

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 18

May 26, 2023



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

## Hello WCS Community!



(Photos courtesy of Megan Redd)

## Arts Night

Our school community was delighted to welcome back our yearly "Arts Night" tradition the evening of May 22nd. Mrs. Redd, WCS art teacher, creatively displayed fabulous student artwork in the Williams Wing for families, friends and students to proudly admire and enjoy. The 4th and 5th grade chorus under the direction of Mrs. Appel, WCS music teacher, gave an outstanding musical performance with support from Mr. Myrick, WCS Paraprofessional on the drums and Ms. Maya Douglass on the piano. Mrs. Kane, WCS Paraprofessional also provided support to the chorus. Musical performances included 5th grade band members and student ukulele players. The Scholastic Book Fair, under the leadership of Mrs. Bellina, WCS Learning Commons Paraprofessional, was open and refreshments were provided and served by WCS staff. It was a very special evening for all!







## 5th Grade Field Trip



Photos courtesy of Andrea Bretschneider

5th grade students took a field trip to Chewonki on May 23rd. Chewonki, located in Wiscasset, provides environmental educational opportunities for students. Students engaged in outdoor activities that focus on building self-confidence and stewardship for the natural world. This trip was a culmination of several months of community fundraising and planning. Highlights of the field trip included students creating tie-dye WCS Tshirts to wear on the field trip, a special breakfast treat (Frosty's Donuts!) as well as an early morning departure and after school arrival. Many thanks to the parents, caregivers, staff and community supporters who made this trip possible for our students!

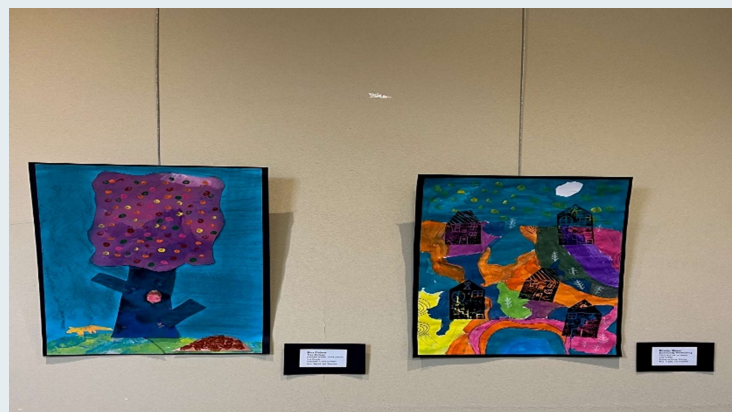


## Topsham Public Library Art Show



Photos courtesy of Megan Redd

Topsham Public Library currently has over twenty WCS student art works on display. A reception was held at the Topsham Public Library on May 22nd to highlight the students and their art work. We are very proud of our students' creations!



## 4H in the Classroom



Photos courtesy of Sarah Dubreuil

Throughout this school year we have partnered with the 4H program through the University of Maine/Cooperative Extension to bring more STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) opportunities to our classrooms. Recently, Ms. Cathy Bartlett Gray, from the UMaine/Coop. Extension brought STEM lessons to kindergarten classrooms. These lessons focused on water and floating as well as surface tension. Students engaged in an activity, "Drops on a Penny", which consisted of each student adding drops of water to a penny and counting how many drops it would hold. Students hypothesized if the flip side would hold the same number of drops and re-tried the experiment. Students greatly enjoyed these engaging hands-on lessons that are designed to promote interest and curiosity in STEM related topics.

Kids

Academies







5th grade students created chimes made out of natural objects during a recent after school Kid's Academy led by Jennifer Cass and Heather Rogers.

The 5th grade Garden Club Kids Academy recently hosted local farmer Ben Whatley who talked to the students about pests. He also talked to students about the 8 feet high steel deer fencing at his farm, aphids, fertilizers, MOFGA organic certified, hydroponic growing and soil. Additionally, Mr. Whatley showed students a few gardening tools that he brought with him and he gave each student three or more plants including kale, spinach, Swiss chard, lettuce, marigolds, basil, etc.



