

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 5

November 19, 2021



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

Hello WCS Community!



This week WCS has been holding parent/teacher conferences. These important meetings help to build and reinforce essential home/school partnerships that support student learning. Thank-you parents and staff for working together to collaborate on behalf of our students.

Here are a few things taking place around WCS:

Topsham Recreation Trick or Trunk



Pictured above is Mr. Bill Prout, WCS parent, who dressed up as a "Transformer", decorated his automobile trunk in a "Transformer" theme and represented WCS at the Topsham Recreation Department sponsored Trick or Trunk on October 31st. Mr. Prout created the costume himself and "transformed" to the delight of countless trick or treaters. Many thanks to Mr. Prout and for the many generous candy donations from our school community!

FOWC Raffle Baskets Fundraiser



Hello Families from the Friends of Williams-Cone!

We wanted to give a BIG thank you to everyone for your donations to our raffle baskets. You all put the FUN in this FUNdraiser!

Just a few reminders about the raffle basket fundraiser:

- Ticket order forms are due on Friday December 3rd
- Photos of the awesome baskets will be put up on the FOWC Facebook page the week of November 22nd
- Raffling of the baskets off to the lucky winners is happening on Tuesday December 14th at 6p via Zoom

Raffle Basket Themes (one basket per grade):

Kindergarten - Disney & Marvel

1st Grade - Family Fun Night

2nd Grade - Legos

3rd Grade - Sports

4th Grade - Camping

5th Grade - Made in Maine



Music Class

Pictured here are kindergarten students from Mrs. Appel's music class learning how to use boomwhackers! These fun tubes each have a different pitch and are used all together to play songs.

***Staffing Update:** Mrs. Appel, WCS music teacher is expecting a baby in the near future! Ms. Mary Hyde has been hired as the substitute music teacher during Mrs. Appel's family medical leave. Ms. Hyde comes very highly recommended from the University of Southern Maine Music Education Department. Welcome Ms. Hyde! Mrs. Appel plans to return to WCS later this school year after her family medical leave has been completed. We wish Mrs. Appel and her family all the best as they expand their family!



Learning Commons

Pictured above is Mrs. Kristin Middleton, our new Learning Commons Paraprofessional, sharing a story with PreK students. Mrs. Middleton recently joined our staff and is overseeing the Learning Commons a WCS. Mrs. Middleton has previous experience working with children in a variety of capacities from camp counselor to para educator. Welcome Mrs. Middleton!

School Wide Positive Behavior Challenge



Our current school wide Positive Behavior Challenge is focusing on showing respect to ourselves and each other as well as being respectful in all school settings. Throughout the month of November students have had the opportunity to earn a special orange colored PAW slip for demonstrating respect to themselves, each other, staff and in all school settings. Each classroom is challenged to fill two PAWS sheets that are posted on a PBIS bulletin board in the hallway. Once the bulletin board is filled with PAWS sheets, the students will be treated to a school wide crazy hair and hat day.

A few "housekeeping items":

***Pool Testing:** Pool testing will not occur on Tuesday, November 23rd at WCS for those students and staff who are currently participating due to it being an abbreviated week. Pool testing will resume on Tuesday, November 30th.

***Status of Increased Number of COVID-19 Cases in M.S.A.D. No. 75 Schools:** Earlier this week Interim Superintendent Bob Lucy emailed a letter to all MSAD #75 families informing that Maine CDC has confirmed that five of the schools in M.S.A.D. No. 75 are in outbreak status including WCS. An outbreak is defined as three or more PCR-confirmed cases in the same school within a 14-day period. All laboratory-confirmed PCR test results are sent to the Maine CDC. From there the Maine CDC Outbreak Investigator determines whether a school is in an outbreak and notifies the School Nurse and Superintendent. The designation of outbreak status does not mean a school will automatically be closed. The Outbreak Investigator will work with the Superintendent, Principal, and School Nurse to review mitigation strategies in place within a school. M.S.A.D. No. 75 is currently implementing a multitude of mitigation strategies, which include:

- Universal masking
- Pooled testing surveillance
- Physical distancing
- Hand sanitation
- Implementation of recommended guidance for management of sick students and investigation of positive cases
- Routine disinfection
- Hosting vaccination clinics for interested families.

At this time, most of the cases in our schools are resulting from an exposure outside school, or from community spread. Therefore, it is not recommended we close any of our schools.

***5th Grade Fundraising:** 5th grade parents met via zoom on November 15th to discuss potential fundraisers for 5th grade end of year events and activities. Fundraising plans range from special dine out nights to a bottle drive in the spring. End of year field trip plans are currently being formulated by the fifth grade team of teachers but ideas include a day at an outdoor adventure camp as well as a bike trip. The next 5th grade fundraiser meeting will be held on Monday, December 6th via zoom at 5:00 P.M.

Thank-you WCS community for your continued support. If you have any needs, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school team here at WCS.

Enjoy the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

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(207)725-4391



gratitude



Many thanks to our community partner, Pathway Vineyard Church for recently donating Thanksgiving bags to WCS families that are filled with everything needed for Thanksgiving dinner. Pathway's continued support and generosity to our school community is very appreciated!

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours have you had a fever* or taken fever reducing medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick, had Vomiting/diarrhea, fever*, sore throat, new cough, or felt unwell?

YES =



Have you been told to stay home and isolate/quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure?

YES =



Most Common Symptoms of COVID-19:

Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
Fever *
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or Vomiting
Stomach pain
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Rash
Swelling or redness of hands/feet
Red eyes/eye drainage
Congestion/runny nose

**Fever is 100.4°F/ 38°C regardless of measurement location (oral, temporal).*

Stay home with any **YES** response to the questions above.

