

WESTFORD ACADEMY



2016-2017

Parent Newsletter Vol. III

From The Desk Of The Principal - James P. Antonelli



Dear Parents and Students:

Winter has finally arrived and it has arrived with a vengeance! This year we are receiving a blast of both; cold and heavy snowfall. That said, hopefully the February break gave us a sneak preview of the nice weather ahead. Hang in there, spring is just around the corner, and believe it or not, we are already planning for senior week activities!

In this newsletter, you will find some information regarding important senior dates. In the upcoming weeks, the senior class advisors, Dean of Students, Michael Parent, and I will be meeting with the seniors to discuss upcoming events, our expectations regarding appropriate behavior, and other information. Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 2 at 5:30 PM to be held here at Westford Academy. Our rain dates are Saturday, June 3 at 5:30 PM and, if needed, Sunday, June 4 at 2:00 PM.

We have distributed course selection information to students in grades 8, 9, 10, and 11. This is a very important process and I urge parents to work closely with their son/daughter and the guidance department when choosing courses. If you have any questions regarding what courses your son/daughter should take, or the level he/she might select, please share and discuss your questions with a guidance counselor, teacher and/or curriculum coordinator. We are here to help you through the course selection process.

MCAS testing will soon be upon us. We are finalizing plans for the administration of these tests to our grade 9 and 10 students. I will email a letter to all of you and will post the letter on our website to the parents of our freshman and sophomore students identifying the dates of the testing and we will provide some information on ways you can support your student throughout the testing period.

In closing, I would like to thank the Westford Academy community for the continued support. Education is critical to the growth and development of our children and our community continues to demonstrate a true commitment to creating well-rounded students by supporting the Westford Public Schools budget. Thank you!

Sincerely,

WESTFORD ACADEMY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Mar 7	Town wide Chorus Night, PAC, 6-9:00 PM
Mar 8	Town wide Chorus Night, PAC, 6-9:00 PM
Mar 9	Snow Date - Town wide Chorus Night, PAC, 6-9:00 PM
Mar 15	Blood Drive, Aux Gym, 7-2:00 PM
Mar 16	Early Release (C, E, F, G)
Mar 17	Advisory Day (B, C, D, Advisory, E, F)
Mar 21	MCAS Long Comp - Sessions A & B
Mar 22	MCAS Sessions 1 & 2
Mar 23	MCAS Session 3
Mar 31	Options Fair, Cafe, 10:00 - 12:00 PM
Apr 5	Early Release Day (C,D, E, F) Professional Development, WA Band Concert, PAC, 6:30 PM
Apr 6	End of 3rd Quarter, Seniors Last Day (for those involved with Capstone), Chorus/Orchestra/Strings Concert, PAC, 6:00 PM
Apr 7	4th Quarter Begins, Senior Capstone Orientation 8:30 AM
Apr 13	Advisory (D, E, F, Advisory, A, B)
Apr 14	Early Release, Good Friday, (C, D, G, A)
Apr 17-21	Spring Break

(Dates, times and events subject to change)

GRADUATION 2017

The 2017 Graduation is scheduled for June 2nd at 5:30 PM, Westford Academy Alumni Field.

First rain date: Saturday, June 3rd at 5:30 PM

Second rain date: Sunday, June 4th at 2:00 PM

NURSES' NOTES

GRADE 9: Scoliosis screening is complete. Letters will be sent home to those students identified as needing follow up with their primary care provider.

GRADE 10: Vision and hearing screening is nearly complete. Letters will be sent home to those students requiring follow up with their doctor or primary care provider. Massachusetts state law requires that all 10th graders provide the clinic with a copy of a current physical, dated after August 1, 2015 by a licensed provider. If you have not already done so please submit your son's/daughter's physical as soon as possible.

GRADE 12: All health records will be given to seniors at graduation. Please keep these important documents in a safe place, as they may be needed for college and/or employment. Senior Privileges began on March 6 (for those approved.) These privileges do not allow students to dismiss themselves from the clinic. Eighteen-year-old students may not dismiss themselves from the clinic without written permission from their parents or guardian.

Medications: A reminder to all parents and students: The Westford Academy Student Handbook States the following: Medications are kept in the Nurses' Clinic with the exception of emergency medications (e.g. inhalers, Epipens) that students carry.

