

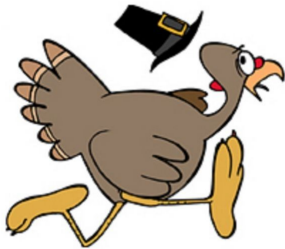
NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
November 2017

So much fun - so little time! **MARK the DATE!**

TURKEY TROT! 9am-Noon Nov. 22
THANKSGIVING VACATION: Noon Nov.22-Nov.24
PTO MEETING: 3pm Dec. 4 at WCS
REPORT CARDS ISSUED: Dec. 5
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES: Dec. 6, 7, 8
WCS WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT: 6:30pm Dec.12
ALL-SCHOOL MEETING: 9am Dec.14,



TURKEY TROT! Family members are welcome to run, walk or cheer with us at the Turkey Trot on Wed., Nov. 22nd at 9:30 at Bernardston Elementary School. Please remember to send in canned food items to add to our collection for the local Food Bank - and don't forget your funny hat! Our PTO is generously providing a bus to transport staff and students. Unfortunately, we will not have seats available for family members, but parking will be available. Please watch for further important details coming home separately about dress requirements, etc.

THE WCS WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT simply has to be one of the outstanding events of the Warwick holiday season! Every child and every class will be contributing their talent! And they have been eagerly selecting and preparing their special song for the show. Band students have been working hard on their music and are looking forward to performing for their families and friends. December 12 at 6:30pm. Children should arrive by 6:15pm. Your holidays just won't be the same without it! And we will be so glad to see you!



WCS' NEW IMPROV CLUB! We are the fortunate recipients of a STAR Artist-in-Residence Grant from the Mass Cultural Council! The grant will provide an after school residency and workshop for WCS students in grades 3-6 by Jonathon Mirin (professional actor and director of the Piti Theatre Company) for six weeks beginning January 5th! Our Improv Club will culminate with a performance for

the school at our February All School Meeting. More details coming home next month!

PTO NEWS: The PTO thanks everyone that helped with the very successful pasta supper fundraiser. From auction donations, food donations, gift cards from local stores to purchase supplies, and to all the volunteers who worked in many ways. It takes all of us pulling together to make such a great event. We collected over \$1300 during the event, and we will use \$320.00 of this money to pay for the bus to bring all our turkey trotters to the race in Bernardston on Wednesday, Nov. 22nd. Thank you again for your help and support!



Keep collecting those Box Tops!! Our first collection in October earned \$172.00. Yes, those Box Tops turn into actual cash! The company sends a check to the school and we decide how we use the money to support education at WCS. This year, the PTO has decided to allow the children help choose where the Box Top money will be spent. Talk with your children and send in your ideas to the PTO. The possibilities are endless. Ideas can be for physical items the school may need or even for an event/experience. In October, the Box Tops collection contest winners were grades 1-2. We will be celebrating with this classroom on November 21st with a pajama day and movie. Who will be the winning classroom for November???



HOLIDAY SEASON at WCS

Just a note to let everyone know that we try hard to keep the holiday weeks low key and focused on learning. We are not "bah humbug!" We love the holidays as much as anyone - but our responsibility is our students' learning. Time on learning is precious, and scarce to cover our very large and important curriculum!

During holiday times, we often see an uptick in crankiness, anxiety and acting-out. You can help by keeping things simple at home and making sure your children get a good night's sleep. The media blitz is aimed directly at children, so limiting exposure and monitoring content closely is also helpful.

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

THE CLASSROOM BUZZ...

KINDERGARTEN and PRESCHOOL We have finished our unit on community in social studies and are moving on to a science unit on animals. We will, of course, continue to incorporate what we learned about being a community member into our daily classroom lives. Children created a list of what they knew about animals and what they wanted to learn. The children are interested in **forest animals**. We have begun our Forest Friday walks and will use this time to learn more about animals. Children read a *Mystery Science* book about how to use clues from the environment to find animal habitats. We practiced doing this in the forest last Friday. We have also turned the pretend center and the sand table into forest habitats.

Children have learning about empathy and problem solving in 2nd Step (social emotional curriculum) lessons and we practice these skills daily.

