

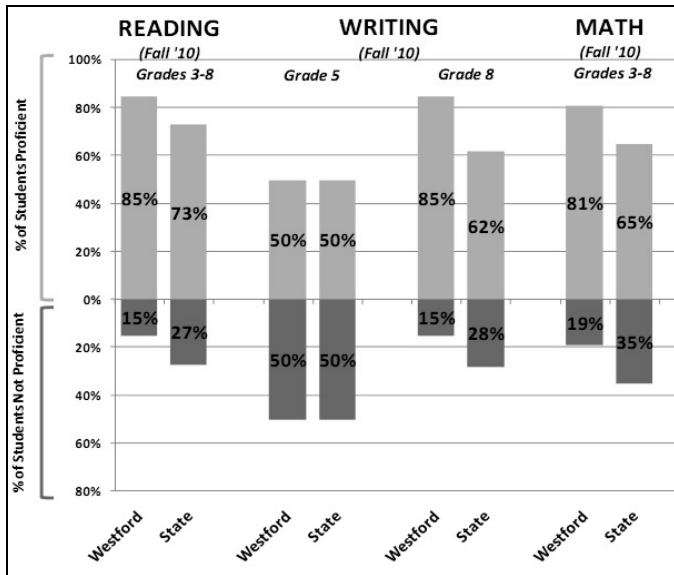


# Westford School News

March 11, 2011

## Principal's Corner

### Westford's NECAP Summary



I am pleased to report that Westford Elementary School continues to make progress towards its performance targets for the year 2011 as measured by the NECAP scores from the fall of 2010. Eighty-five percent of students scored proficient or higher in the area of reading, and 81 percent of students scored proficient or higher in math. In the area of writing, half of the fifth grade students scored proficient or higher and 85 percent of the eighth grade students scored proficient or higher.

I've gained an interesting perspective on student performance and school accountability over my twenty-plus years in education. My school had assessments when I started teaching in the 1980's but we never reviewed this data in a systematic way. We all worked hard at teaching but I was never asked to specifically explain how I taught reading, writing, and math during my entire career as an elementary school teacher. To me that is simply shocking! We have come a long way since those "ancient times."

Westford students perform exceptionally well on our state assessments. By some measures, our students are among the highest performing students in the state of Vermont. We should be proud of our students and use this encouraging data to keep up the hard work of

teaching and learning. Scores like these do not come by accident. Exceptional student performance comes from having a Guaranteed, Viable Curriculum, a well trained and dedicated teaching staff, support from our central office, and our students' hard work.

Sincerely,

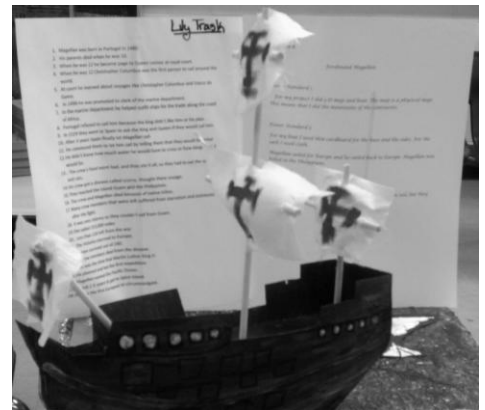
Share your thoughts on student assessment and progress by clicking the "Principal's Blog" link on our school web page

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### Learning Geography in the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



Map by Anna Quinn



Report and Artifact by Lily Trask

Students in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade have been studying early explorers and have presented some fantastic and creative projects including video, books, boats, and detailed maps! We are currently moving on to settlements in North America. One of our standards includes understanding geographical influences. Ask your child about the French settlements in the New World and how geography played a critical role.

Kindergarten Registration has begun!  
Parents can find registration forms on our  
school web site.

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## Limited Spaces Available for Westford's school-based Preschool

Westford Elementary school has a limited number of slots available in their school-based Preschool program. The program runs a morning and afternoon session Tuesday through Friday during the weeks school is in session. Westford also contracts with the Children's Preschool and Enrichment Center (CPEC) to offer additional Preschool slots. Westford uses grant funding to provide tuition reduction to a limited number of children who are Westford residents and who enroll in CPEC to pay for 10 hours of Preschool through their program in Essex Junction. Selection for slots will be in compliance with Act 62 requirements regarding a lottery selection process. The selection process will take place in April and families will be notified of selection results prior to May 15, 2011. To enter the lottery for a preschool slot, please submit a registration form (found on our web site) by April 4, 2011

## Internet Safety for Parents

Tune in to 30 minute sessions March 17th, 21st or 24th

Learn about steps you can take to keep your kids safer online, including tips for privacy settings, passwords, safer searching, and more. This webinar is easy to participate in wherever high speed Internet access is available.

To attend, go to <http://vscmymeeting.acrobat.com/evtwebinars/> on the date and time of your choice.

*We encourage you to log in 5 min. before the session begins. You will need to turn on your computers sound/speakers. No registration required.*

Webinar Dates (same webinar repeated 3 times):

Thurs March 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00-6:30pm

Mon March 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00-6:30pm

Thurs March 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00-6:30pm



### **Would you like this newsletter in a digital format?**

Click the newsletter link on our web page to download our newsletter. Please let us know if you prefer a digital copy and we will stop sending a paper copy home with your child.

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Our Eat Local Fundraiser was very successful! Individuals can pick up their orders on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 3-6PM in the Westford School Common Area

### **Dates to Remember**

- March 14<sup>th</sup>, School Board Meeting (re-scheduled) starting at 6:30 PM in the school Commons.
- March 16<sup>th</sup>, PTO Fundraiser pick up. 3-6PM in the school Commons
- March 18<sup>th</sup>, District Fine Arts Night at Essex High School from 6 – 9PM
- March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Fiddlesticks VSP performance 8:45 - 9:30 AM in the school gym
- Westford Drama Club presents *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at 7 p.m. on March 30<sup>th</sup> (Cast A) and 31<sup>st</sup> (Cast B).