Prescription medication should be in its original container with the pharmacy label. Over the counter medication should be in the original packaging. A note from a parent giving permission for the medication is also needed. Students are not allowed to transport any psychotropic medications to or from school. These medications must be brought to school by a parent or guardian.

Inhalers: Spring will be here before you know it. Please be sure that your child's inhalers are up to date and with your students here in school.

Please notify us if you have a change in your work or cell phone number. Also please keep us updated if there are any changes in your child's health.

Thank you in advance for your help. Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns. We can be reached at 978-692-5570 x 2115 or by email at wanurse@westfordk12.us.

Joan Mitchell, R.N., B.S., MEd
Kathy Bourdeau, R.N., B.S.N., CWOCN



Art News

Please join the Art Department in acknowledging the students listed below for their winning art entries in the Boston Globe Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. This statewide competition offers students a chance to compete for awards designated GOLD KEY, SILVER KEY and HONORABLE MENTION. Congratulations go out to the following: Priya Banerjee (SK, HM, HM), Allie Bohenko (HM), Courtney Cadogan (GK), Antonio Cammalleri (GK, GK), Caroline Chaffiotte (SK, HM, HM), Shannon Chen (SK), Helen Copp (HM), Myles Cripanuk (HM), Meghan Donohue (SK), Joyce Downey (GK, GK, SK, HM), Cindy Huang (HM), Mohak Jain (SK), Jason Jung (GK), Sana Kapasi (HM), Piper Marmion (HM), Ian Martel (HM), Forrest Meng (SK portfolio), Greg Montemurro (HM), Gwen Morten (HM), Lisa Nakanishi (GK), Olivia Overington (GK), Gwen Riemer (HM), Lucia Shao (SK, HM), Claire Song (HM), Katherine Walker (SK), Hannah Wang (HM) and Alice Yun (HM).

From the Yearbook Adviser:

The 2017 WA Yearbook is almost ready! We are very excited for the dedication and distribution ceremony that will take place on May 30th - save the date seniors! Stay tuned for the timing. If you have not purchased your copy yet - please do so as soon as possible.

Order Online or you can simply send a check to Gina Mustoe written out to "WA Yearbook" in the amount of \$75. <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectStudent?isAdvertisementOnly=False&jobNumber=10973917>

WA's DECA Business

896 students from 10 local schools competed at UMass Lowell this winter. WA students won 24 out of 28 1st-place awards. There was a possible 182 awards to win and WA students won 123 of them. We beat last year's record with a younger group. 170 WA students qualified for the next round: DECA's State Career Development Conference being held at Boston's Marriott at Copley Place on March 9-11. Approximately 4000 students from DECA clubs throughout Massachusetts will be competing to qualify and represent the state at the International Competition held in Anaheim, CA in April.

From the WA Guidance Department

Junior/Parent Meetings

We are in full swing with our individual junior/parent meetings for post-secondary planning. Please contact your Guidance Counselor directly to make an appointment as soon as your junior completes the "To Do List" that has been shared on the WA Guidance Blog.

WA Guidance Blog

Check out the WA Guidance Blog! Use the following address to view it and enter your email to receive live updates.
waguidance.blogspot.com

Senior Scholarships

The WA Trustee Awards and Community Scholarships application process for the Class of 2017 will begin on March 1st. The firm deadline for submitting all applications will be Monday, March 20 at 2:00 PM. Only applications with a submitted timestamp from March 1st to March 20th will be considered. There will be no exceptions! Detailed information and instructions for applying are on the WA website, under Guidance. http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/Westfordwa_trustees/listing
In addition, there are more scholarship opportunities listed in Naviance, under the College tab, Scholarship List.

Course Selection

The override deadline is March 17, 2017. Please visit the Step-by-Step Guide to the Scheduling Process for instructions.
http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/westfordwa_progstudies/index

Senior Capstone Experience

Seniors have submitted applications for the Senior Capstone Experience, and applications will be reviewed over the next several weeks. The mandatory Capstone Orientation Meeting will be held on Friday, April 7 at 8:30 AM in the PAC. The Exhibition is open to the public and will be held on May 30 in the main gym from 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Please come visit and see the valuable opportunities our students have experienced!

