Green Brook Gazette

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GBMS STUDENTS WIN ACADEMIC QUIZ BOWL



(above, standing l-r) Mr. Mojta (teacher), Ms. Cerofaci (teacher), Kevin Fu, Leo Affouf, Devan Sutaria, June Yin, Ms. Schaefer; (kneeling, l-r) Ahir Verma, Anmol Bhatia (captain); Not pictured: Ms. Wetzel (teacher/coach).

Scholastica competition in November. The competition is an academic quiz bowl contest. Students compete in this academic battle by answering questions in five different categories: English Language Arts, History, Science, Mathematics, and Potpourri (such as general knowledge, world religion, technology). The competition this year was memorable because students from Green Brook Middle School (GBMS) participated for the first time ever. Through six glorious rounds of academic competition, the students from GBMS battled with other local middle schools. Each round of the competition pitted the students against their peers from another school.

team as their captain. Also on the team, and proudly Sutaria, Ahir Verma, and June Yin. The students from Green victorious!

Immaculata High School hosted their annual Immaculata Brook started off slowly. They won two close rounds to start the competition. In Round 2, they won by a single point. After the apprehension of the initial rounds and excitement faded, the team from Green Brook found their confidence and were on a roll. The GBMS students convincingly won each round of the competition and advanced to the semifinals in Round 5. An exciting Round 5 victory over Branchburg Central Middle School led to a Round 6 showdown with the Immaculata Conception School team in the sixth and final round.

Both sides answered a series of challenging questions but in the end, GBMS won the final round of the competition by a score of 13 to 8. Win or lose, it was a fun academic Anmol Bhatia, a seventh-grade student at GBMS, led the experience for all the students who participated. However, for the students from GBMS, it was an especially rewarding representing Green Brook, was Leo Affouf, Kevin Fu, Devan night to participate in their first quiz bowl and to be

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

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com



Check out local photo albums at www.rennamedia.com

MEET MARYANNE CHRISTIANO-MISTRETTA YOUR CONTACT FOR NEWSPAPER CONTENT



Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Hello Readers!

I'm ecstatic to introduce myself for Renna Media. It's such an honor working with Joe and Tina Renna; they are awesome!

Joe has asked me to write a little bit about myself for our readership, which is probably a great idea since I'll often be out

and about in the community.

Residing in Union County with my husband, Dennis, and our beloved cat Nicholas, my interests, besides writing and editing, include animals, music, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Writing professionally since 1995, I'm an award-winning journalist. I received my award from The NJ Society of Professional Journalists for investigative journalism. I'm also an author, public speaker, and poet (recently selected to read at the All About Eve Arts Festival at the West End Theatre in Long Branch, New Jersey).

Having a great passion for music, I've developed a unique library program called "The Learn & Listen Series" which pays homage to legendary musicians.

The two-fold presentation begins as I host, sharing a musician's biography – which I wrote followed by actual live music from local New Jersey and New York talent. Librarians can choose from a variety of singers such as Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, Johnny Cash, Janis Joplin, and David Bowie.

I'm blessed to be able to work with performers like indie recording artist Keith Beck; jazz sensation Stephen Fuller (front man for Amani);

singer/performance artist, Anna Oh; and threetime Grammy winning producer, Rob Fusari.

"Learn & Listen" also includes Jayne as the new editor DiGregorio and Rich Timberlake, who work behind-the-scenes filming for an upcoming documentary.

> In addition to the "Learn & Listen" series, I also lecture on "History of the Newspaper Industry," "Going, Going, Gone: What the Next Generation Won't Remember" (seniors love that one!), and there's also a healthy foodies series, which includes sampling.

> Now, if you've read this far, you may be asking yourself – how can this woman work so much and still have time to edit 21 newspapers? As Joe Renna himself says - "It's not work, it's a lifestyle." I somehow get everything done ... and with a big smile on my face.

> When you have a grand passion for what you do, it doesn't matter what day it is. It could be a Monday, or a Friday, and you're equally as happy. Sometimes I'm home all day working in my pajamas; other times I'm having a blast taking photos at a Winter Walk. Whether I sleep in or get up super early to attend a town meeting, it's all good. In this line of work, every day is different, and every day is exciting.

> In just one month of working for Renna Media, I've attended many fun affairs and met incredible people. It brings a tear to my eye when a child cheers, "I'm gonna be in the newspaper!" after I take his or her photograph. That's what it's all about – the essence of presenting a good story to the community.

