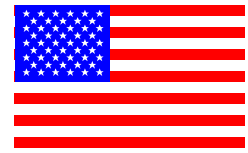




Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News

Issue 5, January 20, 2012

www.wrsdsau59.org



From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

January is a time for us to pause and reflect on how we're progressing on our school goals this year. As we note our accomplishments, it also gives us a chance to look at what still needs to be done and the next steps we need to take. One of our goals comes from student and parent feedback to incorporate recess into our schedule. I am very pleased with the opportunities we've had to incorporate more physical activity into our schedule for our students and staff! In addition to weekly recess for Grades 6-8 during the UA Accelerated Learning block, Friday enrichment activities have provided many opportunities for students to be active and to get outside. We are just starting our new enrichment rotation which offers many new options for students; some of the most popular are Just Dance on the Wii, Floor Hockey, Making Cards for Veterans and Soldiers, and Kids That Care community service. All students participate in a small group activity with a staff mentor. There are about 25 groups each quarter that offer a wide variety of interest areas. Mrs. Kruger and I are currently offering a reading group!

Our goal to create a positive school climate by revising student behavior management strategies has resulted in a significant decrease in student behavior referrals to the office. Our teams worked together to develop consistent expectations for classroom behavior and have worked together to monitor the implementation. Our data team is reviewing our NPL data to see how this structure is working to help keep our students on track. As a result, we will



be making some modifications to the NPL timeline to ensure that we have sufficient grades to assess students' academic standing when we run the NPL.

This is currently a work in progress. The WRMS Behavior Management Committee is getting ready to convene; they meet each year to review our data and set the new direction we need to take as a result.

In an effort to ensure academic challenge and support for all students, we have added a math lab and expanded the support of the learning lab. Some of our regular education teachers and special education teachers have received training in co-teaching strategies. This collaboration in planning and teaching facilitates support structures so that all students are supported in achieving the standards addressed in the curriculum. In addition, all of our teachers have read the book, Focus, by Mike Schmoker. Teams have written goals to strengthen student writing across the curriculum and we are using the strategies in this book to "focus" our work on what will improve student achievement. We will be aligning our work on student writing with the District as we move forward with a 3-5 year plan to advance student literacy skills - this includes reading, speaking and writing.

We are starting the process of course selection this week. Our teachers are beginning to work on their recommendations for students next year. Students will be bringing home a copy of the Program of Studies and their course selection sheets on Friday, February 10th. We will have a Parent Information Night to answer any general questions you may have on Wednesday, February 15th at 6 P.M. in the WRMS cafeteria. If you have questions specific to

your child's placement, please contact our guidance office.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Dr. Pamela Miller
Principal

Notes From the Assistant Principal

It's hard to believe that we are at the half way point for this school year! Quarter 2 grades will be closing on Wednesday, 1/25 and Quarter 3 begins on Thursday, 1/26. If your child is struggling with failing or low grades, please contact your child's teacher(s) and/or the Guidance Department (286-7143, ext. 205). Regular attendance is equally important. Students with high rates of absence may be referred to the Youth Assistance program.

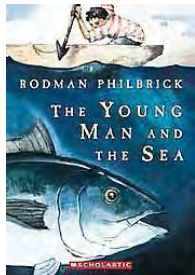
Our Friday Enrichment groups have switched and your child is now enjoying a different activity. If you don't already know, please ask your child what he/she is doing for Enrichment.

In the month of February, course recommendation sheets for all grade levels will be sent home for parent signature. Please contact the school with any questions or concerns. It may be winter, but we are already looking ahead, and working on scheduling for next year.

~ Mrs. Kruger
Assistant Principal

GRADE 6

Mrs. Hewey's Reading Classes



We are continuing our Life Lessons unit and reading The Young Man and the Sea by Rodman Philbrick. To help your child's comprehension of the novel, ask your child: Who are the main characters in the novel? Which character is a bully? Why is Skiff's dad

always on the couch? What is the conflict in the novel?

