

The Mission of Washington Township Schools is to develop lifelong learners and globally-minded citizens by fostering the academic, creative, and social skills needed to achieve excellence in a multicultural environment.



# District Newsletter

Washington Township Schools

[www.msdt.k12.in.us](http://www.msdt.k12.in.us)

Winter 2015



## The Advancement Center

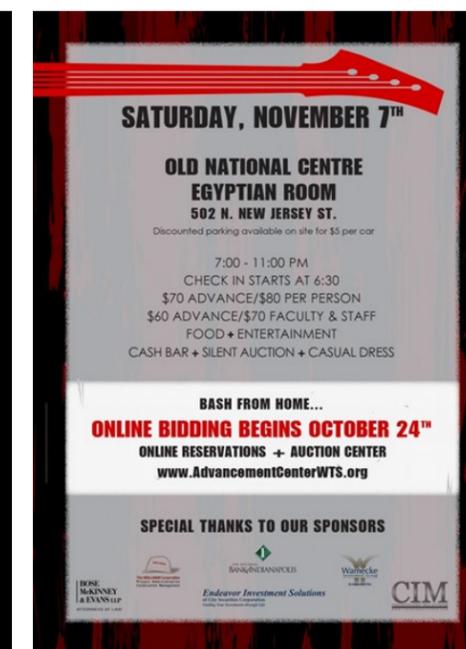
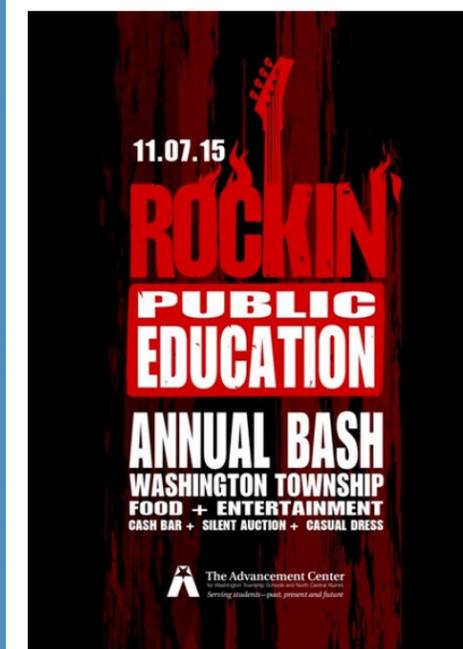
for Washington Township Schools and North Central Alumni

*Serving students; past, present and future*

The Advancement Center is the result of a merger of the Washington Township Schools Foundation and the North Central High School Alumni Association. Officially named *The Advancement Center for Washington Township Schools and North Central Alumni*, the organization will provide the same important grants, scholarships, events and alumni support as the Foundation did in the past, while also creating more strategic and innovative opportunities for students, teachers, alumni, parents and community members.

The mission of the newly formed organization is to advance the achievements of world-class public education by connecting private funding to innovative programs that benefit our schools and community.

For more information about the Advancement Center, please contact Shawn Collinsworth, President & CEO of the Advancement Center, at [SCollinsworth@msdt.k12.in.us](mailto:SCollinsworth@msdt.k12.in.us), or telephone at, 317-205-3332, ext. 77263.



## A Word From Our Supporters



"As a former percussionist in the NCHS Band, Wind Ensemble, Pep Band, and many pit bands for musicals, it is great to have VIP access to see our talented students perform! It will also be great fun to cheer on our Panther athletic teams!" - Stu Rhodes, NCHS 1966 and Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Advancement Center for Washington Township Schools and North Central Alumni

Washington Township is offering the VIP Card to residents who live in Washington Township and who are over 60 years of age. To learn more about the Washington Township VIP card, please visit <http://www.msdt.k12.in.us>

"I am proud that Washington Township is the place where my business is located. As an accountant, I know that our schools have helped increase property values in our community. Our homes continue to be great investments because of the quality of our schools."



Jeff Bates, CPA and Principal, Sapper and Bates CPAs

MSD of Washington Township  
8550 Woodfield Crossing Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

### J. Everett Light Career Center Public Programs

Preparing our students for the future is a key element of the J. Everett Light Career Center. The following programs are open to the public. All work is completed by students-in-training.

- ◆ Dental Assisting
- ◆ Vet Assisting Clinic
- ◆ Light Café
- ◆ Automotive Service, Detailing, Maintenance, and Automotive Collision Repair
- ◆ Computer Repair
- ◆ School of Beauty

For more information about these innovative programs call, 317-259-5265

### Superior Schools in a Supportive Community!

A message from  
Washington Township School Board  
President,  
Mr. Tony Dzwonar

The citizens of Washington Township created our public school system in 1955 based on the belief that education was too important – for our kids, our civic culture, our property values – to simply be “acceptable,” it needed to be “superior.” That commitment continues to thrive today.

The elected members of your Board of Education take to heart the importance of our collective work in hiring top-quality staff, setting aspirational goals and providing the appropriate resources to accomplish this vital work of educating our youth.

On behalf of all five School Board members, thank you for taking the time to learn more about our schools by reading this newsletter. And thank you for the many other ways you support our ongoing efforts to provide an education worthy of our great community!



T.E.A.M.

