



# WESTPORT CENTRAL SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSNOTES

December 10, 2010

## Soar With Excellence

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

December, less daylight, cold weather and holidays, but the business of teaching and learning continues at Westport Central School. As we enter this season we should be mindful of keeping everyone healthy so that our business can continue.

As with every academic endeavor, it is important that parents and teachers be partners with our students to insure success at school. Let's work together for academic success. When you have questions for teachers outside of school hours take advantage of our new voice mail system. Over the summer an upgrade was initiated to allow you to leave "voice mail" for teachers and staff.

Westport Central School was recently recognized as a "model school" for our approach to teaching reading through the "reading first" model. We will be serving as a mentor school for other schools in the state and are one of only 26 schools to receive this recognition. Grant funds for in-service come with the recognition. We have received a banner and plaque, which are now on display at school.

It is also time for our seniors to be examining their future plans. We had a very successful financial aid presentation at our open house. Mrs. Mazzotte is available to help with college applications and other career information. Our seniors should also be sure that they have everything completed for graduation by June. How are their senior projects going?

I welcome you to join me for a cup of coffee, conversation and discussion again this year during the Superintendent Coffee Hour. These informal conversations will be centered on our school, community, and new educational initiatives. The following is a list of dates: January 6th, March 1st, April 5th, and May 3rd.

### **UPDATE ON MOLLY RASCOE**

Molly had her kidney transplant on December 1<sup>st</sup> – Molly and Ben Sudduth are both home and doing well! Sincere thanks are extended to everyone for their continued support. **Please continue to collect Pull Tabs!**

### **WESTPORT PTO WINTER WEAR EVENT**



Tomorrow, December 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30 to 2:00 in the cafeteria, the Westport Central School PTO is pleased to be sponsoring a Winter Wear Event. The event is to provide all our surrounding communities with the opportunity to gather sets of used winter wear, still in fine shape, for the upcoming cold weather. There will be an admission donation of \$5.00 per family and then "shop" to your heart's content! So mark your calendar, bring your empty bags and we'll see you there!

### **WPTO BOOK FAIR**

The WPTO will be hosting a book fair in the school library 12/13-12/15 from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm each day. Encourage reading – give a book to the children on your gift list this year! Thank you for supporting the WPTO.

### **KEEPING TRACK OF TEEN DRIVING PROBLEMS**

The state Department of Motor Vehicles Teen Electronic Event Notification Service, or TEENS, is a free service to alert parents or guardians when a ticket, conviction, suspension, revocation or crash appears on the minor's driver's license record. TEENS is a state wide program that is very helpful for parents or guardians; signing up is quick and convenient, and can be done at the county DMV office, by mail or on line. This program can save parents and guardians a great deal of money and help prevent needless anguish by making them aware of reportable events that their teen may not want to tell them about.

### **WESTPORT YOUTH COMMISSION NEWS**

~**Dance:** Students taking the bus to dance should bring a note in to the teacher.

~**Biddy basketball:** Practices are held on Tuesday's and Wednesday's at the following times:

Grades K-2: Tuesday / 3-4 pm

Grades 3-4: Tuesday / 4-5 pm

Grades 5-6: Wednesday / 3-4 pm



If you have not signed up please complete a registration form from the [westportyouth.org](http://westportyouth.org) website and submit it to the school office. There is no cost for this program. If you participated in the soccer program and have a registration on file you will only need to have an updated parent signature to play biddy basketball. As a reminder to parents: Basketball players MUST be picked up on time. Volunteer coaches cannot be responsible for your children after practice ends.

~**Skiers and snowboarders:** Youth Commission is completing paperwork for the 2011 season. To participate in the ski and ride program complete a Westport Youth Commission registration form and a Whiteface 2010-2011 Form, both of which can be found at [westportyouth.org](http://westportyouth.org). These forms can be turned in at the school office. Sign up soon so you can ski and ride this winter!

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE & BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS**

There will be an Audit Committee Meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by budget discussion and a regular meeting of the Board of Education at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 12/16 in the school library. All community members are welcome to attend.

### **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE**

Westport Central School is holding its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Food Drive to benefit the local Food Pantry. Students may bring canned or boxed food items to their classroom/homeroom. Donations will be accepted until Friday, 12/17.

### **ELEMENTARY MUSIC CONCERT**

Join us for the Elementary Music Concert on Monday, 12/20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bulles Auditorium!

### **END OF 2<sup>ND</sup> FIVE WEEK MARKING PERIOD/REPORT CARDS**

Friday, 12/17 is the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Five Week Marking Period. Five Week Reports will be distributed to grades K-6 and mailed for grades 7-12 on Wednesday, 12/22.

### **GO HOME EARLY DRILL**

There will be a Go Home Early Drill on Wednesday, 12/22. All students will be released at 1:00 p.m. following lunch.

\*\*\***There will be no ACAP or Biddy Basketball on 12/22.**\*\*\*

**Please remember to send your student(s) with a note if they normally attend ACAP or Biddy Basketball.**



### **FITNESS ROOM SCHEDULE**

The Fitness Room will be open during the month of December on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. with the following exception: Closed: Th. 12/23 & 30 and Tu. 12/28

### **INTERNET SAFETY RESOURCES FOR PARENTS**

As the roles of students, parents, schools, and districts evolve in response to technological change, so does the potential of educational technology to support new forms of communication, collaboration, and learning. The Internet is essential to education, future careers, and lives, yet ways of socializing and communicating on the Internet come with certain risks. In response, the New York State Education Department provides links to the listed resources listed in providing assistance designed to promote the proper and safe use of the Internet. For more information go to:

[http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/internet\\_safety/parents.html](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/internet_safety/parents.html). A link to this webpage can also be found on the WCS website.



## **Upcoming Events**

1/3	Classes resume
1/6	Superintendent's Coffee Hour
1/7	Parent Luncheon
1/13	Early Dismissal @ 1 pm Board of Education Meeting @ 6:00 pm/library
1/17	Martin Luther King holiday-school closed
1/22	SATs Business of Music Concert/Fundraiser
1/25-28	Regents exams
1/28	End of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Marking Period