

Warren Connection: November News

November 23, 2021



The District is closed for
Thanksgiving Recess

Wednesday, November 24

Thursday, November 25

Friday, November 26



Sing-Along with Santa

Saturday, December 4

10:00 a.m.

O'Plaine Campus Auditorium

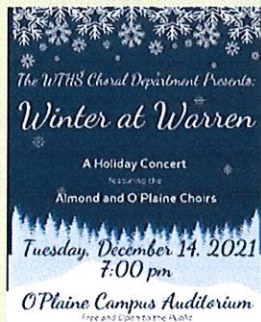
Warren Theatre Presents

The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon

December 3-4, 2021

Almond Campus Black Box Theatre

Enjoy dinner and a show



Winter at Warren

A Holiday Concert featuring the
Almond and O'Plaine Choirs

Tuesday, December 14

7:00 p.m.

O'Plaine Campus Auditorium

STAY CONNECTED TO WTHS



Warren's website,
at www.d121.org, is
a key link to staying
connected with our
current programs
and projects.



<https://www.facebook.com/WTHSDistrict121>

#WeAreWarren

PowerSchool



Please make sure your
contact information on file
is up to date. This will
ensure you receive all
communications in a timely
manner.

PowerSchool can also be used to access student
schedules, grades, attendance, and other useful
student information.



Principals' Twitter

[Almond Campus Principal Twitter Account](#)

[O'Plaine Principal Twitter](#)



Principals' YouTube

[Almond Campus Principal YouTube Account](#)

[O'Plaine Principal YouTube](#)

Board of Education News

Superintendent Search Update

The Board of Education is engaged in the process of selecting the District's next superintendent. The Board has enlisted the services of the Illinois Association of School Board's (IASB) Executive Search team to assist with this important work. The Board interviewed a slate of candidates on November 8 and 9, and from those interviews, the candidate pool will be narrowed to approximately two final candidates.

The final superintendent candidates will participate in a final interview process on the evening of Thursday, December 2. As part of the final interview process, the Board is seeking to identify a group of representative stakeholders (i.e., district employees, parents, and community members) who will (A) hear the finalists respond to questions and (B) provide feedback regarding each candidate.

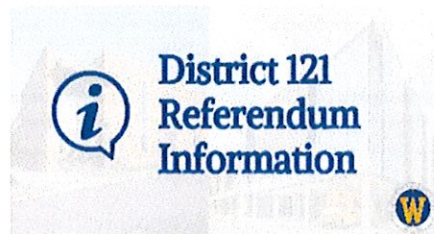
Important information about this volunteer opportunity includes:

- On the evening of Thursday, December 2, each of the final superintendent candidates will meet with a volunteer group of stakeholders to respond to predetermined questions, prior to being interviewed by the Board of Education.
- A limited number of WTHS 121 stakeholders will participate in the finalists' interviews. An IASB consultant will facilitate the stakeholder group's interview with each of the finalists. Participants will be socially distanced and will be required to wear a mask throughout the process.

The Board anticipates making a final decision and announcement regarding the district's next superintendent shortly before or after the winter break. If you have questions, please contact Board President, Paul Schulz at pschulz@wth.net.

District 121 Referendum Information

WTHS is working to provide our school community with information related to the June 28, 2022, referendum question. Some of these efforts include in-person information sessions at school-wide school and community events.



Would you like the District to provide an informational forum for a school or community group to learn about the facts related to our revenue challenges and referendum question? Please reach out to Dr. John Ahlgrim at 847-548-7144 or email ahlgrim@wth.net.

**Get the Facts about the
Referendum Question at
www.d121.org/referendum**



WTHS Board of Education

Paul Schulz, President
John R. Anderson, Vice-President
Bency Beals, Secretary
Katherine Blair, Member
Tony DeMonte, Member
Thomas Drake, Member
Natalia Alvarez Martinez, Member

Recap of November 18, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

In recognition of National School Board Member Day on November 15, 2021, Dr. Ahlgrim recognized and thanked the WTHS school board members for their service to the students, staff and community of Warren Township High School.

