

for the WRECKORD

Staples High School PTA

70 north avenue, westport, connecticut 06880

take note

From the desk of John Dodig

This is the time of year when I attempt to gather my thoughts and prepare a message appropriate for the Thanksgiving holiday later this month. I would be lying if I did not admit that watching my retirement nest egg in my tax-sheltered annuities diminish substantially has caused me concern, sadness, anger and fear. That being said, I have pulled myself up by my own collar and reminded myself that I have always tried to see the glass half full, and that attitude has served me and my family well for decades. As I write this message, I am squarely in that positive camp and have reflected on the following as most important in my life.

My legacy will be the daughter that my former wife and I produced and nurtured to become the successful woman, wife and mother she is today. Because of that event, I now have two grandchildren, ages 5 and 7, who are learning who they will become, and who have the values and beliefs that her mother and father have which come from their parents. I cannot be more proud each time I spend time at their home to see the love, openness and honesty that is displayed in that family. My grandson loves kindergarten and is showing enormous potential as an athlete. My granddaughter is gifted artistically, is sensitive and loves to read. Who knows how this will all turn out, but what I see unfolding is heartwarming and a source of pride.

My daughter and I often talk about what is important in life. We both agree that the greatest gift she and her husband Kevin can give to their children is a love of learning and a solid education. Now that the world as I've known it seems to be changing dramatically, it is my belief that along with providing a place to live and food to eat, the only enduring gift we can give our children is education. Everything I read about the future supports my belief that Americans will have to be able to learn new skills and adapt to new procedures quickly and often in order to be successful.

Here at Staples, I believe we are providing the kind of education every high school in the nation aspires to. We've made the leap away from rote learning to a much more agile and enduring model which requires students to think critically about what they are learning and how they are learning it. Gathering information, analyzing it, and working in groups to discuss strategies to answer questions or solve problems are all part of our instructional model. It certainly is not the high school experience I had back "in the day", but is what is called for now and in the future.

Staples High School has something interesting and meaningful for almost every one of your children. There are not too many high schools in this country that can say that with a population approaching 1,800. At the same time, given the adults we have on staff, we provide a personal environment which attempts to meet everyone's social and emotional needs. In times like the one we are experiencing at the moment, this exceptional high school experience is the best gift you can give to your children.

November

- 1 **SAT** - SHS is a Test Site
- 4 **NO SCHOOL** - Election Day
- 6 **Grade 12 Psychologists' Meeting**, 8:45 AM-9:45 AM, Faculty Dining Room
- 11 **Evening Coffee with John Dodig**, 7:30 PM, Library
- 14-16 **Staples Players - "How To Succeed in Business without Really Trying"**
- 17 **ASBDA Honors Band Festival**—selected SHS Band students
- 22 **Western Region High School Auditions** Danbury HS
- 21-22 **Staples Players - "How To Succeed in Business without Really Trying"**
- 25 **9th & 10th Grade Concert**, 7:30 PM, Auditorium, Band 9 and Orchestra 9 & 10
- 26 **Alumni Gathering**, 10 AM
- 26 **Alumni/Senior College Session**, 11 AM
- 26 **EARLY DISMISSAL**—11:40 AM
- 27-28 **NO SCHOOL** - Thanksgiving Recess

The skills they are learning and with which they will graduate will serve them well no matter where they decide to go to college or what they decide they want to do after graduation. I hope you are as proud of Staples High School as I am. Every teacher, administrator, paraprofessional and secretary, every adult recognizes that we are here to meet the needs of your children. If we have to circle the wagons because of what is going on in this world, let us keep Staples High in the center of that circle and protected from all external dangers. Our program offers something for just about everyone. Let's keep it that way.

John M. Dodig, Principal

a few words from our **Presidents**

Because this letter is one of the last items to go in before our PTA volunteers get to work on editing and prepping this issue of *For the Wreckord* for you, we are able to share this most recent news as we formally CONGRATULATE the teachers, students, staff and administration at SHS for being named the #1 High School in Connecticut by CONNECTICUT MAGAZINE. A job well done by everyone at Staples and one which certainly can count interested parents and a supportive Westport community amongst the many reasons for this award!

DO you find you are unable to attend John Dodig's Principal's Coffee on the last Friday of the month at 9:00 AM? Then PLAN on joining us for an evening version of the same popular event! Tuesday, November

11th at 7:30 PM we'll hold an EVENING PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE in the SHS library. All parents are welcome and encouraged to come and hear John Dodig speak on the top issues of the day at SHS and he'll take your questions, so be sure to bring them!

This year, SHS PTA will again donate \$10,000, raised via community contributions in support of SHS Homecoming, to Staples Tuition Grants, a worthy group who provides financial assistance in the form of needs-based scholarships to seniors and SHS graduates experiencing financial hardship. In existence since 1943, the SHS PTA applauds Staples Tuition Grants on its 65 years of focus on our community.

Anne Hardy *Lee Saveliff*
hardylon@optonline.net poley@optonline.net

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

FUERTES, Anna (9).....222-1825
42 Pequot Trail
Doris Bartelt-Fuertes & Louis Fuertes

MURPHY, JuliaRose (9), Shannon (12)....226-3768
4 Mansfield Place
Kai & Bill Murphy 226-3730

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please review your SHS Directory entry and notify us of corrections. Send the entire entry as it should appear to: http://shs_pta@westport.k12.ct.us with "Directory Update - [student name]" in the email subject line. We only publish student home phones - no student cell phone numbers please.

Updates will be published in "For the Wreckord" throughout the year and will be corrected in the directory next year. Any questions please call Leslie Wolf at 221-0049.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards for 1st Quarter will be available in the HAC center of Blackboard on Monday, November 10th at 1:00 pm, UNLESS your child has an accountability. In that case, the HAC will be turned off and parents will not be able to see grades OR attendance. To CLEAR their accountabilities students should see:

LMC for LIBRARY BOOKS
Class Teacher for TEXTBOOKS
Meryl Silverstein for PARKING
Mari Carroll for ANYTHING ELSE

news you can use

news you can use

TRYING OUT FOR A WINTER SPORT?

Before you know it, tryouts will be here for our winter season. Girls Basketball tryouts begin Monday, November 24th and the remaining sports begin on Monday, December 1st. In order to participate, each athlete must have a current sports physical as well as an emergency permission form filled out.

