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Dear Stony Brook Families,

The Stony Brook PTO is organizing some exciting events throughout the remainder of the school year. We know that there are not as many opportunities to volunteer at the middle school level, so getting involved with the PTO is a great way to do so. The PTO is looking for new active members and leaders, which is a very rewarding experience and much appreciated by the staff, families, and students. Please see below for information about what the needs are, as well as opportunities to help out with Teacher Appreciation Week and the 8th grade celebration dance in June.

Next Tuesday, April 30, the Student Leadership Council is holding a Sports and Hobbies Spirit Day. Students can dress up in their favorite sports or hobbies gear.

If you plan to have your child take a school bus to and/or from school next year, there is registration information below. Registration begins on May 1.

Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,  
Allison and Rick

### **Information that is specific to Stony Brook :**

#### **Registration for the 2024-2025 School Year Bus pass opens on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**

For transportation information and FAQ: [Click Here](#)

For step by step registration instructions: [Click Here](#)

#### **School supply drive to benefit STEM4Youth through May 3**

Some former Stony Brook students created STEM4Youth, a youth organization dedicated to educating children of all ages about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. They are running a supply drive at Stony Brook for new school supplies to donate to schools internationally that have limited resources. There are collection boxes in the main lobby through May 3. They created an [Amazon Wish List](#) and you can click [HERE](#) for a link to the flyer with more information.

#### **8th grade panoramic photo—purchase opportunity**

If you would like to purchase a copy of the 8th grade panoramic photo, you can go to <https://my.photoday.com/gallery/stony-brook-8thpano> to order. Click [HERE](#) for a flyer with more information. The photo was taken on Thursday morning and it should be great.

### **Stony Brook PTO - Upcoming events and opportunities to get involved**

The PTO is planning a special week for the teachers & staff during the National Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6 to May 10) for which we are seeking donations from SBS families. Please consider donating to help us show our gratitude and appreciation for the dedicated and hardworking staff and teachers at Stony Brook.

**Donate items here:** <https://tinyurl.com/stonyptoTAgiftcarddonate2024>

**Donate Cash here:** <https://tinyurl.com/stonybrooktaweek24paypaldonate>

### **Stony Brook PTO - WE NEED YOU!**

The Stony Brook School PTO is **urgently** looking for a PTO Co-President, PTO Treasurer, PTO Secretary and additional Board Members to join our team for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are considering joining the PTO next year and/or are interested in getting more information please email [stonybrookschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:stonybrookschoolpto@gmail.com) or text Jamie @ 978-399-8548

### **Stony Brook PTO - 8th GRADE CELEBRATION DANCE - !! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!**

The Stony Brook and Blanchard School PTOs are planning a fun-filled evening celebration/dance for all WPS Grade 8 students on FRIDAY, JUNE 14th at Stony Brook Middle School, 9 Farmer Way. **This event is possible ONLY if we have enough volunteers so please consider signing up.**

<https://tinyurl.com/wps8thgradedancevolunteers>. A flier with details for 8th grade students will be sent out closer to the event.

Please email [stonybrookschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:stonybrookschoolpto@gmail.com) if you need more information about any of the above. Learn about the SBSPTO by visiting our [website](#).

**Our final meeting of the school year will be on Tuesday 5/28 at 3:30pm via google meet. Please consider joining us!** <https://calendar.app.google/mUPtcTgQru285BTQ9>

### **MCAS testing dates**

Here are the dates for our MCAS testing this spring. It is helpful if students are in attendance and on time to school on the days when MCAS testing occurs to avoid the need for making up the test and missing class time. Here are the remaining dates for the testing:

Friday, May 10 - Science Sessions 1 and 2 for 8th grade only

Monday, May 13 - Math Session 1 for all grades

Tuesday, May 14 - Math Session 2 for all grades

Thursday, May 30 - Civics Sessions 1 and 2 for 8th grade only

### **Attendance - reporting absences, early dismissals, and tardies**

\*\*If your child will be **absent** from school, please call the main office at 978-692-2708 and press 1 before 8:30 am to report the absence.

