

# WARREN MONTHLY<sub>NJ</sub>

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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Seasons  
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&  
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## WARREN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE IN VIRTUAL FORENSICS COMPETITION

*Submitted by Shannon Regan*

On Wednesday, November 11, six 8th-grade students from Warren Middle School (WMS) virtually participated in the 2020 Mount Saint Mary Academy Fall Festival Forensics Competition. Congratulations to the WMS Forensics Team for impressive results.

In the Prose and Poetry category, Sania Shareef took first place and Season Wei placed fifth. Trisha Atianzar and Avery Thomasson were close runners up.

In the Declamation category, Selina Zhan placed 2nd and in the Drama category, Melinda Xu placed 2nd.

Dr. Susan Cooper, E2 teacher, and Mrs. Christine Cirrotti, Unified Arts teacher, the team's leaders, would like to commend all of the students for their excellent poise, preparation, and performances.

A special thank you is extended to Mr. Richard Bardy, Classroom Paraprofessional, for serving as the school's forensics judge. His time, enthusiasm, and expertise are greatly appreciated!

Photo by Warren Middle School



*(above) Sania Shareef took first place  
in the Prose and Poetry category.*



*(above, top, l-r) Trisha Atianzar and Avery Thomasson; (bottom, l-r) Melinda Xu and Season Wei.*

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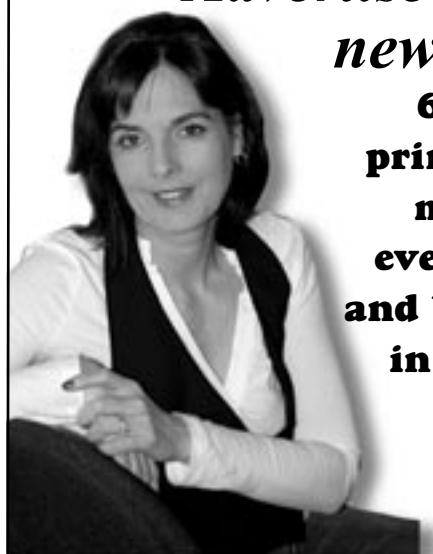
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## WARREN'S GOT TALENT

*Submitted by Shannon Regan*

Warren Middle School (WMS) students have created their own spin-off of the popular television show, America's Got Talent. Warren's Got Talent is a student-designed and student-driven activity that has taken off with popularity by one 8th-grade class.

Student's in Mrs. Dannine Albanese's and Mrs. Christine Cirrotti's homeroom proposed the idea of a friendly competition between classmates which included students in the classroom as well as students learning from home to help bridge the gap between them.

Warren's Got Talent takes place during morning meeting, 3-4 times per week from 8:10 a.m. to 8:25 a.m. Morning meeting is a short allotment of time before the first period of the day where teachers can take attendance and get their students on track for a successful learning experience.

WMS student Zachary Esposito created the contest rules and invited his classmates to submit a 2-5 minute video of themselves showcasing their talent for the class to view. Esposito provided examples for his peers such as singing, stand-up comedy, dancing, lip-syncing, acting, spoken word, and competitive eating! Esposito's classmate, Dravid George takes care of scheduling each student's performance.

Warren's Got Talent started on November 18. So far, the class has seen a number of different talents such as Diabolo, sometimes known as the Chinese yo-yo, from Ryan Sapoff. Aryan Nair submitted a piece titled The LA Rap where he describes his class and teachers. Amy Aschoff submitted a video of herself demonstrating backflips and clips from cheerleading competitions. Benjamin Phan played a live acoustic guitar version of Green Day's Boulevard of Broken Dreams).

Just as the judges on America's Got Talent give feedback to contestants, the students along with Albanese and Cirrotti share words of encouragement and praise at the end of each student's video. Oftentimes the contestants will be asked questions about their performance along with a round of applause from everyone.

According to Cirrotti and Albanese, this

competition is giving their student's the opportunity to get to know their classmates, safely socialize, and showcase something that they can be proud of. Cirrotti added, "Even some of our more quiet students have taken this opportunity to come out of their shell and shine for their classmates."

Following the schools' Winter Break, the class will vote on the winner of Warren's Got Talent!



