

# H.B. WHITEHORNE

SCA Newsletter

SCA Co-Presidents: Kelli Strlekar and Jen Ghingo

Fall 2015

## SCA President's Message

### A TIME TO GIVE THANKS!

The HBW SCA has certainly been very busy getting the 2015-2016 school year off to a good start. We owe a big thank you to all our committee volunteers that work hard behind the scenes to make the SCA successful.

Thank you to everyone that donated to our Fall fundraisers — Kidstuff Coupon Books, HBW Spiritwear, Verona/Cedar Grove Times subscriptions and of course, Class Baskets. They are all very successful because of the support we receive from our HBW families. The money raised helps us fund many events for the students.

The fifth, sixth and seventh grade students enjoyed the Socials and snacks, music and prizes. Thank you to those committees and everyone that chaperoned and donated snacks. Thank you to our committee that serves the always popular half-day snacks, it's a fan favorite! And, to our Halloween Window Painting committee who knocked it out of the park again, working so hard in getting Verona ready and decorated with spooky paintings!

Over 200 HBW families made donations to the Beautification Committee this year. With that money the committee purchased several native trees that were planted around the school. Thank you to the committee and parent helpers for volunteering your time to keep our school beautiful.

And, thank you to everyone that attended our first SCA meeting. In addition to the committee updates, Ms. McNeal and Mr. Galbierczyk filled us in on what's been going on in the Carnegie and Olmsted Houses.

We could not provide the enrichment to the students of HBW without your contributions and continued support.

We wish all of the HBW families and staff a Healthy, Happy and Joyous Holiday Season!

Thank you!

*Kelli and Jen*

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### Did you know?

The Verona **SCA** stands for—

Verona **S**chool **C**ommunity **A**ssociation, a partnership of home and school that enriches your child's educational experience.

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### NEXT SCA Meeting

April 20, 2016  
Wednesday @ 7:30 in the  
Library/Media  
Center.

All Parents Welcome!



### Issue No. 1

- SCA Message
- Principal's Message
- Around the "Horne..."  
Classes & Clubs
- Pet Project
- Key Dates



Dear H.B. Whitehorne Family:

What a busy start to the school year! In the blink of an eye, we have gone from lazy, hot summer days to the frantic pace of the Fall. Mrs. McNeal and I welcomed back all of our students at grade-level class assemblies where we communicated our academic and social expectations for the school year. Students have been working hard in the classroom and have been letting loose after 2:52 p.m. In just the past few weeks, students danced with friends at socials, joined clubs that are now in full swing, and had the opportunity to hear from renowned author Wendy Mass during this month's visit to HBW.

Our 5th grade teachers spent the first several days of school helping our new students "learn how to be a middle schoolers." It didn't take our newest students very long to be able to figure out how to open their lockers and how to move from class to class in our big building. Our 5th graders also recently heard a powerful presentation by H.B. Whitehorne graduate Scott Chesney. Mr. Chesney, who has captivated audiences throughout the world, reminded all of us of the importance of making good decisions and to be a leader rather than a witness to bullying.

You may have already noticed that some of your child's teachers have increased their use of technology as an instructional tool. All HBW students now have the ability to access Google Drive and its many classroom applications in school as well as from home. With wireless access throughout the building and individual Chromebooks available to serve roughly half of the students in the school at the same time, our teachers are excited about the endless learning opportunities that are now available in their classrooms.

Mrs. McNeal and I have already seen positive results of HBW's new house model, whose structure affords greater opportunities for teachers, counselors, and administrators to discuss the academic, social, and emotional needs of individual students. Since the first days of school, grade-level teams have been meeting regularly to identify emerging student concerns, develop intervention plans, and to follow up and evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions. Teachers of common grade levels and subjects are also meeting more frequently than ever before in an effort to plan and deliver high quality, student-centered instruction. Both Mrs. McNeal and I are proud of the efforts our teachers and counseling staff have been making on behalf of your children.

Mrs. McNeal and I strongly believe in the importance of frequent communication between school and home. Our team updates are designed to keep you informed as to what is happening in your child's core subject classes and to provide you with other important information on a weekly basis. We hope that you are finding these updates to be helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or principal when you have a question or need to communicate a concern.

