

# NEWS & TIDINGS

## WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

May 2016

### MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

**TOWN MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION:** 1 PM Sat., May 28

**MEMORIAL DAY:** Mon. May 30<sup>th</sup> No school

**ALL SCHOOL MEETING:** 12:30 PM Thurs, June 16<sup>th</sup>

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

**FAMILY PICNIC AND FIELD DAY:** Noon-3 PM Thur. June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**ALL-SCHOOL CONCERT & 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE GRADUATION:** 6 PM June 15<sup>th</sup>

### ALL-SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT & SIXTH GRADE GRADUATION!

**6 PM Wed., June 17<sup>th</sup>** Congratulations are in order! Please join us in the WCS Gymnasium for our All-School Spring Concert and to help us celebrate and send off our graduates: Eliza Baczek and Martin Seago. Each class has been rehearsing a special song with music teacher, Kim Wallach, which the children are excited to perform for you and our graduates!

### DISTRICT-WIDE SPRING BAND CONCERT 7 PM June 7<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. It is always a lively and impressive display of young talent and hard work.



### FIELD DAY AND FAMILY PICNIC: Noon-3 PM Thurs, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

This year, we are adding a family picnic to kick off our afternoon Field Day. We hope family members will join us for this fun day. 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!

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### 2016-17 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 September 1, 2016

**CHANGES AHEAD in 2016-17.** Thinking "outside the box," or in this case our classroom walls, will maximize our resources for all WCS students next year. Our school will have about the same number of students in SY2017, but the size of our grade levels vary considerably. Small bumps and dips in class size are not uncommon, but in a small school like ours, where two grades learn together with one teacher in a single classroom, even small disparities can conspire to have a big impact on class-size. If we were to remain with our current configuration next year, we would have very disparate class sizes - seven at one end of our building and twenty four at the other! With no four year olds enrolled for our PK next year, we will rework our grade configuration next year to be K-1, 2-3, 4-5, and 6. This simple change will radically equalize the number of children in each classroom to between twelve and nineteen. We hope to have pre-school children enrolled in the near-future! If by summer's end, we have a small group of interested 3 and 4 year olds, we will create a partial day program to meet the need! Do not hesitate to speak with Mrs. Musgrave if you have questions or concerns for your child.

**WARWICK MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION!** Come one, come all! Parents, Students, Everyone join together on May 28, 2016 at 1PM at Warwick's beautiful old church on the hill. Come to honor Warwick's veterans, show off your singing voice, march in a parade, watch musket firing, and have a great time!



**WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE** that our preschool/kindergarten teacher,



Allison Higley White, is the recipient of the competitive RURAL TRUST Global Teacher Fellowship that sponsors travel abroad for gifted teachers! This prestigious award will fund Ms. White to travel to Barcelona, Spain in June where she will attend the Creativity Workshop and study the art and architecture of Antoni Gaudi. Teaching appreciation for the arts, community, and the outdoors are important to Allison. She looks forward to learning about the history, art and culture of the Spanish Costa Brava.

In keeping with the Global Teacher Fellowship, Ms. White will share her experiences and incorporate the inspiration and knowledge she gains from her travel into her classroom curriculum to foster creativity, connection to landscape and community, and appreciation for other cultures.

"This Rural Trust Global Teacher Fellowship is made possible with funds from The Rural School and Community Trust, helping rural schools and communities grow better together."

## **WHAT DO PANCAKES and CLEAN CARS HAVE IN COMMON?**

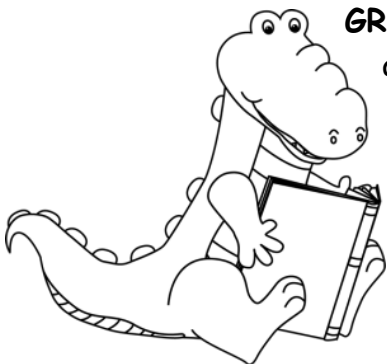
They both support our school! WCS PTO wishes to thank everyone who helped with our pancake breakfast. Given the small size of our PTO, it was great to have so many contribute, including students who helped set up, serve, clean, & stack chairs.

Thank you also to the wonderful community who supported our efforts and enjoyed a relaxing tasty breakfast! We hope you had a nice time and left with a satisfied belly. All funds raised go directly to the classrooms, where teachers can purchase materials to enrich the learning in their classrooms. Our car wash was also a big success and raised funds for their upcoming trip to Cape Cod. We will remember this year's event fondly, and hope to have as much success next year!

