

# NEWS & TIDINGS

## WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal  
May 2015

### MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

**MEMORIAL DAY:** May 25<sup>th</sup> No school

**ALL SCHOOL MEETING:** 12:30 PM Tues, May 26<sup>th</sup>

**ELEMENTARY BAND CONCERT:** 7 PM Tues. June 9<sup>th</sup>

**FAMILY PICNIC AND FIELD DAY:** Noon-3 PM Thur. June 11<sup>th</sup>

**6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GRADUATION:** 6 PM June 17<sup>th</sup>

### SIXTH GRADE GRADUATION! 6 PM Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

Please join us in the WCS Gymnasium to celebrate and send off our graduates:

Naqi Dar, Cody Gibbons, Arwen Hansell, Sarah Johnson, Charlotte Kahler, Brennan Killay, Erin Kimball, Liesel Nygard, Anna Picard, Abigail Tandy and Zoe Vorce.

Our Music teacher, Kim Wallach, has been rehearsing a song for every class, which the children will perform at the ceremony to honor our graduates!

*Congratulations*



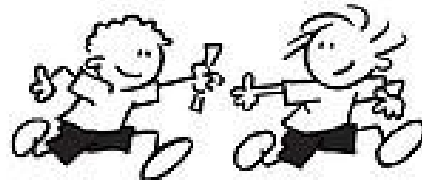
### DISTRICT-WIDE SPRING BAND CONCERT 7 PM June 9<sup>th</sup>

WCS musicians will join with the musicians from Bernardston, Leyden, and Northfield and for the spring concert in the auditorium at Pioneer. Musicians are to wear white tops and black bottoms, and arrive at 6:45.

It is always a lively and impressive display of young talent and hard work. Don't miss out on the joy! But come early, it's always packed!

### FIELD DAY AND FAMILY PICNIC: Noon-3 PM Thurs, June 11<sup>th</sup>

This year, we are adding a family picnic to kick off our afternoon Field Day. We hope family members will join us. Parents and younger siblings will be able to purchase school lunch or bring their own and join us for lunch outside (weather permitting!) and then cheer us on at our Field Day fun and games! Watch for a notice coming home right after Memorial Day!

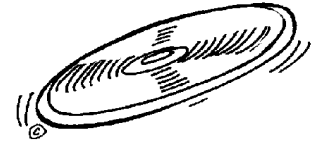


ClipartOf.com/42370

**A LOT OF PANCAKES!** A big thank you for all the town support for the PTO Pancake Breakfast. Many enjoyed a tasty breakfast and our PTO raised over \$700., which go towards the events, trips and materials that make learning at WCS so special. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders also thank the owners of the bright shiny cars that you see around town, for supporting their carwash. They raised \$200. to support their class gift to the school (a new flag) and their class trip.

### **COMIN SOON! "SING A SONG OF WARWICK"**

Did you know that all the WCS students have been working all winter with our music teacher, Kim Wallach, on a collection of twelve charming songs with original lyrics about Warwick? They recently recorded their songs onto a CD which will soon be released for purchase. We can't wait!



### **2015-16 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

**WHEN:** Now! 9a.m. - 2:30 p.m. M-F **WHERE:** Warwick Community School

**WHO:** Children who will be five years of age by Sept. 1, 2015

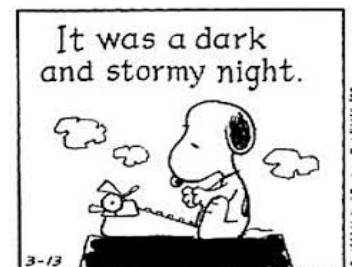
### **OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...**

**KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K:** The year is flying by and the next few weeks will be busy ones. We are planning a trip to Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls coming up soon. We will also be taking a walking trip to the Town Library and we have finally resumed our walking trips to the nearby forest. While we are there, we study changes that occur in the environment over time, and look for evidence of how animals and people use the things found there for shelter and food. It gives us lots of opportunity to discuss ways we can help take care of the environment in which we live.

Children have begun longer pieces in writing. They really have been enjoying writing stories with more than one page and will continue working on these over the next few weeks.

I have begun to implement math centers one or two days a week. In these centers, children practice a variety of skills either independently or with a partner. The activities are self-directed and work well to include many skill levels at the same time.

Together with our incredible PTO's help, are trying to refurbish our sandbox. If anyone is able to help with the construction of a cover for the sandbox, or knows of a good, inexpensive source for new sand please let me know.  
**THANKS!**



**Ms. Allison White**

**GRADES 1 and 2:** In first and second grade we will be revisiting our science unit of animal homes and seasonal adaptations from earlier in the year. In the fall we studied how animals prepare for winter. This spring we will study pond life and all that our school vernal pool has to offer! We will be visiting Northfield Mountain Environmental Center and we will be participating in their Pond Probe program.

We are in the middle of our realistic fiction writing unit. Our students are having so much creating their characters, planning their actions, and getting their characters out of trouble! It's been so rewarding to see how well they've integrated our study in reading comprehension to then create their own stories. I think all who get to hear these stories will enjoy them!

