

PATRON - LETTER CARRIER ROUTE  
RURAL BOXHOLDER  
PO BOXHOLDER



## ***SPECIAL ELECTION***

A Special Election will be held to fill the vacant office of Trustee on the Williamson School Board. The term of the seat is September 2001 thru June 2002

# **VOTE:**

will be held on Tuesday,  
**September 25, 2001** in the Middle  
School Multi-Purpose Room  
1 PM to 9 PM.

**T**he New York State School Boards Association will be holding its annual convention in Buffalo in October. There will be a display of photos from districts all over the state. We would like to take part! Our students take part in wonderful activities all through the school year. If you have any snapshots that might make part of the display, please contact board member Deb Larson at 589-2316. The pictures must be to her by September 20, 2001.

### **Daffodil Bulbs WANTED**



Your Board of Education is planning to plant, with the assistance of local Cub Scouts, as many daffodil bulbs as we can acquire as a contribution to the Centennial Celebration next year. These bulbs will be planted on the East side of Herbert's Hill (as in Drs. Benjamin and Mike Herbert,



# **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

CITIZENSHIP • CHARACTER • EDUCATION • WISDOM • KNOWLEDGE • SCHOLARSHIP • SERVICE • INTEGRITY

August 2001

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Dear Community Residents,

Well, did the millennium start January 2000 or 2001? We can certainly argue the point forever. The millennium promised many changes and we, as residents of Williamson, are front row center for changes too.

We have a new superintendent, a new curriculum coordinator, a new principal at the Middle School and a new assistant principal serving both the High School and the Middle School. These, as well as many new teachers, aides, and bus drivers; are all here to help your children.

While positions may have changed, our drive to succeed has not. Our scores are as good as many districts larger and more wealthy than us. However, the status quo is not good enough. We must improve our scores, and we must produce students able to succeed in today's world. All this, without losing sight of our students' basic needs and educating them to be successful people, not just good test takers.

We as a District: Board, administration, teachers, and support staff, want your children to succeed. We are a part of the solution. But you, as parents and students, are the most important part of the solution. We must all work together if we are to be a great district. The best way to make this happen is to communicate; for only as a whole, working together in concert, can we be successful. Don't be afraid to contact your student's teacher, building administrator, the superintendent, or a Board member. We must communicate to be problem solvers. We must meet and discuss issues to improve. Only together can we improve Williamson Central.

Good Luck in the new school year.

**Richard Jordan**  
WCS Board President

**SEPTEMBER  
BACK TO SCHOOL  
INFORMATION**

In less than a week more than 1,400 students will walk through the doors to begin the 2001-02 school year. It will also begin my first year as superintendent. Although it is my first year, I have spent almost 30 years as part of the school community. Through this time, many things have changed. The one thing that has remained constant is the quality education we are able to deliver. Our tests scores have been above average, the number of students graduating with a Regents diploma has increased, and our graduating seniors are able to be productive members of society. These are signs of that success. As with any organization, there is always the need for continuous improvement. We will continue to focus on making the school system stronger. But we need your continued support. Whether you are a parent, community member, or staff member, you all need to be involved in the school system and our children's education. In this increasing complex world, the school system cannot do it all. So, if you are a parent, please take the time to become involved in your child's education. This can be the direct involvement of visiting the classroom and attending school events, or it can be indirectly by communicating with your child and your child's teacher about school. If you are a community member, take the time to attend a school event or ask the young people you come in contact with how they are doing. If you are a staff member, continue to do what you are doing, treating each child as a unique individual. In my former position as Director of Curriculum, I was asked by neighboring districts what workbooks or programs we were using that were the cause of our success. Well, there is no magic workbook, but there is magic in what goes on everyday. We educate the whole child. I pledge to you that we will continue to do so. Please contact me with any suggestions you might have and take the time to become involved in your school system. Board of Education meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. The agenda will be posted on our website, so that you can see what topics are being discussed.

Looking forward to a great year ahead,

**Maria Ehresman**



**Maria Ehresman,  
Superintendent**



**Wendy Feeney,  
Director of Curriculum**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL FIRE INSPECTION**

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the 2001-02 School Year of the school buildings of the Williamson Central School District for fire hazards, which might endanger the lives of students, teachers, and employees therein, has been complete, and the report thereof is available at the Business Office for inspection by all interested persons.