Presentations, reports and discussion regarding the following items:

- Illinois Association of School Boards 2021 Resolution Committee Report
- Insurance Committee, November 3, 2021
- Veterans Day Activities, November 11, 2021
- Treasurer's Reports, October 2021
- Department Report: Social Studies
- Referendum Update
- Presentation of the FY2021 School Report Card

The Board approved the following items:

- Approval of personnel recommendations for 17 candidates or employees
- Payment of bills dated November 16, 2021 in the amount of \$4,932,188.58
- Regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes of October 26, 2021
- Acknowledgement and Acceptance of Gifts to the District
- Repost the Public Hearing Notice for the 2021 Tax Levy
- Approval of Intergovernmental Agreements for the Sharing of Student Records and Information between WTHS District 121 and Sender Districts 24, 50, 56, and Prairie Crossing Charter School
- Action on Snow Removal Bids for 2021-2022
- Approval of three Resignation Agreements and General Release
- Approval of Administrator Contractor for Director of Athletics and Activities, effective July 1, 2022

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



Get the Facts about the
Referendum Question at
www.d121.org/referendum

On August 17, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022. A 60-cent increase would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

Increased funding would allow the district to preserve the eight-period school day, improve academic supports and mental health services, restore and protect activities and clubs, and restore and protect athletics. The rate increase would also allow us to lower student fees to rates comparable with other Lake County high schools.

A critical aspect of the district's referendum information efforts is to provide clarity and details regarding the impact to students with or without additional funding for the next two years.

There are several programs affected by the referendum question, including the length of our school day (eight-period day), academic and mental health assistance, activity programs, and athletic programs. **The information on this page focuses on preserving the eight-period day.**

Get the Facts About the Referendum Question: Investing in our Students

Preserving the 8-period school day

During the week of November 8, students began the course selection process for next year (2022-23 school year). Parents and students should be mindful of the potential reduction in course offerings if the district needs to implement a seven-period school day. This could have a significant impact on your student's academic plans.

As early as the 2023-24 school year, WTHS may need to move to a seven-period school day (in place of our current eight-period day) due to financial challenges resulting from our low funding.

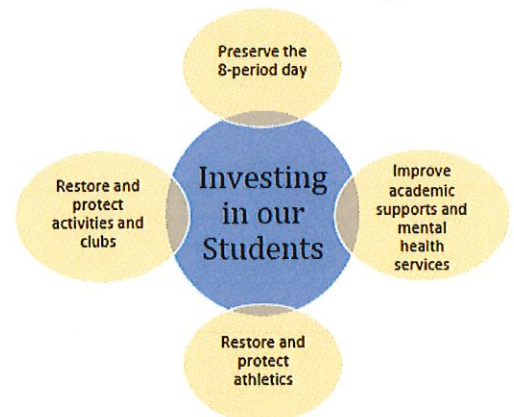
Why is preserving the eight-period day important?

In a seven-period school day, all students will experience negative ramifications on their academic opportunities. Students will:

- Not remain as competitive for college and career opportunities.
- Miss out on current curricular two- to four-year programs or certification programs like: business, industrial tech, Project Lead The Way (PLTW), world language, and band.
- Restrict Lake County Technology Campus participation to senior students, even though the two-year programs are designed for junior and senior students.
- Lose opportunities to enroll in advanced placement (AP) and/or dual college credit classes.
- Lose the opportunity for multiple elective choices (for example, students will have to choose either: world language or band; PLTW or art, AP psychology or business).

In June 2021, the Board of Education approved a recommendation to reduce the required graduation credits from 22.5 to 18.5, effective for the class of 2022 and beyond. If the district were to move to a seven-period school day, the new graduation requirement of 18.5 credits would remain in place, as it will continue to be appropriate even with a decrease in course opportunities.

A successful referendum would also allow our district to maintain our current eight-period day for our students.



News from Instructional Services

by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services



SAT Test Prep Opportunity

Warren Township High School has an amazing opportunity to help students prepare for the SAT test on April 13, 2022. We are proud to partner with Academic Tutoring Centers to offer junior students high quality SAT prep classes after school at the Almond Campus.

