



WELLS-OGUNQUIT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

James P. Daly

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

February 24, 2016

Dear WOCSD Parents/Guardians, Faculty & Staff, and Community Members:

Winter activities are winding down and spring is on the horizon. Many of our high school seniors are already counting the days until graduation!

We've passed the midway point of the school year and are beginning to plan the 2016-2017 school calendar. As I meet and talk with folks throughout our communities, I am often asked questions and receive feedback about our school calendar. People are curious as to:

- Why isn't the school calendar sent out earlier to parents so they may plan around school vacations, etc.?
- Could the school year end earlier in June to meet the business needs of the communities and the summer job schedules of high school students?
- Would it be possible to begin the school year after Labor Day?

Listed below are guidelines that direct much of the process for creating a school calendar. Our school calendar must include the following:

- 177 student days
- 184 teacher days (or equivalent hours to meet 184)
- A plan for making up days for inclement weather
- Same or equal number of legal holidays as State of Maine employees

Some limitations:

- Begin school after Labor Day
- Have less than five (5) dissimilar days with Sanford Regional Vocational Center (aligned with partner schools)
- Election Day (presidential election only) – no school- to accommodate community facility needs

With these guidelines/limitations and other factors in mind, we have developed the 2016-2017 school calendar to include the following:

- First day of school after Labor Day
- End of school – second week of June
- Alignment with Sanford Regional Voc. Center (State mandated)

This proposed 2016-2017 school calendar will also incorporate the following change:

-District-wide early dismissal (one hour) each Wednesday:

- Wells Elementary will dismiss at 2:00 pm
- Wells Junior High will dismiss at 1:00 pm
- Wells High School will dismiss at 12:48 pm

This early dismissal schedule is currently being used in four districts of the partner schools within the Sanford Regional Vocational Center group and would provide an additional hour for professional development for our faculty and staff.

Also, realizing the need of extra child care due to a shorter school day, I have contacted the Wells Recreation Department as to the possibility of beginning their after-school program one hour earlier on Wednesdays to meet the needs of our younger student population.

A copy of the proposed 2016-2017 school calendar is included in this Update. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

As always, it is my pleasure and privilege to serve as superintendent of the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District.

James P. Daly
Superintendent of Schools

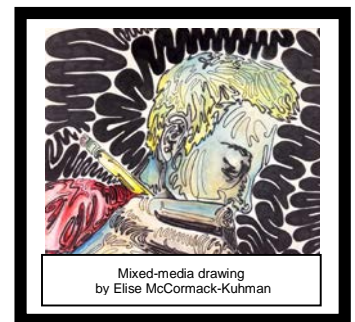
ON-THE-SPOT RECOGNITIONS

*Students, teachers, staff, and community members going the “extra mile”.
Thank you for your dedication to our schools!*

Students –

- **Caleigh Berube (WES Gr. 2)** – Caleigh volunteers to do so many jobs in the classroom. She runs errands, fixes the calendar, puts away books, and cleans up stations. *Nice job, Caleigh!*

- **Nolan Mottor (WES Gr. 3)** – Nolan is recognized for his act of kindness. He noticed a student that was having a difficult time. Nolan approached the student, helped him, and sat next to him until the student felt better.
- **Dominic Capello (WES Gr. 4)** – Dominic invited a new student to sit at his table for breakfast on the student's first day at WES.
- **Tyler Carpenter (WJHS Gr. 8)** - placed 4th at the February math meet. *Congratulations!*
- **Ashleigh Bolduc (WJHS Gr.8)** and **Natalie Hanagan (WJHS Gr.8)** – who placed 2nd and 3rd respectively in the *Patriot's Pen Essay Contest*. Honorable Mentions were awarded to: **Grace Bradish (Gr. 8)**, **Hannah Bradish (Gr. 8)**, **Katie Plourde (Gr. 8)**, and **Sophie Killam (Gr. 6)**.
- **Nathaniel Hayward (WHS Gr. 11)** –was named the **Class B State Champion** in Diving. *Congratulations!*
- **Madison Szczygiel (WHS Gr. 10)** and **Zander Lumenello (WHS Gr. 12)** – for qualifying at the New England-level in Indoor Track & Field. Madison will run the 1000m and Zander the 600m on Sunday, February 28th at the Reggie Lewis Center in Roxbury, MA.
- **Angela Leone, Elise McCormack-Kuhman, (WHS Gr.12)** and **Elana Fortin (WHS Gr. 11)** were recognized at the Maine College of Art in Portland on Feb. 13th for their achievement in the regional Scholastic Art Awards program They will represent the State of Maine in the following categories:
 - Angela – *Silver Key award* – Photography
 - Elise – *Honorable Mention* – Drawing
 - Elana – *Honorable Mention* – Photography
- **Elise McCormack-Kuhman (WHS Gr. 12)** has also been selected to participate in the Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art. Her mixed-media drawing will be on display at the museum from March 2nd to April 3rd. She will be recognized at the show's opening on March 5th.



