



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

September 2011

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Look for the following regular features in future editions:

- "Check it Out"-Library news
- "Readers Corner"
- "Family Volunteering"

FIND US ON THE WEB

<http://wa.skschools.net>

WORD OF THE MONTH

"Polite"

(PEACE MAKER)

Adjective -

Having or showing respectful and considerate behavior especially toward others.

**See "PEACE MAKER" explained on page 6*

PHONE NUMBERS:

Main Office: 360-1400

Principal: 360-1402

School Nurse: 360-1406

Social Worker: 360-1247

NOT EVEN IRENE COULD KEEP THE MAGIC FROM HAPPENING: WELCOME BACK WIZARD'S

Tropical storms and power outages like a longer wait at in-school pick-ups may have delayed a few things at day's end it's probably because you but the magic is in the air once again at are still running on the old 3:08pm bell. Wakefield School as the Wizards reported This year the school day starts at 8:49am for learning on September 6th! and ends at 3:17pm. Please With the new school year comes read "Principally Speaking" new friends, new teachers, on page 2 by principal Lynn new learning opportunities Dougherty for more details and a new principal. Heck, we on all that's new. So again, we even have brand new buses. are excited for a productive, Another IMPORTANT NEW challenging and magical year thing to mention is the school of learning ahead. Welcome day START and END TIMES. If you back Wizards! have been frustrated with what seems

New start & end times for elementary schools
8:49am
 to
3:17pm



Want a full color version of the Wizard's Word?

Check us out online at <http://www.wa.skschools.net> then click "Newsletters" at the top just below the banner.

or

Visit <http://www.SouthKingstown.Patch.com>

Do a key word search on "Wizard's Word" These are easy ways to share school news with friends and relatives.



A message from the editor:

Calling All Teachers! Highlight your student's work in the Wiz Word

Is your class doing something extra fun? Do you have a student that wrote a great poem or has a book review they would like to share? Did you have any special visitors that stopped by your classroom that you might like to thank? Than submit your story to the Wizard's Word. It's so easy. Just e-mail or give the piece to Miss. Regina in the office and she will include it in her regular information for Lynne Harper, PTO & newsletter parent volunteer. After all, this is your school's newsletter and it should highlight as much of the wonderful things happening in our classrooms as possible. Looking forward to seeing what's up this year! Thanks, *Lynne Harper*

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING...

Reflections from Mrs. Dougherty

Summer is such a special time, a time for family and friends to gather and celebrate the gifts we have been given. I hope each of you have had some time to splash in the water, eat ice cream and just relax. Fall seems to rush in from nowhere and brings with it exciting changes. Fall is also a time for new beginnings such as making new friends, starting a new school or a new grade, and connecting with the old friends we have made along the way. Here at Wakefield School, we have many old friends to greet and many new friends to get to know. I am excited for all of the opportunities that are ahead of us this year.



Lynn Dougherty, Principal
Wakefield Elementary School

We are welcoming some new and talented staff to our school community. This summer, we hired two new teachers, Aimee Williams as the Kindergarten Teacher and Kelly Ferguson as the Split Support Grade 1 Teacher. Caighln Perrin (grade 4) and Leigh Pelopida (grade 3) are new to our building this year as well. We have a new School Psychologist, Sue Casey and a new Reading Specialist, Elyse Scherza. Danielle Speights has become our new Reading Recovery Teacher, Lisa Goodwin is now our Math Coach and Linda Gaskill comes from West Kingston as our Library Media Specialist. We have two long-term substitutes in our building due to maternity leaves, Laura Cyr (Grade 3) and Ellen McKee (Grade 1). We are also in the process of hiring a new Speech/Language Pathologist for the building, so we currently have two veteran SLP's filling that position. Our Teacher Assistants have mostly remained the same however; we are in the process of filling two vacant positions which are also being covered by familiar substitutes. In the office, Regina DeSalvo has been hard at work ordering materials and supplies and keeping up with the many demands that are placed upon her. Diane Lynch has been working hard keeping up with the many building schedules, putting the final touches on the handbook and making sure that everything is correct and up to date in the student information binder. The office is in very capable hands. If you see Richard Trahan, Dan Patton or Al Stedman, please thank them for all their hard work this summer getting the school ready and looking wonderful. They did a fantastic job.

