

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

40 Old Farms Road, Suite A, Willington, CT 06279

Phone: 860.487.3130

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David C. Harding, Superintendent

dharding@willingtonct.org

<http://www.willingtonpublicschools.org/>

October 18, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Willington Public Schools strives to promote and maintain a safe and healthy school climate for all students and staff. During the 2011-2012 school year, the district developed and implemented a comprehensive school bullying policy which included in-service training for all school staff enabling them to recognize and respond quickly to bullying type behaviors. In addition, the district appointed a District Safe School Climate Coordinator and each school appointed a Safe School Climate Specialist.

Willington Public Schools seeks your assistance in determining ways to maintain and improve school climate. The Connecticut State Department of Education in conjunction with Public Act 11-232, has provided each school district in Connecticut with professional development opportunities for our staff and survey instruments to help us measure the effectiveness of our efforts to maintain safe schools.

Beginning Friday, October 18, 2013 through Sunday, October 27, 2013 School Climate surveys will be available at the links below.

Center School

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/656TCMT>

Hall Memorial School

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZKCH37B>

If you do not have access to this online survey, please pick up a paper copy in your school office, complete it, and leave it in the box designated for that purpose. If you have children in more than one school, please complete each school's survey.

Our students and staff will be asked to complete the survey online at their school during the upcoming weeks.

We hope you will take the time to provide us with this valuable information. Feel free to call me at 860-487-3130 or email me at dharding@willingtonct.org if you have any questions. Each school has developed a School Climate Committee and the Committee will analyze school results and continue to develop appropriate strategies, procedures, and/or programs to enhance the school climate.

Sincerely,

David C. Harding

Superintendent

**Hall Memorial School
After-school Enrichment Activity Selection**

Dear Parents/Guardians/Students:

The attached form shows the enrichment activities that will be offered starting Thursday, **November 7, 2013**. **All Activities will be held on Thursdays. Please number your first and second choices from the list. You must make two selections.** Please complete both sides of the form and return to your teacher no later than **Tuesday, October 29th**. Due to limited space, participation is not guaranteed; selections will be based on a lottery system. Please be sure to indicate if transportation home is needed for your child.

If you have any questions please call Penny Farrington at 860-429-1969 or email at pfarrington@willingtonct.org.

Thank you!

Please number your first and second choices from the list below. **You must make two selections.**

___ **Favorite Book Club**
Grade Levels 6-8
Limit: 10 Students

Bring your favorite book to share. Activities will include: Acting, Debating, Illustrating, Role Playing, Creative Writing, Interviewing, Detecting, etc...Bring your own ideas! Use your **IMAGINATION!**
Advisor: Ms. Wright

___ **Crochet Club**
Grade Levels 4-8
Limit: 10 Students

Learn to crochet and have lots of fun! Learn the basics or bring your own project to do. Crocheting will offer lots of pleasure and relaxation. You can learn to create handmade items for yourself or your friends and family.
Advisor: Mrs. Knight

___ **Invention Convention**
Grade Levels 4-8
Limit: 20 Students

Are you an inventor? Do you like to solve problems and create solutions? Are you a creative thinker? Connecticut Invention Convention is a statewide contest held each year in early May at the Gample Pavilion at UConn. Invention Convention is a program that is dedicated to the goal of promoting creative problem solving and enhancing critical thinking skills. In this group, you will be brainstorming everyday problems. You will be asked to think creatively to solve these problems and to create products to illustrate your solutions. We will be using the invention process, where scientists experiment to find the best possible solutions to the problem.
Advisors: Mrs. Curtis, Mrs. Wilde, Mrs. Gilbert

___ **Stem Club**
Grade Levels 4-8
Limit: 12 Students

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Club
Love Science! How couldn't you? Want to explore, experiment, design and build? Be a part of STEM Club. Possible topics include: Food Chemistry, Rockets, Amusement Park Science, Solar cars, Hydrogen fuel cell cars, Wind Mills, Submarines, Robots, Junk Box Wars, Electrical circuits, Creating musical instruments ... Whatever interests you!!
Advisor: Ms. Rodriguez and Mrs. Platt

___ **MathCounts**
Grade Levels 6-8
Limit: 20 Students

MathCounts is a math competition program designed to challenge mathematically talented middle school students. It is an enrichment program that is in its 30th year. Students work together on problems designed to enrich the middle school curriculum. Hall Memorial School has had a MathCounts team for 29 of the 30 years. Our students compete against teams from the Eastern Region the first Saturday in February. Our school is able to send two teams of 4 to the regional meet. This competition is held at the Coast Guard Academy in New London. Teams that do well at the regional meet qualify for the state meet held in March at the University of Hartford. This academic competition gives students a chance to showcase their mathematical abilities.
Advisor: Mr. Cioe, Mrs. Ostien

___ **Studio Production Club:**
Grade Levels 4-8
Limit: 9 Students

Learn how to use the new equipment in the Morning News Studio to create original commercials to air on the news. Students will learn the basics of video recording, editing and video production.
Advisor: Mrs. Levesque

___ **World Language Club**
Grade Levels 4-8
Limit: 10 Students

Have you ever wondered what hola or bonjour meant? Maybe you thought it would be neat to visit another country. Each week of this club it will feel like you have been transported to another place. You can wow your parents and friends with all the worldly knowledge you will have after learning about the many countries such as France, Portugal, Germany, and Russia. During club time you will learn the basics about the culture, where the language came from, and lbsometimes you might even get to try some delicious treats! Can't wait to have some fun trying out speaking in different languages with some of you!
Advisor: Ms. Hennessey, supported by one of our former Hall Memorial Students

Student: _____ Homeroom: _____

___ I will pick up my child at 4:15 p.m. in the gymnasium after the enrichment activity.

___ I am not able to provide transportation home and would like to request the late bus for my child.

Parent Signature: _____

Please complete the reverse side and return this form by Tuesday, October 29th.

SPECIAL EVENT: Saturday, November 2

UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

WITH DR. MICHAEL D. POWERS

PRESENTED BY SUCCESS SPECIAL EDUCATION PTO

Dr. Powers is the Director of the **Center for Children with Special Needs** in Glastonbury and Assistant Clinical Professor of Psychology at the **Yale Child Study Center**. Dr. Powers specializes in the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of individuals with autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders and has published and presented extensively on these topics.

Dr. Powers is co-editor of the *Encyclopedia of Autism Spectrum Disorders*, the author of *Asperger Syndrome and Your Child*, and editor of the award-winning book *Children with Autism: A Parent's Guide*. Dr. Powers has been involved in designing educational programs, staff training, and in program evaluation for students with autism spectrum disorders throughout the United States and abroad for over 30 years. He has worked with the York District Regional School Board in Ontario, Canada; the Agazzi Institute in Arezzo, and Opera Santa Rita in Prato, Italy; the Bedfordshire County Council (UK) School Improvement Division; the Utah, Texas, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Florida State Departments of Education; and various regional and local school districts.

11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Willington Public Library, 7 Ruby Road, Willington

There will be refreshments and pizza for lunch

Email info@successsepto.org or call with any questions:

Cathy Britschock 860-429-8333 · Brenda Stenglein 860-429-1059

Facebook: SuccessSEPTO



**Success Special Education
Parent Teacher Organization**

Serving Northeast Connecticut

www.successsepto.org

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Center School (860) 429-9367

Hall Memorial School (860) 429-9391

Sports and Extracurricular Activities Permission/Authorization Form

(This form contains confidential student information that should not be made public)

I am the parent or legal guardian of the student named on this form, and I am legally authorized to give this permission/authorization and to sign this form. I give permission and authorization for:

Student Name: _____ Homeroom: _____ School _____
to participate in the following team sports, intramural sports, club, or other after school activity beginning on this date: _____ and until the end of the season, school session, or the end of the particular activity.

Name or description of athletic or other activity: _____

Parent/guardian name(s): _____ (Phone numbers) _____

The following three phone numbers are numbers at which or through which I or the student's other parent or guardian may most likely be reached in the event of an emergency:

	<u>Home #</u>	<u>Work #</u>	<u>Cell</u>
Contact #1:	_____	_____	_____
Contact #2:	_____	_____	_____
Contact #3:	_____	_____	_____

I understand and accept the following basic rules and requirements of the student's participation:

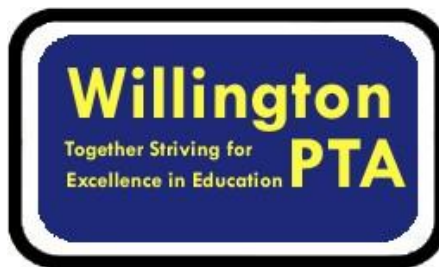
- Participation in team sports, intramural sports, clubs, or other extra curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. All students must obey the rules of the sport or activity and the rules established for the team or activity by the coach or supervisor.
- All needed equipment and supplies are not furnished by the school, and participants are required to furnish suitable clothing, footwear for indoor and/or outdoor use, in addition to gloves, supplies, etc.
- Participants in athletic activities are required to wear required protective gear, as indicated by the coach or supervisor. Coaches and supervisors will indicate what protective gear is to be required and used.
- The school system is not responsible for transportation home after games, meetings and practices and other activities. This must be arranged by the participant and his/her family.
- Any participant may be denied the right to participate in or may be removed from the activity by the coach or supervisor when it is determined that this action is in the best interest of the particular program and its participants.

Are you aware of any medical or other issues affecting the student that will preclude participation in the activity of require attention during participation, such as allergies and allergies to stings, or need for medication or inhaler? YES___ NO___ (Note: The school will try to accommodate the medical or other special needs of students, but this may not be possible in all cases. Individual situations should be discussed in advance with the principal, coach, or activity supervisor.) If you answered YES to the above question, please summarize your concerns: (use back of form if needed).

I understand that from time to time injuries and other emergencies occur during sports, athletic activities, and other after school activities and that medical care may be required. In the event that I or another parent/guardian cannot be reached promptly, or in the event of life-or-death emergency, I authorize a the person in charge of the activity or his/her assistant to authorize and obtain emergency medical treatment from a physician or other health care professional. I also release and discharge the Willington Board of Education and all its employees or agents, including coaches, supervisors and advisors, of and from any liability arising from injury or death to a student in connection with this field trip or school activity.

Parent or Legal Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

cc: School Office
Coach/Supervisor



Willington Town Hall

Please fill the sheet by following the link below if you are interested in helping out with our annual **PTA** Election Day Bake Sale.
Your help is greatly appreciated!!!

[PTA's Volunteers.Sign up Sheet of Election Day Baking Sale, Nov 5, 2013. \(click\)](#)

**** We are looking for 1 hour shifts (2 people at a time)**

Hours of the tables are contingent on volunteer availability!

**PROCEEDS OF THIS BAKE SALE WILL BENEFIT THE WILLINGTON PTA and
THE WILLINGTON SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

**Remember, it is on
Tuesday**



**Please respond by Thursday October 31st.
If you have any questions please contact**

Israa. ltraji.i@gmail.com or Rachel – rpierce5@att.net /380-0836

Town of Willington



Harvest Fire

Come gather “round the campfire” at this FREE community event

Hosted by Willington Youth Services Advisory Board

Friday November 8, 2013

6:00- 9:00 pm

At the Willington Hill Fire Department



- ✿ Admission is free to this family-friendly event!
- ✿ S’ Mores, hot chocolate & Apple Cider for sale (\$1 each)
- ✿ Donations gratefully accepted anytime!
- ✿ Bring the whole family and warm up by the fire while you help keep vulnerable Willington families & seniors warm this winter.

Confidential Town Phone Line: Call today with your question about the state heating assistance program or the TOW fuel bank! 860-487-3118

**ALL proceeds
to benefit the
Willington Fuel Bank**



Mrs. Passardi's Retirement Party

After 33 years of
dedicated service to the
Mary D. Edwards Library &
Wilmington Public Library
Roberta Passardi
is celebrating her retirement!
Please join us as we honor her
with a day filled with
laughter, fun, and memories!

Sunday, October 27, 2013
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Open House

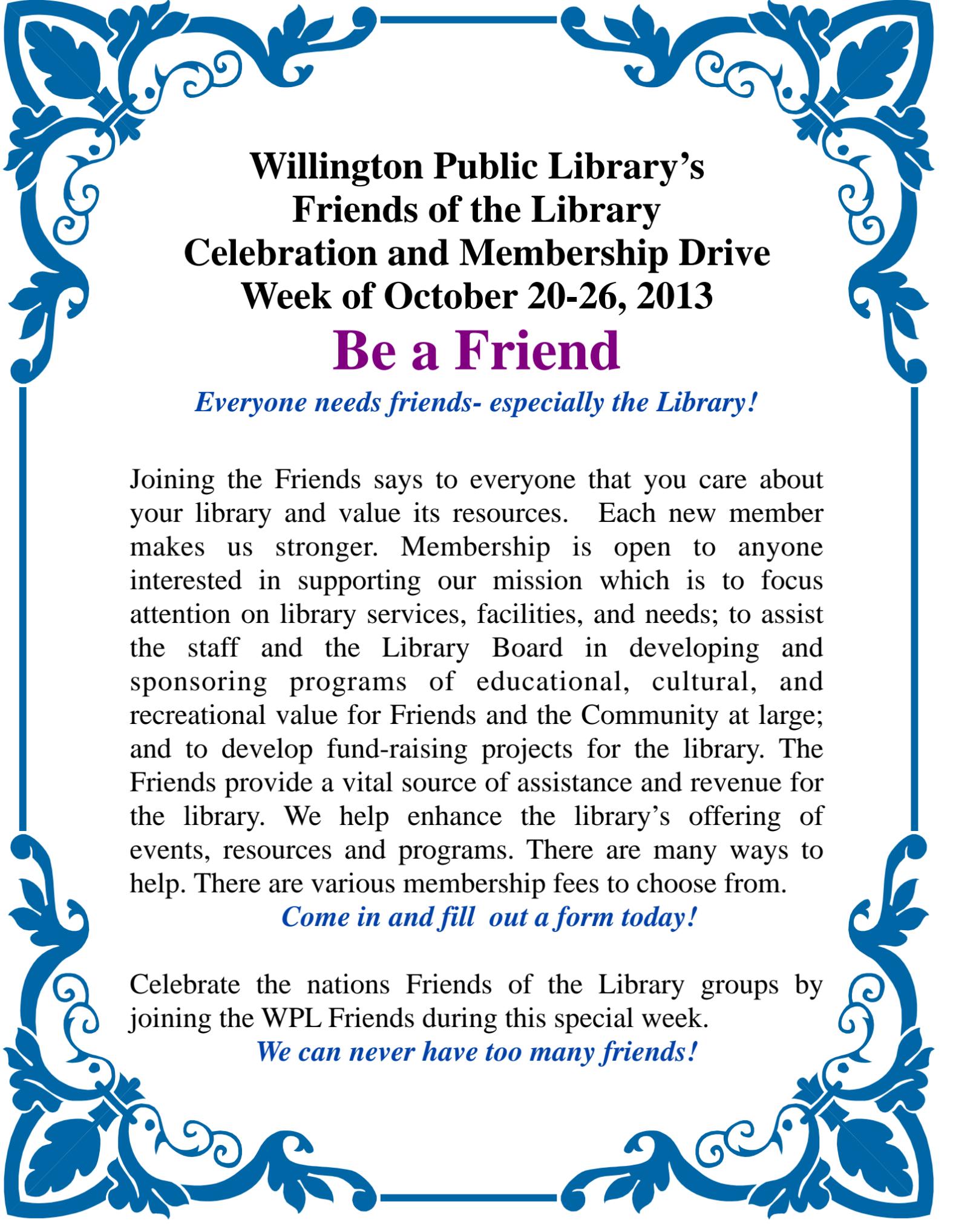
*There will be a shuttle bus located at Center School
(12 Old Farms Road, Wilmington, CT)
to take you to the library.*

Handicapped parking will be available at the library.

Wilmington Public Library
7 Ruby Road, Wilmington, CT
Community Room

Everyone is welcome to attend!





**Willington Public Library's
Friends of the Library
Celebration and Membership Drive
Week of October 20-26, 2013**

Be a Friend

Everyone needs friends- especially the Library!

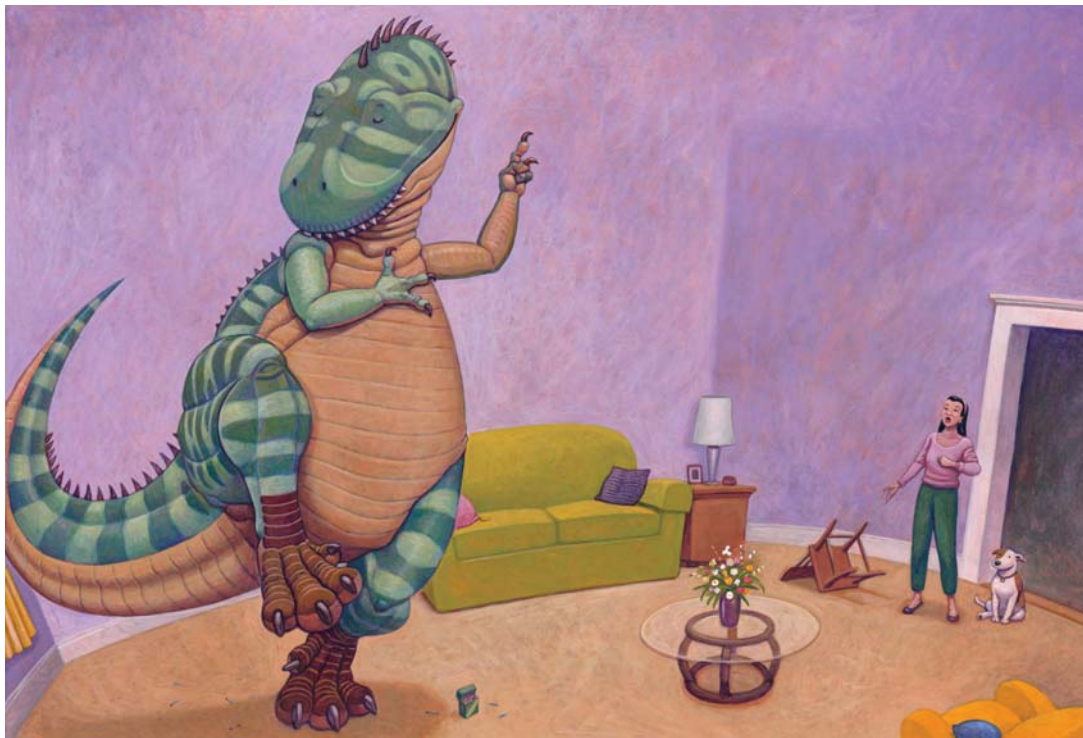
Joining the Friends says to everyone that you care about your library and value its resources. Each new member makes us stronger. Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting our mission which is to focus attention on library services, facilities, and needs; to assist the staff and the Library Board in developing and sponsoring programs of educational, cultural, and recreational value for Friends and the Community at large; and to develop fund-raising projects for the library. The Friends provide a vital source of assistance and revenue for the library. We help enhance the library's offering of events, resources and programs. There are many ways to help. There are various membership fees to choose from.

Come in and fill out a form today!

Celebrate the nations Friends of the Library groups by joining the WPL Friends during this special week.

We can never have too many friends!

Please join us for the 22nd Annual Connecticut Children's **BOOK FAIR**



November 9 & 10, 2013

Saturday & Sunday from 10:00am to 5:00pm
Rome Ballroom, South Campus, University of Connecticut

Authors and Illustrators

Aaron Becker, Jonathan Bean, Nicholas Blechman, Elise Broach, Nick Bruel,
P.W. Catanese, Elisha Cooper, Diane deGroat, Etienne Delessert, Tomie dePaola,
Elizabeth Eulberg, Robert Forbes, Robie Harris, Jeff Hirsch, Alaya Dawn Johnson,
David Johnson, Steven Kellogg, Jarrett Krosoczka, Michaela MacColl, Rita Marshall,
Ann Martin, Michael Northrop, Shelley Rotner, David Schwartz, Phoebe Stone,
Tui T. Sutherland, Mark Teague

Sing A-Longs, Crafts, Stories, Musical Groups and special guests Strega Nona,
Very Hungry Caterpillar, Spot the Dog, and...Clifford the Big Red Dog.

"This Is Teen" conversation authors Jeff Hirsch, Alaya Dawn Johnson, Michael
Northrop, and Elizabeth Eulberg. Sponsored by Scholastic.

For more information – 1-800-U-READ-IT
or bookfair.uconn.edu

A project of the UConn Co-op & the UConn Libraries.

Illustration © 2013 by Mark Teague from HOW DO DINOSAURS SAY I'M MAD!
published by The Blue Sky Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.



The Mansfield Middle School presents

"Anthony Wolf"

Anthony E. Wolf Ph.D., a practicing child psychologist, author and speaker has written many parenting books including his just published, *I'd Listen to My Parents if They'd Just Shut Up: What to Say and Not Say When Parenting Teens*, and the best-selling, *Get Out of My Life, but first could you drive me and Cheryl to the Mall? A Parent's guide to the New Teenager*, which has sold over 500,000 copies and continues to be the most widely acclaimed how to deal with your teenager book in the country.

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Dr. Anthony E. Wolf received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the City University of New York and completed his undergraduate work at Columbia College. For the past twenty-five years he has been in private practice seeing children and adolescents in the Springfield, Massachusetts area. Married, Dr. Wolf is the father of two grown children.

Anthony Wolf is the author of five books on parenting and numerous articles which have appeared in such magazines as Child Magazine, Parents, and Family Circle. He has also written a monthly column for child Magazine. Dr. Wolf is frequently quoted in the national media on issues of parenting. He currently writes a column for the Toronto Globe and Mail.



Anthony Wolf is a much sought after speaker whose talks consistently get rave reviews. He has appeared on national television including The Today Show, Fox Morning News, CBS Morning News, The View, and more.

Dr. Wolf is best known both in his writing and his speaking for his, at times very funny and non-judgmental, ability to describe what actually goes on in real people's homes with real children, his original perspective on parenting and on kids today, and for his practical and very helpful advice.

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**Dr. Wolf will speak after the monthly meeting of
The Mansfield Middle School Association**

Wednesday, November 6, 2013

Mansfield Middle School

Auditorium

7:00 pm

All Parents Are Welcome!!



Willington Voters:

The Board of Selectmen was petitioned to call a Town Meeting to reject the recently ratified teacher's contract (just like 3 years ago.)

The Town Meeting is next Wed., Oct. 30th at 7pm (Town Office Building, Upper Level).

At this Town Meeting, those present decide what happens, sometimes by a show of hands, other times it's a referendum vote. Anybody can pass around a petition to force the Board of Selectmen to call a vote - in this case only 24 signatures are required to force the meeting... another 200 are required to force a referendum.

Please help spread the word about the meeting. We encourage everyone to find out the facts about the contract and to understand what will happen if the contract is rejected.

Facts about the Willington Education Association (WEA) contract

- This is a valid contract that includes a 2.9% salary increase each year for 4 years. (According to an article in USA TODAY, pay raises in 2014 are expected to average 3%)
- Total 4 year cost of teacher contract with the current staff: \$427,472
- Average Annual Cost \$106,868
- **Insurance savings** from negotiating an HSA insurance plan instead of the current Point of Service HMO Health Plan: \$64,800
- Actual Annual Cost for the 1st year: \$42,068
- The WEA and BOE members spent many hours between July 2013 and September 2013 negotiating this contract and were finally able to reach settlement through mediation. The final meeting ran from 4:30pm until 3:30am in order to avoid going to arbitration.
- The result is a contract that includes pay raises at the going rate but as a bonus includes a decrease in insurance benefits costs.
- Seventy-seven districts in Connecticut have settled teacher's contracts this year with average increases between 2.5% and 3.0% and most of them include HMO health plans versus the HSA plan.
- If the contract is rejected, the process will move to arbitration where they will look at what was negotiated to date, the town's ability to pay, and look at the average of towns in CT that have settled their teacher's contracts. **They would probably award a similar contract but it would cost \$20,000 for the town to go through the process.**
- The contract is available for review at the Willington Town Clerk's office.
- Remember the question is whether or not to reject the teacher's contract so if you **ACCEPT** the contract **VOTE NO**, and if you wish to **REJECT** the contract **VOTE YES**.

Information gathered by the Willington PTA