

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 17

May 12, 2023



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

## Hello WCS Community!



Today we held the annual "Race for Education" sponsored by FOWC. This year's race was a "beach" theme with PreK through grade five students and staff racing around the large field adjacent to the WCS playground and enjoying a variety of obstacle and beach themed stations. Many thanks to FOWC for their incredible efforts in making the race a special activity. The race was a spectacular scene of balloon arches, water

stations, prizes and students were treated to ice cream/popsicle during lunch. Stay tuned for more photos and reports about the race in the next newsletter!

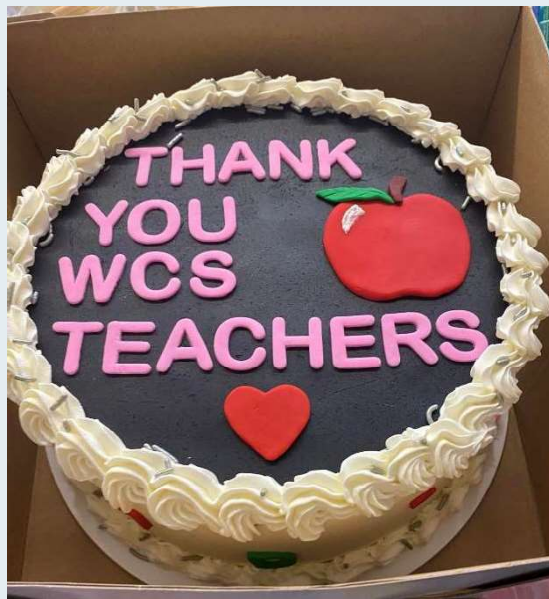


## Staff Appreciation Week May 1-5

Thank-you WCS community for the absolutely AMAZING Staff Appreciation Week!! From Breakfast Cart, Supplies and Personal Items Day, Farmer's Market Day, Encouraging Notes, Stock the Fridge and Dessert Day, Luncheon by the Bake Shop (Talmage/Banis family), to Cinco de Mayo/Mexican themed To Go's and Mexican themed beverages, it was all just FABULOUS!!!! To learn more about the details of this very special week (as there were LOTS!), please review the "Gratitude" section of this newsletter. Thank-you WCS community for your overwhelming generosity and sharing your time, creativity and resources with the WCS staff!

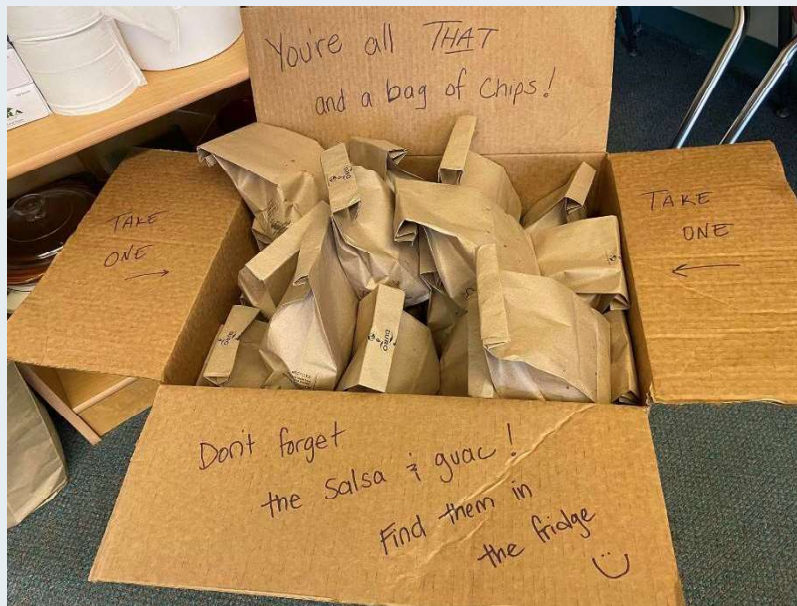












## FOWC Kid's Academies

Kid's Academies have continued over the past couple of weeks with craft clubs that focused on making paper flowers and creating objects with foam art . Fifth grade students are currently participating in an after school garden club as well. Our students are enjoying these unique learning opportunities that promote creativity and curiosity! Special thanks to Jennifer Cass and Heather Rogers for leading the Kids Academies and to the many parent/community that help provide additional volunteer support.











