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Watchung's Hometown Newspaper

NJ

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DIAL-IN TO HEAR A STORY FROM A LIBRARIAN

Librarians read and record new stories weekly, now accessible via phone

Oh, it's Miss Amy reading a story!" exclaimed North Plainfield resident Micah Henry, 5.

Earlier this summer, the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) launched a new service for children - a phone-in storytime, aptly called Dial-a-Story. Librarians system-wide have been taking turns recording weekly stories for Somerset County residents to enjoy from home, from the car, or anywhere they wish.

"Dial-a-Story is a free early literacy service that allows the librarians of SCLSNJ to extend storytime and connect with our youngest patrons - directly in their homes," said Amy Behr youth services department supervisor for SCLSNJ's Warren and Watchung library branches. "It is perfect for bedtime stories, short car trips, or simply spending quality time with your child(ren). Each week - on Friday - listen and follow along to a newly featured book specially selected by your friendly SCLSNJ librarians."

"Dial-a-Story is part of SCLSNJ's SOARING (Supportive Opportunities for Achieving Reading In the Next Generation) initiative," said Jen Fitzgerald, youth services librarian at SCLSNJ's North Plainfield Memorial Library branch.

Continued Fitzgerald, "Decades of research confirms the importance of reading aloud to foster children's development and learning. Dial-a-Story is another way for Somerset County children to hear books read aloud to them in addition to our collection of Vox books, playaways, and CD books. And, of course, we encourage all parents and caregivers to use print and eBooks to read aloud to their children as well."

SCLSNJ's SOARING initiative is designed to help parents navigate early childhood programming and resources, learn the different strategies used to support early literacy through each developmental stage, and replicate those strategies at home. The newest offering within the Library's SOARING suite of services is thus far a big hit.

"My 6-year-old daughter Mikayla loves Dial-a-Story. After I dialed and gave her the phone she was elated to hear the familiar read aloud. Excitedly she shouted 'I love this story, Mommy!' When it was finished I received more hugs and thank-you's than I knew what to do, just for dialing the number. Now she dials up on her own. Can't wait for the new story every Friday," said North Plainfield resident Kesha Carter.

Even older children are enjoying the service. "My son is 9 years old and reads at a high school level, and he found this thrilling," said North Plainfield resident Janet Costello.



(above) Warren Twp. and Watchung branches Librarian Amy Behr-Shields.

Some previously recorded and heard storybooks have included "Creepy Carrots" by Aaron Reynolds, "The Book with No Pictures" by B.J. Novak, "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" by Eric Litwin, illustrated by James Dean, "Bark George" by Jules Feiffer, "Five Little Monkeys Reading in Bed" by Eileen Christelow, "The Pout-Pout Fish" by Deborah Diesen, "Thunder Boy Jr." by Sherman Alexie, "Dill & Bizzy Opposite Day" by Nora Ericson, and "Outside Over There" by Maurice Sendak.

To listen to a story read by one of your favorite SCLSNJ librarians, call 908-458-8409. To learn more, visit SCLSNJ.org.

ABOUT SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM OF NEW JERSEY

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org.

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Watchung Post

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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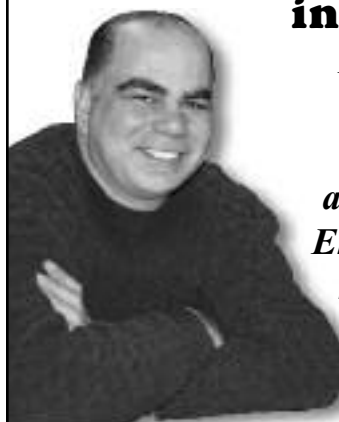
Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

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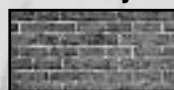
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(above) Artist Ann Vollum's art exhibit "BeastlyBeasties" will be on display at the Watchung Arts Center for the month of November.

ANN VOLLUM'S "BEASTLYBEASTIES" ART EXHIBIT AT THE WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER

Submitted by Joe Higgins

During the month of November, the Watchung Arts Center will present Ann Vollum's "BeastlyBeasties" in the Lower Gallery. The exhibition will be on display from November 1 to November 28. An opening reception will be held on November 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. The reception and exhibition are free and open to the public.

Over the years, Ann Vollum has explored the organic meanderings of the subconscious mind; her work is primal and un-schooled. "I am obsessed with detail, line and pattern. All my pieces start with organic shapes, which are transformed into Beasties. I do not use sketchbooks; I always work directly on my final pieces enjoying the creative process as my works evolves."

