



HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

Parents & Teachers -- working together for children.

December 7, 2009

Enrollment & Budget Report

The Warren School Board is working on the budget for the 2010-2011 school year – always an exciting project – even more so this year because we have to plan for the increased enrollment. While we can hire more teachers, we can't easily increase the number of classrooms for them to teach in – that's where the challenge is!

There is good news for the budget, however. Under Act 68, the school tax you pay as a local resident is based on the school's per-pupil spending. To calculate the per-pupil spending, you first subtract the expected revenues from the total expenses in the budget to find the amount of "local educational spending". Then you divide that number by the number of "equalized pupils" we reported on the fall census.

Here's the good news: our revenue numbers are up, thanks to the enrollment of four tuition-paying students from Granville and Hancock. And the number of "equalized pupils" has increased by 14% -- from 122.88 to 140.24.

So even with hiring additional staff, the Board has a good chance of keeping our per-pupil costs below the 2009-10 level – an important goal in these times of state and national fiscal stress. The faculty will be developing a staffing proposal to bring to the School Board at its 12/22 meeting, and the Board will hold a public hearing on the staffing and budget plan at its January 12, 2010 meeting. Final Board action on the budget and staffing plan won't take place until January 25th.

By the way, Warren's 14.1% increase in equalized pupils is very unusual these days – Waitsfield had a 4.4% increase, Fayston 2%, Moretown 0.4%, and Waterbury-Duxbury a 0.9% decrease.

4 Winds: Traveling Seeds *Catrin Noel writes,* This month's 4 Winds science topic is "travelling seeds". In the life cycle of a plant, the formation of viable seeds is primary to the maintenance of a continuous cycle. A plant's seed is an embryo that holds all the makings for leaves, stem, roots and the stored nourishment needed to start germination. After seeds are formed, they must be dispersed. Without the dispersal of seeds to new locations away from their 'parent' plant, young seedlings would compete for soil, sunlight, water, and nutrients and have less chance of survival. Plants have an amazing variety of structures and strategies for the dispersal of their seeds including hitchhikers, helicopters, edibles, and floats that use wind, water, and humans and other animals to assist in distribution. Each kind of seed structure and strategy increases the likelihood that the seed will land in a place where conditions are favorable for it to germinate and grow into a new plant.



Third and fourth graders are learning the basics of animation in their art classes with Heather O'Hare. They started by making flip books, and moved on to animating a ball in motion using iMovie in the computer lab. They'll finish by making stop-action movies using sock puppets.

The computer lab is due for a major upgrade – the eMacs in use here are over seven years old, and while they've been very reliable, the state of technology has moved on. We've signed a lease on a set of 20 new iMacs -- they should be delivered this month!

Early Release Day

This Wednesday, December 9, is the fourth in the series of early release days this year. Students are dismissed at 12:30. As usual, the Warren Afterschool Program will have extended hours; let them know if you plan to send your child.

Holiday Concert

Our annual holiday concert is scheduled for next Tuesday, 12/15, with the next day as a 'snow date'. The event starts at 6:30. Carolyn asks all students to wear nice concert clothing. In addition, children in Beth's class need red noses, and children in Pru and Heidi's classes need a battery operated candle or small flashlight.

KidsAct Performance

Several Warren students are featured in the performance of *A Modern Christmas Carol* at the Valley Players in Waitsfield on Saturday, December 12th. The show is written and directed by Ruth Ann Pattee.

From the library *Ellen Drysdale writes,*

Book Fair Many, many thanks go to all you parents who supported your children's reading by buying books at the Scholastic Book Fair. It seemed like just about everyone came by after parent conferences and rewarded kids with a book or few. I love seeing you

browse together, sometimes agreeing about choices, sometimes not, discussing your reasoning, sometimes compromising, and walking off happily with your purchases. We broke a record this year, grossing over \$3000, and earning over \$800 for library books and special events!

Library Bills :-(A few people will be receiving library bills with today's Bulletin. These bills are for books that were not returned last year. We have checked our shelves, and they are indeed missing. We appreciate full reimbursement, so that we can replace them, but if that is a burden, any amount would be appreciated.

Overdues A few children have checked books out that are over one month overdue, so they may not borrow books until those books are returned or paid for. If you get an overdue notice and are sure a book has been returned, write me a note or email me at edrysdale@warrenschoo.org. Mistakes do happen!

Toy Safety Tips Fran Blair writes,

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has a list of toy hazards that parents should be aware of.

The top 5 toy hazards:

- Scooters and other Riding Toys – riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be worn at all times and be sized to fit.
- Small balls and other toys with small parts – for children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.
- Balloons – children under eight years can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Keep un-inflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once.
- Magnets – for children under age six, avoid building or play sets with small magnets. If magnets or pieces with magnets are swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.
- Chargers and Adapters – charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.

Once the gifts are open:

- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become dangerous play things.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings.
- Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any device to prevent overcharging.

With the increase popularity of second-hand stores and on-line vendors, gift-givers should be especially vigilant to prevent the purchase of hazardous products that have been recalled, banned or do not meet current safety standards. For more information on recalled toys go to www.recalls.gov

For more information on product safety you can go to www.cpsc.gov

Gingerbread Show

Come see the fabulous gingerbread creations on display at the Warren Afterschool's Gingerbread Extravaganza in the Warren Town Hall next Saturday (12/12/09) from 10-5, Sunday from 11-6, or Monday from 2-6. The Grand Finale Party starts at 6 on Monday – everyone's welcome.

If you're submitting an entry, you should drop off on Friday evening from 5-8. No preregistration required.

Important Dates for your calendars:

12/9	Weds	Early Dismissal 12:30 pm
12/12-13		WASP Gingerbread Event
12/15	Tues	Holiday Concert 6:30 pm
12/22	Tues	School Board, 6:00 pm
12/24	- 1/3	Vacation
1/6/10	Weds	School Board, 6:00 pm
1/12	Tues	School Board Budget Hearing, 6:00 pm
1/25	Mon	School Board, 6:00 pm

REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Season of Giving

- Send in your coins! Warren students are conducting a coin drive to support families in Washington County. We invite you to empty out those coin jars -- children in the Primary Unit will take pickle jars to classrooms to collect the coins, I-Team kids will spend their recesses rolling the coins, and Upper Unit will do the shopping.
- And Harwood students are gathering *Gifts of Kindness* – they're collecting donations of lightly used or new toys, clothes (especially winter gloves, hats, boots, etc), and kitchen items spatulas, measuring cups and spoons, pot holders, etc.). The gifts are carefully sorted and boxed by Harwood Students, and then distributed to families through the *Good Samaritan Haven* and *Battered Women's Shelter*.

Warren School Rocks! *Keryn Nightingale writes,* Last year in Katie Sullivan's grade 3/4 classroom I volunteered to lead writing sessions we called "Write and Rock and Roll" -- we used music to inspire writing in several ways. One of our lessons was inspired by a song called "Surf Wax America" by the band Weezer, so we sent the project to the band. They loved it, and made an eight minute video of the band reading the book we sent. You can find the video by typing weezer webisode 16 into Google – it'll take you to the Youtube site where you can view it. Check it out!

Flu Clinic Postponed, Again

As you may have heard, the Vermont Department of Health has again postponed our flu clinic due to lack of vaccine. Unfortunately they can't give us a firm date but we hope to have it before Christmas. If you have the opportunity to get the vaccine for your child at their health care providers, Fran suggests that you take it.

Ski Leasing

Mountainside Ski Services is offering Kids Alpine Ski Lease Packages starting at \$99. The store is in Sugarbush Village.