

Terrill Announces First Marking Period Honor Roll

SCOTCH PLAINS—Terrill Middle School Principal Kevin Holloway announced the honor roll designees for the first marking period:

6th Grade High Honor Roll

Ricky Abichandani
Ross Alexander
Andrew Bell
Patrick Bell
Jeremy Berkowitz
Julie Busch
Mehak Chawla
Catalina Chesney
Julia Chimienti
Jackson Cochran-Carney
Kevin Dariani
Taylor Diken
Andrew Dill
Sari Dorn
Morgan Emlan
Scott Flanzman
Jason Fortunato
Sarah Freeman
Julie Glover
Paige Goldner
Sarah Hensley
Hadley Jones
Victoria Karakis
Marianne Khalil
Jessica Klein
Kelly Lapham
Caroline Leahy
Andrew Leischner
Daniel Liang
Zachary Lisojo
Dara Maguire
Paige Mankin
Gabrielle Mendes
Julia Mendes
Olivia Mendes
Christine Monroy

7th Grade High Honor Roll

William Babis
Emma Budiansky
Teresa Cannone
Lindsey Cianciotta
Jacqueline Cirincione
Ryan Coughlan
Grant Crandall
Russell Davis
Rosalee DePaola
Madelyne Dhaliwal
Joseph Dunn
Lauren Eckert
Kori Fleischman
Sara Heiden
Brenda Ho
Stephanie Holmes
Jacquelyn Isola
Tamara Itzkowitz
Ian Johnston
Naomi Joseph
Priya Kamdar

8th Grade High Honor Roll

Julia Babis
Kyle Birnbaum
Anastasia Bogdanovsk
Timothy Bonacum
Joshua Brooks
Emily Christiansen
Madeline Dillon
Kyle Douglas
Osazeneri Ebose
Gregory Favreau
Christopher Gilman
Amanda Ho
Emily Horowitz
Megan Huxford
Katharine Keane
Faiz Khan
Michael Kitts
Ezra Klemow
Rebecca Kline
Alison Koransky
Jillian Leahy
Eric Leyden

6th Grade Honor Roll

Bradford Alleman
Yvonne Asante-Nkank
Lynn Babich
Brynne Bartimoro
Jonathan Belfer
Alexa Bergenfield
Jordan Bernstein
Thomas Bonacum
Richard Borrero
Sameul Brasse
Jason Breit
Marc Brody
Glenisha Brown
Anna Cannone
Tighe Chemidlin
Zachary Ciabattari
Quinn Ciolello
Nathan Clark
Theresa Clarke
Andrew Coronato
James D'Angelo
Phillip Donatelli
Edward Ehringer
Jabri English
Jacqueline Fabricatore
Patrick Foti
Ryan Gajdzisz
Allison Geissler

Lonny Geller
Victoria Giamboni
Nicholas Gianni
Kerri Gilman
Jillian Gonzales
Dasia Green
Jordan Greenberg
Matthew Greenberg
Emma Guidi
Spencer Hambleton
Alyssa Hartstein
Emily Ho
Abigail Hoffman
Eryn Hopkins
Conor Kelly
Jacob Kennedy
Siobhan Kirby
Lauren Koederitz
Joseph Kravets
John Lenart
Alyssa Leyden
Kira Loh
Katherine Loi
Thomas Magelinski
Tal Zaksenberg

7th Grade Honor Roll

Meghan Allen
Michala Allen
Robert Amberg
Kelly Ayers
Stephanie Beauvais
Allison Begalman
Elijah Ben-Michael
Paul Benovengo
Rohan Bhatt
Michael Caminiti
Zachary Carow
Patrick Cassidy
Emma Cavaliere
Taylor Dashiell
Marty Davidson, II
Samantha Diaz
Nicholas Donatelli
Robert Dyckman
Destinee Edwards
Caitlin English
Loren Franco
Melina Gaglias
Jillian Gardner
Joshua Getman
Noelle Giacomina
Craig Gorbanoff
Justin Haas
Paige Hammond
Ryan Henkels
Taylor Hoblitzell
Evan Hodulik
Alexander Hoover
Rutvij Jani
Joanathan Kerby
Ezra Klein
Ian Krieger
Hanaa Lakhani
Inaya Lakhani
Zachary Lenoff
Jacqueline Mains
Callum Wayman

