

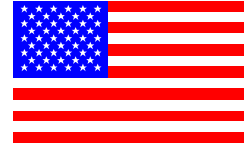


Winnisquam Regional Middle School

Monthly News

Issue 7, March 26, 2010

www.wrsdsau59.org



From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings,

This is the time of the year that we start planning and scheduling our instruction for the next school year. As we examine our data on student achievement, we can see that a structure that tracks all ability levels does not advance student achievement. Furthermore, research tells us that an integrated approach to scheduling students provides access to advanced learning for all students. As we move into the next school year, we will restructure our schedule to provide access to advanced learning for all students. To accomplish this, we are developing an honors option that will be available to any students who can master the general curriculum and work at a higher level. This will be accomplished through the completion of honors learning contracts that will be optional in our English language arts, science, social studies and unified arts classes. Advanced work in math will still be available to students through advanced classes in foundations of algebra, pre-algebra, algebra and geometry. Any student who completes an advanced math course or an honors learning contract in other subject areas will receive honors designation on their report card for those subjects. Teachers are currently working to develop the structure for the honors learning contract, as well as, developing tiered assignments to support different levels of learning in the classroom. They will continue to work on this throughout the summer. We are confident that we will be prepared to offer the honors option to students in our next school year. This new structure will provide common expectations for honors work across all content areas. It will also allow us to make this option available while maintaining optimum class size. Information on classes offered next year and course selection sheets will be sent home the week of March 29th. On April 6th, we will be holding our parent information session on honors level classes for our incoming 5th grade parents. Because of the changes for next year, we are inviting all middle school parents to this information session. I will continue to send home information on this program as it is developed. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have; I always welcome your input.

~ Dr. Pamela Miller

Principal

Notes from the Assistant Principal

Spring is here!!! It is so nice to see students eager to be outdoors and it looks as though many students are interested in the spring athletic programs and other extracurricular activities. Academically, spring means students and parents will choose classes for next year, grade 8 students will take the Science NECAP in May, all students will take the NWEA tests, and everyone will participate in transition activities. Please see the web site or weekly notices for important information regarding these topics.

In the past two weeks, students have had some great opportunities beyond the school day. On March 9th, The Green Team sponsored an ice skating trip to Tilton Prep. Students used the Gotchas that they had earned for good behavior to "pay" their admission. They had a GREAT time. One student asked me if they could go every week. Thank you to Ceanne Sanders and Deb O'Connor for creating this opportunity. On March 19th, 43 sixth grade students participated in a two hour social. Fun was had by everyone. Thank you to the PTO members and WRMS staff that provided the supervision and snacks. On March 24th, students were able to sign up for a trip to Smitty's Theatre to see "The Lightening Thief". Many students have already read the book in their ELA classes. Thank you to Ms. Sanders for taking everyone to the movies!

In the front hall of our school, there are over 200 student certificates recognizing students who received ZERO behavior reports for the first half of the school year. Check it out!!!!

On 3/22/10, I addressed the entire school regarding bullying and the importance of being kind to others. Everyone was reminded that hands-on behaviors and being rude and disrespectful to each other or adults is never appropriate. WRMS feels strongly about being a supportive community where everyone feels welcome. I will continue to speak to students in the morning or during lunches as needed.

The weather is getting warm which means students will want to begin wearing summer clothes. Please remember that all shorts and

skirts must be longer than the tip of a student's middle finger while begin held straight down at their side. No tops can reveal undergarments, be strapless, or reveal the midriff area. Boys may not wear tank tops with oversized arm holes that reveal their sides.

A reminder to all parents who drop off their students: Students must be dropped off between 7:20 and 7:45 at the stop sign between the middle school and high school, even if it is raining. The back door remains open until 7:45. The front doors to the school are locked and students trying to enter will be redirected down to the playground on the grass area. Students who purchase breakfast must enter through the library doors after 7:25. There are staff on duty in the morning and it is important that students are in areas where they can be supervised and seek assistance if they need it. ALSO - The WRMS driveway is a ONE WAY street at all times.

