Message from the Superintendent...

Dear Residents,

Over the last year, much has been accomplished towards achieving our district goals. The first and most important of these goals was to increase academic achievement. We were successful in this area. In May, we were notified by the NYS Education Department that we had been named one of 79 High Achieving Districts in New York State. With over 700 districts in the state, this is no small accomplishment. It was a united effort by all that helped us accomplish this. On June 24th, at graduation, we again reached a milestone. We had 88% of our seniors earn Regents diplomas. This rate has steadily increased over the last five years. Earning a Regent’s diploma is essential for our young people to be successful in this global economy. We will continue to strive to increase this percentage in the upcoming year.

Our second goal has to do with the maintenance of our facilities. This summer, the remaining work will be completed on our capital project ahead of schedule and within budget. At present, four of our district buildings are in the midst of construction. We hope that all of the work will be completed by the end of September and look forward to hosting an open house for the entire community this fall. Besides the capital project work, additional projects are on-going. All of the hallways in the Middle School will be repainted this summer, along with all of the student restrooms. This building is the oldest in the district and holds memories for many of you. We continue to work to keep it looking fresh.

Our last goal has to do with fiscal matters. We were able to keep the tax rate well below what we had anticipated with the addition of the capital project to the budget. Two years ago, we told you that you would be assessed an additional $.54/thousand for the project in the 2006-07 budget. We have met that goal. The upcoming years will hold no additional increase from the project. In fact, the $.54/thousand was part of an overall $.73/thousand increase which included all other budget increases. One of the areas we explored this year to increase our revenue was grant funding. We were successful this spring in securing an $18,500 grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation. This grant will be used to enhance exposure to the arts in our after-school program. We have several other grants pending and hope to have more news to share with you in the future.

Part of our goal as a district is to be on a path of continuous improvement. The Board and I will work together this summer to set goals for the upcoming year. As always, we welcome any feedback you may have.

Sincerely,
Maria Ehresman, Superintendent of Schools
mehresman@williamsoncentral.org

Williamson Central School
PO Box 900
Williamson, NY 14589
Capital Project Update

Since our last “What’s Happening” report in February, the renovations have continued to run efficiently, without any major setbacks. The additions to the High School and Elementary School have been turned over to the District. Staff and students settled into the Elementary School addition prior to the end of the school year, and the High School staff was able to move into the new science wing addition during the final week of school.

We are still targeting a completion date of September 30th, 2006. To accomplish this, the following renovations will be in progress throughout the summer. At the Elementary School, we will renovate the Cafeteria, complete work on the Primary Wing, complete the replacement of various mechanical equipment in the original building, and install the new playground. At the Middle School we will complete the Cafeteria addition, re-roof the existing cafeteria, erect the new loading dock, and renovate the kitchen-serving line area. At the High School we will complete the remaining roofing work and provide improvements to four lavatories and the existing science classrooms. In addition to the faculty room improvements, auditorium air conditioning and stage curtain replacements will also take place.

Track construction began in May of 2006, and we are pleased to report that it is ahead of schedule. The pole lighting has been relocated. Base pavement, new sod, and perimeter fencing has taken place. The track is scheduled to be complete and turned over to the district in mid-August.

Renovations to the Bus Garage also began in May. The addition has started, footers are in the ground and the block walls are complete. When the underground fuel tank was removed, the amount of contaminated soil encountered was as expected and no unexpected cost was incurred. The renovations to the interior of the building are underway and running smoothly. We expect to have all work completed at the bus garage by the end of August.

As we enter the final months of the school renovations, we will continue to strive for efficiency, quality, and most importantly, to produce a safe and friendly environment for our children to learn and grow in.

Sincerely,
Todd LaBarr
Watchdog Building Partners, LLC - Construction Manager

Message From The PTSA

Hopefully this finds you enjoying your summer break and looking forward to a new and exciting school year! Your PTSA is busy looking to the new year and making plans. That future includes you! We need you for the PTSA board. Don’t have the time? It is not a huge time commitment, since we meet only once a month. Without a board, the PTSA will be forced to fold. Since the PTSA is the officially recognized parent group here in Williamson, we believe it is essential to continue. We are responsible for naming representatives to the District and Building Planning teams, District Safety team and any other district team where parent support is mandated. We are the voice of all the parents, so please consider stepping up to fill a role in this important organization.

