

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 2

September 24, 2021



*"Williams-Cone School is a safe and kind community that inspires every student to succeed."*

*-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-*



Hello Everyone!

We are finishing up week # 4 of the 2021-2022 school year. Students and staff are settling into routines and learning abounds! We are diligent with our Covid-19 safety practices and are

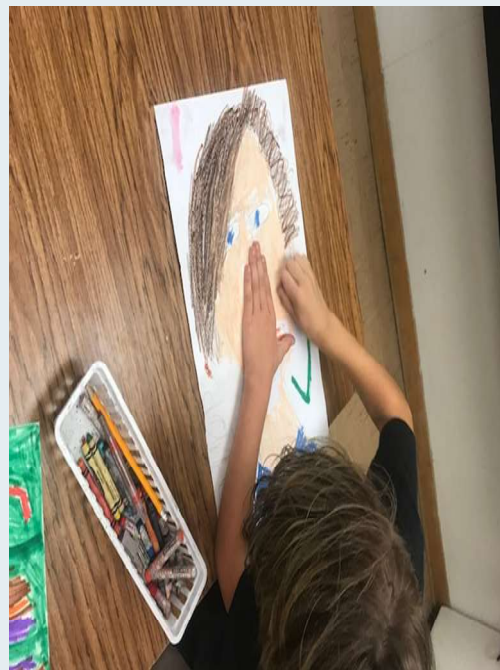
continuously seeking ways to provide outdoor learning opportunities. This includes the recent installation of a tent on our playground (see photo above). The tent is equipped with picnic tables that allow for outdoor eating as well as instructional opportunities.

Here are some things taking place around the WCS community:

## **Music & Art-5th grade students**

engaging in rhythm activities in music class

and create self portraits in art class.



## PreK

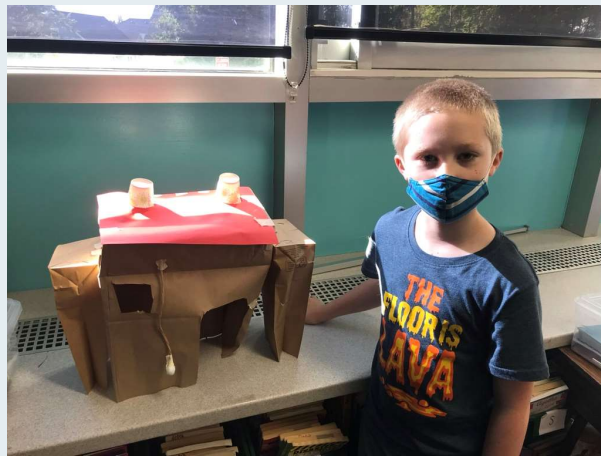


Our school is blessed to house one of two MSAD #75 PreK classrooms. The second PreK classroom, a Headstart partnership class, is located in Brunswick. Pictured are PreK students engaging in outdoor learning, play and fun!

## STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) Projects



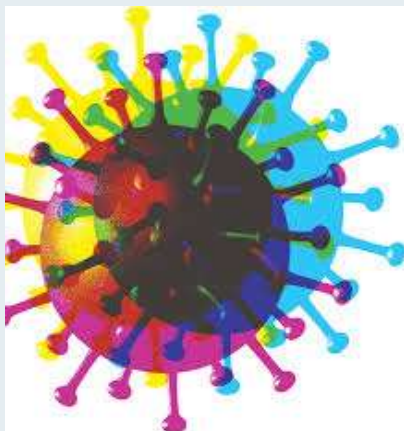
Students in Mrs. Dedek's fourth grade classroom recently completed a STEAM challenge to design a new use for a paper bag. The results were very creative. Pictured are a model clock and a house for cats.



