



WESTWOOD

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2006

Volume 19 Number 1

The community newsletter keeps us connected to each other and to our town...
– Barbara Friedman
Newsletter Editor from 1988-2006

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Photo courtesy of Dwyer Photography, Inc.

Home games for high school athletes will soon be realized when the finishing touches are completed on the synthetic-turf field. Expected to be finished in October, a celebration is being planned.

Field Celebration Planned for October

Residents driving down Nahatan St. this summer may have noticed the hustle and bustle of a very active construction site, as contractors put the finishing touches on the long-awaited high school project. The academic portion of the building – including classrooms, library, offices, and auditorium – opened in February 2005, much to the delight of students and staff who began reaping the benefits of a modern, functional facility. But while the bricks and mortar were in place, the building project was far from complete, with playing fields, the gymnasium and swimming pool, and parking lots left to be constructed or renovated.

The centerpiece of that effort was the construction of a multi-purpose, synthetic-surface playing field, located on the Nahatan St. side of the building. The artificial turf system looks, feels and plays like natural grass, but is safer and far more durable. It is the latest in field

technology and is now the preferred choice among towns throughout the state and the nation.

This turf system will result in considerable benefits to the Town of Westwood. Among them, according to Superintendent of Schools John J. Antonucci, is ease of maintenance and potential cost savings. “Natural grass fields require far more attention, and consequently result in higher operating costs. Our new turf will not have to be watered, mowed, or fertilized, which cuts down on labor and results in costs savings to the town.” He also noted the field is permanently lined for football and soccer.

But while cost is always a factor, the most significant advantage to the community may be the increase in the number of hours the field can be used. The durability of the synthetic material, coupled with drainage technology that will handle even the most adverse rain conditions, means that our student-

athletes and other community groups can play more games on the field without degrading the surface. Director of Athletics Karl Fogel commented that “with natural grass, it is difficult to balance the demand for field space with the need to properly maintain it. Having a synthetic turf field improves our ability to make field space available on a year-round basis, and makes our playing schedule less weather-dependent.”

“ This is exciting... ”

The new athletic complex also includes a new rubberized, eight-lane running track, and other dedicated track and field spaces for the high jump, long jump, shot put, and discus events (at press time, the tentative completion date for the track was Summer 2007). “Hosting home track meets in a first-class facility is something we are really looking forward

Continued on page 4

Did You Know . . .

- **Westwood is Certified as a No Place for Hate Community.** The Town of Westwood has officially been certified as a *2006 No Place for Hate Community* by the Anti-Defamation League. In order to become a *No Place for Hate Community*, specific activities were accomplished by the Town, including the declaration of a No Place for Hate Proclamation, raising community awareness at the Police Department's Open House, an Interfaith service on Thanksgiving and a "Response to Hate," which was a program that provided the public with information on hate crimes and how to deal with them. As Westwood is now certified as a *No Place for Hate Community*, the Town will demonstrate continued dedication to the program's goals and ideals. The Town will create a standard of respect for individual, as well as group, differences throughout Massachusetts and our nation, while leading our town in an important fight to end racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry.
- The **Westwood Public Library** is now offering a downloadable audio-book service for town residents. Available through the Library's web site www.westwoodlibrary.org users select the eAudiobooks icon and with their library card number have access to an exciting array of popular and classic titles. These books can be downloaded to a computer or MP3 device. This free service has more than 1,500 books by such authors as Stephen King, Alexander McCall Smith, Philip Roth, Anna Quindlen, and Philippa Gregory. More information is available on the web site and at the main and Branch libraries.
- **Volunteer Medical Corps** — The **Westwood Board of Health** is looking for volunteers to join the newly formed **Volunteer Medical Corps** in cooperation with the Boards of Health in Canton, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Norwood and Wellesley, and Massachusetts Public Health Region 4B. The **Westwood Volunteer Medical Corps (VMC)** will work to develop a cadre of trained volunteers and coordinate the efforts of these medical, public health and other local emergency response volunteers to guarantee a timely and harmonized volunteer response for local and regional public health emergencies. If you are interested in joining the **Westwood Volunteer Medical Corps**, please contact **Linda Shea**, Health Director at 781.302.1026.
- **Voter Information:** *State Primary:* 9/19/06
State Election: 11/7/06
The last day to register for the November election is October 18th.
- **Hazardous Waste Day** is September 30, 2006 at the Highway Yard, 50 Carby Street.
- **Holiday Trash Schedules** will be in effect for the holiday weeks including Thanksgiving (Nov. 23rd 2006), Christmas (Dec. 25th 2006), and New Years (Jan. 1st 2007). Whenever a scheduled collection day falls on a holiday, that day's collection and all remaining collections for that week will be delayed one day; Friday's collection will be on Saturday.
- **Leaves and grass clippings** will be collected the weeks of September 18, October 16, and November 14 through December 8, 2006, on the regular collection day. For updates, the Trash and Recycling phone number is 781-251-2592.

