

The Spotlight Westborough Fine Arts

Issue:1 | October 2020

Brought to you by:



WHY JOIN WFAEA ?

WFAEA represents a unique opportunity to stay involved as your student navigates through the school system and is a perfect way to experience some of the amazing fine arts opportunities Westborough Public Schools provide. If you've been feeling disconnected, WFAEA is a great way to engage with other parents and the fine arts department while we navigate through this year together.

www.wfaea.org/membership

Please join us!

Our next WFAEA meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. Meetings are open to everyone!

Email us at info@wfaea.org to be included in the Zoom invite mailing

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Welcome back! It's hard to believe, but after six months apart, staff and students are finally reunited across the district. That reunion brings a very different look to all of our Fine Arts classes at every grade level. Please refer to the [Reopening Plan for Fine Arts](#) to access specific information about Art, Music, and Drama classes at each grade level, as well as pertinent information regarding performances and after-school activities.

In order to ensure all of our students in both the new hybrid and remote models have access to a quality arts education, the Fine Arts faculty has expanded. **Please join me in welcoming the following new staff members:**

- **Francis Blaschke** will be teaching Digital Arts at WHS
- **Doug Dufresne** is our new Mill Pond Band and General Music Teacher
- **Michael Patterson** will be teaching General Music and Chorus at Mill Pond

As we cautiously ease into our new routines, some of our programming, once put on hold, will be starting sooner than anticipated. The following activities will begin during the months of October and November: **Mill Pond Orchestra and Band, WHS Marching Band, WHS A Cappella, and the Gibbons Fall Drama Production**, which will be modified for a live streamed, socially distant production. We have decreased activity fees this year across the district (\$100 at WHS and \$50 at GMS) to provide greater access and flexibility for families. Stay tuned for more information!

We look forward to working with students, families, and WFAEA to ensure another successful year of artistic excellence. Please contact me with any questions.

Christopher Martin

Director of Fine Arts



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Upcoming Events:

October 15: Ranger Marching Band begins rehearsals

October 19: 6th Grade Band and Orchestra begin

October 22: 5th Grade Band Instrument Pick-Up at French Music

October 26: 5th Grade Band and Orchestra begin

November 2: 4th Grade Band and Orchestra begin

November 4: WFAEA Monthly Meeting - 7:00 pm (virtual)

November 11: Virtual Minecraft Drawing Class 4:00pm

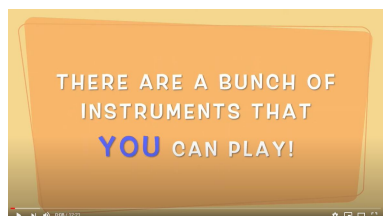
January 15 & 16: Gibbons Fall Drama "Stuart Little" (live streamed)



ATTENTION 5TH GRADE PARENTS!

Band sign up is happening this week!

Watch the video below to see how your student was introduced to their many instrument options.



More info on instrument rental to come soon.

Free Art Class!



Drawing MINECRAFT Characters

Open to all ages

Art & Frame Emporium's

Ed Turner will be teaching a free online class

November 11th at 4:00 p.m.

Space is limited, email info@wfaea.org to reserve your spot!



FEATURED GROUP

TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY

The Tri-M® Music Honor Society is a program of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), which focuses on creating future leaders in music education and music advocacy. It recognizes students who have gone above and beyond both academically and musically.

Tri-M also provides students leadership opportunities to make a difference in their community through music-based service projects. With more than 2,100 chapters across 50 states and 15 countries, Tri-M involves more than 84,000 students. Each year, student members contribute more than 750,000 service hours to their school and local communities and raise nearly \$1 million for causes they care about.

WHS students are eligible to join when they meet the following criteria:

- Involvement in a curricular music ensemble
- An "A" average in all music courses.
- At least a "B" average in all WHS courses.

ONE of the following:

- For freshmen: a recommendation to audition in the All-State Festival
- For sophomores: participation in the CDMMEA District Festival
- For juniors and seniors: participation in an extracurricular music ensemble

For more information, check out our **WHS Tri-M Chapter page.**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

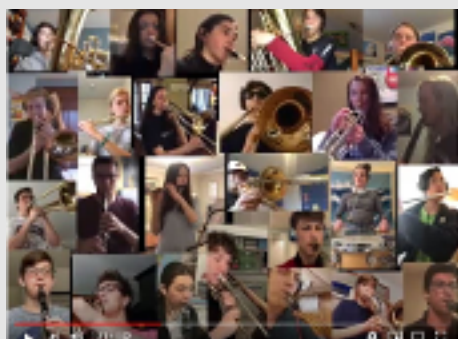
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Westborough Senior Center** is in need of volunteers to perform **fall cleanups** for seniors in our community. Volunteer individually or get a small group together. Spend a few (socially distanced) hours outside and give back to Westborough. The Senior Center is targeting the weekends of November 14-15 and November 21-22 but can also work around your schedule. Email info@wfaea.org to sign up today!



