

Dear Stony Brook Families,

We had our second and final ALICE Drill today and it went very well. We made an announcement at the beginning of the Advisory period that we would be having the drill, which was followed by an announcement that the building was on alert and that students should evacuate the building with their Advisory group. Students took the drill very seriously and evacuated quietly and quickly.

With only three days of school this week, it was short and went very quickly. Students have been great about handling the interrupted schedule and have remained engaged and invested in their learning.

At the bottom of this email I have included pictures of the MVRT buses with artwork from the 2022 Cool Science competition winner, Naomi, who is a current 7th grader at Stony Brook. We are very proud of her!

We hope that you and your family enjoy the long weekend in celebration of Veterans Day tomorrow.

Allison and Rick

Here is some important information for families:

8th Grade Washington DC Trip Deadline - Friday, November 18

8th graders planning to travel to Washington DC must be registered with Capital Tours by *November 18*. Airline tickets and hotel reservations need to be confirmed for the specific size of our group. If your child is not registered by November 18 there will not be a seat for them on the trip. Please go to <https://www.capitaltours.net/> and choose 'Register' in the top right corner to complete online registration.

Chromebook Damage and Opportunity to Purchase Insurance

We have had an increase in damage to Chromebooks and requests for repairs and loaners. If insurance for the Chromebook has been purchased then there is no cost for the repairs, but if a student's Chromebook is uninsured then repairs need to be paid for by the student's family.

The cost for repairs are listed below:

- **LCD/Screen replacement: \$70.00
- **Keyboard replacement: \$60.00
- **Bezels (surrounds screens): \$25.00
- **Hinge replacement: \$20.00
- **Replacement chargers: \$25.00
- **Other parts charged as needed (i.e. cameras, top or bottom cases, etc.)

We have asked that the portal to purchase insurance for the Chromebooks be reopened to allow families the chance to purchase the insurance and avoid the possibility of needing to pay the fees listed above. The link for information about purchasing insurance is [HERE](#). Each grade will have their own link with pricing based on the number of years that students will continue to be at the middle school. *The portal will remain open from November 10 through November 23 for purchasing insurance.*

What to do if your child is absent or will arrive to school after 8:30 am

It is important that if your child is absent from school for any reason or will arrive tardy from school after 8:30 am that there is a call made to the school to report the absence before 8:00 am. Please call the main office at

978-692-2708 before 8:00 am to report the absence or late arrival. We appreciate your help as we keep track of and manage student attendance.

What to do about Flu, COVID, RSV, Strep, the Common Cold, and other Viruses

If you've seen the news, you have heard that flu, COVID, and RSV are circulating, along with strep and a variety of other viruses. We work very hard to combat these viruses and illnesses here at Stony Brook. Our custodians routinely disinfect areas of high traffic and high touch areas, teachers have the windows open to increase ventilation, and there are air purifiers throughout the building. With this being said, we need your help!

- **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.
- **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.
- **If your child is not feeling well, keep them home. They can access some assignments via Google Classroom and teachers will allow time for making up missed assignments upon return.
- **COVID is still here. If you or your child are having cold symptoms, we encourage you to test before sending your child to school.
- **Encourage fluids, a balanced diet, and plenty of rest to help combat these illnesses and seasonal issues.

Grade 7 Vision, Hearing, Height, and Weight Screening Information

Starting the week of November 14, 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 11, 2022 via email at sodonnell@westfordk12.us.

Upcoming Panorama Survey for All Students—Opt Out Open Through 11/18

We thank you and your family for being our valued partners as we work together to educate the children in our district. Westford Public Schools values input from our community – and we need to hear from your child or children! Students are important partners as we work to improve our communication, academic program, and overall experience for everyone.

To learn more about our students and their experiences, we will be asking for your child to reflect on their own mindsets and approaches to learning via an online survey they will be completing at school. The survey administration window is scheduled to take place between the weeks of December 5, 2022 and December 16, 2022. The survey shouldn't take more than 20-30 minutes to complete. The survey is available to view in the main office. Please complete the Google Form by November 18, 2022 ONLY if you would like to OPT OUT your child out of taking the survey. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the Panorama survey.

