WEBSTER HILL CONNECTION

December 8, 2016

Dear Webster Hill Families,

Each December, when I consider a message for the Connection, I can't compete with a favorite I came across many years back. Here it is. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Gifts That Remain

The toy truck may soon be broken and the doll forgotten. Even roses will fade. But certain gifts remain. Given regularly, they brighten the home and add a gracious touch to a family living. Here are several ready to unwrap and spread their joy around:

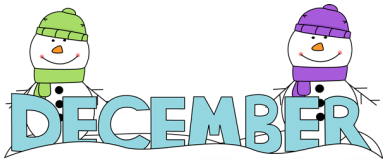
Time: A precious thing, your very own. To take time for each other, to give time, is simply to give yourself. There is no substitute.

Smiles: So inexpensive, yet how they warm the heart. They melt the tiny icicles of doubt and fear and aloneness. The ready smile wraps love around the spirit and seals it snugly. Give smiles whenever and wherever.

Appreciation: A quick thank you, a kind word-both give assurance of being noticed and wanted. Don't let this gift stay locked up. Bring it out often.

Understanding: A gentle, tender gift. Not all of us have it to give in great measure. But wonder of wonders, to give the little you have uncovers a lot.

Jeff



Dates To Remember

Dec. 8	Read in the Gym	8:00-8:30 am	
Dec. 12	Winter Concert Dress Rehearsal		
Dec. 14	Winter Concert	9:30 am	Auditorium
	Mad Science	2:00-3:00	Room 3
	Winter Concert	7:00 pm	Auditorium
Dec. 15	Read in the Gym	8:00-8:30 am	
Dec. 16	Giving Tree Ends		
Dec. 19	PTO Meeting	6:30pm	Media Center
Dec. 21	Mad Science	2:00-3:00 pm	Room 3
Dec. 22	Read in the Gym	8:00-8:30 am	
Dec.26-Jan.2	Holiday Recess	No School	

INCOMING KINDERGARTEN FAMILIES

If you have a child that is eligible to enter Kindergarten in the Fall of 2017 please call the office at (860) 521-0320 as soon as possible so we can add your child's name to our incoming Kindergarten list.

The following students have earned **STRIVE** recognition for the month of November.

Teagan A.	Cole D.	Morgan H.	Narayan G.
Julian P.	Bruce J.	Hayden M.	Nicholas D.
Paige W.	Kassie M.	Nolan R.	Ronan F.
Sophie S.	Maya M.	Bella P.	Aaliyah M.
Lily Z.			

News From Technology Servies: Update on Privacy Law

Public Act 16-189
We believe that it is vital for all students in West Hartford Public Schools to be able to efficiently and effectively use digital tools that empower them in all phases of the learning process, including research, problem solving, content creation, communication, and collaboration. We also believe that we must be committed at all times to protecting students' privacy and providing them with a powerful and safe educational experience. To that end, the West Hartford Public Schools follow the legal requirements of Public Act 16-189 to promote the safety and security of all students and staff.

In compliance with Connecticut State Law, we update online programs used within the district that house student data. The programs may be used district-wide, in a very small number of classrooms, or with individual students. The list will be updated each time the district enters into a new contract where student data is housed. For more information on the specifics of Public Act 16-189 and updates of vendor agreements, visit www.whps.org/pa189.

Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) Class of 2017

Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of West Hartford children by expanding your parental toolbox to include leadership and advocacy skills? Then, we have a great opportunity for you. The Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI) trains, inspires and empowers all parents to become effective advocates for children. To learn more about this dynamic program which begins in January, please contact Sara Barczak at sbarczak@bridgefamilycenter.org or call Charter Oak's Family Resource Center at 860-929-5575. There is no cost to participate in this leadership training program.

Webster Hill Winter Concert
2016 Rehearsal Schedule

Monday, December 12 (4th grade orchestra meets as usual today, even though they are not in this concert)

8:50-9:30	5th Grade Band
9:20-10:30	4th & 5th Grade Choir
10:30-11:00	5th Grade Orchestra

Tuesday, December 13

7:45 am	4th & 5th Grade Choir

Wednesday, December 14 (4th Grade Band is cancelled today. Come to school dressed for concert/Bring change of clothes)

- ❄ 7:45 am — 4th & 5th Grade Choir
- ❄ 8:30 am — Students not in Choir should get a bowtie from Mr. Green.
- ❄ 9:00 am — 5th Grade Band report to Cafeteria
- ❄ 9:10 am — 5th Grade Orchestra report to Cafeteria. Students only in Choir report to auditorium.
- ❄ 9:30 am — Concert

- ❄ 6:15 pm — All Students Report for Concert
- ❄ All Band and Orchestra-Cafeteria; Students **only** in Choir go to Music Rm.
- ❄ **7:00 pm** — **CONCERT** Parents should plan to stay for the whole concert.

