

Dear Stony Brook Families,

Last night we had the opening of Newsies, Jr. and the show was fantastic! Congratulations to the cast and crew for their incredible work over the past months to make this production such a success. Thank you to all of the families who have had modified schedules to accommodate the extended rehearsals and commitments that are part of a show like this. We hope you will have a chance to see it tonight or tomorrow.

Grades close for the first trimester today. Teachers will be working on completing grading of assessments and projects and determining trimester grades. Report cards will be released on Friday 12/22. We will also open up the sign up for conferences on 12/22. Conferences will be Wednesday, January 10, and Thursday, January 11, from 11:45-4:15 each day. Families will have access to report cards on PowerSchool to help inform them about which teachers they want to meet for conferences.

Happy Hanukkah to all of our families who celebrate the holiday.

Enjoy the weekend!

Sincerely,
Allison and Rick

Below is important information for families:

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

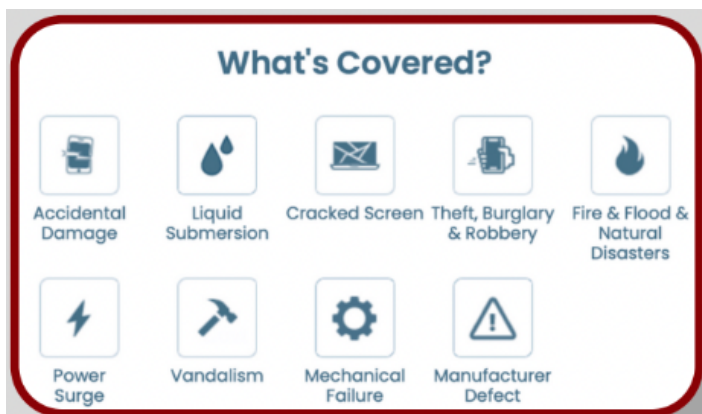
Registration for our 8th grade class trip to Boston on May 22 and May 23 is ongoing and the deadline is Friday, December 15. Students brought home a registration packet from Capital Tours and a peach colored permission slip. If your child needs a new copy of the information, we have them in the main office. To register please complete the information online here: <https://www.capitaltours.net/register>. You will receive an email confirming registration and it will include login information to complete the payment process.

After registration closes, we will identify an opportunity closer to the trip date for students to provide input into their groups for the two days in Boston. Each student will have the opportunity to join with up to 5 additional friends to form a group of up to 6 friends who will be grouped together on the buses and throughout the class trip for both days. We will not be using advisory groups for this class trip.

Chromebook Insurance Portal Reopened

We have had some broken Chromebooks, as always happens. The cost of the repairs can be high, so in an effort to help make the repairs more affordable for families, we have reopened the portal for purchasing insurance. The portal will remain open through 12/25.

Please click on your child's grade to purchase the insurance: [6th Grade](#) [7th Grade](#) [8th Grade](#)



SEPAC Meeting Dec 12th @7pm

Presentation on Universal Design for Learning and SEPAC Winter Business Meeting
Millennium Building Conf Room B

Please join the Westford SEPAC at our December meeting. Magaly Rodriguez Ronan, M.Ed, Director of Equity, Curriculum, & Instruction of Westford Public Schools will host a discussion on UDL and how it supports inclusion within the classroom and the curriculum. Following the discussion on UDL the SEPAC Board will lead a general business meeting, on topics including special education news and updates, upcoming initiatives, and new business. Please see the agenda [HERE](#).

[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/82707664503>
Please reach out to the SEPAC at sepacwestford@gmail.com with any questions.

Panorama Survey Information

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' experiences at school, 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 from January 2, 2024 to January 12, 2024. The survey shouldn't take more than 20-30 minutes to complete. If you would like to see the questions prior to making your decision, we have a copy in the main office that you can come in to view. Please complete the Google Form by December 15, 2023 ONLY if you would like to OPT OUT your child out of taking the survey. If you would like more information about the survey and/or would like to opt your child out of the Panorama Survey, please click [HERE](#).

