

Dear Stony Brook Families,

This month is Cybersecurity Awareness Month and we are in the process of having every student change their password for the Google accounts, which connect to all online school access, including PowerSchool and online apps they use. Mrs. Smith has been and will continue to visit classes throughout the next several days to help ensure that all students go through this process completely and accurately. On Tuesday we had our first lesson with cybersecurity using a choice board that students accessed during morning advisory. They will have a second task next Tuesday. The goal is to help all of our students become more aware of how to stay safe online.

This week our 6th and 7th graders had their first ADL lesson. ADL Peer Leaders visited advisory groups on Wednesday or Thursday and introduced them to the program, A World of Difference, which is designed to empower people, challenge prejudice, and promote respect for individual differences. Both grades participated in activities to help students see and learn about similarities with their peers—ask your 6th grader about the ‘Race to Connection’ activity and ask your 7th grader about the ‘Dominoes’ activity. Groups ended by working together to complete a challenge that required teamwork and paying attention to others in the group. Our 8th graders will have a teacher-led ADL lesson later this month and will have more ADL lessons throughout the school year.

Some of our 8th graders reached out to see if we could host a book drive to support [Up With Books](#). The book drive for new or gently used books for children will start on Monday, 10/23, and go up until Monday, 11/13. Up With Books provides new books to underprivileged children and their families and promotes reading and literacy. They work with homeless shelters, food pantries, and community organizations to support these children. There will be a box in the lobby to collect all types of books for children, from picture books to novels. Thank you for your support of this effort.

Next Thursday is an early release day, so buses and pick-up will begin at 11:00. Staff will be participating in professional development in the afternoon. There will not be lunch served, but breakfast will be available between 7:25 and 7:35. We will be sharing new plans for more access to breakfast every day in the next couple of weeks.

Finally, thank you to all of the families who have generously contributed to the PTO’s No Fuss Fundraiser. There are details below, but as a preview of that information they are at 60% of the \$15,000 goal with only 23% of families donating to the fundraiser. If you have not had a chance to contribute, please click [HERE](#) to do so. We appreciate your support of our PTO, our students, and our staff.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Below is important information for families:

ATTENTION: Child Find Obligation

It is the responsibility of Westford Public Schools to identify any child who may have a disability who is either a resident of Westford or who attends a private school within the geographic boundaries of Westford even if the student is not a resident of Westford. This also includes students who are homeschooled.

Westford Public Schools is also responsible for the evaluation of those students to determine if they are eligible for special education or related services under Federal law, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) or, Massachusetts State Law, 603 CMR 28 (Massachusetts Special Education Regulations).

Westford Public Schools is also committed to identifying children before their third birthday in order to provide early intervention services for three and four year-olds with disabilities. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's development and would like to have them screened, please contact Gerard Coughlin, Director of Special Education & Social Emotional Learning, at gcoughlin@westfordk12.us

If you suspect that your child may need an evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services, you may request an evaluation, at no cost, through Westford Public Schools, Office of Special Education & Social Emotional Learning.

Please contact us at the following:

Westford Public Schools
Office of Special Education & Social Emotional Learning
23 Depot Street
Westford, MA 01886
gcoughlin@westfordk12.us

Yearbook

You can get a 10% discount if you purchase a 2023-2024 yearbook until October 31, 2023. Students will bring home fliers as well. Click on this link: <https://www.treering.com/purchase?PassCode=1015224146213733>

PTO Fundraising Update–We're in the Final Stretch

We thank the parents who have already donated to the PTO's The Stony Brook School PTO's **ANNUAL "NO-FUSS" FUNDRAISER**

10/18 FUNDRAISING UPDATE: We are at 60% of our \$15,000 GOAL with only 23% of families donating to this Fundraiser! The suggested donation is \$60 PER STUDENT or \$100 PER FAMILY, but any amount is greatly appreciated.

Since parent donations are the PTO's primary source of funding we urge you to please consider contributing to help us reach our goal of \$15,000. Without your help the PTO cannot fulfill its annual commitments to the school which include **Academic Enrichment Programs** for the students, **Mini Grants** for teachers, Gr.8 Celebration Event, and more. All donations are tax-deductible

DONATE **HERE** (No PayPal account needed). If you prefer to donate by check you can send it to the Main Office Checks should be made payable to 'WEPTO-Stony Brook School'. Kindly put it in an envelope addressed to SBSPTO and include your email address in it.

Deadline: October 31, 2023

Our next SBSPTO meeting is on zoom, Tuesday 10/24 at 7:30pm. Please email stonybrookschoolpto@gmail.com to receive the meeting link.

Here are the upcoming **PTO Meeting Dates**.

Basketball season is almost here!