The current sports physical must have been done within one year of the tryout date in order to be eligible to tryout. In order to remain eligible to play, a current sports physical **MUST** be maintained throughout the season.

OUT OF DATE SPORTS PHYSICAL OR NO SPORTS PHYSICAL:

Form A and B: Staples High School Sports Participation Health Record **and** Staples High School Sports Participation Medical Examination:

Side A is filled out by the athlete and parent
Side B is filled out by the physician. The State of Connecticut blue form will **not** be accepted.
Attachments will not be accepted.

CURRENT PHYSICALS: If your physical is current, you only need Form C.

FORM C: Staples Athletic Emergency Information
All athletes need a new Form C **every** season.

ONLINE FORMS:

Form A and B:
<http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/staples/athletics/>
(this is a 2 - page form). Click on "Form A and B."

Form C:
<http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/staples/athletics/>
Click on "Form C."

Return the completed forms to the nurses' office or to the Athletic trainer. Questions? Call Sue Skutnik, Athletics Secretary, 341-1260.



PTA CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

On October 19th the Westport PTA Cultural Arts Committee was honored by the Town of Westport and its Arts Advisory Committee at Town Hall. We received the 2008 Patron of the Arts Award. The Town and the Arts Advisory Committee has given awards over the past 15 years to those who have contributed to the Arts. This year was the first time that the award was given to non-profit organizations.

The Cultural Arts Committee has representatives from all eight Westport Schools who pool their efforts to bring live shows into our schools. We also subsidize teacher driven experiences, whether they be trips to Art Museums or performances brought in to enrich our schools' curriculum. Last year, each of your Staples children saw the Hip Hop dance troupe led by renowned artist Rennie Harris perform its "Pure Movement" history of this dance form. The previous year, your students were wowed by the Vissi Dance Company's show "Amazing Grace." In addition, various classes have benefited from such programs as Joanna Gleason, teaching a master class in theater, a trip to the Westport Country Playhouse to see James Earl Jones in "Thurgood", the hiring of models to sit for advanced drawing classes, a Brazilian dance performance, trips into New York and Philadelphia to view art exhibits, and many more cultural enrichment shows.

For 35 years, our committee has been fostering in our children an appreciation and enjoyment of the arts. These programs would not have been possible without your contributions. Thank you so much for supporting us! If you missed seeing your contribution envelope this past August, just mail your check made payable to, "PTA Cultural Arts" to: Kariene Maloney, 4 Norwood Lane, Westport, CT 06880.

The suggested contribution is \$20 per student or \$50 per family, but any amount is greatly appreciated. Your support will allow us to continue to bring first-rate performances to your Staples student right in our school, or reduce the cost of field trips.

Many thanks from your Staples Cultural Arts Committee: Patricia Apoian, Kim Bird, Laura Bryer, Nancy Diamond, Nathalie Fonteyne, and Leslie Greene.

STAPLES MUSIC DEPARTMENT
CANDLELIGHT CONCERT PROGRAM ADS

The 68th Annual Candlelight Concert will be presented at Staples High School on Friday, December 12th at 7:00 PM and Saturday, December 13th at 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM in the Staples High School Auditorium.

The Staples Chorus, Choir and Chorale, Symphonic Orchestra and the Symphonic and Sophomore Bands will present an exhilarating evening of holiday music. Along with individual performances by the ensembles, all of the singers and orchestra students will join forces for the traditional processional, "Sing We Noel" and a community sing-along to Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus."

General seating tickets are available beginning **Monday, November 17th**. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, a short note listing your first and second choices of the concert you would like to attend, and the number of tickets desired. A maximum of eight tickets will be honored for each request. Requests should be mailed to Staples High School, 70 North Ave, ATTN: Dianne Clark.

The Candlelight Concert is presented as a gift to the Westport community; however your tax-deductible donations are gratefully accepted and may be sent along with your ticket requests to the Staples HS Music Department.

'TIS THE SEASON

Please help Westport families in need. There are two ways you can help out others in our community this holiday season. The first way is to call us to sponsor a family of whatever size you would like, either by shopping directly from their wish lists or writing a check to Department of Human Services. The alternate way of helping is to pick up gift cards from gas stations, grocery stores, pharmacies, retailers, etc. that your high school student can bring to the Staples main office, or you can send them by mail to one of us. We will be collecting these starting immediately and throughout the month of November. Thanks for all your past support. The community is counting on you again this year!! Call or email Tammy Barry (227-7558;

sbarry@optonline.net) or Linda Speer (255-5033; enslpeer@optonline.net) with any questions you may have or donations you would like to give.

SPORTS CHANGES

There are now TWO ways to find out if there are changes to athletic contests (cancellations, postponements, change of venue, etc.). Call a new number, 341-1333, and get the latest information (just like the Snow Line) OR call the regular school number 341-1200 and listen for the prompts. Press 9 for other departments, then 2 for Athletics, and then there is a new submenu that lets callers go to the hotline or reach the Athletics office.

All updates for games and practices are also posted by the Athletic Department on the Staples TV announcements, which can be viewed at "Staples TV Announcements" on the SHS website.

LEGACY WALKWAY BRICKS

There are hundreds of bricks to decorate the legacy walkway in the courtyard. Join in the fun of creating Westport's Staples High School Courtyard.

The beautiful red bricks can be engraved to make them uniquely your own. Bricks can have up to three lines of lettering. Only 12 letters, spaces or punctuation marks per line. The ampersand (&) can be used instead of the word "and". Buy a brick and create a lasting memory. Go to the SHS website at <http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/> for a form. Deadline is November 14th.

STAY INFORMED!

The SHS PTA website is currently our most reliable means of communicating with parents- make it a habit to check it frequently. Go to <http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us> and you will be delivered to BLACKBOARD. At that point, you can select the SHS TAB and find the PTA dropdown TAB for PTA information, or you can select the PARENT TAB and look for the SHS PTA live link.

news you can use

news you can use

WRECKER MINI GRANTS PROGRAM

In October, the SHS PTA granted a request from Linda McClary of the Family Consumer Department so that the Child Development II class could create a partnership with Long Lots Elementary for the purpose of visiting a classroom once a week for ten weeks. The SHS students will use their critical thinking skills to analyze, evaluate and synthesize best teaching practices through classroom observations and classroom involvement.