To promote and ensure a safe and kind school community, our school will continue implementing a school wide Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) System and Discipline Plan. This system falls under the umbrella of our Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) and has been in place at WCS for several years. MTSS/PBIS is a research and evidence based system of tools and strategies for defining, teaching, and acknowledging appropriate student behavior and correcting inappropriate student behavior. Consistent behavior expectations and procedures will continue to be taught like other subjects (math, reading).

As the building principal, I am currently making visits to each of the classrooms to discuss our school's PBIS System and Discipline Plan. At the conclusion of each visit, students are being given a packet of information to take home and share with their parents/caregivers. This packet includes a PBIS Parent Fact Sheet and WCS Discipline Procedures.

Our school has experienced tremendous growth in consistent positive behavior as a result of the PBIS System. I encourage parents/caregivers to review this information with their student(s) as a means of supporting your student and their learning environment.



### **Pooled Testing**

Pooled Testing will begin at WCS on **Tuesday, September 28th** for staff and students with written parental permission. Concentric by Ginkgo, is providing the COVID-19 testing program. District staff with support from Concentric will oversee the testing.

As a reminder, Pooled Testing involves testing a group of individuals once a week. All students/staff in a pool swab their own noses (with supervision for young students) and place their swabs in a single test tube. The test tubes are sent to a lab for testing, and student information remains confidential and is not shared with the lab running the pooled test. If one of the pools test positive, then all members of that pool will be individually tested with a rapid test; and when the positive individual is identified, the student will go home. While all unvaccinated close contacts will still be required to quarantine from community activities, the advantage to Pooled Testing is any unvaccinated close contacts (individuals who have been exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19) participating in the program do not have to quarantine from school or school-related activities (i.e. school sports).

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.

Students in grades one through five will participate in NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) Testing during the week of October 4th. Data from these reading, writing and



math results will be utilized to determine instructional programming for students. The NWEA will be administered in the winter and spring as a measure to monitor individual, grade level and school wide student growth and achievement. Results will be made available to parents during parent teacher conferences and/or first trimester report cards.



### **Friends of Williams-Cone (FOWC)**

FOWC held its first meeting for the 2021-2022 school year on September 15th. Fundraisers this year that are being considered include a virtual basket auction, fudge sale and a Race for Education (spring). More details to follow. The next FOWC meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 5th via zoom from 5:00-6:00 P.M. ALL parents and caregivers are invited and encouraged to attend. Your volunteer support is much needed!

Below is the zoom link for the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93079289027?pwd=bIRJZ2hZQnczTWp4NzFxbDIhVCtGUT09>

Meeting ID: 930 7928 9027

Passcode: 171915



**Wooden Playground Structure:** It was also shared during the September 15th FOWC meeting that 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 be dismantled at some point this fall during non-student time.

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.

If you are interested in being a part of the playground planning process and/or playground fundraising, please contact me at: [rineerr@link75.org](mailto:rineerr@link75.org)

# OPEN HOUSE

Grade level teams have scheduled or have recently held Open Houses to help parents and caregivers learn more about their student's daily classroom life and educational program. Thank-you to everyone who has participated thus far and I strongly encourage parents/caregivers to attend if the Open House is being held over the next few weeks. Parent/teacher partnerships are essential for student growth and success.

Students are starting to settle in and are growing more comfortable with their routines and classroom culture. They are doing a great job of following the safety SOP's each day including wearing masks. The staff and I are so proud of them!

Thank-you WCS community for your continued support and grace. If the staff and I can be of any help or support, please do not hesitate to contact us. Remember, we are a STRONG community and have each other's backs! Aavidum!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

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

(207)725-4391





gratitude



WCS would like to extend a HUGE thanks to residents and staff from our neighbors at The Highlands residential community. They recently stopped by our school and donated a HUGE basket of school supplies for our teaching staff. Their thoughtfulness and generosity is very appreciated!