Honors Option novel papers were due January 19th, only for those students who have chosen to complete Honors Option work.

~ Mrs. Hewey

GRADE 7

Grade Seven Life Science

Students are learning about the different types of reproduction and the genetics that provides for different traits in individuals. Using the rules of dominant and recessive traits, students will use genetics to determine the probability of the traits in offspring using a Punnet Square. Students will also learn about the formation of organs and tissues from germ layers and the role of genes in this process. There will be a science mid-year assessment based on the NH Frameworks standards which were taught the first half of the year.

~ Mr. Saltmarsh

Social Studies

We have recently started our unit on Latin America. The students are becoming familiar with the countries and physical features of this region. Also in this unit, the students will learn about the differences between developed and developing countries. Work will also focus on the three major civilizations of this area along with the deforestation of the Amazon.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

Pre-Algebra

Mrs. Coughlin's 7th & 8th grade Pre-Algebra students are busy preparing for their midterm exam will be given on Tuesday, February 7th. In getting ready for this exam, students have been busy solving expressions and equations using rational numbers. They worked quickly on reviewing terminating and repeating decimals, as well as all fraction operations. They are rising to the challenge of solving equations using positive and negative decimals and fractions.

Students will complete their math NWEA test by the end of January. Their new Number & Operations score will then determine their new Weekly Warm-up level. Warm-ups continue to be distributed at the beginning of each week and are due at the end of the week.

- Mrs. Coughlin

GRADE 8

Social Studies

Social Studies classes in the 8th grade are studying the 1940's, focusing on World War II. Students' projects are due on Friday, the 20th, and we have been very busy researching major battles, leaders of the Axis and Allied Powers, causes and affects of the war, and how it began and ended. We will be working on this unit for several weeks including a week on the Holocaust. It's a considerable amount of material to cover, but the students are surprisingly very curious about this period in history so they are eager to learn more everyday. How great is that??

- Mrs. Jurta

8th Grade ELA



The month of December was filled with that timeless classic The Outsiders. Students read the book, analyzed poetry, including Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay", and completed several related projects including experimenting with the octave format.

A number of students also celebrated writing success with the online site "NaNoWriMo". Short for National Novel Writer's Month, the site provides significant inspiration to budding writers, and enables them to complete their first book in a supportive forum. Many students participated and generated more than 750,000 words of fiction during November. Students who wrote to their self selected

goal were able to create a mock paperback. Novelists at the ripe age of 13 include Sara Brothers, Jacob Morrison, Allyson Auger, Allison McGuire, Jeremy Wentworth, Logan Patten, Nikita Gaydos, Christian Smith, and Makala Chandonnet. These students wrote more than they've ever written in their lives, in fact more than most adults ever accomplish. Congratulations to all participants!

Right now, students are working passionately on Public Service Announcements, filmed on Flip Video cameras, based on research about social issues which was completed in the fall. We will not be giving Oscars, but there is a lot of creative talent in this class.

- Mrs. Berry and Ms. Blevens

Unified Arts

Health Education

Grade 6 students are currently working on a tobacco/smoking unit where they are learning about the effects of tobacco use. Students have participated in an activity that involves a parody on smoking. They designed a cigarette pack to show the hazards of smoking, using pictures and text to illustrate their anti-smoking message. It's impressive to see how creative these students can be!

Grade 7 students have completed their long-term Health Game Board Projects and have presented their games to the class. Next, they will have an opportunity to play each other's games and decide their favorites. Students are completing a unit on alcohol and have learned about the short-term and long-term effects on the body and mind. To illustrate the effects, various stations were set up for students to perform a task while wearing the "drunk goggles." Students then reflected on their experiences which always prove to be interesting!

Grade 8 students have shared their various health projects with the class. Most students chose sleep deprivation for their experience and had varying degrees of

difficulty staying up all night. Hopefully, they learned from their experiment how important sleep is for staying safe and maintaining good health! Eighth graders are currently studying the effects of marijuana and other drugs on the mind and body. This term ends next week on Wednesday, January 25th. Please check with your student to see that he/she has completed all assignments. Thank you.