To best accommodate our students' busy schedules, we will be running two classes on Wednesday nights. Students can register for a 2:30-5:00 p.m. class or a 5:30-8:00 p.m. class. Classes will meet from February 23, 2022 through April 6, 2022, with a week off for spring break.

If you are interested in finding out more information about the program or signing up, please go to AcademicTutoringCenters.com/wt2022. The six-week program costs \$395. There is also a discounted rate of \$245 for those who qualify for the free/reduced lunch program. Registration closes on February 8, 2022.

If you have any questions regarding this SAT prep program, please feel free to Matthew Jones, Assistant Principal at the Almond Campus or contact the Academic Tutoring Center at (847) 823-5300.

Educational Technology



Seniors will keep their Chromebooks when they graduate from WTHS.

Important information for seniors to transfer their Chromebooks from WTHS to their own Google accounts will be communicated to senior students through their WTHS email accounts in the next few days.

This information is also posted on our [Senior Technology Information](#) page on our website.

2021 Illinois School Report Card

Each fall, the Illinois State Board of Education releases report card for each school and school district in the state of Illinois. The 2021 Illinois School Report Card is on our website at: <https://www.d121.org/Page/247>



The Warren Way We are Engaged!

Students in the Educational Life Skills (ELS) program at the Almond campus participated in the annual district textbook recycling project. Students helped staff tag, sort, and stack textbooks that are being recycled.



News From Student Services

by Dr. Patrick W. Keeley, Associate Superintendent of Student Services



Course selection process

It's that time of year! We will begin the course selection process for 2022-23 school year. Please discuss your students' four-year plan with them and make educated choices regarding elective courses. If you have questions, please contact our counseling staff by clicking the link below.

<https://www.d121.org/domain/106>



Prior to the pandemic we began work on emergency notification communication devices in large shared spaces and classrooms that typically have struggled to hear PA announcements (Band, Shop classrooms, cafeteria, gym, etc.). These devices improve our response time to emergency announcements or events that require a lockdown. In addition, all our exterior doors now have cameras that trip alerts to multiple offices if they are opened during school hours. This technology will help keep WTHS a safe and secure learning environment. Please continue to partner with us as we continue to promote the See Something, Say Something campaign with your students. We will conduct our second lockdown drill in January.

Over the past few weeks, we hosted several parent events focused on post-secondary plans for our students. These workshops covered topics like FAFSA, Camino a College, and College Planning for Juniors. In December, we have Navigating the College Admissions process with Compass Education Group on December 2 at 7 p.m. in the O'Plaine Auditorium, Industrial Technology Department Information Night on December 7 at 6:30 p.m. at O'Plaine (for students currently enrolled in Industrial Tech courses) and Guiding the College-Bound Athlete on December 9 at 7 p.m. in the O'Plaine Auditorium.



Red Ribbon Week

Our Social Workers, along with our Warren Wellness Ambassadors, were busy promoting Red Ribbon Week. Annually, our Social Workers and the Warren Wellness Ambassadors promote good decision making during Red Ribbon Week with informational booths in the cafeteria during lunch hours. They also had a school-wide 'Rock-Paper-Scissors' contest and informational substance free lifestyle video announcements. The students enjoyed the activities at both campuses.



RED RIBBON WEEK 2021

**Drug Free
Looks Like
Me**

COVID-19 Health Office Reminders

We continue to be vigilant with our COVID-19 mitigations. If your child is experiencing symptoms, please have them tested for COVID-19. We have had positive cases and we will continue to communicate those to our community via email. In addition, anyone who is considered a close contact will be notified. If you have not done so, please consider getting your child vaccinated. If you are vaccinated, you cannot be considered a close contact and can stay in school if exposed. We will continue to partner with our parents in working with our students regarding wearing a mask, washing our hands and keeping our distance.



