

ALCOTT NEWS NOTES

February 2011

Alcott's Calendar of Events



February:

- 2/9 PTO Meeting-Alcott Library-6:30
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/21 Presidents Day Break-No School
- 2/22 Presidents Day Break-No School
- 2/24 Town Meeting 2:30
- 2/28 BOE Meeting 7:30

March: CMT Testing Dates-Tues. Weds. and Thurs.

- 3/2 Read Across American – Dr. Seuss' Birthday
- 3/9 PTO Meeting – Alcott Library – 6:30
- 3/14 2nd Marking Period Closes
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/22 Report Cards go Home
- 3/23 Town Meeting – 9:15 AM
- 3/25 Science Fair – 5th Grade
- 3/30 Noon Dismissal for Elementary Students
Staff Development Workshop Day
- 3/30 District Chorus Concert – WHS 7 PM



APRIL:

- 4/1 April Fools' Day
- 4/2 Alcott Duck Race – Peterson Park
- 4/9 Alcott Duck Race – Rain date – Peterson Pk
- 4/13 Alcott PTO – Alcott Library – 6:30
STATE FAIR – 4th Grade
- 4/15 3:20 Begins Spring Break
- 4/21 Spring Break til 4/24
- 4/25 Return from Spring Break

May:



- 5/5 Alcott's "Nite of the Stars" – 6:30 PM
- 5/12 Project Explore Night – Frisbie – 6:30-8:00PM
- 5/18 PTO Meeting – Alcott Library – 6:30 PM
- 5/23 Band/Chorus Concert Rehearsal-WHS-4 to 8PM
- 5/24 Alcott's Band/Chorus Concert WHS 7 PM
- 5/27 Alcott's Field Day –Peterson Park–8:30AM – 1PM
- 5/30 Memorial Day – No School

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

As always, the most eventful time of the school year is upon us. Preparation for the CMT Testing in March, PTO/Parents will provide a small breakfast snack at school for grades 3, 4, and 5 just before students start their test, Science Fair (5th Grade); State Fair (4th Grade) in April; Alcott's "Nite of the Stars", Band/Chorus Concert at WHS, Project Explore Night; D.A.R.E. Graduation, and Field Day in May; Field Trips, Kindergarten Play, 5th Grade Banquet, and of course as of this notice an additional 8 days of school. This will push the last day of school to June 22nd as of 2/3.

I know that a flyer went out to all regarding parents who would like to volunteer for the "Nite of the Stars" at home by doing some sewing or ironing of our 7 grade level quilts that will be auctioned off that night. Please contact Ms. Generali or the PTO by note or e-mail that you will be available.

Mrs. Goldberg and Mrs. Curtiss are working with the students for their spring performance in May at the Wolcott High School auditorium. Mrs. Riggi is working on our wonderful Field Day at Peterson Park at the end of May.

There have been some changes in our custodial staff starting in February. The evening crew is Russell Tardiff, Mike Foti, and Timothy Cherniski. Mrs. Soucey will be in on days. Please say hello and welcome them to our school community.

Pre-K registration for 3 year olds to attend the Wolcott Public School District's Pre-Kindergarten classes is open. Please call 203-879-8178 to place your child's name into the lottery.

Last but not least, our Kindergarten Registration is in process. Please make sure that you register your child during the month of February, as of right now, your child may register if he/she reaches the age of 5 by January 1, 2012. There is legislation in place to change the eligibility date to earlier, but has not been pass as of yet.

Holly L Wrenn, Principal

PTO BOX TOPS MOVIE WINNERS

Sept. Kailyn Pratt	Nov. Rachel Hubeny
Oct. Connor Fagan	Dec. Michael Caouette

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to develop in each student the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a productive member of the community and a contributing member to society.