~ Mrs. Kemmerer

Physical Education

The third term in P.E. is coming to an end next Wednesday. Students have participated in a variety of different sports/games ranging from Invasion Games (Handball/Basketball, etc.) to Net Games (Badminton/Volleyball) and Cooperative Games (teamwork/strategic games). The P.E. program introduces the basic skill development of games for 6th and 7th grade before moving on to game play for 8th grade. Again, kids only participate in P.E. classes for 30 days before moving on to another UA class. Term 3 will move on to Art and the Computer classes will be coming to P.E. to start Term 4 on Thursday. Looking forward to a new group.

Intramurals will begin once Winter Sports are over. Floor Hockey and Dodgeball will be the activities until the spring.

~ Mr. McNutt

Computer Technology

As we come to the end of the third term, students in all grades of Computer Technology are working on culminating projects that demonstrate their newly learned skills and technology competencies.

6th graders are completing an anchor project for their digital portfolios called the "All About Me" video. This Movie Maker project gives students the opportunity to show who they are as WRMS students through the lens of a video or slide show incorporating their favorite images and audio to tell their story.

As Lemonade Entrepreneurs, 7th graders are creating persuasive commercials to sell

their unique product worldwide to a targeted demographic. Some chose to fine tune their Movie Maker skills with this project and others ventured to use Flip video cameras to incorporate testimonials from their customers into their commercials.

The 8th grade class demonstrated their new skills of web design as they worked on bringing everything together by creating a simple web-site as the front-end to their digital portfolios.

~ Mrs. Pearson

Art Education

I am pleased to share the winners of the 2012 Scholastic Art Awards of NH. Anna Moreau won a Silver Key for her "Padding to the Aurora Borealis" batik. Bee Saengpraseuth won Honorable Mention for her "Haiku Dragon" metal tooling sculpture. Avery Martinson won Honorable Mention for his "Smiles" print.

Congratulations to all participants who entered artwork: Ireland Reed, Kyle Bolduc, Nikita Gaydos, Makala Chandonnet, Brooke Long, Sierra Laughy, Tristan Mulleavey, and Mike Buxton.

Keep up the great artwork, everyone!!

~ Mrs. Cobbett

Technical Education

Sixth graders have just completed building, testing and mounting bridge trusses. They are starting a new project this week involving magnetism. They'll be building magnetic levitation fan cars which will be raced on twin tracks next week. Students have done well being self sufficient in gathering information from a variety of sources (posters, examples, peers and instructor) and use the proper tools safely. The level of enthusiasm within the 6th grade to build hands on projects has been very high.

Seventh graders have just completed constructing their motorized fan cars.

They've done simple conversions from feet

per second to miles per hour as well as troubleshooting various problems associated with manufacturing small projects with lots of measurements. The stock version of the cars will be raced as well as a modified race later this week. The last project of the term will be building a small custom drying rack from hardwood and dowels.

Eighth graders are in the middle of their electronics unit starting with basic circuitry (this is a continuation of what they learned in 7th grade about the fan cars. They're building circuit boards to power LEDs from a 9 Volt battery using resistors, copper tape and soldering. A few stragglers are completing their laundry racks due to a jumbled holiday/snow day schedule and should be done this week. Eighth graders will be working on wind power and designing wind turbines to complete the term.

~ Mr. LaBombard

Guidance Department

What are Students Learning in Guidance 6?

All 6th grade students are scheduled for a Guidance class. Classes meet for 80 minutes once per week for one 6 week term.

Ms. Dawn Shimberg of the Youth Assistance Program (YAP) teaches students about good decision making and future planning. Using the research based "All Stars" curriculum which is aligned with WRSD Guidance Standards, students learn how decisions they make today affect their futures.

Detective Jen Adams co-teaches several lessons. Many of the students remember Detective Adams as their 5th grade DARE instructor.

