

## Walsh Middle School Parent News (Week of February 6<sup>th</sup>)

Welcome to the Walsh Middle School parent listserve. This is a weekly newsletter that will be sent out every Sunday night. We hope to provide you with information to keep you informed of upcoming events and relevant academic and social events in the school. Please check the website periodically for updated information. We look forward to a great year. Please email Mrs. Carney at [tcarney@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:tcarney@framingham.k12.ma.us) with any questions or suggestions. Have a great week!

### Walsh 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students (Priyanka Roy and Scott Copeland) Regional Winners for Boston Globe Art and Writing Awards

The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers recently announced this year's regional winners of The Boston Globe Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. The Awards, whose impressive roster of winners dates back to 1923, is the longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens in the United States. Students in grades 7-12 can apply in 28 categories of art and writing for a chance to earn scholarships, exhibition, publication, and general recognition of excellence.

Walsh Middle School is proud to announce that two 8th grade students, Scott Copeland and Priyanka Roy, both earned Silver Keys at the regional level. Scott entered a short science fiction story titled "The Collector", while Priyanka is recognized for a collection of poetry entered as one submission: "A Window Into Life"; "The Raindrop Spectrum"; "Mosaic of the World"; "Live On, But Never Forget". Both submissions are currently posted on the school's e-zine website. Each year, the competition receives THOUSANDS of submissions at the regional level, and only the best are awarded with recognition. In fact, only 10-15% of all works entered are recognized with Silver Key Awards. Gold and Silver Key winners are even invited to attend a special ceremony in their honor on Sunday, March 11th at the John Hancock Hall in Boston. Congratulations, Scott and Priyanka!

We'd like to also thank **Ms. Migliano**, Priyanka and Scott's English Language Arts teacher, who encouraged her students to participate and assisted them after school throughout the process.

You're invited to read their work in the January issue of the *Walsh Wildcat E-Zine*.  
<http://tiny.cc/s7RbG> Please take a moment to make a comment at the end of their submissions as I know they will appreciate the added recognition!

### Eric Tarlin Chosen for Jr. Eastern District Festival

On March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, **Eric Tarlin** will participate in the Jr. Eastern District Festival at Lincoln Sudbury High School. He will play first chair alto sax with the District Jazz Band. Thanks to Mrs. Christine Dupuis and John Dassoni for their support. We are all extremely proud of his accomplishment. Congratulations Eric!

### NSTAR Fundraiser Reminder

Thanks to all who have sent in their orders for CFL bulbs and Smart Strips. Forms are still coming in, so we will continue to collect them on Monday and submit final orders on Tuesday afternoon. This is a great opportunity to support Walsh while saving on energy costs. NSTAR is donating the bulbs, so Walsh keeps 100% of the money collected. For information, contact Louise Bendel, [louisebendel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:louisebendel@sbcglobal.net).

We thank Louise for her help with leading and facilitating this fundraiser for the Walsh PTO.

## **“You Are Special” Recipients**

This year’s “You Are Special” recipients for Walsh are: **Mr. Otto Johnson, school psychologist, and Mrs. Nancy Hulme, 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts and Social Studies teacher.** The event will be held on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Sheraton Tara Hotel. Please see below for their information.

### **Otto Johnson**

Otto began his career in Framingham as a school psychologist intern at Fuller Middle School in 2005 after teaching at the elementary level for 12 years. He interned there for 1 year and was hired as the school psychologist at Walsh Middle School in 2006. Otto is everything one would want in a school psychologist and more. He is extremely visible and volunteers much of his time to support the Walsh community. He often visits classrooms to assist teachers on how to work best with particular students and they all appreciate his expertise, professionalism and dedication to each and every student’s success. Otto is also an incredible resource for parents and often forges relationships between the parents and staff to benefit the students. He makes remarkable connections with students and many rely on him greatly.

Otto involves himself in every facet of the school. He is a PTO teacher representative; and he serves on the Walsh School Council, and Data Team. Otto was also the student council advisor for several years and continues to chaperone all of the school dances and is known to “bust a move” from time to time. In addition, Otto assists with the Walsh 5k road race event each year which is to raise money for a local charity. He also works on the school musicals by helping backstage. Otto has volunteered with the Walsh Thanksgiving Food Drive and is often found wearing a Turkey costume on the day before the holiday to bring spirit and laughter to the Walsh community. He teaches all three grade levels of our social competency program and is a Mazie mentor for a former Walsh student. Otto also currently serves on the district’s supervision and evaluation committee and is a vital team member.

