

Wellesley Public Schools
40 Kingsbury Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02481



Superintendent's Bulletin

www.wellesley.k12.ma.us/district/bulletins.htm

Bella T. Wong
Superintendent of Schools

Bulletin #14
December 23, 2011

The Superintendent's Bulletin is posted weekly on Fridays on our website. It provides timely, relevant information about meetings, professional development opportunities, curriculum and program development, grant awards, and School Committee news. The bulletin is also the official vehicle for job postings. Please read the bulletin regularly and use it to inform colleagues of meetings and other school news.

Dear Colleagues,

Sometimes when life has dealt one an unfair hand, I think it is also fair to say that the path of least resistance can be to be negative or angry in response. There are times when anyone would agree certain circumstances would allow for some bitterness, anger, or even despair. In those circumstances, when the response is in fact far from and instead demonstrates extraordinary acceptance, hope and resiliency, it causes us to take pause to reflect on the magnitude of what we have observed through this shared experience.

Sherry Savilonis is responsible for all of our SIMS and EPIM submittals, plus being the District's key PowerSchool programmer. Sherry is one of those critical, behind the scenes workers without which we could not do what we need to do to support our work with students. Sherry was always tireless and positive in her work and loves to be around people. She loves to share recipes, stories and a good laugh.

In August, Sherry went to see the doctor because she wasn't feeling well and had a sore throat. We were stunned to learn that visit evolved quickly into an unexpected diagnosis of acute leukemia. She was told she would need to start immediate aggressive treatment and not to expect to be able to go back to work the remainder of the school year. We laughed because one of Sherry's immediate concerns was whether she could bring her laptop to continue to work on school files for opening of school. Of course she was told not to worry about that and she was made to leave it behind. But when I visited her in the hospital, there she was in bed with the laptop on her lap with her right hand comfortably resting on top. Sherry clearly prevailed on that point. It was not a surprise because Sherry was stubbornly committed to her work.

Sherry is an incredibly social person and loved having visitors. While Sherry rested a bit I filled the time with stories about the highlights of the family trip to Wyoming. I only left to make room for the next round of friends. She was open about her situation, showed me her beautiful bald head and shared her commitment to her treatment and recovery. There was no doubt in her mind that she was up for this battle with her cancer. And fight she has.

August and September were mixed with ups and downs but interspersed with encouraging news of possibilities and improvement. But very sadly, just four months after the original diagnosis, it has been confirmed that the cancer is no longer responding to treatment. It is hard to accept.



Right now Sherry wishes to focus her time with family and is no longer able to receive visitors or to respond to individual inquiries. But she wants the many of us who have been rooting for her to know she is "ready and not afraid" and counts her blessings. In her own words, "I have been so fortunate to be a part of so many people's lives and accepted into so many families. I have had a really good life. I really truly have been blessed." In reference to her daughter, Melissa who has been by her side these last few months, "Truly, how blessed?" She and her daughter send their love and deep appreciation for everyone's support and love.

As we live our day-to-day, we never know when the power of an individual's strength of humanity will stop us in our tracks to cause us to re-evaluate what we thought were the pros and cons of our existence and what is truly important or not. Out of another's adverse circumstances, we can find ourselves inspired and uplifted by the power of the positive attributes of that person's character. What an extraordinary gift for us to receive.

Best wishes,

Bella

Calendar

12/26 – 1/2/12 Year End Vacation
1/3/12 – School Reopens
1/10/12 – School Committee Mtg. 7:30 pm Town Hall
1/11/12 – Teachers for Safe Schools, 3:30 pm WMS Rm 241



2011-2012 Professional Development Opportunities

Professional Development Opportunities are posted on Wellesley PD

- • Log onto WellesleyPD at <https://cfweb3.smartedu.net/wellesley/pd/>
- • Click on the "About" section on the left side of the screen
- • Choose from the menu on the right side of the screen



Teachers For Safe Schools

Teachers for Safe Schools is a group of teachers that meet once a month to create, support and encourage our school climates to be safe professionally and emotionally and allow for staff of all sexual orientations to be acknowledged and respected.

TSS has created and led staff workshops, been a support group and organized social events. We welcome any WPS staff member to attend our meetings and/or receive meeting minutes. Meetings



will take place on the second Wednesday of every month, October – May. The weekly Superintendent's Bulletin will include meeting notices.

Ilene Sharpe – WMS Family & Consumer Science/Health Educator 781-446-6235 x2410
Margaret Flitsch – Sprague Fitness & Health Educator 781-263-1965

2011-2012 TSS Meeting Dates:
Room 241 – Wellesley Middle School - 3:30 – 4:30
January 11, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, 2012



Congratulations to Julie Felo on the birth of her daughter, Gabriella, on December 14, 2011, **and to Jen McPherson** on the birth of her daughter, Charlotte on December 16, 2011.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

IMMEDIATE OPENINGS

High School Student Supervisors

Two High School Student Supervisors needed to begin early February 2012. Student Supervisors report to the Assistant Principals and Principal and are primarily responsible for:

- Greeting school visitors and escorting them to the main office
- Monitoring staff and student parking areas
- Supervising students in the hallways, locker room areas, stairwells, common areas, and throughout the school grounds before, during, and immediately following school hours
- Monitoring after school detention program
- Assisting in the monitoring of daily student attendance
- Daily supervision of the cafeteria and courtyard area

Salary \$18.06 - \$21.96/hr. Hours 6.5/day. Non-benefit eligible. Please send cover letter, resume, and three letters of reference to Salvatore Petralia, Assistant Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools, 40 Kingsbury Street, Wellesley, MA 02481 or e-mail Personnel@wellesley.k12.ma.us by January 10, 2012.

ANTICIPATED OPENINGS

Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Trained Home Service Providers needed to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Immediate openings for 3-5 hours per week after school. Previous experience working with student with ASD. Please send resume, cover letter and three letters of reference to Salvatore Petralia, Assistant Superintendent, Wellesley Public Schools, 40 Kingsbury Street, Wellesley, MA 02481, or email personnel@wellesley.k12.ma.us .

Elementary Reading Intervention Paraprofessional. Reading Intervention Paraprofessional to work with at-risk first grade students. Knowledge of early reading and writing acquisition is essential for this position. Some onsite training provided. Mornings - 19.50 hours/week. Salary \$23.21 - \$28.21/hr. Not a benefit eligible position.



Long-Term Substitute Opportunities - Teaching Positions (\$171.80/day)

- Long-Term Substitute – WHS Spanish Teacher (1.0FTE) needed from January – June 30, 2012
- Long-Term Substitute – WMS Latin Teacher (0.6FTE) needed from January – June 30, 2012
- Long-Term Substitute - Grade 4 Teacher (1.0FTE) needed to start March 1- June 30, 2012
- Long-Term Substitute - Grade 5 Teacher (1.0FTE) needed to start mid-January until early April 2012.
- Long-Term Substitute - Grade 5 Teacher (1.0FTE) needed to start February 29 – June 30, 2012

Please send cover letter, resume, three letters of reference, licensure and transcripts to Salvatore Petralia, Assistant Superintendent, Wellesley Public School, 40 Kingsbury Street, Wellesley, MA 02481 or e-mail personnel@wellesley.k12.ma.us

Wellesley Public Schools Actively Seeks to Increase the Diversity of its Workforce

