

Williamsville C.U.S.D. #15 April/May 2015 Newsletter

Education Funding Reality Check

There has been a lot of talk coming out of the state capitol regarding promises of an increased education budget, but the numbers do not add up. Here are some reasons to not drink the Kool-Aid. The money is not there and this will have a catastrophic impact on school districts.

- There is a budget shortfall of \$1.5 billion in the **current** fiscal year in addition to a \$6 billion hole for FY16;
- Last November's election resulted in a political direction where revenue increases are extremely unlikely. The reduction in the state income tax from 5% to 3.75% took effect January 1 halfway through this fiscal year;

The reality is that there are mixed messages coming out of the capitol and it cannot lull us into a false sense that education may somehow be spared. We are grateful that Governor Bruce Rauner proposed an increase in General State Aid (GSA) for FY16. However, missing payments at the end of this year and cuts to other education line items will sharply reduce any possible promised net increase.

A great example of the mixed signals coming out of Springfield are the photo ops politicians took advantage of this week when the Future Farmers of America were in the capitol...while simultaneously making proposals to eliminate funding for agriculture education.

I foresee that across-the-board state funding cuts of between 2% and 4% for the remainder of the current school year. This means further cuts to education funding (GSA) which is already reduced to 89%, as well as additional cuts to transportation and special education. Looking ahead to the next fiscal year (FY16), we might be lucky to have a flat budget (even if the governor's proposal to increase education funding passes) because of those cuts to other education line items.

We have already done all that we can to achieve efficiencies and have cut to the bone over the years, but financially these are chaotic times and we need to be prepared for reality instead of rhetoric.

Sincerely,

Dave Root,
Superintendent

School Board Meetings

The Board of Education will meet on April 20 and May 18. These meetings will begin at 7:00 PM, and will be held at the district office.

Last Week of School

Monday, June 1 – regular day; Tuesday, June 2 – regular day; Wednesday, June 3 – Sherman 1:45pm dismissal, Williamsville 2:15pm dismissal (last day). All K-12 report cards will be mailed home.

Pesticide Spraying

Williamsville Schools will be spraying pesticides at Sherman Elementary School during the week of April 6 through April 10.

Health Office 2015-16 School Year Requirements.

A current physical examination form must be provided for the first entrance into the district, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 6th and 9th grade. A physical examination is considered current if performed within 1 year of the first day of school. A sports physical does not meet the requirements. Listed below are the required immunizations for the 2015-16 school year: Pre-K/Early Childhood - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis Series; Polio Series; Measles, Mumps, Rubella – 1 dose; Hepatitis B series; Varicella – 1 dose; Haemophilus influenza; Pneumococcal – 1 dose. Kindergarten – Fifth Grade - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis series; Polio Series; Measles, Mumps, Rubella – 2 doses; Varicella. 6th Grade – 12th Grade - Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis series; Polio series; Measles, Mumps, Rubella – 2 doses; Varicella; Hepatitis B series; Tdap – 1 dose. In addition: 6th Grade – Meningococcal - 1 dose; 12th Grade – Meningococcal – 2 doses; Kindergarten, 1st, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th - Varicella – 2 doses. If you need further clarification for Pre-K thru 4th grade, you may call Tammie Rue, SES nurse at 496-2021 or for 5th thru 12th grade, Marcia McCall, MS/JH/HS nurse at 566-3600.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

PARCC-EOY (End of Year) Testing

PARCC-EOY testing will be held May 12, 13, 14 and 15 for students currently enrolled in junior English and/or Algebra 2. Please do not schedule vacations or doctor appointments on these days.

National College Decision Day

National college decision day, May 1, is right around the corner. Seniors must make the final college decision and close the strenuous college admissions process. To help mark the occasion, high school seniors are encouraged to wear apparel from the college or military branch they chose while WHS staff members are asked to wear clothing representing their alma mater. Decision Day 2015 is our way of celebrating the future of our senior class! All participants will be entered in a drawing for prizes.

