



WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“You Are Not Forgotten”

At Westwood’s 2012 Veteran’s Day observance, Chairman Phil Shapiro, Board of Selectman, stated that the New England Patriots was the first team in professional sports to honor the approximately 92,000 United States servicemen and woman POW/MIAs (Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action) by dedicating a permanently unoccupied stadium seat preserving their memory.



In his remarks during the Veteran’s Day services, Chairman Shapiro was inspired by the empty seat at Gillette Stadium and challenged the Town of Westwood to put together a similar memorial somewhere in Westwood. Commander Richard Paster, American Legion Post 320 Westwood, noted in his remarks that a dedicated empty chair is displayed at all American Legion Post meetings as a stark reminder of all those who have served and not come home.

At the January 7th, 2013 Board of Selectmen meeting, the challenge was met. Through some brain storming by Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator; Christine McCarthy, Executive Assistant; Chris McKeown and Paula Scoble, Veteran’s Services; and Vietnam Veteran and Westwood resident, Bob Wood, Westwood’s symbolic empty chair is now permanently displayed in the lobby of Town Hall.

Joe D’Entremont, President of the Massachusetts Chapter of Rolling Thunder, and responsible for the chair being dedicated at Gillette Stadium, was present at the January meeting and offered his assistance to the Town in its efforts to make this happen. Rolling Thunder is a national organization, dedicated to the search for, and the memorialization of America’s POWs/MIAs. “You are Not Forgotten”.

Senator Michael Rush and Representative Paul McMurtry also attended January’s meeting.

More Westwood Pride

Westwood’s specially commissioned empty chair will forever be a reminder to all those who enter Town Hall, that there are members of the Armed forces who chose to protect the freedoms of the United States of America, and whose status is, to this day, unknown. It is easily identified by its black color and engraving.

“We’re all about awareness...proud of the town of Westwood... Everyone who walks through that door now is going to see this chair and remember. Possibly a child is going to ask their mom or dad what it means...we’re going to make it our mission this year to get a chair in every Town Hall...thank you Westwood,” expressed a member of Rolling Thunder.

See the Selectmen’s Meeting on WestCAT TV:
<http://tinyurl.com/POW-MIChairDedication>

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Did You Know...

Six Town employees have reached 25 years of service?

- At the Board of Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, February 11, 2013, the Board recognized six employees for their 25 years of service to the Town of Westwood: Firefighter Jonathan Cook; Deputy Fire Chief Michael Reardon; Michael Jaillet, Town Administrator; Officer Timothy Foley; Sergeant Paul Sicard; and Detective Paul Toland. The Board thanked the employees for their dedicated service to the Town and presented each of them with a certificate and clock.

Contributed by Town Hall



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOWN HALL

From left to right:
Michael Jaillet,
Patrick Ahearn,
Philip Shapiro,
Jonathan Cook,
Michael Reardon,
Nancy Hyde, and
Paul Sicard. (Not
pictured: Paul
Toland and
Timothy Foley)

Westwood High Alumni Association

Invitation to join the splashing success!

The Westwood High Alumni Association is busy as usual!

At last September's Westwood Day, our dunk tank was a smashing success, as folks lined up for the chance to sink their teachers and principals!

This year, we are organizing more fund-raising events and seeking new members as we continue to grow. And, we plan to expand on our success at Westwood Day with an even larger presence this year – and of course, the dunk tank will be there *again!*

Plans for this year also include scholarship awards at Westwood High School as part of Graduation day in June. For more information, and for any Westwood graduates who are interested in joining, check out the website, www.westwoodhighalumni.org, for contact information.

Contributed by Jay Resha

NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

- If you have not licensed your dog or dogs, please do so as soon as possible. Town bylaws require all dogs to be licensed each year on or before January 31st.
- The annual Town Census was sent to each household in early January. If you have not already done so, please return your completed census to the Town Clerk's office. Failure to return the Census may cause a voter to be designated as inactive on the voting list (M.G.L, Ch.51, § 4).

Important Dates:

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – *Last day to register voters for Annual Town Election, Special State Primary, Annual & Special Town Meeting*
Town Clerk's office from 8:30am-8:00pm

Tuesday, April 30, 2013 – **Annual Town Election**
Polls open from 7am-8pm

Tuesday, April 30, 2013 – **Special State Primary**
Polls open from 7am-8pm

Note combined
voting dates

Monday, May 6, 2013 – **Special Town Meeting**
7:30pm – Westwood High School Gymnasium

Monday, May 6, 2013 – **Annual Town Meeting**
Upon conclusion of Special Town Meeting – Westwood High School Gymnasium. Until all business has been completed.

Note
combined
Town
Meeting
dates

Wednesday, June 5 – *Last day to register voters for the State Election*

Town Clerk's office from 8:30am-8:00pm

Tuesday, June 25, 2013 – **State Election**
Polls open from 7am-8pm

If you have any questions please contact the Town Clerk at 781-326-3964.

Contributed by Dottie Powers

Westwood Masons

Child Identification Day Saturday, May 11, 2013

If a young child suddenly becomes lost or is missing most parents do not have sufficient resources to help find and identify their son or daughter.

The Westwood Masons and Contentment Chapter #184 OES in conjunction with the Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officers Association and the Massachusetts Dental Association are teaming up to help. On Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 9:30am to 3:30pm at the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church of Westwood (808 High Street) a child identification program will be held. This includes taping an interview with your child, fingerprinting, making a dental imprint, and taking a DNA swab from the child's cheek. All of this information is then turned over to the parents for their exclusive use if the occasion should arise. None of it is copied or distributed elsewhere and there is no charge for the service.

Since the program's inception in 1988, more than 275,000 children have been identified in this way. If your child has already participated in this program, consider coming by and updating the information.

Contributed by Jeff Jarvis

Firefighter Graduation

February 8th, 2013 from the Brockton Fire Academy



Pictured left to right: Carolyn O'Brien, Lt. Robert Valluzzi, graduate firefighter Robert Kilroy, Chief William Scoble, graduate firefighter Michael Narciso, Captain Richard Cerullo

Congratulations!

Rotary Club of Westwood

Annual Pancake Breakfast and more

The Rotary Club of Westwood held another successful holiday concert in December. Santa, The Grinch, and one of Santa's Elves entertained the audience as they listened to the Charles River Chorale and the Snug Harbor Community Chorus of Duxbury under the direction of Roy S. Kelley.

On March 24, 2013, the club will hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast at the Westwood High School from 8:00 am to noon. Special characters will be present so bring your cameras. Breakfast will be \$5.00 with children three and under being free.

Start to clean your garages and attics as the club will hold a Recycling Event on May 4th from 9am to 2 pm at the First Baptist Church. Stay tuned for further details.

The Rotary Club of Westwood meets every Tuesday at the Holiday Inn in Dedham at 12:15pm. The club is a group of business men and women that meet for lunch, to hear a speaker, and to work together on a number of community and international projects. If you would like to learn more about Rotary or attend a meeting, please contact Michael Razza at stxx@aol.com.

