



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

February 2018

Westford Town Office
1713 Vermont Route 128
Westford, Vermont 05494
Phone (802)878-4587- Fax (802)879-6503
www.westfordvt.us



Town Office Notes

Important Dates for Town Meeting

- **January 29th (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to file petitions and consent forms with the Town Clerk for local offices
 - **March 5th (Monday)** – 5pm deadline to request an absentee ballot
 - **March 5th (Monday)** – 7pm Town Meeting (floor votes) and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town budget), at the Westford School in the gym
 - **March 6th (Tuesday)** – Voting day by Australian ballot. Polls will be open from 7am - 7pm in the Westford School gym
- If you have any questions concerning Town Meeting, please call or email the Town Office.

Petition Deadline for Elected Offices

Petitions for elected offices (Selectboard, etc.) can be picked up at the Town Office and must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29th. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 16 registered voters. Please contact the Town Office for a complete list of offices with terms expiring in March 2018.

Voter Registration

Same day voter registration went into effect January 1, 2017. This means that eligible persons may register to vote on any day up to and including the day of an election. You can register to vote online at <https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us/>, at the Town Office during office hours, or at the polls on Election Day.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses are due by April 1st. A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call the Town Office. **If you no longer have your dog or your dog has passed away, please let us know.** For your convenience, you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and your license will be mailed to you. The fee until April 1st is \$13.00, or \$11.00 if your dog is spayed or neutered. Dog licenses obtained **after April 1st are subject to a late fee.**

Senior Luncheon

Our next luncheon will be held on February 12th at the Red Brick Meeting House on the Common at noon. If we get a major snow storm or it's extremely cold, we will cancel. We have everyone's telephone number and will give you a call that morning or the night before if we know that far ahead. Please put the date on your calendar and try to come. It will brighten your winter. Please spread the word to others that may not read their newsletter. We want to get the word out. As always, we like to see new faces. Hope to see you there! Carol Howrigan, President, 878-3090

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, February 26th.

Town Office Closings

- Closing at 12:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 31st for employees to attend a training seminar
- Closed all day Tuesday, March 6th for voting

TOWN OF WESTFORD - WINTER ROAD POLICY

The Westford Highway Department has the responsibility of maintaining 39.4 miles of town roads, of which 36.9 miles are gravel and 2.5 miles are paved. This policy is based on the goal of obtaining safe highway travel surfaces during winter months. It is our goal to achieve this at the earliest practical time and in the most cost efficient manner during and after a storm event. Providing bare, dry travel surfaces during a winter storm event is not practical and therefore not expected.

Each winter storm event is unique. It is impractical to develop specific rules on winter maintenance operations. Therefore, the judgment of the Road Foreman often governs the quantities and type of applications used to control snow and ice.

Snow Plowing

The Town of Westford begins plowing when snow has accumulated 2 to 3 inches. Plowing may begin as early as 4:00 a.m. and stops when the storm has ended or 10:00 p.m., whichever comes sooner.

Sand

Sand will be applied to all gravel roads. With the use of sand in winter maintenance material, some particles may be as large as ¾" in size and may cause windshield damage. Travelers should use caution and avoid following other vehicles or town trucks too closely. The Town will not pay for any vehicle repairs, such as the replacement of windshields. When ice is present under the sand, instant stops are impossible.

Plow Routes

Each plow route takes approximately 4 hours to complete, sometimes longer depending on the storm. This means if plowing started when there was 2 inches of snow on the road, by the time the truck finishes the route there is the potential for up to 6 inches or more of snow on the road again. Therefore, during a heavy snowstorm, at times there will be snow on the roads. There shall be no riders in the town trucks other than the operator of the truck and authorized town officials. All town trucks shall be pulled to the side of the road when the operator is using a cell phone.

Freezing Rain

It is important to note that salt or sand is less effective if applied before the rain stops. There is little the Westford Highway Department can do during a freezing rainstorm. Salt and sand will be applied to the roads sparingly during the event and more aggressively as needed once the storm is over.

Bare Roads

The Town of Westford does not have a bare road policy. Travelers who use Town roads should exercise due care and reasonable caution while driving during the winter months.

Mailboxes

The Town will not repair or replace mailboxes damaged by snow or ice clearing operations. Heavy snow coming off the plow blade will often knock over and damage mailboxes/posts that have not been adequately mounted and maintained or braced, or those mailboxes with doors left open. Also mailboxes/posts may be damaged by private contractors or homeowners during driveway clearing operations.

Trash Placement

Trash and trash receptacles should be placed in a manner that will not interfere with winter road maintenance. The Town will not be responsible for damage to trash receptacles or trash clean up as a result of its obstruction of snow removal.

Parked Vehicles

No vehicle shall be parked on the Town's right-of-way from the start of precipitation until 48 hours after the storm ends. The Town reserves the right to tow parked vehicles at the owner's expense. The Town is not liable for damages incurred to vehicles parked in the Town's right-of-way.