Her pieces tell a story with an unwritten script inviting the viewer to use their own imagination and give the piece their unique interpretation. She has developed a "language" of "characters" that re-appear time and again. Look for bats, snakes and of course Beasties with sharp teeth and long tongues in her work. Often there are Beasties inside Beasties... the question is, are they dinner or offspring... the viewer is left to decide.

During her years as an artist, Vollum has worked with many mediums and techniques, and is now excited to be working with textiles. "I started by cutting lace like pieces from Tyvek, progressed onto cutting painted fabric and using

the cut design as a stencil. A need to develop these explorations further, led me to introduce hand stitching and needle felting, which I am now using to do more colorful pieces on un-cut cloth. I am excited by these techniques; the possibilities are endless and fascinating to me."

Ann Vollum was born in Zimbabwe, Africa in 1963. She has a BA in Architectural Studies and worked for many years as an Art Director and Graphic Designer. Vollum has exhibited her art in the USA and UK. Her work has been shown at many galleries including: The Herb & Milly Iris, SOPAC; The Pierro; Rupert Ravens Contemporary; Riker Hill Art Park; Museum of Early Trades & Crafts; JCC MetroWest; The Gaelen Steiner Court; The Firehouse, The ValleyArts Community; The West Orange Arts Council; and Brooklyn Brewery, USA; Framers and Croft Wingates, UK. Ann's work has appeared in The NY Times, June 5, 2014; Lark Crafts: 500 Handmade Books; Matters Magazine; The Book Arts Roundtable exhibition catalogs and Mail Me Art: Short & Sweet. Ann lives and works in South Orange, New Jersey.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.

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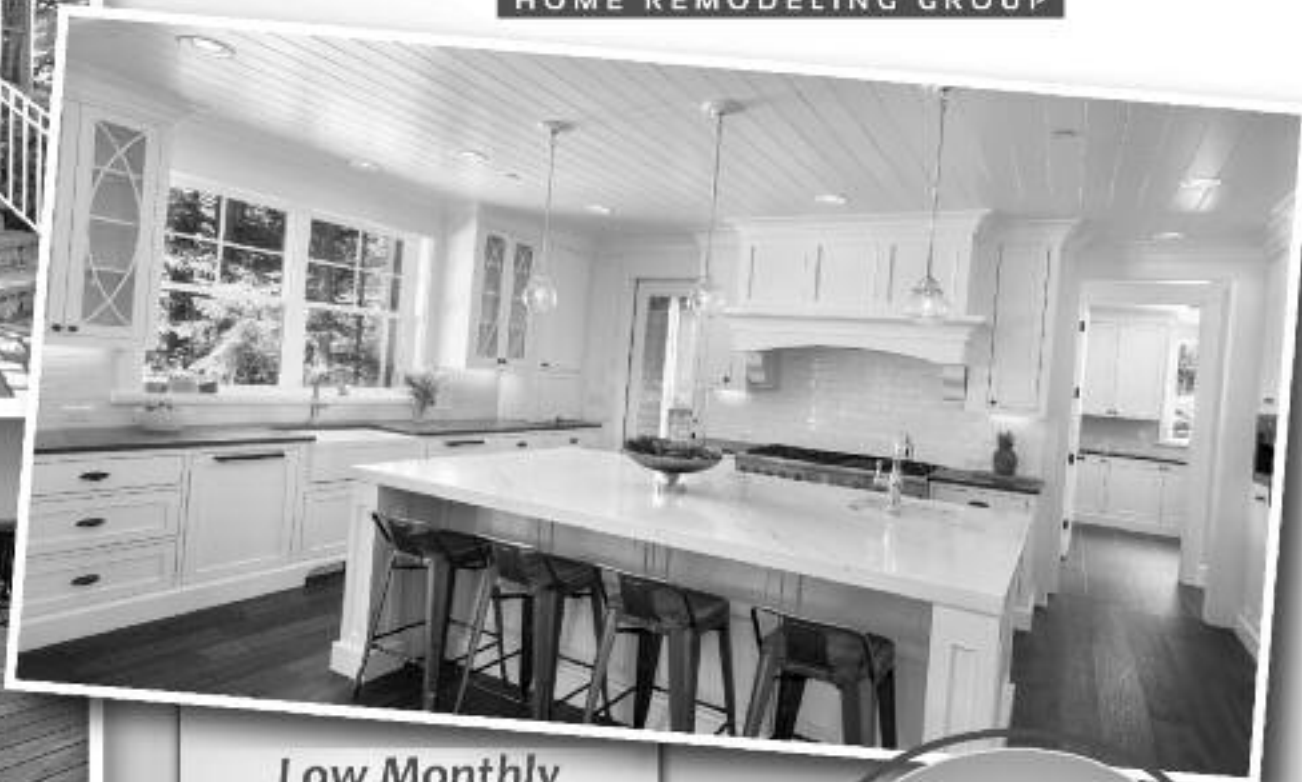


