

Wednesday  
September 16, 2009

# Westminster Elementary & Meetinghouse School News

*Patty Marquis-Principal*

*Kathy Kelley-Assistant Principal*

## Upcoming Dates

- **Sept 16** – Instrument Rental Night – WES Café 5:30 – 8:30 PM
  - **Sept 21** – Noon Dismissal – Staff Development
- **Sept 24** – Open House @ MHS
- **Sept 25** – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade field trip to George Hill Orchards
- **Nov 10** – Picture retakes for WES & MHS

## News from the Principal's Office

Welcome back parents! The summer months are now behind us and the all so familiar chaos of September has officially set in for us all. Our students have done a wonderful job of transitioning into a new school year. New friendships and student - teacher relationships are being developed as a number of community building activities are taking place in all of our classrooms. This is a great time to prepare for the school year ahead and your role as a partner in your child's education. I'd like to offer a few suggestions that would be greatly appreciated by the school.

Spend a few minutes every evening looking over papers that your child brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day, otherwise they may be forgotten about or lost.

Talk to your child about how the school day went. Try to avoid questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no". Keep them more general like..."What was a fun part of your day today?" "Did anything make you laugh today?" "Who did you sit with at lunch, morning meeting, on the bus, etc.?"

Don't be a stranger to us at school. Attend parent events such as Open House, Parent-Teacher conferences, PTO meetings, or classroom special events. If you are able to...volunteer! We have many opportunities for you to lend a hand. Your involvement sends a powerful message to your child that you care about all that is happening at the school.

Contact your child's teacher immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your youngster succeed.

Westminster has always been a community that supports its schools and educators. In these difficult financial times it's more important than ever that we continue to work together to provide a strong foundation for each student's social, emotional, and intellectual growth. Just as I care deeply about the progress made by every one of our students... I also recognize the many challenges of parenting in today's society. I wish each of you parents a positive and rewarding school year.

The Meetinghouse and Westminster Elementary Schools' PTO will be selling snacks, drinks and other items at the big Westminster 250th Anniversary Parade. Please visit our tent, which will be located in front of Sawyer-Miller-Masciarelli Funeral Home at 123 Main Street from 11am - 3pm on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have half an hour to spare, please consider volunteering to work in the tent with us. Send an email with your availability to [jayandjenshenk@yahoo.com](mailto:jayandjenshenk@yahoo.com) or [leann.dennen@comcast.net](mailto:leann.dennen@comcast.net).

## From the Assistant Principal

Welcome back to another exciting school year! I am truly excited and honored to be a part of the Westminster community for a second year as your Elementary Assistant Principal. As you may have heard, my role as Assistant Principal is now being shared with J.R. Briggs Elementary School in Ashburnham. While my roles and responsibilities at MHS / WES will primarily remain the same, I will now be visiting Briggs Elementary on Tuesdays and Thursdays. At Briggs Elementary, my role is specifically to meet with grade level teams to discuss curriculum goals and analyze testing data. Essentially, I will be the curriculum liaison between the Ashburnham and Westminster Elementary Schools. As I travel between all three elementary schools, the fastest way to reach me is always by e-mail: [kkelley@awrsd.org](mailto:kkelley@awrsd.org). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to another successful school year!

## From the School Nurses

We would just like to send some friendly reminders to all of you to help us in keeping your children healthy and safe:

All medication requests need to have a physician's order and parental permission in order for anything to be given....and all medication needs to be delivered to the school nurse by an adult (please do not have your child do so!). We were also just notified and want to share with you that the Stop and Shop pharmacy is still offering free antibiotics....such a great benefit with today's economic situation.

To those who have not returned their emergency form to the school, please do so as soon as possible. This information is very important for us to have in case you need to be contacted. And please remember to notify us when any information changes, especially phone numbers!

And most important, always communicate with us regarding any illnesses or concerns you have regarding your child. We know there will be challenges this school year in the health offices and our goal is to keep everyone healthy.....a goal that needs everyone working together. Look at your child in the morning and please keep him/her home if they do not feel well!

Stay Healthy!

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## Full Day Kindergarten Committee Forming

Calling all parents/guardians, teachers, and community members! As part of its Quality full-day Kindergarten grant, the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District convenes an Early Childhood/Kindergarten Readiness Committee and we are seeking members for our 2009-2010 school year. We welcome parents/guardians of preschoolers, kindergarten students or older grade students as well as school faculty and community members. For two years this committee has been working with school staff to inform families of incoming students and support the full-day program implementation. We typically meet 3 times per year and work on 1-2 projects throughout the year. Our first project will be an informational table at the JRB Family Festival, scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact grant coordinator, Jana Harrison, of your interest or for further information. She may be reached by phone at 978.874.7312 or by email at: [jharrison@awrsd.org](mailto:jharrison@awrsd.org).

## Committee Chairs Needed!

If you would like to be a Committee Chair (or get together with a friend and be Co-Chairs), the PTO wants to hear from you! The following Committees need Chairpersons:

- Babysitting
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- 5th Grade Promotion Night
- Fifth Grade Ice Cream Social
- Holiday Workshop
- Open House
- Publicity
- Spaghetti Supper

Please visit [www.Westminsterpto.org](http://www.Westminsterpto.org) for a complete description of committees



