

# WESTFORD ACADEMY



## 2017-2018

Parent Newsletter Vol. III

### From The Desk Of The Principal - James P. Antonelli



Dear Parents and Students:

March has arrived and it has arrived with a vengeance! The snow days have piled up and it looks like we will be in school into late June. That said, hopefully the April break will provide us with 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, Betsy Murphy, 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 1 at 5:30 PM to be held here at Westford Academy. Our rain dates are Saturday, June 2 at 5:30 PM and, if needed, Sunday, June 3 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.

School safety has been on everybody's mind and I hope that you read my school safety letter that I sent out the week of March 5th. If not, the letter has been posted on the Westford Academy website. This past Monday, March 12th a school safety meeting was held at the Stony Brook Middle School. The superintendent provided an overview of many of the measures we have in place to keep students and staff safe, and fielded many questions from the audience. I think it was a solid demonstration by the Westford Public Schools System that school safety is paramount to school leadership.

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 19	Spring Sports Begin
Mar 23	WA's Got Talent, 7:00 PM
Mar 24	SAT's
Mar 27	MCAS - ELA Composition Sessions A & B
Mar 28	MCAS - ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1 & 2
Mar 29	MCAS - ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3
Mar 30	Early Release, Good Friday (All classes meet)
Apr 3	WA Chorus & Orchestra Concert, 7:00 PM, PAC
Apr 4	Early Release, Professional Development (D, E, F, B)
Apr 5	End of Quarter 3, MCAS Make-up Sessions A & B WA Band Concert, 7:00 PM, PAC Last day of classes for Capstone Seniors
Apr 6	4th Quarter Begins Capstone Meeting, 8:30 AM, PAC
Apr 12	Advisory Day (E, F, G Advisory, A, C)
Apr 16-20	No School, Spring Break

### GRADUATION 2018

The 2018 Graduation is scheduled for June 1st at 5:30 PM, Westford Academy Alumni Field.

First rain date: Saturday, June 2nd at 5:30 PM

Second rain date: Sunday, June 3rd 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, 2017 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 begin on February 27th (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](mailto:wanurse@westfordk12.us).

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

## **From the Yearbook Adviser:**

The 2018 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. Here is the link to order online [ <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/LookupJob?jobNumber=10973918> ] <https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/LookupJob?jobNumber=10973918> or you can simply send a check to Gina Mustoe written out to "WA Yearbook" in the amount of \$85.

## **CP Marine - Public Awareness Website**

The Fall Semester CP Marine class has created a public awareness website to educate people about the dangers currently facing some of the most threatened locations in the oceans. Most importantly, the students have worked with marine experts to identify things we can all do to positively impact the oceans and challenge us all to make a difference in our own way. Check it out at [ <https://sites.google.com/westfordk12.us/oceansincrisis/home> ] <https://sites.google.com/westfordk12.us/oceansincrisis/home>

## **Ghostwriter - Graduation 2018**

Dear Senior Parents/Guardians:

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, 2018

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"

If you would like to purchase a shout-out, please fill out the Google form here: [ <https://goo.gl/forms/54rw9EIR1c917EB72> ] <https://goo.gl/forms/54rw9EIR1c917EB72>

Feel free to email me with any questions!

Janet Fonden  
English and Journalism Teacher  
WA Ghostwriter Adviser  
[jfonden@westfordk12.us](mailto:jfonden@westfordk12.us)

## 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 counselor directly to make an appointment as soon as your junior completes the "Junior To Do List" that has been shared on the WA Guidance Blog and through Naviance.

### 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](http://waguidance.blogspot.com)

### Senior Scholarships

The WA Trustee Awards and Community Scholarships application process for the Class of 2018 will begin on March 1st. The firm deadline for submitting all applications will be Tuesday, 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](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 16, 2018. Please visit the Step-by-Step Guide to the Scheduling Process for instructions. [http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/westfordwa\\_progstudies/index](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 6 at 8:15 AM in the PAC. Capstone Presentations are May 21 and May 22. 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 11 or 12 is mandatory. Please see Mrs. Karatkewicz or Mr. Doherty if you have any questions.

### Junior Job Shadow Day is May 23, 2018

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 - 875 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 54 speakers who spent their valuable time with our students! Students report that this was an extremely worthwhile experience!