Screening of *Who We Are* at WA on 1/17 at 6:30 pm

The Town of Westford Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee along with Westford Public Schools Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee are excited to partner with Community TeamWork (CTI) to screen Jeffrey Robinson's documentary: *Who We Are ~ A Chronicle of Racism in America*. Please join us for our community viewing! [RSVP Form](#): by January 3rd, 2024. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Westford Education Foundation Fundraising

Give The Gift That Keeps On Giving! Can't find just the right gift to show your appreciation for the wonderful job your child's teacher or special staff member has done? Consider sending a WEF note to your favorite teacher, counselor, teacher's aide, school nurse, office staff member, or principal. It's the perfect way to say thank you and support innovation at Nashoba Valley Technical High School and in Westford Public Schools at the same time! Proceeds from these notes will be used to fund grants for innovative educational programs for NVTHS and WPS. This is also a great idea for class gifts!

Just make a tax-deductible donation (minimum of \$10 per honoree) to the Westford Education Foundation and we will send your honoree an email from WEF with a personalized note. The email will state your name and your message, but will not disclose the amount of your gift.

Note: Donations made to WEF in honor of NVTHS and WPS staff members comply with the state ethical regulations for gift-giving and acceptance. The Westford Education Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that promotes excellence in education. We fund grants to teachers, staff, and the community for innovative educational initiatives, professional development, and life-long learning ventures.

Visit our website at <https://www.westford.org/wef> for more information on the programs we have funded in your school. All of this would not be possible without the support of our community and people like you.

Please visit https://www.westford.org/wef/thank-a-teacher_winter/ to complete your donation. You can complete your donation using your PayPal account or credit card. You will receive a confirmation email when your note is delivered. Questions? Contact WEF at wef@westford.org. Thank you!

Please check to see if your company has a matching gift program. Your gift may be doubled, or even tripled! Check with your human resources office for a matching gift form to submit with your donation.

Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy Notification

For the past 5 years Westford has participated in the MA Seal of Biliteracy Program through which seniors at WA may be awarded the Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation if they are able to demonstrate fluency in both English and another language. One of the requirements for participation in this program is that all families in the district, K-12, must be informed annually of the program. To find out more, click on this [Seal of Biliteracy District Family letter](#).

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.

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

The Westford Family FunFest* and Westford Rotary Club invites 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!!!

Resources available to families through the Town of Westford Community Wellness and Health Departments

Parent Support Group - Are you experiencing the challenges of parenting a child who may be struggling with their mental health? The Westford Parent Support Group is a safe space to come together and receive caring support, learn skills, and receive supportive resources. The group meets the 2nd Thursday of every month from 7-8:30 at the J.V Fletcher Library, Meeting Room, 50 Main Street in Westford. Any questions, please contact Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette, nlaviolette@westfordma.gov or 978-399-2503. Co - sponsored by the Community Wellness and Health Departments.

Community Wellness Assistance – Westford’s Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette, will be available the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 2:00 – 4:00 PM at the J.V. Fletcher Library, Mary Atwood Room. Get help with mental health referrals, substance use disorder referrals, parenting support resources, and linkages to other town and community resources. No appointment necessary. For questions, please email: nlaviolette@westfordma.gov or 978- 399-2503

Behavioral Health Help Line - The BHHL is available 24/7, 365 days per year and is available for all residents of Massachusetts. Call or text 833-773-2445. Visit the website to chat online at www.masshelpline.com . BHHL connects individuals and families to the full range of treatment services for mental health and substance use offered in Massachusetts, including outpatient, urgent and immediate crisis care. Call for real – time support, initial clinical assessment, and connection to the right services. The BHHL is staffed by trained clinicians and certified peer specialists to support every caller’s needs. The BHHL is available in more than 200 languages. Individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing call also use the BHHL by contacting MassRelay at 711. The BHHL is free and available to all Massachusetts residents.

Westford Mobile Clinician - The mobile clinician provides short term services while you or a family member is on a waitlist for ongoing therapy. For more information – contact Community Wellness Coordinator, Nicole Laviolette, with questions – 978-399-2503 or nlaviolette@westfordma.gov

Community Behavioral Health Center (VINFEN) – 866-388-2242

Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – call or text 988

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.