



WESTFORD NEWSLETTER

July 2020



Keep an eye out for **Common Milkweed**, blooming from June-August. This perennial herb is a food source for over 450 insects but can be toxic!

Westford Town Office

1713 Vermont Route 128 - Westford, Vermont 05494

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

<https://westfordvt.us/>

TOWN OFFICE NOTES

2020 Property Tax Bills

Based on a recommendation from the State, the Town has decided to delay setting the property tax rate until the beginning of August (the rate is usually set the beginning of July). The State made the recommendation due to the extension of filing Homestead Declarations until July 15. The first installment, which is usually due August 15, will be pushed out until September and will be due at least 30 days from the date of mailing. A definitive date will be announce as soon as it's available. Stay tuned!

Senior Luncheon

We are taking a break. There will be no senior luncheons for July and August. Hope to see everyone in September. Have a wonderful and healthy summer. *Carol Howrigan, President*

Dog Licenses

If you have not licensed your dog(s) please do so as soon as possible (**licenses were due April 1st**). Late fees were waived through June 30th. After July 1st, late fees will be assessed.

A current rabies certificate is required. If you are unsure if the current certificate is on file, please call or email the Town Office (878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us). For your convenience, you may mail or drop off the fee and rabies certificate along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and we will mail the license to you. The fee after July 1st is \$17.00 unless your dog is spayed or neutered, in which case the fee is \$14.00.

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the August Newsletter is 12:00 noon on Monday, July 27th.

TOWN OFFICE HOURS

The Town Office will be **closed**

- July 3rd for Independence Day

The Town Office is open to the public! The office is open:

- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30am to 4pm
- Friday: 8:30am to 12:30pm
- Zoning Administrator hours: Monday and Tuesday, 10am-3pm (by appointment only).

Access to the Town Office is conditional upon the following:

- Masks are **required**
- Appointments are required for zoning and are strongly encouraged for other matters;
- Adhere to any signage present;
- Access is limited to the front counter;
- Zoning matters are limited to the lower level (please use entrance located in the back of the building);
- You are not experiencing a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or any other symptom of a respiratory illness; and
- You have not had contact with a person who has tested COVID-19 positive.



VERMONT'S NEW FOOD SCRAP DISPOSAL LAW IN EFFECT AS OF JULY 1st

Continue reading the newsletter to find out what Westford is doing regarding this legislation.



ATTENTION DOG LOVERS



The Town of Westford is looking for someone who is interested in serving as Dog Warden. What is a Dog Warden you ask? A Dog Warden is a person who helps dog owners comply with the Westford Dog Ordinance. What qualifications are needed? 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. You may think you need a kennel to be a Dog Warden. This is not the case. However, a stray dog does need to be kept 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 and there are funds available for training, supplies and mileage. The Town also has a dog house that can be utilized. If you would like more information on helping your community by serving in this position, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us. Westford residency is preferred by not required.



SUMMER ROADS

What you need to know about summer road conditions

- **Road Projects:** many projects are being done on the roads at this time. Slow down and give crews space to work.
- **Dust:** roads can become dusty in dry weather and potholes can appear in heavily traveled areas. Going the speed limit can reduce dusty and damaged roads.
- **Roadside Mowing:** roadsides are mowed to increase visibility and keep invasive plants at bay. Mowing occurs twice a year: once in late spring/early summer and once later in the summer.
- **Traffic Speeds:** due to the hard-packed conditions of the roads this time of year, overall vehicle speeds can increase. Be aware of speed limits.

Reminders:

- Watch for increased pedestrian traffic including walkers, bikers, horseback riders etc. Please slow down and give other users of the road lots of room. Share the road!



VOTING INFORMATION FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS

August State Primary Election

The State Primary election is August 11th. The polls will be open 10am to 7pm.

Due to COVID-19 we are encouraging voters to vote by absentee/early voting in an effort to reduce the number of people at the polls. Please note: if you want to vote absentee/early, you MUST request a ballot to vote in the primary, ballots are NOT being mailed automatically.

Ways to request an absentee/early ballot:

1. Call the Town Office at 878-4587 and leave your name, phone number, address, and mailing address (if different); or
2. Email townclerk@westfordvt.us with the same information requested above; or
3. Request online through My Voter Page at <https://mvp.vermont.gov/>. Please contact the Town Office if you have problems accessing this system. This is usually because your date of birth and driver's license are missing, which we will need to enter to resolve the issue.

You will receive 3 ballots: Democratic, Progressive and Republican. You MUST return ALL ballots or your vote will NOT count.

Please follow the instructions on the envelopes carefully. Seal your voted ballot in the certificate envelope (the one you need to sign) and seal the remaining two ballots in the envelope marked "unvoted ballots." Then seal both of these envelopes in the red and white return envelope. Failure to follow the instructions will result in your vote being deemed "defective" and not being counted (this is per State law).

Ballots MUST be received by 7pm on August 11th. Please allow sufficient time for mailing and returning the ballot. In addition to returning the ballots by mail, you may deliver them to the Town Office through August 10th (including utilizing the mail slot located to the left of the town office front door) or to the polls on voting day. Again, due to COVID-19 we are encouraging voters to return their ballots by mail.

