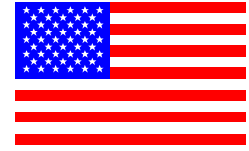




# Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News



Dear Parents/Guardians,

School opened at WRMS on a very positive note! Dr. Cadarette and I met with teachers for two days prior to the start of school to review goals and expectations for the year and to go over some new practices and procedures that will help us to keep our work focused on student learning. We also met with students on the first two days to review the handbook and to highlight our Mission and our expectations. It is important that we all begin with a clear understanding of our roles and responsibilities. Please be sure to go over the handbook with your child and sign the enclosed form indicating that you have done so; it should be returned to your child's homeroom teacher. You should have received a letter highlighting the handbook changes for this year; we will have the handbook, with the revisions, linked to our website shortly. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you at our Open House on September 18<sup>th</sup>. I am excited about the opportunities we have at WRMS to advance the learning of all of our students. I look forward to working with you and please don't hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Warm Regards,

**Dr. Pamela Miller, Principal**

## FALL 2008 NECAP TESTING

Grade 6:  
 Thursday 10/2 AM (until 12:15)  
 Tuesday 10/7 AM (until 12:15)  
 Thursday 10/9 AM (until 12:15)

Grade 7:  
 Wednesday 10/1 AM (until 11:45)  
 Wednesday 10/8 AM (until 11:45)  
 Wednesday 10/15 AM (until 11:45)

Grade 8:  
 Friday 10/3 AM (until 11:45)  
 Monday 10/6 AM (until 11:45)  
 Tuesday 10/14 AM (until 11:45)  
 Thursday 10/16 AM (until 11:45)  
 Friday 10/17 AM (until 11:45)

## ISSUE 1, September 19, 2008

### Library News

The start of a new school year brings new faces and new ideas. Welcome to Dr. Miller, Principal and Dr. Cadarette, Vice-Principal, sixth graders, and new students and staff.

Ms. Chapley reviewed library policies at the grade level team meetings to remind them that it is a privilege to use the library and school materials. We have a collection of materials for work in the classes and books to enjoy. Please take care of them. All sixth grade reading classes viewed a PowerPoint on Guidelines for Using the Library Media Center. Each of our school expectations apply in the library. Be responsible for books, Be respectful of others, Be Safe, and Be Prepared.

Mrs. Jurta's social studies classes have started research on the decades of the 1990's to the present.

The library is looking for volunteers to assist with tasks. Please contact Ms. Chapley, if you have a few hours to offer our school.

Ms. Chapley may contact parents by phone calls, e-mail, or letters.

Sand Dollar Summer by Kimberly Jones is my book review for this month. I enjoyed this

book because it relates how a young girl with spirit overcomes her fear of the ocean. When twelve-year-old Lise spends the summer on an island in Maine with her self-reliant mother and bright--but oddly mute--younger brother, her formerly safe world is complicated by an aged Indian neighbor, her mother's childhood friend, and a hurricane. New England at the seacoast with cold water, hurricanes, and the locals provide a good read, especially if you love the ocean.

**Ms. Chapley**

## Grade 8

We have been very busy in the 8th Grade. Several new programs are underway and students seem to be enjoying the opportunities and rising to the challenges that are being offered.

Mr. Wyman expects that his LA/Lit students will read a minimum of 25 minutes per night in their Accelerated Reader books. Please check your student's assignment notebook book or PreAP Syllabus nightly.

Students in Mrs. Coughlin and Mrs. Vose's math classes are on line and have started with the I-Succeed courseware program. Mrs. Coughlin's pre-algebra class is working hard to get ready for NECAP testing.

All students in Mrs. Jurta's social studies classes have been assigned a research project on a person of their choice.

Ms. Large's science classes began the year with a discussion on the importance of safety and an examination of the different branches of science. Ask your student which branch of science is his or her favorite and what he or she chose to draw to represent that area of study on his or her poster.

We are introducing metric linear and temperature measurements and plan to put them into practical application during a hawk watch by recording the temperature in centigrade, and wind speed in km/hour and maximum visibility in kilometers. Exemplary behavior is expected to be able to participate

After an introduction to learning styles and brain based learning, our next project is based on a feature in Discover Magazine and is called '20 Things You Didn't Know About...' and the science topic of the student's choice.

Keep up the good work!

Mrs. Beliveau's algebra and pre-algebra classes have been working on review skills for the NECAP. Every Monday students receive a sheet of 20 problems called "warm-ups". They need to complete them by Friday and can use any resource available to check and review their work.

Currently, students are working on writing and evaluating algebraic expressions, calculating with integers and interpreting various types of tables and graphs.

We welcome Ms. Dorsett to the 8th grade team. Ms. Dorsett also teaches language arts/literature. She reports that her class has been reading The No-Talent Kid by Kurt Vonnegut and Raymond's Run by Toni Cade Bambara. We finished our license plate projects and they are on display in our classroom. We are working on our second project about 'What I Do Well', reports Ms. Dorsett.

