



# HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

*Parents & Teachers – working together for children.*

March 15, 2010

## Parent Conferences

With this *Bulletin* you should receive a notice of the appointments we've made for your parent conference(s). Please contact Laurie if you there's a problem with the time she's scheduled for you.

## We're #2!

For what it's worth, schooldigger.com has updated its rankings of Vermont elementary schools – the Warren School has moved up from 12<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> place. These rankings are solely based on the current NECAP reading and math scores. They don't include the writing scores, or reflect the 'margin of error' possibilities. Still, we should celebrate the moment!

## School Climate Survey

Washington West Schools are conducting their annual school climate survey. Students and teachers have had their opportunity to participate – now it's your turn! You can find a link to the survey on the "Items of Interest" list on the home page of [www.warrenschool.org](http://www.warrenschool.org). You can also access it directly via the following URL: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KT3D8C6>

Finally, if you prefer an older technology, we'll have paper copies of the survey for you to pick up at parent conferences. March 24<sup>th</sup> is the deadline.

## Early Dismissal Day

A heads up that the next early dismissal day is coming on Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## School Board Update

At the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board elected Michael Ketchel as its new chairperson, and April Smith as Recording Secretary. Charlotte Robinson continues as Board Clerk – she's also the school's Truant Officer.

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, March 23 at 7:15, followed by a spate of Monday meetings on April 5 and 26, May 3 and 17, and June 7 and 21.

## TV Turnoff!

One of Warren School's many enduring traditions, TV Turnoff Week, will return Monday-Friday, March 29-April 2. We encourage the whole Warren community (adults too!) to get back to basics, unplug the TV and refrain from computer and video games for 5 whole days! We're not unplugging everything: homework that requires a computer is obviously ok, and email chat is allowed.

Next week TV Turnoff slips will be included with the *Warren Bulletin*. For every day that you child is TV/Video game free, s/he will fill out a slip telling what activities replaced the screen and have a parent sign it. When the student brings in the slip, s/he will get to choose a small prize for the achievement! We save the daily slips and are use them in a raffle for larger prizes at the end of the week.

On Wednesday, March 31, all are invited to *Family Game Night*, from 6:00 to 7:30, to enjoy an evening of fun activities. Children are expected to stay with their parents as they choose three 1/2 hour activities. Among the popular choices have been dodge ball, various board games, craft activities, bingo, and many others. Please let Ellen or Laurie know if you are willing to help run any of these activities.

More on the reasons for TV Turnoff next week.

## Poison Prevention Week *Fran writes,*

Spike is going to visit the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders this week to talk about poisons and what is good and what is bad. Each year more than 2 million poison exposures occur in the U.S. More than half involve children ages five and under. Household products and medicine are safe for the jobs in which they are meant for but if misused can cause serious consequences.



*Dr Louis DiNicola was the Board's "expert witness" at last week's hearing. 21 parents attended. After his excellent presentation, parents and Board members had a good opportunity to discuss their mutual concerns. An ad hoc committee including Becca Rubinstein, Tracy Lynn, Keryn Nightingale, and Christy Ketchel will work with Fran and Dr. L to develop new lice prevention and management procedures, and suggest revisions to the Board's lice policy.*

## Poison Prevention Guidelines:

- Always read labels before giving medicine or using household products
- Call medicines – including vitamins – by their proper names. Do not refer to them as candy.
- Keep all medicines and household precuts out of the reach of young children.
- Use child-resistant packaging – but remember that nothing is childproof!
- Use cabinet locks and store potential poisons in high cabinets.
- Depending on your area of the country, poisonous plants, mushrooms, snakes, spiders or scorpions might be potential dangers. When in doubt call Poison Center to learn about local hazards. 1-800-222-1222
- Key messages for children:
- Stay away from areas at home that could contain poisonous items – medicine cabinets, cleaning cabinets, garage.
- Never touch, taste or smell something that could be poisonous, especially if you don't know what it is.
- If you don't know what it is – stay away and ask an adult.
- If someone you know touches, smells, or tastes something that could be poisonous, tell an adult right away.
- Help parents and other adults put Poison Control stickers in easy-to-find places, like the telephone.

## What to do in an Emergency:

- If the victim is unconscious, not breathing or having a seizures, call 911
- Poisons in the eye: rinse with running water for 15-20 minutes, then call the poison Center
- Poisons of the skin: rinse with running water for 15-20 minutes while removing contaminated clothing, then call Poison Center
- Inhaled poisons: get fresh air, then call Poison Center
- Swallowed medicines: call Poison Center immedi-

ately

- Swallowed substances other than medicines: give a small amount of water or milk to drink, then call the Poison Center immediately.

If at any time you have any questions about poisons call the Poison Center 1-800-222-1222 for information.

**Physical Education Notes** Leigh Clark writes, *Bike Helmets* With spring on its way, children will be out and riding their bikes. If you need a helmet for your child, I do have some left over from last Fall – you can buy one for \$8.50 per helmet. If I get at least 12 orders, I'll send in for more helmets this spring – the price will be \$9.00 each. Please measure just above the ears and eyebrows around the largest part of the head for the size for helmet size. Please see me if you wish to order a helmet.

