

Pioneer Press

January 2024

Craig Bodensteiner, Principal

Jennifer Allen, Assistant Principal



Pioneer Families,

Happy New Year! It is so hard to believe that winter break is over and 2024 is upon us! We are excited for a new year and the sense of excitement and renewal brought with it. Once again, we are so grateful for all the students, parents, and staff that bring joy to us on a daily basis! We truly hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing winter vacation!

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This time of year always conjures up the idea of resolutions. Resolutions, when we think about them, are really about setting goals and seeing them through. The easier part of the process may be picking something to change or deciding on a goal. To be persistent is probably the harder thing to do. Setting a goal—or coming up with a resolution—is a great conversation to have with your children. Spend some time discussing the idea of resolutions and share your own resolutions with your children. Help them to come up with some of their own. Better yet, set a family resolution and work together to achieve it. Setting a goal/resolution together may help you all to persevere. It is a valuable life skill and one that can benefit everyone. Perhaps you can take the time every day to think of one thing for which you are grateful.

In these cold winter months that follow, please remember to send your children to school dressed for the weather (warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and possibly even snow pants). On days when it is appropriate, teachers will try to get their classes outside for some fresh winter air. We encourage you to label your child's clothing. Labeling your child's clothing will ensure that all items may be returned to the owner in an efficient manner.

Protocol in the Event of School Closings; Early Dismissal Due to Inclement Weather

Webster CSD families are reminded that if weather prohibits students from attending school or necessitates closing school early, this information will be communicated as soon as it is available using the district's ParentSquare system. Information will also be provided on the district website (websterschools.org), on district social media, and to local television and radio stations. When school is closed due to weather, all aquatics, community education, and evening classes and activities are canceled as well. WonderCare may be an exception; please consult their website, websterschools.org/wondercare

Should the district need to dismiss early, bus riders will return home in the same order as a regular school day. Parents are asked to be prepared with a plan in the event of an early dismissal and discuss it with their children. Weather conditions vary widely across the district. Parents/guardians are the final authority in deciding whether or not to send a child to school. Weather related absences are legal absences; however, parents are required to notify schools if their children will not be attending.

WCSD Staff vs. Harlem Wizards Basketball Game

Tickets are on sale now to see One Webster Staff vs. Harlem Wizards basketball game! **On January 14th, come and cheer for the players representing Plank North: Ms. Donaloio and Miss Jordan.** Ticket prices increase at the door, so advanced purchase is recommended. Tickets are on sale at - <https://harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets/>

Plank North 20th Annual Family Fun Night – Wednesday, January, 10, 2024

This is an event for Plank North students and their parents/guardians. Younger siblings are also welcome to come but need to stay with their parents/guardians. Older siblings are also welcome to join in the fun! There will be four stations throughout the building that families will move through (gym, art room, library and music room). The activities are designed to be appropriate for all ages and abilities and will encourage teamwork and interaction within and between families. This is a TECH-FREE event! More information to be sent home soon.

Report Card Scoring Guide

First semester Report Cards will be distributed via the WCSD Parent Portal on Friday, February 9 at 12:00pm for students in grades PreK-5.

American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge

The American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge is a community service event that raises money to help fund education to fight against heart disease and stroke as well as other lifesaving research. Plank North is educating children on how important it is to stay active and fit while also learning about the importance of giving back to the community. To help achieve this goal, we will be participating in Kids Heart challenge on January 25 and 26, 2024 during the school day. More information will be sent home soon.

Nominate Exemplary Teachers for Oak Tree Award

Oak Tree Award nominations are now being accepted for the 2023-24 school year. Co-sponsored by the Webster Teachers' Association (WTA) and the Webster Central PTSA, the Oak Tree Award recognizes teaching excellence in Webster CSD at the elementary and the secondary levels. Any Webster resident or district employee, current or former student, parent, teacher, or administrative colleague may nominate a teacher for the Elementary or Secondary Teacher of the Year Oak Tree Award.

Award nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Currently teaching in a full-time position in Webster Central Schools
- Have a minimum of 5 years teaching experience in Webster Central Schools
- Plan to continue to teach the next school year in, or retire from Webster Central Schools
- Be a member of both the Webster Central PTSA and the Webster Teachers' Association

To nominate a deserving educator, please fill out the [Oak Tree nomination form](#). **Nominations will be accepted until February 1, 2024.**

Families of Young Children Asked to Take Census:

Webster CSD is surveying our One Webster community to forecast student enrollment for the foreseeable future. The annual [young child census](#) launched on the district website December 1. If you have children residing in your household who are ages birth to 5 years old, please complete this [brief census](#). Don't delay! The census closes January 6, 2024. Families who do not have access to a computer may participate by calling Student Registration at (585) 216-0029.

Completing the census is a young families' first connection with the school district. It enables us to keep in contact with families as their children approach school age.

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

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.

