

# NEWS & TIDINGS

## WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

October 2015

### MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

**ALL-SCHOOL MEETING and FALL FEST:** 9-11:30am Oct. 29

**TEACHER IN-SERVICE:** Oct. 30 (No School)

**MAGIC WINGS FIELD TRIP (PK-2):** Nov. 6

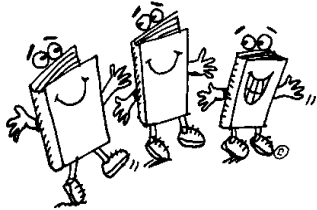
**VETERANS' DAY:** Nov. 11 (No School)

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:** Nov. 12, 13 and 20

**TURKEY TROT:** Nov. 25



**FALL FEST!** We are all looking forward to our annual Fall Fest - to spending the morning investigating the change of season and the adaptations of life in our northeastern woodland habitat. We will start at 9 a.m. with all-school meeting, followed by three distinct learning stations that children will cycle through with their reading buddies. At 11 A.m., we will finish with a short instillation ceremony for the new granite bench which honors the work of former Principal, Ellen Edson. Parents are welcome, of course! Please join us for all or any part of the morning you can.



### HOORAY!! It's the WCS ANNUAL PASTA SUPPER and BOOKFAIR!

**5:30 p.m., Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

This fundraiser will be sponsored by PTO to support all-school events such as the recent Caterpillar Lab and Fall Fest! and field trips. **Ticket prices are: \$8 for adults, \$5. for children ages 5-12, and children under 5 may eat for free.** Dinner reservations and payment can be made by contacting WCS or emailing Erika Nygard at [eanygard@gmail.com](mailto:eanygard@gmail.com).

**Doubly exciting... our annual Bookfair will take place on the same evening!** On Friday (Nov. 13) before the dinner, the World Eye Bookstore will set up in the Art Room and be here all day, 8AM to 2PM. Families are invited to window shop or purchase books before & after school. Each student will also be able to shop at the **BOOK FAIR** during their Library Class time. On Saturday, Nov. 14, the doors will open at 4PM for shoppers and diners and will remain open until 7PM.



**CELEBRATING HALLOWEEN** is a lot of fun 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 costume accessories. Thank you also for not sending in candy, cupcakes, or other sweets for your child or others.

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

**KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K:** This has been a busy month. The children have really grown in skill and are beginning to work together well as an engaged learning community. We have begun lessons and routines in Handwriting Without Tears, Math Expressions, Phonics, Reading and Writing- just to name just a few. Children have also met their reading buddies from grades 3 and 4. We will continue to work with them on Fridays over the rest of the year.

Coming up, we will be studying about life cycle of pumpkins and apples and the change to the fall season. We will be visiting Red Apple Farm to gather materials for some of this study. We will be planting milkweed and other plants butterflies like in our new raised beds and in early November will be traveling to Magic Wings Butterfly to finish up our unit on the lifecycle of butterflies. **Ms. Allison White**



**GRADES 1 and 2:** First and Second grade has a lot of excited, energetic learning happening these days! In math, we have been learning about equations, how to make them and the special names for the parts of an equation such as, addend and total. First graders have done great work in noticing patterns in partners that make up totals up to 10. We will soon start to practice ways to show our work when working on equations, as well as adding up numbers greater than 10. Second graders have done a spectacular job of reminding themselves of patterns they were familiar with from last year when solving equations, like making a ten, seeing doubles, and counting on or back from the greatest number. We will start to put all this practice and knowledge to work when we start solving word problems.

In writing, we have started thinking about small moments from our life to share as authors. We will begin thinking about how to zoom in to one small moment and stretch it out with lots of details in the coming weeks.

In reading, we have really been practicing what a good reader looks like and sounds like and what our reader's workshop time should look like and sound like when we are all doing our jobs as readers. In the coming weeks we will start to build our reading toolbox, thinking about strategies that can help us as readers; to

read smoothly, get past tricky words, and read with expression. Our class has also been busy learning our spelling words with a new spelling program we are trying out. So far, it's been successful and the children are showing knowledge and understanding of the letter sound we've practiced throughout our learning day.



In science, we have studied the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly, explored the four stages of transformation and acted out how our butterflies live after their transformation into a life with wings. We will spend some time thinking about the lifecycle of a pumpkin in the coming weeks, before we move to a stronger focus in social studies as we begin to travel around the world getting to know the continents that make up our earth. **Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**

**GRADES 3 and 4:** The third and fourth graders have just wrapped up their study of life cycles with a visit from the Caterpillar Lab of Keene. These guys came with all sorts of caterpillars to share with us. We held them, watched them, and more. It was so cool!