\*\*If you need to **dismiss your child early** from school, please send in a note with your child on the morning of the dismissal to bring to the main office so they can receive a dismissal slip. A parent/guardian will need to sign the child out at the main office when they pick them up.

\*\*If your child arrives at school **after 7:35 am**, they need to report to the office to sign in and receive a pass to their class. If your child will arrive **tardy to school after 8:30 am**, please call the main office at 978-692-2708 and press 1 before 8:30 am to report the tardy.

### **Stony Brook events calendar and website**

Throughout the school year we post important events and information on the [Stony Brook Events Calendar](#). This includes holidays and no school days, evening events for families, and after school activities. Here is a link to the Stony Brook website: <https://www.westfordk12.us/stony-brook>

## **Stony Brook's Instagram**

If you would like to follow us on Instagram to see what is happening at Stony Brook, please follow us at @sbpanthers.

## **Information from the district and/or community:**

### **The Night I Died at the Palace Theater—Mystery-comedy production at Blanchard 5/9 and 5/10**

The cast and crew of Blanchard Theatre Arts is proud to present: The Palace Theatre actors are just getting ready to rehearse the final scene for their latest production, "I Ain't Got No Body," when they run into a snag. The director who wrote the play is found dead onstage. Lois is shocked into an allergy attack! Ava faints! Luther orders a pizza! There's a lot of disbelief among the troupe until it becomes quite evident that Dexter Allan has, indeed, shuffled off this mortal coil. Not only that, he owed several of the actors a lot of money. "I know you can't take it with you," Gordon moans, "but apparently you can take somebody else's!" And then Frances dies! Only she doesn't really die. And then the pizza kid shows up. Only he really isn't the pizza kid. The one thing they all are sure of is their director is dead ... or is he? Timothy accuses Gordon! Glenda accuses Dana! Luther can't figure out where his pizza is. And baby-faced detective Jimmy Todd has to put together all the clues. Maybe, thinks Jimmy, there are clues in the play they are producing. After all, Dexter wrote it. Was he trying to leave a hint? Or was he murdered for what was in that missing final scene? Clues intermingle with unveiled threats as cast member turns against cast member. Who heard Dexter's final words? Who kept threatening him for all to hear? And just when is Luther going to get his pizza anyway? This comedy-filled mystery is brought to you by Pat Cook, the author of *Death and Taxes* and *Three Murders and It's Only Monday!* Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois. Click [HERE](#) for a poster about the production.

Online Ticket sales begin Sunday, 4/28 at <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/82240>. Tickets are \$12 online, \$10 for students, and \$15 at the door 45 minutes prior to each performance (cash or check only). The two shows are Thursday, 5/9/24 at 7 p.m. and Friday, 5/10/24 at 7 p.m. at Blanchard Middle School, 14 West Street, Westford, MA

## **News from the SEPAC**

Please join the Westford SEPAC, on **May 2nd @ 7pm** at the Millennium Building, for our Spring Business Meeting to learn more about special education topics within our district. We will be discussing the results from our annual Parent/Caregiver Survey, our recommendations to the district and initiatives for the next school year. All families of WPS students and interested community members are invited to attend. RSVP is not necessary but is helpful for planning purposes: [RSVP HERE](#). If you would like to attend virtually, follow this [ZOOM LINK](#). Please contact the SEPAC at [sepacwestford@gmail.com](mailto:sepacwestford@gmail.com) with any questions of concerns.

## **Science Fair opportunity for middle schoolers**

Some Westford Academy students have organized a science fair geared towards elementary and middle school students from grades K-8 on May 11th where students can present their projects (similar to the STEM fair hosted by the Westford elementary schools) and compete for an award. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

## **Westford Academy Ghost Youth Football Clinic**

The Westford Academy Football team is running their 3rd Annual Youth Football Clinic!

Clinic info: No experience needed/ Flag and tackle players welcome. Athletes will be taught by WA coaches and players. 60\$ to register- all proceeds go to WA football.

