



JeanMarie Oakman, Principal

135 Schoolhouse Road
P.O. Box 279
Ascutney, Vermont 05030
(802)674-5400
wsesu.net
jmoakman@wsesu.net

*Weekly News Letter from The Principal's Corner
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Boston in June for 8th Graders

All 8th graders planning to attend the end of year trip to Boston are expected to work at the October 7th Car Show here at school, sponsored by our PTA. It is the biggest Boston fund raising event, which pays for most of the trip. We are expecting 100% participation of our 8th graders who are planning to attend the Boston trip in June at the Car Show on October 7, 2017. Thank you!

WS Open House

WS is having our Open House on Thursday, September 28th from 5:30 to 6:45. Parents and students will be roaming in and out of classrooms and meeting with teachers from 5:30 to 6:15 pm. At 6:15, teachers, parents, community members, and all visitors will meet in the gym to hear a presentation by Larry Dougher, WSESU Technology Director, on our PowerSchool electronic reporting system, including steps on how to access the Parent Portal from home or work. Principal Oakman will give a brief overview on Proficiency Based Learning. This will conclude at 6:45 pm. See you then!

WEATHERSFIELD SCHOOL CAR SHOW

WS PTA and the 8th Grade will host their annual Car Show on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 10am – 2:00 pm with a Rain Date will be October 8, 2017. This will benefit the Weathersfield PTA and WS 8th Grade Class Trip. All vehicles of interest are welcome. Admission is by donation. **Join us for:** Music, 50-50 Raffle, Food, and Refreshments. Awards and Door Prizes will be given out. Federal Law prohibits any type of tobacco/alcohol use on school property at any time.

Young Americans Are Back!

We have a wonderful opportunity upon us! The Young Americans are back! For those of us who are unaware what this means, the Young Americans are a group of people who promote song, dance, performance, improvisation, and music with workshops! They work with students in grades 3-college! The Young Americans will be at Green Mountain Union High School, in Chester, VT, from Thursday, September 28, until Saturday, September 30. If you choose to participate, it will be for three full days and one evening, as there are rehearsals all day Thursday, Thursday evening, all day Friday, and two performances on Saturday. If students want to partake in this fantastic opportunity, Friday will be counted as an off-site school day, not an absent! I, unfortunately, cannot be a chaperone for this event due to prior commitments, including Weatherfield's Open House. With that said, transportation, cost, and supervision will be a parental responsibility. We have had representatives from Weathersfield School participate in this and they absolutely loved it! The cost for the three-day workshop is \$59 which includes a t-shirt in which the students perform. For more information in regards or to register for this great opportunity, go to www.youngamericans.org/us. If you have any questions, send me an email! I am bummed that I cannot participate, but this would be an awesome experience for those interested! Thank you, *Zachary Shambo, WS Music Teacher*

Walk to School Day

On Wednesday, October 4th, we will be participating in Walk to School Day, rain or shine! We will meet at the Old Café De Sol at 7:30 am and walk the back way to the field across the school, where we will safely cross and head in to the building in time for announcements and breakfast.

No School on Oct. 9th

There will be no school on Monday, October 9th, as it is a WSESU inservice day for teachers.

SBAC

I have had the pleasure of meeting with each and every student in grades 4-8 to discuss their ELA and Math SBAC test scores, taken this past May. As you know, we did very well, the best in the SU, but there is always room for improvement!

WS School Board Meets in September

The WS School Board will meet on Monday, September 18th at 6:30 pm in the AP Room at school. This meeting is open to the public.

WS School Safety Conversation with Grades 5-8

On Thursday, I met with grades 5-8 to touch on the recent tragedies that have impacted all of us, specifically the shooting at Dartmouth Hospital and yesterday's high school shooting in Washington State. The intent of my conversation with the students was to let them know that unpredictable and tragic things do happen in the world and sometimes safety is compromised. I wanted them to know that WS is a SAFE school and this is why we conduct monthly drills at WS. I told the students that we do have an emergency button in the office, (location will never be disclosed to anyone other than the inhouse WS Crisis Team). We installed the button so we could alert police in an immediate and expeditious way when we feel there is danger at school. I told the students that the state police work with faculty and staff to conduct table top drills that are school specific, so we can build a safety repertoire should we ever find ourselves in a crisis situation. The students know that my desk faces the front of the building for a reason, (so I can see ALL who approach WS). Our doors are locked 100% of the time and we have installed laminate glass in every window on the bottom floor of our school. We have cameras in and outside of the school, recording all of the time. We also attend school safety seminars and we read books and studies about school safety, so we can update our Emergency Preparedness Manual as needed and train our staff and faculty, based on cutting edge research and best practice. The students were very interested in this information. I think school safety is on every one's mind.

I ended the conversation by telling students how lucky we are to live in a state that has not had a lot of school violence, but if it ever does happen, WS is prepared to deal with the situation. Students have been encouraged to meet with me should they have questions or concerns. I have a suggestion box in the office that the students access daily, so I am aware of ideas and concerns they may have. This is another avenue in which to ask questions or to share their thinking.

My point was to be positive and encouraging, even though this is a scary subject, and to let our older students know that school safety and their protection is on our minds all of the time. We have extensive plans should an emergency ever arise and their job is to let US worry about safety in school. Their job is to be happy, work hard, and do their best in school.

Please be advised that I did not meet with K-4 students as I don't want them frightened. Their classroom teachers do an excellent job talking about being safe in a genuine way as a part of their daily learning, so I feel for now, that is the best avenue to approach this subject with our little ones.

Please feel free to speak with your child about this important conversation we had on September 14th. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or comments regarding our safety discussion or school safety in general.

Have an enjoyable weekend,

JeanMarie K Oakman, WS Principal