- Some sections of Westwood have multiple options for **high-speed internet access**. In addition to Comcast, Verizon now offers "FIOS," a fiber high-speed internet and DSL service to selected sections of Westwood. In an effort to bring favorable competition to the town, Westwood is discussing with Verizon about the possibility of providing cable television services to the town via FIOS. The Town of Westwood can not legally enter into an agreement that is not compatible with the existing Comcast license. The Cable and Technology Advisory Board (CTAB) has had numerous meetings with Verizon representatives who have yet to agree on several of the town's requests, including financial proposals favorable to Westwood, that will meet the legal requirements as outlined in the original Comcast license. For further information, please contact CTAB at 781-320-1021.
- Plans are underway for the **4th Annual Open House** at the **Westwood Police Department**. The Open House will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2006, from 11:00AM until 3:00PM. During these hours residents are welcome to visit the station, meet the Chief of Police and the Officers under his command, learn about the Police Explorer Program, proper installation of child car seats, and test your fastball against the radar speed gun. Other activities and informational presentations are being scheduled, as well. This event has been a popular destination in previous years, and all town residents and their friends are invited to attend.
- The **Adopt an Island Program** is in its seventh year and the Board of Selectmen appreciates the commitment and generosity of the following sponsors, who are part of this wonderful effort to beautify the Town.

Buonato Granite & Marble
Coldwell Banker
Cooperative Bank
Dedham Institution
for Savings
Dinneen Landscaping
Donlon Draper Inc.
Duke Energy/Algonquin Gas
Einstein's Landscaping
First Parish Church
Garden Tech
Horticultural Services

Guidon Landscaping
Hale Reservation
High Rock Garden Club
Ian Brown Landscaping
Mitchell Landscape
New England Golf
R&A Pisano Landscaping
Sovereign Bank
Westwood Historical Society
Westwood Rotary
Westwood Young Women's
Club

If anyone is interested in "adopting an island," please contact the Board of Selectmen's office at 781-326-4172.



Island adopted by Duke Energy / Algonquin Gas.

Redevelopment of University Ave.

A Community Update

Introduction

The Town of Westwood has had a decade-long goal to revitalize the commercial areas of town that have been in an ongoing state of decline for several years. Through the 1980s, Westwood benefited from a stable revenue stream from commercial properties that served to supplement residential tax revenues. Since the late 1980s, commercial taxes have declined from 38% of the total property taxes to the current level of 24%. This reduction is the result of commercial property appreciation growing at a slower rate than residential properties and the increasing vacancy rate within the 250-acre University Avenue Industrial Park.

