

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
March 2016

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

ALL SCHOOL MEETING: 9a.m.Thurs. March 24

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING: 3:15 p.m. Thurs., Mar. 24

EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE Gr. 3-6 Literacy Night: 6:15-7:30 p.m., Mar. 31

WCS GARDENING CLUB: 1:45-3 p.m. Fri, April 1 (no fooling!)

PTO MEETING: 3:00 PM Thurs., April 7

SO MUCH HAPPENING AT WCS!

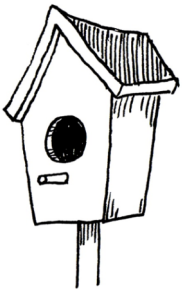
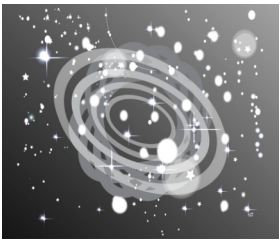
AFTER SCHOOL GARDENING CLUB: Our first meeting will be Friday, April 1st from 1:45 to 3p.m. All WCS students are welcome! Come and help us get our garden growing! Children will need an extra snack and a ride home. Wear your gardening clothes! More information is on the way!

EXPLORE THE UNIVERSE! 6:15-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 31st. A very special science and literacy event for our 3rd-6th graders (siblings are welcome.) Springfield Science Museum is bring the travelling planetarium to our WCS and will offer an astronomy show to our students. We will also explore myths and legends of the night sky.

STELLALUNA LITERACY NIGHT: A fabulous time was had last week, when many of our Pk-2 students gathered for a Literacy evening that included sharing stories about birds and bats and building birdhouses to take home! I was especially proud of our 5th and 6th graders, Anita Peters, Baylee Rousseau, Martin Seago and Mary Simon who came to read with the younger students! Nothing is speaks as powerfully about the joy of reading as sharing a good book with one of the "big kids!"

Thanks Home Depot, Title I, Early Childhood, WCS Student Activities and PTO for their support with these events!

SPIRIT WEEK is March 29-April 1! Thanks to our 5th and 6th graders for organizing this event. Information will come home soon about the special themes. All students will have the opportunity to join in the fun by wearing something fun to celebrate the daily theme.





WATCH US GO! Each year, during our 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 donated to a special cause. In addition, our students earn an extra dollar for our cause for each book with over 100 pages that they finish. Our fifth and sixth graders think long and hard about the recipients of our efforts. This year, they chose the Ronald McDonald House in Boston. We are reading up a storm! In the first few weeks, we've read over 1000 books and we're not slowing down! Our read-a-thon ends April 15th. We hope to reach our goal of 2500 books!

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL SCHOLARS: We are very proud of our 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th graders staying after school 2 days each week to do extra preparation for their upcoming PARCC tests. Well Done! And we thank teachers, *Ms. Mullen, Ms. White, Ms. Hansell and Mr. Ziniti* for the extra time and energy they are investing in our stellar students!



PLANNING AHEAD: Please note!

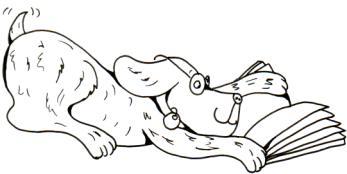
PARCC testing dates:

- English Language Arts - Grades 3-6 - May 2-13
- Math - Grades 3-6 - May 16 - June 3

MCAS testing dates:

- Science - Grade 5 only - May 16-20

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

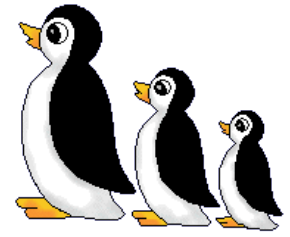


PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN: This month the multi-age class will be studying communication, cooperation, light and rainbows. It should be a lot of fun and learning! We started off the unit by learning cooperative games with our 3/4th grade buddies. Children also learned a little about sound and communication last month using an app called 30Hands to create slides and record our thoughts and voices, explore instruments, listen for sounds in stories and words, and listen to spring sounds on our Forest Friday walk. We have also been doing a lot of storytelling/story acting and will continue this throughout the rest of the year.

Our Senior reading buddies were here early in the month. Children had a great time reading to/with them and teaching them a couple of cooperative dances that they know from school. Again, sincere thanks to our guests for participating in this wonderful cross-generational sharing time.

Ms. Allison White

GRADES 1 and 2: First and second graders have been researching penguins in readiness to write penguin reports. The students will integrate some non-fiction text features that we have learned about, for example, table of contents, headings, and glossary, into their reports. They have used books and the internet to learn about different kinds of penguins and will include some "cool facts" about penguins. The 5th and 6th graders helped out by reading penguin fact sheets to their buddies to get us started with our research.



