

FROM THE PRINCIPAL...*Daniel Starr, Ed.D.*

Two issues that have received their fair share of media coverage in recent weeks are school safety and the school report card. This issue of the newsletter will update you about each of these.

School Safety

The recent events in California and Pennsylvania remind us of how vulnerable and fragile our teens can be. When all is said and done in the aftermath of these tragedies, there is little that makes sense. What causes a person to behave this way? What were the warning signs that people ignored? Where were the parents? Where was the school? Where were the friends that might have offered help? In all of this information amidst these questions, there is little in common from one act of violence to another across the country.

Mr. Fiegl, our technology teacher, attended a conference where school violence was addressed. He related to me that the **research of the featured speaker indicated that the only common denominator** among the schools where the violence occurred was that they had more than 600 students. Williamson Senior High School has 440. This means we know our students and they know each other. It is common for friends of a student in distress to seek one of the counselors and ask if their friend can get some help. The crises range from academic stress to boyfriend/girlfriend trouble to problems at home. Our staff is very well equipped to address the needs of each student as they come forward. This is the first and foremost prevention for school violence.

Other aspects of this are addressed by a district committee working to meet the requirements of the **S.A.V.E. legislation**. This is **new law that requires schools to have in place a variety of procedures and safeguards for issues of violence**. For example, it requires procedures for evacuation in case of any type of emergency. We have had much of this in place for many years because of the safety issues with Ginna. Another example from this legislation is the guideline surrounding removal of a disruptive and/or violent student.

There will be a clear delineation of **student and school rights**. The most common area for this is the right of the school to search student lockers. **The courts established long ago that the lockers belong to the school and are subject to search if there is reasonable cause**. It is not unusual for a student to approach a teacher, Mr. Svendsen, or myself to report that a student has something illegal in his or her locker. I conduct 15–20 locker searches each year. Sometimes I find items that require further action on my part, other times it is a false alarm. The point is that the **lockers are searched if I think there is a need**.

When there is an **act of violence** in the school, there are **clearly stated disciplinary consequences**. Any student who gets in a fight and throws a punch is suspended out of school for a minimum of 3 days. The sensitivity to violence that has enveloped us in the past 2 years is treated seriously. The adolescent disagreements typically contain heated language. These are referred to the counselors for mediation as they can affect a more permanent solution than I can through the discipline system. Ongoing issues between students are monitored by our staff.

COLLEGE NIGHT RESCHEDULED

Hopefully, spring has arrived and snow is a thing of the past so that the College Night that was cancelled in the beginning of March can be held on **Tuesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.**, in the High School Library. This is an opportunity for parents of Juniors to get information and an understanding of the process of the college search and selection. With this information, they can better help their son/daughter make decisions about what comes after high school.

Bring any questions you might have and together we can make this time between now and the end of the senior year an enjoyable experience. This program is focused on parents of juniors, but anyone is welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

The staff in the High School deserve credit for their concern for the safety of everybody in the building. They work with people to keep the environment calm and focused on learning. They are quick to intervene when words become heated and try to lead the students to a thoughtful resolution. The students also deserve credit because most of them outgrow the squabbles and undo concern about who said what about whom.

We do have an occasional fight (less than one per month) and there is a great deal of “trash talk” between some students. We try to address the disrespect between the students on a daily basis by correcting it and modeling appropriate communication. We all thank you for your help with this ongoing problem.

The bottom line to all of this is a simple question that I am asked more often than ever. Is our school a safe place? The answer is yes. We are not perfect, but there is no place in this region where I would rather have my children attend school than Williamson.

FROM THE NURSE’S OFFICE...

Cynthia Showman, R.N.

It’s hard to believe that in a few short weeks our seniors will be college bound. If you haven’t already scheduled him/her for their college physical, I urge you to do so fairly soon as the offices get pretty booked up at this time of year. Also, be sure you ask about your student’s immunizations and make sure they are up to date.

Note...I have enclosed information in this newsletter about the meningitis vaccine and encourage you to talk with your health care provider about getting your student this vaccine before they go off to college. College freshmen are in the high-risk group for developing meningitis. If you have any questions, you may call me at 589-9625 or the Wayne County Public Health Department at 946-5749 regarding this vaccine.

I have been screening the 11th graders during the months of March. I hope to get them completed by the 1st of April and start the senior class. If you received a referral form regarding your student’s vision, hearing, or Scoliosis, please have them seen by their health care provider and return the forms to me. I appreciate your prompt attention to this. I try to let you know when there is a problem at school so we both can keep your student healthy. If you have a question at any time, please contact me right away.

