

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
September 2015

MAKE A DATE: YOU ARE INVITED!

ALL-SCHOOL MEETING: 9AM Thurs., Sept. 17th

BAND INSTRUMENT RENTAL NIGHT: 6:30PM Wed. Sept. 23 at NES

PICTURE DAY: Tues., Sept. 22nd

WCS FALL POTLUCK AND OPEN HOUSE: 5-7 PM Thurs. Oct 8th

PICTURE DAY! Fall Picture Day is Tuesday, Sept. 22nd. Every child will have their individual photo taken and be included in their full class picture. Photos are available for purchase, but there is no obligation. If parents are unhappy with the photos taken, they may have the child re-photographed on the re-take day (date TBA) or returned for a full refund.

WHAT'S NEW AT WCS? Our Landscaping and Raised Garden Beds & Greenhouse Learning Center!

Once again this summer, we saw the real and tangible support of our town in the landscaping lovingly done to restore school grounds torn up by the roofing project of last summer. Warwick Highway Dept. and Miner Landscaping collaborated to remove overgrown bushes and move trees to make the rear of our building accessible to emergency vehicles. Wood chips, loam, sand and heavy equipment were brought in to improve our kindergarten playground and give a huge facelift to the areas surrounding our building!

While doing this work, a gravel bed foundation for our new greenhouse and four small raised beds (one for each classroom) were created out on our front circle! Last June, in just short of a week, WCS raised the funds (with a matching grant from Donorschoose.org) to purchase an 8'x8' greenhouse, now in a box in our front entryway - and soon to be erected by a small crew headed by Dan Johnson. Together with the raised beds, WCS will have a new outdoor classroom that will provide "hands-on" science learning for generations of WCS children.

How fortunate are we to learn and work in this caring community?! Very fortunate indeed! Thank you, town of Warwick!





"SING A SONG OF WARWICK!" Our new CD with 12 songs is available! 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!* On sale now (\$5.) at the Warwick Community School.

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K: Welcome to all the multi-age students and families in our school! Children have settled in nicely and we are learning about each other and our school.

The first few weeks of school will be spent establishing routines and teaching children how to use materials in our classroom. They have already begun to learn how to take turns, sit in meeting, wait in line, take care of markers, scissors and glue sticks, and procedures for how to make books they can write in. Now they will practice!

We will begin our year in science with a focus on the Monarch caterpillar! We will be using our new raised beds to create a milkweed and butterfly garden. The children will also be watching and learning about the process of metamorphosis. **Ms. Allison White**



GRADES 1 and 2: We're having a busy and exciting start to the year as we get to know the new members of our class, and remind ourselves of familiar routines and expectations! Our focus for the first few weeks of school is building community and learning routines. As weeks progress, we are introducing more and more academics into our first and second grade day.

For science, we have exciting guests visiting our room to help us to learn about lifecycles: monarch butterflies! We are preparing for reader's workshop by getting familiar with all the books in our classroom library. Soon we will start



talking about and reading our own "just right books" and taking them home to read to our families. We've started our daily math meetings that help build our fluency up to 120! We will soon begin our daily math instruction and bring homework sheets to practice and share our learning at home. Lots of exciting learning and growing is happening in our classroom. We look forward to sharing it with family and friends as it comes home and at our annual Open House in October! **Ms. Kristyn Gibbs**

GRADES 3 and 4: The third and fourth graders are off to a great start to the year! We have been working on our hopes and dreams for this school year and developing our classroom rules. We have just begun working in our reading and math groups as well. This month we will focus on place value in math and begin reading groups. The class will be enjoying titles like "Junie B. Jones," "The Time Warp Trio," and the "I Survived" series. We love learning and really enjoy reading!



Our class will be studying the life cycle of frogs and butterflies this month. We have already obtained 6 Monarch caterpillar pets for our classroom. Hopefully the frogs will stick around a few more weeks, so that we can observe them in their natural habitats.

Our social studies curriculum will take us all over Warwick and the state of Massachusetts as we learn about our local history this year. We are excited to learn about our town and state through projects, field trips, and visitors. If you would like to come in and teach us about an event in Warwick's past, please contact me at school.

Next month, we will show off our classroom during Open House and participating in the WCS Fall Fest activities. We are so excited to begin using our greenhouse and fill it with plants from our science studies. **Ms. Chriss Mullen**



GRADES 5 and 6: The beginning of the year is always busy and exciting! We have been completing our initial assessments and establishing our classroom culture while starting up our first units of study. Until mid-October we will be working on reading fiction with depth and power, learning about the Vikings (the students love this unit!), and studying the properties and states of matter. We have several different groups going on simultaneously in math. They include Fractions, Ratios and Rates, and Operations and Equations with Integers.