AP Exams

Students taking AP exams are reminded that attendance at the Pre-Administration session on either April 12 or 13 is mandatory. Please see Mrs. Karatkewicz or Mr. Doherty if you have any questions.

Junior Job Shadow Day is May 16, 2017

The goal is to help students explore a range of career options, gain information about possible career interests, and increase their understanding of connections between school and work. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain insight into a particular field and possibly pursue a senior year internship.

Career Exploration Breakfast

In December, the Westford Academy Guidance Department hosted the Career Exploration Breakfast for the entire junior and sophomore classes - 850 students! This event gives students the opportunity to select two careers of interest and then spend time in a small group with a professional in that field. Speakers share their interests, educational background, and skills that are needed to perform their jobs. The goal of this School to Careers program is to help students connect academic schoolwork to career readiness and awareness beyond Westford Academy. We are grateful for the 47 speakers who spent their valuable time with our students! Students report that this was an extremely worthwhile experience!

Project Purple

Westford Project Purple submitted an entry into the Herren Project's - Project Purple Initiative - National Video Contest in December. On January 2nd, they were notified that their entry placed 2nd in this NATIONAL contest! This year, the group, led by advisors Melanie Jozokos & Laurie Rybicki challenged the student body, as well as some teachers, to come up with their best "mannequin challenge". Adam Gagne's social media marketing class met this challenge and submitted the best scenario. Project Purple student leader, Abby Benting, then added the group's message to it for the final product. It was certainly a group effort and we are so PROUD of all involved!!

Class of 2017 Senior Activities

March 31	Graduation Speeches due to Class Advisors
April 4 & 6	Graduation Speech presentations to panel & Prom Tickets on sale
April 7	Capstone Kickoff Meeting - 8:30 AM PAC
May 7	Senior Sports Awards Banquet - sponsored by the Boosters - Westford Academy, Cafe, 5:30 PM
May 17	Disney Parent/Senior Meeting - 6:30 PM (Mandatory for those going to Disney - parent AND student)
May 20	Senior Prom, Town Common, 4:30 PM Boston Park Plaza 7-11:00 PM
May 22 & 23	Senior Capstone Presentations, 8-10:00 AM (by scheduled appointment) Senior Seminar, PAC, 10-1:00 PM (for all seniors)
May 24	Disney trip departure - return May 28th
May 30	Senior Capstone Exhibition, Main Gym, 10-12:00 PM Yearbook Celebration - 12:15 PM, PAC
June 1	MANDATORY Graduation rehearsal - meet in AUX gym at: 9:45 AM (Senior Cookout to follow)
June 1	Senior Scholarship Night, PAC, 6:30 PM (by invitation)
June 2	Senior Awards Ceremony, PAC, 8:30 AM (by invitation for awards)
June 2	GRADUATION, Alumni Field, 5:30 PM (Seniors report to the AUX Gym at 4:00 PM)
June 2	Last Night, Westford Academy, 10:00 PM check in
June 3	Graduation 1st rain date, Alumni Field, 5:30 PM
June 4	Graduation 2nd rain date, Alumni Field, 2:00 PM

Graduation Shout-out to Seniors - WA Ghostwriter

The end of your child's high school career is near! We know you have many different ways to commemorate the occasion, but we'd like to offer another possibility.

The staff of the student newspaper, The WA Ghostwriter, invites you to purchase a graduation shout-out for your son or daughter. We publish a printed June edition of the newspaper that is distributed at graduation. Since it features a list of the graduates' college destinations, it tends to be a hot commodity!

We are selling four different shout-out spaces this year.

Deadline for submitting all materials and payment: April 13, 2017

The Ghostwriter staff will design your shout-out at no additional cost!

Photos that work well: senior portraits (that you have a release for), baby pictures, candid, close up and clear photos

Photos that do not work well: Iphone photos, blurry or unfocused photos

Message example: "We are so proud of you Sam! We know you will do well in college and succeed at UConn! We hope you always stay true to yourself and follow your dreams! Love, Mom and Dad"

Feel free to email me with any questions! jfonden@westfordk12.us

Janet Fonden
English and Journalism Teacher
WA Ghostwriter Adviser