FROM THE LIBRARY...New Arrivals for Spring:

F CLA	Clancy, Tom	<u>The Bear and the Dragon</u>
F DeF	DeFelice, Cynthia	<u>Death at Devil's Bridge</u>
F LIS	Lisle, Janet Taylor	<u>The Art of Keeping Cool</u>
F PAU	Paulsen, Gary	<u>The Beet Fields</u>
F ROW	Rowling, J.K.	<u>Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets</u>
155.2 JOH	Johnson, Spencer	<u>Who Moved My Cheese?</u>
158 COV	Covey, Stephen	<u>The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People</u>
158.1 CAR	Carlson, Richard	<u>Don't Sweat the Small Stuff For Teens</u>
974.7 MUR	Murphy, Jim	<u>Blizzard: The Storm That Changed America</u>
B ASH	Ashe, Arthur	<u>Days of Grace</u>
B LIN	Bishop, Jim	<u>The Day Lincoln Was Shot</u>
B PEL	Pelzer, Dave	<u>A Man Named Dave</u>

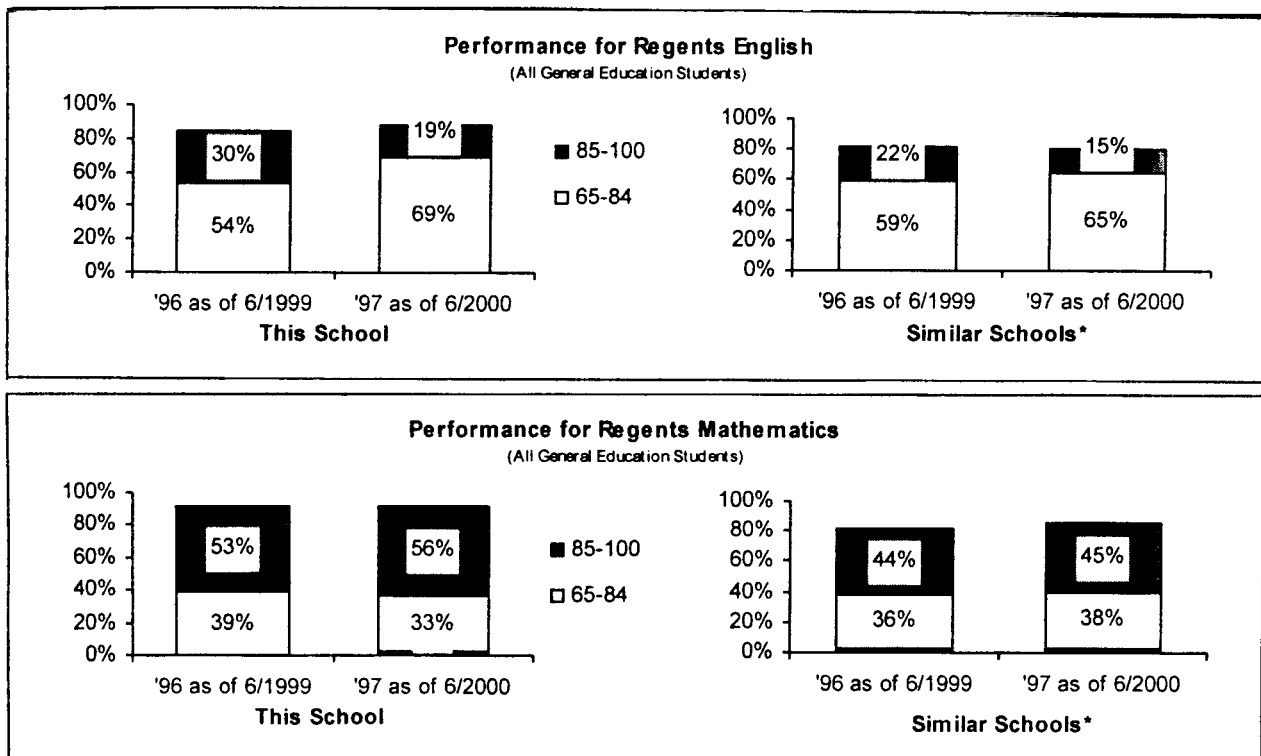
School Report Cards

For the last few years, the **New York State Education Department (SED)** has issued a report card for each school in the state. They want to know how well each school is performing relative to the Learning Standards implemented about 5 years ago. To accomplish this evaluation of the schools, the state establishes a minimum level of acceptable performance for elementary, middle, and secondary schools. Our data is reviewed and we are classified into one of three categories: (1) meeting the standard; (2) below the standard; or (3) farthest from the standard.

The data used to measure Williamson High School and all others is collected by tracking the students who entered 9th grade at the start of the 1996 and 1997 school year. We no longer consider our test scores, attendance rates, and other data according to the year the students graduate, but by the date the students entered the High School. The information used to evaluate Williamson High School represents the students who have graduated the past two years.

The following graphs present the data as published in the official report card for WHS. The data represent the percentage of two groups of students who passed—with a grade between 85 and 100 and then between 65 and 84. There is a second set of bar graphs labeled “Similar Schools.” These are schools the State Education Department considers to be like Williamson. They use a variety of identifiers to determine these schools. Newark and Marion are considered “similar” by the measures the SED uses. Also included in this group are Honeoye, Naples, Penn Yan, Canandaigua, Red Jacket, and Bloomfield.

As you can see, for the English we have a higher percentage scoring above the 85% level for both groups of students than the other similar schools, as well as a high passing percentage. The same holds true for the math test data, as seen on the second set of graphs.



