Class of 2019

It is a pleasure to welcome our young learners who make up the Williamson Central School District’s Class of 2019. Representing the class are Tyler and Emma Wetherell, Joseph Belmont and Michaela Graves along with Miss Ressler, Elementary Principal.

Class of 2010

Parents of students in Grades 5-12
We are asking that you pick up your student’s report cards in person and make initial contact with teachers.

REPORT CARD NIGHT
Thursday, November 16, 2006
Grades 5-8 - 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Grades 9-12 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.
**REACH**

As a community, we need to help each other build assets in children and young people. Assets provide a strong foundation for growing up confident, competent, and capable. There are 40 positive experiences and qualities that all of us have the power to bring into the lives of children and youth. Through REACH and the Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth initiative we can learn about the assets and how we can all become “asset builders” every day and anywhere. The goal this year for REACH is to raise community awareness about the assets and the Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth initiative. Asset building is an on-going process and it provides a framework to bring people together in new and exciting ways.

The next REACH meeting will be on Wednesday, October 11, 2006, 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Williamson Public Library in the large conference room. All are welcome to attend.

**Summer Camp a Success**

Two hundred six campers from kindergarten through sixth grade attended a variety of programs from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. from July 10th through August 11th. Costs were $60 per week or $275 for the entire five weeks. Many parents opted for an extended day for an additional fee of $10 from 7:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. or from 3:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. The on-site coordinator for the program was special education teacher Brandy Stewart. The summer camp was truly a collaborative effort and jointly sponsored by the Williamson Recreation Committee, Williamson Central School District, REACH Assets Committee, and the Williamson Park Committee. Senator Michael Nozzolio sponsored the 2006 summer camp with the initial funding to start the program. Given the success of this year, planning for next year’s program will get underway next spring.

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**The Committee on Special Education Office Has Moved**

Over the summer, the CSE office relocated to the Elementary School. It is located in Room 2 in the 1st grade wing. The phone number remains the same: 589-8308.

Please stop in and see our new office.

**Mrs. Wanda Miller**
*Director of Pupil Personnel Services*

**Mrs. Annette Whitmore**
*Administrative Assistant*

**Mrs. Mary LeStrange**
*Secretary*
New Playground

Our new playground is ready for student use and will officially open on the first day of school. However, many of our community’s youngest residents have already been enticed by the playground’s series of vertical climbers, tube slides, overhead climbers, links, platforms, angled climbers, activity panels, rock wall and crawling tubes. The new playground was designed by a committee of teachers, architects, students and the building principal and will serve students and community members for years to come.

Capital Project Update

The Elementary School cafeteria, classrooms and the hallways in the original building have a new updated look and the addition of four new classrooms.

The updates in the cafeteria include a new air handling system, ceiling lighting and spot lighting that highlights our “Fish Philosopy” mural that spans the length of the cafeteria. The completion of the capital improvement projects allowed us to officially hang the mural made by students two years ago along with artist-in-residence, Janet Essley and our K-4 art teacher, Mrs. Patty Sheridan.

All classrooms in the original part of the building were gutted and new heating and ventilation systems were installed, the lighting was upgraded, new sinks and drinking fountains replaced the old ones, storage cabinets were installed, new carpeting laid and upgrades were made to the communication and computer systems.

Also, four new classrooms built on the south side of the building are fully equipped and will serve as the home for our Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) class, Physical Therapy and Occupational therapy, the Enrichment Program and inside room.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK)

We are pleased to be able to offer a second section of Universal Pre-School to our community’s 4 year olds. During the 2005-2006 school year we opened one section of ½ day Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK). During the summer of 2006 we were granted additional funding from the NY State Education Department and were able to open an additional section of ½ day UPK. In total we are now educating thirty four-year olds in our tuition-free UPK program.

ES New Teaching Staff:

Left to Right: Carrie Titlow, Tracy Schoonerman, Andrew Donovan

The following picture was incorrectly identified on the District calendar. The artist is Stephanie Stevenson.
Thank you to the Williamson community for their support and commitment to education. The Middle School is a vibrant building with a cafeteria addition, newly painted hallways and restrooms and a new Special Education Program with a number of additional staff. As the students re-enter the Middle School this fall the faculty is committed to engaging instruction and high academic expectations. We continue to strive to offer educational opportunities for the children of the community, in an atmosphere that promotes student and family engagement.

A new Special Education Program will now be housed in the Middle School. Six Williamson students who have previously attended schools in placements outside of our district will now be part of our building and be given the support they need to be successful. At this point, two additional students from neighboring districts will also be part of the program.

