

# NEWS & TIDINGS

## WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

October 2016

### MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

**TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY:** Fri. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> (no school)

**FALL FEST:** 12:30-2:30 PM Thurs., Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:** Wed., Thurs., Fri Nov. 16-18

**VETERAN'S DAY:** Fri. Nov. 11 (no school)

**PTO PASTA SUPPER:** 5:30 PM Sat., Nov. 12

**TURKEY TROT:** Wed. AM, Nov.23 (12:15PM release)

**FALL FEST!** What a wonderful tradition! On the afternoon of Oct 31<sup>st</sup> regular WCS classes pause to allow for a special learning experience. It's Fall Fest! This year's theme is *Using Our Growth Mindset to Solve a Challenge*. The children will spend the afternoon rotating through four activity stations:

- Nature Mandalas
- Pumpkin Roll
- Building Beaver a Dam
- Cooperative Fall Relays

Family members are welcome! We love to

have parents join us and there are always plenty of opportunities to help out!



**FIRE SAFETY:** Last week, Warwick Fire-Fighters visited WCS to teach about Fire Safety. Much to everyone's delight they brought along their fire engine and fire-fighting gear! Thank you Warwick Fire Department!

**PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: Nov. 16, 17 & 18** If you haven't made an appointment for your Parent-Teacher conference, please call Trish ASAP at 544-6310. Please note dismissal times below!

- Wed., 11/16 dismissal at 12:15 PM (No lunch served)
- Thursday 11/17 dismissal is 1:45 PM
- Friday, 11/18 dismissal is at the usual 1:45 PM

# WOW!!! The Annual WCS PTO Pasta Supper!

5:30 - 7PM Saturday, Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at WCS



This is a very important community event and WCS fund-raiser! All of the ingredients and labor are donated, so 100% of your ticket price will be applied to field trips, special classroom supplies, special events such as garden club, author visits, family evenings, etc....all that makes WCS experience so special!

*Ticket prices: \$8 for adults, \$5. for children ages 5-12, children under 5 may eat for free.*

*Contact a WCS student or school (978) 544-6310 for reservations*

## Hoorah! The WCS Book fair!

4:30-7PM Saturday Nov. 12th at WCS

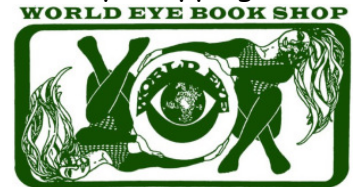
Come see what is on offer at our Annual Book Fair during our pasta supper! Hosted by the Warwick Community School's PTO and just in time for Holiday shopping! Once again we welcome the...

### WORLD EYE BOOKSHOP

...with their fantastic selection of titles and topics!!

The most recent and best high quality children's literature!

Don't miss out!



### OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

**KINDERGARTEN and Grade 1:** Children in grades K and 1 are really settling in to the reading and writing routines here at work. We will be working more with literacy centers now that they have learned the important routines. This gives children choice to practice skills at their level with teachers, in small groups, and independently.

Next week we I will start sending home a Homework Menu for children in both grades. This Menu will give children choice in how to practice skills at home each day. They can choose an activity each night to complete. It should be fun!

In science, we have been recording patterns in weather. Our new unit is in Animal Adaptations-- how animals adapt to get ready for winter.

Our class is collecting bottle caps (from kid friendly beverages) for a community project later in the year. It would be great to have the whole school

collecting for this project. Please send clean, dry caps in with your child for us to use. THANK YOU!

**Ms. Allison White**

**GRADES 2 & 3:** It was with much excitement that the second and third graders started a new writing unit on personal narrative. With just the few lessons we've had so far, the children have shown tremendous skill and excitement towards writing. It will be thrilling to see what they create as the unit goes on!

Our class has been studying life cycles with a focus on apples in science.

The children have explored apples with their senses, created apple science books with vocabulary, labeled parts, and observation and will be conducting a taste test.

Soon we will move into a focus on social studies as we begin to study pilgrims.

Our new "walk to read" reader's workshop has been very fruitful so far. In our classroom, we have begun using a new reading program on the ipads as part of our listening center, which is something very new. Everyone has taken right to it and I'm eager to see how this new resource impacts our growth and enthusiasm for reading this year!

**Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**



**GRADES 4 & 5:** Thank you to all of the parents that attended Open House at the beginning of the month. The students enjoyed showing you all of their work and our classroom. Our school year is well under way. We have just finished our first math units on addition and subtraction of large numbers (4th grade) and of addition and subtraction of fractions with unlike denominators (5th grade). The students are rising to the challenges of tricky math concepts. We will soon be tackling multiplication of large numbers and addition and subtraction of decimals.

