

WESTBROOK SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

WESTBROOK SCHOOL NEWS



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Since becoming the Westbrook Superintendent on July 1, 2009, there have been many new and exciting changes.

I am committed to reducing administrative costs and placing the emphasis of our work and finances back into the classroom to ensure greater achievement and success for every student and promote professional learning throughout our district.

This is the first of many newsletters to come that will provide the entire Westbrook School Community with current information, stories of interest, opportunities, events and successes of our schools.



Superintendent Dr. Reza Namin

In this first newsletter, you will find information about our new Performing Arts Center and understand the process for requesting its use.

In January 2010, Edward Symbol was elected as Chair of the School Committee and Maria Dorn as Vice-Chair. All member information is listed below.

Peter Lancia has been hired as the Director of Teaching and Learning and Cynthia Martin will assume the position of Director for NCLB, Gifted & Talented, and Professional Development beginning July 1, 2010. Read more about these exciting administrative realignments on page 2.

Budget preparation for the 2010—2011 school year is well under way. You can read more about our budget and the Finance Committee's scheduled review of the FY '11 budget on page 3.

Westbrook has partnered with the Harvard University Graduate School of Education to bring *Teaching for Understanding* as part of their professional development; more on pages 3 & 4.

Inside this issue:

School Committee	1
CO Administrators	2
Performing Arts Center	2
FY'11 Budget Update	3
Finance Committee	3
Teaching For Understanding	3
TFU and Westbrook	4

Dates of Interest

Feb. 24	Children's Project United Way Project Central Office
Feb. 27	Finance Committee Review of FY'11 Budget—WHS
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Mar. 9	Policy Committee 5:30 PM WRVC
Mar. 9	Educational Programs Committee 6:30 PM WRVC
Mar. 10	Finance Committee 6:00 PM WHS
Mar. 10	School Committee 7:00 PM WHS
Mar. 24	Finance Committee 6:00 PM WHS
Mar. 24	School Committee 7:00 PM WHS

Westbrook School Committee

Edward W. Symbol, Chair

135 Mechanic Street
Home: 854-0217
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Student Representatives

Nick Harmon

Glenn Emery

Name
Our
Newsletter

The Westbrook
School Newsletter
needs a name and
building 'reporters'
to submit stories
and information
from their building
to share with the
entire Westbrook
School Committee.

Please submit your
suggestions for a
name of the
newspaper or
stories /
information /
opportunities for all
staff members to
Superintendent Dr.
Reza Namin at
wsd@westbrooksch
ools.org

Submit
Stories and
Suggestions

Central Office Administrators

Will Focus on Student Achievement, Professional Development & Growth

Director of Teaching and Learning

Peter Lancia has been hired as the Director of Teaching and Learning beginning July 1, 2010.

Currently the principal of Congin Elementary School, his experience as a classroom teacher, building principal and teaching at the University of Maine only begin to set the stage for his qualifications in his new position.

Peter holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Religion from Bowdoin College and a Master's degree in Literacy Education from the University of Southern Maine.

Peter is deeply involved in professional and community activities and has been a presenter at local and national conferences and workshops.

He was Maine's Teacher of the year as well as the National Teacher of the year nominee in 2002.

Peter has had numerous articles and research projects published.

Among his new duties will be supervising the PK—12 principals, the vocational director, the health coordinator and directors of Art, Music, Alternative and Adult Education.

Through curriculum, instruction, implementation, assessment and professional development, Peter will build Westbrook as a school district that provides the highest quality learning experience for all students and staff.

Director for NCLB, Gifted and Talented, and Professional Development

Cynthia Martin has been hired as the Director for NCLB, Gifted & Talented, and Professional Development as of July 1, 2010.

Cynthia currently holds the position of Curriculum Facilitator and Title I Director for the Westbrook School Department.

Cynthia holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Maine (Orono) in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Literacy Education from the University of Southern Maine.

Cynthia has been an active member in many professional and community committees. She has been the Chair of the Teacher of the Year Selection Committee since 2005.

Cynthia's coordination and oversight of the Title IA program; planning and implementation of the varied NCLB programs will enhance her development of K—12 programming for NCLB, gifted and talented education and professional development for the Westbrook School Department.

She will work collaboratively with all building principals, Title IA teachers, Reading Recovery teachers, Literacy Specialist and teachers of Gifted in Talented in developing successful programming for the Westbrook School Department.



Westbrook Performing Arts Center

The new Westbrook Performing Arts Center (PAC) is open .

Performing Arts Manager, Jamie Grant is busy working on a web site and scheduling productions, meetings and debates to be held at the 1,000 seat auditorium located in the new Westbrook Middle School.

The Westbrook School Committee recently approved policies on the use of the auditorium as well as a form to request use of the PAC and the fees associated with its use.

These policies are located on the district's website.

FY ' 11 Budget Update

This year the Westbrook School Department's budget was built collaboratively by Superintendent Dr. Namin and the Leadership Team.

As part of this process, all principal's presented their budgets to their school councils prior to submitting their budget to the Superintendent. This assured school and community input early in the budget development process

With the current economy placing a burden on schools, Superintendent Dr. Reza Namin's primary focus has been to be fiscally responsible while not impacting students in the classroom.

Students, staff and the Westbrook community are encouraged to follow the process by attending or watching the Finance Committee as scheduled below.