As you can see, we are much more than a fundraising organization, but we feel it is important to let you know why we do fundraisers. With a yearly budget of $10,000 we financially support many projects which enrich the lives of your children, no matter what age they are. For a brief overview of what we spend our fundraising money on, take a look at what we paid out last year.

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Field Days

Field Days stress school spirit and good sportsmanship. Each year Dan Schoonerman develops a theme for this annual event. This year’s theme was pirates and treasure hunting. Following the activity, each student was awarded an ice cream sandwich for his or her efforts.

Flag Day

Each student was provided an American Flag and encouraged to wear red, white, and blue to celebrate Flag Day. Students, faculty and guests were entertained by both the 4th grade chorus and the 7th and 8th grade band. The American Legion presented a new flag to the school that will be flown during the 2006-2007 school year.

Beautification Project

On Monday, June 5 and Tuesday, June 6, the Elementary School students and faculty joined hands with the REACH Committee to beautify our surroundings. Students were assigned to stations where community volunteers, and Mrs. Carol Verbridge directed various planting and weeding activities. In addition, flowers were planted in large planters, and the students were responsible for watering the flowers. Community volunteers will continue to water the flowers throughout the summer.

4th Grade Arts Alive

On Thursday, June 1, Mrs. Sheridan and her Fourth Grade Arts Alive group entertained and amazed the audience by bringing to life through dance, song, multi-media presentation and verbal research the life of famous artist, Henry Matisse.

Festival of the Arts

Mrs. Byron and Mrs. Hunn directed students of the Elementary School in a program that represented various musical time periods and genres during the annual Festival of the Arts evening.

Original Songs Recorded on CD

During the yearly artist-in-residence program, Mrs. Nancy Bryan assisted the students in writing and recording 3 original songs. Each student worked with Mrs. Bryan to generate lyrics that were then professionally recorded by each grade level. At a CD release party students were able to hear their recording for the first time, and a CD was given to each student for their listening pleasure.

Art in Residence

Elementary School . . .
Senior Athletic Awards

Orphix Fraternity Sportsmanship Award – Alexandra Maroselli, Mason Verbridge
Coach Character – Allison Smith, Ken Bloss
Craig Stritzel Outstanding Senior Athlete Award – Allison Smith, Mason Verbridge
Michael and Maureen Wright Scholar/Athlete Scholarship – Leah Cox
Carl Cook Memorial Scholarship – Zachary Poole
Larry Hubright Memorial Award – Mason Verbridge
Bob DeVoogt Memorial Award – Alexandra Maroselli

Outstanding Athlete Awards

Soccer – Josh Ganskop, Kendall Shultes
Cross Country – Ken Bloss, Mallory Rynders
Volleyball – Allison Smith
Basketball – Cody Stevens, Allison Smith
Wrestling – Mark Lewis
Indoor Track – Ken Bloss, Ami Kush
Cheerleading – Lauren Forget
Track – Ken Bloss, Kelsey Gelina
Baseball – Jesse Blauvelt
Softball – Leah Cox
Tennis – Devin Greaney
Golf – Geoff Haywood
Athletic Achievement – Justin Cuvelier, Kaitlyn DeRue, Josh Ganskop, Jessica Hepler, Samantha Knataitis, Zachary Poole, Colby Stohr, Alexandra Maroselli, Leah Cox, Ken Bloss, Alex Graybek, Renee Ast, Rachel Pilato, Mason Verbridge

Music Award

Donald and Helen Janse Scholarship Award Winner

This year’s scholarship recipient was Jeanine Follette. She was awarded a $9,000 scholarship, which is the largest single amount awarded to any graduating senior this year. Jeanine will be attending Monroe Community College this fall and plans on majoring in music. She has been part of many school and Gates Hall productions and is a Stars of Tomorrow and Elenbe winner. She also was a state finalist in the Rotary music contest earlier this year.

Mr. Janse was a music teacher here in Williamson prior to leaving to become a professor at the Coast Guard Academy. He retired from this position and lived in Connecticut until his death. Mr. Janse has two sisters, Mary Lagoner who resides here in Williamson and Lois Jacob of Rochester. Mrs. Janse bequeathed a portion of her estate to the District to establish this award.

Message from the Board President . . .

I always look forward to this issue of “What’s Happening”. All the great news, all the accomplishments, and all the great pictures seem a perfect wrap up to another year. The class of 2006 has represented themselves well and has now passed to the status of alumni. The many honors and scholarships won by our students are certainly indicative of their hard work and effort these last 13 years.