The Town has responded to the sluggish performance of commercial properties by instituting focused changes. These include projecting a more business-friendly attitude, more clearly defining the permitting process, and revising zoning by-laws. Throughout the last decade, numerous zoning changes were approved by Town Meeting to encourage redevelopment. Most of these changes were designed to encourage office development. However, the office market has not rebounded. Westwood's 2004 Town Meeting took a bold step by allowing for greater density of building development on sites as allowed *by right* rather than by *special permit* within University Avenue Park. Even with this action, there were no changes in the status of the park and no turn around in conditions was projected. Then, when the possibility of a concentrated mixed-use development began to surface, the 2005 Town Meeting approved three Mixed-Use Overlay Districts (MUODs) to permit residential, as well as commercial and retail development within the park.

Proposed Redevelopment by Cabot, Cabot & Forbes

Cabot, Cabot & Forbes (CC&F) has long had a presence along University Avenue with its ownership of the General Motors building adjacent to the MBTA garage. In response to the zoning changes enacted at the 2005 Town Meeting, CC&F assembled approximately 135 acres of land within the University Avenue Park. CC&F is currently preparing to apply to Westwood's Planning Board for a Special Permit to redevelop these 135 acres into a Smart Growth development that includes a mix of uses in close proximity to a public transportation center, as envisioned by both

the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Westwood.

Steering Committee

The Board of Selectmen formed the University Avenue Steering Committee in the fall of 2005 to provide Town directed input into the redevelopment of University Avenue. The Steering Committee is comprised of numerous volunteers serving on town Boards and Commissions, residents and professional consultants to the town. Over the course of three months, four working groups within the overall committee analyzed, discussed and generated valuable ideas intended to provide direction from the Town's viewpoint on how the proposed project should take shape. The resulting report will be a resource to the town permitting authorities, including the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Conservation Commission, when they undertake their review of a specific project application. The findings in the report have already given direction and will continue to serve as a useful means of communication to the project developers in terms of the Town's expectations and needs.

Report Highlights

The four working groups of the Steering Committee – Design, Transportation, Environmental and Financial – analyzed the redevelopment concepts of University Avenue and identified the many opportunities and benefits that would come to Westwood. The Town will be able to obtain upgrades to the infrastructure in the area inclusive of improvements to existing traffic situations and the Town's major water supply. The community will also benefit from having a vibrant retail area that incorporates stores and restaurants in an attractive and inviting setting. Further, the Town will be able to receive substantial net property tax revenues that well exceed the costs associated with any additional staffing the Town needs to put in place.

Solutions to Traffic In and Around University Avenue

Discussions of University Avenue continue to highlight the importance of addressing both the current traffic conditions in neighborhoods surrounding the commercial district and the impact of the contemplated redevelopment within the Park. An intensive effort has been put forth to bring neighbors together to find viable alternatives regarding traffic solutions. The Steering Committee has affirmed a position statement that Westwood's neighborhood

streets should not become "feeder" streets to any major development. With this in mind, the Town has engaged consultants to assist it in designing traffic plans that improve neighborhood conditions and uses the regional highway system for access to University Avenue.

Development Agreement

The Town will have specific legal agreements to enhance the Town's enforcement authority over the Westwood Station development. This will be accomplished through a Development Agreement between the Town's Board of Selectmen and Cabot, Cabot & Forbes. The Development Agreement will address a wide variety of topics, including (1) the developer's obligations to upgrade roadways, utilities, and other Town infrastructure, (2) additional payments to the Town for additional Town services anticipated due to this redevelopment project, (3) enhanced authority over construction phasing and management agreements that will minimize impacts on surrounding neighborhoods and (4) the creation of and maintenance of permanent public benefits, which may include parks or other recreation areas, that will be provided to the Town. Most importantly, the Development Agreement will give the Town a direct means to monitor that permit and contractual agreements are abided by the developers throughout the ten- to fifteen-year development period. For example, the developer projects a small number of school-age children moving into this new residential area. If this projection is incorrect, and there are a considerable number of students, then CC&F will be required to pay for any capital costs necessary to accommodate those students.

