



From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

As we approach the holidays, I want to wish all of our students and their families best wishes from the WRMS school community. Our school year has been a busy one, with many changes as we focus on how to improve our learning community so that all students achieve their learning goals. It's a work in progress and I feel that we're moving in the right direction. We value your feedback and I hope you've had an opportunity to complete our parent survey. We use your input, along with the input from our student and staff surveys, to examine what we do and make changes to help us meet everyone's needs. Under our restructuring goals, we have even more opportunities to use data to impact our decision-making. A data team meets monthly to examine data, set goals and determine strategies to meet those goals. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to complete a survey, you can find the link on our website - go to www.wrsdsau59.org and click on the middle school link.

Since we've posted our first quarter grades, I've heard from some of you who have questions about grading, homework, honor roll, etc. We are monitoring this closely, since we do have new grading and homework guidelines, and we have had to make some updates. When you have specific concerns about your individual student, please contact the teacher first, since they can provide you with specific information on your student and in most cases can provide you with the information you need. Should you still have concerns or questions, either Mrs. Kruger or I will be glad to help. It's important to us that you have all the information you need to understand how your child is doing in class and how you can support him/her at home.

This year, our sixth graders are having

"socials" instead of attending dances with the seventh and eighth graders. Our first social was a huge success - we had a great turnout and everyone had a great time. Thank you to our PTO for sponsoring this event! The next sixth grade social is being planned for Friday, December 18th - we are expecting another good time! In fact, some of our seventh and eighth graders have asked if they can plan a social for their teams. I am happy to work with these teams and student council if they want to plan a social instead of a dance.

I met with some of our student council officers this week to review plans for our second Pep Rally and Spirit week, which will take place the week of Dec 14th. We will be celebrating the first home games of the winter season and will have an opportunity to recognize these athletes. Our student council is doing a great job this year - their leadership is an important voice in our school!

When our students return from the holiday vacation, we will be starting our winter NWEA testing in reading/language arts and math. Our window for testing is January 4th - February 4th. We should have reports to send home with our next report cards indicating the progress your student has made since the fall.

I hope you all have a safe and restful holiday break - I look forward to working with you in the new year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela Miller, Principal

Notes from the Assistant Principal Non-Participation List Changes:

Academic NPL will continue to be updated each week, but we are trying a new process to see if it will work better for students and teachers. Starting 12/07/09, students that

are failing a subject will begin with an "Academic Warning" status. This means that students have one week to meet with their teacher and make up any work that can still be accepted. During the "Academic Warning" week, students may continue to participate in extra-curricular activities and their teachers will have the week to get work corrected and put into the grading system. Once it is determined that a student is passing, the student must get a note from his/her teacher and take it to the guidance office. If, by the next Monday, the student is passing and the note was brought to the guidance office, he/she may continue with his/her activities and is removed from Academic Warning status. If he/she is still failing, the student moves to the NPL and can no longer participate in activities until he/she is passing all classes. Once a student is on NPL for one class, he/she may not participate in activities if he/she receives Academic Warning status in other classes. Please note that NPL and Warning lists are updated only on Mondays and not during the week. Coaches will continue to be made aware of the academic status of students via Mr. Cloos, Athletic Director.

Behavior NPL - Once a student receives a third write-up in any quarter, he/she will be placed on "Conduct Warning". If he/she receives a fourth write-up, he/she will be placed on the Behavior NPL and can no longer participate in activities until he/she goes ten school days without a behavior report.

I spoke to all students regarding these changes during lunches on 12/07/09.

Morning Traffic Pattern:

Please be aware that students can be dropped off only at the stop sign between WRMS and WRHS. Students may not be dropped off at the Winter Street entrance, the SAU parking lot, or at the Front doors of the school. The Deer Street entrance is only for school busses during designated hours and the WRMS roadway is one-way traffic at all times. It has been brought to our

attention that it is quite dangerous with all of the traffic that is moving through in the mornings and we are trying to ensure that all students arrive safely to school. Officer Pinault, Student Resource Officer, will be helping with this situation. Please see the WRMS or WRHS websites to view a traffic pattern map.

Students Helping Students:

Some Eighth grade students volunteered their time on 12/05 to assist Union Sanborn students with their holiday shopping while their parents waited in another room (No Peeking). The Holiday Shop is an annual event at Union Sanborn, but it is the first time middle school students had volunteered. Mr. Neville gave many compliments to our students and we were thankful to have the opportunity to partner with another school for such a fun event.

Lunches and Warm Clothing:

We currently have many students that owe money to the lunch program. If you are having difficulty paying your lunch bill, please send your student with a cold lunch. Many students do not like the Sun butter sandwiches and therefore are not eating.

