



**West Bridgewater Public Schools**  
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Mrs. Linda Dubin  
Principal

**Dear Parents and Families,**

**January 12, 2012**

Changes, especially last minute changes, in dismissals can be very unsettling to young students. Keeping a routine dismissal helps eliminate any last minute confusion at the end of the day as to where students should be going, be it bus lines, parent pick up, surround care or enrichment. The classroom teachers keep postings of each child's normal dismissal routine so they can assure them how they are going home and substitutes can easily access the log. Any adjustments in a dismissal require a note sent in with your child on the day of the change. I also suggest a back up of an email to both the teacher and Mrs. Everett as notes can get lost or a child can forget to pass it in. The classroom teacher logs the change and then sends it down to the office where the secretary logs the adjustment for the day. In this way if the child is confused at dismissal time, they can approach the classroom teacher or go to the office where it is logged. Calls made after 2:30 have no guarantee of being transmitted in time. Phone calls late in the day complicate the message chain. If your child attends Surround Care that is another group who requires quick notification and we do not want to interrupt instructional time with message interruptions. The end of the day is very busy dismissing over 260 students. We understand real emergency situations make it necessary for last minute changes but they should be few and far between. Constant sporadic changes will need to be addressed by the principal and parent(s).

This coming Monday we observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day and children have a day off from school. We held an assembly today to discuss this important event. Grade 3 classrooms' presented short skits about Martin Luther King in the cafeteria. We followed the skit with a peace march singing "We shall overcome." On the students' arrival to the gym, I read a short story with the history of the events. The first year Dr. King's birthday was celebrated as a national holiday was 1986. It is an opportune time to discuss with our children the ideals and important contributions of this remarkable figure in our country's history and to help them appreciate why they have a day off from school. Ask your children some questions about the assembly and see how much they learned.

*I hope you enjoy the long weekend with your family.*

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY (OBSERVED):** NO SCHOOL – January 16<sup>th</sup>, Monday.

**SCHOOL SURVEY:** Our annual School Improvement Questionnaire was sent out last week. Our Improvement Council considers the results of the survey in formulating a new improvement plan for the coming year. Please return these at your earliest convenience but the deadline is Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>.

**REPORT CARDS:** Marks close on Friday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be distributed on Friday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>.

**PTO MEETING:** The January PTO meeting date has been changed to Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Howard School at 7:00pm. Sorry for any inconvenience. All parents and staff are welcome.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:** The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting on Wednesday evening, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm to 8pm in the Middle/Senior High School cafeteria. New members are always welcome! Please contact Jodi Correia at 508 894-1230, ext. 118 if you need further information.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING:** Next School Committee Meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2012, at the WBMSHS in the media room.

**EARLY RELEASE:** February 15<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, the students at the RLM School will be dismissed at NOON. Lunch will NOT be served. The staff will be attending a professional development workshop.

**READING IS FUNDAMENTAL (RIF):** The RIF group, headed by Mrs. Kristine Roberts along with other Friends of the Library will distribute free books to the first, second, and third grade students on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**GRADE 3 - MCAS TESTING:** The window for testing grade 3 MCAS Reading is March 20 to April 2 – Two test sessions administered during this period take about 60 min. on average. The window for testing grade 3 MCAS Math is May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Two sessions each 45 minutes on average are administered during this window. Tests may be administered anytime during those dates and we urge parents to not plan any family vacations during those windows of time. As we get closer to each test date, we will select the exact days and notify parents through the newsletter. There is also a lot of review and practice that leads up to the testing days so the weeks before are important preparation.

**MCAS INFORMATION NIGHT:** MCAS Information Night - Wednesday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Rose L. MacDonald School. Grade 3 parents should try to attend (without their children if possible). Grade 2 parents are invited if they would like to get a “sneak peek” of what their children will need to know next year to prepare for MCAS. The evening will encompass some MCAS information regarding the Massachusetts Curriculum Assessment System testing that begins in grade 3 and continues to the high stakes’ tests that students must pass for graduation. Teachers will present an overview of testing information.

**CHILDCARE COSTS FOR 2011 TAX PURPOSES:** If you need information regarding childcare costs for 2011 tax purposes, Dependent Care Tax Information forms will be available at each school office. Please complete and return to school or mail directly to Ms. Sarah Smith at Spring Street School, 2 Spring St., West Bridgewater, MA 02379. A form must be completed for each child. Programs that children have attended include: Play & Learn Pre-School, Integrated Pre-school, All Day Kindergarten, RLM Enrichment, Surround Care Spring St, RLM, Howard, Let's Go Program, Ready, Set Go, and Howard After School Enrichment. Any questions should be directed to Ms. Sarah Smith at 508 894-1230 ext. 123.

**BIRTHDAYS WITH THE PRINCIPAL:** This month 20<sup>th</sup> I will be having birthdays with the principal by grade level for lunch in the conference room for students born in January. The children and I enjoy this special time together. The students bring a lunch from home or order their lunch at school. The food service kindly provides a free ice cream for birthday boys and girls. They are given a little gift from the principal to enjoy! Any students with summer birthdays will be celebrated before the end of the school year.

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION CAMPAIGN:** Mrs. Sarah Smith, a RLM parent volunteer, has been managing our school’s Box Top\$ for Education program. The last submission postmarked before Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> reflected a grand total of \$711.60. The breakdown is as follows:

Clip-The Original Box Top\$ Education:	\$620.00
Bonus Box Tops:	<u>\$ 91.60</u>
Total Check Amount:	\$711.60

Keep clipping and helping the school with the extra funds.

**DELAYED OPENING:** In the event that there is a delayed school opening, you will receive a call from the Connect-Ed communication system. In order to receive the call from Connect-Ed, it is imperative that you provide the school department with your correct information and up to date phone number. If conditions are such that the Highway Department appears to need time to plow the road, or sand the streets, the school day will be shortened. The opening of school and all bus pickups will be delayed one hour. This means that the Middle-Senior High School will open at 8:30 a.m. The Howard School will open at 9:00 a.m. The RLM School will open at 9:30 a.m. The SSS will open at 10:00 a.m. The school busses will also begin their student pick-up one hour later than the normal time. Please allow time for the busses due to inclement weather. Pre-K and Kindergarten full day and morning sessions as well as the before school child care program will all begin one hour later, with the afternoon Pre-K and Kindergarten sessions starting at the normal time. Schools will be dismissed at the regular time and lunches will be served at the regular time.  
**NOTE:** *No Morning surround care if school is delayed.*

**SURROUND CARE & WEATHER RELATED DISMISSALS & DELAYED OPENINGS: NO MORNING** surround care if there is a delayed opening. Surround Care students **MUST BE** picked within one hour of the early dismissal time. *Parents should have a reliable authorized contact person who can pick up their child within an hour of early dismissal time.* Surround Care will not contact you regarding early dismissal. You will be contacted by the school’s Connect-Ed early dismissal calls. Prior notification in writing (note or email) on how your child should be dismissed due to weather related dismissals: pick up, bus, or KinderCare is needed for Surround Care files. You may contact Mrs. Virginia Hoadley at 508 894-1240 x281 or contact her by e-mail at [vhoadley@wbridgewater.com](mailto:vhoadley@wbridgewater.com) for more information.

*Linda Dubin  
Principal*