



THE WIZARD'S WORD

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HOME OF THE WAKEFIELD WIZARDS

Aspiring to excellence by striving to be the change we wish to see in the world

February, 2011

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CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB
@

<http://wa.skschools.net>

WORD OF THE MONTH

"Mindful" of others
(PEACE MAKER)

-adjective

Attentive, aware, or careful; thoughtful

PHONE NUMBERS:

Main Office:	360-1400
Principal:	360-1402
School Nurse:	360-1406
Social Worker:	360-1247

IT'S YOUR TURN TO CHECK OUT SURVEYWORKS!

Last month we told you about SurveyWorks and its replacement of the SALT Survey to evaluate and assess our school system. Well the students have done their part and now it's your turn to tell us how we are doing.

Parent, teacher, administrator surveys will be open on March 1st. As stated in an update from Deputy Commissioner Dave Abbott:

"...Our survey partner, WestEd, is now in the process of preparing for the administration of parent, teacher, and administrators survey. Launch of these surveys is March 1, and the window will remain open until the beginning of April vacation. Parents, teachers and administrators will receive secure, individual log-ons in order to take the survey. For parents, the survey can be taken from home, from school, from a smart-phone, or from local libraries. Teachers and administrators can take the survey from home, school, or

smart-phone."

WestEd will be reaching out to you, your site coordinators, and your principals to ensure timely communication about the survey process and to provide you with the information and tools necessary to minimize disruption and maximize participation. In addition, WestEd will be forwarding a press kit to you and your principals that will be shared and marketed widely across the state. Thank you for your cooperation as we continue to gather feedback from all those interested in and impacted by education in Rhode Island.

For parents that may not currently have access to a computer to complete the survey, Wakefield Elementary School will be making time available for use of the school's computers.

If you have any questions, please send an email to SurveyWorks! at surveyworks@wested.org.



And the winner is....



Principle Michelle Little tries to read name of raffle winner as dance organizer Kristen Benjamin & 4th grader Marcus look on.

Ticket sales and raffle entries bring in a whopping \$1,800 at Snowball Dance!

Read full story in PTO News on page 3.

THE WIZARD'S CORNER OF RECOGNITION!



The following students are recognized for their outstanding behavior last month:

- Anna Blaney
- Amelia Cary
- Shukur Champlin
- Elizabeth Chivers
- Gavin Gordon
- JJ Kosiorek
- Cameron Masson
- Chelsea Moore

Thanks for "Treating others that way you would like to be treated."

YOU ALL ROC!

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING...

February, 2011



Dear Wakefield Families,

Ahhh, the “joys” of winter have been upon us! Joys?!? Well one man’s joy is another man’s great big annoyance. The word “Joy” is defined as being a noun meaning: the emotion of great delight or happiness caused by something exceptionally good or satisfying; keen pleasure; elation: *She felt the joy of seeing her son’s success.* To our dear children the snow has most definitely been a source of joy and great elation especially as they sled down the hill here at Wakefield Elementary during their many recent days off from school. However, to you parents, our staff and local businesses, well, let’s just say that what our children define as joy has most likely become something less than exceptionally pleasurable! But alas we can not control the weather and we carry on as best we can.

Due to the many snow days it has been challenging for teachers to complete their mid-year assessments. To that end, Report Cards will now be coming home on Monday, February 14th. Speaking of assessments, teachers use a variety of informal and formal assessments to measure progress for each child in a variety of areas. Monitoring progress through formative assessments helps teachers plan instruction to better meet student needs. Summative assessments (End of a Unit of Study/NECAPs –New England Common Assessments, measure Grade Level Expectations). Formative assessments are assessments FOR learning. Summative Assessments are assessments OF learning. Teachers try to be sensitive to a child’s anxiety level around testing. As children take more responsibility for their learning they often set their own goals. In so doing, they challenge themselves; keep track of their scores and work toward their personal best. Some examples of literacy assessments are:

