



WEYMOUTH PRIDE

Volume 3, Issue 2, November 22, 2010

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Harnessing the Power of Your Ideas

Dear Members of the WPS Community,

I want to share with you some details of an exciting program that we have recently started to implement in Weymouth Public Schools. In partnership with a nationally renowned company called **K12 Insight**, Weymouth Public Schools is deploying PerspectiveMatters, an innovative program that will give every parent a direct voice on how to improve our schools.



The first of a series of planned and systemic communication initiatives will be launched on Monday, November 22, 2010 in the form of a Climate Survey. Parents, teachers, staff and students will be invited to share both their perceptions as well as suggestions on how to make Weymouth Public Schools perform to even higher standards. For practical considerations, student participation is limited to our Middle and High schools only.

The first survey to launch this month is focused solely on everyone's experience with their child/children's schools and areas of operation that are managed at individual schools. Future initiatives are planned so that all areas of the school district's work is evaluated and will involve residents who may not have any children attending district schools

If we have your email address in our X2 Student Information System, you will receive an email containing a link to the survey. Parents who do not receive invites via email may access the survey on the district's website to request a copy.

It is important to share with you how we plan to use the data from this survey and all future surveys. I promise to close the loop with you soon after each survey is completed. We will come back after each survey and candidly share what we have learned. The district's leadership team strives hard to be a good custodian of your trust. If we know the unique perspective of each member of our school community, we can benefit from it. You, the parents, along with non-parent residents, teachers and staff members, students and alumni can and must be our partners in our pursuit of excellence. This plan gives everyone a voice and a say in all the critical decisions we will be making. It will help us work as a focused team on our strategic objectives and core values. I invite your participation and thank you for the same.

Mary Jo Livingstone, Superintendent of Schools

Four Bay State League Championships at WHS!

WHS has had a fantastic Fall! Both soccer teams, the girls cross country team and the football team are all Bay State League Champions. The four titles surpasses all three seasons last year. The Wildcats hope to keep it rolling this winter and spring. The boys cross country team is also enjoying a great year, finishing the regular season with a 10-1 record with the only loss coming against state power Brookline.

Weymouth High School's Kevin Mackin was recently named the New England Patriots High School Coach of the Week. Coach Mackin and his captains - Robert Barrus, Dylan Colarusso, Patrick Murphy, Mitch Temple and Jesse Toomey - were guests at Gillette Stadium to receive the award and were featured on the team's weekly television magazine show, Patriots All Access. Coach Mackin said, "The All-Access experience was a blast and the kids had so much fun touring the stadium and field. It was an extremely generous and memorable gesture by the Patriots organization." For more information, visit: <http://www.patriots.com/news/index.cfm?ac=pressreleasesdetail&pid=45521&pcid=47>

"It is an absolute pleasure to see so many student-athletes working so hard in positive, educational settings every day. We are very fortunate to have such terrific athletes and dedicated coaches. The individual and team accomplishments are well-earned and exciting, but the life lessons and benefits of these experiences are the ultimate prize."

- Kevin Mackin, WPS Athletic Director



CONGRATULATIONS WEYMOUTH HIGH GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM
STATE CHAMPIONS!

Come and support the Football Team
on Thursday, November 25, 2010

at 10:00 am



WEYMOUTH VS WALPOLE

To access *Weymouth Pride*: www.weymouthschools.org



The Story of "Rugby and Rosie" Comes True at Academy

When Barbara Walsh, 3rd grade teacher at Academy Primary School, was running with her dog at Bare Cove Park in Hingham, they came upon Caitlin with her service dog, Rosie. "We started to talk about dogs and I mentioned that I was a teacher and did a story with my students called Rugby and Rosie. The story is about "Rosie", a dog being raised by a family before she heads off to Guide Dog School for training.



Caitlin offered to come in to school to speak with my students about her spinal cord injury and how she came to be in a wheelchair. She talked about the organization NEADS in Sterling, MA, that introduced her to Rosie—and what a great match! They have been together ever since. Rosie can perform all kinds of services for Caitlin. She demonstrated how she picks things up for her, even very small objects. She also has a special technique for closing doors for Caitlin. She was just adorable and the kids really enjoyed meeting them. One of my students said, "Our story of Rugby and Rosie has come true!" They made great connections between the realistic fiction of our literature series and real life people in our community.