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

**KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K:** We have had a busy month of school. We had another visit from senior readers earlier in the month. Our activities with the seniors have been a great addition to our classroom! Children and seniors read books about the ways of life long ago and then drew pictures together of something that they, themselves, did long ago. Next month, we will be thanking all of the seniors who have attended our reading sessions by planning a special activity at Warwick Town Center.

We will be taking a field trip to the Orange Airport at the end of May. This is to help us learn more about the science topic "How Things Move." I hope to explore community helpers and resources with children on a few more in-town walking field trips before the end of the year. We will finish our year learning about Community and Maps, and spending time planting and planning in the greenhouse. **THANK YOU!**



**GRADES 1 and 2:** First and Second grade has been busy thinking about the books we read. In reader's workshop, we have been practicing retelling books we've read or listened to by focusing on the main characters, setting, problem, and solution. In the coming weeks, we will expand our thinking about books by learning about envisioning, predicting, and making connections. All this thinking about books has made a great integration with our current writing unit. We've been writing letters that share our opinions about books. In the coming weeks, the recipients of our letters will

**Ms. Allison White**

extend beyond our classroom, and we think about specific people to write letters to with an invitation to share in reading a book together.

Both grades have begun their final math unit of the year. Second graders are working on expanding their knowledge of addition and subtraction with regrouping by solving 3 and 4 digit equations. First graders are using strategies they have already learned to get ready for the big work of "regrouping" double digit numbers for adding and subtracting, a concept they will explore deeply in second grade.

With the final weeks of our school year, we will be putting our knowledge of shapes and equal shares to practical use, by working in our garden plot. The work the children do this year will carry into exciting garden projects for next year.

**Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**

**GRADES 3 and 4:** The third and fourth graders have been busy completing their end of year PARCC testing. They have put a ton of effort into the testing, always trying their best during each session. We look forward to wrapping up testing next week and completing the year with some interesting science and social studies projects!

The students have just begun working in book clubs for the final part of the school year. We are reading four different genres of books (mystery, historical fiction, realistic fiction, and humor) and enjoying alternating through different book club roles each day.

We are also working on our persuasive writing skills. We have a whole lot of opinions in the third and fourth grade and we are working on developing a persuasive argument to sway others to our side.



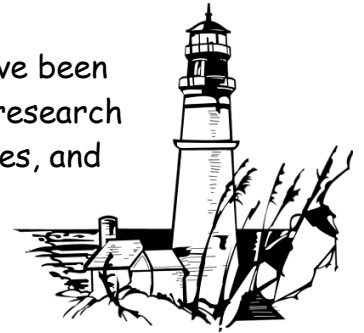
We have been studying all about Warwick, Orange, and Athol in our social studies lessons and look forward to visiting the local historical societies as a culminating activity. We have been looking closely at old maps and trying to visualize town in the 1830s. We will be creating a map of the town on our classroom floor and "walking" through history to change it. Each student's own house will even appear on our map! Next month brings historical society trips and a study of the history of the Quabbin Reservoir.

In science we are wrapping up a study on plants and beginning a study on rocks and minerals. We just completed a plant dissection and even looked at the plant parts under a microscope. We are building life-sized models of plants to help us remember the parts of the plant. Thank you to all the parents that donated to this project! We will also learn a bit about using a gps and geocaching.

We will be wrapping up the year with lots of trips and fun activities. It promises to be a blast!

**Ms. Chriss Mullen**

**GRADES 5 and 6:** The end of the year is fast approaching and we have been wrapping things up nicely. In science, students are completing their research project posters on the solar system, will learn about the moon and tides, and will finish up with exploring circuits and Morse code through our Batteries and Bulbs unit. Then it's off to Cape Cod to see real world applications of all that we have learned in science and early American history this year. Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported all of our fundraising efforts this year!



The whole class has been reading the historical fiction novel, *My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier. The book is based in a small Connecticut town during the American Revolutionary War and paints a realistic picture of a young boy whose family is divided by the war. Our discussions are centered around themes of growing up, courage, rebellion, standing up for what you think is right, and the ugly side of war. Very engaging indeed!

The students are writing their second and final research based argument essay on the topic of whether or not elementary school students should have homework. All students must read articles on all sides of the issue (pro-homework, anti-homework, and balanced homework) before choosing which side of the argument to write about. Guess what side most of them have picked? They are definitely invested in this one!