If you would like to opt your child out of taking the survey, please click this link: [Panorama Opt Out Google Form](#)

'One Warm Coat' Drive - through 11/18

One of our 7th graders is spearheading a coat drive to support those in need through the 'One Warm Coat' in Lowell. If you have coats that are no longer worn, please consider donating them to support this important

cause. Coats may be brought into school until Friday, November 18. Coats should be gently used with no stains or rips and the zippers need to work. Please click [HERE](#) for more information about the ways you can contribute to this coat drive.

For the Love of Erika Toy Drive - 11/28-12/9

Stony Brook will participate in a toy drive in memory of a Westford resident, Erika Gould, who passed away from cancer at the age of 7. Contributions help children through DCF and who are at local hospitals or shelters. We will be collecting new, unopened, and unwrapped toys between 11/28 and 12/9. Please click [HERE](#) for more specific information about the ways you can contribute to the toy drive.

Reminder about School Start Time and Avoiding Tardy Arrivals

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of students who are arriving at school after or very close to the 7:35 bell, which makes them tardy for school. It is very important that students are already in the building and at their Advisory when the bell rings at 7:35 so that they do not miss out on important learning time with their teachers.

Morning Drop Off Safety Reminder

If you drop your child off in the morning, please be mindful that there are school bus vans entering the back parking lot from the road that cars who drop off are exiting. Please be sure to stop at that stop sign and check for the van before turning left to exit. There have been quite a few 'near misses' and we don't want anyone to get hurt. Thank you.

PTO Holiday Apparel Sale

The Stony Brook and Blanchard School PTOs are holding a joint **Holiday Sale for Westford Apparel**. All earnings will be used to fund PTO initiatives that benefit the students. These items make great holiday gifts for students, parents, and family members so place your orders [HERE](#) and support your school. The deadline to order is **Sunday, November 13, 2022. Orders will be ready for pick-up at Stony Brook School on or around December 15.**

Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy Program

If your child is proficient in two or more languages, they may be eligible for the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy upon high school graduation. Please click [HERE](#) for the information about this program.

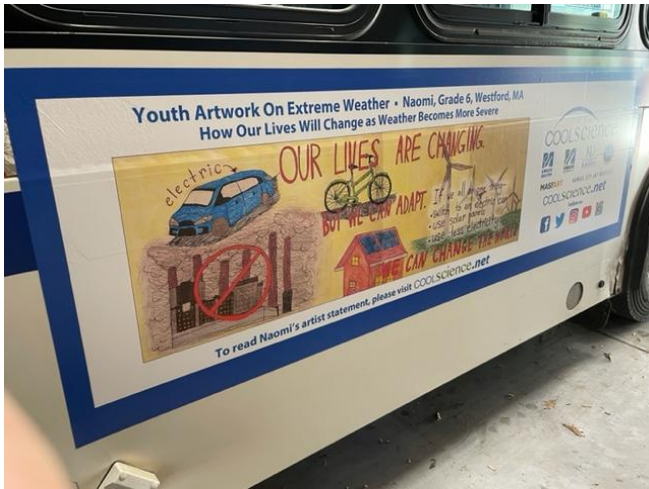
Veterans Day Basketball Clinic - Tomorrow!

On Friday, November 11, there will be a basketball clinic at Westford Academy for grade 3-8 boys (8-10 am) and girls (10 am-12 pm). Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Westford Middle School Hockey

If your child is interested in joining the Westford Middle School Junior Ghost Hockey, please review the Westford Middle School Hockey website and please contact Mike Bonenfant with any questions. Please click [HERE](#) for detailed information about the seasons and registration.

Pictures of MVRT buses with Stony Brook 7th grader, Naomi's artwork:



To learn more about the contest and upcoming contests, please visit coolscience.net.