

Warsaw Middle School

From the Principal:

October, 2011

September has come and gone and we should take a moment to reflect on the successes of the month. Our students settled quickly into the routines of the school, and are to be commended for taking up the charge of academic excellence with several inviting me into the classroom to see them work and learn. I have also witnessed many leading our equally important charge of respectful and responsible behavior, offering to hold doors for their classmates, picking up trash on the school grounds, and asking others to use a "ten second rephrase" when poor language choices are made.

This month Warsaw students had two assemblies, one for a fund-raiser and another in which the Maine State Select Honor Guard presented a Flag Etiquette Ceremony. 5th and 6th grade students also attended the Common Ground Fair. After each one of these events, Warsaw Middle School received the highest of compliments, not simply that our students were well behaved, but that they were the best behaved of all schools encountered. Please take a moment to speak with your son(s) or daughter(s) about how proud you are that they represent not only the community of Warsaw Middle School so well, but also their greater communities.

Now that October is upon us, we have a very important task ahead. This is the month in which students take the NECAP exams. These are the state tests which determine whether or not our school is making AYP (adequate yearly progress) and is (or is not) a "failing" school. As you know, WMS was recently removed from that list and we would like it to stay that way. However, it is going to be harder this year than it was last year to make AYP, as the bar to stay off the failing list was raised this year. We need your help! Please make sure your child gets plenty of rest, eats a healthy supper and does not skip breakfast. Most importantly, we need your child in school to take the tests throughout the month of October. Attached you will find a schedule of testing dates. Please make sure that you do all you can to support WMS and our pursuit of academic excellence.

~ Kristen Gilbert, Principal

Please see the MSAD# 53 website www.msad53.org for an update on our fire alarm system.



If you drive your student to school, PLEASE enter School Street from SOMERSET Ave.

Thanks for your cooperation and helping to keep our students safe!

Important Dates to Remember:

- October** **3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 18, 20: NECAP Testing Grades 5 & 8**
- 4, 6, 7, 12, 18, 19: NECAP Testing Grades 6 & 7**
- 10: Columbus Day – no school
- 14: Amori Visitors here
- 14: Game Night for 5th & 6th Grade
- 17: Civil Rights Assembly
- 25: Flu Clinic
- 26: End of 1st Quarter
- 27-28: No school for students
- November** 9-10: Parent – Teacher Conference
- 11: Veteran’s Day – No school



The Warsaw Student Council is collecting Box Tops for Education all year long. We would appreciate your participation to help raise money to support school events, purchase extra supplies and fund community service projects. Check out www.boxtops4education.com for more information on



Student Council is also collecting Hannaford Dollars. If you happen to receive Hannaford Dollars when you shop at a Hannaford Store, we would appreciate it if you would place them in the Warsaw Slot in the store display. Or, you can send them to school with your child and we will see that they are credited to Warsaw. Hannaford stores will redeem these dollars for cash for our school. Thank you for supporting Warsaw Middle School.



FLU CLINIC - OCT 25

Yellow paperwork is in the Wednesday folder. Please fill out the permission form and return it by **Oct 14** if you would like your child to receive the influenza vaccine.

**Healthy Eating Tips
from the School Health Coordinator**

OCTOBER’s Featured Vegetable: CARROT : WASH. EAT. (how easy is that?)

Most of us refer to carrots as the vegetable that is good for our eyes. This is because carrots are a good source of vitamin A that is very important for healthy eyesight, skin, growth, and helps our body resist infection.

Carrots have higher natural sugar content than all other vegetables with the exception of beets. This is why they make a wonderful snack when eaten raw and make a tasty addition to a variety of cooked dishes.

Carrots can be found locally at this time of year! Be sure to keep plenty on hand!

FISH Update...In late spring, Mrs. Graham's FISH group mailed a care package to a soldier in Iraq, Dennis Frederick. Students had saved and brought in change to fund this package. Mr. Frederick sent a letter to the entire group thanking each one for the package along with some photos of he and a fellow soldier. The package included such things as lip balms, soaps, magazines, wipes, toothbrushes, toothpastes, and hard candy. In September, the group had a surprise visit as Mr. Frederick was home on R and R. He shared stories and answered questions about the work the US is doing in Iraq. The kids learned about such things as Camel spiders and sand fleas! We were all proud to be in a group photo with someone from our own town of Pittsfield working to make Iraq a better place for its people.



Late bus....A late bus will be available to students on Thursday with prior teacher approval. Teachers may be holding extra help sessions or afterschool behavior modifications.



Mrs. Peterson...8th grade classes of Campbell and Graham are in the Guidance Allied Art class. In the middle of the curriculum "Adolescent Issues", they are analyzing media and society definitions of beauty and gender. There have been some lively classroom discussions. Soon, they will be learning about the consequences of poor decision-making and will be carrying electronic babies for 24 hours along with their laptops, binders, instruments, and sports equipment!

Career Panels for these classes are October 24th. Please let Mrs. Peterson know if you can be on a panel to share your career experiences. She can be reached by phone at 487-5145 or email: petersn@msad53.org.

**** Progress Reports in today's folder ****

New Health Teacher...Please join us in welcoming our new health teacher, Tori Reynolds! Miss Reynolds started here at Warsaw the end of Sept and will be teaching health education to grades 5 - 8. She is a Vassalboro native who recently returned home to Maine after spending 5 years in Boston earning her Bachelors Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, as well as her Masters in Teaching, both from Simmons College. Miss Reynolds is happy to be back in Maine and happy to be sharing her health knowledge and expertise with our students! We are very excited to have her as part of the Warsaw Family.