

Pioneer Press

A publication of Plank Road North Elementary School PTSA Webster NY

November 2020

Craig Bodensteiner, Principal
Heather Balsamo, Assistant Principal



Principal's News

Principal's Notes:

Principals' Reading Challenge Recognizes Super Readers:

We are so excited with the ongoing success of the Principals' Reading Challenge at Plank North! Our students' involvement in this initiative supports and enhances our ongoing efforts to help every student become a proficient and confident reader. We are having a wonderful time recognizing student participation on the Morning Show and presenting students with certificates of recognition. So far, more than 200 students have been honored for meeting their goals. Many thanks to Literacy Specialists Sharon Goodman, Sue Hopper and Nan Nesbitt, along with fifth grade teacher Marcia Napolitano and support from PN PTSA for organizing this fun and engaging challenge. As Dr. Seuss so aptly states, "The more that you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

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F.I.R.E. Hispanic Heritage Event: The Webster Central School District's F.I.R.E. Hispanic Heritage committee has put together a district-wide event to celebrate Hispanic heritage. With COVID keeping us at bay, we are excited to share that the group has planned an online community event focused on the wonderful picture book *Alma and How She Got Her Name*. The book is a wonderful exploration of both the importance of one's name and the rich Hispanic traditions at the core of Alma's experience. Our plan is to do a live streamed, community-wide read aloud (password protected so as to not violate copyright) of the book and then have a student created "film festival" through FlipGrid of our own students sharing the stories of their names. This event will take place on Tuesday November 10 at 7:00PM. This is a completely voluntary activity, but is a great way for us to learn a little more about ourselves and each other. Though our focus is UPK-3, all kids are encouraged to submit their video. It would be terrific if you all could participate too! Our Pioneers will be reading and listening to the book with their teacher. The link for sharing your video is <https://flipgrid.com/518c565f>

Health Screening/Masking Success: Thank you so much for completing your child/children's daily health screen! This has been instrumental in maximizing our instructional time and ensuring the safety of all! Overall, our students are doing incredible with keeping their masks over their noses and mouths. Some helpful reminders are listed below to help you find a mask that works best for your child while at school and on the school bus.

- Your child's mask should feel comfortable for him/her for long periods of time.
- Your child's mask should stay above the nose while talking.
- If your child wears glasses, consider masks that have a metal wire across the nose to prevent his/her glasses from fogging up.
- We have child-sized masks in every classroom and do provide them for your child in the event that your child's mask is soiled/wet, not staying above his/her nose, or if a child is complaining of a mask being uncomfortable.

PikMyKipp Success: What a great addition the PikMyKid app has become to our daily health screening and dismissal processes! Thank you, thank you, thank you parents and guardians for embracing this new way of communication. After a couple of initial days of slow moving car lines, our dismissal process has been running smoothly. It has proven to be a very safe, efficient and smart dismissal solution for Plank North. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to call our Main Office or PikMyKid's very helpful customer service department at 813-864-7627 (also by email at support@pikmykid.com).

Webster CSD Free Meal Program Continues: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced that its free meal program for schools will continue at no cost to taxpayers until further notice. Beginning Monday, September 14, all Webster CSD students grades UPK-12 may receive free meals, whether they are hybrid learners or 100% remote. Families that planned to complete free and reduced meal applications are still encouraged to do so as the USDA reports that its free for all students program may be discontinued without advance notice.

Elementary students (grades UPK-5) participating in the hybrid learning model will receive their grab and go breakfasts and lunches at the end of each school day for the following day. If you do NOT want your elementary school-aged child to receive meals, please contact Webster CSD Food Service at 670-5104 or via email at mark_balfour@webstercsd.org.

All students (grades K-12) participating in the 100% remote learning model may pick up their grab and go meals Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the main entrance of their home school. If you have students in multiple buildings, please feel free to select one building to avoid multiple stops.

All elementary students will receive the first meal choice listed on the daily [school menus](#). Should your child have specific meal requirements due to allergies, please contact Webster Food Service at 670-5104 or via email at kathleen_palmer@webstercsd.org.

SRP Recognition Day: Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020

School-Related Professionals work side-by-side as partners in the education of our children

- Bus drivers safely transport students to and from school
- Secretaries keep offices running smoothly and efficiently
- Teaching assistants and paraprofessionals help educate
- Nurses and other health care staff keep students healthy
- Building and teacher aides assist with care
- Cafeteria staff provide nutritious meals
- Custodians keep the school clean
- Maintenance staff keeps it all running
- Security keeps everyone safe

We appreciate our Webster School-Related Professionals on this and every day!

