



From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

Our winter NWEA assessments have just been completed and we will be sending home your child's results as soon as we can print reports. We will also be sending along a report of your child's NECAP scores. We are working hard to review all the data so that we can target areas for improvement. From a preliminary review of our data, we know that students need to be doing more critical thinking and we need to focus on reading comprehension and writing skills. We have a plan to help teachers incorporate higher level questioning for discussion and writing. Teacher groups will be analyzing student work to assess how students are progressing; they will also be working in groups to share classroom strategies and receive input from their colleagues. We know that creating opportunities for professional collaboration improves teaching and has a positive effect on student learning.

We are beginning the scheduling process for the next school year. Our teachers are filling out recommendation sheets for advanced level work and programs such as Read 180 and iSucceed math. You should expect to see these sign-up sheets come home the second week of March. We are very sad that the budget for next year includes the elimination of one of our music positions. We are currently working on developing a schedule that will allow us to continue to offer both the band and chorus program. The music programs are important to the development of our students and we will continue to offer both of these options.

I hope everyone has a safe, enjoyable winter break!

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela Miller, Principal

Notes From the Assistant Principal

Congratulations to David DeCoste, WRMS Spelling Bee Champion!

Congratulations to the WRMS Math Team for placing second in the regional meet!

Please welcome Ms. Sunderland to seventh grade science as a long term substitute teacher. Please also welcome Mrs. Hohenberger to eighth grade ELA as a long term substitute teacher. Parents can now reach both teachers via email.

WRMS students continue to be busy after school. There are 99 students that have participated in winter sports and another 80 students that have participated in after school clubs. In an attempt to continue to increase student participation in sports, a student survey was conducted by the WRSD Athletic Committee. Students reported a strong interest in swimming, lacrosse, gymnastics, and ice hockey. There will be a general meeting for all parents/students that would be interested in swimming or playing ice hockey when they transition to the high school. The meetings are planned for March 11th in the high school cafetorium. Those interested in ice hockey will meet at 6:00 and those interested in swimming will meet at 7:00. If you are unable to attend but want to express an interest, please email Mr. Cloos, Athletic Director, at jcloos@wrsdsau59.org.

Traffic Reminder: All students should be dropped off at the stop sign in the morning. For safety reasons, students should not be dropped off at the school entrance, front doors, or on Deer Street. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

All students are outside in the morning unless the real feel is below ten degrees and the only students that enter the cafeteria are those purchasing breakfast. I have worked with elementary school administration to ensure we are aligned with their practices when the students transition to WRMS. Thank you for working with your students to make sure they arrive at school prepared for their day.

The academic NPL will be run three times in Q3 and Q4 and students are still entitled to one week of "warning" status where they can participate in after school activities while they are working with their parents and teachers on their grades. There was an NPL run on 2/15 and the remaining dates are posted on the web site. The behavior NPL will continue to be run on a weekly basis.

Please have your child check the Lost and Found piles in the locker rooms and the cafeteria. They are mountainous!

Have a wonderful and safe February vacation!
~ Mrs. Kruger
Assistant Principal

GRADE 6

Mrs. Hewey's Reading Classes

Block A: Students are finishing their reading of The Lightning Thief before February vacation. Following vacation, they will be working on projects (during class time) as a follow-up to the novel. Please ask your child to tell you about his/her project. Many students have seen the new Lightning Thief movie and have said that the book is much better than the movie. Of course! A reminder that we are continuing our pattern of Spelling packets and Skills packets on alternate weeks. The first week after vacation will be a spelling week, with the quiz and the packet due on Friday, March 5.

Blocks B & D: Both classes have finished The Lightning Thief and are working in school on projects related to the book. Please ask your child to tell you about his/her project. Following vacation, we will continue our

Origins unit by moving on from Greek myths to myths from other cultures.