Contributed by Laura Macs

Recreation Department

TRIPS

Treat Yourself to a Get Away

- **Sister Act**, Providence Arts Center, April 14, \$99
- **Lion King**, NY City, April 17, \$169
- **NY City, Ground Zero, Ellis Island & more;** May 4-5, \$259-\$329
- **Red Sox Game**, Baltimore, June 14-16, \$379-\$509
- **Martha's Vineyard**, July 20, \$89

For complete details go to Brochures and Flyers at www.westwoodma.gov/recreation

East Street Bridge Update

The Town is working to raise and widen clearance of the East Street Bridge

The East Street Bridge that provides MBTA rail service over East Street near Morrison Park has been the site of several accidents over the years. In recent months, some accidents have been the result of the bridge's low clearance of 10 feet 6 inches. Most recently, the bridge was struck by an MBTA bus causing a rupture of the propane fuel tank on the roof of the bus. This accident resulted in an evacuation of the surrounding area.



Pictured above is a recent bridge/bus incident.

Below: The narrow passage under the bridge has also been the site of head on collisions.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOWN HALL

As the problems associated with the bridge are of great concern to the Town, the Board of Selectmen authorized the Department of Public Works and the Police Department to conduct an engineering study of the roadway, bridge and signage. The Board asked for recommendations of short term and long term solutions to this traffic hazard. BETA Engineering, who is highly regarded by the Town, was engaged to analyze and recommend action steps. As a short term measure, the Town has installed several strategically placed signs warning motorists of the low bridge clearance, including improved signage on Washington Street advising trucks of the low clearance on East Street.

BETA Engineering also facilitated a recent meeting with MBTA officials to discuss longer term solutions including the need for the higher clearance of a new bridge. The Town and BETA Engineering, presented a comprehensive report regarding the severity of problems at the East Street Bridge.

The MBTA has taken our presentation under advisement. We have been assured by the MBTA officials that the East Street Bridge will be included on their list for bridges to be replaced. However, we were cautioned that budget constraints and the number of projects that need to be addressed may result in a minimum of five (5) years and upward of ten (10) to fifteen (15) years to design and construct a new bridge. The officials did offer a glimmer of hope that if the cost to replace the bridge could be kept relatively low and the design and bid documents could be prepared, this project might be expedited.

We will continue to update the community as new information regarding this important project becomes available.

Contributed by Town Hall

A photo from the 2009 Kids Ride, showing some Westwood High School volunteers welcoming the riders back to Martha Jones. The WHS volunteers spontaneously made the bridge on their own and the returning riders enjoyed finishing under the "human bridge."
See related story on page 10.



St. John's Nursery School

Announces Benefit Concert

On Saturday, March 16th, *Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys* will return to Westwood to play two shows (9:30am & 11am) to benefit St. John's Nursery School (SJNS). The concert will be held at the First Parish Hall, 340 Clapboardtree Street in Westwood, MA. Vanessa's show last year created a lot of buzz among the preschool set. Parents and children alike were thoroughly engaged by her creative lyrics and it was almost impossible to sit still while listening to the band play such lively tunes! In contrast to the typical nursery rhyme melodies they were used to, multiple parents in attendance commented, "This is kids' music that I actually like!" Since she received such rave reviews last year, St. John's Nursery School has invited Vanessa and the 'Jumping Monkeys' to come back to recreate that wonderful experience!

Vanessa Trien is a Boston-based children's performer with a national following. She already had two award-winning CD's ('Carnival Day' and 'Hot Air Balloon') under her belt, when her new album, "Bubble Ride" won a Parent's Choice Silver award in the October issue of *Parenting Magazine*.

Tickets are \$8 (children under 1 are free) and are available now on the St. John's Nursery School website: www.stjohnsnursery.org. Tickets can also be purchased at the door, but they may sell out, so prior purchase is recommended. All proceeds from this event help support enrichment and educational opportunities for the students of St. John's Nursery School.

St. John's Nursery School would like to thank the Gold Sponsor for this event, Dedham Savings Bank (<http://www.dedhamsavings.com/>) for their generous support of our efforts in the community.

SJNS is a non-profit, NAEYC accredited, non-denominational pre-school established to meet the needs of the three-year old nursery school child. St. John's has served young children for over thirty-five years in Westwood, MA.

To learn more about St. John's Nursery School visit <http://www.stjohnsnursery.org/> or call (781) 329-2032. For more information about *Vanessa Trien and the Jumping Monkeys* visit their website at www.vanessatrien.com.

Contributed by Erin Hayes

Vanessa Trien on stage with SJNS Director Mal Tennihan at the 2012 benefit concert.



Vanessa Trien & the Jumping Monkeys

Westwood Community Chest

Campership Program is in full swing...

Westwood Community Chest (WCC) is announcing its 2013 Campership Program. This program provides scholarships to help Westwood families in need to send their children to summer camp.

All school children residing in Westwood are eligible, and funds are awarded based on financial need. Camperships will be awarded in three grant rounds: application deadlines are March 15, April 15, and May 15, with notifications by the end of each month.

Families can apply for up to \$400 per child, with a total campership grant not to exceed \$750 per family. Applications can be found online at <http://www.wcc.cfsites.org> or at the Westwood Public Libraries, the Police and Fire Stations, Westwood Council on Aging, Town Hall, Recreation Department, Westwood Youth and Family Services and the Post Office. The application process is strictly confidential.

Also please look for us at the "March Into Summer Program" hosted by the Westwood Recreation Department on Saturday, March 9 at Westwood High School from 10am to 2pm. Information about camperships will be available and a representative from the WCC will be on hand as well, to answer questions.

"Again, this year we look forward to providing financial assistance to Westwood families so they can send their children to

camp this summer. Summer camp is such a memorable part of childhood. Camp gives children the opportunity to stretch their abilities and learn something new in a safe and fun environment. We are happy to assist with increasing the opportunities for more Westwood children to have these experiences," says Mary Ellen LaRose, WCC President. Last year, WCC awarded approximately \$14,000 in camperships to over 35 families, due to the generous support of residents and businesses in our fundraising campaigns.

On the WCC website is a resource information page, which lists area camps and possibilities for additional financial aid which may be available through each individual camp.

In addition to funding camperships, WCC also helps residents in financial difficulty by awarding funds that help with basic needs such as medical expenses, housing and utility payments. Applications for basic needs assistance can be found online and at the locations listed above or call 781-366-0470.

For more information about Westwood Community Chest, go to our website at www.wcc.cfsites.org. Donations are accepted online or at Westwood Community Chest, PO Box 250, Westwood, MA 02090.

Contributed by MaryBeth Persons

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Important Public Service Announcement

Mosquito Spraying to be Conducted in the Evening Beginning in Early June 2013

The Westwood Board of Health and the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District would like to inform residents of a **change** to the mosquito spraying program. Beginning in early June 2013, spraying (ULV aerosol applications) will be conducted in the evening, **not** in the early morning as in past years. In the Town of Westwood, applications will be conducted on Wednesday evenings commencing after sunset instead of Monday mornings.