Upcoming Switch Date for Art & Music - November 9th. K-2 will be attending Music, 3-5 will be attending Art. Codes for SeeSaw and Google Classroom have been shared with classroom teachers to help students get signed in for their upcoming sessions. Google Meet links for LIVE instruction will begin on November 9th.

Art Supplies ready to go!! Gr. 3-5 hybrid students will receive their materials at school to take home and use during their Art time. Remote students will have theirs delivered next Wednesday, Nov. 4 so they can join in at the same time. K-2 students will receive an Art Supply packet before the next changeover of instruction in January.

4th Grade Instrumental Sign-Up Survey - all 4th grade families received a link through Infinite Campus to let us know their child's interest, and family readiness, to begin some instrumental instruction through Band or Orchestra. We have 192 responses already from across the 7 buildings. This information will help us shape a staffing/resources picture for January. We look forward to working with our 4th Grade Musicians!

Important November Dates:

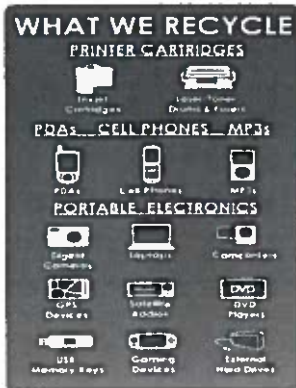
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|----------------------|--|
| Virtual PTSA Meeting | November 9 (9:00-10:00 am via Google Meet Link) |
| Veterans Day | November 11 (No School UPK-12) |
| Scholastic Book Fair | November 18-20 (students will visit during assigned class times/online ordering available as well) |
| Thanksgiving Recess | November 25-27 (No School UPK-12) |

Yours in partnership,

Craig Bodensteiner, Principal

Heather Balsamo, Assistant Principal

Redemption Programs mean \$ for our School! - THANKS FOR JOINING IN!



Imagine It www.imaginerecycling.com

Heather Balsamo: heather_balsamo@webstercsd.org

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.



BOX TOPS 4 EDUCATION www.boxtops4education.com

Find Box Tops on hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents to our school. Send your Box Tops into school. Twice per year, Box Tops will send a check to our school, for each Box Top redeemed, up to \$20,000 per year.



Tops In Education

Purchase participating TOPS Brand, Full Circle™, TopCare®, Tippy Toes, Paws™, Pure Harmony™, Simply Done™, Culinary Tours™, That's Smart, and Best Yet® products with your Tops BonusPlus® throughout the 2019-2020 Tops in Education program year. Tops contributes up to 5% of your purchase to the school(s) you have chosen. The more you shop, the higher percentage we donate!



**FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOVEMBER 2020**

NOMINATE TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE FOR OAK TREE AWARD

Each year the Webster Teachers' Association and the Webster Central PTSA jointly sponsor the Oak Tree recognition award. Teacher recipients exemplify excellence in their field, a commitment to their students, and are leaders in the community. They are the acorns that create thousands of forests.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 Oak Tree Award. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Currently teaching in a full-time position in Webster CSD
 - Have a minimum of five years teaching experience in Webster CSD
 - Plan to continue to teach the next school year in or retire from Webster CSD
 - Be a member of both the Webster Central PTSA and the Webster Teachers' Association
- regarding the importance of mask-wearing, hand-washing, and staying physically distant from others. These practices help keep our child(ren) – and each other – safe and healthy both inside school and throughout our community. Thank you!

THANK YOU TO OUR ONE WEBSTER VETERANS

Webster's Board of Education salutes our community's veterans as Veterans Day (Wednesday, November 11) approaches. Thank you to the men and women who have selflessly served our country, including those who work for Webster CSD. We appreciate your service!

UPCOMING F.I.R.E. MEETINGS



Families Igniting Racial Equity (F.I.R.E.) is a vibrant, parent-led organization whose mission is to build a racially, socially, and economically-just community. Spearheaded by Webster CSD, the group includes members from throughout our community – parents, concerned family members, and allies passionate about One Webster!

Meetings are taking place virtually this year, 6:30-8:00 p.m. on November 17, December 15, January 19, February 23, March 16, April 20, May 11, and June 15. To receive the virtual meeting link or for more information, please contact

Terry McCarthy, Webster CSD Director of Humanities, at terrance_mccarthy@webstercsd.org or (585) 216-0080.

Library News
Brenda Green
Library Media Specialist

The number one goal for the library this year is to get books to students and have them enjoy reading!

