

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
November 2015

So much to do, so little time!

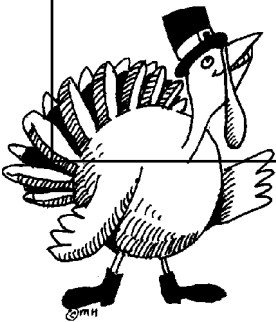
MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

TURKEY TROT! Wed. Nov. 25, at BES

PTO MEETING: 3:00 PM Thurs., Dec. 2

WINTER HOLIDAYS CONCERT: 6:30 p.m., Dec. 16

WINTER HOLIDAYS: Dec. 23 (noon) - Jan. 3



COME, TROT WITH US! Family members of students in grades 1-6 are invited to join us for the Turkey Trot. Parents are invited to run, walk or cheer us on Nov. 25th at Bernardston Elementary School. Parents of Multi-age students are invited to join their child, same time and day, on the Warwick Town Common for fitness games and activities. The "entry ticket" to the event for all participants is a can or box of non-perishable food item, which will later be donated to the local food pantry.

**Thank
YOU,**
(very much)

A BIG THANK YOU to the helpers for our Pasta supper! It was another grand success! A big turnout and most importantly, a very happy and tasty good time! Warwick truly knows what it means to be a community. Many hands made cheerful work and delicious food. Many individuals from the community (even those without children in school!) came to support us. We thank you all - moms and dads, siblings, students and community members - you made it great!!

WCS WINTER HOLIDAYS CONCERT will be at 6:30 p.m. Tues, Dec. 15th. Please bring students by 6:15 pm to warm-up. We look forward to sharing an evening of music and hope you can help us celebrate the season and the joy and talents of our children!





NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAYS AT WCS,

We try hard to keep the holiday weeks low key and focused on learning. Our attitude is not "bah humbug!" We love the holidays as much as anyone - but our responsibility is our students' successful learning. Time on learning is scarce and precious, and every moment is needed to cover our very large and important curriculum!

During holiday times, we often see an uptick in crankiness, anxiety and acting-out. It is difficult to keep centered when the media blitz is aimed directly at kids. You can help by keeping things simple at home and making sure your children get a good night's sleep.

Thank you for NOT sending in holiday treats. We intentionally leave celebration of the holidays to families according to their own beliefs and traditions. And we intentionally preserve the school day as a quiet haven to allow children to fully engage in learning, even in the midst of "holiday madness."

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ... **Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten:** We have finished up units on Monarch Butterflies with a fantastic program through Antioch College called the Caterpillar Lab that brought many varieties of exotic caterpillars into our school for our children to observe and in some cases handle as the presenters talked about protective coloring and behavior, adaptation, life cycle, diet, etc. The children were riveted! Our thanks to the Foundation for Educational Excellence (FEE) for kindly funding this whole-school program through a mini-grant. We also planted milkweed seeds in our raised bed and visited Magic Wings Butterfly in Deerfield Mass.



We have started off our next month's theme on cooking and healthy food by visiting the Brattleboro Food Coop. There we learned about the jobs different people do in the market and how to Eat the Rainbow (how different colored fruits and veggies help your body), and how important it is to try new foods. We will be following up in late November and December by cooking and trying our own foods.

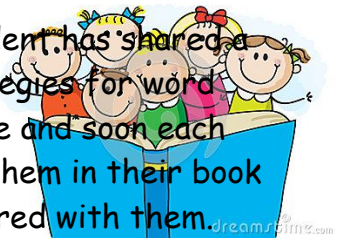
We will be participating in a PreK/K Turkey Trot on the Town Common. We will be doing fun and active Turkey games and races and collecting food for Mrs. Scott to deliver to a local food pantry.

Ms. Alison White, Teacher

GRADES 1 and 2: 1st and 2nd grade has recently been introduced to a new learning block called social studies. In the beginning of the year, we spent a lot of time building up our classroom and school community, getting to know each other and learn ways to best work together. Now we are thinking beyond our classroom

and learning more about the people, places and animals from all around the world! We will be traveling through books, videos, and other resources to all of the seven continents as we explore our world.

We have been busy building our reading toolbox. Each student has shared a tool they use to be strong readers, our tools revolve around strategies for word decoding, fluency, and expression. Our toolbox is almost complete and soon each student will have their very own handheld tool box to carry with them in their book bins to help them practice all the skills their classmates have shared with them.