Grant applications are considered throughout the year. In general, funds are awarded for start-up, pilot projects or special events on a one-time basis. The program description and application form are available on the SHS website. Please tab to the PTA forms section. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Grundeit at Grundeit4@sbcglobal.net or 227-0333.

STAFF APPRECIATION HOLIDAY LUNCH

Would you like to show your appreciation for all that our teachers and staff do for our Staples students? On Thursday, December 4th from 10:45AM -12:30PM the SHS PTA will be hosting a Staff Appreciation Holiday Lunch. We need volunteers to donate a wide variety of food items to be bought, baked or cooked. If you are able to help with a food donation please contact Blaine Levenson at Levensonct@yahoo.com or 221-1575.

If you are unable to donate a food item but still would like to participate, a monetary donation to help defray the costs of the event would be greatly appreciated. Please make your check out to SHS PTA and mail it to Candy McCarthy, 9 Daniel Court, Westport, CT 06880. Thank you!

The Staff Appreciation Holiday Lunch Committee:
Lillian Davis, Lisa Krakoff, Blaine Levenson, Candy McCarthy.

PTA REFLECTIONS

We are pleased to announce the 2008-2009 PTA Reflections program. Reflections is a national annual arts program which provides hundreds of thousands of students at all levels with the opportunity for creative expression and positive recognition for artistic efforts. The entire purpose of the Reflections program is to encourage students to use their talents to express themselves through original art in these six categories: Literature; Visual Arts (which includes drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage); Photography; Musical Composition; Dance Choreography; Film Production.

This year's theme is "WOW!". All specific information, guidelines, and entry forms will be available in the main office after October 31. Submission deadline: 2:15 PM, Monday, January 5, 2009. At that time the students' work will be forwarded to the judges.

If you want to learn more about the program and view recent winners, you can go to <http://www.ctpta.org/programs/reflections/index.htm> or <http://www.pta.org/2032.asp>. Questions? Contact Susan Terry susanterry@optonline.net or Lynn Sellon lgsellon@gmail.com, your SHS PTA Reflections Representatives.

SHOW YOUR WRECKER PRIDE

Block "S" stickers are available for sale in Athletic Office for \$3. They are made of a heavy-duty plastic and are 3" wide by 4" high.



Great gift idea for your current student, recent grad or an alumni celebrating a reunion year. Stop by to pick one up or contact Sue in the Athletic Office at 341-1260.

STAPLES LOGO SPORTS BAGS FOR SALE!

The Girls' Lacrosse team is selling navy and white sports bags with a Staples "block S" logo for \$20 each. They would make great gifts for any athletes, and they are perfect for Mom, Dad or any family member to use for the gym or as overnight bags. To purchase contact Liane Lewis (debyli@aol.com) or Lynn Nicklin (nicklinfamily@optonline.net)



STAPLES PLAYERS PRESENTS

“How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying!”

From the authors of “Guys & Dolls” comes one of the most delightfully irreverent musicals of all time. This Pulitzer Prize winning show is a satire of big business and all it holds sacred. We follow the rise of J. Pierrepont Finch, who uses a little handbook to climb the corporate ladder from lowly window washer to high-powered executive. This show boasts lots of likeable and quirky characters, a catchy, witty score that’s bright, brassy and memorable, and a wicked sense of humor that’s as biting, unforgiving and on-target today as ever! Lovers of big, sophisticated song and dance musicals (so rarely written and staged these days), won’t want to miss this one! And it will be great fun for the entire family! Purchasing tickets to our **Opening Night Event** will demonstrate special support of our largely self-funded program, known and highly respected throughout Fairfield County for its excellence in high school theatre. This special event will assist us as we endeavor to improve our technical equipment; a vital aspect of our popular productions.

Mail in order forms must be received by us no later than 2 days prior to the performance you wish to attend. We cannot guarantee seats to those who order by this method. If the seats you desire are not available, we will attempt to contact you by phone or email. Walk-up sales will be **Nov. 10 thru Nov. 14, 12:30-2:00 PM** in the main lobby of SHS. Tickets will also be sold on those dates to students during the SHS lunch periods, just outside the Cafeteria. Visit our website (staplesplayers.com) to purchase tickets online. Call 341-1310 for further information. All performances @ Staples High School, 70 North Ave., Westport, CT.

Staples Players Ticket Order Form

Performance Dates	# of Opening Nite Reception Adult Tix @ \$50 ea., as avail. (Includes price of your ticket for this perf.)	# of Opening Nite Reception Student Tix (under 18yrs.) @ \$25 ea. (Only avail. w/an Adult admission.)	Number of regular Adult \$15 tickets	Number of regular Student \$10 tickets Or Sat. Mat. Sr’s	Seats As- signed: (Box Office use only.)
FRIDAY 11/14 – 7:30 PM					
PLEASE ATTEND OUR OPENING NIGHT PRE-SHOW RECEPTION (INCLUDES A LIGHT SUPPER) FRIDAY, NOV. 14, BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM AND WATCH THE 7:30 PM PERFORMANCE FROM YOUR PREFERRED SEATS (AS AVAILABLE). PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT OUR PROGRAM AND ADDRESS CURRENT TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS! PREFERRED TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE.					
SATURDAY MAT. 11/15 - 2:00 PM +Senior Citizen Discount	_____ →				
SATURDAY 11/15 – 7:30 PM	_____ →				
FRIDAY 11/21 – 7:30 PM	_____ →				
SATURDAY 11/22 – 7:30 PM	_____ →				
Please note: Opening Night Reception student tickets (under 18yrs.) available <u>only</u> w/an Adult purchase.	_____	_____	_____	_____	Include Check for this Amt:
	# of Adult Tix	# of Student Tix	# of Adult Tix	# of Student Tix	
	@ \$50 ea. =	@ \$25 ea. =	@ \$15 ea. =	@ \$10 ea. =	
	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Check in order of preference: 1st to 4th _____ Front Orch. _____ Front Orch. Side _____ Mid-Orch. Center _____ Balcony
***On opening night, Front Orchestra seats will go first to those attending the pre-show Opening Night Event!**

Name _____ **Phone** _____

(Please Print!)

