

**WAITSFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

March 2007

Elementary Enrollment as of October 2006

Grade	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Enrollment	22	15	28	15	22	18	22	24	166

Grade	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
Enrollment	19	26	21	17	20	19	122

Professional Staff List 2006-2007

Teacher	Position	Certification
Georgeanne Baker	Teacher – Grade 3	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Pamela Barnard	Contracted Physical Therapist	
Ann Beattie	Teacher – Grade 4/5	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Elizabeth Belknap	Teacher – Grade 4/5	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Nina Brennan	Teacher - French	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Lauren Briere	Contracted OT	OTR
Emily Church	Paraprofessional	
Sue Dillon	Nurse	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Raymond Drake	Teacher - PE	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Ellen Drysdale	Librarian	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Betsy Eckfeldt	Teacher - Preschool	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Catherine Fair	Counselor	Level I Prof. Ed. Lic
Daniel Greenleaf	Teacher – Grade 5/6	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Connie Hartshorn	Administrative Assistant	
Patti Haynes	Paraprofessional	
Jeremy Hill	Teacher – Music	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Alaina Holliday	Contracted Individual Support	
Taylor Hubbard	Teacher – Grade 1/2	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Sarah Hughes	Paraprofessional	
Lynne Kingsbury	Teacher – Grade 2/3	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Alicia Kurth	Teacher - Support services	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Nora McDonough	Teacher – Art	Level I Prof. Ed. Lic
Beth McGeorge	Instructional assistant/tutor	Level I Prof. Ed. Lic
Kay Marcelle	Teacher – Technology	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Barbara Morrison	Paraprofessional	
Heidi Nishi	Paraprofessional	
Krietta Phillips	Teacher – Kindergarten	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Joe Robinson	Head Custodian	
Richard Schattman	Principal	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Leigh Stockton	Speech Language Pathologist	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Lee Van Dine	Teacher – 5/6	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic
Arthur Washington	Contracted lunch program	
Katie Westhelle	Paraprofessional / After School & Winter Sports Coordinator	
Terry Wilcox	Teacher – Primary Unit	
Roy Yoder	Custodian	
Tom Young	Teacher – Grade 1	Level II Prof. Ed. Lic

The Waitsfield Elementary School Mission

It is the mission of the Waitsfield Elementary School to support students in the achievement of high academic standards; we believe that all students can master challenging academic material, and we expect them to do so. It is our mission to foster a safe, comfortable, and challenging learning environment. It is our mission to help teach children respect for themselves and others, and teach them to accept responsibility for their actions. It is our mission to enhance global awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity. Finally, it is our mission to make a positive difference in the lives of each of our students.

Staff Changes

The Waitsfield Elementary School staff continues to have great stability and consistency with staff. Terry Wilcox joined the staff as our supplemental reading and math teacher (50% time). Liz Belknap became one of our 4th/5th grade teachers. We were very fortunate to have had Sally Utter fill a long-term maternity leave. Her efforts and excellence were a great addition to our school. Alicia Kurth joined the team as our new special education teacher. Her skills have already provided many children with the supplemental support needed to be successful. Also in the area of special education, Beth McGeorge is both an individual assistant and a tutor. In addition, both Barb Morrison and Katie Westhelle rejoined the staff as paraprofessionals. Finally, Nora McDonough is now our new art teacher.

WES Web Page

The Waitsfield Elementary School was launched this year. With the support of Aaron Carlino, web designer, we were able to design a web site that provides parents, teachers, and other members of the community with a wealth of information about the school and school events. If you haven't visited the site, please do so soon at: <http://www.waitsfieldelementary.org>.

Action Planning

This year, we developed a new action plan that identifies goals in the areas of reading, mathematics, writing, health and wellness. The Action Plan defines the school's goals and priorities for three years. This plan is then used to guide budget and staff development. In the past the Action Plan has been based primarily on test data. With the transition in the State Assessment Program, little assessment data is available for this purpose. With a collaborative process involving teachers, parents, the school board and others, goals were developed. The school board formally adopted the Action Plan in August. Copies of the action plan are available on the web site (go to staff/PDF).

Accountability

As a public school, we have a responsibility to inform members of the community as to the overall performance of the school. In the past, the Vermont Assessment Framework defined how we do that. Community members have become accustomed to seeing school performance scores from a range of assessments including the New Standards Reference Examination, the Stanford Achievement Test, and the Developmental Reading Assessment. This is the first year that we will be reporting the New England Common Assessment Program or NECAP data. Students in grades three through six were administered this assessment. While students were administered the assessment this past Fall, the results of this assessment were not received in time for this report; therefore, test scores reported are for the prior year's administration. Please refer to the assessment section of this report for specific results.

The State Department of Education indicated in a recent accountability report that the performance of the Waitsfield School far exceeds State of Vermont expectations with regard to what it calls "adequate yearly progress." In fact, in 2006 the Waitsfield School met its adequate yearly progress targets for the year 2013. This is a reflection of the quality of our teachers and the talents of our students. Without family support and partnership, these targets could not be met.

Another important area of accountability is that of *teacher appraisal*. All schools in the Washington West Supervisory Union, including Waitsfield, are implementing a system for comprehensive appraisal of teacher performance. Each teacher is evaluated on an annual basis (goal setting and goal review) with a comprehensive summative appraisal once every three years. This process is designed to provide teachers with essential feedback for continuous growth and professional development.

The Arts

The arts continue to be an important part of the WES program. Nora McDonough has joined our staff as our art teacher and brings a fresh perspective, supporting students to both understand and create their own art.

This year, students performed a number of wonderful plays and performances. They included Three Billy Goats Gruff, four Aesop fables, concerts, and the spring musical "The Music Man" to be performed on March 30th.

