



Wolcott High School Newsletter

Wolcott High School - 457 Bound Line Road - Wolcott, CT 06716 (203) 879-8164

Dr. Robert E. Eberle, Principal -----

Mr. Walter J. Drewry, Assistant Principal ----- Issue II

Mr. Joseph A. Piacentini, Assistant Principal ----- November, 2011

WHS MISSION STATEMENT: Wolcott High School provides a positive learning environment where students are engaged in meaningful learning for success in the 21st century.

Principal's Message

On Thursday morning, November 10, 2011 all 9th grade students will be taking the EXPLORE test here at Wolcott High School. This is part of the ACT test series. The test will begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at approximately 10:39 a.m. The test has 4 academic components (English, Math, Reading and Science) and 1 interest inventory. The EXPLORE measures students' probable readiness for college-level work by the time they graduate from high school. The information gained from the test results will be used to help students improve their academic readiness for college-level work. In addition, the interest inventory component will provide students valuable information to enhance the career and educational planning process. When available, the test results will be shared with your child during their Comprehensive Guidance lessons. Additional information regarding the ACT EXPLORE will be sent home this week with your child.

As with any standardized testing situation, I ask your assistance to see that your child is fully rested, eats a nutritious breakfast, and comes prepared with two No. 2 pencils. All 9th grade students are required to arrive to school on time and report directly to their testing rooms. Testing will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. Also, remember that all 9th grade students will resume their regular classes at the conclusion of the testing period, so students need to bring appropriate materials.

Please note that all 10th, 11th and 12th grade students will be following a regular school day schedule on November 10, 2011 and need to report to their Period 1 class by 7:30 a.m. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Warm regards,

Dr. Robert Eberle

Wolcott Public Schools Website

The athletic schedule, lunch menus, student handbook, course of studies, etc. can be found on the Wolcott Public School's website www.wolcottps.org.

Save the Date

November

Nov. 3	Rachel's Challenge pasta dinner fundraiser 5:30-7:30 WHS Parent Music Assoc
Nov. 6	PAC Applebee's Fundraiser Plainville 8:00 am to 10:00 am
Nov. 7	Rachel's Challenge 6:30pm
Nov. 8	No school-Election Day
Nov. 10	EXPLORE testing Grade 9
Nov. 11	No school-Veteran's Day
Nov. 14	Last Day-First Marking Period
Nov. 15	Sophomore Class Ring Parent Night Board of Ed Meeting PAC Meeting
Nov 16-18	Sophomore Class Ring Sale
Nov. 18	Student Council Powder Puff 6:30 pm \$5.00 admission
Nov. 23	Half day
Nov. 24-25	No school-Thanksgiving Break

December

Dec. 1	Fall Sports Banquet
Dec. 3	Fall Play "Arsenic & Lace" 7:30pm
Dec. 4	Fall Play "Arsenic & Lace" 5:00pm
Dec. 6	PAC Wendy's Fundraiser 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Dec. 13	NHS Holiday party in RC
Dec. 15	Music Holiday Concert
Dec. 23	Half day Winter Break
Dec. 26-30	No School Winter Break



Rachel's Challenge coming to Wolcott High School

Wolcott High School's *STAR* club, *Students for Tolerance, Acceptance and Respect*, is promoting a school-wide initiative, entitled, *Rachel's Challenge*. Designed to foster a positive school climate, *Rachel's Challenge* is a program that spreads the ideas of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the 1999 Columbine High School shootings. It focuses on the five challenges that Rachel believed would create a positive climate:

- 1- Choose positive influences
- 2- Look for the best in others
- 3- Eliminate prejudices
- 4- Speak with kindness
- 5- Start a chain reaction

The program will take place on Monday November 7th which will include an in-school assembly where everyone is asked to accept the challenge, a follow-up training session for selected students and teachers that creates a "F.O.R.- Friends of Rachel" club to continue to improve the environment at Wolcott High School, and an evening event at 6:30pm in the WHS auditorium for the entire community to ensure the kind spirit generated will also exist at home and in their everyday lives. Support from the Wolcott community will enable Wolcott High School to join other schools

across the nation in participating in one of the most life- changing school programs in America- with the overall goal being to “inspire the heart, instruct the head, and activate the hands of students.”

