



# The Eagles' view

Whitney Point Central School District Newsletter

February 2014

## Important information regarding the Annual Bus Vote



In its continuing efforts to find efficiencies, the Whitney Point Central School District is asking voters to approve the purchase of two large propane buses, one large diesel bus, two smaller gas buses, and one new 12 passenger van at a cost not to exceed \$444,269. Taxpayers would only be responsible for approximately 10 percent of this cost, with state aid covering the remaining 90 percent. Each large bus is slightly used with mileage not exceeding 8-10 thousand miles. By choosing used buses, the district will save approximately \$60,000.

In the past, we have purchased three propane buses, and the economic and environmental benefits have been noticeable. Propane burns cleaner than gasoline or diesel fuel, promoting clean energy. It is also less expensive and causes less wear and tear on bus components. A propane bus averages 4.11 miles per gallon and the district currently pays \$1.80 a gallon for propane. A diesel bus averages 6.1 miles per gallon but the district currently pays \$3.20 per gallon for diesel. This makes the savings for using a propane bus \$.09 a gallon. Approximately 85,000 gallons of fuel will be used during the year resulting in a potential savings of \$7,650 a year.

The transportation fleet currently includes 34 large passenger buses, two suburban vehicles, three cars, six 20 passenger vans and three handicapped vans. Spare vehicles, a necessary part of the fleet, are used for sports trips, field trips and rotating other buses through regularly scheduled maintenance.

### How will we pay for the vehicles?

- State Aid covers 90 percent of cost
- We bond for five years
- Total cost of vehicle purchases: \$444,269
- Local share: \$44,427
- Average annual impact to tax levy: \$8,885.40
- Average Annual Cost on \$100,000 home: \$2.17
- Average Monthly Cost on \$100,000 home: \$0.18
- Average Weekly Cost on \$100,000 home: \$0.04

### Fun Facts

- Our buses traveled 546,596 miles during the 2012-13 school year.
- The buses make approximately 1,156 stops each day.
- Drivers are required to be 19A certified with a CDL Class B license with Passenger and School Bus endorsements; have annual physicals; submit to random drug and alcohol testing; receive biannual refresher training, and pass road tests every other year.
- Each bus goes through a 200 point DOT inspection twice a year. Our DOT approval rate in 2012-13 was 100 percent.

## What's Inside

### Important information about ...

- Common Core Learning Standards
- Kindergarten registration
- Pre-K registration
- Head Start applications

## Something new - Public Library Vote

You will see something new on the ballot when you vote on March 18. For the first time, voters will have the opportunity to vote for financial support of the two public libraries that serve our communities: The Mary Wilcox Library in Whitney Point and the Lisle Free Library.

New York State Education Law provides the ability for libraries to seek local funding through a school district ballot. The role of the School District is solely to provide voters with an opportunity to vote, and if the proposal is approved, to collect and distribute funds. These funds would go directly to the public libraries and be separate and apart from the annual school district budget. In addition, the school district would not have any role in managing the libraries or their budgets.

See 'Libraries,' page 2

## Superintendent's Message

Dear Community Members,



*It is hard to believe the school year is half over! The weather has certainly been keeping us busy this winter. In addition to TV and radio announcements, I hope you are finding our district alerts helpful. If you are not currently receiving alerts, I would encourage you to sign up for text and email alerts through our webpage [www.wpcsd.org](http://www.wpcsd.org) (click*

*on PUBLIC USER LOGIN). I would also suggest you sign up for text alerts through WBNG [www.wbng.com](http://www.wbng.com) (click on TEXT ALERTS). I work closely with a number of people, including town supervisors and our new Supervisor of Transportation, Bob Wolf, to make decisions about school delays, early releases and closings. Our number one priority is always the safety of our students. We also realize there are many outside arrangements that need to be made for students in these situations and make every effort to get the word out as soon as possible.*

*Budget development has begun for the 2014-2015 school year and our goal continues to be to develop a budget that is sustainable, has a reasonable tax levy increase, and maintains a focus on education. A first look at the budget will be reviewed by the Board of Education in February. Budget reviews and updates will continue to be available at upcoming Board of Education meetings. We encourage public input and feedback throughout the budget process. Please visit our website for meeting dates and to access copies of presentations and other budget information (click on the BUDGET AND TAXES button).*

