

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

April 2016

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

EARTH & ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION: 9:15AM Thurs., Apr 28, Town Common

SCHOOL COUNCIL MTG: 3:15- 4:15 PM April 28 & May 19

PARCC & MCAS TESTING: May 3- June 2

PTO MEETING: 3:00 PM Thurs., May 5

PTO PANCAKE BREAKFAST & CAR WASH: 8:30-10AM Sat. May 14



2016-17 WCS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

WHEN: April 11 - May 6 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

WHO: Children who will be five years of age by Sept. 1, 2016

The Warwick Community School PTO invites you to our PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

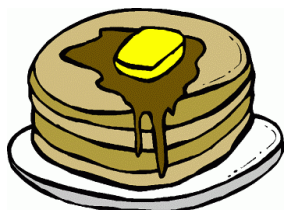
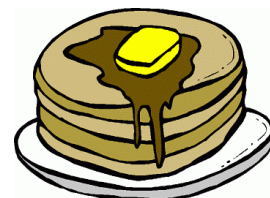
Saturday May 14th 2016 - 8:30-10AM (last serving 9:45AM)

Adults \$8, Children ages 3-13 \$4 (2 and under eat free!)

Please purchase tickets in advance! (Very limited tickets for sale at the door.)

• Tickets on sale before event from:

- Students,
- Warwick Town Library,
- PTO members.
- Trish in the WCS Office 544-6310.



And get your car washed while you enjoy your pancakes!

5th and 6th Grade CAR WASH!

Saturday, May 14, 2016

9:00 - 10:30AM

\$5 per wash

\$3 for interior vacuuming and glass cleaning

Proceeds support overnight trip to Cape Cod!





WOW!

3,112 and we're still counting!

That's the number of picture books and chapters WCS students have read for charity. Never let it be said that kids can't do really big and important things!

GROWING READERS: Predicting: An Effective Comprehension Strategy

Try this when you do a read-aloud or shared reading session with your child:

- Before reading, guess what the text will be about, or what you will learn. Tell why you think so.
- During the reading, discuss whether predictions have come true or will need to be changed. Tell why you think so.
- Continue to make new predictions while reading.
- After reading, think about your original predictions and the evidence to support or disprove them. "I thought I'd learn... but, instead, I learned..."



As always, the most important thing is to spend quality time with your children promoting their literacy, and to have fun!

Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K: Children spent the last month exploring water, rainbow, colors and mixtures in science. Preschoolers worked on telling nursery rhymes with puppets. This activity transferred to a center in the classroom where all children can use puppets to act out poems.



This month Diane Ellis, Clare Greene and Martha Morse joined us for Senior Reading Time. The theme was water. They read stories about water with and to the children and then had a tea party together with their partners. The children were the hosts and hostesses, and practiced using manners and using polite conversation. Thanks to all who attended! You can see pictures of

this event at <http://mswhites.blogspot.com/>.

This month we will be taking several walking field trips to places in the community.

We will be planting and tending plants in the greenhouse. We will continue our Forest Friday walks with a focus on new growth and water, rocks and soil. Thank you for sending your child dressed for outdoor exploration. **Ms. Allison White**

GRADES 1 and 2: First and Second Grade has started poetry! In our classroom we are using our poet's eyes to look at objects in fresh new ways, and think what we're reminded of. The excitement in our room has been contagious as our poet's eyes help spark our imagination and a poem is born! As the weather gets warmer we will begin to venture outside of our classroom for more inspiration as we practice writing poems from the heart.

We have finished up our balance and motion unit in science and will begin our travels around the world again in social studies.

In reading, we will be focusing on understanding the books with read as we build comprehension and stretch our reading skills.

Both grades have been practicing telling time on analog clocks in math. Second graders will soon move into practicing addition and subtraction of 3-digit numbers. First graders are revisiting shape exploration and will use their prior knowledge to help them begin to think about fractions.

I want to express my thanks to Julie Severance and Laurel Powell for their excellent care and work with our first and second graders while I was away. The children obviously enjoyed their learning time (especially their Penguin study!) I am happy to be back and it is especially good to reunite with such eager happy learners! Spring will be a busy and exciting time in our classroom as we continue exploration of all our BIG topics of learning!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs



GRADES 3 and 4: The third and fourth grade classroom is buzzing with the study of poetry this month! We are reading a fabulous book by Sharon Creech called Love That Dog. This book is written in stanzas, just like a poem, and follows a young writer as he goes from being reluctant to write poetry to inspiring other students to write poetry. The students are learning about famous poets and various forms of poetry in both reading and writing. We will be exploring the rhythm and sound of poetry and the beautiful music and elaborate pictures that it makes when it is read as well as experimenting with writing our own poems. This is honor of April's poetry month!



During the month of May we will be working on persuasive writing and beginning our last round of book clubs.

We are studying the life cycle and parts of a plant in science. We are growing all kinds of plants in the classroom and in the greenhouse. We are also deep into a study of Massachusetts in the American Revolution. Singing, acting, reading, and video clips have really made this unit come alive.

During math we are just wrapping up a study of fractions. The fourth graders are working on decimals next and the third graders are going to spend more time on graphing and word problems. We will be ready for any math that is thrown at us during PARCC testing.