<u>ALCOTT PTO MEETINGS</u>	<u>Board of Education Meetings</u>	<u>District Compliance Officers</u>
<p>February 9</p> <p>March 9</p> <p>April 13</p> <p>May 18</p> <p>All Alcott PTO Meetings are held at the Alcott Library at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.</p> <p>Please join us to plan the following upcoming events:</p> <p>Night of the Arts, Field Day, Kindergarten Play, and if anyone can iron or sew to create our grade level quilts – please contact Ms. Generali or the PTO.</p>	<p>February 7</p> <p>March 14</p> <p>March 28</p> <p>April 11</p> <p>May 9</p> <p>May 23</p> <p>June 13</p> <p>June 27</p> <p>Meetings are held at WHS - Resource Room at 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Title VI (race, color, national origin) and Age Discrimination</p> <p>Dr. Gail Gilmore, Assistant Superintendent 879-8183</p> <p>Title IX (sex equity)</p> <p>Mrs. Holly Wrenn, Principal 879-8160</p> <p>Section 504 (Handicap)</p> <p>Mr. Walter Drewry, Vice Principal, 879-8165</p> <p>Americans with Disabilities (ADA)</p> <p>Mrs. Robin Marino, Student Service Dr. 879-8178</p>

<p>Wolcott Public School Website</p> <p>www.wolcottps.org</p> <p>Parents please check this website a couple of times during the month. You will find the monthly school lunch menu, if you click on the calendar at the very top(above the top of page) you will find the District Community Calendar of Events for each school, the Athletic schedule can be found on this website for both Tyrrell and Wolcott High Sporting Events.</p> <p>This is also where you will find Board of Education Meetings, BOE Members, and a letter of information from Mr. Macary, Superintendent of Wolcott School.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2010-2011 School Hours</p> <p>School starts: 8:55 AM School ends at: 3:20PM</p> <p>Scheduled Shorten day Hours: 8:55 AM to 1:20 PM</p> <p>Delayed Openings: 10:25AM to 3:20 PM</p> <p>Pre-School Hours</p> <table><tr><td>Morning Session:</td><td>8:55 to 11:40</td></tr><tr><td>Afternoon Session:</td><td>12:35 to 3:20</td></tr><tr><td>Shorten Day Morning Session:</td><td>8:55 to 11:05</td></tr><tr><td>Shorten Day Afternoon Session:</td><td>11:05 to 1:20</td></tr></table> <p>If there is a 90 minute delay called for school - there is no AM Pre-K.</p> <p>If an early dismissal is called in the morning- there is no PM Pre-K and Pre-K AM will be dismissed for students who take a bus at 11AM.</p>	Morning Session:	8:55 to 11:40	Afternoon Session:	12:35 to 3:20	Shorten Day Morning Session:	8:55 to 11:05	Shorten Day Afternoon Session:	11:05 to 1:20
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It is the policy of the Wolcott Board of Education that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any program because of his or her race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, mental retardation, past or present history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Promotion Requirements

A student's achievement of the skills for the current grade and the student's readiness for work at the next grade level shall be required before he/she is assigned to a higher grade. Students who have mastered the appropriate skills will be promoted, and those who have not will be considered for retention.

Wolcott Public Schools uses a combination of the following criteria to make the determination.

Data Sources

Standards

Report card information

Experiencing difficulty in more than 30% of areas indicated by report card

Current reading assessment

Greater than one year below grade level common to grade

Writing samples

Below district exemplars

Current math assessment

Below passing average common to grade levels

CMT Results

Level 1 or 2

Results of Light's Scale

Total score – good to excellent range for retention

Academic History

Other information supporting retention such as high absence, behavior, development delays

Parents will be notified in February by letter of any potential student Retention candidates. A final decision will be made by the last week in May.



LOST and FOUND



Parents: the next time you are in the building, please check our lost and found container located in the cafeteria. There are many sweatshirts, shirts, gloves, hats, etc there now. Thanks!



Protection From the Flu

It should be no surprise to you that children are some of the most efficient germ carriers. You probably witness it each year during flu season. One child has it, and before long half the class does, too. It doesn't have to be that way, though. There are some easy steps you can take to help protect your students from the flu virus this winter season.

