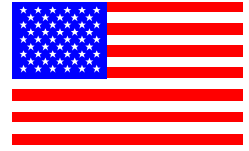




Winnisquam Regional Middle School Monthly News



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Greetings,

The first marking quarter is over and I hope that all of your students are off to a good start! The on-line grade book is up and running, so you can easily check on your students' classes to see how they are doing. If you haven't already signed up and received your password to log on, please visit our website for instructions (see enclosed updated instructions). I also encourage you to share your password with your students so that they can monitor their grades too. The immediate feedback is a great motivator!

Many of our students have signed up for the State Scholar program; I was pleased to see so many students wanting to connect with our local businesses and learn about career opportunities. Our State Scholar students will be making a visit to Plymouth State University later this month to learn about post-secondary opportunities. Motivating our students at an early age to further their education and plan career goals is a key to their success. We are happy to be able to participate in this state organization and help our students succeed. Look for the fundraising coupon in this newsletter to help us raise money for the state scholar program. The funds will help support monthly luncheon meetings for our students with their business partner mentors.

It was nice to see so many at our parent conferences this week. Hopefully you had a chance to complete the parent survey during the conferences, If not, we will be sending home a copy for you to complete. Your feedback is important to us! Please help us out and take a few minutes to do the survey. Please return it in an envelope with your name on the outside as your name will be in a drawing for Smitty's movie tickets - a way to say, "Thank you!"

I wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, and I hope that you have time to spend with friends and family during the holiday break.

Warm Regards

Dr. Pamela Miller

ISSUE 3 November 21, 2008

GRADE 6

In social studies we are just finishing up a unit on Hunter-gatherers. Students have really enjoyed looking at cave art from around the world and creating their own cave painting to tell a story of early people. We will have a quiz on this information on November 25th. After Thanksgiving we will be delving into the Sumerian, Mesopotamia, and Babylonian civilizations. As a culminating activity students will be engaged in a simulation that helps them to understand trading of goods to advance in society, as well as, supply and demand.

If you haven't already been to the online grade book to check your child's progress I encourage you to do so. I will also be posting upcoming due dates and events on there so you know what to expect.

As the cold weather approaches please make sure that you son/daughter is equipped to go outside. We will continue to take them out for recess as weather permits.

Mrs. Marcotte

GRADE 7

Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Berry's classes are wrapping up a unit on Science Fiction for Quarter 1 and will now move onto another theme soon for Quarter 2. We are also almost halfway through the book, "Things Not Seen" by Andrew Clements. Students have been reading most of the book silently while working on assignments and open response questions to the story. This week they will be getting a mini-contract that they will be using for the novel. It will be due in mid- December when we are done with the book. Mrs. Morse's Block 1/2 class is reading "The Invisible Man" by H. G. Wells and will also have a contract for that novel.

We are into a pattern with full weeks that start with new spelling words on Monday and a quiz on Friday. Please make sure they are studying their

words. They have book reports approximately every 3-4 weeks so they should be reading at home on their own. The next one will be due November 25th. Please feel free to call or email us with any questions.

In Social Studies the students are now starting a unit on Canada. Along with becoming familiar with the political divisions and physical features of our neighbor to the north, we will also be learning a little about their history. In addition we will focus on some economic issues and will learn the difference between international and domestic trade. Another new concept that we will discuss is what a trade deficit is and how it can cause problems for a country.

Mrs. DiNardo

GRADE 8

We are working on the introduction to cells beginning with the characteristics and needs of living things. There are two investigations planned to examine the presence of fat and starch in food.

Students have done some great work on the Constructed Response assignments. Topics have included exploding pumpkins, moray eels, and 'The Perfect Yawn'.

Thanks to **Carissa Mullen** for sharing her personal experiences growing giant pumpkins! Keep up the good work!

Ms. Large

Students in the I-succeed math class are making progress through the first volume and some will soon be entering into volume two of the program. Volume one focused on place value and basic number skills. Volume two's focus will be on decimals, fractions, and other rational numbers. Students are working at their own pace on the program. Students in the I-succeed math classes are receiving more homework than at the beginning of the year. They have been encouraged to use their assignment notebooks to keep track of nightly assignments.