Grades	Assessment Tool
K & 1st	• Phonemic Awareness Language Survey, PAL
2nd	• Developmental Reading Assessment, DRA • Aimsweb (Reading Fluency)
3rd & 4th	• Aimsweb, (Reading Fluency, Comprehension)
You can find out more about these assessments by visiting http://www.aimsweb.com http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/earlychildhood.aspx http://www.bridgew.edu/library/cags_projects/vcain/Intro.htm	

- My parents or guardians talk to me about jobs I can have when I grow up: 23.9% never, 53.3% sometimes, 22.8% often
- Outside of School Activities: 47.9% Play an instrument compared with 20.1% state wide
- Screen Time-Amount of time I usually play video games, watch TV, play on computer (not homework) 3+ hours/day: 18.7% compared with 22.7% state wide
- My school’s rules are fair: 83.7% answered yes as compared to 75% state wide

As a school, we also have a variety of tools we use to assess ourselves and how effectively we are serving our students and families. One of those tools is **SurveyWorks!** which we have been talking about in this and previous issues of The Wizard’s Word. I’d like to share some of what last year’s 92 4th and 5th Graders had to say in SurveyWorks 2010:

- My teachers care about me: 89% positive response (64% strongly agree & 25% agree)

This information will continue to be analyzed and acted upon by our School Improvement Team, PBIS Team and entire staff. This year’s 4th graders completed the 2011 survey this month. Parent, teachers and administrator surveys will become available March 1st online. Computers to be available to parents who need access to ensure an accurate picture as possible of our school community. Just let us know if you need access.

Finally, please be sure your emergency contact information is up to date with our school office. Our automated phone and email systems are the quickest way for us to inform you of both critical and general school happenings. All current numbers (home & cell) and addresses are needed to be effective. Please contact Regina with any updates by calling her at 360-1400 or email her at rdesalvo@skschools.net.



Sincerely,

Michelle Little
Principle





TIPS TO KEEP SLEDDING AT WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY AND OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES FUN AND SAFE

We all know how great Wakefield Elementary School is in general. But during snow days...IT'S THE BEST SLEDDING DESTINATION IN SOUTH COUNTY! Here are a few health & safety tips to keep the outdoor activities fun.

Sledding is fun for children of all ages, but also brings the risk of injury. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reports that most sledding injuries occur in children 5-14 years old. Most are minor, such as scrapes, sprains and strains. Some are serious, injuries to the head for example. The younger the child, the more likely a head injury can occur.

Here are some tips to keep you child safe on a sled:

- Maintain adult supervision at all times.
- Allow you children to sled only with others of similar age and ability.
- Have children ride feet first, sitting up. It is the safest position to avoid head injury.
- Choose sled-riding hills that are away from parking lots and roads. There should be no trees, rocks or fences in you way.
- Slide down the middle of the hill and climb up the hill on the sides.



- Wear a helmet when sledding or ice skating.
- Move out of the way quickly when you get to the bottom of the hill.
- NEVER ice skate near open water-make sure the ice is at least 4 inches thick before you skate on it.
- Skate in the same direction as the crowd-move to the side if you cannot keep up with the speed.

Dress for the Weather

- Keep warm-dress in layers if you are going to be outside for long periods of time. Wool clothing works best to keep you warm.
- On sunny days put sunscreen on your face and ears!
- Make sure all of your play equipment fits properly.
- Watch for frostbite-where your fingers, ears, toes, and nose become very white and numb-tell you parents immediately if you notice this.
- Don't be fooled-drinking warm drinks while you are outside only tricks your body into thinking it is warmer than it is. Be careful and don't stay out until you are too cold.

Waiting for the School Bus

- When it snows, leave some extra time in the morning to get to the school bus stop on time.
- Stand away from where the bus stops. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus.
- Don't throw snowballs at the bus-or anyone else.
- Don't push or shove around the bus-someone could fall and get hurt.



