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Weekly News Letter from The Principal's Corner *March 13, 2020*

Parent-Teacher Conferences on April 2, 2020

April 2, 2020 is an early release day. Students will be sent home at noon and conferences will be from 1:00 to 8:00 pm on that day. Please see the conference form attached. Make sure to get it in as soon as possible so teachers can start scheduling. Teachers will do their best to schedule conferences back to back for families who have more than one child.

Camp Knock Knock:

Camp Knock Knock is a weekend-long camp for families with children who have experienced the death of a loved one. This summer the camp will be held from June 5th to June 7th at the YMCA's Camp Abnaki in North Hero. Camp Knock Knock is open to Vermont families and it offers a meaningful and rich opportunity to get support and to share and connect with others who have experienced loss. To see a copy of the brochure, please contact Jenna Brown at jenna.brown@wsesu.net.



Congratulations Hunter Pipe

Hunter Pipe, Grade 6 and his hockey team won 1st place in the Vermont State Youth Hockey Championship for the 12U Woodstock Jr Wasps. Here's his picture holding the State Plaque. They went undefeated in all the playoffs to win the 1st place spot. Congratulations, Hunter and Team, we are very proud of you!

Weathersfield's Got Talent Rescheduled

As you know, we had to postpone this Friday's Weathersfield's Got Talent event. We have a new date! Friday, April 10th at 6:00 pm is when we will see the talent soar in our community. Please come and see our remarkable presenters as they perform in the gym for our annual Weathersfield's Got Talent. Donations are accepted.

SBAC and VTSS Testing Letter Attached to this Newsletter

WS will be administering the state required tests to grades 3-8 in ELA, Math and Science in April and May. These are high stakes tests as schools are ranked in this state based on results. We are hoping for perfect attendance and students are ready and able to do their very best on these tests. Please see the testing letter attached. Special shout out to PTA as they are buying breakfast for each and every test taker in April and May!

The Science and Technology Exposition Is Coming

On Friday, March 20, the Grade 8 students invite you to a celebration of scientific knowledge and exploration. This year's science fair will have a little different look to it, than those in the past. The students have applied video production techniques that they have been learning, to their scientific research papers. This is science coming to life! The Expo will be held in the AP room from 1:30 - 2:30pm on March 20th. Parents, Guardians, and Friends of Weathersfield School are encouraged to attend the afternoon

session, as no evening presentation is planned. Grades K - 4 are invited to visit between 1:30 - 2:00, while 5-7 students can plan on attending from 2:00 - 2:20 pm. As always, science instructor, Mr. Villa, will award first, second, and third place ribbons to the contestants. In addition, several students have elected to bring their projects to the Vermont Stem Fair on Saturday, March 28 at Norwich University.

See you at the Sci-Tech Expo! Mr. Jay Villa, WS Middle Level Science Teacher

Kindness Concert

Mr. Shambo is happy to announce the theme for this year's K-8 concert! It will be the "Kindness Concert"! The students will be performing songs about kindness, loving yourself, happiness, etc. Mr. Shambo is collaborating with our kindness club dynamic duo, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Milligan, to provide a night of happiness, respect, and kindness! There is a small time change to the performance. **The concert will be on Tuesday, March 24 from 6-7pm.** If the weather prevents this night from happening, the concert will be on Tuesday, March 31 from 6-7pm. Please remember that if your child is in fifth or sixth grade and/or they are in an ensemble, they are required to attend per the school handbook. If they are unable to attend, Mr. Shambo will need a note signed by a parent/guardian with why they are unable to attend. We hope to see you all there! **UPDATE: The students should wear their Field Day colors for this year which are listed below:**

K- Pink/Fuchsia

1- Yellow

2- Teal/Turquoise

3- Purple

4- Green

5- Blue

6- Orange

7 & 8 (As 8th grade does not do Field Day, they will wear the same as 7th grade)- Red and Black

Kindergarten Registration

Weathersfield School is preparing for the 2020-2021 Kindergarten School Year. On Friday, March 27, 2020, we will be having our Kindergarten Registration/Screening. If your child(ren) will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2020, we are asking parents/ guardians to call the school to schedule an appointment for this year's screening. We look forward to hearing from you. Please contact the school at 674-5400.

