

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
September 2014

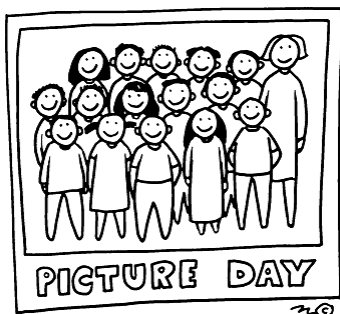
MARK the DATE:

SCHOOL PHOTOS DAY: Monday, Sept. 22nd

PTO MEETING: 3 PM Thursday Sept 25th WCS Library

FAMILY POTLUCK & WCS OPEN HOUSE: 5:15-7PM Thurs Oct 2nd

COLUMBUS DAY: Mon., Oct.13th (no school)



PICTURE DAY!

Fall Picture Day is Monday, Sept. 22nd. Information & order forms will come home soon. All children will be photographed in a full class picture. Only children who return an order form with payment will have individual photos taken. There will be a make-up date (TBA) for those who are absent.

PTO NEWS! The PTO meets typically the first Thursday of each month in the school's library at 3PM. We encourage those interested in helping to come to meetings. If you are unable to make meetings, you can still help! The PTO looks for volunteers to help with the various school events happening through the year. The next meeting has been re-scheduled because it conflicts with Open House. The meeting will be held on **Thursday September 25th.**

The PTO runs various fundraisers to raise money to give to each classroom, and to help offset the costs of field trips, as well as various activities and projects enriching the students' school experience. We collect Boxtops, Hannafords Helps Schools, and Campbells Soup Labels. You can send these into school with your child. We also arrange classroom help. If you want to help your children's teacher let them know. Every year the PTO changes a little depending on who the members are. We encourage you to participate when you can as every little bit of help truly makes a difference.



If you have any questions you can contact Erika Nygard at 978-544-2094 (EANygard@gmail.com).

IT'S FUN TO SHOW OFF!

WCS OPEN HOUSE, 5:15-7:00 p.m. OCT. 2nd

Our Open House will provide opportunities to visit classrooms, meet teachers, sign up for Parent-Teacher conferences and see the exciting learning that goes on every day. Our learners enjoy introducing their teachers and showing visitors around their classroom and school. We hope to see you!



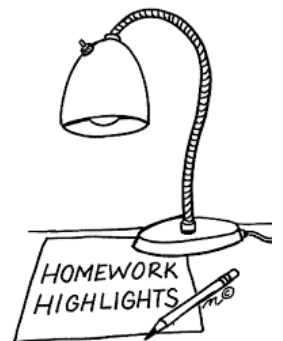
SOCIAL MEDIA and CYBER BULLYING

Social media hugely contributes to the complexities of growing up! Learning to control impulsive speech and consistently treat others with kindness and respect is very difficult to learn - and even more difficult when the social chatter continues 24/7.

Cyber bullying is real, and just like other types of bullying, the effects are devastating and long lasting.

With social media, distance keeps the poster or sender from seeing and hearing the hurts inflicted by unkind comments, but distance does not shield the receiver, who feels even more fearful of the instant, continuous and often public nature of the humiliation. Distance also makes healing the wounds and damage caused by text and Facebook bullying even more complicated. Social media may be here to stay, but in the hands of school-aged children, it needs continual, close monitoring by trusted adults.

HOMEWORK ROUTINES Homework provides the practice vital to learning gains. One of the most important things that a parent can do to support the academic success is to help their child to establish good homework routines. Dedicating a quiet, well-lit space and a consistent daily time for homework makes an important statement to children about priorities and the value of school. Encouragement from you is crucial, but the work should be their own. If your child is frequently unable to finish their homework within a reasonable period of sustained effort, let the teacher know. Homework should be a challenge, not a battle - and certainly not a defeat!



DRESSING FOR MAXIMUM FUN!

We dress for fun, safety, modesty, and comfort. Just a few friendly reminders while the warm weather is still with us: Please make sure clothing choices will preserve dignity on the monkey bars and avoid clothing with any disrespectful wording. Hats are fine for outside! Sneakers are the best footwear for playing outside and are a "must have" for PE.