Concert Dress White shirt/blouse with collar for bowtie (provided), black pants or skirt, black shoes
Concert Order 5th Grade Orchestra, 5th Grade Band, Choir, Finale

5th Grade Orchestra, 5th Grade Band and Choir will have NO more rehearsals before school until the week of January 16. INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS, HOWEVER, DO CONTINUE AS SCHEDULED!

4th Grade Band and Orchestra continue with before school rehearsals every week.

From the Nurse: When to keep your child home from school

The CDC reports that we are in the peak of flu season, which is now widespread in Connecticut. There have also been more reports of gastric/stomach illnesses locally. This is a good time to review the importance of hand washing, covering coughs, and keeping hands out of mouth with your child.

Stomachache, vomiting, and diarrhea- A child with vomiting and/or diarrhea should be kept at home until symptoms have resolved for at least 24 hours and the child is able to return to a normal diet. If your child has vomited during the evening or night please do not send them to school in the morning even if they appear to be feeling well. Allow them time to rest and return to their typical activity level. Since viruses spread easily throughout the school system, children should remain at home for a minimum of 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or fever to ensure a healthy return to school. Your child should be feeling well in order to maximize the learning experience.

Cold, sore throat, cough- If cold and cough symptoms are associated with fever or they do not readily improve, call your doctor. If the cough is persistent consider that your child may not be able to engage fully in classroom activities. Your child may attend school if there is no fever for at least 24 hours.

Fever- Fever in the school setting is defined as temperature 100 F or greater. Fevers are generally signs of infection. While Tylenol/Motrin may be effective in reducing fever, your child may still be contagious. Even though the fever is temporarily alleviated, it does not address the underlying cause. Your child should be fever free without medication for at least 24 hours before returning back to school.

Returning to school too quickly may prolong your child's illness and allow it to spread to others. Remember to wash hands frequently.

Please remember to **call the school absence line at 860-929-5828** any time if your child is ill. You should call if your child is absent more than one day in a row or if he/she went home ill the previous day. You can leave a message anytime of the day or night.

PLEASE POST THIS BY YOUR PHONE AT HOME & WORK

INCLEMENT WEATHER , SCHOOL CLOSING & DELAYS

The following radio and television stations will carry the necessary information about late openings.

TELEVISION STATIONS:

Channel 3, 30, & Channel 5 Cable Access

INTERNET:

www.whps.org

RADIO STATIONS:

WTIC 1080 AM	WKND 1480 AM
WHCN 105.9 FM	WKSS 95.7 FM
WRCH 100.5 FM	WRYM 840 AM

The West Hartford School District now has the technology to notify each student's household when there is a cancellation or delay due to inclement weather. The phone notification will be in addition to existing online, television, and radio notifications, and the phone call would be issued no later than 6:30 a.m.

REMINDER: Whenever there is a delayed opening, ALL morning activities such as choir, band, etc. are cancelled.

EARLY DISMISSALS: It is very important that you review early dismissal emergency procedures with your child. It is appreciated if you use one or all of the above sources to keep updated on the latest information regarding school delays and closings.

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Supervision on our grounds begins at 8:20 a.m. Please be informed of the latest information regarding delayed openings using the sources above. Thank you for your continued support for the safety of your children.

EMERGENCY EARLY CLOSING

In the event of an emergency early closing, these are the early closing times for **ALL** days of the week.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	**1:00 PM**
Middle School	11:45 am
High School	11:00 am

- Give your children 3 to 5 homes to go to in the neighborhood, in a certain order.
- Show them where an extra house key is kept.
- Remind them to go to the designated neighbor, but then be certain to leave a note for you (on the back door or in the mailbox) as to where they are staying.

REMEMBER:

In the event of an emergency early closing, the Kidslink Extended Day Program will be closed.

We suggest that you walk through a simulation with your children to give them the experience in a non-threatening situation.

OUTDOOR RECESS POLICY

The recess policy dictates that all students will go outside for recess if the temperature is 20 degrees or above. We will factor in the wind chill. Students should be appropriately dressed to spend time outdoors during recess. Warm clothes, gloves, hats and boots are required during the winter months.

Children well enough to come to school should be well enough to be outside during recess. Exceptions for medical reasons may be granted on an individual basis.

In the event of inclement weather, recess will be canceled.

The Family Resource Center presents

Early Learning Playgroup at Webster Hill School

A program for children ages birth through four accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Join us for crafts, stories, songs, snack and fun! No charge to attend.