We have started a project called Kindness Rocks! In which we painted beautiful rocks with kind messages to leave for unsuspecting people in our community. If one shows up near you don't feel surprised-- maybe you could even leave one of your own for us to find! Spread the kindness. Children are working on a mapping project so they can lead a kindness hunt for their 3/4th grade buddies. Should be fun!



for you! **Ms. Allison White**

GRADES 1 and 2: 1st and 2nd graders are working hard across our day! We've settled into expectations and are now able to shine as we share all of our thinking and learning in all academic topics.

We are well into our personal narrative writing unit and students are taking in each daily lesson and apply it to their own writing by stretching out the moments they've chosen to write about with lots of detail, action and dialogue. In coming weeks, each student will be choosing a piece that they wish to publish. Once that piece is chosen we will take time to fix and fancy it up to make it look and sound the best that it can, then we will be hosting our first publishing party of the year!

We've been conducting some interesting and exciting experiments in science as we use *Mystery Science* to help us answer questions about the earth surface and effects of weather. A main topic within these mysteries is understanding erosion. The students have been enjoying watching the videos and conducting the matching activities that help them understand how rivers flow, how sand is made, how canyons are formed, and engineering ideas to help stop erosion. We'll be finishing up our last mystery before the Thanksgiving break.

We continue to work hard in math, too! Second graders just began to explore place value. This is one of the biggest focuses of second grade math. From the beginning understanding of place value we will move into addition and

subtraction with regrouping. First graders continue to explore numbers within 10. We are working hard to notice patterns and gain faster fact fluency with all of our equations within 10.

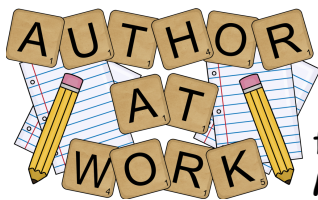
Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: Third and fourth graders have had a very busy month! We have been writing our first published stories, finishing up our second math unit on multiplication, and learning about new technology tools like Google Classroom and Google Docs, as well as an iPad program called Explain Everything where we can write interactive math word problems!

During reading we have begun to study fiction characters and develop our reading strategies like predicting, making connections, and visualizing. We will be starting some writing about reading over the next few weeks.

We wrapped up our first science unit on body systems last week with the creation of robotic hands that had skin, ligaments, tendons, and joints! Our next unit is on sound and how it travels. But first, we will begin to explore the Regions of the United States by learning about geography during social studies.

In 2nd Step, we have learned about how to be an active listener and take responsibility for our learning. We are just getting started with a unit on bullying where we will learn how to recognize bullying behavior and be an upstander.



We will be hosting a Publishing Party on Friday, Nov. 17 at 1:00pm and would love you to join us. We are also eagerly anticipating the Turkey Trot. Please send in your canned goods for the food pantry and come cheer us on next Wednesday

Ms. Christine Mullen

GRADES 5 and 6: We have begun exploring elements of culture as part of our World Geography curriculum for the year. Culture is everything that people make, build, think, believe and do. All of us around the world and right here in Warwick come from backgrounds of different cultures.

As part of this unit, students will embark on a project in which they will explore their own backgrounds and cultures. We will be looking into our own families for customs and traditions, languages, the type of communities in which we live, types of housing in which we live, the role of the arts and religion, our family and social structure, etc. We will identify what makes each of us unique and find the commonalities among us.

Students will make posters of their Family Culture Webs with artwork, knick-knacks and writing. We will share our webs and celebrate the end of the unit with a Family Culture Potluck Luncheon. Students and their families will share a dish that is part of their family culture. Perhaps it will be a routine weekly meal, something they have once a year for a special occasion, or anything in between.

This is a special event in 5th and 6th grade and one that we look forward to every year that we study World Geography and Cultures!

Ms. Lynn Hansell

GROWING READERS Why Read 20 Minutes at Home?

Student A, who reads 20 minutes a day will read

- 3,600 minutes a school year
- @1,800,000 words a year.

Student B, who reads 5 minutes a day will read

- 900 minutes a school year
- @ 282,000 words a year.

Student C reads who reads only 1 minute a day, will read

- 180 minutes a school year,
- @ 8,000 words a year.

If they all start their reading in Kindergarten, by 6th grade


Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days,

Student B will have read for 12 school days,

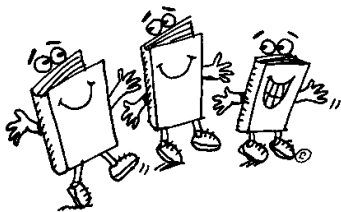
Student C will have read for 3 school days.