Upcoming Events:

- Publishing Party: MA Biographies & Expert Writing: 11-11:30 Apr 14
- PARCC Testing: May 4, May 10, May 12, May 17, May 20, May 24, May 26
- Trip to Fort No. 4: May 19
- Trip to the Quabbin: TBA
- Trip to Local Historical Societies: TBA

Ms. Chriss Mullen

GRADES 5 and 6: We are very excited about our trip to Cape Cod which is coming up in about six weeks! The 5th and 6th graders are completing science units that are relevant to our trip. We have studied convection in the atmosphere which causes wind and affects surface ocean currents as well as land and sea breezes. We have also studied the different densities of salt water and the causes of deep ocean currents. Next will be the phases of the moon and how the moon affects the tides. We will also learn about electric circuits, Morse code and how incandescent light bulbs work for our visits to Marconi Station (site of the first transatlantic telegraph transmission), and Highland Lighthouse.



We have also been working hard in math this year. We will be ready for review in plenty of time before we begin our formal PARCC testing next month.

Speaking of the PARCC tests, 5th and 6th graders have just completed the after school tutoring program. Most of the students have been able to meet twice a week for an hour after school since we returned from February vacation. The purpose of the tutoring is not to teaching the students specific math and reading skills. We have done a fine job of that during the school day! The purpose is to allow them plenty of practice on lengthy writing tasks and to become familiar with the unusual computer skills needed to perform and complete the timed PARCC tests with accuracy and confidence. Hats off to these students for their commitment these past 6 weeks!

Ms. Lynn Hansell



LIBRARY LEARNING! April is National Poetry Month and that area of our Library has come out of hibernation! We have a stunning collection of poetry, drama and humor. Many books have been "air-lifted" to the classrooms to support the students' poetry work with their classroom teacher. As mentioned in previous newsletters, many new books that have been recently added into our inventory by

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE, Lisa Rhodes. The new books include many poetry books. Speaking of volunteers, my monthly Library Assistants are so very much appreciated. Each Tuesday at lunch, they are hard at work preparing for special book related events or tending to the books, the Library space, or displays. This month's themes are spring, life cycles, and Earth Day. Resources from our Library for these events contribute greatly to extending learning. For instance, the books about astronomy, constellations, planets and their related myths & legends have been on display to support our March Literacy Night, "*Exploring the Universe!*"

Believe it or not, this year's Read-a-Thon has been even more successful than previous years. We surpassed former reading totals, and that has spurred us all on to read even more! During this final week, we will learn how much money we earned and will contribute to the Ronald McDonald House, Boston. The first and second graders have been doing the hard math behind the scenes to keep track of our totals. Each week we count the number of picture books, chapters and long lovely books that have been read during the week and add that number to the total. We're working in the thousands!! Using our math skills (number placement, addition, subtraction, comparison and inequalities) for this "real-life" application has been lots of fun! Congratulations to all our eager-beaver readers and the families supporting the children's efforts.

Laurel Powell, Librarian



TECH TALK We are excited to have brought new technology into WCS with the addition of seven Chromebooks. These fast, light computers with long battery life will enable our upper grade teachers to take more advantage of the Google Apps for Education products in their classrooms by having more computing devices for their students.

The 3-6th grade have or will be engaged in learning about using the Chromebooks at WCS (a number of students use them in other settings) and working with drawing within Google Docs. It is easy to move between Google Drawing and Google Docs and students are discovering how to control a single page with text and multiple illustrations they have created in Drawing. These skills will translate to fiction and informational assignments in the classroom.

Both the kindergarten and first and second graders have recently been given less directed assignments than earlier in the year. They have developed skills that allow them to make a choice about which software or app to use in assignments.

This provides an opportunity to assess learning and provide some individualized instruction. Their "Spring" creations are a delight--some done in a drawing program, some with animation.

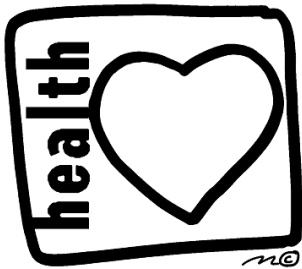
Ms. Susan Wright, Technology



MUSICAL NOTES.

April, 2016, Music News. Gray skies and damp have marked the spring, but we are still singing songs about the return of birds and flowers and the growing season. The 5/6 class has written their blues verses, and will sing them this week. Soon we will tie up our year long study of American popular music with a game similar to jeopardy or name that tune. 3/4 has embarked on a study of patriotic songs, and the meaning of the word patriotic. This would be a great conversation point for the dinner table or carpool. We will sing songs from the 1700's, 1800's and 1900's and examine the similarities and differences. The 1/2 class and the multiage class will be singing songs about the natural world, animals and their habitats as well as some patriotic songs from illustrated books. And coming up for everyone the first week in May - the May pole dance!

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music



HEALTH NOTES

Medication Safety classes continue for grades 3,4,5,6 with a lesson about over-the-counter (OTC) medications. To use OTC medications safely and correctly, you need to read and understand the entire label and use the information on the label.

Though it is always necessary that children be supervised by a trusted adult in their use of all medications, this knowledge will equip our students with a solid foundation of how to take medicines properly and therefore recognize medicines being used improperly including misuse and abuse.

Attached to this newsletter is a crossword puzzle concerning medication safety. Please join your child (grades 3, 4, 5, 6) while s/he works on this puzzle so you can discuss the information that has been learned.

Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN



***Happy
Vacation
Adventures!***