



# WELLS-OGUNQUIT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of the Superintendent

James P. Daly

## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

December 10, 2015

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

It's hard to believe that it's already December! I would like to thank El Niño for the fantastic weather we are experiencing!

During this holiday season, I have enjoyed watching students, faculty, and staff as they perform their holiday concerts, play in athletic events, and participate in all of the activities that are familiar at this time of the year. It is so contagious to catch the holiday spirit from our children during the holiday season. It's a wonderful time of year to get together with family and friends to celebrate and be thankful for all the people in our everyday lives.

On behalf of the entire staff at the Wells-Ogunquit Community School District, we wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season with family, friends, and loved ones.

Please be aware that school will be closed starting on Wednesday, December 23, 2015 through Friday, January 1, 2016. School resumes on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Finally, I am enclosing a quick story about the spirit of the holidays. Hopefully, it will serve as a reminder as to what the holiday season is all about!

Again, from our WOCSD family to yours – take care – and may you and your family enjoy a safe and joyous holiday season!

*Happy Holidays,*

James P. Daly  
Superintendent of Schools

# The Gold Wrapping Paper

(written by Fred Burks)



Once upon a time, a man punished his five-year old daughter for using up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper just before the holidays.

Money was tight, so he became even more upset when he saw that the child had used the expensive paper to decorate a large shoebox she had put under the tree.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier reaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady" he said harshly, "when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package?"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered, "Daddy, it's not empty, I blew kisses into it until it was full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for the rest of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child that had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as human beings has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family and friends.

There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

**Happy Holidays!**

## **ON-THE-SPOT RECOGNITIONS**

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

### Faculty/Staff-

#### **WOCSD Secretarial Staff:**

- **Sarah Blevins, Holly Wydra, Chris Yeomelakis** – Wells Elementary
- **Victoria Aldridge, Cindy Mitchell, Sheila Jarochoym** – Wells Jr High
- **Mindy Staples, Terre Webster, Karen Quint, Tari Matthews** –Wells HS
- **Lil Lagasse, Diane Norton, Lisa Fallo** – WOCSD Central Office

***Thank you for always going "above and beyond" behind the scenes to make our schools operate effectively. We appreciate your dedication to our students!***

### Students –

- **A.J. Pelletier – WES Grade 2** – was recognized for politely asking for help when he needed it and said, "thank you". Later at recess, he respectfully spoke with his peers about slowing down and assisted other students with finding their coats.
- **Natalie Blaisdell- WES Grade 3** – was recognized for sharpening pencils and stacking chairs at the end of the day without being asked.
- **Jason Iannillo – WES Grade 4** – was recognized for being a responsible student in his reading class. He immediately gets to work and always behaves appropriately. He consistently demonstrates responsible work habits and routinely sets a positive example for his peers.
- **Joel Foley and Shea Harrington – WJHS Grade 8** – are recognized for being super responsible attentive students who go above and beyond to make sure their work is on point.
- **Colby White, Emily Gleason, Elliana Poulin, Sydney McDermott, Felicia DesJardins, Cynthia Kaszynski, Kai Rosenberg, Alyssa Kenney, Zoe Clark, Astrud Demos, Annabelle Breton, Tim Martell, Kim Yurga, Julie Mott, Grace Stevens, and Samantha Jones – WJHS Grades 7 & 8** -were recently accepted to the Southern Maine Music Honors Festival.  
*Congratulations!*

- **Sarah Holdsworth – WHS Grade 11** - was 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up at the Miss Teen Maine USA competition in November- she achieved this honor out of thousands of applicants throughout the state - including 29 semifinalists!  
*Congratulations, Sarah!*
- **Noah Pease - WHS Grade 12** - scored two goals and had one assist in a recent Wells-Noble Ice Hockey game. The team won the game 5-1.

## **PERSONNEL UPDATE**

### Currently posted positions:

- **Substitutes** – grades K-12
- **Custodian substitutes** –District wide
- **Spring Drama Director** – Wells Junior High School

*If interested, please contact Diane Norton at 646-8331, or visit the WOCSD webpage.*

- **Math Instructor** – Adult Ed

*If interested, please contact Lisa Crothers or Sue Cayford at 646-4565.*

### Volunteer positions:

- **District Sub-Committee / Facilities**

*If interested, please contact Lil Lagasse at 641-6912, or [llagasse@wocsd.org](mailto:llagasse@wocsd.org)*

- **Reading Skills** – Adult Ed

*If interested, please contact Lisa Crothers or Sue Cayford at 646-4565.*

## **DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION UPDATE**

- Administrators continue to work on Danielson Framework by doing observations together and talking about components of an effective lesson.
- Teachers have submitted their Student Learning Objectives (SLOs). Steering Committee will meet on December 14. They will attend a training and then will look at all Student Learning Objectives (SLO) for approval.
- A Proficiency-Based Diploma self-assessment with completed with Superintendent Daly.
- A Proficiency-Based Diploma progress report was submitted to the Department of Education.

