

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
October 2014

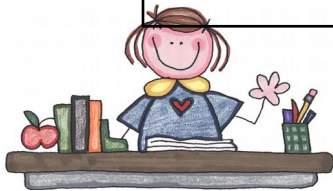
MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

FALL FEST: 9-11:30 AM Fri., Oct. 31

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: Nov. 13, 14 & 21

PTO MEETING: 3 PM, Thurs., Nov. 6th, WCS Library

WCS ANNUAL PASTA SUPPER: 5:30 PM Sat., Nov. 8th



PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES COMING SOON:

Nov. 13, 14 & 21 *Call or email Trish at 978-544-6310 if you haven't yet made an appointment or need a time or date check!* Noon dismissal on Thurs., Nov. 13. Dismissal Fri, Nov. 14 & 21 is at 1:45 p.m.

HOORAY!! IT'S THE WCS ANNUAL PASTA SUPPER!

5:30 p.m., last sitting 6:45, Saturday, November 8th

This fundraiser will be sponsored jointly by PTO and Student Activities. to support improvements for our playground and other benefits for our students. **Tickets prices are: \$8 for adults, \$5. for children ages 6-12, and children under 6 may eat for free.** Reservations and payment can be made by sending a note to WCS with your contact information, the number in your party, with a check made out to WCS-PTO.



FALLFEST! will take place on Friday Oct. 31st, when our entire school will spend the morning outdoors inspecting the changes of season in the three natural habitats that our school grounds is fortunate to have. Learning activities will be organized as a station in each habitat: field, forest and vernal pool - which the children will cycle through. As always, parents are welcome!

HALLOWEEN is a lot of fun when celebrated with friends and neighbors. Please note, however, that WCS does not celebrate Halloween. Even during holidays like Halloween, we are trying hard to maintain our focus on learning. Thank you for not sending your child to school with costume or accessories. Thank you also for not sending in candy, cupcakes, or other sweets on that day.



"WALKER" DISMISSAL and ARRIVAL: A reminder that for safety reasons, parking is forbidden on the bus circle and along the north side of our building. Please park in our lot and walk your child to the building.



NOTHING IS AS CERTAIN AS CHANGE! Forms for Free and Reduced-cost lunch can be filed at any time during the year. Let us know if your circumstances change. We will be glad to provide you with the necessary paperwork.

FIRE SAFETY: Warwick Fire-Fighters Bill Lyman and Brian Miner instructed the WCS children in Fire Safety. Much to everyone's delight they brought along their fire engine and fire-fighting gear! Thank you Warwick Fire Department!

FREE PLAYGROUP for young children birth to age 5 and their parents/caregivers, Wednesday's 9:15 to 11:00 a.m., WCS Gym. Play, fun activities and story time. The playgroup follows the school calendar. Sponsored by the PVRSD CFCE, for more information contact Deb Wood @413-498-2660 or email woodd@pioneervalley.k12.ma.us.



PTO NEWS: The **WCS Annual Pasta Supper** is fast approaching! The date is set for Saturday November 8th. Bring your family, friends, and appetite to this hopping, vibrant event! We will be serving pasta with a choice of sauce with meatballs or a veggie sauce, salad, garlic bread, and delicious desserts. We strongly urge you to book in advance. **Tickets prices are: \$8 for adults, \$5. for children ages 6-12, and children under 6 may eat for free.** Limited seats will be available at the door. Proceeds will go toward playground improvements.

This year we are delighted to have special donations made by the natural foods industry, namely Kehe/Tree of Life, Bionaturae, and Albert's Organics! We are so grateful all sponsors, including local stores, which we shall list at the event.

The pasta supper is not possible without volunteers! If you are able to help please let us know. We are looking for help setting up, and help in the kitchen before, during, and after for clean-up. **COME AND JOIN THE FUN!**

The PTO is looking for someone to run our Campbells Soup Label campaign. We have been receiving donations of Campbells Soup labels, but we have not been able to find the time to send them in and collect our rewards! If you feel you would like to help, let us know. Erika Nygard EANygard@gmail.com or (978) 544-2094
Lisa Rhodes lisaannrhodes@hotmail.com or (508) 331-2047



NEW! Parent Lending Library! Look for the small brown bookcase that now sits in the foyer next to the library doors to display a rotating selection of the books that we believe will be of interest to parents. There is a sign-out sheet or you may peek into the Library to see if our Librarian, Laurel Powell is there to check out your book. Also, you are welcome to come into the library to peruse the whole "PM" collection - a section of our school library collection is dedicated to our parents and caregivers.

The PM section has grown over the years. It has books to aid parents, families and teachers in all areas of a child's development, e.g. health and medical care, behavior and discipline, social skills, curriculum and learning. These books are available to be borrowed for a week. Renewals can be activated via email, notes or phone calls.

PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY WORKSHOP:

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council invites all parents to attend! The workshop will provide families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under:

- The Individuals with Disability Act
- Massachusetts Special Education Law
- No Child Left Behind

This workshop is designed to help parents learn to be effective partners with their child's school when making decisions regarding Special Education Eligibility, programming and monitoring progress.