Many students are enjoying the **Breakout** on-line activities this month! Students collaborate, communicate, think critically and use creativity to problem solve their way through a scenario.

It is so important to read to your child, read with your child, and talk about the books your child is reading. Here are the kinds of books your child is bringing home.

| Grade | Library Day | Book Selection |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| PreK | Tuesday Wednesday | Students will be introduced to library books and book care in their classroom with a rotating selection of books and read aloud lessons. |
| Kindergarten | Tuesday | Students will have a bag with two library books coming home each week. Students will begin with books selected for them, and soon will be able to choose their own books from a selection of books on rolling tables outside their classroom. They will also have read aloud lessons. |
| First Grade | Thursday | Students will select two books from a selection on rolling tables outside their classroom. Books have been selected to match reading instruction in the classroom. Library lessons on book selection. |
| Second Grade | Wednesday | Students will select two books from a selection on rolling tables outside their classroom. Library lessons on book selection. Library lessons on fiction and nonfiction and popular series books. |
| Third and Fourth Grade | Friday, and every day for online checkout | Students have selected books from a selection on rolling tables outside their classroom. Students have learned to choose books from the online library catalog (Destiny Discover) and put them on hold to have them delivered to their classroom. Library lessons will include talks on book series, genres, and authors to spark their interest. |
| Fifth Grade | Monday, and every day for online checkout | Students have selected books from a selection on rolling tables outside their classroom. Students have learned to choose books from the online library catalog (Destiny Discover) and put them on hold to have them delivered to their classroom. Library lessons will include talks on book series, genres, and authors to spark their interest. |
| Remote Learners | Thursday pick up/drop off at Plank North main entrance | Tentatively starting Oct. 8 Students can choose books from the online library catalog (Destiny Discover) and put them on hold for pick up and drop off on Thursdays. More information will be emailed soon. |

Book Safety:

- The student is the only person touching the book that is brought home.
- Librarians and library assistants wear health and safety gloves.
- Returned books will be "quarantined" for one week before being reshelfed.
- Students use hand sanitizer and have masks in place before choosing books from rolling tables.

As the weather turns chilly, it is a great time to read a library book!! Happy reading!!

Please email me with any library questions at brenda_green@webstercsd.org

Music "Notes" From Miss Mossey

What a great start to the school year for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders! It has been amazing to see everyone who logs on for the online music classes. Miss Mossey is SO EXCITED to see the kindergarteners, 1st, and 2nd graders for music classes starting on November 9.

Important announcement about recorders for 4th and 5th graders!

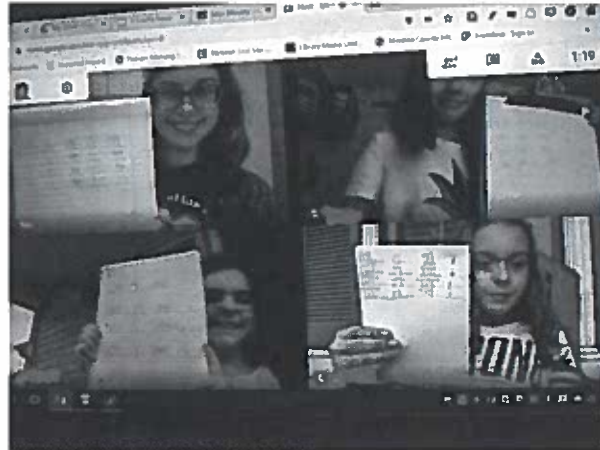
For those who ordered recorders last year, Miss Mossey will be sending them home at the beginning of November. She will be posting online video lessons for you to view anytime to help you learn the correct way to play. (And hopefully minimize the headaches from incorrect playing.) More information will be posted in your Music Google Classroom.

Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd graders

You will receive a code/link/something so that you can access Miss Mossey's Music Seesaw. Your music classes will begin on November 9th! So exciting!!

As always, please send Miss Mossey an email if you have any questions. Thank you so much for your patience while we all learn how to hold music classes online!

Sarah_Mossey@webstercsd.org



Starts are

Fight Flu at Home and School

Flu, or influenza, spreads easily and can make people very sick, especially kids. You can help stop flu!

Flu symptoms include:

Fever or chills, body aches, cough, sore throat, headache, runny or stuffy nose, feeling very tired. Some people, especially children, may have stomach problems and diarrhea. Unlike a cold, the flu comes on very suddenly.

Prevent flu!

