

Pioneer Press

January 2025

Craig Bodensteiner, Principal

Jennifer Allen, Assistant Principal



Pioneer Families,

Happy New Year! It is so hard to believe that winter break is over and 2025 is upon us! We are excited for a new year and the sense of excitement and renewal brought with it. Once again, we are so grateful for all the students, parents, and staff that bring joy to us on a daily basis! We truly hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing winter vacation!

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This time of year always conjures up the idea of resolutions. Resolutions, when we think about them, are really about setting goals and seeing them through. The easier part of the process may be picking something to change or deciding on a goal. To be persistent is probably the harder thing to do. Setting a goal—or coming up with a resolution—is a great conversation to have with your children. Spend some time discussing the idea of resolutions and share your own resolutions with your children. Help them to come up with some of their own. Better yet, set a family resolution and work together to achieve it. Setting a goal/resolution together may help you all to persevere. It is a valuable life skill and one that can benefit everyone. Perhaps you can take the time every day to think of one thing for which you are grateful.

In these cold winter months that follow, please remember to send your children to school dressed for the weather (warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and possibly even snow pants). On days when it is appropriate, teachers will try to get their classes outside for some fresh winter air. We encourage you to label your child's clothing. Labeling your child's clothing will ensure that all items may be returned to the owner in an efficient manner.

Upcoming dates to note:

Thursday, January 9 – PN Chorus Concert

Wednesday, January 15 – PN Orchestra 5 Concert

Thursday, January 16 – 21st PN Annual Family Fun Night

Monday, January 20 – No school (PreK-12)

Wednesday, January 22 – PN Band 5 Concert

Wednesday, January 29 – No school (PreK-12)

Protocol in the Event of School Closings; Early Dismissal Due to Inclement Weather

Webster CSD families are reminded that if weather prohibits students from attending school or necessitates closing school early, this information will be communicated as soon as it is available using the district's ParentSquare system. Information will also be provided on the district website (websterschools.org), on district social media, and to local television and radio stations. When school is closed due to weather, all aquatics, community education, and evening classes and activities are canceled as well. WonderCare may be an exception; please consult their website, www.websterschools.org/wondercare.

Should the district need to dismiss early, bus riders will return home in the same order as a regular school day. Parents are asked to be prepared with a plan in the event of an early dismissal and discuss it with their children.

Weather conditions vary widely across the district. Parents/guardians are the final authority in deciding whether or not to send a child to school. Weather related absences are legal absences; however, parents are required to notify schools if their children will not be attending.

Webster Central PTSA recognizes Outstanding Volunteers

Webster Central PTSA has bestowed a special recognition on an outstanding volunteer from each of our 11 school buildings! These volunteers have exhibited an "above & beyond" commitment to their building's PTSA endeavors, and WCPTSA greatly appreciates their dedication!

Plank North's volunteer recognition recipient is Bonnie Deiure:

"Bonnie is an amazing PTSA volunteer! She has a great willingness to volunteer in any capacity, even if it is behind the scenes. Bonnie has an enthusiastic attitude and always comes to any volunteer event positive and upbeat! This fall Bonnie has volunteered to chair many events and has been there to help other chairs by taking on their responsibilities during unforeseen circumstances. Whenever PN PTSA is looking for extra help, Bonnie is always one of the first ones to volunteer to do so. We appreciate all that she has done for us, and we look forward to her commitment to the Plank North PTSA in the future as well!"

Congratulations & Thank You Bonnie!

School #17 Holiday Giving Collection:

Thank you!!! These two words are simple yet powerful. They are ways of expressing personal gratitude for kindness, favors, donations, and specific actions you find admirable. With that in mind, we would like to thank PTSA and all of the parents and volunteers who helped make the School #17 Holiday Giving event a huge success!

Plank North 21st Annual Family Fun Night – Wednesday, January 16, 2025

This is an event for Plank North students and their parents/guardians. Younger siblings are also welcome to come but need to stay with their parents/guardians. Older siblings are also welcome to join in the fun! There will be four stations throughout the building that families will move through (gym, art room, library, and music room). The activities are designed to be appropriate for all ages and abilities and will encourage teamwork and interaction within and between families. This is a TECH-FREE event! More information to be sent home soon.