Dates: June 10-12/ 5:30-8pm/ At Westford Academy Turf

To register- [www.westfordacademyfootball.com](http://www.westfordacademyfootball.com)

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### **SUMMER BASKETBALL OFFERINGS FROM THE WA GIRLS' BASKETBALL PROGRAM**

#### **WA GIRLS' BASKETBALL SUMMER CLINIC - June 24-27, girls entering 2nd through 9th grades**

The Westford Academy Girls' Basketball program is running its annual summer clinic for girls entering Second grade through Ninth grade. Held in the Main and Aux gyms at Westford Academy, the clinic is for girls of all levels of ability and experience who want to play basketball and learn and refine their skills in a fun and supportive environment. Half day and full day options are available, and there is a sibling discount. The clinic counselors are members of the WA Girls' Varsity Basketball team, and the clinic is run by current Bowdoin College basketball player and WA graduate Carly Davey and current coaches Cammy Desrochers (WA '17) and Russell Coward. Please click [here for the registration form](#), and feel free to contact Russ Coward at [rcoward@westfordk12.us](mailto:rcoward@westfordk12.us) with any questions.

#### **WA GIRLS' BASKETBALL SUMMER MINI-CLINIC - June 20 and 21, girls entering 1st through 5th grades**

Since school ends Tuesday, June 18th, we are also offering a mini-clinic at the Crisafulli School. We will have access to the indoor and outdoor basketball courts, so this clinic is perfect for all levels of players entering First grade through Fifth grade. This clinic will run from 8:30am to 11:00am on Thursday, June 20 and Friday June 21. The clinic counselors are members of the WA Girls' Varsity Basketball team, and the clinic is run by current Bowdoin College basketball player and WA graduate Carly Davey and current coaches Cammy Desrochers (WA '17) and Russell Coward. Please click [here for the registration form](#), and feel free to contact Russ Coward at [rcoward@westfordk12.us](mailto:rcoward@westfordk12.us) with any questions.

### **WESTFORD EDUCATION FOUNDATION CLASS OF 2024 FUNDRAISERS!!**

We are so excited to announce our fundraisers for the Class of 2024! Balloons are back and we are also offering Class of 2024 Grad lawn signs. We are so proud of our Seniors and cannot wait to see the support all over town. We are only offering curbside pick up, please click on the link for order information and further details. Celebrate the Grad in your life - your own, your neighbor's, your friend's, your child's friends, your babysitters, nieces & nephews.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS 5/24!! DON'T MISS OUT!** Visit our website [www.westford.org/wef](http://www.westford.org/wef) to place your orders.

Proceeds from these fundraisers will be used to provide innovative education and professional development grants to Westford Public Schools. We know there are many ways to support our graduates; we thank you for choosing to also support WEF as we fulfill our mission to support innovative education while we give directly back into our community and support our schools!

### **Video webinars and recordings to assist families**

This year WA has a partnership with an organization called Cartwheel, which includes the ability for free attendance at monthly webinars and access to the recordings of those webinars after the initial presentation. The topics include information that many families may find helpful.

Below are links to the recordings of past webinars:

[Five Keys to Parenting Children with ADHD](#)

[Raising Healthy Kids in a Digital World](#)

[Addressing School-Related Anxiety and School Avoidance \(English\)](#)  
[How and when to seek mental health support for your child or teen](#)  
[Understanding OCD and tic disorders in children and adolescents](#)  
[Breaking generational cycles: Rewriting parenting patterns](#)  
[Demystifying Teens: Helping preteens and teens thrive](#)

Here is the topic for the next webinar on **May 7 at 7:30 pm**: Finding the words: How to effectively speak with kids and teens about suicide and mental health- Click [HERE](#) to register.

**Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth - free resources for families**

Massachusetts Partnerships for Youth (MPY) has a [MPY Parenting Solutions Library](#) available for families. You can also access this through the district website by clicking [HERE](#).