“Mosquito spraying in Westwood will continue on a request only basis, weather permitting. Residents must contact the District directly to request an application,” said Health Director, Linda Shea.

These applications will continue to be conducted with the same product as in past years – one that presents little risk to human health and the environment. (“EPA’s October 2011 Pyrethrins/Pyrethroid Cumulative Risk Assessment indicates that exposures from the many current uses of pyrethrins and pyrethroid insecticides do not pose risk concerns for children or adults.”)

“The decision to move to an evening spray schedule is driven by science. Mosquito biology and weather conditions, taken together, indicate that the use of an evening application will be the most effective at controlling nuisance and disease carrying mosquitoes and therefore the best use of our resources,” said David Lawson, Director of the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District.

Residents can find out if their street is being sprayed, through a link on the NCMCD website www.norfolkcountymosquito.org or by calling 617-582-6216 after 3:30pm each afternoon.

The Board of Health would like to remind residents who **do not** want their property sprayed, that they must notify the Westwood Town Clerk, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090 in writing, with a copy to the Norfolk County Mosquito Control Project, Building 34 Endicott Street, Norwood, MA 02062, by March 1, 2013. However, the District will honor exclusion requests any time during the mosquito season. The law (State Regulation 333 CMR: 13:04) requires this notification as well as a requirement to post your property. This is very important if you **do not** want mosquito spraying so that District personnel can exclude your property from these applications.

To control mosquitoes, the Norfolk County Mosquito Control District conducts Larvicide and Adulticide applications during mosquito season. Larvicide applications are conducted to control nuisance mosquitoes. In the spring, the District conducts spring aerial applications of the biological larvicide, *Bti*, to control mosquito larvae before they become flying adults. Helicopter applications are conducted in mid to late April over specific large wetlands in Westwood and other communities within the county,

conditions permitting. Specific information and maps of the wetlands to be treated will be available on the website as spring approaches. The District has an active summer larvicide program, which includes treating catch basins.

The District conducts Adulticide applications in order to control disease carrying mosquitoes. Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) are found in mosquitoes in Norfolk County. The Westwood Board of Health would like to remind residents **to take action to avoid mosquito bites and reduce mosquito populations**. The greatest risk of contracting EEE and WNV is heightened from late June through early October. Mosquitoes can carry disease until the first hard frost.

EEE is a rare disease with serious life threatening symptoms. Symptoms are high fever, stiff neck, headache and lack of energy followed by inflammation and swelling of the brain (encephalitis). There is no treatment, few people recover from the illness and 50% do not survive.

WNV usually causes mild or no illness in humans. In rare cases, it can cause encephalitis (swelling of the brain) or meningitis (swelling of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). Less than 1% of people infected with WNV develop serious illness. At the present time there is no preventable vaccine.

To avoid mosquitoes please consider the following:

- Limit your time outdoors during peak periods of mosquito activity (dusk and dawn) or if you must remain outdoors, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants.
- Use a mosquito repellent that contains DEET (the chemical N-N-diethyl-meta-toluamide) and follow the directions on the label.
- Take special care to cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. When you bring a baby outdoors, cover the baby’s carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.
- Fix holes in your screens and make sure they are tight-fitting on all doors and windows.
- Remove standing water around your home. Make sure water does not collect and stagnate in ceramic pots, trash cans, recycling containers, old tires, wading pools, birds baths, etc. Remove leaves and debris that may prevent drainage of roof gutters.

For more information, please visit the District’s website at www.norfolkcountymosquito.org or call (781) 762-3681. If you have general questions about mosquito control efforts please visit the Board of Health website at www.townhall.westwood.ma.us or email at mrc@townhall.westwood.ma.us or call the office at (781) 320-1026.

Contributed by Linda Shea

In 2011, an event for preschoolers was added to the Kids Ride to honor Alexa Kelly, as she battled leukemia. See related story on page 10.



Last year’s PMC Kids Ride participants celebrate at a post-ride party. See page 10 for more information on how you can join the 2013 ride!



Westwood Little League

Morrison Park Revitalization Project Update

Westwood Baseball Association, Inc. (d/b/a Westwood Little League) (WLL) has remained engaged over the past several months in its work to revitalize Morrison Park. Construction work on the project began in the Fall of 2012. Phase I of the field project is scheduled for completion by Opening Day 2013. By then, Morrison Park will be transformed into a regulation field. Separately, the Town has been working to oversee the construction of the new tennis court that also will be ready for play in the Spring of 2013.

Each year, WLL serves approximately 700 youth by sponsoring youth baseball activities. The goal of WLL is to “implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children who will grow to be decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.” WLL is governed by a board which meets monthly throughout the year. The name of each board member is listed under the “contacts” tab of www.westwoodlittleleague.com. In addition to the spring league, WLL organizes winter training clinics, a summer baseball league, and fall baseball opportunities.

Project Background

- In 2010 WLL and the Westwood Recreation Commission began discussions concerning redevelopment of Morrison Park, which is owned by the Town and permitted to WLL each year for use of the baseball field located there.
- Specifically, the discussions focused on ways to construct a regulation Little League field to replace the non-regulation field that then existed. The field was non-regulation because of the existence of two obsolete tennis courts which encroached into right field. The field also suffered from other deficiencies both from a playing and safety perspective.

- Throughout 2011, WLL and various Town departments including DPW, Recreation and the Town Administrator discussed all aspects of improving Morrison. WLL hired an architect who completed conceptual plans by the end of 2011.
- In January, 2012, the proposal was presented to the Selectman who indicated preliminary support. WLL continued moving forward with architectural and engineering work and coordinating its efforts closely with Town officials.
- In July, 2012 after incorporation of community input, the Selectman formally voted to approve the proposal. In September and October of 2012, WLL completed design drawings and obtained both Planning Board and Zoning Board approval. The final plans called for the complete reconstruction of the field and the replacement of the two obsolete tennis courts with one new court turned ninety degrees. The Town is covering the expense of the tennis court removal and construction of the new single court – all other expenses need to be covered through private fundraising led by WLL. (See related info on page 13.)
- Construction began in the Fall of 2012 with the removal of the obsolete tennis courts and old baseball field, and the commencement of Phase I of the Project (discussed more below).

Current Status

Extensive construction work has been completed since the Fall of 2012. Accomplishments to date include installation of a new irrigation system, installation of a sewer line to accommodate a new concession stand and restrooms, installation of foundation walls for the dugouts and scorers’ area, and the construction of fieldstone retaining walls. In addition, a new backstop and homerun fence has been installed together with other new fencing. Regrading has been completed together with complete drainage work for the field. Sod will go down as soon as weather permits. WLL is using the services of Tom Bean, a long-time resident who

continued on page 8

Westwood Community Blood Drive

Upcoming Westwood Community Blood Drives

Westwood Community Blood Drives are scheduled for *Saturday, March 23 and Saturday, June 1* at the Westwood Masonic Building, 655 High Street (across from the new library) from 9am to 3 pm. Consider that at some point in the lives of each and every one of us we will need blood and there is only one source: a healthy, volunteer blood donor. *Yet*, only a small percentage of those eligible donors actually take the time to do it. It’s a heavy burden for so few to carry. Make an appointment at 1-800-RED CROSS or at www.redcrossblood.org or just walk-in. It may be the most important thing you do this year!

