

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 3

October 15, 2021



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

Hello WCS Community!

In spite of still being in a pandemic, we have many wonderful things happening in the WCS community. Please take a moment to review and share in the joy that abounds in our school:

Outdoor Play & Learning



Pictured above are third grade students engaging in creative play during recess. Students have created "restaurants" and "museums" out of tree stump and many other natural elements. Their excitement and sense of wonder is inspiring!

Kindergarten Warriors

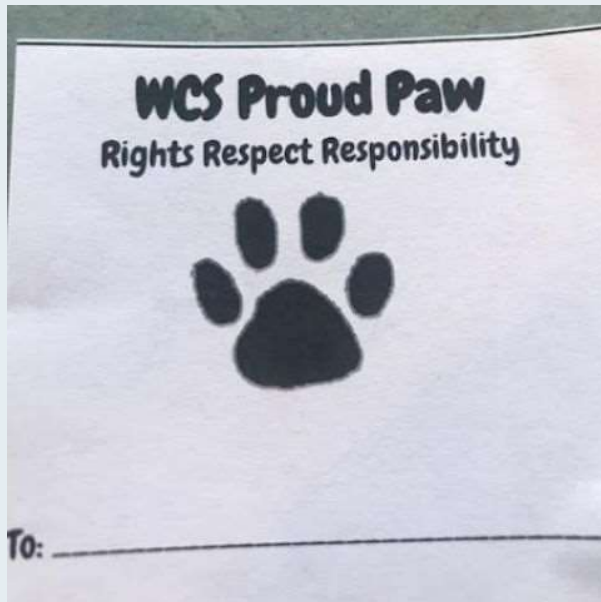
Our kindergarten team, Mrs. Dubreuil, Ms. Hayes and Mrs. Bowie at the Kindergarten Open House held last evening, October 14th.



School Wide Positive Behavior Challenge



During a recent school wide zoom assembly, students were given a school wide challenge to earn PAWS slips for following our school wide SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) in all areas of the school community including the bus, bathroom, playground, hallways, cafeteria/lunch and classroom. Students will "donate" their slips to the PAWS jar (pictured above) that they earn. The goal will be to fill one jar with PAWS slips by Wednesday, October 27th. If the jar is filled by the end of the day on Wednesday, October 27th, students will be treated to a school wide "Pajama Day" and guest reader via zoom on Friday, October 29th. If students fill two jars by October 27th, they will also be treated to a bonus recess on Friday, October 29th.



PAWS

A little square piece of paper
enhanced in appearance
with a tiger and a paw print,
means so much more
than you may know.

The children could tell you
and will if you only ask.

Be prepared
for a rainbow of answers:

"I walked in the hall
with a zero voice."

"I stayed focused on my work."

"At recess, I sat with a lonely friend
on the buddy bench."

"I said I was sorry
and filled a friend's 'bucket'."

We have special moments
that define us
and they can fill a room...

No...

They can fill a school.
You ask us why we do this.

Positively Amazing

Williams-Cone Students.

We do this for the PAWS!

[Rebecca Brooks](#), WCS Paraprofessional

10-13-21

Weekly Tiger Moment



Pictured above are Ms Stromgren, School Social Worker and Mr. Cardoza, School Counselor hosting a weekly "Tiger Moment" for students at the start of school on Monday mornings via zoom. The weekly Tiger Moment is a whole school zoom session where students learn and engage in some basic mindfulness activities. The activities include deep breathing and relaxation techniques that students can utilize both at home and at school. Mindfulness strategies help to calm students and prepare them to better engage in their learning.



WCS will be sponsoring a trunk at the upcoming Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 31st from 3-6 p.m. at the Topsham Fair Grounds. Volunteers are needed to help decorate a trunk for WCS as well as distribute candy at the event. Please contact the school office at 725-4391 or email Mrs. Rineer at rineerr@link75.org if you would like to volunteer for some or part of this event.

Candy donations are needed and are currently accepted through the WCS School Office (please ensure that each piece of candy is individually wrapped and purchased at a store). We will need candy for 350-400 trick or treaters! This event is sponsored by the American Legion Post 202, Topsham Parks and Recreation and The Topsham Fair Association.

Pooled Testing

Pooled testing began on September 28th at WCS as one of several safety measures that the district has implemented to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Pictured above are Diane Hall and Cassie English who support the weekly MSAD #75 Pooled Testing Process. Weekly pooled testing takes place at WCS on Tuesday and the testing results are reported on Thursday or Friday of that same week. At this time the district has determined that for each school, parents of participating students will hear from us if their student is in



a pool that tests positive and we need to do follow-up rapid testing on their student. Otherwise, if parents/caregivers do not hear from us, it is because their student's pool was negative.