*Mileage Club* Don't forget to send in the mileage your student walked, jogged or biked so I can add them to their Mileage Club Card.

*Spring Activities* In physical education classes we will be going outside if weather permits. During the next few months we will be working on locomotor skills, ball skills, t-ball/softball, golf, and tennis and completing the spring Fitnessgram to measure students' progress.

*PU Swim Program* I am still looking for Primary Swim Program forms and am in need for parent volunteers. Please send the form in ASAP if you have not done so already.

### Mad River Spring Travel Soccer Openings

The Mad River Soccer Spring Travel Program has a couple of openings at the U10 age group (birthdates between 8/99 and 7/01) for both boys and girls.

This program involves two practices per week and nine games over the six-week May to mid-June season. Games are primarily on Sunday afternoons, but there are a couple of Friday evening and a Saturday game. Travel to away games is typically in the range of an hour, but may be more. Fee is \$90 for the U10 age group. Scholarships are available. Contact Anne Greshin for more info. (greshin@madriver.com).

### Easter Egg Hunt

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 27 when rain, shine (or snow), it's time for the annual Mad River Valley Easter Egg Hunt. The egg hunt will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments will be available beginning at 9:30 a.m. The event is sponsored by the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce and Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom, and will be held at the Waitsfield and Champlain Valley Telecom business office located on Route 100. The egg hunt is open to children of all ages and is free of charge. For more information, please contact Lorraine Keener at 496-3391 or lkeener@wcvl.com.

### Sugarbush Adventure Games

As you know, the *Sugarbush Adventure Games* are a zany way to celebrate the end of winter. Have some fun while you run, paddle, bike or ski with friends and colleagues! On Sunday, April 11, at 11:00 am, runners will blast out of Warren with a 5 mile run, then paddle 6 miles (canoe or kayak), cycle 10 miles up the Access Road then cross-country ski 3 miles on a course designed to let the party begin early! Put a team together and start considering costumes and strategies to win in one of the many race divisions. Teams can be 1 (iron man or woman) - 5 (if 2 people paddle a canoe). Need a partner? Contact path@madriver.com. Register teams for *The Adventure Games* at www.active.com

Work for a non-profit? Build awareness and advertise your mission while you try to win \$100 by entering a team in the Non-Profit Challenge. Many thanks to the Mad River Valley Rotary for sponsoring this light hearted competition! The winner will be for spirit and "garb", not race standings. Picture this: Friends of the Mad River dressed in blue, Localvores as their favorite vegetables or Valley Players in costumes from various shows! You'll help the Mad River Path Association while you help your own favorite cause. Register online and send an email to: path@madriver.com with



Students, teachers, and parents got together last Friday to paint the set for the I-Team performance of "Folk Tales for Fun". The featured stories come from around the world – hence the world map backdrop. The performance is next Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6 pm.

"Non-Profit Challenge" in the subject line.

*Kids' Triathlon*, Sat., April 10 at the Sugarbush snow-making pond on Route 100 starts at 1:00 pm and includes a short run, bike and kayak. Two options for kid's registration: pre-registration by 4/2 w/ a flyer, or day-of registration 10:30-12:30.

Prefer watching instead of exercising? Call 496-7284 or email path@madriver.com to volunteer. More than 70 volunteers are needed to pull off these exciting events.

The Adventure Games are co-hosted by Sugarbush Resort www.sugarbush.com and the Mad River Path Association www.madriverpath.com.

### Ranky Tanky in concert on March 28<sup>th</sup>

A family show with Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem at the Big Picture Theater on Sunday, March 28 at 10:30 am. Cost is \$20 per family or \$5 per person available on the day of the show at Big Picture. Funds raised will go towards covering the cost of the event, and any additional funds will go directly to support *Spring Hill School*.

Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem is a rootsy, Americana-style string band of four musicians — all parents — who have played and toured together for 10 years. With deep grooves and singing, their adventurous, eclectic repertoire fires up audiences both young and old. Band leader Rani Arbo plays fiddle; Anand Nayak wields electric and acoustic guitars; Andrew Kinsey is on upright acoustic bass, ukulele and banjo; and Scott Kessel pilots the Drumship Enterprise, a percussion rig made from cardboard boxes, cans, jugs, and a vinyl suitcase. Together, they create a joyful, musical fusion — and a great soundtrack for family time. Listen at <http://www.raniarbo.com/rankytanky/>

### Important Dates for your calendars:

3/18-3/19	Parent Conferences
3/19 Fri	School Closed for Conferences
3/23 Tues	I-Team Play, 6:00 pm
	School Board 7:15 pm
3/26 Fri	Ski Program 12:30-3:00
3/29 - 4/2	TV Turnoff Week
3/29 Mon	Terra Rossa advance ticket deadling 9 am
3/31 Weds	Family Game night 6:00-7:30
4/1 Thurs	PTO Dinner at Terra Rossa
4/5 Mon	School Board, 6 pm
4/17-4/25	April Vacation
4/26 Mon	School Board, 6 pm

### REPEAT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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! Advance tickets (before 9 am on March 29) 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.