*(above) Claudia Tao watches her classmate's performance during Warren's Got Talent.*

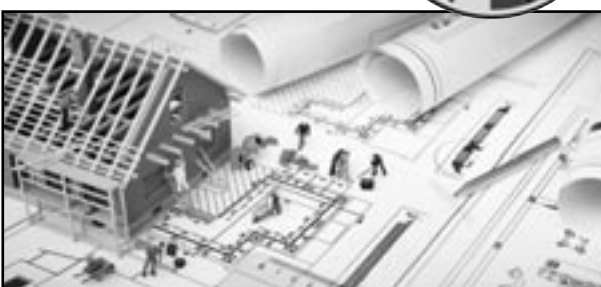


*(above) Benjamin Phan just before he played a live version of Green Day's Boulevard of Broken Dreams for his class.*

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## ALT SCHOOL PTO COLLECTS FOR FOOD BANK

*Submitted by Shannon Regan*

All Warren Township Schools have a history of participating in charitable activities to promote the wellness of others. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) of Angelo L. Tomaso (ALT) School recently collected approximately 500 pounds of food and paper goods for the Food Bank Network of Somerset County.

With help from school staff members, ALT families, and the PTO, this donation will help feed many local families who may be financially suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Melissa Morano, ALT PTO member, is thrilled by the unbelievable success of the food collection. "As a new member of the PTO, with my first of three kids in kindergarten, I'm excited to support the growth of this wonderful organization. The ALT families make my job facilitating events like the food drive and the Adopt a Family program a smashing success. The kids, in addition to all school books and chrome

books, carried in cans and sometimes even bags of food. The generosity shown was humbling."

Over the following weeks, the ALT PTO led the charge on their next humanitarian endeavor, "Adopt A Family." In recent years this event led to the collection of toys and sweatshirts for children in need. This year, the PTO put a new spin on the event calling it "Hope for the Holidays."

The group is asking ALT families and the surrounding community to build on their recent generosity by selecting an item to purchase through a virtual shopping experience shopping link. Items for purchase include household basic necessities, hygiene products, adult and children's clothing, toys, and games. The Hearts of Watchung, a local charity, has identified local families to whom the donations will be given.

The shopping link and a list of future events can be found on the ALT PTO website, altpto.com. All ALT PTO members including

Morano, Carina Bellmann, PTO President, and the entire executive board are happy to carry on the tradition of helping local families in need and bringing good cheer to the Warren Township community.



Photo by Melissa Morano

## HOLIDAY EVENTS CANCELED

*Warren Township Recreation Department*

After careful consideration, the Annual Winter Festival, Bonfire & Fireworks scheduled for January 2021 has been cancelled. Although the event is still weeks away, given the current status of COVID-19 and the nature of social gathering the event has been cancelled. The health and safety of our residents is utmost importance. We look forward to coming together in 2022 to enjoy this event as a community.

The Christmas Tree Lighting and the Hanukkah Menorah Lighting were also cancelled due to the Governors Executive Order. However, please come and drive by the Township grounds to see the Christmas Tree, menorah, and other decorations lit up.

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## CLASS OF 2021 ATHLETES SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT

*Submitted by Denis Kelly*

Six Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) student athletes in the Class of 2021 signed letters of intent to play intercollegiate athletics for the colleges they plan to attend next on Wednesday, November 11.

That date is one of three days throughout the school year when most students make their intentions public about planning to play intercollegiate sports. The other two times during the school year are in February and in May.

On November 11, there were a total of 6 who

signed to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports: Five at Division I colleges and one at Division II colleges.

Intercollegiate sports at colleges are generally divided into three levels of competition: Division I, Division II and Division III.



