

# Pioneer Press

December 2023

Craig Bodensteiner, Principal

Jennifer Allen, Assistant Principal



Pioneer Families,

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed their time with family and friends! Here we are in the month of December! The school year is more than a third of the way through. Please remember that students should continue to read, write and practice their math facts over winter vacation! Reading and writing can be about any topics they enjoy and shared with parents and siblings alike. Students can also write some resolutions to ring in 2024!

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The cold weather is here and snow is too. Please be sure that your children come to school prepared to go outside for their recess. Students WILL be going outside as often as possible. Please have coats, hats, mittens, snow pants and boots at the ready!

Another piece to winter arrival is the chance for snow days. Parents can learn about school closings through a variety of sources. The fastest are the district website and district social media. Go online to [websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org) to see it posted as a news story or check Facebook @webstercentralschools and X (formerly Twitter) @WCSDproud. Additionally, parents will be notified through the district's automated communication system, ParentSquare, and local media will be contacted.

### ***Plank North Dance-a-thon a Huge Success***

We want to say a HUGE "Thank you!" to our students, staff, and donors for the incredible Plank North PUMP IT UP Dance Party fundraiser. A special "Thank You" to Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers for getting the students ready and excited for this event during P.E., the teachers for getting the kids excited in the classroom and another "Thank You" to Mrs. Bingo and Mrs. Ginster for their constant communication and updates to parents and students!

Here are our final stats:

\*We raised over \$14,000!

\*Every single student completed 35 minutes of dancing to help our school!

\*Mrs. Prosser and Ms. Weinmann's classes each won a pizza party!

\*First Grade won the popcorn/apple cider party!

\*We celebrated our school coming together and created unforgettable memories at our Plank North PUMP IT UP Dance Party event!

### **Share the Season Collection Drive**

Once again, the holiday spirit of giving is alive and well in the Plank North School community. The amount of non-perishable food, personal care items, cleaning supplies, and clothing that was collected during the Share the Season Drive was so impressive! With each day that passed, the donations continued to line our hallway! These donations will make a positive impact in our community. Thank you for your generosity!

### **Encore Classroom News:**

We had a busy fall season in the Encore Digital Thinking Lab! We explored Seesaw and Google Classroom, learned about keyboarding, hardware, and software, and began using our Dash Robots! In the upcoming weeks we will explore using computational thinking to solve problems and complete STEM challenges. Digital citizenship is always a focus in the Encore program, and we will continue to review how to be a strong digital citizen and be safe online. Families can reinforce these lessons through conversations and expectations at home. It's never too early to have a conversation about the video's students are watching or who they interact with online.

### **Mid-Year Report Cards:**

Report cards will be available on the Infinite Campus Parent Portal on February 9, 2024 at noon. Report cards will **not** be printed and sent home from school. Thank you!

### **Winter Recess:**

School will be closed for Winter Recess after classes are dismissed on Friday, December 22. Classes will resume on Wednesday, January 3. Best wishes for the holiday season!

To all our Pioneer families, we wish you a safe, restful holiday season and a very Happy New Year!

Yours in partnership,  
Craig Bodensteiner, Principal

Jennifer Allen, Assistant Principal



## REDEMPTION PROGRAMS

Redemption Programs mean \$ for our School!

THANKS FOR JOINING IN!

Imagine It

[www.imaginerecycling.com](http://www.imaginerecycling.com)

Bring in your used printer cartridges, PDA's, cell phones, MP3's, or portable electronics for recycling and Plank North will receive money back to the school.



# EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find thousands of participating products throughout the store — and all you need is the Box Tops app.

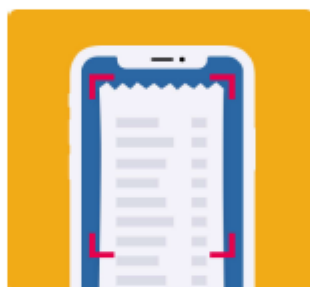


## HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



### BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

Earn for schools with the brands you love.



### SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the Box Tops app to submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



### EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS

Box Tops products are identified and earnings are credited online.



### ONLINE SHOPPERS CAN EARN WITH BOX TOPS, TOO!

Whether you order groceries for delivery or pickup, shop through your store's app, or request an email receipt at checkout, you can earn for your school no matter where you shop.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT  
THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfec.com)

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS  
APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:





PLANK  
NORTH  
ELEMENTARY

## Bottle/Can Donation at Nickel Back Bottle & Can Return!



Does your family have bottles/cans sitting around to be returned? Please consider donating them to the Plank North PTSA! All funds raised will be used towards activities, programs, etc. at Plank North!

- \* All bottles and cans with NYS \$.05 deposits are welcome: fast, friendly hassle-free drop off!
- \* No fees involved, the Plank North PTSA will receive all funds for bottles and cans returned!
- \* Please label your bags "**Plank North Elementary School**" prior to drop off!

