

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

February 2015

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

ALL-SCHOOL MEETING: 9:15 a.m. Thurs., Mar 5

PTO MEETING: 3:00 p.m. Thurs., Mar 5

TEACHER IN SERVICE DAY: (No School): Mar 6

READERS' BOOK SWAP: Friday, March 20th

"I LOVE LITERATURE": (PJ Story hour & Book Fair): 6-7:30 p.m., Wed., Mar 25

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING: 3:15 p.m. Thurs., Mar 26

Dream
Big
READ!

UPCOMING EVENTS & LIBRARY NEWS!!

Nationwide reading programs like "Read Across America" and "Dr. Seuss' Birthday" spur students into spirited reading activity and celebrations centered around books. This year, WCS will participate in fun, new ways!

Out at the starting gate, we will kick off the **2015 Read-A-Thon** challenge, announcing the goal and the charity that will benefit from our reading at All School Meeting on Thursday March 5th at 9:15 AM. As in past years, the students will log their at-home and in-school reading and will receive pennies from their teacher for each chapter, picture book, or magazine article they read! Our Read-A-Thon will run from March 6th to April 17th.

On Friday, March 20th, we will have a **Student Book-Swap** during Library classes. Students will be able to exchange a personal book brought from home for a book donated by another child to the swap. This is the time to weed-out much loved, but "out-grown" books. Only children's books in good condition, please!

On Wednesday, March 25th, we will have a very exciting evening family event that we're calling "**I Love Literature!**" Our evening will feature:

- a **Book Fair**, bringing to our school, hundreds of the most popular new and wonderful children's books from World Eye Books in Greenfield
- a **PJ Story Hour** for all ages (with 6th grade readers!)
- an exhibit, which our students will be proud to share, of book-reports (in all forms, shapes and sizes) of some of their favorite reads!





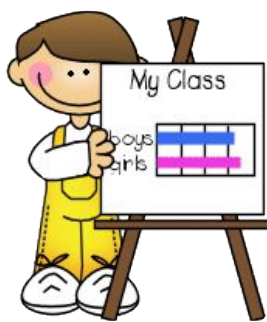
WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL SCHOLARS: We are so very proud of the excellent work our 3rd -6th graders have done preparing for their PARCC tests beginning soon! It is impressive to see the effort they put in each day in the classroom, with many staying after school for extra coaching and practice of academic skills. Well done! It is only fitting to also recognize our teachers for energetically (& patiently) teaching the concepts, conveying the knowledge, nurturing the skills, and instilling the strong work ethic and fostering pride in personal best every day!

PLANNING AHEAD: 1st Session of PARCC Testing for grades 3-6

Tues	Wed	Thurs
March 24 Grades 3&4 (ELA)	3/25 Grades 5&6 (ELA)	3/26 Grades 3&4 (ELA)
3/31 Grades 5&6 (ELA)	April 1 Grades 3&4 (ELA)	4/2 Grades 5&6 (ELA)
4/7 Grades 3&4 (Math)	4/8	4/9 Grades 5&6 (Math)
4/14 Grades 3&4 (Math)	4/15 Grades 5&6 (Math)	4/16

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN: We will be starting a unit in science on light and colors in Science. We will, of course, still continue exploring snow and weather concepts in the coming months when things will be changing every day. I hope too, that the weather will warm up enough for us to explore our forest hiking site before the snow goes away. We haven't been able to go over all winter!



In math the math center, children are using surveys to create graphs and collect data. After using premade surveys on things such as "What is the color of your eyes" and "which fruit do you like best?", children have begun creating their own questions to ask the other children in the class. Then they tally the answers and see which category has more and which has less.

During writing time, children have begun to write "How-to" books. I have begun this unit by having children explain how to do the yoga poses we do at school all the time. I will also try to include some cooking projects in this unit. Then, over time, children will start writing how-to books on subjects that they have a particular interest in.