Give, and then give again...

There is another kind of donation you can do at the same time and this one is tax deductible! If you have a used Windows based laptop you no longer need, drop it off at the blood drive whether you’re planning to donate blood or not. **Laptops for Kidz** is a project of local Masons who volunteer and will make any necessary repairs, install a new operating system and software and place the refurbished unit with a child in the Westwood schools *free of charge*. In the process, your personal files and information will be erased, protecting your security. Surprisingly, many children do not have access to a computer outside school and are therefore at a significant educational disadvantage. This program is an excellent way for the whole community to work together to provide a simple, inexpensive solution to this problem.

For more information contact Jeffrey Jarvis at celestial.lodge.westwood@gmail.com

Contributed by Jeff Jarvis



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF JARVIS

Westwood Educational Foundation

Westwood’s Elementary Teachers Cultivate Rigorous Readers With Help From the Westwood Educational Foundation

When Barbara Lindsay, Westwood Elementary Literacy Coordinator, speaks about turning children into active readers, her enthusiasm is infectious. “The students we teach today are reading their way through a world of information, ideas, stories, opinions – a world full of words,” she says. “We must teach them to express, with confidence, their thoughts about their reading.” As she explains, reading at its best is a highly interactive process. True comprehension is not regurgitating plot or fact; rather, it is the ability to recognize the thoughts, opinions, and reactions that we as readers experience, and then to articulate those ideas in a coherent manner.

With the mass of words bombarding students today and the implementation of rigorous new educational standards focusing on deeper comprehension, Ms. Lindsay sought to bring elementary educators in Westwood a significant opportunity to hone their skills and learn new methods for teaching their students. She hoped to bring two distinguished authors and researchers — Dan Feigelson, one of the founding members of the Teachers College Writing Project at Columbia University, and Kathy Collins, author of several books on developing successful readers — to Westwood to work with elementary teachers in a series of repeat visits and workshops.

Such a program is costly, so last March Ms. Lindsay turned to the Westwood Educational Foundation for help. She applied for a grant in excess of \$16,000 to make the program a reality.

When members of the Westwood Educational Foundation received Ms. Lindsay’s request, they were thrilled. “A grant request with so much thought and energy behind it, and geared to reach such a large section of our community, was very exciting,” said the Foundation’s President, Maryann Wattendorf. The Foundation works in Westwood to raise funds, which it then awards as grants to further innovative educational opportunities in the community. Each year the Foundation reviews applications for “mini” grants of \$1,500 or less, as well as applications for larger “annual” grants. Grant applicants may seek aid for any educational program in the town. In addition to school based programs, past grants have funded such programs as a lecture series at the Senior Center on World War II history, Westwood Sings (an intergenerational music program), and a performance in town by the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers to celebrate Black History Month.

One year after Ms. Lindsay’s grant request, every single elementary educator in town has taken part in the “Rigorous Readers” program, which will conclude this March. In addition to lectures and small group workshops led by Dan Feigelson and Kathy Collins, teachers also experienced key, in-class lesson demonstrations and model conferences with Westwood students led by the experts.

Members of the Westwood Educational Foundation, Ms. Lindsay, and teachers in town are excited by the outcome. “When you hear teachers using ideas from the workshops every day, you know you are having an impact,” says Ms. Lindsay, noting that the response from teachers has been “phenomenal.” Feedback from second grade teacher Shauna McCarty is emblematic of this reaction. “Spending time with Kathy Collins not only informed my

practice, it inspired and energized my instruction,” says Ms. McCarty. “I am fortunate indeed to work in Westwood.”

The Foundation’s board feels lucky to be in Westwood as well. “The generosity of Westwood residents is what makes programs like this possible,” says Ms. Wattendorf. “The ability to put this generosity to work, to have a positive impact on our students, and to help create an environment attractive to outstanding educators is wonderful!”

The Foundation needs the support of town residents in order to continue funding programs like the “Rigorous Readers” grant. If you would like to help the Foundation support innovative, enriching programs, any donation large or small would be appreciated. Visit www.wefwestwood.org to donate and learn more.

Submitted by Amy Barnett

Teachers participate in a small group workshop with author Kathy Collins.



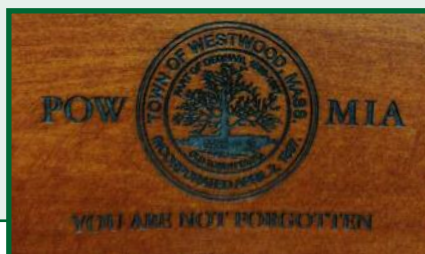
Ms. Collins talks to students during an in-class teaching demonstration for elementary school teachers.



Teachers take notes while observing in-class demonstrations.



Where in Westwood...?



...is this?

Answer is revealed elsewhere in this issue.

Clapboardtree Nursery School

Clapboardtree Student Presents Senator Rush With A “Thank You”

State Senator Mike Rush paid a visit to Clapboardtree Nursery School to speak to the students about Veterans. The Senator read a story to the preschoolers and delighted them with a rendition of “You’re a Grand Old Flag” by George M. Cohan. Senator Rush is a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserves, and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. To honor the Senator, the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUZANNE TREMBLE
Greeting the Senator, from left to right: Quinn Mulvey, Nikki Schuester, James Fahey, Maeve Gavin, Lily Tremble & Lauren Carolan (behind the Senator).

Clapboardtree students presented him with a handmade flag, and thanked him for his service. The annual “Flag for Veterans” project is part of a yearlong series of service oriented projects designed to teach Clapboardtree students about the importance of acts of kindness and contributing to their community.

Clapboardtree Nursery School, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, believes in an early childhood experience rich with language, social, cognitive and motor opportunities. The school strives to create a secure environment which supports the individual growth of each of the students. Clapboardtree Nursery School is a NAEYC (www.naeyc.org) accredited pre-school established to meet the needs of the four-year old nursery school child. Founded in 1972, it was the first preschool in Westwood, MA. To learn more about Clapboardtree Nursery School, please visit <http://www.clapboardtree.com> or call 781-326-5405

Contributed by Suzanne Tremble



Lily Tremble shakes the Senator's hand at the Clapboardtree Nursery School. The class presented Senator Rush with a flag.

Your Pictures, Feedback, Stories, Events, Suggestions, News Items Wanted!

The next quarterly newsletters are due to be delivered to homes on or about June 15, September 15, and December 15, 2013. Please submit articles for consideration 6 weeks prior to these expected delivery dates. Please send any submissions, suggestions, observations, or feedback of any kind to:

Diane Thornton, Editor
Westwood Community Newsletter, 580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090
or email:

newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Morrison Park Update – continued from page 6

grew up playing on the field and who coaches in the league now. In order to ensure the highest quality field, WLL is also consulting with Dennis Brolin of Sports Turf Specialties, Inc. who was introduced to the League through David Mellor, the Head Groundskeeper of Fenway Park.