## School Safety



Ensuring a safe school for all is a top priority for our school team and district. Throughout the school year staff have participated in a variety of trainings, discussions and activities related to emergency response. During a recent Late

Start Wednesday, Topsham Police Chief Marc Hagan (pictured above) helped lead a professional development session that focused on intruder protocols. Chief Hagan's knowledge and expertise was much appreciated as he provided WCS staff with a variety of strategies and feedback for safety related scenarios and questions.

### K-5 Student Arrival/Dismissal

\*Morning arrival for K-5 students is between 8:40-8:50 A.M. each day with the exception of Wednesdays (9:40-9:40 A.M.). Students who

arrive after 8:55 A.M. (9:55 A.M. on Wednesdays) will be marked tardy. Students should not arrive before 8:40 A.M. (9:40 on Wednesdays) as adult supervision is not available prior to that time and is mandatory.

\*K-5 Student Dismissal: Students are dismissed to their buses at 3:10 followed by car riders and walkers at 3:15 P.M. **Car riders and walkers must be picked up no later than 3:25 P.M.**





## 2023 - 2024 Homeroom Assignments

Each year WCS staff works closely together to create classroom rosters that balance student strengths and areas to grow. Classroom

assignments will be communicated in each student's Trimester 3 report card for students entering grades one through five for the 2023-24 school year.

This year we were most fortunate to have additional classroom and Response to Intervention-Academic (RTI-A) teachers due to federal ESSERF funds being available to the district. This allowed for smaller classroom sizes and additional intervention opportunities for students to help close the learning gaps that many students experienced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. These additional positions were one year only positions. Therefore; at this time for the 2023-24 school year we anticipate having two sections of first grade (Mrs. Greenleaf & Ms. Marsters), two sections of second grade (Mrs. San Pedro & Mr. Wilbur), two sections of third grade (Mr. Anagnostis, & Ms. King,) two sections of fourth grade (Mrs. Dedek & Mrs. Ebel) and two sections of fifth grade (Ms. Carroll & Mrs. Bretschneider). Additional staffing information will be shared as it becomes available.

Incoming kindergarten homeroom assignments will be determined following kindergarten screening in August. At this time, due to current enrollment, we anticipate having two sections of kindergarten for the 2023-24 school year. Mrs. Bowie and Ms. Hayes will be teaching kindergarten. More upcoming staffing information will be shared as it becomes available.



Thank-you WCS community for the "mothering" that you generously give to your children and to the children in our community. I witness this everyday through the countless ways that this community so lovingly and selflessly supports our students. Our children are benefitting greatly and it shows!

It's hard to believe that we are coming into approximately the last four weeks of school. While we still have so much to learn and do, this is such a fun time of the school year. Please review the "Important Dates" section of this newsletter as you will find some new dates added since our last newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions and/or needs please do not hesitate to reach out to me and our school team. We are here to help!

Your Principal,

Randa



Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

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(207)725-4391



gratitude



Pictures courtesy of Jenn Cass & Heather Rogers

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

- \*The FABULOUS Race for Education!!! The decorations, stations, prizes, theme, etc. Thank-you FOWC, community volunteers & WCS Staff!
- \*The SPECTACULAR Staff Appreciation Week provided by our creative and generous FOWC!!!
- \*Our FOWC board & all of their tremendous work-Megan Robertson, Anna Siegel, Jenn Cass, & Meredith Pinkham
- \*5th grade returning to the Growstown School tradition!!!
- \*Extended school day program-thank-you parents/caregivers for your support!
- \*A super turnout for the FOWC Family movie Night!
- \*A strong parent/caregiver turnout for the incoming kindergarten parent information night.
- \*Our staff screened over 35 potential PreK students this week.
- \*Art/Project themed Kid's Academies & Garden Club. Thank-you volunteers!
- \*Topsham Police Chief Marc Hagan & the Topsham PD-supporting our school.
- \*Topsham Fire Department-timely fire drill support.
- \*Our amazing secretaries Mrs. Sanders & Mrs. Anderson. Administrative Professionals Day was celebrated on April 26th.
- \*Our School Lunch Heroes: Mrs. McAvoy, Ms. Goodenow, & Mrs. Jewett. School Lunch Hero day was observed on May 5th.
- \*Thank-you to Mrs. McAvoy who has been the WCS Cafeteria Manager this year. She has transferred to MAMS and Mrs. Jewett has joined us. Thank-you to Mrs. McAvoy for your excellent service in our cafeteria and welcome Mrs. Jewett!
- \*Our Health Room Heroes -Mrs. Chamberland & Mrs. Spies-School Nurse/Health Room Day was celebrated on May 10th.



