



HOME Warren Bulletin SCHOOL

Parents & Teachers -- working together for children.

December 15, 2008

Budget Survey

With today's Bulleting, we're sending home a survey to inviting your input on budget priorities for the FY'10 school year. This coming year is the first budget cycle to be affected by Act 82, legislation passed in 2007. Among other provisions, the law provides for a "cap" on school spending by requiring a second vote on any spending over a 3.9% increase (this year's number). With salaries and other fixed expenses increasing at a greater rate, school boards have to find ways of prioritizing and limiting their expenditures.

The survey asks parents to choose a priority statement that best represents their views, and provide any additional comments and suggestions. If you're reading this Bulletin electronically, you can respond via email to alehner@warrenschoool.org

Here are the three statements:

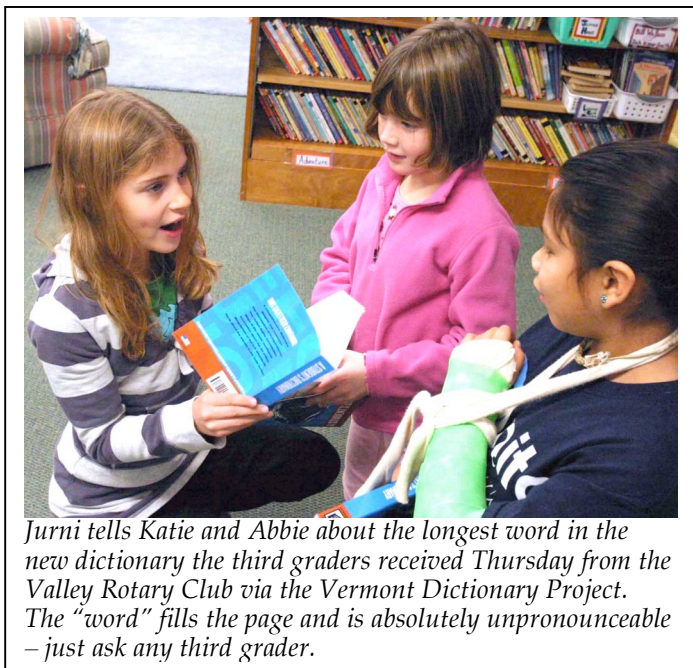
- A. A Foreign Language program of the kind we could be offering is essential to a complete education; it's more important than building maintenance, curriculum or technology upgrades.
- B. While I appreciate the importance of learning a second language, realistically our limited resources don't allow us to offer to provide the kind of program that will make a real difference to children. On the other hand, we need to provide students with the tools they need for learning, and we should not neglect our facility and our equipment.
- C. With all the cutbacks and retrenchments in the state budget and the general economic hardship that we're seeing across the country and that are sure to be affecting us in the near future (even though things may not look that bad right now), we should only ask the voters to pay for the most essential services. We should defer any optional maintenance and should reduce programs and services to lighten the load.

From the library *Ellen Drysdale writes,*

Christmas vacation is a lovely time to spend time reading. Be sure to include some new books under the tree, or pillow. I suggest you choose a family read-aloud to start reading on Dec. 26, when everyone is feeling tired and mopey. Roald Dahl books are great, or a classic like *Mr. Popper's Penguins*, *Harry Potter*, or *Tom Sawyer* (for the older kids). Let me know if you want suggestions for your family!

Thanks so much for supporting the Scholastic Book Fair. We got to keep 25% of the proceeds, and so have about \$650 to support special events and purchases.

The Warren Book Buddies club received their book, *The Magician's Nephew*, last week, and need to have it read by January 15, when the book discussion is



Jurni tells Katie and Abbie about the longest word in the new dictionary the third graders received Thursday from the Valley Rotary Club via the Vermont Dictionary Project. The "word" fills the page and is absolutely unpronounceable – just ask any third grader.

scheduled. If any students in grades 4-6 still would like to join for this session, it's not too late!

Physical Education Notes *Leigh Clark writes*
Kudos to everyone! Last week the Warren School received the 2nd place award for Division III from the American Heart Association for last year's *Jump Rope For Heart*. Students raised a total of \$3,463. Thanks to all the students, families and businesses who contributed. This year *Jump Rope For Heart* will be on Monday, February 9, 2009.

Health Notes: Holiday Safety *Fran Blair writes,*
The holidays should be a magical time for children. Yet each year, hospital emergency rooms treat many people for injuries, such as falls, cuts, and shocks related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in numerous fires annually, resulting in deaths, injuries and millions of dollars in property loss and damage. Young children are particularly at risk for injury from sharp objects, such as glass ornaments, or from well-intentioned gifts of toys that are not appropriate to their age.

A few things to remember:

- If you buy an artificial tree look for the label that says "Fire Resistant". Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.