Please come show your support and join us on Thursday, **November 3rd** for a pasta dinner. The dinner will be held from 5:30 to 7:30pm in the Wolcott High School cafeteria in order to raise funds for the program. Tickets will be \$5 for students and \$8 for adults. The program is being sponsored by the Wolcott Education Foundation, HB Communications Inc., the Wolcott Athletics Program, the Wolcott High School Culinary Program, Walsh’s IGA, Pat’s IGA, Party Plus, Herb’s Sports, Mr. James Pape and Mr. Joseph Monroe.

Wolcott High School Counseling Corner

The School Counseling Department has been busy with a variety of student activities. Counselors have been meeting with their seniors who are getting ready to complete college applications. All seniors developed a Common App. account with the help of the counseling department. Therefore, students were off and running completing their applications, gathering letters of recommendation, working on essay’s, preparing for the SAT’s, and, much more. Parents feel free to contact your child’s school counselor with any of your questions. This can be an overwhelming task and the department is there to help.

On October 25th we had our yearly College Process session with parents and students. The event was well attended with approximately 80 participants. Parents received loads of information about tackling the college search process and financial aid. The school counseling department was happy to pass their expertise on to parents and students. If you missed the presentation, you can view the power point on our counseling department site under the Power Point heading <http://www.wolcottps.org/schools/highschool/SchoolCounselingInformation.htm>. You can also contact our guest speaker, Holly Franquet from The College Place ECMC Foundation www.ecmcfoundation.org with any financial aid, FAFSA, or college funding questions that you may have by email at hfranquet@ecmc.org or 1-866-326-2827 (toll free).

Also, all of our sophomores and juniors took the PSAT’s on October 12th. As soon as results come in, the school counseling department will help students understand their results and what they can do to improve academically. We want our students to be prepared for the SAT’s and ACT’s, therefore taking the PSAT’s is a great start. Parents will be notified when results arrive.

In addition to helping students and parents with the college process, the school counseling department has been in classrooms setting up our 9th graders with their Naviance accounts. Naviance is wonderful computer program that our district has purchased to help students navigate their high school career in an efficient manner. Parents will receive details about this program this school year. In the meantime, if parents have questions and are curious about the program, just ask your child. All students in grades 9-12 have an account, and most use it often <http://connection.naviance.com/wolcott> . Parents can learn interesting facts about their child’s interests by working with them on their Naviance portfolio. We have also added links on the student’s Naviance home page to register for and send scores for SATs and ACTs, Common App, the WHS Counseling Webpage, NCAA, and etc. A listing of scholarships is also available under the Naviance colleges tab as well as the school counseling web site. If students don’t have time to check the scholarship board in guidance they can check the scholarship list through their Naviance account in the comfort of home. It’s a great tool!

To sum, we would like to post important dates of upcoming tests. You can also go to <http://www.wolcottps.org/schools/highschool/guidance.aspx> to visit our school counseling

webpage directly to access lots of information that help you as parents stay on track. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nov. 1, 2011: ASVAB test for those interested in the military-(to be rescheduled)

Nov. 1, 2011: Junior class-Making your college and career search count presentation-(to be rescheduled)

Nov. 10, 2011 EXPLORE testing for all 9th graders

Sincerely,
Giovanna Ramos, MS
Director of School Counseling
Wolcott High School

College Admission Tests-SAT and ACT

Most colleges accept scores from either the SAT or ACT. Most students begin taking the tests in their junior year and can take the test as many times as they like. The SAT is an aptitude test, testing reasoning and verbal abilities while the ACT is an achievement test measuring what a student has learned in school. In addition, the ACT is scored based on the number of correct answers with no penalty for guessing while the SAT takes off for incorrect answers. The SAT has a mandatory writing test. ACT writing portion is optional; however, most colleges require the writing portion.

Test dates are listed along with registration deadlines in student planners or you can go directly to the test web site below:

To register for the SAT go to www.sat.collegeboard/register.

- The **March 10th SAT** will be offered at Wolcott High school.

To register for the ACT go to www.actstudent.org.

- The **February 11th ACT** will be offered at Wolcott High School.

Test Prep

Students have access to free test prep on their high school Naviance account at www.connection.naviance.com/Wolcott , www.sat.collegeboard.com/practice and www.actstudent.org.