\*Students helping to beautify our school garden.



### **From Friends of Williams-Cone:**

\*Thank you to our Family Movie Night volunteer team - Jenn, Anna, Sam, & Megan. An extra special mention to Kim & Kevin who shared their movie screen and kept our popcorn station going all evening! We also need to highlight our school staff that makes these events possible - Mrs. Rineer, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Appel, Mr. Randy & Ms. Pam. Big thanks to our clean-up sweepers, Jonathan and Kyle!

\*Many thanks to our Race for Education planning crew - Jenn, Meredith, Heather, Anna, Megan, Christie, Erin, Kim, & Laila and much love to Melissa & Lisa for jumping in to help lend a hand and Mac for helping us gather up our milk crates from storage. Mrs. Martin was an amazing help with ideas and equipment that made today a success. Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Rineer, Ms. Pam, & Mr. Randy all lend us a hand with every event - we deeply appreciate all they do. We also need to thank our Facilities Department for making the mowing of our backfield a priority this week.

\*Thank you, families, for signing up your students for the Craft Club; we hope the students had fun. We will start Craft Club back up next year. We continue to be grateful for Jenn C and her volunteers Heather, Haley, Kate, & Gail who have been facilitating the after-school Craft Club and now 5th Grade Garden Club.

\*School Wear Rockstar Team! We are grateful to Anna & Matt, Becky, Sam, Heather, Meredith, Megan, and our youth helpers - Emmett, Cooper, Gil, Juliana, & Katelyn for coordinating, organizing, and helping out during pick-up night for the School Wear fundraiser.

\*Many thanks to Megan for the numerous hours that went into creating our annual yearbook. Much appreciation to Mrs. Rineer, Mrs. Sanders, Mrs. Anderson, and Jonathan who all proof our annual book and help with all of our form gathering. It all came together with the help of our teachers, staff, and families that contributed to our collection of memories. What a wonderful year!

\*Thank you Facilities Department for dropping by this week to ensure the front of our school looks awesome for visitors.

\*We have SO many people to thank for all your help last week for Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week - BUT we need to start by thanking our Teachers & Staff who are the reason for this event. We cannot thank you all enough for being 'Nacho Average Teachers & Staff. We are very fortunate to have you all working hard for our students.

**Sign Makers** - Rogers Family, Alexander Family, Cass Family, Pride Family, Robertson Family, Siegel Family, Jordan & Gray Family, Eaton Family.

**Monday's Breakfast Cart Helpers** - Heather H, Ms. Dunn, Kristen S, Megan H-T, Danielle H, & Brooke B, Jenn C, & Anna S.

**Monday's Supply Contributors** - Barnikow Family, Prout Family, Cunio Family, Tlumac Family, Cass Family, Robertson Family, Beaumont Family, Hojara Family, Elias Family, Hanson Family, Rogers Family, Dearborn Family, Simpson Family, Hunter Family, Tetreau Family, Vitali Family, Adams & Byrnes Family, Beal Family.

**Tuesday's Farm/Local Business Collaborations** - Whatley Farm, Six River Farm, Fairwinds Farm, Winter Hill Farm, [Moses Dyer Coffee Roasters](#), [Senza Scarpe](#), and [Gryffon Ridge Spice Merchants](#) and 2 of our own families Wendy D & Haley K.

**Wednesday** - Thank you to all the families that contributed a Post-it note to our Encouraging Notes wall - it was simply amazing!

**Wednesday's Dessert Suppliers** - Kim P, Erin O, Heather R, Shana D, Jill A, Tracey D, Gail E, Monique P, Heather P, Annah V, Amy S, Allyson E, Megan B, & Nichole B.

