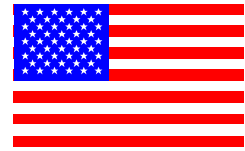




Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News

Issue 1, September 16, 2011
www.wrsdsau59.org



From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

I'd like to take this opportunity to share our goals for this year based upon the parent, student and staff surveys that were taken last May. We've set expectations to

- 1) Provide academic challenge and support for every student, in every classroom, every day
- 2) Revise school-wide classroom behavior management structures to provide consistency
- 3) Provide consistent home-school communication that addresses parent/student needs
- 4) Create a respectful school culture where staff and students consistently work toward school goals
- 5) Continue to foster collaboration in our work and provide the support needed for staff to be successful
- 6) Incorporate recess into the schedule for each grade level

Each month I will provide updates in the newsletter to let you know what we are doing to reach these goals. We've already created a schedule for each grade to have a recess when they go to their AL block with their Unified Arts teachers. If students are caught up with their work, and not on the NPL, they will have recess. Students who owe assignments or need extra help with their work will use this time to get caught up. We hope this incentive helps students to stay up to date with their assignments!

Enrichment activities on Fridays will start soon. This will offer some additional opportunities for activities like walking with iPods, or just walking the track.



As soon as we have everyone's email addresses entered, we will be sending home daily announcements and you will also receive unit letters from teachers through email. Our goal is to be more consistent in sending home a letter

at the beginning of each unit that includes what students will learn, as well as honors options for the unit. Teachers are now sending them home with students until the class group emails are set up. We have had some technology challenges this year as we've installed a new server over the summer and made upgrades to many of our programs. We are working out the glitches and hope to have everything running smoothly in a short time.

I always welcome your feedback, so please let me know if there is ever anything we can do to improve teaching and learning at the middle school. I look forward to a great year!

Warm Regards,
Dr. Pamela Miller
Principal

Notes from the Assistant Principal

I want to extend a warm welcome to all the families of WRMS. We are off to a great start and we are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Please note that students may not be dropped off on Deer Street, along the edge of the road on Winter Street, or at the front doors. This is a huge safety concern and we want to make sure all students arrive safely to school. The access road off of Deer Street is for busses only in the morning and afternoon. We want to extend a "thank you" to the Tilton Police Department for working with us on our challenging traffic pattern.

WRSD has a policy regarding lunch account balances. Please be aware that students and parents will be kept informed of their account balances and parents can access account information via the NutriKids website (there is a link from the WRSD web site). It is always our goal to work with families and avoid any interruption in lunch services.

There was a committee that worked all last year to revise the WRMS student management system. During the first week of school, all teams held a community meeting. Students and staff worked together to define behavioral expectations around the five school rules (Respect, Responsibility, Attentiveness, Preparedness, Safety). Teachers handle discipline and consequences for incidents that occur in their classrooms and behavior is no longer tracked among classrooms. In addition, a team of teachers went to a PBIS conference in August and there is a renewed focus on positive interventions. There was a great staff turnout of those that want to work on building more positive experiences for our students.

I have been told that parents are now able to access the online grade book. Please remember that grades are the most accurate on Mondays after the school day ends. If you are having difficulty with the program, or need log-in information, please call Kelly Summers at 286-7143, ext. 205.

As a reminder, there is a lot of information that can be found on the WRMS website. There are links, information about food services, bus schedules, online grading, afterschool activities, news and events, sports requirements, PTO, and the Student/Parent Handbook. Please take a minute to browse the site, as it is a wonderful tool for you to know what is going on in your child's school.



Shannon M. Kruger
Assistant Principal

WRMS September 2011 News

GRADE 6

Welcome to grade six at Winnisquam Regional Middle School! We have had a great start to the school year! Students began the year with brainstorming ways to show how they will follow our 5 school rules – Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Attentive, Be Prepared, and Be Safe – in the hallways, in class, outside, in the cafeteria, and on the bus. Students are rewarded for following our school rules with Gotchas that can be used at the Gotcha store, activities during school, and field trips.

Please check your child's homework folder and planner daily for homework and upcoming tests, quizzes, and projects. Also, please check your child's online grades. If you need assistance with this, please contact the guidance department at 286-7143 x205.

ELA with Mrs. Hewey

Do you remember being in sixth grade? Do you remember that it was sometimes hard to fit in with all the different types of students? We are starting the year with a unit on Diversity and Tolerance. Students will be discussing this theme through various reading and writing assignments. Students have been given a unit letter to share with you the details about this unit. Please call me at 286-7143 x305.

Information will be coming home soon regarding the honors option for ELA classes.