We have also finished our introduction to the reading block and walk to read. We are ready to explore book clubs and all the fun that they have to offer while working on our comprehension skills.

In science we have been learning about decomposition. We went on a walking field trip to Mount Grace and explored the forest floor looking for decomposers. In addition to this activity, we conducted a mold experiment and experimented with conditions that encourage mold and those that discourage mold. Our class plans to use all of the things that we are learning about decomposition to help us become better composters at school. We had Amy Donovan from Waste Management in to talk to us about improving our composting here at WCS.

In social studies we are exploring the power of collaboration by working in pairs to use Google Slides to create a slideshow on the Vikings. Not only are we learning a lot about Vikings, we are learning a lot about working as a team to produce one finished product.

We continue to show off all our learning on our class blog <http://mscmullen.blogspot.com/> and through our private Instagram account @msmullensclass. Please follow us online!

**Ms. Christine Mullen**

**GRADE 6:** The 4th and 5th graders are working together with the 6th grade to evaluate our existing school-wide composting system for badly needed upgrades. We originally established our system with help from Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District several years ago to allow us to compost our lunchroom food waste. Amy visited with us again last week to teach us about healthy composting habits and to help us refurbish our bins which are in disrepair due to normal weathering. We are badly in need of "brown" to put in our compost bins to layer and mix with the daily "green", nitrogen-rich food waste that we have from the cafeteria. This will help aerate the compost, provide carbon-rich ingredients, and keep the animals and bees away. We will be seeking donations of leaves from the community as the autumn progresses. Stay tuned for more information on this.



This year, the 4th - 6th grades are also members of the *Green Team* which is an interactive educational program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection that empowers students and teachers to help the environment through various projects. One such project is composting.

Both the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and the *Green Team* will donate small composting bins for our beautiful front gardens. Each bin has a slightly different design. This will serve the dual purposes of helping us compost our garden waste and also meet one of the new Massachusetts State Science and Technology standards of comparing the effectiveness of two different composting systems. By late spring, we should have the results of this experiment to report out to you!

**Ms. Lynn Hansell**



**ART WORKS!** Greetings from the art room! Our kindness rocks garden project went very well. The children enjoyed finding inspirational sayings and painting them on the rocks they found. You can see the rocks displayed in the garden in front of our school. Now we are moving on to a charcoal and chalk pastel unit. The students have been having a great time smudging and blending to create lovely works of art! The K/1 class learned how to "mix" primary colored (red, yellow, and blue) pastels to make orange pumpkins with green stems.

The 2nd and 3rd grade class collected leaves and made beautiful leaf rubbings. The 4th and 5th graders just finished drawing birch tree landscapes that are hanging



up in the art room. The 6th graders have been taking their time learning how to make contour line figure drawings. I was impressed with how hard they have worked to perfect their life drawing skills!

**Ms Hope Phelan, Art**

**MUSICAL NOTES!** I have been awed by the blazing colors this autumn lit by the early morning light as I drive to school. Both the 6th grade and the 4/5 class have begun their unit on African drumming from Ghana by learning the basic rhythm pattern for the

bell and rattle, using their hands, sticks and the actual bells and rattles. If anyone in the community has any large African drums, we could use a few extra in the coming months, as the 4/5 class is quite large. The 2/3 class has been learning traditional songs of immigration and the American west - both cowboys and Native Americans. In the K/1 class we have been enjoying songs, chants and games about leaves, apples and spiders, and one way to tell whether a book is true or fiction. In the next few weeks we will begin to choose and practice songs to present at the winter concert. **Ms. Kim Wallach, Music**

**OUR READING CORNER** What does research say about how parents can help their children with reading? Many parents have found the following beneficial:

- Provide a good role model — read yourself and read often to your child.
- Provide varied reading material — some for reading enjoyment and some with information about hobbies and interests.
- Encourage activities that require reading — for example, cooking (reading a recipe), constructing a kite (reading directions), or identifying an interesting bird's nest or a shell collected at the beach (using a reference book).
- Establish a reading time, even if it is only ten minutes a day.
- Write notes to your school-age child; encourage written responses.
- Ask your child to bring a library book home to read to a younger sibling.
  - Establish one evening a week for reading (instead of television viewing).
  - Encourage your child in all reading efforts.

**Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist**

**EVERY  
HERO  
HAS A STORY**



**LIBRARY LEARNING!** It has been a very busy month in the library. Laurel got lots of new books for us; we received donations, and also were able to get books from last year's World Eye bookstore fundraiser. I am excited to be placing

these new books on the new books book shelf!