November General Election

The General Election is November 3rd. It is likely that the State will mail ballots to all active voters however this has not been confirmed as of yet. There were several ballots from the EWSD vote that were returned to the Town Office due to incorrect addresses. To ensure your General Election ballot will be mailed to the correct address, please go to the My Voter Page (<https://mvp.vermont.gov/>) and review your information, making changes if needed. You may also request absentee ballots for all elections through the end of the calendar year on this page. As noted above, if you are unable to access the My Voter Page, please contact the Town Office.

If you have any questions about voting and absentee/early voting, please contact the Town Office at 878-4587 or townclerk@westfordvt.us.

VERMONT INCOME TAX FORMS

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: <https://tax.vermont.gov/form-request>
3. Order forms by phone: call toll-free in the U.S. at (855) 297-5600

Vermont Department of Taxes Issues 2020 Tax Season Guidance in Response to COVID-19 Emergency

The Vermont Department of Taxes continues to carefully monitor the evolving situation related to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The Department is working closely with the office of Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont legislature, following changes at the federal level, and adhering to guidance from the Vermont Department Health. Please see the Department's information on relief for Vermont taxpayers at tax.vermont.gov/coronavirus. You should check this link periodically as the guidance may change. You may also follow the Vermont Department of Taxes on Facebook and Twitter.



A NOTE FROM THE FIRE WARDEN

As most of the Westford Residents who use the Burn Permit System already know I started to give real time reasons when the burn system is closed. I started this about six weeks ago and hope this is helpful instead of the old generic message of "high winds and dry conditions."

Please call me at **879-1231** if you have any questions or concerns about your burn. This includes what you can and cannot burn, how close can your fire be to any structures, and what you can and cannot use to start your fire under Vermont State law. As always you must have a burn permit for any fire bigger than 3 ft. campfire and no more than 1 1/2 feet in height. If your fire gets out of control call 911 immediately.

Thank You,

Dennis Angiono

Westford Fire Warden



Happy 4th of July!



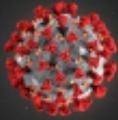
WESTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

http://westfordpubliclibrary.org

(802) 878-5639

westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

1717 VERMONT ROUTE 128, WESTFORD VT 05494



Due to COVID-19, the building may be closed, but you have access to a wealth of resources. There is a comprehensive and up to date list on our website.

Our WiFi is available 24/7 from our parking lot.

Curbside pickup of library materials is available Wednesday 3-5pm and Saturdays 10-Noon. Materials request form is on our website.

If you have not already, be sure to follow us on Facebook for up to date notifications and more enrichment activities.



Get outside and explore Westford!

Poetry Walk

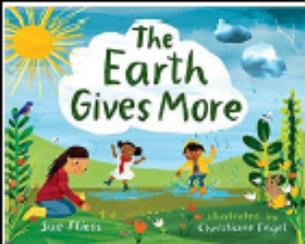
Poetry Walk - Contemplate beautiful poetry in a beautiful setting. Poems are mounted on the Maple Shade Trail #6.

Whimsical Walk on the Schultz Trail - Make your own fairy house, Chipmunk café or nature art and place it on display. Add to others' work. The Schultz Trail connects the ends of Old #11 Rd. and Machia Hill Rd. Use only natural materials, hike often to see what's new!

Fairy Tale Hike - July 10 & 11 - Fairy Wings will be available for you to wear, hike in and keep. Wings will be in a bin at the Old #11 entrance to the trail.

Story Hike on the Maple Shade Trail (across from the school) continuing on Trail #2.

Brought to you by the Westford Public Library and the Westford Conservation Commission



Library Hours

Wednesday:	1-7pm
Thursday:	10am-7pm
Friday:	1-7pm
Saturday:	10am-2pm

The library is closed to the public.
See website for updates.

Virtual Adult Book Group
June 15
7:00-8:00pm
Circe

By: Madeline Miller
Book group will be held via Zoom
Hard copies available for curbside pickup.



Digital copies available via Libby.

"A bold and subversive retelling of the goddess's story, both epic and intimate in its scope, recasting the most infamous female figure from the Odyssey as a hero in her own right"

In the house of Helios, god of the sun, a daughter is born. But Circe is a strange child. Turning to the world of mortals for companionship, she discovers that she does possess power -- the power of witchcraft, which can transform rivals into monsters and menace the gods themselves.

Threatened, Zeus banishes her to a deserted island, where she hones her occult craft, crossing paths with many of the most famous figures in mythology: the Minotaur, Daedalus and Icarus, Medea, & Odysseus. But there is danger for a woman who stands alone, and Circe unwittingly draws the wrath of both men and gods, ultimately finding herself pitted against one of the most terrifying and vengeful of the Olympians. To protect what she loves most, Circe must summon all her strength and choose, once and for all, whether she belongs with the gods she is born from, or the mortals she has come to love. (from Amazon.com)

Outside Early Literacy Storytime - Birth to Pre-School Every Thursday at 11:30am on the Common

7/2/20: Theme: Folktales and Legends

7/9/20: Theme: Tales from Asia

7/16/20: Little Red Riding Hood

7/23/20: Gingerbread Man

7/30/20: Prince/cess Stories

Bring a blanket and talk to your kids about social distancing ahead of time. Snacks or a lunch are a good idea too. We will sing songs, read stories, move and have fun! If weather is bad, storytime will be sent out digitally.