We meet **Tuesday** mornings from **10:00 am to 11:00 am.**

Winter-Spring 2017 Playgroup

February 7

February 14

March 7

March 14

March 21

March 28

April 4

April 18

*No session 2/21, 2/28 & 4/11

For more information call *Family Resource Center* at 860-929-5575

Early Learning Playgroup at Webster Hill School in West Hartford is funded in part by

The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The Family Resource Center is a program of the **Bridge Family Center**.

Special Notice to ***5th Grade Parents***

Bristow Middle School Enrollment Process

Bristow Middle School will be holding its enrollment for the incoming 6th graders in January. Bristow Middle School is a school of choice, drawing its diverse population from all neighborhoods in West Hartford. In the 2017-2018 school year, Bristow will enroll 420 students in grades 6 through 8.

All 5th graders who reside in West Hartford and are attending West Hartford Public Schools are automatically included in this process. Other 5th graders who reside in West Hartford and attend a private, parochial or inter district magnet school like The University of Hartford Magnet School are also eligible, although they need to apply to be included in the process and verify they reside in West Hartford with our Residency office.

Each 5th grader will receive a number randomly, which will establish the choice order. This number will be mailed home to parents on January 19, 2017. In order to help parents make an informed choice, two informational meetings will be held at Bristow Middle School on Monday, March 6, 2017 and Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:30 pm. Parents can choose to attend either of these meetings as they are both the same. Students are invited to attend these meetings with their parents. **We recommend you attend one regardless of the number your child receives so you are prepared in case we get to your child's number.**

For information about Bristow and full details about how this enrollment process works, please visit the Bristow website at http://bristow.whps.org/. You can also call or email the principal, Steven Cook, at 860-231-2100/ or Steven_Cook@whps.org.

The Foundation for WEST HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Great Holiday Gift For Teachers

The Foundation for the West Hartford Public Schools' *Teacher Thank-You Gift* program is a great way to acknowledge wonderful and talented teachers.

Make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation of $10 or more per teacher. Teachers receive a special card indicating a gift has been made in their honor. These gifts support our Teacher Grant program investing funds back in our schools for various educational programs.

The Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to raising money from the community to invest in our schools. For more information, visit our website at www.fwhps.org, call 860-561-8755 or email us at fwhps@westhartfordct.gov.

Teacher Gift Order Form

Enclosed is my gift of $_____

Parent's Name _____ Student's Name _____

Street Address:_____ City/Zip_____ Phone_____

Email:_____

Teacher's Name(s)_____

School_____

☐ Send certificate to me OR ☐ Send to my teacher

Please make checks ($10 minimum per teacher) payable to Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools and send to 50 S. Main St., Room 420, W. Hartford, CT 06107. Contributions are tax-deductible. **DEADLINE: 12/15/16**

Webster Hill Elementary School

"Giving Tree"

What?	The Giving Tree is co-sponsored by the PTO and Webster Hill School faculty and staff.
When?	Monday December 5, 2016 – Friday December 16, 2016
Why?	Your generosity helps families in our community this holiday season.
Where?	The tree is located in the school lobby.
How?	**Gift** -- Please fill out the permission slip below to grant your child permission to select a snowflake from the tree. The snowflake will list the age of the child in need. Purchase an UNWRAPPED gift for the child and send it to school to be placed under the tree. **Gift Wrap** -- Please send in wrapping paper/gift bag separately with unwrapped gift so that the families can participate in the joy of wrapping the gifts for their children!
	THANK YOU!!!!!
Questions?	Contact Kristen Levesque at k.anderson.levesque@gmail.com

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Permission form – PTO Giving Tree 2016

Student(s) Name:_____Grade: _____

Name of Student(s) Teacher_____

I give my child(ren) permission to participate in the Giving Tree program at Webster Hill Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year.

Parent or Guardian Signature:_____

Parent email address _____

PJ Day and Box Tops Celebration

Wear your pajamas to school Friday, December 9th in support

Of patients at Connecticut Children's Medical Center and another month of meeting our Box Tops Goal!

Friday, December 9th, the kids and staff at Webster Hill School are invited to wear their PJ's to school in honor of children at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Thousands of children each year spend days, weeks or longer in PJ's at CCMC while receiving care there. *PJ Day for the Kids* will help us show our support for these children and their families. Our goal is to raise awareness & funds and to lift spirits!

Please help raise money to benefit kids at Connecticut Children's by making an *optional* donation of $1. Donations will be collected at school on Friday, December 9th.

PJ Day for the Kids is spreading across Connecticut! $84,000 has been raised for Connecticut Children's since 2011!!! It is lot of fun and a great way to join together to help children in our community.

Appropriate attire for school/ weather. No slippers for safety please.

Checks can be made to Connecticut Children's Medical Center Foundation
All proceeds benefit The Division of Hematology and Oncology at
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
To donate online, or for info: www.pjday.kintera.org