



West Bridgewater Public Schools
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Mrs. Linda Dubin
Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

February 9, 2012

February 15th will be another early release day. What happens on all those early release days? I suspect that is a question that occurs to many parents as they scramble to make child care arrangements, or pick up their children earlier than usual. I thought you might be interested in knowing how the time is spent. When students are dismissed, professional development continues for faculty. Teachers work on predetermined goals that focus on improving student achievement over the course of early release days. Learning and continually improving educational practice is a lifelong endeavor our educators recognize and embrace!

BOX TOPS: "I love my school sweepstakes." Box Tops for Education is giving away 1000 box tops for each day of February. Individuals can go online and can enter w/o any purchase, 1x each day of the month of February. Go to: www.boxtops4education.com and then look for: *Earn Box Tops*. Next go to: *Bonus Box Tops* or cut & paste the following into the browser: <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/bonus/Default.aspx> A big thank you to Mrs. Sarah Smith for being our coordinator for this event.

BEN FRANKLIN: Wednesday, courtesy of the PTO, grade 3 was entertained with a character performance of Ben Franklin from *Historical Perspectives for Children*. As a part of third grade's curriculum program, this event brought to life an interesting period of history and his life events. The performer chronicles Ben Franklin's life as a youngster, continues his trials of adulthood and concludes the story with his senior years. Learning events like this are a great way to take the routine and make it extraordinary.

READ ACROSS AMERICA: Our month-long Read Across America celebration continues with the theme 'Reading is Your Passport to the World.' Students should read (or be read to) as many books as possible this month. Keep track of those books on your 'Passport Reading Log'. 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! Then 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.*

DALMATIAN 101: Monday, Grade 2 teachers celebrated Day 101. They incorporated 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.

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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: The Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting on Wednesday evening May 2nd at 5:30pm in the Middle/Senior High School cafeteria. Dinner will be served. Please contact Jodi Correia at 508 894-1230, ext. 118 if you need further information.

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 visited the 1st and 2nd grade students outside at recess. The students had a lot of energy and were jumping for joy. Making exercise fun instead of a chore is the key to continued physical wellness. Ms. Alves has been outside at recess with Grade 3 children to watch and assist them in the "Jump Rope for Heart" endeavor. Contribution envelopes were sent out a few weeks ago. We hope that the students continue to exercise daily and include jump rope in their activities. If you would like to donate, the envelope should 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.*

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: Classes have begun and are going well. Enrichment teachers will bring their students to an assigned, labeled area in the cafeteria after each class. Pick up is at 4:30pm.

EASTER BUNNY BREAKFAST: Mark your calendar for March 31st from 9am-11am. If of you have any NEW children's toys, games, books, crafts, etc... that you'd like to donate to the raffle, please contact Darcie Fisher through the PTO website – go to www.wbridgewaterschools.org – then go to the left side of the screen to find the Quick Links and find PTO website and click.

PTO VOLUNTEER SIGN UP: If you need another signup sheet, please contact Jen Bellody through the PTO website. – go to www.wbridgewaterschools.org – then go to the left side of the screen to find the Quick Links and find PTO website and click. The fundraisers help pay for curriculum based programs and items needed for our schools.

PTO MEETING: The next meeting is March 13th in the Howard School library. All parents and staff are welcome!

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: March 11th daylight savings begins.

MCAS INFORMATION NIGHT: Save the date – Wed., Feb. 28th from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the RLM School. Gr.3 parents should try to attend (without their children). Gr. 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 zofo3@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