

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 7

December 16, 2022



*"Williams-Cone School is a safe and kind community that inspires every student to succeed."
-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-*



Pictured above is a bulletin board created by Mrs. LaPointe's class under the artistic leadership of Mrs. Watkinson, Paraprofessional. It is a representation of a 4 week thematic unit studying Types of Communities: rural, suburban and urban. It has 4 interactive parts and inspired the classroom's Polar Express theme for the Door Decoration Contest!

Hello WCS Community!

The holiday season is upon us and Winter Break 1 is just around the corner. WCS staff have been participating in "Twelve Days Before Winter Break" activities over the past several days and they are providing great energy and enthusiasm all around our school. Activities have ranged from bringing in treats, dressing in blue, writing notes of appreciation to staff members to winter door decoration competitions and twin days. Here are some photos of the fun:

Door Decorating Contest

Staff decorated classroom doors with lots of assistance from students. Superintendent Connolly joined in the fun by acting as a judge and awarding prizes within each grade level and department.









Twin Day

Staff dressed up in various forms of twins, triplets, etc. As you can see, some of them, got pretty creative!







4TH & 5TH Grade Chorus Concert



4th and 5th grade chorus students presented an engaging concert on December 5th under the direction of Mrs. Appel, WCS Music teacher with support from Mr. Myrick, WCS Paraprofessional on the drums and musical support from Mrs. Kane, WCS Paraprofessional. The students did a wonderful job performing together for a winter concert for the first time in three years!



Pictured above are students standing underneath the WCS "Eddie the Yeti" created by WCS RTI Teachers Sarah Dubreuil and Kieley Hetherington in honor of the upcoming WinterKids Winter Games.

Plans are well underway for the upcoming WinterKids Winter Games that will be held January 9-February 3, 2023. FOWC and WCS staff are working together to prepare for the event that will include lots of outdoor physical activities as well as activities that focus on nutrition, family

engagement, and a winter carnival. The Winter Games theme is "My WILD Winter" with points being awarded based on a weekly rubric. These requirements include: percent of school participation (this percentage is based on the number of students in attendance at school each day), number of activities completed, non-teaching staff participation, guest speaker involvement, and weekly moment of the week submissions. There will be many opportunities for the entire school community to become involved in and support this event. More details will be sent home the week of January 3rd.

People of the Past, People of the Present



(Pictures and information shared by Ms. King and Ms. Schoenberg, Third Grade Teachers)

Third graders explored a traveling museum exhibit, titled "People of the Dawn: Past and Present." The exhibit was on loan for two weeks, from the Hudson Museum in Orono, Maine. It included informative panels, illustrations, and photographs teaching about the Wabanaki Nation, which includes the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Micmac, and Maliseet tribes. Highlights of the exhibit included Wabanaki baskets made of birch bark, ash, and sweetgrass, as well as a small model of a birchbark canoe. Third graders viewed video interviews of contemporary Wabanaki artists who make baskets and canoes similar to those that were a part of the exhibit.



Special Visitors Come to Third Grade



The Williams-Cone 3rd graders had a wonderful opportunity on Monday (12/5)! Third grade is currently studying Maine as part of their Geography Unit. Perfect timing for our guest speaker, Game Warden Latti! Warden Latti grew up in Brunswick and has wanted to be a Game Warden since he was in third grade. To become a Game Warden, Michale Latti has fought fires in Montana, worked on the Maine Black Bear Project, became a highly trained scuba diver, and so much more. Warden Latti came to talk about Maine Wildlife and how to stay safe when exploring our beautiful state. Our third graders were very excited to learn about compasses and how

they work.

K9 Luna, Warden Latti's partner, was able to join and show off her obedience skills. Luna is a search and rescue dog, she is trained to behave safely around all people (especially children).

(Photos and article courtesy of Rachel Schoenberg, WCS 3rd Grade Teacher)



This will be the last Principal's Newsletter that will be sent out prior to Winter Break and for 2022! The Principal's Newsletters will continue when we return to school following the break. On behalf of the WCS staff and myself, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season filled with many joys, special memories and unexpected blessings. While 2022 was certainly a

challenging year for many, we can take great hope in knowing that our community continues to be strong, vibrant and resilient. We will continue to build our community and support one another as we transition into 2023.

Enjoy the Season!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

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gratitude

We have LOTS of things to be thankful for as a school community:

*A fabulous turnout of over 100 students, family members and friends at the FOWC sponsored holiday caroling. It was a joy to be able to go caroling at The Highlands and Mrs. Gardner's home after three years!

*FOWC sponsored refreshments and holiday decorations for the holiday caroling.

*Mrs. Erin Ouellette leading the holiday caroling and playing the ukelele.

