



WILBRAHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT NEWSLETTER

466 Stony Hill Road , Wilbraham, MA 01095

Phone: 413 596-9061 Fax: 413 596-9382

www.hwrsd.org

Daniel Roy, Principal

**HOME OF THE
EAGLES**

Daniel Handzel, Asst. Principal

Susan Spafford, Guidance

Susan Long, Adj. Counselor

Diane Lounsbury, Nurse

Kay Guilbault, Adm. Assistant to Principal

Maureen Budrow, Adm. Asst/Bookkeeper

Volume: 4 - Issue 07 March, 2010

Dear Students and Families,

All of us at the Wilbraham Middle School have been deeply saddened by the tragic events in South Hadley. It is a troubling fact that bullying, and especially cyber-bullying, are a part of our students' lives. Please be assured that the teachers, staff and administration take bullying very seriously and deal promptly with any reported incidents. We actively work with the school resource officer and our guidance and adjustment counselors to investigate occurrences, empower the victims, and discipline the bullies. Additionally, we have implemented the Developmental Designs program that is used during our daily advisory block. The program allows students to meet in small groups and connect and interact in a positive way with their teacher and fellow classmates. We are also currently planning an Anti-Bullying week in conjunction with the Wilbraham Police, Minnechaug High School and Thornton Burgess School.

Please discuss bullying with your child and encourage them to come forward if they have been the victim of bullying. The entire Wilbraham Middle School community is committed to eliminating bullying in our school. The points below give some brief but helpful information.

Daniel Roy

Principal

A Child Being Bullied Often:

- Complains of illness.
- Doesn't want to go to school.
- Cries easily, displays mood swings and talks about hopelessness.
- Displays changes in eating or sleeping habits.
- Displays "victim" body language- hangs head, hunches shoulders, avoids eye contact.

Tips for Parents to Stop Cyber-Bullying

- Teach children never to respond to a threatening e-mail.
- Save messages and contact police, if appropriate.
- Report abusive online behavior to service provider.
- Filter or block unwanted messages

Tips for Students to Stop Cyber-Bullying

- Refuse to forward cyber-bullying messages.
- Block communication from cyber bullies.
- Report cyber-bullying incidents to a trusted adult.

Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District



February 26, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Over the past several weeks, the District's Administrative Team has been busy assembling the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District's (HWRSD) FY11 budget – the budget that will carry us through the 2010-2011 school year. Many factors make next year's budget extremely difficult. Among our challenges:

- **State funding forecasts:** Two of our primary sources of state revenue are Chapter 70 Aid and Regional School Transportation. We anticipate that Chapter 70 Aid will be reduced by 5 % from \$11,731,872 in FY10 to \$11,145,278 in FY11, a difference of nearly \$600,000. The best-case scenario for our Regional Transportation Aid would be a reimbursement of \$941,284, which is 56 % of our costs. This is nearly \$730,000 less than the District received in FY09.
- **The current budget:** This year (FY10), we are currently working within a budget that includes a broad and deep range of cuts. The FY10 budget will be the base upon which the FY11 budget is built. Many of the decisions (cuts) we make for FY11 will be based on an already reduced budget. In other words, we are making reductions on top of reductions.
- **HWRSD enrollment:** Since 2002, enrollment has steadily declined. Next year we are projecting that enrollment in the District will drop by 46 students. A decrease of 45 students may occur in Hampden; only 1 is forecast in Wilbraham. Fewer students mean less State funding. It also means that Wilbraham's percentage share of the total school budget grows relative to Hampden's. The enrollment calculations would spike Wilbraham's assessment from HWRSD even if State aid were at normal levels.

Over the course of this school year and next, we expect to save nearly \$440,000 from contractual settlements that resulted in furloughs, raise reductions or salary freezes, and health care cost-sharing agreements. Our teachers, for example, took a one day unpaid furlough this year and will take two unpaid furlough days next year. (This does not change the number of days students attend school.) Teachers also agreed to reduce their negotiated raise next year by 0.25% and have made additional contributions to their share of health care costs. We certainly appreciate the willingness of the teaching and the custodial units to return to the bargaining table to help with the District's finances. We will soon be meeting with our other bargaining units.

Despite the negotiated settlements, our budgetary problems remain. *What is the bottom line?* Based on current projections, and in order to live within the realistic tax levy limits of the towns of Hampden and Wilbraham, we will need to cut over \$1.65 million from our working budget. We are projecting our overall budget will be reduced from \$37,899,703 in FY10 to \$37,725,364 in FY11. The upcoming reductions compound the impact of the austere budgets we have lived under during this economic recession.

Clearly, some difficult decisions must be made. Every school, every classroom, every teacher and every student will undoubtedly be affected. As always, we will stay true to the District's values and priorities. We will continue to work with town officials and school administrators and staff to develop creative solutions to our fiscal challenges. I would welcome your questions and input.


For more information, please visit our website @ www.hwrsd.org

Sincerely,

M. Martin O'Shea

Superintendent of Schools

MMO/kwb



The following students received Honor Roll status for the **Second Term** at Wilbraham Middle School. **Distinguished Honors** is all A's in all subjects; **Honors** is all A's and/or B's in all subjects.

