

Dear WCSD Families,

On Tuesday, November 4, 2014, WCSD staff participated in professional development for Superintendent's Conference Day. We continue to strive for excellence by providing high quality professional development to all of our teachers and support staff. I was able to attend the workshops and witness, first hand, the great work that is being done. Of particular note, our own administrators and teachers provided their colleagues with learning sessions that were interactive and aligned with the goals and initiatives set forth in our strategic planning that promotes student achievement. I would encourage you to review our professional development schedule for the day at the following link: [SCD 11/4/2014](#)

A team of stakeholders from the Wappingers Central School District has been selected to participate in the School Climate Workshop sponsored by New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. The workshop will be held on November 19 and 20, 2014 in Albany, NY. The application process included the development of a team comprised of individuals with specified roles within our school community. In addition, there were 12 essay questions that were written to explain what our District is doing to improve the school climate for our students. Due to the work we have begun, with regard to Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), Cultural Competence, Response to Intervention (RtI) and other elements that support our Mission and Core Values, we were selected to attend. We are extremely excited about this opportunity and look forward to returning with valuable information and feedback to present to our Board of Education and staff District-wide.

On our District webpage you will see an announcement for the [Common Core forum to take place on November 19, 2014](#). The panel will not consist of our District and building level administrators and/or teachers. Please note that our administrators will be present and ready to answer any questions specifically related to our aligned local curriculum and the work that the instructional staff is doing with students daily in their classrooms.

As we are nearing the cold and inclement weather season I would like to share with you that making the decision to close school due to a potential snow storm is one of the more difficult decisions to be made, especially when the weather forecast is inconsistent or unpredictable. When dealing with inclement weather, our main priority is to ensure that students remain home safely. However, there may be days when the District will have to conduct an early dismissal. Whether we close school the night before, the morning of or conduct an early dismissal, I urge you to review the District's webpage for updates. Other options include listening or watching local news outlets, messages

from our District's school messenger system, as well as calling your child's building for updates.

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude to all who play a very positive role in the lives of our students believing in our mission statement "*... to empower all of our students with the competencies and confidence to challenge themselves, to pursue their passions, and to realize their potential while growing as responsible members of their community.*" On behalf of the Board of Education and the Central Office Team we are extremely thankful to our building level administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and, most importantly, our students.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Regards,

Jose Carrion
Interim Superintendent

Douglass Bittker
President, WCSD Board of Education