On the Cover:
Ms. Layco’s Yoga Class

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The Westchester Elks Lodge hosted WISH's 4th annual Bands & Brews event on Saturday September 12th. It's not so much a fundraiser as a FUNraiser. While the event does bring in a small sum for WISH Charter, its purpose is really to offer teachers, parents and other members of the WISH family an opportunity to come together to celebrate the beginning of another school year and to get to know one another in a carefree environment.

The WISH Bands & Brews event is a – full on, uninhibited, get out there, sing and dance your heart out, behave in a way that would surely embarrass your kids if they were not safely tucked in bed at home - kind of night! We are truly sorry if you missed it!

Doors opened at 7:00pm and the evening was started off right with some sick beats hand-selected by MC Mix-Master Cate Siniawski and cold beverages flowing from the Lodge's full bar. When the taco bar began sizzling outside, the inside started heating up too with a performance by The Praties, who opened with a 40-minute set of eclectic Irish folk-rock. The band, led by WISH Middle dad Steve O'Loughlin, is comprised of WISH Elementary & Middle dad and super-cool music teacher Peder Draxton (bass, ukulele & vocals), sisters Jessica Davis (guitar & vocals) and Deanna Rice (violin, mandolin & vocals) and Myrna Neuberg (percussion & vocals). The set-list included several Celtic inspired cover songs adapted to the band's unique stylings including personal favorites 500 Miles (The Proclaimers) and Whiskey You're the Devil (The Pogues), London Calling (The Clash) as well as Locomotive Breath (Jethro Tull). The Praties broke out a new song for Bands & Brews as well - Atom Bomb Baby - a stunningly performed acapella number featuring multi-scaled harmonies which beautifully showcased the serious talent of this local band. AND… a Bands & Brews Praties set would not be complete without Ms. Siniawski kicking off her shoes to delight us with a jig that only her daughter could best!

Always looking to improve on an already almost perfect event, this year the Bands & Brews team introduced a comedic interlude, provided by WISH dad and head football coach Orlando Bishop. Orlando, a man of seemingly infinite talents - filmmaker, strategist, coach, inspiration, comedian and father - took to the stage to share scintillating anecdotes of domesticity that touched the core of every parent present. His humor, while edgy, maintained a relatable Wittiness that obviously comes straight from the heart and is patent filled with love. Orlando’s realism and command of the room had the house engaged and quite literally rolling on the floor.

The headlining act is of course WISH’s House Band. Comprised of WISH parents, paras and teachers, each year the band rocks harder and stronger, and the Elk’s captive audience wishes the show would
never end.

Part of what makes the WISH band so special are the distinctively different musical influences of the core members that synthesize into this sonic backing band. Keeping the back-beat is Mike Lavere, whose hard rock sensibilities solidify the band’s musical meter. The other half of the rhythm section, bassist Drew Wicks and lead guitarist Bruce Anderson both provide a blues infused elegance, while Raj Makwana’s vigorous rhythm guitar renders a pure alt-rock urgency. As a unit, they bring an evenness to each song that allows our WISH singers to shine. For this performance the band dressed in a clean-cut black and white, looking almost subdued against the vibrant WISH red worn by the entourage of female vocalists.

Queen's We Will Rock You was the dynamic opening number sung by paraprofessional Tyler Alexis who then moved smoothly into a cover of the Black Crows Remedy. Tyler's slight figure belies the powerful range and precision of her vocals, which lithely move between genres. Knowing their audience, the band broke out into two 80's classics, Bon Jovi’s Living on a Prayer and Duran Duran’s Rio. The WISH band scored big when they hooked WISH dad Juan Ojeda into joining the band. His pitch-perfect sax solo on Rio delighted every former (or still closeted) “Duranie”!

Singing duties were shared with former WISH TK teacher Ms. KZ, who continues to inspire us with her sweetly soulful vocals each year. Drawing upon the spirit of Janis Joplin, KZ belted out Piece of my Heart, the 60’s classic Higher & Higher, and Valerie, a song by the English Band the Zutons (made famous by Amy Winehouse). Having Ms. KZ on stage with us this year was made all the more precious as she shared her glorious news: there will be another WISH baby girl added to our community! Of course with news like this, there has to be cake! And so there was.

