

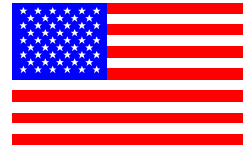


Winnisquam Regional Middle School

# Monthly News

Issue 2, October 23, 2009

[www.wrsdsau59.org](http://www.wrsdsau59.org)



## From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

September has flown by, and shortly October will turn into November! There are many exciting things going on this year and I am happy to report that we are off to a great start!

Our Science NECAP scores indicate that we've exceeded our target for this year by two points. Our teachers are integrating more inquiry learning with our new science curriculum and we expect that we will continue to see our scores rise. We're also using a new Social Studies curriculum that incorporates more technology into the classroom. We have three new sets of clickers and four new interactive whiteboards this year. Our teachers spent the last professional development day learning to use this new technology. It's wonderful to walk into classrooms and see the excitement as students use this new technology in the classroom!

We had our first pep rally to recognize our sports teams and students involved in our various clubs and activities. It was very loud! The kids had a great time and our sixth grade class took the prize for first place - most spirit (the loudest!).

Now that we've elected our Student Council officers, our students will be involved in planning more school events and community service activities. I'm looking forward to working with this dedicated group of students. I would like to see them take a leadership role in our school and work with me to take our school from excellent to outstanding! The climate of our school has changed for the better and things are certainly moving in the right direction. Examination of our PBIS data indicates that, overall, discipline write-ups are down 57% from last year for the month of September (103 to 59); serious discipline matters are down 50% (16 to 7). Now it's time to focus our energy on getting students involved in their school.

I'd like to draw your attention to some upcoming dates: Parent Conferences are November 17<sup>th</sup> from 3 - 6PM, and November 19<sup>th</sup> from 5 - 8PM. We are planning our first Parent Roundtable discussion on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:15; our topic is Homework and Summer Reading/Math. We want to hear from you and we would like to share our philosophy about these topics. We are always looking to make things work better for everyone, so we are anxious to hear from you and take your ideas into consideration as we move forward. I hope you can join us!

Please note that you can check your student's grades online; there is information on signing up on our

website. For the past month, you may have noticed that there have not been as many added grades - we have been NWEA and NECAP testing. Now that testing is over, we should be back on track with weekly additions to grades.

Always feel free to contact me by phone or e-mail if I can ever be of any assistance to you. Enjoy the fall season!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Pamela Miller

## Note From the Assistant Principal

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that our drop-off area is at the stop sign in the back of the building. Please drive past the front of the building from the Winter Street entrance and proceed to the stop sign at the right corner of the back of the building, which is where our bus drop off is located as well. As always, we are keeping our students' safety first and foremost in mind.

~ Mrs. Kruger  
Assistant Principal

## GRADE 6

Mrs. Hewey's Reading/Language Arts Classes

Block A is just finishing up the novel The Summer of the Swans. We will be discussing how this novel relates to our theme of Diversity and Tolerance.

Blocks B&D are continuing with the novel The Witch of Blackbird Pond. Students continue to have vocabulary and questions for each section of the novel.

For both classes, we have resumed our study of spelling. We had a brief hiatus, due to NECAP testing and two short school weeks. Spelling will normally be given biweekly.

~ Mrs. Hewey

## GRADE 7

We are finishing up our first chapter - Variables, Expressions and Integers. When we complete the Coordinate Plane lesson, we will begin a review for the Chapter Test on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>. Students have learned that it pays to show the work and not keep everything in their heads. The game "Enter with Integers" was enjoyed by everyone, especially when they got to kick someone off the board, forcing them to start over.

In Chapter 2, students will study properties of numbers, simplifying expressions using the four computations (add, subtract, multiply and divide) and solving equations with decimals. They will utilize their learned skills from Chapter 1 to help them solve real

world problems about various topics such as dinosaurs, giant pumpkins, aviation and baseball.

With the weather getting chillier, students need to dress accordingly. Some rooms are cooler than others so a zipper-front sweatshirt or a sweater is a good thing to have in their locker just in case.

~ Mrs. O'Donnell

## GRADE 8

Now that NECAP testing has ended, we can get back to a regular schedule.

Students in Algebra 1 Blocks A and B are just about to finish Chapter 2 on Properties of Real Numbers. This chapter covers calculating with positives and negatives, the distributive property, simplifying algebraic expressions and matrices. They have a test on Friday.

Students in Algebra 1 Block C just took the Chapter 6 test on solving and graphing linear inequalities. They did a wonderful job. As we proceed into Chapter 7, which deals with solving two variable equations, we will continue to focus on problem solving.

As students review and learn new concepts, we are integrating how to use the graphing calculator as a tool.

Remember, each Monday all students get a sheet of 20 warm-up problems to work on. These are based on individual skill levels. They are due on Friday.

The current bonus problem challenge worth 20 points is "The Great Divisibility Challenge." It is a favorite of mine! Ask your child about it...solving this could become a family effort.

~ Mrs. Beliveau

### ELA

Mr. Wyman's classes are reading challenge stories in "BOB". The B Block Pre-AP students are finishing up "O Pioneers".

