

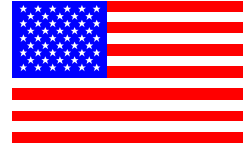


Winnisquam Regional Middle School

Monthly News

Issue 3, November 20, 2009

www.wrsdsau59.org



From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

Well, we've made it to Thanksgiving break! It's been a busy year with lots of changes! Thank you to all of you who came in for parent conferences. We always welcome the opportunity to talk with you about how your children are doing in school. It's important to us that we understand your child's needs and that we know what we can do to support his or her learning. If you did not get the chance to come in, please call us or e-mail and we will be glad to talk with you.

We held the first parent roundtable of the year on November 17th; our topic was Homework. We discussed our new policies on homework, as well as our summer math and reading packets. These are all a work in progress and our conversations with you help us make sure we are meeting everyone's needs.

After the first of the year, we plan to schedule a curriculum night to showcase some of the wonderful things happening in the classrooms, including new technology. We are happy to report that we received two new grants for technology. One is a technology leadership grant - Mrs. Pearson and Mrs. Marcotte will be trained to be technology leaders in our school. They each received an iPod Touch and will be trained on how this tool can be used in the classroom. We also received a technology integration mini-grant for \$10,000. Ms. Simoes, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Bergman and Mrs. Kruger will receive professional development to help them create a technology integrated instructional unit that engages seventh grade students in learning about the history of our towns. They will conduct interviews with community members in all three towns to learn about the history of local landmarks. Then, using GPS devices, they will put together a geocach hunt - a kind of scavenger hunt to locate containers hidden in the community, with information on these places of interest. The final project will be available to community members through our local library and our website. With this grant, we will receive 10 Flip video cameras, 10 GPS devices and three laptop computers. Look for the final product sometime in April!

This is the time of year that we conduct our Parent Survey. If you did not fill one out when you were in for conferences, please go to our website and click on the link to the survey or fill out the paper copy that will be sent home. We use your feedback to make improvements in our operations and your feedback is important to us.

Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving!
Sincerely,
Dr. Pamela Miller

Notes from the Assistant Principal

Thanksgiving is upon us and we have many things to be thankful for at WRMS...

1. Behavior reports are down 30.5% over a three year span. This is due to many hours of collaboration and a team approach to student management and programming.
2. We have many students participating in extra-curricular activities via sports teams, intramurals, after school clubs, and TNS field trips.
3. Our students are making academic gains and we enjoy celebrating the successes.

News and reminders...

1. Grade 7 and 8 students have expressed an interest in having a "social" instead of a school dance. We are in the process of looking at the dates already set aside for dances to see if we can get that scheduled. They would be held right after school until 4:30. We'll keep you posted.
2. Morning traffic has increased due to the construction on Rte. 3. Please be aware that students can only be dropped off at the stop sign. It is dangerous to have students dropped off at the edge of the field, in the middle of the road, or across the street in the SAU parking lot. Please also be aware that the roadway through the middle school is one way. Due to the traffic concerns, I will be asking Officer Pinault and perhaps the local police department to help when they are able.
3. Report cards and NWEA test reports were mailed to all households on 11/18/09.

~ Mrs. Kruger
Assistant Principal

GRADE 6

Grade 6 Science

In science classes, the students are studying how moon craters impact and change the surface of the planets. The students simulated impact events to discover the variables that determine crater characteristics and conducted experiments to determine the effects of meteoroid speed on a lunar surface. The students used this information to make graphs, organize data and draw conclusions.

~ Mr. Savage

Mrs. Hewey's Reading/Language Arts Classes

Block A: We are continuing with our "Life Lessons" theme unit by reading aloud the play, The Monsters are Due on Maple Street and the short story "The Stone."

We are keeping to our schedule of having spelling every other week, with skills packets on the opposite week. These are both due on the Friday of the week that it is assigned.

Blocks B & D: We are continuing with our "Life Lessons" theme by reading our next novel, The Young Man and the Sea. Some of you may have read Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea. The Young Man and the Sea is companion/parallel novel to Hemingway's novel. We will be looking at how the character grows during his time on the ocean.

~ Mrs. Hewey

Grade 6 Social Studies

In social studies, we are currently working on the 1st Empires, the Code of Hammurabi, and analysis of primary sources and pictorial representations of artifacts. Students should be reviewing class notes, foldable, and other resources for about 10-15 minutes a night to aid in the retention of new vocabulary & concepts. We will be having a test on Chapter 1 the latter part of the 1st week of December. After that Chapter 1 test, we will begin our study of Ancient Egypt.