**Thursday's Luncheon** - The BakeShop Maine and the Banis/Talmage Family for their generosity in donating the luncheon and supplies.

**Friday's Celebration** - Taco the Town Collaboration, Christie, Kim, Laila, Megan, & Erin

Lastly, much gratitude for our lead volunteers behind the initial planning - Erin, Kim, Christie, Laila, Jennifer B, Jenn C, Anna, Meredith, & Megan. There was SO much extra that they did that make all these pieces wrap together for a spectacular week celebrating our Teachers & Staff.

**\*\*Massive apologies if we inadvertently left you out of our thanks. We worked hard to try and capture all of our helpers, Please know your contributions are so valued!**



# Important Dates



5/15-5/26 K-2 NWEA Window

5/16 Grades 3-5-All District Band & Chorus Concert, Orion, 9:30-11:30 A.M.

5/16 Playground Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

5/16 All District Band & Chorus Concert, 7:00 P.M., Orion

5/18 Tales for Tails, 10:00 A.M., Learning Commons Visit

5/22-5/26 Scholastic Book Fair

5/22 Chorus Assembly, 2:30 P.M.

5/22-5/26 Book Fair

5/22 Arts Night/Book Fair Open, 5:30 P.M.

6:30 4th & 5th Grade Chorus Concert

5/23 5th Grade Field Trip to Chewonki

5/23 Playground Fundraising Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

5/26 Tales for Tails, 1:00 P.M., Art Class Visit

5/29 Memorial Day, No School

6/2 Tales for Tales, 10:00 A.M., Music Class Visit

6/5 Field Day-Grades 3-5, (All Day)

6/6 Field Day-Grades 1 & 2, (All Day)

6/6 Field Day-Kindergarten, 9-12:00 P.M.

6/6 Playground Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., LC

6/7 5th Grade Step Up Day

6/7 Late Start, Volunteer Breakfast, 8:15 A.M.

6/7 Third Grade Walking Trip to Topsham Public Library

6/9 MTA Senior Walk Through, June 9, Time TBA

6/12 Kindergarten Walking Field Trip to Topsham Public Library

6/14 5th Grade Farewell, 1:30 P.M., WCS Gym

6/15 Last Day of 2022-23 School Year

10:45 A.M. PreK Dismissal

12:10 P.M. K-5 Dismissal



### Message from Mrs. Appel, WCS Music Teacher

Dear WCS Families,

We have been busy in the music room preparing for not one, but TWO spring concerts! After a COVID hiatus, we are bringing back the All District Chorus and Band Concert this spring in addition to our own concert at Williams-Cone later in May as part of our ARTS NIGHT (more details on that to follow).

The All-District Concert brings together chorus and band members from all 5 elementary schools for a wonderful performance of over 250 students! This amazing experience has been a long-standing tradition here in MSAD 75 and we are very excited to be able to have it this year.

Below are the dates and times for both spring events for our chorus members:

**All-District**

Monday, May 15th, CHORUS rehearsal at MAMS (Orion) 6:30-7:30pm

Tuesday, May 16th, All District Chorus and Band Concert at MAMS (Orion) 7pm

**WCS SPRING CONCERT**

Monday, May 22nd, WCS GYMNASIUM 6:30pm

Feel free to email with any questions or concerns! Sending a big thank you for your encouragement and support and we'll see you in May!



If you have a child who will turn 5 no later than October 15, 2023, he/she is eligible to attend kindergarten beginning the 2023-2024 school year. Kindergarten registration is currently taking place and an incoming Kindergarten

**Kindergarten students can be registered electronically at:**

<https://ic.link75.org/campus/apps/olr/application/login/kiosk-app-type>



In an effort to increase access to high-quality early childhood learning opportunities for students prior to entering Kindergarten, M.S.A.D. No. 75 provides two PreK classes, for a total of 32 students. Students must be 4 years old by October 15, 2023. The program uses the same calendar as grades K-12, runs five days a week and approximately 6 hours per day. Transportation is not provided. One class is at the Williams-Cone School in Topsham, while the other is at Midcoast Maine Community Action's (MMCA) Head Start location at Cook's Corner in Brunswick.