The Future of the Project

The Project consists of two phases. Phase I will result in the total reconstruction of the existing field which will meet regulation Little League dimensions of 200 feet to the outfield wall. When Phase I is done by Opening Day 2013, the new Morrison will have not only a regulation field but an additional hitting cage (for a total of two), the addition of two bullpens, improved spectator seating, improved storage and more. WLL also hopes to have the financial ability to complete roofed dugouts with storage space for bags and helmets in time for the first season of the new field.

Phase II is scheduled to begin next August after the conclusion of summer baseball. Phase II will involve the construction of the new restroom facility and new concession stand as part of the new improved entrance to the Park. When completed, Westwood will have a terrific venue for children and their families who visit. Moreover, the changes will improve the aesthetics and safety of the current Park bringing a real benefit to the community at large.

The project has already paid dividends for WLL and the Town. With the old, non-regulation field, Westwood was unable to host official Little League tournament games. This year, WLL expects to host a sectional playoff game on the new regulation field. In addition, the state-wide association of Little League officials named Morrison as one of two possible host sites for the 2014 State Little League Championship. Recently, the association elected to bestow the tournament on Beverly which has hosted in the past. WLL believes Morrison is in premier position for 2015 once the project is completed – the decision for 2015 will be made next winter.

Support

Major support for the project has been obtained to date from two sources: (1) Roche Bros Market and the Roche Family and (2) Ellen and Duncan McFarland. Grants and major gifts have also been obtained by local financial institutions and businesses including Dedham Savings, Blue Hills Bank, Peoples Federal Bank and Mercedes Benz of Westwood/Prime Motor Group. In addition, WLL has instituted a brick selling campaign as part of a grassroots community support initiative. A Friends of Morrison Group has sprung into action to manage grassroots community fundraising efforts. WLL is managing the project effectively and stretching every dollar it can. Hundreds if not thousands of volunteer hours have gone into planning, organization and supervision. To reach completion, additional funding is needed for materials, supplies and labor – further information on the project is available under the Revitalize Morrison tab at the top of WLL's website (westwoodlittleleague.com) or by contacting any WLL board member listed on the website. Thank you for your interest and support in making the Revitalized Morrison Park a reality!

Contributed by John Loughnane
See related story on page 13.

Hale Reservation

HOLA Program Receives Big Kick from Generous Resident

Rick and Cathy Roche recently made a very generous donation to Hale Reservation to extend camp opportunities to youngsters participating in the Hale Outdoor Learning Adventures (HOLA) program. Hale partners with the Boston Public Schools to give inner city children a camp experience that also focuses on summer learning to ensure academic success. We asked Rick to share his story with us.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

Cathy and I have two children, Caitlin is 24, Chris is 20. We moved to Westwood in April of 2000 from Wrentham.

How did you first come to know Hale Reservation?

A friend of ours, Bob Dempsey asked me to get involved when we first moved to town.

Have your children ever been involved in any programs at Hale, or with similar places?

Both kids now work summers at the Mass Hospital School Camp, which provides some similar activities, but for severely disabled students. Caitlin works full time year-round at MHS.

What were your own summer experiences like as a child? How have they helped you as an adult?

I was mostly into sports leagues/baseball in the summers, also a few youth group activities/service projects through church.

What prompted you to make this donation?

I had a great tour of Hale during the final weeks of last summer and saw it for the first time while it was really active. The counselors and kids were very impressive. I was hopeful that the kids I met might be able to

get another year in addition to what they had already experienced, as it seems it would help them in their year round activities.

Tell me about your visit last summer to Hale?

It was inspiring to see how much the kids enjoyed their time, and how much they seemed to be learning. The counselors were impressive in their dedication.

What do you hope will come from this donation?

Hopefully the kids in the HOLA program can benefit from a continuation of what they started while at Hale.

How can other people help?

We made this donation in memory of my dad, Pat Roche, who died last Memorial Day weekend. His inspiration and example of supporting youth and education programs, among many other charitable endeavors, spurred us to consider this one. It would be great if others who can do it would help increase the ability of Hale to provide such valuable services to these kids who might otherwise not have the opportunity.

Contributed by Paula McLaughlin



Cathy and Rick Roche

PHOTOS COURTESY OF Paula McLaughlin

Westwood Recreation Department

New Programs

Register at www.westwoodma.gov/recreation

INTERIOR DESIGNERS WORKSHOP

Who: Ages 12 & up
 When: Wed, 5:30-8:30 PM, April 3 and 10
 Where: Champagne Room, Carby Street
 Inst: Meghan Ratnam, Ratnam Interiors
 Fee: \$50 (2 classes) Min: 10 Max: 15

Looking to redesign your bedroom or another room? You will create a space that reflects your personal style. Participants will create a concept board tailored to their space; learn layout, space planning, color scheme, lighting, fabrics and incorporating items to keep the room organized. Parent and child are welcome to attend together and each work on their own design.

4 SEASONS LANDSCAPE DESIGN & CONTAINERS

Who: Ages 15 & up
 When: Mon, May 6, 7:00-8:30 PM
 Where: Champagne Room, Carby Street
 Inst: Linda Walter, Terrain Landscape Design
 Fee: \$25 (1 class) Min: 10 Max: 25

Design your landscape to be both functional and beautiful year round. Learn how to design your space according to sun exposure, cold-hardiness, and soil, with gardening tips about planting and maintenance. Topics for discussion will be: Hardscape Elements (walls, boulders), Recommended Seasonal Plants, Variety of Colors, Massing and more. Come to class with photos and dimensions for discussion.

Save the Date -

Look who's 95!

**Join Hale Reservation for a
 Birthday BBQ**

On Saturday, July 27

All are Welcome



Where In Westwood...? Answer:
 This issue's close up is of the engraving on the top rail of the
 POW/MIA Memorial chair now found in Town Hall. Please see the story on page 1.

Pan Mass Challenge Kids Ride

Become a Part of the PMC Community!

Young and old can become part of the “spokes” that make up the wheel

Westwood is a community of people who care... from its Senior Citizens down to its youngest preschoolers. I know this first hand after bearing witness to the hundreds of residents who have participated in a charity event called the Pan Mass Challenge (or PMC) Kids Ride.

In 2008, the first PMC Kids Ride was held at the Martha Jones School on a scorching hot day in June. Watching four hundred kids of all ages line up on their bikes in blistering heat, I knew this event was here to stay. Beaming with pride, the kids rode through the streets of Westwood and returned to celebrate their success with friends and family.

After five years, the Kids Ride has become synonymous with spring in Westwood. For those who live in the Martha Jones and Sheehan School neighborhoods, watching the kids joyfully ride by is a welcome sight. Each year up to five hundred kids participate, and we expect a similar turnout at this year’s ride on **Sunday, June 9th.**

With over two hundred teens and adults working as volunteers, the kids are ensured a good time. Many arrive early to have their bikes decorated and their faces painted by high school students who are eager to help out. There is music to motivate them and games and prizes to be won, but that is not why they come. They are there to help cure cancer.