As noted above, the SED has established a minimum level of performance it expects the schools to attain. For the English/Language Arts and math tests, the SED says that 90% of our students must pass the state exam in each subject. Our success rate is 99% for ELA and 98% for math.

We have all worked hard to get Williamson to the top—our students deserve this effort and they are the ones who have achieved so well. The goal is now to maintain this level of performance.

WAYNE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

STD CLINIC SCHEDULE

APRIL 2001

TUESDAY APRIL 3	10AM - 12N
THURSDAY APRIL 12	2PM - 4PM
TUESDAY APRIL 24	10AM - 12N
THURSDAY APRIL 26	2PM - 4PM

Wayne County Public Health
1519 Nye Rd.
Lyons, N.Y. 14489

315-946-5749 or 1-800-724-1170
Please call for more information

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1 What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness, caused by a bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings. Meningococcal disease can also cause blood infections.

About 2,600 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. 10-15% of these people die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, another 10% lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, become mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age, and in people with certain medical conditions. College freshmen, particularly those who live in dormitories, have a slightly increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal vaccine can prevent 2 of the 3 important types of meningococcal disease in older children and adults.

Meningococcal vaccine is not effective in preventing all types of the disease. But it does help to protect many people who might become sick if they don't get the vaccine.

Drugs such as penicillin can be used to treat meningococcal infection. Still, about 1 out of every ten people who get the disease dies from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why it is important that people with the highest risk for meningococcal disease get the vaccine.



2 Who should get meningococcal vaccine and when?

Meningococcal vaccine is not routinely recommended for most people. People who *should* get the vaccine include:

- U.S. Military recruits
- People who might be affected during an outbreak of certain types of meningococcal disease.
- Anyone traveling to, or living in, a part of the world where meningococcal disease is common, such as West Africa.
- Anyone who has a damaged spleen, or whose spleen has been removed.
- Anyone who has terminal complement component deficiency (an immune system disorder).

The vaccine should also be *considered* for:

- Some laboratory workers who are routinely exposed to the meningococcal bacteria.

The vaccine may also be given to college students who choose to be vaccinated. College freshmen, especially those who live in dormitories, and their parents should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their health care providers.

Meningococcal vaccine is usually not recommended for children under two years of age. But under special circumstances it may be given to infants as young as 3 months (the vaccine does not work as well in very young children). Ask your health care provider for details.

How many doses?

- ✓ For people 2 years of age and over: 1 dose (Sometimes an additional dose is recommended for people who continue to be at high risk. Ask your provider.)
- ✓ For children 3 months to 2 years of age who need the vaccine: 2 doses, 3 months apart

Meningococcal - 3/31/2000

3 Some people should not get meningococcal vaccine or should wait

People should not get meningococcal vaccine if they have ever had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine.

People who are mildly ill at the time the shot is scheduled can still get meningococcal vaccine. People with moderate or severe illnesses should usually wait until they recover. Your provider can advise you.

Meningococcal vaccine may be given to pregnant women.

4 What are the risks from meningococcal vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of the meningococcal vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

Getting meningococcal vaccine is much safer than getting the disease.

Mild problems

Some people who get meningococcal vaccine have mild side effects, such as redness or pain where the shot was given. These symptoms usually last for 1-2 days.

A small percentage of people who receive the vaccine develop a fever.

5 What if there is a serious reaction?

What should I look for?

Look for any unusual condition, such as a severe allergic reaction, high fever, or unusual behavior. If a serious allergic reaction occurred, it would happen within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot. Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, weakness, hoarseness or wheezing, a fast heart beat, hives, dizziness, paleness, or swelling of the throat.

What should I do?

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- Ask your health care provider to file a Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) form, or call VAERS yourself at 1-800-822-7967.

6 How can I learn more?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Call your local or state health department's immunization program.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call 1-800-232-2522 (English)
 - Call 1-800-232-0233 (Español)
 - Visit the National Immunization Program's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip>
 - Visit the National Center for Infectious Disease's meningococcal disease website at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Immunization Program

Meningococcal Vaccine Information Statement (3/31/2000)

Dinner Dance for Senior Citizens and Grandparents

Do you enjoy the sounds of Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, Chuck Berry and more? Then come to a wonderful night of food and music. The Williamson Class of 2004 is organizing a Dinner Dance for Thursday, April 26, 2001. It will be held in the Williamson High School Cafeteria from 6:00—9:00 p.m.

From 6:00-7:00 members of the freshman class will serve a dinner of chicken cordon bleu, rice, salad, dessert (cake), coffee and iced tea. Beverages and dessert seconds will be available throughout the evening.

During dinner, Joelsong will provide background music. At 7:00 the dancing begins with Big Band Swing Music and the songs of the 50's.

Tickets are \$10.00 each or \$18.00 a couple and can be purchased from freshman class members or by phoning Williamson High School at 589-9621. Also, tickets will be available in Room 1 in the High School. Please reserve your tickets by April 12, 2001.