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014

Location: Pioneer Valley Regional School 97 F. Sumner Turner Rd. Northfield,

Time: 6:00pm Pizza and child care provided!

RSVP contact: Please call the Office of Special Education, 413-648-5450 to register and let us know if you will be joining us for Pizza and if you need childcare.

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...



KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K: This week, we took our first walking field trip to the bottom of Mount Grace. Children used individual senses (hearing, seeing, touching, smelling) to explore the space by the ranger's cabin. We also talked about safety crossing roads, staying away from the edge of water when we are in a group, not touching mushrooms or putting anything in your mouth (berries etc.) without checking with an adult. The children did a great job and observed this environment closely. We will head back in a week to do more science work and to add some nature journaling. I will try to post blog entries to go with this on the school website.

In phonics, we are working on letters and letter sounds and practicing rhyming. Practice at home on these things would be helpful as well.

In kindergarten, children are working on comparing numbers 1-10. Children are also learning "partners" of numbers 2-10. - beginning addition. The whole class is working on describing attributes of shapes and putting shapes together to build other things. -- beginning geometry.

Children also used fall leaves we collected to make pictures. This activity was an extension of the book *Leaf Man*, by Lois Elert, **Ms. Allison White**



GRADES 1 and 2: First and second grade continue to be busy, acting as meteorologists as we study the weather outside our window. Our focus for the fall months has been wind, and the way it moves things and affects the weather. As we move further into autumn, we will turn our focus to the changing temperatures, and how animals are adapting and preparing for the colder weather.

We have been busy practicing getting our minds ready to read in reader's workshop over the past few weeks. As we move forward with our reading study, we will begin learning about different strategies that each child in our class uses to help them be a strong reader.

Our class has been working hard as authors as well! We have had a writing focus on writing small moments from our life. We will continue this work for the next few weeks focusing on how to make our writing look and sound even better with word choice, organization, and punctuation.

Our math year is off to a very smooth start. Children are showing wonderful carry over from skills they learned last year, and are all very eager to challenge themselves with higher level thinking. Both grades are practicing solving story problems and showing their thinking. We will continue on with this work over the next few weeks as children begin to decode more challenging problems.

We have also started to add many words to our classroom word wall. These words are commonly used words that children are encouraged to always spell correctly, and know quickly upon sight. The class has been doing wonderfully in using this classroom tool, as well as many other tools around our room to help them in their reading and writing.

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: We are moving right along in grades 3-4! We've wrapped our first reading unit and are all reading books at our just right reading level. We're also working hard on our reading comprehension, answering questions about the stories we read. The children have



learned to TTQA (turn the question around) in their answer and look for evidence in their reading that will help them answer their questions.

In math we have completed our first unit as well. In this unit we worked on adding and subtracting large numbers and on rounding and place value. Our big focus lately has been on multistep word problems and identifying the words in the problem that tell us what operation to use to solve it.

Our weather unit is well under way. We have been experimenting with wind, rain, temperature, and more. This week we will wrap up our investigation with a study of floods, lightning, and blizzards. Our favorite experiment in this unit has been making our very own tornado in a bottle!

Our first publishing party will be happening later this month as we write final drafts of our first narrative writing assignments. Be on the lookout for more information to follow! **Ms. Christine Mullen**

GRADES 5 and 6: This past month the fifth and sixth graders have completed the first math unit on ratios and proportions and are now deep into a unit on two-dimensional geometry. We've been finding the area and perimeter of polygons such as triangles, quadrilaterals, hexagons, octagons and complex figures. We will also be graphing many of these polygons on coordinate grids. This is challenging but rewarding work for the students who are tackling concepts that many of us didn't do until we were in high school. It is quite impressive, really!

We are finishing our Social Studies topic on The Five Themes of Geography and our Science unit on the tilt of the earth and the cause of the seasons. Next, we will combine social studies and science to study earth's physical features and land forms.

Students have been having engaged in the writing process and perfecting their narrative essays. Each student has an interesting story to tell. They are working together to listen to each other's stories and learning to give valuable, constructive feedback. The students are writing "from the inside out" and telling their stories from the first person perspective as they actually experienced the event at the time.

We have also started literature groups. The students have one or two partners and each group is reading a different book based on interest and reading level. The books we're reading are *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, *The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Patterson, *Shiloh* by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, *Stone Fox* by John Reynolds Gardiner, and *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli.

Within their groups students will be working to deepen their comprehension through discussion and direct instruction on the four strands of plot and setting, character, vocabulary and figurative language, and themes and ideas. By having



partners who are all reading the same book at the same time, students and teachers are able to have meaningful conversations around these teaching points and share a common reading experience. All four of these books have been tried and true and have been well-loved by students every time they have been a part of instruction in the classroom.



Students will be reading the books primarily in class and continuing with independent book choices for home reading.

Some of the groups may decide to read parts as homework or individuals may need to read them at home to keep up with their group on a case-by-case basis.

