



Dear Whitney Point Community,

As winter winds down, we all hope that Punxsutawney Phil's prediction of an early spring becomes a reality. One thing we know for sure is that we are halfway through the 2012-13 school year!

This is the time of year when school districts begin their budget season. On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Education was presented with an overview of the District's fiscal status and a first look at what the Governor is proposing for 2013-2014. At the district level, we continue to work to develop a budget that is sustainable, has a reasonable tax levy increase, and maintains a focus on education. We invite you to attend and participate in upcoming budget development sessions and presentations.

This winter has been a bit more severe than last and we have experienced a number of delays, early releases, and closures. Although students are delighted when we have a "snow day," I realize the impact these changes have on child care and other schedules. I would ask that you make every effort to assure that students attend school on delay and early release days. Please know that my first priority is always the safety of our students and staff. Once a decision is made, I make every effort to provide relevant information in a timely manner. Although we contact the majority of local TV and radio stations, I have noticed that some of the automated systems are not always reliable and would recommend you check more than one station for information. You may also call the Whitney Point Central School District hotline at 692-8255 for any closing/delay notifications or check our website at [www.wpcsd.org](http://www.wpcsd.org). For those of you who receive texts on your mobile phones, I would suggest signing up for WBNG "text alerts" by going to their website [www.wbng.com](http://www.wbng.com) and clicking on the "text alerts" tab.

The tragedy at Sandy Hook has not been forgotten and the District continues to review its safety plans and procedures. **We would like to invite you to a Safety Forum on February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Tioughnioga Riverside Academy Auditorium at 6:30 pm.** Mayor David Downs will be facilitating the evening's events. He will be asking questions to a panel of people involved in school safety. The questions are intended to inform the audience about existing efforts and best practices in school safety. To find out more about the Safety Forum, see District News on our website [www.wpcsd.org](http://www.wpcsd.org) .

Thank you for your continued support in educating our students!

Sincerely,

**Patricia Follette**