~ Mrs. Marcotte

GRADE 7

Grade 7 Social Studies

In social studies, the students are now working on a unit on the United States and Canada. After a brief overview of all of North America, the students became familiar with the major physical features of the US and Canada. We have also discussed the form of government of both countries. Students now know that while the US has states, Canada has provinces and territories. As we move through this unit, we will discuss renewable and nonrenewable resources. We will also discuss the type of economic system we have in the US as well as what is meant by cultural diversity.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

Pre-Algebra with Mrs. O'Donnell

With the new quarter, in pre-algebra, we will be working on showing work in order to solve math problems. In class we looked at the answers for one particular problem and the students found that there were many answers but only one correct answer. Congratulations to Felicia Fields, Ben Delisle, Camden Steady, Ashley Chambers, Alyssa Clogston, Richard Mills, Samantha Hall, and Shelby Chapman for getting the correct answer on the first try. By having to correct their work, students realize that they can get to the right answer if they follow the rule of showing

all the work. As the poster in the room states, "If You Haven't Got Time To Do It Right, When Will You Find Time To Do It Over?"

~ Mrs. O'Donnell

7th Grade Math

In grade seven regular math classes, students are finishing up the unit on operations of integers. They have had to understand how to calculate integer operations like this one $(-7--9=+2)$. They have done a great job learning new mathematical concepts for this age. Math is moving into new learning, and how to learn new concepts more effectively is being presented to students. In a more usual, but no less difficult concept, students each set personal and class goals for the mastery of the operations of fractions. They drew on the previous data unit to collect, organize and display their five-day learning project to reach their preset goals. The daily progress they made shows very clearly on the graphs, and the majority of students made their goals by day five. The class goal-setting offered another interesting benefit to the classroom learning environment as students showed an obvious increase in positive active interest in how well other students were doing in their progress toward their goals. Our next unit will begin next week and will cover similarity, congruency, and scale among other topics.

~ Mr. Saltmarsh

GRADE 8

8th Grade Science

Classes are investigating states of matter. We finished a lab on changes of a solid, liquid, and a gas. Please make sure that your child has handed this lab in. Next we will be working on characteristics of a fluid.

~ Mr. Hampe

Grade 8 ELA

All of Mr. Wyman's classes are writing a new story called "The history of" where they are able to pick their own topic then research it. The Pre-AP class is reading "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee". The other sections are writing essays on a personal challenge.

Mrs. Berry's classes have finished reading "The Outsiders". This week they will be working on projects on the book and then finishing with a test. Both teachers would like to remind students they need to be reading at home to be able to reach their accelerated reader goals.

~ Mrs. Berry and Mr. Wyman

Grade 8 Social Studies

In social studies, students are in the process of presenting their projects for our current unit of study which includes the years of 1950-1979. We will be concluding the unit with the Civil Rights Movement and court cases involving integration of schools.

~ Mrs. Jurta

Grade 8 Algebra

Students in algebra classes have been busy solving equations and word problems of various difficulty levels. I am impressed by how well some students have done with translating verbal word problems into algebraic representations. Problem solving will continue to be a focus of algebra work throughout the year. To get a good look at what your child has been working on, ask him/her to show you his/her math binder. The work section of the binder should have graded papers and recent assignments in it. Just a reminder, students have a weekly warm-up sheet of 20 problems due every Friday.

~ Mrs. Beliveau

Unified Arts

Physical Education

We had a great first quarter and are now two weeks into second quarter. The students have been playing a variety of cooperative games and we just finished up with the Fitness unit. Next week, we will be starting handball. We had a great turnout for basketball intramurals. We had a lot of fun. Listen to announcements for some possible winter intramurals in the snow! Enjoy the holiday season.

~ Mrs. Crowell and Mr. McNutt

Guidance Department

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

Free or Reduced School Lunch Program

Most people know that children in families suffering the effects of these tough economic times can benefit from the Free and Reduced School Lunch Program, but did you know that our school also benefits? Our school becomes eligible for more state, federal and grant funds when the number of students receiving Free or Reduced School Lunch increases. Even if your child likes to bring his/her own lunch, please apply. Applications are available on the district website, from the cafeteria, Guidance Department, and the main office.

There are changes in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. 1) Eligibility is now for an **entire year**, through September 30, 2010, and you no longer have to report changes in income that would cause your child to lose benefits. You can still apply at any time of year. 2) If you have **lost your job**, even if you normally have high income, your child probably qualifies for **temporary benefits**. 3) If you have **lost your housing** for any reason and live in someone else's home, your child is likely eligible. If you think your child may be

eligible, please complete an application.

Helping Families have a Happy Holiday!

