

## Warning of 2010 Warren Town School District Annual Meeting

The inhabitants of the Town School District of Warren who are legal voters in the Town School district are hereby notified and warned to meet at the **Warren Elementary School** in the Town of Warren on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at **9:00 in the morning**, to act on the following matters:

Article 1: The following Town School District Officers will be elected by Australian Ballot between the hours of 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at the Warren Elementary School:

Moderator for the ensuing year  
Town School District Treasurer  
School Director (3 year term)  
School Director (2 year term)

Article 2: To hear and act upon the reports of the Town School District Officers.

Article 3: To set salaries, if any, that shall be paid the officers of the District.

Article 4: To appropriate for the Town School District such a sum of money as is deemed necessary for the support of schools, in specific amounts for deficit, if any, for current expenses, capital improvements, or other lawful purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.

Article 5: To authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money by issuance of notes in anticipation of revenue to pay the expenses of the Town School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011.

Article 6: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Dated and signed this 25th day of January, 2010, by the Warren Board of School Directors.

Robert Rosen, *Chairman*  
Adam Greshin

Charlotte Robinson, *Clerk*  
Sasha Woolson

Michael Ketchel, *Secretary*

## Report of the Warren School Board and Administration

### 2009-2010 STAFF

<i>Team</i>	<i>Professional Teachers</i>	<i>Special Ed/Title 1 Aides</i>	<i>Classroom Assistants</i>
<i>Early Ed</i>	P3: Heather O'Hare (50%), P4: Andra Kisler (50%) K: Roni Donnenfeld <i>Sped/T1: Pam Barnes (60%)</i>	Karen Derrick (50%), Loretta Languet (50%)	Christine Tierson (50%) Julie Johnson (50%)  Heidi Hill
<i>Grades 1-2</i>	Gina Gaidys, Whitney Jones, Beth Young <i>Sped/T1: Irene Keithcart (55%)</i>	Lil Brewster, Heidi Redding, Gretchen Frey	
<i>Grades 3-4</i>	Prudence Krasofski, Katie Sullivan <i>Sped/T1: Cheryl Kingsbury (70%)</i>	Lisa Hodgson	
<i>Grades 5-6</i>	Heidi Ringer, Elizabeth Tarno <i>Sped/T1: Anne Youlden</i>	Nancy Phillips (40%)	
<i>Specialist Teachers</i>	<i>Art 35%: Heather O'Hare</i> <i>Librarian 40%: Ellen Drysdale</i> <i>Phys. Ed. 40%: Leigh Clark</i> <i>Nurse 40%: Fran Blair</i>	<i>Counselor 40%: Jennifer Boland</i> <i>Music 40%: Carolyn Adams</i> <i>French 40%: Veronica Bernicke</i> <i>Speech: Ani Lutz</i>	
<i>Administration</i>	<i>Principal: Andreas Lehner</i>	<i>Administrative Assistant: Laurie Jones</i>	
<i>Support Staff</i>	<i>Technology: Dawn D'Angellilo (50%)</i> <i>Bus Drivers: Ken Blair, Susan Swenson</i>	<i>Custodians: Lloyd Cuenin, Gwyn Balch (part-time)</i> <i>Chef: Claire Simpson, with Deirdre Fennelly, Diane Wing</i>	

FALL ENROLLMENTS: ELEMENTARY

	P3	P4	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2009	15	14	23	22	27	17	20	28	11	177
2008*	14	16	19	22	15	18	25	11	14	154
2007	15	18	23	13	20	25	11	13	25	163
2006	14	12	14	13	21	11	12	21	20	138
2005	10	10	14	20	10	12	21	20	26	143
2004		17	23	11	12	19	22	24	21	149
2003		15	12	15	21	23	26	20	27	159
2002		8	15	19	23	26	20	29	24	164
2001		9	17	21	25	22	22	25	32	173

\* January 2009 enrollment

FALL ENROLLMENTS: SECONDARY

	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2009	14	21	19	23	17	23	117
2008*	20	19	22	17	18	19	115
2007	20	28	17	21	18	19	123
2006	28	15	21	18	17	16	115
2005	15	23	19	18	15	24	114
2004	24	21	20	14	22	25	126
2003	23	25	13	25	20	23	129
2002	27	17	26	23	21	24	138
2001	17	28	28	23	22	22	140

Warren School students continue to enjoy the many benefits of a well-equipped, well-staffed school. Their parents, teachers and Board members join in thanking the Warren community for providing the resources and support that makes this all possible.

