

PORTLAND WALDORF HIGH SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS

# WEST SIDE STORY



**APRIL 10-13** 7PM THU • FRI • SAT 2PM SATURDAY ONLY 5PM SUNDAY ONLY  
MILWAUKIE ELKS LODGE • 13121 SE McLoughlin Blvd

TICKETS \$16 Adults / \$12 Students @ Spring Creek Store - 503-654-2200x208 & at the door

BOOK BY ARTHUR LAURENTS • MUSIC BY LEONARD BERNSTEIN • LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM  
ORIGINAL CONCEPT AND CHOREOGRAPHY BY JEROME ROBBINS

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## portland waldorf high school *newsletter*

spring issue 2014

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### west side story

Once again, Portland Waldorf High School will put on an all-school musical in the spring: West Side Story. Production takes over the entire school program for two weeks, as students perform all roles, from singing, dancing, and playing in the orchestra, to publicity and assistance with set design and costume creation.

**west side story** continued on page 2

### basketball goes to districts

Our boys' basketball team has peaked at just the right time this season. With five victories in the last six games, they picked up momentum heading into the district play-offs.

The team has been building and growing together and has come to the point of executing great plays and functioning at a very high level each night. At the end of our regular season we were tied with Open Door, which forced a tiebreaker game to determine who would advance into the post-season. We were victorious in the tiebreaker and advanced to the district playoffs!

Our Wolfpack Basketball young men played well in the district playoffs round and had a chance to move on

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Maya Muir & Shanti McCarter, Editors  
Grace Evans, Layout & Design

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## physics in the field

by Maya Muir

*The relationship between an object's mass  $m$ , its acceleration  $a$ , and the applied force  $F$  is  $F=ma$ : Newton's Second Law of Motion.*

What is the most engaging way to involve a class of 10<sup>th</sup> graders in discovering this law for themselves? Teacher Randy Hicks set up the students with cups of water and challenged them to traverse the perimeter of the classroom quickly, without spilling. The result: splashes of water on the classroom floor, and some eager analysis as students realized that when they turned, the water didn't! This analysis led to an understanding of why.

"We actually started outside in the playing field with horizontal movement, analyzing the different rates of speed students walked," says Hicks.

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**basketball** continued from page 1

but fell a little short in the end to Portland Lutheran. We look forward to having another very competitive group next year.



Congratulations to all our athletes for their amazing efforts in our winter sports program. Please come and join us to cheer for many of the same athletes who will be participating in both track & field and baseball this spring.

**GO WOLFPACK!**

**west side story** continued from page 1

PWHS teacher Michelle Averill is coaching the singers, along with professional musician Owen James; teacher Corey Averill is working with students in the orchestra; guest artist Clara Hillier is the choreographer and Kaia Hillier the costumer. A few professional musicians will cover instruments our students don't play. Sophomore Linnea Ashkar is the stage manager, with help from graduate Alwynn Accuardi '08, who is now attending the Portland Actors Conservatory. PWHS's Jeffrey Levy will direct.

When buying tickets, audience members will choose to be a Shark or a Jet, and the two gangs will be separated in their seating, so choose carefully!

The musical is a special experience as students from all classes mix in one common endeavor; it's a time of community building as well as discovery of unknown talent in each other - an experience students remember for a lifetime.



**pwhs artists selected for art show**

For the first time, PWHS will be represented in the Oregon College of Arts and Crafts Juried High School Exhibition. The selection committee, visiting our campus to select entry pieces, said, “The work students are making is fantastic – the work is well conceived, [with] great craftsmanship and strong personal voice.” The committee also commented on how the high school students spoke with such confidence, poise, and enthusiasm for their work.

