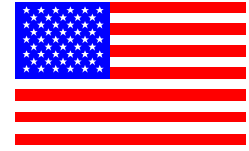


Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News



Principal's Office News

Greetings,

WRMS has turned a corner in our restructuring process! The Restructuring Team has finished the assessment of the 82 Rapid Improvement Indicators provided to us by the Department of Education. These indicators prompted us to review our practices and procedures in a number of different areas associated with student success. We've identified a number of goals for restructuring that relate to the following six areas: 1) Leadership 2) Data 3) Best Practices Related to Instruction 4) Professional Development 5) Curriculum and 6) Communication. We are now meeting with our staff to determine action steps to meet the goals created for each area. These action steps will be written into our Restructuring Plan, which will be implemented in the 2009-2010 school year. I look forward to sharing our action plan with you and the Winnisquam community in the near future. We are in the process of developing a plan that will significantly improve teaching and learning. I want to thank all the parents, students and staff who participated in our restructuring efforts; your hard work will make a difference for all of our students!

Warm regards,
Dr. Pamela Miller

From the Assistant Principal

We have been working on reorganizing sixth grade recess in order to keep the children safe. As you know, at this time of year there are large snow banks, ice, and puddles some days. The options for structured recess are limited, but we recognize the need for fresh air and physical activity. Therefore, we are instituting a walking program for sixth grade students following lunch when weather permits. Research shows that structured recess time lends itself to more focused learning and productive classroom instructional time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Cadarette

Art News

Congratulations to our winners in this year's New Hampshire Scholastic Art Awards. **Nicole Swain, Megan Archibald, Keith Bowen and Hannah**

ISSUE 6 February 13, 2009

Livernois, Morgan Johnston. Their works can be viewed on WRMS's web page. Check it out!

All the entries will be on display at the Middle School February 13th through March.

Coming Soon. LAKES REGION ARTS ALIVE 2009

This is an annual exhibit held at the Belknap Mill in Laconia, March 16 – 20th. It show cases the Arts in the Lakes Region. **Winnisquam's Opening Night is March 18th from 5-7 p.m** All area schools will have Art works on display plus hopefully a variety of music/dance pieces. Hope to see you.
Mrs. Johnson

Digital Portfolios... Not just a pile of stuff!

This year all students taking Computer Technology class work on a final project which is to build the framework for their Middle School Digital Portfolio. These digital portfolios are the modern day version of the shoebox our parents kept for our more memorable schoolwork and saved for us. Fortunately, your student is collecting their more significant work digitally AND adding their own personal thoughts and reflections about each item. They begin this process in computer class by populating their presentation portfolio with selected works and reflections that represent their accomplishments using current technology tools. They will continue to add to their digital portfolio throughout their middle school years with works from ALL their classes.

I encourage you to ask your student to see their digital portfolio, talk about their works and the progress they have made on it. I also ask that you encourage your student to continue to add to this important piece of their technology assessment once the quarter has ended and they are no longer in my class. I'm sure we will see some amazing presentations!

Mrs. Pearson

Grade6

In social studies students were able to fly over Egypt via Google Earth. They visited a number of ancient sites and focused on the geography of the region. They have been learning hieroglyphics and will soon be learning about Egyptians gods and the mummification process.

Students have been exploring space for their next

unit in science. They are going to the library to research different events that propelled humans into outer atmosphere and eventually to the moon.

The project they are working on is a timeline of at least 15 events to the present day that involve mankind in exploring space.

Math classes have been working on completing their unit of fractions and how to simplify and rename fractions. Please continue reviewing math facts with your student. Take the time to explain how math is important to everyday living.

Ms. Sanders' class is working on finishing the "Lightening Thief". Students are enjoying following Percy Jackson's adventures and encounters with the Greek Gods and Goddess and various monsters. Students continue working on improving their writing through journal writings, warm-ups, and open responses.

Mrs. Hewey's class just finished watching "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe". They have started working on their letters to the 5th grade class. Each student will create a letter that will be sent to a 5th grader telling them a little about what it is like to be in the middle school and a 6th grader.

The 6th grade has began an in class program called TARGETS. This is to help students be aware of the appropriate behaviors needed in the classroom for them to be successful learners. Each letter of TARGETS represents a goal. T = Talk at appropriate times, A = complete all Assignments, R = be Respectful, not rude or ridiculous, G = no Gum, E = be prepared - bring all your necessary Equipment, T = be on time not Tardy, S = be Safe. This program is to clarify the school rules so that students can understand how the school rules impact them in each of their classes.

GRADE 7

Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Morse's Literature classes.

We are currently working on a mini-unit on poetry and culture. They read a play on *The Big Wave* by Pearl Buck and we thoroughly discussed what makes up a culture. Next week, students will have a test on the poetic devices we have been discussing. They will need to know what they are as well as how to identify them. The next book report will be due February 20th. They have in their notes the choices they are able to pick from. Students still need to read their own novels at home on a daily basis.

After vacation, the Seventh Grade team will be working on an inter-disciplinary unit on the Iditarod. In ELA, students will be reading a novel

about an Iditarod survivor. In Math, they will be plotting the dogs that are actually in the current race and graphing the results. Projects in Social Studies and Science are to be determined later. On the web, they will be able to interact with a specific dog and follow their progress. Hopefully, we will be able to invite a team of mushers in for the students to see at the end of the unit.

Mrs. O'Donnell and Mr. Saltmarsh's Math

In the math section, students are beginning a new unit on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers.

Pre-Algebra has finished Unit 1 and will be beginning Chapter 4 on monomials.

Algebra has completed a short geometry unit and started on chapter 4-graphing linear equations and functions.

All Accelerated Learning classes have been reinforcing certain math skills with all students as well.