Mrs. Smith, Guidance Counselor, teaches students about social responsibility, ethics, and empathy. Students learn what motivates others to bully, how a bully's need for power can be satisfied in healthy ways, and what victims can do to protect themselves. Students learn the differences between the ways boys bully from that of girls. Girl bullying techniques are more

subtle and harder for adults to detect. Both boys and girls learn how to respond to the various types of bullying, how to stand up for others, and when to ask adults for help. Students also learn study skills with an emphasis on organization and time management. Students identify the amount of time involved in various daily tasks so they can better allocate sufficient time for their responsibilities.

What is Transition 6 Class?

As you may have noticed, a new class has been added to your child's schedule this year and it is called Transition 6. In this class, Mrs. Smith and Ms. Zimmerman, our school counselors, will be teaching 6th grade students about self-advocacy (how to stand up for yourself in an appropriate and respectful manner). During our class time, we identify things that we would like other people to know about us such as our preferred learning style, when we need help in math or reading, if it helps to listen to music while we study and even allergies or medical issues. We learn about the various ways one can advocate for him/herself and we role play these self-advocating techniques. A simple example of using self advocacy is asking about a job in a professional manner or letting a teacher know that you do not understand an assignment.

Self-advocacy incorporates public speaking skills, a sense of responsibility, problem solving techniques, self awareness and leadership skills. Self-advocacy is an important skill for everyone to have as it facilitates understanding and cooperation throughout our lives. It is our hope that practicing these skills as a 6th grader will provide students with tools that they need to be responsible and conscientious leaders in our middle school and beyond.

What are Students Learning in Guidance 7?

Guidance classes in Grade 7 are held once a week over a six week period during the Unified Arts Block along with Music classes.

The course, as a whole, is split into three distinct themes which are aligned to the WRSD Guidance Curriculum Standards. Our themes include: study skills, stress management and communication skills.

During our study skills lessons, students identify their learning style and if they are left or right brained and then determine how they can use this knowledge to improve their study habits and skills.

In our stress management unit, students take on online stress test and they do research on types of stress and different means of dealing with stressful situations. We also practice several of these techniques in class: guided imagery, coloring mandalas, muscle relaxation and deep breathing.

In our last unit, communication, we practice and identify appropriate ways to communicate effectively and we learn about how boys and girls communicate differently and how media can influence our communications. We accomplish a lot in just a few short weeks but these skills are applicable to everyone throughout our entire lives.

What is Transition 8 Class?

To help prepare 8th graders for high school, students participate in Transition 8 for one 6 week term. In this class, Mrs. Smith, the 8th grade school counselor, partners with Mrs. Vanderwoude, a WRHS Agriculture teacher, to provide students with a high school academic experience. Students participate in six Agriculture classes specially tailored for 8th graders on the high school campus. Students make butter, design boutonnières, produce plastic from corn products, and make bees wax candles. Students learn about careers related to agriculture and the various agriculture courses offered to high school students. When time permits, they meet their high school guidance counselors for a discussion about how to be successful in high school. The goal is not only to teach students about agriculture and the environment, but to ease

the transition from middle school to high school.

What are Students Learning in Guidance 8?

8th graders examine their skills, interests, and values while considering potential career choices. They learn about their personality type, strengths, and weaknesses using Psychologist John Holland's work environment theory. Through various personality tests, including a version of the Myers Briggs, students identify which work environments they are best suited for. Students are encouraged to appreciate their unique skills and talents, as well as the diversity among their classmates. Students also learn how career choice affects lifestyle. In creating a mock budget, students realize that the amount of pay they receive will determine how easily they can meet basic needs and how much money, if any, is left for wants.

~ Mrs. Smith

6th and 8th Grade Guidance Counselor

~ Ms. Zimmerman

Grade 7 Guidance Counselor

Learning Lab

On December 22, 2011, WRMS students had the opportunity to use their earned "Gotcha" tickets to try to win an educational game and/or activity. This event was sponsored through the PBI S Green Team.