If your financial situation has changed, or you feel you may be eligible for free/reduced lunch, please contact Elise Smith, Guidance Counselor, at 286-7143, ext. 209. She can assist you with the paperwork. All information is CONFIDENTIAL and we are always eager to help families, especially when it comes to feeding children. Notices will be sent home with students when they reach a \$10.00 balance. Starting in January, a formal letter will be mailed home if a student reaches a balance of \$25.00 or more.

The cold and snow has arrived. Please make sure that your student has warm clothing, socks, a coat, hat, and gloves as he/she will be outside in the morning before school begins. If you are having difficulty providing these things for your child, please contact Elise Smith or Lauren Zimmerman, Guidance

Counselors, and they may be able to locate resources that can assist you.

WRMS students ARE BUSY after school!

In October, students were asked to participate in a survey for the Athletic Committee to assess student involvement in sports and clubs. **Results:** 103 students reported participating in a fall team sport and 81 students reported being a member of at least one club during Quarter 1. **184 students (or 53% of our total population) were involved in Fall after school activities!** We are glad that so many students are involved in their school community! **Thank you to all the parents** that are providing transportation and equipment/supplies for the activities. The results for "anticipated participation" for winter/spring sports and Quarters 2-4 clubs was also 53%.

*~ Mrs. Kruger
Assistant Principal*

GRADE 6

Mrs. Hewey's Reading classes

Block A is finishing up their study of the play The Secret Garden. They will be following up the reading by seeing the movie version of the play. Following that, they will be reading an abridged version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol as well as investigating some of the customs of 1800s London.

Blocks B&D have completed their study of The Young Man and the Sea and will be completing a short unit on Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol before the winter vacation. We will be reading an abridged version of the novel, as well as investigating some of the customs of 1800s London.

Grade Six Parents - please continue to check your child's grades online. If you have any questions regarding the online grading system, please contact our Guidance Department at 286-7143 x205.

~ Mrs. Hewey

6th Grade Social Studies

We have just started studying Ancient Egypt. Students have taken a virtual field trip using Google Earth to navigate the Nile River Valley. We will continue to focus on the Nile until vacation. After vacation, we will start to learn more about Egyptian Civilization.

Happy Holidays and enjoy your vacation.

~ Mrs. Marcotte

GRADE 7

In **seventh grade science** we have started our new unit!! We will be reviewing organisms, cells, and genetics. We will also be extending these topics and comparing the reproduction of single-celled and multi-cellular organisms. After the holiday vacation, the children will be tackling the relationship between stimulus and response by working with hissing cockroaches!! Have a wonderful vacation!!

~ Ms. McKenney

The **social studies** classes are finishing up the unit on the United States and Canada. Before we head home for vacation, we will start our unit on Latin America. The students will review where this region is and will start the unit by becoming familiar with the major physical features of the region along with some of the countries. After vacation, we will discuss the difference between developing and developed countries. We will learn what GDP stands for and how this is used as one way to compare the wealth of countries. The students will also learn about the cultures of the region and deforestation of the Amazon.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

GRADE 8

Students in **social studies** will be busy with "Separate But Equal" essay assessments explaining the process of ending segregation in schools and the case that was argued before U.S. Supreme Court.

~ Mrs. Jurta

Grade 8 Math

Students in Mrs. Beliveau's Algebra classes have just finished two really awesome projects! To practice problem solving and computation, they found the cost of buying all the items in the song "The 12 Days of Christmas". They made a visual to go along with their math. These visuals were great and really showed the students' creative side!

Then, to practice 3 dimensional geometry, each child built a stellated rhombic dodecahedron. This moveable cube is a super eye catcher and fun to play with.

~ Mrs. Beliveau

Language Arts

Pre-AP class has completed the Westward Expansion unit and will be beginning the Depression after the holidays.

~ Mr. Wyman

Regular ELA is reading Generational stories in BOB. Language Arts classes will have finished their History of... papers on the 23rd of December.

~ Mrs. Berry

Science

All classes have finished the Changes in Matter Unit. We will now be doing a unit on Physical and Chemical Properties and Changes. Please make sure your child is reading Chapter Three in the text. Students should read Pages 72-87 by the end of the unit. They should also be working on Self Check Questions 1-5 on Page 76 and Questions 1-5 on Page 87.

~ Mr. Hampe

Unified Arts

Art Education

The 7th grade 2nd quarter Art classes have completed their group project. It is on display in the cafe. Each student had a piece of the same mural; they did not know where their piece fit or what the completed project would look like. Well, it's done and it looks great!