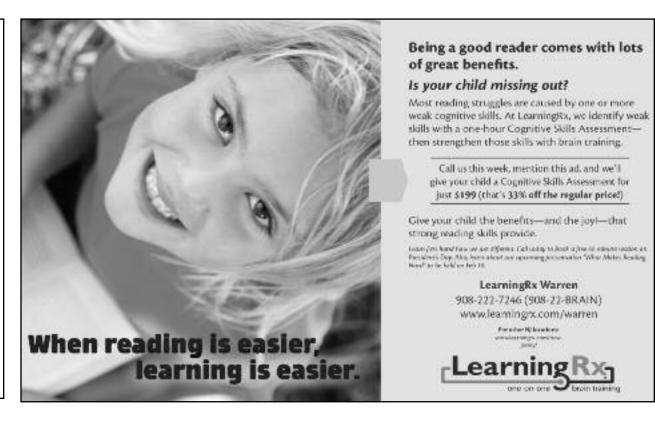
> So, don't hesitate to send me your community news. We call on the arts, fundraisers, nonprofits, new businesses – anything positive that should be in your local newspaper.

> Reach me at 908-858-4012, or email me at: Editor@RennaMedia.com

I look forward to hearing from you!

Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta





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WHRHS DISTRICT PLACED ON 8TH ANNUAL AP® DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

Watchung Hills Regional High School District is one of 447 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 8th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. To be included on the 8th Annual Honor Roll, the Watchung Hills Regional High School District had to, since 2015, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

"The shared ownership and collaborative efforts of our faculty members across grade levels and departments have cultivated a learning environment in which our students continue to exceed our expectations. Our percentage of students scoring 3 or higher and 4 or higher has steadily risen each year since 2012, while we continue to open access and opportunities for more students to take AP courses," stated Elizabeth C. Jewett, WHRHS Superintendent.

National data from 2017 show that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be

equitably opened. The Watchung Hills Regional High School District is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

"Congratulations to all the educators and administrators in this district who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to participate and succeed in AP," stated Trevor Packer, head of AP and Instruction. "These educators and administrators are fostering a culture in their schools and classrooms that allows students to face new challenges and build the confidence to succeed."

Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

In 2017, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2015 to 2017, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used.

Districts must:

Increase participation/access to AP by at least

four percent in large districts, at least six percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts;

Increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP Exam; and

Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2017 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2015 percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30 percent or more are underrepresented minority students (American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander) and/or 30 percent or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

The complete 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found here: apcentral.collegeboard.org/score-reports-data/awards/honor-roll

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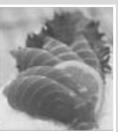
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SUCCESSFUL GREEN BROOK CLEAN UP

Submitted by Kelly Cupit

More than 70 people joined forces with the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership and Central Jersey Stream Team on December 3, 2017, to clean up Green Brook and surrounding areas.

At least 15 people worked to clear the blockages in the brook, while the rest of the

volunteers cleared out various debris. More than 50 bags of trash and 100 bags of recycling were removed. Eradicated rubbish included, propane and helium tanks, garbage cans, a car bumper, plastic crates, a pool liner, household rugs, many flower pots, and plenty of styrofoam.

The Township of Green Brook provided the supplies to clean up the area.

Green Brook Township Committeeman Jerry Searfoss was on site for the event and stated, "The Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, the Central Jersey Stream Team, and the volunteers that showed up all made a huge impact on keeping the green in Green Brook! We hope another event like this can be planned for next year."





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(above) Clean-up haul.

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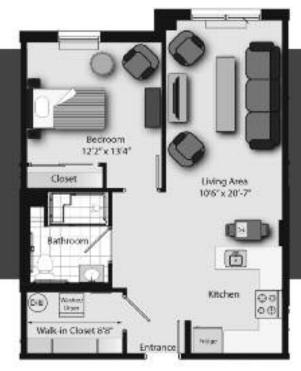
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WHRHS 2017 FALL COLLEGE ATHLETIC SIGNINGS

Eight Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) who competed in Fall sports at WHRHS have signed letters of intent to play sports for the Division I college they intend to attend next year, while one WHRHS athlete intends to attend and play sports next year for a Division II college.

WHRHS Director of Athletics Christopher Van Vliet congratulated the seniors as they announced their plans to play college sports on Monday, November 27, 2017, in the school's Media Center.

