

# LEARNING

SCHOOLS AND THE PUBLIC are encouraged to submit items for inclusion on the Learning Page. The deadline is noon Monday. Send all items to Editor Adam Minor at [aminor@villagernewspapers.com](mailto:aminor@villagernewspapers.com).

## WA students head to UConn writing conference



Courtesy photos

On Friday, Oct. 9, The Writing Centaur students traveled to the Eighth Annual Conference for Secondary School Writing Centers at the University of Connecticut.

WOODSTOCK — On Oct. 9, the next generation of tutors at the Woodstock Academy writing center, The Writing Centaur, traveled to the Eighth Annual Conference for Secondary School Writing Centers at the University of Connecticut.

The conference, organized by the UConn writing center, brought together middle and high school peer tutors from all across the state to share ideas and best practices. At this event, participants acquired advice about tutoring and about creating a writing center.

At the conference, tutors and their teachers convened in the Student Union theater for presentations

and then broke into small groups where students from different schools were integrated, providing numerous learning experiences. In one breakout session, tutors learned a new organization method in which the writer thinks about each main idea in a paper as a different color of highlighter. We examined the responsibilities of tutors, namely, to improve the author's writing so they do not make the same mistakes. We also learned about first-hand experiences, good and bad, from other tutors who have been working in their respective writing centers for longer periods of time.

The conference also made us aware of the numerous advantages our own writing center enjoys. Woodstock Academy offers a full-semester training course in which we learn methods of tutoring and improve our own writing so we can later apply these skills to clients' papers. Our writing center is in a room located in the library, where we have laptops, couches, and other tools to make it a more efficient and a cozy place to work. We were also flattered to learn that, although ours is a fairly new program, other schools use The Writing Centaur as a model, seeking our input and expertise when they want to set up their own writing center. We really appreciate all the support we have had from UConn and the encouragement from other



schools to make The Writing Centaur possible, and we hope to repay those efforts as we assist other schools.

After attending the conference, we brought back many great ideas to help improve our writing center. Our main goal for this year is to recruit more interested tutors and to have people from the community visit as well. Since our writing center is in the Woodstock public library, the tutors are accessible to the larger community. Library patrons can bring in job applications, creative pieces and resumes if they are seeking feedback. In addition, we are working on creating a stronger connection between The Writing Centaur and the sending towns' middle schools. A hope of ours is that local middle schools will take advantage of the opportunity to work with students

here at the Academy as they prepare for the transition to high school. At The Writing Centaur, we work hard to emphasize that we want better writers, not just better writing. Come visit us sometime and you will see how beneficial The Writing Centaur is!

- Submitted by *Caitlyn Bavosi, junior, of Pomfret; Allison Brady, junior of Woodstock Valley; Courtney Dehler, sophomore, of Woodstock Valley; Carly DeLuca, senior, of Canterbury; Laura Looby, junior, of Woodstock; Madison Palmerino, junior, of Woodstock; Emily Rainville, junior, of Abington; Bryn Sconzo, junior, of Pomfret; Mrs. Zieger, Writing Centaur Director and English Teacher*



## WA empowers students, adults to say something and save lives

WOODSTOCK — The Woodstock Academy is partnering with Sandy Hook Promise to participate in the National Say Something: Call to Action Week during the week of Oct. 19-25. Sandy Hook Promise is a national, non-profit organization led by several family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Say Something teaches students, grades 6-12, how to look for warning signs and threats, especially in social media, from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others, and to Say Something to a trusted adult. Say Something reinforces the power young people have to prevent tragedies by speaking up, and encourages people to be willing to ask for help.

"The Academy is honored to be partnering with Sandy Hook Promise to help promote safe learning environ-

ments and to let our students know that our faculty and staff are here to support them in any way," Headmaster Christopher Sandford said. "It is critically important that our students, families, and staff know that we have the outlets and resources they may need to overcome any situation. We hope our participation in Say Something Week will educate our entire Academy community about the resources we have available and how to speak up for themselves, or others in need, to prevent

tragedies." Please visit Sandy Hook Promise's website to learn more about ways to increase awareness within the local community. For more information on how you can help reduce the stigma surrounding getting help, please contact Mackenzie Smith, Woodstock Academy School Social Worker, at [msmith@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:msmith@woodstockacademy.org), or Beth Coleman, Woodstock Academy School Psychologist, at [bcoleman@woodstockacademy.org](mailto:bcoleman@woodstockacademy.org).

## EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

### Eastern Connecticut State University

WILLIMANTIC — The Chamber Singers at Eastern Connecticut State University recently participated in a portion of a Josh Groban concert at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford. Halle Poirier '18 of Thompson is a member of the Chamber Singers. As part of the performance with Groban, a celebrity singer/songwriter and record producer, the ensemble performed "Anthem" as well as "You'll Never Walk Alone," both of which are featured on Groban's new "Stages" album. Poirier performs soprano in the ensemble. Poirier is a music major.

### WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

#### MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT AT THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2015  
6:30 P.M.  
BATES AUDITORIUM

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK DEBATES MODERATED BY STUDENTS OF WOODSTOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015  
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

THE WOODSTOCK ACADEMY 57 ACADEMY ROAD WOODSTOCK, CT 06281  
860-928-6575 WWW.WOODSTOCKACADEMY.ORG



### WOODSTOCK

#### WOODSTOCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Monday, Oct. 26: Chicken patty/bun, carrots, fruit, milk.  
Tuesday, Oct. 27: Fish sandwich, oven fries, fruit, milk.  
Wednesday, Oct. 28: Mozzarella stix, marinara sauce, tossed salad, fruit/milk.  
Thursday, Oct. 29: Taco boat, refried beans, fruit, milk.  
Friday, Oct. 30: Pizza, celery stix, fruit, milk.

### THOMPSON

#### BREAKFAST

Monday, Oct. 26: WG breakfast pizza or WG chocolate chip muffin or WG cereal.  
Tuesday, Oct. 27: Bacon/egg/cheese WG breakfast sandwich or WG cinnamon bun or WG cereal.  
Wednesday, Oct. 28: WG pancakes with maple syrup or WG bagel or WG cereal.  
Thursday, Oct. 29: Bacon/egg/cheese WG breakfast sandwich or WG cinnamon bun or WG cereal.  
Friday, Oct. 30: WG breakfast pizza or WG bagel or WG cereal.

#### TOURETLOTTE MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Oct. 26: Fresh baked pizza (Plain or Turkey pepperoni) fresh roasted squash, baked beans -coleslaw Alt. Fish sticks with dinner roll.  
Tuesday, Oct. 27: Greek chicken sandwich (breaded or grilled) mashed potato, steamed garden peas. Alt. Main 4x6 Cheese pizza.  
Wednesday, Oct. 28: Meatball grinder, roasted peppers and onions/mozzarella, fresh garden salad, roasted butternut squash. Alt. Main: Chicken Fajita wrap.  
Thursday, Oct. 29: Beef hot dog/roll, chili - cheese sauce -onion, smashed potato, fresh roasted carrots, Alt. Main: Buffalo chicken pizza.  
Friday, Oct. 30: Popcorn chicken (Plain or orange zesty), Mexican rice, dinner roll, fresh steamed broccoli Alt. Main: Vegetable egg roll.

#### THOMPSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Monday, Oct. 26: Fresh baked pizza (Plain or Turkey pepperoni) fresh roasted squash, baked beans -coleslaw Alt. Fish sticks with dinner roll.  
Tuesday, Oct. 27: Greek chicken sandwich (breaded or grilled) mashed potato, steamed garden peas. Alt. Main 4x6 Cheese pizza.  
Wednesday, Oct. 28: Meatball grinder, roasted peppers and onions/mozzarella, fresh garden salad, roasted butternut squash. Alt. Main: Chicken Fajita wrap.  
Thursday, Oct. 29: Beef hot dog/roll, chili - cheese sauce -onion, smashed potato, fresh roasted carrots, Alt. Main: Buffalo chicken pizza.  
Friday, Oct. 30: Popcorn chicken (Plain or orange zesty), Mexican rice, dinner roll, fresh steamed broccoli Alt. Main: Vegetable egg roll.

#### MARY R. FISHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Monday, Oct. 26: Vanilla yogurt parfait with strawberries, trix cereal, baby carrots with Ranch dip, milk or Alt. Lunch Yogurt bag lunch.  
Tuesday, Oct. 27: Chicken tenders (ketchup) Mac 'N Cheese, garden salad with Italian dressing, 100 % grape juice, milk or Alt. Lunch - Yogurt parfait lunch.  
Wednesday, Oct. 28: Cheesy pizza, fresh broccoli, ranch dip, applesauce, milk or Alt Lunch: Garden salad plate.  
Thursday, Oct. 29: Pig in a blanket, baked beans, ketchup, frozen juice cup, milk Alt Lunch: Yogurt parfait lunch.  
Friday, Oct. 30: Cheeseburger - bun, ketchup, smashed potato, niblet corn, milk or Alt. Lunch. Yogurt bag lunch.

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