Plowing Across Town Roads

The practice of plowing snow from driveways across Town roads is prohibited. Residual snow creates a dangerous obstruction (piles, ridges, etc.). Snow shoveling into the roadway will cause similar problems. Once frozen, the piles/ridges can cause vehicles to lose control and can also cause damage to vehicles and town trucks and equipment. Generally, the Town will warn the responsible resident for a first occurrence. Subsequent violations may result in further action, which may include but is not limited to fines.

WESTFORD SELECTBOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Westford Selectboard hereby provides notice of a public hearing being held pursuant to 24 VSA §4443 of the Vermont State Statutes for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding: **Proposed Capital Budget and Capital Program.**

The public hearing has been scheduled for: Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 7:05 p.m. at the Westford Town Office, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, Vermont.

Purpose: Hear public comment on the proposed Capital Budget and Capital Program.

Table of Contents:

No formal table of contents. Consists of a 12-page capital budget & program document and supporting spreadsheets – capital budget & program, asset inventory by department (Highway, Administration, Fire, Library, Recreation).

Geographic Area Affected: Entire Town of Westford.

Location where proposed Capital Budget and Capital Program may be examined: Copies of the proposed Capital Budget and Capital Program are available at the Westford Town Office, 1713 VT Route 128, Westford, Vermont or may be viewed on the Town of Westford website at <https://westfordvt.us/boards/selectboard/>.

Dated at Westford, Vermont this 11th day of January, 2018.

Westford Selectboard
David Tilton, Vice Chair
Allison Hope



ATTENTION DOG LOVERS

The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as Dog Warden. What is a Dog Warden? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance. What qualifications do you need in order to be considered for the Dog Warden position? A love for dogs, the ability to communicate effectively, and a location to

bring dogs until they can be reunited with their owner, to name a few. Some people think they need a kennel in order to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be placed in a healthy environment until it is reunited with its owner. A healthy environment includes shelter, food, water and a suitable area for them to relieve themselves.

The Dog Warden position receives an annual stipend of \$500. The Town budget also includes funds for training, supplies and mileage. If you would like more information on helping the community by serving in this position, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. You do not need to be a Westford resident to apply for this position.

THE NEW VITAL RECORDS LAW (ACT 46) AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

The Vermont Legislature passed Act 46 in May 2017, which significantly changes the state laws that govern vital records - namely, birth and death certificates. The new law and rules will enhance the safety and security of birth and death certificates, provide better protection against misuse of these legal documents, and reduce the potential for identity theft. Additionally, the changes streamline the entire statewide system for creation, storage and tracking of birth and death certificates. Act 46 will impact anyone who seeks a copy of a Vermont birth or death certificate. **The changes go into effect on July 1, 2018.**

The most notable changes are:

- Only family members (as defined in Act 46), legal guardians, certain court-appointed parties or legal representatives of any of these parties can apply to obtain a certified copy of a birth or death certificate. In the case of a death certificate only, the funeral home or crematorium handling disposition may apply for a certified copy.
- An individual must complete an application and show valid identification when applying for a certified copy of a birth or death certificate.
- An individual who refuses to complete the application or cannot provide valid identification will be ineligible and referred to the Vital Records Office.
- Certified copies of birth and death certificates can be ordered from any town, not just where the birth or death occurred or where the person was a resident.
- Certified copies will be issued on anti-fraud paper.
- Access to noncertified copies (previously called "informational" copies) is not significantly changed by the new law or rules.
- Marriage, civil union, divorce or dissolution certificate copies and processes are not affected by the new law or rules.

For text of Act 46, go to

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Documents/2018/Docs/ACTS/ACT046/ACT046%20As%20Enacted.pdf>.



Congratulations !

GRASS FED COWS

**2018 Broomball
Tournament
Champions**

Kneeling: Dom Mosca

Standing left to right: Peter Barrows, Sean Paul Vanzo, Noah Ferris, Henry Adams, Avery Lamphere, Matthew Olsen

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



We Love Our Patrons:
Free coffee, hot chocolate and chocolates all month long!
Thank you to the Westford PTO for donating the hot chocolate.

 **iLoveLibraries**
Supporting one of our nation's most important resources

Share your Library Love:

What's Your Library Worth to You?

Go to <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/what-libraries-do/calculator> and calculate how much your library saves you and/or your family each month, then post your amount on our Facebook page or on Front Porch Forum. Don't be shy - it's nice to see how much the community uses the library - after all, it's your tax dollars at work!



**Travel Talk- 7-8:30pm -
Wednesday, February 28
(note the different week)**

**Destination: Mexico and its
People - Then and Now
Presented by: Michael and Pat
Hechmer**

The Hechmers have traveled to several places in Mexico. They have an interest in modern day Mexican culture, as well as Mayan and other indigenous cultures.

