

White River School



1st Trimester Parent-Teacher Conferences - Next Week!

October 28, 2016

By now, I'm sure that you're aware that our students will be **released early on Thursday, November 3rd and that they will not attend school on Friday, November 4th** so that our teachers can conduct parent-teacher conferences. Please make every effort to attend these very important meetings. You know your child better than we do and your insight is invaluable to us at school. Together, we can provide a better education for your child when you tell us more about your child. These meetings are short and we want to make them as informative as possible. I encourage you to make a written list of your questions to bring to the conference. We always have a great deal of work to show you and to explain to you. However, we want to make sure that you have enough time to get answers to your questions too!

If you would like to meet with other staff: Mrs. Haynes, librarian, Mr. Ballou, physical education, Ms. Barolini, art, Mrs. Wadleigh, music, Mrs. Conerty, band, Ms. Hutchins, school nurse please call ahead or email them. Ms. Hutchins will not be available on November 3rd or 4th. Therefore, please call ahead of time if you are hoping to discuss your child with her.

You will not receive your child's report card until December 2nd. The trimester ends on November 18th and teachers will need time to complete the report card. If you are new to our school, the teachers will have a copy of a blank report card available to you and explain how it used.

Holidays at WRS:

If you've had students at WRS in the past, you're most likely aware that we minimize holidays at WRS! This is not to say that we don't recognize them or understand how excited children get about the holidays, we do. Through experience, we've learned that by maintaining a regular schedule and routines, our students manage it better. You will not see a lot of holiday decorations in our school. This is intentional. We've found that our students find the normal routines comforting and that students are able to focus better without these distractions. Please do not send in Halloween costumes on Monday, or allow your child to come to school with face paint as part of the costume that she or he will wear later in the day while trick or treating. This is very distracting to others! Your child's teacher may have set aside time for treats on Monday. If so, you've already received information about that.

Lastly, there are still numerous children in our school who are quite worried/scared about the terrible "clown hoax". Unfortunately, too many of our students have been looking at YouTube videos of these scary clowns and it has affected them negatively. Please reassure your child that she/he is safe at school. You will notice that the HPD is on campus, please let your child know that this is NOT because there's a problem, it's simply because we want our students to feel secure.

Hartford Police Department's Adopt-A-School Program:

We are very fortunate that HPD Chief Kasten has continued the Adopt - A - School Program in the HSD! Sadly, school violence across our country continues to be real and our very young students are bombarded by scary news coverage and imagery on social media and the internet. The Adopt - A - School Program is designed to reinforce to our students that our police officers our resources who will be available to keep us all safe!

You will notice that a police officer may be standing with me to greet students in the morning, or to say good -bye during dismissal. This is part of this program, as it allows the HPD officers to get to know people in our community; your kids and you! A few people have asked, "Is there a problem?" when they see an officer or a police cruiser at school. Please know that they are here to get to know all of us better. Sometimes we even have police officers and firefighters come to eat lunch with kids and to play with them at recess! Our students love it!

Updated Contact Information:

It is imperative that we are able to reach you from school. Our school staff has noticed that an increasing number of you have changed your phone number which doesn't allow us to reach you when we need to. If your phone is temporarily unavailable, please send in a note with the name and number of someone who we can call if we need to reach you. *If your number changes during the school year, it is up to you to let school staff know.*

The Parent Portal letter will be coming home soon with instructions as to how you can change your information and pay for school lunches.

Remember- winter is coming! If you don't update your information in Infinite Campus, you will not receive automated messages about snow days, delayed start times or school emergencies!

Calendar:

Nov. 3 & 4th - P/T conferences

Nov. 11th - Veteran's Day - No School

Nov. 18th - Family Game Night - HPD and HFD officers will join us!

Nov. 23rd - 25th - Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3rd - PTA Craft Fair

Dec. 8th - Winter Concert