By Order of  
The Board of Education

Michael G. Stitt  
District Clerk

**NOTICE - ASBESTOS CONTROL**

AHERA is the acronym for a federal law that was enacted in 1987. It requires all school districts to reinspect facilities for building materials containing asbestos.

Our facilities have been inspected and response actions are planned to insure a continued safe environment for our students and employees. Activities include training of maintenance staff to prevent disturbance of asbestos and periodic reinspection and surveillance activities by trained personnel. Details of such activities are described in the district's AHERA Management Plan which is available for your review in the Business Office.

If you have any questions or concerns in this regard, feel free to contact the Williamson Central School Assistant Superintendent for Business, Michael Stitt.

**PESTICIDE NOTICE**

The Williamson Central School District does not intend to use pesticides; however, New York State Education Law Section 409-H, effective July 1, 2001, requires all public and non-public elementary and secondary schools to provide written notification to all persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff regarding the potential use of pesticides periodically throughout the school year.

The Williamson Central School District is required to maintain a list of persons in parental relation, faculty, and staff who wish to receive 48-hour prior written notification of certain pesticide applications. The following pesticide applications are not subject to prior notification requirements:

- a school remains unoccupied for a continuous 72-hours following an application;
- anti-microbial products;
- nonvolatile rodenticides in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- nonvolatile insecticidal baits in tamper resistant bait stations in areas inaccessible to children;
- silica gels and other nonvolatile ready-to-use pastes, foams, or gels in areas inaccessible to children;
- boric acid and disodium octaborate tetrahydrate;
- the application of EPA designated biopesticides
- the application of EPA designated exempt materials under 40CFR152.25;
- the use of aerosol products with a directed spray in containers of 18 fluid ounces or less when used to protect individuals from an imminent threat from stinging and biting insects including venomous spiders, bees, wasps, and hornets.

In the event of an emergency application necessary to protect against an imminent threat to human health, a good faith effort will be made to supply written notification to those on the 48-hour notification list.

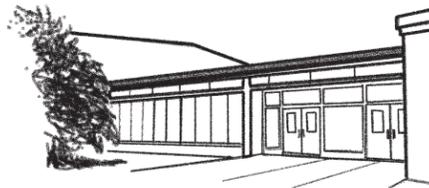
If you would like to receive 48-hour prior notification of pesticide applications that are scheduled to occur in your school, please complete the form below and return it to Terry Pulver, the Williamson Central School District pesticide representative at: PO Box 900, Williamson NY 14589 or fax (315) 589-7611.

<b>Williamson Central School District Request for Pesticide Application Notification (please print)</b>		
	<b>School Building</b>	
<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Day Phone:</b>	<b>Evening Phone</b>	<b>E-Mail Address:</b>

**Address:**

Please feel free to contact Terry Pulver, the Williamson Central School District pesticide representative at: PO Box 900, Williamson NY 14589, telephone no. (315) 589-9661, or fax no. (315) 589-7611.

# HIGH SCHOOL



Dan Starr,  
High School Principal

The goal of the High School is to prepare students to be successful at what they choose to do after graduation. This can be college, work, or the military. The guidelines, rules, and regulations are designed to safeguard a quality learning environment.

We welcome high school students for the first day of classes on Wednesday, September 5, at 7:30 a.m.

Upon entering the building, students should locate their name on homeroom lists that will be posted in each hallway, then proceed to the classroom of their homeroom teacher.

Students will receive their schedules, handbooks, and locker assignments. At 7:55 a.m., they will be called to the auditorium for Forum.

Again this year, each student will be provided with a Daily Planner (Student Assignment Book) that has room for assignments and projects. It also contains the student handbook, as well as the passes the students will use in the hallway. In addition, the Daily Planner also contains a great deal of reference information, from the periodic table to physics and trig equations. Our goal is to help the students be more organized and this is a way to accomplish that.

The pass system works as follows. In the Daily Planner, there are 8 "hallway passport" pages that students will use as student passes. Students are allowed to use two pages (containing 44 passes) each marking period. If a student wants to go somewhere in the building for his or her own purpose, the teacher will sign the hallway passport page in the Daily Planner and the student must have the planner with them to use this pass. If a staff member requests a student, the staff member will provide a pass.