Curbside crafts can be picked up as well.

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

July Library Events

- July 1 - Trustees Meeting via Zoom 7-9pm**
- * July 1 - Teen book group begins**
- * July 3 - Breakout EDU via Zoom 4-5pm**
- July 4 - Library Closed, no curbside pickup**
- * July 6 - Magic Monday! (on Facebook)**
- * July 8 - Teen Book Group via Zoom 4-5pm**
- * July 10&11 - Fairy Tale Hike on the Schultz Trail - Fairy wings for pickup by Old #11 entrance**
- * July 13 - Magic Monday! (on Facebook)**
- * July 15 - Teen Book Group via Zoom 4-5pm**
- * July 15 - Adult Book Group via Zoom 7-8pm**
- * July 17 - Breakout EDU via Zoom 4-5pm**
- * July 20 - Magic Monday! (on Facebook)**
- * July 22 - Teen Book Group via Zoom 4-5pm**
- * July 27 - Magic Monday! (on Facebook)**
- * July 29 - Teen Book Group via Zoom 4-5pm**
- * July 30 - Harry Potter Trivia Night via Kahoot and Zoom - 7pm**
- * July 31 - VINS - Animals in Myth and Legend - 4:30-5:30pm - on the Common, weather dependent**

**Curbside Pickup of Library Materials:
Wednesdays 3-5pm
Saturdays 10-Noon**

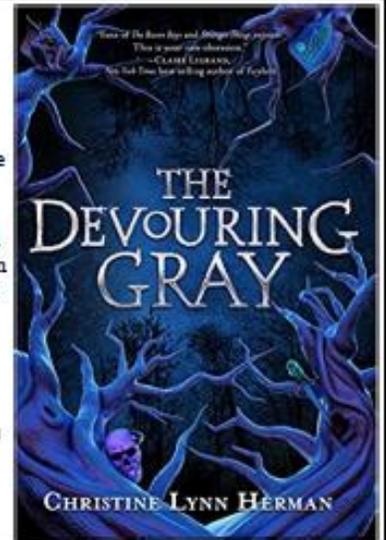
**Order form is on our website and Facebook page—order before 7pm the day before
Storytime every Thursday 11:30 on the Common, digitally if weather is bad**

*** indicates part of the SRP, more info in Summer Reading Program brochure**

Teen Book Group Wednesdays 4-5pm in July via Zoom

We will be reading *The Devouring Gray* by Christine Lynn Herman. It's on the Green Mountain Book Award list for Vermont high schoolers. This group is open to anyone entering 7th grade and up.

Participants get a free book. We have room for more to join us - just let Bree know.



"Imagine your Story" with these fun events!



Break Out EDU via Zoom - July 3 & 17 - from 4-5pm. Breakout EDU is a fun, problem solving platform - we will be hosting two days of digital games. Using zoom and playing together, we will try solve fairy tale inspired puzzles. Good for 3th grade and up. Zoom link will be on FPF, Facebook or emailed to you.



Harry Potter's Birthday Trivia Celebration Thursday, July 30 7pm via Kahoot and Zoom

Join us for fun filled night of trivia celebrating everything Harry Potter! You will need two devices for this one - one with the Kahoot trivia app and one with Zoom.

More details will be sent out closer to the event.

VINS is Coming! Friday, July 31 4:30-5:30pm

On the Common, social distancing and safety measures in place. Join us to learn about animals and their amazing roles in myths and legends. Animal lovers of all ages welcome!



"Imagine your Story" June 19-August 7

It's not too late to sign up or get your packet of materials. The form is on our website and the brochure is in this newsletter and on our website.



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
www.westfordpubliclibrary.org

Summer Reading Program 2020
878-5639

June 19-August 7
westfordpubliclibrary@gmail.com

A note from Library Director, Bree Drapa: Planning Summer Reading this year has been a challenge and bit of a heartbreak. As I write this, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the library building remains closed. Summer Reading is one of my favorite times of year, seeing all my library friends who have been in school, returning to the building and looking forward to what we have planned for the Summer. This year will, of course, be different. It is my goal to provide this community with a fun and engaging program, all the while being mindful of safety and governmental regulations. Some beloved SRP traditions are simply not possible, but others we can "imagine" in a new way. I wish all of you a Summer full of fun, wonderment, and adventures beyond compare!

*Online registration opens June 15. Registration link on our website. If you are unable to register online, please call 878-5639 and we will get you registered.