# friends OF williams-cone

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

## friends OF williams-cone

SUPPORTING THE STAFF AND FAMILIES  
OF THE WILLIAMS-CONE COMMUNITY

### Annual Fundraising Goal



as of February 7, 2023

### Join us for the Upcoming FOWC Meetings & Events:

5th Grade Celebration Planning Meeting - 5/15/23 at 5:00 PM in the Learning Commons

Playground Fundraising Committee Meeting - 5/23/23 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

Playground Committee Meeting - 6/6/23 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

### Playground Committee





We have our first Playground Fundraising Committee on May 23rd at 5:30 pm in the Learning Commons! Join our crew as we brainstorm ways to support our Long-term Playground Proposal financially.

## Family Night



What an awesome movie, but we had even better company! Thanks for coming out on a gorgeous Friday afternoon to hang with us. Thanks for making these Family Night events stellar.

# 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Update:

### Important Dates:

Please join us for our next meeting on May 15th at 5:00 PM to continue planning for the 5th Grade Celebration. The meeting will be held in the WCS Learning Commons.

For upcoming 5th Grade Activities PLEASE check the email you have received from your 5th Grade Teacher.

### School Wear



A tremendous thank you to all of our families and school staff that placed an order for School Wear. We are grateful for our partnership with Adept Screen Printing & Graphics in Lisbon, Maine to make it all possible. Your participation raised just over \$700.00 for our PTO. We had a

wonderful crew of volunteers that helped with all the behind-the-scenes work that made all of this possible. We hope to offer another sale in 2024 with a smaller selection of clothing but some alternative swag options.

*Have apparel you've outgrown? Send it in and we would be happy to ensure it finds a home with one of our students.*



Our students are fast runners! What a blast we had during our Race for Education Beach Vibes Day. This has been an awesome annual fundraiser for our school and fun for our volunteers to organize. We are just shy of our \$5,000.00 fundraising goal so please help us by sharing our CheddarUp Online Donation Link: <http://wcs-2023-race-for-education.cheddarup.com>



This is the last couple of weeks of the Hannaford Helps Schools program!!

Now through 5/27, purchase 4 participating products and earn 3 School Dollars.

New this year: Scan the Hannaford Helps Schools QR Code found on your coupon to easily donate to the school of your choice no matter where you shop.

Ordering online? Keep an eye out for an 'apple' icon - that means it's a participating product!

You can learn more from their website: <https://www.hannaford.com/about-us/hannaford-helps/schools>

Official William & Cone School  
**YEARBOOK**  
in partnership with  
**treering**

Our bulk Yearbook Sale has concluded for the year! Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. Your purchases allow us to ensure every 5th Grade Student receives a yearbook during the 5th Grade Farewell Ceremony.

Miss our deadline? You can still order online at [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)

Enter WCS's passcode: 1015059372991326 (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](mailto:meierc@link75.org).**



## **RAISING CARING, RESILIENT, SOCIALY-RESPONSIBLE CHILDREN**

*Applicable for parents and caregivers of children K-12*  
**Sponsored by MAMS Parent Academy**

**Wednesday, May 17 | 5:30 - 7pm EDT | NTA FORUM**

How do we help the children in our lives to grow up with caring concern for others, resilience to overcome challenges, and a solid sense of social-responsibility?

In this workshop, Marjie Longshore, Ed.M. will share strategies to encourage your child with the crucial skills that lead to flexibility, resilience, responsibility, social interest, and concern for others.

### **About Marjie:**

Marjie Longshore is the mother of two teenagers and the founder of Family Leadership Center, a non-profit organization in Yarmouth, Maine. With a Masters in Education from Harvard, she has devoted her career to education as a teacher, curriculum developer, and parent educator. Her courses and workshops at Family Leadership Center support parents, grandparents, caregivers, and teachers who want to raise the bar for the children in their lives with proven tools in an encouraging, supportive community.



**FAMILY LEADERSHIP CENTER**  
*encourage. grow. lead.*

**Strategies to create  
respectful  
relationships that  
grow empathy and  
kindness**

**Proven tools to  
regulate strong  
emotions**

**Fresh ideas for how  
to lead your family  
in an encouraging  
and truly powerful  
way**

**NO RSVP**

**NECESSARY;**

**HOWEVER REGISTERING HERE  
BEST HELPS US PLAN FOR THE  
GROUP AND THEIR NEEDS**