



Westford School News

September 9, 2011

Principal's Corner

When people find out that I work in education they often ask me if I'm ready for school to start again at the end of the summer. My response is that I am always ready to see our students back at school! I know our students and staff would have the same answer. Our preparations for this school year started last spring as we looked at class groups and hired high quality teachers to staff our school. Many of our teachers took classes and workshops over the summer on the best instructional practices. We continued our preparations in the days before school to make sure each of our teachers were ready for their new classes.

I can also tell that our students were ready for the start of school. Our first few days of school have been filled with the happy faces of children exploring their classrooms and renewing friendships with teachers and classmates. Keeping our great start to the school year on a roll, I want to invite all of our families to our second annual Open House/Pot-Luck Picnic on September 14th at 5:30 PM. I hope to see many of our families during this fun event.

Sincerely,

Back to School Fun!



Join us at the Pot-Luck Picnic on Sept. 14th



We are very excited to continue the tradition of holding an Open House/Pot-Luck to welcome all of our families back to school this year. **This exciting event will take place on**

September 14th from 5:30 until 7:30 PM. The Pot-Luck will take place during the first hour of the evening and the Open House will take place during the second hour. This event will be held rain-or-shine with the pot-luck moving into the gym in case of rain. Please bring a blanket to spread out on the lawn for your family's dinner.

We are dividing up the pot-luck as follows:

A-L bring Main Dishes

M-S bring Desserts

T-Z bring Salads

Please bring serving utensils and label your gear so that all of your kitchenware makes it home safely!

Looking Forward to Seeing Everyone on the 14th!

Important Information for School Volunteers

Parents and volunteers are invaluable partners as we all work together to make our school the most enriching and positive place it can be for our children. Volunteers help in our classrooms, on our playgrounds, and in many other capacities. This help is so appreciated! I want our families to know that our doors are always open to parent volunteers. In order to follow district policy, based on State law, all volunteers are required to register with the school each year. This means that new and returning volunteers will need to complete an online registration form. You can simply click the "volunteer" link on the right hand side of our web page to register. The law does require us to conduct a confidential criminal record check of all volunteers. You will be notified you when you are approved to volunteer at school. Since it can take a few days for a form to be processed, it is best to complete a form well in advance of the day you plan to volunteer at school. While this is an extra step for school volunteers, we very much appreciate your help in keeping our school a safe place for all of our children.

Check Those Backpacks!

Many important forms have gone home in backpacks including school picture order forms and the Biographical Information Form. This form lets us know important information such as contact numbers and e-mail addresses. Please review the front and back of this form and return it by Sept. 16th – Thanks!

Kiwi Team News

The start of school reveals the excitement and anticipation for members of the 5-6 Kiwi Team. "First-years" (5th graders) anxiously anticipate their house-naming ceremony when they will find out who they will team with in work, games and friendly competitions over the next two years. "Second-years" (6th graders) anticipate their first opportunities to be leaders in groups, including the hope of being named a house prefect.

Although the start of a new year, Staff of the Kiwi Team would like to formally recognize Bern House as winners of the House Trophy for 2009-2010. Each member of that group was presented with an authentic plastic, 2-inch high trophy to remember their accomplishment by! A culminating toast of apple juice in these loving cups capped their year's accomplishment.

Our nearly 50 team members are challenged from the start of school to work hard, show initiative and take chances in becoming dynamic, success-driven learners. Professors Grant and Sherman invite you to stop by and look over the team bulletin board in reading about the excitement that will be the 2011-2012 school year. You will find a complete list of monthly activities planned for this year.

Westford PTO

The Westford PTO is an organization in which parents and educators work together to enrich and enhance the academic experience of the children of Westford by supporting curriculum-based activities, athletics and fine arts. Each year the PTO sponsors a large fall fundraiser. This year we will be partnering with Innisbrook for a fundraiser from September 16th through October 1st.

All of our parents and teachers are encouraged to attend our regular PTO meetings which are held in the staff room. The next PTO meeting is this coming Monday, Sept. 12th at 6:30 PM.

School Picture Day is September 14th
Please send in the picture day packet that your family received on the first day of school.

We are happy to share information about low cost Internet service offered to families by Comcast.

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