Westford Youth Basketball Association's programs are open for registration. Programs available for students in grades K-12th. But don't delay! The early bird discount ends on October 31st! Please click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Calmer Con Boston–Saturday, 10/21

Calm Passion is a 501(c)3 Registered Nonprofit Organization whose mission is to create more accessible and accommodating family events to meet the needs of those with autism, sensory processing, and anxiety concerns. Calm Passion, in association with the Boston Comic Art Foundation, will hold Calmer Con Boston on October 21, 2023 at the Meadowbrook School located in Weston. This is a free event, and prior registration is required to assure they maintain appropriate staffing and crowd levels during the convention. There are two sessions, each functioning as their own complete event, which allows their team to service twice as many attendees while also maintaining proper sensory levels throughout the day.

There will be many of the typical comic convention activities, such as having costumed superheroes, princesses, and Star Wars characters in attendance. We also feature artists, vendors, photo opportunities, and costume contests. On top of these typical comic convention activities, the Calm Passion team has added things like brick building, art, Superhero Academy, and Jedi Training spaces to support the wide range of interests of our attendees. We also provide tables for professional service providers and nonprofits to expose families to services they may not know exist in their communities. Everything is designed with sensory and space accommodations in mind, including a Calmer Space where attendees can relax and recharge in a sensory neutral environment before returning to enjoy more of the fun.

We are also very excited to announce that our Special Guest for Calmer Con Boston is the artist of the extremely popular Ordinary People Change the World series of books, which is also the inspiration for PBS's Xavier Riddle, **Christopher Eliopoulos!**

Registration for Calmer Con Boston and more information about this family friendly can be found here: www.calmercon.org

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PRESENTATION-Monday, 10/23

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
LIGHT UP THE TOWN PURPLE!

The Westford Coalition for Non-Violence, WCNV will be providing a PowerPoint Presentation on "Healthy Relationships, Understanding Abuse, Setting Boundaries, and Identifying Warning Signs," followed by guided meditation with our Regional Community Health & Wellness Coordinator.

This content may be triggering or disturbing to some participants.

Date: Monday, October 23, 2023

Time: 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, followed by 10 min of guided meditation.

Location: J.V. Fletcher Library, 50 Main Street, Westford MA, Main Meeting Room

Register: By clicking on this link

<https://westfordlibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/westford-health-dept-healthy-relationships/>

Change of Mental Health Services for Westford Residents

As of December 1, 2023, the Town of Westford will no longer have access to the William James Interface Referral Service. Please click [HERE](#) for more information about services that are available.

Happy Halloween Party - 10/27 from 7-9 pm at Roudenbush

Roudenbush is holding the annual Happy Halloween Party for the middle schools! The party is on October 27, from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets are \$10 and are limited! They will have a DJ and all kinds of fun! Please click [HERE](#) for more information. They are also in need of parent volunteers. Here is their [sign-up genius](#).

Trunk or Treat - 10/27

The event will take place on October 27th from 5-7pm at the Westford Academy Senior Parking Lot. Elementary and middle school students will be trick-or-treating out of car trunks that are set up and hosted by various Westford Academy student organizations. There will be candy and treats in the trunks! The students who participate in this event are encouraged to dress in their Halloween costumes.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS, NAMI ENDING THE SILENCE PRESENTATION

NAMI Ending the Silence: Learn about the warning signs of mental health conditions and what steps to take if you or a loved one are showing symptoms of a mental health condition. This presentation is designed for parents/guardians and family members of K-12 students. Presentations include two leaders: one who shares an informative presentation and a young adult with a mental health condition who shares their journey of recovery. Audience members can ask questions and gain an understanding of an often-misunderstood topic. Through dialogue, we can help grow the movement to end stigma.

Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM-8:15 PM

Location: J.V. Fletcher Library 50 Main Street, Westford MA, Main Meeting Room

Register by emailing Brittany Nash, bnash@westfordma.gov

Westford Middle School Junior Ghosts Hockey

Registration for Westford Middle School Junior Ghosts Hockey is open!

Key details:

- *Open to boys and girls who reside in Westford or attend Westford schools
- *Open to boys and girls in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade
- *Teams will be formed in early November and entered in the Valley Middle School Hockey League.
- *Teams will be assembled based on the number of players at each level. Some grades may be partially or completely combined with others.
- *There will be no body-checking at any level.

Included in tuition are the following: jersey, socks, games and any practices. Note: Middle school hockey typically only has one pre-season practice. The remainder of the season is games-only. The VMSHL is a "supplemental league," meaning that they are aware that your child already plays on another team. VMSHL tries to schedule games at non-peak times, usually on Sunday or Saturday evenings. If your child's other team is a regular VHL team, they know this, and they also try to specifically avoid scheduling MS games that conflict with your regular VHL games.

Season description:

The season typically begins with a "parity jamboree" in November to set initial parity seedings for the season. There are usually 3-4 parity groupings for each level in VMSHL. Adjustments do get made during the season. There is typically a scheduled practice for each team before the jamboree to hand out uniforms and get the team up and running.

Games are anticipated to begin in mid-December and run up to Feb vacation. All teams make the playoffs, which are single-elimination and run over February vacation.

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

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.

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.