Summer Reading "Kick-off" - Friday, June 19 from 2-6pm - Come pick up your SRP materials (reading logs, stickers, book marks, goodies, etc.) in a socially safe manner from our parking lot (please park in town office lot or at the green). We will have packets for each age group below (not adults). If you would prefer, you can order a packet for curbside pickup this (or any) week, indicate ages of children. We will also have a station for online registration if you need it. All packets will have a creamee coupon for Sweet Clover Market.



Baby Bears - Ages 0-2 (babies and toddlers) - fun activities for families to do together

Ages 3-8 (kids) - 10 books per raffle ticket

Ages 9-12 (tweens) - 3 books per raffle ticket

Ages 13-18 (teens) - 1 book per raffle ticket

Adults - 18+ (adults do not need to register) - 1 book per raffle ticket

Prizes consist of gift certificates to Turner Toy & Hobby, Phoenix Books, Waygu Wagon, and more! Prizes will be awarded at the end of the program - TBD.

Summer Long Events:

Magic Mondays! Every Monday, we will post a new magic trick from magician, Ed Popielarczyk, on our Facebook page. Make sure to show the kids! **We will also be celebrating Harry Potter's birthday (the night before) with a Family Trivia Game using Kahoot! & Zoom - July 30 at 7pm**



Breakout EDU is a fun, problem solving platform - we will be hosting two days of digital games on Fridays in July. Using zoom and playing together, we will try solve fairy tale inspired puzzles. Good for 3th grade and up. More information as it gets closer.

Two Book Group Opportunities:

Teen Book Group - meets via Zoom every Wednesday in July from 4-5pm. We will be reading the Green Mountain Book Award Book, **The Devouring Gray**. Best for those entering grade 7-high school. Participants get a free copy of the book. Signup required.

Adult Book Group - meets the third Wednesday of the month (via zoom) 7-8pm - reading **The Ocean at the End of the Lane (June 17), Circe (July 15), and The Buried Giant (August 19).**



Summer Reading at a Glance

June 15 - Sign up online for SRP starts today, signup link on our website, FPF, and Facebook

June 19 - SRP "Kick-off" - Pick up materials anytime 2-6pm from the library parking lot

June 22 - First Magic Monday!

June 24-27 - Curbside Craft: Puppets

June 26 - Puppet Zoom! Show and Tell all about the puppets you made from 4-5pm

July 1-3 - Curbside Craft: Dreamcatchers

July 1 - Teen Book Group via Zoom 4-5pm - every Wed. in July, reading "The Devouring Gray"

July 3 - Breakout EDU via Zoom 4-5pm

July 8-11 - Curbside Craft: Paper Fans

July 10&11 - Fairy Tale Hike - Schultz Trail

July 15-18 - Curbside Craft: Baskets

July 15 - Adult Book Group 7-8pm

July 17 - Breakout EDU via Zoom 4-5pm

July 22-25 - Curbside Craft : Giant Gingerbreads

July 29-Aug. 1 - Curbside Crafts: Crowns

July 30 - Happy Potter Trivia Night 7pm

July 31 - VINS - Animals in Myth and Legend - on the Common from 4:30-5:30pm (tentative)

August 7 - End of Summer Reading Program TBD

*****ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

All Zoom links will be on FPF and Facebook, or ask Bree to email them to you.

Storytime - Thursday 11:30am (weather permitting) at the Westford School.

Curbside Pickup every Wednesday 3-5pm

Curbside Pickup every Saturday 10-Noon

Order forms are on our website and Facebook page.

Curbside Crafts and Storytime

Storytimes will be held Thursdays at 11:30 am at the Westford School (weather permitting).

Social distancing will be each families' responsibility. Bring a blanket to sit on.

Each week we will have a craft/theme. The craft can be picked up as part of your curbside order (Wed/Sat. - request in your order form) or on Thursdays after storytime. These crafts are kits to do at home. Kits are suitable for all ages, may contain small parts. One craft per child.

June 24-27: The Magic of Stories - Felt Puppet making kits - be sure to join us for Puppet Zoom! June 26 from 4-5pm via zoom - a chance to show your puppets off and tell stories with them.



July 1-3: Folktales and Legends - Dreamcatcher making kits



July 8-11: Tales from Asia - Paper fans



July 15-18: Little Red Riding Hood - baskets

July 22-25: The Gingerbread Man - Giant Gingerbread figures

July 29-Aug 1: Prince/cess Stories - Crowns

Get outside and explore your kingdom!



Story Hike on the Maple Shade Trail (across from the school)

Whimsical Walk on the Schultz Trail -

Make your own fairy house, Chipmunk café or nature art and place it on display. The Schultz Trail connects the ends of Old #11 Rd. and Machia Hill Rd. Use only natural materials, hike often to see what's new! Fairy Tale Hike - July 10 & 11 -Fairy Wings will be available for you to wear, hike in and keep. Wings will be in a bin at the Old #11 entrance to the trail.



IMAGINE
YOUR STORY

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, CCPRC 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.

Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) Representative

The Chittenden Solid Waste District Board of Commissioners is comprised of representatives from each of the communities in Chittenden County and is responsible for setting policy and making major decisions. The Board meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

For more information about CSWD and the Board of Commissioners, go to <https://cswd.net/about-cswd/cswd-board-of-commissioners/>.