Westbrook Finance Committee

<p>Alex Stone has been appointed as Chair of the Finance Committee. Mary Hall and Greg Smith are members of the Finance Committee.</p> <p>The Westbrook Finance Committee has set the dates for their budget review of the FY '11 school budget.</p> <p>These meetings will be televised and held in room #114 at Westbrook High School as follows:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, Feb. 27 (8AM-1PM)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Projected revenues 10 - 11</td><td style="text-align: right;">8:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Canal</td><td style="text-align: right;">8:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Congin</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Prides Corner</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Saccarappa</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Break</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Alternative Learning / WRVC</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:45</td></tr> <tr><td>Westbrook Middle School</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:15</td></tr> <tr><td>Westbrook High School</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:45</td></tr> <tr><td>Student Services /</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Local Entitlement / ESL</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:15</td></tr> </table>	Projected revenues 10 - 11	8:00	Canal	8:30	Congin	9:00	Prides Corner	9:30	Saccarappa	10:00	Break	10:30	Alternative Learning / WRVC	10:45	Westbrook Middle School	11:15	Westbrook High School	11:45	Student Services /		Local Entitlement / ESL	12:15	<p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, Mar. 6 (8AM-1PM)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>Title IA / NCLB / G & T8:00</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Transportation</td><td style="text-align: right;">8:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Art Department</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Music Department</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Activities / Athletics</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Break</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:30</td></tr> <tr><td>Maintenance</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:40</td></tr> <tr><td>Technology / Channel 2 & 3</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Central Office</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:45</td></tr> <tr><td>School Committee</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:00</td></tr> <tr><td>Business Office</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:15</td></tr> <tr><td>Debt Service</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:30</td></tr> </table>	Title IA / NCLB / G & T8:00		Transportation	8:30	Art Department	9:00	Music Department	9:30	Activities / Athletics	10:00	Break	10:30	Maintenance	10:40	Technology / Channel 2 & 3	11:00	Central Office	11:45	School Committee	12:00	Business Office	12:15	Debt Service	12:30
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www.westbrookschoools.org

TEACHING FOR UNDERSTANDING



Under leadership of Superintendent Dr. Reza Namin, Westbrook School Department has implemented a partnership with the Harvard University School of Education. The goal of professional learning through WIDE World at the Harvard Graduate School of Education is to transform school systems by developing professional communities of teachers and school leaders with interactive online courses and on-site support programs that enable schools to cultivate the critical learning students need for the 21st century world. Programs are based on *Teaching for Understanding*, a classroom-tested framework developed through research at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. They are taught on-line which enables a truly global learning environment with educators participating throughout the world. Courses are job embedded so that learners may integrate research-based strategies for learning and teaching into their own workplace. Teams of learners are supported by both a course instructor who is on the faculty of Harvard University as well as coaches from around the world who help them achieve their goals. WIDE World encourages participants to tailor their learning to their own classrooms, schools, programs, and systems while building local capacity for enhancing learning for all.



TEACHING FOR UNDERSTANDING

Courses for Westbrook

Teaching for Understanding 1: Focus on Student Understanding

TfU I is an introduction to the Teaching for Understanding framework. In this course, participants learn to clarify educational goals, link student work to experience, design active learning instructional units, develop effective assessment practices, and reflect on their own teaching practice. As we enter a new century of the unknown, there are critical skills that students must have in order to excel. The Teaching for Understanding 1 course is an opportunity for you to learn teaching strategies that will actively engage your students in the critical-thinking and 21st Century problem-solving skills that are now demanded by society.

Teaching for Understanding 2: Understanding in Practice

This course builds upon concepts and strategies learned in our introductory courses, giving you a chance to explore the practical challenges of Teaching for Understanding. Using the unit you have previously planned, we will look at ways to refine your practice and implement new strategies to keep students engaged and focused. With your fellow educators, a coach, and an instructor, we will help you combine disciplinary goals and students' understanding in the classroom, exchange successful approaches and guide you through the process of continual reflection and adjustment. We will also give you practical strategies for incorporating your educational institutions' educational goals into your unit.

Leading for Understanding 1: Toward a Culture of Understanding

Effective school leaders actively model and publicly support learning at work for teachers, students, and staff. In this course, you will learn about understanding in action and how to develop a culture of understanding. You will apply tools and strategies in your organization that build your own leadership skills and engage colleagues in collaborative inquiry to improve learning. You will be introduced to the Teaching for Understanding ideas and processes that teachers experience in WIDE World courses and you will undertake leadership strategies to support them. Through interaction with an experienced coach and other innovative school leaders, you will learn how to inspire and support learning at work in your school system.

Westbrook Participants

Fall 2009	Teaching For Understanding 1	32 Teachers	18 School Leaders
Winter 2010	Teaching for Understanding 2	5 Teachers	
	Teaching for Understanding 1	12 Teachers	
	Leading for Understanding 1	16 School Leaders	

An Impact on Westbrook

As Westbrook reaffirms its identity as a learning community, the philosophy of *Teaching for Understanding* is most appropriate. We acknowledge and build upon our current strengths as a school district, including our curriculum standards, faculty professional learning communities, and attention to individual student needs. It is important to focus now on *understanding* and the realization that 21st century learners must not only have knowledge and skills, but also strategies to think deeply about their learning, themselves, and the world. As our school department moves forward, all of our learners – both children and adults- will be challenged in new ways through our curriculum, instruction, and professional development. Our connections with the Harvard Graduate School of Education and its network of educators around the world as well as associations with colleagues closer to home will support us as we continue to learn as a community.

<http://learnweb.harvard.edu>