These scholarships range in value but most are between $250 to $500. Years ago those were substantial dollars. With today’s educational expenses, these amounts usually will cover books for a semester. I am not complaining, but pointing out facts.

All of our students are grateful for whatever help they can get.

This year the Piddock Award for best four year science average was not going to be awarded. Not because we didn’t have a competent winner, but because the fund did not generate enough interest on the original investment.

Many of you knew Mr. Piddock as a long time science teacher at the high school. Upon his death, money was donated to establish this award. Through the years, the award was reduced to meet the interest accumulated in a calendar year. This year an outside individual funded the award so that the tradition could continue.

We, as a district and a community, must find a way to generate funds for future scholarships. Perhaps an alumni fund could be established. We need to look at a possible foundation to generate funds for our future graduates. Williamson has proudly sent our graduates into the world to compete. Our school district has spent years raising standards and expectations. Together as a community, we can brainstorm solutions for increasing both the number of scholarships and the amounts available.

If you might be interested in this effort, please call the district office at 589-9661. Give them your name and number. Someone will contact you. Thank you for your continued support.

Bucky

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Bus Road-E-O

Kathy Craig who has been driving school bus for the past 16 years for Williamson Central took second place in the Van Class at the New York State School Bus Road-e-o in Albany on July 8. She competed with Van Drivers from all over New York State. She won first place in the Wayne-Finger Lakes Road-e-o competition in May in order to compete in the State Road-e-o in Albany. Frank Pilato finished 8th place in the Conventional Bus Class in Albany. Frank has been driving school bus for the past 4 years. He finished second place in the Wayne-Finger Lakes Road-e-o competition in May. There were 90 drivers in the State Competition. The competition consists of a written test, pre-trip inspection of the bus, and a road course with many different obstacles that drivers have to maneuver through. All our drivers take great pride in their job, transporting their most precious cargo, your children.
Middle School Highlights . . .

Students and staff have worked hard in completing a successful and rewarding school year at the Middle School. The school’s goals for our students are continued social development and high academic achievement. We are proud of the students’ accomplishments and look forward to even more from them next year.

Our 8th graders worked diligently preparing themselves for High School. The challenge in front of them can be met with support and encouragement from all of us. Specifically they will be supported by the Link Crew which is comprised of upperclassmen facilitating activities and answering any questions incoming Freshmen might have in support of their transition.

The new 5th graders were welcomed to the Middle School with an Orientation Day on June 16th. There was time to tour the building, ask questions and have a team building exercise with next year’s 6th graders.

Highlights from the past school year include: cross curricular activities; social skills programs; student activities and clubs; guest speakers; athletic and musical events; active learning in the classroom; new use of technology; grade level field trips; and academic achievement celebrations.

Award ceremonies at each grade level took place on the last day of school. Awards at different grade levels included: Perfect Attendance; Presidential Physical Fitness; Merit, Honor and High Honor Roll Ribbons; American Legion; President’s Education; Skill’s Competition; Principal’s Choice; and various individual awards given by teachers highlighting student academic achievement and outstanding effort.

The end of the school year is a good time to reflect on accomplishments and lessons learned and to look forward to what the future will bring. We appreciate and benefit from the support of all of the Williamson families. The faculty at the Middle School is committed to providing excellent educational opportunities for the children of the Williamson community. Let us continue to celebrate the achievement of our children.

Retirees . . .

At the June 14th Board of Education meeting, all of this year’s retirees were honored by the Board. Jeanne DeLysyer retired from the Bus Garage earlier in the year with 4 years of service. Retiring mid-year was Eileen Parker who has served as a Monitor in the Middle School for the last 25 years. Veteran Teacher Assistant Karen Cross, retired in January, 2006 with 21 years of service after a 6-month leave of absence. In June, Delores Dubois a 34-year employee of the District retired from the Cafeteria Staff. The Board and Superintendent thanked all of these employees for their many years of service to our schools and presented them with a plaque acknowledging their contributions.

There were four teachers who retired also. The combined total years of service for these four was 129 years. Jeff VanDeusen, who retired with 29 years of service, sighted work with the many talented teachers and students as the highlight of his career. During his time in Williamson he served as a member of the Negotiations Committee, as a Modified Coach and as the advisor to the American Legion Oratorical Contest. This year he was instrumental in helping Kelly Kolyer reach the State finals and also coached Sue Noto-DeVries to winning the same contest. Jeff, who will be moving to Pennsylvania to be closer to his sons, will miss seeing the students he has taught over the years. Next year, he plans to travel to South America to visit his former AFS daughter. He believes the biggest change he has witnessed in his career is the change in students, who he believes now come to school with more issues than in the past. He also believes that the positive relationship that the union has developed with the Administration and Board over time is one of the most important happenings he has witnessed during his career.