"We are very proud of you," Van Vliet said. "We wish you the best in the next chapter of your lives."

Van Vliet also congratulated the coaches and parents who gathered in the Media Center to witness the college athletic announcement. Most of the athletes will be playing at colleges in New Jersey, Pennsylvania or New York, including two planning to stay in-state at Rutgers University and Princeton University. "Go Warriors," he added.

Those planning to attend and play at Division I schools are:

In Boys Lacrosse, all from Warren Township: Chris Clintock at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia; Drew Furlong at SUNY Binghamton University, Binghamton, N.Y.; Jonathan Taub at Rutgers University, New Brunswick; and Tyler James, at The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.

In Baseball, both from Green Brook Township, Tyler Riley at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine; and Michael Murray at Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y.

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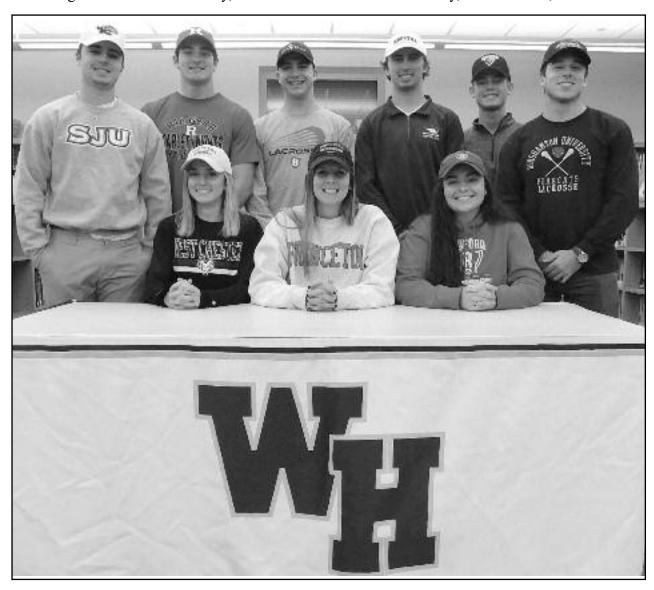
Free support groups are available for children, teens, and parents coping with loss due to death or illness on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Imagine located at 244 Sheffield Street in Mountainside, NJ.

Imagine is a free year-round peer grief support program for children age 3-18 and young adults 18-30 who have had a parent, brother, or sister die, or who are living with a family member with a life-altering physical illness. Concurrent support groups are available for parents and guardians in both programs. Imagine also provides educational workshops and on-site bereavement and crisis support for businesses, corporations, schools and community agencies.

Imagine supports children and families coping with loss and fosters resiliency and emotional well-being for all those who grieve. If you or someone you know could benefit please contact Imagine at 908-264-3100 or email info@imaginenj.org.

In Girls Lacrosse, Katelyn Carroll of Warren Township at Radford University, Radford, VA. And in Girls Basketball, Julia Cunningham of Watchung at Princeton University, Princeton.

Planning to attend and play sports at Division II schools is: In Girls Lacrosse in Division II, Julia Burton of Warren Township at West Chester University, West Chester, PA.



(above, standing, l-r): Chris Clintock of Warren Township, who plans to play Lacrosse at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Jonathan Taub of Warren, Lacrosse at Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Tyler James of Warren, Lacrosse at The College of Holy Cross, Worcester, Massachusetts; Michael Murray of Green Brook Township, Baseball at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York; Tyler Riley of Green Brook, Baseball at the University of Maine, Orono, Maine; and Drew Furlong of Warren, Lacrosse at SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, New York (sitting, l-r): Julie Burton of Warren, Lacrosse at West Chester University, West Chester, Pennsylvania; Julia Cunningham of Watchung, Basketball at Princeton University, Princeton; and Katelyn Carroll of Warren, Lacrosse at Radford University, Radford, Virginia.

CDC THEATRE CONTINUES WINNING SEASON WITH CRIMES OF THE HEART

Rehearsals are underway for Beth Henley's "Crimes of the Heart" at CDC theatre in Cranford, New Jersey. Warm-hearted, irreverent, zany and brilliantly imaginative, the play teems with humanity and humor as it examines the plight of three young Mississippi sisters betrayed by their passions. "Crimes of the Heart" won Best Play from the NY Drama Critics Circle, was nominated for a Tony Award, and Beth Henley won the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. The 1986 film version was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Screenplay.

