

many of the stations both inside and outside of the school. Some of the activities included a Niagara County Sheriff's K-9 demo, a rock climbing wall, the New York State Parks Interpretive Programs Department, a Boy Scouts knot tying demonstration and an African animal petting zoo from Buffalo Animal Adventures. In the cafeteria, there was a wellness fair with several local organizations/businesses offering helpful information.

Many in attendance ended the night by enjoying a sweet arctic treat donated by Brownie's Custard Stand. The entire event was free to attend and was funded by the PTA or community business donations.

