

# NEWS & TIDINGS

## WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

April 2015

**MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!**

**ALL SCHOOL MEETING:**

**PTO MEETING:** 3:00 PM Thurs., May 7<sup>nd</sup>

**PTO PANCAKE BREAKFAST & CAR WASH:** 8-10:30 AM Sat. May 16<sup>th</sup>

**MEMORIAL DAY:** May 25<sup>th</sup>



### 2015-16 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**WHEN:** May 11 - 15, 2015 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

**WHO:** Children who will be five years of age by Sept. 1, 2015

**LOOK WHAT WE DID!** At noon today, we officially end our 6-week all-school Read-a-Thon. This afternoon, we will have the "Big Bravo" to announce the final grand total of chapters and picture books read to raise money for Big Cat Rescue. As of a week ago we already were over 3,000! Pretty darned impressive for 55 WCS readers!

### PTO NEWS! EVERYBODY LOVES PANCAKES!

Save the date for our Annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday morning, May 16th! Look out for the ticket packets coming home soon with your child.

To earn cash for their class trip and gift to the school (a new flag!) the 5/6th graders will be running a car wash at our Pancake Breakfast! This is sure to be a fun and rewarding way to earn cash.

There will be a sign-up sheet at school - students, please ask permission first!

We also hope to have any students and their families help with the breakfast; from making posters to helping in the kitchen and serving. Once more we are using volunteer spot online to help with volunteer sign-ups and ingredient donations. Every little help goes a long way. Food donations can be brought to the



school. Go to <http://vols.pt/1s8jgQ> to see what we need. You will not be required to create an account, it's easy! Thanks for your support!



## OUR SPRING FASHION STATEMENT!

We dress for maximum fun and safety! And we're so happy outside enjoying the playground again! As spring fashion begins to bloom, it is time for a few reminders about our expectations for dress during the school day:

Sneakers are always the best choice for footwear. They offer good grip and ankle support and are safe for running games, jump-rope, kickball, and climbing on the play structures. Flip-flops, slides and high-heels are not safe on our climbing structures.

We also dress for modesty and respect! Midriffs must be covered. No spaghetti straps, revealing necklines or "belly" shirts are allowed. Shirts with inappropriate wording must stay home. Shorts should reach mid-thigh (no shorty-shorts!) Underwear (boxers, undershirts, etc.) must stay under clothing. Hats and caps are fine for the playground.

## OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

**KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K:** Finally, the snow is melting and the warmer weather is coming! It is exciting to announce to children that they didn't need to bring snow pants and boots anymore!



With our nicer weather and Earth Day coming soon, I've decided to focus our science and social studies to include study of plants and taking care of the earth. We will be working with these themes through much of May. Our first trip over to the forest since winter will be happening soon. I wonder what changes we will find

after all the snow we had this winter!

Children are also each studying a wild cat of their choice to connect with the focus of our efforts for our Read-A-Thon charity, of raising money for the Big Cat Rescue. We will be putting our reports together soon. **Ms. Allison White**

**GRADES 1 and 2:** First and Second grade has been busy exploring the properties of solids and have begun to move into the properties of liquids. The kids have been busy practicing being scientists, noticing attributes and experimenting with how the different states of matter look, feel, etc.

Both grades have also started practicing time, something all students are excited about studying! Second graders are learning to read an analog clock to the nearest

5 minute, while the first graders are practicing reading clocks to each half hour. If you see a first or second grader, you can ask them what time it is, and I'm sure they will be happy to tell you! ☺

Our class has been busy thinking deeply about our books, and making brave decisions when it comes to choosing "just right" books. Books are "just right" when we can easily read most of the words, AND understand what is happening in the story.

All of this reading and deep thinking is providing inspiration for our writing as well. We are currently practicing writing reviews of books that we enjoy in our classroom. Coming up, we will use all we know about fiction books, to begin a fiction writing unit.



As the weather gets warmer, our class will be applying many of the math skills we've been practicing to plant some peas in our garden. We will be using measuring, predicting, estimation, and graphing to make a small plot for our peas to grow! Hopefully they will turn into a nice late spring treat! **Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**

**GRADES 3 and 4:** The Third and Fourth graders have finished their first round of PARCC testing! I am very proud of the effort that they put into this exam. We will be taking our second round on May 13, 19, 21. In order to be prepared for the test we have been doing two math lessons a day for the past two months. We have now reached the end of our math units and will spend the next nine weeks brushing up on any math skills that we are still struggling with. This is a great way to end our year and become stronger in our weaker mathematical areas.

We are beginning book clubs in reading. The students are working in groups to read a book, answer questions about the book, and talk about the story. We have kicked this unit off with a silly story called "Frindle" about a boy who invents a new word. The students are doing a great job talking about the story and listening to each other.



