

Whitney Point Central School District

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Superintendent of Schools Patricia A. Follette

<u>Director of Curriculum and Instruction</u> Jo-Ann Sexton School Business Executive Zachary M. Woodard

Dear Whitney Point Community,

Temperatures are in the freezing range and the ground is covered by a blanket of snow, but the birds are chirping that spring is right around the corner! I am sure you share my wish that the warmth of spring quickly becomes a reality. This winter I believe we set a district record for the number of delays, closings and cancellations due to severe cold and weather. I greatly appreciate all your cooperation in keeping our students safe as I recognize how a delay or closing can turn your day upside down.

Spring is always an exciting time of year in a school district as we look forward to spring sports, concerts, field trips and outdoor activities. This year we are once again hosting the Whitney Point School-Community Musical. Tickets are going fast for this year's production of Fiddler on the Roof scheduled for March 20-21, and we are expecting a sell-out crowd!

Students have been working hard to learn the concepts and skills needed for this year's New York State 3-8 ELA and Math Assessments scheduled in April. These standardized assessments are required 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. We encourage students not to stress about the test and just "do their best." I would encourage parents and caregivers to do the same. The results of these assessments provide us with valuable information to help shape future instruction for individual students and the overall district.

Budget season is also upon us and I have been working with the Board of Education to create a budget for the 2015-2016 school year. The Board continues to maintain the goals of keeping a focus on education while building a sustainable budget that assures our community a reasonable tax levy. This year we are challenged by Governor Cuomo's refusal to release information on potential state aid runs to schools.

Please join us at scheduled budget sessions or view budget information online by clicking on the "BUDGET and TAXES" button on the left side of our home webpage at www.wpcsd.org.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. A positive partnership between our schools and the community is important to our students' success!

Think spring!
Sincerely,
Patricia Follette