**The Westford Wildlife Access
Experience (TWWAX)
Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7pm
The Vermont Moose
presented by: James Ehlers**
TWWAX is a collaboration of the Westford Rec. Dept. and the Westford Public Library

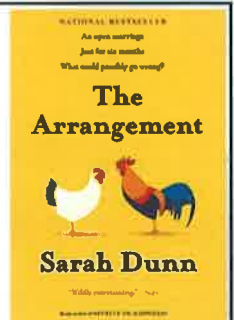


Library Hours

Wednesday: 1-7pm
Thursday: 10am-7pm
Friday: 1-7pm
Saturday: 10am-2pm
Opening 2pm on Wed., Feb. 7

**Adult Book Group
February 21
7:00-8:00pm**

**Pick up your books
at the front desk!
The Arrangement
by: Sarah Dunn**



A hilarious and emotionally charged novel about a couple who embark on an open marriage-what could possibly go wrong?

Lucy and Owen, ambitious, thoroughly-therapized New Yorkers, have taken the plunge, trading in their crazy life in a cramped apartment for Beekman, a bucolic Hudson Valley exurb. They've got a 200 year-old house, an autistic son obsessed with the Titanic, and 17 chickens, at last count. It's the kind of paradise where stay-at-home moms team up to cook the school's "hot lunch," dads grill grass-fed burgers, and, as Lucy observes, "chopping kale has become a certain kind of American housewife's version of chopping wood."

When friends at a wine-soaked dinner party reveal their open marriage, sensible Lucy balks. There's a part of her, though that's intrigued. Why not try a short marital experiment? Six months, clear ground rules, zero questions asked. When an affair with a man in the city begins to seem more enticing than the happily-ever-after she's known for the past nine years, Lucy must decide what truly makes her happy-"real life," or the experiment?" (from Amazon.com)

Early Literacy Storytime :Birth to Pre-School Every Thursday at 11am **No registration required!**

2/1/17: Theme: Groundhogs

2/8/17: Theme: Chinese New Year

2/15/17: Theme: Presidents

2/22/17: Theme: Dr. Seuss

Storytime consists of several stories around a theme, as well as a theme-based craft. All ages and levels of attention are encouraged to come. Don't worry if they fidget - they are still getting a lot out of it!

The WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY provides access to materials, technology, reference services and programs to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the Westford community.

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639 ♦ westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

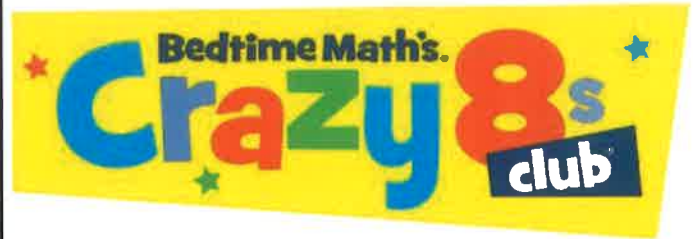
February Library Events

Month-long Events:

- We Love our Patrons: Free coffee, hot chocolate and chocolates
- What's Your Library Worth to You?

- February 1 - TWWAX - Moose - 7pm
- February 3 - National Take your Child to the Library Day - free balloons and water bottles for kids - all day
- February 7 - Library opens at 2pm
- February 7 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm
- February 10 - Valentines and Bead Jewelry 10:30am-Noon
- February 14 - No-Sew Heart Pillows 3-4:30pm, sign up appreciated
- February 21 - Adult Book Group - 7pm - The Arrangement by Sarah Dunn
- February 28 - Travel Talk - 7pm - Mexico and Its People - Then and Now - Presented by Michael and Pat Hechmer

Storytime every Thursday at 11am



We are hosting another session of Bedtime Math's fun, hands-on math club - with different activities. Space is limited. Priority will be given to kids who have not participated this year. Contact the library if interested (even if you did it this year) - Bree will then figure out placement. Good behavior is key to making this fun for everyone!

Begins March 8/9 and runs through May 3/4
Thursdays: Grades 3-5 (no class 4/26)
Fridays: Grades K-2 (class on 3/23, not 4/27)
Bus #3 from Westford School
Class ends 4:30pm, pick up as late as 5pm

National Take Your Child to the Library Day!

Saturday, February 3
Bring your child to the library and share in your love of reading! We will have balloons and "Read" water bottles for kids.
Happening all day, 10am-2pm.



No-Sew Heart Pillows (Sign up appreciated)
Wednesday, Feb. 14 afterschool-4:30pm
(Kids can ride Bus#3 from school w/note)

Come make a fleecy, festive pillow for Valentine's Day! This project requires persistence and the ability to tie knots. Sign up by contacting the library (but I will have extras if you forget). 2nd grade & up.