The following report describes elementary education in Warren for the 2009 calendar year, highlighting some of the changes and events of the second half of the 2008-09 school year and the first half of the 2009-2010 school year.

ENROLLMENT STORY

When school opened in August 2009, the big story was the strong growth in our enrollment. We had expected 157 students, but as of the October 1 enrollment report, we had 177 students, 39 more than we had three years ago -- a 28% increase. Who are they and why are they here?

About half of the new families moved in from out of town. Some of the out-of-towners have come here to change their lives, so that they and their children can live the kind of life that they really want to live -- Warren offers great quality-of-life benefits. Some of them moved into property they already owned (a vacation home at the mountain, for example), others are renting, and some have bought property.

Other out-of-towners have come here because they have work in the Central Vermont area -- Northfield, Waterbury, etc. -- and have chosen to live in Warren. Others have roots in Warren and may have lived here at some time in the past; they have returned to live here now. And finally, when their local schools closed, four families from Granville and Hancock chose to send their children here.

The Warren School is attractive to families in part because it currently enjoys a good reputation in the Valley and on the Internet -- several parents mentioned checking the schools out on-line before deciding to come to Warren. Other parents appreciate the strong Early Ed program, including two years of preschool for three- and four-year-olds five mornings a week, and an in-house day-care for the afternoons. Our Kindergarten program is full day five days a week. This is a huge benefit for working parents, and a huge benefit for the children.

The Board believes this enrollment may represent a trend -- our projection for 2010-11 school year is for 185 children.

A final note: in their January 2005 Report, the *School Cost Study Group* (John Donaldson, Adam Greshin, Jim Parker, Rob Rosen, Laurie Jones and Andreas Lehner) recom-

mended increasing revenues as a means of mitigating "the effects of Act 60/68 while maintaining a high-quality education system." The report goes on to say:

There is additional capacity at the school for more students. Many school costs are largely fixed. Up to a point, increasing enrollment could lower the per pupil cost, which directly affects the tax rate. Under Act 68, more students attending the school will generate more revenue from the state. School revenue might also be enhanced by additional tuition paying students from outside the district who attend the Warren School because they find it attractive.

The economics of this year's proposed budget illustrate the wisdom of this point.

TEST SCORES

The results from the statewide achievement testing (New England Common Assessment Program) conducted in the fall of 2009 showed continued strength. Students were tested on their proficiency in the Vermont Grade Level Expectations for grades two through six in Reading and Math. Although the 5th graders participated in an assessment of fourth grade writing expectations, unfortunately the results will not be published as this was a pilot version of a new assessment.

Overall a very high percentage of Warren students demonstrated proficiency (or proficiency with distinction) in the reading and mathematics assessments.

	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>Reading</b>	87%	88%	87%	<b>97%</b>
<b>Math</b>	89%	90%	86%	<b>92%</b>
<b>Writing</b>	95%	67%	90%	NA

In May, 4<sup>th</sup> graders across Vermont took the NECAP Science assessment for the second time. Warren's twenty-five 4th graders showed a nice improvement over last year, on par for Washington West schools, well above the state-wide results. We still see room for improvement, however.

The table below shows the percent of students who scores were at least proficient:

	Warren	WWSU	State
2008 Achieved the Standard	64%	66%	48%
2009 Achieved the Standard	76%	73%	52%

#### FOUR WINDS SCIENCE

The school seized an opportunity to enhance students' science education by welcoming the **Four Winds Nature Program**, thanks to efforts by Caitrin Noel and Tara Hamilton.

Over the course of the 2009-10 year, children began a series of six workshops focusing on *Life Cycles* starting a unit on "Insect Life Cycles." *Four Seasons* staff members provided two hour workshops to train parent volunteers to lead the lessons in each classroom.

Over the coming years, students will study five other themes. The *Four Winds* program supports formal education by reinforcing science-learning standards, and by involving parent volunteers directly in the learning community. Each lesson strives to engage students of all learning styles by incorporating language arts, math, movement, and art in addition to science instruction.

#### STAFF CHANGES

After a long search, the Washington West Board hired Dr. **Brigid Scheffert** to serve as our Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Scheffert is a graduate of Bradley University in Peoria, IL majoring in special education and elementary education. She earned her M.Ed from St. Michael's. She has been involved in public education for 25 years, most recently as the long-time principal of Johnson Elementary School. She replaces interim (and former) Superintendent Richard Moser, and former Superintendent Robert McNamara.

