

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 6

December 2, 2022



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

Hello WCS Community!



Pictured are Mrs. Martin, WCS Phys. Ed. Teacher, Henry W., Shepherd D., Delaney L., Arilyn V., Mrs. Rineer & Tom Long from WinterKids.



Williams-Cone School recently won the honor of being the Sagadahoc County Representative for the 2023 WinterKids Winter Games. Today, Tom Long from the Maine WinterKids Winter Games competition delivered a large bundle of materials and supplies for the upcoming competition that will take place from January 9-February 3, 2023.

Elementary schools across the state will compete in a four week outdoor physical activity and nutrition challenge. This year, the Winter Games has the "My WILD Winter" theme. Points will be awarded based on a weekly rubric requirements including: 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.

Weekly themes include outdoor physical activity, nutrition, family engagement, and a winter carnival. More details will be shared as they become available but this will be a great opportunity for our school to continue building strong connections and genuine belonging for all!

Instructional Updates

Parent/Teacher conferences have been completed and Trimester 1 report cards are being sent home with students today. We have entered Trimester 2 and have many plans to continue growing our students learning and achievement. Throughout the fall our staff has worked diligently to get to know our students, their personalities, interests, strengths and areas to grow. During Trimester 2 we will work as a school team to strategically and effectively utilize the resources and supports that we have available to us in an efficient manner. This ranges from general classroom instruction to Response to Intervention Services and Special Education. Here are some highlights of what is taking place:



Shared Ownership

Our school team's philosophy is very much a "shared ownership" mindset meaning that while each staff member has an assigned class or caseload of students, staff are also flexible and available to responsively support all students in our school. An example of this is the flexible math grouping in grade 2. Each of the 2nd grade teachers provides direct instruction to students in all three of the 2nd grade classrooms depending on each individual student's needs from math topic to topic. Staff members also provide literacy and/or math interventions to a variety of students in an effort to meet student needs.

Response to Intervention

Through the provision of federally granted funds for the 2022-23 school year, WCS has been able to hire several additional Response to Intervention-Academic (RTI-A) teachers this year. These one year positions are providing much needed supports to K-5 students in literacy and math. The supports are provided in the regular classroom, small group and individualized settings. Students are identified for the services through a variety of formal and informal assessments, curriculum based work as well as teacher recommendation.



Pictured above is Mrs. Karin VanNostrand, a recently hired RTI-A teacher for the 2022-23 school year.

This year Mrs. Dubreuil, Ms. Hetherington, Mrs. Campbell have been working in the one year RTI-A roles with the support and collaboration of Ms. Harlow, WCS RTI-A Strategist. Ms. Karin VanNostrand was recently hired as additional RTI-A teacher for this school year. They along with Mrs. Rogers, RTI-A Paraprofessional are working with Ms. Harlow and classroom staff to create and implement instructional interventions. These instructional interventions are designed to increase student achievement and close many of the learning gaps that were a result of lost learning due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Special Education



Pictured above are Jodi Galvin and Janet Thatcher, WCS Special Education Teacher/Paras

We are excited to announce that Ms. Galvin and Mrs. Thatcher are sharing the roles of Special Education teachers and paraprofessionals for the K-2 Resource Room. The transition into these roles began prior to Thanksgiving break and K-2 students who require resource room instruction began receiving their supports and services with Ms. Galvin and Mrs. Thatcher this week.

A Few Final Words.....

A reminder that the Sherman's Bookshop 5th Grade Fundraiser is happening! Join us on December 3rd from 9 AM to 6 PM at the Sherman's Topsham location. Make sure to mention Williams-Cone while checking out and proceeds of book sales will be donated to the WCS 5th grade end-of-year celebrations.

A variety of holiday resources and assistance are listed in this newsletter. If you need support with this, please do not hesitate to contact our school team, Mr. Cardoza or Ms. Merrill at (207) 725-4391. And as always, our school team is always here to help you and your family in anyway that we can.

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

rineerr@link75.org

(207)725-4391



gratitude

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

* Trimester 1 Report Cards were completed and sent home today, 12/2 with students. Thank-you WCS team for taking the time, energy, and intention to complete reports that accurately reflect each student's growth for Trimester 1.

*Hiring new staff members including Mrs. Thatcher, Special Education Teacher/Para, Ms. Galvin, Special Education Teacher/Para and Ms. VanNostrand, Response to Intervention-Academic.

*Safety within our school and district.

*Great support and turnout for the Parent/Teacher Conferences.

*The huge potholes in the main entrance parking lot were patched! Thank-you MSAD #75 Facilities Department!

*Time with family and friends during the Thanksgiving holiday.