The month of March, we will be joining the school in Read Across America activities. Be on the lookout for more information going home. **Ms. Allison White**



GRADES 1 and 2 With February break behind us, we are ready to jump into lots of new learning! We have already begun practice with our reading comprehension unit. In this unit, our students will practice what it feels like to stop after reading each of their books and thinking about what they just read. We will be focusing on our main characters, as well as retelling our stories trying to add in only relevant details without sharing too much! We will also practice what it feels like to talk about our books to partners, and share our favorite parts of our stories, and why, as well as our favorite characters, and why. I look forward to all the deep thinking our students will be doing in the coming weeks!

In writing, we have begun our opinion writing unit. In this unit, students are working hard to share their opinions of things by giving lots of reasons as to why they think their choice is the best. They will also be trying to add details for their reasons, and persuade their reader to feel the same way that they do. We will be incorporating some letter writing into this unit, by writing to our pen-pals in Dakar, Senegal telling them of a favorite movie, game, restaurant, etc.

Our math work continues to challenge and encourage our student's thinking in lots of different ways. 2nd graders have started, and will continue to work on the very advanced thinking subtracting two-digit numbers with regrouping or borrowing from the tens place over to the ones place. First graders continue their work with numbers greater than 10. We are applying different strategies for adding and subtracting numbers, and gaining mental fluency with our math thinking.

In science, we will continue our work with weather and the seasons. We will be introduced to a new unit on Solids and Liquids, which will integrate nicely as we hopefully start to watch the ice begin to melt!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: Did we even have school in February?! It seems we had more snow days and vacation days than school days this month! However, grades 3 and 4 were able to complete a math unit on measurement, begin nonfiction reading lessons, tour the southeast in social studies, explode volcanoes in science, and learn the art of persuasive writing. Needless to say, despite nature's attempts to slow us down, we "plowed" ahead!

We are hard at work wrapping up our persuasive writing unit and hope to have a publishing party before mid-March. Be on the look-out for more information to follow!

Once this unit wraps up, we will begin studying informational writing and create our first reports. We will be researching animals, their habitats and the ecosystems that they are a part of. It will be an in-depth science/writing unit with models and reports that take center stage during March and April.



We have begun to speed up our math instruction to make up for all of this lost time. The students are having math twice a day two-three times a week. Our morning math time is focused on the hands-on study of geometry and area and perimeter, while our afternoon math will tackle the tricky, but manipulative rich unit of fractions. We continue to practice our basic multiplication and division facts on a daily basis. We have also begun to integrate technology into our math block with the use of IXL to help us work on the skills we need to continue to review after the unit has finished.

Our reading time is buzzing with talking and note taking as we learn how to read, process, and teach nonfiction books. We really enjoy sharing all of the things we are learning with each other!

Here's hoping the snow is finished and the temperatures will warm as we head into spring and continue to move along in grades 3 and 4! **Ms. Christine Mullen**

GRADES 5 and 6:

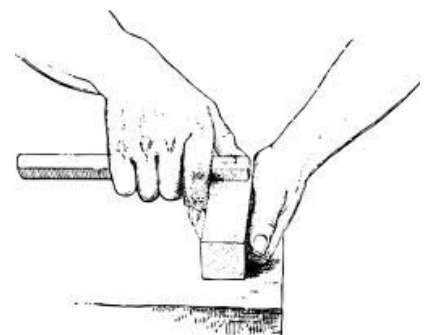
Curriculum: January and February sure were weird with all of the snow days and 2-hour delays! It was difficult to get any momentum going, but we did actually accomplish a lot!

Our winter Benchmark Reading Assessments and Track My Progress online assessments showed major growth in both reading and math for all students! It's wonderful to see our hard work pay off as our students soar to the top, especially on the TMP which is nationally normed!

In math, we completed a unit on surface area of prisms and pyramids. For the next several weeks we are doubling up our math periods every day. We will simultaneously tackle a lengthy algebra unit on expressions and equations as well as a geometry unit on the volume of rectangular prisms. Our PARCC testing is right around the corner, and we want to be thoroughly prepared!

In reading we are in the middle of our nonfiction unit. We are working on both narrative and informational texts. This dovetails nicely with our unit on fact-based argument writing. Students are currently researching non-profit organizations of their choice and writing fact-based argument essays to convince others in our school that we should support their organization of choice through our annual school wide Read-a-Thon in March.

