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Weekly News Letter from The Principal's Corner September 8, 2017

8th Graders Go To Hulbert

Every year, Laura Berry and Kathy Dana take our 8th graders to the Hulbert Outdoor Center for a day of team and trust building exercises. The students love this field trip and share all kinds of heartwarming stories upon their return to WS. This year's trip will be on Thursday, September 21, 2017.

SBAC Assessment

If your child took part in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium mandated tests, (or SBACs as they are popularly known), in May 2017, their scores will be sent home today. This is the fourth year students participated in the new computer-based test for English language arts/literacy and mathematics, which replaced the former paper-based NECAP tests for these subjects. The first year was a pilot year. Now we have three years of results to consider and compare within our building and with the supervisory union and the state. Principal Oakman will be meeting with each student to review their test scores. Weathersfield School will use the results of the SBAC to assess the strengths and needs of the teaching curriculum as a whole, and to ensure that our children continue to receive an education, which addresses the Vermont Grade Level Expectations and works towards Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements, known as the PBGRs. This data will also help teachers and administration revise curriculum and instruction in a way to increase student success. This data is cross-referenced with other assessments like Track My Progress, NECAPs in Science in grades 4 and 8, mid and end module math tests, and more. All of this data gives us good information about each and every learner so we can remediate and/or extend learning, as needed. The school's composite results are attached to this newsletter, for grades K-4, so parents can see how well we are doing. We are also posting the composite scores on the school's website. For grades 3-8, (this year's 4-9 grade students), today you will receive your child's scores, a cover letter of explanation, and the school results, **all in a sealed envelope** and placed with your child's Friday Packets. At this time, we are unable to secure state composite scores. Eighth graders who took this test in May are now in 9th grade. Those scores will be mailed home or sent home with a younger sibling **in a sealed envelope**. We will also mail a copy to the high school the student is now attending. Principal Oakman plans to meet with every student within the next week to discuss their scores and to do some goal setting. Please do not hesitate to ask questions about the tests. Principal Oakman delights in talking about test scores! She can be reached at jmoakman@wsesu.net or 674-5400.

NECAP Science Scores for Grades 4 and 8

The May 2017 Science NECAP scores for grades 4 and 8 will not be available until September 25th, according to the AOE. Principal Oakman will be sending those scores home after a careful review, a two or three year school analysis, and after meeting with all current 5th graders to discuss their scores. Again, the 8th grade scores will be sent home and also sent to the high schools these 9th graders are now attending. If you have questions, please feel free to email me or call the school. WS hopes to have them out to parents by early October.

Fire Drill – First of the Year

On September 7, 2017 at approximately 2:00 pm, we had our first fire drill of the year. It went perfectly! We could tell that many of the classes have been practicing! The students were completely out of the building in 2 minutes and 15 seconds flat, and ALL were accounted for within 2 minutes and 50 seconds. Principal Oakman had two students monitor the event and then attend the debriefing meeting directly after to share their insight. They commented how quietly the students exited, in straight lines, and with no talking or fooling. They also noticed that students re-entered the building the same way when the All Clear signal was given. Both remarked that our school is a very safe school.

Lock Down Drill: Clear the Hall, Secure the Building

Today, September 8, 2017, we had our first Clear the Hall; Secure the Building lock down drill. As you may know, the AOE requires two drills the first month of school. This drill occurred at 8:10 am. With seconds after hearing the command over the PA system, the school was completely silent, and locked down! Again, we had two students practice the drill with us. They helped check doors, (all were locked), and listened to hear for sounds or any noise. They reported that the school was silent! After the All Clear command was called and the students were praised for their good work, we had a debriefing meeting in the office. Once again, the two students voiced their amazement about how quickly and quietly the entire drill occurred. They also shared that they feel our school is very safe. Without a doubt, WS is a safe school! We are very proud of faculty, staff and children for making our school a safe haven!

Open House

Hope to see you all at Open House on September 28th from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Not only will families get to meet teachers and visit classrooms, we are all going to the gym at 6:15 for a presentation on PowerSchool, how to access your student's report card electronically and a brief presentation on Performance Based Learning.

Home and School Connection

Please take a moment to read the Home and School Connection newsletter I have attached to this week's notes from me. It contains great tips on respect, strong study habits, talking to your children about money, and more. This is a quick read and very informative.

Important Events to Write on Your Home Calendars

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| 11-10-17 | K-8 Veteran's Day Assembly | 8:15 - 9:00 am in Gym |
| 12-21-17 | Holiday Sing-A-Long | 8:15 - 9:00 am in Gym |
| 3-7-18 | K-8 Music Concert (Snow Date is 3-8-18, same time) | 6:00 to 7:15 pm in Gym |
| 5-25-18 | K-8 Memorial Day Assembly | 8:15 - 9:00 am in Gym |

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend,

JeanMarie K. Oakman, WS Principal