Featured Ensemble

Check out what the WHS Virtual Band was working on last spring!



Lassus Trombone
by: Henry Fillmore



Peacemaker March
by Karl L. King

WFAEA OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Kelly White Elisabeth Kinsky
Vice President	Alyssa Dver
Treasurer	Chris O'Keefe
Co-Secretary	Katrina Banks-Binici Jennifer Niece



LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES? HERE ARE SOME ORGANIZATIONS WITH VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERING

- **Be My Eyes** – Assist people with vision disabilities through on app
- **DoReMi Project**– Online music tutoring
- **DoSomething.org**– Social change
- **Operation Gratitude** – Write letters to troops, first responders, and emergency medical personnel
- **Project Gutenberg** –Transcribe/proofread books to help create the largest digital library
- **SeniorsLiving.org**– Play virtual games with senior citizens
- **Smithsonian Digital Volunteers**– Transcribe historical documents
- **TED Talk Translate** – Translate TED Talks
- **Teensgive.org** – Online tutoring
- **Translators without Borders**
- **United Nations Volunteers**
- **Zooniverse** – People powered research
- **Letters Against Depression** - write Letters of Hope and Support to people all over the world



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MR. BLASCHKE



Francis "Fran" Blaschke is joining the Westborough High School Fine Arts Faculty as the new Digital Arts Teacher where he will be teaching Graphic Design, Digital Photography I & II, and AP 2D Design.

Mr. Blaschke comes to us with a wide range of experience. After majoring in English and Film at the University of Delaware, he eventually attended the New England School of Photography, where he focused on black and white photography. He was so successful at NESoP that he was asked to become an instructor at the school, which he gladly did from 2009-2020.

Additionally, Mr. Blaschke was an instructor of Photography for the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, where he taught semester and summer courses to adults and teens.

Mr. Blaschke believes that all students are capable of making meaningful and important art, and that making mistakes is an important part of any artistic process. His colleagues have described him as knowledgeable, gentle, and kind.

His photographs have been shown at various venues in the New England area, including the Photographic Resource Center, the Danforth Museum of Art and the Griffin Museum of Photography.

Mr. Blaschke has already proven to be a great contribution to the Fine Arts Department and we are so honored to have him join us this year. Welcome!



CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT: WHS CHORUS

HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN AN EXCELLENT CHORAL PROGRAM DURING A PANDEMIC?

We discussed this question with Alyson Greer, WHS Chorus Director

Thinking about how to structure this year's curriculum, cover the required components and create a positive environment for her students, Ms. Greer described her thinking as follows: "The students just want to make music together. In the end, my goal is for us to find some joy in the classroom."

Ms. Greer highlighted the difficulties of keeping an excellent choral program while following new Covid-19 restrictions. "We have been singing outside, but with the need to be 10 feet apart, it is difficult to hear and harmonize with each other". "Additionally, with New England's winter weather coming quickly and limited time with each ensemble, being able to sing at all will certainly be a challenge".

Ms. Greer is thankful that we have a fine arts department that allows us to be flexible and find creative solutions. This year, her solution was the purchase of hand chimes.

Hand chimes are typically tuned square tubes with an external clapper mechanism. Made of aluminum, each chime plays one distinctive note. Students are able to learn to ring and damp, note duration, scales, chords and melodies. "Utilizing hand chimes in the classroom allows us to still make music together. We can work on skills that will translate directly back to chorus. This allows us to cover key curriculum components such as music literacy, music theory and ensemble skills."



Students in WHS Concert Choir practice reading music and performing with hand chimes.

Ms. Greer has already begun to see the benefits of this new addition and has received some great positive feedback from the students. Both she and the students look forward to exploring all that hand chimes offer in the coming weeks.

"This is a lot more fun than I thought it would be. I am really enjoying playing the hand chimes. I am so glad we are able to do this in school."

- WHS Concert Choir Student

To learn more about hand chimes, check out this Youtube video.

Be sure to check next month's issue, which will feature a video showing some of the chorus / chime ensembles' progress.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SARA ROIZEN-WHS CLASS OF 1998

A note from Sara....

Since I was a child, art, music, and creative writing have been my primary expressive outlets. Throughout my school years in Westborough I felt most at home in music and art classes, where my passion was cultivated and encouraged by amazing teachers.

My studio art practice is the foundation for my work as an art therapist. Becoming an art therapist was a natural progression for me, as it bridged my love of art with my core desire to help others find healing through creative expression.

I am passionate about bringing the expressive arts to individuals, groups, and organizations. For years I have focused my art therapy career on working with adults experiencing mental health and substance abuse issues, along with complex trauma. My most recent work has been at an acute inpatient adult psychiatric hospital and a local homeless shelter. I am especially drawn to group art therapy work. I find that the collective energy feeds inspiration and increases a sense of connection to self and others.