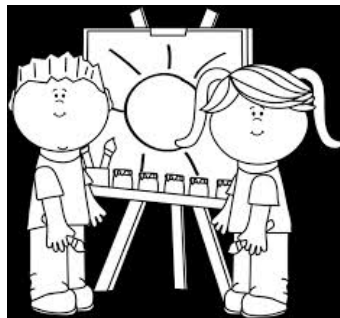


PARENTS NEEDED for WCS SCHOOL COUNCIL!

Parent and community input is important to being the best school we can be. School Council discusses educational and community priorities and helps to guide the implementation of our School Improvement Plan. Council meetings provide opportunity for a sharing of "big picture" perspectives and "nitty -gritty" concerns between all constituents of our larger school community - parents, teachers, Warwick community members. Council meets six times a year for one hour after school on Thursday afternoons. Our first meeting is scheduled for Oct. 23rd. Please consider serving your school in this way. Contact Trish in our school office if you are interested.

THE CLASSROOM BUZZ...

KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K: The children in the multi-age classroom are settling in nicely to school. During the first six weeks of school, we spend a lot of time learning rules, expectations, routines-- basically how to use the classroom and how to interact with others in a school setting. Much of this time is also spent getting to know each other. These skills help set the stage for a productive and friendly year of learning at school.



The children are doing a fantastic job learning these skills!

In science we are beginning with a unit on the Five Senses. This too is the basis for all other science learning-- learning how to use your Five Senses to explore the world around you. Children are also learning how to make predictions and test out ideas in a purposeful way.

We are starting more structured lessons in the Handwriting Without Tears program, 2nd Step social emotional curriculum, Math Expressions program for kindergarteners, Writing Workshop and Reading Workshop. It is a busy, fun time in the multi-age room!

Ms. Allison White

GRADES 1 and 2: Our class has had a wonderful start to the year! With the majority of our students returning to the class as second graders, it has been an easy transition into classroom routines. They have really helped the new students in our room to learn new expectations and routines.



We have been busy building community through whole group and small group activities, as well as sharing information about ourselves, and practicing ways to have a safe and respectful classroom. The kids have shown great effort in being kind and caring friends, as well as respectful members of our classroom and school. We have started our social curriculum of Second Step, and have started talking about feelings. This curriculum will continue throughout the year to help the children learn how to be problem solvers, recognize how they're feeling, and learn ways to calm themselves down.

We recently started our home reading routine, and the children are very excited about all the reading that they will do in and outside of the classroom. It has been really sweet to see their excitement in reading new books, as well as revisiting old favorites. Soon students will be learning tools that they can use as readers to help them get through tricky parts of their books. They will be making a 'Reading Tool Recipe Book' that shares all the different strategies each student uses to help them as strong readers.

In science we have started our study of weather by making daily observations of the weather outside our window. As we progress into the change of the seasons, we will begin to track the temperature by reading a thermometer, as well as think about how animals are affected through the change of seasons.

We started out our year in math by reviewing all we know about shapes, we are now moving into our daily direct instruction, and the children are showing great understanding already! I know it will be a fun and productive year for our math learning!

As the weeks progress we will also start thinking about small moments from our life, that will help inspire us in writer's workshop. This is always a challenging, but exciting writing unit, and I look forward to seeing all that your children can do as authors, as they push themselves to expand their writing!

It has truly been a great start to the year, and I look forward to all that is still to come!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: September has found us back at school again! The nights are getting cooler, the mornings are coming a little later...fall is on the way! In $\frac{3}{4}$ we are settling into our routines quite nicely. We spent the first two weeks setting goals and developing our classroom rules. We have some big plans for the 2014-2015 school year!



We are kicking off the year with an exciting weather simulation where we will learn all about severe weather, meteorology, and solve a weather mystery! The students are graphing weather data, making predictions, and perfecting the art of observation.

In math we have begun our first unit on place value. Math is our class' favorite subject. During math we rotate through 4-5 math stations, each working on the skill at hand or reviewing a previously learned skill. Our favorite station is math activity cards, engaging, hands on learning of our current math topics.

We are also enjoying our first fiction reading unit and have built up our independent reading stamina to 30 minutes! Our class is reading Clementine, a story about a curious third grader who seems to always find trouble when she is only trying to help. We have shared many laughs during read aloud! Speaking of reading, we are reading with the Multiage classroom on Friday mornings. This is one of our favorite parts of the week. Not only do we love visiting our buddies, but we love teaching them all that we are learning. All in all, it's been the start of another fabulous year in 3rd and 4th grade!