Please contact the Town Office if you are interested in serving the community in this role.

WESTFORD CEMETERY REMINDERS

Artificial flowers, glass containers and items with wire are NOT allowed in any of the Westford cemeteries. They will be subject to removal by cemetery officials. Also **the planting of trees and shrubs is NOT permitted**. There are signs posted in each cemetery.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Westford Cemetery Commission



WESTFORD SUMMER CONCERTS UPDATE

This is the latest update concerning the Westford Concert On The Commons series for 2020. Bands had been completely lined up as far back as February; however, the recent Covid-19 pandemic, which fully became a public policy issue starting in mid-March, put a completely unknown set of expectations into events such as these. I have resisted in posting anything regarding bands and dates since it was not certain that come this summer the series could clearly be anticipated. As recently as three weeks ago it seemed the whole series would need to be cancelled, just as the last few White Church Concerts needed to be cancelled. But as this is a totally dynamic situation, we can only plan for what is allowed by the guidelines set by Governor Scott and approved by the Westford select Board.

The good news is that due to the great diligence of the people of Vermont working in concert together to respect social distancing and mask wearing recommendations, we are now seeing the results of our collective efforts and the continued opening up of public venues and spaces. Two weeks ago, the governor had not made any movements regarding allowing only limited events of up to 25 participants. So on at the select board meeting of June 11 made the decision to cancel the planned June 28th concert. They left the door open to concerts in July and August, pending further decrees from Governor Scott.

Today, June 19, Governor Scott has now allowed events of up to 150 people, provided social distancing guides are followed. I am hoping that this new decree will allow the select board to permit our scheduled series to continue as planned for those months. The band scheduled for the June 28 concert has been notified, and they were fortunate to have been able to schedule another event for that date, and have further agreed and are looking forward to reschedule another date for July or August. So, take heart, there is still hope for a full concert series this year.

I had held off creating any posters, since so much was up in the air and unsettled. I am hoping our first scheduled July date of the 12th (with Dana and Susan Robinson) will be allowed by the select board to continue as planned. Based on these above assumptions, I will update our concert schedule accordingly and issue a full revised concert schedule and poster ASAP. I will also post required guidelines for participation of these events by the public. So now all we need to do is pray for nice weather on Sundays!

Thank you,

Michael P. Kirick





We hope that our focus on health and safety, communication, and personalized learning plans supported our students and families through school closure and set us up for success in the fall. We begin summer planning for a safe return to school. Thank you so much for providing weekly feedback. I am asking that families also respond to this end of the year [Westford Parent Survey](https://forms.gle/1MbF1LRvGeWu6eJn7) (<https://forms.gle/1MbF1LRvGeWu6eJn7>) as I am collecting information to inform operational plans for a safe return to Westford School.

As we close out the 2019/20 and look ahead to a safe return, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the Westford PTO for their [teacher appreciation video](https://www.tribute.co/westford-teachers/) <https://www.tribute.co/westford-teachers/> . It is greatly appreciated.

Featured Programs & Activities Closing out 2019/20

Graduation

This year's socially distant 8th grade graduation is a shining example of the strong school / family partnership that helps define Westford School. A special thank you to all who made this experience personal and safe for our students. Two traditional and wonderful elements of Westford graduation are the [individual student recognition statements](#) and the [student slide show](#) . Both these elements were captured on the big screen on a night that could not have been more beautiful. Thank you to everyone who made this possible.



Kindergarten Orientation is planned for Friday, July 24th.

Please contact the main office if you have a child who will enter kindergarten at Westford School for the 2020/21 year. Our kindergarten teacher, Ms. Cassidy Shumway, will continue to update families on the details of Kindergarten Orientation and invite families to attend one of three session options on July 24th.

Summer School Invitations

EWSD summer services will include a continuation of distance learning plans to support identified students July 6-Aug 6. Services are planned Monday through Thursday. Please contact Summer School Coordinator, Kristen Ryan at krayan@ewsd.org with any questions.