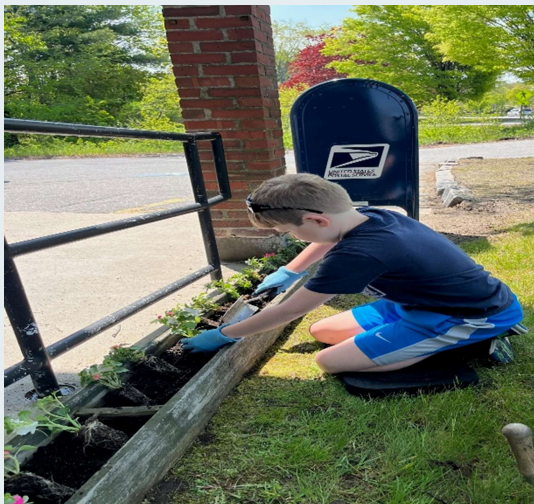






Photos courtesy of Jenn Cass

**Garden Club Project:** In the spirit of giving back to the community, WCS Garden Club Leader, Jenn Cass and her son, Kyle Cass recently donated and planted flowers at the Topsham Post Office. We appreciate their kindness, time and creativity!



## Library Books Due June 2, 2023



Have questions about  
lost, missing or damage  
library books?

Contact: Mrs. Bellina  
[bellinal@link75.org](mailto:bellinal@link75.org)

It's hard to believe that we have less than three weeks of school left for the 2022-2023 school year! Please review the "Important Dates" section of this newsletter as you will find some new dates added since our last newsletter. You will notice that we have many activities taking place in and around the WCS community as we lead up to the last day of the school year. One activity, a "Glow Stick Party" will be held on June 13th. K-5 students will have an opportunity to participate in a glow stick dance party led by Mrs. Martin and other WCS staff in the WCS gym. This activity will give students an opportunity to engage with their cross grade level classroom buddies one last time as the school year ends in an effort to celebrate our school year's theme of connecting and belonging. It also celebrates a very successful year of implementing our school's Positive Behavior Intervention Support framework.

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



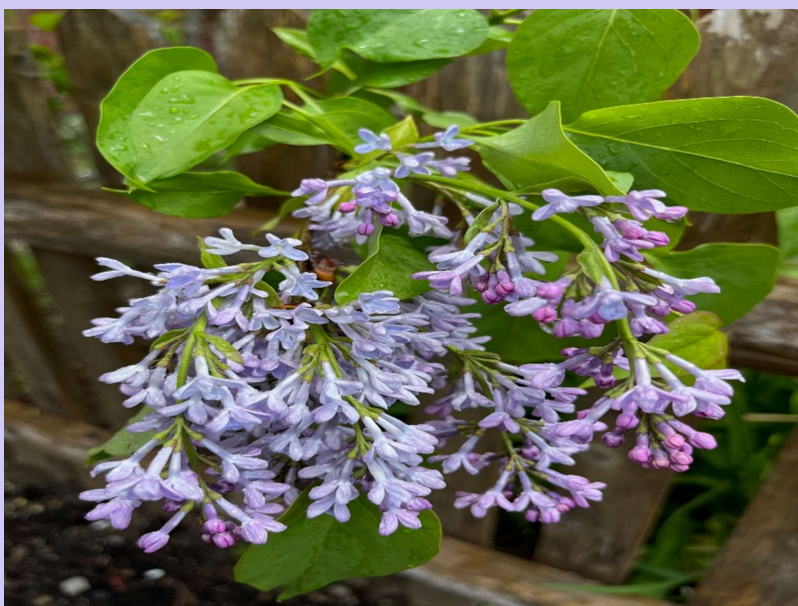
Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

[rineerr@link75.org](mailto:rineerr@link75.org)

