



January 7, 2019

Principal's Message

Dear Wolcott Families,

Happy New Year! I hope the last few weeks brought you joy, laughter, and time with cherished family and friends. The New Year provides us with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on 2018 and think about how to make 2019 a great and rewarding one. I wish for you a year of health and happiness.

December was another memorable month at Wolcott School! Our annual Winter Concert was an impressive showcase of not only the musical talent of our young musicians, but also the dedication and energy of our music department. We thank Mr. Luongo and Mr. Rhone for their impressive efforts to support our students in music. In addition, we thank Ms. Pazdersky, who assisted with lessons and rehearsals prior to the concert.

Our Community Resource Officer, Irene Klein, continues to make valuable contributions to our Wolcott community, most recently observed and appreciated in classroom lessons that she conducted in December. Topics included officer recognition, home alone safety, and substance abuse. We continue to appreciate Officer Klein's presence and contributions that help to keep our school a safe, aware, and proactive one.

Our students, families, and staff continue to demonstrate their commitment to others in need. On December 14th, our school community participated in *CT PJ Day for the Kids* to support children who receive medical treatment at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). Thousands of children each year spend days, weeks, or longer into pajamas at the hospital while receiving needed care. The many donations that we collected on that day show support in helping these brave children. We collected \$836.00 for CCMC. We thank everyone who participated, including our Student Council who organized and led the event.

In addition, we appreciated the money raised for our Care to Jump event on December 20th. This event promoted physical fitness, and all of the proceeds were directed to our Caring Schools Committee, which provides support to families in need, such as winter clothing and money to attend field trips. Over \$1300.00 was raised!

In this newsletter, you will find several articles containing important information, including special event dates and times, excerpts from our *Elementary Parent Handbook*, our teaching and learning work on establishing goals to promote student learning, our Buffy's Best initiative to identify and celebrate individual students demonstrating the Wolcott Way.

We welcome you to our next PTO meeting, to be held on Thursday evening, January 17th , from 7:00-8:00 in our library. These monthly meetings are a wonderful way to connect with other families, and to get involved in the fun activities and events that we have at Wolcott. Free childcare for school-aged students is provided in a nearby classroom, supervised by a school employee.

Thank you for the continued partnership that we share in providing your children with a safe, purposeful, and fun learning environment. Happy New Year to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Scott





January 15th (Tuesday)
Board of Education Meeting
7:00
Town Hall (room 314)

January 17th (Thursday)
PTO Meeting
7:00-8:00
Wolcott Library

January 18th (Friday)
Town Meeting Grades 3-5: Fairness
2:30-3:00
Auditorium

January 21st (Monday)
NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 24 (Thursday)
National Compliment Day
All day and everywhere!

January 25th (Friday)
Town Meeting K-Grade 2: Fairness
2:30-3:00
Auditorium

FROM OUR ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK

From page 5:

MAKING UP WORK/HOMEWORK DUE TO EXCUSED ABSENCES

We recommend that for short-term, excused absences (1-3 days) the student obtain assignments from a friend in the class. Books may be picked up in the office or sent home with a neighbor or sibling. For longer, excused absences, parents/guardians are advised to call the office. The assignments and materials will be readied within 24 hours.



ATTENDANCE REMINDER

If your child will be absent or tardy from school, please call our office at (860) 561-2300. If you are routed to our voicemail system, please press 1 to leave a recorded message that includes your child's name and the reason for the absence. This procedure will eliminate inaccurate absence reporting in addition to unnecessary phone calls to your home. Thank you.





We continue to dismiss our students at 2:00 every Wednesday during the entire school year so our teachers may collaborate on professional learning. Thank you for planning for this weekly early release.

Is your child missing a coat, hat, mittens, or other items? **Please visit our Lost and Found area**, located in cafeteria. Unclaimed items are donated once a month to benefit those in need.

Thank you for keeping safety in mind when driving and parking at Wolcott School. Please park only in the designated areas and do not block neighbors' driveways. We appreciate your partnership in providing a safe school community.



EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

Emergency school closings are infrequent; however, if we have an emergency closing due to inclement weather, please note the school closing times below. Such established times will ensure safe and efficient transport of your children on the roads.

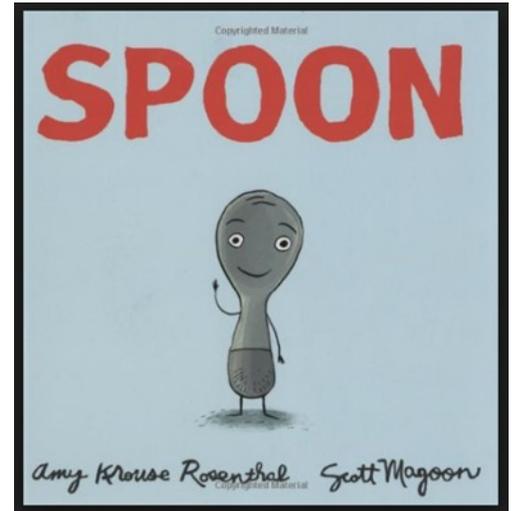
Elementary Schools:	11:45
Middle Schools:	11:00
High Schools:	10:30

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Setting up your Parent Portal account is easy! Instructions for setting up the portal account may be found at www.whps.org/parentportal. By setting it up, you will be able to update your contact information, emergency contacts, and other forms electronically, which will provide more timely and accurate information to Wolcott. Thank you!