(left, l-r)

1. Ethan Steier of Warren Township plans to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports in Cross Country for the Jacksonville University "Dolphins," Jacksonville, Fla., Atlantic Sun Conference (ASUN).
2. Brenna Conway of Green Brook Township plans to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports in Field Hockey for the Quinnipiac University "Bobcats," Hamden, Conn., Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).
3. Melanie Nunn of Watchung plans to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports in Swimming for the Marist College "Red Foxes," Poughkeepsie, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, (MAAC).
4. Sydney Sharma of Warren Township plans to matriculate and play intercollegiate sports in Tennis for the Boston University "Terriers," Boston, Mass., Patriot League.
5. Kayla Horvaht of the Stirling section of Long Hill Township plans to matriculate and play Soccer for the University of New Haven "Chargers," New Haven, Conn., Metro-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).
6. Daniel Edelman of Warren Township, Soccer for the University of North Carolina "Tar Heels," Chapel Hill, N.C., Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC)

Photos by WHRHS / Elderman by US Soccer

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## KEYA PATEL DELIVERS CARE PACKAGES

On December 20th, 2020, Keya Patel, a freshman at the Watchung Hills Regional High School, was recently successful in assembling and delivering care packages for children in the oncology unit at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. Due to COVID-19 and the lack of visitation in hospitals, the outreach of Keya’s efforts was mainly focused on giving back to the global community. Her donations were proceeded to the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House (RHMC), a housing unit that provides companionship to hundreds of families across the globe with its affiliations to the Wills Eye Hospital, Jefferson Hospital, and St. Jude’s Children Research Hospital. By providing these young children with Christmas gifts during the holiday season, Keya aspires to bring more hope into their lives.



(right, r-l) Keya with Liz Thul, a social worker at the Ronald McDonald House.



## SUCCESSFUL TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION 2020

The Warren Township Committee and the Warren Recreation Department would like to thank all residents and those who donated to the Toys for Tots collection drive to help make the drive successful. The generosity of all those who donated was greatly appreciated by the Marine Toys for Tots organization. This year we received over 300 toys, they all stuffed a work van.



(above) Amanda Altavilla, Recreation Program Coordinator, Marine for Tots organization, and Doug Buro, Public Works Superintendent

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After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall’s Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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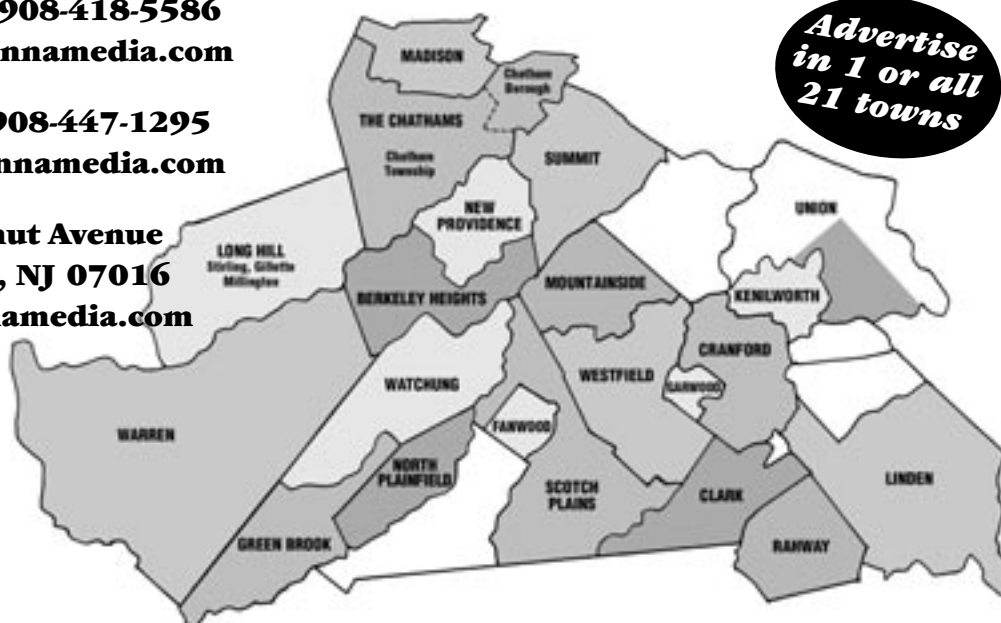
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\*Please note:

The North Plainfield branch will be closed on January 1, 18.

The Warren Twp. branch will be closed on January 1. The branch will be open limited hours from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on January 18.

The Watchung branch will be closed on January 1, 18.

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

### Open Mic - A Night of Music

January 4, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642773](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642773).

### Music, Bubble, and Comedy Show

January 23, 10:30-11:15 a.m.

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### Panchatantra Stories (families with children)

January 26, 3-3:30 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4660294](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4660294).