Bring on the Donner Party! All classes are writing the first time stories.

~ Mr. Wyman

Mrs. Berry's classes have finished their demonstrations to the class. An enormous variety of talent and know-how was evident as they got up in front of the class. We witnessed all types of "how to cook something" all the way to "making candles with bee's wax." Thanks to all who went the extra mile for their class. All students should be reading at home for book reports at the end of the quarter as well as for Accelerated Reader Points.

~ Mrs. Berry

### Science

Classes have been discovering the Periodic Table of Elements. Element Products are now due. AP classes have a 3 dimensional model that is due. The next unit of study will be compounds and mixtures.

~ Mr. Hampe

### Social Studies

In social studies, we have just started our new unit covering the time period 1950-1979. We will be studying many different topics from the Civil Rights Movement, the turbulent 60's, the war, Watergate, and all of the administrations in the White House during those years. Students will be assigned projects and we will be researching in the library the week of 11/2. They are quite happy that they will be allowed to use the internet for one of their two required sources.

~ Mrs. Jurta

## 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade i-Succeed

The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade i-Succeed classes are all off and running. Students are doing a great job advancing through Volume 1. Students spend half of their 80 minute block on the computers, which have been a little temperamental lately. The online program includes an audio component, so each student has been provided with earbuds for his or her own use. Students need to remember that wearing the earbuds is not a choice, but a part of the program. The remaining time in class is dedicated to Numbers & Operations warm-ups, pencil-and-paper practice work, and individual help from the adults in the room. Any parent who has questions regarding i-Succeed should contact either Mr. Meyer or Mrs. Coughlin.

SUMMER MATH LOG & PROJECTS: Any student who has not yet completed the summer math log or project should meet with his or her teacher as soon as possible.

~ Mrs. Coughlin and Mr. Meyer

## Unified Arts

### Health

#### Grade 6

Students recently completed long-term Consumer Health projects. Most students chose to investigate food products to find out which brand of their product was the best tasting. Each group developed a hypothesis and created a blindfold taste-test to test their hypothesis. Students conducted a pre-test which they compared to the post-test to determine the best brand. Many of the results proved very interesting in that often the no-name brand proved to be the best tasting. Good news for consumers and good news for parents who have been telling their kids this for years!

Health students are currently working on a nutrition unit. They have analyzed various types of cereals to find out which is the healthiest. Hopefully this newly acquired information will encourage healthier eating habits!

#### Grade 7

Students have recently completed a unit on stress management. They learned a variety of techniques to reduce stress. Most students found that listening to music was one of their favorite relaxation activities. Students had an opportunity to try other stress-reducing activities including relaxation through

controlled breathing, progressive relaxation and AAA Method (Avoid, Alter, Accept). Students also learned about the disease-stress connection and how "fight and flight" plays a role in their lives. A reminder that students' long-term projects, Health Board Games, are due this week!

#### Grade 8

Students are working on a unit on body image and nutrition. They have viewed the video "Super Size Me" and many have a new-found understanding of "fast-food!" Students then applied their knowledge in a writing assignment that gave them an opportunity to use critical thinking skills. Currently, students are learning about various body dysmorphic disorders and eating-related disorders. They are completing the unit by making connections with topics including high blood pressure, cholesterol, and nutrition. Health projects are due this week!

~ Mrs. Kemmerer

## Guidance Department

A couple of more weeks and quarter two will begin so 8<sup>th</sup> grade career guidance will be wrapping up our work on career investigation and planning. This is a good time to review your child's mid-term grades which were distributed to students on October 6, 2009, and make a final push to get assignments in before the end of quarter one which is November 5<sup>th</sup>. After that time, students will not be able to turn in work from the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and their quarter one grade will be used to help determine their grade in each class for the year.

This would also be a good time to review your child's attendance record. Our policy states that more than 5 absences in a quarter and 20 for the year may result in retention or summer school and these absences will affect student grades. Next year in high school such absences will result in loss of credit and having to repeat classes. Please help your 8<sup>th</sup> graders prepare for high school by reminding them of their responsibilities academically and to be present at school. Both grades and attendance records are readily available by logging onto our on-line grade books. Go to [www.wrsdsau59.org](http://www.wrsdsau59.org), then the services tab, then on-line grades. If you have difficulties logging in please call our guidance secretary, Kelly Summers at 286-7143 x205.

Thank you for a wonderful 1<sup>st</sup> quarter! In January, we will be beginning high school scheduling for the coming school year!

~ Lauren Zimmerman, M.Ed.  
School Counselor - Grade 8

### Area Resources

**Are you taking care of your grandchild or other relative's child?** Then this group is for you! The Relatives as Parents (RAP) Group is a support group for relative caregivers that also offers structured activities for the children. The group will meet at the

Paul Smith Elementary School. Free dinner is provided with an RSVP. Join us the first Tuesday of Every Month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Lisa Tanguay 934-6306 or [ltanguay@caseyfamilyservices.org](mailto:ltanguay@caseyfamilyservices.org)

**The Preston Center - A FREE Kids Clothing and Toy Closet** located at the Pines Community Center in Northfield is open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 3-6PM. Donations always accepted. Get more information at [www.prestoncenter.org](http://www.prestoncenter.org).