## **CLASS OF 2018 SENIOR ACTIVITIES**

### **APRIL**

- 5 Last Day of Classes for Capstone Seniors
- 6 Capstone Kickoff Meeting – 8:30 AM PAC

### **MAY**

- 7 – 18 AP Exams
- 16 Disney Parent/Senior Mtg. – 6:30 PM  
(Mandatory for those going to Disney – parent AND student)
- 19 Senior Prom – Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge 7 – 11 PM  
(Pictures on Town Common 5:00 PM)
- 20 Senior Sports Awards Banquet – sponsored by the Boosters  
Westford Academy, Café, 5:30 PM
- 21 & 22 Senior Capstone Presentations, 8 – 10 AM and 12 – 2 PM (by  
scheduled appointment)
- 23 Disney trip departure – return May 27th
- 29 Senior Activity – 9 AM – Noon
- 30 Senior Capstone Exhibition, Main Gym, 10 – 12:00 PM  
Yearbook Celebration – 12:15 PM, PAC
- 31 MANDATORY graduation rehearsal – meet in AUX gym at 9:45 AM  
(Senior Cookout to follow)  
Senior Scholarship Night, PAC, 6:30 PM (by invitation)

### **JUNE**

- 1 Senior Awards Ceremony, PAC, 8:30 AM (by invitation for awards)
- GRADUATION, Alumni Field, 5:30 PM  
(Seniors report to the Aux Gym at 4:00 PM)
- Last Night, Westford Academy, 10:00 PM check-in
- 2 Graduation 1st rain date, Alumni Field, 5:30 PM
- 3 Graduation 2nd rain, date, Alumni Field, 2:00 PM

### **Boston Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Awards**

Congratulations to Westford Academy students for their recognition of Boston Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Each student recognized below put forth a tremendous amount of work to receive this prestigious honor. All Gold Key work will be sent to the National Scholastic office to be judged with other Gold Key work from all over the country for a possible award at the National level. Congratulations students and teachers in the Art and English Departments! Allie Bohenko, Gold Key, Drawing, Tyler Boroshok, Honorable Mention, Digital Art, Antonio Cammalleri, Silver Key, Photography, Caroline Chaffiotte, FOUR Gold Key Awards, 1 Silver Key and 1 Honorable Mention, Photography, Flash Fiction, Justin Friel, Gold Key, Digital Art, Ila Jagannath, Silver Key, Digital Art, Amy Jiang, Honorable Mention, Drawing, John Li, Honorable Mention and Silver Key, Critical Essay and Drawing, Jason Liang, Silver Key, Journalism, Allison McCabe, Honorable Mention, Digital Art, Sharon Patta, Honorable Mention, Poetry, Gwen Riemer, Honorable Mention, Sculpture, Audrija Sarkar, Honorable Mention, Drawing, Audrey Sequeira, Gold Key, Drawing, Sithara Sonnathi, Silver Key, Painting, Danielle Wilson, Gold Key, Mixed Media, Nicole Wilson, Silver Key, Photography.

### **WA Wright Library**

Third quarter is here and that means many students have started their history research paper. Classes are visiting the library regularly for tips and strategies to help with the research process. The library has many resources available on the WA Library website. In addition to print books, we have a large collection of electronic books and research databases. There are also links to Turnitin and Noodletools. All of this information can be found [ [http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/westfordWA\\_library/index](http://wa.westfordk12.us/pages/westfordWA_library/index) ]here. Mrs. Harde and Mrs. Monaghan are available to help students find quality sources, use Noodletools for citation, and submit their paper to TurnItIn.com. Follow us on Twitter: @wawrightlibrary

### **Underclassmen Spring Semi Formal**

Saturday, April 28th, 7:00 - 10:00 PM in the WA Cafeteria.

### **New Course at WA - Women's Empowerment**

Dear Students, Parents & Guardians, with the upcoming course selection process for students, we wanted to bring a new course to your attention. The course is titled WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT. It is a new elective course that will be offered through the English and Wellness Departments. A brief description is below:

049 - WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CP1 2.5 credits

What makes women feel EMPOWERED? How can this understanding help women to be more resilient individuals and to be more active participants in the global society? Answers to these questions will be explored through this new semester elective offered through the English and Wellness departments. Topics include Women in History, The Role of Women in Society, Domestic Violence and Gender Equality/Equity. The course includes personal goal-setting, confidence building techniques, and daily self-reflection. All genders welcome. This is a class open to ALL students in grades 10-12 next year. We'd like to stress the importance of ALL GENDERS WELCOME. Although the course may seem like it is geared to female students, it is important to recognize the role everyone can play in making our community, nation and world a more safe and productive place for women. If you have any questions about the course, please feel free to contact us.

Melanie Jozokos ([mjozokos@westfordk12.us](mailto:mjozokos@westfordk12.us)) & Kyle Kucaj ([kkucaj@westfordk12.us](mailto:kkucaj@westfordk12.us))



Members of the Tadmuck Chapter of the National Honor Society at Westford Academy assembled over 50 Valentine gift bags for Westford Senior Citizens. The students filled the bags with items and Valentine greeting cards to cheer homebound elderly and visitors to the Cameron Senior Center.