

Dear Stony Brook Families,

This week our PTO sponsored an academic enrichment program for our 7th graders. Students participated in an assembly about ancient Egypt, which included artifacts and stories about ancient Egyptian culture and practices. Many of our students were able to wear the jewelry that Paulette Morin brought with her as part of her presentation. Thank you to our PTO and all of our families for making this experience possible for our 7th graders.

Our 8th graders will receive registration information about the class trip into Boston on Monday. There will be two day trips into Boston on May 22 and May 23. They will have a packet of information from Capital Tours and a salmon colored permission slip. Registration and the permission slip are due on December 15. Please be sure to ask your 8th grader for the packet on Monday after school. On Monday morning, 8th graders will have a chance to share their preferences for the third day of the class trip, which will take place during the last week of school in June.

There are some exciting events coming up in the next couple of weeks at Stony Brook. On Wednesday, 11/22, we will hold our second annual fall Panthermonium Games. Students will spend the morning with their advisory groups and participate in a variety of activities and competitions. It is a day not to be missed! On Friday, December 1, we will hold our first dance of the year. The Student Leadership Council will share more information with students next week. As a preview, the dance will be from 7-9 pm on 12/1 in the gym at Stony Brook. All Stony Brook students are welcome to attend. We'll send out more information next week. On Friday, December 1 during Integrated Arts and World Language classes, all students will have the chance to see a preview of our SBTA production of Newsies, Jr. More information about the performances that will occur during the weekend of December 7, will be shared with families soon.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the book drive that was organized by four of our 8th graders, Rachel, Brooke, Adhya, and Clara. They surpassed their goal of 500 books and are close to reaching their updated goal of 700 books to support Up With Books. They will be collecting books through Monday, November 13.

Tomorrow there is no school in observance of Veterans Day. We wish all of our families who are celebrating Diwali on Sunday a wonderful holiday.

Enjoy the long weekend!

Sincerely,  
Allison and Rick

**Below is important information for families:**

**Can Drive to Support Westford Food Pantry– “CAN the principals is happening!”**

Our Student Leadership Council is holding a can drive to support the Westford Food Pantry through Friday, November 17. They are accepting canned goods, dry goods, and personal items. Students bring their contributions to Advisory to be tallied and then they fill the offices of Mr. McElhinney and Ms. Hammer to ‘Can

the Principals.' Their goal is 1204 items total, which is possible if every student brings in two items. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this worthy cause.

### **Some Notes From the Nurse's Office:**

Cold and flu season is here. Just a few reminders for if your child isn't feeling well:

\*\*School protocol states any student with a fever of 100.4 F should stay home. They must remain fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

\*\*If a student is home for vomiting and diarrhea, they must be home for 24 hours from their last episode before returning to school.

\*\*Persistent cough is a reason to stay home. It is disruptive to the classroom and is a reason for dismissal.

\*\*Students go outside during break and during lunch. It is important they wear appropriate clothing for the weather. The cold does not cause illness. But being cold may cause shivering which decreases the immune system.

\*\*The school does not provide cough drops. If you feel your child needs cough drops, you can send some with them.

\*\*Encourage fluids, a balanced diet, and plenty of rest to help combat these illnesses and seasonal issues.

Just a reminder to parents that home medication should not be sent to school with students, and students should not be taking medication unsupervised. If there is medication (over the counter or prescription) that you feel your child needs during school hours, you must bring the medication in, provide the doctor's order, and the medicine must be properly labeled and stored here in the clinic. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns.

### *7th Grade parents:*

Starting this month, vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings will be taking place. If you would like your child to be opted out, please notify Shannon O'Donnell, the School Nurse, by Friday November 10, 2022 via email at [sodonnell@westfordk12.us](mailto:sodonnell@westfordk12.us).

### **MathCounts**

The 2023-2024 MathCounts competition is here! It is a great opportunity to meet young Mathletes across Massachusetts. The MATHCOUNTS Competition Series, created in 1983, is the longest-running MATHCOUNTS program and is open to all 6th-, 7th- and 8th-grade students. You can learn more information from <https://www.mathcounts.org/> Here, we are calling all students with any sort of math skill to come join us and have fun! The first official practice competition round is in the second half of November. Please contact the school team coach, Jinqi Xu, ASAP if your child is interested. His contact information is [xujinqi@hotmail.com](mailto:xujinqi@hotmail.com)

### **News from the SEPAC**

SEPAC Meeting Nov 15th @7pm in the Millennium Building Conference Room B  
Q&A with Dr. Chris Chew and Gerard Coughlin

Please join the Westford SEPAC at our November meeting. Dr. Chris Chew, Superintendent of WPS and Gerard Coughlin, Director of Special Education and SEL, will speak on current topics regarding special education in Westford and answer any questions that attendees may have. Please consider submitting your

question in advance [HERE](#). You are welcome to submit a question even if you are unable to attend the meeting. [RSVP](#) for this event is not necessary but is helpful for planning purposes.

