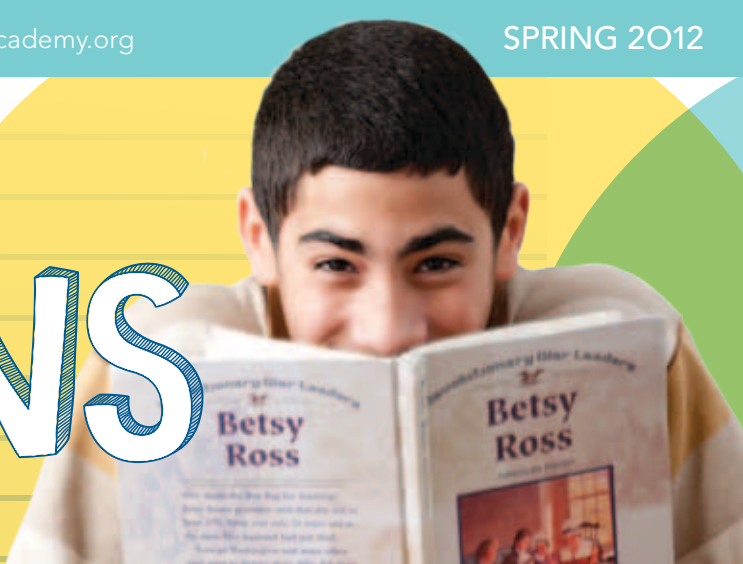




NEWS



INTEGRATING CURRICULUM AND LIFE SKILLS

Focus on Wellness and Healthy Eating Goes Beyond the Classroom

At every age, students should learn they have choices and can make decisions in planning and eating meals. They discuss the impact that foods have on aspects of life: certain foods can make you increase or decrease activity, plus foods affect learning and sleeping. Meals and food are also an important part of social interaction. Westbridge Academy follows New Jersey state guidelines for wellness curriculum. In addition, our monthly newsletter, *Top Health*, is distributed via backpack, so that parents can reinforce what students learn in school.

Starting in September, Ms. Mary Landy, the school nurse, meets with each student individually and calculates their Body Mass Index (BMI). In speaking with the students, she learns their eating habits. Often, she identifies areas that students can work on for improvement, such as eliminating soda and eating more fruits and vegetables. In a letter to the students' parents, Ms. Landy makes recommendations for visits to the doctor and specific requests for tests for cholesterol and diabetes, as appropriate.



With the help of the school nurse, Ms. Mary Landy, Westbridge Academy students and their parents learn about the importance of healthy eating habits.

Each March, students participate in a poster competition with the theme of Wellness and Healthy Eating. The winning posters are framed and hung in the cafeteria as a year-round reminder to students to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Students put their understanding of wellness into action in other ways, too. The students of Classroom 15 prepared *Smashin' Smoothies* at the Enterprise Zone (see page 2). These tasty treats were made of Greek yogurt blended with mango or strawberries. Delicious and good for you, too. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, MAY 11

Annual Transition Planning Workshop

Planning a Life: Making the Most out of Transition Planning will give members of child study teams, secondary educators, and school district liaisons information about and resources for preparing students in special education ages 14 to 21 for individualized transition goals; housing, postsecondary and employment options, and more.

- To register or request more information, and please contact Eboni at 973.429.8110 or eboniw@westbridgeacademy.org



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Hallo-Win Fundraising Casino Night

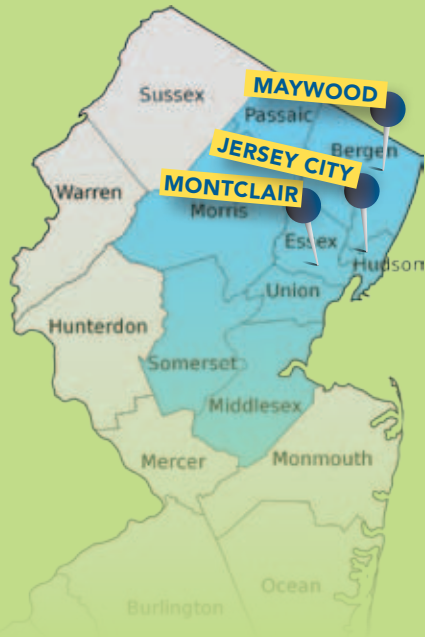
Join us at our Hallo-Win Casino Night fun-filled fundraiser. Whether or not you are lucky at cards and games, come support our school and community. Meet the teachers and staff of Westbridge Academy in an informal setting and talk with our many supporters. It'll be a BOO-tiful evening.

