



HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

Parents & Teachers -- working together for children.

October 19, 2009

H1N1 Flu Clinic Update *Fran writes,*

We are still planning to hold our clinic on October 29th but it may have to be postponed if the vaccine is not available. We'll provide an update next Monday.

The deadline for registering your child for the clinic is still Wednesday, October 21, at 9 am. I will be calling the Health Department with our numbers on Wednesday so please get your forms in before then. If you need a form see Laurie or me.

Also, I am looking for volunteers to help with the students on the day of the clinic. Volunteers will bring the children from the classroom, returning them afterwards, and stay with the class for approximately 15 minutes to watch for any reactions. Parents are welcome to come to the clinic with their children, especially the little ones. We'll publish a schedule next week.

If we get less vaccine than requested, we will give children priority. Stay tuned!

No School Thursday & Friday

Remember that WWSU schools are closed Thursday and Friday of this week for Teachers' Convention.

Four Winds in October *Tara Hamilton writes,*

The *Four Winds* topic this month is Tree Growth. Trees are amazing! In this month's in-class session, students will be learning that a tree is made of many parts, each designed to perform a necessary function during the tree's life cycle and within the cycle of seasons. They'll be asking questions about tree growth rates and learning how each kind of tree has unique characteristics that make it possible for it to grow and

adjust to seasonal cycles and changes in the environment in a particular place.

Some activities you can do at home: Trees are the giants of the plant world, but just how big are they? You can measure how tall the trees are around your home with a trick using two people. One person walks about 60 feet (pace or measure the distance) out from the base of the tree to be measured and holds a straight stick upright on the ground. The other person goes about six feet farther and, lying on the ground, looks up to see where the top of the tree comes to on the stick. The ground person directs the stick holder to move his/her hand down the stick to mark the treetop point on the stick. The height of the tree is about ten times the height marked on the stick. Take a guess at about how old the tree might be? Is it a fast-growing or slow-growing tree? How tall are the trees around it?

Bike/Hike to School Fridays *Grace Holter writes,*

Because the weather has turned to winter early this year, the *Safe Routes to School* Team has decided to end the Friday walk and bike to school mornings. Last Friday 10/16 was our final day of the season. We will start up again in the spring and maybe hold a mid-winter walk, ski or snowshoe to school day.

Thank you to Kirstin Reily, Dave Hodgeson, Sheryl Platt, Adina Ford, Deirdre Fennelly, Tim Holter, Brendan and Chrissy Gilhuly, and April Smith -- the parent volunteers who put up signs every week and spent Friday mornings out on the roads to create safe ways for our children to walk and bike. And special thanks to town constable, Bill Peatman and sheriff, Peter Laskowski for their support. It was heartwarming watching all of those smiling faces walking and bicycling up School Road.

The Safe Routes to School Team will be meeting soon to plan next steps. If you are interested in being a part of that process please contact Kirstin at 496-9857.



The Kindergarten class made their annual visit to the firehouse last week, always exciting! (Gregg Platt photo)

Halloween Candy

Warren village residents get hit hard by Halloween trick or treaters, so we try to ease their pain by collecting candy here at school. Afterschool students will deliver it to homes in the village. Please give your candy donations to Laurie. Thanks.

Holiday Wreaths

Fifth and Sixth graders are again selling holiday wreath sale. \$18 gets you a beautiful wreath you're your choice of red or plaid bow, and helps the children earn the money they need for their class trips. You can order from a student, or pick up an order form in the lobby. Deadline for order is Friday, October 30.

School Closing *Superintendent Brigid Sheffert writes,* Dear Washington West Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe that while we are enjoying a glorious foliage season our winter weather is right around the corner. Ready or not, here it comes, and so does the need to close school and/or delay openings occasionally. I wanted to be in touch to further clarify our procedures for addressing inclement weather.

Student safety is, of course, our primary concern. My years of experience tell me that decisions to close school are often met with dissatisfaction, and I am hoping to do what I can to implement the best possible procedures in our supervisory union. However, we all know that our Vermont weather can be very unpredictable and often changes drastically in a short period of time.

I have been working with all of our principals and Ray Staskus, our bus coordinator, to review previous winter plans and to make improvements where possible. Here is basically how it all works:

Ray is mainly responsible for determining if our school buses can run safely. He monitors the weather from several sources, including, but not limited to, radar, online weather reporting, speaking with the road crews, and the state police. He places a call to me by 5:15 AM and together we decide whether school will be closed or if a delayed opening is necessary.

We need to call a delayed opening when a storm hits at a time such that the road crews cannot get their job done and the roads simply are not ready for buses on time. This can be confusing for folks because often when you go out, the main roads will seem fine. Please remember that all the back roads which our buses travel on can really be quite different.

The temperature sometimes can also cause a delay at the beginning and tail end of winter season because of freezing rain. As a matter of fact, freezing rain will

