

ALCOTT NEWS NOTES

February 2010

February Dates:

Feb. 1 Town Meeting 9:10-9:20
Feb. 2 Groundhog Day
Feb. 3 PTO Meeting 6:30
Feb. 8 BOE Mtg. WHS 7:30
Boy Scouts' Day
Feb. 10 After School Band Practice
Feb. 15 – 21 Winter Recess
No School
Feb. 23 R.I.E.B. Game Nite - TMS
Feb. 24 After School Band Practice

March Dates:

CMT MONTH

Mar. 1 BOE Meeting 7:30
Mar. 2 PTO Meeting
Mar. 4 D.A.R.E. Graduation
Mar. 5 Wolcott Education
Foundation Auction/Dinner
Mar. 8 BOE Mtg. WHS 7:30
Mar. 9 3rd Grade Fitness Night
Mar. 19 Town Meeting 2:30
Mar. 23 Report Cards go Home
Mar. 26 Early Bird-Townwide Book
Swap at WHS – 4-6 PM
Mar. 27 Duck Race
Townwide Book Swap-
WHS -10AM – 1PM
Mar. 29 BOE Mtg. WHS 7:30
Band Rehearsal WHS
Mar. 30 TIMMS TESTING Gr. 4
Mar. 31 Noon Dismissal for Students
District Band Concert-WHS

April Dates:

Apr. 2 Good Friday – No School
Apr. 5-11 Spring Recess – No School
Apr. 14 PTO Meeting 6:30
Apr. 17 Rain date Duck Race
Apr. 26-30 PTO BYGO Book Fair

May Dates:

May 3-7 NASPE WEEK
May 5 All Children Exercise Day
May 13 Evening with the Stars
May 28 Field Day – Peterson Park
May 31 Memorial Day -No School

March 31, 2010

**WOLCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROFESSIONAL DAY**

DISMISSAL WILL BE AT 12 NOON

FLOWER SALE FOR HAITIAN RELIEF FUND

The Student Senate will sponsor a Valentine Flower Sale on February 11 and possibly on 2/12 depending on how flower supplies last.

Red, Pink, and White Carnations will be available for \$2.00 a stem.

Principal's Corner:

Dear Parents,

The Connecticut Mastery Tests for grades 3, 4, and 5 are approaching in March, beginning the week of March 1st, we can use all the instruction and practice which the calendar will allow us. You are advised to please not schedule any activities which will require third, fourth or fifth graders to be out of school from March 1st until March 31st.

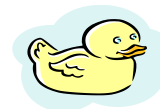
As always, I admire your support in your child's education and thank all the parents who help during the CMT Testing time by:

- Making sure child gets enough sleep
- Making sure child attends school
- Helping with the small breakfast before Testing.

To my 3, 4, and 5 graders, I am confident that you all will do your very best on the CMTS. Don't forget the raffle!

P.T.O. NEWS

Watch for meeting dates regarding the 4TH Annual Duck Race



SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Kindergarten Pre-Registration for the 2010-2011 School Year

If you have a child who will be five (5) years old on or before January 1, 2011, you are requested to contact the Office of the Superintendent of Schools at 879-8183 in the month of January. The child's: name, address, age, and date of birth will be taken over the phone. Information will be mailed to your home in February. Early pre-registration is greatly appreciated in order for us to plan and budget appropriately. Thank you for your cooperation.

<i>How to help your school by saving or joining the following <u>merchants</u>:</i>	<i>Board of Education Meetings Wolcott High School Resource Room 7:30 PM</i>	<u>Identification and Notification</u>
<p><i>General Mills - Box Tops for Schools</i></p> <p><i>Campbell Soup - Labels</i></p> <p><i>Ronald McDonald House - Tabs -Soda cans, soup cans, etc.</i></p>	<p>February 8</p> <p>March 1</p> <p>March 29</p> <p>April 19</p> <p>May 10</p> <p>May 24</p> <p>June 14</p> <p>June 28</p>	<p>The Wolcott Board of education is seeking to identify and notify the parents or legal guardians of Children who may be in need of American with Disabilities Act Section 504 services.</p>
<p><i>Ink/Cell Phone/Old Video Games and DVD Movies recycled</i></p> <p><i>Shop-Rite Education Points</i></p> <p><i>Target Education Points visit website</i></p> <p><i>Target.com/tocoe</i></p>	<p align="center"><i>Alcott PTO Meetings Library 6:30 PM</i></p> <p>February 3</p> <p>March 2</p> <p>April 14</p> <p>May 18</p>	<p>The purpose of the act is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. If you have a child with a handicap that substantially limits one or more major life activities and who is not currently identified, please contact your building principal or Mr. Richard Dorval, District ADA 504 Coordinator at (203) 879-8146 ext. 203.</p>

