



WESTPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSNOTES

December 18, 2009

Soar With Excellence

Westport Central School Capital Project & Board Member Vote

The holiday season is upon us: fifteen weeks of the 2009-2010 school year have flown by. We have been challenged by a variety of things. First, it was the H1N1 influenza with one confirmed case of the flu, but in WCS fashion we were able to rise above it. Our absence rate has improved a great deal. Thank you for the diligent efforts of our dedicated faculty and staff. Please continue to practice good infection control around your home and advise your children to do the same at school.

Next was taking on a very important project for the school, the purchase and installation of a generator. The Board of Education passed two resolutions to put a capital project in front of our voters. If passed, this project will allow our building to continue being an emergency shelter for our community members in the event of a catastrophic event like the ice storm of 1998. This project will also assist in protecting our education process and technology support. We also wish to do some security and telephone upgrades in the school and resurface our tennis courts to reestablish an outdoor teaching center that can be utilized by the school and community. This project has been discussed during several meetings over the past few years. We have also met with many community groups to explain the cost and financing of the project as well as address their questions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions or concerns that may not have been addressed. This project will be completed with minimal impact to the taxpayer, but with tremendous benefits to the school and community.

On December 22 we will be having the Special Meeting and Election to vote on this project. In addition, eligible voters will be electing a board member to fill the unexpired term left vacant as a result of the resignation of Kathleen Carter-Martinez. There are two candidates for this position, Ulrich Hoffman and Tom Kohler.

The papers are filled with news of state aid cuts. It is important to note that these delays in state aid payments do not affect building construction aid. The delayed aid does present a challenge to all schools and municipalities. I will be working with the Board of Education beginning in January to develop the 2010-2011 school budget. It will be no easy task, but we will balance the needs of the school with the needs of the taxpayer.

Please have a sage and happy holiday.

GRANT AWARDED TO WCS

David Reckahn from Essex County Soil and Water Conservation Dept. and Laurie Davis from Adirondack Harvest in conjunction with Jason Fiegl, WCS Science Teacher applied for and received a \$500 grant from the Honeybee Foundation. The grant money will be used to assist in the development of a garden at the school which will involve all grade levels as well as extend an invitation to community members and organizations for assistance and support. The garden will be located in the back of the school near, but not impede on, the softball field. Thank you, Mr. Reckahn, Ms. Davis & Mr. Fiegl, for your efforts!



WCS RATED A BRONZE METAL SCHOOL

Westport Central School was recently rated as a bronze medal school in the US News & World Report. The determining data was provided by the College Board and/or International Baccalaureate of North America. Congratulations Westport Central School!

4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE – SEE EXTENDED DATE

Westport Central School is conducting their 4th Annual Holiday Food Drive to benefit the local Food Pantry. You can help by sending canned or boxed food items in with your student or by bringing the food items to the school. Donations will be accepted until **Monday, December 21st**.

SPECIAL MEETING AND ELECTION

There will be a special meeting and Board Member election on **Tuesday, 12/22** from noon to 9:00 p.m. District voters will be voting on the generator project as well as voting on a candidate to fill a Board Member vacancy.

ELEMENTARY & CHORAL WINTER CONCERTS

Our elementary students and our school chorus will hold their winter concert on **Tuesday, 12/22** beginning at 7 p.m. Please join us for some holiday music!



END OF FIVE WEEK MARKING PERIOD

Today was the end of the second Five Week Marking Period. Five Week Reports will be distributed to K-6 students and mailed to Grades 7-12 on **Wednesday, 12/23**.

HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSING

School will be closed for students and teachers **Thursday, December 24th through Sunday, January 3rd, 2010** for the Holiday Break. School will be closed for all staff on Friday, 12/25/09 and Friday, 1/1/10.

CHEERS FOR PEERS!

Congratulations to our "Cheers for Peers" Respect Award Winners: K-Thea Shaw, Gr.1-Solomon Fair, Gr.2-McKenzie Stevens, Gr.3-Hudson Stevens, Gr.4-Abigail Mero, Gr.5-Mattea Viens, Gr.6-John Sprague.



DECEMBER FITNESS ROOM SCHEDULE

The Fitness Room will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. during December with the following exceptions:
OPEN 12/21 & 12/23 **CLOSED** 12/22, 12/24 & 12/31



AUTOMATED EMERGENCY CALLS

In the event of an emergency or unscheduled delay or closing, phone calls will automatically be made to your home, work, and cell phone numbers. The system will also leave a message on your answering machine. Please be sure that all emergency contact information is on file with the District. It is imperative that the school be notified immediately of any changes in home, work and/or cell numbers.

YEARBOOK ORDERS BEING TAKEN

Yearbook orders are now being taken. Please pre-order your Yearbook by giving your order to any Yearbook Club Member or Mr. Thompson along with a down payment of \$15. (Please make checks payable to WCS Yearbook.) The total cost of this years Yearbook is \$40.

K-12 PARENT LUNCHEON

Parent Luncheons will be held throughout the school year on the last Friday of the month, with a few exceptions due to vacations. On Parent Luncheon Day we encourage you to eat lunch with your child in the Westport Central School Cafeteria. We love having parents join us for lunch! Parent Luncheon Dates: **January 29**, February 26, March 27, April 23, May 28 & June 11.

Please join your students for lunch on Friday, November 20th. The school lunch schedule is as follows:

Kindergarten 10:45 – 11:15 Grades 3-6 11:54 – 12:24 Grades 1 & 2 10:50 – 11:20
Grades 7 & 8 11:24-11:54 Grades 9-12 12:24-12:54

As a reminder, all parents/visitors need to sign in at the main office.

WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION NEWS

We are actively trying to collect all jerseys from past programs. Please check your homes for basketball, baseball and soccer jerseys and return them to the school nurse's office ASAP.

Biddy Basketball practice started on December 1. Practices will continue as follows: Grades K-2 on Tuesdays from 3-4 p.m. and Grades 5-6 on Tuesdays from 4-5 p.m. Grades 3-4 practice will be held on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m. All participants must have up to date health forms and waivers on file before participating. Forms and schedules are available in the main office of the school. For additional information, please **contact Holly at 546-8255**.

The **Downhill Ski Program at Whiteface** is set to begin January 10, 2010. Sign up was held on November 19th. Information and registration packets will be available in the main office of the school for anyone still interested. The deadline for applying is December 18th. Please **contact Bridgette at 962-4392 with any questions**.



upcoming dates

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| 1/1 | New Year's Day-school closed | 1/26-29 | Regents Exams for those pre-registered |
| 1/12 | Supt. Coffee Hour 8:15-9:15 | 1/29 | Parent Luncheon |
| 1/14 | Budget Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. | | End of 2 nd Quarter Marking Period |
| | BOE Meeting @ 6:30 pm | 2/4 | Early Dismissal @ 1 p.m. |

