

December, 2011

West Hill School Newsletter



from the **PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of West Hill School Students:

November came and went so quickly. I have much to be thankful for this season. West Hill School and community are high up on that list.

The Board of Education made the decision to change the school calendar for the 2011-2012 school year. School will be in session for students on February 23rd and 24th as well as March 23rd. At this time, the last day of school is June 18th for students, pending no further school cancelations.

We have a number of winter/holiday programs coming up in the calendar. Please make sure you are checking the West Hill website regularly for updates and information on events. It is our hope you are able to join us in the festivities. If the first grade show was any indication for the future student productions, you are in for a treat.

As we move into the gift giving season, many parents have asked about gift ideas for teachers. Some room parents have coordinated this effort, but during these difficult financial times there should not be a feeling of obligation for gifts. I did want to share some gift ideas that would benefit students and community. Some options include books for the class library, donation to local charities, and something made by your child as a keepsake. Please know there is NO expectation for gifts.

We have been able to celebrate our wonderful community atmosphere with PBIS rewards. Mismatch Day was a lot of fun. Our new goal was Crazy Hat day. Again, your children met that goal of 3,000 tickets!

A special thank you to Lisa Marotta and Dita Wenceslao for their wonderful coordination of the Harvest Ball. I was impressed with the flood of volunteers who created a memorable night for fathers and daughters.

I wish you a happy and wonderful holiday season. I thank you for sharing your children and their wonderful gift of joy they bring us each day. Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Respectfully,

Megan Bennett
Megan Bennett

mark your CALENDARS

- Dec. 7-9 Grades K-5 parent/teacher conferences –
Early dismissal – 12:30
- Dec. 14-16 Snow Days Make up for Conferences
- Dec. 15 B.O.E. Meeting – 7:00 PM – Town Hall
- Dec. 19 KAM Holiday Program – 9:45-10:30
- Dec. 19 KPM Holiday Program – 2:00-2:45
- Dec. 21 Select Chorus to Emeritus – 12:30
- Dec. 23 Grade 2 Holiday Program – 2:00 PM
- Dec. 26-30 Holiday Break – No School
- Jan. 1-2 Holiday Break – No School
- Jan. 16 No School – Holiday
- Jan. 18 Winter Concert – 6:00-8:00 PM
- Jan. 19 Board of Education Meeting – 7:00 PM
- Feb. 3 Early Dismissal-Professional
Development for Teachers – 12:30
- Feb. 20-22 Winter Break – No School

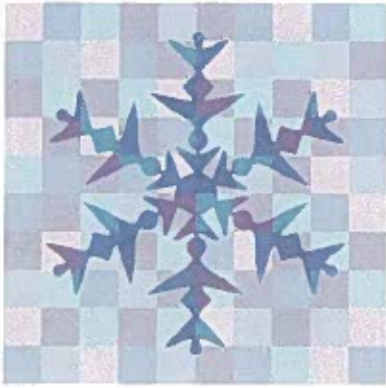
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- West Hill Community Happenings #3#4
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"WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST"

PBIS Counts! Mismatched day at West Hill School was on Wednesday, November 23. The students earned 2,000 tickets. Crazy Hat Day was Friday, December 2nd where students earned 3,000 tickets. Great Job!





From our PTO President

Hello West Hill Families,

I cannot believe another month has already passed. With the beginning of the 2012 year the PTO will hopefully be able to make some changes in how information will be delivered. With Mrs. Bennett's help, more items will be coming to you electronically via email directly from the school. We feel that the amount of paper reminders and follow-ups are an impracticable use of paper, photocopying and time management, especially during these rough fiscal times. PTO is trying to "Go Green".

The PTO will be using the West Hill Elementary School website to post upcoming events, a help wanted section and noteworthy news in the PTO information tab. We will also display our "Thank You" section online to give recognition to those who help make all of our efforts possible.

We have had suggestions for more social events for the students. The first was a "Read-In" where the students and parents come to the school for an enjoyable night of reading. The second was for a "Movie Night" and the third was for a "Talent Show". If anyone is interested in chairing these suggestions or if you have other ideas for more fun evenings please let me know.

I wish you and your families a safe and wonderful holiday season that is filled with peace, love and joy.

Nicki Holt

For questions or comments please feel free to contact me directly at 860-716-5216 or nickiholt3@att.net.



Thank you 

*On behalf of the 5th grade class, many thanks to **Mary Beth DiBattista** and **Karla Harding** for running a raffle that will help fund their events later this year.*

*Special thanks to everyone who donated to the **Bake Sale** – close to \$100 was earned!!!*

Thank you – Thank you – Thank you

The 2011 fall book fair has come to a close and it was a huge success! Thank you to all of the volunteers. Without your help the book fair would not have been possible.