Otto is an amazing educator and has made a tremendous impact in the Walsh community. Walsh is extremely fortunate to have him and we thank him for his continuous hard work and devotion to each student each and every day. Otto Johnson, you are special.

### **Nancy Hulme**

Nancy has dedicated her teaching career for the betterment of Walsh Middle School. Since coming to Walsh in 1998, she has transformed her classrooms into spectacular galleries of student learning. Nancy’s passion for Social Studies is revealed through hands-on student projects related to life in the Middle Ages, the teachings of Islam, and the wonders of the Renaissance. She has also made great works of literature come to life as a Language Arts teacher. Whether it’s reciting Shakespeare’s sonnets or discussing Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*, all of Mrs. Hulme’s students discover connections between their lives and the curriculum. Nancy works tirelessly to reach ALL of her students. She is a true believer that ALL students can achieve and find success in school.

Nancy has also done amazing things for the Walsh community throughout her years. A few years ago, Nancy completed the Commonwealth Leadership Program and was certified in Educational Leadership. Although Nancy decided not to pursue this path, she has used her leadership qualities to help staff, students and parents at Walsh. She is a trained mentor for the district and has mentored many new teachers. She is a team leader, and an active member of the Walsh School Council. Nancy also runs and coordinates an exceptional Special Olympics event at Walsh. This is a remarkable day for many students and teachers in the Framingham community. Close to one hundred 8<sup>th</sup> grade students help students with significant special needs from our elementary schools participate in various athletic events. It is a remarkable day where friendships are formed, challenges

are overcome through cooperation, and success is celebrated by all who attend. In addition, Nancy runs the Project Welcome program which provides trained eighth grade students the opportunity to encourage and assist fifth grade students with the transition to middle school. Additionally, she has organized and supported the Walsh 5K event for charity and is greatly involved in the annual eighth grade Shakespeare Festival.

When students were asked to describe Mrs. Hulme (Nancy) with just one word, the responses were, “creative, awesome, fair, interesting, encouraging and special.” Nancy, the kids said it, YOU ARE SPECIAL!

### **Superintendent Finalists Visited Walsh**

The three superintendent finalists had site visits in Framingham this week. We had the pleasure of hosting each of the candidates at Walsh. We got into classrooms and had some staff interview each candidate. The School Committee will make their decision next week.

### **Walsh Carnival planning meeting at Walsh**

**Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM**

Walsh Winter Carnival to be held at Walsh on Saturday March 24th. The Carnival is the largest fundraiser of the year and our goal is buy technology for the school (mimio interactive whiteboards, document readers, classroom response systems (“clickers”), etc.)

Coordinators are needed for this event; please contact Sarah DiConza [sgcj20@verizon.net](mailto:sgcj20@verizon.net) or Lauren Marchetti [cmarchetti@rcn.com](mailto:cmarchetti@rcn.com) if you are interested in one of the following positions:

Games & Activities Coordinator

Food Coordinator

PR Coordinator

Tickets/Sales Coordinator

Set-up/Clean-up Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinator- Margaret Estes

Volunteers will also be needed for the day of the event, please let us know if you want to help the day of the event. All proceeds to benefit technology updates at Walsh. Thank you.

### **Socks for Veterans**

The Student council is sponsoring a sock collection on the month of February. Every year with the help of Mrs. McEntegart, Walsh collects new socks to be distributed to homeless veterans. Please help us by bringing in new socks for our veterans. We are hoping to collect 500 pair of new socks. Thank you.

### **Walsh School Musical**

Come and meet those dancin' feet! The Walsh Winter Musical, 42nd Street, opens on February 9th and runs through February 11th. All shows are at 7pm in the Walsh auditorium. Tickets may be purchased in advance online at [www.ticketstage.com](http://www.ticketstage.com). Seats are assigned this year so order early to get your first choice. 42nd Street is the story of a young girl and her struggle to make it on Broadway. Over 100 Walsh students are participating in the production both on stage and back stage. Don't miss out.