Mr. Gerry Richmond lives in Weymouth with his wife, Carol. He recently retired Kirk, his former guide dog, which now has the honor of being a family pet. He visited Academy Ave with his new guide dog, Friday. Gerry has come the past 3 years to speak to students about losing his sight. He is wonderful and the kids are amazed to hear how much he can do.

Mrs. Walsh's class will tie in letter writing, which is part of the grade three curriculum by writing thank you letters for their visits.

BrightLink Technology in Weymouth Primary Schools

The BrightLink 450Wi is the ultimate classroom tool in the 4th Grade Interactivity Initiative. It is an Epson projector that requires only the projector and a pen to be used with an existing white board to provide the same results of an interactive whiteboard. This high-performance projector and pen combination integrates interactive functionality to one simple piece of technology at a cost ratio of 2 to 1 from other products.

It has an active area of up to 96" diagonal WXGA and 85" XGA. It's an ultra-short throw projector with new high performance optics that virtually eliminates hardware and shadow interference. It easily installs onto the wall and can be placed in even the smallest of classrooms. This new technology interacts with various devices, widgets, wikis, apps or software that can be found in classrooms. It is also cross-compatible with most instructional software applications.

"The BrightLink Projectors are currently installed in every 4th grade classroom and we are planning on rolling it out to additional primary grade levels in the near future. Teachers think it's great because the technology is simple to start and almost effortless to use.", states WPS Technology Director David Cawthorne.



Shining Focus

Robert Terravecchia

"Weymouth is a vibrant community in which to live and raise a family. It is close to the beaches, the mountains and Boston. For a large town, it surprisingly has a 'small town' feel. I am impressed with how many people I have met that give so much of their time to the community. All four of our children have attended the WPS system. We have experienced first hand the dedication and professionalism of both the teachers and administration. They are genuinely concerned about the education and welfare of our children. We have also repeatedly experienced instances where teachers go above and beyond to help make the learning experience interesting and fun.", says Bob Terravecchia.

He started at Weymouth Bank in 1991 as Controller and was later promoted to Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer. He has been President and CEO of Weymouth Bank since 2004. Prior to working at the bank, he was employed by the Certified Public Accounting firm of Parent, McLaughlin and Nangle, of Boston. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell in 1986 with a BS in Accounting. Mr. Terravecchia is also a 1995 graduate of new England School of Law. He is a Certified Public Accountant and an Attorney.

He shares, "I have been married to my lovely wife, Charlene, for almost 22 years. We have four children ranging in age from 8 to 16 and we just gave birth to our fifth child this week. I love to play golf, hike, cook and read books.

Bob Terravecchia is the President and CEO of Weymouth Bank. He, and Weymouth Bank, have been School-Community Partners since its inception. They are stellar representations of what the School-Community Partnership Program can be. "We are making an investment in our future workforce. That is our bottom line to the success of our community."



I am a proud member of the Weymouth Rotary Club. I also serve on the Board of Trustees of the South Shore Hospital Foundation Board and the Board of Directors of the Bankers' Bank Northeast. I am a former member of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce and the South Shore Tri-Town Development Corporation.

As a member of the Weymouth Rotary Club, I have had the honor of serving on the annual scholarship committee. Each year nearly 100 WHS students submit applications to win one of a handful of scholarships the Weymouth Rotary Club gives out. Each application is reviewed by the committee without any knowledge of the name of the applicant. I am simply

amazed at how accomplished the applicants are in their academic, musical, athletic, charitable and civic pursuits.

What excites me about my job is the ability to make a tangible difference in the lives of our customers. I love the fact that we are a local financial resource for our community. All of our employees live and work in the communities we serve. With that local knowledge, we are well equipped to be a trusted resource to our customers, many of whom own and operate small businesses. Small businesses are the backbone of the United States and I am proud to know that we support them by providing the resources they need to nurture and grow their businesses."