Now is a great time to remind your students about the importance of good hygiene. Teach them the healthy way to cough, sneeze and wash their hands, and make sure you're following your own healthy tips in front of them.

- Cover their coughs or sneezes with their sleeves, rather than coughing directly into their hands
- Wash their hands (using warm water and soap) for at least 20 seconds before meals and during bathroom breaks.
- Use hand sanitizer regularly and when access to water and soap is not available.

Principal's Board

Jakob Colapinto, Matthew Stoeckert, Ryley Gianni, Aubrey Tiso, Andrew Lintzner, Madison Cossette, Sara Adduci, Randy Dejauniers, Norah Kader, Jake Prete, Nicole Guerrera, Emily Cyr, Ethan Thomas-Cianciolo, Morgan Manicini, Taylor Pattek, and Shannon Burby



From the Nurse's Desk

Bronchitis	Child may return to school after (2) days of adequate treatment.
Common Cold	
Croup	May return to school after (1) day of adequate treatment or (Pink-Eye) when cleared
Conjunctivitis	
Fever	Child may return to school after temperature is below 100 F for 24 hours.
Strep Infections	Child may return to school after (2) days of adequate treatment.
Vomiting and/or Diarrhea	Excluded for (2) days or until condition improves

Please remember that children can not carry medications to school or latchkey. Medications must be delivered to nurse only by

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

At Alcott it is everyone's responsibility to keep our building and students safe. Just by following these simple guidelines you can also do your part:

- Only use the appropriate entrances. Adults front door entrance.
- Students are expected to enter through the lower level side doors if arriving on the bus between 8:25 – 8:55.
- Morning drop-offs and students who arrive after 8:55 are to use the front entrance.
- If a student is arriving after 8:55, they must use the front door entrance and report to the nurse's office for a late pass.
- Always report to the office and sign in immediately upon entering the building and wear a visitor's pass.
- In the event that you need to pick up your child early, send a note to school or in the event of an emergency, call the office to advise of the early pick up. This allows the teacher time to prepare in advance for the dismissal without interruption of the class.
- Always be prepared to show identification when picking up a child.
- At no time should a parent venture to a child's classroom without first checking in at the main office.

FERPA

(Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

This law applies to all schools that receive funder under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. This law provides the following at the Elementary School level:

Parents have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies. Parents need to send a request for access in writing and schools have up to 45 days to comply with the request.

Parents have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Schools have the right to disclose records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

School officials with legitimate educational interest such as the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director of Student Services, Supervisor of Special Services, Principal, Nurse, School Psychologist, Social Worker, Current Special or Regular Education Teacher, and Secretary for purposes such as audit, placement or assessment can view records without consent.

Other instances in which the school has a right to disclose without consent include:

To other schools to which a student is transferring;

Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student; Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school; accrediting organizations; to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena; appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and state and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may also disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards and dates of attendance. Schools must allow parents a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them.

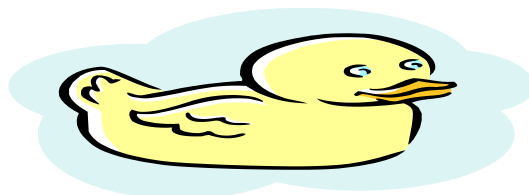
Parents can direct any complaints to the office which will provide information on how to contact the Family Policy Compliance Office at the U.S. Dept. of Education.

P.T.O. NEWS

Watch for meeting dates regarding the 5TH Annual Duck Race

On PTO
Agenda

2/9



SATURDAY, APRIL 2nd

Good Tips for Online Safety

As social networking stretches into every corner of our lives, parents are right to be concerned about the information their children may be sharing online—and about what kind of information they should share about their own families. Here are some guidelines for safety:

- Pick a strong password. Don't use common words or significant dates in your life. Create a password that's a mix of letters—both capital and lowercase—and numbers so it can't be guessed easily.
- Don't give your birth date: Leaving your full birth date – month, day, and year—can give hackers and identity thieves an avenue to more confidential information. Share just the day and month or no birthday at all.
- Use privacy controls. Limit what's available on your profile so strangers don't have complete access to everything you post online.
- Vacations. Don't announce ahead of time that you're going to be out of town. You don't want to advertise that your home will be empty.
- A study of more than 32 million exposed passwords (conducted by Internet security firm Imperva) revealed the 10 most common.
- 12345, 123456, 1234567, 12345678, 123456789, Password, iloveyou, rockyou, princess, abc123.