### **Location:**

Nickel Back Bottle & Can Return

659 Ridge Road

Webster, NY 14580

Call for hours: (585) 690-5805

(Behind Hadlock's House of Paint building, next to Bowling Alley)



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You are also welcome to email the Plank North PTSA and we will pick-up your bags!  
**[pnptsa@websterptsa.org](mailto:pnptsa@websterptsa.org)**



FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2023

### **TOE-TAPPING ENTERTAINMENT AHEAD IN 2024!**

The second half of the school year will be filled with incredible musical theater performances, thanks to our talented middle and high school students and their advisers! Coming soon to a theater near you will be four musicals for our One Webster community to enjoy:

- Disney - Pixar *Finding Nemo Jr.*, February 2-3 at Willink Middle School
- *Catch Me if You Can*, February 8-10 at Webster Schroeder High School
- Nickelodeon *The SpongeBob Musical Youth Edition*, March 8-9 at Spry Middle School
- DreamWorks *Shrek the Musical*, March 21-23 at Webster Thomas High School

Be sure to visit the district's website for times and ticket information as the dates for each show get closer.

Also be sure to save the date, April 25-27, for the Webster Schroeder Theater Company's presentation of the drama *Little Women* at 7:00 p.m. nightly plus a 2:00 p.m. Saturday matinee.

### **ENJOY THE WINTER BREAK!**

We hope you and your family enjoy the upcoming winter break, Monday December 25 through Tuesday, January 2. Take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the time together. We look forward to welcoming your child back to school on Wednesday, January 3.

### **STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION AND WEBSTER CSD!**

Please stay up-to-date on your board's activities by [visiting our web page](#). Regular business meetings are live streamed at <http://www.websterschools.org/boemeetings> or you may join us in-person for these upcoming board meetings.

- Tuesday, December 12 - Regular Business Meeting: UPK, 6:00 p.m., Spry MS - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor PDC
- **Wednesday**, January 3 - Workshop: Long Range Financial Planning, 6:00 p.m., Spry MS - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor PDC
- Tuesday, January 16 - Regular Business Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Spry MS, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor PDC



## Music “Notes”



By Miss Mossey

Season’s greetings to everyone! I want to encourage all of our Plank North families to remember the worth of music during this time of year. Whether it be singing together in the car or playing a favorite album while decorating your home, taking the time to make music with children can help create lifelong memories.

When I was a child my family always listened to John Denver and the Muppets: A Christmas Together. (Who doesn’t love Miss Piggy’s part in The 12 Days of Christmas?) And as soon as we finished decorating the tree, we would play Stille Nacht by Mannheim Steamroller. Even now as an adult, my holiday isn’t complete until I’ve listened to that music.

I encourage you to incorporate music into your holiday traditions. Your children will be grateful and you will be creating priceless memories.



@PlankNorthMusic

## Library News

Jen McCorry  
School Librarian

### Create an Ugly Sweater Design

The trend of wearing ugly sweaters has become a fun and popular holiday tradition. There is even a day set aside to celebrate all of these ugly holiday sweaters. December 15th is National Ugly Sweater Day. Have you always wanted to design your own? This is your chance! For this OPTIONAL activity, you are asked to work together as a family to create an ugly sweater for our display. Try to find some inspiration from your favorite story or book. We all love Pete the Cat, Clifford the Big Red Dog, or Dogman, but maybe not so much on our sweater! Feel free to be creative and use any crafting or other supplies you wish. If your project is heavy, please use some cardboard to give it extra support. All of the projects will be displayed outside the library for all of our friends at Plank North to enjoy.

Please return your ugly sweater designs to school by Thursday, 12/14. Don't forget to include your family name and book/character who gave you inspiration. We can't wait to see your creations!

### Overdue Books

We have a large number of overdue library books. Please help your child find any missing library books and return them to school as soon as possible. If a book is truly lost, please let us know and we can discuss replacement options. Thank you so much for your help in this matter!

Follow us on Instagram @planknorth\_library! Thank you for your support of our library program!





## Plank North Physical Education Students of the Month – **DECEMBER**

Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers are very proud of all the students at Plank Road North Elementary. We would like to take this time to recognize two 5th grade students that have demonstrated characteristics that were extraordinary for December. These students have shown that they are working continuously at a high level of achievement. A student must go above and beyond what is expected of them, and demonstrate they are not only an outstanding student of Physical Education, but also a superior member of the Plank Road North community. Characteristics exhibited include the Webster essential skills, personal living skills, and skillful moving. Congratulations to this month's recipients **Mykalani Smith** and **Ryan Clower**!

Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers sat down with the students to ask them a few questions, and here are the responses.

**Mykalani Smith** is a 5th grader in Ms. Napolitano's class where her favorite subject is writing. Outside of school, she plays volleyball for the Rochester Paradigm Volleyball Club in the position of libero. Here at school Mykalani is a member of the Plank North Safety Patrol as a kindergarten helper. If you have Mykalani over for dinner her favorite food is cheese pizza from anywhere, she is not picky. When she grows up she would like to become a professional volleyball player, maybe even a 2vs2 sand court player. Her favorite team to cheer for is the Buffalo Bills.