~ Mrs. Kruger
Assistant Principal

GRADE 6

CMP Math

We are finishing up our unit on fractions, decimals, and percents with our menu project and some real world scenarios. Our next unit of study will be Shapes and Designs which deals with 2 dimensional Geometry. We will be finding area and perimeter, looking at different kinds of triangles, and using angles.

Foundations of Algebra

We have just finished our unit on integers. Based on the results from our last formal assessment, we will continue using integers in our continuing work. Our next unit of study is an introduction to pre-algebra where we will be studying the use of variables in math equations and solving one step variable equations.

~ Mr. Frankel

Social Studies

We have begun a new unit recently. Students are currently studying the Ancient Greeks. As a parent, you can expect quizzes about every other week. Since we have entered 3rd quarter, students have had social studies homework every class period. If they haven't had a pen and paper assignment then they have been instructed to spend time reviewing class notes or the text selection we are working on. I anticipate we will

be working on the Ancient Greeks through the end of April.

I would like to remind you that there are excellent study tools on www.glencoe.com that correspond with our text. In addition to the paper copy of the text, the entire text is available online and on the DVD Rom issued to each student.

~ Mrs. Marcotte

Ms. Sanders - ELA and Read 180

Students who have Ms. Sanders for Blocks B and D are just now finishing the book The Lightning Thief. We have been reading this book as a part of our "Origins" unit. We will continue to read several more Greek Myths. Students were given their next spelling list on Monday, March 22nd and their spelling assignment and test will be on Friday, March 26th.

Students who have Ms. Sanders for Block A are working on a unit titled "Stolen Childhoods". In this unit, they are reading and writing about children around the world who work long hours at difficult and dangerous jobs for little pay. These students were given their next spelling list on Monday, March 22nd and their spelling assignment and test will be on Friday, March 26th.

All of my classes did a great job with the door decorating contest. The Lightning Thief (3-D) door and wall was great! There were so many parts of the book represented. The Diary of a Wimpy Kid wall looks exactly like the cover of the book! The drawing and writing are perfect. The "Our Favorite Books Make Spring Pop!" board is so creative! The drawings you came up with are perfect for spring. Thank you to all students who helped our decorations look so AMAZING.

~ Ms. Sanders

Mrs. Hewey's Classes

All classes: Students need to continue their independent reading at home each night. Students have goals for how many Accelerated Reader points they need to earn this quarter, which ends on April 8. Also, we are continuing the pattern of spelling one week and skills packets the alternate week. Students need to practice their spelling words at home. The words on their lists are words that they got wrong on the pre-test, so if they don't put some time into studying them, they will not learn and remember how to spell them.

Block A is beginning the Rights and Responsibilities theme unit with a study of the novel Among the Hidden. This is the story of Luke, a third child in a society that doesn't allow for families to have more than two children. Ask your child to tell you about the book - who the characters are, and what the conflict (problem) is in the novel.

Blocks B & D are continuing the Rights and Responsibilities theme unit with their study of Avi's Nothing but the Truth. Ask your child to tell you about how this novel differs from other novels, and what the main conflict is in the novel.

~ Mrs. Hewey

GRADE 7

Social Studies

We are presently working on our unit on Europe. All students will have a quiz on the map this week. They should be studying! Some classes are working on a project where they are pretending to be a group of touring geographers who have gotten together in a youth hostel in Europe. After they research information about their country, they will present their skits to the class.

In all classes, we will be understanding a little bit about the European Union. The students are finishing up some work that has had them looking at the different economic levels of countries in Europe. They have been drawing conclusions about some of the common characteristics of the countries based on the GDP's of the countries.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

Science

Seventh graders are studying ecology in science this spring. We began by learning about ecosystems and studying population changes within ecosystems. After our first unit test, we will move on to exploring the flow of energy in the environment and how landforms impact ecosystems through the water cycle, nitrogen cycle and carbon cycle. We will also look in more detail at sample ecosystems within the world's various biomes. Look for one more test and several activity assessments before the end of the quarter.

