



Westford School News

April 15, 2011

Principal's Corner

The Science Fair Returns to Westford!

News and a Reminder



I am pleased to announce that the School Board has approved Jennifer Ellis as our new 1st & 2nd grade teacher for next year.

Jennifer will be joining Gail Piotrowski who will also be teaching a 1st & 2nd grade multi-age class next year. Jennifer is a resident of Essex with 5 years of very successful primary grade teaching experience in Montpelier.



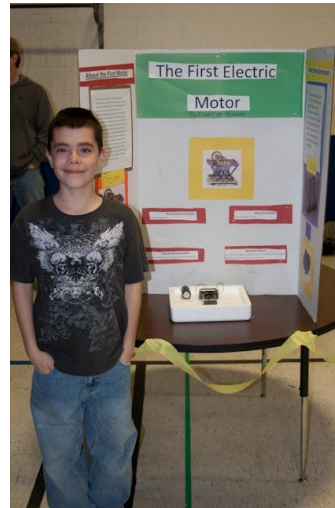
Please take a moment to remind your son or daughter about our **school dress code** as we enter the warm days of spring. You can find the dress code in our online handbook but here are the essential elements:

“...Appropriate attire meets acceptable criteria for hygiene and safety and does not distract from the learning process. Appropriate clothing covers stomachs, backs and undergarments. Tank-style tops have straps wider than two finger widths. Shirts have necklines no lower than four finger widths below the collar bone. Undergarments, including underwear and bras, are covered. Skirts and shorts are long enough so the hem falls at fingertip length or below when arms are placed at sides when standing. Inappropriate clothing includes items with obscene or vulgar terms; messages of hatred, violence, discrimination, sexual innuendo or that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco; halter tops, spaghetti straps, short skirts, and see through items (unless the clothing item covers other clothing that meets the dress code). Any item of clothing deemed by school personnel to be distracting, disruptive or provocative is also inappropriate as school attire....”

Thanks for your help in keeping our school a healthy and respectful learning environment!

Sincerely,

Share your thoughts about our dress code by clicking the “Principal’s Blog” link on our school web page



We are pleased to have brought back the tradition of holding a Science Fair at Westford School for grades 5-8 with the mission of providing a fun opportunity for students to further develop science inquiry skills. Our hope was for each student to delve into a project that was exciting and spurred him or her to ask questions, form hypotheses and search for answers. Each project was reviewed by a panel of community members who have backgrounds in science using a designed rubric. We wish to thank Wendy Doane, Beth Kirkpatrick and Mike Ouellette for serving on our panel. We also wish to thank Laura Nelson, Lee Lichtenstein and Kurt Sherman for organizing this event. Last but not least, we wish to thank our student participants!

Dates to Remember

- April 18th-22nd Spring Break
- April 25th, School Board Meeting at EHS, 6:30 PM
- May 2nd, School Board Meeting at Westford, 6:30 PM
- May 19th, Fine Arts Night, 6:00-8:30 PM
- June 14th, Eighth Grade Graduation
- June 15th, Last Day of School

One of the World's Largest Maps of South America Visits Westford School



Students at the Westford School will soon be exploring South America in a big way--- with one of the world's largest maps of the continent. The map, measuring 35 feet by 26 feet and weighing 102 pounds, will provide student explorers with a fun, interactive experience through rich content and exciting activities that enliven the study of geography. The map will be here May 5 and 6 through National Geographic's Giant Traveling Maps program.

The South American map, designed for grades K-8, comes with a trunk of accessories that include interactive activities, games, books, videos and music that educate users about the physical characteristics of the continent as well as its rich history and varied cultures. Among the activities are "Cultural Geography Relay," in which students use photos to learn about cultural life; "Walkabout: South America," which explores the numerous rivers, mountain, waterfall, and other geographic features; and "The Voyage of the H. M. S. Beagle," which retraces the voyage of Charles Darwin along the continent's coastline through excerpts from his journal.

National Geographic's Giant Traveling Maps Program was introduced in 2006 with a map of Africa. Since then the program has expanded to maps of North America, Asia, and now South America.

Jump Start for Reading



What started as a community service project created by Hailey Burkhart, Toni Martin, and Teal Denison has grown into a yearly program at the Westford School Library. During the months of April and May, drop boxes are placed in the school library and at the entrance to the school office to collect books in good condition that are no longer needed at home. In library classes in June, students are able to choose books to read over the summer months and keep as their own if they so wish! So as you accomplish any "spring cleaning" please feel free to drop your weeded books into our boxes! And our

sincere thanks and appreciation for helping to support this fantastic idea!

News from the Guidance Office:

The first week of May is **Bully Free Week** at Westford! We will be having a **poster contest** entitled "**What a Bully Free World Would Look Like.**" All children will work alone or in teams to create a winning poster that exemplifies the climate we all want in our school. Two winners will be chosen; one from the lower grades and one from the upper grades, and their posters will be displayed in a place of honor to allow all who enter our school to cheer us on in our endeavor to be bully free.

We are also delighted to have **Hector Tamayo** coming to our school after vacation to educate the upper grades on cyber bullying and proper technology safety. Hector is a district employee who has researched and presented on this topic in many of our district schools. We thank Hector for agreeing to give of his time to keep our students informed in this very important form of bullying.

On May 12, we will once again be hosting the **T.I.G.E.R. Group** who will perform: "**A Bully is Not Your Friend...Yet!**" This year the group will be performing for the upper grades with the added bonus of 2 free workshops for the 5/6 Kiwi team. When we all work together wonderful things can happen. Let's make our school a safe and happy place where everyone can be a successful learner!