The next couple of weeks is dedicated to wrapping up all that we have currently going on, final assessments in reading and math, heading to The Cape, and then our WCS final activities of the year! I look forward to seeing the community on June 15<sup>th</sup> for the Spring Concert & Sixth Grade Graduation! **Ms. Lynn Hansell**



**MUSICAL NOTES.** The first week of May, we welcomed the growing season with the Maypole. Now, we are singing and discussing the meaning of patriot songs, and the choosing our songs for the Spring concert in June. The 5-6 class had their final exam, a combination of Jeopardy and Name that Tune, and won kazoos, tiny recorders, and slide whistles for their demonstrated knowledge of songs, performers, genres and decades. By popular demand, we have taken out the recorders again in 3-4 and worked on a piece the students wrote several months ago. They really sound great! The 1-2 class is finalizing their choices for the concert, and working hard on their unison singing. Favorites are Chickadee, So Many Ways to Be Smart, and Habitat. In multiage, we have done chants about



bees and cutting daffodils, and complex motion songs that engage the body to their great delight. Our concert choice remains a mystery! I look forward to seeing you at the All-School Spring Music Concert on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms

**Kim Wallach, Music**

**TECH TALK** The Kindergarten students have been using Scratch (graphical programming language) in ways that combine computational thinking with literacy, keyboarding, and mouse control skills. Most recently they have been working on animating the letters in their names.

Grades 1 and 2, excited about the fox observations taking place in their classroom, have been brainstorming words to rhyme with fox (what an impressive list they generated) and then create sentences loaded with these fox-rhyming words (each highlighted in red).

Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 have been doing coding activities through Code Studio. A number of students have continued these online activities outside of school. The 5/6 students are utilizing skills in a more involved Scratch project of their own design.

**Ms. Susan Wright, Technology**

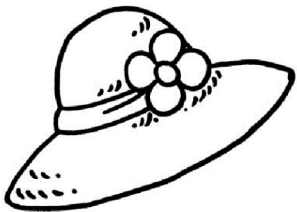
### **READERS' CORNER: Inferring Is Comprehending**

When you read with your children, help them to infer. Inference understands what is implied, but not explicitly stated, in the story. Ask your young readers how they think the characters in the story are feeling and why they act the way they do. Ask, "What do you think?" "Why do you think so?" Look for clues about character feelings, actions or problems. "Try modeling for your child in this way, "The writer didn't say why (blank) but I know because (blank)." Ask, "Have you ever done that?" or "Have you ever felt that way?" Discuss evidence (clues from the story) or your child's knowledge and experiences. When you engage in these read-aloud and shared reading activities with your children, you reinforce the idea that inference is an important part of comprehension. So enjoy the conversations with your young reader and, above all, have fun!

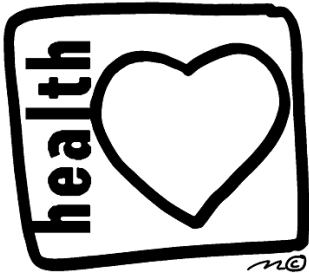
**Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist**



**SPRING FASHION IS BLOOMING!** And we're so happy outside enjoying our playground! Just a few reminders as spring fashion begins to bloom. Safety first: Sneakers are always the best choice for running games, jump-rope, kickball, and climbing on the play structure s. Flip-flops, slides and high-heels should be avoided. We dress for modesty and respect: Midriffs must be covered. No spaghetti straps, revealing necklines or "belly" shirts, please.



Shirts with inappropriate wording must stay home. Shorts should reach mid-thigh. Hats, caps, and sunglasses are fine for the playground.



## HEALTH NOTES

A letter from the School Nurse at Pioneer Valley Regional School was recently sent home with our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Please contact me, if you have not received it.

Sunscreen and insect repellent Please note that parents are responsible for applying any sunscreen and/or insect repellent before school. Please note your child's schedule, as long-acting sunscreen/repellent may be needed to provide the desired protection.

- Long-acting sunscreen information - There are sunscreens that last all day. Information available at [www.mayoclinic.com/health/drug-information](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/drug-information).
- Other proven sun protection includes wearing protective, tightly-woven, light-weight long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using a broad brimmed hat. Sunglasses with UV protective lenses are also helpful. Stay in the shade whenever possible. Avoid reflective surfaces, which can reflect up to 85% of the sun's rays. If your shadow is shorter than you are, seek shade.
- The insect repellent DEET is available in a microencapsulated form that provides more hours of coverage with much less chance of absorption according to the manufacturers. You can find further information on this by searching "microencapsulated DEET" on the Internet.

Please note that there is a Medication Safety Trivia Game appropriate for all grades attached to this newsletter. Have some fun with your child and help them continue to learn and review important information. **Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN**



*join the dance...  
Hooray for  
Spring!*