Report Card Scoring Guide

First semester Report Cards will be distributed via the WCSD Parent Portal on Friday, February 5 at 12:00pm for students in grades PreK-5.

Nominate Exemplary Teachers for Oak Tree Award

Once again, the Webster Teachers Association (WTA) and the Webster Central PTSA are jointly sponsoring the Oak Tree Award, seeking nominations of educators who exemplify excellence in their field, a commitment to their students, and leadership in their community. Any Webster resident or district employee, current or former student, parent, teacher, or administrative colleague may nominate a deserving individual for the elementary or secondary award. Award nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Currently teach in a full-time position in Webster CSD and plan to continue to teach the next year in or retire from Webster CSD.
- Eligible positions include PreK-grade 12 teachers, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, librarians, media and language specialists, and speech, occupational, and physical therapists.
- Have a minimum of five years teaching experience in Webster CSD.
- Be a member of both the Webster Central PTSA and the WTA.

Deadline for nominations is January 31, 2025. Nominate someone today at this [link](#).

Families of Young Children Asked to Take Census:

Families of young children residing in Webster CSD are being asked to take a brief survey that will be used to forecast student enrollment for the foreseeable future.

Parents/guardians with children residing in their household who are ages birth to 5 years old, please complete the annual [young child census](#). Don't delay! The census closes January 6, 2025. Families who do not have access to a computer may participate by calling Student Registration at (585) 216-0029.

Completing the census is a young families' first connection with the school district. It enables us to keep in contact with families as their children approach school age. When families share their email address with Webster CSD through the census, it enables the district to notify those families when their children are eligible for prekindergarten and kindergarten registration.

Kindergarten Registration Opens January 27

The start of the 2025-26 school year may seem far away, but for families of incoming kindergarteners, registration is right around the corner!

Families with a child who will be 5 years old on or before December 1, 2025, that child is eligible for kindergarten enrollment for the upcoming school year. Kindergarten registration will open Monday, January 27, 1995. As the date approaches, please check the district website, websterschools.org/registration, for complete details.

Please note that prompt registration is important because if a building reaches capacity, families who register during the week of January 27 will be given first priority. Once capacity is met, students will be enrolled in an alternative Webster CSD elementary school.

PreK Lottery Opens February 14

Webster CSD offers a comprehensive prekindergarten program. Families with a child who will be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2025, but who are not eligible to kindergarten, that child is eligible for prekindergarten enrollment for the upcoming school year. Lottery applications for the 2025-26 school year will be available February 14-March 14. Learn more at www.websterschools.org/preK.

Yours in partnership,

Craig Bodensteiner, Principal

Jennifer Allen, Assistant Principal



REDEMPTION PROGRAMS

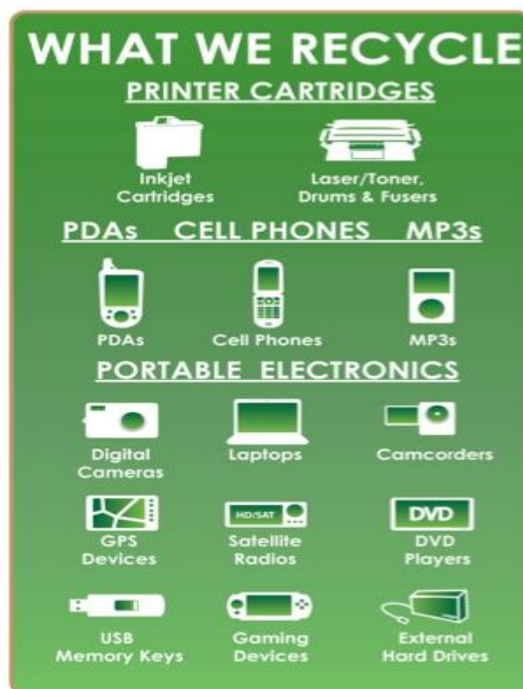
Redemption Programs mean \$ for our School!

THANKS FOR JOINING IN!

Imagine It

www.imaginerecycling.com

Bring in your used printer cartridges, PDA's, cell phones, MP3's, or portable electronics for recycling and Plank North will receive money back to the school.



EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS WITH BOX TOPS

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

For over 25 years, Box Tops for Education has given families an easy way to earn for schools with products they already buy. Today, you can find thousands of participating products throughout the store – and all you need is the Box Tops app.