We will be wrapping up our small moments writing unit in the next few weeks. Children in first and second grade have shared so much about themselves and their lives through their writing and we look forward to sharing all of our wonderful stories with family and friends when we have our publishing party!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs, Teacher

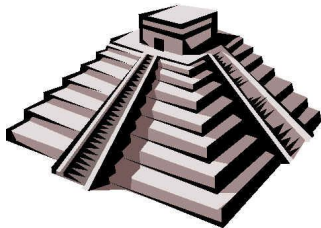
GRADES 3 and 4: The third and fourth grade have been busy preparing for the holiday season by learning about the Wampanoag Indians and their encounter with the Pilgrims back in 1621. We have been making wetus, studying about the way of life of this tribe, and were even visited by Squanto! We will wrap this unit up with a play about the first Thanksgiving and then a short simulation activity about the pilgrims. All of the boys and girls have enjoyed this study.



The children have been working very hard on their reading and math lessons as well. They are practicing their multiplication and division facts on a daily basis through quizzes, practice work, games, and small group lessons. Our readers are enjoying their reading group choices, as well. They are reading books from all sorts of fabulous authors and are learning how to read deeply for understanding.

We will be hosting a publishing party during the first week of December to celebrate the completion of our narrative unit. Be on the lookout for more details coming soon! Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Christine Mullen



GRADES 5 and 6: The fifth and sixth grade has been finishing their Inca, Aztec and Maya research. Topics range from Aztec sacrifices to Mayan math to the Inca road ways, runners and bridges and everything in between. Finished projects include models, posters and Power Points and will be on display in the school foyer after Thanksgiving. We will soon begin exploring the history of the Silk Road and the desire to find alternative routes to the Far East.

Our next science unit on Weight, Mass, Gravity and Density will allow the students to use "real" measuring tools such as scales, triple beam balances and

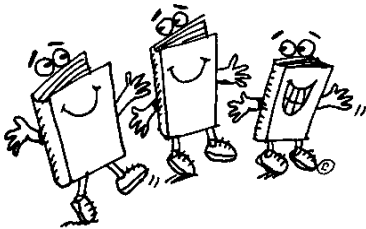
graduated cylinders. They will use calculators to do some sophisticated math with measurements of mass and volume to arrive at density. Students will also use parts of the scientific method to layer liquids of different densities in one of everyone's favorite labs while in 5th and 6th grade.

We are coming to the completion of our writing unit on personal narratives. The quality and depth of the students' writing has grown by leaps and bounds as we have learned how to step into the shoes of the narrator (ourselves) to tell the story from the inside out. The two read-alouds that we have engaged in this year, *Because of Mr. Terrupt* by Rob Buyea and *Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo, have been wonderful mentor texts for us as writers and readers.

Fifth grade mathematicians are learning to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers. Sixth grade math students are decomposing complex 2-dimensional figures to find perimeter and surface area. They are also designing and building a toothpick bridge. Once completed, they will celebrate by presenting the bridge to the rest of the class and then seeing how much weight it can hold before it breaks.

We are so truly thankful to the PTO and all of the volunteers who made the Annual Pasta Supper such a huge success. Thanks as well to everyone who donated supplies for the supper, sold tickets and attended. We are well on the way to making our Cape Cod trip in June a reality!

Ms. Lynn Hansell



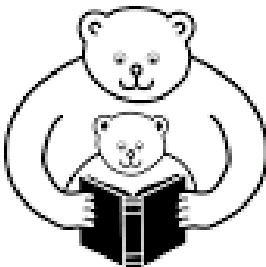
LIBRARY LEARNING! Our second Book Fair with World Eye Bookstore was a grand success! On Friday, Nov. 13th during Library classes the students were able to explore books from the huge and varied selection of books and make a wishlist to help them share their desires with their families.

On Saturday, Nov. 14th the Book Fair ran alongside the PTO Pasta Supper. The Book Fair was a-buzz with book lovers as the guests flowed in and out before or after their delicious supper. Buyers were generous, gifting books to supplement the classroom libraries. And the joy continues as we purchase MORE books using the 20% profit shared with us by World Eye for our building library. Our gratitude goes out to Jessica Mullens for her energy and guidance. Her week had been very full after having two other Book Fairs at local schools. You can still order books online at WEB and WCS shall reap the benefits if you mention Warwick Community School in the subject line. Check out the Library windows to

see the collection of books that are now ready to jump into the children's eager hands! Thank you one and all!

Ms. Laurel Powell, Librarian

READER'S CORNER! *Growing enthusiastic readers!*



Learning to read is big and labor intensive project! So we, the adults, must do all we can to keep the experience both rewarding and enjoyable! Learning to decode, or "solve," unknown words is laborious for many children. But, every single time a child successfully decodes an unknown word, their chance of getting it right in future increases! When listening to your children read, remember the three primary sources of information:

- 1) Story meaning and word context
- 2) Knowledge of spoken language
- 3) Visual information - pictures and text

When your child gets stuck on a word, ask them to go back to the beginning of the sentence and, when they get to the hard word, to say the first sound. This strategy, combined with what they know about story meaning and language, is often enough to solve unknown words. If this first strategy has not worked, ask, "Is there any part of the word that you recognize?" For example, "stand" contains the word "and." If still unsuccessful, tell the child the troublesome word.

When your child reads a word incorrectly and does not self-correct ask, "Does (their word) make sense?" Then say, "Move your finger under the word and see if it looks right." By using this language, you will keep the read-aloud experience enjoyable; you will support your children in a manner that allows the child to engage their knowledge and make decisions, which are critical components of successful reading. In time, your reader will understand that they are responsible for looking closely at print, connecting text to spoken language, and always checking for meaning.

Choose books that are interesting to your child and not too hard - because, the most of important thing of all is to always have fun!

Ms. Kerry Cooke and Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialists



TECH TALK: Four students from the 5th and 6th grade classroom presented technology projects to the school committee during their annual meeting at WCS on the evening of Nov.19. Mary Simon, Baylee Rousseau, Anita Peters and Laura Kahler did a fine job of sharing programming skills they had learned by creating Scratch Mad Libs during their technology lessons. The girls presented Mad Libs composed by Martin Seago and Elizabeth Matthews. During the interactive presentation, guests were asked to provide answers to prompts such as, "give me an adjective." To everyone's delight, the Committee Members' responses were incorporated to create new Mad Lib stories. **Ms. Susan Wright, Technology**



MUSICAL NOTES! We have enjoyed a mild and brilliant fall, and extra time to be outside for work and play. It is difficult to imagine that the winter concert is only four weeks away, but it's true. Each class is practicing our songs and preparing for the performance, which has included:

- choosing songs appropriate to the occasion that will please our audience as well as ourselves,
- figuring out how we can help each other
- singing loudly enough to be heard without shouting
- memorizing lyrics
- thinking about the meaning of the songs - in some cases, changing the meaning to suit our needs.

In our other music studies...

Fifth and sixth grade has made it back in time to the disco rage of the 1970's.

Third and fourth graders look forward to playing recorders when we return in January. First and second graders are rapidly building repertoire and learning to work well together as a group.

Multiage children have enjoyed seasonal finger plays and learning a variety of name and activity songs. We hope to see you all at our annual Winter Concert at 6:30 p.m. on Tues. December 15 **Ms. Kim Wallach, Vocal Music**



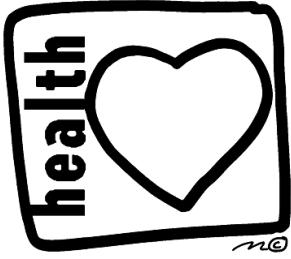
PHYSICAL EDUCATION It's that festive time of year again! Students in all grades have been training each week during our Cross Country unit. They are getting ready for the annual Turkey Trot that will be taking place on Wednesday November 26th @9:30 at Bernardston

Elementary School. We hope that many families will be able to join us. We are asking for each student to donate a food item as their entry into the race. All food collected will be donated to the United ARC food pantry in Greenfield. Thank you and we hope to see you at the trot!

Ms. Sue Scott

WEATHER PERMITTING! Our days have recently become shorter and colder. Please check that your child leaves in the morning dressed for a 30-minute outdoor recess. Playing outside on a bright chilly day is so much more fun when we're snug in a warm jacket and hat. Weather permitting, we love to play outside!





HEALTH UPDATES: Medication Safety/Substance Abuse

The idea of "monitoring" your child may sound sinister, but it's actually a very simple process that helps keep your child safe.

1. Know where your child is at all times (especially after school and including on the internet),
2. Know your child's friends, and
3. Know your child's plans and activities.

Kids who are not regularly monitored are four times more likely to use drugs, than kids who are regularly monitored. The most important time of day to monitor is after school from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Kids are at the greatest risk for abusing drugs during these hours. *Information from the Partnership for Drug-Free Kids at www.drugfree.org*
Inadequate sleep increases memory problems, accidents and injuries, behavior problems, and mood problems. It also decreases performance, concentration, reaction times, and ability to learn.

Experts recommend that school age children need 9-12 hours of sleep a night. Here are some sleep tips from the National Sleep Foundation:

- ✓ Establish positive sleep habits with your child at an early age. Have a set sleep schedule for bedtime and waking. Keep the same schedule for weekdays and weekends and appropriate for your child's age.
- ✓ Establish a 20-30 minute nightly "calm-down" bedtime routine that may include bathing, putting on pajamas, reading and relaxing activities. TV viewing at bedtime, especially when the TV is in the child's bedroom, has been shown to interfere with quantity and quality of sleep.

Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN



**At WCS, We are so Thankful
for our Families and Friends!**

