

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
December 2016

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!
WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT: 6:30PM Tues., Dec. 13
HOLIDAY VACATION: Noon on Dec.22-Jan. 2



WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT - Dec 13

We can hardly wait to share! Our vocal and instrumental concert is always a highlight of the season! All WCS children will take the stage to perform and need to arrive by 6:15pm to warm up and be ready. Children will report to their classrooms and guests may be seated in the

Gymnasium. Families of Kindergarteners, please reserve an extra seat for your child to use once they have finished their performance.

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

KINDERGARTEN and GRADE 1: This month we will be starting a new unit on light. Our main focus will be to look at how some materials let light pass through, some materials let only some light through, and some materials block or reflect light.

We will also be doing a "Holidays Around the World" unit focusing on light in different holiday traditions. We will be talking about the familiar traditions that children in our class practice, and other traditions that families in our country and around the world celebrate.

As always, we will incorporate literacy skills into both our science and social studies work, as well as continuing our daily literacy blocks that include: reading, writing, spelling, handwriting and phonics.

Mrs. Leyden has taught the children how to use a new app on the iPad called Shadow Puppet. They can use this program for recording their thinking and teaching others. This week they used Shadow Puppet to record their math thinking with math word problems using manipulatives. **Ms. Allison White**



GRADES 2 & 3: The second and third graders have been very busy over the past few weeks! Third graders are excitedly learning early concepts of multiplication as the work to become mentally fluent with their multiplication facts. Second graders recently finished a unit in two digit addition with regrouping. They challenged themselves and demonstrated strong understanding of all the concepts that were introduced.

We recently finished up our personal narrative unit of writer's workshop. In this unit we focused a lot on adding details to our writing by using dialogue, strong vocabulary, and similes! The pieces that the children published are wonderful demonstrations of their hard work. We're all looking forward to celebrating our hard work with a publishing party in the coming weeks!

We've been engrossed in an engaging social studies unit of studying the Pilgrims and Wampanoags leading up to the first Thanksgiving. The children have participated in a Wampanoag simulation where they took on the role of tribe member within the Wampanoag community. We will soon begin a Pilgrim simulation where the children will get to experience the hardships the Pilgrims faced during their travels to the new world.

The children also participated in a computer research project in the daily lives of the Wampanoags and Pilgrims and created a slideshow and classroom book to display this work.

We are looking forward to sharing all of our hard work in writing and in social studies at our publishing party on Friday December 16. **Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**



GRADES 4 & 5: The fourth and fifth graders are just finishing up a science unit on Earth and Space. We visited the Amherst College campus to check out the Bassett Planetarium and explore the night sky as a culminating event for this unit. We are looking forward to presenting projects about the things we learned to our buddies next week.



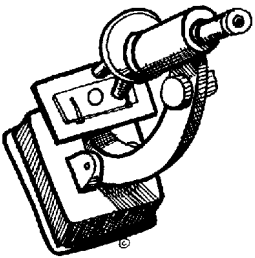
We are in the middle of our narrative writing unit and are learning to tell the story from inside the moment. This involves going back in time and reliving the story as we tell it. Our writing is becoming richer and more vivid as we learn this process. We are hoping to hold our first publishing party on Dec. 22 before we release for the holiday break.

Our readers are beginning to wrap up their fiction reading. Some of the books we have shared are: *Maniac Magee*, *Hoot*, *The Lion*, *The Witch*, and *The Wardrobe*, *Afternoon of the Elves*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and *Runaway Ralph*.

During this unit we have been examining characters and their motives, making predictions, visualizing, and working on the tricky concepts of theme and plot development. We will begin our informational reading and writing units in January.

During math we are busy conquering new and difficult concepts: long division (4th grade) and multiplying and dividing fractions (5th grade). The students are working so hard every day to get a handle on these topics. Among the hard work we are also having a little fun. We have learned a few new games during math that we are really enjoying, Farkle and Bump; both of which help to increase our number sense. In addition to these games, many of the students are participating in a daily math challenge center where they stretch their thinking on current topics.

The most exciting thing happening in Four and Five is Sphero! Sphero is a programmable robot ball. We are learning how to program and code with Sphero and Lightning Lab. Most recently, we have created mazes for Sphero to maneuver while we use the tools we have been acquiring to program it to move in a straight line, turn at a 90 degree angle, and roll at a given speed over a given distance. We will review what we learned about simple machines when we create chariots to race our Spheros next week. Fourth and fifth graders are learning the engineering design process while becoming collaborative learners through this project. We will also use our coding smarts to participate in the hour of code sponsored by Code.org this Friday. **Ms. Christine Mullen**



GRADE 6: With the adoption of the 2016 Massachusetts Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework, the 6th graders have been studying cells and cell structures for the first time at WCS. This has given us a wonderful opportunity to dust off and use the excellent microscopes that WCS has owned for many years. Students have been looking at prepared slides of plants and animals as well as "live" slides from pond life of our area. We are having a guest biologist to visit on Thursday, December 15th. My father-in-law, Allan Hansell, taught cell biology at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California for 40 years and has graciously agreed to share his expertise and generally really cool stuff with us! We can't wait!