The winners of the Learning Lab Raffle on 12/22/11 were Jacob Frye, Brandon Beetle and Gavin Achorn (left to right). Congratulations!

Library/Media Center

Cold weather is a great time to curl up with a book to be transported to a new place or learn something new.



Storm Runners by Roland Smith takes you to Florida with a hurricane fast approaching. Twelve-year-old Chase Masters travels the country with his father, a "storm runner,"

but he is tested in ways he never could have imagined. On a bus ride home in a hurricane near St. Petersburg, Florida, he and fellow students are left to find safety without an adult. Hurricane updates and a leopard on the loose will keep you amazed by the courage of Rashawn, Nicole, and Chase as the trio tries to stay one step ahead of danger. Each brings their knowledge of animals, storms, and survival skills to this riveting story. The book will leave you wanting to read The Surge, the next book in this series.

Mrs. Jurta's classes researched the decades of the 1940's. This is a time that brought our country together in trying times. I have heard students say, "I can't wait till we study that."

Sixth graders in Mrs. Hewey's class, through Ms. Chapley's guidance, learned about Patricia Reilly Giff and her books. The class was divided into groups. A mini play of Nory Ryan's Song was presented, an overview of her life and the books she wrote.

~ Ms. Chapley
Media Specialist

After School Clubs

Woodworking

Several students are on the final stages of building their small shaker table. These students have hand cut tenon joints using Japanese back cut saws and have made mortises using the new mortise machine purchased last year. Some students have

decided to build hockey and ice fishing equipment, while a few have decided to use their time to build shelves and cabinets to outfit a local tree house. Random woodworking projects are being turned out every Thursday. The woodworking club will be building and donating a picnic table in the spring and is currently looking for wood donations and hardware (any 2x4[6-8-10] any length (no pressure treated), carriage bolts ¼" + x 3+ inches.

~ Mr. LaBombard

Alternative Energy Club

A new group will start the 24th and will meet for the rest of the year on most Tuesdays. This club is funded by a DOE grant awarded to the District and explores wind and renewable energy with hands-on projects and activities. There's still room if your student wants to join. Please see Mr. LaBombard or Mr. Saltmarsh.



Write On!

Writing in the content areas has been the enrichment focus this year. The enrichment coordinator has spent many hours in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classrooms across the District promoting writing skills. Tools such as, graphic organizers, flow charts, Wordle, and Think-Write-Pair-Paraphrase have been used to help students discuss and analyze the content of their writing in order to clearly get their thoughts down on paper. Students have revised writing pieces using exact words and a variety of concluding sentences called clinchers. A clincher, also referred to as a closer, is the writer's last chance to connect with the reader to make a lasting impression. Lastly, rubrics - documents that outline the expectations for an assignment by listing the criteria and describing levels of quality - are being used as a means of communicating expectations for an assignment, providing focused feedback on work, and grading final products.

Please contact Sue Bergman with any questions at sbergman@wrdsdsau59.org or 286-3611.

Spelling Bee

The school spelling bee will be held on January 26th here in the gymnasium at 1:00 p.m. The final four contestants will compete for the school title.

The grade level winners who competed in the first round on Friday, January 20th are as follows:

6th Grade

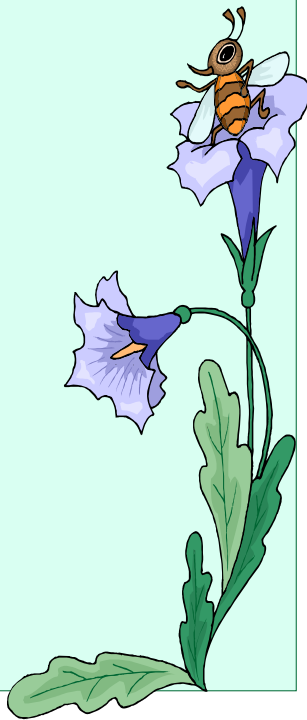
Brooke Edmunds
Niaomi Howell-Hanson
Matt Ivester
Amanda O'Leary
Hannah Pearson
Kaylee Tierney
Alyssa Wiles

