

# NEWS & TIDINGS

## WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

January 2014

### MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

**FAMILY MATH BLAST!** 6-7 p.m. Wed., Jan 29<sup>th</sup>  
**ALL SCHOOL MEETING:** 9:20 a.m. Mon., Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>  
**PTO MEETING:** 3:00 PM Thurs., Feb 6<sup>th</sup>  
**SY 2014-15 BUDGET HEARING:** Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> PVRs  
**WINTERFEST:** Fri. morning, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>



**FAMILY MATH BLAST!** Come play games with your WCS friends! Did you know that math skills can be learned through dice and card games? From 6-7 p.m. on Wed., Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, our cafeteria will be filled with math games and activities for all ages. During this same hour, there will be a brief forum for parents to learn about and ask questions about our new curriculum, Math Expressions. We hope to see you!

**D.A.R.E.**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Samuel Simon, grade 6!

Sam has won the D.A.R.E. Essay Contest for eastern Franklin County and now his essay will go forward into state-wide competition.

**PERFECT ATTENDANCE!** Today is our 85<sup>th</sup> day of school - nearly the half-way mark in our school year. I am elated to report again this year that overall school attendance at WCS has been outstanding! **Over 45% of our students have missed just one day of school or less!**

We have 7 children with PERFECT attendance: Antonio and Helena Damato, Cadence and Reece Hains, Charlotte Kahler, Ross Nygard, and Anita Peters! And 19 more with just one absence: Audrey Elwood, Tyler Hatch, Jacob Vieu, Hunter Melvin, Luke Picard, Michael Ploof, Benjamin Walker, Elizabeth Matthews, Baylee





Rousseau, Mary Simon, Martin Seago, Arwen Hansell, Sarah Johnson, Brennan Killay, Dylan Lau, Anna Picard, Samuel Simon, Sara Simon, and Lily Walker.

**SY 2014-15 BUDGET PROCESS:** The budget process that takes place each year to determine resources for our schools in the year

ahead involves many people. Often, parents are sparsely represented at meetings where important decisions are made, which will immediately impact the contours of educational landscape for the following year - programs, curriculum resources, supplies, and staff. In some ways this is not surprising, as these days parents are surely some of the busiest people on earth! Nevertheless, we urge you to participate as you are able and we will do our best to keep you informed of important up-coming meetings. ***Budget Hearing - Tues., Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> PVRS***

### **OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...**

**MULTI-AGE CLASSROOM:** We are back at work in the multi-age classroom. In the month of January, continue to study light, shadow and color in science. Children are noticing shadows in the room and outside and are making predictions about how big they will be, what they can do to change them and why they occur. We are beginning to explore prisms too.

We have set up a shadow puppet theater in the classroom. Children are making hand and body puppet shows for their friends. They are exploring how to make shadows, how to take turns, and how to be an audience. I will be working toward having them create stories to go with their shows in the coming month. We may also experiment with creating shadow puppets out of paper or other objects that they can use in their shows. Storytelling is a great way to work on vocabulary, literacy, public speaking and social skills. We may use our shadow puppet theater to create some of the math word problems we have been working on!



**Ms. Allison White**

**GRADES 1 and 2:** We have been studying the characters in the books we read; thinking about their actions and feelings as ingredients that go into the recipe of their personality. We will continue to explore new characters through the journals of two young girls that lived in Vermont and New Hampshire in the early 1900's. Studying these girl's journals will bring us into our study of Warwick's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our class will experience four different simulation days, where we will get to know the chores of boys and girls from the past. We will also cook a snack that children of the past used to eat, as well as play some games from the past. Throughout these lessons,



we will be journaling our own experiences, as we continue to read the journals from the two girls, Alice and Mary, from the past.

In math second graders will be beginning a unit on measurement. First graders continue to explore bigger numbers beyond 10!

**Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**

**GRADES 3 and 4:** Brrr! It's been a cold start to the New Year here in 3-4! We rang in 2014 with a celebration of our goals for the remainder of the school year as well as revisiting our hopes and dreams from the beginning of the year. Many of the students are looking forward to working with fractions and reading a few new series of books including *The Lord of the Rings*, *Judy Moody*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Harry Potter*. I expect them to be filling up reading logs with many of these titles over the next few months!

We are welcoming a new student teacher from Antioch University, Miss Katie Lorah. She will be with us Monday-Thursday until May. We are excited to teach her all about our classroom.

Over the past few weeks we have begun to study simple machines. We scoured the building for examples of these machines and found them in the oddest places (door hinges and pencil sharpeners!) This week we are experimenting with all six simple machines and then using the iPad and the Smart Board to share an electronic version of [Kid's Discover Magazine: Simple Machines](#). The class will then be introduced to a crazy inventor, Rube Goldberg, who is known for making wacky machines that do simple tasks. There is a fantastic iPad app that will allow us to practice creating our own virtual machines. We will be wrapping up our study of simple machines by comparing simple machines from the past with simple machines from today using resources from historic Deerfield.