Planning Board – Special Permit Application

Prior to any development occurring, the developer needs to obtain authorization through a special permit from the Planning Board. Additional authorizations will be required from the Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeal. As of the publishing of this article, it is expected that the developer of Westwood Station will submit an application for a special permit in the early fall.

For additional information regarding the Steering Committee Report, please check the Town of Westwood web site – <http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us> (University Avenue Redevelopment).

Dollars & Sense

**What Went On at the May Annual Town Meeting....and
A Look at FY2007 Final State Aid**

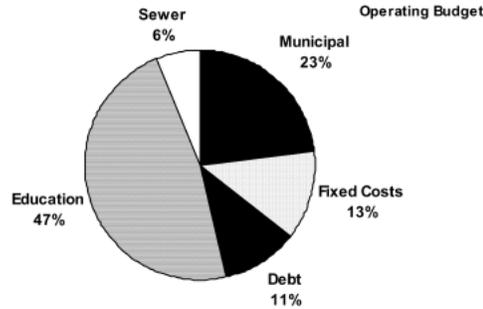
The 2006 Annual Town Meeting was held on May 1, with adjourned sessions on May 2 and May 8. Approximately 300 residents were present at various stages of those evenings. The Town Warrant consisted of 43 articles which are questions upon which residents were asked to vote.

Those questions included important issues such as Town finances, senior residential development, and zoning bylaw amendments. A complete listing can be seen on the Town's web site, www.townhall.westwood.ma.us.

The following Town operating budget and capital expenditures were approved by residents.

Town Operating Budget

Fiscal Year 2007 Approved Town Operating Budget	
Municipal	\$13,253,967
Fixed Costs	\$7,287,385
Debt	\$6,164,592
Education	\$27,326,092
Sewer Enterprise	\$3,534,149
Total	\$57,566,185



Town Capital - In addition, the Town approved capital expenditures of \$1.6M for important Municipal, School, and Sewer projects and equipment.

Update on Final FY07 State Aid

The Town received its final FY07 state aid upon passage of the state budget. Final amounts are shown in the chart below. The largest category, Chapter 70 Education Aid, while higher in FY07 than FY06, was not at the level proposed in the Senate budget and is still below the FY03 level.

State Aid Receipts					
	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007
Chapter 70-Education	\$2,635,628	\$2,108,502	\$2,108,502	\$2,250,702	\$2,588,559
School Building Assistance	\$330,466	\$327,161	\$226,025	*\$0	*\$0
Lottery	\$747,149	\$635,077	\$635,077	\$721,560	\$857,639
Other/Reimbursements	\$362,908	\$197,069	\$222,123	\$234,916	\$241,807
Offsets-Restricted to Metco, Library, School Lunch)	\$185,679	\$166,850	\$188,436	\$217,988	\$29,099
Total Receipts	\$4,261,830	\$3,434,659	\$3,380,163	\$3,425,166	\$3,717,104
Charges					
County Tax	\$155,619	\$153,089	\$156,916	\$154,381	\$158,240
MBTA Assessment	\$314,096	\$297,187	\$280,407	\$263,622	\$271,824
Other	\$74,266	\$64,704	\$77,565	\$68,309	\$80,359
Total Charges	\$543,981	\$514,980	\$514,888	\$486,312	\$510,423
Net State Aid	\$3,717,849	\$2,919,679	\$2,865,275	\$2,938,854	\$3,206,681

*No longer a cherry sheet item.

Comments and/or suggestions for future articles?
Contact Pam Dukeman at: PDukeman@Townhall.Westwood.MA.US

Did You Know...

continued

- **Barbara Friedman**, Director of the Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly, accepted the **Exemplary Program Award** from the National Council on Aging for its *Generation Together*, an intergenerational program that provides opportunities for elderly tenants to interact with young people in such activities as fitness classes, email pen pal programs, or film discussion groups. Barbara is the former editor of the Westwood Community Newsletter.

Note from the Editor:

I have always felt privileged to be a part of this town. As I meet more friends and neighbors, I realize many feel the same as I do. I invite residents with articles of community interest to submit them for review and placement in this newsletter.