Halloween is coming soon and I wouldn't be surprised if the Pumpkin Man pays us a visit on our Fall Fest which will be on Friday, October 31! Please come and join us for the festivities during the morning. Details will be coming home soon! **Ms. Lynn Hansell**



MUSICAL NOTES: It's October and the leaves are bright red and gold on the trees and on the ground. PK/K are singing songs that proceed through the four seasons (Long Winter, This is My Trunk) as well as reviewing and building on counting songs and fingerplays. Grades 1/2 are singing songs about the harvest

(Barnyard Dance), about things that seem scary but really aren't (Monsters in the Bathroom), and about pretending to be things we aren't (I am a Pizza). 3/4 has been singing songs about American heroes and tall tales, and will now learn several songs about the states and capitols. 5/6 has journeyed from Hawaii to Australia, where they learned a song in Australian English, and will learn one in Maori, and try out a didgeridoo. Then we'll travel on to Asia.

It seems wrong to already be thinking about winter songs, but we are beginning to choose material for the winter concert.... more about that next month.

Ms. Wallach, Music



TECHNOLOGY NEWS! It is a delight for me to be back at WCS as technology integration specialist. I also teach technology at Northfield Elementary.

Warwick Kindergarteners are learning to control the mouse and use tools in the drawing program, Paint. Grades 1 and 2 have used Paint at a more advanced level as well as some online literacy-skills programs. Students in Grades 3-6 will be using many skills from language arts to computational thinking as they bring stories to life in Scratch, a graphical programming language.

Ms. Wright, Technology



ART ROOM NEWS! Pre-K and K are learning about color and the color wheel. Grades 1/2 is finishing up a unit on the American artist Mary Cassatt. Art history and the "Boating Party" painting inspired water paintings with collage. Grades 3/4 created large shape collage based off the work the "Boating Party". They identified the main color theme and accent colors then applied this information to their own work. Grades 5/6 is experimenting with blending secondary colors. Using conventional red, yellow, & blue with the modern primaries of magenta, yellow & cyan they are applying their skills to a free-form pumpkin tempera painting. **Mrs. "D", Art**



LIBRARY LEARNING! This month's Library Assistants are ready to make the book selection and library space mirror the world outside. Autumn displays are falling into place. Leaves are invisibly floating through the air and landing on a collection of books about pumpkins, apples and harvest festivals or festivities. The Assistants have decided to create some dark and inviting places to enjoy books to mark daylight saving time which occurs on Sunday, November 2, 2014 at 2:00am. By the end of the month, they will have made some "caves or forts" equipped with lanterns and flashlights so that all can enjoy a book in a cozy place.

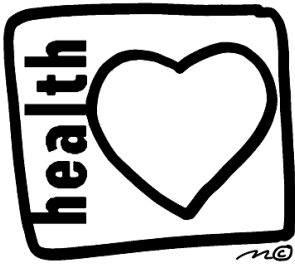
Safety has been a school wide topic since the beginning of the school year. Our new WCS School Constitution is based on many safety considerations. During Fire Prevention Week and the foyer display and library lessons helped us focus on the work of this important community job, the equipment used to keep them safe and our part in preventing fires. Two Warwick firemen spoke to our school community about fire safety. Another set of books will be available about local and state police. We as a staff, along with visiting professionals will provide many opportunities for the children to learn about the safety provided by this hard working force.

Laurel Powell, Librarian

FUN 'N GAMES: In PE class we have been working on cooperative games and activities, soccer skills and modified soccer games. We will soon be moving into our cross country unit! If you could help remind your child to wear sneakers and to bring layers on PE day (Thursday) it would be very helpful! I'll keep you posted on the upcoming Turkey Trot that will take place the day before Thanksgiving as a culminating event to our cross country unit. Enjoy these last few weeks of nice weather!

Ms. Sue Scott, PE





HEALTH NOTES All the children have been reviewing the hand washing procedure as the school year gets off to a great start. We discuss why hand washing is so important - it keeps the person who washes healthy and it keeps all the people around that person healthy by not passing germs on to someone else! We discuss when hand washing is important - before eating, before preparing food,

after going to the bathroom, after touching animals, after playing outside, after visiting someone who is sick, after you get a skin injury, after changing a diaper or helping someone else in the bathroom, after sneezing or coughing or blowing your nose, etc., (see how many your child can name!) Our hand washing procedure is: *Crank out a paper towel and let it hang. Turn on the water to get hands wet. Turn off the faucet. Get soap and wash hands (fronts, backs, between fingers, thumbs, wrists, finger nails) while singing the "ABC Song" once through. Rinse hands. Dry hands with towel. Turn off faucet using paper towel and throw towel away.*

Flu vaccine is an important way to protect your loved ones! According to the American Lung Assoc., influenza kills 36,000 people each year and hospitalizes 226,000 more. Many cases could be prevented by immunization. Those especially at risk are: Young children 6 months to 5 years of age, People with chronic medical conditions such as asthma, COPD, and diabetes, Pregnant women, People 50 years of age and older, Caregivers of those at risk.

Ms. Dempsey RN



Happy fall!