Today marked the beginning of our unit on measurement in math. We will be learning to read rulers to the nearest inch, half inch, quarter inch, and eighth of an inch, weigh items on a scale, estimate length, compare measures of liquid volume, and solve problems involving elapsed time. We continue to practice our multiplication and division facts on a daily basis, as well.

We are preparing for the ELA MCAS which takes place in mid-March. We are highly skilled readers and writers in third and fourth grade and are excited to show off what great work we are capable of! Our adaptations of *Little Red Riding Hood* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* are nearing completion. Students are busy each day revising their work, editing, creating illustrations to match their stories, and typing their stories. We plan on sharing these stories with our reading buddies by the end of the month. This unit marks the end of our study of fiction stories and narrative writing. By the end of January we will be fully immersed in nonfiction reading and writing.



Please remember to keep practicing those math facts each night and look for a Friday reflection each week. Don't forget to subscribe to our classroom blog for up-to-the-minute news and announcements from our classroom

<http://mscmullen.blogspot.com/2013/12/>.

**Ms. Christine Mullen**

**GRADES 5 and 6:** January brought well-rested smiling faces returning to school after the December holidays! It hasn't taken long for us to jump back into the full swing of things.

We are completing our unit on fiction with a study of theme. We have been exploring in-depth several themes that we encountered in our read aloud book, *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo. Students are also finding themes in their independent reading books. Within the next week we will begin our unit on non-fiction and also begin preparing for the March English Language Arts MCAS exams.

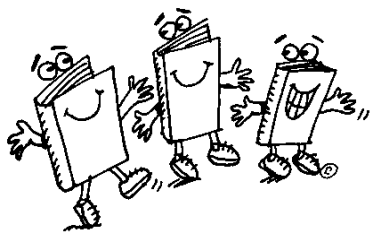
After taking a break in order to complete other projects, we returned to our science unit on density. Students have been using different concentrations and colors of salt water to see how they can be layered inside of a clear drinking straw. Of course, the most concentrated (most dense) solutions sink and the least concentrated (least dense) solutions float. Knowing that table salt is 18 grams per tablespoon and tap water is 240 grams per cup, students have been able to calculate the exact densities of these solutions. Soon we will be using triple beam balances and graduated cylinders to measure the different densities in grams per milliliter. Aside from being great classroom science, this learning has a direct connection to our study of oceans and deep water currents as we prepare for our trip to Cape Cod in the spring!

On Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming several long-time Warwick residents who we will interview about their experiences and memories of living in our town. This project is part of our study and celebration of Warwick's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This spring our school is planning a culminating celebration which we are calling a Warwick Towne Faire. At the faire, each classroom will be sharing the projects that they have undertaken and completed during the course of the year. The fifth and sixth grade essays will be displayed in final copy form, along with many photos of the project and video footage that we take of each of the residents' responses to, "What is your favorite thing about living in Warwick?" We welcome everyone from the community to The Towne Faire and hope that we will see you there!

**Ms. Lynn Hansell**



**MUSICAL NOTES!** We are deep into singing songs that come from civil rights, which celebrate the bravery of individuals who challenged slavery and segregation. We are also playing games that survived those times among the people of the Georgia Sea Islands. Grades 3 and 4 continue to



explore the recorder. Grades 5 and 6 are traveling (musically) ever further back in time to reach the 1960's. Share memories and stories of your experiences with your children! Grades 1 and 2 and our Multiage learners will revisit the rhythm instruments soon, in addition to singing and dancing.

**Ms. Kim Wallach LIBRARY**

**LEARNING!** Book circulation was put on hold while the District is upgrading the library system, Winnebago Spectrum. Some students have chosen "free" books to keep instead. More of these give-away books will become available as we weed out books from the school library and my personal library.

The students have used this downtime in the Library to work on their pouches. It is great to see the students learning skills that will serve them during their lives. Plus, it is an exercise in patience and diligence as they realize that small, consistently sewn stitches create stronger pouches. This, of course, lends itself to our study of Warwick's past. We now appreciate the very hard, labor intensive efforts of our ancestors who had to make every "stitch" of clothing, bedding, and household linens needed for the whole family. The concept of hand-me-downs makes so much sense after experiencing the work involved.

Once the pouches are sewn, we will be learning to braid, finger knit and cord the handles or straps. Even the string, twine and rope that was needed in early Warwick had to be produced by hand. We may be doing this "by the light" of ...a candle, the fireplace, the windows, a lantern as was done 250 years ago. Our next Deerfield Museum Program will be on Colonial Lighting held during our Winter Fest in February.

We all survived the last cold spell and the resulting ice! Again, Warwick's history recounts how this type of winter weather was necessary and appreciated by the residents of Warwick. Yes, they had an important job to do that would not be put to use until the heat of the summer. Farmers who had "extra time" during the winter would harvest ice on Moores Pond during the 1930 & 40s. These blocks of ice would be stored in small ice houses at private farms and homes or in large ice houses. Then the blocks would be delivered to houses in the hot summer months to use for refrigeration or pure enjoyment. We will have a display of the tools used for harvesting ice at our school this month.

