

WFBHS WEEKLY PARENT LINK

May 14, 2012

MS. LEVEK TO BECOME WHITEFISH BAY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

This past week the School District of Whitefish Bay School Board hired Ms. Amy Levek to become the Principal at Whitefish Bay Middle School effective July 1, 2012. Ms. Levek, who has ably served WFBHS for the past five years as our Associate Principal, will replace Dr. Lisa Gies who announced her resignation earlier this year to take a faculty position at Cardinal Stritch University. Ms. Levek earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UW-Madison, and prior to serving as our Associate Principal taught Biology at Oak Creek High School. During her time at WFBHS, Ms. Levek has not only well managed her student attendance/discipline and staff supervision duties, but has also played a large role in revitalizing school spirit through her involvement with our Student Council, and has significantly advanced our interests in becoming a more culturally responsive school and district. While her outstanding work as our Associate Principal will be sorely missed, we wish her all the best as WFBMS Principal, and are happy she will remain a leading contributor to the Whitefish Bay school system. Congratulations Ms. Levek!

BAY FACULTY MEMBER WINS LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

On Sunday, May 6, Bay social studies teacher Jeff Stiedaman, along with just one other teacher from our state, was awarded the Lawrence University 2012 Outstanding Teaching in Wisconsin Award. In a ceremony at Lawrence President Jill Beck's house, Mr. Stiedaman received a certificate, a citation and a monetary award, along with \$250 for social studies resource materials for our school. Nominated by Lawrence seniors, recipients of this prestigious award are selected on their abilities to communicate effectively, create a sense of excitement in the classroom, and motivate their students to pursue academic excellence while showing a genuine concern for them in and outside the classroom. A native of Rosendale and a graduate of Laconia High School and UW-Madison, Mr. Stiedaman joined the Whitefish Bay High School faculty in 2003 and has since taught Global Studies, U.S. History 1, Psychology and AP Psychology. In nominating him for the award, Lawrence senior Cam Blegen described Mr. Stiedaman as an energetic and passionate teacher who embraces the roles of advisor, mentor and role model. "Mr. Stiedaman's students are able to achieve success because he makes the subject fun, exciting and relevant to each and every student," wrote Blegen, a 2008 graduate of Whitefish Bay High School. "He motivates his students to strive for excellence by doing the same in his own teaching. My experiences in his classroom solidified my interest in medicine and the skills I learned in his classroom helped me achieve success at Lawrence." Hats off to Mr. Stiedaman!

BAY SOPHOMORE WINS PREMIER MATH SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH WISCONSIN TALENT SEARCH

Since 1963, the UW-Madison Mathematics Department has sponsored the Wisconsin Mathematics, Engineering and Science Talent Search that involves the distribution of five sets of five problems each to high school and middle school students throughout the world. These problems are unusual, challenging, and require exceptional talent in problem solving, a talent that Bay sophomore Wentong Zhang apparently has in abundance as he has just been named a Talent Search Winner. In recognizing his extraordinary problem solving ability, Wentong has been awarded the Van Vleck scholarship consisting of \$6,000 per year for four years for undergraduate study at UW-Madison. It is the top prize in the Talent Search, with generally just one Van Vleck scholarship being awarded to a Wisconsin high school or middle school student, and Wentong is the first student from Whitefish Bay to receive it. Way to go Wentong!

BEYOND THE BAY FORUM PROVIDES KEY INSIGHTS ON COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Beyond the Bay - a student forum on the college application process, will be held on Tuesday, May 22, at 11:30 AM in Room 47. Hosted by the Counseling Department, the forum involves a panel of Bay seniors who will share their college application experiences and answer questions from underclassmen. The panelists will be attending a diverse array of post-secondary schools, from small liberal arts colleges to large state universities, and the advice and perspective they provide will clarify the application process, dispelling myths as well as providing key insights. Indeed, these select seniors are wanting to pass along what they've learned to make the process more transparent and accessible. Underclass students interested in participating should sign up in advance in the Counseling Office, and come to the forum with college application questions in mind.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR HEISER FORD FUNDRAISER AND UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

As previously communicated in the Link, the WFBHS Parent Association, in concert with Heiser Ford, will be conducting a test drive fundraiser this Saturday, May 19, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the dealership located at 1700 West Silver Spring Drive. The concept is simple: Anyone 18 or older with a valid driver's license who test drives a car will yield a \$20 donation to our Parent Association. Volunteers are needed to manage this event, so if you are willing to help out, please contact Jane Friesch at jfriesch@wi.rr.com. And, whether you can help out or not, be sure to take a Ford for a test drive!

The upcoming test drive is just one example of how the WFBHS Parent Association (PA) provides wonderful support to our school through a variety of activities. The conduct of these activities, however, is dependent on parents who are willing to serve as PA officers, or either lead or be members of organizing committees. If you are willing to so serve for the upcoming school year, please complete the PA Volunteer Form included with this week's Link. Your consideration is appreciated!