**Veronica Bernicke** joined our faculty as our new French teacher. She has a Masters in Education degree from the University of Michigan, and a BA from the University of Pennsylvania. She grew up in Lausanne, a French-speaking city in Switzerland, and has extensive experience teaching French to children in non-school settings. She is up-to-date on current instructional strategies, and is a co-author of *Arc-en-ciel*, a French workbook for Elementary students. She lives in Shelburne with her husband and three sons, and makes the drive to Warren two days a week next year.

**Beth Gaylord Young** returned from her maternity leave to her grade 1/2 classroom, and we said "goodbye" to **Tim Fitzsimmons**, our fourth-grade-teacher for a year, who moved on to a grade 4-5 position at Lawrence Barnes School in Burlington, and to **Sheldon Foley**, our technology coordinator and all-purpose go-to guy. Sheldon was lured away by a new opportunity at vickeryhill.com.

**Dawn D'Angellilo** came on board to replace Sheldon as our Technology Coordinator. Dawn came to us with some great 'real world' experience at Mad River Canoe and Small Dog Electronics, where she was, among other things, the editor of their weekly newsletter focusing on technology in education. She's a graduate of the University of Montana, and a former Warren School mom.

#### TECHNOLOGY

We can report some exciting progress in our school's technological capability. With financial support from the Adelard and Valeda Roy Foundation (and at no cost to taxpayers), in the spring of 2009 we installed *Smartboards* (large touch-screen displays), LCD projectors and document cameras (aka *Elmos*) in all grade 1-6 class-

rooms. These set-ups allow teachers to display instructional material, ranging from an individual student's paragraph to images from an exciting website for viewing by the whole class. The Smartboards provide opportunities for students' hands-on interaction with the material, promoting engagement by all the students in the class.

The missing element in these set-ups was an up-to-date computer; once again the Roy Foundation came through with the funds to purchase laptops for each Smartboard classroom, along with related technical items. Warren "smartboard" teachers are using their Wednesday afternoon professional development workshops (organized by Katie Sullivan) to learn more about using these powerful teaching tools.

We also signed a lease on 20 new iMac computers for the main computer lab in the library. The new machines will run all available software, and are also much more energy efficient than the 7 year old eMacs they are replacing.

#### PLAYGROUND PROJECT, CONTINUED

After the great progress made on renovating the school playground in 2008, work continued at a slower pace in 2009. One zip line was installed at the edge of the woods in the back of the building; based on our experience with that equipment, we decided not to install the planned longer line. The new structure (with a planned climbing wall, monkey bars, and a "jungle bridge" connecting it with an adjacent tower) is 90% complete; we hope to have it ready for play this spring. Also on the docket for this spring: installation of a "Fitness Trail" for children and adults to be constructed behind the small baseball diamond -- the Valley Recreation Committee provided partial funding for this project.

#### ENERGY REPORT

Following on the building energy audits done in 2007, a project to tighten up the building by sealing cracks and adding insulation barriers in attic spaces was completed in January 2009. It appears that this work has had a significant impact: early indications are that we will be able to cut our oil consumption by as much as one third! Thanks to local energy experts Brad Cook and Matt Sargent, who donated their services for the 2007 audit. In December 2009, we were notified that we were invited to compete for a project to reduce our electricity consumption by installing high efficiency lighting in the gym, occupancy sensor switches in key areas of the building, and Energy Star rated replacements for our 37 year old refrigerator and our even older dishwasher. We hope to have a positive result to report next year.

#### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Thanks to efforts by Kirsten Reilly and many parent volunteers, Warren children participated in regular Friday morning *Walk & Bike to School* events throughout the spring and fall of 2009. The idea behind the Friday walk and bike days was to encourage physical fitness, decrease carbon emissions, pollution and traffic, and use the bicycle as a mode of transportation, not just recreation.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Warren teachers participated in district-wide high-quality professional development workshops on eight Wednesday afternoons throughout the school year. School was closed at 12:30 to allow all teachers access to opportunities that included three different workshops in math instruction, two in writing, technology, Responsive Classroom, and Service Learning. Workshops were led by a crew of consultants who represent a virtual "Who's Who" in Vermont school improvement.

