



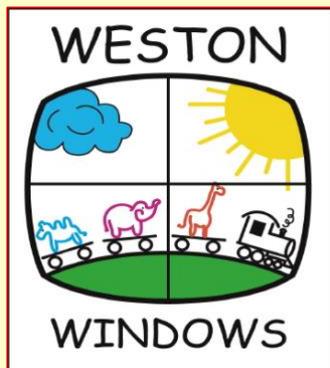
STUDENT SERVICES

Weston Public Schools
89 Wellesley Street
Weston, MA 02493

Jennifer Truslow, Director of Student Services
Anne Zernicke, Assistant Director of Student Services



January 2018 Newsletter



Weston Windows Preschool

Weston Windows is an integrated preschool that supports children with and without disabilities who are between the ages of 2.9 and 5 years old together in an inclusive, developmentally appropriate environment. Please contact Marya Bergloff at bergloffm@weston.org or 781-786-5381 to discuss our preschool screening, evaluation, and enrollment process.

Child Find

In accordance with state and federal Special Education regulations, Weston Public Schools has an obligation to identify and evaluate students with disabilities who reside in the town of Weston. If you suspect that your child (between the ages of 3 and 21 years) may have a disability, please contact the Team Chair for your child's school using the information located on page 2. Depending on the outcome of your child's evaluation, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a 504 Plan may be developed. An IEP provides specialized instruction to ensure that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate public education, while a 504 plan provides accommodations to enable students with disabilities to access a public education. Please contact Jennifer Truslow, Director of Student Services, at truslowj@weston.org or 781-786-5240 with any questions.



This fall, Kindergarten and First Grade teachers began implementing a new early literacy program, Foundations, in classrooms across the district. Foundations is a program that provides systematic instruction in reading, handwriting, and spelling skills in the context of the daily curriculum. During the 2018-2019 school year, Foundations will be extended to Second Grade. Weston Windows preschool educators are currently exploring ways in which Foundations Pre-K Activities could be incorporated into their classrooms. To learn more about Foundations, please visit the program's website, which is located at <https://www.wilsonlanguage.com/programs/foundations/>.

Team Chairs

Please contact the Team Chair for your child's school with any questions regarding the evaluation process or any questions or concerns about your child's IEP.

<u>School</u>	<u>Team Chair</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>
Country	Michael Davies	daviesm@weston.org 781-786-5485
Woodland	Erika Sava	savae@weston.org 781-786-5386
Field	Grace Janusis	janusis@weston.org 781-786-5546
WMS	Maryellen Stampfli	stampflim@weston.org 781-786-5646
WHS	Jeffrey Dias	diasj@weston.org 781-786-5334



Welcome, Megan!

Megan Leddy joined the Weston Public Schools Faculty as the Grade 8 Learning Specialist at Weston Middle School this fall. She grew up in Weston and attended the Weston Public Schools. After graduating from Weston High School in 2009, Megan earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a master's degree in Special Education from Loyola University in Maryland.

Megan comes to us from the Swampscott Public Schools, where she worked as a Learning Specialist at Swampscott Middle School. Megan is thrilled to be teaching in Weston, alongside many of her former teachers!



Weston Public Schools educators and specialists have been busy learning about a variety of topics to enhance instruction for students with and without disabilities this school year.

- **Elise Wulff, ASPIRE Program Manager at Massachusetts General Hospital**, has been training Weston faculty members on approaches for supporting students with anxiety and social-pragmatic challenges throughout the school day. MGH ASPIRE provides programming to help individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders navigate social situations at home, at school, in the workplace, and in the community. As part of the ASPIRE program team, Ms. Wulff has developed a curriculum, *The Science of Me*, that teaches self-awareness, stress management, and social skills to students with social communication challenges.
- **Allen Blume, Retired Associate Professor of Practice at Simmons College**, will be providing Weston educators with training on upcoming changes to the Massachusetts Individualized Education Program (IEP) form and best practices for developing data-driven, standards-based IEPs.
- **Foundations training** has been provided to educators for Grades K and 1, and will be extended to educators in Preschool and Grade 2 over the coming months.

Coordinated Program Review

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education periodically conducts Coordinated Program Reviews in each public school district to monitor compliance with state and federal regulations in the areas of Special Education, Civil Rights, English Learner Education, and Career/Vocational Technical Education. Weston Public Schools recently participated in a Coordinated Program Review, culminating in visits to our schools during the month of December. Information on the recommendations generated from the Review will be made available when received.

Extended School Year

If your child's Team determines that your child requires Extended School Year services over the summer to prevent substantial regression of skills, these services will be listed on your child's IEP Service Delivery Grid. Teams will discuss the need for Extended School Year as part of the IEP process each year.



Transitions

Throughout January and February, your child's Team will begin planning for the transition to the next grade level. For children who will be entering Kindergarten, Fourth Grade, Sixth Grade, or Ninth Grade in the Fall, Team members from the sending and receiving schools will be working together to ensure a smooth and successful transition for all students. Please contact your child's Team Chair with any questions or concerns regarding the transition process.

Compiled by Rachel Freedman, BCBA,
Candidate for Administrator of Special Education License

Upcoming Events

The Weston Parent Advisory Council for Special Education (WestonPAC) welcomes parents to attend the following meetings, which will be held in the Large Conference Room at Case House @ 9:00 AM:

- Friday, January 26th - *Discussion on Anxiety and Transition Planning for Families of Students on the Autism Spectrum*
- Friday, February 9th - *Special Education and Related Topics at Weston High School*

Each month, the WestonPAC sponsors a *Parent Coffee at Bruegger's Bagels in Weston Center on the first Friday of the month at 8:30 AM.*



Future meetings and events will be posted on the WestonPAC's website, located at <http://www.westonpac.org/>.