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Watchung Seniors 55+ meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month from 11:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meetings are held at the Fireman's Exempt Hall, lower level, 31 Mountain Boulevard (next to Borough Hall). The group hosts guest speakers, trips and fun parties. Contact membership by calling (732) 968-7843. New Members are always welcome.

The group will be offering a Holiday Bus Ride on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. The trip includes the bus ride, a spectacular musical show, and lunch with 2-comp drinks. The bus will depart from Best Lake, Watchung at 10:00 a.m. sharp to Brownstone, Paterson, NJ, and will return at approximately 4:30 p.m. The cost is \$50 for members, \$55 for guests. For information call (908) 561-1932. The deadline to register is November 26, 2018.

SCLSNJ'S WATCHUNG LIBRARY BRANCH

Located at 12 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069 • 908-458-8455 • SCLSNJ.org

All programs listed are free. Registration is required unless otherwise indicated and programs are subject to change; visit SCLSNJ.org or call the library for more information and to register.

*Please note the Library will be closed on November 22 and 23 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Mah Jong Club of Watchung

November 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27

1-4 p.m.

The Canasta Group

November 1, 8, 15, 29

1-3 p.m.

Watchung Book Discussion Group:

"Mystic River,"

November 8

7:30-8:45 p.m.

CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAMS

Preschool Storytime

November 1, 4-4:30 p.m.

Miss June's Room (ages 3-5 years)

Bingo with Miss June

November 2, 4-4:30 p.m.

(ages 4 and up)

Baby/Toddler Storytime

November 7, 10-10:30 a.m.

(ages birth - 3 years)

Crafts for Kids

November 10, 10-10:30 a.m.

(grades Pre-K to 2)

Music with Miss Donna

November 13, 10-10:30 a.m.

(ages birth - 5 years)

From Our Farms - Pumpkins

November 16, 10-10:45 a.m.

(ages 3-5 years)

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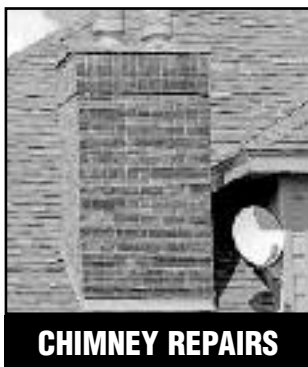




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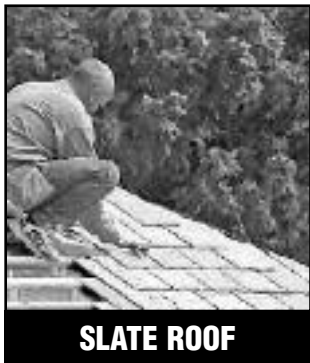
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SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 2018

at 9:30 a.m.

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LETTER TO WATCHUNG COMMUNITY: “STAND UP AND BE A PART OF A BIGGER PICTURE”

As we sat at the 9/11 Ceremony in Watchung and listened to our articulate speakers speak earnest words of caring, standing up for others and working together were enduring and thought provoking. One of the speakers was a young student, Anthony InGrassia, who spoke about his Uncle Chris who perished on 9/11. I became aware how a young child's voice of our town could leave such an impression upon us. He shared many kind attributes of his uncle that we all should embrace and how we should take those enduring words spoken and apply them within our lives and community.

I am sure that you would have been shocked when Councilman Mobus stated that we have only had 185 families dedicate a brick to the Brick Path to our 9/11 Memorial. We, as a community, need to “Stand up and be a part of a bigger picture” and support our town's endeavors. We are a town that is proud of our history. We are a town that works together to help our community be enriched. We have a beautiful 9/11 Memorial that needs to be completed with the brick path. Families that love their Watchung Community should become a part of this memorial.

We are the people that make our Watchung community...this is our town to ‘take pride in’ and ‘be a part of’ whether it is a brick, a voice or a helping hand. Contribute to the pathway and have your name of your family engraved upon that historical brick that will be remembered for all time.