Promotion Retention Reminder

A student may fail no more than one academic subject area and no more than one enrichment area. Also, the student's attendance must be in compliance with the Wolcott Board of Education's policy of no more than fifteen days absent. A student who fails the required major subjects or enrichments, will be granted credit only if the student receives a passing grade in the subject failed at summer school or works with a tutor approved by the principal and paid for by the parent/guardian. Throughout the academic year, parents/guardians will receive progress reports and report cards, as well as participate in parent-teacher conferences. The due process procedures concerning the retention of a student shall involve consultation with the student, parent/ guardian, administrators, faculty, and staff before a decision is made; however, the final decision as to the retention resides with the principal.

Another Step Forward for Alcott's 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. 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. In conjunction with the Second Step curriculum, many teachers at Alcott have been implementing the Impulse Control component thus far.

Managing emotions can be challenging. Most children could benefit learning to slow down and think through options when faced with difficult situations or problems. Asking and answering the questions "How does my body feel?" and "Do I need to calm down?" helps children recognize strong emotions and the need to be calm when trying to solve a problem.

Instructed by teachers, the Second Step curriculum has assisted many students to develop various ways to calm down, including:

- Taking deep breaths
- Counting
- Thinking nice, calming thoughts
- Talking to yourself
- Doing something quiet by yourself
- Getting support from an adult

Calming down from strong emotions and controlling our first impulses are big parts of the Second Step program and they can be hard to do at first. That is why promoting and practicing such strategies to our students at home are important as well.

CRITERIA FOR RETENTION

Elementary Schools use a combination of the following criteria to determine retention candidates. Parents will be notified in February by letter of any potential student retention candidates. It is recommended that parents contact the principal and class teacher to discuss the recommendation upon receipt of the notification. A final decision will be made by the last week in May.

Data Sources:

1. Report card information
2. Current reading assessment
3. Writing samples
4. Current math assessments
5. CMT Results
6. Results of Light's Scale
7. Academic History

Standards:

- Experiencing difficulty in more than 30% of areas indicated by report card.
- Greater than one year below grade level common to grade levels
- Below district exemplars
- Below passing average common to grade levels
- Level 1 or 2
- Total score – good to excellent range for retention
- Other information supporting retention such as high absence, behavior, developmental delay

Summer Work for Promotion Credit – Required for CMT Level 1 Students

It is the policy of the Wolcott Board of Education that students identified in grade 4,6, and 8 at Level One (Intervention Level) in Language Arts and/or Mathematics on the CMT Test Scores must take part in either:

- a. The Wolcott Summer Studies Program CMT skills offering; or
- b. The completion of an agreed upon portfolio of activities to be determined by local administration.

In the event that a student does not adhere to this policy, he/she will be considered for retention.



**Wolcott Schools
Music
Department
Presents:**

**Wednesday,
March 31st**



A district-wide instrumental music concert at 7 PM at Wolcott High Auditorium. The concert will include various performing groups consisting of students in 5th grade (second year band only) through 12th grade.

Free tickets will be distributed to all participants.

Honoring Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

Presidents Day is a time to honor all those who have served as President of the United States. They were great men, one and all. However, on this day we are more likely to recall the best known of our presidents: George Washington, the Father of Our Country, and Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator.

Washington never imagined himself leading the new country which he and his Continental Army had fought to preserve. After the war, he wanted to spend his life on his estate at Mount Vernon. However, after the Constitution was ratified, Washington was unanimously elected president, then reelected for a second term. By the time he left office, the U.S. financial system was well established and treaties with Spain had enlarged U.S. Territory.