The 2011 Wakefield School/South Kingstown School Department Handbook is hot off the press. I strongly encourage you to read through it and keep it handy. You will find the information in the handbook useful to you throughout the year. After you have read the handbook, clip off the bottom portion of the last page and return it to school so that your child/ren can receive a "Hat's Off" slip to be put in our Wakefield Wizard's raffle box in the office.

I'd like to offer some friendly & helpful reminders regarding Arrival and Dismissal Routines:

- ✨ **SCHOOL NOW BEGINS AT 8:49 AND ENDS AT 3:17. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 8:30 AS THERE IS NO ADULT SUPERVISION FOR THEM IN THE BUILDING.** If your child arrives after 8:49 you will need to come in to the office and sign them in as tardy. There are many new learning initiatives this year and the instructional day is very full and begins right away. It is important for all children to be on time and ready to learn.
- ✨ **PARKING IS AN ISSUE!** As you know, there is limited parking in the school parking lot. Please take advantage of the parking lot at St. Francis Church across the street. There is a crossing guard at the top of the driveway to assist pedestrians crossing the street. There is also additional parking in the lot behind the Main Street shops. The busses are also having a very hard time maneuvering down School Lane with cars parked on both sides, especially in bad weather. Also, please recognize the Busses Only lane in the front of the school. We are working very hard to keep everyone safe and have an orderly arrival and dismissal.
- ✨ **SCHOOL ENDS AT 3:17. THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY ENDS VERY CLOSE TO THAT TIME. PLEASE** pick up your child for early dismissal only if you have an appointment. Regularly calling students for early dismissal any time before 3:17 disrupts the classroom routine and interrupts teaching and learning. We appreciate your cooperation in this very important matter. Thank you!

Wakefield Elementary School has a wonderful team of dedicated professionals, parents and community members who are here to teach and support all children, all day and every day. As always, you can reach us by dialing the office or using the phone/e-mail directory in the handbook.

Sincerely,

Lynn Dougherty

Principal



WAKEFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTO NEWS



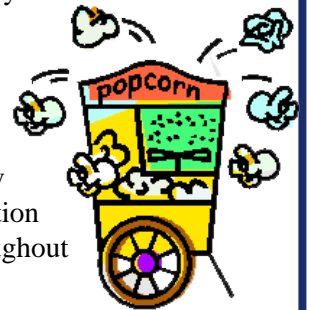
As always, our PTO is very active in bringing you and your children plenty of opportunities to meet and greet each other and support our school. Just some of the 2011/2012 regular school events, monthly happenings and assorted activities and classroom support that you can look forward to include:

- Fall Family Picnic
- Popcorn Fridays & Spirit Days
- Walk to School Wednesday
- All School Jog-A-Thon
- Snow Ball Dance
- The All School Play in partnership with G.E.A.R. Productions
- F.L.A.S.H. (Fun Learning After School) Programming
- A variety of cultural arts programming
- Bingo Night
- Box Tops for Education
- Scholastic Book Sale
- Classroom Support
- Teacher & Staff recognition Lunch
- The Wizard's Word
- School T-shirts
- School beautification projects
- and more....



It was wonderful to see so many enthusiastic folks attend the first PTO meeting held Wednesday the 14th. Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. Since it is your school, this is your PTO so feel free to stop in to see what its all about, offer an idea or lend a hand. The PTO is only as successful as the people power put into it so no one is ever turned away.

A special THANK YOU goes out to the volunteers that came out early Friday morning and popped batch after batch of popcorn for our first Popcorn Friday. We hope you had fun as we know the kids enjoyed their special snack that day. If you want to be a Popper just give Heather Totten a call at 782-6418 or e-mail her at hmtotten@yahoo.com. Also, thank you to the crew that helped put together your child's classroom Friday Folder. This is an important communication vehicle for you to keep up with what your child is learning and how they are progressing throughout the school year.



Finally, if you would like to be involved in any of the events or activities listed above or just want to find out more about your PTO, feel free to give Pam Santos a call anytime at 789-5568.

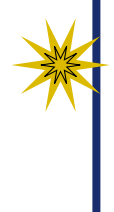
Go Green Wednesdays on the Way

Magic will always be there when we all choose to care. Kermit the Frog may think it's not easy being green but here at Wakefield Elementary, we make it easy as flipping a switch or walking out the door! The PTO is committed to helping you and our students live healthy, active and "green" lives by through our Green Initiatives Program.

