



From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

This is a busy time of year for us and we welcome the Spring break next week. When we come back, we will hit the ground running! We are in the process of setting our schedule for next year and hiring new staff; at this point, we have four positions to fill.

In May, we will be reconvening the Restructuring Committee to review our plan and set our goals for next year. We will be reviewing data on our behavior program and our grading policies to assess how these are working, and we will make changes where necessary.

I am happy with the progress we are making on the redesign of our honors programs. Next year, we will be implementing an integrated honors option in English language arts, social studies and science; advanced math courses will continue the same as they've been. We will use next year to explore possibilities for an honors option in the unified arts, as well. Mrs. Kruger and I are working with Sue Bergman, our Enrichment Coordinator, to develop a Differentiation Toolbox for teachers and we have six days in the summer for staff to work with the Toolbox to begin to design honors options for their curriculum. This approach gives all students access to higher level learning! We will be working on integrating Socratic seminars, web quests and learning centers, just to name a few. These strategies will allow teachers to individualize learning within the classroom and allow all students to work at a level that challenges them.

On May 22nd, we will be holding our first green fair from 1:00 - 4:00 called "Go Green, Natural and Local." This is a free event for our community that will consist of information booths from numerous local businesses and farms. Learn how to become Earth friendly by recycling, composting and conserving energy! There will be lots of fun for the whole family! Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Dr. Pamela Miller
Principal

Notes from the Assistant Principal

The combination locks will be removed from all grade 6 & 7 lockers over vacation. A notice was sent home with report cards today. Students may bring in combination locks, but they must be registered (with the combination) with their contact homeroom teacher.

On May 4th, we will be hosting a crew from Plymouth State University as they present TIGER (Theatre Integrating Guidance, Education & Responsibility). The performance is an interactive theater production derived from anonymous writings and thoughts of NH school children on the topic of middle school life, and it incorporates live actors, puppets, theater, movement and music to engage sixth through eighth grade students. We are all looking forward to this!

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. We must observe these postings as the safety of our students is our primary concern!

Please have a wonderful vacation next week. I hope you all have a chance to relax and enjoy!

~ Mrs. Kruger
Assistant Principal

GRADE 6

Mrs. Hewey's Reading/LA Classes

We have started our Overcoming Obstacles unit by reading several non-fiction selections. Students have read about the life of Abraham

Lincoln as well as Harriet Tubman, and will be learning about the Holocaust and reading a section of the diary of Anne Frank. Following that, students will be reading a novel related to the theme.

A reminder that we are continuing to have a packet due every Friday - spelling packets one week, and skills packets the next. Please ask your child to see his/her packet, and help him/her to study the spelling words if it is a spelling week.

~ Mrs. Hewey

GRADE 7

Social Studies

We are now in the middle of a unit on Russia. Students are learning about how the location and landforms of Russia affect the population. It is the largest country in the world in area and has 11 time zones. We will also study a little about the history of Russia and how it once belonged to the U.S.S.R. We will finish up the unit by looking at the culture of Russia.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

Science

Seventh graders are just finishing their Ecology unit. During the unit, we explored different ecosystems and studied the interactions between living species and their non-living environments. Students identified the difference between a community, a population and an ecosystem, and learned about Jane Goodall's studies of a population of Chimpanzees in Africa. Students also identified how energy is transferred from producers to consumers in a specific ecosystem using Mono Lake in California as an example of an ecosystem with a simple food web. Finishing the unit with a look at fresh and saltwater ecosystems, students used microscopes to explore living creatures in New Hampshire pond water.

Pre-AP classes designed their own experiments to explore how scientists can manipulate one ecological factor to see what effect that has on a population of plants. Students are growing turnip plants under varying conditions and are recording their findings over three weeks. Full lab reports will be written after spring break. The remainder of the year will be spent exploring animal diversity in all classes.

~ Ms. Sunderland

CMP Math

Grade seven CMP math classes have just finished up the unit on linear equations. The next unit will be a much more hands-on experience. Students will be measuring 3D objects and then determining surface area and volume. They will also be designing nets which are 2D layouts that when folded can become 3D objects. When you finish a box of something at home, students should be able to show you how the box was made using a net. Projects this quarter will include the design and construction of several objects, houses, and a community -- all in 3D from a 2D net. Students are continuing to develop critical thinking skills, and to communicate in correct math terms.