*I greatly appreciate the ongoing support of the Board of Education and the community and look forward to continuing to provide leadership to assure that Whitney Point remains a great place to live and go to school!*

## Kindergarten Registration Information

Children residing in the Whitney Point School District who will be five years old on or before December 1, 2014 are eligible to register for kindergarten. If your child is eligible:

- Call the Caryl E. Adams Main Office at 692-8241 by Friday, March 7 to be placed on the kindergarten mailing list.
- All kindergarten applications will be mailed on Monday, March 17 to the address requested.
- Attend the Parent Information Fair on Thursday, April 10 from 7-8 p.m. in the Caryl E. Adams cafeteria.
- Attend kindergarten registration beginning Tuesday, April 22 through Friday, April 25. Your designated day of registrations will be indicated on the application.

**Please call the CEA Main Office at 692-8241 with any questions you may have.**

## 'Libraries,' from page 1

Several years of severe cuts to funding from New York State and Broome County have had a negative impact on the budgets for both libraries resulting in a reduction of materials, services and operating hours. The board members of both libraries sought advice from the Four County Library System, the New York State Department of Education and other sources to return levels of funding equal to those received before 2008. Seeking local community support was the recommended course of action to ensure that the libraries can continue to serve the community by offering books (print, large print and electronic), magazines, local history resources, reference services, public-access computers, adult and children's programs, meeting space and much more.

Jan Orzel, board president of the Mary Wilcox Library and Brent Hall, board president of the Lisle Free Library have requested that the Whitney Point Central School District present a proposition to voters that would authorize the District to levy and collect an annual tax. The proposed tax is in the amount of one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$140,000). Seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) would be paid to the Mary Wilcox Memorial Library and sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000) would be paid to the Lisle Free Library for the support and maintenance of the libraries. These amounts would be collected annually until modified in the future by a vote.

While the libraries will continue to seek grants and sponsors for programs and resources, a stable source of funding is vital to maintaining and expanding the libraries' offerings. Approval of the resolution will result in an estimated average cost of \$34.00 per year for a home assessed at \$100,000 full value (amount will vary per town).

For more information or to have your questions answered about the proposition to support your public library please visit or call:

- Mary Wilcox Library - Juanita Aleba or Stephanie Champney, 692-3159
- Lisle Free Library - Debbie Sturdevant, 692-3115

## Whitney Point Schools and the Common Core Learning Standards

The Common Core Learning Standards have been adopted by a majority of states in this country. In New York, the Common Core State Standards are the foundation of the Regents Reform Agenda. The Regents Reform Agenda is an initiative aimed at ensuring that all New York State students receive an education that prepares them to be college and career ready. The Common Core State Standards are specifically designed to provide instruction that ensures that students will be able to succeed in credit bearing academic college courses, and/or entry level work or work training programs and eventually compete in a global economy.

Students in the Whitney Point School District are receiving instruction designed to meet the grade level expectations of the Common Core. In grades 3 through 8 New York State Assessments began measuring students on common core grade level

expectations in 2013. In 2014 Common Core Regents Exams will begin to be phased into the high school.

This time of transition to the new standards can be challenging for students and families. Teachers are working diligently to support students as they take on this new level of learning. If parents and teachers work together to communicate and provide support, students will be successful in meeting these new academic expectations.

Engageny.org is New York's website resource for the Regents Reform Agenda. The website is dedicated to providing helpful information for parents and families including questions and answers on the Common Core, NYS Math Modules and videos explaining important math concepts.

## Senior to play soccer for BU

On February 7, senior Emma Maslin signed her letter of intent to play Division I soccer at Binghamton University. A ceremony took place in the high school library with friends, family and staff members in attendance.



In addition to being team captain for the Whitney Point Girls Soccer team, Emma is a four-year varsity starter, three-time first team all-conference at Center Middlefield with four over-all selections, and has the distinction as the school's all-time leading scorer and assister.

Emma's high school resume includes being the National Honor Society co-president, class vice president, and Rotary Youth Leadership Award attendee. Emma plans to study Pre-Med and eventually pursue a career in Pediatric Oncology.