Extra stuff

- Pets feet and ears are not covered with as much fur-watch for frostbite on your pet too!
- Watch for jagged ice and cracked walkways that can injure the bottoms of your pets' paws.
- Help your parents, grandparents or a neighbor to shovel walk ways and driveways clear of snow and ice.

Snow days really can be fun when you keep them safe and warm!



**Valentine Gifts
& Art Month
coming up**

Contact Mrs. Schenck if you have not received your child's security code and gallery link by sending email to eschenck@skschools.net and she will register you as a Parent. The site administrators will forward you a link with your login information.

You don't want to miss out on being able to order personalized gifts for friends and relatives featuring your child's art work. You'll be able to enjoy those creative inspirations for a life time!

Mrs. Schenck thanks you for your continued support of the visual arts and design education at the elementary level.



The Wizard's

CHAMPION ZONE: Your PE News

Too cold outside? Still no excuse for indoor inactivity

If outdoor play can't happen because of the extreme cold there are still plenty of ways to get your kids the regular daily exercise they need to stay healthy and fit. Here are a few tips:

1. **Dance Party** - Throw on your fave CD or launch Kidzworld Radio, crank up the volume and dance up a storm in your bedroom. Invite some friends over and have an indoor dance party. It's fun and is a great way to get some exercise.
2. **Circus Acts** - Start practicing some of your favorite circus tricks. Spinning a hula hoop, juggling or jumping rope (if you have high ceilings) are all fun and easy activities for you to try indoors. Just make sure you've got enough space and don't damage any of your parents' favorite furniture
3. **Clean House** - Volunteering for extra chores around the house can be a good way to get some indoor exercise. Cleaning up your room or helping your mom or dad clean the house might not be that fun, but it could keep you in shape and maybe get you a raise in your allowance and at the same time.

Read more on Exercise Tips at <http://www.kidzworld.com>

WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY PTO NEWS

The mission of the Wakefield School PTO is to serve as a non-profit, school-based, nonpartisan organization with the purpose and intent of fulfilling the following objectives:

1. Provide a forum for parents and teachers to work cooperatively for the enhancement of the educational experience of Wakefield School Students;
2. To raise and distribute funds for enrichment programs, guest speakers, field trips, equipment, family activities, parent education programs and special needs as deemed appropriate by the PTO;
3. To serve as an advocacy group for Wakefield School and to develop a closer relationship between home and school.

Meetings are open to the community and held the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Unless otherwise noted the following meeting dates apply:

February 9 • March 9 • April 13 • May 11 • June 8

Overwhelming Parent Involvement Make the 5th Annual Snowball Dance at Hugh Success

Usually considered just another of the family fun activities sponsored by the PTO, this year's Snowball Dance actually turned out to be a fundraiser in disguise! With 275 students, parents and siblings in attendance, the proceeds garnered from the very moderately priced \$2.00 entrance fee and \$5.00 raffle tickets a totalled \$1,800 and will be used to support programming and other educational activities at Wakefield School.

Event Chair Kristin Benjamin wasn't sure how things would turn out this year, "In the past, the planning usually included a committee of 5th graders, not to mention the large attendance factor that group usually brought in." However, with help from co-chair Sue Skiffington and committee member Jennifer Brown and all the parents that provided what Benjamin called "a light dinner buffet rather than a snack table," it exceeded expectations.