From Friends of Williams-Cone:

*Thank you Cass Family for all the TLC in the Children's Garden including this fall's clean-up in preparation for winter. Your amazing dedication to this space has been a wonderful blessing!

*Much appreciation for our Holiday Caroling & Cookies Planning team! Anna S, Mrs. Appel, Mrs. Anderson, Jenn C, Meredith P, Erin O, and Megan R. We are looking forward to seeing you all Friday!

*FOWC would like to take a moment to send a special thank you to our Custodial Staff- Mr. Randy, Ms. Pam, & Ms. Sierra, Main Office Staff - Mrs. Sanders & Mrs. Anderson, and our building Principal Mrs. Rineer for all their support for the many events, flyers, questions, coordination, and communications they have helped us facilitate as part of our fall fundraising and events.

*Thank you Carrot Signs for refurbishing our school sign! You may have noticed its absence. This renovation was made possible through a donation from the WCS Class of 2021. Many thanks to

those students and parents for choosing this project as part of their farewell gift to our school.
(Photo courtesy of Carrot Signs)





12/2 Trimester 1 Report Cards Distributed

12/2 FOWC Sponsored Holiday Caroling, 3:30 P.M.

12/3 5th Grade Fundraiser at Sherman's Book Store, Topsham Fairgrounds Mall

12/5 4th & 5th Grade Chorus Concert, 7:00 P.M., WCS Gym

12/13 Playground Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

12/14 5th Grade Fundraising Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

12/23-1/2. Winter Break 1

1/16. Martin Luther King Holiday, No School

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

2/20-2/24 Winter Break 2



- **USPS Operation Santa**® connects letters from deserving kids with generous people who fulfill holiday wishes - Letters are due by Dec 12th. Details on how to write a letter can be found here: <https://www.uspsoperationsanta.com/getinvolved/letterwriting>

- **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 2020 - 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.

- **Toys for Tots (Androscoggin, Cumberland, Franklin, Kennebec, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, and Somerset)** - New toys are distributed as Christmas gifts to children in need. Applications are accepted through December 16. Visit the website www.topsham-me.toysfortots.org or call 978-766-9243 for application or donation.

- **Bath/Brunswick Santa Claus Fund** - Holiday toys, mittens, hats, and bicycles for children birth to 13 years available by written request through December 15, 2011. Letter of request, written by parent

or guardian, should be mailed to the Santa Claus Fund, Inc., PO Box 278, Brunswick ME 04011. Include the child's name, sex, date of birth, residential address, and phone number. Call 729-9572 for more information.

- **Bath Elks** - Christmas Baskets Christmas food baskets are available by application through Monday, December 12, 2011; baskets will be delivered Saturday, December 17, 2011. Call 443-9852 to provide the name, address, and number of family members.

- **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.



friends **UPDATE**
OF williams-cone

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

Happy December Families! While we have no meeting scheduled this month our FOWC volunteers and board members continue to work diligently behind the scenes as we prepare for our Holiday Caroling Event and coordinate our 2023 event discussions for our upcoming meeting. Join us in January to weigh in and be a part of the discussion for our Winter & Spring events. We are always in need of volunteers! Thank you for your continued support of this PTO and our school!

Join us for the Upcoming FOWC Meetings & Events:

Holiday Caroling Event - 12/2/2022 from 3:15-5:00 PM, Meet in the gymnasium

Sherman's 5th Grade Fundraiser - 12/3/2022 from 9 AM - 6 PM at the Topsham Sherman's location in the Topsham Fair Mall

5th Grade Fundraising Parent Group Meeting - 12/14/22 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

Playground Committee Meeting - 12/13/2022 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

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



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_equtyU2CXLCb4aw-Ln5jF-hEI/view?usp=sharing



THIS Sherman's Bookshop 5th Grade Fundraiser is happening Saturday! Join us on December 3rd from 9 AM to 6 PM at the Sherman's Topsham location. Make sure to mention Williams-Cone while checking out and proceeds of book sales will be donated

to the WCS 5th grade end-of-year celebrations. This is a great opportunity to find a great book all while shopping locally and supporting a wonderful cause!

*The next 5th Grade Fundraising/Planning Meeting will be on Wednesday, December 14th at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons. Please join us!

For more information please contact Mary Kate Appicelli at 207-751-0133 or applecelery@hotmail.com

5th Grade Yearbook Note: Thank you for your help in determining this year's Tribute theme! Our yearbook volunteers are looking forward to getting creative with the 'OH MY! How you've grown!' theme. Forms are coming home with your students, we appreciate your support by returning these forms by the deadline date. You can email your tribute photo submission to us at WCSyearbook@yahoo.com. Misplaced your form? You can print a new one here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KqppKO15mkpSMMBV11uPIAreLnDWu5sl/view?usp=sharing>

Official Williams-Cone School
YEARBOOK
in partnership with
treering

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_UXkB5UiVFh8EKJRWWh/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.



aevidum

"I've got your back."