Parents must complete a consent form if they would like their student to participate. You can

sign up for the program at any time and also withdraw at any time by reaching out to your student's school. To learn more, you can go to the Maine Department of Education COVID-19 Toolkit and look under Testing. Again, participation in Pooled Testing is completely voluntary and will require permission by parents/guardians. If you have questions, please contact our school office at 725-4391 or Mary Booth at 729-9961 ext. 1015.

Daily Screener

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 =



Stay home with any YES response to the questions above.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY ILLNESS THEY SHOULD STAY AT HOME UNTIL NO FEVER FOR 24 HOURS WITHOUT TAKING FEVER REDUCING MEDICATION AND SYMPTOMS ARE IMPROVING OR GONE.

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



Updated 9.28.2021

Reminder:

We are experiencing a glorious Maine fall with some beautiful warm weather as a bonus! While we continue to live with the uncertainties and challenges of the pandemic, we still have many things to be grateful for. One thing to be grateful for is the fact that we are a strong and vibrant community and have strength in one another. This provides stability and resiliency for our children. If you and your family have any needs or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any other member of our school team.

Thank-you for your continued support!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

rineerr@link75.org

(207)725-4391



gratitude



October 18-22 is Bus Driver Appreciation Week. Given the national and local shortage of bus drivers, we especially appreciate the drivers, who provide safe transportation for our students to and from school. This includes our substitute bus and van drivers from other district departments.

Not only do we appreciate our bus drivers, but given the many changes to our arrival and dismissal procedures due to the pandemic, we appreciate EVERYONE who is involved with safely transporting our students to and from school. This includes our crossing guard, our Arrival and Dismissal Team as well as the many parents and caregivers who drive or walk their students to and from school. Thank-you for your support, patience and diligence in ensuring our students are transported to and from school safely!



- 10/18-22 Bus Driver Appreciation Week
10/29 PBIS School Wide Reward Day: Pajama Day
11/1 FOWC Meeting, 5:00 P.M.

<https://zoom.us/j/98380010724?pwd=bThKd0kzcGxSdFVoakFLVkJZxaVppUT09>

Meeting ID: 983 8001 0724

Passcode: 237970

- 11/2 In-Service Day, No School for Students
11/8 Picture Retake Day
11/8 Playground Committee Meeting, 5:00 P.M.

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

Meeting ID: 985 9511 1208

Passcode: 647520

- 11/11 Veteran's Day, No School
11/15-11/23 Parent/Teacher Conferences
11/23 1/2 Day for Students
PreK 10:15 Dismissal,
11:55-12:05 Bus Riders Dismissed
12:05-12:25 Car Riders Dismissed
11/23 Trimester 1 Ends
11/24-11/28 Thanksgiving Break



Friends of Williams-Cone

Hello Friends,

The week of October 18th we will be having our bus driver/crossing guard APPRECIATION week! During this week we ask students to write a note, color a picture or give thanks for our awesome team making sure our students get to and from school safely.

We are so excited to be holding our basket raffles again this year. It will be different due to the circumstances. Our Potluck/Halloween dance will not occur this year so we will be doing 1 basket per each grade to raffle off (instead of the 2 per grade level). Forms will be going home soon with each grade levels theme with some ideas. Ticket forms will also be following soon after! Keep a look out for updates on our FOWC Facebook page! Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

FOWC



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 8th at 5:00 P.M. via zoom.

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

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



PBIS, (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) have been in place for several years at WCS as part of an overall MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) framework for our school. The PBIS system includes clear behavioral expectations for students that are explicitly taught, practiced and positively reinforced. The PBIS system has been a very successful model for WCS, resulting in increased positive student behavior in all school settings.

To keep the PBIS system current and relevant for student needs, our school team periodically reviews behavioral referral data as well as motivators and student incentives for engaging in positive student behavior. This year our school team has decided to discontinue the Student of the Month and School Store rewards so that we can focus on some new school wide incentives.

The new school wide incentives include earning PAWS slips for engaging in specific positive behaviors that follow our school's Code of Cooperation (Rights, Respect & Responsibility). Each month there will be a different focus area based on student data as well as teacher observation and feedback. New school wide incentives include a pajama day (see the opening page of this newsletter), a snow sculpture contest, zoom assemblies with special guest readers, artists and/or musicians, as well as many other educational, motivating and fun activities.

Classroom teachers will continue to implement individual and classroom rewards and incentives for students to encourage and support positive behavior.

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