**Ryan Clower** is a fifth grader in Mrs. Merkey's class where his favorite subject is geology. Outside of school, he participates in soccer and plays in the position of right midfielder for the Lakefront Soccer Club. Ryan is also a member of the Plank North Safety Patrol in the position of kindergarten helper. We asked Ryan what his favorite food is and he answered, "cheesy rice from a box". When Ryan grows up he would like to be a sports commentator. When cheering for a favorite sports team he said the Buffalo Bills for football and the Washington Capitals for hockey (which makes sense, since Ryan was born in Virginia).

Congratulations to our Student Athletes of the Month!



**Your membership pays for itself in just a few visits to our discount partners!**



WC PTSA members get \$5 off rentals Monday - Friday



Show your  
WC PTSA  
membership card  
for \$5 off \$40!

Offer valid at Webster locations.  
Discounts cannot be combined.



WC PTSA members:  
buy 1 Blizzard, get 1  
for 99¢ every day!



Webster Central PTSA  
members save \$5 off \$30  
(regular-priced items)

www.lalaofwebster.com



WC PTSA members  
save 10%  
on teas and shakes  
at Nourished!

900 Holt Road (Wegmans Plaza)



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Webster Central  
PTSA members save  
\$5 off \$20



CARPET  
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MOLD REMOVAL

WCPTSA MEMBERS  
SAVE 10% OFF  
REGULAR-PRICE SERVICES



WAFFLES.  
SHAKES.  
ICE CREAM.



WCPTSA MEMBERS  
SAVE 10%



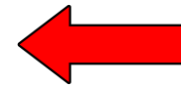
WC PTSA  
members  
save 10%  
every visit!

**Parents/families, please  
purchase your PTSA  
membership today!**

**[WebsterPTSA.org/JOIN](http://WebsterPTSA.org/JOIN)**

If you have not already purchased your PTSA Membership, please do so through the link above! The cost is \$10 per adult membership/\$5 per student membership.

\$6 of the adult membership comes back directly to Plank North to help us run fun events at our school! Also, your PTSA card gets you some wonderful discounts around town this year!



**For those of you have already  
purchased, we are very  
appreciative of your support!**

**Webster Public Library  
872-7075**

For program information and up-to-the-minute news on what's new in the Children's Department, visit our blog:  
[wplkids.wordpress.com](http://wplkids.wordpress.com)

**WSCD K-5 Family Handbook**

Have a question about your child's school day, school and district policies or PTSA programs?

The WSCD Handbook is a great place to start to have your questions answered. In an effort to be more eco-friendly, the handbook is now located on the school's website. You can find it here: [www.websterschools.org/planknorth](http://www.websterschools.org/planknorth)

The PTSA encourages parents to keep this reference book handy throughout the school year to answer questions that may pop up. If there is anything you would like to suggest adding to the handbook in future editions, or if you have any corrections, please contact us at [pnptsa@websterptsa.org](mailto:pnptsa@websterptsa.org).

Thank you!



**705 Plank Road**

**Phone:**

(585) 671-8858 – Main Office

**(585) 670-4012 – Attendance Line**

(585) 670-4011 – Health Office

We're on the web!

**[websterschools.org](http://websterschools.org)**

## Plank North PTSA 2023 – 2024

<b>Executive Committee:</b>	
Chair	Alison Basch
Vice Chair	Krista Castronova
Treasurer	Karin Anello
Secretary	Elsbeth Ebenhoe
Communications Coordinator	Sarah Rook
Membership Chair	Shannon Morrell
PTSA Teacher Liaison	Ann Merkey
School Board Liaison	Janice Richardson
<b>Event Chairs:</b>	
Bingo for Books	Krista Castronova
Book Fair	Karin Anello
	Alison Basch
Community Arts Day	Brandy Sydor
Donuts with Grown-Ups	Elsbeth Ebenhoe
Fall Fundraiser	Nicole Katz
Fifth Grade Social	Melissa Selner/ Kym Bernard
Kindergarten Play Date	Shari Ebert
New Family Gathering	Kelly Lape
School #17 Holiday Giving	Kym Bernard
School Picture Coordinator	Melissa Selner
School Spirit Wear	Krista Castronova
School Yearbook	Lisa Currier
	Amanda Lindley
Spring Plant Sale	Alison Basch
	Krista Castronova
Staff Appreciation Week	Elsbeth Ebenhoe
	Melissa Selner
Spring Dance	Kristina Mamott
Trunk or Treat	Bonnie Deiore
Square 1	Karin Anello
<b>Other PTSA Services:</b>	
PTSA Bulletin Board	Kristina Mamott
Pioneer Press Newsletter	Sarah Rook
<b>Ongoing Programs:</b>	
Box Tops for Education	Karin Anello
TOPS Markets	Karin Anello
Nickel Back Can Return	N/A