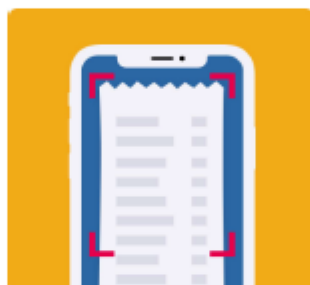


HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:



BUY BOX TOPS PRODUCTS

Earn for schools with the brands you love.



SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Use the Box Tops app to submit your receipt within 14 days of purchase.



EARN CASH FOR SCHOOLS

Box Tops products are identified and earnings are credited online.



ONLINE SHOPPERS CAN EARN WITH BOX TOPS, TOO!

Whether you order groceries for delivery or pickup, shop through your store's app, or request an email receipt at checkout, you can earn for your school no matter where you shop.

SEE PRODUCTS & LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BOX TOPS APP AT [BTFE.COM](https://www.btfec.com)

DON'T HAVE THE BOX TOPS APP YET? DOWNLOAD IT NOW:





Bottle/Can Donation at Nickel Back Bottle & Can Return!



Does your family have bottles/cans sitting around to be returned? Please consider donating them to the Plank North PTSA! All funds raised will be used towards activities, programs, etc. at Plank North!

- * All bottles and cans with NYS \$.05 deposits are welcome: fast, friendly hassle-free drop off!
- * No fees involved, the Plank North PTSA will receive all funds for bottles and cans returned!
- * Please label your bags "Plank North Elementary School" prior to drop off!

Location:

Nickel Back Bottle & Can Return
659 Ridge Road
Webster, NY 14580
Call for hours: (585) 690-5805
(Behind Hadlock's House of Paint building, next to Bowling Alley)



You are also welcome to email the Plank North PTSA and we will pick-up your bags!
pnptsa@websterptsa.org



FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

JANUARY, 2025

Janice Richardson, President

jrichardson@webstercsd.org

- *Plank Road North ES/Spry MS/Webster Schroeder/GOAL HS Liaison*

Linda Dioguardi, Vice President

ldioguardi@webstercsd.org

- *Klem Road South ES/Schlegel Road ES/Plank Road South ES/Spry MS/Schroeder/GOAL HS Liaison*

Carole Barnabas

cbarnabas@webstercsd.org

- *DeWitt Road ES/Willink MS Liaison*

Maria Cortes

mcortes@webstercsd.org

- *Plank Road South ES/State Road ES/Schroeder/GOAL HS Liaison*

Michele Lowes

mlowes@webstercsd.org

- *Webster Thomas/OWL HS Liaison*

Jeffrey McCaffrey

jmccaffrey@webstercsd.org

- *State Road ES/Webster Thomas/OWL HS Liaison*

Happy New Year!

Wishing you a joyful and memorable New Year! May it be filled with happiness and all the best in the year ahead!

Nominations Sought for Oak Tree Award

Would you like to acknowledge a teacher in your child's life for their outstanding dedication and hard work? Consider nominating them for this year's Oak Tree Award by submitting a nomination form by January 31, 2025.

The Webster Teachers Association (WTA) and the Webster Central PTSA are jointly sponsoring the Oak Tree Award, seeking nominations of educators who exemplify excellence in their field, a commitment to their students, and leadership in their community. Any Webster resident or district employee, current or former student, parent, teacher, or administrative colleague may nominate a deserving individual for the elementary or secondary award.



Award nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Currently teach in a full-time position in Webster CSD and plan to continue to teach the next year in or retire from Webster CSD.
- Eligible positions include preK-grade 12 teachers, school counselors, psychologists, social workers, librarians, media and language specialists, and speech, occupational, and physical therapists.
- Have a minimum of five years teaching experience in Webster CSD.
- Be a member of both the Webster Central PTSA and the WTA.

Stay Connected!

With all of the exciting events happening in our district, be sure to stay informed by following the district on social media or visiting our district website. Together, we thrive and make a positive impact on our schools and community! Please reach out to us to learn more about our district goals or visit the [Webster CSD Board of Education website](#).