The Kindergarteners and first graders and I read 'Make Way for Ducklings' by Robert McCloskey. I currently have a storytelling kit from the Warwick town library, which has books, puppets, and a variety of fun storytelling manipulatives. We were therefore able to visually and interactively tell the story together with book, 2 ducks, eight ducklings, a nest and a pond! Some students also related to the story by having been to Boston and where the story was set. We also discussed how busy the city is, and the importance of being careful with busy traffic on the streets: remember to stop, look, and listen before crossing the street.

I am working on a section of books for early chapter book readers. I have slowly been introducing this section by highlighting through displays, series such as 'Magic Tree House', 'Junie B. Jones', 'Frog and Toad', and 'Mercy Watson'. First graders were particularly excited about 'Magic Treehouse' books, and they flew off the shelves! I will be working more on this section over time.

I have been encouraging the students to think about their interests, and it has been great to receive all the feedback from them. I have been introduced through them, to various book series they are interested in. This is instrumental in helping me complete series books we have as well as acquiring new ones. We are also building a graphic novel section. Graphic novels contain a more comic book look, and are another way to engage readers, in particular reluctant readers!

Finally, I briefly introduced sixth graders to different ways to search for books through the library catalog. Typically they will search by doing a title search. However, some students were interested to learn that they can also do some more advanced searches, such as an author or subject search. If they enjoyed a book, they might want to read more books by the same author for example. We also contrasted a subject search using the library catalog and Google. It was fun to discover the Google result when one enters 'Cardboard' (without author name entered Doug TenNapell!).

**Erika Nygard, Librarian**



**FUN 'N GAMES: SAVE THE DATE!** You will soon receive information about the annual TURKEY TROT that will take place at Bernardston Elementary School on Wednesday November 23, 2016. Warwick Community School will join Pearl Rhodes and Bernardston Elementary for this fun and festive event. This is

the culminating activity to our cross country unit. I will be looking for parent/adult volunteers on the morning of the trot. More information will be coming home soon!

I have created a wish list for PE related materials that I'd like to use during the winter months at Warwick. If you are able to donate, please have your child bring items to the office.

- clean and clear 2 liter plastic bottles

- metal clothes hangers
- liquid food color

- clean plastic gallon milk jugs
- knee-highs (women's nylons)
- "Gorilla" tape-heavy duty

Thank you! **Sue Scott, PE**



### **PRACTICING OUR SAFETY SKILLS!**

During October, WCS has practiced safety drills, including bus evacuation, a lock-down drill supervised by the Franklin County Safety Task Force, and a fire drill supervised by the Warwick Fire Department. In the

interest of safety preparedness, WCS will continue to practice these drills throughout the year.

#### **PVRSD Safety and Security Update from Assistant Superintendent, Gail Healy:**

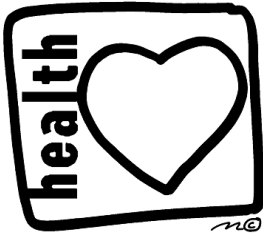
During the week of October 10-14 lock down drills were conducted at all five district schools. State police troopers Jim Carmichael and Rick Gawron lead the drills at each school. The Franklin County Safety and Security Task Force has been working with schools and local officials in Franklin County for a number of years now, making recommendations in order to make our schools as safe and secure as possible. They have been on site for the past three years making recommendations regarding our facilities, meeting with faculty/staff and practicing lock down drills. The Franklin County Safety Task Force members include MA State Police personnel, Franklin County Sheriff's Office personnel, local emergency officials in each town, and PVRSD personnel.

The districts and towns continue to implement safety measures for our students and faculties. Last year windows in many buildings were covered with a product that allows light in, but does not allow people outside to see in. Locks have been updated or changed in some buildings so classroom doors may be locked. A new gun violence prevention bill signed into law two years ago stated that all schools have specific two-way radio systems to communicate with local fire and police departments. These radios were purchased and there is one at each of the five schools that communicates directly with state police, local fire and police officials. One school not equipped with radios for communication within the building and on the playground purchased five radios. Window shades in all buildings were installed and/or continue to be repaired.

This fall a School Resource Officer will join the faculty, with an office at Pioneer. Resource officers were also a recommendation from the violence prevention bill. Igor Komerzan, Northfield Police Officer is our district resource

officer. He recently participated in school resource officer training. Many other Franklin County Schools are adding this position if they do not already have one.

The next set of drills conducted by the MA State Police will be unannounced. Thank you to all PVRSD faculty and staff for working together in the practice of these drills



**HEALTH NOTES!** As we head into autumn we also head into the cold and flu season. Here are some tips for everyday preventive actions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Stay home when you are sick** and for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone. While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- **Cover your nose and mouth** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after use and wash your hands.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water**, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces or objects** that may be contaminated with germs.
- **The CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine** as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.

Let's keep healthy and enjoy this beautiful season! **Ms. Suzanne Linden, RN**

