

William L. Buck School

UPDATES FROM MRS. LEGGETT

Thank you PTA- Scholastic points

MARCH 4, 2020

CURRICULUM

Save the Date! Our BOE meeting will take place on March 25, 2020 at 7:30pm right here at the WLB School. Our primary students, teachers and families will be presenting how practiced mindfulness helps them in various aspects of their daily routines.

NYS Testing begins March 25, 2020. If you are questioning if your child should take the test, please call me. There is a great amount of misinformation in the community. Let me clear some items up: The NYS ELA and math tests do not qualify or disqualify your child from attending programs such as challenge or honors classes. The NYS ELA and math tests are not used to rate the effectiveness of your child's teachers. The NYS ELA and math tests do not follow your child in their cumulative file. Many of you may have heard that BAS was cited as a TSI school- targeted support and improvement. One area that is looked at is student growth. This is the area BAS fell below criteria for. Quite frankly, WLB is in danger of acquiring the same standing next year. Last year we had a 40% opt out rate. If this remains the status, we will be on the list next year. We

won't have enough of a sample to show growth. I will support our families in the decision you make. I want you to be aware that this is a reality for us. What is the downside of your child taking the test? I'll be frank- the math test has become a much fairer measure of student achievement. The ELA is challenging. If you believe your child will be scared by taking this test, I hear you. I get it. If you believe that your child can participate in these tests, I get it. This is your choice. We don't allow our students to opt out of classroom tests, diagnostic tests, NWEA etc. I encourage you to make an informed decision. Please check out Engage NY. This website has questions and passages from prior years tests. Make the decision for your child an informed one. I do ask not to opt your child out because they come home and don't want to take the test or because a friend isn't taking it. I don't want the hard and good work we do in the school to be reduced to a school in need of support and improvement because we didn't have enough students taking the test.

Report cards will be posted to the portal on March 20, 2020 at approximately 3:00pm.

Mr. Khan has donated rocks and paint to our building.

Mr. Mangini is coordinating with our fitness club to have a Jump rope for Heart event.

Building/Safety

Several things we have put into place to prevent spread of flu, strep throat, conjunctivitis and COVID 19:

Nurse Carole- who visits our K & 1 classrooms monthly visited all classrooms and reviewed hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

Our custodial staff- increased the frequency of cleaning common areas- bathroom, water fountains, door knobs. In addition, using disinfecting solutions- bleach and water

Every Saturday our custodial staff will report for four hours to clean the building again.

3/5/20-Using hand sanitizer (non alcohol) Parents/Teachers use sanitizer

Governor announced today that any schools where a case of COVID 19 arises will be shut down as soon as possible. Want to have a plan for our children if this occurs.

Safety

Elections take place on March 18