Cooperation

Kindness

Patience

Character in Action

Respect

Responsibility

Self-Control

RACHEL'S CHALLENGE

MOTIVATE EDUCATE ACTIVATE

Rachel Scott, the first person killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999.



Rachel's Challenge is a powerful presentation that recognizes that kindness is becoming part of our environment and encourages positive cultural changes, strong ethical values and stresses the importance of active citizenship. Students and parents at WHS and Chapman recently participated in a presentation; a powerful experience that impacted students and prompted them to open their eyes to look for the best in others. Everyone listened intently to Rachel's meaningful message. The main focus of the program is to have students recognize positive influences, make positive choices, set goals and use kind words and actions towards one another. The presentation told the story of Rachel, a young girl who wanted to change the world and touch millions of hearts. She was known as someone who led a life of incredible kindness and compassion. Unfortunately, she was shot and killed at Columbine High School in 1999. Rachel's dreams are living on as people learn of her inspiring story. Mrs. Penny Boczanowski commented on the presentation saying, "Both students and staff listened intently to Rachel's slideshow presentation. I feel this has created a very positive atmosphere at WHS. We hope these experiences affect everyone. This is one of the best assemblies ever presented at our school." A 'Friends of Rachel Club' has been formed which meets once a week.



Activities based on the children's book, Fill the Bucket are in place in some primary schools. The premise of this program is that each student has a bucket that they fill with good things about themselves and their peers. It is a positive approach to encourage ways for students to feel good about themselves. Other schools are bringing in guest speakers and presentations to encourage respect towards each other.

All WPS staff are participating in professional development to learn more about bullying prevention and intervention, based on the new bullying prevention legislation.

RACHEL'S 5 CHALLENGES

1. *Eliminate Prejudice*
by looking for the best in others
2. *Dare to Dream*
set goals, keep a journal
3. *Choose your Influences*
input determines output
4. *Kind Words*
small acts of kindness = huge impact
5. *Start a Chain Reaction*
with family and friends



Why I Became Involved with Education

Jean Rouzaut,
1st Grade Teacher, Talbot Primary School
Weymouth High School, Class of '89

"Growing up in Weymouth I attended the Alice E. Fulton School, South Intermediate School and graduated in 1989 from Weymouth South High School. It is because of the incredible teachers that touched my life that I decided to attend college and major in Elementary/Special Education. I graduated in 1993 from Rivier College in Nashua, New Hampshire and was hired by the Weymouth Public Schools in August of that same year to teach Special Education. I have spent the last seventeen years at Ralph Talbot Primary School and count my blessings every single date for the opportunity I have been given to touch the lives of the children in my classroom each year. What has impressed me most over the years is the dedication our staff has to the children of Weymouth. Not just at Talbot, but across the district. Having three children of my own in the Weymouth Public Schools, I see first hand how hard teachers work to meet the individual needs of their students.

A special memory I have is attending my colloquium in 1993. Most new teachers would be nervous walking into this district-wide meeting, but not me. I got to attend that meeting with two very special members of the WPS staff...my Mom and Dad. My mother was working (and still is) as a paraprofessional and my father was the Carpentry Instructor at the Vocational School (He retired two years ago after 28 years of service to the Weymouth Public Schools.) It is a day I will never forget!

In my years at Talbot, I have taught special education, second grade, and I am currently teaching first. What excites me about my job is watching a child read for the very first time. There is nothing like the smile on a child's face the first time they can read words on a page. It is like watching the door open to a whole new world for them. Being a part of that moment is something I cherish...IT IS WHY I TEACH!!!

When I am not teaching, I keep very busy with my family. I have three beautiful children and an amazing husband. I love to scrapbook and make chocolates in my spare time. I also enjoy boating with my family and relaxing by the lake in Laconia, New Hampshire.

I have a pillow with the quote "To Teach is to Touch a Life Forever". I hope in some way I have touched the lives of all of my students. They have all certainly touched mine!