Thank you to the HBW school community for the welcome I have received. So many people have described HBW to me as a special place, and I could not agree more!

Best regards,

*Mr. Galbierczyk*

## 5 Cool Q's for...

Mr. Galbierczyk

### 1. Three dinner guests, past or present?

*Socrates, Malala Yousafzai,  
and Jackie Robinson*

### 2. Your first thought when you woke up this morning?

*The Mets are two wins  
away from being in the  
World Series!\**

*\*(Note—we asked Mr. G these  
questions when the Mets were on  
their way to the championship—and  
this newsletter editor is a big Mets  
fan—so we let it ride!)*

### 3. Your favorite word? Least favorite?

*"Dream" and least favorite,  
"Hate"*

### 4. Last book you read?

*"The Book Thief" by  
Markus Zusaki*

### 5. Your perfect pizza?

*Thin crust pizza with ricotta  
cheese, tomatoes, basil,*



## Around the "Horne..."

### What's Happening at HBW?

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 school year at HB Whitehorne Middle School. School is off to a great start and the students and teachers are already busy filling the hallways with student projects, assignments, and artwork. Please remember to check out our hall displays whenever you are here visiting the school. September and October were a busy time for our students as they began a new school year. Many summer reading projects were well on their way and are displayed throughout the classrooms and hallways.

### 5th Grade

The fifth grade is busy getting adjusted to being new at HBW. Much time has been spent on helping the students with the various things that are different from elementary school. Lockers, schedules, periods, changing for gym, eating at 10:15 am, and having multiple teachers in a day are just to name a few. As a part of the summer reading assignment, students all created a book ad on the book they read. The student's book ads are on display outside their classrooms making the hallway bright and cheery. In social studies, mapping skills are the main topic of study. It is always important to be able to find your way especially in a new school this size.

In science classes, students are studying the weather and learning all about various related topics. All students will be working on Cloud Projects. This project is designed to allow the students to demonstrate their understanding of clouds and weather.

Fifth grade is attending the NJ Sea Grant Consortium in Sandy Hook. This is in conjunction with our Ecology unit in Science. Students will participate in seining and sieving at a marsh ecosystem and learn of the water life and food web in the NJ marshes.

For a culminating activity in map skills, students in Mrs. Clifford's and Mrs. Moy's social studies classes are becoming cartographers. The students are designing their own parks, zoos, resorts, shopping malls etc. Each design will come with a map and map keys to guide any visitors through their parks. This is a fun way to solidify their directional skills, map key reading, and grid square reading skills.

## Around the "Horne..."



### 6th Grade Class

In the sixth grade, students enjoyed writing mini books about their summer reading book. Students have been busy writing narrative stories on Google Docs. These stories are amazing and full of vivid verbs and many elaborate details.

The sixth grade has currently been conducting science inquiries and studying how scientists ask and answer questions about the natural world. Students have been asking and answering questions such as, "Does an ice cube melt faster if it is broken in pieces or whole?", "Will the growth of plants be affected if we double the fertilizer in the soil?", "How can we uncover what is inside a given space if we cannot get into that space?", and "what happens when you mix water, oil, and food coloring?" Sixth grade students saw the importance of using the scientific method to answer these questions. They often concluded that multiple trials must be done in order for scientists to come to an accurate conclusion. The sixth graders are looking forward to using the scientific method throughout the year to help answer questions they have about the natural world.

### *Sixth Grade Cycle Classes*

The 6th grade cycles of Technology, Engineering, & Design (T.E.D.) and Music are collaborating on a project this year that was inspired by a group of young musicians living in Paraguay. Students will learn about the plight of this community and apply their experiences to life here at H.B.W. Using recycled materials from our community, the students in Miss Harth's class will design and create guitars. The students in Mrs. Hamilton's class will share their guitar knowledge to assist in the design process. To learn more about the "The Landfill Harmonic" that this project was modeled after, visit [www.landfillharmonicmovie.com](http://www.landfillharmonicmovie.com). We look forward to hearing the music students create on these unique instruments!



## Around the "Home..."



### 7th Grade Science

Ms. Onnembo has been collecting books and gently used school supplies from her students for a charity she works with called Africa Surgery. Africa Surgery supports, educates and handles medical issues for children in Sierra Leone suffering from Pott's disease and other malformation which affect the children living in Sierra Leone.

The Ebola virus greatly affected this country so besides not being able to attend school for the year many of the schools had to be destroyed and rebuilt in order to provide a safe environment for the children to return. Because of this they lost valuable reading and math materials needed for the children. So far we have collected books for varied reading levels so they can stock their library but still need math supplies. If anyone has workbooks from home or their schools which are no longer being used, they would greatly benefit these children. This is an incredibly poor community that depends on Africa Surgery for their existence.

Besides Ms. Onnembo collecting and sponsoring 2 children, Mrs. Marsano and her Best Club have also sponsored a child at the end of each school year. A donation of \$150 provides much needed medical treatment and a year at school for each child. You can read more about this wonderful charity at their website: [www.africasurgery.org](http://www.africasurgery.org). Tom Johnson is the founder of this organization and has dedicated his life to providing relief for the children of Sierra Leone. Please read his story and watch the video included on his web-site.

Tom Johnson works out of Assumption Church in Morristown, NJ. Tom personally works in Sierra Leone for 6 months each year transporting the children for surgeries in Ghana, building homes and water facilities. Along with doctors volunteering from throughout the world, this organization creates life for children that normally would not survive due to their illness and the taboo of eliminating them from their villages. The involvement of our students in helping others is a great way to teach to be responsible citizens in their communities.

### 8th Grade Anthropology

In the new Anthropology cycle, eighth graders were asked to do some in-depth research into an indigenous culture of their choice. After deciding on a culture, students were tasked with creating a far-reaching Google Slides presentation. While they were required to include their culture's location and information on such topics as language, clothing and food, the students were also able to include 5 other topics of their choosing (i.e. family structure, art, music, etc.). Students were asked to conclude their presentations with a discussion of how modern society has intruded upon and/or changed their indigenous culture. The project was well-received by the students and, through the presentations, they were able to glean new insight into many cultures that were previously unknown to them.

# H.B. WHITEHORNE

Class & Club News

By: Marisa Albano and MaryAnne Halbert



## Around the "Home..."



### Media Center

On October 13, award-winning author Wendy Mass visited HBW, thanks to the generosity of the SCA. Two assemblies were held; fifth and sixth grade were first to meet the author, and then seventh and eighth graders were next. Wendy spoke about the writing process, her books, and the importance of not giving up on your dreams. She told students her first book, *A Mango-Shaped Space*, was rejected fifty times by publishers. To prove it, she produced a long, laminated roll of all fifty rejection letters. At the end of the assembly, Mrs. Kleinknecht serenaded Wendy Mass with an original song called "Thank You Wendy" sung to the tune of "Call Me Maybe."

After the assemblies, Wendy dashed off to the media center for two book signing parties, which were attended by over eighty students! Poor Wendy's right hand grew very tired as she signed the 145 books that were sold to students and staff! Finally, Wendy Mass held a writing workshop for Mrs. Rodzen's eighth grade class. Students dazzled the author with their fine writing pieces!

Overall, the visit was a huge success. Mrs. Kleinknecht would like to personally thank the SCA and library volunteers for all of their support. She would also like to thank the parents for their overwhelming response to the Wendy Mass book sale and the recent book fair.

### MUSIC NEWS

In the Music department, the Maroon, White, Gold, and Jazz Bands along with HB Voices and Acoustics are all preparing for our winter concert in December. They will be playing several seasonal selections and other well-known band pieces for the enjoyment of parents, students, and the Verona community. Also the Annual Cheesecake Fundraiser is well on its way and all band and chorus members are busy fundraising for the music department. Do not forget to purchase your cheesecakes!

**Band/Chorus:** Rehearsals are in full blast and we are getting ready for our HBW Winter Concert on Monday, December 14 @ 7pm in the VHS Auditorium.

**Musical:** BIG NEWS! We are doing Shrek, Jr.

### Every Day We're Calculating

The Every Day We're Calculating Club has started to explore how math is used in money and cooking. They had an ice pop sale and were able to work with money and talk about expenses and profit. The students also used different measurements to make (and eat!) Oreo parfaits.



## Around the "Horne..."



### Student Council

Student Council Elections for the 2015-2016 school year took place over the past two months of school. Students interested in being potential candidates met with club advisors Mrs. Albano and Ms. Kunkel

During the kick off meeting students were given guidelines and criteria to follow in order to run for Class President or Student Council Executive Board. Students had speeches to write, posters and stickers to create and hang, and finally campaigning to do.

On Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup> all potential candidates came in front of the entire HBW student body, staff, and parents to give their speech. What a very exciting time, but nervous time as well. The student body then voted electronically in their classrooms on chrome books during Social Studies classes.

*Congratulations to the following 2015-2016 Student Council Members!  
We are looking forward to a wonderful year.*

President: Alyssa Deo

Vice President: Christian Dionisio

Recorder: Abby Bermeo

Treasurer: Rebecca Katsios

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President: Phillip Konrad-Parisi

6<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President: Matteo DeVito

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President: Megan Moran

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President: Michael Sluck

Elections for Student Council Executive Board and Homeroom Representatives also took place in October.

# H.B. WHITEHORNE

Class & Club News

By: Marisa Albano and MaryAnne Halbert



## Around the "Horne..."



### DREAM TEAM

Dream Team has been very busy to start the year. At the end of last year, students cut, counted, and sorted Box Tops. Three of our homerooms won bagel breakfasts for collecting the most Box Tops. They were Ms. Heckel's, Ms. Onnembo's and Ms. Gasalberti's. Our total collection for the school was over \$1,800.00.



We began the school year with our annual JDRF Fundraiser and Juvenile Diabetes Walk. Our team collected donations during lunch for this cause. This year our school collected over \$400.00 Our annual school walk took place on Monday, October 12th. It was a beautiful day to spend outside walking around the track. Thank you for all of the donations!

This year, we worked with the Junior Women's League again to collect canned foods for the town wide food drive. This collection took place the week of October 12th. Our top three homerooms that collected the most cans were: Mrs. O' Connor, Mrs. Clifford, and Ms. Gasalberti. These homerooms will be treated to a bagel breakfast.

Next, our Annual Red Ribbon Week was scheduled for the week of October 26th to October 30th. We gathered homeroom materials so that students, staff, and faculty could participate during this week. Please remember to check daily for the different themes of the week.

### Soccer Club

All 5-8th grade students are invited to join the soccer club. We meet on Tuesdays from 3-3:45 in the gym or outside, depending on the weather, from October through December. Interested students should see Ms. Heckel for a permission slip.



### VAA CLUB

All 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to join the VAA Club (Verona Athletic Association) with Mrs. Albano and Mrs. Useche. We meet on Wednesdays from 3-3:45 in the gym or outside, depending on the weather, from September through June. This club is a good opportunity for students to make new friends and explore fun athletic activities. Interested students should see Mrs. Albano or Mrs. Useche for a permission slip. Come and join the fun every Wednesday in the gym!!!!





## Around the "Home..."



### Mandarin Club

Ni Hao! Welcome back to Mandarin Club! The year has started and students and teachers are all back into the swing of things. The members of this year's Mandarin Club are all very excited to start a new year in a fantastic club. New activities are coming, and old activities and games are still being enjoyed. Recently, Mandarin Club had their elections for club president, vice president, and secretary.

My name is Sofia Fiorita and I'm in eighth grade. I am one of the presidents of the Mandarin Club. There are so many passionate members in this club that we had to elect two students for each position. Mandarin Club consists of fifth to eighth graders that enjoy learning the culture, language, and life of Mandarin people. We meet every other Tuesday. Last Tuesday we held our elections! Election time is very interesting.