*A super Sherman's Bookstore fundraiser for 5th grade! Thank-you 5th grade parents for organizing this and to the WCS community for supporting it.

*The families and individuals who generously donated Staff Wishlist books from the Sherman's Bookstore fundraiser. Thank-you!

*The holiday wreath at the WCS Main Entrance. Thank-you Cass family!

*The fabulous 4th and 5th grade chorus holiday concert! Wow!!!

*Mrs. Appel, Mr. Myrick and Mrs. Kane supporting the 4th and 5th grade chorus holiday concert.

*FOWC support for the upcoming WinterKids Winter Games.

*The beautifully refurbished and newly installed WCS sign.

*Superintendent Connolly judging the holiday door contest.

From Friends of Williams-Cone:

*Thank you Carrot Signs for the refurbishment of our school sign. It's fantastic. Again, another

thank you to the WCS Class of 2021 for donating the funds to make this renovation possible and to Meredith Pinkham, FOWC Treasurer for coordinating the project.



12/23-1/2. Winter Break 1

1/7. 5th Grade Fundraiser Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

1/9-2/3 WinterKids Winter Games Competition

1/9-1/20. K-2 NWEA Assessment Window

1/9-2/3 3-5 NWEA Assessment Window

1/9-1/13 WinterKids Winter Games Week #1: Outdoor Physical Activity

1/10-1/25 Valentine's Fudge Sale

1/12 FOWC Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

1/16. Martin Luther King Holiday, No School

1/17. Playground Committee Planning Session, 5:30 P.M., LC

1/17-1/20 WinterKids Winter Games Week #2: Nutrition

1/23-1/27 WinterKids Winter Games Week #3: Family Engagement

1/29. Wild Oats 5th Grade Fundraiser, Brunswick

1/30-2/2 WinterKids Winter Games Week #4: Winter Carnival

2/3 In-Service Day, No School for Students

2/7. Playground Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

2/20-2/24 Winter Break 2

3/1 Variety Show Daytime School Performance

3/2 Variety Show Evening Performance, 6:30 P.M.



- **United Way of Mid-Coast Maine** put together a 2022 Winter Holiday Resources that might be helpful - you can find it here: <https://www.uwmcm.org/gethelp-194812.html>

- **Midcoast Maine Community Action** has a Holiday Gift Program for 2022 - details here: <https://midcoastmainecommunityaction.org/holidaygifts/>

*The following came from the **Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber Blog** that includes Sagadahoc County:*

<https://www.midcoastmaine.com/blog/post/holiday-resources-from-united-way-2-1-1>

- **Toys for Tots (Cumberland and Sagadahoc)** - New toys, collected in the community, are distributed as Christmas gifts to children in need. For information on requesting a toy for your children or children in another family, call the Salvation Army at 207-443-3611.

- **Bruce Roberts Toy Fund (Cumberland, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, and York)** - Public donations are used to purchase new safe toys. Call 791-6672 for application or donation information.



Get caught up on the latest news from Williams-Cone School's PTO group

With winter break around the corner, FOWC is wishing our community a wonderful holiday season and a fabulous start to the New Year. We are excited to share that we have partnered with Sweet Satisfaction Fudge here in Topsham, ME to host the Valentine's Day Fudge Sale

again which will kick off in January. Make sure to mark your calendars for our January 12th meeting and come be a part of the discussion for our Winter & Spring events. Your continued support of this PTO and our school has made for a fantastic ending to 2022. Thank you!

Join us for the Upcoming FOWC Meetings & Events:

FOWC Meeting - 1/12/2023 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

Valentine's Day Fudge Sale (with Sweet Satisfaction Fudge) 1/10/23-1/25/23

Playground Committee Planning Session - January 17th at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

5th Grade Fundraising Parent Group Meeting - January 9th at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

5th Grade Wild Oats Fundraiser - January 29th at Wild Oats Bakery

Playground Committee Meeting - February 7th at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons



Williams-Cone School's
Holiday Caroling
Friday, December 2, 2022

Sponsored by:
friends
of Williams-Cone
SUPPORTING THE STUDY AND FAMILIES
OF THE WILLIAMS-CONE COMMUNITY

Thank you to all who came and sang some carols with us, then refueled with some cocoa and cookies! It was wonderful to see the kids so happy, and spreading that joy to our community residents! An extra thank you to those who helped bring it all together, from coordination, leading us in song, and brewing cocoa.



We are looking for volunteers to help with the upcoming WinterKids Winter Games! A Teacher, Staff, and Parent Committee has been created to assist with aspects and activities. There are many goals and activities that we would like to achieve for this competition to engage the students and families in outdoor physical activities, nutrition, family togetherness, and community togetherness. You can choose to help a little or a lot. If interested, please email friendsofwilliamscone@gmail.com and we will put you on an email list.