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE

**Have a Voice!  
Community Feedback**

November 4, 2015 5:00 - 6:30 PM or 6:45 - 8:15 PM  
Washington Township Schools Central Office  
8550 Woodfield Crossing Blvd. 46240

*Please attend one session to give feedback on the future of Washington Township Schools.*

**Two New Learning Opportunities for Washington Township Students**  
By Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jon Milleman

**Learning S.T.E.M. at an Early Age**

Students at John Strange Elementary are thinking like engineers thanks to an after school S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Club program. Teacher, Kim Matsuoka, and interventionist, Kathy Brown, created the club. During first semester, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders meet after school to learn about the four areas of S.T.E.M. education. During second semester, students in grades 3 through 5 will participate. Mrs. Matsuoka and Mrs. Brown use web-based resources, and items found in the students' daily environment to create hands-on learning activities to make the Club's curriculum come to life. Students are exposed to six strands of engineering: structural, environmental, mechanical, software, aeronautical, and chemical. Students keep a journal about their experiences and learn how to work as teams to solve problems. "My goal for the S.T.E.M. Club is really to plant seeds for opportunities," says Mrs. Matsuoka. "Whether what they learn here helps students in classes they will take in middle school and high school or if what they learn factors in to a possible career choice, we are hoping to plant seeds for opportunity."

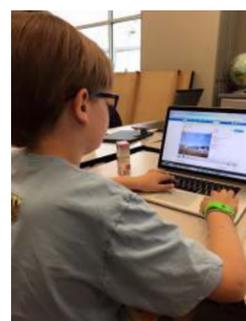


Math Interventionist Kathy Brown works with first grader Amari Merritt on STEM.

**Coding – A Middle School Approach**

This year, to better prepare students for the challenges of the future in the global economy, students at Westlane Middle School were provided with an opportunity to take a course in coding. A new structure to the middle school schedule this year allowed for the elective to be added. Myron Snelson is the teacher and explains the goal of the course, "The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the concepts of coding while teaching them to think conceptually, creatively, and computationally. We are giving them opportunities to more deeply examine things conceptually; like the complexity of programs behind the video games they are playing."

To that end, Mr. Snelson uses a program developed by students at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) called Scratch. The program uses an age appropriate, user-friendly platform to provide a fun way for students to develop programs and aspects of programs and see the application to areas such as mathematics, science, education, graphic art, graphical storytelling, and music.



Westlane sixth grader, Tynan Parker during the first week of the coding class elective.

**WT Student Speaker at National Conference**

By Jayson Parker, MSDWT Parent



NCHS Freshman, Tatum Parker, speaks at the 2015 IB Conference of the Americas in Chicago.

Our daughter, Tatum, a Freshman at NCHS, was honored to be one of four students (only student not in college) invited to speak at the 2015 International Baccalaureate (IB) Conference of the Americas in Chicago, this past July. She was invited to share with the crowd of 1900 educators from 37 countries how IB has influenced her life as a person, a student, and a philanthropist.

Tatum is a two-time cancer survivor who started the non-profit organization *Tatum's Bags of Fun* to help brighten the days of Indiana pediatric cancer patients. Since 2008, she has delivered in excess of 2,100 Bags of Fun to Indiana's bravest children.

In her address to the IB of the Americas, Tatum highlighted how the IB Early Years program was implemented into her education in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade at Spring Mill Elementary and how it has guided her growth as a person and a student. She specifically referenced the IB Learner Profiles: Caring, Risk Taker and Communicator. Tatum talked about her own experience fighting cancer and how lonely, bored and scared she was during those two years of treatments. Because of those experiences our family felt that she had an opportunity to

make an impact on how other children experienced their fight with cancer (*Caring*). Therefore we took a *Risk* and started *Tatum's Bags of Fun* to make a positive impact on the lives of children like Tatum who are fighting for their lives.

She finished her presentation by highlighting how *Tatum's Bags of Fun* has given her the opportunity to speak (Communicator) to corporate partners, donors, school groups, fundraisers, radio and TV reporters, and many others to help grow our organization. Most importantly she has had the opportunity to speak to many pediatric cancer patients and inspire HOPE and STRENGTH. Her objective by sharing her story of success against cancer with these children is that it will inspire a new outlook and a belief that they too can win this fight.

MSDWT has been extremely accommodating and supportive of Tatum and her work with *Tatum's Bags of Fun*, and we can't thank them enough. Her IB education extends beyond books and tests, but to LIFE. Thank you for bringing IB to all MSDWT students.

Very PROUD MSDWT Parents,  
Jayson & Kendra Parker

Tatum-Freshman NCHS  
Tynan-7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Westlane MS  
Truitt-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Spring Mill  
Elementary



By Suzanne Zybent, Assistant Director of Career-Technical Education Programs and District Partnerships

In an effort to provide additional male role models and recruit volunteers into the lives of our students, Washington Township elementary schools took part in a "call out" to all men, by inviting fathers, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, friends, and neighbors to lunch. Crooked Creek, Greenbriar, and Nora Elementary School students shared this special lunch with these VIPs on September 15th. In collaboration with the *National Million Father March/ National Fathers Take Your Children to School Day*, this was a great way to encourage our male role models to have a presence in our schools.

If you, your organization, or anyone you know is interested in volunteering in our school community please contact [szybert@msdwt.k12.in.us](mailto:szybert@msdwt.k12.in.us).