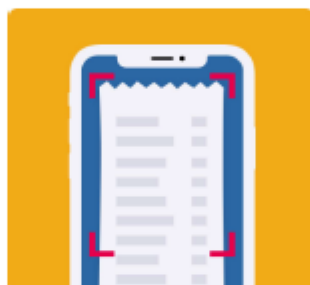


HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



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.btfef.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)



You are also welcome to email the Plank North PTSA and we will pick-up your bags!
pnptsa@websterptsa.org



FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 2024

Webster CSD Families of Young Children Asked to Participate in Census

Happy 2024 to all of our families!

If you know any families with children ages birth to 5 years old, Webster CSD is asking them to [complete a brief census to](#) help forecast student enrollment for the foreseeable future. The annual [young child census](#) launched on the district website, websterschools.org, December 1. Please don't delay as the census closes on Saturday, January 6. Families who do not have access to a computer may participate by calling Student Registration at (585) 216-0029.

Completing the census is a young families' first connection with the school district. It enables us to keep in contact with families as their children approach school age.

Nominate a Teacher for Excellence: 2023-24 Oak Tree Awards

Co-sponsored by the Webster Teachers' Association (WTA) and the Webster Central PTSA, the Oak Tree Award recognizes teaching excellence in Webster CSD at the elementary and the secondary levels. Any Webster resident or district employee, current or former student, parent, teacher, or administrative colleague may nominate a teacher for the Elementary or Secondary Teacher of the Year Oak Tree Award. **Nominations will be accepted until February 1, 2024.**

Award nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Currently teaching in a full-time position in Webster Central Schools
- Have a minimum of five years teaching experience in Webster Central Schools
- Plan to continue to teach the next school year in, or retire from Webster Central Schools
- Be a member of both the Webster Central PTSA and the Webster Teachers' Association.

To find out more and to nominate a deserving educator, please visit our [website news story](#).

STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION THROUGHOUT 2024!

Please stay connected with your board of education by visiting our website, websterschools.org/board. There you'll find agendas, minutes, and even the latest meetings, which are streamed live and also recorded for later viewing.

We hope to see many of you in the new year! Be sure to join us for these upcoming board meetings:

- **Wednesday**, January 3, 2024 - Workshop: Long Range Financial Planning, **4:30 p.m.**, Spry MS - 2nd floor PDC (please note different day and time!)
- Tuesday, January 16, 2024 - Regular Business Meeting: Fine Arts, 6:00 p.m., Spry MS - 2nd floor PDC



Music “Notes”



By Miss Mossey

As the second marking period draws to a close at the end of January, parents of 1st and 2nd graders will be able to see how their child is progressing in music class. (3rd, 4th and 5th graders will receive their grades for music class at the end of the school year.) A variety of aspects and skills are assessed and reported at this time. Here are the areas that are assessed for each student using the “I can” statements:

Artistic Literacy

I can demonstrate my knowledge of musical concepts.

I can utilize my singing voice with accuracy.

I can play instruments with accuracy.

I can persevere in the process of music learning.

As you can see, music class is not just about singing fun, cute songs. Since many of these aspects are skills based, most of the assessing goes on during music class within the context of a game or whole-class activity. Any written quizzes or tests are carefully planned and prepared for in music class.

Grading musical skills at the elementary age is particularly challenging because the development happens at a unique time for each child. Sometimes it even happens overnight! A student who has not “found” their singing voice may all of a sudden come to class the next day singing right on pitch. So, if your child receives a lower grade on their report card, please realize that that is very likely to change as they continue to work towards achieving the standards.



@PlankNorthMusic

Library News

Jen McCorry
School Librarian

Happy New Year from the library! Please join us on Family Fun Night when we welcome Jason Poole from the Webster Public Library for a special story time and sing along!

Throughout January we will be encouraging students to “try something new in the new year.” We will display a variety of cookbooks, Lego, drawing, origami, and other craft books for students to borrow. If your child creates something from their library book, please send in a picture of your child, the book and their creation. The pictures will be displayed in the hall to share with our Plank North family!

As always, thank you for your support of our library program!
Follow us on Instagram @planknorth_library!



Plank North Physical Education Students of the Month – **JANUARY**

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 January. 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 **Olivia Rosdahl** and **Ryan Lee**!

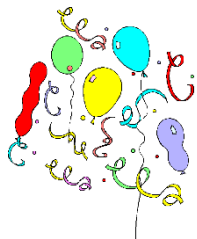
Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers sat down with the students to ask them a few questions, and here are the responses.

Olivia Rosdahl is a 5th grader in Ms. Napolitano's class where her favorite subject is reading. Outside of school, Olivia plays lacrosse for a team in Webster and basketball for the Northcoast Travel Basketball League. At school Olivia is really busy! She is a Plank North Safety Patrol member in the role of kindergarten helper and plays the bass in the orchestra. If you have Olivia over for dinner her favorite food is anything with cheese, she loves cheese. When Olivia grows up she would like to become a real estate agent. Olivia's favorite team to cheer for is the Buffalo Bills.