PERSONNEL UPDATE

Currently posted positions:

- **Building Principal** – Wells Elementary – grades BK-4
- **Substitutes** – grades K-12
- **Custodian substitutes** –District wide

If interested, contact Diane Norton at 646-8331 or dinorton@wocsd.org

Volunteer positions:

- **District Sub-Committee / Facilities**

If interested, please contact Lil Lagasse at 641-6912, or llagasse@wocsd.org

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION UPDATE

- As you may be aware, Marianne Horne, Wells Elementary principal, will be retiring at the end of the school year. Selection and interview committees are being formed and we are asking teachers and community members for input. At the WES PTSA meeting on Feb. 23rd, parents had the opportunity to share their thoughts regarding the qualities desired in the new principal of Wells Elementary.
- February 12 was an excellent day of Professional Development for K-8 teachers. Teachers met in vertical teams to work on Graduation Standards and Curriculum. K-5 math teachers had professional development with *GreatMinds*.
- The MEA will be given to students in grade 3-8 during the window of March 21-April 14.
- The SAT will be given to all Juniors on April 12.

HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

Literary Achievement Award Contest

- The deadline to enter is **Friday, February 26th**. Cover sheets are required and may be found on the District's website at www.wocsd.net

Wells Elementary School

- Wells Elementary staff are developing a list of traits/qualities they would like to see in a new principal. These ideas should assist in the hiring process.
- The "Day of Compassion" assembly is scheduled for Monday, February 29th at 2:10pm. Several local agencies, including Atria, Wells-Ogunquit Outreach, Safe Haven Animal Shelter, York County Shelter, St. Mary's Food Pantry, and Kennebunk Animal Shelter, will be part of the event.
- Marty Cryer, WES technology teacher, and our students received wonderful "thank you" letters from the American Red Cross and Walter Reed Hospital for the students' and staff donations to injured US servicemen and women.
- Kindergarten student participated in ten *Kelso Choices* lessons that taught specific strategies to help them make positive choices when faced with problems both big and small.

Wells Junior High School

- The annual Student Council “Bake-Off”, held on Feb. 10th, was a huge success! *Congratulations* to the winners of each category:

Brownies/Bars

1st – *Ava Tavares*
2nd – *Santiago Fitch-Cury*
3rd – *Eryn Lally*

Cookies

1st – *Chloe Carbonneau*
2nd – *Emma Hollins*
3rd TIED – *Caroline Clarrage*
Kaitlyn Kenyon

Cupcakes – Best Looking

1st – *Marina Villator & Riley Bolton*
2nd – *Lily Heyland*
3rd – *Hannah Tufts*

Cupcakes –Best Tasting

1st – *Landon Lessard*
2nd – *Ella Poulin*

Cakes – Best Looking

1st – *Kathryn Gilbert, Mackayla Giles & Abby Hayward*
2nd – *Emma Readio*
3rd – *Tabitha Boudle*

Cakes – Best Tasting

1st – *Tim Martell*
2nd – *Kylie Nguyen*

Peoples’ Choice Award - for their *AMAZING* cake!

Kathryn Gilbert, Mackayla Giles, and Abby Hayward

Wells High School

- FINAL WEEK! WHS Winter Guard “Weed Out”** – donations of clothing, bedding, or anything “textile” will benefit the Guard’s efforts to raise money for trips to the Regional and World championship competitions in New Jersey and Ohio. The team is grateful to those who have already made donations! Please spread the word – donations may be made through this Monday, Feb. 29th. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted also. Please make your tax deductible check payable to “*W/O Music Boosters*”, 200 Sanford Road, Wells, ME 04090.

PROPOSED
2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR
(see below)

DRAFT

**WELLS-OGUNQUIT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
2016-2017**

2016						
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JULY						
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31						
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T-1 S-0						
SEPTEMBER						
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T-20 S-19						
OCTOBER						
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T-20 S-20						
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T-17 S-17						
DECEMBER						
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T-16 S-16						

JULY
4 - Independence Day

AUGUST
31- Teacher Workshop - **NO STUDENTS**

SEPTEMBER
1 - Teacher Workshop - **NO STUDENTS**
2 - **NO SCHOOL**
5 - Labor Day - **NO SCHOOL**
6 - **FIRST STUDENT DAY**
9 - **BK/KINDERGARTEN FIRST DAY**

OCTOBER
10 - Columbus Day Observed - **NO SCHOOL**

NOVEMBER
8 - National Election Day - **NO SCHOOL**
11 - Veteran's Day - **NO SCHOOL**
23-26 Thanksgiving Recess - **NO SCHOOL**

DECEMBER
23-30 -Holiday Recess - **NO SCHOOL**

JANUARY
1 - New Year's Day
2 - New Year's Day Observed - **NO SCHOOL**
3 - Return to school
16 - **M L K Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL**

FEBRUARY
20 - President's Day - **NO SCHOOL**
20-24- Winter Recess - **NO SCHOOL**

MARCH

APRIL
14 - Teacher Workshop Day-COMP - **NO SCHOOL**
17-22 Spring Recess - **NO SCHOOL**

MAY
29 - Memorial Day Observed- **NO SCHOOL**

JUNE
11 - Graduation -1 pm
14 - **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL** (tentative)

2017						
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JANUARY						
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T-20 S-20						
FEBRUARY						
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T-22 S-22						
JUNE						
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T-10 S-10						

<p> SCHOOL VACATION/HOLIDAY</p> <p> OFFICIAL EVENT</p> <p> TEACHER WORKSHOP DAY – (No School)</p> <p> EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS</p> <p> LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (tentative)</p>	
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This calendar reflects the student and teacher days and should not be considered the work schedule for other employees.