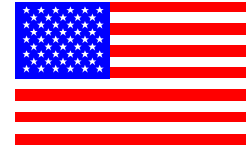




Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents and Guardians,

October has been a busy month for WRMS; there are many exciting things going on! We've finished up our fall assessment, both the NWEA and the NECAP. It's nice to have that behind us as we focus on instruction and learning in the classroom, and we look forward to using the assessment data to help us improve learning for all students in the classroom. Many of our professional staff received their first training on the development and implementation of data teams during our teacher workshop day on October 10th. We now have curriculum leaders/data coaches for each content area: math, ELA, science and social studies, and all of our staff will work on a data team to analyze various sources of information in order to focus on improving instruction. This is an exciting beginning of our shift to working in collaborative professional learning communities that focus on cyclical improvement of our school. We will continue with our training on data teams throughout this school year; our next session is in November.

Our school restructuring committee met on Tuesday, October 14th, to review the data team process and also to review the web-based program that we will use to develop our restructuring plan. The program provides 82 Indicators for Rapid Improvement for us to review in relation to our organization, practice, and policies at WRMS. Our teachers and administrators are working in teams to review and assess the indicators, and the results will then be given to the restructuring team to begin the process of forming action plans. If you would like to read more about the restructuring team, the minutes will be posted on our website.

We encourage you to sign up for a parent conference with your child's team of

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teachers. Our conference dates are Tuesday, November 18th from 5PM - 8 PM and Thursday, November 20th from 3 PM - 6 PM.

If you did not sign up for a time at Open House you can call Carolyn Aube in the main office, and she will schedule a time for you. We will have our parent surveys available for you to complete during conferences, so please plan on spending an additional 10 minutes in the library to complete the survey. We value your input and as we work on our school restructuring plan it is more important than ever that we hear what each and every one of you has to say about your vision for excellence at the middle school. Together we have the opportunity to make a difference!

I look forward to seeing you at conference time. As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have. Enjoy the fall colors!

Warm Regards,

Dr. Pamela Miller
Principal

GRADE 8

Eighth grade students worked very hard to finish up the NECAP testing last week. Students are back to their normal schedules now. Grades will be closing for quarter one on October 31st. Please check with your 8th grader to see that they are keeping up with their homework assignments, reading nightly, and using their assignment notebooks for each class every single day.

Students in the I-succeed math program are doing well and making progress. The online program has given students an opportunity to learn and experience success in math at their own pace. In addition to that, students have been working on pre-algebra skills that will

prepare them for their high school math courses. Homework is not assigned nightly, but students are averaging about one night of homework per week. Please check their assignment notebooks nightly for those assignments.

Mrs. Vose

Social studies classes have begun research for their 2nd project covering the 70's & 80's. In addition to projects we will be learning about many topics covering the culture of the times from *The Great Communicator*, to the end of US involvement in Vietnam and yes, maybe we'll even listen to a little disco. Don't forget to remind your 8th grader to be ready with a current event each Monday and ask them what is new in our travels back through history.

Mrs. Jurta

LIBRARY NEWS

The library welcomes Mrs. Andrea Keon as the new Library Assistant. Andrea lives in Tilton, with her husband Patrick and three boys, Austin, Noah, and Christian and a menagerie of animals that includes dogs, cats, and Rex the gecko. Mrs. Keon loves to hike, camp, and travel to North Conway each winter to snow tube. She has previously worked at Concord Hospital telemetry unit.

Mrs. Jurta's eight graders are researching events of the 1970's and 1980's. Mr. Hampe's classes are researching raptors.

Ms. Chapley presented a booktalk about Andrew Clements to Mrs. Hewey's reading classes. Mr. Clements is known for *Frindle*, a story about an imaginary writing tool. Humor and realistic setting of schools are some of his favorite topics. Ms Sander's classes are exploring the elements of plot, character, and setting within a collection of the most distinguished children's picture books. Ms Chapley explained how the art and writing convey these important elements in many of these books.

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt is Newbery Honor book and a Printz Honor book for this year. Imagine starting seventh grade with expectation from parents, sibling rivalry,

and a teacher who has high expectation for you. Holling Hoodhood is that student. The year is 1967, and everyone has worries, especially about the Vietnam War. Holling Hoodhood has just started 7th grade and knows Mrs. Baker is out to get him by forcing him to read Shakespeare while other classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school. Schmidt leaves you laughing at the students, teachers, rats, and Holling's antics as you follow the events of 1967 through 1968. The inspiration of one teacher makes a difference in one young life. Laugh out loud as you read it, I did.

GRADE 6

NECAP Testing: Testing ended for grade 6 students on Thursday, October 9. Students, as a whole, put great effort into this year's tests. Great job!

The Reading/Language Arts classes are finishing up their mystery unit and the reading of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. As a review, ask your child:

Who is Hugo Cabret?

