



West Bridgewater Public Schools
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Mrs. Linda Dubin
Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

February 2, 2012

January is now behind us and some of the month's events included "Half Way Day." Day 90 marked our ½ way point of the school year and we were reminded of this as we walked the halls. Students were appropriately dressed in ½ way fashion. Girls had half their hair in braids or half in ponytails. Some students were half way dressed with warm pajama fleece pants and a daytime top. Another event we supported last week was the Governor's proclamation of the third Wednesday in January to be designated "No Name Calling Day." Each classroom had an appropriate discussion about the importance of being kind to one another. Topics included how hurtful names and acts can damage friendships.

With all the talk about Punxsutaney Phil this morning, we are reminded of all the other events we look forward to in February. Tomorrow, Friday, the students will be celebrating day 100 with a variety of thought provoking math games geared to that number. On Monday, grade 2 will celebrate Day 101. They will incorporate the 101 Dalmatian theme and related lessons based on 101. As you can see teachers make our math curriculum interesting by using events and facts of the day that children relate to well. A Valentine celebration of friendships will be forthcoming. The festivities will be low-key with students and teachers only.

Remember – reading can make the winter months fly by. It's fun to read a book with children. Taking turns reading and discussing illustrations never gets old. Children enjoy the experience of cuddling up with a good book with Mom or Dad. They will remember it well into their mature years. My oldest son still recalls some of his favorite titles for bedtime reads and the shared experience of a good book, priceless memories for us both. Make some memories whenever the opportunity arises and enjoy a special read aloud time with your child!

READ ACROSS AMERICA: We're kicking off a month-long Read Across America celebration with the theme 'Reading is Your Passport to the World.' Students are encouraged to read (or be read to) as many books as possible this month. Keep track of those books on your 'Passport Reading Log' which came home last week. Return your log to your classroom teacher at the end of February to earn 'stamps' on your 'passport' for all the books you've read! Mark your calendar for the culmination of Read Across America month on Thursday, March 1 at 6pm in the Rose L MacDonald cafeteria. Storyteller Len Cabral will entertain students and their parents with stories inspired by folk tales from various cultures. As always, every child who attends this PTO-sponsored event will select a free book to take home!

REACH OUT AND READ: Two of our WB high girls are working on their Senior Project. They are working with Reach Out and Read - an evidence-based nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide by giving new books. They are collecting new or gently used books for the Reach Out and Read Program. There is a paperbag in each of the classrooms. Each student will receive one raffle ticket for every book they bring in. The bags for the books will be in the classroom until March 1st. The prize will be a gift bag of various arts & craft items. Contact Monica Pigeon and Kelsey Francesshelli at WBseniorproject@gmail.com for additional information, if needed.

VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY: All grades will be having their Valentine's Day celebrations on Tuesday, Feb. 14th. Classroom teachers have taken care of the arrangements for each party. Each classroom is celebrating Valentine's Day in their own unique way as discussed by their teacher. Valentine celebrations will take place at different times as teachers will work around their curriculum and specialist schedule. The Valentine's Day parties will be short and low-key. In accordance with the mandated School Wellness Policy, we promote healthy schools by supporting wellness, good nutrition and regular physical activity. Therefore, teachers have made their own arrangements for treats for the students. Additionally, *in order to ease problems with our limited parking, the valentine activities will be a celebration with students and teacher.*

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING: Next School Committee Meeting will be Monday, February 13, 2012, at the WBMSHS in the media room at 6:30pm.

EARLY RELEASE: February 15th, 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.

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART: The students at the RLM School are participating in the American Heart Association's "Jump Rope for Heart" program again this year. Ms. Moniz has been visiting students at outside recess to encourage the students to jump rope. Contribution envelopes were sent out last week. If you would like to donate, the envelope needs to be returned to the classroom by February 17th. *Contributions are voluntary and all students will be jumping rope regardless of whether they donate or not.* Last year the students at the RLM School raised over \$3,000– my hats off to the parents and students who participated!!

SCHOOL VACATION: *Mark your calendar.* Winter break: February 20th – February 24th.

LIFETOUCH INDIVIDUAL SPRING PICTURES: Coming on *February 29th – Wednesday.* All students' portraits will be taken. Send No Money Now – Preview before you buy – Portraits, price list and instructions will arrive home later. You will have the option to buy portraits or return them later. ***THIS PROGRAM SUPPORTS OUR SCHOOL. LIFETOUCH PROVIDES A DONATION FOR EVERY PORTRAIT PACKAGE PRODUCED.***

LIFETOUCH GROUP CLASSROOM PICTURE: Also February 29th – *Wednesday.* LifeTouch will take group classroom pictures. LifeTouch offers a classroom picture only or a picture with a special spirit pennant & class picture. Envelopes and pricing will be sent home soon.

WINTER 2012 ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: Tuesday classes begin January 31st and Thursday classes begin February 2nd. For more information about the classes, you may call or e-mail Ms. Theresa O'Loughlin at toloughlin@wbridgewater.com or Mrs. Green at mgreen@wbridgewater.com.

PTO EVENT NEWS: *The PTO is looking for someone to help coordinate raffle items for the Easter Bunny Breakfast on March 31st. If you are interested, please contact Darcie Fisher through the PTO website - . <https://sites.google.com/site/westbridgewaterpto/home>. Also, if you have any NEW children's toys, games, books, crafts, etc... that you'd like to donate to the raffle, please contact Darcie. *If you need a volunteer sign up sheet for our spring fundraisers, please contact Jen Bellody through the PTO website. Please consider helping out. The fundraisers help pay for programs and items needed for our schools. *Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7th in the Howard School library. All parents and staff are welcome!

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL: The second RIF book distribution took place on Tuesday morning. Every student in first, second and third grade was invited to choose a book from the wonderful selection provided by our town's RIF program. After choosing books, students returned to their classrooms where guest readers from the West Bridgewater Middle Senior High School read to the children. This year's readers were eighth graders Luke Frankel, Andrew Chan, Emerson Bryant, Tim Reilly, Marissa Molinari, Lydia Dunn, Katie Gale, and Elyse Porter. A special thanks to our Friends of the Library & parent volunteers: Mrs. Perrault, Mrs. Bellody, Mrs. Piesco, Mrs. Lawler, Mrs. Flaherty, Ms. Hoisington, Ms. Kenneally-Brower, Mrs. Morash, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Braga, Mrs. Destrampe, Mrs. Polan, and Mrs. Roberts. Reading is Fundamental is thankful for the support of our Donors: Friends of the WB Library, Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare, Howard Trust, WBPTO, Bridgewater Savings Bank, and the Snelgrove Foundation. As always, our students enjoyed receiving books and listening to our very special guest readers!

MCAS INFORMATION NIGHT: MCAS Information Night - Wednesday, Feb. 28th 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.

BIRTHDAYS WITH THE PRINCIPAL: February 17th, I will be having birthdays with the principal by grade level for lunch in the conference room for students born in February. 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 provides a free ice cream for birthday students and they receive a little gift from the principal to enjoy! Any students with summer birthdays will be celebrated before the end of the school year.

ANNUAL WINTER DANCE: The WBMS Booster Club will be hosting their annual winter dance at the Canoe Club in West Bridgewater, on Saturday, March 3 from 7:00pm. 11:00 pm. To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact Francine Church at 508-580-4398 or email zof03@hotmail.com. The WB Booster Club supports the Middle/Senior High School Athletic Dept. Tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door.

Linda Dubin, Principal