Summer Meals

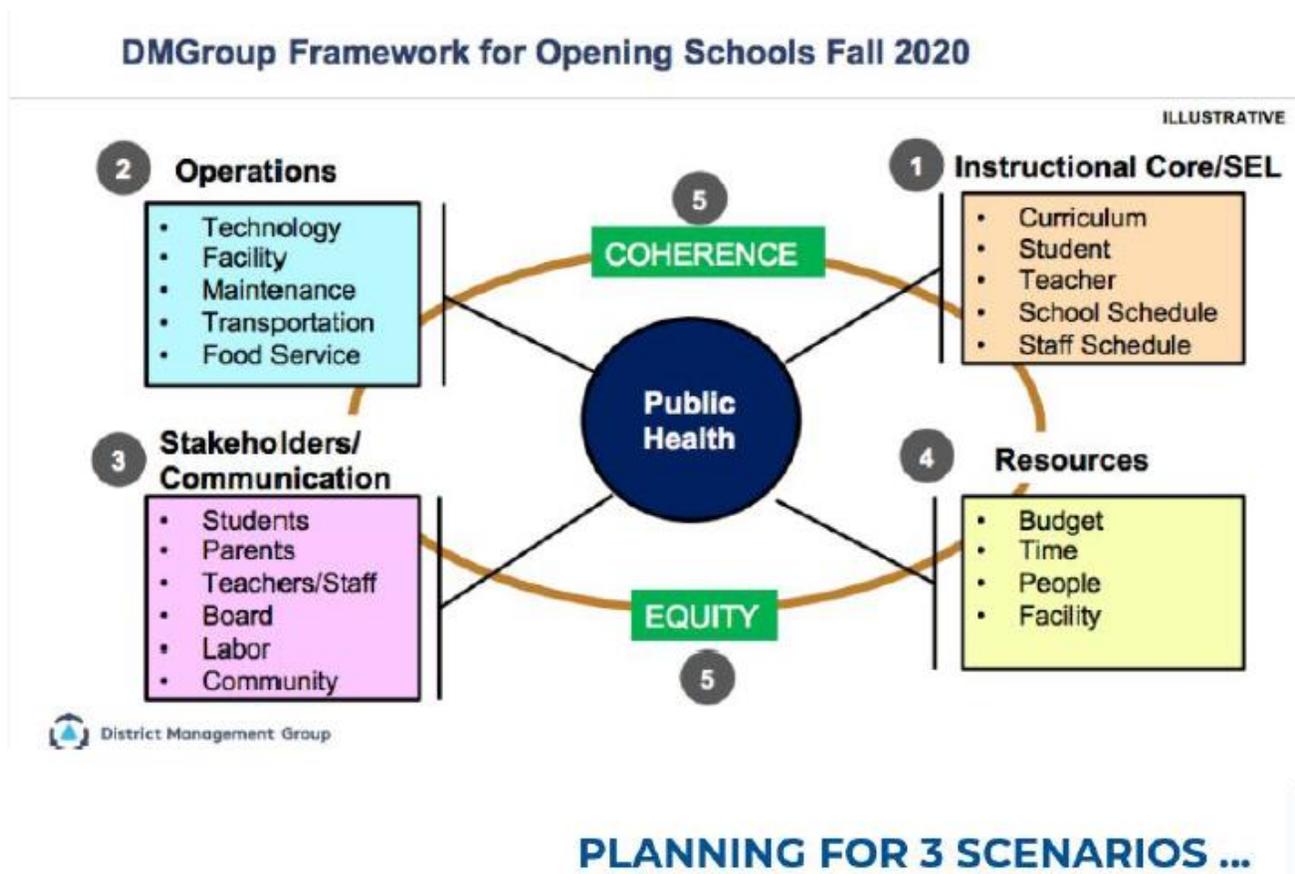
EWSD will be providing a free meal service this summer. Meals are free to all children ages 18 and under, no application or prior approval is needed. Meals will be available at Westford School, Monday through Friday, **from 10:10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.** Please check the [EWSD Child Nutrition site](#) for updated menus and more information on the summer meal program.

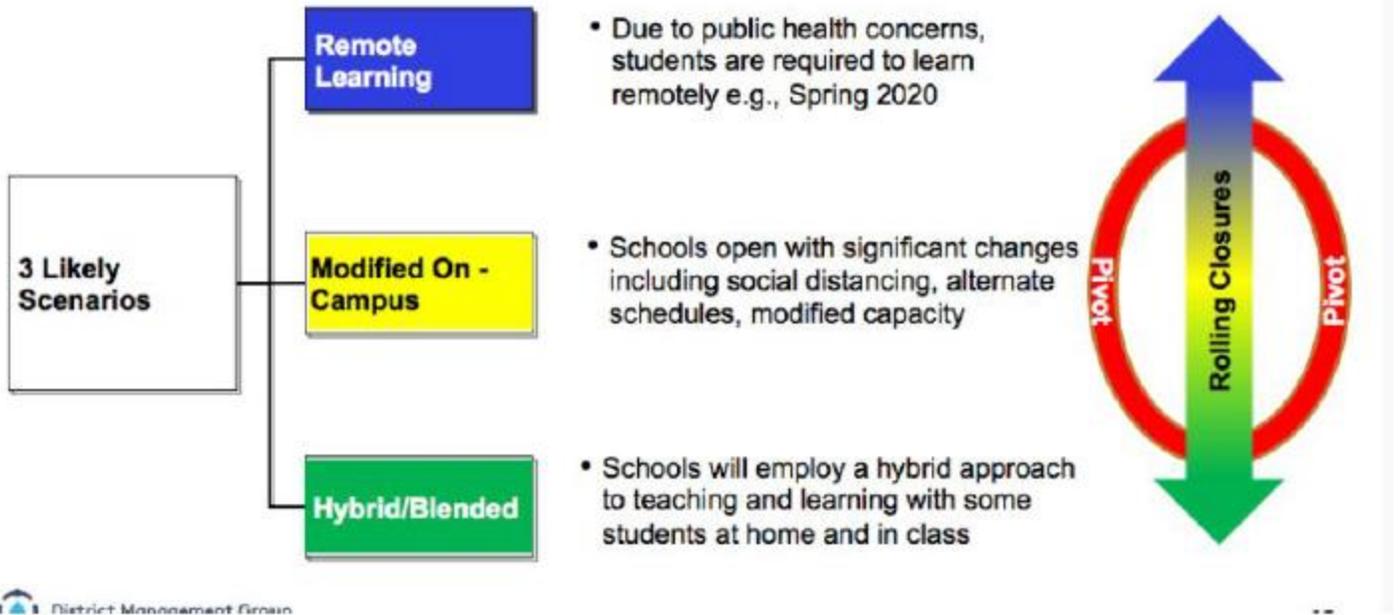
Planning for a safe return to school 2020/21

