

# Westford Elementary PTO

## Arts & Education Programming

### John A. Crisafulli Elementary School



2012 - 2013

#### What is Arts & Education Programming?

Each year, the PTO sponsors cultural arts, science, social studies, and literacy programs that we collectively call Arts & Education Programming (AEP). Along with input from teachers and principals, the parent volunteers on the AEP Team, are responsible for previewing and selecting programs that complement and enhance the curriculum at each grade level. Please take a look and find out what exciting programs are coming to the Crisafulli School this year. When your child experiences one of these programs, ask them about it! You'll be amazed at what they've learned!

On behalf of the Arts & Education Programming Team, we would like to thank the parents, teachers and the administrators for their continued support of the Westford Elementary PTO.

#### Programming By Grade

##### Third Grade

###### ***The Discovery Museums : 'Sound' June 7***

What is sound? How is it made? Students will experiment with vibrating tuning forks, water, slinky toys and household materials in this interactive classroom presentation. Students will also be able to take home some sound instruments made in school to test their own ideas!  
<http://www.discoverymuseums.org/>

###### ***Plimoth Plantation - Classroom Visits January 11*** ***'Life in 1627 Plymouth Colony'***

A museum educator, speaking with a regional, English dialect of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and wearing authentic clothing, portrays the life of a Pilgrim in 1627 Plimoth Colony. This classroom presentation takes students on a journey that begins with the hiring of the *Mayflower* in England, the trip across the Atlantic Ocean through the first winter, and finally to the first *Thanksgiving* in Plymouth.  
<http://www.plimoth.org/learn/programs-schools>

###### ***'Wampanoag : People of the East' January 11***

Students will learn about the daily life of the Wampanoag Native People in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, as well as their current lives and communities. A native museum educator will read traditional Wampanoag/Eastern stories that have been passed down for generations. Students will also have the opportunity for hands-on exploration of artifacts, including wooden bowls & spoons, tools and animal furs.  
<http://www.plimoth.org/learn/programs-schools>

##### Fourth Grade

###### ***Native American Perspectives : March 18*** ***'Cultural Diversity'***

Dan Cripps, dressed in clothing of the western plains Native Americans, sits inside a 13 ft. tipi with each classroom for a very unique learning experience. Students learn about the land, animals, heritage and traditions of the 1800's North American people.  
<http://www.nativeamericanperspectives.com>

###### ***Wingmasters : 'World of Owls' February 8***

This program illustrates how owls use their specialized powers of sight, hearing and flight to survive and thrive in nature. Jim Parks shares a wealth of facts and folklore about these masters of the dark and explains the natural and unnatural history of owls. A variety of live owls provide the focus of this engaging presentation.  
<http://www.wingmasters.net/>

###### ***Techsplorations : April 23*** ***'Shocking Facts of Electricity'***

An exciting show that uses audience participation with fun props and spectacular demonstrations to teach basic laws of electricity and magnetism.  
<http://www.techsploration.com/>

**Fifth Grade****Author Visit & Writing Workshops,****Julie Berry****November 26**

Julie Berry, author of tween/teen novels such as *The Amaranth Enchantment* and the Splurch Academy of Disruptive Boys Series, *The Rat Brain Fasco* and *Curse of the Bizarro Beetle*, makes her debut appearance in Westford this fall. This well-known, local author believes that kids are chock-full of wildly imaginative ideas, and that everyone deserves to have adventures making stories of their own! Students will participate in classroom writing workshops, entitled 'Let's Make a Story'. Ms. Berry will guide students through fun, interactive brainstorming and story planning techniques using well-known fairy tale and folklore examples so each student can write their own fully imagined story.

**\*\* Ms. Berry's books will be available to purchase in advance of her visit in early November for signing; forms will be accessible online through our website.**

<http://www.julieberrybooks.com/>

**Techsplorations : 'Simple Machines' April 23**

Using a twelve foot long lever, three foot tall gears and pulleys, a catapult, and a hand crank music machine; this program demonstrates how all simple machines help us do work by trading distance for effort. A fascinating way to get students excited about simple machines.

<http://www.techsploration.com/>



**\*\* As long as our fundraising budget is fully supported by our families this year and our financial goals are met by early 2013, we will be able to fund a third program for fifth grade - TBD.**

**Interested in helping out?**

Those of us who volunteer on the AEP Team think we have the most fun jobs the PTO has to offer! We get to experience some great programs and directly influence our children's education. If that sounds interesting to you, there are lots of ways YOU can get involved with AEP at the Crisafulli School! You can start small by volunteering to help out in your child's class during a program, you can volunteer to schedule a program, or you can take on the responsibility of previewing new programs. Please contact Lori McInerny if you have questions about programming or would like more information about Arts & Education Programming volunteer opportunities.

Arts & Education Programming makes our curriculum come alive! Watch for updates!!

- On email: In the Principals Weekly Newsletters, *PTO Info to Know* monthly newsletters and email blasts
- On the web: At [www.westford.com/westtelmpto/westford\\_elem\\_pto\\_programs.html](http://www.westford.com/westtelmpto/westford_elem_pto_programs.html)
- On Facebook: "like" Westford Elementary PTO at [www.facebook.com/westfordelementarypto](http://www.facebook.com/westfordelementarypto)

**\*\* Stay Connected!** If you haven't already signed up for the electronic distribution list to receive all WEPTO fliers, news feeds, and monthly newsletters, then please do it today! [www.westfordk12.us/subscriber.shtml](http://www.westfordk12.us/subscriber.shtml) (select PTO News).