Congratulations go out to all the raffle winners as prizes ranged from an Apple I-Pad, Waterville Valley Ski and Resort lift tickets, a gourmet coffee maker and fitness packages just to name a few. A great big thank you goes out to the following local businesses and parents who were more than happy as always to donate products and services to our raffle:

Artistic Hair Salon

Artist Pam Santos

the Benjamin Family

Bi-design Salon & Stylist Laura Kretschmer

Chick Gavitt's Ichiban Karate Studio

El Fuego Restaurant

Gevalia Coffee

Go Pasta

Janeeska's

Pier Pizza

Spangles

Sweeners Chocolates

Sweeney's Wine & Spirits

Waterville Valley Ski Resort

Waves of Creations

THE GROUND MAY STILL BE WHITE

BUT AT

WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY EVERYTHING'S GREEN

FOR NATIONAL GREEN WEEK 2011

Wakefield Elementary School students are participating in National Green Week by joining with 1,000's of schools nationwide and taking the Waste-Free Snacks challenge. Please help your child and his/her class by packing snacks, drinks and lunches in reusable containers. This simple act can help eliminate thousands of pounds of trash from our landfills and improve life as we know it on our planet. The fourth graders will be weighing the trash generated during snack and lunch time in order to compare it to our trash production numbers taken before the challenge began. Last year our Wizards were part of effectively eliminating 300,000 lbs of trash nationally in just 5 days!



Why not try this and other simple things at home and make saving the earth an everyday affair! Learn more about National Green Week 2011 by visiting the Green Education Foundation website at www.greeneducationfoundation.org/.



Photos courtesy of Courtney Williams

Music and photography services were also donated by Moondance Productions, owned by Allen & Sue Skiffington and William Mosunic Photography of Wakefield. Photos are in and available this week from the school. High School Student volunteers were also involved in assisting with assorted tasks throughout the night and another special thanks to the parents that volunteered as chaperones, hall and bathroom monitors helping keep the evening safe and fun for all.

**WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
CALENDAR FOR
FEBRUARY, 2011**

Dates of Note	Events
Thursday, the 10 th	NECAP Testing - 4th Grade
Monday, the 14 th	Valentines Day
Friday, the 18 th	9am PBIS Assembly Spirit day = Pajama Day! Popcorn Friday
Monday the 21 st through Friday the 25 th	NO SCHOOL Winter Break
Monday, the 28 ^h	Back to School

POPCORN POPPERS NEEDED!

No experience necessary. Just spend any amount of time popping and bagging at Wakefield



Elementary between the hours of 7:30am and 10:30am.

Contact Heather Totten at hmtotten@yahoo.com or if you don't have E-mail, leave a note with your contact info in the main office.

Join South Kingstown CARES for our
**7th ANNUAL ADULT
SPELLING BEE FUNDRAISER**



Saturday March 5, 2011

6:00 Pre Bee Bistro
7:00 Bee Begins

The Elk's Club
60 Belmont Ave., Wakefield

Cost: \$10 pp includes the Pre Bee Bistro

Spectator seating is limited. Come early! Support your school team!!
Questions? 360-1304

Making a difference one child at a time!

NEED HELP? Rhode Island **2-1-1**
Get Connected. Get Answers.

Rhode Islanders needing assistance can get help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week thanks to United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island. That's right, one call can connect you to essential community services—everything from finding an after-school program to locating a food bank or accessing a job training program. And 2-1-1 help is available in 175 languages and dialects. You can speak confidentially with an Information and Referral professional who will assess your needs and then provide you with information regarding which social service provider is most appropriate to handle your issue.

Dial 2-1-1 for information regarding:

- basic needs such as food • •Senior services/elder care
clothing & shelter • •Disability services
health care • •Job training
child care • •Transportation assistance
counseling • •Veterans services
crisis intervention • •and so much more...

United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island has also been designated the emergency information and referral number by the State of Rhode Island in the event of a natural disaster such as a hurricane.

**EASY WAYS TO EARN CA\$H
FOR YOUR KID'S CLASS**

Did you know that by simply clipping and turning in those **Box Top\$ for Education**, Wakefield Elementary was awarded \$1,085 last year?! AND, that money was used to purchase supplies for classrooms, help subsidize special programming, field trips and other things that went directly to benefit the students.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Cut them, collect them & turn them in to School to use as cash

Visit www.boxtops4education.com.

