

Dear Stony Brook Families,

We had a great day on Monday for the First Annual Panthermonium Games, which included trivia, and escape room, Panther PRIDE posters, and the very popular Turkey Toss. It was a great morning of friendly competition. Congratulations to Ms. Holden and Ms. Krampf's Advisory group, our champions.

We hope that you found the parent conference time as valuable as our teachers have. If for some reason you were unable to attend a conference or there were any technical difficulties, please reach out to your child's team about scheduling a conference during the school day in the coming weeks. Our PTO kept our teachers fed and focused with snacks provided throughout the conference times. We are very grateful for this support of our staff.

Thank you to all of the families who contributed to the coat drive to support our 'One Warm Coat' drive that was led by one of our 7th graders. We ended up with bags and bags of coats to contribute to those in need.

Westford Police Officers joined us this morning for a 'High Five' with students as they entered school. I've included some pictures at the bottom of this message.

We hope that you and your family enjoy a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday break.

Allison and Rick

**Here is some important information for families:**

**Ski Club Sign Up through November 30**

Ski Club Sign ups are happening until November 30th. The permission form can be found on the ski club website or by emailing Mrs. Sullivan at [ssullivan@westfordk12.us](mailto:ssullivan@westfordk12.us). All the information regarding ski club can be found at <https://sites.google.com/westfordk12.us/sb-skiclub/home>

If your child is trying out for basketball and needs to sign up for Ski Club after the team roster is finalized, we will extend the deadline by a few days.

**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 Courtney Moran, Director of Pupil Services, at [cmoran@westfordk12.us](mailto:cmoran@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 Student Support.

Please contact us at the following:

Office of Student Support  
23 Depot St., Westford, MA 01886  
978-692-5560 x 2111  
[cmoran@westfordk12.us](mailto:cmoran@westfordk12.us)

### **COVID-19 Tests Provided to All Students This Week**

To support a safe and healthy return to school after the Thanksgiving and winter breaks, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Public Health have worked with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to provide at-home COVID-19 tests at **no cost** to school districts across Massachusetts.

Westford schools distributed two COVID tests to all students and staff on Tuesday and will do so again prior to the December break. Tests are not mandatory, but a resource for individuals to use, at their discretion, should there be concerns about exposure over the school breaks.

### **Safety While Driving on Stony Brook Campus**

When you are driving on our school campus please be careful. We have had cars driving quite quickly through the parking lot and in the drop off lane of our school, which has led to two near-miss accidents involving pedestrians this week. Please drive slowly, do not drive in or through the parking lot during drop off or pick up time, and be sure to follow all 'do not enter' and 'one way' signs for safety reasons. We know that the morning and afternoon can be stressful times during drop off and pick up, so we appreciate your extra attention to ensure everyone's safety.

### **Basketball Tryouts Week of 11/28**

Tryouts for both Girls & Boys Basketball will begin on Monday, Nov. 28th. Girls' tryouts will be from 2-3:30 pm and boys' tryouts will be from 3:30-5:30 pm each day for the week of Nov. 28th. Girls should report directly to the gym after school. Boys should plan to go home and return to Stony Brook to meet Coach Duffet in the gym lobby at 3:30 pm. Due to the number of students trying out, it is important that girls are picked up promptly at 3:30 pm and boys leave school and return at the designated 3:30 pm time.

In order for students to be able to participate in tryouts they:

\*\*Must have a current Physical on file with the nurse

\*\*Must register for Stony Brook Basketball using Family ID.

Click here for registration: <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/westford-public-schools>

### **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.

### **Blanchard Theatre Arts Fall Musical - 12/1-12/3**

The Blanchard Fall Musical this year is CRAZY FOR YOU®: YOUTH EDITION. Performances will be Thursday, 12/1 at 7 pm, Friday, 12/2 at 7 pm, and Saturday, 12/3 at 2 pm. To purchase tickets and for more information please see this link: <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/69035>

Online sales are \$12/ticket before each performance. Sales close 3 hours prior to each performance. Tickets are \$15 each at the door sold 45 minutes prior to each performance.

### **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.

### **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.

### **ELPAC Night at JV Fletcher Library - 11/28**

The ELPAC (English Learner Parent Advisory Council) is teaming up with the JV Fletcher Librarians to host the ELPAC Night at the Library's PJ Storytime event. This will take place at the JV Fletcher Library and is for our younger learners on Monday, November 28th at 6:30 PM. Click [Here](#) to read our flyer.

### **Pictures from our High Five with Westford PD this morning:**

