



## WRENTHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent  
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Wrentham, MA 02093

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Superintendent

### Superintendent's Bulletin Start of the 2016-2017 School Year

Dear WPS Community,

I hope you and your family enjoyed the summer! My family and I had a nice time. We didn't go on any major trips, but we visited a few area hot spots. Our favorite was the fireworks show at the Pawtucket Red Sox game. The game was great – the Sox won on a walk-off 2-run homerun in the bottom of the 16<sup>th</sup> inning – and the fireworks were even better. Here is a picture of my kids, Robert (age 6), Scotty (13), and Annie (11).



When I wasn't enjoying the summer sun, I was working with the administrators, administrative assistants, and many faculty and staff members. We worked very hard to prepare for the upcoming school year. We want to make sure you and your children have an amazing 2016-

#### Core Values

**Respect • Communication • Collaboration • Responsibility • Continuous Growth and Learning**

2017 school year. I'm writing today to share some information about the new school year and highlights of our summer work. Please let me know if you have any questions.

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### **Meet and Greet**

The first ever Meet and Greet took place on the day before school started, Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, from 12:15-12:45. The Meet and Greet was an opportunity for students and their families to stop by their classrooms, meet their teachers, drop-off supplies, and see their classmates. The PTO supported the day by having a picnic in Sweatt Field before the event. Thank you! I loved seeing so many students and families touring the schools. It was a nice way to reduce anxiety and increase excitement prior to the official start of school. If you have any feedback about the event, positive or constructive, please contact Delaney School Principal Colleen Wagstaff or Roderick School Principal Vanessa Beauchaine.

### **2016-2017 Handbook**

The [2016-2017 Handbook](#) has been updated and posted to our website. You may access it by clicking on the link or visiting our web page, selecting the "For Parents" section, and scrolling down to Student Handbook. We ask parents to review the information, particularly the information about student expectations, with their children and complete a [Student Handbook Verification Sheet](#). The sheet is the last page of the handbook. Please print the page, sign, and return to school with your children.

### **New Members of the Professional Community**

Wrentham Public Schools is an outstanding school district and a desirable place to work. We receive tens, and often times hundreds, of applications for every vacancy. We have a rigorous screening and interview process to ensure that the new members of our school community meet our high standards and demonstrate our core values. The people listed below are the successful candidates for this school year. Each one of them emerged from a very competitive field to become a member of our district community. Please join me in welcoming them and wishing them many happy and successful years in Wrentham.

### **New Hires for the 2016-2017 School Year**

Brenda Conlon, Paraprofessional  
Sarah Connolly, Grade 6 Special Educator  
Gabrielle Garvey, ABA Tutor  
Carly-Rae Haughey, Roderick Nurse  
Jennifer Jones, Grade 3 Teacher  
Lauren Keefe, Grade 2 Teacher  
Toni-Marie Kelly, School Psychologist  
Krista Langley-Haner, Delaney Art Teacher  
Stephanie LaVigne, Grade 2 Teacher  
Tobey Lovett, Occupational Therapist  
Lindsay McDonald, Kindergarten Teacher  
Tara Oliveto, School Psychologist and Team Chair  
Chandler Ross, ABA Tutor

### **New Positions for 2016-2017**

Exciting news! We reallocated the budget to add new positions this school year. Each new position addresses an area of growth identified by faculty and staff members and/or students' parents.

- **Art Teacher: Krista Langley-Haner** is the Art Teacher for students in kindergarten through grade 2. She joins **Andrea Lovey**, who teaches art to students in grades 3-6. This addition means that every student will have a full year of art and every student will have one special subject every school day.
- **School Psychologist: Toni-Marie Kelly** is the school psychologist at Delaney School. She joins **Kim Kost**, who is the psychologist at Roderick School. This addition means that we will have one full-time school psychologist at each school. Dr. Kelly is going on maternity leave in early September. **Tara Oliveto** will assume her responsibilities until she returns.
- **Lead Teacher for Student Services: Kathleen Maloney** is the Lead Teacher for Student Services. Miss Maloney will work with students, faculty and staff members, and students' parents at Delaney and Roderick. Her primary responsibilities are to teach students about positive decisions and behaviors, help teachers use a variety of teaching strategies to support all students, provide information and programming for students' parents, and serve as a resource for the school community about social and emotional learning.