- Mrs. Hewey

ELA with Ms. Sanders

Students who have Ms. Sanders for Reading/Language Arts are just beginning the Diversity and Tolerance Unit. Parents can look for the unit letters to be coming home with students in the next few days. Students are currently working on their first spelling packet of the year and will take the spelling quiz on Friday, September 16. Each student receives two copies of his/her individualized spelling list. One copy is attached to each student's spelling packet

Page 2 of 8

and the other is attached to his/her assignment notebook right next to the Friday assignments. There will always be four spelling assignments in spelling packets. Students can expect to have spelling words every other week. Students must turn in their spelling packets at the beginning of the class the day it is due. At this point, students should have a book they are interested in reading at home and should be reading twenty minutes each night. Summer reading projects looked great! Students will be taking the accelerated reader quiz on their summer reading books this week. Their scores will count as a quiz grade for the first quarter.

~ *Ms. Sanders*

Math with Mrs. Beliveau

Students in grade 6 started the year working with decimals. We are currently relating them to money and will extend to additional place values soon. I am very impressed by the nice behavior and hard work these students are showing me! Ask your child to show you the math section of his/her binder and the warm-up problems for the week. Warm-ups are always due at the end of the week, so feel free to check them on Thursday with your child.

~ *Mrs. Beliveau*

6th Grade Science

The students in sixth grade are off to a great and exciting start in science this year. The first unit of study in Earth Science will be on astronomy. Currently, the students are learning about important skills that are essential in any science class. These include the use of close observations and inferences to gather information to make sense of the world around them. Throughout the three units, the students will complete lessons about the metric system.

Please be on the lookout for the astronomy unit plan. This will have a section that needs to be signed and returned to Mr. Savage. I'm looking forward to a fun year!

~ *Mr. Savage*

Grade 6 Math with Mr. Meyer

The 6th grade general math class is studying properties of numbers. We are studying prime and composite numbers, multiplication, long division, prime factorization and divisibility rules.

~ *Mr. Meyer*

Social Studies

Social studies classes have been working on a unit **Tools of Geographers & Historians**. In this unit, your student will be studying the following topics:

- Maps & Globes
- Geographic Features
- Themes of Geography
- Interpreting Charts & Graphs

This month, we have been going over geography in social studies. Students have viewed several video clips online to expose them to geographic concepts. You can review these at home with your child by following the links below. If you have a smart phone, scan the QR code to take you directly to the web-site.

Google Earth & Geography

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3I1jIQ7t7nM>



Latitude & Longitude

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swKBi6hHHMA>



9/11 Timeline

<http://www.history.com/topics/9-11-attacks/videos#911-timeline>



Labor Day Clip from the Department of Labor www.dol.gov/laborday/videos-laborday.html



History of Labor Day

www.history.com/topics/laborday/videos/historyoflaborday



Next week is Constitution Week. We will be spending some time discussing the importance of the U.S. Constitution in class during this time. We will be using brief video clips each day to spark discussion about the importance of the Constitution.

Students have learned how to use the Quiz Dom student response systems. We have used these clickers for our social studies pretest and to check for understanding throughout the unit. Students have been given copies of the clicker session summary reports to review in order to improve their understanding. These can be found in the

[WRMS September 2011 News](#)

assessment section under social studies of their binders. I encourage you to review missed questions with your child.

Use the online textbook at www.glencoe.com/ose. Your child has the access code taped into his/her assignment notebook. If you are able to access the textbook online, there isn't a need for your child to bring the textbook to and from school. There are also DVDs available of the textbook at parent request. The DVD has audio of the textbook for students that have difficulty reading. In order for it to work, you must have a DVD drive in your computer. In addition, as we move past this unit, there are online study materials available at www.glencoe.jat.com.

~ Mrs. Marcotte

GRADE 7

Grade 7 ELA

Welcome back to a new school year! In English/Language Arts, unit letters have been sent out to inform you about our first unit on "Transformations". Currently, students are working on reviewing the parts of speech and will soon begin their work on mini-projects in which they will take on the responsibility of researching one particular part of speech and presenting their findings to their fellow classmates. Students will also begin looking at clips and analyzing literary elements found in a story to prepare for the concepts that will be used during our first novel, Inventing Elliot.

This week, please check with your students about their binders. Student binders now contain the binder organization list, the Accelerated Reader Program Requirements, as well as reading logs. Please be aware that your child's binder is a wonderful communication piece for you to access. It allows you to view what we are currently working on in the classroom along with the online grade book.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year!

~ Ms. Simoes & Mrs. Morse

Page 4 of 8

Social Studies

We are spending our first few weeks of school becoming familiar with the world. We are reviewing the continents, lines of latitude, and becoming familiar with classroom routines. As this first unit continues, we will discuss culture and learn about developed and developing countries.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

GRADE 8

Grade 8 ELA

Students have been hard at work expressing aspects of their personalities in a variety of ways. They are in the process of creating vanity license plates, writing essays, and next week they will present lengthy verbal presentations on an area of personal expertise.