Billy Starr, PMC founder and CEO with some of our Heavy Hitters – kids who raised over \$250

Right: Alexa Kelly, cancer free – celebrating with the crowd.

Below: Brett Hobson is a 6-year cancer survivor and our 1st Pedal Partner, with his lil sis, Meredith.



Right: Billy McLaughlin, riding for his mom, Noreen.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF Michelle Cooke



Being involved with the Kids Ride is a way...to take an active role in fighting cancer.

The children of Westwood have found out that they can make a difference in the lives of those suffering from cancer. Their passion and commitment to fighting this horrible disease has been remarkable. Over the past five years the Westwood Kids Ride has raised over \$250,000 for the Jimmy Fund. Because 100% of this money goes directly to the Dana Farber to fund life-saving research, this money is critical. This year the PMC organization donated \$36 million to Dana Farber, most of it from the adult ride that takes place every August.

Although the donation from our Kids Ride may seem small in comparison to the adult ride, it is an important “spoke in the wheel” of the 32 year-old charity bike-a-thon. The idea is to introduce young children to the concept of working for the benefit of others, in the hope that they will continue fighting for important causes as they grow up. It is

wonderful for the young riders to see the high school students giving up their Sunday morning to volunteer. As the kids outgrow the ride, many of them contribute by registering as volunteers.

Another important aspect of the Kids Ride is the effect it has on local families coping with cancer. From our pedal partners (kids with cancer) like Alexa, Ian, Kevin, Greg and Brett, to the many parents who have suffered, the ride has provided much needed support. A cancer diagnosis wreaks havoc on the entire family, often leaving kids feeling helpless. Being involved with the Kids Ride is a way for them to take an active role in fighting cancer.

When Alexa Kelly was diagnosed with leukemia at age five, a special event for preschoolers was added. She came directly from the hospital to see her friends and family having fun and raising money in her honor. The Kids Ride has also helped the McLaughlin kids cope with the pain of watching their mom suffer with breast cancer. Shannon, Billy and Emily have been riding for their mom since the first ride in 2008. Last year, while their mom was in the hospital, they were joined by over twenty-five friends and family members who rode or volunteered in honor of Noreen, who sadly lost her battle with cancer in February. These are just two examples of the many families who were helped by the support coming from the Kids Ride. In addition to these families, many teachers coping with cancer have been supported by the “PMC community,” like the librarian at Martha Jones and WHS English teacher Mrs. Hanlon.

Westwood is one of thirty-five communities to host a PMC Kids Ride, and it would not be possible without the ongoing support of many people in town. The School Department, Senior Center, Town Hall, Police, Fire and DPW have all provided the help necessary to keep this event running. How about you? If you have not been involved, you are encouraged to get on board this year. Register your kids to ride, sign up as a volunteer, or make a donation – you’ll be glad you did! **For more information, go to kids.pmc.org/westwood**

Contributed by Denise Singleton, Westwood Kids Ride Coordinator



Riders galore support the fight against cancer.

Westwood Elementary Schools Coalition (WESC)

Plans for March? Football season is over. Spring will soon be SPRUNG!

The Ides of March will soon be upon us – March 16, that is!

BOOK THOSE BABYSITTERS!

Kick off March Fevah, Red Sox spirit, and all things spring with WESC! A fun night of dining, dancing, libations, music and socializing at the famed Moseley's on the Charles, where we celebrate our schools' dedicated charitable giving efforts.

You may want to give back, but wonder how, with so many opportunities for our wonderful schools? WESC makes it easy! Show up, socialize, and most importantly – SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS!

The Westwood Elementary Schools Coalition (WESC) will hold its **Spring Social** on March 16, 2013 at Moseley's on the Charles in Dedham at 7:30pm. WESC is a non-profit 501(c)3 volunteer organization that raises funds for all five elementary schools and their respective PTOs/PTAs. In 2012, the event raised \$55,000 and our goal this year is to raise over \$60,000.

"Spring is a wonderful time of year after a long winter, to emerge from our hibernation and celebration giving back! The WESC Spring Social is a fun opportunity for Westwood parents and members of the community to catch up after our long winter's nap – to socialize outside of the neighborhood, athletic fields and school events," said Leigh Wasserman, President of WESC. "WESC harnesses the power of our five elementary schools for a collective fundraising effort, which is much more effective and efficient than many separate donation requests. No need to think twice about direction donations – it's easy and even."

WESC History

Did You Know, WESC has raised nearly one million dollars over its 19-year history for curriculum and multicultural enrichment programs, field trips, computer equipment, recess supplies, art programs, classroom supplies, and much more for the Westwood elementary schools?

For sponsorship information or to contribute auction items, contact Leigh Wasserman at lawasserman@yahoo.com. To learn more about WESC, visit <http://www.wesconline.org/>

Step One:

Have you bought your tickets? They are \$60 each and going fast! Space is limited and this is always a sell-out!

Step Two:

Did you know the night not only includes music and fun, but wonderful take-aways and auction items are better than any party favor.

Diverse, Unique Auction Items to Date Include:

- African Safari, anyone?
- Cape Cod Home – Where else is a more traditional go-to for Memorial Day in New England?
- Does your home need a re-refresh, or are you moving this spring (yet hopefully staying local!)? If so, try 3 hours of Design and Staging!
- Hungry? We have restaurant gift certificates and other things for your fancy!

Contact Info and Details:

Interested? Tickets can be purchased through each of your schools – check your newsletters each week, or contact Sandy Harte [slnclair@yahoo.com].

Want to give back? For publicity or donation ideas, contact your local Sheehan school PR representatives – Rebecca Sullivan at [Rebecca@rsullivanpr.com] or Kimberly Kennedy at [kimnoelkennedy@gmail.com].

Look for a *Well-Wisher* opportunity, too, for which you can give a shout-out to your best and brightest in our program! Thank a school, thank a teacher, thank any reason you are glad to live in our wonderful town!

You can also find us on Facebook at the following – <http://www.facebook.com/events/404596672961199/>
Please share and promote!

Contributed by Kimberly Kennedy

Westwood Environmental Action Committee and the Department of Public Work (DPW)

WESTWOOD HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING DAY • APRIL 27, 2013

8:00 to 12:00 at the Carby Street DPW Yard

The Westwood Environmental Action Committee and the Department of Public Work (DPW) will hold the annual Westwood Household Recycling Day on April 27, 2013, at the DPW facility. This is an opportunity for residents to clean their basements and attics and put their discarded materials to good use rather than in the trash. Materials that will be collected include:

Electronics (anything electric including appliances). There will be a charge for computer screens (\$5), televisions (\$10-\$25), and large appliances (\$10).

Large Plastics such swing sets, toys, garbage cans, old recycling bins, etc

Textiles such as clothes, towels, sheets, shoes, bags, backpacks, stuffed animals, pillows, etc

Bikes *Bikes Not Bombs* will collect them for programs aimed at providing skill development, jobs, and sustainable transportation. The group asks for a donation of \$10/bike to support the program.

Tires There will be a \$2 charge per tire.

Compost bins will be on sale for \$30.00.

