



# Watertown Public Schools

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*Principal*

**Mr. Jason Del Porto**  
*Assistant Principal*

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March 4, 2019

Dear Watertown Middle School Families,

Hello and Happy Tuesday! We had our first snow day in March – welcome to New England! It was nice to have a day at home, but let's hope that is the only one this year!

Some important upcoming dates/events:

## **Calendar**

March 5	Pennies for Patients Pennies/Nickels challenge through 3/7
March 6	i-Ready makeups (math and ELA) **bring headphones**
March 6	Early Release Day – 12:30pm dismissal
March 6	School Site Council meeting 7pm
March 7	Pennies for Patients Skate Night 6-8 pm <b>**baked goods and/or candy donations still needed**</b>
March 8	Pennies for Patients Dime Challenge
March 9	Pennies for Patients Rummage Sale 10 am – 2 pm
March 12	Pennies for Patients Quarters Challenge
March 12	Bandarama WHS 7pm
March 13	PTO meeting 7pm
March 15	Progress reports distributed
March 15	WHS Transition Panel to speak to 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
March 15	Pennies for Patients dance 7pm

March 21 Pennies for Patients basketball game 6-8 pm

March 22 Musicfest 5-10 pm

March 26 Pennies for Patients Walk-a-lap-a-thon 3:15-5 pm

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 4 B day	March 5 A day	March 6 B day  <b>Early Release 12:30pm</b>	March 7 A day	March 8 B day
March 11 A day	March 12 B day	March 13 A day	March 14 B day	March 15 A day
March 18 B day	March 19 A day	March 20 B day	March 21 A day	March 22 B day
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

**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 kicking off shortly – very exciting! Please read the following letter to hear all about the wonderful activities throughout the month of March:

Some highlights:

We need a lot of help with our annual **Pennies for Patients Rummage Sale** that will be held on Saturday March 9th 10:00 – 2:00pm in the WMS upper gym. - In addition to amazing items for sale at great prices, the event will also include a bake sale, silent auction, and raffles. Many students volunteer at this event, but we need adult volunteers as well – both on the day of the event and the afternoon/evening before to set up.

- We also need donations of household items, furniture, and clothing for the rummage sale itself. If you plan to donate, please make certain **household items** are intact and in working order. Any **clothing** should be clean, gently worn, and free of rips, tears, and stains. **Small furniture** such as chairs, end tables, lamps, desks, etc. would be great. Toys, games, appliances, books, kitchenware, and sporting goods are needed as well. No televisions or computer monitors please.

- **Silent Auction items** such as gift cards or better quality household donated items would be greatly appreciated! **Please send all donated items to school by Friday, March 8th with your child, or drop them off in the office during school hours.**

- Finally, we need patrons. Please spread the word about this event to everyone you know. If you are interested in volunteering or donating in any way, please contact Mr. Chris McDermott at [christopher.mcdermott@watertown.k12.ma.us](mailto:christopher.mcdermott@watertown.k12.ma.us).

Finally, please participate in all of our Pennies for Patients community events. **Family Skate Night** is Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:00, at the Ryan Arena on Pleasant St.

\*\*\*Baked goods and/or candy donations still needed for Skate Night\*\*\*

**The Pennies for Patients Basketball Game** is Thursday March 21<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 in the WMS gym. The **Walk-a-Lap-a-Thon** is Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:00pm here at school. And a **Kickoff Raffle and 50/50 Event** will be happening at the Asiana Fusion on March 1, 2019, from 5:30-8pm. These events bring the community together in support of a great cause. Additionally there are events available to students only, including the **Pennies for Patients Dance** on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS INFORMATION:** Please find information in this letter: [WMS Spring Letter- Announcement.docx](#)

Also, any middle school girls who may be interested in softball, there are captains' practices on Wednesday and Friday from 3:00-4:45. The coach will be there to supervise.

**KINGIAN NON-VIOLENCE COMMUNITY COURSE:**

The link to register is: <https://goo.gl/forms/Wwtt4eoBTLLyilSL2>

It is also available on the WPS website.

**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](http://www.wms1s1b.org).

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE DC / WATERTOWN WEEK TRIPS:** The trips are coming up from April 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>! 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](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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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