~ Mr. Saltmarsh

Grade 7 ELA

The 7th grade English department is currently exploring culture, heritage and tradition. Parents, please be aware that your child may be asking questions about your family's culture and heritage. Students are all very excited to explore their personal history and know a little bit about their life stories. After break, they will be conducting a research report on a specific country's culture that is related to their heritage.

~ Mrs. Morse

GRADE 8

Grade 8 ELA

Ms. Hohenberger's Pre-AP class ended their reading unit on Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin just before spring break. They also finished up their final research essays of the Civil Rights Movement by spending several days in the Computer Lab.

Blocks A and C ELA classes have finished reading The Wave. All enjoyed learning about this true story, which recounts a History teacher's experiment in creating Fascism in a twelfth grade Palo Alto, California classroom.

A unit on poetry, with strong emphasis on the use of figurative language, and focus on the theme, "What Does it Mean to be an American," will follow for all classes after spring break. Students will keep writing portfolios for this unit.

A review of practical grammar usage is also planned for all classes soon.

~ Ms. Hohenberger

Mrs. Berry's classes have just finished a long research paper on a topic of their choice. They have tackled footnotes, endnotes, and a work cited page. I have been very impressed with the topics they have chosen as well as the time they have spent on them. They have also continued to improve on their own personal writing in their folders as well. The new on-line Accelerated Reading program is up and running. All students need to continue reading their books at home as well as in school.

~ Mrs. Berry

Unified Arts

Physical Education

The 4th Quarter has begun and students have already participated in a variety of cooperative games which focus on teamwork, cooperation and fair play. Students in 6th and 7th grade will start fitness stations and 8th grade will use the H.S. fitness facility right before April Vacation. Also, each grade level will participate in the President's Fitness testing which includes: V-Sit, P.A.C.E.R, Crunches, Flex-Arm Hang and the Shuttle Run. After vacation, we will begin handball, indoor soccer and basketball.

Intramurals will begin soon, once spring sports are over. Intramurals will include flag-football, tennis and volleyball. Enjoy vacation.

~ Mrs. Crowell and Mr. McNutt

Health

Grade 6 health classes have been learning about the parts and functions of the brain. They have participated in an activity where they illustrated a head and brain with the title "What are you Thinking?" They showed various parts of the brain and what was happening in their brains. This proved not only interesting but demonstrated how unique each person is. They are currently working on a unit on first aid.

Grade 7 health classes recently completed a unit on mental and social health. They designed a "personality bag" where they showed their inside and outside personality traits. They are currently working on research for their Health Board Games that are due the beginning of June. Your student has a timeline for when specific

parts are due as well as a rubric outlining the criteria for the game. The online grade book will soon be ready to provide you with this information.

Grade 8 health students have completed an assignment connecting the areas of wellness with an art-type activity where they design a mandala. They are in the process of choosing project topics from a list that you should have received. Please sign and return the paper that indicates you know what they will be doing for their project. Most are interested in the sleep deprivation project; however there are many other options from which to choose. Please contact me with any questions you may have regarding these projects.

~ Mrs. Kemmerer

News from Guidance

High School Schedules - 8th grade students and families, keep an eye out for your 9th grade high school schedules in mid to late May. The schedules will be going home at that time and if you should have questions, concerns or changes to make once you review them, please contact the WRHS Guidance Office directly at 286-4531 Ms. Wirtz (L-Z) x135 or Mr. Zecha (A-K) x134.

High School Transitions - Every student has some concerns and excitement about moving to the high school and we have several activities in place to help ease this transition. Please note the dates and times of these upcoming events which are so important to your child in making a smooth transition to the high school.

✓ **Friday, May 28th** - 8th grade students and teachers take to the WRHS for a full-day **Step-Up Event**. Students will have a chance to meet the teachers, take a tour of the building and enjoy lunch in the WRHS Cafetorium. Buses will drop off 8th grade students at the high school in the morning and their 8th grade teachers will meet them there and spend the day with them. The event will provide students a "typical" high school day experience in which high school teachers will teach classes designed to help students transition to high school smoothly. Students will stay with their homeroom teachers for the day and travel together between classrooms. More information will be sent home in the mail as the date gets closer and we hope to have information posted on the website as well.