Symptoms of illness can have many causes. Please keep your student home and contact your school nurse or primary care provider if your student is unwell. Students who present with symptoms while in school will be dismissed to home at the discretion of the nurse.

**A fever is 100.4F/38C or greater.*



Updated 10.19.2021



Short Term Quarantine Instruction Plan

If a student in grades one through five is absent from school during a short term period of quarantine due to a school based exposure, teachers will now offer remote learning to the student. This means that students will have the opportunity to engage in core instructional learning (language arts and math) synchronously during the school day.

In the event that a student is in a short term quarantine due to a school based exposure, the following steps will occur:

*If outside of the school day, starting the following school day, teachers will be notified by our health room staff. Teachers will have through the next school day to prepare resources for quarantined learners. The teacher will communicate with the parent/caregiver when the resources are ready for use. This includes the student's school issued laptop.

*Teachers will communicate a predictable schedule with links that can be utilized throughout the quarantine period.

*Students will be invited to ZOOM/Google Meet into the classroom for Core Content Mini-Lessons (10-20 minutes of instruction depending on the subject and/or grade level).

*Students may be provided with offline materials so that they can practice skills in the content areas during the duration of their quarantine.

*Students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will follow the general ed plan unless there is a specific need that may be serviced through an Individual Remote Learning Plan (IRLP). Case managers will review with families on a case by case basis.

*Students currently receiving academic Response to Intervention (RTI) services will maintain their schedule to the extent possible.

*Special Area (Art, Music, Phys. Ed.) teachers will post asynchronous assignments that can be completed at home.

*Assignments are regularly assigned K-2 (See-Saw) and 3-5 (Google Classroom).

*In many situations additional physical materials will be a needed part of the quarantine learning plan. With younger learners (PreK and Kindergarten), physical materials will be a dominant part of this learning plan. Kindergarten will begin offering ZOOM/Google Meet instruction during Trimester 2.

Please keep in mind that the goal of this plan is to meet the academic and social/emotional needs of our students and their families during this time. Parent/caregiver support, patience, understanding and communication will be very appreciated and needed as we begin to implement this type of learning when needed. Thank-you!



Friends of Williams-Cone

Hello Friends-

Thank you all so much for your amazing donations for our classroom raffle baskets. We are now beginning to work on putting these beautiful baskets together! As you know, we will have one basket per grade this year. You should have received ticket order forms, if not please reach out and let us know. The order forms are due by 12/3/21 to ensure the ticket numbers would be sent home with students. We will be holding the raffle event via zoom on 12/14/21 at 6:00.

Please be sure to have your tickets on hand (if not, no worries, we have them listed on a spreadsheet). Each student will also have their name put on one ticket and we have the classroom teacher asking them which basket they would love it to be placed in.

We look forward to seeing you via zoom on 12/14/21.

Our next meeting will be 11/30/21 please reach out with any questions or please follow us on the Friends of Williams Cone Facebook.

Thank you,

FOWC



November

11/15-11/23 Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/22 Playground Committee Meeting via Zoom, 5:00 P.M.

<https://zoom.us/j/98595111208?pwd=TFloMGxvODVfY0dWS3JmRmlhMDcrdz09>

Meeting ID: 985 9511 1208

Passcode: 647520

11/23 1/2 Day for Students

PreK 10:45 A.M. Dismissal

K-5 Dismissal :

11:55-12:05 P.M. Bus Riders Dismissed

12:05-12:25 P.M. Walkers/Car Riders/Family Focus Dismissed

11/23 Trimester 1 Ends
11/24-11/28 Thanksgiving Break
11/30 FOWC Meeting, 5:00 P.M. via zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/94609069041?pwd=VkpuakFIS21RQzRJbE5vampubE1qZz09>

Meeting ID: 946 0906 9041

Passcode: 484541

December

12/3 Trimester 1 Report Cards Distributed
12/6 5th Grade Fundraiser Meeting, via Zoom, 5:00 P.M.

<https://zoom.us/j/93986426072?pwd=bFY0VVVCczgydmsyV01xenUzYVJWUT09>

Meeting ID: 939 8642 6072

Passcode: 395223

12/14 FOWC Online Basket Auction, 6:30 P.M.
12/23-1/2 Winter Break 1



Wooden Playground Structure

As shared in the previous newsletter, our school's wooden playground structure must be dismantled this fall due to it not being salvageable. The district's facilities department has determined that the area is safe for students to play on for now, but it will most likely be dismantled over Thanksgiving break.

FOWC is working on a short and long term vision and plan for this area of the playground. This will require extensive fundraising and planning in a "phased process." **Community input and support for the overall vision and phases is needed and welcomed!!!** For now, the immediate plan is to install an amphitheater in the newly vacated area that will allow for outdoor instruction. FOWC will take care of the costs of the amphitheater and installation.

The first planning meeting will be held on Monday, November 22nd at 5:00 P.M. via zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/98595111208?pwd=TFloMGxvODVfY0dWS3JmRmlhMDcraz09>

Meeting ID: 985 9511 1208

Passcode: 647520

If you are interested in being a part of the playground planning process and/or playground fundraising, please contact Mrs. Rineer at: rineerr@link75.org

please join us at our community food pantry



We Include, Nurture & Give

W.I.N.G.

the food pantry at Mt. Ararat Middle School

Drive-up service available
Mt Ararat Middle School front entrance
Monday 10a-1p
Friday 5:30p-7:30p

Fresh produce, Dairy, Frozen foods, &
Hygiene products are all available to anyone.

FMI contact
207.729.2950 ext. 7202

in cooperation with
MCHPP
Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program