



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER



January 2020

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

Phone: (802)878-4587 **Fax:** (802)879-6503

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

FY'21 Budget Informational Meeting

The Selectboard will hold an informational meeting Thursday January 9th at 7pm at the town office (lower level) to present the draft town budget. This is an excellent opportunity for residents to provide feedback prior to finalization of the budget before being voted on in March 2020.

Petition Deadlines

Petitions for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting are due by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 15th. Petitions must be signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 85). Please be sure that the person signing the petition is a registered voter and that their name is legible.

Petitions for elected offices (e.g. Selectboard, etc.) can be picked up at the town office and must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, January 27th. Petitions must be signed by a minimum of 17 registered voters. Please contact the town office for a complete list of offices with terms expiring in March 2020.

Important Dates - Town Meeting & Presidential Primary Election

- **January 9th (Thursday)** – Selectboard FY'21 budget informational meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the town office (lower level).
- **January 15th (Wednesday)** – 4:30 p.m. deadline to file petitions signed by at least 5% of the registered voters (a minimum of 85) with the Town Clerk for articles to be considered for inclusion in the warning for Town Meeting. Be sure that the person who signs the petition is a registered voter and signs their name as it appears on the checklist.
- **January 17th (Friday)** – Absentee ballots for the Presidential Primary will be delivered to the town office by this date.
- **January 27th (Monday)** – 4:30 p.m. deadline for filing with the Town Clerk nominating petitions and consent forms for local offices to be filled by Australian ballot. Please make sure your name is as it appears on the voter checklist and to fill in the office you are running for (including length of term) before circulating your petition.
- **February 12th ((Wednesday)** – absentee ballots for Town Meeting will be available.
- **March 2nd (Monday)** – 5:00 p.m. deadline to request an absentee ballot for Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary. Please note: we are required to ask which ballot, Democrat or Republican, you want. When requesting an absentee ballot for the Presidential Primary, please indicate which ballot you would like.
- **March 2nd (Monday)** – 7:00 p.m., Town Meeting and public hearing for Australian ballot questions (including town budget), at the Westford School in the gym.
- **March 3rd (Tuesday)** – Voting day for Australian ballot articles. Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm at the Westford School in the library. The entrance to the library is located to the right of the main entrance.

If you have any questions regarding Town Meeting or the Presidential Primary, please call or email the town office.

Absentee Ballots

You can request absentee ballots for Town Meeting and the Presidential Primary by calling the town office (878-4587), emailing townclerk@westfordvt.us or through the Secretary of State's My Voter Page (<https://mvp.sec.state.vt.us/>).

TOWN OFFICE NOTES (con.)

Holiday Giving - Hannaford Gift Cards

Contributions to purchase Hannaford gift cards for those in need hit a record high this holiday season! Twenty-nine Westford families received cards due to the overwhelming generosity of townspeople. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Senior Luncheon

Christmas in January! We are making the same thing that we were going to have in December. I cancelled the December meeting the night before after listening to the news, it was supposed to be very icy. I should have known that they weren't going to be right, but I'd rather be wrong than have someone slip. Our January luncheon is on Monday, January 13th at 11:30 at the Red Brick Meeting House. It will be baked ham with scalloped potatoes. I hope the weather is good and many of you come out to have your holiday meal with us! **Carol Howrigan, President 878-3090**

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January Newsletter is 12 noon on Monday, January 27th.

CAN I RECYCLE THAT?

Did you know that you are not supposed to put your recycling in plastic bags of any kind? The only exception to this is shredded office paper, which is accepted only if it's in a CLEAR BAG that's tightly closed.

Here are some other items that do NOT belong in your recycling bin:

- Dirty containers
- Plastic wrap
- Durable plastic (e.g. Tupperware, laundry bins, etc.)
- Motor oil or hazardous waste containers



For more information on the proper way to recycle, please visit <https://cswd.net/recycling/>. There is even an interesting video of a tour of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where your recycling goes to be sorted.



WINTER IS HERE!