We are looking forward to a GREAT year!  
**Ms. Large**

## Grade 7

Introducing the Seventh grade team:

Mrs. DiNardo - social studies  
Mr. Savage - science  
Mr. Saltmarsh, Mrs. O'Donnell - math  
Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Morse, and Mrs. Anderson -  
Language arts and literature  
Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Hal - special  
education  
Mrs. Beck, Mrs. Jameson, Mrs. D'Agnese -  
Support staff

Teachers and staff have spent a lot of time over the summer preparing for the new year. We have started off very smoothly with a few new changes for all of us. We have a different on-line grading system, AP classes, and Accelerated Learning.

The students in math and literature have started the fall NWEA testing on the computer and will finish next week with language arts. The testing will provide a quick assessment on how we will be able to meet their academic needs.

Please do not hesitate to call any of us if you have any concerns.

In social studies we started the year by familiarizing ourselves with the continents, oceans and major lines of latitude. We have discussed map distortion and have reviewed how to use the atlas effectively. This week we will start our study of the United States by learning about factors that affect population density.

In math class we are off to a great start with variables and patterns. This is the pre-algebra book of the Connected Mathematics Project curriculum. Students are learning new terms and concepts which connect their knowledge from previous years into an introduction to algebra. Their warm-ups will be class work that is done most days, their projects and evaluations will be done routinely throughout the quarter, and

homework will be assigned as it is needed to strengthen weak areas or reinforce learned concepts and operations.

You may want to take a look at what we are doing in math this year at the Connected Mathematics Project web site. There are many interesting and helpful menu options at this site to help you understand what we are doing and to provide help for homework. The site is <http://connectedmath.msu.edu> You may contact me by email at ([ASaltmarsh@wrsdsau59.org](mailto:ASaltmarsh@wrsdsau59.org)).

**Mrs. Berry**

As you may have heard, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class has a new guidance counselor this year and my name is Lauren Zimmerman, M.Ed. I will be at the WRMS on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Wednesday afternoons during the school year. As part of my duties as a school counselor, I will be meeting with students in groups and one-on-one to provide support here at school and I will be available to parents at any time to discuss concerns about your children and their academic progress. I will also be teaching guidance classes to all 7<sup>th</sup> graders for one quarter of the year. In guidance classes this month, we have been learning about how to study and learn more effectively by finding out our preferred learning styles and what that means, as well as what side of our brain is our dominant side and how that affects how we process information and learn. Our goal is to learn ways to study better and become more successful academically. We have also identified the resources that we have in our lives to include people that we can go to at home, amongst our friends, in our community, at school and in the larger world. Our next set of lessons will discuss decision-making skills and we will be practicing various ways to help us make good decisions. Please feel free to be in touch any time you have questions or concerns in regard to your

children. I am happy to help in any way that I can. My best to you and your family,

**Ms. Zimmerman**

## **Grade 6**

Social studies classes have been studying the themes of geography. Students will be working on the themes of geography project in class.

Math classes have been working with the CMP Prime Time book. Students are working with prime and composite numbers. All students should be reviewing their multiplication facts. Please practice with your child at home.

Reading and language arts teachers would like to remind students to read for twenty minutes each night.

Science classes have been studying the scientific method. All students are working on the Scientific Method Experiment. This involves designing an experiment, collecting and interpreting the data, and stating a conclusion. This will allow students to practice the steps to the scientific method. Students please remember to hand in question of the week.

Teachers would like to remind parents that mid term is September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Hampe**

## **Unified Arts**

### **Physical Education - *New Kids on the Block***

With the retirement of Ms. McCaffrey and Mr. Ouellette there are two different faces in the gym this year. One is a familiar face to many and the other is new to WRMS.

Mrs. Crowell has been working at WRMS since 1997 as a Math tutor and then 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and science teacher. Some of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will remember her from when she taught Physical education at Sanbornton Elementary. She is very excited to be back in the gym and looks forward to working with Mr. McNutt and all the students this year.

Mr. Robert McNutt is new to WRMS this year. He has a Bachelor's Degree from SNHU and his PE certification from Bridgewater State College. He taught at John F. Kennedy Middle School in Natick, MA two years ago.

He is coaching Cross country this fall and will be coaching Boys Basketball this winter. He enjoys keeping kid's active and providing curriculum that includes a variety of games and activities for all students to participate in. He is very excited to be a part of the Winnisquam Community.

## **GUIDANCE**

Below is a listing of after school activities for Quarter One. All activities begin at 2:25, directly after school. Homework Club ends at 3:30 and runs every day except Friday. Saturday Morning Homework Club runs from 8:00-11:00 a.m. All other after school activities end at 4:00, except for the Veterans' Home, which ends at 5:00:

Monday - Cooking Club

Tuesday - Chess Club

Wednesday - Model Building/Woodworking

Thursday - Sewing Club, Earth Club (recycling) or Veterans' Home.

Monthly field trips are available. Please contact Guidance or RRAPS for a permission slip or additional information. Our field trip to Clarks Trading Post for September 20<sup>th</sup>

has a limited number of openings. Please call Elise Smith or Shannon Kruger at 286-7143, if you'd like to attend. Our next field trip to Beech Hill Farm is on October 17<sup>th</sup> and also has a limited number of spaces available.

## **Upcoming Events**

**NO SCHOOL** - Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. Teacher Workshop and Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> Columbus Day.

**School Board** - Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at WRHS, 6:30 p.m.