## Staff Changes

When you return in September, you will find familiar faces in different roles.

- Mrs. Norlyn Legler is our new Assistant Principal. Last year, she taught our alternative education program.
- Mrs. Tracy O'Hara was a half-time counselor last year. This year, she'll be with us every day, working with students in grades 9-10. She replaces Ms. Lori Grenolds, who was

married over the summer and is returning to full-time studies at R.I.T.

- Ms. Allison McCain will be with us a few hours every other day to help teachers incorporate technology into their classroom teaching.

There will be some new faces greeting our students.

- Ms. Anthea Trombley will replace Mrs. Legler in our alternative program.
- Ms. Tracy Fisher will teach biology. She replaces Mrs. Kathy Fetes, who accepted a position at Webster's Spry School.
- Ms. Eva Shields will teach Spanish, replacing Ms. LoMaglio.
- Mrs. Sue Mintz has accepted the combined position of counselor and psychologist, replacing Mrs. O'Hara and Mrs. Premich.

One other staff change occurs in our English Department. Mrs. Fisler will return from maternity leave to teach English 11 half-time. Mrs. Luke will be full time this year and they will share the 11<sup>th</sup> grade English classes. Mrs. Shaw will return to her familiar role in English 10.

## Parking Permission

Seniors and juniors are entitled to apply for parking permission. Guidelines and procedures will be reviewed opening day, and parking permission applications will be available. Seniors and juniors will be allowed to park in the student parking section of the parking lot until September 17. After that date, only those with approved parking may park at school. Once students have arrived at school by bus or their own transportation, they are to enter the building.

## Dress Code

Finally, students are reminded that their clothing must be appropriate. We do not allow apparel that promotes the use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products. We also expect that students will not wear clothes containing explicit or implied sexual content or profanity, nor should they dress in a manner that allows underwear to be seen. We ask parents to ensure their children are dressed appropriately for school when they leave in the morning.

**Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications are available in the Main Office and will also be sent home in the September newsletter. Lunch price for students (K-12) is \$1.00. Reduced price lunches are \$.25. Milk is \$.30.**

As part of the newly enacted SAVE legislation dealing with student safety and the school's response to emergency situations, a code of conduct has been passed by the Board of Education. This code of conduct addresses many issues of concern. A summary can be found below. A full version can be found in each building library, the public library and on our website ([www.williamson-central.k12.ny.us](http://www.williamson-central.k12.ny.us)).

### I. Introduction

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and orderly school environment where students may receive and school personnel may deliver quality educational services without disruption or interference. Responsible behavior by students, teachers, other school personnel, parents and other visitors is essential to achieving this goal.

The district has a long-standing set of expectations for conduct on school property and at school functions. These expectations are based on the principles of civility, mutual respect, citizenship, character, tolerance, honesty and integrity.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to clearly define these expectations for acceptable conduct on school property, identify the possible consequences of unacceptable conduct, and to ensure that discipline when necessary is administered promptly and fairly.

### II. Students Rights and Responsibilities

The district is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under state and federal law. Students will also have a set of responsibilities for which they will be accountable.

### III. Essential Partners

These include parents, school personnel, teachers, counselors, administration, Superintendent and Board of Education.

### IV. Student Dress Code

All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress and appearance. Teachers and all other school personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting.

### V. Prohibited Student Conduct

The Board of Education expects students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of school facilities and equipment. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline. Students who will not accept responsibility for their own behavior and who violate these school rules will be required to accept the penalties for their conduct.

### VI. Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

### VII. Discipline Of Students With Disabilities

The Board of Education recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The Board of Education also recognizes that students with disabilities enjoy certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

### VIII. Student Searches and Interrogations

The Board of Education is committed to ensuring an atmosphere on school property and at school functions that is safe and orderly. To achieve this kind of environment, any school personnel authorized to impose a disciplinary penalty on a student may question a student about an alleged violation of law or the district code of conduct. In addition, the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to conduct searches of students and their belongings if the authorized school personnel has reasonable suspicion to believe that the search will result in evidence that the students violated the law or the district code of conduct.