~ Mrs. Hewey

GRADE 7

Social Studies

We have now finished our unit on Latin America. After vacation we will start studying Europe. Once again, the students will become familiar with the political and physical maps of Europe. In addition, we will discuss issues that are caused by the decreasing populations in many countries. The students will also understand why NATO was formed and what the Industrial Revolution was all about and what impact it had on the US.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

Science

Students are pleased to finish up our unit on cells and reproduction!! We have been working on different methods of note taking, as I feel this is a very important skill for them to obtain and continue to practice in all classes.

Students have recently learned that I will be leaving school and returning home to Ohio as of Friday, February 19th. I want to let all staff, parents, guardians, and children know that I have absolutely loved being a part of the Winnisquam family and will greatly miss everyone! The children are amazing and have wonderful potential to do anything they put their minds to!!

Ms. Sunderland will be starting up an exciting unit dealing with populations and ecosystems! This unit has many hands on, inquiry activities that I know the students will love.

Thank you for all of the support.

~ Ms. McKenney

Grade Seven CMP Math

Students in CMP math classes are finishing up the unit on comparing and scaling. The capstone project will be a poster based on a survey conducted in class and displaying calculations using the data to show

comparisons by ratio, proportion, rate, percent, decimal equivalents, bar graph, and more than less than. They will then state, in a written reflection paper, which comparisons display their data the strongest and the weakest and defend their choices. When we return from vacation, math students will begin to learn how to better communicate their math work in class to their fellow students by writing and speaking effectively.

They will be expected to write more in-depth reflection paragraphs which will require higher levels of thinking. They will be expected to explain to the class in proper math terms how they select a strategy and apply it to solve a problem showing all work. This is an important next step in their future abilities to be able to communicate in math class through writing and speaking correctly to form clear questions; also to clearly explain, question, defend or challenge solutions to problems.

~ Mr. Saltmarsh

GRADE 8

Social Studies

Social studies classes have completed the 1940's unit. There will be a unit test on Wednesday & Thursday of this week.

On Friday, 2/12/10, we welcomed Sergeant Josh D'Agnese and his wife Nicole as guest speakers. Josh, a former WRSD student, was home on leave from Iraq. Students were fascinated to hear about his life as a soldier in Iraq and Iraqi culture. Nicole D'Agnese talked about life on the home front for military families and the importance of support for families of deployed soldiers.

Special thanks are extended to Mrs. Deb D'Agnese for arranging Josh's visit. We so appreciate the generosity of the D'Agnese Family for sharing their limited and precious family time with us. We wish Josh safety upon his return to Iraq. Additionally, it would have to be said that two year old Maddy D'Agnese stole the show!

~ Mrs. Jurta

Science

All classes are finishing up the Chemistry Unit. Chemistry is a tough subject, but the students handled it very well. We will be starting a Physics Unit after the February vacation. All classes will begin with investigating motion, acceleration and momentum. There will be many hands-on activities and laboratory experiments. It is very important that all students keep up with the lab work, and hand in all final lab reports.

~ Mr. Hampe

ELA

Both Mrs. Hohenberger's classes and Mrs. Berry's classes recently finished reading a short play on the book of Anne Frank. This was a small interdisciplinary unit coordinated with Mrs. Jurta's WWII unit in social studies. Great discussions came out of this as well as some reflections on our past through the play. We also saw a short take on Anne's life in a video. Mrs. Berry's class is currently trying to solve a mystery to a Haunted House video using deductive and inductive reasoning skills through a series of worksheets. Students will know how it all turns out before February break. Please remember that they still need to read for Accelerated Reader points for all classes. All students should have a book to read at school and should be reading at home daily as well.

Read 180 - Grades 7 and 8

Students are making some great progress with their computer work. Students who have read 15,000 - 45,000 words on the computer have certificates on our class bulletin board. Students work on their reading, vocabulary and spelling for 25 minutes each day on the computer.