Communication

For the latest updates from the Essex Westford School District specific to COVID-19, please visit www.ewsd.org/covid. This includes a wide range of information as well as updates as they unfold this summer. EWSD is planning for three possible scenarios that will allow us to be nimble in adapting to changing information and health updates.

Visuals of Planned Summer EWSD Leadership Teamwork





Welcome New Westford Faculty Members

Please help welcome our new additions.



Dawn Hiscock
PreSchool Teacher

Dawn lives in Essex Junction with her husband, Rick. Their adult son, Jean, lives in South Burlington. Dawn holds a Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood Education from McGill University and an educator's license (birth-age 8) with endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education from the State of Vermont. Dawn completed the 21 credit Director Credential in 2017. Dawn is currently working on her Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education. Dawn is a member of NAEYC.

Dawn is inspired by the work of many learning theorists: Vygotsky, Piaget, Gardner, Bronfenbrenner to name a few. Social-emotional learning, science explorations, music movement, art, and PLAY form cornerstones in her classroom upon which developmentally appropriate curriculum is built. Dawn borrows from many educational models including the Reggio Emilia Approach. In Dawn's classroom, children's questions often form the basis of new learning – curriculum "emerges" from children's interests and queries about the world around them. Dawn has taught in the Quebec public school system. She was the Executive Director of the Plattsburgh Literacy Volunteers affiliate, the director/head teacher at Discovery Preschool and has worked as a Red Cross instructor. During her free time, Dawn enjoys socializing with friends, painting, sewing, scrapbooking, hiking, gardening, swimming, kayaking, traveling, and coming up with remodeling plans for Rick and her to work on. She loves cooking and sharing meals with family and friends. A statement from Dawn: "Working with young children is a unique experience – I learn something new every day. Each child's journey of self-discovery stretches my teaching practice. I feel lucky to be a part of this wondrous experience."



Colleen Legris
Gr 5-8 Math Teacher

Dear Westford Families,

My name is Colleen Legris and I am excited to be the 5-8 math teacher at Westford. I live just around the corner in Fairfax, Vermont with my husband. Our two sons have recently graduated college and we are thrilled they have decided to return to Vermont to live. In my free time, I enjoy skiing, hiking, playing Cribbage, and spending time with family and friends. Math is my passion and I work hard throughout the year to pass that love onto students. I do this by taking students where they are at and scaffolding instruction to meet individual needs. Additionally, I provide hands-on math activities and authentic problems so they are more motivated to make connections to life outside of school.

I started my teaching career at Cambridge Elementary School, spent summers teaching middle school in Falmouth, Massachusetts, and last year taught at Founders Memorial School. I am delighted to continue working in the Essex Westford School District, more specifically joining the 5-8 grade Westford middle-level team. I look forward to working together this coming school year to make learning engaging and productive.



MaKayla Foster
3/4 Literacy Teacher

I am beyond excited to welcome students into the 3/4 team and to learn alongside students and families this year. I just completed a 3/4 literacy long-term substitute teaching role at Westford. Prior to that, I student taught with Mrs. Goss as I completed my undergraduate studies in Elementary Education and English at Saint Michael's College. I am passionate about helping others and of course, literacy-related activities. My favorites are cracking open a great book outside on a warm day and listening to my students talk about their interests. If you are curious about what 3/4 literacy students are doing rightnow, check out our [Twitter](https://twitter.com/mfoster_5) page https://twitter.com/mfoster_5 !



Elizabeth Ploof
Learning Specialist

I have lived in Westford for two years with my husband, two daughters, dogs, and chickens. My family and I are all active members of a local 4-H club that participates in many horse, poultry, and community service projects. We also spend lots of time with our three horses, hiking and snowboarding. I can often be found on the top of a mountain or out running. I have worked at Essex Middle School for 20 years and I am super excited to join the smaller Westford School community in the fall. My daughter, Adaline, started there two years ago and describes it as, "the best school ever!" I think I am going to agree.

Equity

I hope that you had time to read the full EWSD equity statement. If not, here is a brief summary. *The EWSD is dedicated to ensuring equity for all students and is striving toward being an anti-racist organization. The full leadership team across our District supports the concepts of ridding our system of inequalities associated with race, gender, language diversity, socioeconomic status, and other forms of marginalization.*

What are we doing to support our vision and ideals?