For more useful information, sites and checklists, visit the Wolcott High School Counseling Department site, <http://www.wolcottps.org/schools/highschool/SchoolCounselingInformation.htm> .

Wolcott High School Student Theater *Presents* *“Arsenic and Old Lace”*

Wolcott High School Student Theater is excited to announce that there will be a fall production of “Arsenic and Old Lace” on December 3rd at 7:30 and on December 4th at 5pm at Wolcott High School. The play will be student produced and headed up by the six members of the International Thespian Society. Jasmine Chabot will be our student director, Connor Evelich will be the student

technical director, Katherine Rosner will be stage managing, Janine Sirois will be costume designing and mastering props, and Alexa Farrell is in charge of fundraising and publicity. We hope everyone will come out to see our fabulous cast members in this wonderful production. This production is a famous comedy that takes place in the home of two elderly women, Abby and Martha Brewster. Abby and Martha are charitable women who give back to their community and are known for their kindness and generosity. However, they have some secrets of their own! Please join us to find out what adventures are happening in the Brewster home! On stage we will be featuring several student actors including Gabrielle Chabot as Abby Brewster, Emily Waddington as Martha Brewster, Connor Evelich as Mortimer Brewster, Leah Ciccone as Elaine Harper, CJ Bergamo as Teddy Brewster, Tom Bergamo as Jonathan Brewster, Eric Dunn as Dr. Einstein, Eric Lindsay as Dr. Harper, Ben Jaffy as Mr. Gibbs, Tom Lourenco as Lieutenant Rooney, Mike Mancini as Officer Klien, Joshua Green as Officer O'Hara, and Peter Morgan as Mr. Witherspoon.

We would also like to thank all of the parents and volunteers who are spending time to make this project possible!

Please come out to support this wonderful comedy!

Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens. Please contact Laura Solocius at 203-879-8164 ext. 21 for ticket information or visit www.wolcottps.org or www.whpma.org for printable ticket forms.

Wolcott High School Class of 2012 Senior Yearbook

PLEASE HELP WITH PHOTOS!!!!!!

- **PARENTS:** Please send in any photos you might have of your senior from their years at Wolcott High School. The yearbook committee is looking for pictures from their freshman, sophomore and junior years. Photos with classmates, friends, sports photos, Victory Dance, Spirit Week, Pep Rally, Junior Prom, Chorus, Band, Showtime, Class Play, etc...we are also looking for "then and now" photos of friendships that began at a young age and the friendship has lasted through to Senior Year. Please either email your photos to pwelton@wolcottps.org or mail or drop them off to Patti Welton; 154 Center St; Wolcott, Ct. 06716. I will scan the photos for you and return them to you.
- Give the yearbook as a Christmas gift to your graduating senior!!!! The cost of the Senior Yearbook is \$90. We are offering a 5% discount for any yearbook **paid in full by December 15th**. If payment is received by Dec 15th, we will provide a coupon to you in a gift bag to present as a gift to your senior for the holidays!!

***Note:** Our goal is to make sure each and every senior receives a yearbook. If your family is enduring a hardship at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance. Please know these notices will be kept **confidential**. I can be reached at pwelton@wolcottps.org or the mailing address is Patti Welton; 154 Center St; Wolcott, Ct. 06716*

Attention Wolcott Business Owners:

The 2012 Wolcott High School Yearbook Committee is requesting a small donation from you to help offset the costs of the yearbook publishing as well as provide support to any senior whose family is experiencing a financial hardship. In these tough economic times, we are attempting to reduce the cost of the purchase of the yearbook in order to assure each and every senior is able to leave

Wolcott High School with the fond memories that a yearbook can capture. It is such an important piece of memorabilia and is something they will have their entire lives to reflect on.

In return for your donation, your company name and address will be printed on a yearbook page as the proud sponsor of the Wolcott High School Class of 2012 Yearbook. Please contact Patti Welton at pwelton@wolcottps.org or by mail: *Patti Welton; 154 Center St; Wolcott, Ct. 06716.*

Thank you so much in advance for your support...