Virtual Option available if you are unable to attend in person: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86711405802>  
Please reach out to the SEPAC with questions at [sepacwestford@gmail.com](mailto:sepacwestford@gmail.com)

### **Darba Celebration - Friday, 11/17 at WA**

The Westford Academy South Asian Student Association (SASA) is having the second annual Darba (Diwali + Garba) celebration on Friday, November 17th from 6:00 - 10:00 pm in the WA Cafeteria. Aiming to promote South Asian culture within the Westford Academy school environment and providing a sense of belonging for all our students, Darba celebrates the holiday of Diwali, the festival of lights, along with a traditional Indian folk dance, Garba. With food, dance, and other activities, we expect another enjoyable and fun night for all! We hope that you will be able to attend the event, and also help us spread the word to your students, your neighbors, and your families! Darba tickets are on sale now - you can purchase your tickets via Venmo (@wasasa). Please click [HERE](#) for more details.

You can follow SASA on social media for news and updates: @westfordacademysasa (Instagram) and <https://www.facebook.com/westfordacademysasa> (Facebook).

### **Gift of Giving Campaign at Paper Store to Support WEPTO**

Westford Parent Teacher Organization (WEPTO) has partnered with the Paper Store in Westford for their annual "Gift of Giving" charity event that runs 11/20-11/26. Purchase their 2023 Gift of Giving Ornament for \$3.99 and WEPTO will receive \$1 and you will receive a 20% off coupon to be used during your visit. Please see the details on the [flyer](#).

### **Class of 2025 Pie Fundraiser**

The Class of 2025 is partnering with Mann Orchards to bring you your holiday pies. Each pie costs \$15 with the exception of pecan, costing \$18. The last day to order and pay for your holiday pie through us will be 3 pm on December 2nd during Westford Academy's Holiday Bazaar. Payment must be received by that date in order to secure your order. We will accept cash, check, or myschoolbucks. You should plan to pick up your pre-ordered pies Thursday, December 21st from 4pm-5:30pm at Westford Academy. Click here to [order](#) your pie(s) and click here to [pay via MySchoolBucks](#). Thank you for your support.

### **Westford Academy's senior event, LAST NIGHT, is currently looking for more volunteers!**

*What is Last Night and why should YOU get involved?* Last Night is an all-night event for graduating seniors at Westford Academy, allowing them a night of safe fun after graduation! The event takes an army of 250+ volunteers to run each year and is a great opportunity to volunteer and support the community and specifically the graduating students of Westford!

If your children are elementary or middle school aged, this is the PERFECT time to begin volunteering for this incredible culminating event for seniors. This event has been in existence for more than 25 years and will ONLY continue if parents show up to volunteer their time. Parents of graduating seniors cannot attend the event making it the perfect opportunity for parents of younger students to step up and pay it forward.

### **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](mailto:bnash@westfordma.gov)

### **Festival of Trees, Wreaths, Creative Gingerbread/Gnomes, and More!**

The Westford Family FunFest\* and Westford Rotary Club invite the public and organizations to participate in and visit the 13th Annual Festival of Trees, Wreaths, and Creative Holiday/Cultural & Gingerbread/Gnomes Celebration. The festival will be held at the Westford Regency Inn, 219 Littleton Rd., Westford, from **December 8, 2023, to January 2, 2024**. The Westford Regency Atrium and Lobby and selected other areas will be decorated with trees, wreaths, and creative holiday and gingerbread/gnome creations.

Opening Night Celebration on Friday, **December 8 from 6:30–8:00 pm** with music, cookies, and hot chocolate too. Clarks will be open too. Saturday and Sunday, December 16-17, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Brunch with Santa, including a craft area by Westford Girl Scouts. Music presented by the Westford Girl Scouts. Free photos with Santa will be offered too (bring your own camera). For reservations for Breakfast with Santa, call 978-692-8200, ext. 520, or visit the Westford Regency website or Facebook page. Visit [www.westford.org/funfest](http://www.westford.org/funfest) for details and an application to be part of the festival. Check out the Westford Family FunFest Facebook page. Open to individuals, groups, organizations, and schools, come join in the FUN!!!

### **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.