Gail B Tafaro O'Donnell

A Journey Of The Heart

For Fundraising Information goto: http://www.formstack.com/forms/FRBf_watchung



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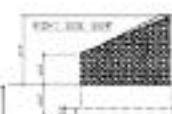


Watchung 9/11 Memorial

The Watchung 9/11 Memorial is designed to create a meaningful place where the plaque, with the piece of steel from the World Trade Center, will be on display. The structure's coloring and form are engineered to embrace the park's natural beauty, with a stacked stone look reminiscent of the old Wetumpka Falls. The concrete and stone structure will be augmented with granite that was once part of the base of the Statue of Liberty. Visitors will enter the surrounding walls where the plaque is mounted on a slanted stone pedestal. The piece of steel from the World Trade Center is embedded in a pink heart-shaped block, inside a white marble rectangular block. The direct interaction of placing one's hand on the heart is suggested by the design. The height will be assessable for both young people and adults.



Funded by your donations.



Dedicated to all who perished as a result of the attacks of September 11, 2001 and in memory of Watchung residents, Christopher N. Ingrassia and Honor Elizabeth Wainio.

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The Watchung 9/11 Memorial

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TREE OF LIGHTS WILL ILLUMINATE THE VILLAGE GREEN
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The 28th Annual Tree of Lights will once again light up the Village Green this holiday season. Please join us for the festivities on Saturday, December 1st starting at 5:30 p.m. (Rain/snow date December 2nd.)

The Rescue Squad is proud to illuminate the holiday tree, and thanks to Garden State Fireworks, the skies will light up with a spectacular fireworks show. The Rescue Squad will dedicate the tree to the memory of Watchung Police Chief (ret.) Sean Whelan, who served the Borough for many years.

Community members can be part of the celebration by placing a red light on our tree in honor of or white in memoriam of a person, family, friends and others.

To place a light on the tree, please complete



the Dedication Order Form and mail it along with your tax-deductible donation of \$50.00 per light to the Watchung Rescue Squad, 10 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069.

The names of honorees and remembrances will be posted on the illuminated display on the Village Green in time for the ceremony for those dedications received by November 30th. The

display and our website will be continually updated throughout the holiday season.

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HOMEcoming GAME WAS ALSO WHITE OUT AGAINST BULLYING NIGHT

Submitted by Denis Kelly

On the same night that the 9 members of the 2018-2019 Homecoming Court were escorted by family out onto mid-field for the annual Varsity Football Homecoming Game, the Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) student body and many of the spectators in the stands wore white to show support for the annual “White Out Against Bullying” Night, sponsored by and organized by the WHRHS co-curricular activity, Diversity Club.

All this happened on Friday night, September 21, in Tozier Stadium at WHRHS. On the field, the Warrior football team never gave up, battling until the end. Nevertheless, the perennially-strong Elizabeth High School Minutemen prevailed 42-0.

Everyone who attended the game was invited to sign a banner bearing the Diversity Club’s slogan: “White Out To Stop Bullying: Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate.” Last year’s banner, identical to this year’s banner, bearing the signatures from last year’s White Out Against Bullying Night, has been on display near the Social Studies classrooms since last year for anyone who want to view it.

Homecoming Court

As soon as the Homecoming Court was introduced and assembled at center field at the game, Seniors Brad Pinho of Millington and Anna Baitel of Watchung were announced as the annual Homecoming King and Queen for 2018-2019. The King and Queen and the balance of the Homecoming Court were selected by a vote of their fellow Class of 2019 classmates. The Homecoming Court are: John Kolibachuk, William Broder, Amay Mehta, Arianna Valenti, Kayla Martins, Lauren Soled and Anchal Dhir, all of Warren Township, in addition to King Pinho and Queen Baitel.

Other highlights of the Homecoming Game and White Out Against Bullying Night halftime festivities included a performance of this year’s halftime program of the WHRHS Marching Warrior Band and Color Guard. The spectators were also treated to a spirited performance of the WHRHS Cheerleaders, complete with multiple tumbling and stunt routines, and multiple lift demonstrations. The squad showed its ability to incorporate as many as seven lifts simultaneously in several of the complex cheer routines.

White Out Against Bullying

Some students wore their own articles of white clothing. Others wore this year’s new specialty white T-shirt that bore the silkscreened message: “White Out Bullying/WHRHS 2018.” Previous years’ T-Shirts sported the White Out slogan, “Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate,” and many in the crowd wore those.

