

EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHITE BROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Meredith Balise, Principal

Jill Pasquini-Torchia, Assistant Principal

April 1, 2019

Dear Families of White Brook Middle School Students:

We wish to congratulate two of our educators, Ms. Cleary and Ms. Capen-Parizo, for earning the Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award for 2019. The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Awards program has brought recognition to more than a thousand distinguished educators since its launch in 2004. A partnership of the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (MassMutual), and the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation, the program annually honors Western Massachusetts educators in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties and seeks to motivate teachers at all stages of their careers to aspire to excellence. We are proud to have Ms. Cleary and Ms. Capen-Parizo as part of the White Brook teaching community!

Learning takes place in many ways at White Brook Middle School. Ms. Gonsalves' class participated in the Winter Special Olympic Events on March 1st at South Hadley High School. Student athletes competed in a number of basketball and bowling events, opening ceremony, and the awards ceremony. *Quest* is a group of students working to make the White Brook community a better place through projects like creating a school directory, leading school assemblies, utilizing coding software, and writing these newsletters. Also, Quest students are working with Ms. Balise, Ms. Pasquini, and Officer Rogalski to improve school safety. Quest students ran an assembly on March 22nd to recognize students and staff members who exemplify the virtue of helpfulness. Leah Cox, Jake Kostek, Eva Romero, Ben Guertin, Ms. Corbeil, and Mr. Norman were all recognized during this event. In addition, Mr. Hovey led the chorus in a song. Also, a big thank you to all students and families who participated in and contributed to Pennies for Patients to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of our 2018-2019 school improvement council. School councils enhance site-based decision making because they expand the participation of the school community. The involvement of different groups on the council (teachers, parents, and community members) provides the school with different and mutually complementary perspectives on improvement goals and plans. In addition, by involving people who work in and support the school in the development of the school's improvement plan, the likelihood will increase that the plan will succeed. Our members include Michelle Downer, Ingrid Flory, Julie Richburg, Rachel Achmad, Chad Cormier, Rebecca Belcher-Timme, Alice Silveira, Jeff Bucs and Christine Cleary. We appreciate your continued collaboration. Our next

meeting is Tuesday, April 23rd at 5:30 p.m. in the guidance suite and any parents are welcome to attend.

Please note, Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) begins in April. For planning purposes, please see the following dates your middle schooler will be taking MCAS:

Grade 5: April 9, 10, 29, 30, May 15, 16

Grade 6: April 11, 12, May 1, 2

Grade 7: April 23, 24, May 7, 8

Grade 8: April 25, 26, May 9, 10, 13, 14

This is a reminder that students must arrive by 8:15 a.m. every day. It is crucial that students arrive to school on time so that important instructional time is not missed. Please encourage your child to have a restful night of sleep and a healthy breakfast. Breakfast is available here at school as well. We value your contributions of time and ideas. We look forward to your participation and welcome your suggestions.

Sincerely,

Meredith Balise
Principal

Jill Pasquini-Torchia
Assistant Principal

*Sections of this newsletter were written by sixth grade students, Sam Barr and Sagen Crowell.

A Virtues Pick

TOLERANCE

Being tolerant is accepting differences. You do not expect others to think, look, speak or act just like you. You are free of prejudice knowing that all people have feelings, needs, hopes, and dreams. Tolerance is also accepting things you wish were different with patience and flexibility (The Virtues Project, 2002).

You are practicing **TOLERANCE** when you:

- build unity with others who are different from you.
- are free of prejudice.
- make others feel included by reaching out in friendliness.
- accept people the way they are, faults and all.