

Charger Notes February 24, 2012

Greeting from WWG Schools and halleluiah for the great weather. We are winding down on a great winter season for our student athletes, artists, and other extracurriculars. Every year I emphasize how involved our students are and that folks in our communities never take enough time to take in all of our activities. If anyone claims to be bored it's surely not the school's fault. We have a lot going on that is quite visible and a few things not that noticeable.

- We are tickled to keep ramping up our technology in the district with recent purchases. By the end of the month we will have an IPAD in the hands of every elementary teacher in the district. This compliments the already 75 plus IPADS that are in the hands of our students in the district. We also just put to use a new mobile laptop computer lab of 20 computers that can be used anywhere in the Westbrook buildings. We knew that with our frugal spending the past few years that we were falling behind a bit and these most recent purchases put us near the top once again!
- We will be deciding this spring to move forward with a major heating renovation project in our district. Tom has done a great job of covering the "saga" of deciding against geothermal but yet we still wanted a system that would save us money as well as be more user friendly. We have had such great success with our 60 plus year old boilers simply due to the great people that we have had over the years taking care of them. Herman, Francis and Betty, Floyd, Dick, and now Dale / Jeff / Rick / Stan to name a few have saved our districts thousands of dollars over the years. It could be \$300,000 or it could be closer to \$600,000 to upgrade both buildings. Either way, it's a long term investment and we have put some money aside to be able to not take this project to the voters and use some of our fund balance we have built up.
- We are still looking for ideas regarding the leadership / communication of our Westbrook Area Education Foundation. We have stopped the expensive mailings a couple years ago and need to find a person that would take the lead for communications using digital means vs. paper. If you or anyone out there has an idea or an interest in a keeping this foundation vibrant, please contact me at lwoelber@mntm.org or call me at 507-828-6608. I would love to visit with you on behalf of the Education Foundation.
- Best wishes to all of you for a great spring and say a few prayers for rain to get our lawns and the farmers off to a great start! Thank you to all for your support of our schools and our sharing that we do with our neighboring districts. It will continue and I hope to always be on the front end of making it happen in a positive fashion.