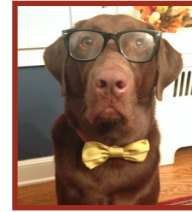
Whoever wants to run, gives speeches and answers questions as if they were candidates in a presidential election. It is a more entertaining way to vote than just choosing out of a group of students.

Mrs. Qin always makes Mandarin Club enjoyable, and makes sure everyone is having a good time. She has the club revolve around everyone that is a part of it. I have been a part of Mandarin Club for four years, now, and every time I go Mrs. Qin has thought of something new to do. I can't wait for a year of fun activities, new friends, and lots and lots of good times. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the newest presidents, vice presidents, and secretaries of the 2015-2016 Mandarin Club. Co-president Britney Allteni in seventh grade, Vice Presidents Mary Wallace in seventh grade and Katherine Hunt in sixth grade, and Secretaries Erika Boone in eighth grade and Angel Fauerbach in seventh grade! I can't wait for this year to bring more fun than the last! Thanks, Mrs. Qin for an amazing Mandarin Club!

### S.T.E.M.

Henry B. Whitehorne Middle School has recently implemented a new S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program. As an extension to the classroom-based learning, H.B.W. will be hosting a Pumpkin Chunkin Competition in November. Student teams are using innovative engineering and science-based ideas to design and construct their very own pumpkin-launcher. The number of students that have chosen to participate in this after-school activity is truly impressive. They are currently working hard on their designs with the goal to test their launchers using a real pumpkin.

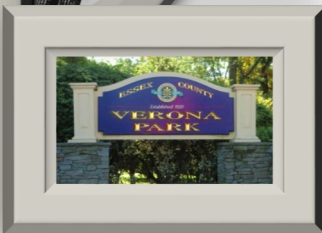
# Fun Facts: Olmsted & Carnegie



Sr. Pet Reporter  
Roger Emanuilidis

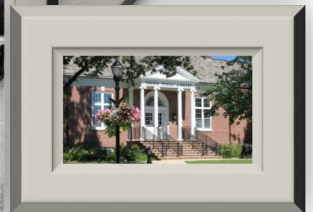
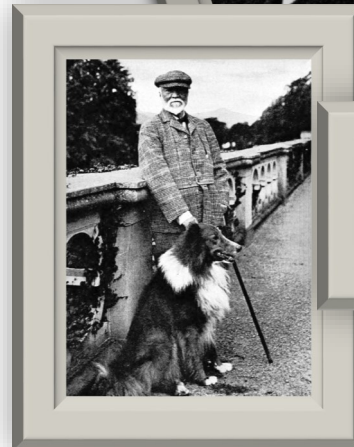


*Frederic Law Olmsted*



**Birthday: April 29**  
**Job: Landscape Architect**  
**Claim to Verona Fame: Father of Verona Park**  
**Family Dog: Neptune**

*Andrew Carnegie*



**Birthday: November 25**  
**Job: Steel Magnate**  
**Claim to Verona Fame: Endowment to Verona Public Library**  
**Family Dog: Laddie**

# H.B. WHITEHORNE

## 2015/16 Key Upcoming Dates...\*

### December 2015

8th & 9th	Tue-Wed	HBW Parent /Teacher Conferences (12/8-Day, 12/9-Eve) In School Winter Concert
10th	Thu	HBW Parent/Teacher Conferences (Day)
14th	Mon	Winter Concert @ VHS, 7pm
15th	Tue	7th Grade Trip
23rd	Tue	12:30 Dismissal
24th-31st	Thu-Thu	Holiday Break—School Closed

### January 2016

1st	Fri	Holiday Break—School Closed
4th	Mon	School Reopens
14th	Thu	8th Grade Parent Orientation at VHS, 7pm
15th	Fri	5th Grade Social in the Gym
18th	Mon	MLK Day—School Closed
29th	Fri	6th Grade Social in the Gym

\*Dates subject to change.

Contact Us:

Have an HBW-related story, announcement or just some fun pictures you would like to submit for consideration? Email to Kathy Emanuilidis at [hbwnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hbwnewsletter@gmail.com).

Note: The H.B. Whitehorne SCA Newsletter is an e-publication intended exclusively for the H.B. Whitehorne family.