This year, the Waitsfield Elementary School's holiday performance was titled "All Things Bright and Beautiful." Students performed a variety of songs, performance pieces, and readings. It was heavily attended by parents and others within the community and was just one more example of how Waitsfield values its youngest members.

Health and Nutrition

Our breakfast/lunch program is contracted with the Fayston School. This is the third year for our partnership; joining the team this year is Arthur Washington. The program has made a commitment to working with local farmers to use locally grown products to the greatest extent possible.

Sue Dillon, our school nurse, coordinates all health services and provides direct instruction to all classes on a rotating basis. Topics covered included nutrition, safety, physical activity, making healthy choices, dental health, infection prevention, media literacy, and human growth and development. The proposed budget increases nursing services by one half day per week. This will offer WES students with additional support and instruction.

Health screenings for vision, hearing, height, weight, and blood pressure were completed by December; referrals were sent home, as appropriate. Sue also coordinates our weekly fluoride treatments for those students whose parents want them to participate. Again, parent volunteers made the program possible.

PTA

Once again, the PTA has been extremely active and has contributed in countless ways. The annual ski and skate sale was a great success under the new leadership of Krissa Hammond. We want to thank Loopy Quinones for her years at the helm. She has established our sale as a seasonal tradition. As she passes the baton to Krissa, we want to say a heart felt thank you.

This year, the PTA is sponsoring a weeklong residency focusing on media literacy. Rob Williams and James Valestro will be joining all of our students for a week of exploring critical issues in media and learning the art of producing media.

In addition to our residency programs, the PTA funds field trips to the Flynn Theater and other venues. They have purchased books for the library, sponsored the winter sports program, responded to staff requests for materials and special events, and hosted a staff appreciation breakfast. The Waitsfield PTA is a critically important part of our school's richness and depth. Thank you to all who support the PTA. We couldn't do it without you.

Non-commercial Book Fair

Instead of continuing our commercial affiliation with Scholastic Book Inc., we developed a relationship with a locally owned Montpelier bookstore and provided students with only high quality books. Thanks to the effort of our school librarian, Ellen Drysdale, and Wrenn Compère, we were able to work with Bear Pond Books to provide a book fair that provided children with great literature. With this

being the second year for the fair, we are receiving lots of inquiries from other schools interested in moving in this direction.

Media Literacy

Media literacy continues to be an important focus for the school. In addition to the residency mentioned above, parent workshops on cyber safety have been offered, all 5th and 6th graders participate in classroom instruction directly related to media literacy, and several integrated technology projects support students to learn the skills for creating quality media. Again, visit our web site for more information on this important aspect of the school program.

The Waitsfield Ways

This is the third year of having The Waitsfield Ways. It is a statement of those behaviors that each student and staff member agrees to follow as a member of the school community. We are using the Waitsfield Ways to discuss issues and problem solve when necessary. The Waitsfield Ways frame many of our assemblies as children develop role-plays and demonstrations for all to see and discuss. The Waitsfield Ways now appear in the school's handbook and include:

- Set a good example for yourself and others by helping those in need
- Respect each other's body, property, feelings, and differences
- Do your best
- Keep our school safe, neat, and healthy

Technology

At the Waitsfield School, we believe technology is a tool for enhancing learning across all areas of the curriculum. Application of technology is evident in PK-6 grade, art, and music. We have both a computer lab and a mobile lab that can be placed in any classroom to support class-based research. Students are developing many skills through the use of technology including internet research, manipulating digital images, keyboarding, development of spreadsheets, ability to evaluate web sites, drawing and painting, and creating digital multimedia projects.

The Waitsfield School is a leader in the area of integrating technology across the curriculum. It is truly impressive to see the digital projects, media production, and applications of the Internet for research. Staff have presented at a number of technology conferences, demonstrating the excellent work being done here at the WES. With technology come issues that schools have never had to contend with in the past. Kay Marcelle and the PTA have presented workshops for parents on cyber safety, which have provided groups of parents and community members with the opportunity to discuss how we can both provide our children with an unprecedented level of access to information and at the same time keep them safe.

Our school is constantly upgrading the technology infrastructure of the school so our students will have access to information in a manner consistent with current standards. This year we installed a new server and a number of desktop computers.

Facilities

The Waitsfield School is arguably the town's most valued asset. The condition of the building continues to be excellent due to the hard work and dedication of Joe Robinson and Roy Yoder. As you may have noticed, the parking lot was reconstructed as part of the Town's overall paving project. With the support of the select board, Charlie Goodman, Charlie Hosford, and Kirsten Seibert, the project was successfully completed under budget. The new lot is safer for children, has better traffic flow, and separates pedestrians and cars with a new green space. This year, Waitsfield residents will be asked to consider an article establishing a building maintenance and improvement fund. This fund, if approved, will be used to support larger building maintenance and improvement projects. These projects may include items such as addressing water purification, drainage, roofing repair, etc. This year, the school building was not only used for education of children but also as a community center. Over 40 groups used the building for meetings, classes, or activities.

Thank You

It truly takes a community to have a great school. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful school community. It would not be possible without a strong staff, supportive parents, and an involved and committed community. The staff, board, and administration would like to offer our thanks to the many volunteers, the road crew, town officers, and each and every one of you for your continued support. Without that support, we couldn't provide our students the quality of education that we do. The work and success of the Waitsfield School is truly a community effort. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted By:

The Waitsfield Board of School Directors
Christopher Brynga, Chairperson
Wrenn Compère, Board Member
Melissa Siner Shea, Board Member
Valerie Snapp, Board Member
Rob Williams, Board Member
Robert McNamara, Superintendent
Richard Schattman, Principal