Ms. Christine Mullen

GRADES 5 and 6: The first three weeks of school have flown by and it's been smooth sailing! We have completed our beginning-of-year math and writing assessments as well as almost all of our reading assessments. We are well into our first math unit on ratios and proportions. We've also started generating strategies for personal narrative topics in writing. Our social studies curriculum this year is World Geography and Cultures. We have begun learning about latitude, longitude and the 5 Themes of Geography. The class is working together to make posters which show how each of the five themes; Location, Place, Human-Environment Interaction, Movement and Region, relate to us



here in Warwick. We will proudly display them at our upcoming Open House. We have also been marking the position of the shadow that a tomato stake outside casts on the ground at various times of the day. These observations are the proof that the earth is tilted on its axis as it revolves around the sun, thus causing the differences that we experience in the length of days and the seasons.

All of this has been great fun, but the most exciting part of the day for the students and me has been reading aloud a wonderful book by Natalie Babbitt called *Tuck Everlasting*. We are using our shared reading experience to study many different literary elements such as story structure, imagery and theme. This book will be our mentor text as we continue our reading instruction throughout the year. If your children haven't already told you about this book, please ask them about it! It has given us all a lot to think about.

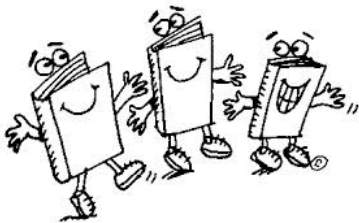
Thanks to all of the families who sent in school supplies and tissues for our class to use this year. We already have a cold circulating, so those soft tissues come in handy! If you are so inclined we could use some packages of Handi-Wipes for washing our desks with soap and water twice a week and disinfectant wipes to keep the germs at bay.

Thanks, as always, for being such a supportive community and sharing your fifth and sixth graders with me

Ms. Lynn Hansell

LIBRARY LEARNING!

"WELCOME TO THE WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL D.O.S.D."



("D.O.S.D" = "Department of Seed Distribution")

If you've walked into the school lately, you've been greeted by this sign near the foyer table. Arranged on the table are plants from local wetlands, forests, fields and yards. Some of the plants are "caged" in glass, others in vases.

What's that about? The displays in the foyer and in the windows of the Library always provides hints to visitors that give clues as to what is happening in our school and often in the greater world outside our school. Summer is sadly ending this week but glorious Fall is on its way. Cycles are ending while others are beginning.

The first and second graders are studying plant cycles and they are joining the third and fourth graders in the study of weather. The display in the foyer illustrates how plants end their short lives here in New England with the production and dissemination of their seeds so that the cycle can start again when the conditions are right. Many weather elements assist with this process. Most of the plants on the table have seeds that are scattered by the winds; dandelion, milkweed, aster, cattail. It's a messy process so we are attempting to keep the distribution contained.

Our Library Assistants are already working hard to educate the students about the events of September 11th, 2001, with book exhibits about buildings, architecture, construction, fire and police, planes and protection. Also, Constitution Day is on Sept. 17th so we've filled the windows with books about the

history of this document and its creation. This coincides with each classroom's work on their rules and the unveiling of our school constitution.

Please stop in to see what's happening in the Library whenever you are in the school. As always, I welcome volunteers to assist with the many tasks we have to do. Enjoy the change of seasons, **Ms. Laurel Powell, WCS Librarian**

PE! IT'S HAPPENING! It's great to be back at WCS for another fun year! Students have been doing a great job remembering sneakers on Thursdays! Thank you. We plan to be outside for PE class whenever possible through the fall. Dressing in layers on PE days really helps the children remain comfortable through active games in cool temps. **Ms. Sue Scott**



MUSICAL NOTES! I just got back from a brisk walk in the waning golden light. I love this time of year - the slowly changing colors, the cooling temperatures, and most of all, the start of a new school year. I love seeing students again, somewhat taller, somewhat tanned from an outdoors summer. I love meeting new students for the first time, wondering what they'll be like. I love starting the cycle of the school year again, changing one or two things to keep it fresh.

Although I have started thinking about the winter concert, we haven't yet begun preparing. 5/6 has begun their musical journey around the world with a Navajo song called "Joashila". 3/4 is singing songs of tall tales from American history with "10,000 Years Ago" and "1492". 1/2 started the year with "Doodlebug" and a great birthday song, "Cut the Cake". The Pre K/K class is enjoying counting chants and songs and games about roosters and other farm animals.

Tomorrow, I head off to the Children's Music Network National Conference in Virginia, where I hope to learn a few new songs and gain a few more insights into this wonderful work of teaching music to children.

Kim Wallach

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music Teacher



EXCITING LUNCHROOM NEWS! The NEW LUNCH MENU has been revised and updated over the summer. The new menu meets the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act requirements while at the same time bringing back some of students' favorites.

Students are required to pay for meals before they eat and not "charge" meals. The guidelines in place since last year are being sent home to you as a reminder for what is in place. Later this school year families will have the opportunity to use an on-line payment plan. We will keep you informed when this is in place.

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S PRIORITY:

A friendly reminder that, even in our small community, it is important to know who is in our school building at all times. Please sign in and wear a name badge whenever you move beyond the front foyer - even if you are a frequent visitor to our school.



This fall, PVRSD will be practicing **lock down drills** in our school communities. All of our five schools will be practicing a lock down drill with the Franklin County Safety and Security Task Force along with local/town emergency departments. As you know, this task force is working with schools and local officials in Franklin County in order to make our schools as safe and secure as possible for our students. Within the last two years they have been on site making recommendations to our facilities, meeting with faculty/staff, and practicing lock down drills with all building personnel at each site. The Franklin County Safety Task Force members include MA State Police, Franklin County Sherriff, local emergency officials in each town, and PVRSD. The task force also meets with Franklin County Superintendents. Drills were practiced at all five district schools with the task force and district employees last spring.

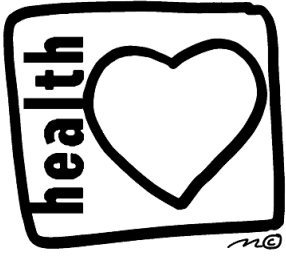
Some of the recommendations that are visible changes or additions to each school site if not already in place are security systems at front doors, all school doors locked during the day, a sign-in procedure upon entering buildings, inside and outside doors and rooms clearly labeled, and curbs in front of schools clearly marked for emergency vehicles only.

This task force will be present during October to assist local and school officials in practicing a lock down drill with students while school is in session. Students will have conversations at school about the practice drill, and that there are many possibilities for a school to go into lock down. Those reasons could be something happening in the community that would call for a school to be told to go into lock down, an environmental spill or accident on the local highways or railroad tracks, a possible intruder or escapee to identify a few. It would be helpful for families to also discuss at home that keeping everyone safe should a real

emergency take place, is the reason for lock downs and practices. Moving forward, lock down drills will take place the same way as fire drills, consistent with other Franklin County Schools.

Thank you for working together for the safety of all our PVRSD school communities.
Ms. Gail Healy, PVRSD Assistant Supt.





HEALTH NOTES!

Gym classes are held on Thursdays this year - help your child be ready to participate fully by providing sneakers for this class and for recess. A pair of sneakers that can stay in your student's locker is ideal!

Parents/guardians of PK and K students, please be aware that students will not receive fluoride at school until they are in Grade 1 if you sign up for it at that time.

Hearing and Vision Screening will start in October. As in other years all students will be screened. Parents/guardians will receive notification only if a child needs to be further screened by their physician.

Parents/Guardians of children participating in sports or other activities after school during the school year: If your child takes medication that might be needed during these activities (examples include, but are not limited to: asthma inhalers, Epipens), be sure that you or an adult you trust is attending the activity with the medication and is willing and able to administer the medication if it is needed.



Hand washing is always the most effective method for cleaning hands any time soap and water are available. Hand sanitizers (gels, foams) are the second best, but should only be used when soap and water are not available. With this in mind we are asking parents and guardians not to send hand sanitizer to school. We are fortunate to have a school with sinks and soap in every classroom which allows us to limit ourselves to the best method of cleaning hands. Please be aware that children's unsupervised use of hand sanitizers nationwide has led to emergency room visits and increased blood alcohol levels. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ms. Dempsey, Nurse

***The WCS STAFF WELCOMES YOU
to a WONDERFUL NEW SCHOOL YEAR!***