7th Grade

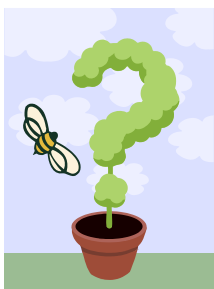
Steven DeCoste
Nathan Kierstead
Dylan Knopka
Dominic Lamanuzzi
Alex Rich
Courtney Smith
Andre Wilkin

8th Grade

Selena Alcantara
Jeremy Caldon
Makala Chandonnet
Kaylyn Dion
Cameron Doyle
Marc Roy
Nicholas Weisman



Congratulations to all!



The winners of the final four preliminary round held on Friday, January 20th are Kaylyn Dion, Cameron Doyle, Dylan Knopka and Marc Roy. These students will compete on Thursday,

January 26th for our school spelling bee championship. Nice job! Good luck to each of you!

WRMS PTO News

December was a wild month for the PTO. Due to successfully meeting our goal for the Book Fair, our second annual FEAR FACTOR was held Dec 23rd. Five lucky (or unlucky) participants from each grade devoured round after round of yucky delicacies to impress the school audience. Blended hot lunch, purchased insects, and "edible" kitty litter were the preliminary rounds. For the final round, Mrs. Berry and Mr. Hampe chomped down on live worms!

Memory Books

Memory books will go on sale soon. Please check the school website for an order form. The Eighth Grade still needs to bring in a small baby picture that can be scanned. The pictures can be brought in until Feb 18th.

Youth Assistance Program

A student may be referred to the Youth Assistance Program for a number of different reasons including such things as truancy, tardiness, family issues, difficulties with peers, bullying, being a victim of a crime, aggressive behavior, low self-esteem and others.

If a youth is referred for support, the family is contacted and an initial appointment is set up at the Youth Assistance Program. This time is spent familiarizing the young person and parent with the different programs offered, the staff and program policies. The parents and youth can then decide if they would like to continue receiving support and in what manner. This could mean individual meetings with a staff member, taking part in a group, or visits that include the youth and parent. There is no specific number of meetings required or fees for services. Involvement

with the program is tailored to the individual student with the input of the parent. Continued involvement is not mandatory.

At times, a youth is referred to the Youth Assistance Program as part of a school disciplinary plan. In this case, there is a requirement that the youth needs to fulfill to comply with the consequences set down by the school in response to infractions of school policies. The student might be required to take a violence prevention program, obtain drug education or get involved in the positive decision making group. There may be a set number of visits required by the school. Again the first step with such a referral is a joint meeting at the Youth Assistance Program office between the student, parent and program director. Once the young person fulfills the requirements, the school is notified. If the conditions are not fulfilled, the youth may be subject to suspension or other disciplinary action.

The third type of referral is for juvenile court diversion services. This type of referral is made when a student has been charged with a juvenile offense and has not previously been in trouble with the law. In this event, an initial meeting is held at the Youth Assistance Program followed by a home visit. A Juvenile Review Board meets with the youth and parent to hear the circumstances of the offense and develop a plan of accountability. The youth then works with a Youth Assistance Program staff member to complete the contract conditions. If the student is successful in the program, he or she will avoid further court action and a juvenile record.

The Youth Assistance Program serves the communities of Northfield and Tilton. Please feel free to call for more information. The phone number is 286-8577. Referrals may be made by the police, courts, schools, parents or by the young person experiencing trouble.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 25: Close of Quarter 2
Close of Term III UA
- January 26: Spelling Bee Championship
1:00 p.m. in Gymnasium
- January 27: Teacher Workshop
No School for Students
- February 3: Dance
Sponsored by Kids That Care
7:00-9:00 p.m.
- February 6: Report Cards Go Home
- February 10: 2012-2013 Course Recommendation
Sheets Go Home
- February 15: Parent Information Night
6:00 p.m. WRMS Cafeteria
- Feb. 27-Mar. 2: Winter Vacation
No School