We have an exciting field trip coming up! We will be going to visit Michael Humphries woodworking studio in Northfield to learn how to apply measurement, math and geometry skills to a beautiful craft. While we are there we will also learn about the career paths that the various woodworkers have taken in their journeys to this line of work. It's always great to get into the community to learn about how the concepts we are studying are relevant in the "real world".



Welcome Wendy Born! Our class has a student teacher from Antioch New England Graduate School. Wendy Born is working on her Master Degree in Elementary Education and is also in the Waldorf teacher education program. She will be with us Mondays through Wednesdays until May.

Wendy previously studied art at Parson's School of Design in New York City, has been a freelance artist, has illustrated several children's books, and has taught art in grades K-12 in three public schools in New Jersey. Wendy has been a wonderful addition to our classroom over the past several weeks!

Thank You! Many thanks to Mrs. Musgrave for organizing our trip to UMass, to Trish Baldwin for helping us find drivers and to Carol Kahler and Sarah Picard for driving/chaperoning.

Thank you to the WCS PTO for purchasing two magazine subscriptions for our class. One is for *Faces Magazine*, a publication from *Cricket*, that features the geography and cultures of different people around the world and is beautifully done. We get one copy a month for the class to share and read together. The other publication, *National Geographic Explorer*, has interesting articles about science and nature in each monthly edition. Every child receives his or her own copy which they will take home once we have finished reading them in school.

Ms. Lynn Hansell



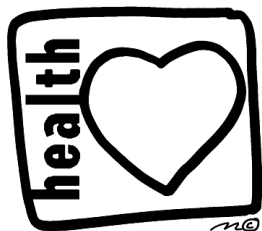
MUSICAL NOTES! Snow and cold have interrupted with our plans several times in the last month. All classes are practicing Warwick songs in preparation for recording, which will now happen sometime in March. All classes have also learned a new game called Jump Shamador that gives each student a chance to say one thing they might want to be when they grow up, and insist they can in the face of opposition. 5/6 has finished their pentatonic composition with ostinato, and have traveled through Russia, heading for Europe. 3/4 continue to alternate work on recorders with singing and listening exercises. 1/2 and Multiage are both building and practicing repertoire. Stay warm!

Ms. Kim Wallach



PE TIMES: Let's hope for a quick return to nice weather! It sure will be wonderful to have PE outside again! Older students are just finishing up a create-a-game unit. Students have had the opportunity to work together to create their own unique game and then present it to their class. It's been fun to see what each group came up with. Younger students are doing a bowling unit! It is exciting to see them play tic-tac-bowl! Nice work everyone. Think Spring!

Ms. Sue Scott



HEALTH NOTES: All children at Warwick Community School will be learning about Medication Safety. After participating in a variety of educational activities over the school year, your child will have a better understanding of key medication safety principles including:

- Only take medicine given by a trusted adult.
- Do not share medication or take someone else's medication.
- Keep medications in their original containers to avoid confusion with candy or other medicines.
- Always store medicines in a locked cabinet.

The activities in which your child will participate are part of an educational program created by the Ohio State University College of Pharmacy and the Cardinal Health Foundation. Because prescription and over-the-counter medicines are typically accessible and visible in our homes, children should understand prescription and over-the-counter medication safety at an early age. We intend that this knowledge will equip them with a solid foundation of how to properly take medicines, particularly before they reach the teenage and adult years.

Research shows that as children reach late middle school and high school, they face a growing problem of prescription drug abuse and misuse by peers. Please keep in mind that there are actions that you can take to help prevent your child from engaging in these dangerous behaviors, including:

- Talk to your child about how to use, store, and dispose of medication.
- Secure your medicines in a locked cabinet.
- Properly dispose of extra medications including participating in local drug take-back events.

If you would like to review the free materials and/or extend the learning process at home, you can access the resources here:

- Cardinal Health Foundation: cardinalhealth.com/GenerationRx
- The Ohio State University College of Pharmacy: go.osu.edu/generationrx

Thank you for your help in spreading this important message!

Help prevent the spread of flu!

Keep sick children home from school for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.