(207)725-4391



gratitude



Picture courtesy of Jenn Cass

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

- \*The Band & Chorus students and the All District Concert. A great success! Thank-you Mrs. Appel and Mrs. Powers!
- \*The Arts Night-Thank-you Mrs. Redd & Mrs. Appel
- \*Scholastic Book Fair-Thank-you Mrs. Bellina and the many volunteers. Thank-you WCS for your generous support of the Book Fair.
- \*Spring Break Principal's Reading Challenge-Thank-you to Mrs. Bellina and Mrs. Anderson for coordinating book fair certificates.
- \*Mrs. Bellina-hosting a Tales for Tails in the Learning Commons.
- \*Mrs. Redd-hosting a Tales for Tales art class.
- \*Jenn Cass & Heather Rogers-hosting Kid's Academies.
- \*Jenn & Kyle Cass-donating and planting flowers at the Topsham Post Office
- \*Ben Whatley-presenting at the Garden Club Kid's Academy.
- \*Topsham Public Library-art reception for WCS students.
- \*5th grade parents-amazing support for the 5th grade end of year activities.
- \*Megan Robertson-outstanding slide project proposal!
- \*Playground Fundraising Committee-vision, details, & willingness to move forward. Thank-you



team!

\*4H/Cooperative Extension-STEM activities.

\*The fabulous Chewonki field trip! Thank-you Mary Kate Appicelli for organizing and leading the 5th fundraising grade activities.

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

\*Congratulations to all the Band & Chorus students during the All District Concert on May 16th. A very successful and thrilling event to attend and hear the extraordinary work our students & teachers have been putting into their music experience.

\*Garden Club supporters - Jenn & Kyle completed a community service project last weekend at the Topsham US Post Office. Thank you for your time and energy in this thoughtful community contribution.

\*Many thanks to the teachers, staff & volunteers working helping with the Arts & Music Festival on Monday. Seeing all the phenomenal artwork and listening to our 4th & 5th Grade Chorus students perform was amazing. It was a very lovely event!

\*We are feeling very thankful for our Scholastic Book Fair supporters this week - Mrs. Bellina, Mrs. Dodge, Megan, Anna, Heather, Marci, April, Katie, Matt, Sarah C, Gail, and Laila.

\*Much love for Megan for all the work on the details for the Stand-Alone Slide - any project on school grounds requires detailed proposals which involve a lot of time for gathering details and acquiring many levels of approval. We are very excited about this opportunity for our whole school community.

\*Thank you, Anna! For coordinating our Mad Science of Maine presentations in June - this is bound to be a SCIENCE-riffic event!

\*We are grateful for our Playground Committee members whose work will continue into the summer month. Your planning for fundraising and long-term renovations is so appreciated.



Pictures courtesy of Megan Robertson & Jenn Cass

## Important Dates

5/29 Memorial Day, No School

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

6/2 Mad Science Assembly, PreK-5

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, 8:30 A.M.

6/7 Tales for Tails, 11:00 A.M., School Tour for incoming K with Mrs. Rineer & Lunch

6/7 Third Grade Walking Trip to Topsham Public Library

6/8 Second Grade Walking Trip to the Topsham Public Library

6/9 MTA Senior Walk Through, June 9, 9:30 A.M.

6/12 Kindergarten Walking Field Trip to Topsham Public Library

6/13 Glow Stick Party-1:30-2:30 P.M.

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



**MSAD 75 MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE AND  
THE MAINE RESILIENCE BUILDING NETWORK**

**WEBINAR: THE THRIVING FAMILY: PRACTICAL STRATEGIES TO  
ENHANCE STRENGTHS AND RESILIENCE AMONG PARENTS AND  
FAMILIES**

**Wednesday, May 31 | 6:30 - 7:30pm EDT | Webinar**

[Link to Webinar](#)

Navigating the academic, social, and personal journey through elementary, middle and high school can be challenging for youth and their families. At various points, the stress of daily life can leave us feeling overwhelmed, stressed and/or discouraged about what the future holds. As parents and caregivers, we want the ability to connect with our children and help them feel confident that they can navigate through today's uncertain world.