"The Pulitzer Prize is given to honor a distinguished play that deals in an original way with American life. It is no wonder Beth Henley was given this honor at the age of twenty-five for her very first professionally-produced play," stated Director Maurice Moran "The show is a

tender, yet humorous, story of three sisters who help each other cope with loss and fear, those "crimes of the heart," overcoming the problems they face through the love they have for one another. We have put together a very talented cast who will touch your heart and make you smile as they enact this beautiful tale of family love."

The cast is made up of Maeve Brady, Rebecca Dolan and Katherine Brown as the three Magrath sisters, Lenny, Meg and Babe, with Danielle Mastropiero as Chick, Joe Leo as Doc, and Zach Mazout as Barnette.

The production will run from February 16 through 24 and details and tickets can be found by visiting cdctheatre.org. CDC Theatre, New Jersey's oldest continuously producing community theatre, is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford.

HERE COMES SANTA PAWS!

when pet owners took their dogs to the Central Bark Dog Park, 255 Greenbrook Rd., Green Brook, to meet Santa Claus.

Green Brook residents were excited to take photos of themselves and their pets, sitting with Santa, played by Jerry Searfoss. And families from other towns also came, either because they

It was a dog day afternoon in Green Brook were out Christmas shopping; or simply because their dog liked going for a car ride on this sunny

> Coordinated by Kate Searfoss, this was the fourth year the event was held. Donations of \$5 per person - matched by the Green Brook Recreation Center – were given to a local family in need.



(above l-r) Kelly Lavery holding her dog, Holly, with Santa.







(above l-r) Kacy Cupit holding "Rudy," Santa, and Juliet Cupit.



(above) John Zilg and Diesel, a Puggle/Beagle mix.





(above, l-r) Santa and Adi, a Chihuahua-Pomeranian/Terrier mix. and with Brewster.





(above, l-r) Heat, looking handsome in his Santa hat, and Billy, a Corgi mix.

WHRHS 2017 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Hundreds of students take advantage every year of some 70 Co-Curricular Activities at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS).

According to Dan Bertelli, who is the supervisor of Arts, Health/Physical Education and Co-Curricular Activities, students participate for a variety of reasons. Some students want to have fun, explore new horizons, meet new friends, and stay productive, while others want to experience working productively in a group. Some want to contribute to their class, their school, and their community. Many want to add to their resume, develop a marketable skill, and augment their classroom learning.

In addition to Co-Curricular Activities, there is, of course, also a long list of WHRHS Warrior Fall, Winter, and Spring interscholastic and club sports teams through which to develop skills, gain experience, record achievements and find fulfillment.

At a variety of public events during the school year, student representatives can setup displays, which highlight the function and benefits of these co-curricular activities. In addition, bulletin



(above, l-r) Representing the JSA (Junior State of America), which meets weekly and attends two weekend conferences per year with the goal of developing students' debate skills on current events issues of their choosing, are seniors Eris Ulaj, co-president; Michael Deo, vice president; Jeffrey Stickler, co-president; and Michael Durkin, publicity officer.



(above, l-r) Among the members of the Yearbook Staff greeting parents at Back to School Night are Massai Shuler, Annabelle Ku, Anna Seidel, and Isha Kasu, all juniors.

boards throughout the school give identity to the co-curricular activities, announce upcoming events and offerings of the activities, and congratulate and call attention to achievements and milestones.

All club and activity information can be found on the school's Web site. The Web site lists as Academic Co-Curricular Activities: Academic Team, Chemistry Olympiad, History Bowl Team, History Club, Math League, Robotics Team, Science Bowl Club, and Science League; and the various Academic Honor Societies, such as National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and Waksman Molecular Biology.

Under Academic -- Diversified Interest, the Co-Curricular Activity list includes: Arrowhead Newspaper, Astronomy Club, Creative Writing Club, DECA Club, Economics Club, Entrepreneurship Club, Film Club, Folio (creative writing and expression), Forensics and Investigatory Club (F.I.C), Fusion, Future Business Leaders of America, Future Doctors of America, Lenape Yearbook, The Neuroscience Club, and Video Game Programming.

Under Diversified Interests the list includes: American Sign Language Club, Anime and Fandom Club, Asian Culture Club, Cosmetic Club, Culinary Club, Computer Science Club, K-Pop Club, Polish Club, Sports Fans Club.