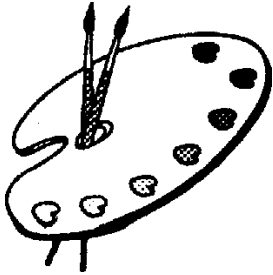
In Social Studies, students have been exploring their own family cultures as we prepare to study cultures from around the world. Family culture posters will be on display in the school until well after the new year.

The unveiling of the family culture posters and the culmination of our family culture unit will be our semi-annual family potluck luncheon on Wednesday, December 21st. Students and families will bring in dishes that are representative of some aspect of their family lives; perhaps a routine meal or something that is served on special occasions. This will be a lovely way to head off for the holidays.

January will bring a new science unit on fossils and a social studies unit on comparative world religions. We will finish up our fiction reading unit before shifting to non-fiction and finish writing personal narratives before shifting to fiction writing. Students will continue their progress in our math curriculum and work on finding the surface area and volume of 3-dimensional figures. Life is always busy and exciting in our classroom!

Best wishes for a safe, wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Ms. Lynn Hansell



ART WORKS! All of the WCS students have been hard at work in the art room creating the beautiful decorations that you will see at the upcoming winter concert! They have been learning about the "wax resist" technique by first drawing with oil pastels (or cray-pas) and then painting over their drawings with watercolors. The students were amazed as the watercolors rolled right off of the

wax layer of the oil pastels and their drawings shined through. The students used this method to create the "Let It Snow" banner, and then made paper snowflakes to hang around it. They learned several different snowflake making techniques including how to make 3D snowflakes!

Ms. Hope Phelan, Art



MUSICAL NOTES! VOCAL: We finally have snow on the ground, a week before the winter concert on Tuesday, Dec 13th, at 6:30. Our program went through several changes before it landed, but we're all excited to perform for you next week. Both the 4/5 and the grade 6 class have really worked on their Ghanaian drumming, and you'll get to

see some of it at the concert. After the break, we'll travel on to Europe and learn songs in French, German and Italian. The 2/3 class will get an introduction to recorders in the new year, and will continue to take on new challenges in round singing. And the K/1 class will continue to learn to sing and dance together as we explore songs about snow and winter, and work with rhythm instruments. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday!

Ms. Kim Wallach

BAND Our WCS Winter Concert will be held Tuesday, December 13th at 6:30. All of our WCS Band students are eager to share their musical accomplishments with you! Band students should arrive at 6:15 and proceed to the stage. As this is a special occasion, appropriate dress is requested. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Ms. Lynnette Snedeker

OUR READING CORNER Encourage your child to read over the winter break.

- Make a plan for reading over the holidays.
- Read aloud and share read holiday themed books.
- Give your children books and blank journals as gifts.
- Take books with you if you travel.
- Connect reading with your family holiday activities.
- Encourage holiday related journal writing.
- Always make it fun!



Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist

LIBRARY LEARNING! The book fair was a success. Although we did not get as many through the door as past years, this was unavoidable when dates conflict! I regret we did not have a preview like in past years. However, I hope to do another book fair along with the pancake breakfast.

We are all excited of the new science books we were able to purchase. The older students helped choose which books seemed most appropriate for our needs, as well as their areas of interest: these include the science of roller coasters (energy), bioengineering (with all sorts of cool stuff about how they make false legs, and clone things!), robotics (amazing!), the science of germs (fascinating and gross all at the same time!), the science of color and light (makes you see the world through a different lens!). Also, two books about coral reefs and polar bears, in the context of our changing planet. These books are great to have to add to the library's collection as they keep us current with some very important issues in our world today and the future.

I am setting up an archive area in the library. We have totes with some fascinating artifacts. Susan Wright, previously the librarian here, went to Japan, Mexico, and Egypt. She brought back pictures, jewelry, statues, and all sorts of wonderful things. Sixth graders are the only ones so far who have explored some of these gems, and wore gloves to explore the materials, just like in a real archive. We also have albums with newspaper clippings, photos, and year-books!



**Ms. Erika
Nygard,
Librarian**

Wishing You

All the Joys of the Season