What you need to know about winter road conditions

- **Plowing:** begins when the snow has accumulated 2-3 inches. Each plow route takes the road crew about 4 hours to complete.
- **Sand:** applied to all gravel roads. Some particles may be large enough to cause windshield damage. Use caution and avoid following other vehicles closely.
- **Mailboxes:** Westford does NOT repair or replace mailboxes damaged by the plow.
- **Plowing Across Town Roads:** plowing snow from driveways across town roads is prohibited.

Read the full Winter Road Policy here: <https://westfordvt.us/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Winter-Road-Policy.pdf>

Reminders:

- Each winter storm is different, roads may be icy and sand may be loose. Drive slow and know what your vehicle is capable of.
- Watch for walkers and wildlife. It will be more difficult to see pedestrians and recreational users of roads this time of year due to snowbanks. Walkers, bikers and other users can do their part by wearing bright, reflective clothing.
- Some VAST trails cross Westford Roads. Know where the trails are and watch for crossing snowmobiles. You can find a list of VAST trails here: <https://vtvast.org/trails.html>

WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

<http://westfordpubliclibrary.org>

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494

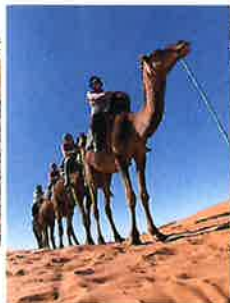
Happy New Year! The Library is CLOSED January 1.

Travel Talk- 7-8:30pm - Wednesday, January 15

Destination: Morocco

Presented by: Janet Jaffe

Morocco - Another World. Souks, Riads, Mountains, Valleys, Oceans, Deserts and the Milky Way.



Did you get a new phone or tablet for the Holidays?

Want to put FREE books on it?

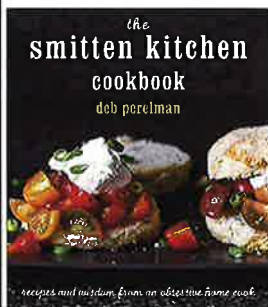
Have you tried the new Libby app?

It's so much faster than Overdrive!

We can help! Stop by - it won't take long!

Saturday, January 11 10am-2pm

Be sure to bring your charged device, passwords, Apple ID



February's CookBook Club selection is The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook by Deb Perelman.

Come in and grab a recipe and join us for our next delicious meeting.

Wednesday, Feb. 12 from 7:00-8:30pm

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

1/2/20: Theme: Drew Daywalt Stories

1/16/20: Theme: Birthdays

1/9/20: Theme: Snow

1/23/20: Theme: Dragons

1/30/20: Theme: Libraries

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!

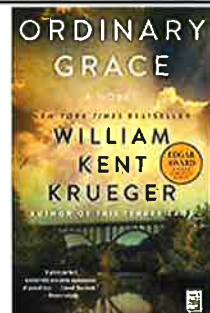
Library Hours

Wednesday:	1-7pm
Thursday:	10am-7pm
Friday:	1-7pm
Saturday:	10am-2pm
<u>Library is CLOSED January 1</u>	

Adult Book Group Wed., January 22 (note the 4th week) 7:00-8:00pm

**Pick up your books
at the front desk!**

**We will be reading
Ordinary Grace
by: William Kent
Krueger**



A young man, a small town, and murder in the summer of 1961.

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for 13 year old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

Told from Frank's perspective forty years after that fateful summer, *Ordinary Grace* is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

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

January Library Events

January 8 - Trustees Meeting 7-9pm

January 9 - Coloring Club meets afterschool - 5pm, sign up required for the four week program

January 10 - "I am From Here" film and discussion 7pm at the Westford School Common area. Facilitated by Erin Maguire. Co-hosted by The Westford School Library

January 11 - Drop in Tech Time - learn to put ebooks and audiobooks on your device

January 15 - Travel Talk: Morocco 7:00-8:30pm, presented by Janet Jaffe

January 16 - Coloring Club afterschool - 5pm

January 21 - The Hate U Give teen book group 2:30-4pm

January 22 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm, discussing Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger

January 23 - Coloring Club afterschool - 5pm

January 25 - Make Your Own Scrunchies 10:30am-12:30pm, sign up required

January 28 - The Hate U Give teen book group 2:30-4pm

January 30 - Coloring Club afterschool - 5pm

Storytime every Thursday 11:30am
Fiber Arts group meets Thursdays 6:30-8pm

Make Your Own Scrunchies!