In Student Government, there are: The All

School Council, Peer leaders, and Grade Level Councils for Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors.

In the Performing Arts, there are: Marching Band, Choral Ensembles, Color Guard, Dance Ensemble, Instrument Ensemble, Jazz Band Ensemble, Script & Cue, Script & Cue Stage Crew, and International Thespian Society.

In Public Service there are: Action Against Hunger, America/MLB Players Trust Action Team Club, B.E.L.I.E.V. Club, CARE Club, Diversity Club, Environmental Club, H2O For Life, Habitat for Humanity, INTERACT Community Service Club, Peer Leadership Program, and Red Cross Club.

In Social Justice, there are: Gender and Sexuality Association (GSA), Junior State of America, Mock Trial, Model United Nations, and Young Democrats.

In recreational sports, there are: Ping Pong/Badminton Club, Ski and Snowboard Club, and Ultimate Frisbee.

The school's Web site also advises that any student or group of students that have an interest in starting a club can begin by downloading the Intent to Organize form. Applicants must fill out the form in its entirety.

For more information, students can contact the All School Council (ASC) office, during lunch or after school. ASC members can assist students through the process.



(above, l-r) Spirit Store: Anna Baitel, grade 11; Jamie Pila, 10; Camille Brady, 9; Danielle LaCanna, 9; Jed Ober, 9; Ayla Prinzivalli, 11; and Gabriella Santos, 11.



(above, l-r) Standing in front of their display for the Diversity Club are Emily Thompson, a sophomore, and Becca Baitel, a junior.



(above, l-r) Angela Munoz, grade 12; and Kaelin Churchill, grade 10, both singers with the WHRHS Choir, display WHRHS ties.

WHRHS FALL DRAMA PRODUCTION 'DRACULA'

The staging of the annual Fall drama, Lucy's Maids; Matt Oboh and William Broder as "Dracula," on November 16 to 18, 2017, at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS), was a team effort, involving a full cast and crew of students, staff, volunteers, and supporters of the school's Script & Cue Drama Program.

The Director's Note in the play's program gave the time, place and setting of the drama: "The time is late-1887, and the places are Lucy's Home, an Insane Asylum near Whitby, England, and Dracula's Castle in Transylvania, Bulgaria. Set in oppressed Victorian times, Bram Stoker's Dracula is a story written through a combination of letters and narrative structure. Although episodic, the play follows Stoker's story closely. As in most versions, it concentrated on Dracula's venomous pursuit of the living. As he so eloquently states when moving to the crowded city of London, 'How I delight in thinking of the bustling streets, peopled with the mad whirl and rush of humanity. Oh, to be in the midst of that banquet of life!""

The cast included: Nicole Bell as Mina; Jack Melillo as Harker; Kaelin Churchill as Lucy; Andrew Moberly as Seward; Sam Sinnott as Renfield; Justin Horowitz as Van Helsing; Giovanna DiSanto as Nurse Maria, Ben Allgor as Dracula; Kyra Anthony and Josephine Pascale as

(above l-r) Ben Allgor, who portrayed Dracula;

Sam Sinnott's mother, Gail Sinnot; and Sam

Also, as Asylum Inmates, Massai Shuler, Matt Ohboh, William Broder, Kevin Lynch, Sophia Su, Maria Irvin, Sophia Patti and Carly MacManus; as Asylum Attendants, Chris Gagliano, Matt Massarisi, and Maria Irvin; and

Waiters; and Sophia Su as Waitress.

as Vixens, Summer Stuart, Nicole Vila, Anchal Shir, Kayla Martins, Natasha Bird, Brigita Przybylski, Christine Tanko, Claire Vickery, Emma Leary and Alison Wolf.