In Guided and Independent Reading, Mrs. O'Connor has started reading the Read 180 novel Cyber Pranks with all groups. Skills to be focused on will be decoding, oral fluency, reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

Students are in different places in their R book workbooks. Students who are working on the same stories will be brought together

for further guided instruction during their daily R book rotations.

Sixth Grade English Language Arts

This week we are reading Lloyd Alexander's The Stone in our literature books. Students continue to have new vocabulary and spelling words to study each week. When we return from vacation, we will begin reading The Secret Garden (also found in our literature book) by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Students are reminded that they should be reading for at least 25 minutes per night, at least five nights per week in their Accelerated Reader book at home. I have been surprised to hear from both students and parents that reading is not being done at home. Be sure to ask your student about the current book he or she is reading and ask to see it as well.

~ Mrs. Anderson

7th & 8th Grade iSucceed

Students have really stepped up their efforts in regard to their weekly warm-ups. They have the opportunity to hand warm-ups in early for a chance to get them back if any answers are incorrect. It is nice to see the students taking the initiative and extra effort to do this.

Parents and students were recently also informed that students may stay after school on Tuesday afternoons until 3:30 in the iSucceed Lab. This is a chance for students to get caught up, to receive extra help, or to move ahead on lessons. Students who are not making good use of their class time will be "invited" to stay for upcoming sessions. If anyone has questions, please feel free to contact the iSucceed Lab.

~ Mrs. Coughlin

~ Mrs. Shuey

~Mrs. O'Connor

Unified Arts

Computer Technology

In 6th grade, students are completing their project for the Unit on Critical Thinking and Problem Solving. They collected probability data and graphed their results using Microsoft Excel. The skills they learned

during this assignment will help students analyze the data they collect for their health class consumer projects. After vacation, students will begin a key portfolio project, their "All About Me" movie. In this Windows Movie Maker project, students will have a chance to use technology such as video, digital photos, music and their voice to tell their story of who they are and what they like as middle school students at WRMS.

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 have so far made creative flyers to promote their business and have evaluated the factors that can influence their success. Using the Intel Online Thinking tool, Visual Ranking, students identified and refined criteria as they assign order and ranking to the list of these factors. Finally, they explained their reasoning and compared their work with each other in a visual diagram. When students return from vacation, they will be running their business using a simulation, then graphing and analyzing their sales data, and finally expanding their business using a creative marketing approach via a persuasive commercial.

In 8th grade, students have been working on the Information and Research Literacy Unit in combination with their Health project. Students have been using the EBSCO Research Database and the Internet as sources for their research. They will complete a MLA formatted research paper on their specific health topic as their final project. After vacation, 8th grade computer classes will be working as website designers and video media editors on part of a special mini grant project "Every Town Has a Story to Tell."

~ Mrs. Pearson

Physical Education

It is hard to believe that we are moving into the fourth week of third quarter already. So far students have completed units on cooperative games, fitness and handball. As

part of the fitness unit, all students ran the PACER; high scores are posted for each grade in the gym. Students will have the opportunity to improve their scores at the end of the quarter. When students return after break, they will be playing a variety of invasion games.

Intramurals

Now that winter sports have ended, we are offering a variety of intramurals after school from 2:30-3:30. Dodge ball will be first through March 3rd. Floor hockey will run through March 12th and then indoor soccer will be run the week of March 15th. Students must have a signed permission slip to play and may not be on the NPL. We look forward to seeing a lot of students participate. See Mr. McNutt or Mrs. Crowell for more information or a permission slip.

~ Mrs. Crowell and Mr. McNutt

Health

Grade 6 Health students have been working on a first aid unit. Their next unit of study will be consumer health. Students will be participating in experiments where they test their hypotheses regarding different brands of health-related products. You will be receiving a letter outlining the criteria for this project after vacation.

Grade 7 Health students are currently doing research toward their Health Board Game projects that will be due April 1st and 2nd. The timeline for each aspect of the game project should be written in your child's assignment notebook and is also available on the MMS grading site. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this project.