The following are resources for families:

1. TNS Christmas Fund - assists families and children with presents and food baskets for the Christmas Holidays. Contact Mrs. Smith or Ms. Zimmerman in Guidance at 286-7143, or Heather Thibodeau at the Tilton Town Office at 608-6627 for an application.
2. St. Vincent DePaul Christmas Angel Program - clothing for children given on various dates in December. Call 524-5470 for more information.
3. Santa Fund - 524-3111 - winter clothing and toys for children.
4. Tilton/Sanbornton Santa Fund - 393-8450
5. Toys for Tots - 528-3035
6. Sanbornton Fund for Older Children - 393-8450

Guidance Groups

Bereavement: The Guidance Department is offering a Bereavement Group for children who have had a parent or sibling die. Children will learn the stages of grief, how to express their grief in healthy ways, and ways to keep the memory of their loved one alive.

Anger Management: This group is for children whose anger is causing problems in their lives. They will learn about their anger triggers, physical reactions, and techniques for dealing with anger, including positive self-talk, reframing, meditation, and deep breathing.

Coping Skills: Is your child living with circumstances that are negatively impacting his/her day to day functioning? Children will learn from each other and identify ways to cope in difficult situations.

Please call Elise Smith, Guidance Counselor, at 286-7143 extension 209 to learn more about any of these groups.

~ Elise Smith and Lauren Zimmerman
Guidance Counselors

Nurse's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,
Have you picked up your child's backpack lately? Most of them have everything they own for school in them! Each student is assigned a locker and if there is a problem with it he/she needs to speak to his/her homeroom teacher. A loaded backpack should weigh no more than 15% of the child's body weight. If your child weighs 100 pounds then he/she should be carrying a backpack that weighs no more than 15 pounds. The bottom of the pack should not hang more than 4 inches below his/her natural waist and should rest in the curve of the lower back. Heaviest items should be closest to the back. Both straps should be used because slinging it over one shoulder can curve the spine. If your child insists on keeping everything in his/her backpack, please consider one that can be wheeled.

~ Mrs. LaBranche, R.N.

Library/Media Center

Students from Mrs. DiNardo's Social Studies classes researched oil and the world-wide demand and effects. They used the information to make oral presentations to their classmates. The classes did a great job listening to a presentation of the resources by Ms. Chapley and seeking out information.

Mrs. Jurta's classes made great use of resources from the decades of the 50's to the 70's to complete their current research topic.

Mr. Wyman's classes are venturing into the history of a special topic selected by students.

Mrs. Hewey's classes learned about the author Avi and his extensive titles that cover many literary styles and techniques used by many of the great classic authors. His skill as a writer imitates the best in literature. Judy Blume was introduced to the students. She is a favorite because of her ability to validate many adolescent thoughts and emotions.

What does it mean to be a girl in a small Texas town in 1899? It means learning the art of sewing, cooking, and cleaning. But what if you want to read Darwin's *The Origin of Species*? What if you want to spend time with your grandfather catching insects and studying the plants by the river? You will enjoy Callie Tate's antics and sympathize with her when she goes beyond the limits for girls in the south at the turn of the century. The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly is an inspiring book for those who want to follow their true interests.

Please take time to view the reproductions from the National Endowment for the Humanities grant displayed in the library. The Last of the Mohicans, by a children's book illustrator N.C. Wyeth, captures the quiet dignity of Native Americans. There is a selection of titles that match the time period of the 1700's and the topic of Native Americans.

~ Ms. Chapley

VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award

Congratulations to Mrs. Jurta, our 8th Grade Social Studies teacher, for receiving first place for the VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award! There will be a presentation scheduled here at WRMS in the near future and Mrs. Jurta will attend a special ceremony in January. We're very proud of you, Mrs. Jurta!

Bristol Lions Club Peace Poster Contest

The Peace Poster Contest, sponsored by the Bristol Lions Club, was very successful with more participants than last year! We are very proud of all the students who participated in the contest this year.

Congratulations to the following students:

- 1st place winner, Connor Lemay
- 2nd place winner, Shawna Desroches
- 3rd place winners, Amanda Blier and Ryan Fowler



The posters are currently on display in the main office and in the school cafeteria for a couple of weeks and will then go on display at the Hall Memorial Library in Northfield, NH.

~ Respectfully submitted by
Mrs. O'Connor

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

November 25-27: Thanksgiving Recess

December 3: 6:30 p.m. - Middle School Winter Sports Mandatory Parent Meeting @ WRHS

December 4: 7:00 p.m. - WRMS Drama Presents "A Christmas Carol"

December 5: 5:30 p.m. - Dinner Theatre
7:00 p.m. - WRMS Drama Presents "A Christmas Carol"

December 10: 6:00-9:00 p.m. - WRMS Winter Concert @ WRHS Cafetorium

December 16: Quarter 2 Midterms go home

Dec. 24 - Jan. 1: Holiday Vacation