The WISH band was joined this year by two fabulous backing vocalists – Amy Washburn and Fiona Godschalk – who had previously sung back-up on this year’s WISH July 4th parade float. Both supporting vocalists had individual moments in the spotlight when they each took up lead vocalist duties on songs that had been slated for other singers. Fiona got the audience cheering and chanting to Pink’s party anthem, Raise Your Glass, and Amy brought the audience to chills and chorus with her rendition of the Bill Withers classic Lean on Me.

But it wasn’t just the ladies who opened up their windpipes for this event. WISH dad and coach Simo Tagoai melted hearts with his velvety vocalizing on Dobie Grey’s Drift Away (a song most often recognized as performed by the Doobie Brothers).

If you weren’t able to attend, I am sure that by now you regret having missed the best parents night out of the year. Perhaps you would like even more tidbits from the night?! Sadly, as MC Mix-Master Cate Siniawski so eloquently laid down the law: “The first rule of Bands & Brews is ‘You don’t talk about Bands & Brews.”’ So my advice to you is don’t miss it next year, because Bands & Brews won’t be talked about again until 2016.
Upcoming Events: November

Monday, November 2nd
- Pitfire Restaurant Fundraiser

Tuesday, November 3rd
- Middle School Portrait Make Up Day

Wednesday, November 4th
- Elementary School Portrait Make Up Day
- Middle School Tour for Current WISH 5th Grade Families at Cowan campus 5-6 p.m.
- School Wide WCA Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Friday, November 6th
- Vision and Hearing Testing

Saturday, November 7th
- First LEGO League Tournament

Monday, November 9th through Friday, November 13th
- Social Emotional Week

Wednesday, November 11th
- Veteran’s Day (no school)
Thursday, November 12th through Saturday, November 14th
• Book Fair on the WISH Elementary campus

Friday, November 13th
• World Kindness Event

Saturday, November 14th
• International Fair and Culmination of the Annual Giving Campaign

Wednesday, November 18th
• WCA Finance Team Meeting at the Elementary School room 5C at 6 p.m.

Friday, November 20th
1:15pm - Elementary School Assembly in the auditorium

Monday, November 23rd through Friday, November 27th
Fall Break (no school)
Japanese Kite Making
by Allison Grover Khoury

WISH third and fourth graders recently packed the school library for a very special hands on opportunity of kite making under the direction of Japanese Kite Master Mikio Toki. Sensei Toki is visiting the United States from Japan, where he is a renowned Master Kite Maker.

The Sensei brought many beautiful hand painted kites with him. While some were rectangular, others were in the shapes of animals and birds. His kites decorated the library…introducing the students to Toki’s art and traditional Japanese kites.

Toki then showed the group how to design their own kites on special paper. Once the designs were complete, the students put wooden supports in place on the backs of the kites. Strings were threaded through each kite and a test flight was imminent.

As the newly minted kite makers prepared to leave, Ms. Huey coordinated a rousing, “Thank you, Sensei…arigatou!” to conclude the experience.
On Saturday, September 26, 2015, three school buses turned the corner of Emerson and stopped at the entrance of the WISH Elementary campus; the school bus doors opened and a flow of UCLA students dressed in True Blue and Gold t-shirts paraded down the steps. The 100-plus UCLA students fanned across the campus to paint poles, walls, lines and basketball backboards; they weeded and turned over the soil in the garden to prepare for our WISH students’ fall planting.

After a three-year campaign, WISH was selected as one of 48 community sites across greater Los Angeles for UCLA’s 7th Annual Volunteer Day. It’s exciting because UCLA and WISH share commonalities of providing community service, increasing community engagement, and expanding our individual communities. This was a great way to do it. The annual day of service is organized by the UCLA Volunteer Center. This year over 5,000 UCLA volunteers participated in this citywide event. UCLA asked WISH what we hoped could be accomplished and the center provided the leadership, supplies and training to complete the tasks needed. The UCLA students worked alongside WISH families, Principal Draxton, Jill Traub, Melissa Sussman, Jessica Hopman, Richard Miro, Jacob Ortega, Elisena Tatalo, Greg Goldfarb, and Jeff, Abbie and Hunter Nord to complete the projects. Matt, Amanda, Stellan and Gable Swanlund brought Blue and Gold Gatorade to hydrate the UCLA students and volunteers.