Contributed by Wendy Muellers

OurCommonPlace Westwood



A look at Westwood's new 'common place' online from the guy who's working to get everyone in town connected.

by Ricky Porco (ricky@ourcommonplace.com)

Communication is an essential part of thriving communities. Whether it's a town-wide newsletter or a sidewalk conversation about current events between two neighbors, good communication builds 'social capital' and helps people stay engaged, informed, and active. In every community, there are many different ways for people to find and exchange information, and sometimes it's hard to know exactly where to look to find the stuff that's most important to you and your family. This is an issue that I've been trying to help solve for the past two years as part of the team that built the OurCommonPlace web platform -- by creating an organized way for members of a community to communicate with one another, share, and find information.

Who's behind OurCommonPlace?

The OurCommonPlace Team is comprised of 8 hard-working recent college graduates who are dedicated to helping strengthen American communities. OurCommonPlace was founded in 2010 by two Harvard students who read "Bowling Alone" by Robert Putnam, a book that outlines the steady decline in community engagement in America since the 1950's, and were compelled to do whatever they could to reverse that trend. We've spent the past two years talking with civic leaders and learning how to help people in towns communicate more efficiently.

What is OurCommonPlace?

OurCommonPlace is a free website for everyone in Westwood. It's like a bulletin board online, where you can post things like questions events, or announcements that are relevant to life in Westwood. Here are some good examples of how people use OurCommonPlace every day:

- ★ To receive updates and information from the Town Offices and local organizations
- ★ To participate in ongoing community discussions or prompt exciting new ones
- ★ To ask for recommendations or a helping hand from people in the neighborhood or to find opportunities to help a neighbor
- ★ To find upcoming events and cool things to do on the Community Events board
- ★ To propose a meet-up with other people in town who share a common interest
- ★ To find local groups or organizations to join or to organize a new one
- ★ To sell or give things away in the Town Marketplace

How do I get connected?

It's really easy! Go online and click over to www.Westwood.OurCommonPlace.com and sign up with your real name and email address!

★ www.Westwood.OurCommonPlace.com ★

Westwood Little League

Unique Fundraisers to Benefit Morrison Park Revitalization!

Tom Dunlay and Tom Aaron Team Up with WLL in Support of Morrison Park Project!

Westwood Little League (WLL) is excited to announce that luminary artist and Westwood resident Thomas R. Dunlay will create an original oil painting of the new Morrison Park! The painting has been commissioned by Tom Aaron, a lifelong Westwood resident and Vice President of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. Mr. Aaron will donate the original painting to the Town to be put on permanent display at the new library.

WLL to Obtain Print Proceeds

Together, Mr. Dunlay and Mr. Aaron have generously agreed to donate the reproduction rights of the painting to WLL. This donation will allow WLL to sell signed, limited edition prints with WLL retaining one hundred percent of the proceeds. WLL will then use the proceeds to help defray the cost of the Morrison Project. WLL expects the print to be of interest to past, present and future ball players and supporters. It is also expected to be of interest to residents, generally, who take pride in the quality of new Park and the collaborative community effort that led to its creation. The print is certain to become an iconic image of Westwood's new town landmark. Ordering details will be made available this spring. WLL is thankful for the creativity and generosity of Mr. Dunlay and Mr. Aaron and looks forward to launching print sales soon!

Very Special Limited Pre-Production Opportunity

As a unique fundraising component of the Morrison painting, Mr. Dunlay will custom paint your child as one of nine Westwood youths to be part of the original painting. Families interested in this unique opportunity to memorialize forever a child's play on the new field can submit their bids to westwoodlllpresident@gmail.com. Minimum opening bids for each position start at \$1,000. Selection of the top nine bidders will be made at the conclusion of the Friends of Morrison Ladies Afternoon Out event at Chiara on Sunday April 28th from noon to 2:30 pm (details to be posted on westwoodlittleleague.com). Winning bidders will receive an exclusive signed edition of the print with the names of the nine youths reflected (the names will be contained solely on the prints distributed to these high bidders; names will be removed from prints sold generally). This is a unique opportunity to support the Revitalized Morrison Project and the resulting work is sure to become a lifelong treasure. Don't be outbid!

Visit www.thomasrdunlay.com for additional information about Thomas R. Dunlay.

Contributed by John Loughnane



Ian Maher is a student at Thurston middle school and a cancer survivor. His entire family volunteers each year – parents, sister and two brothers. Please read how you can participate in the PMC Kids Ride on page 10.

Westwood Police Department

Chief William Chase retired from his position in February of 2013. Chief Chase was appointed as the Police Chief ten years ago in June 2003. Bill has had a significant impact on the department's operation. During his tenure here, Bill has selected and promoted several highly qualified individuals into and within the department. He has successfully addressed many operational issues including significant improvements to security at Westwood Lodge Hospital, improvements to the 911 and dispatching operations, upgrade to weapons and training of officers, improvements to records and evidence maintenance, expansion and advancement in the department's technology, equipped all Police cruisers with defibrillators, to name a few of his several accomplishments. Given all that Chief Chase has accomplished over his tenure, he certainly will be hard to replace.



Chief Chase, retires after 10 years.

While the Town conducts its search for a new Police Chief, Jeffrey Roy has been appointed to serve as Interim Police Chief for the Westwood Police Department. Chief Roy comes to us from the Town of Orleans where he served as Police Chief for ten years before retiring. Prior to Orleans he served in the Amherst Police Department where he consistently rose through the ranks over his 29 year career. He served as a Patrolman, Sergeant, Lieutenant in charge of Operations, Lieutenant in charge of the Detective Bureau, and Captain of Administrative Services. Chief Roy has a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from American International College, a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Westfield State College, and participated in training programs in the Massachusetts State Academy and the FBI National Academy. He has also served as an instructor, presenter and accreditation assessor over the years, and he has served on a wide range of local, regional and statewide committees and commissions.

Contributed by Town Hall

Mark Your Calendars!

FISHING DERBY IT'S A "REEL" GOOD TIME



**SATURDAY, MAY 11
7:00-11:00 AM
BUCKMASTER POND**

YOUTH DIVISION Free: Ages 15 & under
Prizes will be awarded. Participants must bring their own poles.

ADULT DIVISION
Fee: \$10. Ages 16 & older
Prize will be awarded for the largest fish caught. Adults must obey all Massachusetts Fish & Game regulations. Adult division is required to register at Buckmaster Pond that day.

CONCESSION STAND
Coffee, donuts, soda, hot dogs and worms.

SPONSORED BY
North Walpole Fish and Game
Westwood Permanent Firefighters Local 1994



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March
2013
page one

Dear Westwood Residents,

The 2012-2013 school year is more than halfway complete, and by all accounts, it has been exceptional. Our students are flourishing in all their academic and extracurricular pursuits, and they are taking advantage of everything the Westwood Public Schools has to offer. At the district level, we are in the middle of the FY'14 budget process. Thankfully, my recommended budget allows us to maintain level services, something we should not take for granted. The Town of Westwood is well-managed, and our local officials have positioned us to thrive even in a difficult fiscal climate. To learn more about the school budget, please visit our website at www.westwood.k12.ma.us. Thank you for your continued support.



