

Dear Stony Brook Families,

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Student Leadership Council's can drive. Over the past few weeks, and especially the past couple of days our offices have become filled with generous contributions that will support our community members at the Westford Food Pantry. The students were excited for the fun of filling our offices, but more importantly, they began to see how much the Stony Brook community is giving to those in need. Ultimately, that understanding of the importance of being able to help others is what we hope our students take away from drives like this one.

Our first school dance of the year will be on Friday, December 1, from 7-9 pm, and tickets (\$10) will be sold at school beginning next week. They will also be available at the door.

This week all three grades participated in ADL lessons during advisory. Sixth graders participated in an iceberg activity and 7th and 8th graders focused on different -isms. Ask your child about what they learned from their peers and teachers during ADL.

Next week is a short week, with an 11:00 release on Wednesday and no school on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will also be our Panthermonium games during which advisories will participate in various fun competitions and activities, as well as connect to our PRIDE core values.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Below is important information for families:

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).

8th Grade Class Trips to Boston—Registration due 12/15

All 8th graders brought home a packet from Capital Tours and a permission slip for the two day trips to Boston on May 22 and May 23. The registration and permission slip are due on December 15. If your child needs a new copy of the information, we have them in the main office.

ELPAC Meeting - Thursday, November 30

The November ELPAC meeting will be Thursday, November 30, from 6:30-7:30 on Google Meet. Topics will include: ACCESS testing, grading, and report cards. Click [HERE](#) for the flyer with more information and a QR code if you would like to send questions ahead of time. The Google Meet link is on the attached flyer and also [HERE](#). You can contact Helen Xia (xxia@westfordk12.us) about translation.

SBTA Fundraiser

A note from Andrea Watson:

Our wonderful SBTA Treasurer, Jenn Masterson, has been working hard on putting together our fall fundraiser. This is an online campaign that allows people to donate with a credit card, Venmo, or Paypal.

A little more about why we are raising money: Since I started here at Stony Brook, I have been slowly updating all of the systems in our performing arts center to make them align with current industry standards and equipment as well as being an easier step-up to the systems at Westford Academy. Through fundraising and generous WEF grants, I have purchased and installed a new light board, new sound board, 2 moving lights, one new spotlight and 5 new LED lights. My goal over the next 3-5 years is to replace all of the conventional lighting with LED lighting. This is for a variety of reasons, including more advanced lighting design capabilities, energy efficiency, and safety concerns (replacing the lightbulbs on conventional lights has to happen much more often and some of them are in locations that make it impossible to get to without a 50 ft ladder).

I have been working with Port Lighting to get a plan in place for this overhaul. The plan for this year is to replace our one older spotlight and our cyclorama lights. The quote for this year's project is about \$20,000.

I hope you consider donating to this cause - it will greatly enhance our future productions and the experiences of all of our students!

The link to the fundraiser can be found here: [SBTA Fundraiser](#)

For the Love of Erika Gift Card Donations

For the Love of Erika is a toy drive started by a former Westford student, Taylor Goodman-Leong. For the Love of Erika's mission is to bring smiles to children in need. This toy drive began in memory of Taylor's friend, Erika, who passed away in 2005. Since then, over 40,000 presents have been collected, wrapped, and delivered to children in various hospitals and shelters throughout New England.

This year, they are committed to supporting the shelters and hospitals that they have worked with for the past 17 years! We are looking for gift card donations. These gift cards will go to more than 200 children residing in local shelters as well as 4 hospitals that we continue to support. Please consider donating gift cards to stores such as Target, Walmart, Marshalls, Homegoods, etc. We aim to provide around \$20 gift cards to each child we are supporting. **This gift card collection will end on Friday, December 15th.** We will have an envelope in the main office to collect any gift card donations.

Blanchard School Play - 11/30-12/2

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience. An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box. *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* is a delightful den of comedic genius -- a fast-paced crowd pleaser and an instant theater patron favorite.

Three shows all at the Blanchard Middle School, 14 West Street, Westford, MA:

Thursday 11/30 at 7 p.m. performance

Friday, 12/1 at 7 p.m. performance

Saturday 12/2 at 1 p.m. performance (yes, 1 p.m., NOT 2 p.m.)

Tickets on sale beginning Sunday, 11/19/23 via Showtix4U: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/78286>

\$12 for adults

\$10 for students ages 5 through 18

No charge for children under age five

Please email jottesen@westfordk12.us if you need to purchase accessible seats

Any remaining tickets will be sold 45 minutes prior to each performance in the Blanchard School Lobby for \$15.

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.

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.

**Do you work during the day and have a difficult time volunteering for school events and bookfairs? Last Night runs 10pm-5am Friday to Saturday morning in June. Perfect opportunity for day shift workers! Plan now!

**Do you have young children at home and cannot secure babysitters to allow you to volunteer more?

Alternate with your significant other or close friend and volunteer at Last Night each year until your children become seniors!

**Do you have amazing ideas, traditions, or experiences that you can suggest making Last Night current, engaging and fun for students in 2024? Bring your ideas, and cultural experiences to our upcoming Meet & Greet info night, or better yet, join our coordinators to help make the senior's Last Night an event they will never forget!

**The coordinators meet one hour a month over zoom, making it very easy to participate.

**Our coordinator volunteer sign up is [HERE](#).

**Additional info and general/event volunteer signup can be found [HERE](#).

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 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](#).