We have been reading and recording many books on the Read-a-thon logs! First and second graders have developed their independent reading skills of their "just-right" books so they are able to add many books to their logs every day. It is exciting to see the penny tube filling with pennies to donate to the Ronald McDonald House!

Ms. Julie Severance

GRADES 3 and 4: During the month of February the third and fourth grade transformed our classroom into a classroom with flexible seating. Flexible seating stems from the idea that students will learn better and collaborate more often if they are given some choice regarding their seats. We began the process slowly by peeling off our name tags and choosing where to sit each day. Immediately, students began to work more collaboratively on assignments and mingle with other students that they hadn't worked with before.



Soon after, I sent out a request for parent donations to make our classroom a bit cozier. I thought back to my favorite coffee shops and book stores and thought about all the seating choices I had when entering those establishments. I wanted to make my classroom feel cozier, I wanted to create seating options that were not traditional, I wanted to open my classroom up to more student choice. With the help of parents and staff I was able to create a counter height standing table, then I brought in a few stools to put at the counter, next we got out bean bags, stability balls, and bean bag chairs, a table's legs were removed to make a low table, sit-upons and cushions became floor seats, yoga mats became a floor workspace, and a crib mattress became a cozy reading nook. Finally, we had a student create a window seat so that we could take full advantage of the sunlight we are so blessed with in our classroom.

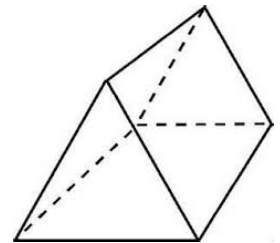
The results are a "homey" classroom where the students are smiling, happy, and engaged in their work. More importantly, they are comfortable. There are still tables and chairs available and some students choose to work at them. We are

all learning what works best for us as learners. There are so many options that arguments are few and every student reports that they are enjoying this arrangement. It is easy to come together and work as a group and just as easy to separate and work independently. We all love the new feel and flexibility of our classroom!

Ms. Christine Mullen

GRADES 5 and 6: The 5th graders have been steadily working their way through the math curriculum. This week we begin the last unit, which is on measurement and geometry. This will give us lots of time for review before the upcoming PARCC test and be certain we are all fully ready for next year!

We have one 6th grader who completed the curriculum last year and is working on 7th grade math skills this year. Our other 6th grader has been able to achieve amazing work, using nets and models to find the surface area of three dimensional shapes such as pentagonal prisms and hexagonal pyramids. I don't know about you, but I never had to do that until high school!



Mrs. Musgrave joins us every day to help teach the fifth and sixth grade math so that we can differentiate instruction to meet all of our diverse learning needs. Our wonderful instructional aide, Darlene Fournier, also joins us daily for math instruction. Every student has opportunities to work with each of the adults. This "hands-on-deck" teaching approach helps each of our 5th and 6th graders to advance through very demanding math skills at the pace they need for success.

Looking forward in other curricular areas, students have been reading non-fiction texts with power and learning how to take outstanding notes with "boxes and bullets". They have been working on writing strong research-based argument essays and will soon begin research reports on events related to the American Revolutionary War in social studies. In science, we are finishing up a study of the world's oceans and then will step into outer space to learn about the moon (and tides) and the planets of our solar system.

We are so excited about the upcoming Star Lab and grade 3-6 literacy night! I hope to see many of you there!

Ms. Lynn Hansell



FUN 'N GAMES! PE is a hopping place! We are busy finishing up cooperative games and will soon be moving into sport station activities, including throwing, catching and striking skills. Hopefully, in a few weeks students will be able to start having PE outside! Please help your child to remember sneakers. Thanks!

Ms. Sue Scott, PE



READERS' CORNER: Reading aloud is a way of entertaining your child and creating a deeper bond. Children who are read to by their parents get a head start in language and literacy. So, reading that bedtime story is not only entertaining and soothing, it also develops vocabulary, which in turn improves your child's ability to learn to read. Reading together will also foster a lifelong love of books and reading.

Jim Trelease, a well-known reading researcher says, "Every time we read to a child, we're sending a pleasure message to his or her brain." He adds, "You could even call it a commercial; it conditions the child to associate books and print with pleasure." This "commercial" is important because you're competing with TV, movies, the Internet and video games for your child's attention. Trelease goes on to say (and it's hard to refute) that "students who read the most, read the best, achieve the most, and stay in school the longest." Reading aloud requires a book (free with a library card) and your willingness to spend a little quality time with your child - 15 minutes a day. The sacrifices are few and the benefits are many. Experience the pleasure of spending time with your child sharing the enjoyment of a good book.

Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist



MUSICAL NOTES! Today was a lovely mild day filled with the promise of spring. There will still be some cold days and nights ahead, but the day lilies are about an inch tall on the south side of the house. The 1/2 class asked to sing "The Garden Song" today. We have done a lot of rhythm work in the last few weeks, writing rhythms with popsicle sticks on the floor, then playing them with a variety of world instruments. In the next few weeks, the 1&2 will be adding some new dances to their movement repertoire. In 3&4, our focus has been on recorder skills. Together, we wrote a short piece for the recorder using notes they know how to play. The last two weeks we have been practicing playing it. Coming up - more dancing, a song about the Irish in America, and a chance to play a small lap harp. 5&6 have enjoyed spending a few weeks in the 1960's, and a brief immersion in a "living history museum." We're now cruising through the 50's, 40's and 30's in quick succession. They will be studying blues form, and will be responsible for writing a blues verse, which we will assemble into one longer piece. The multiage class has spent time exploring rhythm instruments from around the world - frog guiros, seed pod rattles, castanets, claves, kalimbas, and more. We will return to singing and movement, and learn some songs about animals in their habitats. All classes will have a chance to try the harp, and will listen to a variety of Irish songs and tunes for this month's listen and color Happy Spring!

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music

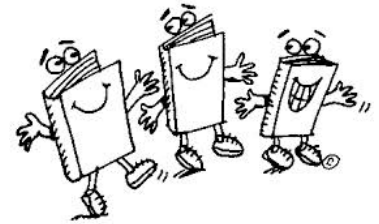


TECHNOLOGY ROCKS! Curricular materials developed by Common Sense Media are being used in Digital citizenship Lessons for students in Grades 3-6. Work on personal digital maps will continue for these students. It has been delightful to have a number of students involve their families in contributing information for these maps.

Grade 1-2 did online image searches to choose penguin photographs for their report covers. In addition, they while learning mechanics of getting words where they want them on a page, they are practicing locating letters and punctuation on the keyboard. Our Kindergarteners keep adding to their toolbox of digital skills, often using them in the Scratch programming language, but also with shapes in Microsoft Publisher.

Ms. Susan Wright, Technology

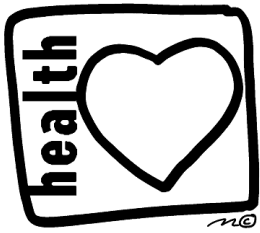
LIBRARY LEARNING On Wed. Mar 2016, The Cat in the Hat walked in our front door bearing good wishes, stickers and a gift for our Library, The Book With No Pictures by N.J. Novak. It really has NO pictures but it is a humorous story illustrating the power of the written word. I look forward to sharing it with each class. (Thank you, Karen Scanlon, our Technology Director, for this spontaneous appearance celebrating Dr. Suess' Birthday!)



Speaking of new books, the students have been enjoying the newest batch of books added to our Library. The collection included books requested by students such as "How to..." books on drawing, paper airplanes, and tracking animals. Our enthusiastic readers also want additional books in their beloved series like Junie B. Jones, Magic Treehouse, Mercy Watson, and Warriors. Again, our dedicated parent volunteer, Lisa Rhodes, is working on adding more books to our inventory very soon. Please help me give a HUGE shout-out to Lisa for her steadfast assistance.

With READ-A-THON in full swing, **Week # 3**, we are preparing for a Book Swap on March 18th. The students may need to restock their reading materials so we have invited the children to a "Bring a Book- Take A Book" exchange. During their Friday Library class, any student that brings in a good quality book from home can exchange it with another book donated by staff and students. Yes, when a child brings multiple books, he or she may select the same number to take home.

The classrooms are also getting some new books to add to their Classroom Libraries kindly purchased by patrons of our World Eye Bookshop Book Fair in November. This month's Library Assistants have been helping assemble materials to supplement upcoming Literacy Nights. Read on!! **Ms. Laurel Powell, Librarian**



HEALTH NOTES

Medication Safety classes for grades 3,4,5,6 teach the information on a prescription drug label, including that a prescription is only for the person named on the label. Grades PK, K, 1, 2 use a game called "Good Choice, Bad Choice" to continue to learn about safety when taking medicine. All students continue to review the four medication

safety guidelines: 1. Only take medicine from a trusted adult. 2. Always keep candy and medicine in its original container. 3. Never share your medicine with others. 4. Medicines should be kept in a locked place.

At home activities to reinforce these medication safety classes can begin now. For students in grades 3 through 6, use a prescription bottle from home to ask your child questions about the label. Example: Who is this prescription for? Is it for anyone else? What number could I call if I had a question about the prescription? What is the name of the medication?

For students in grades PK through 2, ask your child "good choice/bad choice" questions about taking medication. Discuss why each is a good or bad choice.

Example: Julie is six years old and she feels sick. She decides to take medicine all by herself. Good choice or bad choice?

Reminders: Hand sanitizer should not be brought to school. It will be provided if the children cannot access soap and water at school. Thank you for your help.

Sneakers are the only safe footwear for gym class and recess, except when boots are required. Other footwear in these circumstances is an invitation to injury.

Ms. Julia Dempsey RN



Happy Spring! (Well, almost!)