8th Grade Honor Roll

Eli Acosta
Betsy Appel
Laura Arasin
Nathaniel Bach
Ellesse Bastosik
Emily Bayard
Taylor Beattie
Emily Becker
Shannon Bell
Tori Berman
Jeffrey Brody
Nyesha Brooks
Nicole Buzzanca
Cassie Caminiti
Kirsten Carbono
Denzel Carden
Michael Chana
Moussa Channouli
Rebecca Chavan
Theresa Chrystal
Emily Cohen
Zachary Cohen
Evan Cole
Brittany D'Annunzio
Lane Darwin
Blake DeJohn
Stefanie DeVizio
Jessica DiGiacomo
Rebecca DiGiacomo
Patrick Dougher
Juliane Duret
Claudia Falconieri
Jalynn Farmer
Frederick Feller
Anthony Foley
John Foti
Hayley Geller
Michael Goldstein
Justin Gonzales
Richard Gorski
Jesse Haack
Neville Hall
Victoria Ingato
Julia Ingram
Zachary Jacobs
Emma Kaplan
Patrick Kelly
Will Kempner
Eyad Khalifeh
Daniel Khazanovic
Evelyn Klotz
Charles Zhou
Zachary Ziolkowski



SOME THINGS GOT TO GIVE... Isabella DiCosomo, Matthew Rice and Joey Rosenkrantz from Gail Anderson's second grade class at Beechwood together with Deerfield alumnus Marissa Deanna help Barbara Komoroski sort through an abundance of presents donated by Mountainside parents and teachers for the annual gift giving drive. The gifts will go to inner-city children who attend childcare at the YMCA of Eastern Union County in Elizabeth.

MS Schools Say: 'Yes, There is a Santa Claus'

By LINDA B. CONDRILLO
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MOUNTAINSIDE—Barbara Komoroski doesn't look anything like Mrs. Claus, but don't tell that to the children who attend the Josephine and John Jacobson Child Care Center in Elizabeth.

For nearly 15 years, the Deerfield School guidance counselor has coordinated a gift giving drive for inner-city children ranging in age as young as 2 1/2 at the daycare center to 13 years old in the after school program, both of which are run under the auspices of the YMCA of Eastern Union County.

Many of the children lack the basic necessities of life; none will wake up Christmas morning to find gobs of presents under a well-trimmed tree. Mrs. Komoroski told *The Westfield Leader and Scotch Plains Fanwood Times*, "These are children who come from families with little money and lots of problems. My church does a gift drive every year and that's how I got the idea to do something similar at Deerfield."

A native of Newark, Mrs. Komoroski began her career in education nearly 30 years ago teaching fifth grade at the Abington Avenue School, and later taught first grade in Linden.

Young and idealistic, she set out to save the world, earning her master's degree in guidance at night. A long break at home while she raised her own children was followed by a job in a district quite different from the ones she started out in.

Mrs. Komoroski said, "When I initially proposed the project to Dr. Margaret Dolan, then principal at Deerfield, she agreed right away. It was an easy thing to get going and it makes me feel wonderful to continue the tradition."

The Mountainside community has a long history of helping others in time of need. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the middle school donated thousands of school supplies and dollars directly to a school overwhelmed by displaced students in rural Louisiana.

An active and benevolent student council is currently collecting and distributing mittens, hats, scarves and gloves to St. Joseph's Social Service Center, and Thomas DeJenne, a former Deerfield alumnus, has just finished collecting toiletries for homeless families as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Meanwhile, every December since 1992, Mrs. Komoroski has been lighting up classrooms with paper ornaments she carries in a basket. Cut out by hand by two more Deerfield alumni, Peggy and Elizabeth Hennings, each ornament, which also serves as a nametag, bears the age, name and clothing size of a child in

need. Mrs. Komoroski talks to all homerooms at both the Deerfield and Beechwood Schools about the unfortunate reality of the children at the day care facility, noting that in some cases, the presents they receive from the drive will be the only gifts they will get.

Mrs. Komoroski said, "It's difficult for our students here to understand that there are people who don't live very far away who literally don't get anything at all for Christmas.

"One year, a kindergartner asked me, 'What about Santa? Why doesn't he bring them any presents?'" Quick as an elf, Mrs. Komoroski responded, "I told the boy that I thought sometimes the children move around a lot and Santa can't always find them. But the older students always remember me and why I come into the classroom with the basket."

As fast as reindeer fly, the students (and teachers) rush to pick out the paper ornaments; many take more than one to shop for, relishing their roles as secret Santas. Wishes for a Merry Christmas and notes that say "I hope you like my present" are often penned by the students and tucked inside the festively wrapped boxes which return to the school a week or so later.

Mrs. Komoroski then has the awesome task of sorting and piling up the donations in the two schools' media centers. Marissa Deanna, another Deerfield graduate, is helping Mrs. Komoroski organize the donations, which eventually become so voluminous, that they could fill an entire school bus.

Mrs. Komoroski said, "The people in Mountainside are incredibly generous. There are usually three to four presents collected for every child at the center. We include suggestions for both fun and practical gifts and our goal is to give the children two of each."