8th Grade Distinguished Honors: Kayleigh Baker, Joseph Barton, Brian Belleville, Samuel Bianco, Jenny Chen, Matthew Chmura, Brian Clark, Aaron Cyr, Jamie Downing, Caroline Fallon, Julia Feinberg, Maricel Ferraro, Abigail Foley, Diana Gerberich, Abigail Godon, Hannah Godon, Justin Gregorius, Alexis Grimard, Brian Gurski, Christopher Ingerson, Taryn Isenburg, Michael Knight, Lindsay Kosel, Taylor Kovarik, Mark Kukulka, Anna Manzi, Samantha Mariani, Thomas Mehlich, Anthony Monteiro, Jake O'Keefe, Molly O'Neil, Jaime Pannier, Rakhi Patel, Philip Pickering, Alla Popa, Liam Rothschild-Shea, Corina Stenning-Barnes, Kyle Tallman, Hayden Van Brewer, Brooke Williams, Emily Zheng

8th Grade Honors: Alexis Anderkin, Madison Babula, Erin Baker, Stephanie Barillaro, Molly Bass, Andrea Boyer, Tyler Bradway, Nico Branco, Michael Brown-Jones, Chloe Cincotta, Dylan Clifford, Emma Collins, Samuel Conway, Josephine Crouch, Jenna DeCurzio, John DeVine, Abigail Dias, Karen Diedrich, Luke Douglass, Daniel Dupuis, Tara Ellington, Alyssa Falvo, Michael Farnham, Nicholas Gilfor, Emma Giodano, Catherine Goodroe, Klaudia Gorzynska, Kourtney Hannigan, Sarah Johnston, Brendan Jones, Brian Kavanagh, Andrew Kenny, Ross Kiah, Nathan Killian, Kathryn Krawczynski, Cailin Kuhn, Rachel Lampson, Mackenzie Lee, Kaitlynn Leo, Jessica Leoni, Kyle Leven, Ryan Mack, Brian Mascaro, Jenna McQuade, Lorenzo Mendoza, Meagan Mitchell, Orette Morris, Alexa Murphy, Hayley Normoyle, Gabrielle Ottomaniello, Franchesca Pafumi, Katherine Patterson, Madeline Patterson, Chelsea Petrick, Lauren Pignatare, Joseph Polidoro, Stephen Proulx, Will Rasid, Eliza Reinke, Alec Robinson, Anthony Roughgarden, Jacqueline Sady, Niccolo Salvatore, Nathalie Santaniello, Zackary Santos, Dylan Sargert, Joseph Scibelli, Jr., Sara Scudder, Ariaun Stewart, Eve Sullivan, Geneiva Sweeney, Michaela Swift, Bridget Tarpey, Joseph Torchia, Alexandra Weiss, Russell Wells, Alexander Weston, Kyle Wietsma, Michael Zeimbekakis, James Zheng

7th Grade Distinguished Honors: Erin Canning, Troy Carhart, Michael Chan, Cassandra Cloutier, Lindsey Cloutier, Benjamin Crevier, Mary Clare Crochiere, Matthew Diefenderfer, Marissa Falcetti, Joshua Florence, Chantal Gaudreau, Anthony Gheen, Maxine Girard, Kayla Gurney, Olivia Guyer, Nadia Hamdani, Zachary Holden, Christopher Jones, Briana Jurkowski, Benjamin Laliberte, Kelsey Landeck, Matthew Naumec, Emily Olsen, Samantha Peck-Dionne, Julie Peterson, Dakota Robinson, Carolyn Scharl, Timothy Scully, Katherine Sullivan, Robert Tremblay, Ellie Trudeau, Sarah Washington, Katherine Weyant, Vanessa White, Jake Windoloski, Haily Yelle

7th Grade Honors: Katherine Anderson, Caroline Andros, Justin Balbino, Emily Baskin, Samantha Baskin, Tatiana Baymon, Daniel Beaupre, Paige Belcastro, Drew Berg, Christopher Blanchard, Rachel Breton, Arno Cai, Jack Callahan, Cimone Cato, Melvin Chang, Hunter Chapdelaine, Allison Coelho, Kelsey Comeau, Benjamin Contrino, Alexandria Coscore, Carolyn Cross, Joshua Dailey, Sarah Davis, Alexander Desaulnier, James Dorsey, John Dowding, Georgianna Drapeau, Joseph Drost, Alexandra Fedak, Christopher Ferraro, Carlie Ferry, Walker Field, Andrew Foley, Shelby Fontaine, Hugo Galvan, Sydney Gamble, Margaret Garza, Ryan Gasteyer, Rosemarie Glidden, Michael Goonan, Rachel Graziano, Tyler Grono, Holley Hagopian, Jeffrey Halpin, Brandon Harb, Olivia Hicklen, Lauren Hooker, Katherine Huijing, Stephen Hunt, Elizabeth Judycki, Michael Karam, Sylvia Kierkla, Matthew Krol, Bridget Lawler, Daniel Leonard, Amy Livermore, Michael Lodigiani, Steven Lucas, Jr., Abigail Macedo, Max Marek-Fowler, Liam Maroney, Michele McCracken, Ethan McKenzie, Avalon Mercado, Natalie Morales, Casey Moriarty, Megan Nehmer, Corey Page, Samantha Pajak, Alexander Perry, Zachary Peters, David Petruzzelli, Christian Porter, Brandon Rheault, Melissa Roach, David Robinson, Madeline Ross, Erin Ryan, Matthew Schluckebier, Benjamin Sheehan, Garrett Small, Raymond Sullivan, Jaylyn Tarzian, Nicole Tranghese, Kevin Trigo, Paula Viron, Alyssa Vito, Zackary Wawrzyk, Korey White, Paige Williams, Courtney Wong, Cassidy Yarrows