Address _____ **Town** _____ **St** _____ **Zip** _____

Email: _____ **Do you get Staples Players’ emails?** _____

Make checks payable to Staples Players. Mail payment, order form and a self-addressed, *stamped envelope to:

Staples Players Ticket Sales, 70 North Avenue, Westport CT 06880

*Please be sure your envelope includes a return address and sufficient postage for # of tickets ordered! *

If we are unable to process your order, we will contact you by phone. **Orders received after Nov. 7 will not be mailed back**, but held under your name at the box office. Tickets can be picked up at the box office prior to each performance, but only for performances taking place on that day.

Box office opens 1-hr. prior to each performance. No refunds or exchanges.

Department and Club News

INKLINGS

Steven Rexford, 341-1458,

Steven_rexford@westport.k12.ct.us

Elizabeth Humphrey, 341-1385,

Elizabeth_humphrey@westport.k12.ct.us

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT

David Gusitsch, Department Chair, 341-2429

David_gusitsch@westport.k12.ct.us

INKLINGS RECEIVES “ALL AMERICAN HONORS” FROM NSPA

Inklings received “All American Honors” from the National Scholastic Press Association on October 2, earning a perfect score with marks of distinction in coverage and content, writing and editing, layout and design, and student leadership. “Inklings is a high quality paper with strong writing and solid design,” said the contest judge.

Since 1931, Inklings has delivered coverage of the Staples community to students, teachers and Westport residents. Inklings has received numerous awards in the past, including eight gold and two silver medals in the last nine years from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA), the other national organization to which Inklings belongs.

In its third year, the Advanced Journalism course, a class dedicated to producing the paper, now includes a group of 36 writers, photographers, artists and editors. This change has allowed Inklings to change from a monthly to a bi-weekly paper, which will result in the publication of 15 papers over the course of the year.

The staff has also updated the look of the paper. After publishing on broadsheets for the past year and a half, the paper has returned to a more standard tabloid paper size. The Inklings staff also switched software from Quark XPress to Adobe InDesign and received guidance from Parsons School of Design professor and author Alex White. Including improved page design and a new logo created by art teacher Carla Eichler, the paper will not only be more frequent, but will also feature a more contemporary design. Inklings Online (www.inklingsnews.com), the paper’s website, has also been redesigned. The page now includes exclusive spot news coverage, student blogs, features, A&E and sports coverage. The web staff hopes to introduce Inklings to the Web 2.0, which will provide readers with a smoother, more professional display of content.

PART 1 OF A 2 PART SERIES – “NEW PE”

As the first quarter comes to a close, the Physical Education and Health Department is excited about a great start to another school year. The beginning of each school year always brings about an air of excitement and rejuvenation by students and staff alike. As a department, we have a lot to look forward to as we have begun the initial stages of our curriculum review cycle, our annual fitness assessment, and a continuation of the evolution of our department as we move forward with the “New PE” initiative. Now a look at Physical Education from yesteryear and what we strive to work towards at Staples High....

Physical Education has a long history of being associated with the military. Some people may not be aware that PE was required to be put into educational programs in the United States to assist in military readiness since war efforts required extensive manual labor. This model has held strong for decades, where the teacher was the “drill instructor” and the students were the “soldiers”. “Gym Class” as most of us remember is slowly but surely phasing out of Physical Education curricula across the country. Gone are the days of the “jocks” ruling the class and picking on the smaller, more timid kids; no longer is the teacher staring at a stopwatch as students struggle to complete a set distance or activity day in and day out; “drop and give me twenty” is no longer a feasible form of punishment; and “roll out the ball” as an all-encompassing unit plan is replaced by teaching with a purpose for all activities. Our department wants to encourage students to *enjoy* the acts of fitness and working out and *understand* the benefits of participating in lifetime activities. Our goal is to expose our students to as many lifetime activities as possible with the hope that they will enjoy one or more of these and continue being active beyond their limited time in high school.

The philosophy of New PE has been in place for a few years now and is slowly but surely replacing the old “gym” mentality. Our program is unique to Staples High School

Department News

PE4life and one at Naperville Central High School in Naperville, IL are exemplars of what a quality Physical Education program should be. PE4life is a “non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring active, healthy living by advancing the development of quality, daily physical education programs for all children.”

The PE4life Approach to Physical Education (taken from www.pe4life.org):

- Be offered to every child every day
 - Be available for all students, not just the athletically inclined
 - Provide a wide variety of sports and fitness activities to promote an active and healthy lifestyle
 - Assess students on their personal progress toward fitness and physical activity goals
 - Incorporate technology on a regular basis
- Extend beyond the walls of the gymnasium to form community and business partnerships

To be continued.... Check back in the December *For the Wreckord* for Part 2 of “New PE”. We will also be posting results of the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment that all of our sophomores take in the months of October and November.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

A.J.Scheetz, Department Chair, 341-1373
Aj_scheetz@westport.k12.ct.us

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE NEWS

On October 15-17 of last week the environmental studies class went on its semiannual camping trip. 28 seniors hiked the Appalachian Trail and participated in environmental and team building activities under the guidance of Tony Coccoli, Tom Owen and Meghan Ward. The trip was highlighted by a Pig Roast Thursday night.

Maybe the trip can best be summed up by a student who said “I loved this trip! I really learned about myself and others. I realized that I can be more independent than I thought. I can survive on my own and I went out of my comfort zone!”

PHYSICS NEWS

On Saturday, October 18th, Mrs. Klouda took a group of physics students including Harry Bradford, Mason Jacobs, Mel Yemma, Dan Fishman, Yunkie Liu, Kyle Beatty, Tomer Gat and David Allison to the Physics Bowl. Students engaged in a number of physics activities and then took the “Fermi” quiz. After lunch they toured the nuclear accelerator lab, which was one of the accelerators used in the Manhattan Project.

MARINE BIOLOGY NEWS

Mrs. Duffy and Mr. Rollison took their Marine Biology classes on a field trip to New Haven where they set sail on the schooner *Quinnipiack*. On board the students worked together as part of a team sailing the schooner through New Haven Harbor. According to Mrs. Duffy, the students “hailed the line.” Through hands-on stations, which included sampling phytoplankton, trawling for bay anchovies, and testing water chemistry and monitoring water turbidity, students learned about the ecology of Long Island Sound, sailing skills, and environmental science. Boat programs are unique experience with a solid academic component that students will remember for a lifetime.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

David Winer, Department Chair, 341-1308
David_winer@westport.k12.ct.us

The Staples High School Music Department is humming and buzzing with musical energy! The many, many talented and motivated students enjoying the extensive array of high-quality learning experiences are busy as ever.