Saturday, December 14

10:30am-12:30pm

Presented by Jenny Cady and Lise-Anne Cooledge

Ages: 10-adult

Space is Limited - Sign up required!

Scrunchies are back and cooler than ever! These colorful accessories can be worn in your hair or on your wrist to complete any outfit! You will learn how to make scrunchies using a sewing machine. Once you learn the basics, you'll be making scrunchies for your kids or friends in their favorite fabrics. Come with a good attitude and a willingness to learn (and some patience as we share sewing machines). Anyone over age 10 is welcome to sign up.



"I am From Here" Film Screening & Discussion Friday, January 10 at 7pm

Westford School Common Area

"I am From Here," is a 30-minute film directed and produced by Bess O'Brien. This film, part of VT-NEA's Advancing Racial Equity in Vermont's Public Schools tool kit, is appropriate for 5th grade and up. **All community members are welcome to attend.** After the film, a community conversation will be facilitated by Erin Maguire, Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion for the Essex Westford School District. Sponsored by both the Public and School Libraries, this film helps connect to the themes raised by the VT Humanities Council Vermont READS selection for 2020, "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas. Please join us.



The Hate U Give Teen Book Group Tuesdays 2:30-4pm (1/21, 1/28, 2/4 and 2/18) at the public library

Open to all readers grade 8 and up. Bree and Ms. Shelley will have copies for you at the first meeting. An email will be sent to interested students.

Coloring Club! Thursdays afterschool in January! Great for grades 2-5! (can ride Bus#3 from school) Meets afterschool until 5pm. Snack included.

January 9- January 30

Sign up required.

Coloring is relaxing and fun - we will work on a variety of projects - banners, stickers, bags. Perfect for kids focused on coloring!



Thank you to everyone who donated books from our Holiday Book Giving Tree. Books should be purchased by January 18. There's still time to pick out a book - a few stars are left or you may make a monetary donation. Please make checks payable to Westford Public Library.



Thank You!

**Thank you for your support!
It is very appreciated.**

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 late spring of 2020. Thank you to community 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.

We are pleased to announce the
WESTFORD'S FUTURE - REPORT & ACTION PLAN

from the Vermont Council on Rural Development Community Visit
is now available at

<https://www.vtrural.org/programs/community-visits/report/westford>

Paper copies are also available at the Town Offices and Public Library.

Please note that task forces will be holding their first meetings very soon. If you would like to join a task force, please contact me at planner@westfordvt.us or (802) 878.4587 with your name, email, phone number and area of interest.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION & EFFORTS!

A LETTER FROM VCRD

Dear Westford Community Members,

Thank you so much for your dedication to your community and for participating and contributing your ideas and energy to the "Westford's Future" Community Visit process. **We are excited to announce that the Westford's Future Reports are now available!** You can pick up a copy at the Town Office. Additionally, task force chairs will distribute reports to task force members. The report is also online at: <https://www.vtrural.org/programs/community-visits/report/westford>

The Report includes the input and thinking each step of the way as community members chose priorities for action as well as resource team member recommendations and contact information, and the work plan that each task force group built at their first meeting. The report is also a wonderful compilation of assets and ideas from a large number of residents. We hope it will be a useful tool to the task force groups as they continue their work, and serve as a rallying point for other initiatives that will drive community and economic revitalization over time.

At this point in the process, VCRD steps back as the community begins the exciting process of turning the ideas into action. But, we are dedicated to supporting your efforts, so don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or needs related to moving action steps forward. Your local task force chairs are good contacts for information about getting involved and/or for task force updates – and there are meetings coming up! You can reach them at:

- Improve Traffic Safety, Walkability, and Bike-ability – Pat Haller (phaller@veic.org)
- Boost Local Business and Economic Development and Improve Broadband and Cell Connectivity – Mark Drapa (markdrapa@yahoo.com)
- Advance the Arts, Community Events, and Communications – Eric Ford (efordvt@gmail.com), Julia Andrews (Julia.andrews@westfordvt.us), Tara Pereira (sweetssciencevt@gmail.com)

It has been an honor to work with all those dedicated to the common good for this community. We look forward to following and supporting your success! All the best,

Jenna, Margaret, and Paul at VCRD



WESTFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Active Hunting:

Hunting is a permitted activity in the Maple Shade Town Forest. Hunting of any species is permitted during deer and turkey seasons which are in effect now through spring 2020.