## Literacy

In 2009, a Middle School Literacy Action Plan was developed in response to the need to improve the literacy skills of all students. The plan was written by a literacy team of administration, staff, and consultants from PCG. During this process committees were developed to examine data, specific skills and academic vocabulary words were chosen for each grade level\*, new assessments were developed and administered, and the staff attended many professional development sessions on the topic of literacy. Currently, we are committed to the philosophy of “shared ownership” of literacy skills and more literacy skills are being incorporated into the content area classrooms. This is being done by using more nonfiction text in the classroom, using common literacy strategies and templates, and focusing on content area vocabulary. With these high expectations in place, it is the intent that the core academic instruction will be strengthened and the data from classroom assessments and MAP will be analyzed to improve instruction. In addition, the added Literacy Lab block is designed to target specific reading/comprehension skills in a homogeneous setting. This RTI (Response to Intervention) model is designed to allow all students to improve their reading abilities by at least one grade level. This winter all students will take the MAP assessment again in reading and math and they will also be assessed on their grade level skill.

\*skills = summarize (grade 6), compare/contrast (grade 7), argument (grade 8)

\*sample academic vocabulary words = describe, determine, justify, locate, interpret

## Free Money For Walsh:

### Target Card

Have you designated your **Target card** to Walsh Middle School? Every time you use it, Target will donate an amount equal to 1% of your purchase to Walsh. It's Free Money for the school. See attachment for more details.

### Recycle Your Catalogs, Phonebooks and Other Paper at Walsh:

Receiving excessive amounts of catalogs this holiday season please consider dumping them in the Paper Recycling Abiti Receptacle in the Walsh Parking Lot. The Walsh PTO receives free money for paper disposed of in these receptacles. We are paid by the pound. The heavier the paper the more free cash the PTO receives. Thank you and happy holidays.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Road Race

Walsh Middle School in Framingham will be hosting its **10<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Road Race** on **Saturday, May 19, 2012**. Each year, the money raised is donated to a different organization or cause. We are happy to announce that this year the proceeds of the 5K will benefit the **John Andrew Mazie Memorial Foundation**. See attached letter for more information and help with recruiting businesses donations, etc. to support this wonderful event.

## **Middle School Homework Center**

The Framingham Public Library is opening their **Middle School Homework Center** on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Homework Center provides **FREE TUTORING** for any middle school student in the Framingham Public Schools. There is also access to computers (with printing capabilities) and the coordinator is currently gathering resources that correspond with the major curriculum units of study for each grade level. The Homework Center is open on **Mondays and Thursdays from 2:30PM-5:00PM**. It is located on the first floor of the downtown branch. This is a wonderful opportunity for all of our students. See attached flyer.

## **Walsh Yearbook 2011-2012**

This year we will be using TreeRing for our yearbooks. The cost of yearbook this year is \$14.00. Coming home with the report cards will be information on how to register and pay for a yearbook. One of the nice features this year is that you are able to customize a yearbook specifically for your child and pay online. Each student will have two pages that parents/guardians can add pictures or text.

### **Payment information:**

Parents can pay online with either a credit card or check.

Parent can pay with a check online. When they get to the payment window, select "Check" rather than "Credit card" and then enter the routing and account number from the check.

Parents that prefer to pay by phone can call the TreeRing toll free number to purchase over the phone. You will need your credit card information and the billing address of their credit card. The number is 877-755-8733 Option 1.

Parents are also able to pay with cash. Monies should be brought into the main office in an envelope with the student name, grade and numbers of books purchases. **The deadline for cash payments is February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mr. Patrick Johnson at [pjohnosn@framingham.k12.ma.us](mailto:pjohnosn@framingham.k12.ma.us) with any questions.**

## **Social Competency Program (Grades 6-8)**

### **Grades 6: Emotions—Brain and Body**

#### **Students will be able to:**

Understand what happens to their brains and bodies when they experience strong emotions  
Identify the first three Steps for Staying in Control  
Understand why using self-talk is a key to managing emotions  
Apply self-talk strategies

### **Grade 7: Sexual Harassment**

#### **Students will be able to:**

Recognize and define *sexual harassment*  
Differentiate between flirting or joking and sexual harassment  
Apply assertiveness skills to refuse sexual harassment  
Understand their school's sexual harassment policy and legal implications

### **Grade 8: Work Hard Be Nice Assembly**

## **Barnes and Nobles My Favorite Teacher Writing Contest**

I'm pleased to announce that our school will be participating in the Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher program. This contest gives teachers a chance to be recognized in our community for the important work they do.