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND TEENS

### Meet the Author

Dan Gutman (grades 2-5)

January 7, 1-1:45 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644882](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644882).

### Ana Homayoun - Social Media Wellness

(grades 6-12 and caregivers)

January 29, noon - 1 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4672496](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4672496).

### Rita Williams-Garcia (grades 6-12)

February 2, 1-2 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4674792](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4674792).

### Sensory Time - STEAM Edition

(grades 3-6 with caregiver)

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January 9: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4613610](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4613610).

January 16: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4613634](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4613634).

## STEAM

### Mining Chocolate Chips (grades 3-5)

January 11, 4-5 p.m.

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### Excellent Engineering (grades K-5)

January 21, 4-5 p.m.

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### Density (grades 3-5)

January 29, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

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### We're Going on a Bear Hunt

(ages 3-6 and caregivers)

January 13, 11-11:30 a.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4668066](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4668066).

### Artes y Manualidades (Kids Crafts) (grades 2-4)

January 16, 2-2:45 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662630](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662630).

### Bilingual English/Spanish Storytime (ages 3-7 and caregivers)

January 19, 5:30-6 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4631532](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4631532).

### Writing Workshop With Author Rachelle Burk (grades 2-5)

January 20, 1-2 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644890](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644890).

### Intro to Robotics - Dance Routine (grades 6-12)

January 21, 5-6:30 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4674780](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4674780).

### Dungeon Masters' Workshop - Building a One-Shot (grades 6-12)

January 22, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4663319](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4663319).

### Fire and Ice (grades 2 and up)

January 27, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4650058](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4650058).

### LEAD - Leadership Exploration and Development Club (grades 6-8)

January 28, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4663503](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4663503).

### Meet Dr. King (grades K-5)

February 1, 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4651445](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4651445).

### Fables, Folktales, and Stories - Celebration of African Storytelling (grades K-5)

February 3, 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4613284](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4613284).

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

### New Year New You Meditation Series

2-2:30 p.m.

Register now:

January 4: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549418](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549418).

January 11: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549431](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549431).

January 25: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549450](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549450).

February 1: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549456](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4549456).

### NASA's Next Mars Mission -

### Perseverance The Mars 2020 Rover

January 11, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4585549](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4585549).

### Writers' Group

January 12, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662462](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662462).

### Simplify Weekly Meal Planning -

### Presented by Vanessa Young

January 12, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4500472](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4500472).

### Cutting the Cord - Exploring Cable Alternatives

January 13, 2-3 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642662](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642662).

### How to Break Up With Your Clutter -

### Presented by Jamie Novak

January 13, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4521263](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4521263).

### Virtual Book Discussion Salon

"The Old Man and the Sea"

by Ernest Hemingway

January 14, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4670209](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4670209).

Traditionally hosted at the Watchung branch.

### "The Eyre Affair" by Jasper Fforde

January 21, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4643562](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4643562).

### Meet the Author

Leslie Gilbert-Lurie -

Accompanied by Her Mother Rita Lurie

January 14, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4576562](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4576562).

### Will Hunt

January 21, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4568797](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4568797).

### How to Thrive During Transition and Change

January 15, 10 a.m. - noon

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642208](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4642208).

### Unstoppable Wellness -

### Presented by Dr. Gene Ketselman

January 15, 3-4 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644395](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4644395).

### Eating Well on A Budget With Healthy Food -

### Presented by Karen Ranzi, M.A.

January 19, 7-8:30 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4535094](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4535094).

### The Grotesque 10 -

### Amazing Architectural Sculpture

January 20, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4582111](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4582111).

### Trivia Night - 2020 Year in Review

January 21, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4669205](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4669205).

### George Washington's Winter Encampments -

### And the Winning of American Independence

January 26, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4619795](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4619795).

### Recipe Club - Healthy Eating in the New Year

January 27, 6-7 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662486](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4662486).

### Self-Care Filling Up Your Cup -

### New Year, New You

January 27, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4585626](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4585626).

### A Black News Service for America -

### Presented by Dr. Lawrence Hogan

February 1, 7-8 p.m.

Register now: [sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4552168](http://sclsnj.libnet.info/event/4552168).

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