## Important Dates

**9/30** Grade 2 Open House, 5:30-6:00 P.M.

**9/30** Grade 1 Open House, 5:30-6:30 P.M.,

**9/30** Grade 4 Open House, 5:30-6:00 P.M.

**10/4** School Picture Day

**10/4-10/7** Fall NWEA, Grades 1-5

**10/5** FOWC Meeting, Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/93079289027?pwd=b1RjZ2hZQnczTWp4NzFxbDIhVCtGUT09>

Meeting ID: 930 7928 9027

Passcode: 171915

**10/8** In-Service Day, No School for Students

**10/11** Holiday, No School for Staff & Students

**10/14** Kindergarten Open House, 5:30-6:00 P.M.

**11/2** In-Service Day, No School for Students

**11/11** Picture Retake Day

**11/23** Trimester 1 Ends



Thank-you WCS Community for working with our school staff to ensure a safe and orderly arrival and dismissal process. We know that on some days the arrival and/or dismissal process requires a lot of patience....especially if buses are running late!

Here are a few important reminders with a couple of revisions (highlighted in blue):

## **K-5 Morning Arrival**

### **Bus Transportation:**

\* Buses will arrive between 8:40-8:50 A.M. with the exception of Wednesdays. Buses will arrive between 9:40-9:50 A.M. on Wednesdays due to the one hour late start.

**Walkers:** \*Parents who walk their student(s) to school may drop off their children between **8:50-9:05 A.M.** with the exception of Wednesdays. The drop off time for Wednesdays is **9:50-10:05 A.M** due to the one hour late start.

### **Parent/Caregiver Transportation:**

\*Parents who are providing transportation for their student(s) may drop off their children between **8:50-9:05 A.M.** with the exception of Wednesdays. The drop off time for Wednesdays is **9:50-10:05 A.M** due to the one hour late start.

**\*PARENTS DROP OFF THEIR STUDENTS VIA THE MAIN ENTRANCE**

**\*Students should exit their automobiles independently on the curbside and as quickly as possible so as not to hold up the arrival process (30 seconds maximum). \***

**\*SAFETY CONES WILL BE PLACED FOR CAR DROP OFF POINTS**

**\*PARENTS STAY IN VEHICLE UNLESS CHILD NEEDS ASSISTANCE**

**\*PARENTS PLEASE WAIT FOR CARS IN FRONT OF YOU TO LEAVE**

**\*If your child is unable to exit your automobile independently, please park in the WCS parking lot and assist your child. Parents/caregivers (wearing face coverings) must walk their student(s) to the Main Entrance. \*This procedure should only be utilized by students who cannot exit their automobile independently.\***

## **K-5 End of Day Dismissal**

### **Bus Transportation:**

**\*We will begin dismissing bus riders at 2:55 P.M. Our goal is for buses to dismiss between **2:55-3:10 P.M.****

### **Parent/Caregiver Transportation:**

**\*Parents/caregivers that are providing transportation for their student(s) may pick up their student(s) as soon as the last school bus/van has left the dismissal area or between **3:10-3:25 P.M.** \*Please note change in time.**

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CAREGIVERS PLEASE WAIT IN LINE FOR THOSE IN FRONT OF YOU TO LEAVE AND FOLLOW.**

## **Dismissal Notes:**

**\*THE DISMISSAL NOTE SHOULD INCLUDE DATE, STUDENT'S NAME, TEACHER'S NAME, PICK UP PERSON'S NAME**

**THE SECRETARIES IN THE OFFICE MUST RECEIVE A WRITTEN NOTE BY 1:00 P.M. DAILY FOR A STUDENT TO:**

**\*NOT RIDE THE BUS AND BE PICKED UP AT SCHOOL PARENT/GUARDIAN.**

**\* BE PICKED UP BY SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN. IF SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN IS PICKING UP YOUR STUDENT, PLEASE SUBMIT A NOTE TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE WITH THE FULL NAME OF THE DESIGNEE AND THEIR PHONE NUMBER.**

**\*IF A CHILD IS RIDING THE BUS TO OR FROM A LOCATION OTHER THAN HOME, PLEASE SEND A NOTE TO SCHOOL AND INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE BUS STOP AND THE NAME OF THE PERSON(S) GREETING THE CHILD.\***

**\*DUE TO TIME CONSTRAINTS AT THE END OF THE DAY, CHANGES IN DISMISSAL CANNOT BE MADE BY PHONE. LACKING WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES CHILDREN WILL GO HOME AS ESTABLISHED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR.**



Greetings Williams-Cone School Families!

