



New Wellington News

Issue #3, November 13, 2009

*Featuring news and information for the Wellington community
about the interim location at the High School and the New Wellington School.*

This newsletter was created to keep you informed as plans for the New Wellington Elementary School progress. We encourage your questions and comments and plan to incorporate them into upcoming issues. Please send them to Heidi Sawyer, PTO President and member of the Wellington Building Committee, at heidirsawyer@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING MEETINGS REGARDING THE MOVE TO MODULARS:

*****All parents and teachers are welcome and encouraged to attend*****

Wellington PTO General Meeting:

Monday, November 16th

8:45 am in the Wellington Cafeteria

Guest speakers: Anne Rittenburg, Chair of the School Committee, Pat Brusch, Vice-Chair of the Wellington Building Committee (WBC), Laurie Graham – School Committee member and WBC member, Becky Precourt, Wellington Guidance Counselor

A busy week, here are the important updates...

MODULAR UPDATES:

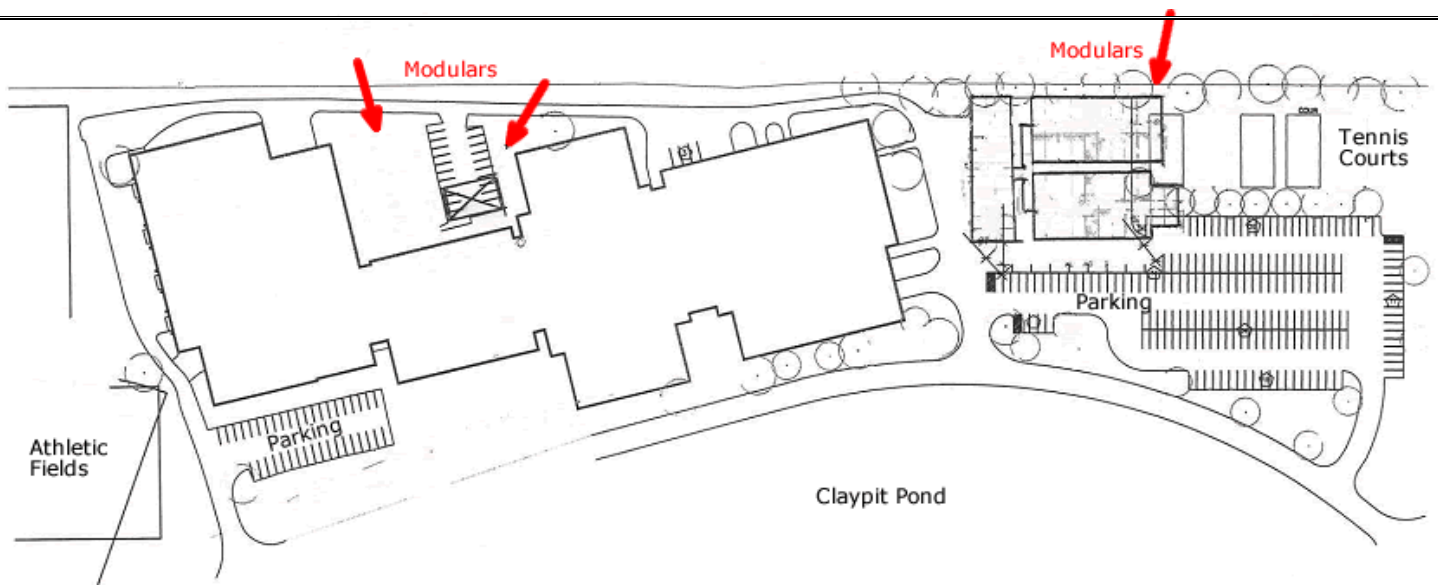
The modulars: A sneak peek! Amy Wagner and Heidi Sawyer visited modular classrooms in Bristol, Connecticut, that will be the basis for what our Wellington community will use at the High School. Modulars are template classrooms that are then customized and built to spec by a company called Mod Space. Once they are customized for the needs of the Wellington community, they will be assembled on-site at Belmont High School. We think you're going to be excited with what is coming our way. Soon you will be able to check out the pictures of the modulars on the Wellington Website so you can take a peak at our interim school! Keep in mind that these modulars are shown in the construction phase. The end result will look even more like actual classrooms, with fresh carpeting, paint, wiring, electrical, and other components to meet our needs.