We are just starting our study of Massachusetts. We have learned about the parts of a map and are embarking on a map making project about our state. We have also explored our social studies resource book with a scavenger hunt. It has a lot of neat facts about Massachusetts and stories about the famous events that took place here and people who lived there.

We are deep into our study of fiction books. Our groups are reading the books *Stone Fox*, *Hatchet*, *Goosebumps*, and *Magic Treehouse*. Our focus is on comprehending our books and reading them closely. We are also working on retelling, visualizing, and connecting with the texts. Our class is enjoying a read aloud of *Holes*, as well. Our fiction unit continues until the start of the new year.



Multiplication is our focus in math right now. The class has been integrating lots of technology into their math time. We use IXL, a math concept review program, and Xtramath, a math fluency practice program. We look forward to using our projector during math time to showcase our math talk skills as well. It is very important that we practice our math facts at home on a nightly basis. **Ms. Chriss Mullen**



**GRADES 5 and 6:** Along with the rest of the school, we have been very engaged in observing monarch caterpillars

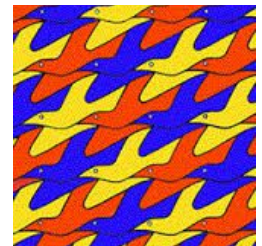
growing, pupating and emerging as adult butterflies. This fascinating metamorphosis will keep young and old alike very excited for weeks! Only one of our butterflies died in the chrysalis (pupa) stage. All of the others emerged and were released on warm, sunny, October days for their long migrations south.

The fifth and sixth grade is now using a dissecting microscope to take a close-up look at the dead pupa, the vacant chrysalis shells, the shed caterpillar skins, the webbing that the caterpillars spun before pupating, and even at their frass (poop)!

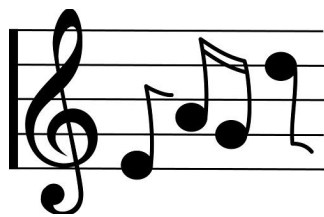
We are learning more about them and continue to be fascinated by them as we look at their world close up!

Meanwhile, we are also fully engaged in learning about the transfer of heat in solids, liquids and gasses through conduction, convection and radiation. We will also be full steam ahead into our study of the Inca, Aztec and Mayan civilizations through mid-November. Students are writing personal narratives with focus on plot, setting, character and purpose as we dive deeper into our realistic fiction novels with an eye for the same story elements.

There is always a lot going on in math! Fifth graders are learning to add and subtract with decimals which will be followed by multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. Sixth graders are working on finding the surface area of polygons and constructing tessellations.



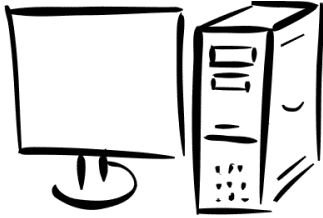
**Ms. Lynn Hansell**



**MUSICAL NOTES.** I'm just back from a Children's Music Network conference north of Chicago, with all kinds of new songs and ideas. The multi age class class got to try one out today! "Hey Little Leaf" by Susan Salidor, is about raking up the different color leaves and throwing them up in the

air. We also sang a new song about snowmen, because we are thinking ahead to the winter concert. The 1/2 class began learning a new dance called the "Grumpy Dance", and a new song, "My Favorite Things". We then listed a lot of our own favorite things with the aim of writing a verse or two of our own. 3/4 has been singing some Native American songs from different parts of the country. Today we learned a new one about a child dealing with being afraid by denying it, called "I'm Not Scared", and discussed possible concert songs. The 5/6 class narrowed their winter concert choices down from 25 to about 5, and learned about the concurrent evolution of the music video, MTV and the release of "Thriller" in 1980. I wish we had an hour for every class!

**Ms. Kim Wallach, Music**



**TECH TALK** The school year is off to a good start for technology integration. Projectors in the Grade 1 to 6 classrooms are allowing teachers to share a wealth of internet content with students. Laurel, our librarian, is working to help students fully utilize the Destiny Library System, a powerful program. In weekly technology classes students have been working with text in Microsoft Word and Google Docs. Students at all grade levels have also done some programming in Scratch. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are creating Mad Libs in Scratch. This in-depth project reinforces a variety of skills in language arts, including parts of speech, and utilizes variables and xy coordinates. **Ms. Susan Wright, Technology**

**A READING LIFE!** Reading at a "just right" level encourages eager readers. It's tiring to read an overly difficult book - to pause to decode many words and struggle to make meaning from a pace that feels slow and jumbled. A book that's too simple often doesn't provide the stimulation a child desires and you'll hear comments like "it's boring!" In recent years, the science of teaching reading has grown a lot in helping young students enjoy and appreciate the art of reading. One important element is finding a "just right" book. If you do not know your child's just right reading level, ask your child's teacher.

