

MSAD #53 Board Report

Feb 7, 2011 Board Meeting

Students of the Month Times Three!

Yes, I am presenting three months of Warsaw's Students of the Month! As we know the holidays can cut into our plans, and I was AWOL from the last Board Meeting.

➤ **November Students of the Month:**

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| ▪ Hutt, Bolduc: | Ryan Engelhardt |
| ▪ Campbell, Newhouse, Jacques: | Tyler DeViller |
| ▪ Littlefield, Ulrickson, Graham: | Miranda Kuerspert |
| ▪ Cianchette, Hammond: | Faith Delano |
| ▪ Longstreet, Saucier: | Hayden Boreham |
| ▪ Brown, Rollins: | Abby Bernier |
| ▪ Dorman, Woodbury: | Emily Richmond |

➤ **December Students of the Month:**

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| ▪ Hutt, Bolduc: | Mia Fox |
| ▪ Campbell, Newhouse, Jacques: | Hailey Stewart |
| ▪ Littlefield, Ulrickson, Graham: | Greg Vigue |
| ▪ Longstreet, Saucier: | Ryanne Bane |
| ▪ Cianchette, Hammond: | Peri Cianchette |
| ▪ Brown, Rollins: | Devon Varney |
| ▪ Dorman, Woodbury: | Clair Gerry |

➤ **January Students of the Month:**

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| ▪ Hutt, Bolduc: | Randy Pullen |
| ▪ Campbell, Newhouse, Jacques: | Katherine Welch |
| ▪ Littlefield, Ulrickson, Graham: | Katelyn Seekins |
| ▪ Longstreet, Saucier: | Adam Bertrand |
| ▪ Cianchette, Hammond: | Clio Proulx |
| ▪ Brown, Rollins: | Brayden Rollins |
| ▪ Dorman, Woodbury: | Nikki Stewart |

NECAP Results: Where Warsaw Stands!

Is CIPS Sliding Away? As I am writing this newsletter, we have received the test results of our Fall NECAP Testing. Of course we are anxious to determine if we show gains, if our gains show significant growth, and ultimately, if we have made enough progress that will remove us from the CIPS list!

As all of us in the Warsaw family are aware, our growth reflected in last year's NECAP Testing placed us in Safe Harbor for this school year with our goal to continue to show growth in our Fall, 2010 NECAP Testing. Our challenge: to continue to improve our scores with enough growth to no longer be a CIPS school. Our reward if we show enough growth? To be removed

from the CIPS list. Being a CIPS school has been a double edged sword as we have benefited from financial support from the Department of Education, and yet we have also been placed on notice that without significant growth in our math and reading testing our school can face mandatory penalties that may include loss of funds, staffing, and building leadership.

I began this Report, before I had been able to determine the significance of the results, and by the time of our Board Meeting, we should have the results in hand, at least the preliminary results. It is clear that we have made gains at Warsaw; however, we are awaiting the adjustments that NECAP will be providing to determine our final status.

Think Pink: Warsaw Salutes Greg “Dewey” Kane! :

Last week was Mr. Kane’s last day at Warsaw for a while as he has experienced (and is still experiencing) medical issues that have led to his going out on a disability leave. All of us hope that Mr. Kane’s absence is not permanent as Dewey truly is the heart and soul of the middle school.

To celebrate Dewey’s last day at Warsaw we decided to have a Pink Day complete with parade and a few words in the gym. All of the FISH Groups walked through the upper and lower halls three times, and then traveled to the gym to honor Mr. Kane. At least half the staff and students wore pink. Mr. Kane said a few words and chose to focus on the time he has spent at Warsaw in terms of students, his wife Teresa, and the staff. Several of us added tributes to Dewey’s accomplishments and influence at Warsaw. He will be missed, and we all hope that he will be back at Warsaw soon. I hope that the Board will enjoy a peek at the student and staff’s tribute to Mr. Kane’s Real Men Wear Pink as we have a photograph or two to share.