In addition to art therapy, I have a passion for creating and facilitating women's trauma healing groups and mindfulness meditation groups. Many of my groups weave together poetry, music, art, meditation, and reflective processing.

In the studio I have been working on several bodies of work. My main series is what I call "vinyl record mandalas." I find old discarded vinyl records that are too scratched up to play, and repurpose them as visual art pieces. I utilize acrylic, collage, and paint pens on the records.

These pieces are deliberately eclectic, just like my taste in music. The circular form of the vinyl records and the unique grooved surface are the only constraints in this collection. Within these parameters I let myself have free improvisational reign in technique, color, style, and theme. I am excited to continue developing this body of work, in addition to continuing with other drawing and painting series.

Like everyone, the pandemic has caused temporary, yet dramatic changes in my day to day practice as an artist and art therapist. I have responded as creatively as possible. When school and daycare closed, I made the decision to take leave from my job in order to be home with my two young boys. Although it was a difficult decision, it felt necessary. The silver lining has been more time with my children, countless adventures outside, and creating art together more often. I have also had even more time in my art studio. At the moment I am working on creating an online gallery of vinyl record mandalas for sale.

I am eager to return to my art therapy work in person, but in the meantime I am developing online art therapy groups and other offerings with a focus on creativity and well being. I believe that the arts will continue to play a crucial role in helping us to process these challenging times and serve as a much needed outlet for our collective experience. I am grateful to have art as my guide.



Sara Roizen, exhibiting at The Cabot Performing Arts Center in Beverly, MA
Her exhibit is entitled Sara Roizen: Vinyl Record Mandalas

Sara is a practicing artist and credentialed art therapist, based in Beverly, Massachusetts. She has shown and sold her artwork in local galleries, venues, and art festivals. She received her BFA in Painting from The Rhode Island School of Design and holds a Masters Degree in Art Therapy and Creativity Development from Pratt Institute.

Sara enjoys traversing the overlapping realms of motherhood, art making, and her art therapy career. She writes about these passions in her blog Art Therapy Spot (arttherapyspot.com), which explores how art and art therapy promote healing and transformation. Sara's personal artwork is inspired by the depth of emotions that naturally surface during the art therapy process. She also gleans inspiration from the rhythms, textures, and imagery found in nature.



Vinyl Record Mandala by Sara Roizen

**If you'd like to learn more about Sarah and art therapy, check out
her website at www.SaraRoizen.com and her Therapy Blog at
www.ArtTherapySpot.com**

SUGGESTIONS?

Email us at info@wfaea.org with your ideas on how to improve our newsletter.



CASH BACK FOR YOU

While helping Raise Funds for the Fine Arts

What is Scrip?

Shop instant eGift cards and physical gift cards from 750+ retailers where you already shop. Buy at face value and earn a rebate on every card purchased.

For more information, go to WFAEA.org/wfaea-fundraisers or contact our scrip coordinator at: scrip@wfaea.org.

SEAT OF RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Recognize someone special with a brass plate on the arm of a Westborough High School auditorium seat! A perfect way to honor your graduating senior, thank a favorite teacher or leave your favorite quote behind.

Donate \$40 for a 4" x 1 ½" plate with a message of your choice, up to 3 lines of 18 characters (including spaces).

Your donation will help support arts education and fund our scholarship program.

\$33 of the donation is tax-deductible.

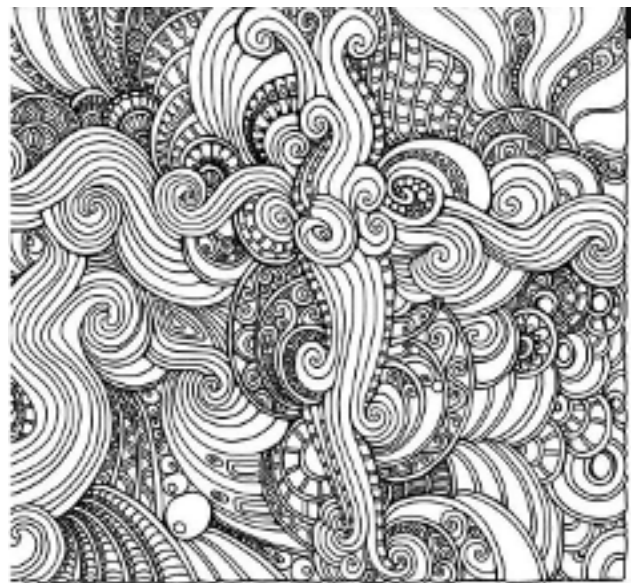
Please note, donation of a plate does not reserve seating at auditorium events.

To order, go to www.WFAEA.org and complete the form on our fundraiser page.

This is why you don't leave band kids alone in the music room for too long by themselves.



Free Art Therapy Coloring Pages



Do you have something you'd like to contribute? Let us know! email us at info@wfaea.org