Box Tops

Please continue to bring in Box Tops to your homeroom teacher. The next deadline is the end of February. So far we have collected \$240 worth. If the whole school meets our goal of \$500 or more, all students will receive an ice cream when we get warmer weather. Thanks to all who have already brought them in.

Mrs. Berry

GRADE 8

The eight graders are beginning to plan their high school schedules. On Tuesday 2/10, Mr. Zecha and Ms. Wirtz, from the WRHS guidance dept., spoke with students regarding course selection and credits. There will be an informational night for parents and students on 2/11 at the high school to learn more about course requirements. On 2/16, Mr. Zecha and Ms. Wirtz will be back in to begin the course section process.

Mrs. Beliveau

LIBRARY

***"Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune - without the words,
And never stops at all".***

Emily Dickinson

A new year, a new start, I hope we all see and do things better. My book review is "Feathers" by Jacqueline Woodson. The theme of hope recurs in the description of the Black Power movement, and in Frannie's musings on the Emily Dickinson poem, *Hope is the thing with feathers*. Developing this

metaphor, Woodson captures perfectly the questions and yearnings of a girl perched on the edge of adolescence, a girl whom readers will take into their hearts and be glad to call their friend. As sixth-grader Frannie puzzles over the meaning of a line from an Emily Dickinson poem, *Hope is the thing with feathers*," lots of questions start coming up. Frannie eventually works out her own answers, finding hope in everyday bits of goodness-the "moments" her teacher tells her to write about.

Ms. Chapley presented a book talk on Gary Paulsen to Mrs. Hewey's reading classes. After listening to selections from his books, students were placed in groups to create a bibliography with accelerated reader points, justify survival item that were in a backpack, act out an interview with Gary Paulsen, and recreate a scene that justifies being prepared. In his book *Hatchet* he states through the character that you are your own best resource. Brian the main character proved that with his own survival in the story.

Mrs. Kelly Morrow is the new library assistant. Mrs. Morrow is married and has four children of her own. She worked very diligently to make sure everyone was tested for the NI WEA. She loves to read, play golf, and ski. Please welcome her when you see her.

Ms. Chapley

SPELLING BEE NEWS

The Scripps National Spelling Bee's purpose is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop language skills that will help them throughout their lives.

classroom finalist Congratulations to the following Winnisquam Regional Middle School students who participated in the Spelling Bee on February 3, 2009:

Haley Poirier, Dalton DeRoche, Hayley Schultz, Christian Duquette, Kaidee Keyser, Joe Judkins, Olivia Martinson, Hailee LaBelle, Dan Griffin, Kaitlyn Bousquet, Kathryn McKenna, Jason Robinson

Avery Audet, Dakota Fecteau, Dana Dolan, Shelby Reed, Felecia Pelletier, Trever Hoyt, Tommy Mahoney, Joshua Doubleday and Joe Carberry.

CONGRATULATIONS to the "Final Four" Spelling Bee winners who participated in a second bee on Friday, February 6, 2009:

First Place - Avery Audet, 7th grader
Runner-Up - Kaitlyn Bousquet, 7th grader
Shelby Reed, 8th grader and Olivia Martinson, 6th grader.

A Special Congratulations to **Avery Audet** who will represent Winnisquam Regional Middle School at the regional spelling bee in Epsom on Saturday, March 14, 2009. Good Luck, Avery!

Mrs. Bergman

Congratulations Math Team!

Five members of the WRMS Math Team participated in the Plymouth Regional MATHCOUNTS Competition at PSU on Saturday, February 7 and did a terrific job. Representing Winnisquam were **Kristen Dupuis, Gerry Craig, Melissa Mekula, Rachel Willcutt and Sinead Coyle**. Winnisquam placed third in team competition out of 10 schools, which made up approx. 15 teams of four students each. In the individual category, Winnisquam had three students in the top 10, out of 63 participants. Kristen Dupuis placed 2nd overall and third in the Countdown Competition, Sinead Coyle placed fourth overall and fourth in Countdown Competition and Gerry Craig placed 10th overall. All five qualified for State Competition at PSU on March 7.

Mrs. Beliveau

Nurse's Note

Students frequently will complain of headaches and stomachaches before lunchtime, this is greatly reduced with a simple healthy snack and water. I have been encouraging students of all grades to bring a **plain water bottle** and a **healthy snack** to school daily. All three grades have a snack time mid-morning. Your children have to be at school very early and it is a long morning till lunch. A mid morning healthy snack will help them get through the morning feeling alert and ready to learn. If your child tells you they don't eat snack or do not want a snack, please encourage them to just put it in their backpack just in case they change their minds. I find if they have it, they will generally eat it. I know morning can be very hectic, so if you can remind your child to put the snack and water bottle in their backpack the night before school, it will be one less thing to remember in the morning. Some healthy snack suggestions are cheese and crackers, fruits of all kinds, dry cereal in a baggie or granola bars. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs. LaBranche

ATHLETICS

Winter Sports Awards is Wed March 4th, in the cafeteria. From 6:00-6:30 will be potluck

refreshments with award presentations starting at 6:30.

Food Service News

As we all know, many of us are facing financial challenges. We would like to make it a top priority to provide nutritious meals for our students. We encourage any and all families to pursue the option of free or reduced lunch and breakfast. All applications and approvals are confidential, and remain anonymous through the lunch checkout line. Please visit our website to print an application from this link

<http://www.wrsdsau59.org/departments.html>, or contact Linda Burke 286-7143 extension 225. Forms are always available through the office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Recess - February 23rd. Students return to classes on March 2nd.

3-4 Sports Awards start at 6 p.m.in cafeteria

3-10 Tiger Teen Presentation at 1:00 pm

3/16 School Board Meets @ Union Sanborn School