Mrs. Coughlin's pre-algebra class is finishing up chapter 1 and will soon be diving into chapter 2. The class enjoyed playing some Conceptual Bingo games, which had them using their rules for integers. It was a nail-biting race to see who would cover their card first. Students are reminded that warm-ups are due every Friday. There is class time given every day, as well as a chance to turn them in early, so students should not be waiting until Thursday night. If parents

have any questions, they should contact Mrs. Coughlin.

Mrs. Vose and Mrs Coughlin

Students in Pre-algebra and Algebra classes are working on solving a variety of equations using inverses. They all continue to have warm-ups each week based on their NWEA assessment. Warm-ups are due on Friday.

Mrs. Beliveau

SNOWFLAKE FAIR

On Saturday, December 6th, the WRMS Student Council will be hosting the first annual SNOWFLAKE FAIR. Included will be crafts to make, crafts to be sold, a silent auction, white elephant table, bake sale, face painting and a surprise visit by Santa Claus!! (Be sure to bring your camera!).

Admission is \$2.00 a person, under 2 free. Any non-perishable food item brought in will earn a raffle ticket for a prize. All proceeds benefit local charities and the WRMS student council. Donations for the silent auction and/or the white elephant table will be greatly appreciated. Hope to see you there!*

Deb D'Agnese

LIBRARY NEWS

Ms. Chapley's accelerated learning group has been busy reading various books during our time together. The students have created a setting from the books, a bookmark designed to convey the theme of the book, and a brief synopsis. The students visited Mrs. Hewey's class with a presentation of the elements of the novel they have been reading.

The author of the month book talk presented by Ms. Chapley to Mrs. Hewey's sixth grade reading classes was Avi. Avi has written many books with different themes and characters. Many of his characters are young people who are strong and overcome adversity. The students used an adaptation of "Who was that Masked Man, Anyways?" to depict the theme of the novel and the technique of a radio show of the 1940's.

Mr. Wyman's class is using the library resources to complete research on the history of a specific topic. Ms Sander's classes learned how to fully utilize the automated card catalog to locate books in the library. Mr. Savage's classes are completing

an ocean fact sheet with the resources.

My book review for this month is Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt, a Newbury Honor book.

It is 1911, Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor, nearby island community founded by former slaves that the town fathers--and Turner's--want to change into a tourist spot. This fictitious account is based on the true story of the Malaga community on an island in Maine. How do you deal with unfair treatment and prejudice when you are the son of the town's minister?

One boy takes on the town to befriend a young girl and her family. Climb the cliffs, ride the waves of the sea and observe the turbulence of a town bent on destroying one community's way of life.

Ms. Chapley

Peace Poster Contest Judges,

Thank-you to all the Peace Poster contest judges, faculty, support staff and community members for your support, time and effort with making this first year's Peace Poster Contest a successful experience for our students. Twenty-Six students participated this school year. Way to go Wolves!

Congratulations to the following contest winners:
1st place Oriana Raymond (Gr. 7) - \$25.00 cash prize from Bristol Lions Club. This poster advances to the Lions District Level competition

2nd place Hannah Wellington (Gr.7) - \$15.00 cash prize from Bristol Lions Club

Honorable Mention: Ashley Chambers (Gr.7) - \$5.00 gift card from TNS

Honorable Mention: Olivia Decormier (Gr.7) - \$5.00 gift card from TNS

Deb O'Connor

MEMORY BOOK

Memory books for this year will be on sale during parent conferences and at lunch from November 18th- November 25th. The total cost of the book is \$20.00. You may put \$5.00 down to save a book and pay the rest later in June when they are passed out. I also have a small number of books from last year to sell for \$5.00. Call or email Mrs. Berry if you have any questions at 286-7143 next 316.

NURSE'S CORNER

The weather has been turning *colder* especially in the mornings and some students are rather cold by the time they enter the building for class. I realize that they may not want to bring a winter jacket along with everything else they may have to carry to school. However, students do go outside in the morning before school and sixth graders do go outside for recess. In addition to a jacket, they should probably bring a hat and mittens. Students should probably be wearing shoes instead of sandals/flip flops.

All students and parents need to keep in mind that if we ever had to evacuate the building for whatever reason, students without winter attire would be very cold or possibly wet after only a few minutes outside depending on the weather.

I strongly urge all students to bring appropriate outdoor clothing to school every day! Thank you for your cooperation.

Bobbie LaBranche, RN

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/26 - 28 Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL

12/10 WRMS Concert @ High School 7 p.m.
12/15 - School Board Union Sanborn School