This year we are kicking it off on Wednesday, Oct 5th and encouraging you to participate in International Walk to School Day in partnership with the Sierra Club.

One of the great parts of going to a neighborhood school like WES is the accessibility to walkers. Walking to school or anywhere for that matter not only helps keep adults and kids fit, it also helps reduce our carbon footprint going a long way to help preserve our environment and keep the air we breathe clean. Please join us on Wed. the 5th and walk to school! Search that backpack for information that was sent home. If you don't have a safe route to walk or are too far away, consider driving part of the way and walking from where ever you can. Every little bit counts!

Look for more information on our Green Initiatives coming soon.



NURSE'S NICHE

YOUR SCHOOL HEALTH MONTHLY NEWS & INFORMATION UPDATE FROM "NURSE JAYNE" BRASSIL, SNT



FLU SHOT FACTS:

Why get vaccinated.

• The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends annual seasonal flu vaccination to prevent getting or spreading the flu. The strains that are included in the seasonal flu vaccines change every year, so you must be vaccinated against seasonal flu every year.

Who should get vaccinated?

• People 6 months of age and older.

Is it Safe?

• YES!

It may be back to school time but we want to make sure it's not back to flu time! South Kingstown School District is participating in School-Located Flu Vaccination Clinics, SLFVC. These are in partnership with the RI Department of Health. You should have gotten a flyer home via the Backpack Express but just in case you missed it here is the information you need to know.

Wakefield School's Clinic Info

WHO: For Students, Staff/Faculty, Parents and Siblings

WHERE: Curtis Corner Middle School
301 Curtis Corner Road, Wakefield

WHEN: Friday, September 30th from 4pm to 7pm

To keep wait times to a minimum, please try to attend the time frame designated below:

Last names beginning with A-F: 4pm-5pm

Last names beginning with G-N: 5pm-6pm

Last names beginning with O-Z: 6pm-7pm

COST: Students – Free Of Charge (Insurance information will be collected if available)
Adults – No Co-Pay with BCBS, UnitedHealthCare, Medicare Part B, Neighborhood health, TriCare or Tufts
All others are \$20.00

YOU MUST HAVE YOUR INSURANCE CARD WITH YOU TO VERIFY COVERAGE

How to Register

To complete consent forms prior to arriving at the clinic, you can register online at www.thewellcomp.com/school

OR

You can fill out the consent form when you arrive at the clinic.
Habla español? Fala Português? Parlez Français?
Call 401-222-5960/RI Relay 711



Please consider participating and help keep this as healthy a school year as possible.



The Wizard's

CHAMPION ZONE: Your PE News & Events column

brought to you by Jim "Mr. Champ" Champion, SK PE Educator



Welcome back to school and your key to being physically fit this year! If you don't know me already you soon will; I'm Mr. Champion (a.k.a. Mr. Champ) your physical education teacher. Our classes meet twice a week and are filled with fun based on introducing you to and developing all sorts of different skills while encouraging maximum effort and best behaviors. In Phys Ed it's all about movement so it's very important that every child wears appropriate, comfortable clothing and foot wear suitable for both indoor and outdoor activities. Kids should please try to avoid wearing dresses, skirts, sandals, Crocs, flip-flops or boots. Sneakers, shorts or slacks ensure everyone can participate without worry.



DATES OF NOTE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
SEPTEMBER				
26	27 • Open House	28 • Picture Day - Smile!	29 • No school Rosh Hashanah	30 • Flu Shot Clinic at CCMS • After School Art & Soul • After School Karate
OCTOBER				
3	4	5 • International Walk to School Day	6	7 • After School Art & Soul • After School Karate • Family Potluck Picnic
10 • No School Columbus Day	11	12 • PTO Meeting • NECAP Reading Session grades 3 & 4	13 • NECAP Reading Session grades 3 & 4	14 • NECAP Reading Session grades 3 & 4 • After School Art & Soul • After School Karate



CREATIVE EXCITEMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT WAKEFIELD ELEM.

visit www.artsonia.com

So you haven't heard of Artsonia. Well the story of Artsonia begins with a dream that artwork created from kids around the world can be shared and enjoyed by everyone. If kids say the darndest things, imagine what they draw! Today, due to the passion of thousands of art teachers worldwide, that dream has come true. Wakefield Elementary is very lucky to have one of those passionate art teachers, Elizabeth Schenck has been inspiring young artists in South Kingstown for over two decades! Since 2009, she has been sharing their inspired creations with the world through the web pages of Artsonia. To date Wakefield Elementary School has over 5000 works on exhibit, with 3345 pieces in their gallery from last school year alone. This, as well as parent participation on the site, keep Wakefield Elementary listed as one of the top three schools in the state. With this year's cast of new and returning artists we are sure to keep the magic flowing like paint on a canvas.

