

West Bridgewater Public Schools, Rose L. MacDonald School, Stepping Stone Drive, W.Bridgewater, MA 02379

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Dear parents/guardians:

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Finally, Autumn is in the air. The trees are colorful and the children are enjoying outside recess in the cool, crisp air with the warm sunshine on their backs. Since it's so nice to be outside we are happy that next week on Nov. 7th & Nov. 9th the WB Conservation Commission along with The Open Space and Recreational Committee will conduct a *Nature Quest* for the RLM students. The *Nature Quest* will take place during the students' recess time.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: Nov. 5th - Daylight Savings Time Ends: set clocks back 1 hour.



HALLOWEEN FUN: Our students certainly had fun on Oct. 31st. The children came dressed in their favorite costumes. I gathered the children by grade level in the gym to read my Halloween story, *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid Of Anything* by Linda Williams. Grade 1 students participated in the annual costume parade and students listened to Halloween music during lunch. The students enjoyed the costumes that the teachers and staff wore.

RLM PRIDE: GENEROSITY: We have great role models for our children as we teach them during the month of November about what generosity might look like. Our PTO volunteers continue to amaze us at the RLM School. We try hard to remind children to think of others. The example these parents provide for us is a genuine demonstration of a most precious gift, the giving of one's time and energy for the benefit of others. On behalf of all of us at RLM, thank you for your tireless dedication to our school, teachers, and children. Thanks are extended to the generosity of our parents who bought items from the PTO. We have had several fundraisers already -- KidStuff Coupon Book, Meadow Farms purchased items and our "What the Heck-Write a Check" promotion. The fundraising money goes towards programs that add to the curriculum experience reinforcing and making fun what the children learn. Assemblies include Bubbleology (gr. 1 & 2), Animal Adaptation (Gr. 3), Ben Franklin (gr. 3), Helen Keller (gr. 2), Wingmasters (gr. 1) and much more.

TERM 1: November 8th is the end of our term and report cards will be distributed on Friday, November 17th. The reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals, as well as reflect on past work habits and achievements. Teachers will be working on setting up conferences for their students' parent(s)/guardian(s). It has been our experience that the parent/teacher conferences have brought about improved understanding of the child's progress by the school and the home. Accordingly, the pupil will receive the best possible help and guidance from both sources. Keep a lookout for this information from your child's classroom teacher.

HALF DAY: Nov. 17th (Fri.) - Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Conferences - 1pm - 3pm

HALF DAY: Nov. 20th (Mon) - Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Conferences - 5pm-7pm

HALF DAY: Nov. 21st (Tues.) - Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Check with classroom teacher for times

HALF DAY: Nov. 22nd (Wed.)- Noon Dismissal - No Lunch Served - Staff & Students - Thanksgiving Break begins

A PUMPKIN PATCH OF READERS: We have been busy with our first school-wide reading incentive program. This reading activity was designed to promote the enjoyment of reading. You can help your child benefit from this program by setting aside some time each day for reading. The time may be spent when your child reads alone, time that your child reads aloud to you or a sibling, or time when you read to your child. *Every minute spent reading—alone or together—counts!* Reading circles will only be accepted through **Fri., Nov. 3rd**. That means tomorrow is the last day! Read as much as you can tonight! The classroom that reads the most in each grade will receive a reward. It helps to make the program a little more challenging and a lot more exciting! Be on the lookout for the final update on Monday!

VENDOR FAIR: PTO is looking for volunteers for the vendor fair on Saturday, November 18th. Volunteers are needed to man the raffle table and bake sale table throughout the event. We are also looking for volunteers to help set up Friday night around 6pm. PTO is also looking for bake sale items. Baked goods can be dropped off Friday night or Saturday morning. Please email Kim at k_a_cowie@yahoo.com if you are able to help.