Playground Committee:

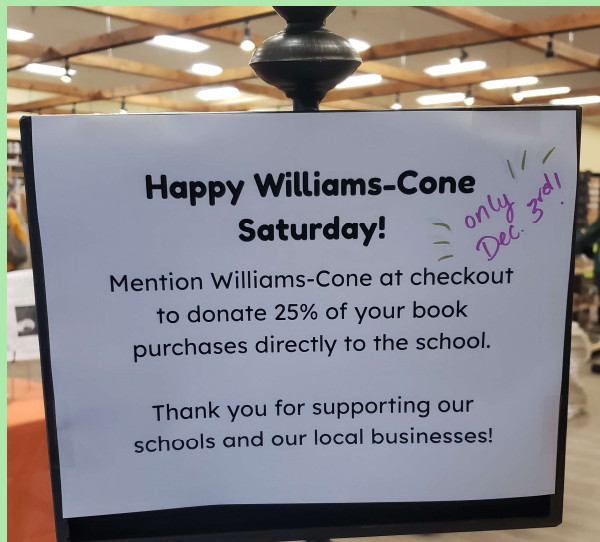
Our Committee is busy planning our next project! We are hoping to help solidify some plans for a Pre-K Outdoor Classroom space and Slides, Slides, and more Slides project! Come join us at our next planning meeting on **January 17th at 5:30 pm** in the Learning Commons. Our next monthly meeting will be held in February.



Volunteer Background Check Form:

Want to volunteer with our school? Review and sign the MSAD 75 Volunteer Handbook & Form and return it to the Main Office. This form is required for all of our FOWC volunteers. Thank you for investing in our volunteer community!

You can find the latest version here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zy-XTY_eqtyU2CXLCb4aw-Ln5jF-hEI/view?usp=sharing



A huge thank you to everyone who shopped at Sherman's on Dec. 3 in support of the 5th-grade end-of-year celebrations. We raised over \$500 and 15 books were purchased from the teacher

wish list and donated to the school! Our next fundraiser will be on Sunday, January 29 at Wild Oats featuring some WCS-themed treats. Details to follow after winter break.

Our next fundraising planning meeting will be held on Monday, January 9 from 5:30-7p in the Learning Commons at WCS. For any questions, please contact Mary Kate Appicelli at 751-0133 or applecelery@hotmail.com. Hope to see you there!

5th Grade Yearbook Note: Reminder Q&A Forms and Tribute photos are due by December 22nd! You can email your tribute photo submission to us at WCSyearbook@yahoo.com

Misplaced your Q&A form? You can print a new one here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KqppKO15mkpSMMBV11uPIAreLnDWu5sl/view?usp=sharing>

Get Your 2022-2023 Williams-Cone School Yearbook Today!

Soft Cover Price: \$20.00 (with tax)

Deadline to Order by Cash or Check: Thursday, April 13th

Need an order form?

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13cs4ebf9OniERC_UXkB5UiVFh8EKJRW/View?usp=sharing

Deadline to Order Online: Monday, May 1st

It's easy! Order online at www.treering.com/validate

Enter WCS's passcode: 1015059372991326

Your yearbook purchase helps us continue the tradition to give every 5th Grade Student a free yearbook during the Farewell Ceremony. Thank you!

(you can order online after the deadline however shipping costs will apply)



W.I.N.G The Food Pantry at Mt. Ararat Middle School

New Hours for the 2022-2023 School Year

Wednesdays 3:15pm to 5:15pm

W.I.N.G. is open weekly with fresh produce, dairy, frozen foods, and hygiene items available to any MSAD No. 75 family. If you have special requests or would like your order packed in advance, please call 729-2950 x7202 and leave a message with your name and phone number and a volunteer will give you a call back. If accessing the pantry is a hardship, please let us know. We are happy to work with any family to make alternate arrangements.

W.I.N.G. is looking for new volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering in the food pantry, please reach out to Catie Meier at meierc@link75.org.



Sagadahoc County Emergency Management Agency

Did you know if you are a renter, and heat is included in your rent, you may be eligible for heating assistance this season? It can take a few weeks for the application to process, so now is the time to connect with your local Community Action Program (CAP) and find out if you qualify! For a complete list of all CAPs, as well as other heating and energy assistance resources, visit www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs.

HEATING TIP FROM YOUR COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

If you are a renter and heat is included in your rent, you may still be eligible for heating assistance. Contact your local Community Action Program (CAP) today.

For a list of CAPs:
www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs

NEED HEATING ASSISTANCE?



www.maine.gov/mpuc/consumer-assistance/programs



2-1-1 (OR 207-874-2211)