Take Precautions: WEAR ORANGE, LEASH DOGS, MAKE NOISE

Access for Hunting: The Conservation Commission is working on providing public access that is not within the "Gun Free School Zone". Currently, hunter access to the forest must be with permission across private land. Please refer to the "Gun Free Zone" map link listed at the end of the Long-Term Management Plan posted on the town's website for location of the gun free zone.

School Trails:

Please be mindful of the cross-country skiing tracks that have been laid down and do not walk where the tracks have been set; please stay to the side.

Trails:

Please let us know if you see downed trees or other required maintenance to any of the trails. We're happy to go out and clean things up!

Membership:

The Conservation Commission is in need of a 5th member. We meet once a month on the third Wednesday at 6:00pm at the Town Office. Outdoor activities are a big part of what we do as well as furthering the preservation of Westford's rural character.

Donations:

The WCC is funded in part by donations. If you appreciate our efforts and would like to help fund our mission to preserve Westford's rural character, please send a donation to:

Westford Conservation Commission
1713 VT Route 128
Westford, VT 05494.

Thank you!





GATHER AT THE TABLE COMMUNITY DINNER

Essex High School – January 11 @ 4:30pm – 8pm

Come one, come all to the first annual Gather at the Table FREE community dinner and fun night. Supervised open gym with youth (and adult!) activities begin at 4:30 with dinner prepared by EWSD Child Nutrition Services from 5:30-7.

Gather at the Table will celebrate people coming together to just “BE” and enjoy great food and entertainment. The evening is intended to gather our neighbors, to connect the non-school and school communities, and to enjoy an evening together.

More information and volunteer sign up go to www.gatheratthetable.info.

See you there!

Bridget Meyer on behalf of the Gather team!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY!

The Selectboard is seeking town residents interested in serving as Westford’s representative on the following:

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commissioner Alternate Representative

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission was founded in 1966 to promote the mutual cooperation of its 19 member municipalities and to facilitate the appropriate development and preservation of the physical and human resources in Chittenden County.

CCRPC is composed of 19 municipal commissioners and five at-large commissioners (representing Agriculture, Conservation/Environment, Socio-Economic/Housing, and Transportation). The legislative body of each of Chittenden County’s municipalities selects its own commissioner and alternate commissioner. The Full Commission selects the five at-large representatives. Each commissioner has one vote.

CCRPC’s regular monthly meeting is on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Main Conference Room. These meetings are open to the public.

For more information go to <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/commission/commissioners-alternates/>.

CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC)

The Clean Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) oversees the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission activities and policy development regarding but not limited to, the Vermont Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Plan and its related plans and programs. The Committee typically meets the first Tuesday of the month. To view minutes, agendas and other documents, please go to <https://www.ccrpcvt.org/about-us/committees/clean-water-advisory-committee/>. For more information contact Dan Albrecht, CCRPC Senior Planner, at dalbrecht@ccrpcvt.org or 846-4490.

Please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us if you are interested in being appointed to one of these positions.



THIS MONTH IN MUSIC

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES PRESENTS **SPINTUITION**

IN COLLABORATION WITH YOUNG TRADITION VERMONT



New England Folk

-free will donation-

4-5 PM: WHITE CHURCH ON THE COMMON

SUNDAY: JANUARY 5, 2019

Spintuition has crafted a sweet arrangement of traditional songs

Spintuition blends creativity and tradition into tight harmony and joyous rhythms. Silas Hamilton (guitar, piano, fiddle, vocals, feet), Willy Clemetson (fiddle, vocals, feet) and Samuel Foucher (accordion, piano, vocals) play primarily contra style dance music. They have been featured at the biggest dance events in New England presenting their mixture of spicy tuns and glorious old songs of trad-Irish, French-Canadian and Old Time.