Possibly the most widely quoted of all presidents Abraham Lincoln had a way of getting to the truth and stating it simply. When he said, "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong," people believed him. His signing of the Emancipation Proclamation eliminated slavery in the U.S. and set a new social standard for the country. A peacemaker and a collaborator, Lincoln had a talent for bringing people together. In 1862, he said, "We can succeed only by concert." His belief that the country had to be held together was instrumental in the United States becoming one of the most powerful countries in the world.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Wolcott Public School system is currently accepting applications for both 3 and 4 year old pre-school programs. However, at this time 4 year olds are being put on a wait list, as we do not have any openings currently.

Please call Student Services at 203-879-8178 for an application.

All applications are due by March 1, 2010.

The Roots of Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day, February 2nd, is the day when the famed groundhog comes out of his hole after a long winter's sleep to look for his shadow. If the groundhog sees his shadow, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and without shadow, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.

The legend of the groundhog traverses centuries, its origins clouded in the mists of time. Myths such as this tie our present to the distant past when nature and weather had a more direct influence on our lives. The groundhog tradition stems from similar beliefs associated with Candlemas Day. The custom of early Christians in Europe was to have the clergy bless candles and distribute them to the people. Even then, it marked a milestone in the winter and stressed the importance of weather.

The Germans recited:

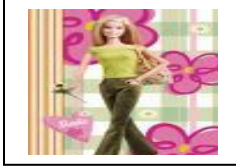
*For as the sun shines on Candlemas Day,
So far will the snow swirl until the May.*

This German passage may be the one most closely represented by the first Punxsutawney Groundhog Day observances, because there were references to the length of shadows in early Groundhog Day predictions.

The ancient Candlemas legend and similar beliefs continue to be recognized annually on February 2nd due to the efforts of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club. Record crowds numbering as high as 30,000 have visited Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA! For more information, visit: www.groundhog.org.

Article courtesy Bill Anderson, www.groundhog.org, used with permission.

TOY COLLECTION FOR HAITI



The Wolcott Leo's Club is collecting toys such as Matchbox Cars, Barbie dolls, and Beanie Babies to send over to Haiti. Please feel free to bring in these toys if you have any.

NOTE: THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE NEW

COLLECTION DATES: Tues. Feb. 2nd – Fri. Feb. 5th.

Drop off any collections in the collection box located outside of the main office.

THANK YOU!

Radio Stations and TV Channels for Late Openings, Early Dismissals or Closings

WDRC:	AM 1360	FM 102.9
WTIC:	AM 1080	FM 96.5
WWCO:	AM 1240	
WATR:	AM 1320	
WRCH	FM 100.5	

* * * * *

TV CHANNELS:

WTNH	8
WVIT	30
WFSB	3

Also check the Wolcott Public Schools' Website:

www.wolcottps.org

PRINCIPAL'S BOARD

Sara Jacobson, Miles Shoban, Bryann Paternostro, Blake Giannamore, Justine Lewicki, Anthony Santos, London Doyle, Ryan Jones, Mia Sanchez, Adrianna ferrucci, Shannon Ryan, Jack Mason, Alex Desaulniers, Shane McKay, Julia Gettings, Madison Rotella, Morgan Janulawiez, Alexandra Arteaga, Timothy Whitney, Isabella Calabrese, Erin Hughes and Alina Marcelynas.

CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING GOOD

ANDREW PAGE

MICHAEL ESPOSITO

Winter Weather Message

In order to ensure the safety of all of our students and staff, we have implemented the following Early Dismissal/Late Entry schedule:

PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS ONLY IF A LATE ENTRY OR AN EARLY DISMISSAL OCCURS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO A SCHEDULED PLANNED EARLY DISMISSAL

Wolcott High School will early dismiss at 12 Noon; late entry time of 9 am
Tyrrell Middle School will early dismiss at 12:35 pm; late entry time of 9:20 am
All Elementary Schools will early dismiss at 1:20pm; late entry time of 10:25am

Children may arrive 30 minutes before each late entry time only!