21st Century Skills in Action

READ THE WORLD

Submitted by John Pappas,
Lead Teacher,
Department of Language Arts,
WHS

The first ten years of the 21st century have produced unique opportunities to businesses, the arts and sciences and education. The birth of new media and technologies has spawned exciting and profitable new industries, dynamic art forms and unforeseen ways of looking at the world that would have been inconceivable twenty years ago when most of us were trying to remember to rewind our VHS tapes before we brought them back to the video store. Now many of us are streaming content directly from the artists that produce it, if not creating that content ourselves.

This first decade of the 21st century has also posed some unique challenges. A dire economy, the prevalence of outsourcing, and draconian cost-cutting measures in private corporations and publicly funded organizations resulting in job loss has led many to question if American economic supremacy is no longer the given that it was at the end of the 20th century. No matter where you look or who you ask it seems as if the world is reshaping itself around us.

What does this mean for education? In the shifting sands of this changing landscape, how can our students stand out and be leaders for the 21st century? According to a study entitled "Are They Really Ready to Work?: Employers' Perspectives on the Basic Knowledge and Applied Skills of New Entrants to the 21st Century U.S. Workforce", quite a bit. The study found that, nationally, 50% of high school students were deficient in the complex skills necessary for success in the competitive new world of the 21st century. These skills---strategic reading, oral and written communication, technology, problem solving, collaboration and research – have been adopted as the core skills forming the hub of education at Weymouth High School. Teachers will focus their instruction on these essential skills, using their content area to encourage their students to maximize their skill development in order to better prepare them to compete in the global marketplace and become more active citizens.

During the first quarter of the 2010-2011 school year teachers of all subject areas have focused on providing direct instruction in strategic reading. A student who reads strategically is able to identify the purpose and audience of a reading, exhibit critical insights and apply the reading to their own lives. Whether reading a science

What is Strategic Reading?

“A student who reads strategically is able to identify the purpose and audience of a reading, exhibit critical insights and apply the reading to their own lives.”

textbook or a Philip Larkin poem, a politician's speech or a data table, students who read strategically read actively, analyzing bias, purpose, reliability and relevance while asking probing questions and making insightful connections to their own lives.

Teaching reading is no longer the sole purview of English teachers; Teachers from Culinary Arts to Calculus provide direct strategic reading instruction and assignments to hone his or her students' ability to comprehend difficult texts and use the information within them to solve real-world problems facing American society today. During the course of the first quarter of the school year, each student will have completed at least one assignment solely focused on teaching and assessing strategic reading in each class. A student with a full schedule would receive at least seven of these opportunities solely designed to enhance their reading ability. About the school-wide focus on reading, one senior student remarked, "It never occurred to me before this year that I can use reading strategies I learned in English to help me read my math textbook. Or that the same questions I ask of a novel could help me detect bias in a newspaper article." The unilateral focus on the teaching and assessment of this skill will help reinforce the need for students to ask critical questions of every text they encounter, no matter where they encounter it. Simply put, better readers make better thinkers.

British author Henry Fielding once wrote "Read in order to live." In the first part of this exciting century, much is uncertain. What is certain, however, is that Fielding's words ring as true as they did three hundred years ago: in order to live, be successful, lead and achieve in the 21st century, students must master strategic reading. As our economy morphs from one which values physical labor to one which requires complex thinking, creativity and problem solving skills, processing and analyzing text-based information quickly, efficiently and accurately is essential. No matter where their future takes them, students will be reading the 21st century. Weymouth High School is proud to help them be successful when they get there.





**21st Century Skills
in Action**

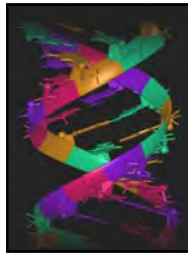
Science Café Held at WHS

A Science Café is an open forum round table that provides an opportunity to meet and interact with professionals in the fields of math and science.



Have you ever wanted to learn about careers with the FBI or the Department of Health and Human Services?

WHS students and staff had a unique opportunity to meet members of the U.S. Federal Government to learn about the latest developments in technology used by the various federal agencies. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Department of Health and Human Services were represented and discussed the challenges in addressing national and biological security issues while promoting research. They traveled from Washington DC to discuss the various career opportunities in their respective organizations with students who are pursuing math and science careers.



working on pandemic preparedness and response, bio-security associated with synthetic biology and policy making efforts. Their efforts translate to an understanding of how viruses mutate, how new genes can be inserted

into bacteria and viruses, and how government is working on creating laws to prevent the misuse of these techniques. They also learned that they can use these same methods to find cures for disease and cancer.

