



December 1, 2021

Dear Students, Staff and Families,

It's hard to believe it is December! This year's school year calendar allows for a **two week holiday break, December 20<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>**. **School resumes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>** for all students and staff. Our schools and district office will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

While we have been experiencing mild weather, the snow is soon to come! As a reminder, should there be a need to cancel or postpone school by 2-hours due to inclement weather, I will send out a ONE CALL message to families and staff and it will be posted on our website and the news channels. It is important that we have your correct phone number to be on the ONE CALL phone message list. Please check with your school's administrative assistant if your phone number has changed.



**If your child needs a winter coat, please reach out to your child's school nurse.** The *It Starts at Home Organization* provided each school with new winter coats for anyone who may need one!

PAE Nurses	Sarah Phillips	<a href="mailto:sphillips@webster-schools.org">sphillips@webster-schools.org</a>
	Rachel Taylor	<a href="mailto:rtaylor@webster-schools.org">rtaylor@webster-schools.org</a>
WMS Nurse	Danielle Jalbert	<a href="mailto:djalbert@webster-schools.org">djalbert@webster-schools.org</a>
BHS Nurse	Kathy Pepin	<a href="mailto:kpepin@webster-schools.org">kpepin@webster-schools.org</a>
WMS/BHS	Stefanie Poletta	<a href="mailto:spoletta@webster-schools.org">spoletta@webster-schools.org</a>
PAE/WMS/BHS	Jennifer Espinal	<a href="mailto:jespinal@webster-schools.org">jespinal@webster-schools.org</a>



As we come close to entering 2022, a New Year, I am pleased to share some of the great things going on in the Webster Public Schools and some of the great things to look forward to:

- **Positive Behavior Interventions And Supports:**
  - Each school has a specific PBIS team to lead the activities that support the ongoing building of a positive school culture, and recognizing students who contribute positively to the development of a positive school culture.
    - Examples include:
      - Park Avenue Elementary School - Kids of Character Celebrations, Kids College, Golden Dustpan Awards, Compass, Student of the Month Family Gatherings are coming back, and New Sensory Stations have been set up all over the school (Thanks to Ms. Wojnarowicz!)
      - Webster Middle School - Wild Cat Tickets, WMS Store, and Special Events
      - Bartlett High School - Student of the Month Awards, PBIS Tickets and special drawings for prizes.
- **Winter Concerts:**
  - Bartlett High School - December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.
  - Webster Middle School will be doing their Winter Concert in February
  - Park Avenue Elementary School will be doing their Winter Concerts in January and February!
- **Real Madrid Basketball & Soccer Programming:**
  - Webster Public Schools are in partnership with Fundacion Mapfre and the Real Madrid Foundation and we will be implementing an after-school program focusing on the social development of second language learners in middle and high school starting in February!
  - This program will concentrate on the development of our ELL students to teach teamwork, fundamentals of basketball, soccer, health and nutrition

- The basketball program will run for approximately twelve weeks starting in February 2022 and the soccer program will run concurrent for twelve weeks until the end of the school year.
- It is our hope to do the Real Madrid program after the after-school academic program and provide meals to students who participate.
- For more information contact Athletic Director Tony Paranto, he can be reached at [tparanto@webster-schools.org](mailto:tparanto@webster-schools.org)
- **Winter Sports:**
  - Boys and girls basketball and boys and girls track, and winter cheer will open their season the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>. All game schedules can be located in [arbiterlive.com](http://arbiterlive.com)
  - Athletic Director Tony Paranto can be reached at [tparanto@webster-schools.org](mailto:tparanto@webster-schools.org)
- **SAVE THE DATE: Bartlett High School Drama Presents, *Murder on the Menu* by Bill Hand** as a dinner theatre experience on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.
- **Bartlett High School Renovation Project Updates:**
  - We have been selected by the Massachusetts School Building Authority to be highlighted in their *Story of A Building!* This is the MSBA's way of recognizing unique projects and we were selected because it is not common to choose a renovation rather than a new build.
  - Through this proposed renovation, we are taking steps to improve our educational programming while reducing wastes and costs that occur with a new build.
  - This is an exciting time as we are reimagining learning spaces to meet the ever changing needs of the students we serve.
  - The flyer to register to attend the virtual Story of A Building is attached. This is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 to Noon.







#### Introductions to newly hired support staff:

- **COVID Nurse, Jennifer Espinal RN** - Ms. Espinal works at all three of our school nursing offices and is assisting with the management of COVID cases and other typical medical needs. Ms. Espinal is bilingual and has been a tremendous support for our families.
- **Re-Engagement Specialist Elizabeth Smarra** - Ms. Smarra works at Bartlett High School and is focusing on dropout prevention in conjunction with the building administration and guidance team.
- **Interim Dean, Melissa Bergeron.** Ms. Bergeron will be joining the Webster Middle School on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. She is a certified principal for vocational school. She has been a reading teacher at Tantasqua Jr. High for the past 7 years and at Bay Path for ten years prior. Ms. Bergeron has experience in reading, special education, Title I, and has worked in elementary, middle, and high schools.
- **Long Term Substitute ELA Grade 8, Jacob Lewis.**
- **Grade 1 Special Education Teacher, Marie Daly.** Ms. Daly will be starting at PAE on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Grade 3 Special Education Teacher, Faith Veronis.** Mrs. Veronis recently moved from a Title 1 position to the Grade 3 Special Education Teacher position.
- **Grade 4 Teacher, Rebecca Beaupre.** Mrs. Beaupre recently moved from a paraprofessional to the grade 4 teaching position.

## Thanksgiving Day Football Game:

**Bartlett Pride** was in full force over at the traditional pep rally on Wednesday, the day before the 101<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving Day Football Game.



The Bartlett Indians played hard against Southbridge Pioneers. At half-time the score was 6-6. The final score was 28-12, with a Southbridge win. Good efforts were made by the entire BHS Football team! Families and fans were very proud to be in attendance at this special annual event.





## COVID Updates:

We held a Free COVID Vaccination Clinic on November 30<sup>th</sup> for children ages 5-12. Fifty-six children in our community accessed this free clinic. The second dose clinic is scheduled during the holiday break on December 21<sup>st</sup> at Park Avenue Elementary School from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parents/ Guardians are required to be present and the required consent forms are on our website [www.webster-schools.org](http://www.webster-schools.org)

The COVID Dashboards are attached for your review.



## Reminders:

**Park Avenue Elementary School's *Lost and Found* items** are longing to go home to their owners. Please take the time to swing by or send your child to collect their things prior to the holiday break.



# volunteer



## Volunteer with Us!

Opportunities to volunteer in the Webster Public Schools exist! If you are interested in helping out at your child/children's school in some capacity, please reach out to your building administrator. All volunteers must fill out paperwork at Central Office prior to volunteering.



Upcoming Dates:

December 7<sup>th</sup> - School Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.

December 8<sup>th</sup> - *Story of A Building!* MSBA highlighting the Bartlett High School Renovation Project, 10:00 a.m. to noon.

December 14<sup>th</sup> - Bartlett High School Winter, 7:00 p.m.

December 16<sup>th</sup> - School Building Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.

December 20-31 - Winter Break

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 - School resumes

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - School Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.

January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - School Building Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.



Wishing everyone a wonderful month and a joyous and peaceful holiday season!

Kindest Regards,

Dr. Ruthann Petrino- Goguen