### **Results of the 2015-2016 District Survey**

In May, I asked faculty and staff members, students' parents, and members of the Wrentham community to complete an anonymous survey about the school district. The survey was

comprised of multiple choice and open response questions. We had an excellent response rate: 143 Delaney parents and 79 Roderick parents completed the survey. I'm pleased to report that the results were overwhelmingly positive! Here is a summary of the responses to the multiple choice and open response questions:

**1. The school district makes student success the main priority.**

Strongly agree	41%
Agree	52%
Disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	2%
I don't know	3%

**2. The school district is safe.**

Strongly agree	41%
Agree	53%
Disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	1%
I don't know	3%

**3. My interactions with administrators (principals and directors) have been positive.**

Strongly agree	43%
Agree	51%
Disagree	2%
Strongly disagree	1%
I don't know	3%

**4. The school district works with me to help my child succeed.**

Strongly agree	43%
Agree	44%
Disagree	7%
Strongly disagree	1%
I don't know	5%

**5. The school buildings and grounds are well-maintained and conducive to learning.**

Strongly agree	24%
Agree	63%
Disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	3%
I don't know	2%

**6. The school district effectively communicates information about the district and the community.**

Strongly agree	47%
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Agree	44%
Disagree	6%
Strongly disagree	3%
I don't know	0%

### **7. Overall, how satisfied are you with WPS?**

Very satisfied	58%
Satisfied	36%
Minimally satisfied	4%
Not satisfied	2%

### **What did WPS do well this year?**

29 positive comments about communication with families.

26 positive comments about administrators, faculty and staff members.

19 positive comments about the culture in the district.

8 positive comments about the PTO/fundraising.

3 positive comments about the Wellness Policy.

1 positive comment about each of the following - the new playground, discontinuing "Special Person's Day", safety, class placement, adding a special subject in 2016, and Writer's Workshop.

### **What should WPS improve?**

10 comments about reducing fundraising and/or eliminating the Fun Run.

6 comments about allowing parents to give more input regarding class placement and/or placing students with at least one friend.

5 comments about making lunch choices more nutritious/better.

5 comments about teachers challenging students, particularly high achievers.

5 comments about eliminating the new Wellness Policy food restrictions.

4 comments about improving the playgrounds.

3 comments about improving the blogs.

3 comments about giving parents more notice before events like school spirit days.

3 comments about offering Spanish or another language.

3 comments requesting longer lunch/recess for students.

2 comments about improving the facilities at Roderick and/or Vogel.

2 comments about ensuring consistency in teaching among teachers in a grade.

2 comments about teachers putting more information about schedules, homework, etc. on their webpages.

2 comments about teaching more math, science, and/or social studies.

2 comments about the supply lists being too long and expensive.

2 comments about the schools sending too many emails.

2 comments requesting new and safer drop-off procedures at Delaney.

2 comments requesting more typing instruction.

2 comments requesting 6th grade classes departmentalize/rotate.

2 comments about the need to secure Delaney School during voting.

1 comment about each of the following - recruiting substitute teachers who are not Wrentham parents, offering free full-day kindergarten, having parent meetings and events in the evening, reducing testing, eliminating February and April breaks and creating a March break, having specialists communicate with parents, creating new report cards, hiring crossing guards, improving Kindergarten Information Night, replacing Reading Street, improving building security, hiring assistant principals, improving the district webpage, and eliminating air fresheners from schools.

### **Do you have any other feedback?**

12 comments (9 positive, 3 critical) about the administration, faculty, and/or staff members.

7 comments about less fundraising, smaller supply lists, and/or stopping Fun Run.

5 comments about having more art, music, PE, and/or library.

3 comments about too many changes in the schools.

3 comments about the how wonderful the community is.

2 comments about need to improve the parent input letter for class placement.

2 comments about security concerns.

2 comments requesting free full-day kindergarten.

1 comment about each of the following - not using the removal of recess as a consequence for students, making sure all field trips are relevant, eliminating the February and April breaks and creating a March break, praising the Wellness Policy, requesting the revocation of the Wellness Policy, stating that students are prepared for KP Middle School when they leave Wrentham, asking principals to talk to parents about not venting about the schools on social media, updating textbooks, adding Spanish or another language, and praising events and fundraisers.