Send all correspondence to:
Westwood Community Newsletter
580 High Street, Westwood, MA 02090
or email:

newsletter@townhall.westwood.ma.us

Thank you,

Diane Thornton, *Editor*

Field Grand Opening - continued from page 1

to," said Fogel, "This is exciting for both our student-athletes and for Westwood residents who enjoy a walking track."

Other features of the site include a new building that will house a concession stand and public restrooms. For the booster clubs and parent organizations that operate the concession stands, the larger space should be a welcome sight. The community will also enjoy ample seating in the new, 1,000 seat capacity bleacher system. The bleachers are steel-framed, with aluminum bench seating that is coated with an anti-skid material that will provide a safe walking surface for the fans. A new press box sits atop the bleachers. The entire facility, including bleachers and press box, is handicapped accessible.

“ I am grateful for the generosity of our residents and am pleased for our students... ”

Another component of the field's facelift includes new lights, which were erected in June. Since the cost of lights was not included in the original project, the Westwood Fields Association, local youth groups, the athletic boosters club, the school department, and the town all contributed towards the purchase, which according to Antonucci is another example of what makes Westwood so special. "I never cease to be amazed at the support we are afforded by the community. When we have a need, the spirit of collaboration grows even stronger. I am grateful for the generosity of our residents and am pleased for our students who will have the privilege of playing under the lights."

With the end in sight, school department officials are planning a Grand Opening celebration for October 13, which will include a Spaghetti Dinner in the high school cafeteria followed by a Friday night football game. The night will also feature a field dedication ceremony for longtime high school administrator and Westwood resident, Charles Flahive, for whom the field is named. "It is rare and special for someone to devote an entire career to one school," Antonucci said, "I am thrilled for Charlie and his family that the School Committee voted to bestow this honor upon him." Details on the October 13 event will be publicized in the Fall.

Westwood History Coming Alive

As you drive through Westwood center, you have probably noticed the “Red House” next to Dunkin Donuts. It is a relative newcomer to its current location at 909 High Street, but it has been a part of Westwood’s history for nearly 200 years. Built in 1812 by Obed Baker for his wife Betsey Metcalf Baker, the house was first located at 965 High Street next to the Baker family homestead. In 1924, it was moved to 1007 High Street where it remained for 77 years.

In 2000, the town bought the house for the Westwood Affordable Housing Associates with the intention of using it for two units of affordable housing. In an effort to save the historic structure and add affordable housing, a plan was developed to move the Red House and build a new structure on its site. On June 24, 2001, the house moved about a half mile down High Street to the vacant land near the Baker Grove entrance to the New Cemetery. In June 2005, the Board of Selectmen, authorized by a Town Meeting vote, transferred ownership of the Baker house to the Westwood Historical Society.

The Society has some experience and expertise with building restorations, having successfully restored the Fisher School in 1999. Since that time, the schoolhouse has been a wonderful resource for the town, providing an historical venue for the Society’s programs, concerts and exhibits. It has also been a valuable resource for our school children. Each year third graders throughout the town have the unique opportunity to step back in time and spend a day at the schoolhouse doing the things that school children did in the mid-1800s.

In taking on this new challenge, the Historical Society hopes to add another historic asset to the town of Westwood. Their plan is to make the house a living museum that faithfully recreates life in the early part of the 19th century and shows how people furnished and heated their homes, stored their food, prepared their meals, etc.

The Society began restoring the Baker House last June. The first order of business was to secure the outside of the house, replacing the roof and chimneys (removed for the move down High Street), sealing the back of the house which was wrapped in a protective tarp after a rear addition was removed, and replacing the rotted exterior shingles. During August, the roof was replaced and a rear entrance was added to provide access to the lower level. In the fall, the exterior was painted red – faithful to its original color.

As spring arrived, the Society resumed the restoration, focusing on the landscaping. The lot was graded, crushed stone driveway and walkways installed, a layer of topsoil added, and grass seed planted.