This summer the Building Planning Team, teachers and administration worked to review achievements and prepare for this school year. Students needing extra academic support will receive it. We also are offering staff development for faculty, focusing on preparing our students for the future. Our goal is personal growth and academic achievement for every student.

Working collaboratively, we will continue with the progress that has occurred at Williamson, developing character and promoting achievement.
There’s no such word as can’t, because ANYTHING is possible with the right attitude!

As always, it was a very busy and exciting summer as we prepared to open the doors of WHS for the 2006-2007 school year. The high school campus is better than ever due to the wonderful renovations and additions gained through the capital project. Some highlights include our new all-weather track, air-conditioning in the auditorium, 4 new science classrooms, and additional teaching spaces to better assist teachers in meeting the needs of our students.

Academic highlights from last school year include 51% of our graduates earned advanced regents diplomas, and 37% received regents diplomas. Throughout the school year an average of 40% of our student body achieved merit, honor, or high honor roll, and our student failure rate decreased by 3%. Our students continue to perform well on State assessments and our daily attendance rate remains above 95%.

Although there are many wonderful achievements to build on as we start the new school year, much time was spent over the summer reviewing achievement data and looking at strategies and opportunities to ensure the success of every Williamson High School student. One new initiative is “Report Card Night.” We are asking all parents to join us at the high school on November 16, 2006, to pick up the first report card of the 2006-2007 school year. Teachers will be available that evening to talk to, and to set up appointments for the November 30, 2006, parent-teacher conference night.

In closing, our Mission is to provide a learning community that inspires character, service, knowledge, and wisdom. Our first priority at WHS is that each student experiences academic success, and has the opportunities necessary to pursue their dreams no matter how big or small!

The following new staff members join the WHS family in 2006-07 or return in a new role:

- Deborah Catalano – Paraprofessional
- Jackie Davern – Mathematics (transferred from the MS)
- Matthew Elliott – Teaching Assistant (from Building Substitute)
- Miranda Foss – .8 Teaching Assistant/.2 Teacher (TV & Video Production Class)
- Bethany Homan – Building Substitute
- Brenda Patrzalek – Cook/Manager
- Michael Rhoda – Mathematics & Computer Science
- Rich Rozzi – School to Work & District-wide Enrichment
- Marshall Smith – Lead Cleaner
- Jamie Sonneville – Technology Coordinator & Integration Specialist (District-wide)
- Jeremy Stringer – Instrumental Music
- Patrick Verbridge - Social Studies/GED

HS New Teaching Staff:

Left to Right: Doug Lauf, Principal; Michael Rhoda; Matt Elliott; Jeremy Stringer; Bethany Homan; Jamie Sonneville; Krista Lewis, Assistant Principal
As stated in the last “What’s Happening”, we are expecting to complete renovations associated with the Capital Project by September 30th, 2006. As summer vacation comes to an end so do many tasks associated with the project.

At the **Elementary School**, renovations in the Cafeteria are complete. The new ceiling system with direct/indirect lighting has been installed, highlighting the mural painted by the students. The new HVAC equipment is in place and operates much quieter than the previous equipment. Work in the Primary Wing is complete and the new playground with a rock climbing wall donated by the PTA is ready for use.

At the **Middle School** work continued on the building addition right up until the last day of summer vacation. The amount of time required for children to purchase lunch will be reduced as the 2nd kitchen/serving line is in place. This line will allow quick service and ample time for students to enjoy lunch in their new cafeteria. The loading dock and pavement replacement is still under construction but will be complete by the end of September.

At the **High School** we have completed the roofing replacement, lavatory renovations, and existing classroom upgrades. A new faculty room has been constructed, the stage curtains have been replaced and the Auditorium air-conditioning has and will continue to keep students, staff and community members cool during performances and presentations. The track construction was substantially complete in mid-August and has already seen the feet of many eager people in the community, as well as the sports teams.

Although renovations to the **Bus Garage** were completed on time, the offices will not be occupied until the 2nd week of September. The beginning of the fall session of school is a very hectic time for the District’s Transportation Department; therefore it was decided to delay occupancy. The repair bay upgrades included new lights, new HVAC systems, fresh paint and a new bus lift. The outer appearance has been improved with fresh paint and new pavement.

We are truly thankful for the cooperation of the staff, the quality work of the contractors, and the outstanding public support. Without these three factors, the success of the project would not have been possible. We are sincerely grateful for your cooperation, and hope you are pleased with our effort to make your school a better place.

Sincerely,

Todd LaBarr  
Watchdog Building Partners, LLC  
Managed Construction
Code of Conduct

As part of the newly enacted SAVE legislation dealing with student safety and the school’s response to emergency situations, a code of conduct has been passed by the Board of Education. This code addresses many issues of concern. A summary of the code can be found below. A full version of the code can be found in each building library, the public library, and on our website (www.williamsoncentral.org).