During the course of the day the volunteers also painted basketball courts and walls on the Orville Wright Middle School campus and groomed the Emerson Avenue Community Garden. It was a shared goal and reward to have the UCLA students on both campuses.
Art Update
by Courtney Coleman

During the Month of October we are focusing on Mexican Folk Art and learning about the “Day of the Dead” which falls between October 31st and November 2nd. This Latin American holiday is celebrated in Mexico and parts of the United States. It is a time to celebrate ancestors by cooking, dancing, singing, and sharing the stories of those who are no longer living.

TK and Kinders are creating their own day of the dead skeletons. They enhance their artwork by adding a border made from colorful ABC patterned ‘mosaic’ squares.

1st and 2nd graders are designing their own “Day of the Dead “ inspired skulls using symmetry and various symbols from Mexican Folk Art such as flowers, suns, diamonds, and hearts.

3rd graders are creating a Milagros pendant out of clay using a slip and score method to express either a personal wish or a symbol which represents who they are.

4th grade is making Mexican Folk Art mirrors using radial symmetry designs in concentric circles and embossing designs on aluminum foil ‘mirrors’ in the center.

5th grade is making pinch and coil clay pot bowls complete with original sun designs and bright colors.
Middle School Electives and Lunch Clubs - Stretching Minds, Bodies, and Perspectives!
by Ivey Steinberg

Want to learn how to hull a strawberry with a straw? What's the relationship between the grand staff and the treble clef? Can using our breath calm us down when we’re stressed, mad or scared? Maybe harmonizing with friends is what you need! Our Middle School scholars are getting more outlets to express themselves this year and their electives have them stretching themselves in various ways.

“The middle school development team really wanted to support the voice of the students while keeping with our whole scholar approach,” said WISH Middle School Principal Chelsie Murphy. Music, art, and physical education are still mainstays, but instead of participating in these activities in a general way, students now choose a specialty course in each area. As an example, for music instruction the students may enroll in digital composition with Mr. Knopf, strings with Ms. Hargunani and Ms. Allen, or choir with Ms. Lewis. Art instruction can be received as a fine arts class with Ms. Courtney, dramatic arts with Ms. Tate, or survival arts (horticulture, sewing, and culinary arts) with Ms. Steiner. PE instruction is experienced as yoga with Ms. Layco or sports conditioning and kinesiology with Coach Bochicchio.

In addition to playing sports and socializing during the 40-minute lunch period, students have the option to join one of a variety of clubs that peak their interest and build upon their affinities. Lunch clubs are held one day per week for twenty minutes and are led by a teacher who helps a group define and achieve their club objectives. Sports Talk, Glee Club, Dance Club, Theater Club, Arts and Crafts Club and Aspiring Owls Club meet weekly during the latter portion of the lunch period.

“Middle School is a time for academic and social growth,” Principal Murphy explained. “Our scholars want to be involved and are excited to help develop our school culture and experiences. We have been very pleased with the interest in and enthusiasm for our lunch clubs and are excited to see them to continue to flourish!”
Our Two D2 Volleyball Coaches Are All About the Return!
by Ivey Steinberg

Cecily Mullings and Merrilee Kaszacs are once again leading WISH team sports’ two D2 girls’ volleyball teams and their athletes are ecstatic about their return! The Insider sat down with them for a little back and forth perspective on their passion for the game.

Did you play volleyball when you were the age of your athletes?

MK: I didn’t start playing volleyball until I was in high school. I played soccer from the time I was 5 until I was 15.

CM: I started playing volleyball when I was in 6th grade. We played other private middle schools in the area like Marlborough, Archer, and Brentwood.

What are some of the best memories you have of playing volleyball?