~ Ms. Sunderland

Seventh Grade CMP Math

In CMP math classes, as we continue to emphasize higher levels of thinking skills through discussion and practice, students are beginning to understand why it is important and necessary to think at higher levels. What this means in practice is that old information that they know has to be used in new ways to solve algebraic problems and evaluate and communicate the results. Applications include using the correct new math vocabulary they are learning to clearly explain in speech and writing what they are doing, how they are doing it, and why they created a specific new strategy to solve the problem. A student question is often answered with another leading question to encourage them to dig deeper into their knowledge to see what they already know that can be used to answer their own question. The need to use what they have already learned about solving for an unknown, integers, numbers and operations, and strategies is beginning to come together in this unit. Students are doing a good job picking up the relationships between a linear equation, a table of data, coordinate points, a plotted line, and the slope and y-intercept. They can sing to you about what y equals, if you ask them!

~ Mr. Saltmarsh

GRADE 8

Ms. Hohenberger's ELA Classes

Ms. Hohenberger's Block B Pre-AP class just ended a unit on another of John Steinbeck's novels, Of Mice and Men. From the migration of workers to California during the Dust Bowl in The Grapes of Wrath (read last month), to the life of itinerant workers in Of Mice and Men, students were able to better understand the historical as well literary significance from a great writer's perspective during that time period.

Blocks A & C ELA students just finished reading S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders: a favorite among most middle school students, where they learned how important acceptance, belonging, and fitting in is for all of us in our society. These students will begin reading Flowers for Algernon this week.

~ Ms. Hohenberger

Eighth Grade Math

On Friday March 12, the eighth graders were treated to a special event when they celebrated Pi Day in math classes! Mrs. Coughlin, Mrs. O'Donnell and Mrs. Beliveau teamed up to offer students a variety of activities designed to increase awareness of the value of Pi. Students

rotated among the classrooms to participate in "Discovering Pi" with ratio measurements, "Born to be Pi" where they found their birthday in the digits of Pi, "Pi Bling" decorating a Pi symbol, and "Pi in the Sky" which had them creating a color coded paper chain of over 1500 digits. Students brought in edible pi symbols for the "Pi Eating Contest" and their classmates voted on the best looking pi. A highlight of the day was Trevor Cartier's amazing job of reciting 173 digits of Pi! Students left school that afternoon with a new appreciation for this interesting but irrational number.

~ Mrs. Beliveau, Mrs. Coughlin and Mrs. O'Donnell

Mrs. Berry's ELA Class

We are currently reading The Wave by Todd Strasser. The book is based on an actual incident that took place in a high school in California in 1969. The book was chosen as a follow up to the unit in WWII in social studies as well as the play we read on Anne Frank. The class also just passed in a position paper on a controversial topic of their choice. It is apparent that they are a very opinionated group. I am very proud of the work that they have displayed on the papers.

Accelerated Reading is going through another change. We are moving to an online version. Students still need to take quizzes on their novels and earn points.

~ Mrs. Berry

Unified Arts

Physical Education

With only about three weeks left in the quarter, we are heading into basketball, lacrosse, badminton and of course Dance! It has been a good quarter with a variety of activities played. The weather is cooperating so we are hoping to get outside as well for some of our activities.

Intramurals will be taking a short break while spring sports tryouts for teams get going. We have had great turnouts for dodge ball and floor hockey. This spring, we will be offering flag football, volleyball, tennis and hopefully a walking program. More information will follow.

Spring sports tryouts (baseball, softball and track) started on Monday March 22nd. Let's hope the early spring continues so that we will be able to get outside right away!

