

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
March 2014

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

FREEDOM TRAIL PLAYERS: 1 -3 p.m., Thurs., Mar 27
FIELD TRIP to STONEWALL FARM: (multi-age) Thurs. Mar 27
SPIRIT WEEK: March 31-April 4
PTO MEETING: 3:00 PM Thurs., April 3
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING: 3 p.m. Thurs., April 3
SPRING VACATION: April 21-25



READING FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Warwick Community School students are reading to help endangered species!

During an eight week read-a-thon, every child earns a penny for each chapter or picture book read; the pennies are added to a growing collection that will be donated to a special cause. Our fifth and sixth graders thought long and hard about the recipients of our read-a-thon pennies and chose the World Wildlife Fund. In the first few weeks, our WCS children have already read over 1000 books and there's no slowing down! Our read-a-thon finishes Friday, April 18.th We hope to reach our goal of 3000 books!



WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL SCHOLARS: We are so very proud of the excellent work our 3rd - 6th graders have done preparing for their ELA MCAS tests that began last week! It is exciting to watch them "step up to the plate," give their very best work, and feel good about their efforts. Our thanks to tutors, Ms. Gibbs, Ms. White, and Mr. Ziniti, for working with the students in the after school MCAS prep program.

Math prep classes begin Tues. April 1st, and will meet every Tues. & Thurs. through May 1st. Thanks to Ms. Mullen, Mr. Ziniti and Ms. Cooke, who will be coaching.

PLANNING AHEAD: MCAS TESTING DATES for MATH & SCIENCE

- Math: May 5 - 20 - Grades 3, 4, 5, & 6
- Grade 5 Science: May 8 - 20

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN: In science, we have been exploring how things are made. Children have been reading and writing about how things such as paper, ketchup, ice cream and chocolate are made. They are also exploring building with different materials such as cardboard and connectors, clay and tooth picks.

Weaver, Carol Schnabel, come in to show and tell us how material is made by weaving. She talked about the history of weaving and spinning in the area. All of the children in the school worked together to make a piece on the floor loom Carol brought. She also brought us supplies and taught us how to make a basket with a paper plate and yarn. It was a great day!

We have a field trip on March 27, 2014 to Stonewall Farm. We will be learning about making maple syrup. This field trip will inform our unit on how things are made and writing How-to books. We will also use it to talk about how things were done a long time ago and how things are now (to go with Warwick's 250th). It should be a great trip, full of learning.

Coming up, we will be learning about how animals grow and live. The children are each choosing an animal to study, read about and write about. We will be turning their work into a class book.

Ms. Allison White



GRADES 1 and 2: What a productive month of learning March has been for first and second grade! We are well into our opinion writing unit, where children are busy writing letters about all the wonderful books they've read in our classroom. This unit has focused on writing letters that grab their reader's attention then stretching the letter out to introduce the book they are writing about, and retell some of the story. After that, the children have been busy thinking of juicy words to describe their opinions and using "because" to support their opinion with evidence from the text.

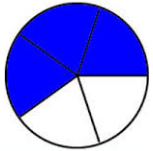


This writing unit has supported our reading comprehension unit as well. In reading, children have been busy thinking about their books, by retelling using sequence words, and the details of the story. We will continue to think about how we can think about and talk to our books while we're reading. Some ways we've learned so far are to think about how our characters are feeling while we read, and by making predictions of what will come next!

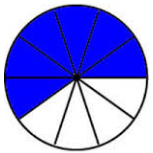
We will start our new science unit of Balance and Motion in the coming weeks. And we're looking forward to a great month ahead and warmer spring weather to come!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: The third and fourth grade class has been busy, busy, busy this past month! We are tackling tricky concepts lately, fractions and nonfiction. You can almost see the smoke rising from our brains as the wheels turn and we work super, duper hard during reading and math.



Fractions have been a challenging concept but have allowed us to explore all kinds of cool manipulatives. This past week we played with Legos to explore the concept of equivalent fractions and checked out some short videos on learnzillion.com. The students now understand different ways to find equivalent fractions. It is amazing to see all the ways that they can show their understanding: through number lines, fraction bars, drawings, with Legos and other models. They have a far deeper understanding of the concept than I did as a child!