MK: I had the privilege of being the team captain and I loved challenging myself personally as well as working as a team. It was great learning to lose. I discovered early on that anyone can win but it takes a great sportsman to lose well and do it with respect and honor.

CM: Some of the best memories I had playing volleyball was the camaraderie between my teammates and I and how much fun it was to travel across Southern California for tournaments during club. And also the friends I made playing volleyball during high school, like Miss Prieto!

How does being part of a team shape you in life?

MK: Being a part of a team teaches you how to trust others. You cannot play every position even if you are the best player and it takes trust to let everyone play their role and their position. That’s what teamwork is all about.

CM: I think playing a sport helps you in life because it teaches you to be dedicated and shows you that hard work can help you accomplish your goals. Personally, it made me learn to manage my time because during high school I was playing volleyball for my school and for a club team, while also working at Hot Dog on a Stick.

What differences do you see in your 2nd season so far?

MK: I’ve seen a lot of improvements in the girls I had last year. They are more confident and seem to be really enjoying playing the game.

CM: This season, I see the girls continuing to better their skills. Our serving and passing are so much stronger, and I can see the increased confidence in our girls.

How do you see your role as a coach?

MK: To instill a love of the sport. I want to teach them the fundamentals to the point where they are second nature. I believe I can help teach them good sportsmanship and teamwork. I hope that they see the importance of putting 100% into anything they do in sports and in school. I want them to come to practice every time giving 100% effort.

CM: For my role as coach, I see myself as getting the girls ready and teaching them the fundamentals so that they can continue to enjoy playing volleyball throughout their life, whether for fun or for a team.
Coach Bochicchio’s WISH D2 Boys took 1st Place and his WISH D3 Boys took 2nd Place at their first cross country race of the season. In the D1 2-mile race, Malik Castro-DeVarona placed 4th with a time of 11:43:34. Julien Ortega came in 5th place with a 1.5-mile time of 9:18:61 to lead the WISH D2 Boys while Daisy Perez finished fifth for the Girls with a time of 9:43:31. For D3, Luca Marucci stood out with a 3rd place finish and a time of 6:52:25. Not far behind was Timmy Washburn in 5th and Louis Grover-Khoury in 6th. Madison Mendoza finished 3rd for our D3 girls with a time of 8:11:55. Congratulations to the entire team!

The girls volleyball Varsity team enjoyed their first victory of the season against New West. Mariana Ledezma had a clutch 10 serves in a row to bring the team to victory. Chloe Jackson and Itzely Cerda had consistent serving runs that kept the team in the game. Macie Legaspi had a breakthrough game at the net with two kills. Coach Prieto is happy with the overall performance of the team and is looking forward to an awesome season!

Coach Monique’s Junior Varsity team was also victorious for their first outing of the season! Along with some great serving, Lucia Daniels made some impressive digs and Ella Sommer was on fire making difficult plays. Carmen Kay and Alexa Hogan led the team in serves - scoring several of the teams points allowing the Owls to keep their lead throughout each match.

D1 flag football team defeated a very quick and tricky Ocean Charter 8-0. The WISH boys scored on their first possession when James Jenkins completed a pass to Mahkyi Tutt for 15 yards. The point after was good for two points on another pass to Tutt. Ollie Draxton nearly scored on a 4th down 18-yard run that was stopped short at the one yard line late in the game. The WISH defense also played a great game stopping Ocean Charter from scoring the entire game. The defense had three interceptions, two by Jenkins and one by Tutt. All the players gave a great effort and the victory was extra special because Ocean Charter beat WISH in last year’s championship game. This contest was WISH D1’s second victory!

Coach Bayano’s D2 Red started their season against a tough Oak Street team, but nevertheless got on the board against the bigger and older team due to a strong offense and some standout performances by Kendi Davis, Lucas Vitali and Bayano Kamani. A great team effort from a young team. Coach K’s D2 Blue came out strong as well, especially with a great collective effort by their defense. Offensively, QB Jaxson Bernard had some outstanding throws and there were some great running plays by Connor Ksieski.

OWL PROUD! OWL PROUD!
Look What’s New in the Library
The Library Committee is excited to share that there are new books available to be checked out of our Library.

