



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 do not currently receive alerts, I would encourage you to sign up for text and email alerts through our webpage www.wpcsd.org (click on PUBLIC USER LOGIN). I would also suggest you sign up for text alerts through WBNG 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.

If you've had an opportunity to visit our schools lately, you have no doubt seen teachers and students working hard to meet the rigor of the new Common Core Learning Standards. These standards have been developed to assure that our students are prepared for the future by developing their ability to be deeper and more critical thinkers. As with many changes, transition periods can be challenging. We are working together with regional districts and the NYS Education Department to focus our efforts, meet the challenges, and ensure that our students are successful. You can find a great deal of information about the Common Core Learning Standards and other educational issues at the NYS Education Website www.engageny.org. I would like to thank parents for their support through this transition. We are interested in your thoughts and welcome your comments and questions.

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 have heard there are community members that miss the paper newsletters that have been sent out in the past. In an attempt to "go green" and avoid ever-increasing costs of printing and postage, we made a conscious decision to provide important news, critical information, and event schedules on our Whitney Point Website. This cost-effective means of communication can be updated daily and provides information in a timely way to a wide audience. I would like to assure you that the decision to limit the number of paper newsletters sent to homes is not a reflection of the district's attempt to reduce communication with our community.

One of the greatest joys I have as Superintendent of the Whitney Point Central School District is celebrating all the wonderful accomplishments of our students and employees. Each day I witness genuine acts of kindness, amazing feats of athletics, extraordinary musical performances, remarkable works of art, and noteworthy learning taking place in all corners of our district. The pride our employees take in their work is outstanding, whether it is greeting a visitor, answering a phone, driving our precious cargo, providing nutritious meals, or keeping our facilities in tip-top shape!

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!

Sincerely,
Patricia Follette
Superintendent