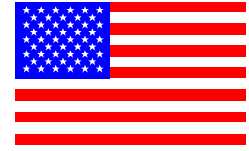




Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News



Principal's News

Greetings,

The warmer weather indicates that spring is on its way! I know we'll all be glad to see the snow melt! As we move into spring, we're starting to plan for the next school year. I'm meeting with our Transition Committee to plan the transition process for our incoming sixth graders and our eighth graders, who are moving up to the high school next year. I will send home a calendar of events as soon as we complete the planning process

It's hard to believe this year is going by so quickly! We just finished the draft of our Restructuring Plan for next year; we should be making our presentation to the School Board in April. We've drafted a Restructuring Plan that will establish a learning community culture, make our work collaborative and transparent and, most importantly, raise the bar for teaching and learning in all classrooms. I look forward to sharing our plan with you at a parent roundtable night that will take place sometime in May. I will get those details out to you soon!

Warm Regards
Dr. Pamela Miller

Welcome spring-

We continue to focus on the safety of our students here at the middle school. Throughout the school year, there have been several notifications about a shift in traffic patterns at the middle school, as well as arrival and dismissal times. Please be reminded that we are asking that you observe one-way traffic from the Winter Street entrance. Students should be dropped off for school at the stop sign behind the middle school gym between 7:30 and 7:40 a.m. The entrance from Deer Street should be used by buses only in the mornings to avoid congestion. It is very important that you adhere to these requests to avoid possible accidents when students are loading and unloading. As soon as the ground is thawed, we will be posting one-way and drop off signs and painting the driveway with directional arrows. Tilton Police Department officials will conduct spot checks to help maintain the new traffic patterns.

Since the school day begins at 7:40 a.m. only students who are eating breakfast may enter the building. Breakfast begins at 7:25 a.m., and students

ISSUE 7 March 13, 2009

should enter through the library. It amazes me how eager they are to start the school day when I arrive before 7:00 a.m. and see students waiting in the frigid or rainy weather outside. Again, in order to keep our students safe and provide adequate adult supervision, students should not arrive before 7:25 a.m. This particularly refers to walkers and car riders.

If your student is participating in after school activities, it is important that they leave school property immediately after dismissal. Students must be under adult supervision at all times. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue to work to provide a welcoming and safe environment for our students. Please watch for additional information coming home soon.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ronna Cadarette

Grade 6

The sixth graders have been adjusting to our new **TARGETS** behavior management program. It seems to be working well.

Talk at appropriate times
Assignments are complete
Respectful, not rude or ridiculous
Gum stays at home
Equipment is ready for class-be prepared
Time - be on time
Safe - be safe

Students who are on target all week with zero letters receive a 'gotcha'; students receiving two letters in one day receive a PM detention; and students receiving three 'single' letters in a week receive a PM detention. We hope this helps students to be more attentive, respectful, and on task.

Due to the snow and lack of space on the 'playground', students have been participating in a Walking Activity during their scheduled recess time when we walk around the sidewalks of the WRMS and WRHS campus. Students may be assigned to be inside to work on incomplete work in the Academic Help Room; or they may be assigned to the Recess Detention Room.

Mrs. Hewey's classes are working on a Fables Unit including, *Paul Bunyan*, *How The Whale Got His Throat*, and *Why Tortoise's Shell is Not Smooth*. Spelling units will be during the weeks of March 23 and April 6.

Mr. Meyer and Ms. Witherspoon's math classes have been busy learning the algorithms for Decimal Operations. Students are practicing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and soon will be dividing with decimals. Students problem solve with decimals and apply their new skills to decide what operation to use in one, two, and sometimes three step problems. Practice makes permanence; so try some at home with grocery receipts, restaurant bills, measuring in metrics, and any other ideas your imagination comes up with. Some students still need to memorize their multiplication facts and make them automatic...again practice at home will help!

Foundations of Algebra:

We've been working as 'mini statisticians' studying data. The students recently completed projects where they collected and interpreted numerical data; wrote a hypothesis about their chosen topic, created stem and leaf plots, histograms, and found the central tendencies, and range for their data. They summarized by writing a 'news report' that compared their own data to their hypothesis, and to their partner's, who had a different audience but same survey question. This past week the students have been working on interpreting various graphs, analyzing data and patterns, working with dependent and independent variables, and doing experiments and related activities.

Ms. Witherspoon

Grade 7

Mr. Saltmarsh and Mrs. O'Donnell are about to begin a new unit entitled *Moving Straight Ahead* in grade seven math. It will address slope and linear equations. This ties in very well with work that students are doing in tech ed classes with their cars and ramps. In tech ed the results have been graphed and will provide a collaborative application across disciplines as they continue to graph slopes. Applications to pitch (of roofs), grades (of roads), ramps and stairs will be discussed. So you may find students measuring your stair treads and risers. Students just completed the unit on integers emphasizing the negative numbers.