PBIS PRACTICES & CHARACTER EDUCATION

At Wolcott School, we continue to focus on character choices to deepen student understanding and promote such character at school and home. This month we focus on **fairness**. Our read-aloud and related classroom lesson emanates around the book *Spoon*, in which the title character becomes jealous of his friends, Knife and Chopsticks, and what they can do that he cannot. Soon, Spoon learns the message of valuing one's own talents. This character choice will be showcased at our Town Meetings this month as well.



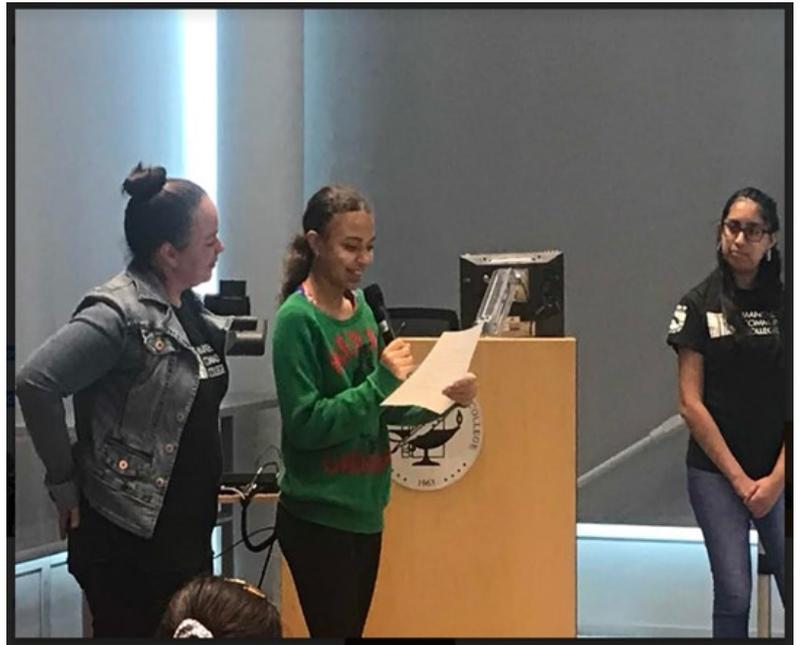
VISIT OUR EAGLE'S NEST

Check out the Eagle's Nest in the main lobby, filled with new and gently-worn clothes for anyone in need. Most recent additions include winter coats, boots, and snow pants! This initiative, created and led by Jenine St. Clair and members of our Caring School Committee, serves to provide clothing for those in need. We have been delighted to see many people shopping!



GRADE 5 STUDENTS THINKING ABOUT THEIR FUTURE

On Friday, November 30, Wolcott School fifth graders spent the day at Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT and Trinity College in Hartford, CT, getting excited about the prospect of college. They learned about the multitude of opportunities available to college students, discovered the difference that a college education can have on their futures, and most important, learned that a college education is



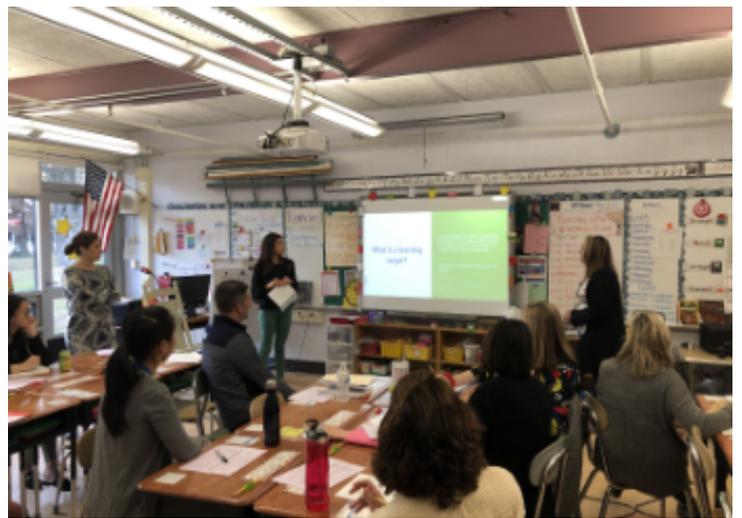
available to all students regardless of their family's finances. Students met with admission officers, professors, and college students. They toured the campuses, and they engaged in activities designed to teach students about college readiness, career options, and getting kids excited about the future. This program was made possible through a grant from the Foundation for West Hartford Public Schools and a generous donation from former Wolcott parents, Kathryn and Stephen Deane.



ESTABLISHING GOALS TO FOCUS STUDENT LEARNING AT WOLCOTT

One of the goals of the West Hartford Public Schools is to establish goals to focus student learning. At Wolcott, we are addressing this through the creation and use of focused **learning targets** in our classrooms. A learning target is written from a student's point of view, describing skills and concepts that students will come to know on a deep level. A recent example of a learning target posted and used in a grade 3 classroom at Wolcott reads *I can identify key details in a text by looking for signal words*. Relatedly, teachers identify criteria for success to guide students in their learning. For this particular grade 3 lesson, the criteria included *understanding how signal words help to organize the main idea and correctly using a signal word before a key detail in their writing*.

The use of learning targets and related criteria for success make learning accessible and meaningful for students, providing understanding, reflection, and self-assessment. Our professional learning opportunities for teachers on Wednesday afternoons allow us to learn and collaborate on creating and utilizing learning targets to advance student learning at Wolcott School.





The *Family Resource Center* presents
Early Learning Playgroup at Wolcott School

71 Wolcott Road, WH 06110

A program for children ages birth through four accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Join us for crafts, stories, songs, snack and fun! **FREE!**

Thursday mornings from **9:00 to 10:00 AM** in the cafeteria.

2018-19 Playgroup Dates

October 4, 11, 18

November 1, 8, 15, 29

December 6, 13, 20

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

February 7

*No Playgroup 10/25, 11/22, 12/27.

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

The Family Resource Center is a program of the **Bridge Family Center**.
Early Learning Playgroup at Wolcott School in West Hartford is funded in part by
the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

**Nervous about middle school?
Unsure what to expect?
Do you have questions?
We can help!**



Please join the three principals of the West Hartford Middle Schools at one of the two upcoming information nights. Topic at each meeting will include: MS transition planning, schedules and classes, and parenting teens.

This is open to ALL West Hartford parents of current 5th graders and is a parent-only event.

Please join us at one of the following sessions:

Monday, February 4, 2019 - Whiting Lane School, 7:00-8:00pm

Thursday, February 7, 2019 - Duffy School, 7:00-8:00pm



West Hartford Public School Pre-Kindergarten Programs

Apply now for the 2019-2020 Pre-Kindergarten programs located at Charter Oak International Academy, Florence E. Smith STEM School and Webster Hill School. The lottery is open to students that are West Hartford residents. Applications will be available online at whps.org or may be completed at the Town Hall Residency Office, Room 134 beginning January 10, 2019.

Applicants must be:

- A resident of West Hartford
- Age eligible:
 - Charter Oak International Academy will accept 50 Pre-K students born between 1/2/2015 to 1/1/2017.
 - Smith and Webster Hill Schools will accept 16 Pre-K students each born between 1/2/2015 and 1/1/2016.

Please plan on attending one of the following Open House Informational meetings:

Charter Oak International Academy:	February 7th 6:30 pm February 21st (snow date)
Florence E. Smith STEM School:	January 24th 6:30 pm January 29th (snow date)
Webster Hill School	January 17th 6:00 pm

For additional information, please call:

Charter Oak International Academy (860) 233-8506
Florence E. Smith STEM School (860) 236-3315
Webster Hill School (860) 521-0320

Irene Garneau, Dept. Supervisor for Early Childhood Education (860) 929-5552





Programas de Pre-Kindergarten de Escuelas Públicas de West Hartford

Solicitudes para los programas de Pre-Kindergarten de las escuelas de Charter Oak, Smith y Webster Hill del año escolar 2019-2020. La lotería está abierta a estudiantes que solo residen en West Hartford. Las aplicaciones de lotería están disponibles electrónicamente en www.whps.org y en el Town Hall en la oficina de Residencia, habitación 134, comenzando 10 de Enero 2019. Pueden llenar la aplicación en la oficina de Residencia.

Solicitantes deben ser:

- Residentes West Hartford
- Requisitos de edad establecidos:
 - La escuela de Charter Oak International Academy aceptará estudiantes de Pre-K nacidos entre el 2 de Enero del 2015, y el 1 de Enero del 2017.
 - Las escuelas de Smith y Webster Hill aceptarán estudiantes de Pre-K nacidos entre el 2 de Enero del 2015, y el 1 de Enero del 2016.

**Por favor planee asistir a una de las siguientes Noches Informativas:
Sesiones de Información:**

Charter Oak International Academy:	7 de Febrero, 6:30 pm 21 de Febrero (fecha de respaldo)
Escuela de Florence E. Smith STEM:	24 de Enero, 6:30 pm 29 de Enero (fecha de respaldo)
Escuela de Webster Hill School:	17 de Enero, 6:00 pm

Para información adicional, por favor llame a:

Charter Oak International Academy (860) 233-8506
Smith School (860) 236-3315
Webster Hill School (860) 521-0320

Irene Garneau, Dept. Supervisor for Early Childhood Education (860) 929-5552