Want to be a better reader? Simply read! **Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist**



 **MUSICAL NOTES!** The sudden drop in temperature has put us all in a wintry mood as we prepare for our concert. Grades 5 and 6 are engaged in discussing the pros and cons of songs from several different genres and decades, subject matter and "performability.". The final choice is still a mystery, but only for another week! Grades 3 and 4 makes group decisions easily, and is already practicing their song. They continue to enjoy the challenge of round singing, and learning about other cultures and traditions, which is one of the things we do around the holidays. The grade 1 and 2 class love to move and enjoys playing A-Ticket, A-Tasket and Little Johnny Brown. They have been building a repertoire of fun songs that they sing with gusto. The PK/K class has grown together really quickly, playing singing games like "At the Bottom of the Sea" completely independently! Their concert song will coincide with their classroom play around forest animals in winter.

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music



LIBRARY LEARNING The American Library Association defines information literacy as "a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information." These skills are important, especially when the Web offers us increasingly vast amounts of information, often in confusing and complex ways. As a way to make searching for information

fun and more interesting, students grades 3 through 6 have been doing scavenger hunts in the library: find a book about Christopher Columbus, how many copies in the 'I Survive' series do we have?, what are the fewest words Google needs in order to find you instructions for roasting a turkey?, when is our school's Turkey Trot? Grades 3 through 6 also learned about encyclopedias and indexes, and how these relate to search engines and Google. All were surprised to find out that Google is in fact a giant digital library!

Younger grades have simply been enjoying some wonderful stories; 'Fletcher and the Falling Leaves' by Julia Rawlinson, and 'Hedgie's Surprise' by Jan Brett to name two of our favorites so far! There's nothing better than a good story to ignite our creativity and curiosity!

Ms. Erika Nygard, Librarian



ART WORKS! Student's self-portraits are decorating the walls of Warwick Community School. It is such a pleasure to see each student's unique voice within their portrait artwork.

Kindergarten and Preschool artists drew a contour line drawing of themselves. They added color by laying tissue paper and spraying the tissue with water to watch the effects of the tissue bleed/paint the

paper. Pre-K/K students have also been busy exploring the primary colors, the work of Piet Mondrian and Vertical and Horizontal lines. For our painting unit students "took a dot for a walk" playing with line and painting. Most recently, students mixed two primary colors to get secondary colors painting a row of adorable birds using circles, line and triangles.

First and Second Grade self portraits were based on the famous portrait of Mona Lisa, whom some say always appears to be looking your way. We discussed proportions of our heads and faces and tried to layer crayon colors to match our skin tones. Student's portrait drawings were made to have the eyes move so they can follow you about the room. First and second grader's viewed the art of a Georgia expressionist artist, Alma Thomas. We painted repetitive circles one week and then cut and glued small rectangles to mimic the small brush strokes in Thomas' paintings. This past week we began a discussion of foreground, middleground and background and some tricks that artists use to show 3D space. We are painting fields of poppy flowers.

Third and fourth grade drew contour line self-portraits. They either added a variety of lines for a background or gave themselves wild hair using different types of line. As painters, we looked at the work of Dutch artist, Ton Schulten, an abstract landscape artist who mainly paints in big blocks of color. Students drew cityscapes and are painting them with a monochromatic color scheme, mixing varying amounts of white to a color to achieve different tints.

Fifth and sixth grade worked diligently on self-portraits with a focus on value. Their job was to take a photo of half of their face and complete the other half.

Challenging work! But they look amazing. In preparation for a painting unit, students learned about the tricks that artists use to show 3D space on a 2D surface. Students completed the task of creating a composition using colored pencil that shows 3D space. Some tricks that they used were overlapping, size, placement, detail and linear perspective. In the next couple weeks we explore painting and color mixing before we delve into an acrylic painting project using our "tricks" to show 3D space.

** Looking for some materials! For the 5/6 painting project, I am looking for small panels of wood, luan, mason board or pine around 8x10 - 9x12 inches. If anyone has access to scrap wood for this purpose, please contact me. (they do not need to all be the same size) We also could use some old aprons, large t-shirts, or button shirts to be used for smocks. Please consider passing along some items you are no longer wearing. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving! Kindly, **Ms. Hillary Ferro, Art**



DIGITAL LEARNING NEWS! WCS students been very busy in the computer lab this fall, using a variety of digital learning tools to complement their classroom learning. Here's a brief summary of what each class has accomplished.

