



# WEEKLY WARRIOR

Webutuck Central Schools  
194 Haight Road, P.O. Box 405  
Amenia, New York 12501

December 17, 2010

## *Superintendent's Notes*

### READING AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Beginning in January, 2011, our students in grades 4 through 6 will begin a project allowing them to "Read Around the World in 80 Days." This is an interdisciplinary activity designed to encourage reading on the part of our students while providing them with interesting and valuable information applying to many of the other academic disciplines. Each of the three grades will have their own itinerary, but they will all have ten (10) international locations in common (along with Amenia, New York). The itineraries for the three grades are listed below.

Grade 4

Amenia, New York  
**Paris, France**  
 Istanbul, Turkey  
**Athens, Greece**  
 Tokyo, Japan  
**New Delhi, India**  
 Seoul, South Korea  
**Sydney, Australia**  
 Tehran, Iran  
**Johannesburg, So. Africa**  
 Cairo, Egypt  
**London, England**  
 Havana, Cuba  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
 Santiago, Chile  
**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
 Berlin, Germany  
**Bejing, China**  
 Manila, Philippines  
**Vancouver, Canada**  
 Amenia, New York

Grade 5

Amenia, New York  
**Paris, France**  
 Moscow, Russia  
**Athens, Greece**  
 Cairo, Egypt  
**New Delhi, India**  
 Tokyo, Japan  
**Sydney, Australia**  
 Santiago, Chile  
**Johannesburg, So. Africa**  
 Istanbul Turkey  
**London, England**  
 Berlin, Germany  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
 Havana, Cuba  
**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
 Manila, Philippines  
**Bejing, China**  
 Seoul, South Korea  
**Vancouver, Canada**  
 Amenia, New York

Grade 6

Amenia, New York  
**Paris, France**  
 Moscow, Russia  
**Athens, Greece**  
 Kabul Afghanistan  
**New Delhi, India**  
 Berlin, Germany  
**Sydney, Australia**  
 Tehran, Iran  
**Johannesburg, So. Africa**  
 Istanbul, Turkey  
**London, England**  
 Montreal, Canada  
**Mexico City, Mexico**  
 Tokyo, Japan  
**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**  
 Seoul, South Korea  
**Bejing, China**  
 Cairo, Egypt  
**Vancouver, Canada**  
 Amenia, New York

76,921 Miles

79,873 Miles

89,220 Miles

We have mixed up the itineraries so that it is not a competition between the grades. The grades will move around the world based on the number of pages they have read with each page equaling three (3) miles. While it may seem like an awful lot of reading, it actually comes out to about 12 to 13 pages per day per student.

In addition to the obvious benefit of additional reading, the students will be gaining additional knowledge through integration with the other subjects. For starters, the students will be required to complete a "VISA" for each country they enter or cross over as they travel. This will require such information as the capital, language, currency, and three other important facts the students research and find. They will also practice writing by keeping a personal journal about the experience. The related benefits to other subjects are as follows:

- Social Studies:** Geography, Language, Culture, History, Continents, Oceans, Rivers, Mountains, Currencies, etc.
- Mathematics:** Basic Arithmetic, Averages, Decimals, Graphing, etc.
- ELA:** Reading, Writing, Researching
- Physical Education:** Native Dance
- Music:** Native Music and Instruments
- Science:** Latitude, Longitude, Climate, Time Zones, etc.
- Nutrition:** The High School Gourmet Foods Class will be preparing a snack from each of the ten common destinations for the students to taste and experience.

Additionally, we are working to try to find a school in each of the ten common countries for on-line international communications.

Finally, Mr. Fitzgerald and his art students are working on two map murals to be installed in the hall by the library so that we can track the classes in their travels.

### **Why two maps????**

Ever since we have been doing education in the United States, we have been using what is called the Mercator map of the world. This map was created in 1569 by Gerardus Mercator. Unfortunately, it has a number of serious distortions that could not have been identified before we had mapping satellites. However, thanks to the work of Dr. Arno Peters, we now have a new, more precise map to use in understanding our world. In an effort to provide the most accurate information possible for our students, we will be generating a mural of each map so that students (and adults) can see the corrections that have been made.