## EARLY EDUCATION REPORT

Since 2005, the School has offered a full-day Kindergarten and a Preschool class for three year olds. Both new programs have proven very successful.

The full-day Kindergarten program includes a stronger academic program that has significantly improved the skills of students entering first grade. 23 students were enrolled in the class in the fall of 2009.

In its fourth year, the P3 program has a total enrollment of 15 children; the P4 class has 14.

Although not a school program, the *Kindergarten/Preschool After-School Program* is an important component of the Warren School's comprehensive response to the needs of young children and their parents. Established in 2003-4, the "Kindergarten/Preschool After School Program", known as KPAS, continues to provide enriched child-care in the afternoon for preschoolers enrolled in the morning sessions. KPAS is operated by a parent group, which hired **Andra Kisler** as the Director and Head Teacher. The program serves three- and four-year olds, five days a week when school is in session. Expenses are paid entirely by tuition and donations, at no cost to the taxpayers.

## PTO ACTIVITIES

The PTO continues to play an important role in providing financial support for enrichment activities no longer covered by the school's budget. Here are some PTO-sponsored activities in 2009:

- Fundraisers included an entertaining disco night at Sugarbush in October, and the silent auction at the annual Harvest dinner.
- Funding for the *Four Winds* science program and parent volunteers to run it, six sessions a year.
- A continuing garden "Artist in Residence" – Kristen Getler, who worked with students to build, work and harvest school gardens.
- Three plays through our theater program, and a second mural art project.
- An upcoming one-week residency in April with storyteller Jim Weiss

The PTO also supports scholarships for music lessons and instruments, ski equipment and school trips for those who need help. Funding is also provided for school activities such as the annual Fall Dinner, the graduation ceremony, and playground and grounds enhancements.

## SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

**Claire Simpson** continues as *chef de cuisine* at the Warren School, aided by **Diane Wing** and **Deirdre Fennelly**. **Barry Simpson** volunteers to help with breakfast in the early mornings. There continues to be a high rate of participation: on average, 78% of the students take the school lunch each day. Throughout the school year she uses vegetables from Sally Kendall and Jeremy Gully's Little Hands Farm and other local sources, bread from Red Hen Bakery, and dairy products from the Cabot Creamery. **George Schenk** and American Flatbread raise and donate funds to support the use of locally produced organic food in the school lunch program.

Claire also serves a nutritious breakfast to 20-25 students between 7:45 and 8:00 each day. Because of the success of the program, lunch prices have not been increased; they remain the lowest of all WWSU Schools. Students pay \$2.50 for lunch and \$1.40 for breakfast. Currently, 49 children (28%) are eligible for free or reduced price lunches. Adults' lunches cost \$3.50.

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Warren After-School Program is in its twentieth year of providing childcare for Warren School students from 3:00 to 5:30 each school day. The program is self-supporting. Grace Holter and Allyson Lavit co-direct the program, aided by Ashley Woods, Blaire Scaglione, Karen MacMullin, Adina Ford, and Tonya Howell. Warren School alumni Amos Gaylord, Carly Sargent, Anthony Scaglione, McKinley Pierce and Connor Barker also help out.

## THANKS

The Board and staff are grateful to the parent volunteers who help the teachers and enrich the lives of children. So much depends on parents who help organize, chaperone, and drive for field trips and sports programs, who assist in the classrooms, the library, and the cafeteria, and who serve on committees. Thanks, as well, to those of you who have supported students' fundraising projects. A special word of thanks goes to Barry Simpson for his help with the playground project, and to the excellent Warren road crew for their continuing help.

Ending this report as we began it, we thank each of you for your continuing support of the Warren School. We are proud of the school and the work our students are doing. We know that the tax dollars you invest in the children of our community will build a better future for each of them. We hope you will visit and see for yourself.

## THE WARREN SCHOOL BOARD

Rob Rosen, <i>Chairman</i>	Michael Ketchel, <i>Clerk</i>
Charlotte Robinson, <i>Secretary</i>	Adam Greshin, <i>Board</i>
Sasha Woolson, <i>Board</i>	

## ADMINISTRATION

Andreas Lehner, *Principal*  
Brigid Scheffert, *Superintendent*  
Michelle Baker, *Business Manager*  
Sheila Rivers, *Curric. & Assessment*  
Donarae Cook, *Director of Spec. Ed.*

For more information about the Warren School, see our website at [www.warrenschoool.org](http://www.warrenschoool.org)