

March | 2018

Superintendent's News

“We are continuously looking at improving the safety of our infrastructure.”

School Safety

There is no job more important than to make sure that all students are physically, socially, and emotionally safe in our schools. In light of the tragedy in Parkland, Florida, I share the following information about what our schools have done and are continuing to do in order to provide for the safety of our students.

At all of the schools we are continuously looking at improving the safety of our infrastructure. At this time, we are looking at the possibility of increasing swipe card usage, improving cell phone reception, and making sure that all of our public announcement (PA) systems are working consistently in order to ensure that communication both within and outside the buildings is possible.



At the elementary schools, working closely with Weston Police, all of our school personnel have been trained in the *Safe and Sounds Schools* protocol. Michelle Gay, the founder of *Safe and Sound Schools*, has worked closely with our faculty and administration over the past several years to personalize the safety processes and protocols to our specific buildings and geography. *Safe and Sound Schools*, which comes out of the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, provides adults with comprehensive training in evacuation and other safety practices and students with a developmentally appropriate curriculum.

At the High School and Middle School, all personnel are trained in the *ALICE* protocol, which we have also undertaken in collaboration with the Weston Police. In seventh grade at the Middle School, and again in ninth grade at the High School, all students (unless parents opt out) are screened in Signs of Suicide (SOS), as well as a Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) which is an evidenced-based practice used to identify, reduce, and prevent problematic use, abuse and dependence on alcohol and illicit drugs. In addition, our students take two surveys that assist us in monitoring stress, sleep, and alcohol and drug use in order to address these and other issues through our health and wellness classes as well as the guidance department when appropriate. *Please see page 2 for a list of useful resources and links.*

In addition to the above practices and protocols, the administrative teams at the High School and Middle School are working with student leaders to carefully plan for options for March 14, 2018. Administrators in these building will be reaching out to families prior to that date.

This is certainly not an exhaustive list of what in place at our schools, but I wanted to highlight some of the programming and the work that had been undertaken to help ensure, to the best of our ability, all of those that work and learn in the Weston Public Schools.

Click [here](#) for a link
to a National
Geographic blog
interview with Ms.
Young.

Awards and Acknowledgements

WHS History Teacher, Kim Young, traveled to Arctic Circle with National Geographic

Over vacation week, Kim was part of a documentary aired on NatGeo celebrating the importance and fragility of the flora and fauna found within the Arctic Circle. Last year, Ms. Young was selected to be a National Geographic Fellow, a true honor.

Save the Date(s)

String Fling Music Program HS 7:00: **March 6, 2018**

Band Fest Music Program HS 7:00: **March 7, 2018**

WEEFC Event for Elementary Parents/Guardians: **March 8, 2018**

Resources and Links

Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment:

<https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/sbirt>

Signs of Suicide Screening: <https://mentalhealthscreening.org/programs/youth>

Safe and Sound Schools: <https://www.safeandsoundschools.org/>

ALICE training <https://www.alicetraining.com/>

Weston Public Schools

89 Wellesley Street
Weston, MA 02493

Dr. Marguerite (Midge) Connolly,
Superintendent
connollym@weston.org
781-786-5210