News from the Almond Principal

by Rob Parrott, Almond Campus Principal



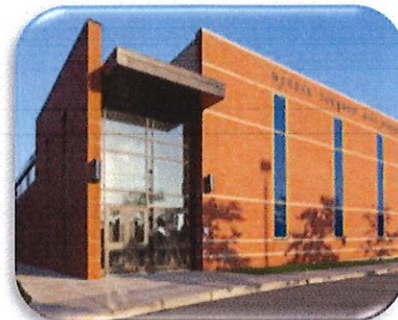
Each staff member has the opportunity to nominate a student for the Warren Way Leadership Award. These students should demonstrate leadership in our tenets of Respect, Resilience, and/or being Engaged.

- **RESPECT** – We value diversity and learn to understand other cultures and experiences. We show empathy and kindness to others. We communicate and collaborate in an effective and positive way, and we establish healthy relationships.
- **RESILIENT** – We work hard and give our best effort. We reflect, learn, and adapt based on our experiences and challenges. We make courageous and responsible decisions, and we lead healthy and balanced lifestyles.
- **ENGAGED** – We own our learning and are accountable for our actions. We explore our interests, set meaningful goals, and prepare to excel after high school. We participate in our school, local and global community. We think critically and develop creative problem-solving skills.

I am proud to recognize the following students as our monthly The Warren Way Leadership Award at the Almond Campus: Kiera Rodriguez, Joshua Hintz, Rafael Gloria, Nomar Geraldino-Pena, Laura Flores, Samantha Santiago, Jesus Rodriguez, Maddux Masopust, Samuel Perez, Minahil Raheel, Osvaldo Bandera and Maxwell Zeisler.

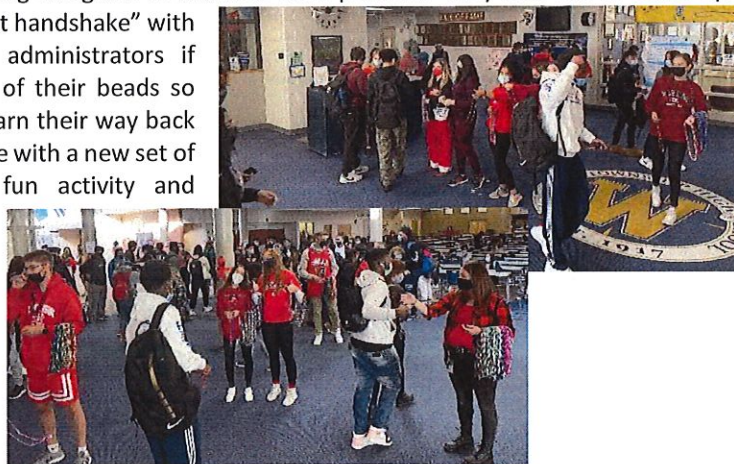


The month of November has been an active time at the Almond Campus with our students participating in many school activities and events. Please enjoy some of the highlights as we move closer to the end of the semester and get a small break from the hard work that is taking place each day by our staff and students.



COOL Pantry Toiletry Drive: Thank you to our Lead Teacher in Social Studies, Dave Zaban and Vince DeSecki, and the Social Studies Departments for leading and collecting toiletry items for veterans in partnership with the COOL Pantry.

Rock, Paper, Scissors: Thank you to Student Council for organizing a school-wide game of rock, paper, scissors during Red Ribbon Week. Our students and staff had fun playing the game in between class periods. They also had to come up with a "secret handshake" with one of the administrators if they lost all of their beads so they could earn their way back into the game with a new set of beads. A fun activity and school day for all!



Our post-secondary counselors, Mrs. McGahan and Mrs. Hartley, have hosted several meetings with our junior and senior students to discuss scholarship opportunities, financial aid, the college search process and more. Our juniors are starting to work with our counselors to select courses for next year.



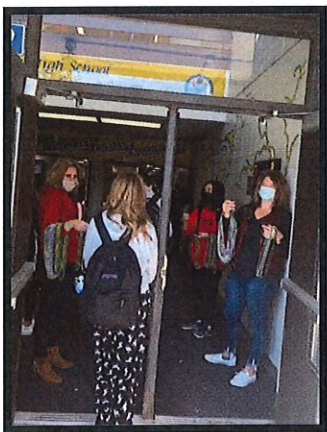
Our guidance counselors will be meeting with all juniors individually over the next couple of months to guide course selections. For more information please [CLICK HERE](#).