## Nurse's Corner

The weather is turning colder; please have your child bring a jacket or sweatshirt to school daily. He or she will probably be required to be outside at some point during the school day.

I have been strongly encouraging students not to share food and drinks, to keep objects such as pencils, out of their mouths, and to wash their hands before eating. It would be very helpful if you could also stress the importance to your child to help prevent illness.

If your child is sick, please let me know his or her symptoms and if he or she has a fever over 100 degrees. Please do not send your child to school until he or she is fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of any medication.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all children ages 6 months to 19 years of age receive the seasonal influenza vaccine each year. Please speak to your child's physician regarding the H1N1 vaccine.

~ Mrs. Labranche, R.N.

## Library/Media Center

Ms. Chapley presented a book talk 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 settings of schools are some of his favorite topics. One of his famous quotes, "Education Matters", is a recurring theme in many of his novels.

Do you believe in the possibility of connecting with the spirits of the dearly departed? The Séance by Iain Lawrence returns you to 1926, with Houdini, his magic showmanship, and a murder mystery. Scooter King, junior sleuth, and his mother, Madam King, who is a sham medium, entrap you with their séances and desire to find who wants to bring the great Houdini to his final demise. Scooter may be too good a detective for his own good. What does he know about the murder inside the Burmese Torture Tank that may have been meant for Houdini? Lawrence provides clues, headlines, and an afterword to describe his research into writing a book that captures the style, attitudes, and culture of New England in 1926. Who is the first visitor to Madam King and what happens to that character? Read

on.

Teachers may want to check out new titles purchased by the library:

- *Blogs, Wikis, Podcasts, and Other Powerful Web Tools* by Will Richardson
- *The Science of Parenting* by Margot Sunderland
- *Swimming Upstream: Middle School Poems* by Kristine O'Connell George

## Clubs and Activities

### Knitting Club

Knitting Club is open to all students who want to learn how to knit or already know how to knit. We will be starting up again in November. Listen to the morning announcements for more information.

## Red Ribbon Week

### Red Ribbon Week 2009

#### Schedule of Events

- Monday (10/26): "Team Up Against Drugs": Wear Team Shirts/Jerseys
- Tuesday (10/27): "Drugs Give You The Blues": Dress in Blue
- Wednesday (10/28): "Use Your Head, Don't Do Drugs": Wear crazy hair or hat!
- Thursday (10/29): "School Rocks Drug Free" "Guitar Hero" activity during lunch
- Friday (10/30): "Tune Drugs Out" Listen to iPods during lunch!

#### On-going Activities:

The following contests will take place in the library:

- "Drugs Make You Loopy": Guess how many Fruit Loops are in the Jar?
- "Take the Pledge to Be Drug-Free": Sign a pledge card...put it in the container for a daily prize drawing!
- "Let's Show Character by Being Drug-Free": Draw a cartoon character that is showing how to be drug-free.

More information to follow regarding activities!

## Youth Assistance Program

### Come Meet New Hampshire's Newest Survivor - Betsy Bolan

Betsy will be speaking at the Pines Community Center on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

Betsy is a part-time police officer and full-time mother of four. Funny, outrageous and wise, she is especially interested in helping young people follow their dreams.

Come laugh, learn and be inspired! The program will begin at 7pm. Donations from this event will support the work of the Youth Assistance Program which is a non-profit agency. In addition to court diversion, the Youth Assistance Program offers substance abuse training, violence prevention/anger management and support programs for young people and their parents. Call 286-8577 for more information.

## K2K

### WHAT IS K2K?

K2K is an innovative partnership between The Middle New Hampshire Arts and Entertainment Center and Northern Stage, a professional theatre company located in White River Junction, Vermont. With peer-to-peer teaching from Northern Stage's Ensemble, participants will conceive, write, act, and build an original theatre piece that will be performed for community members. Northern Stage will also be bringing two performances to the K2K sessions. Participants will be able to see "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" and "Bridge to Terabithia" as part of their sessions in December and April respectively.

### DATES and TIMES

K2K meets on the following days at 10:00 am in the Franklin Opera House, Franklin, NH:

- Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

### FORMS

We must receive the following forms from you for each child in order to process enrollment. These forms are available in the main office of WRMS:

- Program Participant Form
- Signed Receipt of this Letter
- Medical/Media Release
- Self Sign-In/Sign-Out Form

Please watch for more information coming home with your student next week. Please feel free to call 802-291-7029 or email [education@northernstage.com](mailto:education@northernstage.com) with any further questions or for additional information.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 4: Fall Sports Awards @ 6:30 p.m. in the WRMS cafeteria
- November 6: Lions Club Peace Posters Due
- November 11: Veterans Day / No School
- November 13: Quarter One Grades Close
- November 17: Quarter One Report Cards
- November 17: Parent-Teacher Conferences 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- November 19: Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:00-8:00 p.m.
- November 25-27: Thanksgiving Recess / No School