Wolcott High School Peer Helpers Update



By: Co-President Emily Reed

The Peer Helpers at Wolcott High School tutor and mentor students of WHS and look for opportunities to volunteer in our community. This year, we have grown to 54 Peer Helpers made up of Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. So far, we have volunteered at the 8th Grade Curriculum Night, the WHS Open House, and One Clean Day of Fun. We also visited Wakelee School to talk to the 1st graders about "Halloween Safety". The week of October 24th - October 28th was Red Ribbon Week, which is dedicated to raising awareness about the harmful effects of drugs and promoting a drug-free lifestyle. During this week, the Peer Helpers sold red bricks in the cafeteria to support a drug-free lifestyle, the class that raised the most money will earn an ice social. Co-President Carlee Stabile, organized this very successful week and, in addition, organized a volleyball tournament "Bump Set Hit, Drugs Are Not It!" which took place on Wednesday October 26th. Finally, as a team building activity, we went to a ROPES program in Bristol this past month. As always we will continue to provide help for any peers in need, we will promote positive messages, and we will look for opportunities to volunteer in our community.

Happy winter,
Emily Reed, Peer Helpers Co-President

Wolcott High School Student Newspaper

Check out our own Student Newspaper the Eaglet, also on the Wolcott Public School's website <http://www.wolcottps.org/schools/highschool/Eaglet%20October%202011.pdf>. A new issue will be posted approximately every six weeks.

Our Very Own "Homecoming" in Wolcott



Private First Class Joseph Milton of the 82nd airborne platoon stationed in Iraq, returned to Wolcott on October 6th to surprise his family who had not seen him in 4 months. He did not tell any of his family that he was coming home.

First he went to the home of Fred and Helen Milton who were both shocked to see their grandson. Next, he arrived at Wolcott High School to surprise his siblings. First, he went to his sister's classroom. Maggie Milton was in complete shock when he walked in. All she could do was collapse on her desk and cry. Next he went to his brother, Mike Milton Jr.'s classroom who was also shocked and trembling as he got up and gave his brother a long overdue hug. Mrs. Divirgilio and the class were in shock as well. The teacher could not fight back the tears. The group then moved on to surprise both parents at work. His father's mouth dropped in awe when he saw his son. His aunt and uncle Fred and Karen Milton of the River Restaurant helped the entire family fill their appetites. The Family was "reunited and it felt so good". It's amazing that something like this could happen in our small town of Wolcott.

Joseph has since returned to Iraq and our well wished are with him. During the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives we sometimes forget about our courageous military and the sacrifices that they and their families give. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers this holiday season and take a few minutes to think about all the things in life that we sometimes take for granted. We all have so much to be thankful for!

WHS Attendance Policies-Tardy

Students Tardy to School

WHS hours for students are 7:30 a.m. to 1:54 p.m. When a student comes in to school tardy due to a legitimate appointment that could not be made **after** school hours, the student must arrive with the official note from the office he/she visited that morning. Without the official note the tardy is considered unexcused.

As stated in the WHS Student Handbook: *"Students will receive disciplinary action for every tardy that follows the third (3rd) tardy, regardless if a parent calls in or if a parent note is sent to school."*

Parents may excuse **only** 3 tardies for the year before disciplinary action may take place. Students arriving tardy must report to the Attendance Office to check in and be given a pass to class. Students purposely bypassing the Attendance Office will be referred for disciplinary action. Students should always enter the building through the main lobby doors.

To report a student's absence or tardy

Please call the Attendance line at ext. 14, not the Nurse or Guidance office, to report a student's absence or tardy.

Please clearly state:

- The student's name
- Your name and relationship
- The **reason** - Any call with no reason given will be considered unexcused.

Please be confident in leaving a message at ext. 14; the attendance line is checked continuously throughout the day.

Wolcott High School Nursing Assistant Program

The Wolcott High School Nursing Assistant Program is entering another successful year. This class is offered to male and female students who are in their junior or senior year. The students have *hands on experience* during their clinical phase of the program at a local nursing home and hospital. Upon successful completion of class, clinical, and the state exam they will become a Certified *Nursing Assistant (CNA)*.

This experience of patient care, medical terminology, and clinical is beneficial to anyone interested in the medical field. The students are also involved with *community service*. We have participated in the Touch-A-Truck, blood mobiles, Multiple Sclerosis Walk, Toys for Tots and Teens, Winter Wonderland, Recycling and many more.

