

Thursday  
October 1, 2009

# Westminster Elementary & Meetinghouse School News

*Patty Marquis-Principal*

*Kathy Kelley-Assistant Principal*

## Upcoming Dates

- **Oct 6** - 2:00 pm Evacuation Drill for MHS and WES
- **Oct 7** - 7:00pm Nature's Classroom Parent Meeting
- **Oct 9** - Noon dismissal
- **Oct 12** - NO SCHOOL / COLUMBUS DAY
- **Oct. 14** - 6:30 pm PTO Meeting
- **Nov 10** – Picture Retakes for WES & MHS

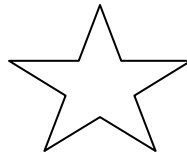
Saturday October 3rd, JR Briggs will be hosting the 2nd Annual Family Festival at JR Briggs School from 9:00-2:00. Cookies & coffee, cake walk, face painting, yard sale, crafts & games for kids, raffles, BBQ, animal demos, and more Go to: <http://www.awrsd.org/jrb/> for more details.

## News from the Principal's Office

Last Sunday was another "first" for me. To the best of my memory (and that's not always so great) ...I have never had the opportunity to be a part of a parade. Marching alongside of the Westminster Elementary and Meetinghouse School float was a pure delight! The dark clouds and rain showers could not put a damper on the positive mood of this event. It was so much fun to hear boys and girls, along with parents and grandparents, howl with our pack. The PTO float put a smile on the faces of many and I couldn't have been more proud. On behalf of our school community I must thank the many adults

and children that took hours and hours of their time to create this beautiful design. A special thank you goes out to Tiffany & Dana, Phil & Nan Young, Shane & Emily Dandy, Eric & Gina Sifert, Ron & Mary Bedard, and Sarah Paiste.

A quick reminder to parents...if your child is going somewhere different after school (CCD, music lessons, Boy Scouts, etc.) please remember to send in a note. One note will be good for the whole year if the day of the week and the activity doesn't change.



## NEWS FROM OUR ART TEACHER, MRS. LAMSA:

I hope that you will join me in congratulating this year's art scholarship winners at Meetinghouse and Westminster Elementary Schools. The winners of the Lisa McAdams Art Scholarship are Laura Bowler in grade one, and Austin Evans in grade four. The scholarship is generously given in memory of Lisa by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roger McAdams.

Mia Franciosi, in grade one, and Johanna Thorp in grade four are the winners of the Westminster Teacher's Association Art Scholarship. This scholarship is given through the generous efforts of the teachers at WES and MHS.

Both scholarships enable the student to enroll in an art class of their choice at the Fitchburg Art Museum.

Note to parents: If your child in grade one to grade four is interested in art, please consider encouraging your child to apply for the art scholarships (applications will be sent home with your child next spring). Previous winners cannot apply again. Choosing the scholarship winners is always difficult, as we have many wonderful applicants. If your child loves making art, and would like to take classes at the art museum, they should apply every year.

Dear Families,  
The Westminster Food Pantry needs your **HELP!** There will be a "featured" food item each month for one week. If you are able to donate, we would certainly appreciate it! Each month the featured food and week it will be collected will appear in the school's newsletter. Our student council at WES will help to organize the food drive each month.

**October 19-22 will be canned fruit**

Thank you for your generosity,  
Mandie Sullivan



CANNED  
FRUIT

Mrs. Lamsa, the art teacher at both WES and MHS would appreciate any donations from parents of the following items for the art rooms:

Disinfectant spray  
Disinfectant spray cleansers  
Disinfectant wipes  
Hand sanitizer  
Facial tissues

Hundreds of children use the art rooms every week, and these items will be helpful in keeping nasty germs down to a minimum!

In addition, any donations of egg cartons and newspapers would be appreciated as well. It would be most helpful if Sunday comics and fliers are removed from the newspapers first and recycled at home instead.

Thank you so much!

#### From the School Nurses:

This is the time of year that we start seeing a few cases of head lice in the schools. Please do not be alarmed as this is a common occurrence in schools. Head lice are not a sign of unclean people or homes. Head lice are tiny insects that live only on people's scalp and hair. They hatch from small eggs (nits) that are firmly attached to the individual hairs near the scalp and cannot be easily moved up or down the hair (as can specks of dandruff). They look like grains of sand. Nits may be found throughout the hair, but are most often located at the back of the scalp, behind the ears, and at the top of the head. Until a person with head lice is treated they can transmit them to others through either close contact or sharing personal items. Lice do not hop or fly, they transmit by crawling.

If your child does have head lice, please check with your health care provider as he/she may want to treat everyone in your family and will have recommendations for which treatment to use. All family members should be checked, and anyone with nits should definitely be treated. Personal items and the home and car environment will also need to be cleaned or treated. Please contact your school nurse so classmates may also be screened.

Affected children may come back to school as soon as the shampoo has been used and all nits have been removed. Children will need to be brought to the nurse for screening before returning to school.

Absent notes: Thank you to parents who have been sending in notes explaining why your child has been absent. These notes will become more important as the year progresses and we get further in to the flu season. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has asked all school nurses to track influenza symptoms in their schools. This will help keep our children and staff healthy by quickly identifying an outbreak of influenza. It is very important for your school nurse to receive a note when your child returns explaining the reason of the absence (please don't just say he/she was absent). Also if your child saw his/her health care provider, a note from them with the diagnosis would be greatly appreciated.

Any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sue Quigley-Belliveau, RN  
[sqbelliveau@awrsd.org](mailto:sqbelliveau@awrsd.org)

Marcia Sharkey, RN  
[msharkey@awrsd.org](mailto:msharkey@awrsd.org)

Nancy Taylor, RN  
[ntaylor@awrsd.org](mailto:ntaylor@awrsd.org)