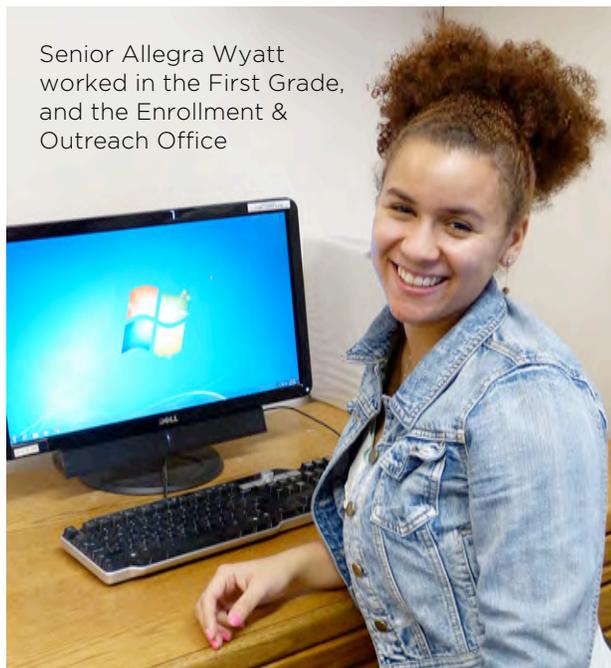
The PWHS artists whose work was selected are sophomore John Paul Takacs (*top right*), juniors Liam Erickson (*bottom right*) and Owen Markel, and seniors Joie Bassham (*below*), Elijah Klaunder, Karis Lindelien, and Bea Steffen (*middle right*).

The exhibition of art from over thirty Portland-area high schools will be on display at the Hoffman Gallery at OCAC March 6-30<sup>th</sup>, with the Opening Reception on March 6 from 4-6pm – all are welcome to attend! Cash prizes will be announced at 5pm for the best-in-show.



## seniors explore professions

This year, seniors were given the option to participate in an Apprenticeship during their study hall period: an opportunity to explore a professional interest, learn job skills, interact with adult mentors, and contribute to the success of a company. These experiences often lead to enhanced self-knowledge and confidence, greater appreciation for the working adults in their lives, more clarity about future career and education goals, and a feeling of value and purpose in the world.



Senior Allegra Wyatt worked in the First Grade, and the Enrollment & Outreach Office

Seven seniors answered the call and have been serving and learning in our school from September to April in First Grade, Third Grade, the Library, Yearbook, Building & Grounds, Development, and Enrollment & Outreach.

Says Allegra Wyatt about assisting in the first grade: “I have always wanted to be a Waldorf teacher and this apprenticeship gave me the chance to learn about what it takes. It is amazing how Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Benjamin take so much care in shaping the entire experience of the students, bringing so much love and fun to what they do!”

Deja Hodes reports: “Working in the library is the highlight of my week. It was helpful to

get a sense of how a library functions from the inside. When I applied for the apprenticeship I had a vague inclination to pursue a masters in library science. Now I know that’s what I want to study. Being surrounded by books and those who love them is a dream come true.”

Development Director Sara Case supervised Eve Ashkar. “It’s been wonderful having Eve’s help,” she reports. “Eve’s positive approach to each task has been so refreshing and her eagerness to assist in whatever capacity she can has been a tremendous help.”

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## *physics continued from page 2*

“Then we worked with the vertical axis, dropping a weight off the roof (accelerated vertical movement with a constant horizontal movement), before combining the two in projectile motion.” For that, the class took a video of Hicks throwing a ball, from which they estimated the ball’s speed, angle of launch, and the release point. After calculating the horizontal and vertical distances of the throw and how long the ball stayed in the air, they checked their calculations by repeating the experience in the field.

Hicks’ goal in the class was to deepen students’ scientific thinking, accustoming them to devising hypotheses before experimenting, testing those hypotheses, and analyzing their results. The data collected was plotted in graphs, from which relationships emerged. Students were surprised by the results they extracted, and were forced to consider alternative explanations.

What starts with cups of water, walks across the field, balls rolled off tables and dropped from the roof, and weights on strings swung in circles ends with often-complex algebraic formulas and a strengthened understanding of the scientific process. Students have *experienced* physics in a way that is hard to forget.