- Flu vaccine is the best protection against the flu. It is recommended every year for everyone 6 months and older.
- Get the flu vaccine for you and your children every year! It helps make flu sickness milder or prevents it all together.
- Getting the vaccine early in the fall means you and your children will be protected when flu season starts.
- Ask people close to your children, like babysitters and relatives, to get the vaccine, too.
- The vaccine is especially important for people with certain health conditions, like asthma, diabetes, heart or lung conditions because the flu can make them even sicker.

If your child gets the flu:

- Your child will need plenty of rest and lots of fluids.
- Keep your child home from school for at least 24 hours after their fever is gone without using fever-control medicine. This helps avoid giving the flu to others.
- Talk with your child's health care provider before giving a child any over-the-counter medicine.
- Never give your child or teenager aspirin or any medicine that has aspirin in it. Aspirin can cause serious problems.
- If your child gets flu symptoms and is younger than 5 or has a medical condition like asthma, diabetes, or heart or lung disease, call their health care provider. Young children and those with certain medical conditions are at greater risk for getting seriously ill from the flu. Ask their health care provider if they recommend an antiviral drug.
- If you are worried about your child, call their health care provider.

Don't spread flu!

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water aren't handy, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands. Put used tissues in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. That's how germs spread.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

health.ny.gov/flu



Department
of Health

Webster Central
PTSA

PLANK
NORTH
ELEMENTARY

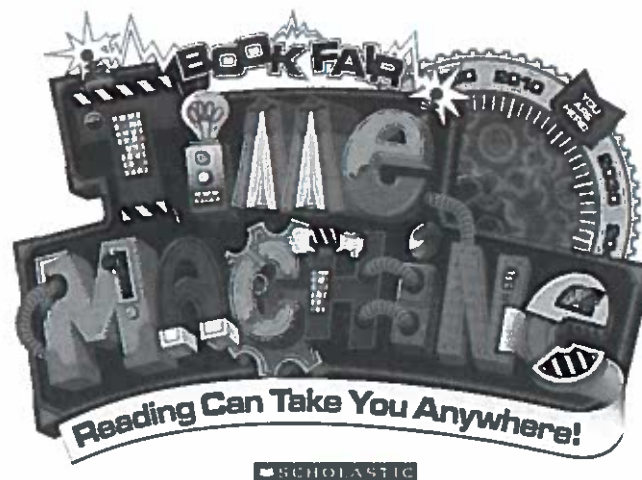
November Plank North PTSA Meeting:

Monday, 11/9/20 at 9:00am

Virtual Meeting via Google Meet (login info will be emailed out)

We welcome all parents/families to join us!

November PTSA sponsored event:



- Scholastic Book Fair held 11/18/20-11/20/20!
- Further information will be sent home in backpacks, this event will be held in the Plank North gym during school hours only!



**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

WCSD K-5 Family Handbook

Have a question about your child's school day, school and district policies or PTSA programs? The WCSD K-5 Family 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 under "Links". 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.



**Plank Road North Elementary
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

**Pam Bingo, Cindy Ginster
Office Staff**

Plank North PTSA 2020-2021

| <u>Executive Committee</u> | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Chair: | Shari Andrews |
| Vice Chair: | Melissa Selner |
| Treasurer: | Shari Ebert |
| Secretary: | Elsbeth Ebenhoe |
| Volunteer Coordinator: | Michele Riedl |
| Board of Education Liaison: | Sue Casey |
| PTSA Teacher Liaison: | Ann Merkey |
| <u>Event Chairs</u> | |
| Book Fair: | Robin Mezzanini Shari Andrews |
| Community Arts Day: | VACANT VACANT |
| Fifth Grade Social: | TBD |
| Kindergarten Registration: | Rebecca Weber |
| School 17 Holiday Giving: | Michele Riedl Lauren Kent |
| School Spirit Apparel: | Shari Andrews |
| School Year Book: | Lisa Currier Michele Camacho |
| Share the Season: | TBD |
| Spring Plant Sale: | Brianne Hudson |
| Staff Appreciation Week: | Jill Jones |
| Sweetheart Dance: | TBD |
| Trunk or Treat: | TBD |
| <u>Other PTSA Services</u> | |
| Bulletin Board: | Erin Lantzer |
| Membership Chair: | Robin Mezzanini |
| Pioneer Press Newsletter: | Sam Schaubroeck |
| PTSA Email Communication: | Sam Schaubroeck |
| PTSA Website Coordinator: | Lisa Nick |
| <u>Redemption Programs</u> | |
| Box Tops for Education: | Robin Mezzanini |
| Recycling Program: | Heather Balsamo |
| TOPS Markets | Robin Mezzanini |