In addition to the daily classes and in-school rehearsals, the Staples Bands continue to entertain and inspire at home football games. They also played at the Pep Rally held on October 10. Many students who make up the pit orchestra for “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying” are busy rehearsing after school with the help of Ms. Mascaro and Mr. Mariconda. After school rehearsals also have begun for Ms. Lipson and the students performing for the Candlelight Concerts in December, and the Chamber Orchestra has begun its

Department News

musical excellence with Mrs. Valovich.

Please join us for our new Fall Concert on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:30 PM, featuring the freshman and sophomore Bands and Orchestras. Among the wonderful music that will be performed for this concert will be pieces by composers Percy Grainger, Johannes Brahms, Vivaldi, Dvorak, and a “spooky” new work entitled “The Headless Horseman!”

The Candlelight Concerts will be held on December 12th and 13th. General seating tickets are available beginning Monday, November 17th. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, a short note listing your first and second choices of the concert you would like to attend, and the number of tickets desired. A maximum of eight tickets will be honored for each request. Requests should be mailed to Staples High School, 70 North Ave, ATTN: Dianne Clark.

Special student rehearsals are scheduled in the evenings: December 4th and 11th for Symphonic Band and Orchestra; December 1st and 9th (7-8:30 PM) for Chorus and Chorale; December 3rd and 4th, and 10th and 11th (7-10 PM) for Choir.

As if this all this activity is not enough, many students are busy preparing for the Fairfield County String Festival and Western Regional Auditions, both to be held in November. There is never a dull moment in the Staples Music Department!

NEED TO CONTACT A STAPLES TEACHER OR ADMINISTRATOR?

You can e-mail them by following this naming convention: ALL staff, whether teachers or administrators, can be reached at first name underscore last name @westport.k12.ct.us. (Administrators also have an address consisting of the first letter of their first name plus their last name @westport.k12.ct.us, but you can reach EVERYBODY by using their full first name underscore last name)

Guidance-Counseling News

*Elaine Schwartz, Department Chair, 341-1434
eschwartz@westport.k12.ct.us*

COMMENDED STUDENTS

Congratulations to the following students for receiving commendation by the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Douglas Allison, Benjamin Andrew, William Augustyn, Kyle Beatty, Harry Bradford, Jonathan Choi, Allison Cooperman, Corey Fein, Daniel Fishman, Robert Goelz, Rebecca Gofman, Rose Gradoux-Matt, Joanna Gross, Jeffrey Helt, James Kammert, Avery Kleinman, Yunke Liu, Andrew Lott, Carly Machlis, David Manoff, Marshall Mayer, Nicole Michaelis, Philippa Nicklin, Emily Palmer, Rachael Paz, David Ressler, Joshua Rosen, Caroline Ross, Justin Sherman, Michelle Smoler, Rachel Steinberg, Zachary Steinman, Samuel Weller

PSAT RESULTS

PSAT results are due in our office the week before the holiday break. We will mail them home.

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

The College & Career Center will be open on **Thursday, November 13th** from 6 PM to 8 PM. Please call Susan Fugitt at 341-1424 to make an appointment. Susan and Shauna Flaherty can assist with the Choices and Naviance programs which does college searches and scattergrams. They have scholarship information and can discuss the upcoming college visits. Various college books and career catalogs are accessible. Interest Inventories are available as are working papers and job opportunities through the Job Bank. Students are always welcome all day. Counselors are available to assist students on a walk-in basis Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during lunch periods.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Get updates and information on all the latest guidance news, post high school planning and form downloads. Visit <http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us>, then click on Student Services and then Guidance.

Guidance-Counseling News

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

The following are key dates for upcoming Guidance Department programs. (Dates are subject to change based on snow days, etc.)

2008

November 26: Alumni Gathering and Alumni/Senior College Seminar – 10:30 AM

December 1: All initial transcript requests due that have a Jan.1 or Jan. 15 deadline.

2009

January 8	Junior Parent Night, 7 PM (Snow date: Jan.13 in the auditorium)
January 21	Eighth Grade Parent Night, 7 PM (Snow date: January 28th), in the auditorium.
April 28	Sophomore Parent Breakfast, 7:30 AM in the cafeteria (attend only one)
April 29	Sophomore Parent Breakfast, 8:30 AM in the cafeteria (attend only one)
May 14	College Panel Night, 7:00 PM in the auditorium

SENIOR CHECKLIST FOR COMPLETING COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- ◆ Make a separate file folder for each college you are interested in and to which you may be applying.
- ◆ Visit college if possible, or online tour; plan interview if necessary.
- ◆ Sign or if under 18 have your parent sign Transcript Release Form and turn in to Mrs. Ketley in Guidance along with the Staples H.S. Secondary School Report form, the Colleges to Which I Am Applying sheet from Naviance and \$5.00 per college.
- ◆ Complete Senior Activity Sheet, have parent complete “Brag Sheet” and return to Mrs. Ketley.
- ◆ Determine if you need to retake any SAT or ACT tests(s).
- ◆ Students are responsible for having SAT/ACT scores sent directly to colleges (www.collegeboard.com: 609-771-7600 or www.actstudent.org: 319-337-1270)
- ◆ Know the deadlines for submitting applications to EACH of your colleges. It is to your advantage to submit at least one transcript request to Mrs. Ketley in Guidance on or before December 1st.
- ◆ If a teacher recommendation(s) is required, provide the teacher with a stamped addressed envelope and the

deadline date. Give to your teachers **at least 4 weeks** before the due date.