Safety Drill

On Wed., March 25th from 2:45 to 4:00 pm, there will be a safety drill at school for teachers and support staff. There will be no afterschool activities that day, including drama, PAWS, TIPS and HS. Please mark your calendars.

WSESU Music Concert Set for April

Mr. Shambo is proud to announce that the WSESU music teachers are putting together the SU music festival again! During this festival, students in grades 6-8 that are in band and grades 5-8 that are in chorus will perform music with all of the other schools in our supervisory union. This festival will take place Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9 and occur during the school day so there is no conflict with sports or other after school activities. On April 8, the entire school day will be used for rehearsal at Windsor High School, for band students, and Weathersfield School, for choral students. On April 9, both groups will travel to three schools in the supervisory union to ensure each school gets to witness this wonderful performance! As this festival is during the school day and travelling will be involved, all students are ensured to be back at their perspective schools by dismissal time on both days. All students that are in band and/or chorus are required to participate in this festival as it is a wonderful opportunity! Permission slips will be sent home with more detailed information. This will be a great performance and the students love the thought of "being on tour"! If you have any questions, please email Mr. Shambo at zachary.shambo@wsesu.net.

Have a spectacular weekend,

JeanMarie

JeanMarie K. Oakman, WS Principal

Weathersfield School

JeanMarie K. Oakman, Principal

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SBAC and VT Science Assessment Testing Information and Test Taking Strategies

March 13, 2020

Dear WS Students, Parents and Guardians,

This April and May, our school will join thousands of schools across the United States in the administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) and the Vermont Science Assessment (VTSA). These tests will be taken by Weathersfield students in grades 3-8, and will measure achievement in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. Our PTA has graciously offered to pay for breakfast for every test taker on days they are taking the tests. Our SBAC schedule for testing is as follows:

Grades 3-5 ELA:

April 28 - Tuesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm - ELA Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)

April 29 - Wednesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm ELA Performance Task (PT)

April 30 - Thursday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm – ELA Completion and make-up

May 1 - Friday - Make-up day between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm

Grades 6-8 ELA:

May 5 - Tuesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm - ELA Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)

May 6 - Wednesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm ELA Performance Task (PT)

May 7 - Thursday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm – ELA Completion and make-up

May 8 - Friday - Make-up day between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm

Grades 3-5 Math:

May 12 - Tuesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm - Math Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)

May 13 - Wednesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm Math Performance Task (PT)

May 14 - Thursday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm – Math Completion and make-up

May 15 - Friday - Make-up day between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm

Grades 6-8 Math:

May 19 - Tuesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm - Math Computer Adaptive Test (CAT)

May 20 - Wednesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm Math Performance Task (PT)

May 21 - Thursday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm – Math Completion and make-up

May 22 - Friday - Make-up day between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm

Grades 5 and 8 Science:

May 26 - Tuesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm - Science

May 27 - Wednesday between 8:00 am and 2:15 pm - Science

May 28 - Thursday - Make-up date will be on May 28, 2020

****Testing start and end times will vary in all classes based on classroom schedules.**

The Smarter Balanced tests are not timed. However, the total time students will be involved in the testing is estimated to be about 6 hours which will be spread out across several days. The new tests employ a variety of innovations, including the following:

- All testing is administered using a secure online assessment system that includes a variety of tools and technology enhanced test questions that will improve the assessment experience for our students
- Foremost among the new technologies is Computer Adaptive Testing or CAT. CAT selects a unique set of test

questions for each student that will produce very precise results in less time than the last generation of pencil and paper tests.

- In addition to the CAT portion of the test, students will also participate in a hands-on, minds-on performance task that permits students to use their skills on an authentic and engaging challenge.
- The assessment also includes an array of embedded accessibility tools for special populations – features such as read aloud, color and contrast choices, expandable reading passages, key word translation glossaries, American Sign Language translation, Braille, and many others
- Because the test is administered on computer, results will be returned to schools very quickly. We can expect school scores by early July, and individual student scores before that.