I. Introduction

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and District personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other school personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The District has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly.

II. Students Rights and Responsibilities

The District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. Students will also have a set of responsibilities for which they will be accountable.

III. Essential Partners

These include parents, school personnel, teachers, counselors, administration, Superintendent and Board of Education.

IV. Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other school personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

V. Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students’ ability to grow in self-discipline. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

VI. Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students’ ability to grow in self-discipline.

VII. Discipline Of Students With Disabilities

The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board of Education also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

VIII. Student Searches and Interrogations

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. In addition, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school personnel has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the students violated the law or the district code of conduct.

IX. Visitors

The Board of Education encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district’s schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers, and other school personnel. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The Building Administrator is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds.

X. Public Conduct on School Property

The district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

The full “Code of Conduct” is on file in the main office of each school building, in the library of each school building, in the Public Library, and on the District website.
PESTICIDE NOTICE

The Williamson Central School District does not intend to use pesticides; however, New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2002, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Williamson Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides;
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour notification list.

If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to Terry Pulver, the Williamson Central School District pesticide representative at PO Box 900, Williamson NY 14589, telephone no. (315) 589-9661, or fax no. (315) 589-7611.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

As required by law and school district policy, this public notice is made to advise parents and guardians of students, and to students 18 years of age or older, about access to and use of student records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

RIGHTS OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS AND ELIGIBLE STUDENTS

Student records are privileged and confidential. Records are not disclosed to persons other than a student's parents or guardian, or the student, if over 18. At the time of inspection of student records appropriate school personnel must be present.

Parents or Guardians and eligible students over 18 have a right to:

- inspect and review a student's educational record;
- know that the intent of the school district is to limit disclosure of personally identifiable information in those records, except:
  - (a) by prior written consent of the student's parents or guardian, or student, if over 18;
  - (b) disclosure as directory information as defined below;
  - (c) as otherwise legally allowed for access by school officials;
- request that records be amended to ensure that they are not inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of a student's privacy or other rights;
- file a complaint with the US Department of Education alleging failure of the school district to comply with FERPA rules & regulations.

Requests for access to student records or procedures to be followed for amending student records should be directed to the Superintendent of Schools.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The Williamson Central School will release or publish in school newsletters, school or student newspapers, athletic programs, musical or theatrical programs, news releases, district web page some and/or all of the following directory information pertaining to students as may be appropriate under the circumstance; name of students, photographs of students, name of parents, grade, age, height & weight of athletic team members, major fields of study, participation in school activities, extra-curricular activities and sport programs, academic honors, degrees, achievements, awards and scholarships.

Pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act, Williamson Central School District must disclose to military recruiters and institution of higher learning upon request the names, addresses and telephone numbers of high school students.

Under Title 34, Part 99, parent or eligible students who do not want this information released must make a request in writing to the Superintendent of Schools within 30 days of this notification. Failure to make such a request shall be deemed consent to release directory information during the present school year.

Williamson Central School District
Request for Pesticide Application Notification
(please print)
____________________ School Building

Name: ________________________________

Address: ______________________________

Day Phone: ____________________________

Evening Phone: _______________________

E-mail Address: ________________________

Please feel free to contact Terry Pulver, the Williamson Central School District pesticide representative at: PO Box 900, Williamson NY 14589, telephone no. (315) 589-9661, or fax no. (315) 589-7611.
NOTICE OF ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the 2006-07 School Year of the school buildings of the Williamson Central School District for fire hazards, which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, and employees therein, is current, and the report thereof is available at the Business Office for inspection by all interested persons.

By Order of The Board of Education
Wendy E. Havens, District Clerk

Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents and students who are 18 or emancipated minors (“eligible students”) certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED):
  1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
  2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
  3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
  4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
  5. Critical appraisals of others whom respondents have close family relationships;
  6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
  7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
  8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –
  1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
  2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
  3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- Inspect, upon request and before administration or use-
  1. Protected information surveys of students;
  2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
  3. Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

Williamson Central School has adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

We are notifying you that you have the option to opt out your student and/or inspect the following survey.

Activity: Assets Survey
On or about Fall, 2006
Grades: 6-12

Summary: This is an anonymous survey that asks students questions about behaviors such as drug and alcohol use, sexual conduct, violence, and other at-risk behaviors. The survey also asks questions of a demographic nature concerning family make-up, the relationship between parents and children, and use of alcohol and drugs in the community.

