

WPES Celebrates Fall



Each year at the end of October, West Side Park Elementary celebrates the changing seasons with our Annual Fall Festival Celebration! This event is a day full of fun activities to welcome the autumn season and gives scholars a chance to celebrate ten weeks of hard work they have put in this school year! Scholars are invited to wear a costume of their choice or dress in casual clothes for an added reward.

The day starts off with a whole-school morning meeting where WPES Principal, Ms. Desiree Robin, leads a pump up for all scholars to get them ready for the day followed by a staff costume contest to see which grade-level of teachers had the most festive outfits for the day! “All of our teachers really came to compete this year!” says Ms. Robin, “Their costumes were so well put together and their skits got the kids so excited for the day!”

The highlight of the day is a Dance Party mid-morning, where scholars get to show off their best dance moves with their friends. Scholars also get a chance to enjoy some tasty treats and juices donated by our amazing families and distributed by members of the WPES



Parent Council. The day ends with some arts and crafts in classrooms lead by each teacher and capped off with a candy handout from school leaders. There are many fun events throughout the school year at WPES, but this is definitely one where you get to see students and teachers wear their personalities to school.

IN THIS ISSUE

- ★ WPES Celebrates Fall
- ★ DTMS' Honor Roll Celebration
- ★ North Star in the Community
- ★ A Great Way to Start The Day

STAR OF NORTH STAR



This month's star of North Star is Laura Kahu, an eighth grader at West Side Park Middle School.

Laura has been a member of our WMS community since 5th grade and she has proven to be an exceptional young woman since her first day. Laura is not only an amazing student, but a huge help to our community. Every week, Laura assists our Operations team with ensuring that paychecks get out to our 360 students on time. She maturely helps to manage an entire group of students with printing, stuffing, and delivering paychecks. She is such an asset to the community and truly helps our school run smoothly! Laura's excellence does not stop with her Operations magic, however. She is so academically gifted that she has achieved Honor Roll or High Honor Roll every single quarter at North Star!

Ms. Ghazzawi, Laura's Principal shares that “Laura is truly a model student. Whenever there is another student or teacher in need of assistance, I know I can count on Laura to help them with just about anything. She is truly such a joy to have in our community.

Laura is looking forward to high school and the independence that comes along with this new transition. We have no doubt in our minds that Laura will continue to be as amazing as she is now, when she enters high school in a few short months!

DTMS' Honor Roll Celebration



This past month North Star Academy closed out the first quarter of the year. At Downtown Middle School, we celebrated the achievements of our students with an Honor Roll Breakfast! A student receives honor roll if they earn an 80 or higher in each of their five core subjects – English and Language Arts, Math, Science, History, and Physical Education/Performing Arts. A student receives high honor roll if they earn a 90 or higher. This quarter we had an amazing 160 students achieve honor roll or high honor roll! To celebrate this achievement DTMS invited the honor roll students and their families to school for a hot breakfast! The morning was filled with music, laughter, joy as the families had an opportunity to spend time together as a community and celebrate the hard work of their students. Following the breakfast, we held a celebratory morning

circle where each student was individually recognized by receiving a certificate, having their picture taken, and running through our “student gauntlet”.

We are excited about the high achievements of our students and continuing to watch them excel in the upcoming months! For quarter two, the students and their families will be invited to an honor roll pizza party and for quarter three we will have an honor roll sundae party! We are looking forward to celebrating our students' achievements throughout the year!



North Star Academy in the Community



Do you ever wonder how politics affects your child's school and what you can do to protect what belongs to your child—including a high-quality education through the 12th grade? Then come to one of our upcoming Parent Advocacy Sessions, where we have special guests to explain fair funding, moratoriums, and the power of parent voice. Our October session featuring guest speaker Essex County Clerk Chris Durkin about voting was well attended—not just because there was food and it was held in our beautiful new building at 377 Washington Street—but because parents came to learn more about the strength they can collectively assert during elections.

Don't miss future Advocacy Sessions. Look for information in your child's backpack or send an email to tbankole@uncommonschoools.org.

A Great Way to Start The Day

Breakfast is one of the most important meals of the day. North Star provides a healthy and well-balanced breakfast to all our scholars each morning to start their day off right. All scholars are eligible to participate in our School Breakfast Program. If you have additional questions, please reach out to your campus' Special Projects Coordinator.



Uncommon Schools | NORTH ★ STAR

Alexander Street
Elementary School
Central Avenue
Middle School

Clinton Hill
Middle School
Downtown
Middle School

Fairmount Elementary
School
Liberty
Elementary School

Lincoln Park
Elementary School
Lincoln Park
High School

Vailsburg
Elementary School
Vailsburg
Middle School

Washington Park
High School
West Side Park
Elementary School

West Side Park
Middle School

www.northstaracademy.org