Going forward, the restoration will concentrate on the house’s interior. The initial focus will be on the living and dining room restorations. Both rooms have many interesting architectural details, including beehive oven; original windows and floors; wainscoting, chair rails, and moldings; lath and horsehair ceilings and walls; and an interesting 10" wide plank split to make ceiling lath. The Society plans to highlight these features and other decorative details with educational



Work on the Baker House began in June 2005.

displays for all who visit the Baker House. When completed, the Baker House will be a handicapped accessible living museum serving as a venue for the Society’s educational programs and exhibits. The Society welcomes donations for the Baker House restoration. If you would like to support them in this effort, please send your tax-deductible donation to the Westwood Historical Society, P.O. Box 2575, Westwood, MA 02090.

Thanks to John Pritchard for his photos of the restoration.

The Baker House as it appears in May 2006 with most of the exterior restoration and landscaping complete.



Playground Project Update

The Westwood Young Women’s Club (WYWC) has raised almost 30% of the funds needed to rebuild the School Street Playground.

In May, members of the WYWC asked the Town Selectmen if they could campaign to raise the funds needed to replace the old wooden play structures at the School Street Playground in Islington. The Club’s membership was concerned about the safety of the current structures, which are almost twenty years old. The Selectmen approved the proposed plan.

Since May, the women have been meeting with local businesses asking for donations. Roche Brothers has donated

\$15,000 and the Westwood Planning Board has allocated \$20,000 from a discretionary fund. Last spring, the WYWC sent informational flyers and donation cards home with all Westwood elementary and pre-school children. The public response has been very positive and donation cards continue to be received.

With public support, the School Street Playground will once again be a safe and fun playground for Westwood’s children. There are many opportunities to support the playground, including personalized bricks, benches, tables and specific pieces of equipment. In addition, there will be a permanent sign at the

playground recognizing large sponsors. Donation forms are available at www.WYWC.org and at Islington Pizza, High Street Market, the libraries and the post offices. Individuals who decide to donate to the playground should check with their employer to determine if there may be a matching donation program available.

The Westwood Young Women’s Club is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible. The Club intends to donate all purchased playground equipment to the Town of Westwood.

 <p>WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS THE BEST PLACE TO LEARN</p>	<p>September, 2006</p>
	 <p>Page 1</p>

Dear Westwood Resident,

It is hard to believe another school year has begun. As much as I enjoy the summer — and I know our students do too! — there is nothing quite like the energy you feel when school opens in September.

This year is bound to be challenging, as we continue to balance the needs of Westwood students with the need to present our residents a responsible budget. Throughout the Commonwealth, schools and municipalities are struggling to maintain existing service levels, as the rising costs of fuel, healthcare, special education, and other fixed costs cut into precious resources. As I work with the School Committee to develop our budget, I am committed to maintaining a high level of communication with the community. It is my goal to ensure that no questions or concerns go unanswered.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of our school system. It is greatly appreciated.

Jahid Atouma

Technology and Its Impact on Today's Classroom

by Emily Parks, High School Principal

The citizens of Westwood have powerfully demonstrated their commitment to providing students with a top-notch education by investing in a beautiful new high school facility that will serve generations. What a gift our new building is! We have a 21st century facility equipped with the technology that we need to educate our students to be citizens in the 21st century world.

Spend any time around teenagers, and you will quickly realize that, technologically speaking, you may have some catching up to do. We are educating a population of students who do not know a world without the Internet. Our faculty is faced with the challenge of continuing their own learning so that they can effectively teach students the skills necessary to be successful in college and beyond – knowing that in some cases those skills have changed quite a bit since they, themselves, were in college.

Consider this: I was a psychology major in college in the late 80s. When I was assigned a research paper, I would go to the library and search for my topic by looking up keywords in an index called Psych abstracts that was published each year. Having noted the citations, I would find out which library on campus carried each of the journals cited. I would criss-cross the campus on foot, traveling to each library to search through the stacks of bound journals until I found the article I wanted.

