

Dear Stony Brook Families,

We hope that everyone enjoyed time with their families and friends over the long Thanksgiving weekend. We are finishing up the first of 4 full weeks of school that will lead us into the December break and it is great to see our students so invested in their learning.

Earlier today an email was sent out to all families regarding activity fees for after school clubs. If your child participates in any after school clubs please complete the form and submit the payment to the school at your earliest convenience, if you have not already done so.

Trimester 1 ends today, which means that teachers will be working on completing grades and comments for report cards over the next week and a half. On Monday, students will begin Trimester 2. This means that all health, art, and STEAM Integrated Arts classes will shift. If your child currently has art, they will move to STEAM next week. If your child has STEAM, they will move to health next week. If your child has health, they will move to art next week. Teachers have been preparing students for this transition in IA classes.

Report cards will be posted in PowerSchool on Friday, December 16, and we will send out a message to all families when they have been posted. In the report card, you will find Trimester 1 grades and comments for all classes, and grade 6 students will also have their Quarter 1 World Language Flex grade.

We hope you and your family have a relaxing weekend.

Allison and Rick

Here is some important information for families:

Stony Brook Theatre Arts presents *Rock of Ages: Youth Edition* - 12/8-12/10

The Broadway hit musical *Rock of Ages* has had audiences dancing in the aisles the world over. Now our SBTA students have become the biggest rock stars in the school! *Rock of Ages: Youth Edition* has all the 80s rock anthems you know and love, with a fun-filled story of romance, fame, and always believin'!

Tickets are available for shows on the following dates:

Thursday, 12/8 - 7:00 pm

Friday, 12/9 - 7:00 pm

Saturday, 12/10 - 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Tickets can be purchased for all shows through this link: <https://stonybrook.booktix.com/>

For the Love of Erika Toy Drive through Friday, 12/9

Stony Brook is participating in a toy drive in memory of a Westford resident, Erika Gould, who passed away from cancer at the age of 7. Contributions of toys help children through DCF and who are at local hospitals or shelters. We will be collecting new, unopened, and unwrapped toys through 12/9. There are two boxes in the main lobby that were decorated by some of our art students. Please click [HERE](#) for more specific information about the ways you can contribute to the toy drive.

Ski and Snowboard Club Sign Ups extended through Tuesday, 12/6

The deadline for Ski and Snowboard Club has been extended! The last day to sign up for the Ski and Snowboard club is Tuesday December 6th. Please see the attached permission form for all the information.

Please contact Stephanie Sullivan at ssullivan@westfordk12.us if you have any questions or need more information. Please click [HERE](#) for a link to the registration form.

Cold Weather and Being Outdoors

As the weather gets colder, we will make daily decisions based on the temperature and weather conditions about opening the doors to the lobby prior to 7:25 AM and whether to have our outdoor time at the end of lunch. On extremely cold days or when it is actively raining/snowing, we will open the doors to the inner lobby at 7:15 AM. If your child arrives prior to 7:15 the outer doors to the heated vestibule are open and your child is welcome to wait there if they would like.

It is important that students dress for the weather since there are times when we are outdoors in the morning and during the school day. If your child is missing a sweatshirt or coat, please encourage them to look in the lost and found in the main lobby. There are some photos of found sweatshirts and coats at the end of this message.

December ELPAC Meeting - Wednesday, 12/14

The WPS English Learner Parent Advisory Council is for caregivers, parents, and guardians of students currently or formerly enrolled in the ELL program. The December ELPAC meeting is coming up on Wednesday, December 14th from 6:30-7:30 PM on Google Meet. We will be discussing ACCESS testing, grading, and report cards. Click on the flyer for the meeting link. Please email Amy Bailey (abailey@westfordk12.us) if you would like translation or interpretation. Here is the [December ELPAC flyer](#) for more information.

A Message from WEF about a Fundraiser–Honor a Teacher or Special Staff Member

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 administrator. 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.

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. 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. Thank you!

Community Substance Use Disorder Forum

The Community Health and Wellness Departments invite residents to join a virtual forum to share ideas about additional resources the town can provide to the community on Wednesday, December 7, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Please click [HERE](#) for more detailed information.

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

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

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.

School Pupil Driver Certificate Exam Event - Saturday, 12/10, 12:30-3:00

The Registry of Motor Vehicles will hold a one-day [School Pupil \(7D\) Driver Certificate exam event](#) from **12:30 to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 10** at the **Framingham Sheraton, 1657 Worcester Road, Framingham** for individuals interested in becoming licensed 7D drivers. Applicants must have completed the [School Pupil \(7D\) application online](#) **no later than midnight on Wednesday, December 7**. Participants should bring a check for the exam fee of \$15.00 made out to MassDOT/RMV. People who will also be participating in the training portion should bring their completed application and a check for \$30 for the application fee and the exam fee.

At the event, a two-hour required training will be offered in both English and Spanish. Additionally, RMV staff will be on site to administer and correct the School Pupil (7D) written exam, record the results, and issue a certificate to people who meet all the requirements. To register, email SchoolBus7DNotify@dot.state.ma.us, put "DECEMBER 10 – 7D EVENT" in the subject line, and provide the required registration information: applicant's name, license number, phone number, training needs, and email address.

Look what we have found! Hopefully you recognize some of these clothing items.