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! Whether your student is returning to our school building from remote learning, returning from in-person learning or joining us for the first time this year, it is our hope that Williams-Cone School will continue to be a place where students can seek comfort and connection. As Principal Rineer has reiterated, our purpose for this year is to "Rebuild, Repair, and Restore."

One initiative we began last school year was the implementation of schoolwide social-emotional awareness skills through our weekly "Tiger Moments." Each Monday, we would provide new grounding, focusing, or mindfulness skills via the Promethean board. Our hope is that students will gain greater self-awareness to better regulate their emotions while gaining a greater awareness of others in order to further access their academic opportunities. We are excited to be continuing with this initiative during the coming school year!

As we transition into the new school year, we understand many families are experiencing or have experienced a variety of stressors that have caused significant challenges. We would like to extend our support in whatever way possible to better support your child/ren and your family to ensure a successful transition into the 2021-22 school year. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us should you have specific concerns you would like to discuss. Below we have included some resources which we have available to our school community. Please take a moment to complete and return to us.

With Kindness,

Jeff Cardoza: School Counselor  
[cardoza@link75.org](mailto:cardoza@link75.org)  
207-725-4391 ext. 6013



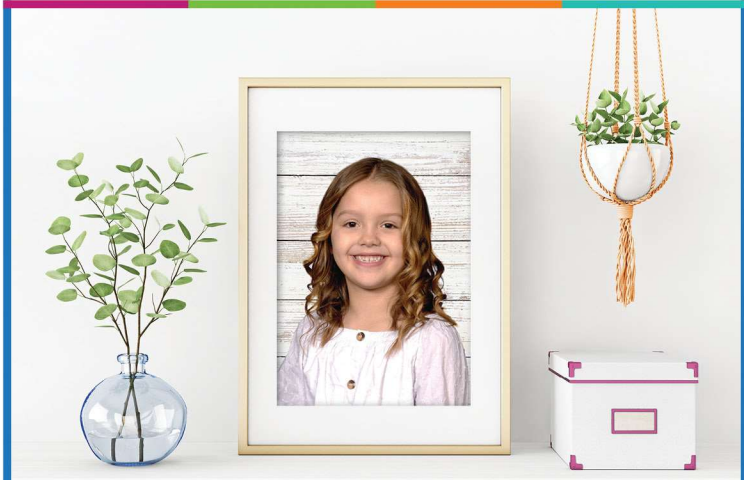
Carin Stromgren: School Social Worker  
[stromgrenc@link75.org](mailto:stromgrenc@link75.org)  
207-725-4391 ext. 6041



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Please check off any resources you would be interested in learning more about and send back to school:

Student & Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Weekly food bags from Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program
- Area counseling services
- Parenting groups
- Additional help with housing/ clothing/ etc.
- Holiday meal help
- Holiday gift help



# picture day

is coming soon!

want quick & easy ordering? [www.geskusprint.com](http://www.geskusprint.com)

*pedidos faciles via internet*

Be sure to take a look at the packages, prints & novelties we offer and place an order online until midnight of picture day.

## picture day

10-04-21

### ordering information

1. visit us online at [www.geskusprint.com](http://www.geskusprint.com)
2. use this unique code to login and pre-order photos

→ **AYR4N6AP**

3. select your package, prints or novelties and checkout

### take a look!

we've lowered our pricing and added new products we think you'll love!



Williams-Cone School