



HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

Parents & Teachers -- working together for children.

March 16, 2009

Getting Ready for 2009-2010

Parent Input Forms: We are beginning the process of building our classroom groups for the 2009-2010 school year, and we're looking for your input.

By Board policy, it is the principal's responsibility to make placement decisions, in the best interest of the students. Using all available information, including your input, I work with the staff to build balanced, positive and constructive learning communities in each classroom for the coming year. We strive for academic balance, gender balance, teacher compatibility, peer compatibility, and friendships.

With today's *Bulletin*, we're sending home a request for your input. The Parent Input form asks some specific questions that will help us see your child from your point of view. Your comments will be considered during the placement process to help us make the best placement for your child, taking into consideration his/her academic needs, social skills, behavior, work habits, and personal style.

The information you provide will be treated in confidence, shared only with his/her present and future classroom teachers, Learning Specialists on the sending and receiving teams, the School Counselor, and the administration for the purpose of assisting us in making placement decisions.

We're starting the placement process on March 31, so there's a fairly short turn-around time for returning the forms, one for each of your returning children. Thanks.

School Organization: We plan to return to our usual classroom line-ups next year: Gina, Whitney, and Beth (returning from her maternity leave) will teach grades 1-2, Prudence and Katie will teach grades 3-4, and Heidi and Elizabeth will teach grades 5-6. We'll con-

tinue our full-day Kindergarten, and half-day P3 and P4 classes.

School Calendar: We're also sending home the school calendar for next year. This is based on the Washington West district calendar, in sync with Harwood.

Local Heros

As those of you on the west side bus run know, Susan's bus - our ten year old "spare" -- broke down 5 minutes into her afternoon run last Tuesday. Thanks to Ken and Fran Blair for dropping everything Tuesday evening to drive up to Clark's Truck Center in Jericho to pick up Susan's regular bus, which was up for inspection. We couldn't operate our own bus service without this kind of generous support - thank you Fran and Ken!

\$1.00 Word Contest News

The Math Magicians request that you do not use the computer for finding or calculating \$1.00 words. You may only submit words that you thought of and checked the math yourself. But here's an extra challenge: The Math Magicians LOVE palindromes (numbers that read the same forward and back-

ward such as 22, 343, 1221...), so we are adding a new challenge to our word contest: you can get prizes for \$1.00 words OR \$1.11 words!

See a Math Magician or Katie or Laurie if you have any questions.

Seed Sale

Sowers and Growers Inc., our student-led seed business, has been designing seed packets, sorting seeds and packaging them as part of a fundraiser for Warren School garden projects. Assorted vegetable, herb and flower seeds in student-designed seed packets are available for purchase! Please see the attached order form or acquire one from Laurie for more information. Seed orders will be filled as they come in, first come, first served! Proceeds will support the growth and cul-



First & second graders check out the apparently frozen garden to see if anything's going on - they found a little green shoot poking its head through a bare spot in the snow and ice!

tivation of Warren School's educational and edible gardens on campus.

Sixth Grade Parent Meeting

Sixth graders need to be organized for the Mothers' Day Follies and the Raffle that provides most of the funding for their trip to Cape Cod in the end of May. There's a meeting at 5:30 on Tuesday 3/17 for parents and students to make their plans.

Book Buddies Celebrate *Ellen writes,*

The Warren School Book Buddies Club had their last "book celebration" last Thursday evening, when ten students in grades 4-6 and their eight adult reading buddies came together in the library to discuss the book *Among the Hidden*, by Margaret Haddix. In this unsettling page turner, Jonas and the other "shadow children" (third children) have to hide in their homes lest the Population Police apprehend and execute them. Lively discussion in large and small groups was followed by excellent and plentiful refreshments. The Book Buddies have read three great books together this year, and are finished until next fall. We expect that old book buddies will want to continue, and hope that next year's 4th graders will want to join up!

Ways you can still help with the Spaghetti Dinner/Bingo Night on the 25th ...