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As you know, part of my role as school counselor is to go into classrooms and teach lessons based on different social and emotional topics. This year, we will continue to use the Aavidum curriculum at WCS to teach and spread the "I've got your back" message throughout our school and beyond. With your help and support, we hope to instill meaningful lessons and character building opportunities in all of our students to help better and strengthen their lives in positive directions. I am already off and running with my first lesson and have visited a good number of classes so far! I am looking forward to a great year and excited to help students learn about the many character building topics that come with Aavidum!

What does it mean?

The word "**Aavidum**" cannot be currently found in any dictionary or encyclopedia however many students, teachers, and educators are working hard to make sure everyone knows the word!!

The word "**Aavidum**" stems from Latin roots related to the idea of "**having someone's back**" and was created by students when a club formed in a Pennsylvania school district in 2004 following the tragic death of a student. Since this time, the word, concept, and power of Aavidum have spread beyond one high school and moved into the halls and classrooms of middle, high, and now elementary schools across the nation.

Aavidum's goal is to create a positive mental health environment, a culture of "I Got Your Back" in schools and communities across the nation by forming Aavidum chapters and by empowering youth.

At the elementary level, the concept of Aavidum helps teach our kids about the importance of supporting and caring for each other. Students will be connected to their classmates and teachers in a powerful and committed relationship of support and compassion. Students will learn signs of sadness in others as well as themselves. With this information, they will also then learn what to do in order to help have someone's back during these emotional times. Finally, students will be empowered to search for and find their own strengths and life gifts, learning about what makes each of them special and unique. -Mr. Cardoza

Aavidum at WCS

Character building lessons to reinforce and teach students about:

- ✓ Empathy
- ✓ Caring/Kindness
- ✓ How to help others
- ✓ Signs of Sadness
- ✓ How to be a Good Friend
- ✓ Critical Thinking
- ✓ Problem-Solving

School-wide creation of a Culture of Caring, Connection & Support for all students, staff, and families.

Buddy Bench on Playground

Bulletin board displays throughout the school

Goals:

- To recognize the signs of sadness in others (peers and adults).
- To recognize and know other peers and staff members that children can turn to and talk to when feeling sad, upset, or when they have a problem.
- To create a school culture of caring, kindness, respect, and empathy in which all students, staff, and families are connected to each other through a common cause and support system.

Is your son or daughter sad?*Symptoms of childhood depression*

- Continuous feelings of sadness, hopelessness
- Social withdrawal
- Vocal outbursts or crying
- Irritability or anger
- Increased sensitivity to rejection
- Changes in appetite -- either increased or decreased
- Changes in sleep -- sleeplessness or excessive sleep
- Difficulty concentrating
- Fatigue and low energy
- Reduced ability to function during events and activities at home or with friends, in school, extracurricular activities, and in other hobbies or interests
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
- Thoughts of death or suicide

Ways to Help

- ✓ **Listen.** Allow time to talk with your child, giving him/her your fullest attention.
- ✓ **Help discover coping skills and strengths:** Sit down and have your kids think of and create things they can do when feeling upset. Search for many things they are already good at doing and use these talents to help overcome future obstacles.
- ✓ **Take time to Love:** Show your kids you care by hugs, kisses, high-fives, and smiles.
- ✓ **Reassure your child.** Let him/her know that you are there for them and that with time, things will get better.
- ✓ **Seek Support of Others.** Contact your child's teacher, principal, school counselor, and other important support systems...we all have your back at Williams-Cone School!

Visit www.aavidum.org for more information about Aavidum.

Staff Recommends.....



Some days the world can feel topsy-turvy with your life changing in an instant. This is especially true for Red and Lulu, a pair of Cardinals who become separated when the pine tree they call home is taken with Lulu in it. Frantically Red set off on a long journey to find the tree and be united with Lulu. Red's love of Lulu is shown in his persistence, determination, and hope to find Lulu. This wonderful journey leads Red to unexpected surprises as well as learning that even in tough times something better may be waiting for you on the other side. Matt Tavares's beautiful illustrations pull you into Red's journey and the beauty of the season. Red and Lulu by Matt Tavares is a heartwarming story about family, home, and resiliency in the face of adversity. Matt Tavares is a prominent Maine author and illustrator. You can see a list of his books at <https://mattavares.com>.

-Mrs. Bellina, WCS Learning Commons Paraprofessional