



# WEEKLY WARRIOR

Webutuck Central Schools  
194 Haight Road, P.O. Box 405  
Amenia, New York 12501

May 27, 2011

## *Superintendent's Notes*

### Voting Results

As a Board of Education and administrators, we work diligently each year to provide both the best education possible for our children while endeavoring to limit the burden on our taxpaying citizens. This year has been especially challenging with the removal of both federal stimulus funds and a reduction in state aid. However, we are again gratified that the community has seen fit to support our efforts through a positive budget vote. For this we offer a sincere **THANK YOU!**

While general information on the vote was provided by the news media, here are the actual counts.

<u>Propositions</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Proposition #1 Budget	251	95
Proposition #2 Bus Purchase	210	130
Proposition #3 Bus Purchase	185	154
Proposition #4 Disposal of Millerton School	270	77
Proposition #5 Create Capital Reserve	220	118
Proposition #6 Transfer Money to Capital Reserve	240	95
Proposition #7 Expend Capital Reserve \$ for Buses	195	127

### **Three (3) Seats for Three (3) Year Terms Each**

<u>Board Election</u>	<u>Votes</u>
Judy Moran	223
Robert Trotta	219
Kristen Panzer	87



## We Are Growing!

Last fall, I was pleased to be invited to attend a meeting at IBM in Poughkeepsie to discuss celebrations for IBM's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At that meeting, Sheila Appel from IBM shared the corporate vision for their employees company-wide to give 100,000 hours of community service as part of the celebration.

There were about 50 to 60 organizations present and we were each given the opportunity to suggest ways in which IBM could provide service to our organizations. In talking with our local coordinator John Dux, several possibilities were discussed. We talked about activities and related the options to the IBM personnel who might be available to serve.

While not every group was chosen as work sites, I was pleased that we made the cut. The result of these discussions was a decision to have a work party expand our current garden beds behind the high school.

Following collaboration with John Rocanova a design was completed, supplies were appropriated, and on Saturday, May 7, 2011, a party of 8-10 IBM employees led by John Dux showed up with tools, food, and enthusiasm to begin work. They were joined by a similar number of school volunteers and the work began.

There were eight existing raised beds and this number was doubled with the frames built by the volunteers in our school technology shop. While these carpenters worked diligently at their construction, the remaining members of the group raked and leveled the bed locations as well as an additional rototilled in-group planting area. Once the bed area was leveled, weed mat was installed, the frames were installed, mulch was spread around the beds and soil was added.

Also part of this project was the creation of a trellis for climbing plants. Again, this was completed by our wonderful carpentry crew and installed next to the garden beds.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank John Dux, John Rocanova, the IBM volunteers and our own volunteers for their time and effort to enhance not only our facilities, but also our educational and produce opportunities. Finally, a thank you goes to Board Member John Perotti for supplying some very "enriched" soil to aid in our growth potential.

This is yet another example of what we can do when we all work together!

*Steve Schoonmaker*

### **Educational Quote of the Week**

**"If we teach today as we taught yesterday,  
then we rob our children of tomorrow."**

*John Dewey*

### **Question Corner**

One of the great benefits of having a publication like the Weekly Warrior is the ability to provide current and valuable information to our community. To help ensure that the Warrior is fully meeting this goal, it is helpful for you, our constituents to provide any questions you might have so that we can provide answers to you and the rest of the community. Should you have any questions or concerns, we encourage you to forward them to our district clerk at [doclerk@webutuckschools.org](mailto:doclerk@webutuckschools.org).

**Thank you!**

# ***HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS***

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

Congratulations to the High School Chorus! For the third consecutive year, the High School Chorus went to the NYSSMA Majors Adjudication Festival and performed before two judges to receive a rating. This year, the group received a rating of Gold. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students throughout this year. Congratulations to Erica Belliveau, Ashley Choe, Janee Frye, Gwen Platt, Amber Smith, Rachel Smith, Cobi Adrian, Glen Gilbert, Greg Grey, AJ Hayes, Adam Jasmin, Lucas Keasbey, Justin Martel, Megan Bailey, Marina Ferreri, Gabriella Johnson, Courtney LeJeune, Lauren Schultz, Courtney Spaulding, Shannon Wood, and Brittany Wyckoff on a job well done.