- ◆ **Write thank you notes to the people who wrote letters of recommendation for you and helped you with your essays.**
- ◆ Make a copy of all applications and essays submitted to your colleges.
- ◆ If you are planning on applying for financial aid, complete:
 1. The FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov). FAFSA cannot be mailed prior to January 1, 2009.
 2. The CSS Profile, if required by individual colleges (<http://www.collegeboard.com>). (Refer to list in the CSS Profile).
 3. Additional forms required by individual colleges.
- ◆ See your counselor for any assistance.
- ◆ Students must remember to request 1st marking period grades to go to Early Decision/Early Action colleges if you wish, from Mrs. Ketley.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AXA Achievement Scholarship: To qualify you must demonstrate: ambition and drive, determination to set and reach goals, respect for self, family and community and ability to succeed in college. Go to www.axa-achievement.com to learn more. Download application. **Apply by: December 15, 2008**

Elks National Foundation – 2009 Most Valuable Student Scholarship (leadership and financial need) from \$4,000-\$60,000. Visit www.elks.org/enf/findalodge.cfm. **Deadline: January 9, 2009.**

McKelvey Foundation, up to \$10,000 per academic year for 4 years. Available to all high school seniors who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit by owning and operating their own business while in high school. **Deadline: January 25, 2009.**

The Gordan A. Rich Memorial Scholarship Program, supports the higher education goals of exceptionally qualified high school students whose parents work in the financial services industry. Must have a 3.5 GPA and demonstrate financial need. They will award up to 5 new scholarships per academic year each in the amount of \$12,500. **Deadline: February 28, 2009.** For more information on the GAR foundation and Scholarships visit www.gordonrich.org or call Joyce Gross at 212-325-3718, joyce.gross@credit-suisse.com.

Guidance-Counseling News

SCHOLARSHIPS

Boston University Scholarships:

Trustee scholarship: Boston University's most prestigious scholarship: recognizes outstanding academic performance and leadership ability. For more information visit: www.bu.edu/admissions/trustee.

Alexander Graham Bell: Designed to recognize students with a strong math and science background. **Deadline: December 1, 2008.**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship – for those students who have embraced the ideals of one of the University's most prominent alumni, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. For more information about these scholarships, visit: www.bu.edu/admissions/apply/scholar_mlk.html .

Deadline: December 1, 2008.

SAE Engineering Scholarships: All applicants must intend to enroll in an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET) (<http://www.abet.org>).

Edward D. Henrickson/SAE Engineering Scholarship and SAE Women Engineers Committee Scholarship.
Deadline: December 1, 2008.

Big Y Scholarship awards over 300 scholarships each year totaling more than \$250,000. They are merit based scholarships, for students in the Big Y market area. Applications are in the College & Career Center. **Deadline: February 1, 2009.**

Stamford Symphony Orchestra/ 2008 Instrumental Scholarship Competition. First Place: \$10,000 (\$2,500 annually) , Second Place: \$4,000 (\$1,250 annually), Third Place: \$4,000 (\$1,000 annually). Visit: www.stamfordsymphony.org Deadline: December 1, 2008.

2009 Gates Millennium Scholars Program – For African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American, who have a 3.3 GPA, have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities, meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria. GMS has funded over 12,000 students and awarded over \$425 million in scholarships since its inception. **Submit online application by: January 12, 2009.** www.gmsp.org. If you have any questions, 1-877-690-GMSP (4677) or email: info@gmsp.org

Stop by the College & Career Center for more information about any of the above scholarships.

Scholarships Search Engines and Financial Aid:

National Scholarship Research Databases: www.fastaid.com, www.fastweb.com, www.studentscholarshipsearch.com/Scholarships.pdf and check www.FinancialAidPodcast.com for useful tips and advice about financial aid.

COLLEGE VISITS

SHS COLLEGE VISITS:

Seniors and juniors may attend. **Juniors** may attend **only** if they have a free period at the time of the college visit.

TO ATTEND A COLLEGE VISIT:

You must pick up a **pass** in the College & Career Center and have it signed by the teacher of the class you will be missing.

COMING TO STAPLES IN NOVEMBER:

Iona College: Monday, 11/3, 11:30 AM

Smith College: Wednesday 11/5, 9:30 AM

Southern Connecticut State University:
Wednesday, 11/5, 11:30 AM

Harvard University: Thursday, 11/6, 11:30 AM

St. John's University: Friday, 11/7, 8:30 AM

Norwalk Community College: Friday, 11/7, 0:30 AM

Wellesley College: Monday 11/10, 8:30 AM

University of Hartford: Monday, 11/10, 9:00 AM

St. Lawrence University: Monday, 11/10, 12:00 PM

Franklin and Marshall College: Tuesday, 11/11,
10:30 AM

Daniel Webster College: Thursday, 11/13, 11:30 AM

California Institute for the Arts: Friday, 11/14,
11:30 AM

Syracuse University: Tuesday, 11/18, 11:30 AM

Please check Naviance for the most current information at: <http://connection.naviance.com/staples>.

REMEMBER TO CHECK THE WEBSITE REGULARLY: <http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/> **TAB TO THE PTA**

for Parents

IN THE LUNCH LINE

The Food Services Advisory Committee representatives have been working hard over the past five years to improve your child's school food experience. In addition, the Health and Wellness Policy and Regulations were written and approved by Board of Education.

Nutrition information for most entrée items is online. Parents can track what their children eat through www.cafeprepay.com no matter how they pay for lunch.

Healthier Foods and Beverages are Offered:

- Trans fats have been eliminated from all foods offered.
- Fried foods have been eliminated throughout the system with the exception of French fries at SHS.
- Bread products are predominately whole wheat, including rolls, pizza crust, chicken nugget breading and French

toast. Whole wheat pasta being introduced slowly.

- Yogurt in Dairydactyl Fun Lunch yogurt was changed to Stonyfield Farms.
- Apple slices and applesauce are offered in the elementary schools in addition to whole fruit.
- Reconstituted chicken patties have been replaced with whole muscle meat chicken.
- Cookie size was reduced in middle schools.
- Staples and Bedford now have salad bars; Coley Middle has salad offerings
- Yogurt/granola parfaits introduced at SHS
- Fewer chicken nuggets are offered throughout the month.
- Chicken and/or turkey tacos are being considered.
- Locally grown produce from New England farms is being used where possible
- Hormone-free milk is sold in all cafeterias.
- Soy milk is now available.

GRADE LEVEL PSYCHOLOGIST MEETINGS

Please join the Staples High School psychologists, Mary Bernhardt, Sarah Hawkins and Carol Taney, for the very popular grade level parent meetings. All meetings will be held in the Faculty Dining Room from 8:45 – 9:45 AM.

Due to an unforeseen conflict, the 12th grade parents meeting with the SHS school psychologists will now take place on Thursday November 6th instead of October 30th. The time and location will remain the same 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM in the Faculty Dining Room. Please make note of this on your calendars!



United Way • Town of Westport • Westport Public Schools • The PTA Council • Positive Directions

PARENTS: GET CONNECTED!