They intend to come back with additional scientists who will be providing hands-on teaching and learning experiences.

WHS Science Teacher, Diana Cost, coordinated this program and says, "I am so honored to bring these real world experiences to our students and staff because they will stay with them for a lifetime. There are students who will go on to pursue careers that will impact peoples' lives for the better. The intent of these cafés is two fold. Education is one component and exposure to career fields that students may not have been aware of is another additional benefit. The WHS 21 Career Academy Model being used at WHS is ideal for this type of interaction. We are looking forward to exposing our students and staff to as much opportunity as possible to help them prepare so they can make informed decisions for their continued education and career paths."

Students talked about their own inquiry based labs and projects, asked questions and received advice on how researchers design and perform experiments based on the scientific method.

Students learned about how the government is

Staff members attended a 'Teacher Café' that afternoon where they learned about the government's new efforts in education to help prepare students for the 21st century workforce.



*Pictured from left to right:
Jennifer Camancho, Lynne Walsh,
Dr. Jessica Tucker, Agent Ed You*

Our thanks for their efforts to travel from Washington DC to provide this unique opportunity to our students and staff.

Adams Students Doing Good Deeds

Adams 6th grade team comprised of staff members Kathy Dempsey, Hadley Igo, Paul Kelly, Susanne McCarthy and Ellen Quinn, along with their students "The Green Grammarians" are focusing on teamwork, going "green" for the environment, and using correct grammar in speaking and writing.



They have an activity each month. In September, they planted bulbs around the Adams Middle School and went to Academy Ave Primary School to read to grades 1 and 2.

Students were challenged to earn \$5 by doing a "chore" they would not normally do, such as mowing a lawn, raking leaves, helping an

elderly neighbor shop, etc. They presented a donation of \$420.37 to the Massachusetts Humane Society in East Weymouth to help care for homeless and abused animals.

After learning about an injured kitten that was operated on by a Weymouth Veterinarian, Adams 5th graders were moved to action. They held a bake sale and are making a monetary donation as well as collecting food, litter, toys, etc. to donate to the Cat Clinic in Weymouth.



Jeremy Reiner from Channel 7 News recently talked to students at Nash about "Weather".

WHS National Honor Society participated in a commemoration of the 275th birthday of President John Adams. They joined NHS Chapters from Milton, Quincy, Woodward and Braintree at First United Parish Church, also known as "Church of the Presidents", to lay a wreath in his honor. Speaking at the event were U.S. Congressman William Delahunt, a U.S. Naval Commander and a 7th generation Adams family member appropriately named, John Adams.

Fundraising opportunities—Continued...please consider participating in the ones that appeal to you.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our School-Community Partners who are exhibiting extreme generosity!
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Spirit Merchandise coming soon...more info to follow!

**Please note: Any programs that need a booking should go through Betsy Harris, Community Relations Liaison, at 781-335-1460, x-319,
elizabeth.harris@weymouthschools.org**



Weymouth Public Schools Department of Special Education

Annual Child Find

WPS is responsible for providing services for disabled children from 3-22 years of age who reside in Weymouth.

For more information about evaluation, eligibility and services, contact the Weymouth Department of Special Education at 781-335-1460, x-316



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5th Annual

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr./

Black History Month Essay Contest

Grades 6, 7, 8 ♦ 500 words

Deadline: December 31, 2010

**Holiday Door
Decorating Contest**

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Mug Scholarships Available

Submit Essay on

“The Benefits of Community Service”

Deadline: February 9, 2011

Submit to Barbara Deacon, Guidance Office



Annual Tree Lighting

December 5, 2010

5:00—7:00 pm

Town Hall



Magical Christmas in Columbian Square Sponsored by The Columbian Square Business Association

December 11, 2010 4:00—8:00 pm

Caroling, Scavenger Hunt, Pictures with Santa, Live Entertainment, Food & Beverages



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Thank You!



10 Grant Awards

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