BOX TOPS: Box Tops are coming in every day. As of today, we have raised \$579.80 for the school! You will recall that there is a friendly competition this term for raising as many Box Tops as possible. The grade that brings in the most by the end of Term 1 will earn an extra recess period. At this time, first grade has raised \$191.30. Second grade students have kept the lead position and raised \$194 so far. Third graders have collected \$184.90 in Box Tops. (We have \$7.60 in miscellaneous clippings and \$2 earned on the app.) Please look for the monthly collection sheet that is being sent home where you can tape/glue the Box Tops for easy counting and return. Loose Box Tops are gladly accepted as well. Just be sure to have your child's classroom teacher noted on the bag/envelope so that credit can be given! Also, please make sure the clippings have not expired.

MA SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL: We would like to learn how our students get to and from school in order to plan safe and healthy transportation options. Please complete one survey (www.masaferoutessurvey.org) for each child K-8th grade by Thursday, November 16. The survey will take less than 3 minutes to complete. Please select "West Bridgewater" and then your child's school. If our school receives a 50% response rate or higher we will earn a \$250 Visa gift card to be use towards walking/biking initiatives! The deadline to complete this survey is November 16th. Thanks! Questions, please contact Julie Amaral at jamaral@wbridgewater.com.

STUDENT ABSENCES: Absences should be **reported** to our Absence Line 508 894-1240 Press 1. The voice mail message should include your child's name, the name of the classroom teacher & reason for absence.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES: Please be sure to send in ANY and ALL changes to how your child goes home. We have had quite a few children lately who are confused on what to do (go on the bus, parent pick up or Surround Care). Dismissal is a very busy time and runs much smoother if teachers, office and child know how they are getting home.

VETERANS' DAY: Nov. 10th - Friday - No School

PTO MEETING: Howard School - 7pm - Library -Dates: 11/28, 12/19, 1/30, 2/27, 4/24, & 5/29 - All are welcome.

INCLUSION MATTERS: Please join Inclusion Matters for a meeting with The Federation for Children with Special Needs as they present to our group "Parents, Students and Schools as Partners". This meeting will help parents navigate the special education process and learn about the rights and responsibilities in special education. Meeting will take place at the MSHS in the Learning Commons on Nov. 6 from 6-7:30. Other meeting dates include Dec 4, Feb 5, March 5, April 2, May 7 and June 4.

NATURE QUEST: On Nov. 7th & Nov. 9th the WB Conservation Commission along with The Open Space and Recreational Committee will conduct *Nature Quest* for the RLM students. The *Nature Quest* will take place during the students' recess time. The students will be given the opportunity to participate in the hunt or they simply can continue their normal recess period. The students will be looking for nature related items. Every student that participates will be given a certificate which will be delivered to the school a few weeks later.

KidStuff COUPON BOOKS: Order and payment **deadline was Friday, Oct. 27th**. If you do not wish to buy any books you must return the book to your child's teacher. Books are \$25 each and 50% goes back to the PTO. The book you received is *NOT A SAMPLE BOOK*. Contact Donna Hulme at dhulme24@gmail.com or 508 588-1751 with any questions. Thank you for your support!!

STAFF/PARENT IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL: Thank you to parents and teachers who volunteered to be on the Staff/Parent Improvement Council. We will have meetings once a month on Mondays at 3:30pm in the Reading Room. The meetings will be Nov. 27, Dec. 18, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 26, April 30.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES: Parents must pick up their children promptly at 4pm at the Bus Port unless they are scheduled for our Surround Care program. Enrichment Director: Mrs. Sandy Churchill at SLCMEC@aol.com.

BIRTHDAYS WITH THE PRINCIPAL: November students' birthday celebration will be on Dec. 1st - Friday - by grade level for lunch. Students bring a lunch from home or order their lunch at school.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, Nov. 13th at the MSHS in The Learning Commons at 6:30pm.

AFTER SCHOOL PRESENCE: Students not engaged in an approved school activity or under the direct supervision of a faculty/staff member must leave the building and all school grounds immediately at the close of school. Loitering and/or failure to immediately leave are grounds for disciplinary consequences.