



# Courier

A monthly publication  
of the  
Conrad Weiser Area  
School District

Winter 2015

Conrad Weiser Area School District

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## Mark Your Calendar for *Titanic: The Musical*

The musical *Titanic* is coming to the high school stage at Conrad Weiser in April. It is based on the lives of the people on board and features breathtaking music and a chilling look into the events that unfolded on that voyage over 100 years ago. Conrad Weiser's cast of 60 pays homage to those souls.

The cast features Connor Dautrich as Captain Smith; Michael Confalone as Mr. Andrews, the Builder; Grayson Ziegler as Mr. Ismay, the Owner; Becca Snyder as Kate McGowan; Morgan Keener as Alice Beane; Evan Malarkey as Frederick Barrett, the Stoker; and Nick Schmoyer as Harold Bride, the telegraph operator. In addition, Mr. and Mrs. Isidor Straus will be portrayed by James Philactos and Rosalie Brunner; with Henry Etches, Steward, played by Matt Duong; and First Officer Murdoch and Frederick Fleet played by Justin Wright and Andrew Granus respectively.

Show dates are **Friday, April 17, 2015** at 7:30 p.m., and **Saturday, April 18, 2015** at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Reservations can be made by calling the box office at 610-693-8599, x 6654. All tickets are \$10.00

### Free Lunch Offered to Senior Citizens

Conrad Weiser residents age 65+ and CWASD retirees are invited to a matinee performance of *Titanic*, with a free lunch provided by the Conrad Weiser Education Foundation.

**Saturday, April 18, 2015**  
12:00 noon

Tickets \$10 each  
Please leave a message at 610-693-8599, ext. 6654 by April 2  
Mention the senior citizen free lunch when calling.  
A limited number of lunch tickets is available.

## Middle School FFA Seeks to Turn Bags into Benches



FFA Officers Erin Horack (6th grade) - Secretary, Jamie Lynch (8th grade) - President, Ireland Keeney (8th grade) - Secretary weigh a bag of plastic.

The Middle School FFA (all 219 members!) has accepted the Trex Plastic Bag Recycling Challenge. The club's goal is to help the environment, and also to win some outdoor furniture built by Trex for the middle school. The hope is that students will collect more film than other schools the size of Conrad Weiser. So far, they have collected 595.5 pounds of plastic recyclable film, or 76 bags!

The following bags can be recycled, as long as they are clean, dry, and free of food residue: bread bags, case overwrap, dry cleaning bags, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, wood pellet bags, Ziploc and other reclosable

bags, produce bags, bubble wrap, salt bags and cereal bags.

Recycling containers are located in the main lobby, gym lobby, and between 7/8 science classrooms. Bags may also be delivered directly to Mrs. Tabitha Meredith's classroom, F-3. Bag collection runs until May 2015.



### Show Choir Sings at Hershey



Mrs. Nicole Natale conducts her 5th and 6th grade show choir in their rendition of the National Anthem prior to a Hershey Bears game.

### Science Classes Nurture Trout Eggs



Mrs. Cindy Murdough's class participation in the Trout In the Classroom program was made possible through a unique partnership between PA Fish and Boat Commission and PA Council of Trout Unlimited. This partnership, coupled with assistance from local conservation organizations, was created to introduce students to coldwater resources and their importance to all communities. The partnership also provides brook trout eggs, trout food, technical assistance, curriculum connections and teacher workshops each year.

### Counselors Serve Students



Mrs. Nicole Noll and Mr. Tom Hoover, middle school counselors, serve their students holiday lunch.

### CW West Students Perform Winter Concert



The CW West chorus performed an afternoon and an evening concert in January.



The Percussion Ensemble concentrates on their New World Drums in the winter concert.

### Middle School Mathcounts Kids Excel



Congratulations to the Weiser MATHCOUNTS Team on an outstanding performance at the Berks County MATHCOUNTS competition. There were 126 students and 16 schools competing. Team members include Bryn Werley, Brian Hostetter, Nicole Davis, Gabby Rohrbach, and Imani Phillips. Bryn placed 8th overall in the individual competition and the team placed 9th in the school competition.

**Teachers Use Hybrid Learning to Boost Student Engagement**



*Mrs. Heather Sellars directs two students while Mrs. Laurie Ostimchuk works with two others. Still another group of students is working independently on computers at the same time. Fifth grade teachers in the middle school, as well as a pilot group of teachers throughout the District, are using hybrid learning strategies during this school year. Hybrid learning makes use of digital resources and direct instruction to create a more personalized classroom experience which has been shown to improve achievement and student motivation.*

**High School Histology Lab Holds Open House**



*High school students conducted an Open House of their Histology Laboratory on January 7. Histology allows scientists to detect tissue abnormalities that may lead to disease. Students performed histological procedures including grossing and fixation, tissue processing, embedding, sectioning, staining, and imaging.*

**Employees of the Month Named**



*Steve Whalen, Joe Chimenko, and Bill Knapper were honored as Employees of the Month last fall. (Gabe Horning is missing from the photo)*

Members of the IT department were selected as Employees of the Month for their contributions to the implementation of the hybrid learning program, the high school laptop and iPad rollout, and the implementation of the automated calling systems. Congratulations to Joseph Chimenko, Gabriel Horning, William Knapper, and Stephen Whalen!