News from the O'Plaine Principal

by Michele Bertola, O'Plaine Campus Principal

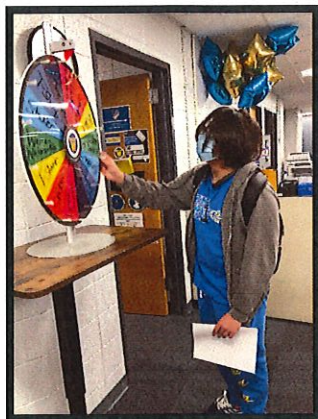
November has been an active time at the O'Plaine Campus with our students participating in many school activities and events. Students have heard from their teachers and counselors regarding the course selection process for the 2022-23 school year and have participated in school-wide service projects. Please enjoy some of the highlights as we move closer to the end of the semester and get a small break from the hard work that is taking place each day by our staff and students.

COOL Pantry Toiletry Drive: Thank you again to our Lead Teacher in Social Studies, Vince DeSecki and the O'Plaine Social Studies Department for leading and collecting over 1500 toiletry items for veterans in partnership with the COOL Pantry.



Rock, Paper, Scissors: Thank you to our Student Council for organizing a school-wide game of rock, paper, scissors during Red Ribbon Week. Our students and staff had fun playing the game in between class periods. It was a fun activity and school day for all!

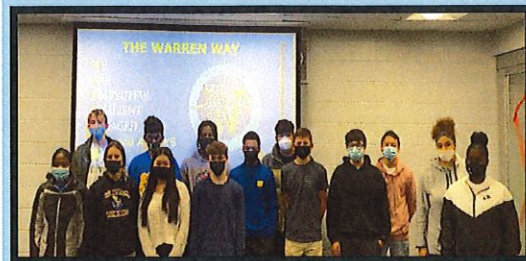
Students can also earn **The Warren Way** coupons for wearing blue and gold on Fridays for a chance to spin the wheel of fun!



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I am proud to recognize the following students as our monthly The Warren Way Leadership Award at the O'Plaine Campus: Hariharan Ashok, Cameron Beckom, Rhae Binoaya, Bryan Castrejon, GianFranco Guifarro, Stefano Buttitta, Cole Crepps, Nathan Feldman, Mia Gloria, Amaree Johnson, Antonio Johnson-Williams, Matthew Lange, Jose Lugo-Carreno, Valeria Marquez, Anastasia Radovic, Guzman Rana, Alexander Villegas, Juslyn White, and Ameena Wideman.



News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



National Letter of Intent Signing

Fourteen Blue Devil student-athletes made the commitment to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.

Kendall Lyons, Baseball
University of Illinois Chicago

Kyle Smith, Baseball
Northern Illinois University

Annika Gustafson, Girls Basketball
University of Wisconsin - Lacrosse

Olivia Ehlers, Girls Soccer
DePauw University

Kylie Mahoney, Girls Soccer
Eastern Illinois University

Athena McGinn, Girls Soccer
University of North Dakota

Samantha Pullins, Girls Soccer
Purdue University

Ella Skelton, Girls Soccer
Loyola University Chicago

Hailey Conger, Softball
Butler University

Sophie Furniss, Softball
Colorado School of Mines

Luke Wiley, Cross Country and Track
University of North Carolina

Blake Vander-Jeugd, Diving
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Aly Wallander, Swimming and Diving
University of Wisconsin - Lacrosse

Josh Weyerhaeuser, Boys Volleyball
Long Beach State University

Fall Athletic Accomplishments



Football
NSC
Champions

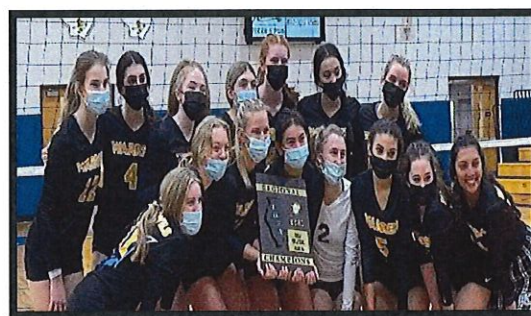


Boys Soccer
NSC
Champions



Girls Golf
IHSA
Regional
Champions

Girls
Volleyball
IHSA
Regional
Champions



Boys Cross
County IHSA
Team State
Qualifier

News about Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



North Suburban Conference Sportsmanship Award Winners

Jake Snyder, Boys Cross Country
 Sophia Iaconis, Girls Cross Country
 Royan Iyer, Boys Golf
 Gracey Haupt, Girls Golf
 Charlie McCarthy, Football
 Shannon Faulhaber, Girls Swimming & Diving
 Elizabeth Payson, Girls Tennis
 Molly Cummings, Girls Volleyball

North Suburban Conference and IHSA Sectional Individual Titles

Luke Wiley, Boys Cross Country
 Grace Bevers, Girls Swimming
 (100 yard Backstroke)

IHSA Individual State Qualifiers

Luke Wiley, Boys Cross Country
 Mia Pasha, Girls Cross Country
 Grace Bevers, Girls Swimming
 Hailey Benoit, Girls Swimming

IHSA All-State

Luke Wiley, Boys Cross Country, 4th Place
 David Lara, Boys Cross Country, 24th Place
 Mia Pasha, Girls Cross Country; 6th Place
 Grace Bevers, Girls Swimming & Diving, 5th Place--100 yard Backstroke

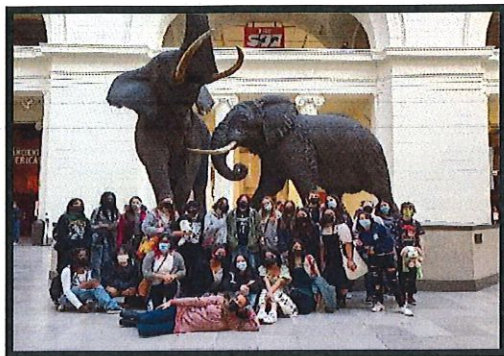
North Suburban Conference Honorees

	NSC All-Conference	NSC Honorable Mention
Boys Cross Country	Cole Kaether David Lara Ryan Moats Fahim Rafi Luke Wiley	Ryan Alyassir Ozzie Bandera Calix Flores Nathan Garcia Max Zeisler
Girls Cross County	Victoria Higgins Emma Leung Mia Pasha	
Boys Golf	Nick Steinhilber	Andreas Ackron
Girls Golf		Alaina Goeden
Football	Jeremy Walton Ryan Vastine Kam Shaw Jailen Duffie Maurice Edwards Kole Weinberg Jalen Handford Ben McLaughlin	Aidan Lucero Ben Wilson Cassius Callahan
Boys Soccer	Cael Harris George McAtee Alexis Medina Miguel Garcia Matt Hegge	Ben Conley
Girls Swimming & Diving	Grace Bevers Hailey Benoit	
Girls Tennis		Ana Radovic
Girls Volleyball	Gabrielle Brewer Lauren Shaw Ruth Ziegler	Kendal Crawford



News about Activities

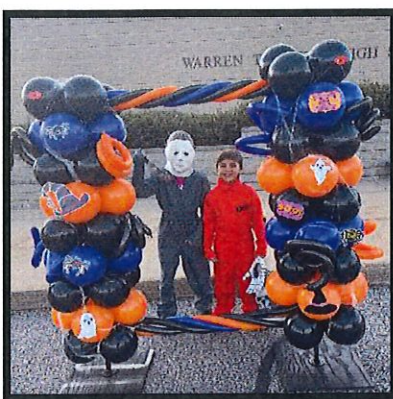
by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Director of Activities



The **Art Club** contributed to the Trick or Treat event and hosted a very spooky Halloween party where they dressed up and made artistic goody bags. They also took a field trip to the Field Museum on November 6 to fuel their passion for discovery with dinosaurs, ancient artifacts, cultural insights, and groundbreaking science.