In Math, we just finished up a unit in shape, equal shares, fractions, and measuring. We will end out our year by continuing to think about putting together and take apart large numbers. Second graders will be working with 3 and 4 digit numbers and first graders will be working with 2 digit numbers. **Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**



**GRADES 3 and 4:** The children spent three months earlier this year reading lots and lots of nonfiction. We read about people, we read about machines, we read about places, we read about events, but by far our favorite thing to read about was animals! During science we have been studying how animals behave, predator and prey relationships, and animal adaptations. In writing we have been studying informational writing. We finished all three of these units by writing our own animal nonfiction books!

The books required us to use a new skill: researching. We learned how to gather information, how to turn the information into reports, and then turn the reports into a book. Our books were ten or more pages long with diagrams, photographs, bibliographies and other nonfiction text features. Then, to make these awesome reports even better, we studied our animal's habitat. Then we turned the habitats into a 3D diorama. We put a month or so into this project from start to finish, and on some days it looked like we wouldn't ever finish, but we persevered and the finished products were amazing! We even got to share them with the other students and our parents!

We will wrap-up the year with a state fair project, a culmination of our social studies units. This project has us excited to research and learn about faraway (and nearby) states. Each afternoon is a buzz with, "Did you know Tennessee has \_\_\_\_\_?" and "Want to hear about \_\_\_\_\_?" We will be showcasing our research science fair style with trifold displays and dishes from each state on June 12. We are looking forward to teaching you all about what we learned during our study of the regions of the USA. **Ms. Chriss Mullen**

**GRADES 5 and 6:** On Saturday, May 16 the Fifth and Sixth Graders had a car wash in conjunction with the PTO Pancake Breakfast. It was a huge success! The class raised more than \$200. The money raised is being used to purchase a new American flag for our school as the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Gift. Our class is also planning an end-of-year outing to Ware's Grove Beach at Spofford Lake in Chesterfield, NH on Thursday, May 28. Thank you so much to all of the parents and students who participated and to the community for allow us to spiff up your cars!



On Thursday, May 20, we met Dan Dibble and Rich Field at Metcalf Chapel for a day of community service.

Together, they showed us all about making compost, aerating the soil, planting nitrogen fixing clover and making soil cubes for starting seeds. The students helped get the church's garden weeded, the soil turned over, and ready for planting. The food produced from this garden goes to support the Orange Food Bank. In addition, we ventured into the center of town to rake and pick up around Town Hall and the library. It feels good to be outside and to give back to our community! If you have any other ideas for community service that we can participate in this fall, please contact Lynn Hansell at WCS.

We recently had the opportunity to interview a famous author online through Skype. Chris Tebbetts has written and published several books for elementary aged children and has co-authored the *Middle School* series with James Patterson and the *Stranded* series with Jeff Probst. Chris is also someone who I knew very well when we were growing up together in Yellow Springs, Ohio! In our interview with him, he was very down to earth, approachable, informative and inspirational.

Our last interview as part of our "When I Grow Up" theme this year will be in a couple of weeks when an archeologist, Sara Reid, comes to visit and tell us about her career trajectory and some exciting projects that she has been a part of.

Students are also still very busy finishing up the year. We have completed the PARCC tests in English Language Arts and Math. Things went very smoothly for our first go-around with this new system. We are also engaged in class projects which include studies of countries in Asia, human body systems and reading and writing poetry. We are also in our last math unit for the year which is "Ratios and Rates with Fractions, Decimals and Percents". It is active and exciting in our classroom right up to Sixth Grade Graduation!

Speaking of graduation, please join us on Wednesday, June 17 at 6:00 p.m. to send this amazing group of sixth graders off to the next chapter of their young lives! See you there!

**Ms. Lynn Hansell**



## **MUSICAL NOTES.** Lilacs are in full bloom and we are racing

towards the end of the school year. Preparations and rehearsals are underway for the Graduation/Concert on June 17 at 6pm - note the earlier time! We are progressing with the regular curriculum alongside rehearsals. Multiage will be learning songs with water themes to keep us cool as the weather warms - River, Baby Beluga, Octopuses Garden - as well as some patriotic songs for Memorial Day - You're a Grand Old Flag and This Land is Your Land. The 1/2 class learned My Country Tis of Thee, and The Garden Song, and are enjoying exploring the rhythm instruments and playing singing games like Zodiac and Alabama Gals. 3/4 are singing beautifully together, and sang all 4 verses of the Star Spangled Banner. They are pushing ahead in their recorder studies, and hope to learn all the notes before year's end. In 5/6 we are practicing drumming from Gawe in Ghana, West Africa. Students are learning patterns for the sheker (rattle), gyankoi bell, and two different drum patterns. The challenge is playing them all together at the right time. Sixth graders will be choosing their processional and recessional music for graduation as well. It's a very busy time!