✓ **Thursday, June 17th - 8th Grade Celebration**
- An evening event to honor students' completion of their middle school career and their transition and readiness for high school.

✓ **First Day of High School** - 9th grade students get to begin high school a day ahead of the other grade levels. This is a $\frac{1}{2}$ day event with the goal of allowing new students the chance to acclimate to their new school, find their way to classes with less confusion and have some bonding time with their new teachers. Students will run through a "mini" schedule of their school day, attend a freshman orientation, participate in team building activities and enjoy a pizza lunch, which parents are welcome to attend as well. More information to come this summer! Stay tuned! ☺

Parent Night Feedback Form - Please notice that a parent feedback form has been sent home with your child along with his/her report card. If you attended the 8th grade parent night or have questions or concerns to share about the transition to high school PLEASE complete the attached form and return to the WRHS Guidance Office OR the WRMS Guidance Office as soon as possible. THANK YOU!

Resources for Families

The Preston Center - a free clothing and toy closet for kids will be open the following days from 3-6PM: May 5 & 19, June 2 & 16 & July 7 & 21. They are located on the lower level of the Pines Community Center in Northfield and also on the web at www.prestoncenter.org

Please do not hesitate to call or email me with questions or concerns.

☺ Lauren Zimmerman, M.Ed.
8th Grade School Counselor

Nurse's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I have been seeing a number of students with sore muscles, due to the beginning of a new sport season and nicer weather. Please remind them to ice their muscles after use; it should help with the soreness.

We have had very few students miss school lately

due to illness; however several students have been uncomfortable due to seasonal allergies now that the plants and trees are starting to bloom. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies, please contact his or her doctor for instructions on making him or her more comfortable. It is a long day with itchy eyes or a runny nose and there is very little I can do to help. Also, students really should not be missing school due to seasonal allergies.

On Tuesday, April 20th, I sent home with your child a packet of information regarding Lyme Disease, proper tick removal, tick prevention and control, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), West Nile Virus and how to avoid mosquito bites. If your child did not bring a packet home, please let me know and I will be sure to get you one. Please be aware, the ticks are out and I have already seen several tick bites.

~ Mrs. Labranche, R.N.

Library/Media Center

The library has been busy in April with many classes researching and using the computer lab for word processing. Mrs. Jurta's classes researched the roaring twenties and the somber thirties. Mrs. DiNardo's classes used a variety of sources to gather information on European countries to create a play of students at a hostel. As an example, Ms. Chapley, Mrs. DiNardo, and Mrs. Sisic modeled what students from their respective countries would talk about when they gathered in a hostel in Switzerland. Mrs. Berry's classes researched a topic of their own choice. Mrs. Hewey's class gained new insight into the author Lois Lowry and her contributions to literature provided by Ms. Chapley. Many students selected books from the book talk that were new to them. Good job.

The book I reviewed will appeal to baseball fans and American history buffs. Try reading The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings by Alan Gratz. It follows a family through the decades. The struggles of an immigrant, the Civil War, the early Brooklyn team, and the All-American Girls Baseball League are clues to the history of a baseball bat found in an antique store. See why Americans love this game so much, through the retelling of one family's history.

Teens and the Law

- Ideal for teenagers and parents of teenagers
- Learn useful information about the laws
- Question and answer period with community experts

Where: Youth Assistance Program
 When: Thursday, May 6th @ 7:00 p.m.
 Cost: No fee required/refreshments!

Student Council Yard Sale

Student Council will be hosting a yard sale at WRMS, rain or shine, on **May 15th from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Included will be a car wash, bake sale, and food for lunch. Items may be dropped off at the school, such as plants, Christmas items, household goods, children's clothing, etc. (Please no books or adult clothes.) We hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 26-30: Spring Vacation - No school
 May 3 - June 3: NWEA Testing, Grades 6-8
 May 15: Student Council Yard Sale
 May 18-20: Science NECAP Testing for 8th Grade
 May 22: Go Green, Natural and Local
 May 28: Step Up Day for 8th Grade @ WRHS



Enjoy Your Vacation!