



# HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

*Parents & Teachers -- working together for children.*

March 3, 2010

## Thank You Voters!

Our profound thanks to the many parents who made the time to come to yesterday's School Meeting. Your votes helped defeat a measure to cut the budget by \$42k, and then to pass the budget itself. It may not have been your idea of a good time (as for me, I'd rather have a root canal) but the "yes" vote means we can now build our plans for next year.

By the way, the attendance this year's school meeting was about double last year's, when fewer than 100 voters acted on the school budget.

The Board welcomes April Smith as its newest member. April replaces Sasha Woolson, who served on the Board since 2003 – thanks, Sasha!

## Lice Policy Discussion

Current Warren School Board Policy on Lice (F15) says, simply:

*"Any student with lice or nits will be excluded from school until the condition has been corrected."*

A note accompanying the policy refers to lice as a "communicable disease."

Does this policy need revision in light of current knowledge? We've invited Dr. Louis DiNicola, a respected Randolph pediatrician, to come to a public meeting on Tuesday, March 9, at 7 pm to serve as an "expert witness" on the subject. We hope you'll be able to join us for that discussion. If a policy change is indicated, the Board will make the change at a properly warned meeting in the future.

In the meantime, here are some points that Dr. DiNicola shared with us in a recent discussion:

1. Lice never caused any disease; there's no medical necessity for concern about their presence. It is not a medical emergency.
2. Lice must stay close to the scalp where it's warm. They don't jump around like fleas, and they don't lie in wait for an opportunity to travel. Live lice die within 48 hours if they are not on someone's scalp.
3. And live nits will only be found close to the scalp. Nits will usually not hatch at room temperature; if they do hatch, they will die soon after hatching if they do not have an immediate blood meal. Sending home or excluding kids with dead nits makes no medical or educational sense.

*Any nit more than a centimeter (.4 inch) away from the scalp is likely to be dead; more than an inch from the scalp is definitely dead. A dead nit is dead -- not going anywhere -- no reason to do anything about it.*

4. The only way lice are transmitted is by direct, sustained head-to-head contact -- possibly via a hat if the hat has been worn for a long time, and possibly



*Lila, Charlie, Annie, Nathan and Clayton share their stories in the Primary Unit Theater evening on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Gina and Whitney's students appeared in "Go Fish".*

*Note that these productions depend on your contributions – if you haven't already done so, please send in a check payable to the Warren PTO, marked "Theater Program".*

via combs. They are NOT transmitted on furniture, not on bus seats, not on theater seats. It's unlikely that head lice are transmitted in the school setting. Most of our precautions (like bagging clothing, covering furniture, etc) are unnecessary.

5. Sending our kids to the Flynn will not result in the theater being contaminated. Nor will our kids pick up any lice from the chairs. Nits and if they do, they will die within hours if they do not have a blood source.

If you have questions you want Dr. DiNicola to answer at the meeting next Tuesday, you're welcome to submit them in advance via email to [alehner@warren-school.org](mailto:alehner@warren-school.org). Dr. DiNicola will also take questions at the meeting.

## Tickets Now on Sale for Terra Rossa Dinner

*Terra Rossa Ristorante*, on the Access Road, is hosting a benefit for the Warren School on April 1st from 5-9 pm.

We have 200 tickets to sell and need everyone's help to make this a success. Tell your family! Invite your friends! The best way to purchase your tickets is from Laurie, either at the school or via the "Family Envelope". (Order forms will be sent out in next week's envelope.) Tickets for dinner are \$15/adult \$10/child (includes tax) and enters you in a raffle to win a Pizza Party for 10 at Terra Rossa. All tips from the evening will go directly to the PTO. This is no April Fools joke, it will be a night you won't want to miss! Thank you for your support.