Concert open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Call 802-879-4028 for more information.

WESTFORD MUSIC SERIES

2019-2020

**Sundays at the White Church on the Common
4pm-5pm**

- **January 5, 2020** – Spintuition (*Young Tradition Vermont*)
- **February 9, 2020** – Allison & Cameron Steinmetz
- **March 15, 2020** – Christine Malcolm
- **April 5, 2020** - Patrick Fitzsimmons
- **May 3, 2020** – Paul Asbell



JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Please contact Tonya Calley with any question at recreation@westfordvt.us or 802.324.7132

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTEMENT

UPCOMING EVENTS

January

- 1/05 Westford Music Series Free
4-5pm @ UCW White Church, featuring
Spintuition
- 1/17-19 Broomball Tournament \$15pp
See attached flyer for more details
- 1/22 Elementary Chours \$55
Wednesdays 3pm-430pm, see attached flyer for
details

Feburary

- 2/1 1 - 2 Basketball begins \$25
Saturday AM's
- 2/21 Adult Paint and Sip \$35
Red Brick Church 7-9pm
- 2/26 Kids Paint and Sip \$20



ONGOING EVENTS and NEWS

MEN'S PICKUP BASKETBALL* Wednesdays
8-9:30pm @ Westford School Gym \$10

WOMEN'S FUTSAL Mondays
7:30-9pm @ Westford School Gym

WESTFORD TOWN COMMON ICE RINK RULES

Do not go on ice if rink is closed. Quiet hours are 10am-8pm

No food or drink of any kind on ice

All activities are NON CONTACT

Enter the rink through the entrance door only

Helmets strongly encouraged

Share the ice.

ANNUAL BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

Did you know...

Kickback Brewery and Wagyu Wagon will be on the Common throughout the tournament this year and the PTO will have concessions available in the Red Brick Meeting House!!!

The 2020 Annual Broomball Tournament is looking to be a Blast!!! Get your registrations in.



Sign up this spring for Westford Elementary Chorus

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

Children in Elementary Chorus have a chance to sing 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 in a concert on Thursday, March 19th at 6:00pm.



Dates: Wednesdays 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18

Concert: Thursday 3/19 at 6pm

Times: 3pm-4:30pm

Grades: 2-4

Fee: \$55 (check made to Westford Rec)

Rehearsal Location: Westford School

Minimum Enrollment: 10

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

Instructor: Rebecca Nowak

Contact: rnowak@ewsd.org or recreation@westfordvt.us



Turn in Registrations by **Wednesday Jan 15!**



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/WAIVER 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

WESTFORD RECREATION DEPARTMENT

20TH ANNUAL ADULT BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT



JANUARY 17, 18 & 19 2020



WESTFORD ICE RINK ON THE COMMON
\$15 PER PLAYER (GRADES 9 AND UP)

22 TEAM SLOTS AVAILABLE * FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

This is NOT ice hockey, No skates are needed - players wear boots (your own). We'll provide the equipment. Helmets strongly recommended.

Games begin on Friday January 17th at 5pm, all day Saturday starting at 9am and Sunday if needed.

Teams can be coed. Teams are grade 9 and older and there is NO LIMIT to the number of players on a team.

All players (or a parent if under age of 18) MUST sign attached waiver, or you WILL NOT PLAY....NO EXCEPTIONS.

Additional waivers are available at Westford Town Offices.

Team Confirmations due via email, Recreation@westfordvt.us, no later than January 6, 2020.

Exact times and schedules to be determined by the number of teams registered.

We will email all teams prior to the tournament with their first game time. First Game starts at 5pm on Friday, January 17th.

Concessions available at the Red Brick Meeting House throughout the tournament with additional concessions available on the green.

For more information email Recreation@westfordvt.us

Westford Ice Rink on the Common

\$15/Player (Grade 9 and Up)

Minimum 5 players required per team

Registration Due Jan 6th!

(Only 22 Slots Available!)

First Come - First Served!!

(\$20/player for tournament day additions to roster)

This is NOT ice hockey!

No Skates are needed - players wear their own boots. Helmets recommended.

