



11/10/2008

Costa grant allows WMASD to buy weather station

By PATRICK CLOONAN, Daily News Staff Writer

When state Sen. Jay Costa Jr., D-Forest Hills, came to West Mifflin Area Middle School, he had a \$12,000 gift for the science program.

That was in addition to his Friday appearance at a sixth-grade assembly dealing with the fall focus on elections in middle school classrooms.

Costa presented a check to school officials representing the state grant he procured for a weather station that occasionally is featured on the evening news.

The West Mifflin school's weather station takes a picture that usually shows Allegheny County Airport and can be seen on KDKA-2 WeatherBug reports.

WeatherBug monitors are positioned at 45 locations throughout the Tri-State area covered by Channel 2's signal.

The WeatherBug network extends to more than 8,000 professional-grade tracking stations across the United States, each able to give up-to-the minute weather conditions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"We can see the planes coming in," teacher Christy Kozar pointed out as district school Director John J. Donis watched.

The computerized devices can measure the air temperature, the wind speed and direction, the wind chill index, the wet bulb temperature and the relative humidity (which utilizes the air, or dry bulb and wet bulb readings).

It also can measure the barometric pressure and what percentage of the skies are covered in clouds.

Costa and district officials credited Donis with his effort to get state funds for the middle school WeatherBug.

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