Valentines and Bead Jewelry
Saturday, February 10
10:30am-Noon
Come make a special something for that special someone. We'll have all the supplies to make the perfect Valentines and bead jewelry. Crafts, goodies and fun! Cookies and milk too!



The Library is **no longer accepting donations** of books, audiobooks, and DVDs **at this time** for our annual Fourth of July Book Sale. We will begin accepting donations in the spring of 2018. Thank you for supporting our annual Fourth of July Book Sale.

The WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY provides access to materials, technology, reference services and programs to meet the informational, educational, and recreational needs of the Westford community.



Sun Style Tai Chi Basic I & II

Westford Public Library

Instructor: Georgette Huffman

February 6 - March 29

The class meets twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:15-10am

This class is offered FREE of charge

To sign up contact Bree Drapa at westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com or 878-5639.

Come join Tai Chi for Seniors (adults over 50)! Tai Chi is a slow, gentle exercise - a fun, joint-safe activity proven to make an impact on your daily life. "Over 8 weeks you will learn the basic forms of Sun Style Tai Chi. The benefits of this Fall Prevention program include increased balance & agility, upper and lower body strength, mindfulness of our body movements in time and space. Centers for Disease Control and Injury Prevention (CDC) report this program can reduce falls by 55% and recurrent falls by 70%. Age Well (aka CVAA) offers this FREE program for adults 50+. Donations are always appreciated and accepted." Comfortable clothing and shoes are all the equipment you need for this class.

Westford Recreation Department

www.westfordvt.us/recreation

Mission Statement: The Westford Recreation Department was created to provide recreational, educational, athletic, cultural, and entertainment activities to all Westford residents and neighbors. We strive to offer programs for a wide variety of ages, abilities and interests. We depend on community input, support and volunteers to make these programs successful.



WESTFORD SNOWBALL BIATHLON

Saturday, February 17 10:00 AM

If you like throwing snowballs and can either snowshoe or x country ski, you'll love the Westford Snowball Biathlon. It includes a timed course on our Wintery Westford trail system, with fun snowball targets as chances for points and a timed score.



For Adults \$15.00

For Kid's \$5.00 or Free

with a Westford FOOD SHELF DONATION

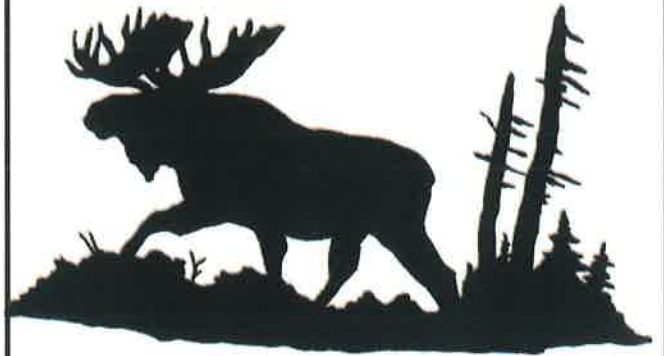
COMING SOON:

T.W.W.A.X.

February 1 • 7:00 PM

The VT Moose Presentation
with James Ehlers

at the Westford Library



WINTER YOGA

Every Thursday

January 25 - March 15

8 Weeks - \$96

Drop-ins \$13.00 per session



at
Westford's Red Brick
Meeting House
with
Cat Earisman
cearisman
@yahoo.com



WES

CHORUS 2018

WITH

Rebecca Nowak

Thursday Rehearsals

3:00 to 4:30 pm

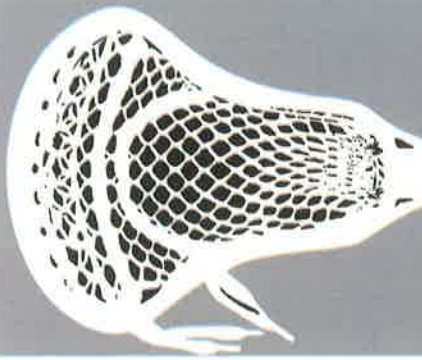
Beginning 2/8 going through 3/29

Concert performance

March 29

Registration Fee \$50

Tom Schmidt, Recreation Department Coordinator: 802-858-6211 or WestfordVTRec@gmail.com
Committee members: Danielle Vierling, Greg Baker, Nancy Volkers, Maureen Carpenter, Jeff LaBossiere



WESTFORD LACROSSE

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 16, 2018

Tiny Cats K—2
Mid April to Early June
Mondays 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Players need to have their own sticks. Westford Tiny Cats t-shirts are included in the registration fee. The fees are still \$30.00 per player.

We are hoping to play one or two jamborees against St. Albans and Milton.

Players will need to have their own sticks, gloves and elbow pads are recommended.



