

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

February 2014

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

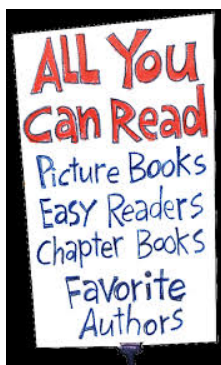
WINTER VACATION: Feb. 17-21

WCS BOOK FAIR March 3-6

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT! 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wed., March 5th

ALL SCHOOL MEETING: 9 AM Fri., Feb. 28th

PTO MEETING: 3:00 PM Thurs., March 6th



FABULOUS BOOK FAIR NEXT WEEK! Our annual Scholastic Book Fair will kick off our 6-week Read-a-Thon and celebration of Read-Across America! Book Fair will be open March 3-6, with our Family Literacy Night 6:30-7:30 Wed. Mar. 5th (snow date Mar. 6) Watch for more details coming home soon!

... and **THINKING SPRING!** Hooray, it's that time again! The Warwick Community School PTO's Fedco Seed Sale. All seeds are high quality, non-genetically modified, and cold-hardy. Money raised goes towards enriching the educational experience at the school: helping fund field trips, purchasing classroom supplies, periodicals and magazine subscriptions, hosting workshops and family events, etc. Please note there is a regular AND organic order form, and you can download them using the links below. You may order from both, just be sure to place orders on the correct form, i.e. organic orders should be placed on the organic order form and regular orders on the regular seed order form. Make checks out to WCS PTO. Bring order forms to the school, the town library, or direct to a PTO member. If you have questions email EANygard@gmail.com or call Erika at 544-2094. Thanks for your support!



PRESCHOOL APPLICATIONS for 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR are available for Warwick Community School. The deadline for return of the

Applications will be Friday, March 21, 2013. If you are interested in receiving an application, please contact Brenda at the Early Childhood Office, 498-2660.

MARCH IS NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST MONTH!

New England Dairy Council is sponsoring School Breakfast month in March. Success starts with school breakfast! Research states that children who eat breakfast do better in school! **Breakfast starts at 8:30.** If you ride to school in a car or by bus, you may come in a little early to eat breakfast. **The cost of breakfast is \$1.60. Reduced pricing is \$.25 & free lunch means free breakfast.** (The School Meals application that filled out in September qualifying children for reduced or free lunch, gives children the same status for breakfast.)

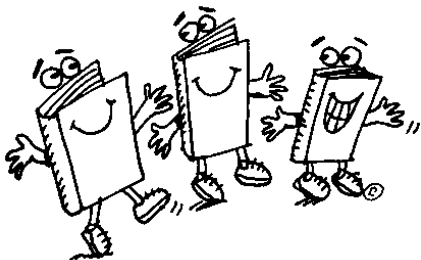


PLANNING AHEAD: 2014 MCAS TESTING DATES

- Grade 4 Long Composition : March 18
- Reading: Mar. 18 - Apr 2 - Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6
- Math: May 5 - 28 - Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6
- Grade 5 Science: May 5 - 28

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

LIBRARY LEARNING! Several local historical facilities have loaned artifacts to us for our historical studies. The Friends of Pisgah State Park have a collection of ice harvesting tools that we now have on display in our school foyer. The ice on Moore's Pond was harvested and we have pictures to prove it loaned to us by the Warwick Historical Society. To understand the large blocks cut and extracted from local ponds, lakes and rivers, the Multiage students filled a bucket with 66 cups of water and set it outside to freeze. We called up Mother Nature and asked her to send us some cold weather. She obliged! We now have a square of ice to pull around on a wooden sledge during our Winter Festival. The third and fourth graders now experts on simple machines have identified which of the ice harvesting tools illustrate the wedge, pulley, lever, inclined plane, screw and wheel & axle. The Historical Society of Cheshire County in Keene, NH has educational "Wonder Boxes" for schools to borrow.



Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is March 3-6, and will be open daily for students, families and community members to buy books. The school earns Scholastic Dollars which can be used to purchase books that are added to classroom libraries and our book closet. On Wed. March 5th, our Family Literacy Night will be hosted by the sixth graders (with Thursday the 6th as a

rain/snow date). The Book Fair will be open that evening and our sixth grades will share special moments in Warwick's history.

Laurel Powell, Librarian

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN: Multi age classroom is finishing up a unit on light and color. The science center is now equipped with a light box and rechargeable flashlights thanks to funding from our PTO.



Our next unit is on how things are made. Weaver Carol Schnabel will be joining the school to show children how to weave. Children have also begun to experiment with different building materials to see what they can make.

In writing, children have started writing how-to books. This goes really well with our science theme this month. I hope to take a trip to Stonewall farm again in March to see how maple syrup is made.

