

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

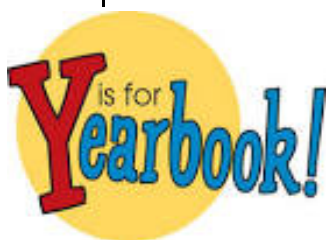
April 2014

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

PTO MEETING: 3:00 PM Thurs., May 1

GRADE 6 VISIT TO PVRs: 11:45-3 p.m. May 1

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING: 3 p.m. Thurs., May 22nd



WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER! We need a few parent volunteers willing to help craft the 2014 WCS yearbook for our 6th grade graduates. You needn't be the parent of a 6th grader - all children will have their turn eventually! It's a joyful project to collect photos and help the graduates create their memory pages. *Please call Trish in the office if you're willing to help.*



MUSIC MANNERS AND ALLEMANDES! WCS staff and students will go back in time on Friday to learn etiquette and dances from colonial times in another History Lab from the Deerfield Teachers' Association. Lynne Manning will lead us all with her fiddle as we learn to bow and curtsy and process in proper 18c style. *Made possible by a generous grants from the Foundation for Educational Excellence (FEE.)*

Grade 3-6 Math & Science MCAS - May 5th - 20th

OUR SPRING FASHION STATEMENT! As spring fashion begins to bloom, we send a few reminders about WCS dress code... our dress code is designed with fun, safety, modesty and respect. Sneakers are always the best choice for footwear. They offer good grip and ankle support and are safe for running games, jump-rope, kickball. Flip-flops, slides and high-heels are not safe on the playground. Midriffs must be covered. Spaghetti straps, revealing necklines or "belly" shirts are not allowed. Shorts should reach



mid-thigh (no shorty-shorts.) Hats and caps are fine for the playground, but shirts with offensive or inappropriate wording must stay home.

OUR ASTOUNDING WCS READERS! Warwick Community School students are reading up a storm to help endangered species by earning a penny for animal with each picture book or chapter they read! Our goal was to reach 3000 books by the end of our 8-week read-a-thon on April 18th. By April 10th, our students had already topped 4300 with an entire week to go!! Our final count is Friday...



CYBER-BULLYING: It's real! And it's far more common & hurtful than we want to believe. Cell phones are the favorite tool, but also Facebook and other social networking sites can be used as weapons for cyber-bullying. Like most teasing, cyber-bullying usually starts playfully, but can quickly become harassing, and sometimes lastingly harmful to both bully and victim. Thank you for carefully monitoring your child's on-line activity.



PTO UPDATE! We are planning our annual pancake breakfast. The date is Saturday June 7th, so save the date!!! We have some fun activities planned including a "small animal farm". Do you have a small animal you might like to bring? We will give out more information nearer the time. We are looking for volunteers for the pancake breakfast. If you think you could help us, whether in the kitchen, or supervising the outdoor activities, please let someone in the PTO know. You can also contact the school. Thanks for your support!



FREE VACATION WEEK PERFORMANCE! On Tuesday April 22nd at 1pm the *Warwick Arts Council* presents a vacation week performance for all ages: "Elmer & the Elder Tree" by the Piti Theatre Company of Shelburne MA.

Synopsis: Elmer is a city-dweller who loses his job, wanders into the countryside, and learns to revive a desolate landscape - and his own happiness. The tale is told by two forest beings who transform into all the characters from Elmer's life: mother, boss, a wise nomad, a young woman, and of course - an Elder tree. But these beings can't do it alone: the audience becomes both the show's reason for being told, and players in it. The tale is inspired by Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree" and Jean Giono's "The Man Who Planted Trees" and features original music by Aaron Sherwood, Peter Buchanan, and Wayne Smith.

This free performance will take place just after the Senior Meal upstairs in the Main Hall of the Warwick Town Hall. A good chance for grandparents &

grandchildren to have fun together and all are welcome. This performance is made possible by a Mass Cultural Council grant, thanks to the Warwick Cultural Council.

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

MULTIAGE PreK and K: The children in our classroom are busily researching and writing about animals of their choice. Zebras, chickens, goats, hippos, cows, and pigs are all being studied! We are studying what our animals eat, where they live and what their babies are called. We are making a book about all of animals. We will also be studying



how baby humans grow.

Our playground is drying out!! Hooray! Keep an eye on the weather and send in appropriate clothing for outdoor play on a daily basis. We go out around 11 a.m. You may also consider applying sunscreen and/or insect repellent to protect them during outdoor play. Happy vacation!

Ms. Allison White

GRADES 1 and 2: What an exciting month of learning March was! The children worked so hard as authors with opinions; and their writing showed. Thank you to all who were able to come in to support and celebrate all the hard work our class put into our writing with our publishing party!