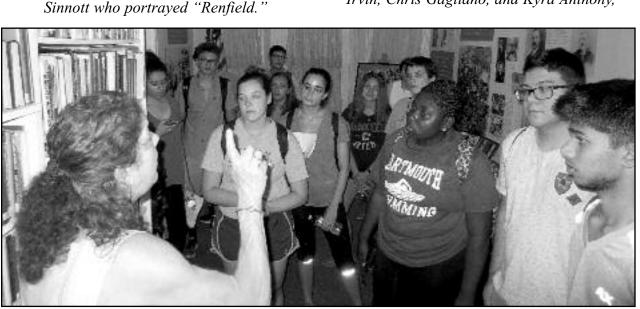
The Production Crew included: As Director, WHRHS Drama Teacher Doug Eaton; Lead Assistant Director, Emily Snead, 2nd Assistant Director Kathleen O'Mullan; Production Stage Manager, Mark Caamano, Set Design, Douglas Eaton; Scenic Artist, WHRHS Art Teacher Kate Griffin; Costume Design, Gail DeCicco; Lighting Design, Chris Valenti; Sound Design, Rick Clark; Lead Assistant Stage Manager, AJ Martin; Assistant State Manager Ryan Presgraves; Technical and Set CAD (Computer Aided Design), Chris Valenti; Video Projections and

The Production Staff included: Costume Manager, Brianna Caetano; Costumes Crew, Lucan Mammone; Property Manager, Jessica Pearlstein; Props Crew, Rachel Krouk and Jessica

Lighting Effects, Chris Valenti, Rick Clark and

Nick DiNizio.

(above, l-r) Cast mates Christine Tanko, Maria Irvin, Chris Gagliano, and Kyra Anthony,



(above, l-r) Dracula cast members Matt Oboh, Kevin Lynch, Matt Mazzarisi, and Massai Schuler, celebrate at the reception in the lobby of the WHRHS PAC after the performance.

Pearstein; Sound – Mics, Michael Maloney and Krystyna Leski; Sound Effects, Casey Green; Lighting, Portia Rowley; Spot Light, Tyler Horvath and Patrick Dempsey; and Scenic Painters, Bobbie Waugaman and Fiona Mulvey.

Also, Hair and Makeup was Shelby Waddy, Bobbie Waugaman, Juliet Leary, Hollace Chase, Madelena Goffredo, Molly Davis, John Harrobin, Angelina Carrano and Claire Vickery; Rigging, Patrick Dempsey and Anthony Russo; Also, Running Crew was Nevya Menon, Arden Dettling, Portia Rowley, Anthony Russo, Gabriel Snead, Julia Celeste, Sara Barrientos, Rebecca Dickerson. Madeline Leong, deCavaignac, Emma Giordano, Michael Wong, Rachel Krouk, Emily Dec, and Madeleine Johnson.

Usher Captain was Elizabeth Chapleski, and Ushers were Colin Beisler, Michael Wong, Angelina Carrano, Lucas Mammone, and Christina Carrano.

Script and Cue Business Manager is Dianne Krutz. Laura Zijdel produced the program.

Save the Dates. The annual Spring Musical production presented by Script & Cue will be "Guys and Dolls," presented on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 22, 23, and 24 2018 at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday, March 24, 2018. All are invited.



(above, l-r) Matt Mazzarisi, who portrayed an Asylum Attendant; Nicole Bell, who portrayed a Vixen; Jack Melillo, who portrayed Harker; Andrew Moberly, who portrayed Seward; and Ben Allgor, who portrayed Dracula.



(above, l-r) Kaelin Churchill played Lucy, and Justin Horowitz played Van Helsing.

WHRHS 2017 INSTRUMENTAL WINTER CONCERT

The Concert Band, Orchestra and Wind Ensemble each had their own segments during the Instrumental Winter Concert on Thursday, December 7, 2017, at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS). They won the hearts of the audience with entertaining and ambitious song selections, remarkable musicianship, and, in the end, a fetching, musical welcome to the 2017 Holiday Season.

The audience seemed to receive the student performances every bit as much as a fun, entertaining concert as it was also a public demonstration of how far these high school students had progressed music education-wise since the start of the school year.

Instrumental Music Teacher and Conductor Paul McCullen said some 65 percent of the Concert Band are First Year students.

The last song of the night, the Wind Ensemble's performance of Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival," yielded a standing ovation and calls from the audience of "More!" That was reminiscent of last year's Spring Instrumental Concert. McCullen obliged, calling on the Wind Ensemble to play Leroy Anderson's other most famous arrangement, his iconic composition, "Sleigh Ride."

According to the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) review of Christmas music, "Sleigh Ride" consistently ranks as one of the top 10 mostperformed songs written by ASCAP members.

In the Program Notes for the Instrumental Winter Concert, McCullen writes: "The Concert Band this evening is presenting the lighter works of the concert and perhaps a tune or two you many know. A wonderful short overture, followed by pieces of the season, and closing with a slightly off-holiday movie that is slowly becoming a classic."

