



Michael Havens
Superintendent of Schools

Phone: 315-524-0201
Fax: 315-524-4233
mhavens@wayne.k12.ny.us

Wayne Central School District

LETTER to the BOARD

December 19, 2003

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet, The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

- - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Greetings from Wayne Central School District. Below are some items of interest.

Newsletter:

1. **School Closing due to Illness** - I am certain many of you have heard the news of Penn Yan closing due to illness. In speaking with Gene Spanneut, Penn Yan Superintendent, he stated that they were at a district-wide 19% student absenteeism, with their middle school at 26% and high school at 22%. On Wed (12/10) district-wide absenteeism was 4.5%, 6% on Friday (12/12), 17% on Monday (12/15) and 19% on Wed. (12/17). A deciding factor was the steady accelerated increase in the student absentee numbers. They have initiated a district wide closing – including all school activities from December 18-January 5.

In researching this issue, we find there is no “quota” that is used as a guideline by the State Education Department or the State Health Department. Dr. Devore, school physician, is in contact with our school nurses to keep abreast of the situation at Wayne. We are tracking overall attendance percentages in each building (see attachment a). At this time, we have no concerns over our absenteeism as it has been steady and at a normal level for this time of year. As you will notice from the chart, the only real increase we have seen is at Freewill on Thursday.

We have asked the nurses in each building to keep us informed of abnormal jumps in absenteeism in their buildings.

2. **Water Loss at HS/MS** – On Wednesday evening the water was shut off to the high school and middle school by the town. There was a problem with a water main on Ridge Road at Ontario Center. Unfortunately, this occurred on the evening of the MS

Band Concert. I believe the duration of the water outage was less than two hours, so it did not cause any significant hardship for those at the concert. Our maintenance staff placed signs notifying the public of the situation.

3. **Full Day Kindergarten and Redistricting Meetings** – Over Christmas recess we will be putting together a timeline for meetings and activities to roll out our redistricting and full day kindergarten program. I hope to have that plan to you for the January meeting.
4. **Sales Tax Issue**- We are safe from a take back of the County Sales tax for the 2004 school year, however the following year will be a difficult battle. The county is experiencing some difficult budgeting issues and have been forced to make some cuts including our popular DARE program. I met with the incoming Town of Ontario Supervisor, Joe Molino. I explained the joint projects we are working on and the importance of the sales tax money. He assured me he would not support taking the money from the schools. He will face intense pressure from his county colleagues to do so, so if you know Joe, and you happen to run in to him, be sure to let him know how much you appreciate his support on this issue.
5. **Concert Reschedule** – The high school concert was cancelled on Sunday due to the weather conditions. It has been rescheduled for Monday, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center.
6. **Happy Holidays** - With the holiday recess ahead, we will be taking a break from the board letters and correspondence until January 5 when we will have the board agenda packets and board newsletter delivered to your home. I extend my very best wishes to you for happy holidays with family and friends. I look forward to the new year and all that it will bring for us at Wayne Central.

7. **Events** -

Dec. 22 – HS Band & Chorus Concert @ PAC – 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 7 – Board of Education Mtg @ OE – 7:00 p.m.

Jan.8 – Junior Honor Society Induction – MS – 6:00 p.m.

Athletics: (Home Games)

1/3 – Boys JV & V Basketball vs. York Central – 6:00 & 7:30 p.m.

1/5 – JV & V Bowling vs. Mynderse – 4:15 p.m.

1/6 – Boys JV & V Basketball vs. Penn Yan – 6:00 & 7:30 p.m.

1/7 – JV & V Bowling vs. Canandaigua – 4:15 p.m.

1/9 – Boys JV & V Basketball vs. Victor – 6:00 & 7:30 p.m.

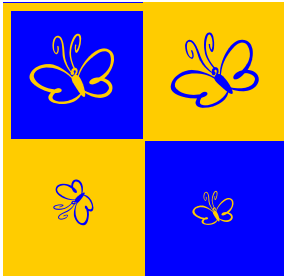
1/10 – JV & V Wrestling vs. Newark – 6:00 p.m.

8. Attachments –

- a. Student Absenteeism – Week of December 15
- b. Hopeworks Newsletter
- c. Walworth Town Board Meeting Minutes – 12/4

ABSENTEEISM – WEEK OF DECEMBER 15-19, 2003

	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
<u>FE</u>	37	20	24	57	68
(438)	8.4%	4.6%	5.5%	13%	15.5%
Normal Avg	3-6%				
<u>OP</u>	27	23	17	23	26
(381)	7.1%	6%	4.5%	6%	6.8%
Normal Avg	3-5%				
<u>OE</u>	44	38	31	39	29
(389)	11.3%	9.8%	8%	10%	7.5%
Normal Avg	3-6%				
<u>MS</u>	81	63	59	58	68
(711)	11.4%	8.9%	8.3%	8.2%	9.6%
Normal Avg	7%-11%				
<u>HS</u>	58	55	66	69	45
(864)	6.7%	6.4%	7.6%	8%	5.2%
Normal Avg	5-10%				
<u>Districtwide</u>	247	199	197	246	236
(2783)	8.9%	7.2%	7.1%	8.8%	8.5%
Normal Avg	5%-10%				



HopeWorks

A Wayne Central/ Community Partnership

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Smart Steps - for parents living in stepfamilies

Almost half of marriages each year are remarriages for one of both partners; most involve children.

Half of Americans today are or will be in a step relationship in their lifetime.

Smart Steps is a new research-based program developed through a collaboration between Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Stepfamily Association of America. The program provides a comprehensive educational base that recognizes the complex and the interdependent nature of relation-

ships within stepfamilies.

The program is offered once a week for parents and children ages 6-16 living in stepfamilies.

Separate sessions are held concurrently with participants coming together the last 20 minutes of each session for a family activity/

discussion. Lessons are informative and interactive and involve media, discussion and hands-on activities and exercises. They are educational and facilitated by

a trained parent educator with experience in family life education.

HopeWorks, jointly with Cornell Cooperative Extension, will be offering this program to interested Wayne Central School District families. If you wish to refer a family for this program, please call Karen Palmer @524-3295 or send an email to: kpalmer@wayne.k12.ny.us.



HopeWorks - Making Connections

This time of year is a particularly difficult time for families who are already feeling stressed by the financial demands of supporting a family.

Children need additional clothing to protect them from the cold, utility bills start to go up as the temperature goes down, and the holidays bring additional expectations that cannot always be

fulfilled. HopeWorks has received numerous calls regarding assistance for clothing, food and gifts. We work closely with organizations that provide additional support so that families can enjoy some of the same holiday spirit that many of us are able to enjoy. The Good Samaritan Clothes Closet, The Walworth

Food Closet and the Christmas Sharing program will be coming together on Saturday, December 20th to distribute the items to many families which will hopefully make their holiday a little brighter.



This Month's Character Traits are Caring and Compassion

Practicing Caring

- Courtesy
 - Kindness
 - Helping Others
- #### Practicing Compassion

- Forgiveness
- Generosity
- Understanding

Smile— It's Worth a Thousand Words!

The Good Samaritan Clothes Closet and HopeWorks

Are sponsoring a Winter Clothing Drive. We are in particular need of snow pants, boots and baby snowsuits. If you have any coats or other clothing you would like to donate, please email or call me at :

524-3295

kpalmer@wayne.k12.ny.us

Last year was a great success due to your support!

Let's do it again!

Thanks!