With the end of our opinion writing unit will also come the end of our comprehension unit in reading. Our class has been busy thinking about the books that we read by making predictions and connections, asking questions, envisioning, and retelling. We will continue to encourage this deep thinking throughout the rest of the year as we progress with other units!

WOW! What scientists we have become over the last few weeks! Students



have been busy exploring balance experimenting how to get objects to stay in a stable position. There have been so many experiments with balance happening in and outside of our science instruction. I hope that you are hearing all the wonderful vocabulary that the kids have been using that

pertains to our science unit like: *stable position, balancing point, and counter weights*. If you see your child trying to balance objects on their finger at home, they are practicing all their learning in science!

After break we will continue on with the motion section of our science unit. Children will explore force and motion through many hands on activities that are sure to be exciting!

We will be starting our Non-fiction units in both reading and writing after break as well. Our class seems thirsty for knowledge lately, and I think this will be

a very engaging and appropriately timed unit for them! You can look forward to your child coming home as experts on topics that are near and dear to them!

Wishing you all a happy and relaxing break!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: Spring has sprung in a big way! The third and fourth graders have been studying poetry this month. We are reading books written in the form of poems by Sharon Creech and some of us have even attempted to write our own poems. We are quite the writers!

In science we have covered two units this month, magnets and rocks and minerals. We experimented with magnets and static electricity and made some lapbooks about the magnet facts we learned. Our rocks and minerals unit promises to be lots of fun! We will be growing crystals and examining all kinds of rocks. Our year will end with a study of plants, the perfect spring unit!

We kicked off our social studies unit on the American Revolution with a visit from the Freedom Trail Players, two magnificent actors and educators directly from the Freedom Trail Foundation, who taught us about the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and the ride of Paul Revere (and his little known accomplices, William Dawes and Samuel Prescott.) Then we launched into some "unfair" taxation within our classroom, to truly understand how the colonists felt. Currently we are working on three projects about the Revolution, a flip book, a mini-biography, and a time line. The children have enjoyed this topic!



We are diligently preparing for the math MCAS beginning in May. Every student is participating in MCAS tutoring where we are spending most of our time and effort working on open response questions. We are also working on our final two math units on problem solving (grade 3)/decimals (grade 4) and geometry (every one.) The children have enjoyed playing with geoboards and discovering angles, polygons, triangles, quadrilaterals, parallelograms, and symmetry. We have also revisited area and perimeter. Our class is full of mathematicians working hard and persevering on these tough topics!

We are looking forward to a busy, busy, busy end of the year. We will be studying Warwick and our surrounding community, creating a map of our town, and showing it off at our Town Faire!

Ms. Christine Mullen

GRADES 5 and 6: In the month ahead, 5th and 6th graders will be very busy writing, writing, and writing some more for a variety of purposes and across the curriculum. Students will begin writing their narrative non-fiction pieces that will reflect the interviews that



we conducted with long-time Warwick residents. As many of you know, these will be on display at our Warwick Towne Fair in June. We work all year on writing to explain our thinking, but we will really focus on and hone this skill during our final preparations for the Math MCAS tests which are coming up in May. We also just launched a month-long research project on people, places and events of the American Revolutionary War. Students will use the *Independent Investigation Method* to research, take notes, organize and write a research paper on the topic that they chose. The reports will include bibliographies and must include at least three books and then one or two other types of sources.

We are integrating our Reading units on historical fiction and book clubs together with the Social Studies topic of the American Revolutionary War. We began by brainstorming what historical fiction is (and is not). Then we viewed the 1957 classic film, "Johnny Tremain" which, of course, is based on the classic 1943 historical fiction, Newberry Award novel by Esther Forbes. As they viewed the film, students kept track of what they thought or knew were the fiction and non-fiction elements depicted in the story. Next, students will form book groups to read and discuss selected historical fiction novels from this same time period.



For the next newsletter I will highlight all of the wonderful science that the students have been and will be engaged in between now and the end of the year which is coming up fast!

At the time of this writing, there is snow on the ground outside my window, but I know that it really is spring out there. Continue to enjoy the peepers when their songs return and let the sunshine fill your homes.

Ms. Lynn Hansell



MUSICAL NOTES! I will be traveling to England and Ireland over vacation and the first week following, when students will listen to Aaron Copland's *Appalachian Spring*. I am truly hoping that spring will commit itself to staying by then.

If not, I will bring in the Maypole for all to dance and weave around on May 6.

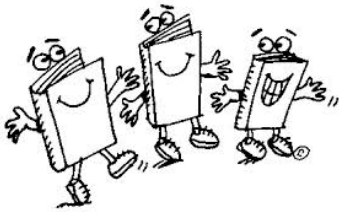
After that, all students will be focused on evaluating and choosing songs for our Graduation/Concert on June 18 - we hope to have a huge turnout for that this year. Our theme is Warwick history and physical surroundings and our songs will reflect that. 5/6 have completed their survey of American music of the 20th century. We will devote some time to planning graduation and practicing, and we may venture back into the 19th century, or spend some time songwriting. 3/4 will continue to go from recorder playing to dancing to singing to musical games. 1/2 has really become a community, and will continue to work on improving their group sound. The multiage class will continue to broaden their repertoire and increase their

confidence with singing and playing rhythm instruments. We are all eagerly anticipating the warm weather!