### IX. Visitors

The Board of Education encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the district's schools and classrooms to observe the work of students, teachers, and other school personnel. Since schools are a place of work and learning, however, certain limits must be set for such visits. The Building Administrator is responsible for all persons in the building and on the grounds.

### X. Public Conduct on School Property

The district is committed to providing an orderly, respectful environment that is conducive to learning. To create and maintain this kind of an environment, it is necessary to regulate public conduct on school property and at school functions. The purpose of this code is to maintain public order and prevent abuse of the rights of others.

# ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**Kindergarten Visitation:**  
Tuesday, September 4, 2001  
1:00 - 2:00 PM

Incoming Kindergartners and their parents are welcome to come and visit, see their child's classroom and meet with the teachers. A school bus will be available to allow the new kindergartner's to take a short ride and to practice boarding and departing from the bus. We ask, because of the space limitation, that the focus be kept on the entering kindergarten students. Parking is available in the two parking lots adjacent to the school. Help us share the excitement of going to school.



**OPENING DAY**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2001**

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**  
Thursday, October 4, 2001 • 6:30 - 7:30 PM

## Be Wise Rules:

We are all looking forward to another BE WISE year. The BE WISE Program is our social skills program. It sets forth five areas of positive behaviors. The focus is on respect and regard for oneself and others. It emphasizes friendliness and cooperation as well as respect for a person's individuality. The five "BE WISE" rules are:

- x Respect yourself, adults and other students.
- x Cooperate and be helpful.
- x Respect the property of others.
- x Be friendly and kind
- x Respect the space of others.

### HELP WANTED:

Classroom Monitor  
Interested individuals should submit an application to Anne Ressler, Elementary School Principal.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL



Over the summer months the Williamson Middle School has been a beehive of activity in preparation to provide the best educational program for all of our students. Teachers are attending workshops, the custodial staff is working diligently to create a clean and positive learning environment and the secretaries are completing the many "behind the scenes" tasks that are vital to the operation of such a large organization. The Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) office has completed student schedules. These will be sent out in the Middle School informational packet that you will receive within the next few weeks.

We are all looking forward to the start of another exciting year at WMS!

## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGES

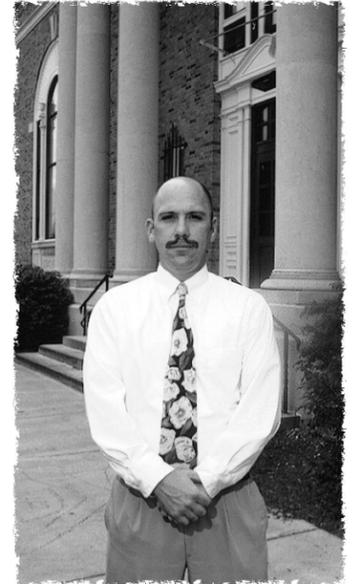
For the 2001-2002 school year we have moved homeroom from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. The purpose of this change is to bring improved closure to the hectic day of the middle school student. This will be a time when a staff member can check the student's School Assignment Book (S.A.B.) to make sure that all assignments are written down and that the student has the correct textbooks needed to complete homework. Students therefore are to go right to first period at the beginning of the day.

## STUDENT ASSIGNMENT BOOK (S.A.B.)

Each student is provided an S.A.B. at the beginning of the school year and is expected to have it with them at all times during the school day. The S.A.B. is used to keep track of homework assignments, long-term projects and hallway passes. Parents are encouraged to check the S.A.B. nightly and discuss their child's assignments with them. The S.A.B. is also a great tool for corresponding with your child's teacher and for your child's teacher to correspond with you. It is our goal that the students of Williamson Middle School move onto the High School with organizational skills as well as a sense of ownership and responsibility for their own education.

## OPEN HOUSE

The Middle School Open House is September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.



Russell Kissinger,  
Middle School Principal

## NEW STAFF

Russell Kissinger Middle School Principal  
Norlyn Legler – Assistant Principal  
David Fitch – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math  
Lisa Marshall – Special Education  
Karen Hoody – Reading Specialist  
Lisa Hendrickson – Special Education  
JoAnne Hussion – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English  
Rochelle Linderman – Special Education  
Bill Mitchell – Physical Education  
Karen Nail – Special Education – LTS



Norlyn Legler,  
Assistant Middle and High  
School Principal

