



HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

Parents & Teachers -- working together for children.

December 14, 2009

Town Meeting

This year, the School Meeting will take place *before* Town Meeting on March 2, 2010. Last year's Town Meeting voted to make this significant change in order to increase voter participation in voting on the School budget. We're giving you this "heads-up" now because it is critically important that Warren School parents come to support our school, to be there to say "Yes" when the moderator asks "All those in favor..."

If you usually go skiing on Town Meeting Day, you can come to the school meeting and still get in a (nearly) full day on the slopes. If you're headed off to work, the school meeting should be completed before 10:00 am. And if you're making reservations for travel, we hope you will make every effort to be back in time!

Flu Clinic, at last!

The Department of Health has notified us that we will finally be able to hold our H1N1 flu vaccination clinic this Thursday, December 17th. Fran will be doing the vaccinations behind the curtain on the stage. Children will remain under observation in the gym for 15 minutes after the shot.

Please let Fran know if you're available to help on Thursday.

Here's the schedule for vaccinations, in case you want to come to the clinic with your child.

8:05	Heather	10:30	Gina
8:30	Andra	11:00	Katie
9:00	Roni	12:00	Whitney
9:30	Elizabeth	12:30	Pru
10:00	Heidi	1:00	Beth

Family Directory

We intend to publish (for home consumption only) a Warren School family directory, listing students' names, birthdates, parents' names, home phone numbers, and mail and email addresses. We'll sort it by classroom, so you can find your child's classmates.

If you would prefer that we NOT list any or all of this information, please let us know this week. The directory will be made available only to Warren families.

Photo Permission

As you may already know, the Warren School has a home page on the Internet at www.warrenschool.org which includes photos of unidentified Warren students. We also post the weekly Warren Bulletin, which usually includes photos of small groups of children, sometimes identified by first name. And we also occasionally submit students' work and illustrative photos to local newspapers.

In previous years, we have included a request for your permission to share your child's image and work with the Information Form we send home in August (it also



Did your child come home Friday full of ambition to see the world and have adventures -- like scuba diving with sharks, or looking for treasure in South America, canoeing down the Hudson river, or dredging for gold in the Amazon river? At an assembly Friday morning, students in grades 1-6 were enthralled for over an hour by children's author Peter Lourie, as he described how he became a writer and photographer and entertained us with stories and photos of a few of his many adventures. He discovered the therapeutic power of writing during a difficult childhood and still tears up when he tells about the accidental death of his boyhood dog. With wide interests ranging from archeology, ecology and pirate treasure, he has published about 20 interesting photographic essays -- they are all mostly checked out of the library! Lourie's visit was funded by a grant from the Children's Literacy Foundation.

includes permission for field trips and emergency treatment). We realize that this release was omitted from this year's form, so we are asking you now to give us that permission.

With this Bulletin, we're sending home a form for you to sign and return. You can also communicate your wishes by phone or email (alehner@warrenschool.org).

December Four Winds: "Birds on the Wing"

During their December sessions (led by our amazing and talented parent volunteers!) the kids will be learning about things like

- why do some birds migrate and others don't?
- when they do head off to warmer climates, where do they go and why?

They'll contemplate why some birds migrate only short distances, but many fly thousands of miles each year. Through fun activities they'll learn a bit about migration patterns; how distances traveled vary with species; and



why and how birds migrate from northern areas to places where there are more adequate food supplies, longer daylight hours for foraging for food, and less need to expend energy to stay warm. We'll also examine why birds such as the black-capped chickadee, ruffed grouse, and blue jay have adaptations that allow them to survive the challenges of northern winters, keeping us company all season long!



In Art class, first & second graders constructed masks out of plaster and molds as they explored the imaginative power of this exciting art form. They added final details and creative designs with a variety of collage materials. The multi media supplies included: tempera paint, felt, fabric, beads, pens, wire and mod-podge. The masks are on display in the lobby at school.

Holiday Safety Fran Blair writes,

The holidays should be a magical time from children, yet every year there are many emergency room visits for falls, cuts, and shocks from electrical sources. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in numerous fires resulting in injuries, death and property damage.

A few things to remember:

- When buying a tree look for freshness – green and the needles are hard to pull off. Put water in the tree stand to help keep it looking fresh and from drying out and losing its needles.
- When setting up the tree place it away from fireplaces and radiators. When placing the lights on the tree make sure there is no frayed ends or damage to the string. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree – the tree can become charged with electricity and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Place candles where they won't be knocked over. Keep them away from children, pets, walkways, trees and curtains. Never leave candles, stoves or fireplaces unattended.
- Turn off lights when you go out or go to bed.
- Keep holiday plants out of reach of children and pets – many are poisonous.
- Buy toys that are age appropriate.
- Ornaments and other holiday decorations can be choking hazards. Some older ornaments may contain lead. Place any ornaments that may be dangerous up high on the tree out of reach of little hands and pets.

Be safe and enjoy the holiday season.

HUMS Community Council

The Harwood Union Middle School Community Council meets once a month to discuss ways to improve the middle school experience for students and

families. As a member of the Harwood community, your input is wanted. You do not need to have a student currently at Harwood to participate. The next meeting, on Tuesday, January 5, at 6:30 at the middle school, will be a planning session for a potluck and activities night in March. This evening is intended to give Harwood parents a chance to mingle with Harwood parents from different towns, while giving the students something fun to do.

Important Dates for your calendars:

12/14	Mon	WASP Gingerbread Finale, Warren Town Hall, 6:00pm
12/15	Tues	Holiday Concert 6:30 pm
12/17	Thurs	Flu Clinic!
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
3/2	Tues	Annual School Meeting 9:00 am

REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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!

Here's the good news: our revenue numbers are up. 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.



Pru's class gets the first look at the new iMacs in the computer lab – they're slim and speedy, and the kids are thrilled! So are we...