3/4 & 5/6 Coed
Early April to Mid June
Tuesdays and Thursdays
5:30 - 7:00 PM
Saturdays
10:00 - 11:30 AM

Games begin Saturdays in May
In the beginning of the season, we will practice three times a week until we start playing games in May.

We are open to any players wishing to join our team! Same rate all towns!

Players will begin to build on skills and basic game play. In the beginning of the season, practices are three times a week until we start playing games in May. The team will play around ten games during the season. We are part of the Northern Vermont Youth Lacrosse League.

Players need their own sticks, padding and helmets. A limited number of helmets are available from the Rec. Department use on a first come first served basis. Please put a note on the registration form if you need a helmet.

**Registration fees: 3/4 \$50.00 per player • 5/6 \$75 per player
Scholarships are available.**

Players will need to register with US Lacrosse also.
Previous season cost was an additional \$25.00.

If you have questions about the game of lacrosse, or wish to speak to the coach
Contact Brent Carpenter at brent.carpenter29@gmail.com.

Tom Schmidt, Recreation Department Coordinator: 802-858-6211 or WestfordVTRec@gmail.com
Committee members: Danielle Vierling, Greg Baker, Nancy Volkens, Maureen Carpenter, Jeff LaBossiere



Sign up this spring for...

Westford Elementary Chorus

Contact: westfordvtrec@gmail.com or rnowak@ewsd.org

Does your child love to sing? Here is their chance!

Children in Elementary Chorus have a chance to sing and in a group- this gives children **confidence** to **perform in a comfortable setting**, which can then be applied in other performance situations as they grow up such as presentations, speeches, interviews, and more!

Children will sing a variety of genres including folk, pop, Broadway, and classical, while learning good singing technique. They will be able to sing in parts, harmonies, and rounds, while also learning how to produce beautiful sound even when singing in unison or alone. Expressive interpretation of text and some basic verbal understanding of rhythm are taught to students participating in this ensemble.

Students will perform together in a concert the evening of our final rehearsal, March 29 at 7pm



Dates: Thursdays 2/8, 2/15, 2/22, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 with 7pm concert

Times: 3pm-4:30pm

Grades: 2-4

Fee: \$50

Location: Westford School

Minimum Enrollment: 10

Maximum Enrollment: no max! come one, come all!

Instructor: Rebecca Nowak

Contact: rnowak@ewsd.org or westfordvtrec@gmail.com



Westford Recreation Department—Registration Form

NAME (Parents) _____

ADDRESS _____ TOWN _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS (only to be used for WRD mailings) _____

HOME PHONE _____ ALT PHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PHONE _____

DOCTOR'S NAME _____ PHONE _____

Please list medical conditions, physical limitations, allergies, or restrictions WRD should be aware of: _____

Name	Grade	Program	Fee
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
Total Fee:			_____

Would you be willing to coach or be a parent helper? Yes No

I agree that Westford Recreation may use photographs of registrants with or without their name and for any lawful purpose, including for example such purposes as publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.

Please contact a Recreation Department member if your financial situation is preventing you from signing yourself, or your child, up for a program. Scholarships are available.

RELEASE/WAVIER AGREEMENT:
 I am fully aware of the inherent risk, and give my consent for the above named applicant(s) to participate in the program(s) listed above. I hold harmless the Town of Westford, Westford School, their employees, elected officials, and/or any volunteers or instructors from any and all liability from any injury, claim, costs or loss of services which may be incurred by me, or us, or our minor children on account of participation in said program(s). Permission is hereby granted for me or us, or my child(ren) to receive emergency treatment if needed and I authorize the attending physician to administer any needed medical attention. Furthermore, I certify that I, or we, or my child(ren) are in good health and that there are no limitations to my/our participation except in writing above. I have read this document carefully and sign it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send registration with check payable to:
 WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT
 Town of Westford, 1713 VT Rt.128, Westford, VT 05494

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

Community Conversations: The community conversations that took place during the month of October brought forth some great ideas about what is most important to community members as our new school district begins operation. One idea that gained a lot of traction was to improve student voice in the work of the school board. A task team has been working with students to bring forth a formal proposal to the school board.

Our district seems to be alone in Chittenden County in not having student members on the board. Ironically the original U#46 High School board did include student members but at some point the practice was abandoned. By the way, Westford's own Seth Jensen was one of the first if not THE first student member of that board.

By law, student board members cannot vote and cannot participate in executive sessions. Conversations with other districts do tell us that student members do add valuable voices to the board's discussions. The proposal that will come to the board on January 23rd will suggest that there be two student members, one junior and one senior. Members would serve for two years. Student board members would be responsible for connecting to the student body at the various schools in the district to bring student voice forward to the board. We envision that each student member would have a regular board member to act as a mentor. If the board approves the proposal, we hope to have student members added to the board in the near future.