Ms. Allison White

GRADES 1 and 2: What a great February 1st and 2nd grade has had! We have been busy exploring what life would have been like for children in the 1800s, keeping journals, celebrating the 100th day of school, and moving up in reading levels! We have started an opinion writing unit that will coincide with our reading comprehension unit. We are looking forward to seeing all that the students will accomplish with these units. 2nd graders will be finishing up their measurement unit in math, and we will be moving into subtracting two digit numbers. 1st graders will be finishing up our introductory place value unit and we will begin to think about more complex place value situations. Looking forward to a great end of winter and warmer start of spring!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: The third and fourth graders have recently begun a study of Colonial Massachusetts and the Puritans. We are reading about the differences between the Puritans and the Pilgrims. We have moved along in our timeline of Massachusetts history from 1620 to 1704. We have now seen the establishment of several local towns and the first college in America, Harvard. Our studies have led us to explore colonial jobs, colonial villages, and colonial life. On Wednesday, February 12, we will run a full day of colonial school. The children have already made hornbooks for their studies and will be learning reading, writing, and arithmetic the same way the colonial children did. After our colonial school day, we will be studying the Native American cultures that lived in our area at the start of



the 18th century through the study of the Raid on Deerfield in 1704. This will lead into our study of the establishment of the town of Warwick.

In reading and writing we have been vigorously preparing for the ELA MCAS through practice on open response and short answer questions. We have recently learned about fact and opinion, genre, and author's purpose. Our book boxes will be full of nonfiction texts after vacation when we begin our nonfiction reading unit. We are also learning the art of persuasion. We have examined advertisements and even created some of our own. We are working on writing our first persuasive essays, trying to convince each other to vote for our favorite characters in myth, legend, fairy tales, and tall tales. The culminating event in this writing unit will be to write a 5 paragraph persuasive essay about a topic of choice. There are many exciting and higher level ideas out there! This is a class full of powerful children who want to make a difference in their own little world.

We are also nearing the end of a tricky math unit on measurement. We measured length, volume, weight, time and data. Our next unit is fractions! We already got a sneak preview of this unit when we learned how to read a ruler in fourths and eighths. Students are still working to complete all of their multiplication facts for fluency. Laura Kahler was the first student to memorize all of her facts. Go Laura! The rest of the students are not far behind!

Ms. Christine Mullen

GRADES 5 and 6: We had the great honor of welcoming several members of the Warwick Community to our classroom on January 21 so that the students could work in small groups to interview our guests about living in Warwick for all or most of their lives. Mrs. Ann Miner, Mr. Oliver Fellows, Mr. Joe Mankowsky, Mr. Calvin Fellows, Mrs. Ginny Fellows, Mr. Larry Carey, Mrs. Barbara Walker, and Mr. Dave Shepardson graciously gave of their time to meet with the fifth and sixth graders for our interviews.

The event began with a lovely welcoming tea where we could mix and mingle. After the interviews, our guests were escorted by the students on tours of our beautiful school.

Students are currently working on writing biographies of each other as a means of practicing their skills so that they can then co-author narrative essays about each of our guests and their experiences of living in Warwick. The final written projects will be on put together with video footage of some of each of the interviews and still photos taken of each guest. The work will be on display at our Towne Faire in the spring.

Ms. Lynn Hansell



PHYSICAL EDUCATION Time flies.....grades 3-6 have created and played very impressive cooperative group create-a-games during PE class. It has been fun to



see the children interact with each other while teaching a new game to the rest of the class. I have some wonderful new ideas now. You get students finished exploring balls...bouncing, rolling, kicking, passing etc. We've now moved into parachute activities.

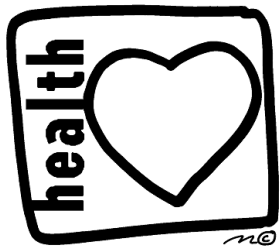
Ms. Sue Scott, PE



MUSICAL NOTES! This feels like the coldest, snowiest winter in decades!

We have been cold and inside more than outside, but our thoughts are turning to spring as we enjoy more late afternoon sunlight. The 5/6 class continues to travel back in time to the 1930's and the dustbowl, the 1920's and the blues. They will have a blues lyric writing assignment to produce one or more couplets about something that really matters to them. For 3/4 and 1/2, we will put more emphasis on New England contra dance this month, reviewing moves they already know and adding new ones in new arrangements. 3/4 will also continue their recorder studies. 1/2 and the multiage will continue their explorations of the sounds and techniques of rhythm instruments, as well as expanding their repertoire of songs and singing games. March is a wonderful month for this intensive skill building.

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music



HEALTH NOTES: Healthy eating tips from www.kidshealth.org

- Beverage calories count. Soda and other sweetened drinks add extra calories and get in the way of good nutrition. Water and milk are the best drinks for kids. Juice is fine when it's 100%, but kids don't need much— 4 to 6 ounces a day is enough for preschoolers.
- Put sweets in their place. Occasional sweets are fine, but don't turn dessert into the main reason for eating dinner. When dessert is the prize for eating dinner, kids naturally place more value on the cupcake than the broccoli. Try to stay neutral about foods.
- Food is not love. Find better ways to say "I love you." When foods are used to reward kids and show affection, they may start using food to cope with stress or other emotions. Offer hugs, and attention instead of food treats.
- Kids do as you do. Be a role model and eat healthy yourself. When teaching good eating habits, try to set the best example possible. Choose nutritious snacks, eat at the table, and don't skip meals.
- Limit TV and computer time. When you do, you'll avoid mindless snacking and encourage activity. Research has shown that kids who cut down on [TV-watching](#) also reduced their percentage of body fat. When TV and computer time are limited, they'll find more active things to do. And limiting "screen time" means more time to be active together.

Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN

*Sometimes it's the little things
...that fill your heart the most!*