## Head Start Applications



Opportunities for Broome Head Start is now accepting applications for its fall program for three and four-year-old children.

Head Start offers a comprehensive program providing services to children and families of various incomes. Four centers serve families in areas of Whitney Point, Chenango Forks, Chenango Valley, Endicott, Endwell, Harpursville, Maine, Vestal and Windsor.

To make an appointment, receive more information, or obtain information regarding the new expanded eligibility guidelines, please call 772-6810.

## Junior plays with symphonic band



*Congratulations to Whitney Point High School junior Maria Dewey for being selected to perform with the 2013 NYSSMA All-State Symphonic Band (on flute).*

## Universal Prekindergarten (UPK)

Children residing in the Whitney Point School District who will be four years old on or before December 1, 2014 are eligible to attend. We anticipate state funding for our program, which includes 60 children. We plan to have a morning and afternoon session in the Caryl E. Adams School with 15 students in each class. There will also be a morning and afternoon session at the Whitney Point Pre-School and Day Care Center with 15 students in the class. The state funding for this program will also cover transportation. If you would like your child to be considered for the UPK program:

- Call the Caryl E. Adams Main Office at 692-8241 by Thursday, May 1 to have your child placed on the UPK mailing list.
- All UPK applications will be mailed on Monday, May 5 to the address requested.
- Return your completed UPK application to the Caryl E. Adams Office, PO Box 249, 24 Keibel Road, Whitney Point, NY 13862 by Thursday, May 22.

A random drawing will be held on Friday, June 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the CEA cafeteria. Parents are welcome to attend the drawing. A letter stating the results of the drawing will be mailed to all parents who submitted an application.

**WHITNEY POINT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Whitney Point, New York 13862**  
**www.wpcsd.org**

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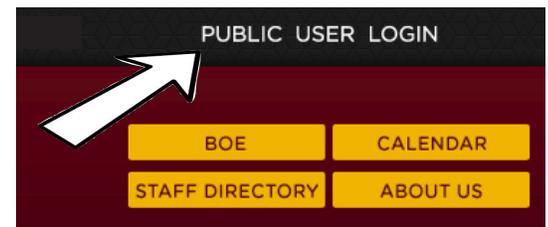
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**Visit our new Whitney Point District website [www.wpcsd.org](http://www.wpcsd.org)**

- Keep up to date on upcoming events on the school calendar
- Read the latest Superintendent's Message
- Access important school documents
- Find links to information specifically for parents, students and community members
- Sign up for text and email alerts from the school



## Election of Board of Education members

The Whitney Point Central School District has a seven-member Board of Education. Members are elected to three-year terms. Each year, the terms of one or more members expire. This year, Whitney Point residents will elect three Board of Education trustee members. The seats are currently held by Stephanie Champney, Kathleen Driscoll and Thomas Tasber.

Election of School Board members is held on the statewide Budget Vote Day on May 20. Residents interested in running for a seat on the Board of Education should stop in or contact the District Office for a petition. Please contact the District Office at 607-692-8313 for a petition. Completed petitions must be turned in to the District Office no later than 5 p.m. on April 21.

A free public workshop will be offered on April 9 at 7:30 p.m. compliments of the Broome-Tioga School Boards Association. The workshop will include a panel of current school board members; a question and answer period; and take-home materials. A variety of topics will be covered including legal responsibilities, election procedures and expectations. The workshop will be held in the Instructional Support Center at Broome-Tioga BOCES in Conference Room A. Pre-registration is recommended. Call 766-3807 for more information or to register for the workshop.

## Vote March 18, 2014

**When: 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

**Where: High School Cafeteria, 10 Keibel Road**

1. **Voters are asked to consider the purchase of two (2) used large passenger propane buses; one (1) used large passenger diesel bus; two (2) new smaller gas buses, and one (1) new van**
2. **Public Library Vote to consider supporting the Mary Wilcox Library in Whitney Point and the Lisle Free Library.**

Voter Eligibility

No prior registration is required. The voter must be a citizen of the United States; at least 18 years of age; and a resident of the district for at least 30 days prior to the day of the vote.

Absentee Ballot Information

Absentee ballot applications may be requested in person at the District Office or by calling 692-8313. Absentee ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on March 18, 2014.