We are an A+ School at Stop & Shop

With A+ School Rewards, points accrue with each purchase where your Stop & Shop Card is used. You can help us make the most of it and register your Stop & Shop card today at www.stopandshop.com





Family Volunteering when your family time is part time

So we know that volunteering together as a family has loads of short and long term benefits. And, the definition of a family encompasses many forms: It is usually a group of two or more people, such as parents, children, siblings, foster parents, caregivers, grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins; perhaps it is the blending of two families into one, a single parent household, interracial or even two parents of the same sex raising their children. However, the most important thing to remember is that an individual defines their own family. The following is an excerpt from an article by Susan J. Ellis, of Energize, Inc. where she highlights how to make it happen when your family is defined by divorce.

Divorce is a fact of life for a growing number of Americans and may be for you, too. And although there are many models for joint child custody arrangements, in the majority of cases one parent becomes the primary custodian of the children. If you are the non-custodial parent, you face the prospect of short-term "visits," often over weekends or school holidays. Do you fear becoming solely a playmate in your child's limited free time?

All of the reasons why volunteering as a family unit is a good idea go double for divorced families! By selecting a mutual volunteer project, you and your children have the chance to share something special together -- something not done with the primary caregiving parent.

You have a purpose to some of your mutual time, beyond filling the hours with play. Of course the volunteering should be fun, but it has a meaning besides enjoyment. You can demonstrate values

and ethics to your children, passing along important parental expectations that might otherwise come up during an afternoon at the ballpark.

Non-custodial parents can lose track of how fast their children develop. By teaming up as volunteers, you can observe your youngster's skills and personality traits. Similarly, your son or daughter has the opportunity to get to know you in completely new ways.

Because time is precious during a visit, you may not want to commit to a volunteer assignment requiring weekly attendance. Volunteering can be scheduled once a month or even seasonally at first. If you lives in the same community as your children, it may be possible to arrange for joint volunteering at a time in

addition to your predetermined visits. For example, if your child is active in a youth organization or sports league, you might become an adult volunteer and join your son or daughter at the regularly- scheduled group activities.



Prepared by Lynne Harper

Lynne is affiliated with The Volunteer Family, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to encourage, facilitate, coordinate, and support volunteering activities for families in order to strengthen values while helping nonprofit agencies achieve their respective goals of serving communities most pressing needs.
www.TheVolunteerFamily.org

As children grow into teenagers, the rationale for parent/child volunteering becomes even stronger. The much-discussed "communication gap" is a problem even when a teen lives under the same roof as the adult. When a parent is separated from the daily growth process of a teenager, it is important to find ways to become re-acquainted as each new stage of maturity is reached. If the volunteer work is truly selected out of mutual interests -- or perhaps in support of your child's concern for a cause -- the volunteer activity becomes an anchor around which to maintain a relationship.

Read the entire article at

<http://charityguide.org/volunteer/motivation/volunteering-with-your-family.htm>

Susan Ellis is one of the Nation's foremost authorities on just about anything volunteer related.

Visit EnergizeInc.com to read articles, find books and other resources to improve your organization, business and personal life through the power of volunteerism.

Family Volunteer Resources

www.thevolunteerfamily.org

www.serverhodeisland.org

www.doinggoodtogether.org

www.volunteermatch.org

www.southernrivol.org

Have questions?

Email Lynne Harper at

lharper@thevolunteerfamily.org

FAMILY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Fire Chief Robert Perry of the Union Fire District, is reaching out to you for some assistance. Given the winter and all the snow, our volunteer firefighters have been shoveling out fire hydrants for weeks. We know we have more to do. If possible, could you and your family please shovel out any fire hydrants in front of or near your home? We ask that if you do opt to help out in this way that all children are accompanied by an adult, proper equipment is used and you do not take any unnecessary risks by standing in the roadways or ignoring icy footing. This is a good way to help those elderly neighbors, get some exercise and assist our own volunteer firefighters that put their lives on the line everyday to save you and your valued property. Any and all assistance is appreciated.