



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 I

Mr. Joseph A. Piacentini, Assistant Principal ----- October, 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

At this point we are already halfway through the first marking period. Please remember that successful academic achievement is a team effort that requires parents/guardians to take an active role in their child's learning. With that in mind, I am pleased to announce that members of the Class of 2012, Connor Evelich, Kimberly Stankus, and Kyle Twarog have been named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program and were presented with a Letter of Commendation. Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, commended students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Congratulations!

On Wednesday morning, Oct 12, 2011 all 10th and 11th grade students will be taking the PSAT here at Wolcott High School. This is a very rigorous test. Therefore, 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 students are required to arrive to school on time and report to their homerooms. Testing will begin promptly at 7:30 a.m. Please note that the test does ask your child for their social security number, but it is optional. Also, remember that regular classes will be held at the conclusion of the testing period, so students need to bring appropriate materials.

Warm regards,

Dr. Robert Eberle

Notification of 504

The Wolcott Board of Education is seeking to identify and notify the parents or legal guardians of children who may be in need of the American with Disabilities Act, Section 504 services. 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. Walter Drewry, District ADA 504 Coordinator, at Wolcott High School – (203) 879-8164.

Save the Date

October

Oct. 6	WHS Parent Music Assoc
Oct. 10	No school-Columbus day
Oct. 11	Board of Ed Meeting PAC Meeting
Oct. 12	Grade 10 & 11 PSAT
Oct. 14	Night of One Acts 7:00pm
Oct. 24	Student Council Blood Drive Board of Ed Meeting
Oct. 31	Senior Dress-up day

November

Nov. 1	ASVAB
Nov. 3	WHS Parent Music Assoc
Nov. 7	2 nd Marking period begins
Nov. 8	No school-Election Day
Nov. 11	No school-Veteran's Day
Nov. 15	Board of Ed Meeting PAC Meeting
Nov. 18	Student Council Powder Puff 6:30 pm
Nov. 23	Half day
Nov. 24-25	No school-Thanksgiving Break

Late Bus Change

Late buses are provided for students who remain after school for extra-curricular activities, receive extra academic help, or to serve detentions. **There will no longer be a 3:30 late bus.** There will only be 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.

Interim Reports

Interim Reports will no longer be mailed home but will be made available electronically. You can access your child's grades any time during the school year by accessing the PowerSchool parent portal. The parent portal is password protected. Passwords were mailed home to parents a few weeks ago. You can access your child's, attendance, grades and email teachers using the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

The website location is: <https://wps-pschool.wolcottps.org/public>.

Please contact the guidance office if you have any issues accessing your child's information.

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 .

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.aspx>. A new issue will be posted approximately every six weeks.

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.

Driver's Education

All-Star Driver offers Driver's Education classes at Wolcott High School. Sessions will be offered beginning October 25th and 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.

WHS Attendance Policies Regarding Early Dismissals

WHS hours for students are 7:30 a.m. to 1:54 p.m. Early dismissal from school is discouraged. As stated in the WHS Student Handbook, page 18:

"Dismissal may be made only by an administrator or by the school nurse. In the case of illness, the school nurse, after consultation with a parent, shall determine whether a student may be dismissed."

Only if it is **absolutely necessary** for a student to be dismissed for a legitimate reason that cannot be scheduled after school hours, **the procedure is:**

- The student should bring a note to the Attendance Office upon arrival in the morning where they will be given an Early Dismissal Pass.
- Be sure the note gives the correct time and the reason for the dismissal.
- Any legitimate appointment **must** be followed up with an **official** note from the office the student visited to be considered as an excused absence.

This process eliminates unnecessary classroom disruption. Calling into classrooms where instruction is taking place deters from successful learning of students, and is generally discouraged by the administration.

Victoria Russo Represented CT at HOBY World Leadership Congress



Victoria Russo of Wolcott High School proudly represented Connecticut in Chicago, IL at the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) 2011 World Leadership Congress (WLC). This year Marks the 53rd year and brought together 400 high school student leaders representing almost 50 states and 10 countries.