Finding it harder every year to keep in touch with what's going on with your kids—especially now that they're in High School? Mark your calendar and join us this year at our monthly ParentConnect meetings. Sponsored by PYD (Positive Youth Development) these are networking sessions for parents, professionally facilitated by Susan Raphael and Leslie Rogers. Organized by grade level, you really get to talk about issues specific to your child—and the parenting challenges that go along with them! Grab a friend and we'll see you there!

ParentConnect Grades 9/10

Thursday, November 13th from 9:30 - 11 AM

Then every 2nd Thursday: Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9, May 14

ParentConnect Grades 11/12

Wednesday, November 12th from 12 - 1:30 PM

Then every 2nd Wednesday: Dec 10, Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13

Christ and Holy Trinity Church, 55 Myrtle Avenue in downtown Westport—the Brandon Room.

Sponsored by Westport's Positive Youth Development Initiative, a collaboration of the United Way of Coastal Fairfield County (formerly Westport/Weston United Way), Westport Department of Human Services, Westport Schools, Westport PTA Council and Positive Directions

WESTPORT MENTOR PROGRAM

The Westport's Department of Human Services works in collaboration with our schools to run a school-based mentor program. Male mentors are especially sought so that we can accommodate a waiting list of school aged boys (ages 7-18) who would benefit from sharing time with a caring adult.

Mentors meet with their mentees (grades K-12) for just 45 minutes to an hour per week, on school grounds during the school year, to offer friendship, support—and a non-judgmental ear. A mentor establishes a one-on-one relationship with the student by acting as a friend, guide and role model. The goal of the program is to build a child's self-esteem and help to develop positive relationships in school, at home, and in the community.

If you live and/or work in Westport or the surrounding area, this opportunity may fit into your busy schedule. All that you need is about an hour a week and a little room in your heart. Becoming a mentor requires some simple paperwork, a quick background check and brief training. Once a match is made, we provide regular opportunities for support and networking with other mentors, as needed. Interested? Contact Elaine Daignault, Westport Mentor Program Coordinator at 341-1155 or elained@westportct.gov.

The Westport Mentor Program, established in 1992, is coordinated by the Department of Human Services in cooperation with the Westport Public School system and is a member of the CT Mentoring Partnership, a program of The Governor's Prevention Partnership.

Information and News about...Special Education

Did you know October was Learning Disabilities Month? This October LDOnline, an online resource for learning disabilities and ADHD, promoted a campaign called "Each One Teach One". The goal was simple: During the month, teach at least one person something new or interesting about learning disabilities.

Wouldn't it be great to follow that up in November with "Each One Learn One"? As parents of children with learning disabilities or ADHD, we are often very knowledgeable about our child's specific difficulties. We can help to contribute to the lives of all children with learning disabilities by promoting a greater understanding of learning disabilities for ourselves and others. The public library, your child's school library and the internet all contain great resources for understanding learning disabilities.

Here are some basic definitions of learning disabilities to get us all started:

Dyslexia – affects language skills, especially reading. It is estimated to affect four to seven percent of the population.

Dysgraphia – affects writing skills such as spelling, poor handwriting and trouble putting thoughts on paper.

Dyscalculia – affects the brain's ability to process and to understand the meaning of numbers.

Executive Function Difficulties – affects the skills we need to organize our lives: to study situations, plan, act and change our minds.

Nonverbal Learning Disability – affects the ability to translate nonverbal cues and information.

Related definitions:

ADD/ADHD – affects the ability to regulate attention. While not considered a learning disability, it can affect learning. It is estimated they affect five to ten percent of the population.

Autism – technically a developmental disorder not a learning disability. Children identified as being on the autistic spectrum often exhibit learning disabilities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Thank you to all the parents that took a few extra moments to bring non-perishable food items to the Back to School nights in September. SHS PTA received a handwritten note from Karen Center, chairperson of the Westport Woman's Club Food Closet. She wanted everyone to know how grateful they are to have us "... help meet emergency food needs of Westport families. Demand has increased dramatically the past few months so your contributions were greatly appreciated."

If you ever find you have extra non-perishable food to donate, please call the Woman's Club, at 44 Imperial Avenue, to find out when you can drop food items to them. There is always a need for more items especially in these challenging economic times. The number is 227-4240.

33RD ANNUAL WESTPORT CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday, November 22, 2008, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sunday, November 23, 2008, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Staples High School
Parking is available at Coleytown Middle School and Bedford Middle School. A shuttle bus is available.

Weekend Pass: \$9

Seniors: \$6, Children under 12: FREE

Discounts: \$1.00 for shuttle bus voucher
\$1.00 w/postcard or newspaper ad

Buy a raffle ticket to win prizes donated by participating artisans. Part of the proceeds support Staples Tuition Grants.

One of the premier juried craft shows in the country, Creative Arts Festival offers stunning hand-crafted items by a wide variety of talented artisans. From toys to decorative items, jewelry, clothing, sculpture and even food products, there's something in every price range for everyone on your gift list. Children can enjoy Westport Historical Society's kids' corner themed "Arts and Crafts: Old and New." (Saturday, 12-4; Sunday, 12-3)

The Creative Arts Festival is sponsored by the Westport Young Woman's League, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping those in need in our community and beyond while providing its members an opportunity for camaraderie and personal growth through its many educational and fun special interest activities. All net profits go to charity. For more information on shuttle buses, maps and discounts go to www.wywl.com.



Q: What can you buy for a penny these days?

A: How about a KWh of clean conscience for our children's future?

Sign up for **CLEAN ENERGY**, It's SIMPLE- you pay a 5% premium on your electric bill and CL&P MUST buy all the electricity you use from clean, renewable sources (like wind and water). Average increase per month is \$10-15 but recoup that and more by trying any of these energy saving ideas:

CHANGE your most-used light bulbs (inside & out) to CFLS. Immediately you will be using 70% less energy per light, TURN off your computer when you leave. WASH clothes in cold water. All of these simple changes put money BACK in your pocket! Plus... for every 100 Westport families who sign up for Clean Energy, the town gets a \$20,000 SOLAR PANEL FREE! Brought to you by SHS Club Green and WE-Green Westport.