- Teachers have been working on Graduation Standards for all 8 content areas. Math, ELA, PE/Health are just about complete.
- Curriculum Coordinating Council (CCC) met on December 1, 2015. We have established an excellent group of community members, students, teachers and administrators.
- Vertical Teams (VT) are being reestablished. Math VT will meet on December 21, 2015.

## **HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT**

### **Wells High School** –

- Congratulations to **Mark Lewia**, WHS Physical Education teacher and coach. Mr. Lewia was recently named the *High School Assistant Football Coach of the Year* by the Campbell Conference. He has coached both football and wrestling at Wells High School for over 30 years.
- On December 5<sup>th</sup>, the Wells Warriors Wrestling Team won the Sullivan Dual Tournament for the third year in a row. *Congratulations to the team!*
- Congratulations to the Wells Warriors Girls Basketball Team who won their home-opener on Dec. 4th!
- The Class of 2019 is currently selling long-sleeved “**Super Fan**” shirts as a class fundraiser.



Front

***They make great holiday gifts!***

To purchase one, please contact Noël Curcio at 646-7011 Ext. 2008.

The cost is only \$15.



Back

## Wells Junior High School

- ***Wreaths Across America*** stopped at Wells Junior High School on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. A school assembly, complete with color guard, was held to honor veterans and to recognize the educational mission of the *Wreaths* program.
- During Monday's assembly, several students who placed in the **Patriot's Pen Youth Essay** contest were awarded their certificates. Congratulations to: Second Place: **Ashleigh Bolduc**; Third Place: **Natalie Hanagan**; and Honorable Mentions: **Katie Plourde, Sophie Killam, Hannah Bradish, and Grace Bradish**.
- Wells Junior High participated in the "eHour of Code" on December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to **Beth Goodwin** who is leading the program this year.

## Wells Elementary School

- ***Students Show Compassion*** –WES 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders are participating in the Toys-for-Tots campaign by traveling from Wells to Portland via Amtrak. Each student will donate a new toy to help less fortunate children during the holiday season.
- ***Core Value Awards***- Forty-five students were seen demonstrating one or more of the district's Core Values during the month of November. They were recognized recently with a certificate and by joining in a group picture, which was added to the WES Core Value bulletin board.
- ***Student Talents*** -
  - Kindergarten students are preparing for the upcoming holiday concert which will be held on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am in the WES cafeteria.
  - Fourth Grade Band students will be demonstrating their newly acquired instrumental skills at a concert on December 18<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10:00am in the WES gymnasium.

## Adult Ed

- Adult Education has made the transition from the State student CASAS assessment paper testing to the updated electronic testing for a more accurate and efficient evaluation process. Moving from paper-based testing to computer based requires a lot of people to work together. Thank you to **Mary Angelini** and **Darrell Rider**, who are now certified as evaluators; and to **Josh Adams**, our IT specialist, who prepared the required technology portion for the transition.

## **WHS BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Over two years ago, voters in Wells and Ogunquit approved \$26.85 million dollars in public funds to build a 21<sup>st</sup> century high school that would match the quality of work being done by students and staff. For the past two years, our school staff and our building committee have closely monitored the construction process. Our focus has been to ensure that we move into a building which matches the expectations put forth in the architectural renderings.

To date, we have experienced many successes. Images from the construction project heighten our excitement to occupy our new building. However, some spaces have failed to meet our expectations. Whenever the quality of craftsmanship or the quality of a product used does not match the specifications of the project, we insist that the contractor correct the issues.

For many reasons, the construction company was unable to meet the original deadline set forth when they were selected as our contractor. In working with the architect and the contractor, we have adjusted the timeline for completion of Phase I. At this point, we intend to move into the new building over the weekend of January 16-18, 2016. However, completion of the building remains an ongoing process.

Our focus will always be to represent the citizens of Wells and Ogunquit. As Phase I of the project comes to a close, we will make certain that we accept a building of the highest quality.

- ***Exterior Progress***
  - catch basins winterized
  - walkway paved
  - lettering installed on main entry
  - columns scheduled for install (this week)
  - lettering installed on athletics entry
  - lamp posts installed
  
- ***Interior Progress***
  - Third Floor**
    - finish installation of cabinets
    - correct "sandstone" tile
    - install water fountains
    - clean/address punch list items
    - installation of classroom numbering

## **Second Floor**

- finish installation of tile
- finish cabinetry installation
- complete miscellaneous tasks/corrective work
- finish paint in classrooms/stairwells
- complete interior glass installation
- complete interior doors
- installation of classroom numbering

## **First Floor**

- complete installation of:
  - flooring
  - interior glass
  - final painting
  - Main Office cabinetry
  - ceiling tiles
- test heating/cooling system
- final test on fire alarms

- **Barriers to Completion:**

- corrective floor tile
- custom built-in cabinetry in classrooms/Main Office incomplete
- majority of first floor incomplete
- corrective work throughout building
- miscellaneous incomplete tasks

**Please see  
photos  
below**

# WHS BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