“LIKE” us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WebsterCentralSchools

Visit our website:

www.websterschools.org

Be sure to join us for these upcoming board meetings:

- Tuesday, January 7- Board of Education Workshop, Agenda: Long Range Financial Planning, Spry MS, 2nd floor PDC - 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 14- Board of Education Regular Business Meeting, Agenda: Integrated CoTeaching, Spry MS, 2nd floor PDC - 5:00 p.m.



Music “Notes”



By Miss Mossey

As the second marking period draws to a close at the end of January, parents of 1st and 2nd graders will be able to see how their child is progressing in music class. (3rd, 4th and 5th graders will receive their grades for music class at the end of the school year. Kindergarteners do not receive a grade for music.) A variety of aspects and skills are assessed and reported at this time. Here are the areas that are assessed for each student using the “I can” statements:

Artistic Literacy

I can demonstrate my knowledge of musical concepts.

I can utilize my singing voice with accuracy.

I can play instruments with accuracy.

I can persevere in the process of music learning.

As you can see, music class is not just about singing fun, cute songs. Since many of these aspects are skills based, most of the assessing goes on during music class within the context of a game or whole-class activity. Any written quizzes or tests are carefully planned and prepared for in music class.

Grading musical skills at the elementary age is particularly challenging because the development happens at a unique time for each child. Sometimes it even happens overnight! A student who has not “found” their singing voice may all of a sudden come to class the next day singing right on pitch. So, if your child receives a lower grade on their report card, please realize that that is very likely to change as they continue to work towards achieving the standards.

-Miss Mossey

Library News

Jen McCorry
School Librarian

Happy New Year from the library! We are excited to see what books our Plank North students will be reading in 2025!

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child use proper book care at home, including keeping books in a safe place away from pets and liquids that could cause irreparable damage.

The January Reading Challenge is to read a book that takes place in a different climate. This can be a rainforest, desert, the beach, the Arctic, or any climate other than ours here in Webster! Your child can read any kind of book, something from a magazine, or even an article off the computer. Reading about another climate is an interesting way to learn about other places around the world and relate to people or animals who may live there. If your child chooses to participate, please click on the link below to help him/her to complete the Google form and submit their reading information by the end of the month.

[January Reading Challenge Form](#)

Happy Reading!



Plank North Physical Education
Students of the Month – **January**

Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers are very proud of all the students at Plank Road North Elementary. We would like to take this time to recognize two 5th grade students that have demonstrated characteristics that were extraordinary this month. These students have shown that they are working continuously at a high level of achievement. A student must go above and beyond what is expected of them, and demonstrate they are not only an outstanding student of Physical Education, but also a superior member of the Plank Road North community. Characteristics exhibited include the Webster essential skills, personal living skills, and skillful moving. Congratulations to this month's recipients **Charlotte VanValkenburgh** and **James McCauley** for the month of January. Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers sat down with the students to ask them a few questions, and here are the responses.

Charlotte VanValkenburgh is a 5th grader in Ms. Napolitano's class where her favorite subject is writing. Outside of school, Charlotte participates in dance at Spins Dance Studio. She takes classes in lyrical, jazz, tap, hip-hop, ballet and Broadway. At school Charlotte is a member of the Plank North Safety Patrol as an AM safety. If you have Charlotte over for dinner her favorite food is pasta with homemade red sauce that her dad makes ("a secret family recipe")! When Charlotte grows up, she would like to become a doctor. Charlotte's favorite team to cheer for is the Buffalo Bills.

James McCauley is a fifth grader in Mrs. Merkey's class where his favorite subject is science. Outside of school James plays baseball for the Webster Warthogs in the positions of pitcher, second baseman and outfielder. Football is another sport James plays; he plays for the Webster Warriors in the positions of running back, linebacker and 2 back. In addition to baseball and football, James enjoys the sport of basketball. He plays for the Webster recreation team in all different positions. At school James is a member of the Plank North Safety Patrol where he is an announcer and flag raiser. We asked James what his favorite food is and he answered grandma's fried chicken. When James grows up he would like to be a professional athlete. When asked what team he likes to cheer for he quickly answered the Miami Dolphins for football, the Chicago Bulls for basketball and the Philadelphia Phillies for baseball because the Phillies were the first team he ever played for.

Congratulations to our Student Athletes of the Month!