In this training, Delvina Miremadi-Baldino, Ph.D., Ed.M., CAPP will examine the unique difficulties today's youth face, explore how we can foster their capacity for resilience and expand our toolkit of parenting resources to help families connect and thrive.

Delvina Miremadi-Baldino, (she/her/hers) is the Director of Resilience Strategy and Impact for the Maine Resilience Building Network (MRBN). Dr. Miremadi-Baldino brings over 18 years of experience in prevention and mental health promotion to advance MRBN's programming and impact. She is a Certified Applied Positive Psychology Practitioner, Certified Coach and mental health change agent and demonstrates this through research, education, program development, and entrepreneurship. In 2016 she founded Realize Your Resilience, LLC, a company dedicated to helping individuals, schools and organizations foster resilience through education, training, coaching and consultation.



**Understand the current  
challenges and  
stressors youth face  
and how they impact  
their well-being**

**Learn the science of  
Positive Childhood  
Experiences and how  
they can help protect  
your children from  
stress and adversity**

**Learn how to apply  
strength-based  
resilience strategies to  
help your family  
connect and thrive**

**REGISTER:  
[Click Here](#)**

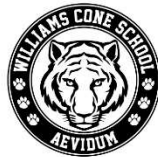
# friends OF williams-cone

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 May 25, 2023

With our last FOWC meeting earlier this month, we are reflecting on the memories we've made this year. We are quite simply amazed. Our community's opportunity to establish or maybe reestablish connection and belonging has been an incredible journey for FOWC. Getting to know your students through our volunteer work, meeting families during events, supporting our school staff by providing supplies or resources, renovating our playground, the Winter Kids Winter Games experience, and so many other events and activities - it has been an honor and a privilege to serve our school community. Thank you for your support which allowed us to do more and meet our annual fundraising goal.

While our Executive Board is preparing to close down for the summer months - we still have two

things wrapping up the year. We are excited to share that Mad Science of Maine is visiting our students on June 2nd. We hope this will be a fun contribution to our school's end-of-school celebrations in the coming weeks. With the support of our school administration, the FOWC community approved the purchase of a Stand-Alone Slide through Miracle Playground. Now we undergo the approval process with our MSAD #75 Facilities Committee and School Board. Keep your eye out for the School Board Meeting Agendas for summer updates.

For 2023-2024

Executive Board Members:

Co-Chairs - Anna Siegel and OPEN (Megan Robertson interim)

Treasurer - Gail Eaton

Secretary - Jennifer Cass

Members at Large:

5th Grade Fundraising Group - OPEN

Kids Academy Coordinator - Heather Rogers

Yearbook Chief Editor- Megan Robertson

Playground Committee Coordinator - Megan Robertson

Please feel free to contact us concerning any of our OPEN positions.

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

5th Grade Celebration Planning Meeting - 5/30/23 at 5:00 PM in the Learning Commons

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

2023-2024 First FOWC Meeting - 8/3/23 at 5:30 PM location is TBD



## Thank you, Volunteers!

FOWC is a 100% volunteer organization - with the support of our parents and caregivers, we were able to collaborate with our teachers and staff to support so many fun programs, events, and playground renovations. While volunteer opportunities are high, we deeply appreciate that you've chosen FOWC and our school community for your time and energy.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of a few of our FOWC volunteers who are transitioning this year.

~Farewell to Meredith P (6 years of service), who will be stepping down as our Treasurer once the 2022-2023 financials are wrapped up. Thankfully she's still sticking around for another year but not in an executive capacity.

~Farewell to Mary Kate A, who has coordinated our 5th Grade Fundraising Group for a couple of years on behalf of FOWC. Wishing you and yours the best as you continue your journey in MSAD 75.

~Farewell to Erin O, who has served as a volunteer for FOWC for the last 5 years. We wish you and your family the very best on this next adventure!

## Playground Committee



We have our next Playground Committee on June 6th at 5:30 pm in the Learning Commons! Join our crew as we discuss Phase II of the Pre-K Outdoor Classroom and update the community on our fundraising ideas for the Long-Term plans.