Advanced Placement Exams

Advanced Placement Exams will be held the first and second weeks of May. Exams will take place at the Williamsville Community Center unless otherwise noted. The registration fee for each exam was \$91 and registration is now closed. However, all students who registered must pay their exam fees by May 1 in order to take the exam (s). Students who paid for the exam, but then decide not to take it will receive a refund of all but \$15 for processing.

Senior Surveys

Senior Surveys will be mailed home to all senior students on April 13. It is imperative that all seniors complete the surveys and return them to the guidance office no later than April 24. Completing the survey in a timely manner will ensure final transcripts are sent to colleges, universities, and trade schools on time as well as making sure students are recognized for their achievements at both honors night and graduation.

Senior Awards Night

Senior Awards Night will be held on Thursday, May 7, at 7:00PM, in the high school gym. Scholarship recipients and The Williamsville State Bank Student of the Year will be announced. All seniors and their families are encouraged to attend.

National ACT Test Date

June 13, 2015, is the last National ACT test date for the 2014-15 test cycle. Registration deadline is May 8 and late registration period runs from May 9-22 and a late fee is required. Students may choose to sign up for the June 13 ACT by signing up for an account at www.actstudent.org/start.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Sangamon County Spelling Bee

Congratulations to our school spelling bee winners: 5th Grade – Dylan Hembrough, Katie Zobus, and Allison Yeley (alternate); 6th Grade – Ashley Long, Katrina Johnson, and Jacob Laurenzana (alternate); 7th Grade - Sydney Garrison, Nathan Clack and Cole Eigenmann (alternate); and 8th Grade - Bill Spaniol, Madie Ratliff, and Zoe Horton (alternate). They competed in the County Bee in Pawnee on February 25!!! We are pleased to announce that we have three students moving on to the District Spelling Bee this year: Wyatt Cole, 4th grade, as the County Spelling Bee winner; Dylan Hembrough, 5th grade, as the District and County Spelling Bee winner; and Bill Spaniol, 8th grade, for finishing the highest in the District Spelling Bee other than our winner. Dylan Hembrough won the Regional Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 21 and will advance to the National Spelling Bee in Washington D.C. Congratulations, Dylan!

School Physicals

A complete physical is required on the first day of school for entrance into sixth and ninth grades (sports physicals are not acceptable). The State of Illinois health requirements for 6th and 9th grade students are listed on the district website at wcusd15.org, choose District, and then choose Nurse. A letter was sent home with 5th grade students and a letter will be mailed to 8th grade students. Parents may want to start scheduling these physicals now since appointments are sometimes difficult to get later in the summer. School physical forms are available at the physician's office, online or at the school office.

Dental Exams

A dental exam is required for all 6th grade students. If you have appointments now for incoming 6th graders, please have the dentist office fill one out. If you have a current 6th grade student and have not sent in the form, you will receive a letter. Please help us fulfill our state requirement by bringing in the completed form.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Musical Performances

April 27 – First grade at the District Fine Arts Auditorium at 6:30pm
April 28 – Second grade at the District Fine Arts Auditorium at 6:30pm
May 8 – Kindergarten at Sherman Elementary at 1:45pm

Pre-Kindergarten Screenings

Pre-kindergarten screenings will be held for children ages 3 and 4 years old on Thursday, April 30, from 8:30AM-2:00PM and Friday, May 1, from 8:30AM-12:00PM at the Williamsville Christian Church. Children must be 3 years old or turn 3 by April 30, 2015. Screenings will last 30-45 minutes. Children will be screened on fine/gross motor skills, speech/language skills, developmental concepts, and vision/hearing. To schedule an appointment for your child, please call Sherman Elementary at 496-2021 or email Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Zicarelli at zicarelli@wcusd15.org after Monday, April 13. Questions regarding the pre-kindergarten program or screenings may be addressed to Mrs. Zicarelli via email. Screenings for children who turn 3 after April 30 will be held in August. The school office is closed the week of April 6, therefore, no appointments can be made during that week.