The Concert Band performed: "Westridge Overture," by James Barnes; "Fortress Variants," by Elliot Del Borgo, and the twin pieces for the season, "Continental Christmas Suite, by Elliot Del Borgo, and "The Nightmare Before Christmas," by Danny Elfman, from the 1993 movie of the same title, written by Tim Burton.

In the Program notes for The Orchestra, McCullen writes: "The Orchestra is presenting works throughout three periods in classical music, with a wonderfully balanced program of: A overture, music of the Renaissance, and closing with another wonderful full length work of the Baroque, highlighting some of our most talented.

The Orchestra performed: "Overture from The Mikado," by Sir Arthur Sullivan; William Byrd Suite," by William Byrd; and "Brandenburg Concerto No. 4," by J.S. Bach. The Orchestra had performed the "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3" last year, McCullen said. "Each one is different." It was the longest piece played at the concert, McCullen pointed out, stretching some 15 or 16 minutes, but throughout the Orchestra's rendition, one could hear a pin drop in the WHRHS Performing Arts Center. performance featured three soloists, Carter Rosen, David Ki, and Tiffany Wang. In addition, two student musicians from the Wind Ensemble, Cherlin Zhu and Lindsey Shi, played flute, and WHRHS Choral Music Teacher Angela DiIorio Bird played harpsicord, using an 88-key electric keyboard, programmed to sound like a harpsicord.

In the Program Notes for the Wind Ensemble, McCullen writes, "The Wind Ensemble will be presenting two featured composers from last year, Dello Joio and Persichetti: along with music of the Renaissance. Additionally, some music to celebrate the beginning of the holiday season

The Wind Ensemble performed "The Earl of Oxford's March," by William Byrd; "Satiric Dances," by Norman Dell Joio; "Psalm for Band," by Vincent Persichetti; "The Eighth Candle," by Steve Reisteter; and "A Christmas Festival," followed the encore song, "Sleigh Ride," both by Leroy Anderson.

Band are: oboe, Erica Hwang and Kaitlyn Roth; flute, Jasmine Aiello, Catherine Baker, Sarah Branco, Taylor Burton, Tina Chen, Erika Cheng, Susan Choy, Phillip Ding, Deekshita Gorrepati, Tamara Hadzic, Jenna Hansen, Deepa Irakam, Roopa Irakam, Sephanie Ju, Kathie Liang, Cindy Long, Alanna Margulies, Isha Nagpaul, Tien Nguyen, Maria Shanahan, Zoe Weng, and Maylin Zhu; clarinet, Patrick Alto, Katherine Buser, Ariana Gilligan, Daniel Han, Sarah Jardim,

Kristina Lesaca, Nicoletta Koconis, Tarun Loganathan, Andre Christopher Meier, Jeremy Shamai, Wesley Tseng, and Justine Wang; bass Clarinet, Demetrios Gianakis, Achyuta Murli and Paul Zatorski; and alto sax, Benjamin Binstock, Seth Calindas, Conner Cheng, Nathan Chon, Tyler Horvath, Zachary Kopelman, Aditya Logariathan, Alexander Martino, Grayson Mejia, Manuel Melo, Ashwin Menon, and Victor Osoliniec; tenor xax, Kyle Merritts, Adam Moszczynski, John Schmitt, Vujay Subramanian, and Michael Waiman; baritone sax, Brynn Mintoto, Dylan Stein, and Marshall White; percussion, Alexander Azarian, Joshua Brinks, Marc Bruno, Marco Clapcich, Christopher Larsen, George Leunes, Michael Motta, Jack Onufer, Eric Petersen, Kobe Tom, Alexander Tortoriello, and Stockton VanWeele; trombone, Thomas Barca, Ryan Britten, Martina Lavender, Nicole LoCasio, Jack Remington, Aaron Shieh, Joncarlo Tautonico and Emily Thompson; euphonium, Chad Huang, Emma Kotar, Matthew Mandelbaum, Surya Rai, and Elizabeth Samayoa; tuba, Benjamin DeGuilo; trumpet, Andrew Cuonzo, Noah Hammer, James Lavender, Miah Manning, Nicholas Maziekien, Lauren McAvoy, Elisabeth Russo, Kathryn Sellinger, Andrew Soliman, Matthew Strona, Cullen Van Skiver, Leo Yan, and Kevin Zu; and horn, Gavin Chiu, Leah Lavender, Hannah Marszalek, and Ngocthy Nguyen.