Ms. Kim Wallach

PE NEWS: Finally.....PE will be happening outside! Please have your child wear layers for springtime PE classes. We have started a wiffleball/hitting/catching/throwing unit and students are very excited that we can move it outside! Thanks for your help with making sure your child wears sneakers to class.

Ms. Sue Scott, PE



LIBRARY LEARNING! Spring has certainly sprung in our school library. Our new group of Library Assistants is very creative about their choice of themes for the book displays and decorations. Our Multiage students are studying life cycles so we have a great selection of books showing how the diverse creatures on our Earth develop from birth to adulthood. The first and second graders are revisiting this topic again. Their tulip bulbs that were planted in the fall in our garden will be showing their sprouts soon. They also listened to a few Reading Rainbow selections on this topic of life cycles focusing on the books reviewed by children their own age. This served as inspiration for their own work; written letters of book recommendations.

All the third through sixth graders are now studying the American Revolution so there are huge gaps on our non-fiction and biography shelves to accommodate the need for information for research papers and projects. The drama presentation by the Freedom Players in March was a great kick-off to this study. We were able to show the actors the musket that we have borrowed from the Warwick Historical Society's archive. They did an impromptu demonstration of musket use and the multiple ways of holding the 10 pound, 6 foot wieldy gun while marching the many miles from Warwick to the soldier's destination.

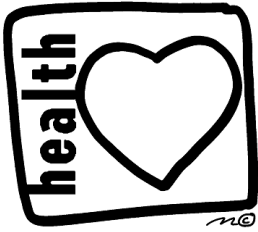
Of course, our usual books on spring sports, gardening, sugaring and MUD are in full view. We are preparing to celebrate EARTH DAY now that we can truly sense spring. Henry David Thoreau is featured in our foyer as an instrumental Massachusetts resident who tended to our precious Earth. His famous quotes still ring true 75 years since his Walden Pond experience. He hoped to convince us all to stop often for extended periods of time to observe and appreciate all that nature provides. Here are a few favorite quotes from Thoreau that are still pertinent in this 21st century:

"Nothing can be more useful to a man than determination not to be hurried."

"Be not simply good; be good for something."

"Simplify, Simplify"

With all best wishes, **Laurel Powell, Librarian**



HEALTH NOTES: "Leaves of three, let them be!" You've probably heard that little rhyme about POISON IVY! But did you know that poison ivy, poison oak, and poison sumac all contain the same rash-causing substance? It's urushiol, a colorless, odorless oil contained in the leaves of the plants.

Signs and Symptoms of Poison Ivy: Urushiol causes an allergic reaction — which takes the form of a rash, itching, and sometimes swelling. About 60% to 80% of all people get a reaction to urushiol, appears within hours of contact or as much as 5 days later.

Typically, the skin becomes red, itchy, and swollen and blisters will appear. After a few days, the blisters may become crusty and start to flake off.

When to Call the Doctor: Consult your doctor if your child has any kind of rash, especially with a fever. If poison ivy or a similar plant caused the rash, the doctor might recommend cool showers and a soothing lotion, such as calamine lotion.

For more severe cases, doctors sometimes prescribe pills or creams that contain antihistamines or steroids to decrease itching and redness.

Prevention: Poison ivy can grow anywhere — from the woods to suburban backyards. And it's hard to identify: Not only can the green leaves of poison plants blend right in with other plants and brush, but there are several types of poison ivy, and each one can look different depending on the time of year. It's also possible to get a rash from poison ivy without ever venturing into the woods or directly touching a plant. Urushiol can be transferred from one person to another. Kids can pick it up from anything that's come in contact with the oil, including pets. Urushiol can even travel through the air if someone burns some of the plants to clear brush. The leaves of poison ivy plants release urushiol when they're bumped, torn, or brushed against. (When the resin is released, the leaves may appear shiny or you may see black spots of resin on them.)

Here are some tips to help kids avoid getting a rash from poison ivy: Teach them to identify poison ivy, oak, and sumac, so they can steer clear! Avoid areas where you know there's poison ivy. Wear long sleeves and long pants in areas where poison ivy might grow. Bathe pets that have been exploring the woods, to remove any urushiol oil. After contact, wash skin right away by taking a shower and using lots of soap. *Information from KidsHealth.org*

Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN

**WE'LL REMEMBER OUR PAST and HONOR OUR HEROES TOGETHER.
MAY 24, WARWICK MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION**



Meet at the Church on the Hill at 1:00 p.m.
Children of all ages are welcome to participate!

