Poetry, Music, Art & Dance Celebration this Sunday!

The 18th Annual Poetry, Music, Art and Dance Celebration takes place Sunday, April 23, at 3 p.m. at Williamsville East HS. Come enjoy the creativity of students, K-12, as they share their poetry, music, art and dance in conjunction with guest poet, Peter Balakian. More information by clicking here. Please join us!

Seven residents vie for School Board; Meet the Candidates Night May 4th

Seven candidates are seeking three seats on the Williamsville Board of Education. The three top vote-getters on May 16 will be elected to three-year terms. The PTSA Council will hold a School Board Candidates’ Night at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 4 in the district office boardroom when candidates will be introduced to the public and answer questions posed by audience members.

The candidates’ placement on the May ballot was determined by a random drawing April 18. They are, in ballot order:

- **Dr. Michael Littman**, Chair and Associate Professor for the Business Department at SUNY/Buffalo State College. Dr. Littman previously served nine years as a member of the school board and is a past president.
- **Philip S. Meyer, ESQ/MBA**, an attorney in private practice who also serves as Deputy Town Attorney and prosecutor for the Town of Amherst.
- **Dr. Susan D. McClary**, a semi-retired educator who currently serves as assistant to the Amherst Town Supervisor.
- **Kurt Venator, PhD, DVM**, a veterinarian specializing in small animal nutrition and veterinary medicine for Nestle Purina.
- **Shonda Brock**, a medical sales representative.
- **Liam O’Mahony**, Director of Sales and Marketing for the Niagara International Sports and Entertainment Center in Niagara Falls.
- **Julie Algubani**, a paralegal for the Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc.

For more information about the candidates, visit our ‘meet the candidates’ webpage. Incumbents Dr. Patricia Losito, Michael Schmidt and Ronald Shubert did not submit petitions for re-election.

The Board of Education will hold its last scheduled Community Forum of the school year on Saturday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to Noon at Williamsville North HS (cafeteria). Board members and Dr. Martzloff will be on hand to answer questions and discuss issues impacting our schools. If you’re unable to attend, submit comments and follow the discussion live on Twitter at #WCSDBoardForum.

KUDOS!

- Congratulations to **Larry Militello**, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, and **Ronald Shubert**, member of the Board of Education, who are recipients of the 2017 Award for Excellence from the Western New York Educational Service Council. Mr. Militello and Mr. Shubert will be honored at the Awards for Excellence Dinner Thursday, April 27 at the Millennium Hotel in Cheektowaga. The award celebrates and honors extraordinary support staff members, teachers, administrators, superintendents, and school board members for their work on behalf of schools and students.
• **Pim Liebmann**, Mill Middle Band Director, will receive the 2017 Erie County Music Educators Association/Buffalo Philharmonic Award for Excellence in Music Education. This prestigious award is given to music educators who provide exceptional service to their students and their profession. Mr. Liebmann will receive the award May 13 during an evening of celebration at Kleinhans Music Hall.

• **Dr. Christopher McGinley**, Instructional Specialist for Mathematics, has been selected as the 2017 recipient of the Leadership and Support Award by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS). He will be honored at an awards ceremony on May 5 at the Century House in Latham, NY.

• Six Williamsville North students have been recognized for their involvement and interest in technology by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT). **Sophia Wang**, a junior, was awarded the 2017 National Award from the NCWIT. In addition, juniors **Sarah Swihart, Emma Steadman, Ariya Roberts**, and **Elise Kulka**, as well as sophomore, **Helen Harke**, received the 2017 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award for the upstate New York Region. The NCWIT honors high school women who are active and interested in computing and technology, acknowledges them for their technical skills and potential, and encourages them to pursue their passion.

• **Susan Recoon**, Mathematics and Computer Science teacher at North, was awarded the 2017 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Educator Award. The Educator Award is conferred upon educators who have demonstrated a commitment to encouraging young women’s aspirations in computers.

• Williamsville East FBLA was named Chapter of the Year at the 2017 State Leadership Conference held April 5-7 in Rochester. The following students, all juniors, were elected to the New York State Officer Team: **Madeleine MacLean**, Secretary; **Brian Suk**, Parliamentarian; and **Ann Wang**, District 12 State Vice President. Additionally, over 70 students qualified for the National Leadership Conference June 29-July 2 in Anaheim, CA.

• Forest Elementary won first prize and Heim Middle took second place in their respective divisions in the 2017 Erie County Department of Environment and Planning Rain Barrel Painting Contest. Open to schools and student-based community groups in Erie and Niagara counties, this painting contest is held annually in honor of Earth Day. An awards presentation was held April 20 at the Albright Knox Art Gallery. Pictured, the Forest team poses with their winning barrel, which will be donated to the Village of Williamsville. Congratulations to all of the students and their art teachers, **Beth Aschbacher** (FE) and **Denise Woods** (HM).

• Mill Middle won $2,000 for its STEM programs for having the highest number of students participate in the WNY Science and Engineering Fair held April 1 at Cheektowaga Central. Thirty students from Mill participated, taking home Gold, Silver, Bronze and Honorable Mention medals as well as special awards in Math, Technical Development, the Environment, and Human Behavior. Fifth grader **Eric Ma** received a special award and $100 for scoring the highest overall total at the Fair, which is open to students in grades 5-12.

• The PTSA Council announced a fourth recipient for its 60th Annual Service to Youth Awards. **Mary Beth Gerard**, teacher aide at Dodge Elementary, will receive the Support Staff Award at the celebration on Monday, May 8 at Williamsville East. She joins the three honorees previously announced: Professional Awards to **Cheryl Goldstone**, school counselor at Williamsville South, and **Eliza Damstedt**, a substitute teacher at Maple West; and the Volunteer Award to **Laura Brann**, parent at Maple West and Mill Middle schools.

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**Last chance to nominate an alum for the Wall of Fame!**

Nominations for the 2017 Williamsville Wall of Fame induction are due May 1. A selection committee will meet in early June to review nominations and choose the Wall of Fame inductees based on achievement/success in their chosen fields, contributions to humanity, and outstanding service to their community, profession or other humanitarian cause. Nomination forms are available on the district website and in the Communications Office, 626-8008. To be considered, alumni must have graduated at least ten years ago (2007 or earlier). The induction will take place October 27, 2017.
Protection from Cyber Threats
At Home & At Work

**What To Do**

**Don't Open It**
Do not download files or open attachments in emails from unknown senders. It is best to open attachments only when you are expecting them and know what they contain, even if you know the sender.

**Don't Click It**
Do not click on links in emails from unknown senders.

**Verify It**
Make certain the sender's name and address agree as expected. Watch for familiar names with bogus emails or web addresses that are slightly different by adding, omitting or transposing letters.

Tech Tip Source: Western New York Regional Information Center & Erie 1 BOCES