~ Mrs. Crowell & Mr. McNutt

Health

Grade 6 students are currently working on a nutrition unit. They will be analyzing food labels, specifically labels from cereal boxes. In their study, they will be reviewing the digestive system and also learning about food guidelines. Students will have an opportunity to reflect on their own diets and set health goals for nutrition.

Grade 7 students are working on a stress unit where they are learning techniques to reduce stress levels. They have learned how stress affects the body and mind and have determined their own "stress style" (body, mind, or mixed). Students have also learned how personality type can relate to stress levels. Hopefully, students will apply this new-found information to improve their lifestyles and/or behaviors where applicable. Please note that Health Gameboard projects are due April 1st.

Grade 8 students have been investigating areas of nutrition and body image. They have viewed "Super Size Me" and have discovered the effects of fast food on the body. Students have also collected data regarding their body size and shape as well as the number of calories needed each day based on activity level. Other areas of study include: Eating disorders, body dysmorphia and steroid use. Please check with your child on the status of his/her health project that is due on April 1st. Thanks.

~ Mrs. Kemmerer

Guidance Department

Summer School

According to our school handbook, "...all students who fail two or more courses for the year will be required to attend summer school at the end of the academic year. Students who fail one course in Math, Reading/Literature or Language Arts for the year will also be required to attend summer school at their parent's expense. Students who do not attend summer school or fail to pass summer school courses will not be promoted to the next grade." If your child is in jeopardy of having to attend summer school, please be in touch with your child's guidance counselor, Mrs. Smith (Grades 6 & 7) or Ms. Zimmerman (Grade 8) or Mrs. Kruger, in order to develop a plan to assist your child in passing his/her classes for the year.

High School Schedules

Now that 8th grade students have made their

course requests, we have handed that information over to the high school to process. In May, the High School Guidance Office will be sending home copies of your child's schedule for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. If changes need to be made at that time, please call the High School Guidance Counselors - Jason Zecha (A-K) x134 or Elizabeth Wirtz (L-Z) x135 at the high school phone number 286-4531.

High School Transitions

Once high school begins, grades become credits and a failing grade will NOT earn credit which means completing that course again. This is a far different process than students are used to and there is no loophole. Reinforcing the high school policies and reviewing them with your children now can help make the transition to high school much easier for everyone. This information is available in the student handbook located on the high school website -

<http://www.wrsdsau59.org/hs/students/StudentHandbook2009.pdf>

MISSING ASSIGNMENTS, FAILING GRADES, WORKLOAD CONCERNS?

What DOES A PARENT DO?

Follow these steps and you'll be able to keep up with your child's academic performance.

1. Ask your child to see his/her **assignment notebook** each day - this is the quickest, easiest and most up-to-date way to see what assignments your child has and when they are due. The **notebook** can also be used as a communication tool between school and home. Every student was given an **assignment notebook** at the beginning of the school year. **If your child no longer has the one issued, any notebook can be used, provided it is used consistently. Students need to hone their organizational skills for high school, so setting this expectation with your child now will reap long term benefits!**
2. Check the Online Grade Books - grades are updated weekly no later than 2:15 PM EACH Monday. Plan to check it after that time each week for the most recent grades and information.

Problems getting onto the online grade books? The school MUST have your current email for you to log-on and create your account - contact Mrs. Summers in Guidance (286-7143 x205) and she will help you set up your

account.

3. Once you are online with the grade books, simply click on the teacher's name when reviewing grades and you can quickly email him/her about assignments, grades, late work policies, projects, etc. Further questions or concerns - contact your child's teacher(s) directly via phone or email.

Resources for Families During These Tough Economic Times

- **FREE Tips and Support for Parents at the Laconia High School**

Mondays from 6-8PM

Ages 6-12 - March 1st-22nd

Ages 13-18 - March 29th-April 19th

Attend any or all of the classes.

Register by calling 524-5712.

- **State of NH to help to Prevent Foreclosures**

The State of NH has recently created a free mediation program to assist families who are and may be in jeopardy of having their home foreclosed on. Homeowners have to fill out an application found on the NH Judicial website below - and send it to their lender in order to begin the mediation process.