*Adelle Schade was honored for developing the first Histology Lab at Conrad Weiser High School.*

Adelle Schade, anatomy and physiology teacher, was recognized as Employee of the Month for developing the first Histology Lab for Conrad Weiser, bringing higher level laboratory experience with real world applications to students. Histology focuses on the structure of cells and their transformation into tissues.

## Food Science Team Places 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Nation

The Food Science and Technology team of Kayla Aulenbach, Makayla Lagerman, Ali Clark, and Molly Hudson placed third in the nation at the national FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky last fall. In order to qualify for the National FFA Convention, the team placed first at the FFA State Convention last June. Molly, Kayla, and Makayla all received gold emblems placing 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 33<sup>rd</sup> respectively. Ali received a silver emblem placing 55<sup>th</sup> out of nearly 140 individuals.

The Food Science and Technology competition lasted two days. The first day the students had to take an objective test. The test is designed to be extremely difficult for high school students, requiring them to study topics that include food safety, food-borne pathogens and illnesses, processes in cooking and the components of foods. The second day, the individual team members had to complete a food safety practicum, a sensory evaluation including aroma and flavor identification, and the product development team component of the competition.

Not just about competition, the National FFA Convention also offers students a chance to learn and explore. Students take advantage of motivational speakers, career success tours, and a gigantic career and college fair. The group from Conrad Weiser made a pit-stop in Mill Run, PA to tour Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater. Once in Kentucky, a chartered bus drove to Kentucky State University to allow the students to tour an experimental farm. *(contributed by Kayla Aulenbach)*

### Notices from the Yearbook Staff

Business Ads will be accepted until March 15.

2015 Yearbooks are still for sale and may be purchased online at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com)

Contact Scott Wert with questions at [s\\_wert@conradweiser.org](mailto:s_wert@conradweiser.org)

## Distinguished Alumni Visit with High School Students



*Dr. Amy (Casselberry) Cuddy '90, a social psychologist and Harvard Business school professor, shared her research with students on power posing. Many area schools honor their alumni, but Conrad Weiser asks honorees to visit with students to inspire them to similar lofty accomplishments.*



*Mike Firestone, a banker and chairman of the Pennsylvania Farm Show committee, visited classes to discuss the business of agriculture in Pennsylvania.*



*Dr. William Gruber, a professor at Emory University, shares his knowledge and experience in theater and creative nonfiction writing with students.*

## Lego Lab Teaches Technology, Engineering Principles



Students from Mr. Jeff Showalter's 4th grade class built and raced land yachts. Students built the machines and then used wind force and different size sails to race their yachts.

For the past six years, Ms. Shawna Nichols has been running a Lego lab for CW West students in grades 1-4. The lab teaches students technology through engineering by building simple machines with Legos.

The fall lab features working machines with force and energy, while the spring lab focuses on machines using engines and motors.

## Government Class, Ski Club Enjoy Field Trips



The senior government class poses for a picture with CW graduate Colby Auman at Arlington National Cemetery.



The Ski Club took a trip to Stratton, VT over the break between semesters.

## Volunteer Reading Tutors Needed for Ready.Set.READ! Program

Help make a difference in a child's life!

Volunteers are needed to tutor 2nd grade students who would benefit from help in reading at the CW East and CW West Elementary Schools.

No previous teaching experience is required.

This opportunity is for anyone interested in volunteering on **Wednesdays from 3:15 – 4:15 PM.**

Current background clearances are required prior to assignment.

Please contact Darby Wiekrykas at United Way 610-685-4574 or [darbyw@uwberks.org](mailto:darbyw@uwberks.org).

## Graduate Works with HIV/ Potential Immunity

Matthew Gardner, a 2005 graduate of CW, recently defended his PhD dissertation in Virology (through Harvard) and has been working with Scripps Institute in Florida. He and his team are in the news for their work with HIV and potential immunity and vaccines. Matt is the lead author for the article that was printed in *Nature* magazine in February.

Several other news sources have written articles based on his research, including the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Science Daily and Medical Daily. (contributed by Adam Serfass)

## Library Media Center Hosts Day of the Dead



Two students prepare to answer questions for the Day of the Dead on October 31. This year high school students took a guided tour of the historical, musical, culinary and celebratory aspects of this Mexican holiday.