Second graders Matthew Rice, Joey Rosenkrantz and Isabella DiCosomo also lent a hand this year to help Mrs. Komoroski sort the myriad of presents collected from the Beechwood School. Joey remarked, "I like giving gifts to people who don't have any money. It just makes me feel good to help other people." The three elves coincidentally celebrate December birthdays.

When the project is complete, more than 700 presents are ready and waiting to be picked up by the center for distribution. "That's when I take a deep breath and let out a big sigh of relief," Mrs. Claus, err, Komoroski said. The gifts are dispersed to the parents at the center and are opened by their children on Christmas morning.

Certainly, in Mountainside, love and generosity and devotion still exist.

Shubanjali Arts Institution Performs at Terrill School

SCOTCH PLAINS—Shubanjali School of Performing Arts, a dance institution based in Scotch Plains, will present a program titled "Santa 'N Shiva," at Terrill Middle School on Saturday, December 23, at 5:30 p.m.

This program will celebrate the values of the holiday season bringing together the rhythms, mythology and traditions of the East and the West through dance and music. More than 70 students of Shubanjali will give Union County residents, a colorful glimpse of India's folk and classical dance styles.

Students will also present a variety of themes ranging from the Harvest Dance, the Gypsy folklore of India, dances on Krishna, Lord Ganesha, Tillana and the finale number "Santa 'N Shiva" bringing out the Cosmic dance of Lord Shiva (symbolizing the Universe and the continuity of Life) and the aspirations of the soul seeking happiness manifesting as Santa expressing the emotions of love, peace and kindness.

Suba Ramesh Parmar, a dancer and choreographer, is also Shubanjali's founder and artistic director. Her creations reflect a wide range of artistic expressions ranging from traditional works to inter-cultural collaborations with artists of diverse cultures.

She is the recipient of many awards including "The star of Dance" from TamilNadu, India, and also honored by the Union County Arts and Cultural Heritage for her artistic contribution to the community and children in Union County.

She has studios in Wayne and Scotch Plains and regularly performs and conducts workshops at Sivananda Yoga centers around the world helping them understand the tradition and the significance behind the postures, creating a visual experience by weaving the unlimited vocabulary of Indian dance into story ballets.

For more information, contact Ms. Parmar at (908) 490-0732. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children.

Hillcrest, Crossroads Announce Partnership

WESTFIELD—Union County Educational Services Commission announced a new partnership between two of its local schools, Hillcrest Academy South, an alternative high school, has developed a service learning project with Crossroads School, which serves pre-school and elementary age children with autism.

Students from Hillcrest visit Crossroads on a weekly basis to observe educational programs and gain practical experience in skills needed to pursue such career options as educational paraprofessional, school secretary and custodian.

All students who complete the requirements of this service project will be eligible to receive credit towards high school graduation. It is also an opportunity for the Hillcrest students to give back to the community in the spirit of the holidays.



AT A CROSSROADS...Above, at the Crossroads School Store, is Rasheed M., one of the visiting Hillcrest students with therapist Sharon Maines and Crossroads student Erick F.

Arts & Entertainment

WYACT Second Semester Registration to Begin Jan. 8

WESTFIELD—Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT), an organization that provides professional quality performing arts classes for ages 8 to 18 years, is holding registration for its second semester classes on Monday, January 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. at WYACT's class location: 728 Westfield Avenue in Westfield (formerly Lincoln School, behind Kehler Stadium).

WYACT classes are designed to prepare young performers for auditions and the professional stage. WYACT offers Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes, three levels of Musical Theatre, Beginners' Ballet, Jazz and Tap.

Instructors include Michael Raine, WYACT's tap teacher of three years, who just returned from choreographing the international company of *Rent*, opening in Tokyo. Classes culminate in a "cabaret" performance, with students demonstrating their class work on stage and in front of an audience.

This year's cabaret will be held on Saturday, April 28. Cynthia Meryl, WYACT's artistic director, believes that, "Young performers who develop the commitment and discipline to

learn an art form well, whether it be in music, dance or drama, build the confidence needed not only for a career in theatre, but to face any challenge in life."

Second semester classes begin on Monday, January 15, and continue through Thursday, May 10.

Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre will mark several anniversaries during 2007: 15 years of providing free summer programs to young, aspiring talent in the form of professional-level musical and dramatic productions and 10 years of production collaboration with the New Jersey Performing Art Center in Newark.

In addition, it will celebrate six years of touring these productions to the Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan, five years of providing a dance program to the Hillcrest North and South Academies, and 16 years of providing fee-based performing arts classes in dance, drama, musical theatre and voice.

To receive a class brochure, for information concerning the WYACT summer production, or to make a tax-exempt donation, call (908) 233-3200.

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