



Westford School News

January 14, 2011

Principal's Corner

School Budget Finalized

The School Board met last week to finalize next year's school budget which will be presented to voters in March. I am pleased to report that the School Board was able to reduce spending by \$156,792 while not directly impacting classrooms, programs or services. The savings came, in part, from a reduction in the amount spent on high school tuition, an increased fund balance, and a number of efficiencies found at the school and supervisory union. Community members can find more details about next year's proposed budget by clicking on the "Westford School Board" link on our school web page. I really encourage everyone to become informed about this budget. There is lots of time to ask a School Board member if you have any questions about the budget.

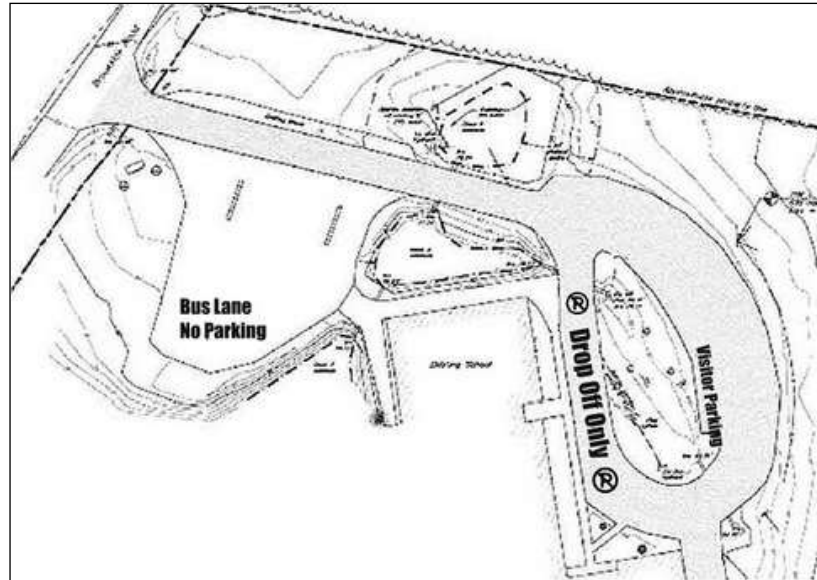
The proposed school budget also sees investments in academic programs for our students. As I have mentioned in earlier newsletters, we have been working with two local consultants in the areas of Differentiated Instruction and Inquiry Science. This important work is supported by the coordination of curriculum and Federal grants by the Chittenden Central Supervisory Union (CCSU). While our school pays a small portion of CCSU's costs, we receive a great deal of support from central office staff. As part of our focus on curriculum and instruction, next year's proposed budget supports investments in science and social studies materials that will ultimately increase student achievement in these areas.

Sincerely,

Share your thoughts on this article by clicking the "Principal's Blog" link on our school web page



Driveway Changes



We have begun a new plan for dropping off and picking up students. We need your help while we monitor and make improvements to this new system. Here is the new way that we are using the driveway:

- School buses will drop students off in the gravel parking lot near the kindergarten room.
- Please yield to school busses when they are entering or leaving the school yard.
- Parents can drop students off at the curb at the front of the building in the morning.
- Never park and leave your car at the curb next to the building. This has always been our fire lane and must be left clear at all times.
- Parents who park at school should use the paved parking lot section marked "visitor parking" on the map above.

Honor Roll Addition

Liam Nelson earned 2nd Honors
Congratulations!

3rd & 4th Grade Learn About Lake Champlain



As part of their Social Studies unit on the Lake Champlain region, our 3rd & 4th Grades had a visit from the “Champlain Troubadour (Matt Witten of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum). The Troubadour performed a variety of stories and songs from different traditions and engaged the students in song, movement, and the excitement of people's adventures and follies in the lake environment. His stories depicted the lives of common folk (including animals) and their sometimes heroic and often amusing exploits.

Dates to Remember

**There is no school for on January 17th
Band & Chorus Concert on Jan. 19th at 7PM**

Officers arrive by 6:00PM
Chorus members by 6:20 PM
Band members by 6:35 PM

So Many Ways to Connect with Your School!

Now that we are solidly in the digital-age, there are even more ways to connect with Westford Elementary School. Here are some of the new ways you can engage with our school:

FOLLOW US ON 

Our school now has a Twitter account where community members can receive weekly updates on a variety of school happenings. Click the Twitter link on our web page start!

Principal's Blog – Do you ever have questions about the principal's articles in this newsletter? You can click on the link to the Principal's Blog on our school web page to engage in a conversation with Mr. Wells about school issues.

Front Porch Forum – Our school regularly posts information on the Front Porch Forum. You can find the latest school newsletter, athletics news, School Board announcements and much more on this helpful local resource.



Would you like this newsletter in a digital format? You can keep paper out of the waste stream by subscribing to this newsletter digitally. Click the newsletter link on our web page and you will find an RSS feed that you can use to have the Westford

School News automatically sent to your favorite web reader. Please let us know if you prefer a digital copy and we will stop sending a paper copy home with your child.



Daffodil Days are Coming!

Each spring, the American Cancer Society offers daffodils to donors in appreciation for a contribution. By sending bunches of daffodils to friends, family members, and people touched by cancer, you are sharing a message of hope and raising funds and awareness to help defeat cancer. Westford Elementary School is sponsoring a Daffodil Day campaign through February 18th. Look for a sign-up sheet in your child's backpack in the next few days.