Congratulations to Jane Markonic who received an honorable mention in this year's Tech Directions magazine Inventors Competition. Her design for an emergency shelter was the only 8th grade winner, with all other winners being high school seniors. This national competition, which had a record number of entries this year, combines critical thinking, sketching and writing to find a solution to an engineering problem. Tech Directions magazine is for Technology, Vocational, Math and Science teachers, middle school through college. This year's challenge was to design an inexpensive, portable shelter that could be used by people made homeless by natural disasters such like floods, earthquakes, and storms - a very prescient challenge in light of the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. "Jane is a serious, careful and thoughtful student with high standards" according to Mr. Rocanova. We had a number of excellent designs submitted by 7th and 8th graders. Students will be able to enter again next year when a new challenge is posted in the fall.

Congratulations to Samantha Murphy for her recent induction into the 2010-2011 National Technical Honor Society. This highly prestigious honor is based on Samantha's outstanding Scholarship & Skill, Leadership & Responsibility, Citizenship & Honesty, and Service. Samantha personifies these qualities and it is rewarding and gratifying that others see in her what we already know about her at Webutuck.

## ***Elementary & Intermediate Schools***

### **Responsive Classroom: The Power of Language**

As educator of young children, we are frequently asked, "How do you get all those kids to listen to you?", or "My child doesn't listen to me at home but you say she listens to you at school. What do you do to get her to listen?" There are times when frustrated parents approach us asking for helpful hints and strategies to help them cope with their children when they are not listening to or following directions.

Here at Webutuck Elementary School, we implement a researched based classroom management practice called Responsive Classroom. Responsive Classroom is used primarily by teachers within the classroom environment as a way of teaching and managing a classroom to emphasize social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe environment within the school community. This method consists of practical strategies for helping children build strong academic and social skills and abilities, while fostering independence, and responsibility for ones behavior in a positive way. However, there are aspects of this process parents can implement at home when trying to solve discipline problems.

One of the important facets of this method is *The Power of Language*. There are three types of language, or ways of talking to children, to consider when working with children. 1- ***Reinforcing Language: Naming***

***Strengths, 2- Reminding Language: Helping Children Remember Expectations, and 3- Redirecting Language: Giving Clear, Non-negotiable Instructions.***

***Reinforcing Language: Naming Strengths***

*Reinforcing Language: Naming Strengths* can highlight children's skills, and attitudes and achievements, no matter how big or small. Parents can use reinforcing language to express genuine appreciation for children's efforts. Parents can also apply it to help change behaviors by talking to children about specific behaviors that need to change. Setting age appropriate goals and expectations are an essential part in achieving success!

***Reminding Language: Helping Children Remember Expectations***

*Reminding language* keeps children organized and on track. When parents give children explicit and specific reminders, children will learn to do the remembering for themselves and accomplish established expectations. In addition, it helps children develop the feeling of autonomy and competence that leads to self-control and intrinsic motivation.

In order for *Reminding Language* to be most effective, parents need to be proactive. They should, 1-Know and decide what it is they want their child to accomplish and outline specific goals and expectations, 2- Parents should give their child reminders about what they expect when both parent and child are calm: when parents notice that their child is beginning to behave in a way that is unacceptable. Following these simple steps will help both parent and child stay on track!

***Redirecting Language: Giving Clear, Non-negotiable Instructions***

*Redirecting language* consists of statements or directions that are clear and respectful of children. It will allow parents to keep children safe and productive when their self-control is failing them. *Redirecting language* is most effective when parents: 1- Are direct and specific when stating the behavior that must change or stop, 2- Names the desired behavior, 3- Is brief, 4- Sets firm limits (if necessary, actions follows words), and 4- Makes a statement instead of asking a question.

Here are a few examples of how you can practice **The Power of Language** in everyday situations.

Reinforcing Language:

*Instead of Saying:*

“Don't you know how to sit at the table like a lady?”

*Try Saying:*

“I see you sat down at the table and are ready to eat.”

Reminding Language:

*Instead of Saying:*

“How many times do I have to tell you to get in the car? Don't you know what time it is?”

*Try Saying:*

“You need to get in the car. It is time to go.”

Redirecting Language:

*Instead of Saying:*

“Do you want me to take those toys away?”

*Try Saying:*

“Put those toys away.”

**Responsive Classroom** and ***The Power of Language*** is one way teachers have found they can help students learn to begin to gain autonomy and learn to manage their own behavior. Parents too can help their children navigate through the ups and down of childhood by implementing these strategies.

Allison Lape-Karpf & Renee Palmer

Information Adapted from

Responsive Classroom Level 1

Resource Book 2007