We have talked about our goal of providing a 21<sup>st</sup> and ¼ Century education for our students and this type of integrated, global activity is just one step in that direction. We invite parents, staff, and the community to come along as our Webutuck students explore by

**"Reading Around the World in 80 Days."**

*Bon Voyage!*

*Steve Schoonmaker*

**Transform Not Reform**

And our goal should be

**Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> and 1/4 Century**

### **Educational Quote**

If our kids graduate from school and they're still dependent upon the adults to tell them when they're right, tell them when they're wrong, tell them when they're good, tell them when they're adequate, tell them "What's an A," we've missed the whole point of what education is about. We need to see kids start assessing themselves, where they develop criteria, where they apply those criteria to their own work, where they set standards for themselves, and they continuously raise those standards. We want kids to become continuous, life-long learners rather than just the subject of someone else's evaluation and assessment. *Arthur Costa*

# ***HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS***

**Kenneth H. Sauer, Principal  
Webutuck Jr./Sr. High School**

On Friday morning, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the French Four Class caught the train in Wassaic and headed to Manhattan. It was clear and crisp outside; a perfect day for on-site testing and practicum of Medieval Art and Architecture. Also on the agenda was a tour of the French Culinary Institute with a gourmet lunch afterwards in their restaurant, Ecole. The trip ended with a little shopping in Soho and of course, Pommes Frites to eat on the return train ride. Here are some thoughts from some of the students that went. Brian Christofel says, "In NYC the amount of mosaics and gothic architecture surprised me. From the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the FCI windows I could see tympana, Corinthian capitals and bas-relief in the buildings all around." Meagan McCoy said of the trip, "the trip to NYC was a perfect balance of education and fun. My favorite part was the bread at the French Culinary. It has the reputation of being better than the bread in France. Based on my experiences there last year, I do agree!" Lastly, Maddie Trotter says, "I've been to Saint Patrick's Cathedral a million times but have never been able to recognize or identify anything like I did on this trip. Now the icons and architectural styles mean something to me as more than just beautiful decorations. We knew exactly what we were seeing. The French Culinary was delicious. I enjoyed every minute of it. Madame knows her stuff, so it's very enjoyable going places with her and experiencing different cultures."

This week in the Jr./Sr. High School is Spirit Week, sponsored by student council as we celebrate our Winter Sports. There will be competitions all week between the classes with a pep rally at the end of the week capping the week's events. Also happening this week we have a follow-up visit from *Rachel's Challenge* scheduled for this Thursday in attempt to once again focus attention on the affects of bullying and intimidation. It is our hope to not only call greater attention to this problem that seems to be growing across the country but also to help to create and nurture a more caring, tolerant, and sensitive learning environment in which our students can learn.

## **Notes from the Athletic Department**

**We have wrapped up the Fall Seasons and good things can never receive enough recognition!**

- Our Boys' Soccer Team achieved the State Regional Tournament after becoming Section IX Champions
- Joey Giblin is chosen Second Team Poughkeepsie Journal Soccer All-Star
- Bryar Hawks, Steven Hutchinson, Matt Matteo, Eddie Rich, and Andrew Schultz are all chosen as Honorable Mention Poughkeepsie Journal Soccer All Stars
- Meagan McCoy chosen by the New York State Sportswriters Association as a Fifth Team All State Soccer Defender
- Victoria Cullinan, Sabrina Dorfman, Allison Flinn, Meagan McCoy, Leslie Robertson, Danielle Stoetzner, and Madelaine Trotter are Honorable Mention Poughkeepsie Journal Soccer All Stars

- Jesse Capellaro ran in the New York State Cross Country Meet in Pawling
- Coach Kathleen Howard led our Junior Varsity Field Hockey team to a 9-3 record.  
The positive result of this season is that we will be fielding a Varsity program next year.

**These are just some of the good things that have happened.  
We all need to be aware about the positive achievements of our students!**

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## *Intermediate & Elementary Events*

*Kathleen A. McEnroe  
WES & EBIS Principal*

# READING with Others

Reading is essential for all students.

This is the theme behind a collaborative effort of WES librarian, Beth Murphy and Family and Consumer Science teacher, Mary Hendricks. Mrs. Hendricks teaches a human development class and wanted to stress to the students the importance of reading with children. With this in mind, a collaborative effort was launched. The books to be read are titles chosen by the elementary school teachers that correlate with the curriculum they are currently teaching. The books are given to the high school students to review and prepare their presentations. The high school students come to the elementary school once a week and share stories with each class. The readers are also given the teacher role and learn quickly that trying to read a story and manage a class is a difficult task. They have grown immensely not only as students, but as role models for our young students. The readers are also being assessed by the elementary school teachers on their presentation of the books. In this way, children in grades K-3 as well as students in 9-12 have grown educationally.

Overall, this project has been a wonderful opportunity for students, young and old, to benefit through the collaborative efforts of our teachers. This activity would not be possible without the strong support of the elementary teachers and for this we certainly thank them.

Beth Murphy, WES Library Media Specialist