The community conversations also provided valuable input that will inform the creation of the vision for the new district. At the present time the leadership team, principal, and directors, are providing their input. Further input will be gathered over the next couple months with the goal of having a vision statement crafted in the spring. Once the vision is established, we will begin working on student outcome statements and ways to measure the district's progress toward achieving the outcomes.

FY2019 Budget: The work on the FY2019 budget for EWSD is underway. At our last meeting the board looked at some framework pieces. We will be holding budget workshops on January 23, January 30th and February 13th. We also expect the budget will be one topic of conversation at our regular board meetings on February 6th and February 20th. We do have some preliminary information that will provide some of the framework within which the budget will be created. We know the state used \$50 million in one time money to keep education funding tax rates lower last year. Since that money is no longer available tax rates will increase even if school spending remains the same. We have received our equalized pupil count and it has increased by 1.7%. Governor Scott has suggested that districts will increasing equalized pupil counts should limit their budget increase to 2.4%. The board will keep this in mind as we move forward. We have received CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) numbers for all three communities. They have all declined from last year (meaning your property is considered to be worth more than it was last year) which will result in increasing the tax rates when the CLA adjustment is made.

At the time of merger, the Study Committee projected that merger could save \$1M over 5 years. These are saving beyond WHAT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN SPENT. Last year over \$350,000 in savings were realized. We expect to see further savings this year as we continue to move to "right size" our central office administration and we gain further efficiencies, particularly in purchasing power, from being one district.

We encourage community members to attend our meeting or view them on LCATV. Links to presentations, meeting minutes, the tapes of the meetings and meeting "takeaways" can be found on the EWSD website at ewsd.org. The Annual Meeting for the school district will take place on Monday, April 9th and the budget vote will be on Tuesday, April 10th. Please take time to get familiar with the materials and to contact us with your questions or concerns. We do plan to hold a community engagement session on the budget sometime in February before the budget is finalized. Please watch for postings on Front Porch Forum or consult the website for further information.

Martha Heath and Andre Roy , Westford's EWSD School Board Members

WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

Communications Update

In a collaborative effort with PTO officers, Westford School has developed a Westford Communications 411 reference guide outlining the variety of methods used for school-home communication. This will go home in Friday folders, parent emails, and will be posted on the school webpage.

Westford School Communication 411

Town Newsletter

“Go to” for what’s happening in the community. Monthly communication about general news (upcoming events, changes, programming). Includes Principal letters and PTO newsletter.

- Town residents sign up to receive this via the town office by emailing Nanette Rogers, Westford Town Clerk (townclerk@westfordvt.us).
- The hyper link to the town newsletter will be sent to families starting in January via the weekly Westford School email.

Weekly Westford School email

Weekly reminders about upcoming events and deadlines that will be occurring in the next 1-2 weeks.

- The hyper link to the Westford Town Newsletter will be shared monthly.

School Website: <https://www.ewsd.org/Page/23>

Holding site for general school information including school calendar, sporting events, student handbook, links to EWSD board meeting agendas and notes, lunch menu, and other planned events.

School Twitter Account: Tweets by [@wsdvt.school](#)

Updates and pictures of events and day to day activities posted from time to time

Principal's Blog: <https://www.ewsd.org/domain/649>

Updates sharing general information posted periodically

Principal Tweets by [@westfordwonders](#)

Principal's Tea

Face time with the principal the third Thursday of the month. Planned topics can be found in the Town Newsletter and Weekly Reminder email.

PTO Newsletter and PTO Facebook

Information about what the PTO is working on, including scheduled events and fundraisers.

PTO Meeting

Scheduled the second Tuesday of each month (Sept through May). Includes face time with the principal with scheduled topics at 7pm. Then PTO committee work group after discussion time.

Ben Dickie emails and Facebook: District Communications

District information as well as Westford specific information.

Budget Development

Westford School is entering a budget process as part of a unified school district. The EWSD School Board will be working on the FY19 budget beginning in January. All the budget work sessions in January and February are open to the public, and materials will be posted on the EWSD website following each meeting. The focus of this year's budget development are the district-wide priorities as a new K-12 continuum, identifying the investments necessary to improve equity and to align student outcomes, as well as the specific building needs to deliver quality programming. Westford staffing and personnel are aligned to state and district standards and look to be stable for the upcoming school year. As always, the enrollment for kindergarten is unknown at this

time. However, in order to be best prepared, the Superintendent's office is preparing a few options should our K enrollment numbers exceed the maximum standards.

Before & After School Child Care Survey

Based on what families identified as needs on the Before School & After School Child Care Needs Assessment Google Form, I have begun working with outside agencies about potential before school and after school quality programs and child care for the 2018/19 school year.