We are very grateful for all of the work that has been done to establish our garden beds and greenhouse at the school! Our class is planning to plant tulip and daffodil bulbs so that we can study flower anatomy in the spring. We will also be planting other flowers (annuals and perennials) that will be ready in time for Sixth Grade Graduation every year. Other ideas for our garden bed and greenhouse are in the planning stages and include using them as living laboratories for studying food webs, decomposers, composting and insects. We look forward to seeing how it all comes together this year!
Ms. Lynn Hansell



MUSICAL NOTES. Beginning Band Signups.....!
Beginning Band signup slips are due on Monday, September 21st for interested 4-6 grade students. WCS strongly encourages students to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

Informational packets were distributed to 4th graders and interested 5-6 students. Additional packets can be obtained from the office. Band Instrument Rental Night is 6:30-7:30 PM Wed., Sept 23rd at Northfield Elementary School.

Ms. Lynette Snedeker, Instrumental Music



FUN 'N GAMES! PE is off to a great start this year! WCS children are such a joy to teach. Please help remind your child to wear sneakers on Thursday. Also, as the weather gets chilly layers are a great idea. We will continue cooperative games and then move into soccer skills soon. **Sue Scott- PE Teacher**

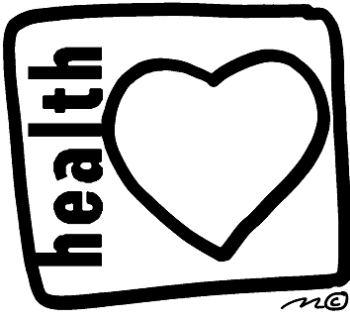


LIBRARY LEARNING! As school starts, the Library's systems are slowly "warming up". Our amazing district technology team is updating student information into the Destiny Library System. This literary medium has its own format and unique care.

For our first library class, we explored magazines. We have a good collection of magazines such as Zoobooks, Cricket, Highlights and National Geographic. Many of these subscriptions are donations. *If you have magazines for children aged 4 to 12, consider donating them to our library once you are done.* Our students enjoy the easy access to information, the variety of literary genres, and the photographs & artwork found in magazines.

During our second library class, we learned how to locate books of choice using the catalog on Destiny. Understanding the Dewey Decimal System is challenging but its use is universal. The students' skill and comfort increases every year.

This year, our all-school theme is "Growing, growing, growing." Our foyer welcome table is chock-a-block with books and artifacts about seeds, planting, and plant life-cycles. Many thanks to Tracey Kirley for bringing us the world's largest sunflower heads to enjoy and study. We're so excited about our new outdoor garden plots and the greenhouse coming soon! **Ms. Laurel Powell, Librarian**



HEALTH NOTES

Sunscreen and Insect Repellent Use: It is very important to be aware of your child's planned daily activities and to protect from overexposure to the sun. Note the daily weather forecast and consider outdoor activities in the school day - Phys Ed, field

trips, outdoor learning project. *Apply a long-lasting sunscreen before your child goes to school if you know your child will be out in the sun for more than a short period of time.* Parents are responsible for helping their children with this. Your attention will help them learn appropriate ways to protect themselves as they grow older. *Insect repellent, if used, also needs to be applied at home.*

Tick Patrol! Our students spend time outdoors frequently - recess, gym class, projects, and field trips. *In the best interest of your child, conduct a thorough tick check on your child daily.*

*Ticks seek warm moist places on the body - between the toes, backs of the knee, groin, armpits, neck, along the hairline, and behind the ears. A warm soapy shower will wash off any unattached ticks.

**Deer tick* adults and nymphs may carry Lyme disease, babesiosis and ehrlichiosis. *American dog ticks* have not been shown to carry these diseases.

*Ticks are prevalent in wooded areas, near the ground. They may be active any time, but late spring to early summer, and fall are high risk seasons.

*Ticks may be seen readily on light-colored clothing. Do a tick-check every day.

*Remove imbedded ticks promptly. Grasp the tick with tweezers at the point of entry and pull back steadily while avoiding squeezing. Swab the site with antiseptic.

*If you suspect Lyme disease, see your doctor. Symptoms vary, but may include flu-like symptoms, headache, joint aches and/or a reddish circular rash.

This information is from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Division of Epidemiology and Immunization

Hearing and Vision Screening will start in October. All students will be screened.

Parents/guardians will receive notification only if your child needs further screening by their physician.

Friendly reminder! Out-of-school activities require the same provisions for any medications (e.g: asthma inhalers, Epipens), needed to keep your child safe - an adult in attendance with the medication and knowledge to administer as needed.

Ms. Julia Dempsey, RN



Here We GO!

Welcome to Another

Wonderful Year at WCS!