



# CONTACT

*Learning and Leading for Tomorrow*

## Olympic Coney Island Teams Up with WB Schools to Serve Scholarships to Students



Two coneys, college scholarship and a gift card – hold the onions!” That might sound like the most unusual order you’d hear in a restaurant, but it wouldn’t be wrong. Not at the Olympic Coney Island, where owner Nick Skotanis has been serving college scholarships and gift cards to students in the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District since last October. To the tune of \$3,600 going to 48 children and teens by the time this school year ends.

And if he gets his wish, he won’t be the only one helping jumpstart a child’s advanced education: he hopes other community businesses will jump on the idea and help support a higher education for *every* student in the district. The \$3,600 he’s donated this year breaks down to \$2,400 in \$50 scholarships and another \$1,200 in \$25 gift cards to his restaurant, located on West Road, just east of Telegraph Road.



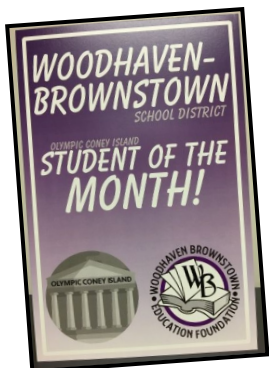
The scholarship money is funneled through the Woodhaven-Brownstown Education Foundation (WBEF), which issues a check to each student made payable to a new or existing Michigan Education Savings Program account. Accompanying each check are instructions on how to open an account, if one doesn’t exist.

This isn’t Skotanis’ first attempt to help the school district: In years past, he said he’s helped Bates Elementary School install a new track by hosting special events at his restaurant in which a percentage of sales were donated to the project. And then toward the end of the 2018-2019 school year he also made donations to the WBEF for student scholarships, but “ramped it up this year,” he said.

“I had come up with the idea (of creating individual scholarships), and then I met with Mark and the school board president to discuss it further,” he said, referring to Supt. Mark Greathead and school board President Cara Pimer. “And after we tweaked it a bit, we launched it again in October. “But my goal wasn’t to just reward students who get good grades,” he said. “It was to also recognize kids who are good role models.”

Under the program, Greathead explained, six students from each of the district’s eight schools are – or will be – nominated for the scholarships and gift cards: one each month from October to May. A student at each grade level in the elementary schools will be selected; two per grade in the secondary schools. By the end of this year’s program, 48 students will have received the awards – but Skotanis doesn’t want it to stop there.

“I think businesses have a responsibility in this community to get involved,” he said, “and one way would be to make the same kind of commitment I have to the school district and the kids’ futures. “We’re doing our part. “I just want other businesses to know that ‘I can do that,



See “Olympic” continued on Pg. 2

too!," he said. "We would then create a window decal, for example, that would identify these businesses as founding members of this scholarship program. "We could even create tiers based on the level of commitment," Greathead said.

And commitment is what Skotanis already has demonstrated in the community: In addition to supporting the school district, he serves as a board member on the nine-person Brownstown Downtown Development Authority. Skotanis' family opened their first restaurant in Canton and later moved to Westland. The family expanded into Brownstown 16 years ago "this April," he said, adding that "from the beginning, I've tried to be very active in the community." "Long ago I realized it takes individuals in a community to make things happen," he said – "not just organizations. "So my approach has been to get involved," he said.

And if Greathead and Skotanis have their way, it will be to get other area businesses involved in helping students get started on their life after graduation. Which means that if you're a business – or doing business – in the community and want to be a part of this scholarship program, you can contact the superintendent via email at: [greathm@wbsdweb.com](mailto:greathm@wbsdweb.com)

And if you're looking for a coney – or anything else for breakfast, lunch or dinner – Nick Skotanis is waiting to show you to your table. Olympic Coney Island is located at 23748 West Road, across from the Kroger shopping center.

For more information, call 734.362.8757 – or check out the menu at [www.olympicconeyisland.com](http://www.olympicconeyisland.com).