8th graders are finishing up their O'Keeffe oil paintings and will be starting a project based on the style of Van Gogh.

In the 6th grade, we are just starting a printing unit. Students will learn the different types of prints, learn to use a printing press, and make some great prints of their own.

~ Mrs. Johnson

Health Education

Grade 6 health classes are involved with consumer health projects. Students are conducting (taste-test) experiments to test their hypotheses regarding certain brands of food items. Parents, you should have received a letter that outlines the criteria for this project. Your cooperation is appreciated in supplying the items that your child needs for this project. Your student will be sure to tell you the results of the experiment, which often is surprising!

Grade 7 health students are starting a unit on stress management. They will be learning specific strategies on how to cope with stress. Hopefully, they will apply these techniques and see a difference in their stress levels! Please check the progress of your child's health game. Students should have all their questions completed before the holiday break. Please check the online grade book for the project timeline.

Grade 8 health students are working on a unit about body image and nutrition. They have collected and analyzed data regarding various aspects of body size and shape. They are currently studying nutrition and will be viewing the video "Super Size Me" (middle school version). Please look for papers from your student that need to be signed and returned. Also, please check the progress of your child's project. Most students are doing sleep deprivation and will most likely work on it during this holiday break. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the project.

Wishing you all Healthy and Happy Holidays!

~ Mrs. Kemmerer

Physical Education

Hard to believe we are at midterm time already. Students have been participating in a variety of Invasion games such as basketball, soccer and floor hockey. We will next be playing volleyball and badminton.

Congratulations to Mr. McNutt and his wife on the arrival of Emma Elizabeth on December 10th. Everyone is doing well and reports are that Emma has more hair than her Daddy!

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

~ Mrs. Crowell and Mr. McNutt

Spanish

Students in Spanish One and Two have been making great progress in their lessons on Rosetta Stone. To add a little culture this month we will be integrating some of the Spanish traditions celebrated during the holidays. Spanish One will be learning about the traditions of Christmas in Spain. Students will see the start of the season with the dance of "Los Seises" and the bells ringing at the cathedral in Sevilla, Spain, then they'll partake in some of the "Noche Buena" sweet treats of turrón and flan, and finally "Dia de Los Reyes" like the children of Spain, students will receive gifts in their "shoes" - not from Santa but from the three wise men. Spanish Two will be exploring how Christmas is celebrated in the nearly 22 Spanish speaking countries around the world. They will experience some of the music, dance, foods and customs of the holiday season. Then students will create posters and make sample dishes from their assigned country. Feliz Navidad a todos!

~ Señora Pearson

Computer Technology

In 6th Grade, we will be starting the Unit on Digital Citizenship, specifically Internet Safety. Using the video vignettes from www.netsmartz.org, Promises, Amy's Choice and Tracking Teresa, we will review these real life situations that can happen online and then we will complete several activities that stress the importance of Internet safety.

The 7th grade computer classes have started the integrated Unit on Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. As Lemonade Stand entrepreneurs, students will use technology in all aspects of their business. Students will be making creative flyers promoting their business, running their business using a simulation, then graphing and analyzing their sales data, and finally expanding their business using creative marketing via a persuasive commercial.

In 8th grade, students have been working on the Information and Research Literacy Unit as they explore the evolution of computers. They identify historical events that have accelerated change and innovation in the development of computers and describe the technologies which were created following these events. Lastly, students consider how these inventions have affected our lives by becoming inventors themselves. Students select a common household item that they believe is important but could be improved by technology. Then they develop a presentation and poster that markets their prototype invention.

~ Mrs. Pearson

Guidance Department

The Guidance Department is offering a Bereavement Group for children whose parent or other close relative has died. If your child has experienced such a loss and has not enrolled, please contact the Guidance Department if you would like him or her to participate.

Help for Families in Tough Economic Times: The Federal Free or Reduced School Breakfast/Lunch Program

Attached to this newsletter is an application for the federal **Free and Reduced School Lunch Program**. Families may apply for this federal benefit at any time during the school year. Eligibility is for the entire year, thus changes in income or household size do not need to be reported but may be if the change qualifies a child for benefits. If your living situation is such that you share rent or

utilities with others, your child shares custody with two parents in the district, or is otherwise relatively complex, we can help you complete the application to reflect the income and expenses of only your "Economic Unit."

If you have lost your job or housing for any reason, your child may be eligible for the Free and Reduced School Lunch Program. Recent changes in this program also expands eligibility to children of wealthier families whose parents or caretakers have lost their job, become disabled, or otherwise have a decrease in income for any reason. For wealthier families in these situations, temporary eligibility can be granted, being based on the current month's income only. Please notate the appropriate situation on your application for free school lunch.