Opt-out: If you do not want your child to participate in this activity, contact the District Office at 589-9661 or me personally (mehresman@williamsoncentral.org) within 10 days of receipt of this note if you do not want your child to participate in any/all of these surveys.

Parents/eligible students who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

NOTICE - ASBESTOS CONTROL

AHERA is the acronym for a federal law that was enacted in 1987. It requires all school districts to re-inspect facilities for building materials containing asbestos.

Our facilities have been inspected and response actions are planned to insure a continued safe environment for our students and employees. Activities include training of maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos and periodic re-inspection and surveillance activities by trained personnel. Details of such activities are described in the District’s AHERA Management Plan that is available for your review in the Business Office. If you have any questions or concerns in this regard, feel free to contact Terry Pulver, Williamson Central School Director of Facilities (315) 589-9661.
Message from the Superintendent...

Dear Residents:

It has been a busy summer and I believe we are now ready to open our doors and welcome in the 2006-07 school year. Work on our buildings has been on going for two years and we are just about finished. You are all invited to see the results of these two years of work on Saturday, October 14th from 2-4 p.m. Be sure to stop in all four renovated sites on that day – ES, MS, HS and Bus Garage. We will have guides available at each site to point you to the renovated areas.

Besides completing our capital project work this summer, the Board and I met to update our Strategic Plan to set our course for the year. One of our biggest initiatives will be long-term planning. We have named this “Project 2016”. It will begin this year with a series of conversations about future trends in society such as globalization, the greying of America and the need for post-secondary education. Our school system needs to both understand and adapt to the fast pace of change so that the students that we graduate are prepared to be productive members of society. On opening day with staff I set that as the focus for this year – preparing students for THEIR future. At each Board of Education meeting this year we will focus on one aspect of this topic. We invite you to attend those meetings and be part of the discussion.

Besides looking toward the future some of this year’s goals remain the same as those of past years – upkeep of our buildings, preparing a fiscally sound budget and ensuring that we work together as a community to support our youth. One sign of the community working together to support youth is the logo you see below.

You will be seeing it on all publications that we send out. You may also see it being used by other community organizations as a sign of our Community’s support for its young people.

In closing, I would like to share with you our new mission statement. The words that are incorporated into it show our ties to the past, they are taken from the words inscribed on the front of the Middle School. They continue to be part of our present and will guide us as we plan for the future.

**Mission Statement**

*Our mission is to provide a learning community that inspires character, service, knowledge and wisdom.*

As always, feel free to contact me by e-mail mehresman@williamsoncentral.org or by phone (589-9661).
Message From The BOE President

You can sense the changes coming, the leaves are turning and the slant of the sun is lower than just a few weeks ago. The morning air is as crisp as the apples that hang aplenty in our orchards. Nature is telling us that summer is ending, but for many of us, these signs call us to a new beginning - the start of a new school year!

New beginnings are a cause for gratitude and celebration and in Williamson we have much to be grateful for and to celebrate. You’ve heard this news before, but it is worth repeating. Williamson Central School’s students academically perform at the top of their Wayne County counterparts and the middle of Monroe County school students. This was a goal set a few years ago by the Board of Education and it has been achieved. Williamson was also recognized by New York State as one of 79 High Performing Gap Closing School Districts out of the State’s over 700 School Districts. These distinctions are cause for celebration! We recognize that these achievements do not happen without hard work, dedication and support of all involved. The Board of Education thanks students, faculty, staff, parents and community for your commitment to excellence in education.

Our Capital Project is near completion and has been a huge success thanks to the effective communication and collaboration among all people involved! The biggest “thank you” goes out to the Williamson community for supporting these much needed improvements. To show the District’s gratitude, the entire community is invited to visit all four sites on Saturday, October 14th from 2-4 pm for a Community Open House to enjoy your new additions and renovations, so mark your calendars!

Our schools do a fine job celebrating student achievement through Honor Rolls, Music and Sports Awards, I Can Awards, etc. but we know that our children do so much outside of school as well. The Board of Education is inviting the community to participate in a new opportunity to recognize our children's achievements called “Points of Praise”. If you know a student in our district, K-12, who has achieved an honor outside of school, we want to know about it. Look for forthcoming information regarding this opportunity as we would like to celebrate “Points of Praise” at the Board of Education meetings on a quarterly basis.

So come celebrate our children, our schools and our community. We look forward to seeing you at these events and thank you again for your support in “Doing What’s Right for Children”!

Come And See!
Visit our newly renovated buildings -
Elementary School
Middle School
High School and Bus Garage!

Open House
Saturday, October 14, 2006
2:00-4:00 p.m.