

# Westford Elementary PTO

## Arts & Education Programming

### Abbot School



2010/2011

#### 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). The AEP team, a group of PTO parent volunteers, research and preview artists, authors, musicians and science programs and work together with teachers, principals and assistant principals to make the final choices. AEP programs are carefully selected to complement and enhance the curriculum at each grade level. Please take a look and find out what exciting programs are coming to the Abbot 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 administrators for their continued support of the Westford Elem PTO.

### Programming By Grade

#### Third Grade

**The Discovery Museums :** November 4<sup>th</sup>  
**'Physical Changes of Matter'**

Students will investigate the physical properties of solids, liquids, and gasses. Dry ice and liquid nitrogen make learning the five states of matter very dramatic. This highly interactive classroom presentation lets students shatter flowers and rubber balls, use bananas as hammers, and even shrink solid metal in seconds!  
<http://www.discoverymuseums.org/>

**David Coffin :** June 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**'Music from the King's Court - Exploring the Early Winds'**

This engaging presentation covers the history of the Recorder from the primitive ocarina through the medieval Gemshorns and recorders of the Renaissance and Baroque Periods. Mr. Coffin brings an extensive collection of Recorders and other early wind instruments that he plays and shares with the students. This presentation ties in with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade sound unit and also introduces them to recorders which they play in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. <http://www.davidcoffin.com/>

#### Fourth Grade

**The Native American Perspective** February 3  
**by Dan Cripps**  
**"Cultural Diversity"**

Dan Cripps, dressed in clothing of the western plains Native Americans, sits inside a 13ft. tipi with each classroom of children. The students will learn about the land, animals, heritage and traditions of the 1800's North American people.

**Techsplorations :** March 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**'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.techploration.com/>

**Fifth Grade****Chris Brown Presents 'We The People'      December 1  
Chelmsford Performing Arts Center (fieldtrip)**

Theaterworks USA is proud to present an all-new musical revue that brings American Civics lessons to life and promises to make Social Studies more exciting and accessible to students. By using a wide variety of musical styles relevant to today's youth, students will have a blast learning about the three branches of government, the first amendment, presidential elections, democracy, the judicial process and much more.

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

<http://www.theatreworkusa.org>

**Techsplorations : 'Simple Machines'      April 26**

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. This is a whole new way to get students excited about simple machines.

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

**David Coffin : Life at Sea****June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Children will explore the life of a sailor, a whaler, a fisherman and hear the songs that illustrate the life they pursued at sea. Sing along on a shanty (work song) as they "hoist" the sails, "haul" on the lines, and stamp around the capstan. They imagine themselves sailing around the horn on a square rigger. And just what is a press-gang, a belaying pin, a fo'c'sle, a baggywrinkle, or a shellback? They learn what it takes to cross the line and double the horn. Hear the songs mariners sang of home as they drifted in the doldrums off South America. Accompanied by his concertina, David will get the whole class singing to shake loose the sails.

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

**All Grades****General Assembly****December 22****Epic Brass : 'A Winter Festival Concert'**

This dynamic quintet instills a love of music, and through live interaction, demonstrates that a chamber music ensemble, much like a sports team, requires cooperation and teamwork. Known for their personable and often humorous approach to performance, the Epic Brass Quintet exposes students to a rich variety of musical eras and styles. Holiday musical selections are performed as well as non-sacred songs for Hannukah and Kwanzaa as well.

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

**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 Day 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 Marcia Caster if you have questions about programming or would like more information about AEP volunteer opportunities.

Arts & Education Programming makes our curriculum come alive! Watch for updates in the *PTO Info to Know* newsletter and website at [http://www.westford.com/westelmppto/westford\\_elem\\_pto\\_programs.html](http://www.westford.com/westelmppto/westford_elem_pto_programs.html)