Webster Central
PTSA

PLANK
NORTH
ELEMENTARY



Step into the whimsical world of Wonderland as the talented 4th and 5th graders of Plank North bring *Alice in Wonderland Jr.* to life! This delightful adaptation of the classic story is filled with curious characters, enchanting songs, and plenty of magical moments you won't want to miss.

Showtimes:

- Dates: April 4th & 5th
- Tickets: \$5 at the door

This enchanting production is proudly brought to you by the Plank North PTSA and MT Ed. Bring the whole family and enjoy an unforgettable adventure in Wonderland!

Your membership pays for itself in just a few visits to our discount partners!



WC PTSA members: buy 1 Blizzard, get 1 for 99c every day!




WC PTSA members save 10% on teas and shakes at Nourished!




1000 Oak Road (Wingman Place)




Webster Central PTSA members save \$5 off \$30 (regular priced items)

www.lalaofwebster.com



WC PTSA members save 10% every visit!

Frozen Dessert Zone



WCPTSA MEMBERS SAVE 10% OFF REGULAR PRICE SERVICES

CARPET UPHOLSTERY TILE & GROUT FIRE/WATER DAMAGE MOLD REMOVAL




WC PTSA members get \$5 off rentals Monday - Friday




Webster Central PTSA members save \$5 off \$20

www.secretingredientcupcakery.com



Show your WC PTSA membership card for \$5 off \$40!



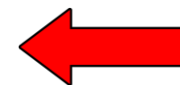

The Art Of Having Fun

Parents/families, please purchase your PTSA membership today!

WebsterPTSA.org/JOIN

If you have not already purchased your PTSA Membership, please do so through the link above! The cost is \$10 per adult membership/\$5 per student membership.

\$6 of the adult membership comes back directly to Plank North to help us run fun events at our school! Also, your PTSA card gets you some wonderful discounts around town this year!



For those of you have already purchased, we are very appreciative of your support!

**Webster Public Library
872-7075**

For program information and up-to-the-minute news on what's new in the Children's Department, visit our blog: wplkids.wordpress.com

WSCD K-5 Family Handbook

Have a question about your child's school day, school and district policies or PTSA programs?

The WSCD Handbook is a great place to start to have your questions answered. In an effort to be more eco-friendly, the handbook is now located on the school's website. You can find it here: www.websterschools.org/planknorth

The PTSA encourages parents to keep this reference book handy throughout the school year to answer questions that may pop up. If there is anything you would like to suggest adding to the handbook in future editions, or if you have any corrections, please contact us at pnptsa@websterpts.org.

Thank you!



705 Plank Road

Phone:

(585) 671-8858 – Main Office

(585) 670-4012 – Attendance Line

(585) 670-4011 – Health Office

We're on the web!

websterschools.org

Plank North PTSA 2024 – 2025

Executive Committee:	
Co-Chair	Alison Basch
Co-Chair	Karin Anello
Vice Chair	Krista Castranova
Financial Manager	Bonnie Deiore
Secretary	Elsbeth Ebenhoe
Communications Coordinator	Sarah Rook
Membership Chair	Shannon Morrell
PTSA Teacher Liaison	Ann Merkey
School Board Liaison	Janice Richardson
Event Chairs:	
Bingo for Books	Krista Castranova
Book Fair	Karin Anello
	Alison Basch
Community Arts Day	Jessica Bisko
Donuts with Grown-Ups	Elsbeth Ebenhoe
Pie Fundraiser	Bonnie Deiore
Fifth Grade Social	Sonnette Bascoe
Kindergarten Play Date	Alison Basch
New Family Gathering	Kelly Lape
School #17 Holiday Giving	Kym Bernard
School Picture Coordinator	Bonnie Deiore
School Spirit Wear	Krista Castranova
School Yearbook	Lisa Currier
	Amanda Lindley
Spring Plant Sale	Alison Basch
	Krista Castranova
Square 1 Art	Karin Anello
Staff Appreciation Week	Bonnie Deiore
	Mandy Notareschi
Glow Dance	Krista Castranova
Trunk or Treat	Shari Ebert
Share the Kindness	VACANT
School Play	Bonnie Deiore
Other PTSA Services:	
PTSA Bulletin Board	VACANT
Pioneer Press Newsletter	Sarah Rook
Ongoing Programs:	
Box Tops for Education	Karin Anello
Nickel Back Can Return	N/A