"HOBY's primary purpose is to give high school sophomores the opportunity to discover their leadership potential to become the leaders of tomorrow," said HOBY founder Hugh O'Brian. "We give them a hands-on opportunity to interact with today's top movers and shakers in business, government, education, technology and other professions."

Inspired by a nine-day visit with Dr. Albert Schweitzer, O'Brian founded HOBY in 1958

based on Dr. Schweitzer's comment that the most important thing in education is teaching young people to think for themselves. "Our thrust is to teach them how to think, not what to think, and what the thinking process is," O'Brian added. Today there are more than 365,000 HOBY alumni serving in leadership positions around the world.

Topics during the eight-day World Leadership congress include leadership, international economic conditions, poverty, global volunteerism, social entrepreneurship and goal setting. Speakers included Dr. Trent, Matthew Booth, Steven Harville, Reverend Jesse Jackson and Patty DeDomico. Additionally, all 400 students spent a day in community service with hands-on service projects throughout the city of Chicago.

The selection process for the HOBY WLC begins each fall, when more than 8,000 public and private high schools in the US select outstanding sophomores to attend a HOBY Leadership Seminar in every state in spring. At the local seminars, several students from each state are chosen to represent their states at the nine-day World Leadership Conference.

For more information about Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership and the World Leadership and the World Leadership Congress please visit www.hoby.org. Congratulations Victoria!

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

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> .

PSAT - Sophomores and Juniors

All sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at Wolcott High school. The PSAT is given during the school day and there is no charge to the student. The PSAT provides firsthand practice for the SAT. Please urge your child to take the testing seriously.

The PSAT/NMSQT lets students:

- Get ready for the SAT
- Enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation competitions for recognition and scholarships
- Access personalized college and career planning resources in My College QuickStart
- Request information from colleges and universities
- Assess critical reading, mathematical reasoning and writing skills
- Get specific suggestions on how to improve academic skills

For more information on the PSAT go to www.collegeboard.org .

Wolcott High School Students Commended In the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program

The principal, Dr. Robert E. Eberle, of Wolcott High School announced today that Connor Evelich, Kimberly Stankus, and Kyle Twarog have been named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit

Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, will be presented by the principal to these scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2012 competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

“The young men and women being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”

College Readiness Events at Wolcott High School

College Funding Presentation

The Counseling Department presented “The Ultimate Money Skills: College Funding Presentation” On Thursday September 29th. The free, comprehensive seminar was about preparing financially for college. The College Funding Presentation provided information about completing the FAFSA which included three different family scenarios. There was a great turnout of parents and students. In case you were not able to attend you can find information at www.ultimatemoneyskills.com/collegefunding. The College funding presentation was followed immediately by the College Fair.

College Fair



The Wolcott High School’s 2nd annual College Fair was a huge success with approximately 400 students and parents in attendance. Students were able to gather information and ask questions from a variety of post secondary choices. There were representatives from 120 colleges, universities, technical schools, and the arm forces.

The Counseling Department would like to send sincere thanks to Mr. Gentile, Mr Tutalo, the culinary students, Kyle Twarog, the Peer Helper volunteers, the custodial staff, and Coach Monroe for all of their help which made the college fair such a great success.

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.

Who's Hiring?

Students looking for a job can stop by the Career Center where they will find a board listing "Who's Hiring" in the area. The Career Center is open to all students during their study hall period. There are several computers available for students in the Career Center. Students can come in for tips and advice on job searches, work on all aspects of the college application process (college searches, activity sheets, application, SATs etc.), gather career information and find help with career choices. The Career Center is located right next to guidance.

Nurse's Notes

New Year New Nurse

Mrs. Guinipero is the new school nurse at the high school this year. She has subbed here for four years and knows many of our students already. We would like to welcome her to the high school.

Reminders from the Health office

- All 10th graders must have a physical on file at the nurse's office.
- Students are not allowed to carry medications in school or to school. Parent's must bring in all medications for students.
- If any student has asthma or allergies please make sure all medications and orders are up to date and complete in the health office. If a child can self-carry an order must be on file.
- Vision and hearing screenings are being performed. You will receive notification if a referral is necessary.