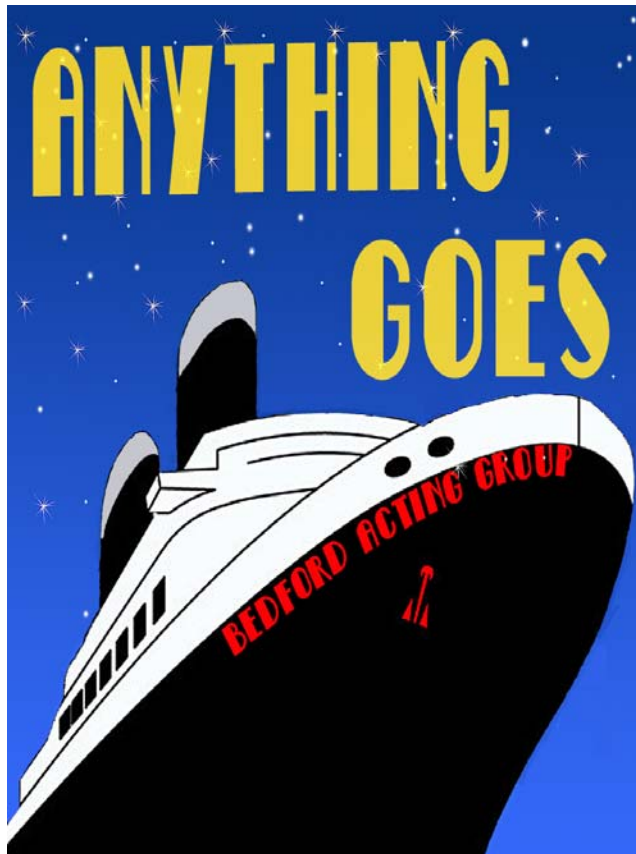
Sign up for CLEAN ENERGY <http://wegreenwestport.org/steps-to-reduce-your-carbon-footprint/> and follow the "Clean Energy Option" link..

QUESTIONS? clubgreenshs@gmail.com

BEDFORD ACTING GROUP PRESENTS
“ANYTHING GOES”

Mark your calendars for December 5th, 6th, and 7th, when the Bedford Acting Group presents Cole Porter’s classic musical, “Anything Goes.” The cast of 85 seventh and eighth graders is learning the Porter classics “It’s De-Loveley,” “Blow, Gabriel, Blow,” and, of course, “Anything Goes.” It’s a wonderful show for the entire family, with lots of singing, dancing, and comedy.

Performances are 7:30 PM on Friday the 5th, 2 PM and 7:30 PM on Saturday the 6th, and at 2 PM on Sunday the 7th. Tickets will go on sale November 3rd – you can download a ticket order form from the Bedford website at <http://bms.westport.k12.ct.us/BMSwebsite/default.htm>, e-mail your ticket order directly to AnythingGoesTks@yahoo.com or purchase your tickets at the door.



WESTPORT REUSABLE BAG GRAPHIC DESIGN
CONTEST

Westport made national news last month when it became one of the first communities on the east coast to ban the use of plastic retail checkout bags. The Retail Checkout Bag ordinance was approved by an overwhelming vote at the town's Representative Town Meeting on September 2nd, with widespread community support. The stated purpose of the ordinance is to encourage the use of reusable shopping bags.

To promote the use of reusable shopping bags, the members of District 4 of the Westport Representative Town Meeting are announcing a contest for the design of Westport's own, unique, reusable bag. Residents of all ages are invited to apply their creativity to develop a graphic design for a reusable bag that will be widely available in March 2009 to coincide with the implementation of the ban on plastic bags. All design submissions will be included in a town-wide exhibit planned for spring 2009. Although reusable bags already are available for purchase at many stores in Westport, use of this bag by residents will reflect the town's leadership position on an important environmental issue.

A panel of Westport residents will judge the submissions. Entries may be dropped off at any time at either Max's Art Supplies at 68 Post Road East or Patagonia at 87 Post Road East in downtown Westport. Contestants must complete an entry form available at the store to accompany their submission. Designs for the bag should measure 12 inches by 12 inches, may be in color or black and white, and be mounted for display. The design must include the words "BYOBag Westport, CT". Only one entry may be submitted per person. The deadline for submissions is December 15, 2008, and the winner will be announced by January 15, 2009. For more information, contact either Liz Milwe (227-6662) or Jeff Wieser (221-1973).

Details:

- **Design must say: BYOBag Westport, CT**
- **Design dimensions 12 x 12 inches**
- **Designs may be in color or black and white**
- **Entry Deadline: December 15, 2008**
- **Contest winner announced January 15, 2009**



**EVENING PTA COFFEE WITH
JOHN DODIG:
Tuesday, November 11th,
7:30 PM in the Library**

**FTW NOVEMBER DEADLINE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17,
5:00 PM**

Submit articles to:
shs_pta@westport.k12.ct.us
or phone Julia Mally at 454-5857

Fall Continuing Education Classes for SHS Students

View a full class listing and register
www.westportcontinuinged.com
or call us at 341-1209

Practice PSAT for Sophomores

Saturday, March 14, 2009
9:00-12:00 noon

State Certified Driver's Education

(Download forms and register by mail or in our office at SHS)

Driver and Traffic Safety Education
Mondays & Tuesdays
Nov. 10-Jan. 12; 3:00-5:00 PM
Jan. 20-Mar.23; 3:00-5:00 PM

2 Hour Parent and Child Mandatory Safe Driving
Practices Class
Saturdays: 9:00-11:00 AM
Nov. 15, Dec. 13

Behind-The-Wheel-Instruction
Dates and times of instruction to be determined by the
student and driving instructor

Save Driving and Alcohol and Drug Education
Call our office for dates and times

December

December

- Tue 2 IPR Closing Date 2nd Quarter**
- Sat 6 SAT - SHS is a Test Site**
- Fri 12 Candlelight Concert, 7:00 PM**
- Sat 13 Candlelight Concert, 7:00 PM &**
- Sat 13 ACT - SHS is NOT a Test Site**
- Tue 23 EARLY DISMISSAL - 11:40 AM**
- W-F 24-2 NO SCHOOL - Holiday Recess**

EMERGENCY FORMS:

PLEASE LOCATE the letter (printed on bright yellow paper) from Dr Elliott Landon sent in mid-October which, when turned over, reveals all the information the school district has on file for you and your student. This includes contact information, emergency contact info, and the all-important e-mail address. Please verify that the info is correct. IF NOT, mark the sheet and return it as instructed. You will have received a different letter for each child enrolled in a Westport Public School.