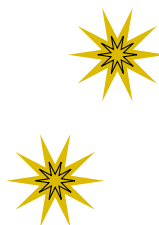


The way it all works, is that Mrs. Schenck teaches a class that exposes the children to all sorts of different artistic concepts of style, medium, historical significance and so on. The children then engage their imaginations and create fun, interesting and truly magical works which she then photographs or scans and posts in our school gallery on Artsonia.

Then if parents are interested, they can obtain login

information to view and help their child add comments about what they created and why giving the viewing audience insight into the young artist's mind. The more you participate on the site, the more you can help support the art program at your school. In addition to being an online gallery, you can shop the museum store and purchase keepsakes featuring your child's works of art. The money generated through Artsonia helps to purchase art supplies for WES. So if you haven't visited Artsonia recently, check it out at www.artsonia.com and see the magic our Wizards have created! Your encouragement of their efforts is most appreciated.

Each month, we will be highlighting some of the works featured on Artsonia by our Wakefield Wizards. So look for information about signing up or contact Mrs. Schenck via email at eschenck@skschools.net to learn more.



We're choosing PEACE

In fulfillment of our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) goals and showing ourselves and the community that "Wakefield Wizards ROC," we are committed to sustaining a peaceful school community. For details on the PBIS program and the matrix of how we Respect Ourselves/Others and Community we hope you will refer to the Handbook that came home earlier this month. You can also view it online at our school website at

<http://wa.skschools.net>.

Because we believe that incredible things happen when staff, students, parents, and the community work together to communicate to provide a positive, safe, and caring environment for all to learn and grow, we choose PEACE as the basic concept of everything we do.

As such, we pledge to be **P**arents and **E**ducators **A**ffirming **C**hildren in a caring **E**nvironment at Wakefield Elementary.

Our **Words of the Month** emphasize this and remind us that when we choose to be a Wakefield Peace Maker, we choose to be.....

Polite (September) - Behaving properly; having or showing good manners)

Empathetic (October) - Showing compassion; understanding how others might feel)

Altruistic (November) - Showing unselfish concern for the welfare of others.

Caring (December) - Showing thought, attention, and interest.

Even-tempered (January) - Showing a calm state of mind

Mindful of others (February) - Being aware; taking thought of.

Amicable (March) - Having a pleasing disposition, good-natured, friendly



Kind (April) - Doing good rather than harm.

Environmentally aware (May) - Showing concern for nature and respect for property

Responsible (June) - Trustworthy; reliable, Involving obligation or duties.



Now that's magical!

South Kingstown CARES *Become A Volunteer!*
Connecting All Resources for Educational Support

Are you planning on volunteering in the classroom this year? If yes, THAT'S GREAT!

To make it happen in the most productive and fulfilling way possible, the district practice is that all classroom volunteers attend the CARES orientation and screening before you start.

Please visit our website at www.skcares.org to fill out an application today. Once that is complete a CARES representative will contact you with the orientation schedules.

Don't have access to the internet or have questions before applying, just give us a call at 401.360.1304 or email us at caresoffice@skschools.net.

We look forward too hearing from you and making your volunteer experience a success for all.

EASY WAYS TO EARN CASH 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 programing, field trips and other things that went directly to benefit the students.

This year our school is registered with the **Stop & Shop A+ Rewards** program which means, if you have a Stop & Shop Customer Rewards Card and you register it with their website, every time you shop with the card, you not only save money on your groceries your earn money for our school! **So far we've earned \$93!** Now how cool is that!

Be sure to tell your friends and relatives who shop there to register their cards and designate Wakefield Elementary School as the recipient of the A+ points they earn - no matter where they live!

Visit the websites listed below for more information.

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



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



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

Visit www.boxtops4education.com.