- For an invitation or sponsorship opportunities, contact Joan at 973.429.8110 or joanb@westbridgeacademy.org

EXPANDING ENROLLMENT

Our Growing Community of Schools

Westbridge Academy recently welcomed students from Jersey City, Maywood and Montclair as our family of school districts continues to grow throughout northern and central New Jersey.



IMPROVING SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

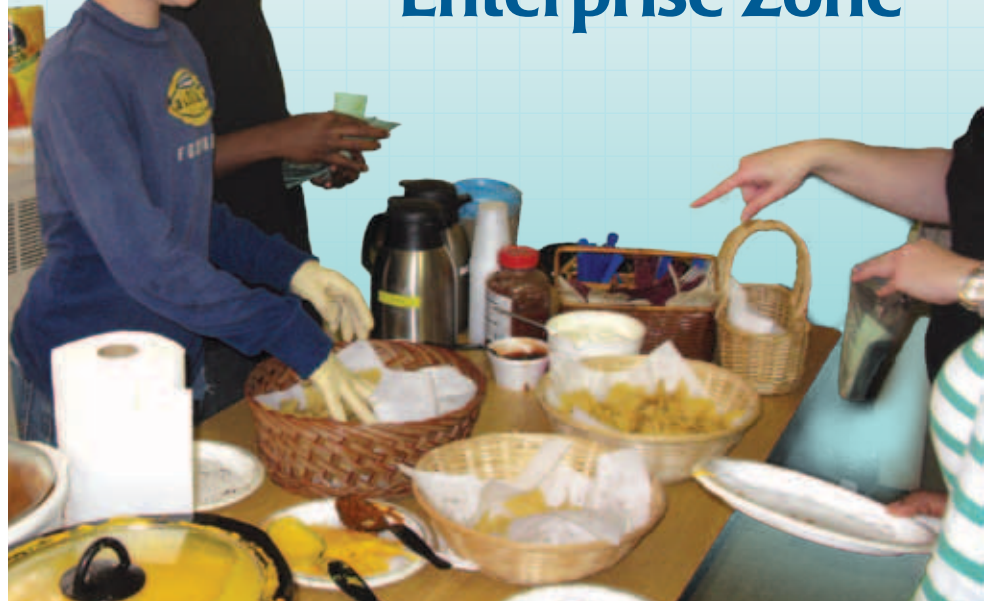
Promoting Awareness of Bullying



Westbridge Academy is doing a lot to address the issue of bullying. In December, we hosted a workshop on the topic for educators from other schools, and conducted training for our staff. When it came time for our Holiday Show, anti-bullying themes were reflected in the presentations. It's all in the interest of nurturing responsible relationships among our students.

DEVELOPING LIFE SKILLS

Students Learn Business in the Enterprise Zone



Students learn real life skills, including the process of creating and selling food and products.

In March, each Middle School and High School class at Westbridge Academy developed a product for sale in the Enterprise Zone. Using the money earned in “Operation: Good Neighbor”, students were able to shop for goodies (developed by other students) as a reward system for achievement. The activity helped students develop art, language, math and social skills,

as well as deal with money issues. In order to drive customers to their booths, the classes created advertising, with signs displaying the products posted in the hallways prior to the big event. The three classes that had the highest sales were Classroom 2, Classroom 10, and Classroom 16. They were rewarded with a special luncheon during a simulated Chamber of Commerce meeting. ■

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Our Students Win Poster Contest for Special Education Week



Westbridge Academy students display their award-winning posters for Special Ed Week.

One Westbridge Academy student won Grand Prize, and another Third Prize in the poster contest for Special Education week, sponsored by ASAH and NJ School Boards Association. The Grand Prize winner's artwork will be used for the Special Education Week poster distributed to all public and private schools in New Jersey as well on the cover of the program book for the ASAH Annual Conference in November, an honor for the student, and for us. ■

Technology Makes Learning Fun for Students



In our music program, students learn to read and compose music on laptops.