Above article was taken from Cut&Paste by the Master Teacher

Attendance Makes a Difference

Teachers can't teach students who aren't in school. And there is strong evidence that regular school attendance can result in significant test- score gains. So remember:

- Make sure your child is in school every day.
- Don't allow your child to be tardy.

(If a student is 10 minutes late every day he/she will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year.)

- Try not to schedule medical appointments during school hours.
- Don't take your child out of school for a family trip or activity.

Good Health = Good Test Scores

Getting ready for a big exam requires more than just studying. Your child must be physically fit, too. So don't forget the following as your child prepares for big exams:

- Breakfast. Get your child in the habit of taking time for a nutritious breakfast every day. Even toast and a piece of fruit will provide body and brain energy.
- Get your child into a regular sleep routine. Then stick to it! Most children need at least nine to ten hours of sleep each night.
- Exercise. Encourage your child to exercise every day. Exercise increases oxygen to the brain and helps with thinking and memory.

Second Step at Alcott School

Second Step is a classroom-based social skills program that continues to be implemented at Alcott Elementary School. Researchers have determined that this program has the most impact on children when school and home are in partnership with using the strategies developed by the Second Step Program. The Second Step Program at Alcott School is designed to reduce impulsive, high-risk, and aggressive behaviors; and increase children's social-emotional competence and other protective factors. Second Step is implemented by all classroom teachers at Alcott, from preschool to grade five throughout the year. The Second Step Program is successive, as all students learn new skills and strategies each school year.

Group discussion, modeling, coaching, and practice are used to increase students' social competence, risk assessment, decision-making ability, self-regulation, and positive goal setting. The program's lesson content varies by grade level and is organized into three skill-building units covering:

- Empathy: teaches young people to identify and understand their own emotions and those of others
- Impulse control and problem solving: helps young people choose positive goals; reduce impulsiveness; and evaluate consequences of their behavior in terms of safety, fairness, and impact on others
- Anger management: enables young people to manage emotional reactions and engage in decision-making when they are highly aroused

There is a video-based Family Guide, available at Alcott School, which helps create a positive relationship between home and school, encourages family support of Alcott School's violence prevention efforts, and teaches parents the very same Second Step skills their children are learning. Skills in empathy, impulse control, problem solving, and anger management are taught in the Family Guide video to help families practice and reinforce these skills at home. Please contact Tony Cianchetti, School Social Worker at Alcott School, to borrow the video. There are two videos available.

WHAT is Bullying?

Bullying is another name for harassment. (A persistent and deliberate act.) It can take many forms, such as pushing, kicking, hitting and threatening. It can include name-calling, humiliation, sarcasm and spreading rumors in person or through cyber-bullying (over the Internet).

Bullying can have serious, long-term emotional effects. It is not simply "kids being kids." Bullying affects all aspects of children's lives, including their ability to learn.

Both boys and girls bully, usually same-sex classmates. Boys often use physical force, threats and ridicule. Girls often use more subtle ways such as spreading rumors or excluding other.

March 30, 2010

**WOLCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROFESSIONAL DAY
DISMISSAL WILL BE AT 12 NOON**

District Choral Concert – WHS – 7 PM

***How to help your school by saving or joining the following
merchants:***

- *General Mills - Box Tops for Schools*
- *Campbell Soup – Labels*
- *Ink/Cell Phone/Old Video Games/DVD Movies recycled*
- *Shop-Rite Education Points*
- *Target Education Points visit website Target.com/tocoe*