John J. Atomeci

The Art of Math

by Allison Borchers, Thurston Middle School Principal

My math education had some real ups and downs. I went from being a strong student to nearly failing my first term of Algebra in 8th grade. Then, thanks to a particularly thoughtful teacher, I rebounded and found myself on the math team before the end of the year. I had fun as a “mathlete” but was generally flummoxed by any problem for which I couldn’t recall a matching algorithm. It wasn’t until my senior year in high school, when I encountered *Flatland* by Edwin Abbott, that I started thinking about math as more than a series of steps to be memorized.

Now, in visiting math classes, I find myself wishing that I could go back to school and experience math education all over again. What is happening these days is strikingly different from what went on in my junior high math classes. Students are engaged in work that challenges them to develop conceptual understanding as well as procedural fluency. In other words, they are moving beyond memorization so that they can really “get” what is happening with numbers.

The new Common Core State Standards in math are built around a backbone of “standards for mathematical practice”—proficiencies that math teachers in all grades will endeavor to develop so that their students gain insight as well

as mathematical skill. These “practice standards” are really more akin to habits of mind—ways of thinking mathematically and behaviors that support mathematical thought—than traditional standards.

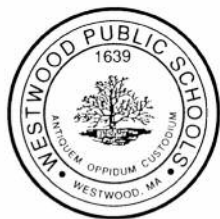
According to the standards for mathematical practice, as they develop increasing expertise, students will learn to:

1. MAKE SENSE OF PROBLEMS AND PERSEVERE IN SOLVING THEM
2. REASON ABSTRACTLY AND QUANTITATIVELY
3. CONSTRUCT VIABLE ARGUMENTS AND CRITIQUE THE REASONING OF OTHERS
4. MODEL WITH MATHEMATICS
5. USE APPROPRIATE TOOLS STRATEGICALLY
6. ATTEND TO PRECISION
7. LOOK FOR AND MAKE USE OF STRUCTURE
8. LOOK FOR AND EXPRESS REGULARITY IN REPEATED REASONING

(Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for Mathematics, March 2011, pp. 15-17)

How does a content standard like this one marry with a practice standard to produce better learning for kids? I recently visited some 6th grade classes that illustrated how the standards fit together. Students

continued on next page



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March
2013

page two

ART OF MATH, from page one

worked collaboratively to recognize patterns, to write mathematical expressions using variables, and to connect those expressions to real-world scenarios.


In Mrs. Yetman's class, for example, I saw groups of four to five students gathered around large sheets of poster paper. The challenge for each group was to analyze a visual pattern, create an input/output table to help organize information about that pattern, and state that pattern as an expression with a variable.



A poster created by a group in Mrs. Yetman's class

In a similar lesson, pairs of students in Mr. Champion's class completed "four-squares" including input/output tables,

expressions, graphs and realistic story problems. For example, students were given an expression like " $5x + 25$ ", and they had to come up with a story to match the expression. One pair of students came up with an amusement park scenario in which a patron must pay a \$25 gate fee as well as \$5 per ride.

How will these new standards be assessed? Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, Massachusetts students will take tests developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)—assessments designed to measure students' capacities to handle complex, nonlinear tasks that connect to real life scenarios. For example, one prototype problem involves calculating and comparing gas mileage of several car models. Another problem asks students to determine the sale price of a television (including tax), examine two possible methods for figuring out the price, and explain if either will produce a correct answer. 

DETAILS ABOUT PARCC CAN BE FOUND AT
THE ORGANIZATION'S WEBSITE:
WWW.PARCCONLINE.ORG/ABOUT-PARCC

OUR BLIZZARD HEROES!



At left:
Westwood
High School
Custodian
Greg Baldwin
shows off a 10-
foot snowdrift
outside of
the high school
doors!

Dealing with several inches of snow is no small task—and nobody knows that better than the Westwood Public Schools custodial staff!

Here are some numbers to illustrate that point:
In order to get the more than **3,200 Westwood Public School students back in the classroom**, custodial staff worked throughout the weekend to clean mounds of snow from the **7 school buildings** throughout town. By the time the "Blizzard of 2013" ended, the Town of Westwood had record snowfall and was **buried in over 30 inches of snow**. With **snowdrifts up to 10 feet** (see photo), it took long hours and close coordination with the Department of Public Works to get the pathways, doorways and parking lots cleared, sanded and safe for vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

In the end, Westwood Public Schools issued **just one "Snow Day" and one 2-hour delay**.

This Spring in Westwood
580 High Street
Westwood, MA 02090

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local Postal Customer



WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Programs – Spring 2013

PLEASE NOTE: All Programming for the **NEW Library** is to be announced.

Programs at The Islington Branch Library

Mar 19-April 30 *Storytime* – Ages 3 and up
Tuesdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Registration is required for this program, please call the Branch.
There is no storytime during April school vacation week.

Mar 7, 14 *Legos* – School age
Mar 21, 28 Thursdays, 3:45-4:15 p.m.

Design creations using the library Logos!

Registration is required for this program, please call the Branch.

May 7 *Islington Branch Adult Book Share*
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

Bring a book you have been reading to share with the group.

For further information,
please call the Islington Branch Library at 781-326-5914
or visit the Westwood Public Library's web site at
www.westwoodlibrary.org

TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

March 16 *St. John's Nursery School Benefit Concert*
9:30am and (see page 4)
11am First Parish Hall, 340 Clapboardtree Street

March 16 *WESC Spring Social* (see page 11)
7:30pm Moseley's on the Charles in Dedham

March 23 *Blood Drive* (see page 6)
9:00am-3:00pm Westwood Masonic Building, 655 High Street

March 24 *Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast* (see page 3)
8:00am-noon Westwood High School

April 27 *Household Recycling Day* (see page 11)
8am-noon DPW Yard at Carby Street

April 30 *Annual Town Election*
Polls open *Special State Primary*
from 7am-8pm

May 4 *Rotary Recycle Event* (see page 3)
9am-2pm First Baptist Church, 808 High Street

May 6 *Special Town Meeting*
7:30pm Westwood High School Gymnasium

May 6 *Annual Town Meeting*
Upon conclusion of Special Town Meeting.

May 11 *Fishing Derby* (see page 13)
7am-11am Buckmaster Pond

May 11 *Child Identification Day* (see page 2)
9:30am-3:30pm Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church
808 High Street

June 1 *Blood Drive* (see page 6)
9:00am-3:00pm Westwood Masonic Building, 655 High Street

June 5 *Last day to register voters for the*
8:30am-8:00pm *State Election at the Town Clerk's office*

June 9 *PMC Kids Ride* (see page 10)
For more information: kids.pmc.org/westwood

June 25 *State Election*
Polls open from 7am-8pm

July 27 *95th Birthday BBQ* (see page 9)
To be announced Hale Reservation

October 5 *Westwood Day*
10am-3pm Westwood High School

It's back! October 5th!
Mark your calendars!



**Like Us on Facebook and
KEEP INFORMED!**