Dates to Remember:

- February 8:*** County Spelling Bee at Warsaw (rescheduled from Feb 2 due to weather)
- February 9:*** Music Boosters’ Trash to Treasures Auction: An Annual Evening of Fun for All
- February 18:*** Mid Ranking Quarter 3
- Wk of Mar 14:*** Tooth Protectors, Inc. will offer oral screening, cleaning, temporary fillings, and oral sealants if needed. A licensed dental hygienist will provide these services free for those with Maine Care and at affordable rates for those with no insurance.

March 23: PIE Night ~ Please join us at Warsaw for our second annual PIE Night where parents, students, and educators gather to eat pie, mingle, and learn about Warsaw's focus on Literacy and Math! Students and Teachers will focus presentations and activities around Math, Literacy, and other goings-on at Warsaw!

MYIHS Survey for Grade Eight:

When we receive results from student surveys on issues like substance abuse, bullying and harassment, and other issues that challenge our students we must address them as a school and community. The Warsaw Leadership Team and the Administrative Team have both looked at the data that these survey results provide. Too many students have been bullied in school and/or on the way to school. Too many students are drinking alcohol and experimenting with drugs and/or alcohol before they are eighteen, some before they are fifteen. In response to the MYIHS Survey this year both the Leadership Team at Warsaw and the Administrative Team took a closer look at the survey results. The Leadership Team focused on interpersonal connections between teachers and students that we already have in place as an essential way to help students who turn to alcohol or drugs, whose world outside school includes risky behaviors. The A Team and Warsaw Leadership Team also focused on ways that Warsaw can address the issues of drug and alcohol abuse through further education of our students in the risks of substance abuse. There are several solutions in place and more we are preparing for, but the bottom line indicates that these issues are here and will take a concerted effort on the part of all of us.

Response to Students at Risk:

The immediate response in addressing students with risky behaviors is to increase their understanding of the risks. Family education, educating students about drug and alcohol addiction, teaching students the long - term effects that substance abuse may have on students include addiction, isolation, and dropping out of school. These consequences should be hammered home with young adolescents.

We have recently budgeted for a Health Program that next year will help educate our students, presenting them with real life situations and consequences that are brought on by substance abuse and other risky behaviors.

Our health program now addresses these issues, but as the Health Committee determined again this year and discussed in years past, we need a program that is effective with our student population. It must also be effective in giving adults the tools to reach students and the curriculum that teachers will find pertinent and workable. Effective sex education and comprehensive Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention are keys to keeping our students safe and on the right track. Bullying and Harassment are strong forces that affect many students on the bus, on the fields, in the cafeteria, at recess, etc.

Looking at the surveys, Warsaw's Leadership Team members recognized our roles as adults in the building, even beyond the classroom. There are solid, research-based practices and structures at Warsaw that are essential to our relationships with our students. We have small teams, two

year teams, four year advisors in FISH Groups, and strong Allied Arts offerings that reach the students with art or music or foreign language or drama. We also have skills blocks that meet the specific Literacy and Numeracy needs of a child at his or her level. All these can make a difference in the young adolescent's life at school and beyond.

The Leadership Team Meeting ended with a determination to address the needs of our students, especially our students who struggle socially, academically, or in any way, by continuing to make connections with students that are genuine, supportive, and based on trust. The roles of teachers in our middle school are more than the "sage on the stage" at the front of the room. All of us must be committed to helping students who struggle with their academic progress, but also those in trouble with peers, with substance issues, and with other unhealthy behaviors and practices. Connections between middle school students and adults are key, as mentioned above, and we believe that the support that Warsaw educators provide are keys to improving our student academic and social success.

Specific Actions to Address Students at Risk with Drugs and other Substances:

- Educating students in the dangers of drugs and abuse through the health curriculum.
- Provide counseling services via in-school counselors and services with outside counselors.
- Continue to provide and expand safe and engaging school and community activities for our students that will develop skills and passions for the activity.
- Continue to reinforce the connection between student and teachers in FISH Groups and academic teams.

Specific Actions to Address Student Bullying and Harassment:

- Clear, strong consequences for bullying that are clearly outlined in the Warsaw Student Handbook and in large and small group discussions.
- Continued support for the Warsaw Middle School Civil Rights Team Training and Activities.
- Restorative Justice Training and Implementation for Warsaw students and staff.
- School-wide focus on cyber bullying.