Grade 8 Health students are working on a research paper as prerequisite for their health project. The assignment is a collaboration with both health and computer classes. Students' actual experiments are due April 1st and 2nd. Most students have chosen the sleep deprivation experiment which many have chosen to do during vacation next week. Please contact me with any

questions you may have about any of the project choices.

~ Mrs. Kemmerer

Nurse's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The H1N1 clinic here on January 28th went very well. We vaccinated 29 students and 21 staff members. It is still very important to continue good hand washing.

The students have been pretty healthy in general. Colds, viral sore throats and a stomach bug have been the causes of most illness currently.

Just a reminder, I am still monitoring illnesses for the State. If you leave a message that your child is ill, please include symptoms and if they have a fever over 100 degrees. If your child is not ill, please state that also (i.e. dental appointment, family related).

Hope everyone has a wonderful vacation! Spring will be here soon!

~ Bobbie Labranche, R.N.

Library/Media Center

Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker: the Unlikely Friendship of Elizabeth Keckley & Mary Todd Lincoln by Lynda Jones is the untold story of a black slave whose creativity and friendship supported Mary Todd Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln was known for her stylish clothes because she had the talents of Mrs. Keckley. Learn about the trials of a slave whose devotion to Mrs. Lincoln was mocked by the public after the publication of a book published to help her pay off her debts.

Mrs. Pearson and Ms. Chapley worked together with students in computer class to learn how to access the Ebsco Subscription Database. This is a database that contains periodicals, magazines, articles from newspapers, and pamphlets. Material from a subscription is authentic and has been validated by professionals in each field. We want students to realize that there are tools

appropriate for their needs for researching. Mrs. Kemmerer's Health classes are learning about using this database, too.

Gary Paulsen was the recent topic of a book talk by Ms. Chapley in Mrs. Hewey's reading classes. After listening to the talk, students were selected to determine what materials from a backpack were needed for survival, perform a mock interview with Paulsen, select Accelerated Reader titles, and recreate a scene from *Hatchet*.

~Ms. Chapley
Media Specialist

Memory Books

We are hard at work trying to meet the March 29th deadline. Collage pages are almost done and the baby pictures of the eighth grade are precious. Sales are fairly strong but we do need a commitment on your part to order one before they arrive in June. Sales are set up differently than past years so I need to have a fairly accurate number by March 29th. You can still put a down payment down by March 29th and pay the rest later. Order forms are in the office as well as online at the middle school site.

~ Mrs. Berry

The Scripps National Spelling Bee

Winnisquam Regional Middle School held two school-wide spelling bees during the last few weeks. The Scripps National Spelling Bee is the nation's largest and longest-running educational promotion, administered on a not-for-profit basis by the E.W. Scripps Company. The purpose of the bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop language skills that will help them throughout their lives.

Congratulations to the following students from Winnisquam Regional Middle School who participated in spelling bees:

From Winnisquam Regional Middle School

Jacob Morrison, Jeremy Wentworth, Marc Roy, Brandon Brorby, Timothy Harmon, Kim Martin, Jordan Mosa, Rebecca Rapoza, Cameron Atherton, Brittany Welkes,

Benjamin Wirth, Erin McNamara, Haley Poirier, Tyler Ballam, Trevor Cartier, Kaylee Howard, David DeCoste and Kendra Lonergan.

Congratulations to Ben Wirth, Brandon Brorby, David DeCoste, and Kim Martin who made it to the "Final Four" School Championship Spelling Bee!



A VERY SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS to eighth grader, David DeCoste, who will represent Winnisquam Regional Middle School at the regional spelling bee in Epsom on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Good luck, David!

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 22-26:	Winter Vacation
March 9:	Q3 Midterm Grades Close
March 11:	Q3 Midterms Go Home



Enjoy Your Break ~ Stay Safe ☺