During science and writing we are studying animals and their habitats. We will be writing animal reports and creating dioramas of our animal's habitats. These will be on display for parents on May 15 at 1:00pm.

Our social studies units on the regions of the United States are progressing nicely. We are about to virtually visit the southwest. The next three weeks will be spent "vacationing" there and then we will move to the west. At the end of this

unit we will be hosting a state fair! Be on the lookout for more details in the upcoming months.

**Ms. Chriss Mullen**

**GRADES 5 and 6:** Ah! Spring has finally sprung. That means many exciting things for the sixth graders in particular.

Graduation is just around the corner! It will be on the evening of Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. We are also going to be visiting PVRS on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual event that all sixth graders in the district participate in. Warwick will be touring that day with students from Northfield and Erving (Bernardston, Leyden and Vernon students will tour on a different day).

Sixth graders are also working on planning their annual sixth grade trip and looking forward to purchasing their school gift which will be a new American flag for our flag pole. For these last two things we have kicked off the Hire- a-Sixth-Grader program. Please consider hiring a sixth grader to do odd jobs for you such as lawn/garden work, washing your car, mother's helper, etc. You can either contact a sixth grader directly or you can give the school a call and we can coordinate it for you. Look for their fliers around town!



Our class is also looking forward to doing some community service in Warwick. We are in the process of planning a work day at the Trinitarian Church to get their garden turned over and ready for planting. We also hope to be able to clean up and rake the Town Common. Both endeavors are in the planning stages. If you have any other ideas of how our fifth and sixth graders can be of help to the community, please contact me at WCS.

Meanwhile, academics have been full steam ahead! We have been working on compare and contrast essays, studying data and statistics, creating Google Slide presentations on European countries that we're researching, exploring the skeletal system, and reading books with common themes.

The PARCC testing has been ongoing. We have completed the Performance Based Assessments in English language arts and math. These were challenging open response assessments on which the students worked with focus and diligence and showed their best! These kids have definitely earned their spring break next week! Coming up in May will be the End of Year PARCC Assessments in both subject areas.

The Red-winged blackbirds were singing earlier this evening, and as I am writing this, I hear the first of the Spring peepers. Enjoy this much awaited

season whether or not you have this next week off with your children. Happy spring!

**Ms. Lynn Hansell**

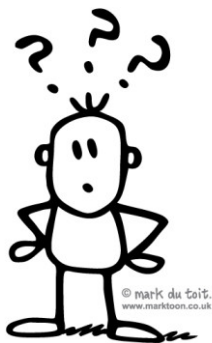


### **MUSICAL NOTES.**

We have worked hard and enjoyed recording our Warwick songs with Alan Stockwell. Next, the songs need to be mixed and a master made. Then we will send them off to be pressed into CDs. Meanwhile, we will return to our previously scheduled music curriculum:

Coming up in May we will listen to Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring, dance around the Maypole, sing songs about animals and whales and gardening and America, and the 5/6 class will begin a unit on Gawe drumming from Ghana in West Africa.

**Ms. Kim Wallach, Music**

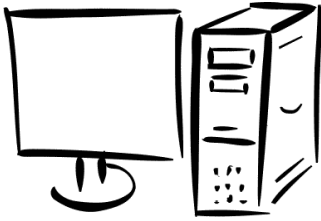


**LIBRARY LEARNING!** While walking through a grocery store recently, I observed a VERY patient mother answering her daughter's rapid-fired questions as they ambled up and down the aisles. "Mommy, why are some carrots orange and others yellow? Mommy, are those beans like the ones we grow in our garden? Mommy, how do they make peanut butter? No doubt this shopping took longer than usual but it reminded me of the endearing curiosity of children.

While shelving books after this observation, I noticed that we have a great collection of books that answer those never-ending questions. I have placed them in the Parent Borrowing Library in the foyer. Please take a look the next time you come through the school doors and feel free to borrow one. If your child has a particular interest let me know and I'll locate a good book to help answer those questions. As usual, our Parent Materials Library (PM) is available within the Library in the Reference Section. Come on in anytime!!

Here's a bit of follow-up news about our World Eye Bookshop Book Fair. Jessica Mullins, owner of WEB, reported that she was impressed with our school, the students and staff. She loved the children's enthusiasm for books and was impressed with the families' support. For a small school, we did very well. Our school libraries and the book closet have been refreshed with the generous donations of books on our teachers' wish lists. We have also earned \$300 (20%) and will continue to get great books to "feed our hungry readers". Thank you so much for your support!

**Laurel Powell, Librarian**

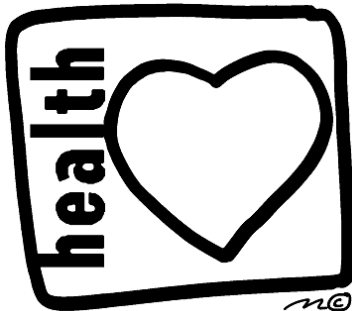


**TECH TALK** On April 13 each kindergarten student presented a "Magic-Scratch Story" to an appreciative audience of Pre-K students and our Principal, Mrs. Musgrave. While showing their programming skills, the students also showcased skills in reading and presenting.