Why did Hugo go to live with his uncle?

What happened at the end of the book?

As the weather gets colder, please remember that we go out for recess every day, unless it is rainy. Students need to be prepared for fall's quickly changing weather.

The Reading/Language Arts students need to be reading 20 minutes per night, 5 nights per week, in their Accelerated Reader book. Students have set goals that they are working toward for the end of Quarter 1.

Quarter 1 grades close on October 31. If you have questions or concerns about your child's grades, please contact the classroom teacher directly via e-mail or at 286-7143.

Mrs. Hewey

GRADE 7

The 7th grade finished NECAP testing and congratulations from the 7th grade teachers

for their strong effort and hard work.

In Mr. Savage's science classes the students have been studying a unit on oceanography. They are currently working on the different ocean life zones and exploring what kinds of animals live in these habitats.

The students just finished constructing a hands-on three-dimensional model of an ocean floor feature. After they made their model they had to analyze the characteristics of the feature and make a hypothesis based on the structure.

Mr. Savage

ART

Many things are planned and more will be happening in the art program at WRMS.

Remember the Picasso traveling show last year? Well Henri Rousseau will be here this year during parent conference week. Look for the LARGE colored reproductions and the student works it has inspired.

Later this year we have been invited to participate in an exhibit At PSU. The projects will embody the themes found in the story of Wizard of Oz. This show "Over the Rainbow" will accompany the 2009 ETC production of Wizard of Oz at PSU.

The NH Dept. of Education has also asked us to return. This exhibit will be in a month or two.

The Scholastic Arts Awards are in January and hopefully we will do as well as last year. More information on all these shows will follow.

If you have not visited the Middle School's office you're in for a surprise. Dr. Cadarette purchased some reusable frames which now contain some samples of student works. Wow! What a difference a frame makes.

Lastly, the Art Club meets most Tuesdays. If your child is interested, have them pick up a

permission slip in the Art room.

Mrs. Johnson

HEALTH - Grade 6

The end of the quarter is fast approaching and we are working hard to complete our last few units of study. Following the first aid unit that students are currently involved with will be a unit on tobacco. The last week of the quarter will be devoted to information on puberty. Hopefully your student has enjoyed this class and you will continue to promote healthy behaviors and attitudes with your child. Thanks!

Grade 7

Health Board Game Projects are due next week. Your student should be either finished, or putting the finishing touches on their game. This long-term project was assigned at the beginning of the quarter and should be ready to present on Tuesday, October 21st (Day 1 class), or Wednesday, October 22nd (Day 2 class). Please check the progress with your child and if you have a chance, play their game with them as a test run!

Grade 8

Independent health projects are due next week. For those students participating in the sleep deprivation project, "switching places" project, or any other project requiring a weekend commitment, this will be the last chance to conduct experiments. All projects, including paperwork is due on Tuesday, October 21st (Day 1 class), or October 22nd (Day 2 class). Your help in making sure your child completes this project.

Mrs. Kemmerer

NURSE'S NOTES

The Center for Disease Control has made a new recommendation this year, that ALL CHILDREN ages 6 months through their 19th birthday receive a yearly flu vaccine.

I strongly encourage you to contact your child's health care provider regarding this recommendation and have your child vaccinated.

I realize that everyone is very busy in the morning and it can be a very hectic time of day, but eating breakfast and packing a morning snack is so very important. I frequently have students coming into my office with tummy aches from not eating breakfast. This takes away from their classroom time while they sit and eat. We do offer breakfast in the cafeteria for a dollar from 7:25 till 7:40 am on school days. For students receiving free or reduced lunch this would also apply to breakfast. Please discuss with your child the importance of eating breakfast, whether it is at home or school. All students are given a morning snack time; please encourage your child to bring a snack to school daily. Students may or may not choose to eat a snack at snack time, but at least they have it if they are hungry.

Mrs. LaBranche, R.N.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/24 WRMS Dance from 7 - 9 p.m.**
- 10/27 6:30 p.m. School Board Meeting at WRHS**
- 11/5 9 a.m. PICTURE RETAKE DAY**
- 11/6 Report cards to go home**
- 11/10 No School - Teacher Workshop Day**
- 11/11 No School - Veterans Day**
- 11/18 Parent Conferences 5 - 8 p.m.**
- 11/20 Parent Conferences 3 - 6 p.m.**

Online Grade Book

On November 3, 2008, the MMS for Schools Online Grade Book will be available for parents to access their student's grades. Attached to this newsletter is the instruction sheet outlining how to set up an account. Links for parents and students will become available through our district website (www.wrsdsau59.org) on November 4th. If you need any additional information or require any assistance, please contact Mary Doherty in the WRMS Guidance Office at 286-7143, ext. 205 or at mdoherty@wrsdsau59.org.