We'll provide broomsticks and balls.

Food and refreshments will be for sale at the Red Brick Meeting House throughout the tournament.

Teams may be co-ed.

All players (or parent if under age 18) MUST sign our participation waiver. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Exact times and schedules determined by the number of teams and will be emailed to the team leaders one week prior to the tournament.

Make checks payable to Westford Rec

Send completed registration form to:

Westford Rec; 1713 VT Rte 128; Westford, VT 05494

Proceeds benefit RBMH Restoration and Westford Recreation programs and equipment purchases.

Registration Form

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Captain's Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Team Members:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

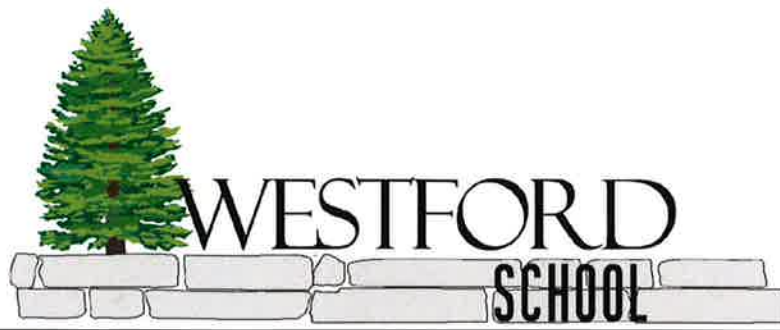
6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____



WESTFORD SCHOOL NEWS

Westford Robotics

Periodic Pandas do it again!

On December 8th, our Westford Robotics teams competed in the Vermont State FIRST LEGO League Championships at Norwich University and brought home the Robot Performance Award and the Coach & Mentor Awards. Periodic Pandas in grades 6 and 7 scored the most points in the Robot Game being named the Vermont State Champions and earning the right to compete at Worlds!

Check out our students as featured on WCAX

<https://www.wcax.com/video?vid=565942882>.

Since 2016/17, Westford students have been awarded the Innovative Solutions Award, the Champion's Award, and the Gracious Professionalism Award through their participation in the First Lego League Competition.

Thank you to the parent coaches who guide our students as they solve real-world programs through engineering and design.



Handmade Cards with a Helping Theme

Preschool students have been learning about the many ways to help others. They completed 25 homemade cards to go with the holiday gift cards the Westford Town Office generously provides each year.



A World of Difference Students Attended the VAMLE Conference Beyond Bullying

Shea Andrews and Rosie Whitney led an educational workshop on creating a culture of respect for other middle school students and staff at this year's VAMLE Conference.

All A World of Difference students completed content and facilitation training by the Anti-Defamation League.

Social & Emotional Learning Spotlight - What is Self Regulation?

Check out the Westford SEL Spotlight for more at <https://t.co/qzqk4OofLd>

The Child Mind Institute defines self-regulation as "the ability to manage your emotions and behavior in accordance with the demands of the situation. It includes being able to resist highly emotional reactions to upsetting stimuli, to calm yourself down when you get upset, to adjust to a change in expectations and to handle frustration without an outburst. It is a set of skills that enables children, as they mature, to direct their own behavior towards a goal, despite the unpredictability of the world and our own feelings."

Tips for helping students improve their self-regulation skills are linked on the SEL Spotlight.

Featured Programs & Activities

Changing Perspectives with motivation speaker Sam Drezin on January 10th.

Thank you to the Westford PTO for sponsoring Changing Perspectives (www.cpne.org), a national nonprofit organization based in Vermont, which provides disability awareness programs in schools through a combination of curriculum materials and educator training opportunities. Its mission is to engage students in open dialogue and real-world experiences to promote disability awareness and foster inclusive communities.

