



Watertown Public Schools

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Ms. Donna K. Martin
Principal

Mr. Jason Del Porto
Assistant Principal

March 22, 2019

Dear Watertown Middle School Families,

Good afternoon and Happy Friday! Hope everyone is well and enjoying the (somewhat) warmer temperatures. We are definitely marching through March!

For Additional Information:

Don't forget to check out the (fairly) new WMS website. It's updated regularly!

<https://wms.watertown.k12.ma.us/>

And like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/watertownms/>

Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MiddleWatertown>

Some important upcoming dates/events:

Calendar

March 22	Musicfest 5-10 pm
March 25	Cluster 3 field trip to the Kennedy Center
March 26	Pennies for Patients Walk-a-lap-a-thon 3:15-5 pm
March 28	“Once on This Island, Jr.” presentation for grades 4&5 9am
March 28	Holocaust survivor presentation for grade 8 10-11:15 am
March 28	“Once on This Island, Jr.” 7 pm
March 29	Youth Risk Behavior Survey
March 29	“Once on This Island, Jr.” 7 pm
April 2	Cluster 4 field trip to the Kennedy Center

April 3 School Site Council meeting 7 pm

April 4 Quarter 3 ends

April 4 ANGST movie

April 5 Quarter 4 begins

April 5 WMS MCAS Infrastructure Trial

April 8-12 8th grade DC Trip/Watertown Week

April 12 Report cards distributed

April 15-19 NO SCHOOL - April vacation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 25 A day	March 26 B day	March 27 A day	March 28 B day	March 29 A day
April 1 B day	April 2 A day	April 3 B day	April 4 A day	April 5 B day
April 8 A day	April 9 B day	April 10 A day	April 11 B day	April 12 A day
April 15 NO SCHOOL	April 16 NO SCHOOL	April 17 NO SCHOOL	April 18 NO SCHOOL	April 19 NO SCHOOL
April 22 B day	April 23 A day	April 24 B day	April 25 A day	April 26 B day

PARKING ISSUES: *IMPORTANT***** Please DO NOT park in the disabled parking spaces in any of the WMS parking lots unless you have a disabled parking permit. Several times those with the permits have been unable to access the parking spots as cars are parked illegally in them. Please be respectful, compassionate, and obey the law.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS: Our annual Pennies for Patients fundraising drive is in full swing!

Some highlights:

The **Pennies for Patients Basketball Game** was great fun and, after several overtimes, ended in an exciting TIE! Rematch? Stay tuned...

The **Walk-a-Lap-a-Thon** is Tuesday, March 26th, 3:00pm here at school. These events bring the community together in support of a great cause.

And the main reason we do Pennies for Patients:

First, the **Resilience Gives** website – get some cool student-designed socks!

<https://www.resilience.gives/products/watertown-middle-school?variant=22135690920017>

Second, the link and the instructions on how to make an **online fundraising page for the LLS**. Please see this attached letter and directions: [Steps to creating Individual online page \(1\).docx](#)

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS INFORMATION: Here is the link to register for a spring sport:

<https://www.familyid.com/watertown-public-schools-athletics/high-school-middle-school-spring-athletics-registration-2018-2019>

REMINDER ABOUT DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY: We have received a number of complaints about dogs being on the WMS school property and I would like to remind all of you (dog owners) about the town ordinance regarding pets. I too love dogs, but please follow the regulations of the ordinance in order to keep both people and pets safe. Here is a copy of the town's ordinance: [Responsible Dog Ownership in Watertown Brochure_201501291104045136.pdf](#)

2019 YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY: The YRBS will be administered on Friday, March 29th to all students. Please see this letter for an explanation of the survey: [WMSParent form 2019 YRBS \(2\).pdf](#)

ANGST is coming to Watertown! Please see the attached flyers for information about the movie ANGST which will be shown both in school and in the evening for parents:

[Angst-Email_Letter-Invite-.docx](#) [Press-Release-FINAL-for-Community-Screenings.docx](#)

EL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL: The next ELPAC meetings will be Wed. 4/24 at 9-10am and 7-8pm at the Watertown Free Library.

ONE SCHOOL ONE BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEE: The summer reading selection committee has begun to search for this summer's book! The committee will read six titles, and eventually narrow the list down to two finalists for the whole school to vote on. **NEW THIS YEAR:** parents are welcome to join the committee! To find the book list and meeting dates, visit www.wms1s1b.org.

8TH GRADE DC / WATERTOWN WEEK TRIPS: The trips are coming up from April 8th-12th! The information you need for the DC trip can be found in the Virtual Backpack. Please contact the organizers Abby Casey, Amy Magill and Phil Martin if you have any questions. We are thankful the government shutdown has ended! Here is the link to the Virtual Backpack: https://wms.watertown.k12.ma.us/student_resources/virtual_backpack

Raptor Visitor Management System: This was installed at WMS in October to build on the district's program of safety for students and faculty. Part of keeping students and faculty safe is knowing who is in our building at all times and the Raptor system allows us to do that. The Raptor system allows us to track visitors, contractors and volunteers in our schools and provides us with a safer environment for our students and staff.

Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the system. The Raptor system will scan the visitor's name, date of birth and photo for comparison with a national database of registered sex offenders, as well as locally established alerts (e.g. "no trespass" orders). Additional visitor data from the driver's license is not gathered nor is the system connected to any other system such as the Department of Motor Vehicles. Therefore any other

information on the ID is not scanned by the system and is not accessible to any of the users. Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of his/her visit.

MINUTEMAN: A reminder that there is an **application deadline of April 1, 2019**, for any 8th grade student applying to Minuteman.

YEARBOOK: The 2018-2019 WMS yearbooks are now on sale for \$25! Please use the following information to place your orders:

ybpay.lifetouch.com Yearbook ID Code: 7822619

The deadline to purchase is May 1st.

MORNING DROP OFF: As stated at the beginning of the year and in the handbook:

*If you are driving your child to school, **Please consider the safety of our children who are walking nearby. DROP STUDENTS OFF ON BEMIS ST. ONLY. Please do not block traffic, and pull your car clear of others before pulling away.** To avoid traffic tie-ups, consider dropping your child off a block away and letting him/her walk the rest of the way.*

Please DO NOT drop off students before 8:30 at the Waverly Street door. Several buses drop off students there, and it is unsafe to have cars in between the buses and vans. Please drop off your students at the Bemis Street entrance before 8:30am. Our number one priority is keeping the students safe, and so we ask you to please follow the drop off procedures so no accidents occur.

FROM THE NURSE: Due to district wide policy change, cough drops and throat lozenges are no longer supplied by the health office. Students are more than welcome to keep a bag in their locker or backpack if needed.

Best,

Donna Martin, Principal

Twitter: @PrincipalofWMS