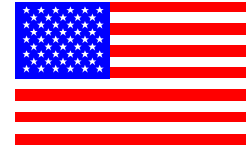




# Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News



## Principal's News

Greetings!

I hope this finds all of you safe and warm after the ice storm! It looks like we're in for another big storm, or two, this weekend - at least it will be a "White Christmas!" We had a wonderful turnout for our parent conferences in November - it was great to see so many parents/guardians involved in their child's education. We had over 100 of you complete our parent survey - and many of you sent back the hard copy we sent to you. Thank you for taking the time to give us your input; it is important to us as we continue to work on our school restructuring efforts. The Restructuring team is working long hours to review our practices, policies and procedures and they will begin to develop our action plan in the very near future. We anticipate many positive changes that will advance the learning of all of our students. I am planning to hold a Parent Roundtable discussion early in the New Year to talk about our restructuring efforts and what it will mean for our students. You can view the minutes from our restructuring meetings on our school website. [www.wrsdsau59.org/wrms](http://www.wrsdsau59.org/wrms))

We are now into the second marking quarter and our MMS on-line grade book is up and running. We are getting very positive feedback from parents who are able to go on-line and view their child's grades. If you have not already signed up for a log-on password, you can find the directions on our website. Please call Mary Doherty in the guidance office if you run into any difficulty.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of you Happy Holidays and best wishes for the New Year! Be safe in your travels and enjoy the time with your children!

Warm regards,

Dr. Miller

## Grade 6

Grade 6 math is studying geometry in December. We are learning about angles, polygons, symmetry and measurement. We will end our unit with a unit test and then a couple of projects on tessellations and how geometry can be used in tiling and art. The students also played a

## ISSUE 4 December 19, 2008

game called angle tangle where one player draws an angle and the other has to estimate the degree measure. The angle is measured and the person with the closest measure is the winner.

The grade 6 team would also like to remind students that we still go outside for recess unless it is too cold or the weather is not cooperating. Please have the kids wear appropriate clothing for recess including hats, gloves and winter coats.

Have you checked your child's grades online? They are being updated weekly. If you need help call the guidance office.

Mr. Meyer

## Grade 7

**Language Arts:** Mrs. Berry and Mrs. Morse's students are working on a community service project with 2nd graders. Please ask your child about it. The students are also finishing up book contracts on Things Not Seen. During Blocks 1 and 2 students are beginning a culture and heritage unit.

**Math:** In Mr. Saltmarsh's math classes students are finishing up the Stretching and Shrinking unit on similarity and scale. The next unit after vacation will be Comparing and Scaling about ratios, percents and proportion. Students recently did a great job on scale drawings of houses.

Mrs. O'Donnell's math students are finishing up the Stretching and Shrinking unit and are working on an end of the unit project. In Algebra, students are reviewing each day this week for the chapter 2 test on 12/19/08. The Pre-Algebra students have started working with variables on both sides of the equation.

**Science:** Mr. Savage's students are working on a genetics unit learning about genotypes and phenotypes. Recently, they have completed a coin toss probability lab. Please ask your child about it.

**Social Studies:** In Mrs. DiNardo's classes students are finishing up a Canadian unit. Currently, they are making a totem pole project in which they're reviewing about Canadian history, physical map features and trade (domestic and international)

Mrs. O'Connor

## Grade 8

**Math** - Mrs. Coughlin's and Mrs. Beliveau's 8th grade Math classes worked on a 12 Days of Christmas or real estate problem. Each student was required to create a visual and the results were fabulous! The visuals were designed to communicate ideas, findings and results and required recognizing and applying patterns from the song to make mathematical connections and calculations. The visual allowed the student to address his or her creative and artistic side through a mode of his or her choice.

**Social Studies** - Tom Prasol from Senator Judd Gregg's office came to Mrs. Jurta's 8th Grade Social Studies classes on November 21<sup>st</sup>. He spoke about the workings of Congress. Mr. Prasol established a nice rapport with the students and they asked a lot of thoughtful questions.

**English Language Arts** - Students in Mr. Wyman's classes are working on a 'History of...' project on a topic of their choice. Next week they will work on timelines. Everyone is expected to create a power point to be presented to the class after the holiday break.

**Science** - What is the basic unit of life? What foods have starch in them that will react with iodine? How can you design an experiment to investigate the 'Perfect Yawn' or anything else? These are a few of the Essential Questions that have been posed and answered in 8th Grade Science this quarter. We were pleased to host Mr. Anderson's Earth Science students from WRHS when they came over to present their projects from the unit on Plate Tectonics. The WRHS students were very well prepared and presented their information in a variety of manners including cakes, power points, and three sided displays. The 8th grade was an attentive and appreciative audience. We are looking forward to some more cooperative learning experiences between Mr. Anderson's classes and mine. As part of our study of cells, we are using microscopes for the next several weeks. Keep up the good work!

Ms. Large

Thanks to our support staff for all their hard work on behalf of our students. You make an incredible difference and we couldn't do it without you!

The 8th Grade teachers and staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Ms. Large

## Walking Club/Intramural

Have you ever wondered how long it would take you to walk across the State of NH? How about to walk the length of NH? On Mondays Mrs. Crowell, students and staff are participating in a walking program called Walk NH. Our goal is to see how far we can each get across the State or hopefully even the length of the State. We have indoor as well as outdoor routes planned depending on the weather. Come join us and see how far you can make it this school year! Contact Mrs. Crowell at extension 218 for more information.

Mrs. Crowell

## Library News

Mrs. Jurta's social studies classes have been busy researching the 50's and 60's in the library. Material on music, presidents, fashion, and major events of those decades was available to students.

Ms. Chapley's book talk in Mrs. Hewey's reading classes concerned Lois Lowry and her many themes in literature. Students had a chance to create an interview with the author, list the titles that would be helpful for their accelerated reader and points, and point the geographic location of the story "Number the Stars" after Ms. Chapley discussed important facts about the author's life and her writing style. Lowry's themes concern the interdependence of people among all people.

Imagine receiving a letter reading that "You are one of the missing". Jonah Skidmore is thirteen and is adopted. His parents have never kept the fact from him, but now someone else knows he is adopted. Jonah's investigation into the past with the help of his sister Katherine and his friend Chip, leads to questions that involve the FBI. There is only one witness left that will admit to seeing a plane full of babies arrive at the airport. Enjoy Found the new series entitled "The Missing" by Margaret Peterson Haddix. I am sure it will be as popular as the Shadow children.

## Ms. Chapley Upcoming Events

12-24 to 1-2 NO SCHOOL - Holiday Recess  
Students return January 5<sup>th</sup>

1/16 No School - Teachers' Workshop

1/19 No School - MLK Jr./Civil Rights Day

1-20 School Board -6:30 - at Southwick School