Here are easy steps for finding lots of books at the "just right" reading level:

Go to [www.scholastic.com/bookwizard](http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard)

- Move the mouse to hover over "Resources & Tools."
- Click on "Tools"
- Under the heading "Books," click on "Book Wizard."
- On the top portion of the page entitled "Books and Authors," you can choose to search by clicking:
  - Grade Equivalent (1.0-12.9)
  - Guided Reading (A-Z)
  - DRA (A, 1-80)
  - Lexile Measure (200L-1600L)
- Enter a title, author, or keyword in the white box.
- Click the red "Find Books" button.

Dream  
Big  
READ!

*Entering book titles usually yields the best results, but please be aware that some titles cannot be found on Book Wizard. You can also search by the author's name.*

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

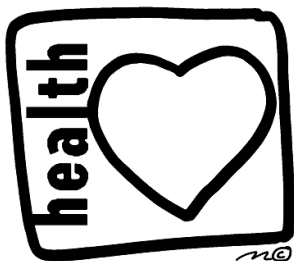


**LIBRARY LEARNING!** The glorious fall colors have invigorated our Librarian Assistants into action! Books, décor and displays about autumn, leaves, harvest, the autumnal equinox and seasonal events are falling off the shelves. The assistants are creative and enthusiastic and I appreciate their energy which elicits excitement among their peers.

As we approach our annual Fall Fest and the special dedication of the bench near our Liberty Tree, the topics of the American Revolution, poetry, and mythology are coming to the forefront. The history behind the "Liberty Tree" is fascinating. Before the revolution, Bostonians gathered near a grove of American Elms close to Boston Commons. This spot became a gathering place where the colonists flew a yellow flag up in the tree yellow flags indicating an upcoming meeting. This flag symbolized the "Spirit of Liberty". An opportunity to express opinions and concerns about England's increasing heavy hand of governing. As years passed, most towns across Massachusetts and New England took the same actions hoisting their flags on their own Liberty Tree or on tall wooden poles called Liberty Poles. We wonder if it also happened here in Warwick?

Elm trees once flourished in New England. Main Street of Keene, NH was lined with elm trees thus giving it the name "Elm City". As described by the Liberty Tree Society of Keene, "Dutch elm disease wiped out over 100,000,000 American elms across the nation between 1945 and 1975. The Elm Research Institute was founded in 1967 to develop a truly disease-resistant American Elm." Ellen Edson, former WCS Principal, was instrumental in acquiring an Elm from the Institute for our school. It stands proudly at the edge of our playing field adjacent to the new granite bench and the Liberty Elm plaque. **Ms. Laurel Powell, Librarian**

**"SING A SONG OF WARWICK!"** We still have copies for sale! Just \$5. at WCS. Recorded last winter by our Music teacher, Kim Wallach, and the WCS children. *Your child's voice captured in songs of precious memories of WCS and Warwick- every parent and grandparent needs at least one!*



## HEALTH NOTES

Medication Safety/Substance Abuse: Students whose parents/guardians are involved with their child's school and education are less likely to get in trouble with alcohol or other drugs. This is a fact supported by research.

### Joining the WCS Learning Community:

How can you get involved with the school?

- Attend school functions.
- Join the PTO or School Council.
- Volunteer for all-school events and classroom tasks.
- Visit the WCS website (go to <https://sites.google.com/a/pvrsk12.org> and click on Warwick Community School.)

How can you be involved in your child's education and learning success?

- Take attendance and arrival time seriously!
- Support homework expectations.
- Send your child to school ready to learn (well-rested, well-fed or scheduled for school breakfast, with homework done and packed,
- Make time to talk about school daily.
- Know the school behavioral expectations and disciplinary policies and.

(This information is from [www.thirteen.org/closetohome/pl](http://www.thirteen.org/closetohome/pl) & [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)).

Flu Vaccines: Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year. There are many flu vaccine options available now including an egg-free version for those 18 yrs. and older. If you think you cannot have a flu vaccine because of a health issue, talk to your doctor to be sure. Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN

## ***HAPPY, GLORIOUS FALL!***