1. Come with your family and have a good time
2. Bake a single serving (cookie, brownie, etc.) dessert
3. Donate a prize or make a cash donation to be used to buy prizes or gift certificates
4. Be a bingo caller
5. Stay to help with cleanup

Please let Laurie know if any of these jobs will work for you.

Poison Prevention *Fran Blair writes,*

Poisoning is a public health program. It does not just happen to children. It can happen to anyone, at any time and in any place. A poison is anything that can harm someone if it is (1) used in the wrong way, (2) used by the wrong person or (3) used in the wrong amount. Poisons can harm you when they get in the eyes, on the skin, if you breathe them in, inject them or swallow them. People live with poisons every day. Many of the products in our homes and garages are poison and many poisons exist in nature.

In children the most common things that cause poisonings are: medicines, pest killers, hydrocarbons (such as lamp oil, kerosene, gasoline, lighter fluid), and plants. In adults the most common things that cause poisoning are: pain medicines, alcohol, bites and stings, spoiled food and beauty products. Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poison that can kill both children and adults.

More than 80 percent of events reported to poison centers are accidents. Most reports involve common household products (medicines, cleaning products, personal care products) - people mix medicines and put products in unmarked containers.

In your Monday envelope there is a pamphlet about Home Safety - it includes a safety checklist, the number for Poison Help and also their web site if you need more information. Posting the Poison Help number by your telephone or on your cell phone is a good idea. This line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This week the 1st & 2nd graders will be learning more about poisons through "Spike" the porcupine puppet, and coming home with more information to help keep everyone safe. Take the time to talk to your children about the different things in your house that are poisonous. When my children were young we had "Mr. Yuck" stickers on things that were harmful to them. Get your children to help you come up with ways that you can mark items that are poisonous and should be avoided to make everyone safe. Share the information on the pamphlet with them.

Spring Break '09 Arts and Nature Camp

Heather is offering children in P4 through grade 4 a four-day vacation art-and-nature camp Monday April 20 through Thursday April 23.

There will be two sessions, 8:00-11:30, and 11:30-3:00. Students may enroll for half or full day session at \$25 for a half-day session, or \$40.00 for the full day session. To enroll your child, please contact Heather O'Hare by email (heather@warrenschool.org) or phone at the school (496-2487). A \$20 deposit will hold the place.

Physical Education Notes *Leigh Clark writes....*

If you wish to order a bike helmet for your child, please send in the order slip tomorrow.

For the Warren Bike Rodeo on May 12, I need volunteers in the following time periods: 7:00-8:30 set up, 8:30-9:30 (Heidi & Elizabeth), 10:00-10:30 (P4), 10:30-11:30 (Tim & Katie), 12:45-1:45 (Roni &



Garden "Artist in Residence" Kristen Getler engages first and second graders in a discussion before taking them out to see inspect the gardens outside their classroom.

Gina), 1:45--2:45 (Whitney & Prudence). Please send me an email (lclark@warrenschool.org) or a note telling me what time you will be able to assist. Thank you so much in advance -- we cannot have the Bike Rodeo with all your support!

There are also a few swim program forms for grades 1 & 2 that have not been return -- please return them to me tomorrow. Thanks.

Save the Farms Flatbread Event

On Friday, March 20, 5:00- 9:30 pm, American Flatbread will host a Benefit Bake for the Vermont Land Trust helping to conserve these important valley farms. An auction including original paintings of the Bruce Farm by Dotty Kyle and the Kingsbury Farm by Gary Eckhart (currently on display at the Chittenden Bank) plus other items including restaurant gift certificates will be available. For questions contact Liza Walker, liza@vlt.org or 496-3690. Bring the kids and come out to support these historic local farms!

Jelly Jars

Whitney is looking for small jelly or mason jars. If anyone has any please bring them in to her. Thanks.

Important Dates for your calendars:

3/17	<i>Tues</i>	6 th Grade Parents 5:30 pm
3/19-20		Parent Conferences
3/20	<i>Fri</i>	School closed for conferences
3/25	<i>Weds</i>	Spaghetti & Bingo Night (6 pm)
4/18-26		April vacation