We are pleased to announce that our CD and songbook project, "Sing a Song of Warwick", will be released shortly! This project was funded in part by a FEE grant. We recorded on two consecutive Tuesdays. I met with Alan Stockwell over the vacation to mix and master the CD, and Mrs. Musgrave has taken on the layout of the songbook. Students have created artwork to illustrate the songbook, and everything is coming together beautifully! We are so proud of the results of our hard work!

**Ms. Kim Wallach, Music**



## **TECH TALK**

It's very satisfying to see the progress that all of the students have made in technology this year. The kindergarten class is continuing to develop programming skills in Scratch, all the while mastering control of the mouse and finding letters on the keyboard. The grade 1/2 class has had a recent focus on saving and opening documents. Grades 3/4 have created tables and made graphs of animal speeds. The 5/6 class has been thinking big—using Gapminder World to examine trends in global development and thinking about significant world events.

**Ms. Susan Wright, Technology**



**LIBRARY LEARNING!** While our academic work and the PARCC testing keep us very busy, we have been happily interrupted by visits from local experts who share a description of their occupation and how they have attained their skills and expertise. We try to supplement these visits with an exposure to non-fiction and fiction

books that extend the learning. Currently, a collection of books are on display about the human body, the many specialists in the medical field, and other materials that explain special topics such as asthma, Alzheimer's, getting your tonsils out, and blindness & Braille.

The reading and writing of poetry is always pleasant. This action of playing with words is often freeing and a great way to express oneself. The students always love their favorite poets like Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky but we are discovering new authors in our well stocked section of poetry anthologies, collections and a selection of novels written in prose like Sharon Creech's "Love That Dog". In Art class this week, the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders made animal mobiles. While they worked, Mrs. Dabrowski read some Ogden Nash poems about animals. She then exclaimed with delight, "Poetry and fine art blend so well together!"

**A friendly reminder to all students and families.** You can use the internet to access Destiny from home to find out the title of an overdue book. Each student can log onto their own homepage by following these steps.

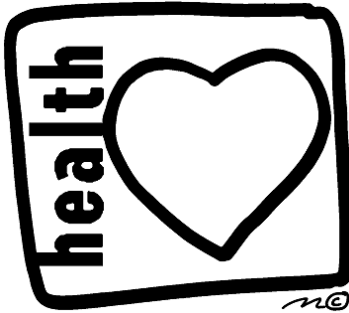
- Search for "Warwick Community School". Click on the icon for "**WCS Destiny Library System**"
- **HOME PAGE** - recommended websites and the online Encyclopedia Britannica
- Go to **CATALOG** - access to book search
- Go to **DESTINY QUEST** to LOGIN
- Go to **MY INFO** to see **MY CHECKOUTS, MY HOLDS, MY LISTS** or to explore the **NEW ARRIVALS**

It's that easy! Enjoy!

**Ms. Laurel Powell, Librarian**

## **IMPORTANT NOTES & EXCITING EVENTS!**

- Warwick Memorial Day Ceremony 1 PM, May 23 at the Church on the Hill (Rehearsal at Noon)
- Last date for the Wednesday WCS Toddler Playgroup is June 3<sup>rd</sup>!
- Music and Stories with Roger Tincknell at Dickinson Memorial Library 6 PM, Friday, June 12



## HEALTH NOTES Medication Safety in Your Home:

### Step 2: Secure Approach

Secure your prescriptions the same way you would other valuables in your home, like jewelry or cash. There's no shame in protecting those items and the same holds true for your medicine.

Take prescription and non-prescription medicines out of the medicine cabinet and lock them in a place that only you know.

Tell relatives, especially grandparents, to lock up their medicine. Talk to parents of your child's friends. Encourage them to secure their prescriptions as well.

*Children who learn a lot about the risks of drugs at home are at least 20 percent less likely to use drugs than those who do not get that critical message from their parents.*

To learn more about the conversations you need to have with your child go to <http://www.drugfree.org/the-parent-toolkit/age-by-age-advice/9-12-year-old-what-to-say/>

[http://medicineabuseproject.org/assets/documents/Parent\\_talk\\_kit\\_2014 .pdf](http://medicineabuseproject.org/assets/documents/Parent_talk_kit_2014.pdf)

All medication safety information came from <http://medicineabuseproject.org/>

### REMINDER: Sunscreen and Insect Repellent Use

It is very important to be aware of your child's planned daily activities and to protect her/him from overexposure to the sun. Be aware of the weather forecast.

Is it Field Day? Is there a field trip scheduled that will involve outdoor activities?

Do you know how much sun exposure your child gets on a regular school day? Is it

physical education day (Thursdays)? Buy a long-lasting sunscreen and apply it

before your child goes to school if you know your child will be out in the sun for

more than a short period of time. Parents are responsible for helping their

children with this. Your attention will help them learn appropriate ways to protect

themselves as they grow older.

Insect repellent also needs to be applied at home if it is to be used.

Thank you!

Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN

***We're heading toward the finish line!***

***So little time, so much to do***

***...and all so much fun!***