During our nonfiction reading unit we have learned to identify main idea and supporting details as well as take notes while we read. We are perfecting our partner talk and becoming experts at getting our partners to say more about the book they are reading. The art of conversation is a trickier concept than nonfiction reading!

Our most exciting unit of study has been social studies. We are moving through our timeline of Massachusetts history and have been lingering for a bit in 1704. During this period in history, the small village of Deerfield was raided by French and Native forces from Canada. WCS students will enjoy a field trip to Historic Deerfield Village in June and the third and fourth graders will be experts! We are learning all about *perspective* in this study, as there are five different sides of this story. Students have been broken into three Native American tribes and are completing their first research project. They will be asked to present background information on each tribe and the tribe's perspective on relationships with the English settlers. Both Miss Lorah and I will be playing the part of the French and English settlers and presenting our groups' perspectives. We are also reading The Boy Captive, a fictionalized retelling from the perspective of the English settlers in the village of Deerfield. We have just read the chapter about the raid and the adventure and horror in the chapter led to cries of, "Wait, don't stop yet!" At the end of read-aloud.

This month, as we wrap up our first round of MCAS testing, the students will be holding a classroom read-a-thon and pancake breakfast to celebrate. We will be reading (in our pjs on blankets and bean bags) for the entire morning of March 28. We are hoping to earn A LOT of pennies for the school read-a-thon and the World Wildlife Federation. We have worked so hard preparing for our ELA MCAS that

we deserve a celebration and we LOVE to read. Every day there is a reason to celebrate in 3& 4! **Ms. Christine Mullen**

GRADES 5 and 6: This week the students have completed Session I of the English Language Arts MCAS Test. By March 28, both sessions will be complete for each grade. I continue to marvel at the students' perseverance and stamina! These tests require full attention and endurance and every student has done a spectacular job! The whole Warwick community should be proud of them!

Meanwhile, we are maintaining our focus on math and continuing our way through the science and social studies curriculum. Currently, the sixth graders have been engaged in learning about how to find the surface area of various three dimensional prisms and pyramids. The level of visualization and computation that is required was not something that my generation did until 10th grade! Warwick's sixth graders are truly amazing. They "get it" and even enjoy 3-D geometry!

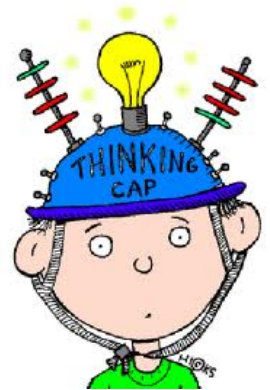
The fifth graders are hard at work learning the ins and outs of long division with 2-digit divisors and multi-digit dividends. Soon they will be dividing decimal numbers, dividing by decimal numbers, expressing remainders as fractions and decimals, and learning that what to do with a remainder depends on the situation. Sometimes we ignore remainders, sometimes we round them up, sometimes we express them as fractions and sometimes we express them as decimals. It all depends on if we are trying to decide how many vehicles it takes to transport all of the members of a marching band to a big game or if we are trying to figure out how much pizza each kid at a birthday party will get.

A visit from members of The Freedom Trail Foundation performed several short plays depicting some of the events leading up to the American Revolutionary War. Students in grades 3 - 6 will be participating as both classrooms study this era of our country's history. The program is brought to us at no expense because it is funded by The Massachusetts Teacher's Association. I really appreciate Chriss Mullen who discovered this program and arranged to bring it to us!

In science, we have begun our study of heat flow on and within the earth. Conduction, convection and radiation (of heat), all play a role in the energy systems which drive plate tectonics, weather and waves. We are simultaneously doing daily moon observations for a month so that in April we can learn more about the moon phases and the moon's relationship to the earth.

There is never a dull moment at Warwick Community School! The students continue to grow and learn and winter is turning into spring!

Sixth Grade News: Graduation is around the corner! It has been set for Wednesday, June 18 at 6:00 in the WCS gymnasium. All are welcome to attend!



Meanwhile, we are kicking off the Spring Hire a Sixth Grader Program. Look for fliers around town. Consider hiring a sixth grader to do various odd jobs for you. The money that they earn will be split between a graduation gift from them to the school, a contribution to the World Wildlife Fund and a traditional end-of-year trip to celebrate their completion of elementary school and to enjoy being together as the unique group that they are one last time.

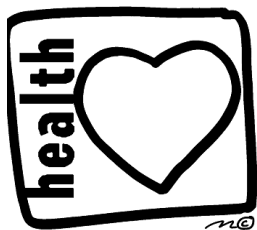
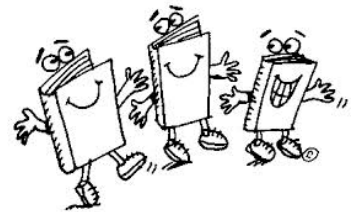
Ms. Lynn Hansell



MUSICAL NOTES! We have had a very successful dance unit, which culminated for 3/4 with a combined class with 5/6 dancing the challenging Virginia Reel. We end the month of March with a listen and color class featuring Beethoven's 9th Symphony, 4th movement - the one that features the chorus singing Ode to Joy. The fifth and sixth graders are finishing up their blues verses, which we will combine into one lengthy piece. We will review all the American music we've learned so far and challenge their memories with a game of music Jeopardy. 3/4 and 1/2 will once again divide their time between singing and musical movement, learning songs appropriate to the season and region. Now that the multiage has been introduced to the rhythm instruments, we will incorporate them into our rotation of activities, along with name songs, action songs, book songs, and fill-in-the-blank songs, which give students a chance to supply words and rhymes. All classes will begin the process of choosing songs for the graduation concert in June.

Kim Wallach

BOOKFAIR THANK YOU! Our sixth graders did a superb job of teaching us about interesting aspects of Warwick history on our Family Literacy Night. Our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful librarian, Ms. Powell, and our many Book Fair volunteers for creating such a wonderful evening! Our appreciation to all who were able to attend and the multitude who supported our 2014 Book Fair. It was a grand success!



HEALTH NOTES: Give your children the right amount of food!
The chart below shows what children should eat each day based on age.

Food Group	2-5 yrs.	6-10 yrs.	11-13 yrs.
Fruits	1 to 1 ½ cups	1 to 1 ½ cups	1 ½ to 2 cups
Vegetables	1 to 1 ½ cups	1 ½ to 2 cups	2 to 2 ½ cups
Grains	3 to 5 ounces	5 to 6 ounces	6 to 7 ounces
Dairy: low or non-fat	2 cups	2 to 3 cups	3 cups

Lean meats, fish, chicken, beans, legumes, nuts, or eggs	2 to 4 ounces	4 to 5 ounces	5 to 6 ounces
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How much is a cup of fruits or vegetables?

- A cup is about the size of a baseball. Many oranges and apples are this size.
- Two cups of raw vegetables cook down to about one cup.

What equals a cup of dairy?

- 1 cup of low fat or non-fat milk or yogurt is the size of a baseball
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of cheese equals four dice-sized pieces

What foods have an ounce of grain?

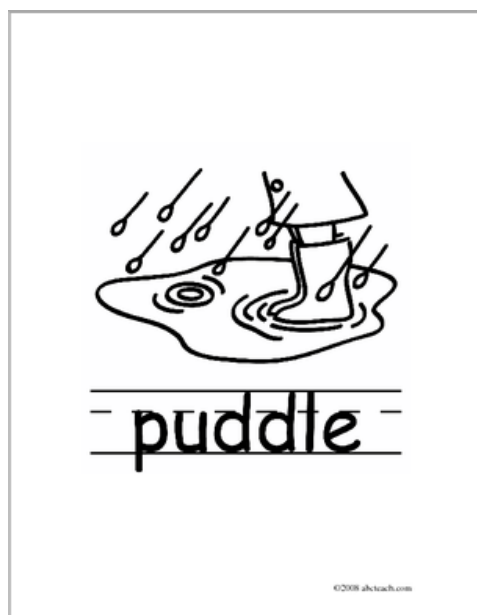
- 1 slice of whole grain bread
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup whole grain or enriched pasta or rice ("Enriched" will be on the pkg.)
- 1 cup of whole grain cold cereal or $\frac{1}{2}$ cup enriched cooked cereal

How much is an ounce of meat or other protein?

- 3 ounces of meat or fish is as big as a deck of playing cards
- 1 egg or 1-2 Tbls. of peanut butter
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cooked lentils, navy or kidney beans.

Information is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Is it Spring yet?



...we're watching for signs!