PreSchool Registration Information

- School based pre school program: Application deadline is 2/23/18.
- Community based preschools: Parents contact the provider directly and can apply for Universal PreK (Act 166) funds for 3, 4, and 5 year olds who attend state approved/qualified programs
- Essex Westford School District in-school preschool: for information contact Johanna Simmons, Administrative Assistant at (802)878-8168 or johanna.simmons@ewsd.org

Tea with the Principal

Please join Principal Marcie Lewis the third Thursday of each month, 8:05-8:35, in the Westford School library for tea. This is an opportunity to connect with the principal and to extend options for families beyond monthly night time PTO meetings, social media, and other forms of written communication. It is an informal meeting time to celebrate school successes and learn more about featured programs and events. The next Tea with the Principal is February 15 and will feature the child care and after school programming options.

Featured Programs & Activities

K-2 Ski & Ride Program

Our kindergarten through 2nd grade students participate in a field trip to Smugg's four times this year. This experience includes lessons.

Middle School Play

Westford School is looking for someone to direct the middle school play this year. Please see our ad in SchoolSpring or call the school for details.

Curriculum & Instruction

Students and teachers are completing our common winter assessments. This mid-year check provides us with information concerning student progress in literacy and math. It allows us to adjust both individual student plans and school-wide action steps. Parent conferences are on March 23, 2018. Our middle level team is engaged in the Star Reading & Star Math assessment, which is a new addition to our assessment plan.



Westford PTO News

February
2018

The Westford PTO mission is to enrich our children's lives with educational and extracurricular activities.

News & Opportunities

PTO Calendar

Westford School 411 – coming home in February

The PTO and school administrators have developed a convenient resource guide to help you quickly and easily find the school information you need.

Next PTO Meeting – Tuesday, February 13, 7pm

Join other parents and community members at the Town Library to learn how you can support the children who attend Westford School.

Tea w/ the Principal – Thursday, February 15, 8:05am

The third Thursday of each month is an opportunity for parents to meet with Principal Lewis and discuss topics of interest. Topic will be before- and after-school childcare from an outside provider.

Pi Day Fundraiser – Wednesday, March 14

The PTO is planning a new fundraiser this spring to benefit STEM in our school. More details to come on how you can order yummy pies to support STEM.

Science Fair & Presentation – April 19

The PTO received great feedback from teachers, parents, and students about last year's MobileEd Productions science presentation, so we've secured another presentation that goes with this year's Science Fair theme! For more information and a sneak peek, check out the Mobile Ed Productions website: <http://www.mobileedproductions.com/forces-and-motion-school-assemblies>.

Thank you!

The PTO would like to thank the community members and businesses who supported the Buy Local Fundraiser. Our largest annual fundraiser, which was held in November 2017, was our most successful yet! More than 1,000 discount vouchers were purchased resulting in \$5,100 that will go into fulfilling the PTO's mission to *enrich our childrens' lives with educational and extracurricular activities*. We couldn't have done it without the participation of these local businesses: **Sweet Clover Market, Steeple Market, Spa at The Essex, Fairfax House of Pizza, Mimmo's Pizzeria, My Little Cupcake, Hydrangea Too, Soulshine Power Yoga, and Erin Longworth Performance Horses.**

2017-2018 Westford School PTO officers:

President: Rachael Parker;
Vice President: Heather Armata;
Treasurer: Meredith Irish;
Secretary: Deb Hazel.

Contact the PTO:

e-mail: westfordvpto@gmail.com
facebook: www.facebook.com/westfordvpto
website: www.ewsd.org/Page/2679

January 22-26

Great Kindness Challenge
Westford School

Tuesday, February 13, 7pm

PTO meeting
Westford Town Library

Thursday, Feb. 15, 8:05am

Tea with the Principal
Westford School Library

February 26-March 2

Winter break
Westford School closed

Monday, March 12

Early release

Tuesday, March 13, 7pm

PTO meeting
Westford Town Library

Wednesday, March 14

Pi Day Fundraiser
TBD

Thursday, March 15, 8:05am

Tea with the Principal
Westford School

Friday, March 23

Parent conferences

Tuesday, April 10, 7pm

PTO meeting
Westford Town Library

Thursday, April 19, 8:05am

Tea with the Principal
Westford School

Thursday, April 19

Science Fair
Westford School

April 23 – 27

Spring break
Westford School closed



Collection box in the lobby.

