

Greetings from WWG Schools,

I believe that this was the longest winter break that I've had in my career. I believe all parents would agree that it's time to get the kids back into a routine! All in all, I hope that everyone had a chance to get outside for a couple days and enjoy the snow. I also hope that the weather didn't interfere with extended family time. I have a few updates to share and hope that you'll make note of things that relate to you and your family. I invite anyone and everyone to get involved and help wherever they can.

- I am planning a community meeting about our Flexible Learning Year. The meeting is set for January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the Westbrook School. I would like to get feedback about whether to continue with the early start / early out for next year. There are many components of the "FLY" and I have visited with staff about the pros and cons. I just feel that it is good to review it and make sure we are all on the same page and answer any questions that may arise.
- I am also looking for feedback on Monday January 20th at 6:30 p.m. on a new initiative by the State being imposed on our district called "THE WORLDS BEST WORKFORCE". All districts are to come up with a plan that addresses:
 1. How will we have all students "ready for school" ready for kindergarten?
 2. How will we have all 3rd grade students performing at a 3rd grade level?
 3. How will we close the achievement gap among all racial and ethnic groups?
 4. How will we close the achievement gap among students in poverty compared to those not in poverty?
 5. How will we close the achievement gap between special education and non-special education students?
 6. How will we make sure we have 100% of students graduating from high school?
 7. How will we make sure that all students are career and college ready when they graduate?

Sounds like a tall order with a touch of pixie dust but it is what we are instructed to do. I want to know what our community thinks and I would love to have 15-20 community members of all ages that would come for great snacks and the opportunity to give us feedback. Please make a note to yourself to COME TO THE SCHOOL MONDAY January 20TH AT 6:30 P.M. and help us with our homework.

- We have a few extra school calendars and if you need one stop into the school. There are also a few small calendars left for sale at our grocery stores and convenience stores for \$1 each. I know the weather has been cold but I'd like to see bigger crowds supporting our 7-12 activities. Beat the winter blues and support our kids. Win or lose they are working hard! Mark your calendar for the last week of January for a public performance of our competition one act play. They compete at Pipestone on Saturday February 1st.
- Our audit report was positive. We are losing students and we are deficit spending. BUT we are in good financial shape and I hope that outside of me sharing my time with another district next year, we can avoid any reductions for next year. Our district is the lowest taxed per pupil in the region if not the state. We have been looking ahead to the fall of 2015 to come to the voters for additional local help for our schools. No matter what we come up with, it will be a lower amount per pupil than all our neighbors and I look forward to a 90% passage rate for our kids! Thank you for your support of our schools and these kids and stay warm!