<http://www.courts.state.nh.us/adrp/foreclosure/index.htm>

~ Ms. Zimmerman

Grade 8 School Counselor

~ Mrs. Smith

6th and 7th Grade Guidance Counselor

Nurse's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The weather is warmer and the students enjoy being outside. We have had about a week to adjust to the time change, but I have seen an increase in sleepy students. They have been falling asleep in class and wanting to nap in the nurse's office. Please have your child go to bed at their usual time; sleep is very important at this age. If your child is having a difficult time with sleep, please feel free to contact me and we can discuss it.

The students, for the most part, have been healthy with very little illness. However, there is a stomach bug out in the community making its rounds with vomiting and diarrhea.

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 he/she has a fever over 100 degrees. If your child is not ill, please state that also (i.e. dental appointment, family related).

Thank you, Bobbie LaBranche, RN

Library/Media Center

How would you feel if you found a Babe Ruth baseball card in an abandoned house and sold it to a dealer who paid you the lowest price? Griffin is out to correct this injustice but first he must devise a plan to get the card back with the help of kids who have unique talents. Do kids really know how to break a security code, distract a Doberman and a nosy neighbor? Read Swindle by Gordon Korman and find out if they can solve this crime with success and return the baseball card to the rightful owner.

Read Across America Week celebrates the contributions of Dr. Seuss and the influence of his books on developing reading skills for children. At the middle school, the library sponsored a daily trivia contest and a door decorating contest with the theme, *Books That Made a Difference*. Winners of the trivia contest include: Joey Holt, Clarissa Macdonald, Mrs. Marcotte, Shyann Shaw, Tucker Normand, Sierra Paulhus, Ms. Sanders, Nikita Gaydos, Brandon Daniels, Jillian D'Abbraccio, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Henchey, Mrs. Anderson, Carly Knapp, Catie Craig, Kelsey Emery, Cameron Florence, Amelio Freo, and Connor Austin. A gold medal to all who decorated the doors: A patriot theme with a tank and American flag, to Dr. Seuss's *Green Eggs & Ham* and the *Sneetches*, to *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* for science fiction, and biography of *Christa McAuliffe* were some of the decorated door themes.

~ Mrs. Chapley

Memory Book

Thanks to all who have purchased a book so far for the year. Sales are strong and I continue to give out receipts. You should have received a receipt if you purchased a book already. In May, you will be asked to pay for the remainder of the book if you have only paid a deposit. Please seriously consider trying to order your book before April 10th as the company is handling the sales differently this year. Order forms are online on the Middle School page as well as in the office. The book will be submitted in the middle of April and will be due back to the school in June. Only students who have paid in full will receive a book.

~ Mrs. Berry

Volunteering

Parents, please be aware that the deadline for submitting applications for volunteering is March 31st. If you'd like to become a volunteer, please pick up an application here in the middle school office or from the superintendent's office.

Union Sanborn School Kindergarten Screening

Children who will be five years old on or before Sept. 30, 2010 are eligible to enter Kindergarten for the school year 2010-2011. Union Sanborn will be holding their Kindergarten screening on May 11th and May 13th. Please call Mrs. Brady @ 286-4332 ext. 0 to set up an appointment. A birth certificate, up-to-date immunizations, current physical, and proof of residency are required.

An information night for parents of incoming Kindergartners will be held on Monday, May 10th @ 6:00 p.m. The evening will include a short presentation of the Kindergarten curriculum, classroom visits and a chance to meet the Kindergarten teachers for next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Week of March 29 th :	Course Recommendation and Course Description Sheets are Mailed Home
April 6 th :	Parent Information Night for Honors Options
April 8 th :	Quarter 3 Closes
April 9 th :	Course Recommendation Sheets Due Back to School
April 19 th :	Report Cards Go Home
April 26 th - 30 th :	April Vacation



Happy Spring!