Mr. Saltmarsh

In English, language arts we are beginning our survival unit. Within the survival unit, we will be exploring the Iditarod race. Mrs. Berry and I have split up our classes. Some students who originally have Mrs. Berry will be working with me for the next 4-5 weeks and vice versa. This allows us to teach several different novels for this unit. The list of novels that

will be read are: *Winterdance* by Gary Paulsen, *Woodsong* by Gary Paulsen, *Black Star Bright Dawn* by Scott O'Dell and *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardner.

We hope your child will enjoy this unit as much as we do.

Mrs. Morse

Grade 8

Math: WRMS hosted the Lakes Region Mathalon last week. Thanks to all the students and faculty who helped make this event a great success!

Reminder; all Math students need to complete Warm Ups on time. Be sure to use your resources and ask an adult if you need help.

Mrs. Beliveau, Mrs. Coughlin

Science: We have been working on Classification and the Five Kingdoms of living things. To promote differentiation, projects included a research component, an illustration and model, and a script. Results were outstanding! We are now working with Latin and Greek prefixes and suffixes used for systemics. This should also increase students understanding of vocabulary words they encounter in other disciplines. Our next area of study will be Earth Science, including a look at global warming and *An Inconvenient Truth*. There have been some opportunities for extra activities for 8th grade students including a Name the New Mars Rover for NASA and design an individual shelter for *Odyssey* magazine. Most recently is the Astronomy Bowl at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center at the in Concord.

Ms. Large

Social studies: Students are in the middle of our 1940's unit. They have completed projects on historical events as well as people who made history. We have studied the war, Pearl Harbor, life in the US during the war and the reasons for dropping the Atomic bomb. Students also read a play involving actual victims of Hiroshima. Students are learning not to judge history, but rather try to understand why decisions were made at the time and the events that determined those actions. The second half of the unit will involve the Holocaust. So much to learn, so little time.

Mrs Jurta

Literature/ELA: **Mrs. Anderson's** eighth graders are reading *Scat* the new young adult book by Carl Hiaasen with an environmental message. The sixth grade is reading *Timothy of the Cay*. Book projects are due Friday, March 27. Congratulations to Brad Dutton for winning the List Five Spelling Bee!

Library News

The school celebrated "Read Across America Week" with a door decorating contest depicting favorite books and a trivia contest. The celebration is in honor of how important it is to motivate children to read in addition to helping those master basic skills in honor of Dr. Seuss who epitomized a love of learning. Designs ranged from the classics to picture books, from favorite Dr. Seuss characters to current best sellers. The winners of the trivia contest are as follows: Richard Scacheri, Olivia Decormier, Mike Sheehan, Mrs. Roy, Mrs. Kruger, Mrs. Henchy, Dana Dolan, Steven Hanser, and Mercedes Tripaldi. The door decorating contest recognition goes to RRAPS for Best Group Effort depicting the foot print of many staff and students; Most Seussical - *Yertle the Turtle* to Mrs. Morse; Best Bedtime Story - *Goodnight Moon* to Mrs. Coughlin; Best United Arts door - *If You Give a Pig Pancake* in Spanish, Mrs. Pearson; and People's Choice for *The Lightning Thief* to Ms Sanders. Students did a great job cooperatively planning and decorating the doors. It is enjoyable to see so many talented artists in our midst.

Ms. Large's science classes researched the kingdoms of protist, bacteria, fungus, plants, animals and how they apply to our daily lives. It is always a learning experience when you realize how scientific facts apply to our own existence.

Have you ever felt ignored? Do other people's accomplishments get all the praise? You will enjoy reading about Nannerl, whose brother Wolfgang Mozart was praised and adored by the kings of Europe. Nannerl used to perform with her brother but now her father keeps her in the shadows. Will she ever get her chance to shine? Find out by reading *In Mozart's Shadow* by Carolyn Meyer.

Ms. Chapley

Random Acts of Kindness Poetry Contest - sponsored by the Bristol Lions Club and WRMS Green Team. We had 66 students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade who participated. The first place winner was **Jill D'Abbraccio**, second place winner was **Nicole Swain** and third place winner was **Megan Descoteaux**. Honorable mentions for sixth grade were **Bradley Dutton** and **Dyna Glynn**, seventh grade were **Nyasia Lewis** and **Allissa Hill**, and eighth grade was **Misty Mack**. Congratulations!

Mrs. O'Connor

ATHLETICS

Spring sports will begin with baseball and softball on Monday March 23 ,and Track and Field on Monday March 30. Times will be announced. Each student trying out **must have** the following the first day of tryouts:

- 1) Consent form
- 2) Proof of insurance (copy of card)
- 3) Updated (this school year) sports physical on file

- 4) Emergency Card (for students who have not played a sport this year).

Mr. Cloos

Nurse

All students age 11 years and above will be required to have one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) prior to the first day of the 2009-2010 school year, unless they have received a tetanus vaccine within the past five years. You will need to provide the school with proof of the vaccine from the physician's office. Your student will not be able to participate in middle school sports next year until this new requirement is met. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to contact me at 286-7143 ext 204.