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





On Tuesday, May 23, the 5th grade went on their long-awaited class trip to Chewonki. Special thanks and appreciation to Ms. Carroll, Mrs. Bretschneider, Mrs. Kane, and Mrs. Campbell for taking them on the trip and to Mrs. Rineer for facilitating the return of the WCS class trip tradition. From all accounts, it was a spectacular day! The 5th Grade Celebration Planning Group supported their trip with individually packaged donut holes from Frosty's and paw bags filled with delicious snacks for their bus ride home. Families and guardians greeted the 5th graders at the end of their day with signs and pom poms celebrating their return. Big thanks to Amber-Jean Nickel, Shana Kelley-Cohen, Danielle Prout, Melissa Ouellette, and Mary Kate Appicelli for their efforts in helping make the day extra special.

In the next couple of weeks, the 5th Graders will be participating in a variety of celebrations and the 5th Grade Celebration Planning Group will be contributing to these events through purchasing food, drinks, and other surprises. Our next 5th Grade Celebration Planning Meeting will be held in the Learning Commons at WCS on Tuesday, May 30 from 5:00-6:15p. Please join us to plan the fun! Contact Mary Kate Appicelli at 751-0133 or [applecelery@hotmail.com](mailto:applecelery@hotmail.com) with questions.



### Important Upcoming Dates for 5th-Grade Activities:

6/1 Meet-Up with Woodside 5th Grade, 6:00-7:00p @ Woodside Playground

6/6 Walk to the Library in the AM

6/7 Step-Up Day at MAMS

6/12 Walk to Dairy Queen

6/13 Pizza Party

6/14 5th Grade Farewell Ceremony

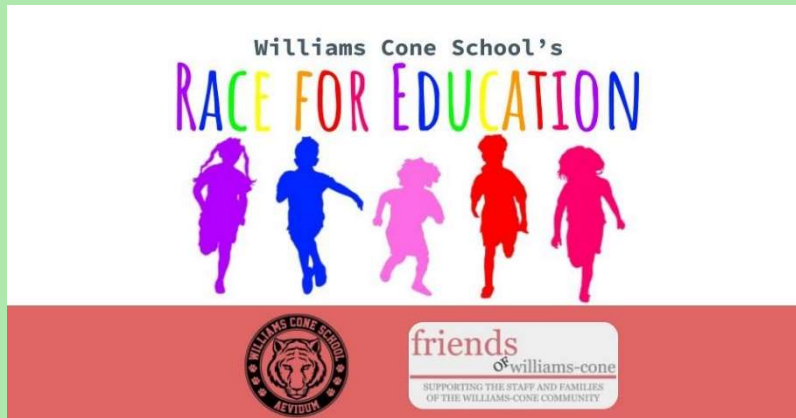
6/15 Yearbook signing and breakfast

# 5th Grade Fundraising Group



### MTA-WCS Class of 2031 (current 4th Grade families)

We are on the hunt for our next 5th Grade Fundraising Group Leaders! Every 5th Grade Class at WCS is tasked with fundraising for their end-of-school celebrations. Historically, that means raising \$5,000. We would love to hear from you! Send us an email or message if you're interested in a leadership role or want to participate in this committee.



Our students are fast runners! What a blast we had during our Race for Education - Beach Party. This continues to be our largest fundraising event of the year! Your support helped us raise over \$4,500.00 for our school & PTO. Thank you for your address forms and for sharing our CheddarUp link. We are excited to invest these funds in meaningful ways for our students and school community.



Tomorrow is the last day of the Hannaford Helps Schools program!!

Thank you all so much for choosing William-Cone School as a donation recipient.

Purchase 4 participating products and earn 3 School Dollars.

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

Official Williams-Cone School  
**YEARBOOK**  
in partnership with  
**treering**

Yearbooks are IN! You can expect to see your student's book after the 5th Grade Farewell Celebration in June. Thank you for your support in this fundraiser!

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).**