### 2019/20 Olympic Coney Island Scholarship Winners as of 2/20

ERVING	Nevaeh-Ann Iacovacci	Mallory Martin	Bradley Earles	Elijah Bodagh	Amal Chaudhary	Hayden Phillips
GUDITH	Beckett Wallace	Peyton McKenzie	Griffin Wallace	Jennifer Stroh	Braylon Wallace	Chaimara Ogbonna
WEGIENKA	Faith Franklin	Ernest Arkoh	Adam Maroni	Sophia Hoak	Brooklynn Tippet	Tristan Harris
BMS	Bilal Chohan	Parker Forgach	Maddlyn Kastura	Mia Karl	Ryan Blanchett	Bryce White
PHMS	Usman Chaudhry	Lisa Cela	Michael Jordan	Samantha Beekman	Crystal Williams	Cara Creutz

# WHS Names “Top Ten” for the Class of 2020

Woodhaven High School named the Valedictorian and Salutatorian and its “Top 10” for the Class of 2020. Senior honors are determined after first semester grades are finalized. Class rank is based on a point system that consists of 50% GPA and 50% SAT score calculated as follows:  $(\text{GPA} \times 400) + (\text{SAT}) = \text{Ranking}$ . Class ranking is determined after final grades from the 1st semester are calculated, establishing the Top 10 for each graduating class. Of special interest this year — eight of the top 10 all have GPAs higher than 4.0.

A total of 56 students earned the rank of “Senior Scholar”, including the Top 10. Senior Scholar status is determined by the following formula:  $\text{SAT} (\text{GPA} \times 400) + \text{SAT}$  (Totaling 2730 points and above).

The announcement is typically made in late February or early March, giving students time to celebrate their accomplishments with their families before hectic end-of-the-year activities begin. Students will be honored at the annual Awards & Honors Night on April 28, 2020. Congratulations to the Class of 2020’s Top 10 and Senior Scholars!

Sher Khehra — Valedictorian  
Murphy Justian — Salutatorian

Emma Dimilia

Emily Leich

Samantha Briggs

Lilyana Banks

Nathan Overton

Logan Willette

Emily LaVigne

Huzair Rashid

## WBSD Students Again Partner with Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven for “Kids Against Hunger”



On Saturday, February 1, 2020, WBSD students once again partnered with the Kiwanis Club of Woodhaven and hosted the 15th Annual Kids Against Hunger Campaign. Kiwanis brings the campaign to the school district, and students from all five elementary schools and various clubs and organizations spend several hours filling meal bags with a fortified rice and grain mixture. The goal is fill 30,000 meal bags during the event. The meal bags are then shipped to over 60 countries worldwide.

Bates Elementary School was a beehive of activity as students moved in and out throughout the day to help fill bags. This is a great event for our students because it raises awareness for them that not everyone has access to a meal on a daily basis. Children emphasize with their peers and understand being hungry.

Thank you to all who participated and teaching our students the important of helping those in need.



Erving Elementary students.



Wegienka Elementary students.



Erving Elementary helpers.



Wegienka Elementary teachers  
lend a hand.



# A Day in the Life of a Warrior . . .

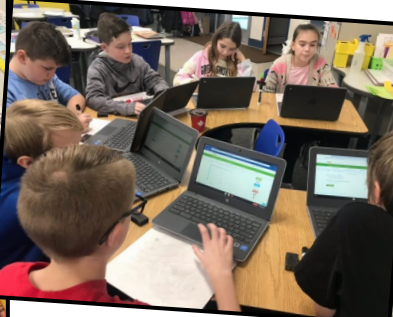
**Warrior Strong**



Diver Jeremy Romero catching some air off the diving board performing a forward 1 & 1/2 somersault with 1 twist.



Mrs. Donosky's 1st grade Skyhawks learn about the phases of the moon with Oreos.



Mr. Satterviel's 5th grade Wildcats enjoy using Chrombooks in the classroom.



Parent volunteers are the best!



Wegienka Elementary reading buddies.



Skyhawk Third Graders estimate and measure liquid volume.



Yake Elementary 2020 Sodexo's Future Chefs Competition finalists.



Wegienka Elementary Kindergartners are 100 days smarter!



Clarence Corbett signs with SVSU for track and football.



PHMS January Students of the Month

## Board of Education

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MIKKI BERTIN-KELSAY, Vice President  
ROB HARRIS, Secretary  
JENN PADGETT, Treasurer  
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SHERRY WEISER Technology Director

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In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Woodhaven-Brownstown School District that no person shall on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, gender, age, disability, height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination during any program, activity, service or in employment. For information contact the Office of the Superintendent, 24821 Hall Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183, 734-789-2357.