Success! The students at West Hill raised \$277 in the *One for Books* program. This benefits our school in two ways. First, the money raised goes directly to purchasing more books and resources for our school library and second Scholastic Books matches the donations raised with a donation of up to one million books to three non-profit organizations dedicated to helping kids and families in need. They include the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc., and the Kids In Need Foundation. Well done West Hill students!!!

Success! Over \$12,000 in books were sold in three days! The PTO will use profits from the 2011 fall book fair to purchase books and resources for the library as well as fund other items to benefit the school. \$2000 in books have already been purchased and there is more to come once the final profit tally is made. Thank you for your support!

Thank you! Cashiers & Crew – Mika Aleksandrowicz, Jennifer Allison, Karen Backiel, Eileen Bozzi, Gwen Chipkin, Lisa DelMastro, Josephine DiCicco, Alessandra DiMascio, Lorna Donofrio, Rikki Donovan, Corrina Elloian, Pranali Ghatkar, Ramadan Gherri, Marlene Glover, Gina Guerrero, Karla Harding, Nickiann Holt, Susan Iacobucci, Christine Kainamura, Jennifer Khanna, Carrie Kiesel, Shilpa Malpani, Maria Mennella, Lori Moleiro, Meredith Myers, Rachel Neff, Maryann Oostendorf, Mona Patel, Shay Patel, Ladene Paulino, Danielle Plona, Ann Polites, Karen Potter, Rachel Poulin, Amena Rahim, Lia Safalow, Lucy Santos, Heather Scarpa-Friss, Cheryl Tafas, Ericka Thurman, Jane Wilson, Dongxiang Zeng. West Hill School is blessed to have such dedicated families who are willing to volunteer their time to benefit the school, the students and the teachers!

Thank you! Set up/ Break Down – Karen Backiel, Nickiann Holt, Ramadan Gherri, Susan Iacobucci, Christine Kainamura, Maryann Oostendorf, Ladene Paulino and Heather Scarpa-Friss, Dongxiang Zeng.
Many hands make light work!

Thank you! West Hill Staff – Megan Bennett, Laura Persaud and especially all of the custodial staff. You really do put the students first!

Reminder...

2011-12 PTO Meetings: Hope to see you at our next meeting on Tuesday, Jan 17th at 7 PM in the West Hill library.

CT Whale Night on December 27th: The deadline for purchasing tickets has been extended to **Friday, December 16th**. Please contact Michelle Swanson at mlagamba@cox.net with any questions.

Help Wanted - Original Works! We are in need of a chairperson or the fundraiser will be cancelled. Through Original Works, your child's artwork can be made into notepads, mouse pads, magnets, etc. – a great Mother's day gift! Please contact Nicki Holt at 860-716-5216 or nickiholt3@att.net if you are interested.

HAPPY NEW YEAR  

December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Day 5 Book Fair— 8:30-4:00; 6:00-8:00 PM	2 Day 1 Book Fair— 8:30-4:00	3
4	5 Day 2 Report Cards go Home	6 Day 3 Kindergarten Parent/Teacher Con- ferences	7 Day 4 K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences—early dismissal-12:30	8 Day 5 K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences—early dismissal-12:30	9 Day 1 K-5 Parent/Teacher Conferences—early dismissal-12:30	10
11	12 Day 2	13 Day 3	14 Day 4	15 Day 5 Board of Education Meeting—7:00 PM— Town Hall	16 Day 1	17
18	19 Day 2 KAM Holiday Pro- gram—9:45-10:30; KPM Holiday Pro- gram—2:00-2:45	20 Day 3	21 Day 4 Select Chorus to Emeritus of Rocky Hill—12:30	22 Day 5	23 Day 1 Grade 2 Holiday Program—2:00 PM	24
25	26 Holiday Recess No School	27 Holiday Recess No School	28 Holiday Recess No School	29 Holiday Recess No School	30 Holiday Recess No School	31

January 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Holiday No School	3 Day 2	4 Day 3	5 Day 4	6 Day 5	7
8	9 Day 1	10 Day 2	11 Day 3	12 Day 4	13 Day 5	14
15	16 Holiday No School	17 Day 1	18 Day 2 Winter Concert— 6:00-8:00 PM	19 Day 3 B.O.E. Meeting— 7:00 PM-Town Hall	20 Day 4	21
22	23 Day 5	24 Day 1	25 Day 2	26 Day 3	27 Day 4	28
29	30 Day 5	31 Day 1				

February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Day 2	2 Day 3	3 Day 4 Early Dismissal— 12:30—Prof. Development for Teachers	4
5	6 Day 5	7 Day 1	8 Day 2	9 Day 3	10 Day 4	11
12	13 Day 5	14 Day 1	15 Day 2	16 Day 3	17 Day 4	18
19	20 Holiday - No School	21 Holiday Recess - No School	22 Holiday Recess- No School	23 Day 5	24 Day 1	25
26	27 Day 2	28 Day 3	29 Day 4			