PreK-and Kindergarten - Allison's students have made tremendous growth in their ability to navigate the WCS website to access Starfall.com and the Math Learning Center websites. They have also used the Student Learning Links page to log into Wixie, an online drawing and authoring website. Subscriptions to Wixie were made possible through a mini grant awarded by FEE this past summer. They are currently working on a whole class project named, "In Allison's Class We..." In this project students share what they love about kindergarten through illustration and narration. The resulting eBook will be published and linked to the WCS homepage in the near future.

First and Second Grade - The WCS first and second grade students have already completed two projects using Wixie. Similar to what the Kindergarten is currently working on, these students created a whole class slide video named, " In Kristyn's Class We..." They also published an eBook based on the rhyming song, "Five Little Pumpkins." Their project named, "Fifteen Little Pumpkins", can also be found linked to the lower section of the WCS homepage.

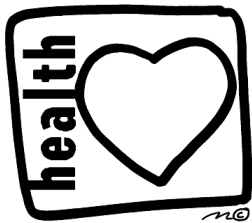
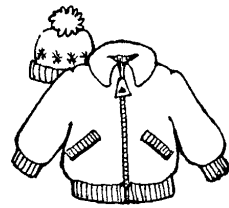
Third and Fourth Grade - After completing introductory lessons on Digital Citizenship, Google Docs, and how to use and care for the WCS Chromebooks, the WCS third and fourth grade students have begun to use an iPad app called Explain Everything, a screencasting app, that can be used to document their "mathematical thinking" while creating and solving addition and subtraction word problems.

Fifth and Sixth Grade - Similar to the work done by the grade 3 and 4 students, these students have completed lessons in digital citizenship and Google Docs earlier in the fall, and have more recently been working on developing block

programming skills using the Code.org curriculum. As students progress through the lessons at their own pace, they are given gradually more complex coding puzzles to solve. Before long it is clear that students gain many new problem solving strategies through breaking down complex problems into smaller parts, and by looking for patterns that are often the key to unlocking the solution. Code.org is an organization committed to bringing computer science education to students all around the world. For more information about this free learning resource visit [Http://code.org](http://code.org).

Ms. Mary Leyden, Digital Learning Coach

WEATHER PERMITTING! Our days have recently become shorter and cooler. 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 NOTES!_ Tips for Treating the Flu

The flu can make someone feel pretty miserable for up to a week, but it usually won't need medical treatment unless a person develops complications. Some people are at high risk for serious complications if they get the flu, including children younger than 5 years old, pregnant women, people with asthma, and those with weakened immune systems. If they get the flu and their symptoms are reported within the first 2 days of the illness, a doctor might prescribe an antiviral medicine. But these medicines usually only shorten the course of the infection by 1 or 2 days.

If your child gets the flu:

- Offer plenty of fluids (fever, which is common with the flu, can lead to **dehydration**). If your child is tired of drinking plain water, try ice pops, icy drinks mixed in a blender, and soft fruits (like melons or grapes).
- Encourage your child to rest in bed or on the couch with a supply of magazines, books, quiet music, and perhaps a favorite movie.
- Give acetaminophen or ibuprofen for aches and pains (but do not give aspirin unless your doctor directs you to do so, as it has been linked to a rare but serious illness called **Reye syndrome**).
- Dress your child in layers so you can add and remove layers during bouts of chills or fever.
- Ask a close relative or faraway friend to call and help lift your child's spirits.
- Take care of yourself and the other people in your family! If you haven't done so, speak to your doctor about getting a **flu vaccine** (for you and other family members) since it is recommended yearly for everyone over 6 months

of age. Also, [wash your hands](#) well and often, especially after picking up used tissues.

If your doctor prescribes medicine to ease symptoms, be sure to call the [pharmacist](#) before you go to pick it up. The flu can strongly affect many areas of the United States, so some pharmacies might have trouble keeping the medicines in stock. Reviewed by: [Rupal Christine Gupta, MD](#) June 2016 The Nemours Foundation/KidsHealth®. Reprinted with permission.

Ms. Suzanne Linden, WCS Nurse



...SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR!