

Dear Stony Brook Families,

We hope that you have enjoyed the beautiful weather this week! Our students have lucked out with a nice evening for Halloween trick or treating and some really nice days this week—it does not really seem like November. Next week we have an unusual schedule due to voting and Veterans Day. Students do not have school on Tuesday, November 8, and there is no school for students and staff on Friday, November 11.

Information was sent out earlier today about progress reports, which became available in PowerSchool around 2:00 pm today. Please see that email with details about how to access these in PowerSchool. If you have any questions about a progress report, please contact the teacher directly. The trimester does not end until December 2, so there is still time for students to make up anything they have missed and to continue showing their learning through their assignments, projects, and assessments.

There is a lot of important information in this memo including details about attendance, the Panorama survey, the PTO apparel sale, health protocols, the virtual Strategic District Improvement Plan feedback session next week, MathCounts, the MA State Seal Biliteracy program, basketball and hockey opportunities, school-based job openings, vision/hearing/height/weight screenings, school conferences, a coat drive led by a 7th grader, an upcoming Diwali and Garba celebration, a toy drive, and reminders about morning safety when dropping off students. I do apologize for the length, but hope you will scroll down to read more.

We hope you enjoy the weekend!

Allison and Rick

Here is some important information for families:

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

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](#)

Strategic District Improvement Plan Feedback Session Webinar - 11/9 at 7:00 pm

On Wednesday evening, November 9, Supt. Chew is conducting a virtual webinar at 7:00 to discuss the four priority areas that are being explored for Westford Public Schools' next Strategic District Improvement Plan. It will start with a brief presentation about the priorities and then provide opportunities for feedback. Similar to the conversations that have been taking place at each of the School Advisory Council meetings recently, we want to provide this presentation for anyone not able to attend one of the meetings at the schools.

When: Nov 9, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: WPS SDIP Feedback Session on Priorities

Register in advance for this webinar @

https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_YO4CoIrCS6eWdVufUgtXFA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

'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.

MathCounts

The 2022-2023 MathCounts competition is here! This year's contests will be in-person. 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/> 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 around mid-Nov. Please contact the school team coach, Jinqi Xu, ASAP to join. His contact information is xujinqi@hotmail.com

Parent - Teacher Conferences - November 21 and 22

Conferences will be held on Monday, November 21, from 12:00-6:00 pm and on Tuesday, November 22, from 7:40-9:00 am. Monday, 11/21, is an early release at 11:00 am, and Tuesday, 11/22, is a 2 hour delay with school starting at 9:35 am. *The SignUp Genius was sent to all families on Friday, 10/28, via Blackboard Connect.* 11/21 is an early release and 11/22 is a 2 hour delay for Stony Brook.

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

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.

Diwali and Garba Celebration - Monday, November 7, at Westford Academy

The South Asian Student Association at WA is hosting a party to celebrate Diwali and Garba on Monday, November 7, from 6-9 pm. Please click [HERE](#) for information about this event.

WPS Food Service Job Opportunity

WPS Food Services Department is looking to hire full time and part time experienced and dedicated food service professionals to work in Westford's school cafeterias. Are you looking for a full time (28/hrs/wk) or part time (20/hrs/wk) job in a school system with great benefits? We are looking for enthusiastic cooks, general workers, and daily substitutes. You'll have summers, school vacations and national holidays off and best of all: no traveling to work on snow days! Benefits include up to ten paid holidays and sick days per year, two personal days, incentive and perfect attendance bonuses, uniform and shoe allowances, etc...Positions start immediately or upon your availability. Please email me at: cwallace@westfordk12.us