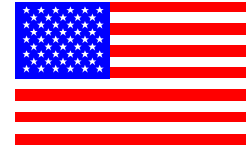




Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News



ISSUE 5 January 15, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you all had a restful and relaxing holiday break! We are back in the swing of things and are currently engaged with our winter *NWEA* Assessments. All students are doing computerized assessments in math and reading. Their scores will enable teachers to see areas of growth, as well as, areas where students need continuing support. Our teachers will participate in Data Analysis training on our Professional Development Day this Friday. They will be looking at assessment data that pertains to their content areas. Training in Performance Pathways will allow teachers to access not only the *NWEA* data, but also the *NECAP* data that will be coming out the end of this month. Part of our restructuring efforts focus on putting data in the hands of teachers so that they can evaluate instructional practices and make changes that will move our students forward. The Restructuring Committee has been busy reviewing input from our teachers on Rapid Improvement Indicators provided to us by the Department of Education. After our last round of reviews this week we are ready to draft our Restructuring Action Plan. The Restructuring Plan will outline specific steps that we will put in place to build upon the foundation of change that has been established. I will hold parent meetings to share our Restructuring Plan with all of you.

We are in the process of purchasing signs to help with our new traffic pattern. Please be sure to observe the one way in from Winter Street and the drop off at the stop sign. The front doors are locked at all times because of our safety policy. In inclement weather, students should enter the building through the back doors near the technology room. I am concerned about parents dropping off students at various places along the driveway - this presents a safety hazard. I hope to have signs posted to help with this process in the near future. I appreciate your cooperation! As always, please feel free to contact me with questions and concerns!

Warm Regards,
Dr. Pamela Miller

GRADE 6

In **social studies** we have just finished focusing on the Empires of Mesopotamia. Students have been comparing and contrasting the Assyrians and the Babylonians. During the latter part of January we will be learning about the Phoenicians and the Hebrews.

Math classes have begun working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions, decimals and percents. You can help your child at home with adding fractions in cooking, adding and subtracting money and reviewing multiplication facts.

Mrs. Hewey's reading/language arts classes are starting a unit on fantasy and science fiction. We will be reading a variety of short stories and plays, and possibly watching a movie. Ask your child: What is the difference between science fiction and fantasy? What is the same about these two genres?

Students are reminded that they need to be reading 100 minutes per week in their Accelerated Reader book.

Ms. Sanders' reading/language arts classes have just started listening to *The Lightning Thief*, which is an exciting novel about an unusual boy named Percy Jackson. The book has many references to Greek myths, gods, goddesses, and monsters. This will give students some great background knowledge when they begin to study Ancient Greece in their social studies classes. Students are reminded that they should be reading a book, magazine, or newspaper of their choice for 20 minutes each night.

As the weather continues to be chilly, students are reminded that they should be sure to dress appropriately for recess. Wearing a coat, hat, mittens/gloves, and boots is important at this time of year.

6th Grade Pre-AP: Mrs. Anderson's class is finishing *Nothing But the Truth*. There will be a test on January 23rd.

GRADE 7

In Mr. Savage's 7th grade science class the students are continuing working on probability and punnett squares for their unit on genetics. The students have been using the information to solve punnett square word problems to see how they can be used to predict the results of genetic crosses.

During this unit Mr. Savage has been collaborating with the 7th grade math teachers, Mr. Saltmarsh and Mrs. O'Donnell and integrating probability and percentages within the unit of study.

Mr. Savage

GRADE 8

Math: Mrs. Coughlin would like to remind everyone that it is important to be prepared for class. Be sure to allow time and a place without distractions to do your homework assignments. Mrs. Beliveau's Pre-Algebra and Algebra students will have a math binder check and grade before the end of the quarter. Encourage your child to check that the notebooks are neat and complete!

Science: We are having a celebration of cell! We have examined the workings of both plant and animal cells. Students produced some excellent work and a great deal of variety of projects including children's books, games, baked goods, and power point presentations. It was great to see students using their learning styles and preferences to demonstrate what they have learned about cells. Our recent constructed response topics have included *Do Dogs Understand Fairness?*, *Mouthwash Test for High Blood Pressure*, and *Bobsledders Get Boost From NASCAR*. Thanks to **Matt Scribner** for bringing in the ammonite fossils he found on his visit to Oklahoma.

English/ Language Art - Students in Ms. Dorsett's classes worked on a unit of short stories. Each group read a different short story and presented it to the class in the form of a skit, review, or summary. At the end of the unit all students wrote their own interesting short story.

ART

The New Year has brought a variety of events to the Art program at WRMS. First, some of the students in the Art Club have created art works to accompany the performance of *The Wizard of Oz* at PSU. The show will run **January 21-25th**, at the Silver Center for the Arts. **Morgan Johnston** has a mixed media relief using Dorothy's slippers and the yellow brick road. **Dallis Austin and Cheyenne**

Longley both have oil paintings that capture the colors in a rainbow. **Brandi Knapp and Amber Groz** both helped create the city of Oz. I know their efforts will be well received by the audiences of this show.

Second, the NH Scholastic Art and Writing awards are soon approaching. I have started the process of selecting the 15 pieces allowed. This is always a tough job as there is a lot to pick from. The final showing will be at Pinkerton Academy in the Stockbridge Theater, 5 Pinkerton St., Derry NH. **This exhibit is open to the public Jan. 20th through Feb. 8th.** It is an amazing show and a feast for the eyes. This is the nation's longest running awards program and over 75,000 works will be judged. You will be in awe of the talent of these teens. Pictures of some selected works will be on the schools web site very soon.

PTO

The WRMS PTO continues to be involved in many fundraising activities that you can help with without any new costs to you! There is a collection box by the main office for used ink cartridges and old cell phones. If you shop at Shaw's we are collecting receipts. The collection box for Shaw's receipts (please feel free to black out any parts of credit/debit card numbers) is also located by the main office. Please continue to cut out those *Box Tops for Education*. Each homeroom has a bag where students can drop their *Box tops for Education*. The next box tops collection date is February 28th. Our next PTO meeting will be held on Thursday, February 12th in the WRMS Media Center at 6:00 p.m.

REMINDER

No School January 16th and January 19th!

WINTER RECESS - February 23rd. Students report back to classes on March 2nd.

FROM THE NURSE

SUBJECT: Peanut Butter contaminated with Salmonella Recalled. There are 10 cases associated with the outbreak in New Hampshire and NH DHHS is working with federal and state public health officials to investigate the outbreak's source.

On Saturday, January 10th, 2009, the distributor of King Nut brand peanut butter, King Nut Companies of Solon, Ohio, issued a voluntary recall of peanut butter with lot codes beginning with "8," sold as King Nut peanut butter and Parnell's Pride peanut butter.

Visit the CDC website for additional information on the national outbreak:

<http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typh0109/010909.html>