The faculty and staff members and I were very happy to see that 94% of our students' parents who took the survey were very satisfied or satisfied with Wrentham Public Schools. That is great news! We will do our best to maintain that high level of satisfaction. We will also work hard to improve the experience for the dissatisfied 6% of respondents. We appreciated the suggestions for improvement and will consider them as we set goals for the future. Please let us know if you have other feedback, positive or constructive. One of our core values is continuous growth and learning!

### **Summer Projects at Delaney, Roderick, and Vogel**

We had several major projects happen this summer. All of the projects improved the appearance, safety, accessibility, or learning environment in the schools.

- **Security Improvements:** To improve security, we installed a new entrance at Roderick School and electronic card access points throughout the district. We also

worked with the Wrentham Police Department on our emergency responses to a fire, medical emergencies, and an intruder.

- **Roderick School Office and Cafeteria Improvements:** We replaced the Roderick School cafeteria floor, overhauled the Roderick main office, and replaced furniture and rugs in a few classrooms.
- **Temperature Control:** We installed air conditioners in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms and sun-blocking window tint in the classrooms that receive a lot of sunlight.
- **Vogel Ceiling, Science Lab, and Wall Repairs:** We fixed the collapsed ceiling in the Vogel basement so that students can use the WEST-sponsored Science Lab this school year. We also repaired and repainted the walls in the hallway and the auditorium.
- **Goddard Playground at Delaney School:** We installed \$130,000 worth of new equipment, surfacing, and landscaping at the Delaney School playground. This makes the playground larger, safer, more accessible, and more enjoyable for students in kindergarten through grade 3. We raised most of the funds last school year – thank you so much! We could not have done this project without support from the Wrentham Elementary Playground Committee, WEST, the PTO, the Sweatt Fund, the Wrentham Disability Commission, Lowe’s, many area businesses, and the generosity of the community. We expect the playground project to be complete by the middle of September.
- **Delaney School Roof Project:** The architects completed the plans for the new roof at Delaney School. We expect the project to happen in the summer of 2017.

### **Fundraising in 2016-2017**

Many faculty and staff members and students’ parents expressed concerns about the amount of fundraising last school year. Fundraising is one of the ways we support unique programs and resources for our students; however, we do not want to overburden the community. Therefore, the leaders of the largest fundraisers for the district will meet in early September. Our goal is to coordinate and reduce the frequency of fundraisers this school year.

### **Tuitions and Fees**

The bills for pre-kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, and bus fees are being emailed to students’ families. Please check your email inbox for a message from *Facts Management*, our bill payment management service. Please contact Business Manager Beth Gilbert if you have any questions or do not receive an expected bill. Her email is [gilbertb@wrenthamschools.org](mailto:gilbertb@wrenthamschools.org) and her phone number is 508-384-5430 extension 3.

There were two fee changes for 2016-2017:

- The lunch price was increased to \$2.50. The slight increase will allow us to purchase more fruits, vegetables, and other high-quality foods for the students.
- The general band fee was dropped in the hope that more students will participate. We reduced the jazz band fee to \$50 for the year.

### **Report Card Update**

We are in the second year of a review of our report cards for students in prekindergarten through grade 6. Our goal is to provide parents and future teachers with information about each student's performance with important academic and personal development standards. The academic standards align with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the personal development standards are based on the district's core values of responsibility, respect, collaboration, communication, and continuous growth and learning. This school year, we will implement the new personal development standards. The students' classroom teachers will answer any questions about the personal development standards at Parent/Teacher conferences in November.

### **Wrentham Day**

Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, is Wrentham Day! This is a time for our community to join together and have fun. The festivities begin at 9:00 a.m. on the Town Green and end at 3:00 p.m. There will be food, beverages, crafts, a road race, and many other events and activities. One highlight is a dunk tank, sponsored by the Wrentham Lions' Club, which will benefit the [Labonte Family](#). I'll be sitting in the tank at 10:30 – I hope to see you there!

### **PTO Movie Night**

The second annual PTO Movie Night is happening on Friday, September 9, 2016, in the field behind Delaney School, near the bus circle. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will start at dusk. The movie this year is [Inside Out](#). There will be a special appearance by Skye and Chase from Paw Patrol from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Please bring chairs, blankets, and a picnic dinner. Pizza, popcorn, drinks, and snacks will be on sale. I hope to see you there!

I am very excited about the upcoming school year! We are going to continue to do great things. I am honored to be the superintendent of Wrentham Public Schools.

Yours truly,

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