Join Goveert Schilling on a journey across the universe that will ignite the imagination. The trip begins inside our own solar system with a brief tour of the sun, the planets and their moons, asteroids, comets, and dwarf planets. We then accelerate into deep space, traveling from our interstellar neighborhood, through our own galaxy, the Milky Way, to the far reaches of the cosmos.

Just what is hiding in the ground beneath you feet? Get ready to explore the fundamentals of earth science! The fascinating facts and fun activities in these informative titles help you learn all there is to know about fossils, gemstones, rocks, and minerals.

Developed by literacy experts for students in grades three through seven this book introduces young readers to the geography and culture of Ethiopia.
More than anything else, Franco dreams of going pro some day. After all, his soccer coaches say he's the best kind of player--more giving than greedy, preferring to rack up the assists instead of scoring goals. And that method works just fine until Franco has to change schools. On his new team, the Warlocks, Franco's pass-first approach to soccer just isn't working. To make matters worse, the team is filled with ball-hogs, and their coach doesn’t seem to care. Franco refuses to let his dream of going pro die, but the new team is pretty much a living nightmare...

In the Land of Fake Believe, Princess meets a strange girl named Moldylocks. When Princess's stomach grumbles, Moldylocks takes her to the home of the Three Beards. The girls sit in the Beards’ chairs, eat their chili, and jump on their beds. The Three Beards are not happy when they get home--and they are very, very hungry! Will Moldylocks and Princess go into the chili pot? With easy-to-read text and engaging full-color artwork throughout, kids will be drawn right into this very funny land of fractured fairy tales!

In this exciting full-color series, Gordon Blue transforms into Kung Pow Chicken, an avian superhero who fights crime in the city of Fowladelphia. The first book in the series kicks off when Gordon's birdy senses lead him to a festival. Suddenly, POOF! Feathers fill the air and shivering naked chickens are everywhere. Why have all these chickens lost their feathers? Forced to wear wooly sweaters, the city itches for a hero. Kung Pow Chicken hops into his Beakmobile to save the day!

A headless horseman haunts Sleepy Hollow! At least that's the legend in the tiny village of Tarrytown. But scary stories won’t stop the town's new schoolmaster, Ichabod Crane, from crossing the hollow, especially when the beautiful Katrina lives on the other side. These reader-favorite tiles are now updated for enhanced Common Core State Standards support, including discussion and writing prompts developed by a Common Core expert, an expanded introduction, bolded glossary words and dynamic new covers.

Copper is curious, Fred is fearful. And together boy and dog are off on a series of adventures through marvelous worlds, powered by Copper's limitless enthusiasm and imagination.
WISH Robotics Team Kicks Off Second Season
by Angela L. Jones and Khali Cannad

WISH’s Robotics team, the WISH Bots-FLL, will venture to "discover the hidden (or not so hidden) world of trash" through exploration of reducing, reusing, recycling and beyond; all the while uncovering what making trash really means. Trash Trek is a recycling-themed challenge designed for the 2015-2016 FIRST® Lego® League (FLL) season.

FIRST® Lego® League, a partnership formed in 1998 between FIRST® and the LEGO® Group, is an international program that introduces 9 to 14-year-old children to the fun and excitement of science and technology and teaches valuable career and life skills. Using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technologies and LEGO® Education materials, children design, build, and program autonomous robots and find an innovative solution to a problem as part of their research project.

The 2015 WISH Bots FLL team is comprised of eleven elementary school students: Nicholas Abad (5th), Nahshon Cannad (4th), Connor Kaytor (4th), Joshua Kobata (4th), Gabriel Koppula (4th), Devan Makwana (5th), Sean McNeil (5th), Luke Miura (4th), Sora Pierson (5th), Vincent Pinkett (4th), and Timothy Washburn (4th). The WISH Bots are coached by parents Swathi Ram and Khali Cannad with assistance from Sam Morris and WISH 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Huey.

Upon learning the assigned challenge was Trash Trek, the team began to brainstorm topics for exploring further such as recycling, composting, and pollution.