In class they've been reading short stories with a focus on understanding irony. They're also required to practice wide reading at the start of every class. We have started Accelerated Reader, and set personal reading goals for the quarter. The new online program offers many more selections than the previous version of the program.

Journal writing is completed several times a week, with one self-selected piece assessed. Writing goals are also practiced through several themed pieces throughout the year. It was a pleasure to meet many families at Open House. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

~ Mrs. Berry

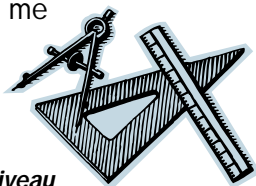
~ Ms. Blevens

Math with Mrs. Beliveau

Students in grade 8 Geometry are working on communicating geometry effectively with proper symbols. We have also spent time doing some "mini lessons" of concepts that will be on the upcoming NECAP test. This class continues to impress me with great participation and awesome work.

Just a reminder... every problem counts.

~ Mrs. Beliveau



Unified Arts

Health

Grade 6 health students are currently involved with a Consumer Health Project. Each group is investigating a food product and conducting a blindfold taste-test experiment to test their hypothesis. Students will present their findings to the class and make recommendations based on the evidence they collect. You may want to ask your child about the results of this project and any interesting facts he/she discovered!

Grade 7 students are working on an introduction to health unit which includes terms and concepts related to health. They also are researching information for their long-term Health Game project. Please review the packet regarding this project with your child. You will find a rubric that outlines the criteria and other information related to the final game project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. Students will be presenting their projects to the class on October 3rd, which is the due date.

Grade 8 health students have completed their first unit of study based on values, decision-making, goal-setting and communication skills. These concepts are all connected to healthy living and will be applied throughout the term with other health topics. Currently students are working on a body image and nutrition unit. Long-term health projects are due October 3rd. Students should be working on these during the next few weeks.

~ Mrs. Kemmerer

Physical Education

The 1st term in P.E has begun and students have already participated in a variety of cooperative games which focus on teamwork, cooperation and fair play. Students have also completed the Fitness Testing which includes: V-sit, crunches, flex-arm hang, PACER, and shuttle run. We will begin handball and soccer which focus on basic skills of catching, throwing and

kicking. Also, offense and defense strategies are explained and used in game play. Again, kids only participate in P.E classes for 30 days before moving on to another UA class.

Intramurals will begin once fall sports are over. The first intramural will start with basketball to get those ready for the basketball season and for others who want to come down and have some fun.

~ Mr. McNutt

Computer Technology

In 6th grade, students are finishing their market research projects for the Critical Thinking and Problem Solving unit. They collected probability data and graphed their results using Microsoft Excel. The skills students learned during this assignment will help them analyze the data they collect for other classes such as the Health class consumer projects. Next week we will be focusing on Digital Citizenship with a review of Internet Safety using the NetSmartz real-story videos

(<http://www.netsmartz.org/RealLifeStories>) to lead discussions and an overview of Copyright Law and Fair Use guidelines as it applies to students.

The 7th grade computer class has finished a unit on Information and Research Literacy. Students demonstrated how to find reliable information from electronic and printed sources for a given science topic and then created a summary paragraph based on that information. Students entered this research information in Microsoft Word in MLA format as a research paper with its proper bibliography. Students are now beginning the integrated unit on Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. As Lemonade entrepreneurs, students will use technology in all aspects of their business.

In 8th grade, students also worked on an Information and Research Literacy Unit. Students studied the history of computing and the historical events that influenced change in the industry. Then they became inventors themselves by analyzing what they

learned about the evolution of technology and selected a common household item that is important but could be improved with technology. They created posters and multimedia presentations of their new and improved inventions. This next week, students will research an event in history using the Internet and other resources available to them and then demonstrate their understanding of this event, by creating a comprehensive travel brochure in MS Publisher that takes their audience to this location back in time.

~ Mrs. Pearson

Art Education

The year is off to a great start in the art room! Art students in sixth grade are busy drawing and painting shoes with complementary colors. Seventh grade artists are mastering the magic of perspective drawing. Eighth graders are creating thematic clay mugs.

As always, the art room is always looking



for donations of newspapers, plastic bags, and old white sheets.

~ Mrs. Cobbett

Spanish

Have you been greeted lately... ¿Cómo está usted Mama y Papa? Then, you must have a student in Spanish this year. We have been practicing common greetings and introductions in class and have been assigned the homework of practicing with our families and friends. Students have been introduced to the entire Spanish Alphabet and have played bingo using common Spanish words.

In the next two weeks, students will be learning the colors of the rainbow and will be practicing their colors with a popular Spanish pastime, Dominoes (in colors). As part of Hispanic Heritage Month, students will be exploring historical Hispanic figures and their influence in our world.

~ Señora Pearson

Guidance Department

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 will 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 will also learn about the various ways one can advocate for themselves such as asking for help, using resources, seeking support, completing assignments and being organized and aware of all of the things that we need to do. We will role play these self-advocating techniques and each student will have the chance to share something with the class in a self-advocating role.

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.

- *WRMS Guidance Department*

Nurse's Corner

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a fun and restful summer! I realize that everyone is busy in the morning and it can be a very hectic time of day, but eating breakfast and packing a morning snack is so very important. I frequently have students coming into my office with tummy aches from not eating breakfast. This takes away from their

WRMS September 2011 News

classroom time while they sit and eat. We do offer breakfast in the cafeteria for a dollar from 7:25-7:40 a.m. daily.

For students receiving free or reduced lunch, this would also apply to breakfast. Please discuss with your child the importance of eating breakfast, whether it is at home or school. All students are given a morning snack time; please encourage your child to bring a snack to school daily. Students may or may not choose to eat a snack at snack time, but at least they have it if they are hungry. I also encourage all students to bring a clear bottle of water every day.

If your child will be late or absent from school, please call the school at 286-7143. I will be monitoring illnesses. I do need to know if your child has a temperature above 100 degrees, especially if it accompanied with a cough or sore throat. Students should return to school only after they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen and are feeling better. Please encourage your child to keep objects out of his/her mouth, not to share food/drinks and wash to wash his/her hands before eating.

If your child has been prescribed an inhaler or Epipen, please let me know so the proper paperwork can be completed. Students should not have an inhaler or Epipen on them without my knowledge and proper permission.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns you may have at 286-7143 ext. 204. Have a great school year!!

- *Mrs. Labranche, R.N.*

Library/Media Center

A presentation entitled "Guideline to Using the Library Media Center" was presented to the sixth and eighth grades. I hope the



students found this helpful. A review of responsibilities and procedures was presented via a PowerPoint presentation.

Please remember to return books on time so other students and staff may enjoy the books.

Mrs. Jurta's classes are researching the decades of the 1980's to the present and Mrs. Kemmerer's class is using the health database to learn about diseases.

Fall into a good book with a selection of books from our collection. I will review a book each month. I hope you will find this one amazing and inspiring: *The Running Dream* by Wendelin Van Draanen. "Running is what I do. Now I'm lying in the hospital bed, tears streaming from my eyes and no leg below my knee. What kind of life will I be able to have?" Jessica has just learned that she has survived a bus accident while traveling to a track meet that has left her with life changes. The doctors say she will walk again with a prosthetic limb, but life will never be the same, climbing stairs, walking to classes, and dealing with the stares from people who feel sorry for her. During her struggle to cope and find a new normalcy, Jessica learns to appreciate her friend Rosa's desire for people to see her, not her condition - cerebral palsy. The author has you hooked on Jessica and her struggles from the first page to the last.

*~ Ms. Chapley
Media Specialist*

NH Veterans Club and Activities

This year we will again see the Veterans from the Veterans Home!

Every Monday at 1:30, the Veterans come to the school to play trivia games with the students. It's a fun time to interact and to get to know a lot about each other and to learn about the Veterans growing up. The students are on a rotating schedule, so they get to go every third Monday. We will start September 19th with the 8th graders. September 26th will be the 7th graders and

October 3rd will be the 6th graders. Then we will start again with the 8th graders. If any student is interested in joining, please see Mrs. Roy in the office or call at 286-7143, ext. 208.

The Veterans Club is every other Thursday, and will start September 22nd. We walk up to the Veterans Home right after school. The students play games with the Veterans like: Volley Ball, Bowling, Wii and a lot more other games. They play trivia games, do arts and crafts and have snacks with the Veterans. It's an enjoyable time to see the Veterans and students talking to each other and having a good time. We walk back to the school at about 4:30. If you have any questions or would like to join, please contact Mrs. Roy in the office or call 286-7143, ext. 208. You can also go to the guidance office and get an after school permission slip.

Family Fun Night ☺

Please join us for a FREE night of fun planned for Winnisquam Regional Middle School students and their families. We will have activities and games that include the opportunity for students AND their parents to win raffle prizes! There will also be music and a BONFIRE! The PTO will have hotdogs, chips, fruit, water and dessert/snack items available for purchase throughout the evening. Come join the FUN!



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Oct. 7: | Teacher Workshop - No School |
| Oct. 10: | Columbus Day - No School |
| Oct. 12: | Close of Term I Unified Arts |
| Oct. 13: | Family Fun Night, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
(Rain date = 10/14) |
| Oct. 13-18: | NECAP Testing |
| Oct. 19: | Picture Retakes |