Another long-time WCS staff member also retired this year. Dan Ohlrich who ended his career in the High School in June after 34 years, began his career as an Elementary School teacher. He taught grades three, four and five, Middle School Physical Science and numerous courses in computer literacy. He was the District’s first technology coordinator and over the last few years has taught programming classes. He used part of his teaching day at the end of his career to support students in Math. When talking about his 15 years as technology coordinator, Dan recalls when he started out with stand-alone Radio Shack computers and initially providing in-service to staff on these new pieces of technology. He is proud of the part he played in working with a team to plan and implement the move to a file server and wiring the High School building for connectivity. He agrees with Mr. VanDeusen in stating that what he will miss the most here is the staff and students. He will not miss the drive to work during the icy winter months and planning for a substitute when he is out. This fall Dan and his wife Judy, who is also retiring, will become first-time grandparents. They also hope to spend time traveling and doing volunteer work for their church.

Not many people think of instrumental music in Williamson without thinking about Perry Plyter. He has taught every grade level of music from 4th-12th during his 32 years. He lists directing the marching band in Toronto at a Blue Jays game with 30,000 fans as a highlight of his career. He has coached softball for many years and even tried his hand in coaching cross country. If asked he will tell you about the fact that he has inspired his students to go on and become instrumental teachers. Along with his counterparts, he lists the staff and students here at WCS as what he will miss the most. Although Perry has retired, he won’t be gone completely. He has agreed to come back as a retired teacher and teach 7th-8th grade band for next year. Along with this part-time teaching assignment, he hopes to focus on his health, his grandchildren and some recreation. When talking about what is different about today’s students and those of the past, he talks of his amazement at the advantages that the youth of today have available. He believes that as a district we are always moving forward and always supported by the community.

Known to many as Miss Nell, Sue Nellany will end her 34-year career this June. She has been a big part of the Middle School culture during her time there. She is known to most students as having the best holiday accessories, especially her headbands! She was named NYS Family and Consumer Science “Teacher of the Year” in 1999 and remembers when the Home Economics program moved from the Home Ec house to the Middle School. Along with fellow staff member Carol McMahon, she was able to receive grant funding for her “Breakfast in a Basket” program. She has been active in the Family and Consumer Science professional organization and been the long-time editor of the Williamson Faculty Association (WFA) newspaper “The Link”. She is most proud of the get-togethers she has organized and hosted for both the Middle School and the WFA and the wonderful friendships she has made. She won’t miss the routine and the alarm going off on cold snowy mornings. Next year she will enjoy spending time as a “Meals on Wheels” volunteer and traveling to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Islands. She remembers the ditto machines of the past prior to the introduction of the copiers. One of her most memorable times was working with former music teacher Rick Mills and organizing a dozen “raisins” who performed for staff and friends.
The Williamson Senior High School Class of 2006 has turned the page to a new chapter. Commencement Exercises took place on Saturday, June 24, 2006. On that day, we recognized the Class of 2006 and bid them farewell and good luck in the warm sunshine of the WHS courtyard.

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The Old English “W” award is presented to the student in each course who had the highest average. The following graduating seniors received awards at graduation.

### One Course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Duell</td>
<td>Business Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Kraft</td>
<td>Sociology 12</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Two Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lindsay Parmele</td>
<td>AP Calculus, AP Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Shay</td>
<td>AP English, Economics, Psychology, AP Biology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Four Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Pope-Collins</td>
<td>AP English, Economics, Psychology, AP Biology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Horatio Alger Scholarship Award Winners**

The Horatio Alger Scholarship has been given at graduation since 2001. The award recognizes students who have shown the largest percent increase in their grade point average since ninth grade. The goal is to encourage students who perhaps have not done their best work through ninth grade to work hard during high school and realize their potential. This year, three students were named as Horatio Alger Scholarship winners. Michael Kraft received a $1,000 award. Michael will be attending Finger Lakes Community College in the fall. Lindsay Parmele was the recipient of a $2,000 award and will attend Monroe Community College. The student who demonstrated the greatest increase and earned a $5,000 scholarship was Kelly Duell. Kelly increased her overall grade point average by almost twenty (20) percent. She will be able to use this award at Sheer Ego International School.