The Nursing Assistant Program is *a great stepping stone* for any medical field such as nursing, physician assistant, medical transcriptionist, medical secretary, physical or occupational therapy, just to mention a few.

It also looks great on a college application.

If anyone is interested in the program or has any questions please contact Ms. Lofgren MSN, RN at Wolcott High School 203-879-8164 or clofgren@wolcottps.org.

Parent Action Council (PAC)

PAC is a vital link between the school, community and the parents it serves. Thus, parents are urged to join and take an active part in the PAC.

PAC meetings are held in the Resource Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. Meeting dates for the school year are:

- September 13th
- October 11th
- **November 15th**
- December (No Meeting)
- January 10th

- February 14th
- March 13th
- April 17th
- May 8th
- June 7th



**You're invited to an Applebee's®
Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser to support
Wolcott High School Parent Action Council**

\$5.00 per person

**WHEN: Sunday, November 6, 2011
8:00a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**

**WHERE: Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar 270 New
Britain Avenue Plainville, CT 06062**

Bring your appetite for a fantastic pancake breakfast being prepared by Applebee's staff but being served by Wolcott PAC parents.

For more information please contact WHSPAC@aol.com

Order Form Below

Name: _____

Number of Tickets: _____ X \$5.00 _____

Mail order form and check made out to Wolcott PAC:

Wolcott Pac C/O Joyce Becker, 25 Mohawk Drive, Wolcott, CT 06716

PAC December Fundraiser

WHS PAC

FUNDRAISER

DECEMBER 6, 2011

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

WENDY'S

910 WOLCOTT STREET
WATERBURY, CT 06705

COME JOIN US FOR DINNER
THE PAC WILL GET 20% OF ALL SALES

Community Service Club: Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program:

From October 6, 2011 through March 29, 2012 WHS will have the opportunity to earn cash through the *Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program*. All proceeds will be used for WHS's educational needs.

To participate, all you have to do is register your Stop & Shop card by doing one of the following:

- ▶ Register card online: www.stopandshop.com/aplus or
- ▶ Register card over the phone: 1-877-275-2758 or
- ▶ Register card with a WHS Community Service Club volunteer



Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ School Rewards. Starting October 6, 2011 through March 29, 2012, Wolcott High School will have the opportunity to earn cash through Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards Program.

All you have to do is:

Log on to www.stopandshop.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

OR

Sign up with a Community Service Club volunteer

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Stop & Shop using your Stop & Shop Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Stop & Shop website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at www.stopandshop.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support.

Please be sure to register your card to benefit Wolcott High School using ID # **05805**

Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same.

It could mean the world to our children.

Athletic Postponement Information

There are two ways to find out about athletic postponements:

1. Go the school's web-site. www.wolcottps.org , under athletics. Cancellations are made at 1pm each day.
Or
2. Go to <http://www.casciac.org/scheduleupdates.shtml> . You will need to create a new account if you don't already have one.

This list allows people to request updates on schedule changes, postponements and cancellations for regular season contests of member schools. You can customize your subscription to only receive information on the schools and/or sports that interest you.

IMPORTANT -- If you choose to use one of the services that sends a verification request to each sender, we advise you to add the following email addresses to your acceptable list as we cannot respond to each verification request we get. To be sure you receive the updates you are requesting, add the addresses schedule_updates@casciac.org and score_updates@casciac.org to your spam-blocking program's white list or allowed senders list. You may also wish to add these addresses to your e-mail program's address book, to assure that update messages are not incorrectly filtered as junk or bulk mail.

Late Bus

Late busses are provided for students who remain after school for extra-curricular activities, receive extra academic help, or to serve detentions. **There is no longer a 3:30 late bus.** There is only a 4:00 late bus. The bus will pick students up in front of the main entrance. **All students are required to have a pass signed by an advisor, teacher, or monitor to ride the late bus.** **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** All bus conduct rules apply.

Driver's Education

All-Star Driver offers Driver's Education classes at Wolcott High School. Sessions will be offered beginning November 28th. All classes meet Monday & Wednesday OR Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15pm - 4:15 pm. For more information or to enroll go to www.all-stardriver.com/wolcotths or call (800) 732-8090.

Happy Thanksgiving!