Next came the robot game. The team was excited to see a table with missions laid out before them. As they tried to get specific missions to work, they learned how fragile some of the Lego models were. A few of them had to go back to the building instructions to fix broken pieces, which was a good lesson in perseverance.

Working in small groups on different tasks every week is allowing the team to accomplish many things. One set of students builds the robot. Another group works on presenting their project in an exciting way. Other students focus on deciding which missions will yield the most points at the competition. The students are learning how engineers approach managing a project. The WISH Bots are also amassing great team building skills such as respecting everyone’s opinions, listening, encouraging, and working together.

Evolution Sports is now overseeing the robotics program at WISH. “This is an exciting season,” remarked Coach Casey Wilson from Evolution Sports. “I’m glad to manage and support initiatives such as the FIRST® LEGO® League and run programs such as WISH’s Robotics program.”

After eight intense weeks, the competition season will culminate with a high-energy tournament at WISH Charter. The Los Angeles Region 2015 Trash Trek Qualifying Tournament will be held on Saturday, November 7th. Mark your calendars now and then come and show your support as The WISH Bots compete in the all-day event. Fun for the whole family and community!
**BOOK REVIEWS**

by Allison Grover Khoury

**Even Monsters Need Haircuts**
Our little boy protagonist sneaks out the bedroom window at midnight under a full moon to meet monstrous customers in his father’s barbershop for a shave and/or a haircut; or, if the customer happens to be Medusa perhaps a new kind of cornrow braid! This book is full of funny moments that help balance the scary creatures who show up on each page. Older readers will enjoy the extra humor subtly weaved into the illustrations. Great for Halloween. Written and illustrated by Matthew McElligott. (K-2)

**Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans**
Numerous books commemorating the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina are being released this year. One particularly appealing work is Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans, written by Phil Bildner and illustrated by John Parra. Based on the life of a legendary man who danced in the streets while on his trash collection route each day, this book reveals how Marvelous Cornelius had a talent for making every person who crossed his path feel special. And then Hurricane Katrina hit. In the aftermath of the storm, Marvelous Cornelius weeps. He wonders -- even if you were to have thousands of him, could they possibly manage the clean up? He begins: one wrapper, one stick, one pile of mud at a time and is joined by thousands who come to help. This novel is a fine way to document some of New Orleans’ history for younger readers, many of whom were not even born when Katrina hit. (Grade 1-3)

**Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel**
Written by the incomparable Nikki Grimes, a spitfire of third-grade girl, Dyamonde, works her way into a reader’s heart on the very first page. Having moved to a new school, Dyamonde desires a new best friend. The friend who shows up is not what she had in mind, but he sure is special. The series first published in 2010 and follows Dyamonde through her many adventures. A true bonus are the illustrations by the amazing R. Gregory Christie (an illustrator credited with many other works worthy of checking out as well). (Grade 2-3 chapter book)
Animorphs Series
A group of young teens figure out that an alien species is secretly infiltrating the planet and are plotting to take control of humankind…one person at a time. Because there is no easy way to tell who has been taken over - possibly even their own parents! - the five teens are trying to formulate a plan when they come across a crashed alien ship of yet a different species who gives them the power to morph into an animal and back into humans. Thanks to their new abilities, the friends now have a fighting chance to stop the war against humanity. Enjoyed by adults who love sci-fi as well as pre-teens and teens, this series is gripping, imaginative and fun and layered with the highest stakes. With more than fifty books in the series, the ongoing story allows for satisfying character and plot development and a solid conclusion. (Recommended for grades 3 to 7, but older readers are likely to get even more from the series)

FALL ACTIVITY

Making Flu Season Pretty with Decorative Tissue Boxes
by Paula Tomizawa-Mendoza

Supplies Needed:
Decorative Paper
Empty Tissue Box
Glue Stick
Scissors

1. Cut a piece of scrap paper for the top, about 1/8 inch wider than the box on each side. Cut an oval in the center and glue to the top of the box. The overhang will be covered up when you wrap the box.
2. Using a 5 x 20-inch piece of paper, wrap around the tissue box and secure with glue.