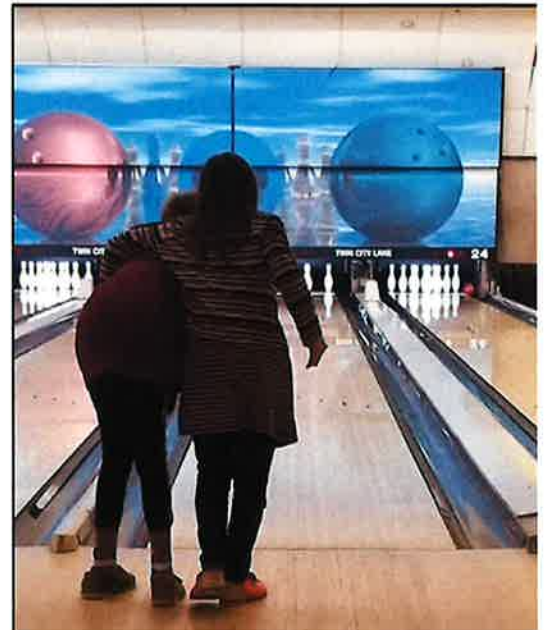
Parents are welcome to attend the school-wide assemblies.

After School Book Club for *The Hate U Give*

The Vermont Humanities has chosen the book *The Hate U Give* written by Angie Thomas for Vermont Reads 2020. Learn more about this choice at <https://www.vermonthumanities.org/vermont-reads/vermont-reads-2020/>. In a partnership with the Westford Public Library, current 8th and 9th grade students are invited to participate in an after school book club exploring the issues of bias and its impact on the community.

Unified Sports

With sports as the foundation, Special Olympics Unified Sports a unique combination of sports, education, and leadership activities that foster inclusion by promoting healthy activity and interactions, combating stereotypes and stigma. Six Westford students joined with students from Founders and Essex Middle School for an exciting bowling season with a capstone bowling tournament at Barre Twin City Lanes.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

Did you know the Town website has an Emergency page addressing emergency preparedness, response and recovery?

<https://westfordvt.us/emergency/>

We encourage residents to explore the information provided, print a paper copy for your refrigerator, sign up for Vermont Emergency Management alerts and take necessary steps to be prepared.

SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

The EWSD board would like to welcome you to the most wonderful time of the year: budget season! Each year at this time, the board and administration begin the process of building the budget for the next calendar year. The budget focus for FY21 is Educational Equity and Student Achievement. Educational Equity means that “every student has access to the educational resources and rigor they need at the right moment in their education across race, gender, language, disability, sexual orientation, family background and/or family income” (“Vermont Multi-Tiered System of Supports Field Guide.” [MTSS 2019 Field Guide](#)). We currently have a gap in Student Achievement, as our students who are white and economically secure perform better in school and on state assessments than our students who live in poverty, students with disabilities, and students of color. We owe it to all of our students to close this gap and make student achievement mean success for ALL students.

The board kicked off the season with a night of Pie and Pie Charts to explain what ingredients go into creating a budget. Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed dessert with us! You can view the slide presentation at [EWSD.org](#). The first budget session took place on December 10th and focused on Values and Outcomes as they align with our vision and Multi-Year Instructional Strategic Plan. Over the next few months, the board will host a series of opportunities for the community to become more informed about the budget.

01-07-20 * Budget priorities and guidance refinement and/or adjustment

01-14-20 + **OPERATIONAL EXPENSES**

- Property Services, Technology, Transportation, Safety & Security, Child Nutrition, and Business Functions INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN - FY21 Instructional Focus
- Instructional Services, Special Education, and Instructional Supports

01-21-20 * **INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN - FY21 Instructional Focus**

- Instructional Services, Special Education, and Instructional Supports

01-28-20 + **INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN - FY21 Instructional Focus**

- Principal Services , Executive Administration, Student Support Service Administration.

02-04-20 * **CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY, ESSEX**

02-11-20 + **INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN - FY21 Instructional Focus**

02-18-20 * Proposed budgets overviews, anticipated tax impact, projected tuition, known variables, cost drivers, variance reporting, etc.

** Board Meetings + Budget Work Session*

We want to do all we can to get you informed, engaged and to the polls! Please join us at our meetings as we discuss and deliberate. These meetings take place at the EHS library beginning at 6:30. If you can't make the meetings, you can read the minutes online at <http://www.EWSD.org>. or watch board meetings on the Regional Education Television Network at [RETN.org](#).

Martha Heath and Andre Roy

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