Technology, Continued on Page 2

GET INVOLVED

The Westwood School Committee meets monthly in the Little Theater at Westwood High School. Residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about our school system and have the opportunity to provide input to School Committee members and District Administration. Meeting agendas and schedules are posted on the District website at

www.westwood.k12.ma.us

New Thurston Students Get Off to a "Running Start"

As the sixth graders from the five elementary schools converged at the Thurston Middle School on August 29th for their orientation, a small group of students were truly "new" to the scene. Assistant Principal Allison Borchers organized an extended orientation for students who were beginning their Westwood school career at the Middle School. During the four day *Running Start* program, the students attended academic sessions and participated in activities designed to help them get to know each other, the school and other Thurston students.

On August 29th, the day of the sixth grade open house, each new student was paired with a Deerfield School graduate for a special host day. The Deerfield students—Chris Frangieh, CJ Hunter, Olivia Smith, Heather Sullivan, Matthew Trossett, Claire Underhill, Alyssa Verzino, and Molly Wolf—welcomed their classmates, had lunch at Islington Pizza, toured the town, and played mini-golf together. By making the social connection even before the first day of school, Westwood students had an opportunity to take a leadership role as they began sixth grade, and the students new to Westwood had friendly faces to greet them when Thurston's doors opened officially on September 7th.

SCHOOL STREET PLAYGROUND PROJECT

The Westwood Young Women's Club is soliciting donations and support to help rejuvenate the School Street playground.

Donations are tax-deductible. For more information call (781) 407-0448 or visit their website at www.wywc.org

	<h1>WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS</h1> <p>THE BEST PLACE TO LEARN</p>		<p>September, 2006</p>
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Technology and Its Impact on Today's Classroom, from Page 1

By graduation, I was quite skilled at this research method, and I'm confident that I could teach my students to be good 1980's researchers too. Unfortunately, that particular skill set won't do much good at college today. Though the way I used sources once I found them is still relevant, my strategies for seeking information are obsolete. The resources that are at students' disposal today are so different than when I was in college. Libraries today don't just have books and microfiche; they subscribe to electronic databases, e-journals, archives of digital images, and large data sets. At Westwood High School, for example, we subscribe to an on-line database that allows students to search and access full text articles from *The New York Times* from its first issue in 1857 to the present. Imagine that with a few clicks of the mouse, a student can read and print a newspaper account from 1862 about the Civil War. What's more, as a WHS student, he can access this resource, not just in the library, but via the Internet from any computer at any time by entering a password. In this new information age, we increasingly focus both on teaching students the tools for accessing resources and the thinking skills necessary to evaluate the quality and meaning of those sources.

In addition to changing the skills and the content that we teach to reflect 21st century needs, technology is changing *how* we teach students as well. While preserving what has worked for decades (I believe that electronic conferences will never take the place of a good class discussion, on-line articles will never completely replace the experience of leafing through a good book, interactive lessons on the Web will never be as powerful as interacting with a wonderful teacher), technology also allows us to expand and improve our instructional repertoire. Consider some of the lessons that I recently observed:

- In a pre-calculus class the teacher modeled electronically on the "smart board" what would happen to a hyperbola as the value on a particular coefficient decreased. With a click of a button, the teacher adjusted the coefficient lower and lower, and we watched the resulting change in the shape of the graph. I saw math differently that day.
- In an art class, during a class discussion, a student made a connection between the painting the class was studying and the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. As the teacher began to explain to the class who Wright was and to describe his architecture, she suddenly stopped herself and said, "Well, I'll show you!" Less than 10 seconds later, we were looking at an Internet image of Wright's Falling Water on the electronic white board. The teacher was able to capitalize on a "teachable moment," and draw on this student's insight to enrich the class discussion.
- In a social studies class, a teacher introduced a lesson on the acquisition of the Panama Canal by projecting a live web shot of the canal on the board as students entered the class. I heard a student say, "Look! There's a ship going through it right now!" The teacher's "hook" had worked: he had brought his lesson to life, and consequently found himself with a room full of engaged students.