In the spirit of the White Out Against Bullying Night theme, the Homecoming Queen and female members of the Homecoming Court all wore white dresses. Likewise, the King and male members of the court wore white shirts. Many of the court’s family members who accompanied the students out onto the field also

wore white.

The Warrior players all wore their white home field jerseys. Even the Elizabeth team’s uniforms had white block numbers, which seemed more noticeable given the night’s White Out Against Bullying color theme.

The Drum Majors of the WHRHS Marching Band always wear entirely white uniforms, and the white sashes and broad white stripes in the band’s uniform sleeves appeared much more noticeable, in support of the White Out theme. As always, the cheerleaders wore white bows in their hair, and they used white pompoms to accentuate and punctuate their cheers and routines.

WHRHS has been recognized as a national leader in efforts by American high school student to encourage everyone to “Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate,” and to personify the term “upstanders.”

In 2015, WHRHS Diversity Club students Sarah Decker and Monica Mahal attracted the attention of several New Jersey lawmakers, including powerful New Jersey State Senator Tom Kean Jr., the Senate Minority Leader. His Senate district includes WHRHS’ own Warren Township, Watchung and Long Hill Township. The students gathered hundreds of signatures online, and in June 2015, the New Jersey legislature approved a resolution that declared the state’s support for the campaign to include the word “upstander” in both the Oxford and the Merriam-Webster dictionaries.

“Upstander” is defined as: “A person who speaks or acts in support of an individual or cause, particularly someone who intervenes on behalf of a person being attacked or bullied.” An example of how it can be used in a sentence is: “Encourage your daughter and son as well as your family, friends and classmates, to be upstanders.”

Over the years, students of the WHRHS Diversity Club have addressed the governing bodies of Warren Township, Watchung, Long Hill Township and Green Brook Township, during open public municipal meetings. The students were warmly received by lawmakers, many of whom are themselves either WHRHS alumni, and/or parents of WHRHS students or alumni.

Diversity Club students have also held workshops for students of the middle schools of each of those towns, most of whom are future WHRHS Warriors themselves, and/or children of or siblings of WHRHS students. The WHRHS students have often shared tips on how the middle school students could start or strengthen their own efforts to Stand Up Speak Out Stop Bullying and to be Upstanders. The educational outcome, according to Diversity Club faculty advisors, has often been that both the middle school students and high school students learn from the experience, and that this learning is particularly memorable because it is coming from fellow older or younger students.

WHRHS has received recognition as a model for “Facing History and Ourselves” initiatives, according to Diversity Club faculty advisors,

WHRHS Social Studies teachers Jamie Lott-Jones and Mary Sok. The White Out and Diversity Club initiatives against bullying have also benefited over the years from the support of numerous WHRHS teachers, staff, parents, Board of Education members, local lawmakers, and interested members of the community, they said.

Spirit Week Classroom Presentations

Sok and Lott-Jones have also developed a White Out Health Presentation that Diversity Club students delivered to about 20 classes of freshman as part of an annual Spirit Week in-classroom follow up to the White Out Against Bullying Night Homecoming game.

The Lesson Plan includes a power point presentation that answers the question, “Why Anti-Bullying?” It fills in the first year students on the history of the initiative at WHRHS, and shares various photos that have appeared in the local media and other publications, as well as videos that have been generated about the anti-bullying initiative.

The lesson also supplies Diversity Club students with prompts and questions that club members can use to stimulate classroom discussion with the freshman classes, and offers ancillary discussion topics that can be used by break-out smaller groups of students. Among the topics are various notable examples from the news across the country where students have experienced bullying. Students are also reminded that bullying can take place in school as well as in social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Diversity Club students also make it clear to the first year students that they are more than welcome to become active members in the Diversity Club.



(above) Stella DiMizio of Millington, who is co-president of the Adversity Club along with Eshika Kaul of Green Brook Township, addressed the spectators over the Public Address system in the Tozier Stadium Press Box. She spoke about the mission and goals of the Diversity Club’s annual White Out Against Bullying Night and Initiative.



(above) In addition to being the Homecoming Game, the contest versus Elizabeth was also designated as the annual “White Out Against Bullying Night,” sponsored and organized by the WHRHS co-curricular Diversity Club. Everyone who attended the game was invited to sign a banner bearing the Diversity Club’s slogan, which is, “White Out To Stop Bullying: Stand Up Speak Out Stop Hate.” Members of the Diversity Club unfurled the banner from this year’s game during their weekly meeting. Last year’s banner, bearing the signatures from last year’s White Out Night, has been on display near the Social Studies classrooms since then.

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