

April 2014

Dear Whitney Point Community,

We saw a bit of spring this week and I think everyone is ready for the daffodils to bloom! One positive thing about a tough winter is it helps us appreciate the nice weather when it finally arrives. Spring is an exciting time in a school district as we begin the last quarter of the school year and graduation becomes a reality for another group of seniors and their families.

New York State Assessments have begun for students in grades 3-8. The standardized assessments are part of the program requirements for students in Grades 3-8 under Section 100 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education as well as the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Teachers and students have been working diligently all year to assure that students are equipped for these assessments. We encourage students to “not stress about the test” and just “do their best.” I would encourage parents and caregivers to do the same as the results provide us with valuable information related to students’ mastery of content and skills and help shape future instruction for individual students and the overall district.

A broad range of views exist associated with standardized assessments in elementary schools and an overabundance of information about this topic is available on the Internet and social media sites. As Superintendent of Schools, I am constantly making decisions based on what is in the best interest of the Whitney Point students, district and community. I would encourage parents and caregivers to be critical in reviewing the information available and be cautious about the decisions they make in regard to these mandated assessments and the implications for their children and the district. I am always available to answer any questions you may have.

I continue to work with the Board of Education to create a 2014-2015 school district budget. We are maintaining our goals of keeping a focus on education while building a sustainable budget that assures our community a reasonable tax levy. In addition to voting on the school budget, taxpayers will be asked to establish a Capital Reserve Fund. A Capital Reserve Fund will allow the district to fund repairs and future capital projects without an additional burden to our taxpayers. Additional information ^{here} about this fund can be found by clicking on the Budget and Taxes link on our website and then by clicking on “Proposition to Establish a Capital Reserve Fund FAQ” document, or by clicking The Budget Newsletter will be sent out soon and I am confident you will be pleased to see how we have worked to accomplish our goals to provide budgeting stability for our taxpayers and new and exciting opportunities for our students. I hope you will join us at our Budget Information Sessions on April 30th, May 6th, and May 15th and come out to vote on May 20th.

**Sincerely,
Patricia Follette
Superintendent**