To learn more about Smarter Balanced, log on to the VT Smarter Balanced Assessment Portal where you will find additional information for parents, as well as practice tests that will allow you to try out the test your student will be taking this spring. Here is the link: <http://vt.portal.airast.org/>. Please note that Vermont's test delivery system uses state of the art security features that will protect our students' privacy, and will adhere to all federal and state confidentiality regulations, including but not limited to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Here are some very good test taking tips that we will review with each class, grades 3-8, before the tests begin. It would be very helpful if parents reviewed these strategies with their children before the April and May tests begin, as well.

SBAC and VT Science Assessment Test Taking Tips for Grades 3-8

Here are some common sense test taking strategies:

- Read all questions carefully and follow directions; if you must guess, go with your first response
- Leave nothing blank; look for the “best” answer
- Answer the questions you know first, then go back and try your best on other questions – take your time, these are not timed tests
- SBAC will allow you to go back and check answers and respond to skipped ones if you do so within 20 minutes, so be aware of this time constraint; as long as you do not end the testing session you can go back to questions you have flagged for review
- If unsure, narrow your answer to two choices and then guess
- Look for key words in the question to help you select the response
- Check your answers if time permits
- Use tools like scratch paper
- Do not exit the SBAC test without checking with your teacher first

Time-honored ways to prepare students for any important event or test:

- Get lots of sleep so you are rested and ready
- Eat a healthy breakfast so a grumbling tummy will not interfere with concentration
- Have a relaxing and calm day (no sibling or bus ride squabbles)
- Drink lots of water as it stimulates the brain
- Have a positive attitude about the test; it's just another tool we use to measure learning so we can better help students.
- Talk about the test; share your concerns and fears with someone you trust; it helps to get it out there- then go do your best!
- Come to school on time to avoid any anxiousness or stressors
- Have perfect attendance during testing week
- This is good practice for all the tests we will encounter in life, from getting a driver's license to earning the right to hunt. Embrace it and acknowledge it as just a part of life

Test taking students will be served free breakfast on days they are testing, thanks to our generous PTA! I have purchased lots of gum for students to select to chew during tests, (check out the research on gum and test taking). If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call. TEAM WORK....we can do this!

Sincerely,

Jenna Brown, WS Testing Coordinator and JeanMarie K. Oakman, WS Principal

Weathersfield School

Dr. David Baker, Superintendent

JeanMarie Oakman, Principal

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Parent Teacher Conferences –April 2, 2020– Early Release Day No School for Students on April 3, 2020

March 13, 2020

Dear Parents,

Remember, all schools in the WSESU, including Weathersfield School, are going paperless this year, meaning no report cards will be sent home. Teachers have been asked not to give them out at conference time. However, IT, Mike Walker will be here from 1:00 to 7:45 pm on April 2, 2020 in the computer lab. Parents who want to know how to access grades or get a paper copy are asked to stop in and see Mike. If you need more information on how to access your child's grades prior to April 2, 2020, please call Mike Walker at school at 674-5400 or email him at mike.walker@wsesu.net. If you are unable to attend a conference at that time, please notify your child's teacher to establish a mutually acceptable time to meet.

For: _____ With: _____
Student's Name Teacher

Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 1:00 to 8:00 pm

To help us schedule conferences, list convenient times and note other children in your family so we can make arrangements with all teachers. Please return this information on or before **March 20, 2020**, as times are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Please include the name of specialist teachers you would like to conference with, as well, on this form. **All completed forms go to your child's teacher.** You will receive a confirmation notice from your child's teacher by March 25, 2020. If you need to know earlier than that, please call or email your child's teacher.

Please try to schedule my appointment on: *(indicate the three best times below)*

April 2, 2020 from 1:00 to 8:00 pm _____

Other children attending Weathersfield School:

Student: _____ Teacher/ Grade: _____

Student: _____ Teacher/ Grade: _____

Student: _____ Teacher/ Grade: _____

(Please check all that apply)

I/ We would like to meet with my/ our child's:

_____ Special Education Teacher
_____ Reading Teacher/Literacy Coach, Mrs. Huebner
_____ Title 1 Math Teacher, Mrs. Small
_____ Other, Please specify: _____

I/ We would like a phone conference. Name: _____ Phone number: _____

I/ We do not feel that a conference is needed at this time.

I/ We would like a conference before, during, or after school on a different day.

Sincerely,

JeanMarie

JeanMarie Oakman, Weathersfield School Principal