



WEEKLY WARRIOR

Webutuck Central Schools

194 Haight Road, P.O. Box 405

Amenia, New York 12501

November 5, 2010

EDUCATIONAL FORUM

On Thursday, December 9, 2010, the Webutuck Central School will be holding an educational summit. We would like to have volunteers from all of our constituent groups to assist us in strategic planning for the future of the district. The group will be divided into numerous small groups of 6 to 10 people to address the following questions:

Webutuck Central Schools.....

- Where have we been?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to go?

We will ask each group to fully discuss these three questions and report their ideas and concerns back to the Board and Administration as the basis for our planning and goal setting.

If you are interested, please contact Tracy Trotter, our District Clerk at 845-373-4104. Thank you!

~~~~~

### *Superintendent's Notes*

#### Is a College Degree Still Necessary?

Kathryn Elizabeth Tuggle from Fox Business considers the question and some of her remarks are included in my article below.

“Stay in school,” is often touted as the best advice for young people, but no one ever specified for how long. Out of the top 15 fastest growing jobs for 2006-2016, 10 do not require a college degree, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“Really, there are few jobs that require a bachelor’s degree,” said Simpson. “Most of the time people are looking for combination of experience and education--but experience is what employers are really looking for.” For most of Express Employment’s clients, a high school diploma is sufficient--and for those clients who do request a staffer with higher education, they also want someone who has the right skill set, Simpson said. “A degree is one thing, but if you don’t have the right skill set to match up, they don’t want you,” he said.

In certain fields, like technology, a degree won’t help you earn more. “Technical positions are very specific, and because what you’re doing is so specialized, you don’t need to have gone to a four-year school. Technical schools that offer certifications in technological skills are a great place to get a start without enrolling full-time as a student at a university.

**It’s often the “soft skills” that carry a prospective employee through to the next level,** according to Tracy Lynch, a spokesperson for Sapphire, Inc. It often comes down to who has the best communication skills, who can speak clearly and present their ideas well, she said.

However, although individuals may find a job without a college degree, earning power increases with education, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. According to population surveys from 2000, a full-time worker aged 25 to 64 earned an average of \$30,400 per year with just a high school diploma. With a bachelor’s degree, that person earned \$52,200--almost doubling earning power.

Peggy Wireman, author of “*Connecting the Dots: Government, Community and Family*,” said that 50% of all new jobs created in the next 10 years will be in just 28 occupations, and of those 28 occupations, only five

will require a college degree. This is good news for individuals who don't want a degree, but bad news for those who'd like to make enough money to support a family, according to Wireman.

**Of the 28 occupations she examined, none of them supported a family of four above the "self-sufficiency" level, which is twice the poverty level or higher. Eight of the jobs would not support a family of four even at a poverty level; 11 would support a family at the poverty level.**

**"This tells us that you don't have any chance of getting a well-paying job unless you have a college degree."** Wireman said. "Across the board, there are jobs that do pay well without a college degree, but in terms of where the new jobs are going to be, you need to be in one of the categories that require a college education." And although a degree may not be necessary for the job to which you're applying, a degree is more important than ever in today's economic climate. As the American job market grows more competitive, it's the people who are better trained that will make the cut for the jobs that offer the best health benefits and working environment.

**Have a Great Week!**

*Steve Schoonmaker*

## **Quote of the Week!**

### **PROSPERITY**

"If you want 1 year of prosperity, grow **GRAIN**,  
If you want 10 years of prosperity, grow **TREES**,  
If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow **PEOPLE**."

*Chinese Proverb*

## **Question Corner**

In our effort to better serve you, our constituents, we are soliciting questions you might have about our school, its functions or activities. Please e-mail your questions to us at [doclerk@webutuckschools.org](mailto:doclerk@webutuckschools.org)

## **Cheers for One of Our Own**

This summer of 2010 sophomore, Claire Markonic, was selected as an alternate for the Field Hockey Team for "Cross-River Combo" from New Paltz, New York. She showed such great skill that she will join the team for the "National Field Hockey 2010 Festival" being held in Phoenix Arizona from November 25, 2010 to November 28, 2010.

The world's largest amateur field hockey event, USA Field Hockey's National Hockey Festival traditionally attracts more than 3,500 athletes from across the United States, Canada, Europe and the Caribbean. These athletes compete for titles in men's and women's divisions, including women's age group (Under 16 and Under 19), boy's age group (Under 16), and women's open and mixed. Previous divisions include men's open, sectional, masters (Women over 35), and veterans (Men over 30).

Originating as the National Sectional Championships in 1922, the Festival adopted its current multi-divisional format in 1981 by introducing tournaments for high school-aged players and club and open teams.

# ***HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS***

---

**Kenneth H. Sauer, Principal  
Webutuck Jr./Sr. High School**

Congratulations to the girls' soccer team on a fine season! Their season concluded last week with a loss to Seward in less than perfect conditions. The girls battled high winds and cold in a hard fought 3-0 loss in Florida, NY.

On a very cold Monday night in Middletown the Webutuck Boys Varsity Soccer Team became Section IX CHAMPIONS by defeating the number 1 seed Seward, 1-0 with a late dramatic goal. If ever there was a team victory, this was one for the books. These young men played with intensity and teamwork and represented the entire Webutuck School Community with class. It was very encouraging to see so many students, families, and members of the community attending the game in support for our team. Section IX CHAMPIONS has a wonderful ring to it. The boys play the winner of Section 1, Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester, next Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. again at the beautiful complex at Middletown High School. There will be a sign up sheet for students wishing to ride a spectator bus.

We hope many of you are able to come and cheer on our guys. The winner of the game next Monday will be Regional Champion and at that point is only two games from being State Champion.....Why Not?

Last Friday the seventh and eighth graders enjoyed the annual Halloween dance on Friday, October 29th. The Class of 2016 sponsored this dance, with special help from the class officers Hannah Collins, Mikayla Townsend, and Kenya Blue. Many other students pitched in wherever they could to make this event successful. Costumes ranged from scary to cute and those who didn't have costumes ended up mummified in the toilet paper mummy contest. Pizza, dancing, music, and catching up with friends made for a great evening for all. A special thanks to the parents who helped out at the dance (Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Zimlinghaus, and Mrs. Acklin) and to those who provided generous donations.

"Dress down" Fridays have been a huge success during the months of September and October. Teachers and staff from grades 4-12 contributed a weekly donation for the privilege to dress more comfortably on Fridays. The total amount raised for these two months was \$267.50 and will be donated to the Sunday in the Country Food Drive run by Dave McMillan. Thank you to all who contributed.

The Guidance Office would like to make everyone aware of a new web based service entitled **FAMILY CONNECTION**. This Web-based service is designed especially for students and parents. Family Connection is a comprehensive website that you and your child can use to help in making decisions about courses, colleges, and careers. Family Connection will allow you and your child to:

- **Get involved in the planning and advising process** - Build a resume, complete on-line surveys, and manage timelines and deadlines for making decisions about colleges and careers
- **Research colleges** - Do searches and link to college websites
- **Sign up for college visits** - See which schools are visiting Webutuck
- **Search for scholarships** - Links to national web searches, and information on local scholarships

Family Connection also lets us share information with you and your child about upcoming meetings and events, local scholarship opportunities, and other Web resources for college and career information.

If you are interested in this free service please contact the Guidance department for your registration code. There is also a workshop featuring financial aid experts from both public and private colleges.

**Thursday, November 4, 7:00 pm  
Webutuck High School  
Media Center**

# *Elementary & Intermediate Schools*

*Kathleen A. McEnroe, Principal*  
*Webutuck Elementary School*  
*Eugene Books Intermediate School*

During the month of November, we will focus on Giving and Helping Others. At Eugene Brook Intermediate School, we will be hosting a Food Drive in order to provide necessary food to our families. Each classroom will be collecting the food items. In addition to food, things like soap, laundry detergent and diapers are also in need.

At Webutuck Elementary, we will hold our annual Grandparents Luncheon on November 18. Please remember this is for Grandparents or special guests.

As we approach the holiday season, it becomes easier for us to lose sight of our health and well-being. Remember to take time to relax as well as exercise. It will help you get through this very busy time of year.

A large part of our well-being is also what we put into our bodies. During the holidays, it becomes more difficult to make healthy choices. Many children come home from school and the first thing they want is a snack. There are some simple ways to help them in making good choices of what to eat.

Creating a list of healthy choices is one way to begin. Talk about the types of food your child would like to have when he comes home from school while waiting for dinner. Develop a list together which includes fresh fruits and vegetables. While a slice of cake or some potato chips should not be forbidden foods, such low-nutrient snacks should not be on the everyday after-school menu.

If you can, take your kids along to the grocery store and spend some time reading the nutrition facts labels and comparing products. Pay attention to the amounts of protein, fiber, calcium, and other important nutrients, and do not miss the chance to talk about portion sizes. Together, choose snacks that are low in sugar, fat, and salt. Being involved in the process makes it more likely that kids will learn to make healthy food choices.

## **Make Healthy Snacks an Easy Choice**

Don't expect kids — even teens — to cut up their own veggie sticks. It's just too much bother, especially when they are hungry. Kids are more inclined to eat what is handy. That is where you come in. Make healthy snacks easily available by packing them in their lunchboxes or backpacks or by having them visible and ready-to-eat at home.

If you're at home after school, your youngster might enjoy helping you make a creative snack like ants on a log (celery topped with peanut butter and raisin "ants"), egg boats (hard-boiled egg wedges topped with a cheese sail), or fruit kabobs. Older kids may enjoy a fruit smoothie, mini-pitas with hummus dip, or whole-grain crackers topped with cheese and pear slices.

Older kids often like making their own snacks, so provide the ingredients and a few simple instructions. If dinner is just around the corner, consider allowing a "first course," such as a small salad or side vegetable while you finish preparing the family meal.

For those nights when dinner is hours away, you could opt for a more substantial snack such as half a sandwich or a quesadilla made with a whole-wheat tortilla, low-fat cheese, and salsa warmed in the microwave. Nothing too complicated, though. A good snack should take more time to eat than it does to prepare!

If your child goes to an after-school program or to a caregiver's house, find out if snacks are served. If so, what is typically offered? If you don't like what you hear, suggest alternatives or just pack an extra snack your child can eat after school. Easy-to-pack snack options include trail mix, nuts, low-sugar whole grain cereal, whole-grain pretzels or crackers, fresh or dried fruit, and cut-up vegetables.