



## WE ARE GOING GREEN!

Beginning this year, in an effort to reduce paper consumption, this initial outreach regarding the *Optional Bus Transportation* program is being sent to you via email rather than US mail. The added benefit is the elimination of the postage and paper costs associated with the mailing. At this point, we **DO NOT** have a secure transmission available so **DO NOT** return your completed registration form with credit card information via email. Completed forms must be delivered or mailed to the transportation department. We are in the process of investigating on-line payment capabilities and hope to have these in place by next year.

April 5, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

***In order to reach as many families as possible this application is being sent to all families with children enrolled in and/or entering the Wellesley Public , St. John's, St. Paul's or Tenacre Schools.***

In accordance with School Committee policy, free transportation will be provided for students in kindergarten through grade six residing two miles or more from school. We will continue to offer fee-based transportation services to all non-bus eligible students. In order to accommodate as many families as possible who wish to purchase a seat on a bus, the optional bus transportation program will reflect the actual cost of transporting non-bus eligible students. We anticipate the fee will range from \$475 to \$525 per student. The family cap will be two times the fee plus \$100. In other words, when there are more than two children in a family participating in the fee-based transportation program, the fee for the third child is \$100. After we determine the participation level, we will set the fee. The number of buses required and thus the number of seats available will be based on the demand. **The higher the level of participation, the lower the fee.** The bus routes and stops will be established based on the addresses of participants. Every effort will be made to make stops convenient to parents and students.

**We urge parents to participate in our optional bus transportation program; not only to keep the fee low but also to help alleviate traffic congestion around our schools and throughout town.**

In order to participate in the program, parents must complete the registration form which follows and agree to the *Bus Conduct Rules for Transportation*. A **non-refundable fee deposit of \$100 per student** must be submitted with the registration form. The registration form and deposit are due in the transportation office by **April**

**25, 2011.** Registrations received after **April 25, 2011** will be processed in the order in which they are received on a space available basis. **A written notification form** will be sent to parents indicating the final fee amount, the bus stop and route on or about **May 16, 2011.** In order to receive transportation, the notification form must be signed and returned with the fee balance to the transportation department by **June 6, 2011.** Not returning the notification form with payment will indicate that you have decided not to participate in the optional bus transportation program. Once you register for fee-based transportation you have agreed to pay the full cost of the seat for the full year.

A waiver process has been established for those families who are eligible by income level or are currently receiving state assistance. Families requesting a waiver should check the ***Waiver Request*** box on the registration form and submit the form with **\$25 per student** by the **April 25, 2011** deadline. The transportation department will send you a waiver application with instructions. **A seat will not be assigned until all forms are completed, reviewed and approved.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Deane McGoldrick at the Transportation Department at 781-446-6210 ext 4514.