The students and teachers have been very patient with our closed library. The new library program integrates the data and patron information from the old to the new. Destiny, the new software, will be very user friendly and all patrons will have access to the catalog on-line. Each student can individualize their own page with book and wish lists. This aspect of the program will be a great asset when the students are doing research projects. Eventually, they can write book reviews and

submit them to me for approval to post on the site. I cannot adequately express my appreciation for the amazing group of volunteers who are inventorying our complete collection of printed material. Hip, Hip, Hooray for Lisa Rhodes, Michelle Peters and Keila Ploof.



**Ms. Laurel Powell, Librarian**

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION** Thursday is PE day.....please help your child to remember to wear sneakers to class! This is

especially important in winter months while we are inside. In weeks ahead, our older students will focus on creating a game in PE class. This will give students the chance to work cooperatively together within a group to come up with a brand new game! Younger students will be doing skill work through a variety of stations.

**Ms. Sue Scott**



**ART ROOM NEWS** Pre K & K students have experimented with "texture windows" learning to see how something feels. We put their efforts into a little "Texture Book". We will continue exploring different media in the New Year.

Grade 1 & 2 students are trying their hand at building a large house using geometric shapes as their guide. We will discuss what an architect does and be on the lookout for different types of architecture.

Grade 3 & 4 students are exploring how a printed line can create structure. We will expand on these structures by adding volume with color.

Grade 5 & 6 students are working a perspective problem in drawing by creating a "bridge". We are practicing by learning how to create an arched bridge on paper then they will expand on this concept by creating bridges in environments of their own design.

**Ms. Althea Dabrowski**



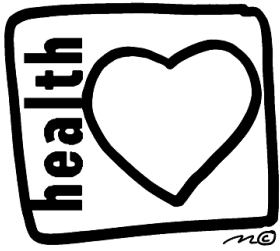
**PTO NEWS:** We have had a steady stream of Dean's Beans coffee orders this school year. Thank you for your support! Look out for our Fedco spring seed fundraiser in February! Is it really time to start thinking of the garden? Yes it is! The PTO meets the first Thursday of each month at 3PM. New members are always welcome. We not only fundraise, but also

help with school activities, which is a wonderful way to participate with your child's school experience

**WINTERFEST:** WCS will celebrate winter on Valentine's Day morning with Heart-Healthy games and activities.



Deerfield Teachers' Center will bring us a "history lab" on colonial lighting, and our Warwick Fire-fighters will present a safety workshop. Parent volunteers will be needed! Please let us know if you can help. Watch for a flyer with details coming home soon!



**HEALTH NOTES:** Parents/Guardians of 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Information concerning immunization requirements for entry into 7<sup>th</sup> grade and physical requirements during 7<sup>th</sup> grade has been sent home with 6<sup>th</sup> graders as of 1/14/14. If you have not received this communication from Vickie Rowe, RN, School Nurse at PVRs, please ask your 6<sup>th</sup>

grader for it. If you need another copy, please let me know!

Flu vaccine is an important way to protect the ones you love! It's not too late! Those especially at risk of complications from the flu are: young children 6 mo. to 5 yrs.; people with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, COPD, and diabetes; pregnant women; people 50 yrs. and older; caregivers of those at risk.

Below are strategies to help you encourage your kids to eat well and maintain a healthy weight. 5 key healthy eating suggestions from [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org) :

- Parents control the supply lines. You decide which foods to buy and when to serve them. Though kids will pester their parents for less nutritious foods, adults should be in charge when deciding which foods are regularly stocked in the house. Kids won't go hungry. They'll eat what's available in the home. If their favorite snack isn't all that nutritious, you can still buy it once in a while so they don't feel deprived.
- From the foods you offer, kids get to choose what they will eat or whether to eat at all. Kids need to have some say in the matter. Schedule regular meal and snack times. From the selections you offer, let them choose what to eat and how much of it they want. This may seem like too much freedom, but if you follow step 1, your kids will be choosing only from healthy options.
- Quit the "clean-plate club." Let kids stop eating when they feel they've had enough. Lots of parents grew up under the clean-plate rule, but that doesn't help kids listen to their own bodies when they feel full. When kids notice and respond to feelings of fullness, they're less likely to overeat.
- Start young. Food preferences are developed early in life, so offer variety. Likes and dislikes begin forming as babies. You may need to serve a new food on several different occasions for a child to accept it. Don't force a child to eat, but offer a few bites. With older kids, ask them to try one bite.
- Rewrite the kids' menu. Who says kids only want to eat hot dogs, pizza, burgers, and macaroni and cheese? When eating out, let your kids try new foods and they might



surprise you with their willingness to experiment. You can start by offering a taste of something new you ordered or ordering an appetizer for them to try. **Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN**

**WISHING YOU A WINTER WONDERLAND!**