Here's how the contest works. Our students will be encouraged to write an essay or poem describing their favorite teacher and how that person has influenced and inspired them. We will collect the entries and submit them to our local Barnes & Noble store by March 1. A group of judges from Barnes & Noble and our local community will choose the winners and recognize both the teachers and the students at a special ceremony during Educator Appreciation Week at Barnes & Noble. One winning teacher will be chosen from the appropriate category: grades 1-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12. Each winner will receive a special award acknowledging their achievement and a selection of Barnes & Noble Leatherbound Classics series (for high school teachers); and a set office (5) Classic Starts® series (for grades 1-5 and grades 6-8 teachers) Winners by category will also be entered in the regional contest where the regional winners will each receive a NOOK™ eBook Reader, a \$500 Barnes & Noble Gift Card—and the chance to become the national winner of the “Barnes & Noble Teacher of the Year” award. The Barnes & Noble “Teacher of the Year” will receive \$5,000 and will be recognized at a special event at a Barnes & Noble store. The winning teacher’s school will receive \$5,000 as well. The students who write the winning essays or poems will receive a certificate of recognition and will be honored at their local store during the ceremony for the winning teachers. This is also a terrific vehicle to develop our student’s writing skills and to showcase their creativity. Entry forms for students are available from the school office. Please encourage your children to consider participating and writing about one of their teachers.

For more information, please contact me or visit [www.bn.com/myfavoriteteacher](http://www.bn.com/myfavoriteteacher).

### Boxtops

Thanks to everyone who keeps sending in boxtops & Campbell's labels. We collect them all year and our next collection deadline is Friday, February 17th. The school made \$480 during the school year 2011! You can drop the boxtops off in the office in the collection boxes or send them into school with your child- there are envelopes in every homeroom with the box top logo on it.

### After School Activities

| <u>Club:</u>    | <u>Advisor:</u>                   | <u>Day:</u>              | <u>Time:</u>  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Jazz Band       | Mr. Dassoni                       | Tuesdays                 | 2:30PM-4:15PM |
| Math Club       | Mr. Kelcourse                     | Mondays                  | 2:30PM-4:15PM |
| E-Zine          | Ms. Anderson                      | Thursdays                | 2:30PM-4:15PM |
| Student Council | Ms. James & Mrs.<br>O'Brien-Harte | Wednesdays               | 2:30PM-4:15PM |
| Intramurals     | Mr. Newcombe &<br>Ms. Rivas       | Tuesdays &<br>Wednesdays | 2:30PM-4:15PM |

We encourage students to participate in one or all of the offerings listed above. Students do not have to attend every week as some of the clubs are drop in, especially intramurals. All after school activities are underway. Please note that all after school activities begin at 2:30PM. Students are not allowed to wander the building or “hang out” after school. They must be with a staff member after school. **We will have sign ups during lunch for students who need the late bus. Students need to sign in each day if they need the late bus. There are only two late buses.**

## After School Help Sessions

Students are encouraged to stay with teachers after school for extra-help sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesday and/or Thursdays from 2:25PM-2:55PM. Students must check in with their teacher during the day to request to stay after for extra help. After the help session, students may attend an after school club until 4:15PM. If students are being picked up, they should go to the front of the school for pick-up. Students can also wait to be picked up in the front lobby.

## Upcoming Events

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| Tuesday, February 7 <sup>th</sup> :    | Basketball Game vs. Cameron (Home) 2:30PM-4:30PM   |
| Thursday, February 9 <sup>th</sup> :   | 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Work Hard Be Nice Assembly 10:50AM<br>42 <sup>nd</sup> Street-Musical 7:00PM   |
| Friday, February 10 <sup>th</sup> :    | Spirit Day-Wear your favorite Patriot's jersey/shirt, etc.<br>Dunning Preview for 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street 9:30AM<br>42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Musical 7:00PM |
| Saturday, February 11 <sup>th</sup> :  | 42 <sup>nd</sup> Street Musical 7:00PM   |
| Tuesday, February 14 <sup>th</sup> :   | 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Work Hard Be Nice Assembly 10:50AM   |
| Wednesday, February 15 <sup>th</sup> : | 7 <sup>th</sup> grade Work Hard Be Nice Assembly 10:50AM   |
| Monday, February 20 <sup>th</sup> -    |  |
| Friday, February 24 <sup>th</sup> :    | No School-Winter Recess  |