

The Decas Digest

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Happy New Year!



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Journey into Reading

The John W. Decas "Journey into Reading" program has begun. Students have been provided with recording sheets to track their reading minutes at home. 150 minutes of reading are necessary to travel to the next stop of the program. Reading can be done independently or students may be read to by a guardian or anyone who would like to share a book with them. Students will earn recognition for their efforts as they travel through the program. All minutes logged will be recorded on a visible chart in each classroom so students can track their progress through the year. This program will end on June 1, 2011. Books are available to all students at the Decas Book Stop and classroom libraries (with teacher permission). The Wareham Free Library is also an excellent place to find exciting titles and the staff will be more than happy to help any student find a book that they will enjoy.

The following link is a great place to find recommended titles by grade level:
<http://www.greatschools.org/students/books/456-books-for-kids-grades-k-5.gs?page=1>

Sumdog Math Competition

Students at the John W. Decas Elementary School have been competing in the online math competition hosted by the Sumdog website. Students log on at school and home to play a variety of math games aimed at key skills for their grade level. As students play, they accumulate points for both their own player profile and the school. Ethan Osley was the highest scoring student for Decas with a total of 17,463 points. This total was also good for 5th place overall in the state competition. As a school, Decas placed third in the competition with 1,897 points. We are very proud of all the students who competed in this contest. Everyone has enjoyed the games and the excellent practice they provided on some very important math topics. To learn more about the competition or to try the games, log on at:

http://venus.sumdog.com/en/About_Sumdog/

Student Council News

Student Council Representatives/Global Student Ambassadors collected \$330.00 from students and staff who each donated \$1.00 to wear a hat to school. The money was donated to assist a Wareham Public School family affected by the recent fire. Thank you to all who donated.

Students also created holiday cards to be distributed through Meals-on-Wheels and the Senior Meal Program. Our students helped to brighten the holidays for Wareham residents.

Nurse's Notes



The cold weather has arrived and with it comes the need to dress in extra layers, hats, and gloves. This season also brings an increase in the number of head lice cases seen at school. The following tips can help to prevent the spread of head lice:

- As a precaution, it is recommended that students keep their hats and other winter accessories inside their backpacks during the school day. If possible, it is also helpful to place their jacket inside a bag.
- Students should not share hats, brushes, and other items with other children.
- Regularly clean surfaces and items that come into contact with your child's head.
- Check your child at least once a week for head lice. The most common area for lice to be found is the back of the head, near the neck, behind the ears.
- Recognize the symptoms of head lice. These include an itchy scalp and small, red bumps or sores on the back of the head or neck.

News from the Music Department

New Website Launched!

Mr. Hart, our intrepid music teacher and band/chorus instructor, has introduced a new website! This website will feature important information about music class, band, and chorus. Mr. Hart will post the band/chorus schedule here, including all necessary changes. Paper reminders will continue to be sent out, but the website should be your first stop for all information. Mr. Hart will also display pictures from class and recent musical events. Visit the website by going to the John W. Decas page, clicking on “Decas Staff”, then “Music Department”, and then Mr. Hart’s name. Check back often to see new updates and features.

Decas Chorus Performs First Show

Mr. Hart and the Decas Chorus performed their first show of the school year on December 21 at the Wareham Multi-Service Center for an appreciative audience. The chorus performed a medley of holiday favorites showcasing both their vocal ability and exciting choreography. This audience got a great preview of some of the material the chorus will feature in the Winter Concert to be held on February 1, 2012 at the Wareham High School.



January Calendar Events

- Jan. 12: School Council Meeting at 3:00 pm
PTA Meeting at 6:00 pm
Spaghetti Supper and Social for Grades K-2 at 6:00 pm
- Jan. 13: Staff In-Service – No School for students
- Jan. 16: Martin Luther King’s Birthday – No School
- Jan. 19: Principal’s Coffee at 9:00 am

Wareham Public Schools is Now on Facebook

The Wareham Public Schools is now on Facebook. If you have a Facebook account, you can “friend” the school system and receive information and other important updates.

Online Safety Tips

The growth of social media has opened new avenues for communication and has great potential for use in many areas. While this advancement has been beneficial to many individuals, businesses, and organizations, caution must still be used when utilizing this tool. Students need to be at least 13 years of age in order to legally have a Facebook or My Space account. Students under the age of 13 who have an account have done so by providing a false birth date while registering their account. If you discover that your child has created an account in this manner, it is best to have them log in and delete the account as soon as possible. As always, parents should monitor their child’s computer activity to maintain their safety.



Lost and Found

The winter season is the time to begin wearing warm coats, hats, and gloves to school. Unfortunately, many students misplace items in school. All of these items are placed in the Decas Lost and Found, which is located in the cafeteria. During the winter months, items will be displayed during lunch times on the stage so that students may be able to identify a lost item. To avoid losing an item, please write your child’s name inside any clothing item. When an item of clothing is recovered it will always be checked for a name and then promptly returned to the owner. Even placing your child’s initials and homeroom on a clothing tag can help greatly.