In addition to the ongoing professional development plan supporting equity, teachers participated in Courageous Conversation Training. This experience is designed to help educators understand the impact of race on student achievement and the role that race plays in academic achievement. Earlier this school year we engaged in conversation and professional learning specific to the documentary “[I am From Here](#)” and the 2019 Vermont Principals’ Association keynote address by [Dr. Ruha Benjamin on Cultivating Courageous Leadership](#). These resources are also parent and student friendly. You can expect us to continue our work with the Anti Defamation League in using the A World of Difference Program and the [Teaching Tolerance Social Justice](#) resources and standards as we grow as a school and as we support the growth of our children.

Parent Wellness

Thank you for participating in our parent wellness zoom meeting with Dr. Joelle vanLent. Here is a link [to the recording of that meeting](#), for those who couldn’t make it. As we close out this school year and begin to problem solve how to return to school safety, her words of wisdom are powerful and will be equally as relevant in the fall



Westford School's Class of 2020

June 11, 2020



Shea Noelle Andrews
Isabella Joy Armata
Kain Michael Bacon
Luka Fuad Breen
Virginia Ann Cobb
Abigail Gwendalyn Cook
Mae Leta Dewey

Xandra Jean Ford
Nicholas Anderson Hopkins
Jeri Lynn Kornn
Emma Rose Murray
Collin Christopher Oalican
Mae Cristelli Parker
Eli Wilder Pierce

Porter Thurston Pitcher
Chasity April Pretty
Sonja Christine Helena Reilly
Mason Robare Roberts
Cora Inez Spiller
Wyatt Jon Stark
Owen Matthew Wamsganz

8TH GRADE AWARDS

The Hazen Wood Award

Awarded to the students who have shown the most effort and perseverance in school work during the 7th and 8th grade.

Awarded to: Luka Breen, Mae Dewey, Wyatt Stark

The Citizenship Award

Awarded to the students who exhibit the truest qualities of citizenship. The display of these qualities enhance the entire school climate. The individual's respect, contribution, and stewardship over school and personal issues enables positive feelings to carry on - one day to the next.

Awarded to: Virginia Cobb, Abigail Cook, Nicholas Hopkins, Collin Oalican, Sonja Reilly

The Academic Excellence Award

Awarded to the students who embody scholarship during their 7th and 8th grade years.

Awarded to: Virginia Cobb, Abigail Cook, Xandra Ford, Collin Oalican, Sonja Reilly, Cora Spiller, Owen Wamsganz

The Katherine & Wilson Howrigan Award

Awarded to the students who have worked the most for the 8th grade class during their final year here at Westford.

Awarded to: Shea Andrews, Isabella Armata, Xandra Ford, Mae Parker

The Betty Fay Award/Helping Hands Award

Given to the students in the 8th grade who exhibit the most genuine desire to help others.

Awarded to: Sonja Reilly

The Sportsmanship Award

Awarded to the students who evidence good sportsmanship when involved in team sports.

Awarded to: Porter Pitcher, Sonja Reilly, Mason Roberts

The Joayn Larson Award

Awarded to students who exhibit the following outstanding qualities: patience, unselfishness, and compassion for others. This award is donated by the Westford Home Dem. group in memory of Joayn Larson.

Awarded to: Virginia Cobb, Nicholas Hopkins, Jeri Kornn

The Judith DeNova Personal Conviction Award

Awarded to the students who have learned to dig deep to find the necessary courage and self determination to persevere when things get tough.

Awarded to: Kain Bacon, Emma Murray, Eli Pierce, Chasity Pretty

Congratulations to all!



FOOD SCRAPS & WESTFORD

Effective July 1, 2020, per Act 148, food scraps are banned from landfills. Additionally, the Selectboard recently chose **not** to include the collection of food scraps in the contract with Myers. This means that residents will need to either compost food scraps or bring them to one of the Chittenden Solid Waste District (CSWD) drop off centers (<https://cswd.net/chittenden-county-solid-waste-facilities/drop-off-centers/>).

What are food scraps?

Food scraps are parts of food that are typically discarded rather than eaten: peels, rinds, cores, eggshells, seeds, pits, bones, shells, coffee grounds and filters, loose-leaf tea, and fats/oils/grease. Food scraps is also food that was eaten but not finished: “plate scraps” or leftovers that went bad. Any type of food can become food scraps including bread, pasta, soup, vegetables, fruit, sauces, meat, fish, dairy, sweets, etc.

What should I do with meat and bones?

If you compost in your yard, the law allows you to put meat and bones in the trash so they don't attract animals to your composting bin. If you chose to bring food scraps to a drop-off center, you can include meat and bones with the rest of your food scraps.

CSWD has an abundance of information on their website including answers to questions, ways to reduce waste and how to compost to name a few. Please go to <https://cswd.net/scrapfoodwaste/> or call **872-8111** to get more information.

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