The student musicians in the WHRHS Orchestra are: violin I, Kaleigh Brunner, Catherine Cai, Emma Golkin, Victor Hu, Dave Ki, Jenny Li, Annamaria Newmark, Carter Rosen, Tyler Wu, and Nandini Yellamelli; violin II, Rawan Abdelaty, Isabella Bruno, Harrison Lavelle, Annabel Liao, Erin Nielsen, Gabriella Pontoriero, Shruthi Ramasamy, Luis Rodrigues, Alyanna Tam, Neha Venkatesh, Luke Viera, and Tiffany Wang; viola, Zoe Golkin, Emma Selvin, Jocelyn Wang, Valerie Wang, and Jaime Yue; and bass, Anjali Blow, Benjamin DeGuilo, and Michael Horzepa; Cello, Roshni Dave, Madeline Dietrich, Daria Monti, Spencer Shao, Ariana Stoddard and William Wu.

The student musicians in the WHRHS Wind Ensemble are: oboe, Jeremy Cui; Bassoon, Elizabeth Baker and Dania Elsheikh; piccolo, Iskira Argawal; flute, Cathleen Luo, Lindsey Shi, Yvonne Tang, Jessica Yan and Cherlin Zhu; clarinet, Glen Diamond, John Kolibachuk, Emma Marszalek, William Narayanan, Diana Sarrico, Katie Tan, Alan Wang, Olivia Xu, and Linda Ye; bass clarinet, Patrycja Sosniak; alto sax, Timothe Iroudayassamy, Sanjay Subramanian, and The student musicians in the WHRHS Concert Brandon Tang; tenor sax, Maya Zhang; baritone sax, James Narayanan; horn, Hannah Balla, Taylor Hestvik, Andrew McAvoy, and Benjamin Watkins; Trumpet, Peter Bosco, Ryan Branco, Elliot DeGuilo, Carl Peterson, and Matthew Schaefer; trombone, Jack Horan, Omar Lateef, Alexandria Logan, and Cristina Sarrico; and euphonium, Matthew Mandelbaum, and Andrew Muller; Tuba, Ethan Marmolejos; and percussion, Shoili Banerjee, Justin Colman, Brennan Hector, Pramath Kalelkar, and Natalia Sosniak.

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(above) The Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) Concert Band, with more than 100 student musicians, filled the stage at the WHRHS 2017 Winter Instrumental Band, Thursday, December 7, 2017, at the schools Performing Arts Center (PAC). The band performed four pieces, "Westridge Overture," "Fortress Variants," "Continental Christmas Suite," and "The Nightmare Before Christmas."



(above) The WHRHS Orchestra stands and receives a standing Ovation at the completion of their three pieces at the Winter Instrumental Concert, Thursday, December 7, 2017. They played 'Overture from The Makado," "William Burd Suite," and "Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, a piece extending some 15 or 16 minutes.



(above) The WHRHS Wind Ensemble performs one of its five scheduled selections at the 2017 Winter Instrumental Concert. They are: "The Earl of Wexford's March," "Satiric Dances," "Psalm for Band," "The Eighth Candle," and "A Christmas Festival." At the end of "A Christmas Festival," an energetic number by popular mid-20th Century American Composer Leroy Anderson, the audience called for an encore, and the Wind Ensemble delivered an appropriately rousing rendition of Anderson's most popular piece, "Sleigh Ride." The composition is considered among the top 10 most requested/played Christmas songs.





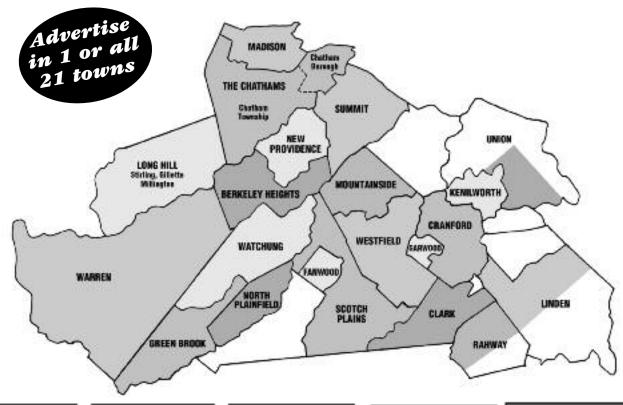


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