Westbridge Academy is integrating technology into its programs to make learning more fun for students of every age. Middle school students are using Nooks to read “Lord of the Flies” and other classic literature. These electronic readers provide ways to enhance their reading experience, by providing vocabulary aids, highlighters and the ability to take notes. Some students appreciate the adjustment of the font size for better viewing. In every way students engage with them, Nooks help students read with greater enthusiasm.

Similarly, the iPads used by some teachers create opportunities for interaction. The speech teacher records

sounds and exercises, which can be played back for repetition to enhance and reinforce learning. The map function is also attractive; students focus on the details of the map, read directions, and retain informative details.

Westbridge Academy also uses technology to give students exposure to different cultural venues without leaving the classroom. Teachers lead students on trips to places of interest by projecting information and resources on the large screen in the Computer Lab. Several classes took a virtual tour of the Statue of Liberty and the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in a recent simulated visit. ■



Elementary Teacher, Vanessa Thompson demonstrating how to use a Nook



Ibn H. and other students use Nooks to read classics of literature.

Westbridge Academy Accepts Students Throughout the Year



Identifying Student Needs

During the course of the school year, an interim assessment of a student’s performance may suggest an alternative placement would be a better match for the student. Westbridge Academy will evaluate students with emotional, behavioral and learning challenges in grades K – 12 from schools in northern and central New Jersey and will help students integrate into the classroom any time during the school year.

Referral Process

- 1. Contact Us**
 Call the Westbridge Academy Outreach Team at 973.429.8110 to discuss a student referral or have the Child Study Team submit the student’s records by mail or fax.
- 2. Schedule Interview**
 If the student is appropriate for referral, we will set up an intake interview at a time that is most convenient for the Child Study Team and family.
- 3. Intake Interview**
 The intake process includes a student interview, an overview of our program for parents or guardians, and a tour of our building.
- 4. Admission Decision**
 In most instances, a determination for admission is made right on the spot!

Learning with **P.R.I.D.E.**

"Professionalism, Respect, Innovation, Discipline, Excellence"

60 West Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
973.429.8110 • www.westbridgeacademy.org



Have a question, want to refer a student or visit the school? We'd love to hear from you.

Dr. Viviana Litovsky, Director
973.429.8110
info@westbridgeacademy.org

SCHOOL OUTREACH

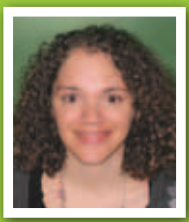
Bringing Our School to Yours



Abraham Mathew, Samantha Majak, and Eboni Williams are glad to visit your school to discuss Westbridge Academy.

Want to know more about Westbridge Academy's approach to working with kids with special needs? We are available to come to your facility to explain our curriculum. Let us help you determine which students might benefit from our unique learning environment. Samantha Majak, Westbridge Academy's Outreach Coordinator says, "Assisting parents, teachers, child study teams, professionals and state agencies is our primary goal, so that every child can learn and achieve respect, discipline and excellence." Our outreach team recently led a workshop at the Division of Youth and Family Services, which was attended by 70 people. We'd be glad to visit your district or location to meet with you. ■



STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Maryanne Mansingh Teaching Kids Life Skills

For the past 10 years, Maryanne Mansingh has been working with elementary, middle and high school students at Westbridge Academy. As the Occupational Exploration/Transitional Planning Teacher, she arranges for students to get hands-on practice with life skills that they will need throughout their post-high school and adult lives. She believes that her role as a teacher is being persistent and finding fun in these activities, which makes them even more powerful moments for learning. For example, Ms. Mansingh works with students on visiting a restaurant, learning to read the menu and order food, and how to feel sociable and comfortable with friends at a table.

This year, Ms. Mansingh is advising students on a presentation for the *Dare to Dream* program on May 9. The students will conduct a Values Auction workshop where students will bid on the values that are most important to them. Because Westbridge Academy students understand their own life-long values, they are well-equipped to lead this session.

-  **Visit Us Online** www.westbridgeacademy.org
-  **Refer a Student** **973.429.8110**
-  **Ask a Question** info@westbridgeacademy.org