Grade 1 and 2 students are continuing to working with text and digital drawing, and are becoming more familiar and skillful with the keyboard, and mouse. Students from 3rd and 4th grade combined skills in digital drawing and text manipulation to create illustrated Spring Quotes, now proudly displayed on a hall bulletin board.

Grades 5 and 6 students have applied their programming skills to create interactive maps that detail attractions in a European country they are studying. The have linked their inter-active maps to Google Slide presentations they have been making with their classroom teacher.

**Ms. Susan Wright, Technology**



## HEALTH NOTES

Medication Safety in your Home: Prescription medicines are now the most commonly abused drugs for 12 and 13 year olds. Parents are able to immediately reduce their child's access to prescription medication because it is commonly found in the home. How aware are you of the quantities of medication that are currently in your home? Would you know if spills were

missing? Resolve to be able to honestly answer, "Yes."

Start by taking note of how many pills are in each of your prescription bottles or pill packets. Keep track of refills. Needing to refill prescriptions more often than expected could indicate a problem.

If your child has been prescribed a medicine, be sure to control the medicine and monitor dosages and refills. Be especially vigilant with medicine known to be addictive and commonly abused by children and teens.

Make sure your friends and relatives are also aware of the risks and encourage them to regularly monitor their own medicines. Talk with other adults in your child's life, especially in homes where your child spends significant time, about the importance of safeguarding medications.

The source of this information is [www.medicineabuseproject.org](http://www.medicineabuseproject.org)

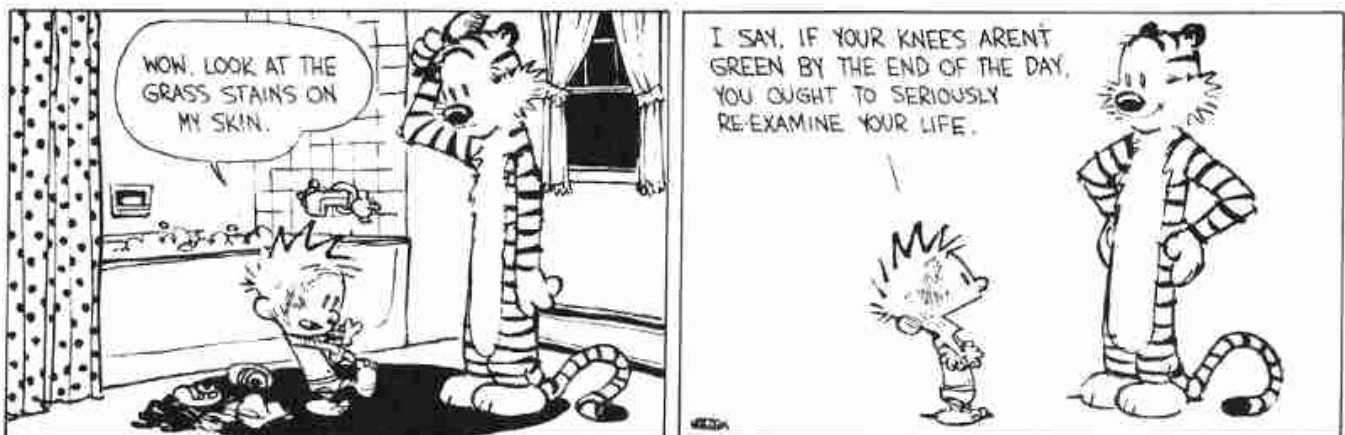
## TV Tips

Let's be honest. Television is mesmerizing and it keeps children quiet. We also know that it is low quality recreation, and sometimes even negative in its messages and influence on values and social learning. Here are some simple steps to follow to make sure your family is making smart choices when it's time for TV:

- Decide as a family what television programs are worthwhile. Sit down a few minutes before the show and then turn the television off at the end
- Make sure your child has finished homework and chores before relaxing in front of the tube
- Set a time limit for watching television each day and stick to it.
- Don't let television replace other more valuable family activities, such as a quick card game or a walk around the block when you can talk with your children about their day
- Keep the television turned off during meal times.
- Keep the remote out of easy reach, so there is less temptation.
- Pour one serving of tv snack food into a bowl instead of the bag. Better yet, keep the snack until after the show!
- Keep the television in an area of the house where you know what your child is watching
- Remove the TV set from your child's bedroom
- Never use television as a reward for a job well done

The source of this information is [www.nourishinteractive.com](http://www.nourishinteractive.com)

**Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN**



*Happy Spring Vacation!*