Sherman Elementary PTO

SES parents are reminded that they are invited to the monthly PTO meetings. Meetings will be held in the SES library at 6:30pm on Tuesday, April 14 and Tuesday, May 12.

Market Day

Market Day is a monthly food program that has been very beneficial to the PTO in the past. Help support the Sherman Elementary PTO by going to marketday.com to place an order. You may also stop by the elementary school office to pick up a flier. Market Day pick up dates for the remainder of the school year are as follows as well as which grade level/department will earn the profits: April 17 (kindergarten), May 14 (first grade), and June 1 (PTO).

Boxtops for Education

Please remember to clip, save and send your General Mills boxtops to school. If you do not have a child at Sherman Elementary School, feel free to mail them to Cheryl Coontz, Boxtop Coordinator, at 312 South Street, Sherman, IL 62684. Visit www.boxtops4education.com to get up to date information on products and bonus programs. Thanks for your support.

SES Art Fair

The Sherman Elementary Art Fair will be held on Thursday, May 14, at the elementary school. Every child in kindergarten through fourth grade will have a piece of artwork displayed.

2015-2016 School Registration

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year will be held on Tuesday, July 28, from 9:00AM-8:00PM, in the elementary school gym. If you are not available to register your child(ren) on July 28, you may register any date after August 5. We ask that all students be registered by Wednesday, August 12. The school office will be open from 8:00AM-3:00PM beginning Wednesday, August 5. Supply lists, physical forms, and milk and lunch money totals will be available online by the end of June. The first day of school for the 2015-2016 school year is Thursday, August 20, with an 11:00AM dismissal. Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Wednesday, August 19, from 4:30-6:00PM for all first through fourth grade students. A kindergarten orientation will be held for all registered kindergarten students in mid-August. Watch the district website for details.

FINE ARTS NEWS

Junior High Chorus News

The Spring Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, at 7:00PM. Students should dress nicely (no jeans and boys wear a tie). Seventh and eighth grade Organizational Contest is Friday, May 1 at Riverton. Boppin' Bee Bees perform at the HS Cabaret Night on Saturday, May 2.

WJHS at the New Berlin Art Fair

Congratulations to the junior high art students on their amazing performance at the New Berlin Art Show. Art students received 32 awards! Our students received the Best in Show award along with 6 first place ribbons. The list of winners are as follows: Carson Cole – Best of Show (My Perspective, Drawing), First Place (Still Life), Third Place (Figure/Portrait), Second Place (Animal), First Place (Cartooning), Honorable Mention (Miscellaneous), Fifth Place (Watercolor), First Place (Oil/Acrylic), Second Place (Mixed Media), Second Place (Photography); Gavin Knoles – Second Place (Still Life); Zoe Horton – Third Place (Still Life); Mason Fleck – Honorable Mention (Still Life); Angela Egger – First Place (Figure/Portrait), First Place (Animal); Alexa Bartlett – Fourth Place (Figure/Portrait), Second Place (Cartooning), First Place (Miscellaneous), Honorable Mention (Figure/Portrait), Fourth Place (Oil/Acrylic), Honorable Mention (Oil/Acrylic); Kolton Powell – Honorable Mention (Figure/Portrait); Amy Saladino – First Place (Landscape); Katrina Johnson – Second Place (Miscellaneous), Honorable Mention (Miscellaneous); Jasmyne Mahnee – Third Place (Miscellaneous), Honorable Mention (Miscellaneous); Olivia Pennell – Honorable Mention (Miscellaneous); Avery Allen – Honorable Mention (Miscellaneous); Cameron Southard – Second Place (Oil/Acrylic); and Kindelle Schmulbach – Third Place (Mixed Media), Fourth Place (Mixed Media).