## Vocabulary in Disguise as Fun!



Mrs. Karen Parkinson's students physically demonstrated their understanding of the word "Cognito."

## Kauffman's BBQ Chicken Fundraiser

hosted by CW Athletic Boosters

Saturday, April 25

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

pick up in the front of the Middle School

\$6.00 includes 1/2 Chicken and a baked potato

Pre-purchase tickets by contacting Brenda Talbot at 610-780-3227.

Some extra chickens

will be available the day of the sale.

## English Class Travels to Philadelphia Holocaust Museum



Ms. Ashley Gartner and Mrs. Melissa Gartner accompanied an English class to hear a talk from Ilse Lindemeyer, a survivor of the Holocaust.

After reading *Night*, by Elie Weisel, Ms. Ashley Gartner's 10th grade English class visited the Philadelphia Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center on the first day of Hanukkah.

Ilse Lindemeyer, a Jewish Holocaust survivor, told the students a detailed chronology of her life as she struggled to survive as a young Jewish girl. Though she was not personally in the concentration camps because she was accepted to be

transported to England to work as a maid, she was beaten many times prior to leaving Germany by the Nazis, watched her father get beaten to death as she boarded the departing train, and lost all of her family to the camps.

This was a meaningful experience for the students as they don't often have the chance to consult a person with firsthand experience of such a horrific event.

## Student Art on Exhibit in Central Administration Office



Olivia Shaak, Derek Ulrich, Leah Ruth, Calan Mengel, and Dani Blanchette had their pieces chosen for display in the Central Administration Office.

**Conrad Weiser Honors Veterans**



*CW East students held a special assembly to honor veterans from the Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy. Over 40 veterans attended, were recognized, and were served refreshments.*



*High school students display flags from specific branches of the military at a ceremony honoring veterans. Each year on Veteran's Day, area veterans march from Wernersville to Womelsdorf and stop at the high school for a short ceremony.*

**Graduate Takes Care of Business for the Coast Guard**

Trevor Shultz, '02, is third in command at the Coast Guard base in Eureka/Arcata, California. He is in charge of all electrical duties associated with the ships, lighthouses, buoys and buildings on the base and surrounding waters. A helicopter often drops him onto remote islands so he can repair the lights that signal ships in the area. He will be stationed in California for another year and a half.



*Trevor Shultz*

**CW West Students Send 400 Cards!**



*During the week of Veteran's Day, CW West students made over 400 Christmas and holiday greeting cards that were mailed to nine local men serving in active duty around the world, and also delivered to the local Veteran's Hospital. Tyler Ressler, Sam Ressler, Owen Sabold, and Talan Sallade counted and packed the cards for mailing. CW West students also participated in the annual Valentines for Vets program.*

**Middle School Students, Veterans Exchange Correspondence**

After sharing some stories of the "greatest generation" in eighth grade social studies class, students wrote thank you letters to residents of the Keystone Villa Retirement Community in Blandon. Mr. Dane Yuengel, their teacher, used to work there and took care of the delivery of these letters. One of the gentlemen was amazed that children were thinking of him; he had never received a thank you letter in over 70 years! One of the veterans, Mr. Stephen Mace, wrote back with some inspirational words for students:

May your life be a happy one.  
 Attain the highest level of education you can.  
 Be proud of your heritage.  
 Be glad you are an American.



## Conrad Weiser Area School Board

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Published for citizens of the Conrad Weiser Area School District. Submit news of school or community interest to the *Courier* at the address in the mailing panel. Deadline for Spring edition-March 27. Include your name and phone number for verification purposes. Timely articles will be used as space allows.

Winter 2015

Conrad Weiser Area School District  
 44 Big Spring Rd.  
 Robesonia, PA 19551

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## Teacher, Muralist Tom Alexander Visits Middle School



Mr. Thomas Alexander, a retired CW art teacher, is the artist behind the Conrad Weiser mural that greets visitors to the middle school. The mural was created in 1965 and is composed of 26 individual pieces. Thanks to Mr. Alexander for this tribute and local treasure!

## Graduate Appears on *The Doctors*

CW graduate Dr. Bradley Lamm was featured on "The Doctors," a show that airs on WFMZ, channel 69. Dr. Lamm is the Head of Foot and Ankle Surgery at the International Center for Limb Lengthening in Baltimore, MD. He treats patients from all over the world with foot and ankle deformities.

## Harvest Run Held in Fall



Students and staff enter the homestretch in the annual Harvest Run held last fall.

## Students Collect Non-Perishable Foods for Harvest Run



Middle school students "harvested" foods for the CW Food Pantry.