Ryan Lee is a fifth grader in Mrs. Merkey's class where his favorite subject is science. Outside of school Ryan plays flag football for the Webster Titans in the position of quarterback. He also plays basketball for the Northcoast Travel Basketball League. In the spring you can catch Ryan on the baseball field playing catcher for the Webster Baseball program. Ryan is really, really, busy here at school where he is a member of the Plank North Safety Patrol in the position of announcer and flag raiser, a member of the Plank North band as a flutist and in the school choir. We asked Ryan what his favorite food is and he answered homemade dumplings. When Ryan grows up he would like to be a scientist. When asked who do you cheer for he said, "the Mets for baseball and the Golden State Warriors for basketball".

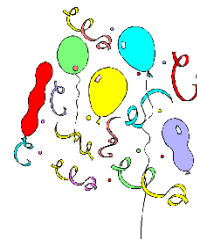
Congratulations to our Student Athletes of the Month!





Plank North Family Fun Night

Attention all Plank North students and parents!
Please join us for Plank North Family Fun Night!



When: Wednesday, January 10th

- *Sign In and announcements in cafeteria: 6:00-6:15*
- *Activities: 6:15-7:45*

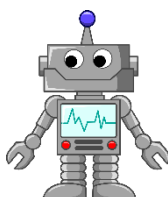
Where: At Plank North, activities will be held throughout the school building.

Who: This is an event for Plank North students and their parents/guardians. Younger siblings are also welcome to come but need to stay with their parents. Older siblings are welcome to join in the fun!

What: There will be five stations throughout the building that families will move through. The activities are designed to be appropriate for all ages and abilities and will encourage **teamwork and interaction within and between families.**



Gym: We will be engaging in heart healthy activities, bring your sneakers!
Prepare to have fun playing with your child.



Encore: Working with robots!



Art: We will work on a collaborative art project.
No need to bring an art smock. Just bring an open mind and your creative spirit!

Library: Book reading and a guest
Enjoying time with your family and some great books.



Music Bingo! How well do you know different styles of music?



This is a tech-free event



Questions:

Sarah Mossey
Sarah_Mossey@webstercsd.org

Jennifer McCorry
Jennifer_McCorry@Webstercsd.org

Dave Gorski
Dave_Gorski@Webstercsd.org

Michelle Craig
Michelle_Craig@webstercsd.org

Kevin Sayers
Kevin_Sayers@webstercsd.org

Brittany Jordan
Brittany_Jordan@Webstercsd.org



Dear Parents/Guardians:

National Kid's Heart Challenge is a community service event that raises money to help fund education to fight against Heart Disease and Stroke as well as other life saving research. We are trying to educate the children on how important it is to stay active and fit while also learning about the importance of giving back to the community. To help achieve this goal, Plank North will be participating in Kid's Heart Challenge on:

January 25th through January 26th, 2024 during the school day!

Each child will be given collection information and asked to try and raise money for this excellent cause. We are sending home the forms because of the great information on them and a better explanation of the thank you gifts. However, we ask that the children do **NOT** go door to door to solicit funds for donations. Everything will be done online this year. Any amount collected will be beneficial and greatly appreciated. We started the program in 2001 and raised \$250.00. Last year we raised \$15,000 online.

We will only be raising money online

*****Donations can be made online by visiting the American Heart Association Kid's Heart Challenge page at [Heart.org/KidsHeartChallenge](https://www.heart.org/KidsHeartChallenge) ***School is: Plank North Elementary**

Each child that collects \$5.00 online or more will be given a prize. The prizes are a way of saying thank you as well as encourage personal fitness at home. We will hand out the prizes during Physical Education classes.

Please contact Mrs. Craig 670-4016 or Mr. Sayers 670-4017 with any questions. Thank you for supporting this event.

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 location.
Discounts cannot be combined.

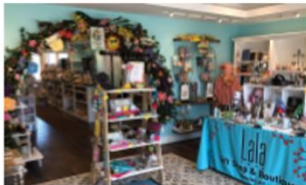


Grill & Chill

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



Lala



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)



Secret Ingredient



www.secretingredientcupcakery.com

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



CARPET
UPHOLSTERY
TILE & GROUT
FIRE/WATER DAMAGE
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

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

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

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.

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

Plank North PTSA 2023 – 2024

<u>Executive Committee:</u>	
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
<u>Event Chairs:</u>	
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
<u>Other PTSA Services:</u>	
PTSA Bulletin Board	Kristina Mamott
Pioneer Press Newsletter	Sarah Rook
<u>Ongoing Programs:</u>	
Box Tops for Education	Karin Anello
TOPS Markets	Karin Anello
Nickel Back Can Return	N/A