While tremendously exciting, it can also be daunting to contemplate this new educational context. The good news is our teachers and our students are up to the challenge. As we begin a new school year, let me once again thank the citizens of Westwood for investing in the education of its children and for ensuring that Westwood High School is an exciting and vibrant place to teach and to learn.

CONTACT US!

Westwood residents can reach the School Department in many ways. Below is some important contact information:

Main Telephone:	(781) 326-7500
Superintendent's e-mail:	jantonucci@westwood.k12.ma.us
Website URL:	www.westwood.k12.ma.us
Address:	220 Nahatan St., Westwood, MA 02090
Office Hours:	Monday-Friday, 8:00 am—4:00 pm



TOWN BULLETIN BOARD

TOWN and SCHOOL EVENTS and HOLIDAYS

September 30 Hazardous Waste Collection Day
9-12 a.m., Highway Yard, 50 Carby Street
October 2 Schools Closed – Yom Kippur
October 9 Schools Closed – Columbus Day

October 21 4th Annual Open House – Police Department
11 a.m.–3 p.m.
590 High Street
November 23, 24 Schools and Town Hall Closed – Thanksgiving

WESTWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAIN LIBRARY — Fall Programs

Programs for Preschoolers

Sep 12-Oct 17 **Preschool Literacy Adventures** —
Nov 7-Dec 12 Ages 2-3 with caregiver
Tuesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Sep 13-Oct 18 **Storytime** — Ages 3-5
Nov 8-Dec 13 Wednesdays, 10:15-11:00 a.m.
Sep 15-Oct 20 **Babies & Books** — Under 2 years with caregiver
Nov 10-Dec 15 Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

*Children must be the appropriate age by the first day of each session.
Registration is required and begins August 15th for Westwood residents.
Non-residents may register after Sept. 1st if space is available.*

Programs for School Age Children

Sep 12-Oct 17 **Wishing Well** — Ages 5 and up
Nov 7-Dec 12 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Registration is required
and begins August 15.

Oct 7 **Storytelling Saturdays** —
Nov 4 Ages 2½ and up with families.
Storytelling with special guests and librarians.
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration begins
1 month prior.

Oct 19 **A Story for Every Season** —
Dec 14 Grandparents, grandkids and all!
An Early Childhood Council, Council on Aging and
Library CPC Program
Thursdays, 1:00 p.m. Registration will be required,
please call the ECC at 781-461-9548.

Oct 31 **Annual Halloween Storytime and Costume Parade**
All ages, costumes optional but encouraged!
Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.

Sept 11 **Massachusetts Book Award Book Club**
Oct 16 Monthly discussion group focusing on a Mass Book
Nov 6 Award title. Recommended for grades 3-5.
Dec 4 Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Participants must have finished the book.
Titles TBA — Parents welcome too!

Oct 5 **Main Library Social Hours**
Nov 2 Early Childhood Council/Library Program
Dec 7 Social and educational event for families.
Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Registration begins two weeks prior through
ECC at 781-461-9548

Programs for Adults

Oct 13 **Pageturners: A Presentation of Reading Suggestions**
Nov 10 Fridays, 3:00 p.m.

ISLINGTON BRANCH — Fall Programs

Sept 14 - Oct 19 **Storytime** — Ages 3½ and up
Nov 9 - Dec 14 Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 a.m.
Registration is required, please call Branch.

Oct 3, 10, **Young Reader's Book Club** — Grades 2-4
Oct 17, 24 Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m.
Registration is required, please call Branch.

*For additional programs and further information, please call the Main Library Children's Department at 781-320-1042
or the Islington Branch at 781-326-5914 or visit the web site at www.westwoodlibrary.org/home*

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