Meeting with Belmont Police about Safety for Wellington Students, Staff and Community:

The safety of the Wellington community is a huge priority as we move over to the temporary space at the High School. We met with Chief McLaughlin from the Belmont Police Department to ensure the highest levels of safety for all members of the Wellington community when we are at the High School campus. Topics discussed included fencing around the modulars, extra precautions having to do with the proximity of the commuter rail train tracks, Jersey barriers for directing cars, the need for cross walks, crossing guards, traffic signs, as well as the proposed direction of traffic for drop off and pick up. We are also meeting with the Belmont Traffic Advisory Council. Look for updates about safety in upcoming issues of the New Wellington News.

Site Plan of modulars:

See below for the most current site plan of the modulars on the High School campus. We will update you in the next few weeks as to where specific classrooms will be located, including those that will be used for Instrumental Music, Chorus, Music, Art Room, Teachers prep, nurses office, cafeteria, etc.



Start/End time change:

IMPORTANT NOTE – No school time schedule change will happen until the actual move date to the modulars at the High School, which is anticipated to be sometime between mid-January and mid-February (see prior issues of New Wellington News.) Dr. Missal, Director of Finance and Administration for the Belmont Public Schools presented information to the school committee about proposed changes to the Wellington school schedule. The reason that we need to change the start/end times is that there isn't enough time between the high school start and end times and the Wellington schedule to ensure a safe and easy drop off and release process for both school communities. The current thinking is to start and end Wellington 5 minutes later, instead of the 15 minutes later that was previously discussed. We will let you know once we receive the final information about the start/end time of the Wellington school.

Busing:

When the Wellington community is located at the High School, busing will be available to all Wellington students no matter the distance they live to the High School. There will be a prorated fee for this service. Details of the bus service will be given as soon as it is available.

NEW WELLINGTON UPDATES:

The Wellington Building Committee (WBC) continues to work in full force. On October 28th the Planning Board unanimously approved the Wellington site plan, pending some final conditions. The design plans are being finalized and the plan is to go out to bid to contractors on December 15th.

PARENT QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK'S NEW WELLINGTON NEWS:

(Missed last week's edition? go to www.belmont.k12.ma.us/wellington/newschool/)

“Will our children have a library, gym or playground facilities while we are in our temporary school at the high school?” The plan is for a large multipurpose room in the modulars to accommodate the library, cafeteria and Student Care. Gym classes will be held in the upper gym in the High School. This gym is not used by the high school students during the day. While we will not be able to accommodate a playground structure at the high school campus, we are looking at moving two of our existing swing sets. We will have a very large fenced in hard top area to play on (this is currently the High School tennis courts) and a large grass field (Hittinger Field). Some good news: The children will have more play space to play on than any other elementary school in Belmont, and the PTO has set aside money for extra playground equipment such as kickballs, a portable basketball hoop, hoola hoops, jump ropes, etc., while we are at the High School to keep our children HAPPY and ACTIVE!!!

“What are the current thoughts about the Student Care location and time, if the start/end times change? When do you think this will be communicated to parents so that we can determine care for our children?” The temporary space for Student Care will be located in the modular cafeteria. See related information above concerning start/end times. We will communicate the start/end time details as soon as the School Committee finalizes the plan.

PACKING UP WELLINGTON: We are taking steps to pack up some areas of the current Wellington school in preparation for our move to the modulars, and ultimately, to the New Wellington. Lynn Findlay has been busy helping teachers and Amy clean out closets and storage areas. She is planning a free giveaway day called FREE FRIDAY. (Date coming soon) Kind of like a FREE garage sale ☺. Details to follow. If you are interested in lending an extra hand, please contact Lynn Findlay at lynn@thefindlays.com. Thank you.

***There are more details to come. We are working hard to keep you updated.
Thank you for your support!!***