EWSD Calendar

2017- 2018 School Year (HIA/SUM/EES/FMS/FLE/EMS/ADL/WES/EHS)

		M	T	W	Th	F
Aug			1	2	3	4
		7	8	9	10	11
		14	15	16	17	18
		21	22	23	24	25
		28	29	30	31	
Student:		2		Cumulative: 2		
Staff:		6		Cumulative: 6		

		M	T	W	Th	F
Sep						1
		4	5	6	7	8
		11	12	13	14	15
		18	19	20	21	22
		25	26	27	28	29
Student:		20		Cumulative: 22		
Staff:		20		Cumulative: 26		

		M	T	W	Th	F
Oct		2	3	4	5	6
		9	10	11	12	13
		16	17	18*	19	20
		23	24	25	26	27
		30	31			
Student:		20		Cumulative: 42		
Staff:		22		Cumulative: 48		

**Early Release/Parent Conf. for ADL only*

		M	T	W	Th	F
Nov				1	2	3
		6	7	8	9	10
		13	14	15	16	17
		20	21	22	23	24
		27	28	29	30	
Student:		17		Cumulative: 59		
Staff:		19		Cumulative: 67		

		M	T	W	Th	F
Dec						1
		4	5	6	7	8
		11	12	13	14	15
		18	19	20	21	22
		25	26	27	28	29
Student:		16		Cumulative: 75		
Staff:		16		Cumulative: 83		

- First/Last Day of School
- Professional Development - No School
- Parent Conferences Full Day
- School Vacation
- Professional Development PM Early Release

***Pending Negotiations*

		M	T	W	Th	F
Jan		1	2	3	4	5
		8	9	10	11	12
		15	16	17	18	19
		22	23	24	25	26
		29	30	31		
Student:		21		Cumulative: 96		
Staff:		22		Cumulative: 105		

		M	T	W	Th	F
Feb					1	2
		5	6	7	8	9
		12	13	14	15	16
		19	20	21	22	23
		26	27	28		
Student:		17		Cumulative: 113		
Staff:		17		Cumulative: 122		

		M	T	W	Th	F
Mar					1	2
		5	6	7	8	9
		12	13	14	15	16
		19	20	21	22	23
		26	27	28	29	30
Student:		19		Cumulative: 132		
Staff:		20		Cumulative: 142		

		M	T	W	Th	F
Apr		2	3	4	5	6
		9	10	11	12	13
		16	17	18	19	20
		23	24	25	26	27
		30				
Student:		16		Cumulative: 148		
Staff:		16		Cumulative: 158		

		M	T	W	Th	F
May			1	2	3	4
		7	8	9	10	11
		14	15	16	17	18
		21	22	23	24	25
		28	29	30	31	
Student:		22		Cumulative: 170		
Staff:		22		Cumulative: 180		

		M	T	W	Th	F
Jun						1
		4	5	6	7	8
		11	12	13	14	15
		18	19	20	21	22
		25	26	27	28	29
Student:		8		Cumulative: 178		
Staff:		9		Cumulative: 189		

Does not include school cancellations:

Westford 8th Grade Class Pancake Valentine Breakfast



Sunday February 11th, 2018

Please come out and support the Town of Westford 8th grade class as they raise money for their traditional year end trip!

The breakfast will be held at the Red Brick Meeting House from 8:00-11:00 am. Due to the limited size of the RBMH, there will be reservations taken in 30 minute time slots to accommodate our community and the limited space. We will be using Sign Up Genius (keep an eye out for the link on the Front Porch Forum) or if you prefer, you can email dbrisson@gmail.com or call 802-342-5467 to place a reservation. Please specify a desired time (8:00-8:30, 8:30-9:00, etc.).

Cost: \$5.00 per person or \$20.00 maximum per family. We will collect funds at the door.

Menu: Pancakes with VT Maple Syrup

Bacon

Sausage

Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa, Juice and water

Fruit

The 8th Grade Class will also be selling raffle tickets for a **GIGANTIC** Hershey Kiss, Hershey Bar, Kit-Kat Bar and Extra Long Twizzlers! Just in time for Valentine's Day!

There will also be a bake sale table with a lot of yummy treats to purchase. Thank you to our community for your continued support. We look forward to serving you breakfast!



Westford Music Series
+
Young Vermont Traditions
presents
Front Porch Foursome

Event: Westford Music Series & Young Vermont Traditions Concert

Date: Sunday, February 4th 4-5 pm

Location: UCW white church, Westford

The Westford Music Series will bring back the captivating group, the Front Porch Foursome, for the February offering at the UCW white church on the Westford common on Sunday, February 4th. The talented quartet featuring Kathy Mulligan, Charlotte Reed, Britni Bigelow and Nancy Geise will performance contemporary folk music in tight harmony with beautiful vocals and a variety of instrumentation.

Front Porch Foursome is a Vermont based band that performs feel good music and energetic sounds ranging from the likes of Brandi Carlile, Wailin Jenny, Nickel Creek, Bob Dylan and Simon and Garfunkel making them one of the most popular groups on the local Vermont scene.

The concert has free will donation admission followed by refreshments and opportunity to meet the performers.

For more information, call Marge Hamrell@ 802-879-4028.

VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

3 Easy ways to get your Vermont Income Tax forms from the Vermont Department of Taxes

1. **Download, complete and print fillable PDF forms from the web:** www.bit.ly/vttaxforms
2. **Order forms by email:** tax.formsrequest@vermont.gov
3. **Order forms by phone:** call toll-free in the U.S. at (855) 297-5600