Thank you,

Mrs. LaBranche, RN

Guidance Department

The Guidance Department is offering a Bereavement Group for children whose parent or other close relative has died. If your child has experienced such a loss and has not enrolled, please contact the Guidance Department if you would like him or her to participate.

Help for Families in Tough Economic Times: Free or Reduced School Breakfast/Lunch Program and Other Benefits

If your family has been evicted or you have lost your housing for any reason, your child may benefit for federal services and benefits, including free school lunch. Recent changes in the Federal Free and Reduced School Breakfast/Lunch program also expands eligibility to children whose parents or caretakers have lost their job, become disabled, or otherwise have a decrease in income for any reason. For wealthier families in these situations, eligibility is based on the current month's income only. Please notate the appropriate situation on your application for free school lunch.

The Free and Reduced School Lunch Program is a vehicle for reporting to the state and federal government the percentage of children whose families are struggling financially. The higher that percentage, the more state and federal funds Winnisquam Regional School District is eligible to receive. The benefits to your child and school are considerable. Free and reduced school lunch eligibility is **strictly confidential**, only known by Linda Burke and other food service staff. If you think your child may be eligible, complete an application. Applications are available on the district website. To learn more about the program, call Linda Burke, Food Service Director, ext 225 or Elise Smith, Guidance Counselor, ext 209 at 286-7143.

Tuesday until May 12. The meeting time and place is the same...2:30-3:30 in Mrs. Hall's room.

Mrs. Bergman

Sargent Center for Outdoor and Environmental Education

For the ninth year, staff from the Guidance Department (Elise Smith) and Youth Assistance Program (Dawn Shimberg) will be taking a group of 30 students on a three-day overnight trip to Boston University Sargent Center for Outdoor and Environmental Education in Hancock, NH. This trip is open to any middle school student. The cost is \$205, but full or partial scholarships are available thanks to grants from Belknap and Merrimack Counties. If your child is interested, please contact Mrs. Smith by March 19, as there are a few openings and scholarships still available.

Child & Family Services and Youth Assistance Program (CFS) has received grant funding to provide substance abuse prevention services to our middle school students. In conjunction with the Youth Assistance Program (YAP), a series of prevention and treatment groups will be conducted. If your seventh or eighth grader received a permission slip, please return it to the Guidance Department this week. CFS will also have limited office hours at school to talk to students about substance abuse issues on a walk-in basis. For more information or any concerns, please contact the Guidance Department.

Ms. Zimmerman, Mrs. Smith

Band and Chorus News

Congratulations to Hannah Livernois, Rachel Willcutt, Nicole Swain, Clarissa MacDonald, Joe Carberry, Ali Yandian, Taylor Cavanaugh, Kristen Dupuis, Melissa Mekula Christina Crandall, Abbi Sleeper, and Nicole Weisman who participated in the Lakes Region Music Festival at Newfound Memorial Middle School on March 13. The students worked very hard preparing for this event, and they represented their school and community honorably. Students participated from 20 schools representing the best in the Lakes Region rehearsing all day, and performing a concert that evening. The sold out concert was extremely well received with both the Band and Chorus each receiving separate standing ovations.

Mr. Jones and Mrs. Grover

News Club

We had to change the dates of the News Club. It will begin on Tuesday, March 31 and continue every

DRAMA NEWS!

The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast will be performed on **Friday, March 27 at 7 pm** and **Saturday, March 28, at 5:30 for the WRMS Drama dinner theater**. Tickets will be sold at the door: \$3.00 per person Friday night and \$5.00 per person for the dinner and the play (maximum \$20.00 for immediate family over four) on Saturday evening.

Hope to see you there!!

Mrs. Dagnese

UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 3/23 | Softball tryouts 2:30 - 4:30 |
| | Baseball tryouts 4:30 - 6:30 |
| 3/30 | Track |
| 3/27 | DRAMA Production |
| 3/28 | Dinner Theater at 5:30 p.m. |
| 4/20 | School Board at Southwick School |

P.T.O. NEWS

Greetings and happy spring from your PTO! This year the PTO consists of a small but dedicated group of volunteers, and I am thankful for their continued support. We have put on a spaghetti dinner at the annual fall Open House, provided a potluck meal for the teaching staff during parent-teacher conferences, donated snacks for fall testing, celebrated Custodian Appreciation Day with a potluck meal and small gifts, and sponsored two dances.

We have two more major events planned, including Teacher Appreciation Week, which is the week of May 4-8 and an outdoor yard/book/craft sale, for which we plan to solicit the public to rent space. The PTO will conduct its annual used book sale that day, and shoppers will be able to look at the offerings of others who participate. We hope to get a mixture of yard sale/white elephant, craft items and home business items such as Avon, Pampered Chef, etc. There will also be food and drinks for purchase. Please watch for upcoming announcements and then mark your calendars and come out in support of your PTO!

Michele Beasley, President,
286-2240

beasley4@metrocast.net