The Free and Reduced School Lunch Program is a vehicle for reporting to the state and federal government the percentage of children whose families are struggling financially. The higher that percentage, the more state and federal funds Winnisquam Regional School District is eligible to receive. The benefits to your child and school are considerable. Free and reduced school lunch eligibility is strictly confidential. If you think your child may be eligible, complete an application. Applications are available on the district website. To learn more about the program, call Linda Burke, Food Service Director, or Elise Smith, Guidance Counselor, at 286-7143.

Sargent Center for Outdoor and Environmental Education

For the 10th year, staff from the Guidance Department (Elise Smith) and Youth Assistance Program (Dawn Shimberg) will be taking a group of about 30 students on a 3-day, overnight trip to Sargent Center for Outdoor and Environmental Education in Hancock, NH. This trip is open to any middle school student. The cost is \$210, but fundraising activities will be available as well as partial scholarships for students receiving

Free or Reduced School Lunch. If your child is interested, please contact Elise Smith in the Guidance Department.

~ Mrs. Smith, 6th and 7th Grade Guidance Counselor
~ Ms. Zimmerman, 8th Grade Guidance Counselor

Nurse's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The students have been healthier! All students may have a clear water bottle in class and I strongly suggest they bring one daily. Despite using the water fountain, most students do not drink enough fluids during the school day.

The *H1N1 vaccine* is now available for all healthy people from ages 5-24 and people ages 25-64 with underlying medical conditions. Please call your doctor in order to get your child vaccinated.

All students may be required to be outside at some point during the day, please have your child bring a warm coat, hat and mittens to school daily. If you need assistance obtaining these items, please let me know.

I am very glad to say, I have had less complaints of hunger during the day and have noticed an increase in the amount of students eating breakfast!

Lead has been associated with cognitive impairment in children. Some Christmas lights may contain lead and the best way to minimize exposure is for adults to handle the lights, wear gloves and wash afterwards.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday season!

~ Mrs. Labranche, R.N.

Library/Media Center

The library is looking for volunteers to help with the many tasks that make a library easy to use for the school community. If you feel you could volunteer at least one hour a week to help with routine tasks, please contact Ms. Chapley at 286-7143.

My review for this month is Al Capone Shines

My Shoes by Gennifer Choldenko. How is it that a gangster behind bars on an island is still a threat? Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family, is frightened when he discovers that Al Capone wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose. Messages are sent via the laundry. Will the notes continue? Will Moose be able to continue to fulfill the requests? What will happen if the warden finds out Moose is helping this inmate?

Mrs. Berry's 8th grade language arts classes are writing their own historical fiction stories using the resources suggested by Ms. Chapley. What a great idea to create your own drama based on an event in history!

After School Clubs and Activities

Cooking Club has been a huge success! We have Cooking Club every Monday after school until 4:00. The students are not only eating the delicious foods, they're learning how to measure the ingredients. Each of them usually have a job to do, which is washing their own dishes, drying them and putting them away after they're finished.

If parents would like to donate, we need plastic cups, plastic utensils, napkins, dish cloths, dish towels, paring knives, serving spoons, Saran wrap, tinfoil, sandwich baggies & cooking pans. These items would be greatly appreciated!

We have cooked spaghetti, easy lasagna, shepherds pie, plenty of yummy desserts and this Monday will be tacos. Come and join Cooking Club where you can meet other students and have a BLAST!!!!

We have **Veterans Club**, every other Thursday right after school. We walk up to the Veterans Home at about 2:45 and stay there until about 4:45. The parents pick up the students back at the school at 5:00. At the Veterans Home we bowl, play volleyball, make crafts, eat snacks and do a lot of socializing with the veterans. This week the veterans are putting on a pizza party for the

students, because they have had such awesome behavior!!!!!! This is a great time to socialize with the veterans and hear about their lives when they were young and in the war. The veterans love to hear how the students are doing in school and what they want to be when they grow up. Please come and join the Veterans Club! It's a lot of fun!

~ Mrs. Roy

Memory Book

Congratulations to Nicole Swain in Grade 8 for winning the Memory Book cover contest! Thanks to all who entered.

~ Mrs. Berry

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 17 th :	Quarter 2 Midterm Reports went home with students
December 24 th - January 1 st :	Holiday Vacation - No School
January 18 th :	Martin Luther King Day - No School
January 22 nd :	Teachers' Workshop - No School for Students



*Please Have a Safe and Enjoyable
Holiday Break ☺*