MINNECHAUG REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL
GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

March 1, 2009

Dear Middle School Parents/Guardians,

It's that time of year again when the Minnechaug Regional High School Guidance Department will host "College Night for Middle School Parents". This year it will be held on March 18th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

College may seem like a distant thought for middle school students, but it's never too early to start planning. A panel of high school students, a parent, guidance counselors, and a college admission representative will talk about the many decisions which lie ahead for you and your student. Hopefully, their stories, advice and experiences will guide you as you begin this important journey.

Please plan to join us on Thursday, March 18, at 7:00 p.m. This night is designed primarily for parents/guardians only, not students. In a relaxed setting, we will provide some helpful information and answer your questions.

Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Lewis

Carolyn Lewis
Director of Guidance



WASHINGTON, D.C. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



The deadline for applying for a Washington, D.C. scholarship has been extended until Friday, March 12th. Even if you have not signed up for the trip, if you feel the scholarship would make a difference, please be sure to submit one. The scholarship application form can be found on page 7 of this newsletter as well as your child's Edline account.

LUNCH MONEY!!!

Just a reminder to keep your child's cafeteria account in a positive balance. Calls go out to families every Sunday evening if you have a negative balance or a balance of under \$10. To prevent this evening interruption, please be sure to add money to your child's account either by check or thru the web-based banking system. Thank you!!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March, 2010

2nd	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
11th	Science & Technology Week—Assembly with Flo Design, Co. of Wilbraham
12th	Progress Reports
16th	Whole School Assembly on “Bullying”
17th	School Council 3:15 p.m.
18th	College Night for Middle School Parents 7-8:30 p.m. TWB (see more information on pg. 4)
23rd	MCAS—7th grade ELA Long Composition
24th	MCAS—8th grade ELA Session 1
25th	MCAS—8th grade ELA Session 2
26th	MCAS—8th grade make-up session
26th	Edline Posting
26th	PTO Dance 7-9:30 p.m.
31st	MCAS—7th grade ELA Session 1

April, 2010

1st	MCAS—7th grade ELA Session 2
2nd	No School (Good Friday)
5th	MCAS—7th grade make-up session
8th	Student of the Month Lunch
9th	Grades Close
15th	8th Grade to Symphony Hall (make up field trip)
16th	Report Cards issued
19th	Start of Spring Break
26th	Return to school
27th	Incomplete Grades Due
28th	School Council 3:15 p.m.
28th	Chorus Rehearsal 2-4 p.m.

WASHINGTON D.C. EXCURSIONS POLICY

Excursions are supplements to the school program and typically do not require the participation of all students in a group or class. Examples include trips sponsored by student clubs and travel of special interest groups outside of school hours and annual class trips.

Students participating in an excursion are representing both our school and community and exemplary behavior is expected at all times. Students are required to have acceptable attendance, academic and behavioral records in order to participate. Parent consent, as indicated by signature on specific forms provided by the school, is also required for participation. Some excursions may require additional rules for participation.

Minimum standards for Academic, Behavior, and Attendance:

1. Students must be passing all classes including their Related Arts Classes at the time of the trip or excursion. Minimum grade average must be 60%.
2. One of the following discipline records will exclude you from an excursion:
 - a. After receiving three separate incidents of suspension, a student will become ineligible to participate on an excursion for the remainder of the year.
 - b. A serious violation of school rules and/or persistent behavioral issues may also be considered as reason to deny a child's participation under the discretion of the principal.
3. A student cannot miss more than 20 school days or the equivalent thereof in school tardies.

If a student becomes ineligible to participate in an excursion due to the above standards, he/she will forfeit any payments made towards the trip that are non-refundable at the time of the exclusion.

The Principal reserves the right to review this policy based upon the best interest of the school and the student(s) involved.

Wilbraham Middle School
466 Stony Hill Road
Wilbraham, MA 01095
596-9061

Washington, DC Scholarship Application
Trip dates: June 8th—11th

Wilbraham Middle School, through the generous donations of community organizations and individuals, is able to give out some partial scholarships.

Student Name: _____

Starttime: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone Number: _____

Has your child registered for the trip? _____

Did you participate in the Cookie Dough fundraiser? _____

Please briefly explain how receiving this scholarship would impact the student's ability to participate in this program: