

Merry Christmas



Happy Hanukkah

Wolcott Public Schools

WPS Update

December 2017

The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to promote the academic, social, and emotional development of all students to become contributing members of the global community.

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Superintendent's Message

Hello Families and Staff Members,

As I introduced to you last month, our Vision of the Graduate is a relatively new and important document for us. I encourage all families and staff to become familiar with it. In this edition of the newsletter, I'd like to talk about the first set of expectations. The descriptors below outline the over-arching skills that we believe all students must have across K-12 and after graduation in college and the workforce. (the full document can be found at this [LINK](#)).

The Wolcott Public Schools Graduate:

- Takes a proactive and self-directed approach to learning.
- Is willing and capable of improving upon past performance.
- Demonstrates the ability to learn and adapt to new environments and challenges.
- Shows intellectual curiosity.
- Makes connections in their ongoing learning across content areas.
- Sets personal goals and can implement strategies to achieve them.
- Perseveres in the face of adversity and challenge.
- Uses current technologies in ethical and effective ways.

We are currently working actively to include these skills and dispositions as we revise curriculum documents district-wide.

I'd like to wish students, families, and staff a warm, festive, and restful holiday!

In partnership,

Tony Gasper, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

agasper@wolcottps.org

From the Board of Education

As we all continue to hear the troubling news from Hartford about our state's financial situation and the severe cuts to educational and town aid, I'd like to assure you that the Wolcott Board of Education does everything within our power to keep our costs as low as possible while still providing a high quality of service to students and families. Wolcott has a long tradition of fiscal prudence in funding its schools and, in fact, we expend much less than the state average per-pupil spending. Despite the lower amount of spending, we have consistently placed either first or second in our district reference group in our test scores, students get access to the arts, music, technology, and academic support, and our staff is very dedicated to their work. However, the long tradition of being fiscally responsible also means that we have very few "extra" resources or staff. As we begin planning our requested budget for the 2018-2019 school year, we will continue our tradition of responsibility but will not sacrifice the quality of the educational experience for Wolcott's children.

A warm and joyous holiday season to all!

Sincerely,
Lori Delbuono Bartlett

Board of Education Chairman



Alcott School:

Alcott has gotten into the spirit of giving this holiday season. On Friday, December 16th we held our monthly town meeting. At this town meeting grade 1 students presented their snow globe stories to the school. In addition to this presentation, the entire school community celebrated by wearing their most festive holiday outfits. For our monthly community giveback students and staff were encouraged to donate a dollar or more to dress their holiday best. All proceeds raised were donated to the Wolcott dog pound in memory of our longtime mail carrier, Jim Mullen, who recently passed away. I am happy to report that we were able to donate \$260.00 to the dog pound in Jim's memory!

Contact Shawn Simpson, Principal of Alcott School: ssimpson@wolcottps.org



Frisbie School:

Frisbie School has continued their community service projects throughout the month of December. On December 8th, our students wore their PJs to school to support the patients at CCMC who wear their PJs for days, weeks, and some even months. We raised over \$300 for CCMC. The fourth grade classes continued their efforts to support CCMC by integrating problem solving into a craft project. Students made Christmas tree ornaments to give to CCMC to help them decorate the hospital and place smiles on the patients' faces. Our third grade students held the Lights for Love campaign which raises money for the Ronald McDonald House, a "home away from home" for families of children who are being treated at nearby hospitals in CT. A tree was decorated with lights with names of those students who donated towards this great cause. Thank you to our Frisbie community for helping to make the holidays bright for so many children.



Contact Kim Murtaugh, Principal of Frisbie School: kmurtaugh@wolcottps.org

Wakelee School:

Wakelee staff and students are enjoying many opportunities to celebrate and give back during the month of December. We enjoyed a holiday performance from the Wolcott High School Chorus and Band. It is wonderful to see former Wakelee students performing knowing that many of them started here with our chorus and band. I would like to thank Mr. Clement, the Wolcott High School band teacher, for organizing the performance. I would like to thank all the families that made donations to our most recent drives. The Wakelee Conservation Cats collected a large number of shoes, crayons, cell phones and eye glasses. The donations will be given to many different organizations including the Wolcott Lions, Crayons for Cancer, and Cell Phones for Soldiers. Our collection box for Toys for Tots was overflowing on Friday, December 15th which marked the end of the drive. We held the annual PJ for the Kids. We raised over \$500 for CCMC. Thank you to all the Wakelee families for your generosity! Our first grade students visited Wolcott View Manor to sing carols for the residents. The students also brought handmade decorations to hang through the halls.

What an amazing time of giving!



Contact Deborah Osvald, Principal of Wakelee School: dosvald@wolcottps.org

Tyrrell Middle School:

Many consider the holiday season to be a season of giving, and I am pleased to report that the holiday spirit is alive and well at Tyrrell Middle School! Grade 8 students and teachers donated over eight hundred dollars to the Holiday Bear Project. The money has been used to purchase gifts for underprivileged children in Waterbury schools. Students volunteered to stay after school with teachers to wrap and



package gifts that will be delivered to needy students. This service project afforded students an opportunity to exhibit good citizenship by giving of their personal time to contribute to a neighboring community in need. In addition to the Holiday Bear Project, Tyrrell Middle School is conducting a school-wide food drive with all proceeds being donated to the Wolcott Food Pantry. The food drive ran through December 20th. Thank you to all of you that donated! On behalf of the Tyrrell Middle School faculty and staff we would like to wish the Wolcott community a happy and healthy holiday season!

Contact Joseph Norcross, Principal of Tyrrell Middle School: jnorcross@wolcottps.org

Wolcott High School:

Seasons Greetings. Wolcott High school has been a busy place this past month. Our teachers and staff are well into our NEASC Self-Reflection study and I want to take a minute to thank them for all the hard work that this undertaking involves. Our National Honor Society Students hosted a holiday party for our special needs students at the high school. Our culinary students along with assistance from our peer helpers hosted the annual Thanksgiving dinner at the senior center last month. Our Discovery classes participated in our annual door decorating contest resulting in a festive and creative atmosphere in the building. Our winter concert was a great success showcasing the various talents of our performing arts students. Our Unified Sports Class and our transitional students took a trip to the Senior Center to participate in a Zumba class. They also made holiday cards and ornaments to give to the seniors at the center. Everyone had a great time. And of course we had to celebrate Ugly Holiday Sweater Day. These are just some examples of the great things happening at our school.

I want to wish everyone a healthy and joyous Holiday season and remind our students and families that this season provides wonderful opportunities to give of ourselves to help those who need it.



Contact Walter Drewry, Principal of Wolcott High School: wdrewry@wolcottps.org

Student Services:

The Wolcott High School Unified Sports Soccer team wrapped up their season on Friday November 10, 2017 at the NVL Soccer Tournament held at Wilby High School in Waterbury. The team has participated in 2 tournaments, 6 games, and 8 practices this year. The students have improved greatly on their passing skills this year! The program has also added new partners from the freshman class which is great for the future of the team. In celebration of another successful season the entire team had a party on November 13th and they also attended the NVL Unified Dance on November 21st. The athletes and partners also had a great time being taught how to "Whip" and "Nay Nay" by the Crosby High School team.

The Unified Sports Winter Basketball Season is underway and the team has already had begun to practice in preparation for another busy schedule. Thank you for continuing to support the Unified Sports Program!

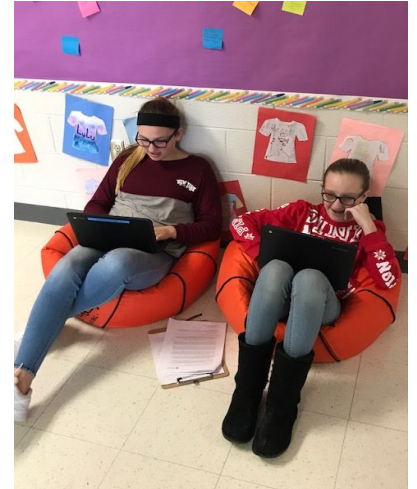
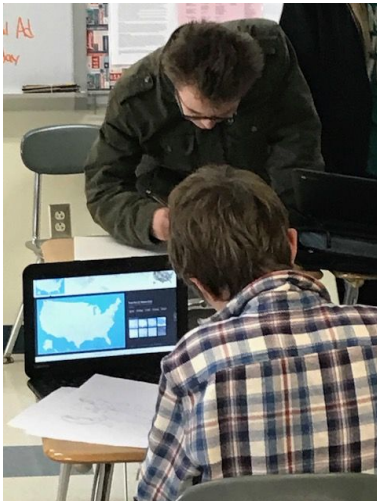
Click this link to see the [Unified Sports 2018 Basketball Schedule](#)



Contact Kevin Hollis, Director of Student Services and Alternative Education: khollis@wolcottps.org

Student Learning & Teaching:

Spotlight on Technology: The district continues to promote and expand the use of technology as a way to make learning fun and engaging for students. Teachers are regularly using Chromebooks and the Google Suite of Apps in their day-to-day planning and instruction. For example, teachers are using Google Classroom and Google Docs as a way to provide immediate feedback to students as they work independently on writing assignments and on group projects. On any given day, students can be found utilizing their mobile devices to conduct research, share ideas, and to create and deliver amazing presentations. Students are commonly experiencing this technology at all grade levels and across all subject areas. Most recently, new convertible style Chromebooks have been delivered to the elementary schools. These devices are more easily managed by primary grade students, as they have both touchscreen and keyboard capabilities. Teachers are also using Google Docs in their after-school collaborations as a way to share resources and ideas on how best to implement the curriculum into their daily lesson. The district will continue to support and find new and exciting ways to integrate technology to enhance the learning experience for students throughout the Wolcott Public Schools. The pictures below show students at Tyrrell Middle School using Chromebooks to complete assignments in ELA and social studies.



Contact Frank Purcaro, Director of Student Learning and Teaching: fpurcaro@wolcottps.org

Business & Operations:

COLD AND FLU SEASON PROCEDURES

As cold and flu season is upon us we want our community to know what we do to keep our students and staff as healthy as possible. Our schools are always kept clean using approved “green” cleaning products. All classrooms, shared spaces, cafeterias, and bathrooms are cleaned every day after school. As a reminder to all parents and staff, all cleaning products are prohibited to be brought into our schools unless approved by our facilities department.



Our head and evening custodians are always communicating with our school principals and nurses to be sure they are aware of any areas or specific classrooms that have an abundance of absentees due to any type of illness. For example, if a classroom had several students out with the flu, the staff would spend additional time using extra disinfectant in that particular room. All touch points, desks, door handles, adjacent bathrooms, rugs, and countertops would be addressed.

Air quality is also monitored to be sure we have the proper temperatures and ventilation rates to ensure a safe and comfortable environment. Every effort is made to be sure we are compliant with all State standards.

Contact Dave Stankus, Director of Facilities: dstankus@wolcottps.org