A special thank you to the **Student Council** and sponsors Sandy Desiron and Dana Lainio for facilitating the following events over the last few weeks:

- Blue Crew for creating theme nights and attending home volleyball and football games.
- Trick or Treat -- Although it was a chilly day, over 100 families came out to trick or treat in the bus lane at the Almond Campus. Students from activity and athletic groups sponsored tables to pass out candy and facilitate games for the kids. Participants were asked to bring canned goods in lieu of an admission fee. All donations were given to the Warren Township Food Pantry.
- Red Ribbon Week: Student Council partnered with Student Services to hold a Rock, Paper, Scissors challenge during the school day to support making good choices. During the passing periods students challenged each other and earned beads with each win. The students with the most beads were awarded a candy bar and Rock, Paper, Scissor bragging rights.
- Random Acts of Kindness Week: Students passed out 55 little bags of candy throughout the day at the Almond Campus to display random acts of kindness.
- Trunk or Treat at the Warren Township Special Recreation Center: Students dressed up and decorated their trunk and then passed out candy to participating kids.
- Hooded Sweatshirt collection (November 5-12) Hoodies for the Heart. Donations went to the Caring 4 Kids Clothing.
- Feed My Starving Children Community Service Event
- Thanksgiving Food Drive (November 15-19)



Scholastic Bowl is a competitive academic club. This activity fields teams that compete against other schools in head-to-head matches involving answering questions in a variety of areas. Some of these areas include science, mathematics, literature, art, history, geography, government, mythology, etc.

Warren's JV and Varsity teams have had a very successful start thus far. They are both 3-1 on the season with wins against Libertyville and Waukegan.



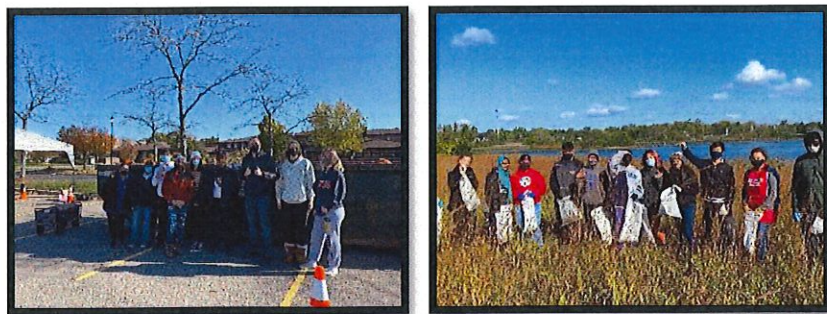
News about Activities

by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Director of Activities

The O'Plaine Students of Service organization and Mrs. Juergensen have had a very busy couple of months. They have volunteered at Bernie's Book Bank, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, the Humane Society, and Adopt-a-Highway. They also participated in a Trunk or Treat at the Gurnee Police Department. Approximately 20 students have dedicated more than 10 hours to community service.



Mother Earth's Concerned Students (MECS) partnered with the Village of Gurnee to participate in a Compost Drive. More than 30 cubic yards of pumpkins, gourds, and straw were collected. This represents thousands of pounds of organic matter that will be kept out of our local landfills. In addition, they volunteered at the Lake County Forest Preserves to collect seeds from Indian grass, big bluestem, and switchgrass. The seeds will be taken to the nursery at Rollins Savanna, then the seedlings will be returned to the marsh to encourage native plant growth.



The **French National Honor Society** held the induction ceremony for their eleven new members on October 21. They will join the six current senior members. To be inducted, members must meet grade requirements and be enrolled in an advanced French course. Once they are members, they are held to a high standard in their academics, leadership, and interest in the study of French, which they aim to share with others. They also hope to create an enthusiasm for and an understanding of Francophone cultures and to promote international friendship.

This year's junior inductees include:

- Abrielle Anderson
- Luke Etienne
- Thomas Hale
- Gracie Haupt
- Liv Jespersen
- Kaylee McChesney
- Lilah Meyers
- Jackie Ocampo
- Emma Paraskos

And senior inductees:

- Nicole Miedzinski
- Erin Mitoraj