

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 13

April 10, 2020



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

-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-



Hello Williams-Cone School Community!

Looking outside my window this morning, it appears that nature is playing a bit of a trick on us with the snow storm and power outages. However, we Mainers know that this too shall pass and soon we will be knee deep in mud season-

again. A few updates and items to communicate:

School Closures

Recently, several districts in our surrounding communities announced that their schools will be closed and students will not return to their buildings for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. Our district, MSAD #75 has **NOT** made this decision. As soon as our buildings can be used again, safely, for in person, teaching and learning, we will do so!

However, it is very important to note, that while we are not in our buildings at this time, we are indeed open, just remotely! Teaching and learning abounds, meals are being served, buildings are being cleaned, our grounds are being worked on, food is being delivered by our buses etc, so as a district learning community we are not "closed". The MSAD # 75 school community is still very much learning and working.

So, we are **NOT** closed for the rest of the year. If we can bring students back sooner than the end of the year we will. None of us know at this point if this will happen, but I am firm believer in miracles. The staff and I miss our students and would love nothing more than to bring closure to the school year in our school building.

At Home Learning Activities April 27-May 22nd

Staff are currently working on the next phase of At Home Learning Activities for the period of **April 27-May 22**. Based on parent feedback via recent

district and building level surveys, students will be given a variety of learning opportunities to choose from ranging from grade level learning packets, online resources, project based learning (with teacher guidance) to teacher assigned lessons and activities through online platforms. We are also creating a plan for helping students without technology access gain access to devices (ex. computer). Additional information and specific details will be shared as soon as plans are finalized.

* A reminder that while we ask for parents to hold their student(s) accountable for his/her learning, please complete the activities at a pace that works best for your student(s). The current At Home Learning Activities and additional learning resources (music, art, physical education, science) can be accessed via the following district website link:

<https://sites.google.com/link75.org/msad75at-homelearning/home>

Your student's teachers are also available for questions, suggestions and clarifications via email Monday through Friday during regular school hours.

FOWC Virtual Meeting, April 27th, 6:00 P.M.

FOWC hosted it's first "virtual meeting" on April 8th. The agenda included a discussion about a "Virtual Spirit and Staff Appreciation Week" that will be held May 4th through May 8th. More details to come! Plans are still underway for a yearbook to be published for this current school year. FOWC is contacting the yearbook publisher regarding extending the order deadline and investigating direct shipment of the yearbooks to student homes.

The next FOWC Virtual Meeting will be held on **Monday, April 27th at 6:00 P.M.** This is a great opportunity for our school community to connect. If you would like to join the meeting, please refer to the FOWC Facebook page for further information.

WCS Caring Connections & Social-Emotional Support

Resources

Connecting with our students is more essential than ever. To assist with this, we have a new link, "WCS Caring Connections" that gives students access to video messages from staff. It is frequently updated. It is available at:

<https://sites.google.com/link75.org/wcs-caring-connection/home>

For social-emotional skills support, please feel free to reach out to Mr. C (cardozac@link75.org), WCS Counselor or Ms. Carin, WCS Social Worker, (stromgrenc@link75.org) for additional resources or visit their blog at

<https://calmandcoolcounselors.blogspot.com/>

Message from MSAD #75 Foodservice

If you were unable to pick up a meal and need additional food items, please contact Katy DiCara at dicarak@link75.org. For those families that typically participate in the MCHPP backpack program, can you please also let the building principal, (riner@link75.org) or Katy DiCara (dicarak@link75.org) know as soon as possible. Our next weekly pickup will be Wednesday, April 15th. We will have more meals available at each site. Thank you for your patience during this time of need. We are all in this together!



In spite of last evening's snowstorm, spring is here. While we are currently under a "shelter in place" order, we can still be outside, communing with nature as long as we utilize social distancing practices. Nature heals, teaches, strengthens and soothes-this is so very needed in the day and age we find ourselves in. Last weekend, my family and I got outside and biked the new trails installed by the Topsham Parks and Recreation Department. They are located near the Topsham Transfer Station, well maintained and great for all skill levels. It was so restorative and great for the soul! I highly encourage families to utilize this wonderful (and free!) resource!

As mentioned in previous publications, the WCS staff and I are thinking of our students and their families continuously. Please continue to feel free to reach out to our staff with questions and needs. We are here and want to help.

Your Principal,
Mrs. Randa C. Rineer



Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program offers the following resources:

- To-go lunches and bread will be offered outside the eastern entrance Monday-Friday from 11-12:30 and Saturday from 12-1:30.
- Pre-packed Food Pantry grocery boxes will be made available to clients outside the Food Bank doors Tuesday 11am-2pm and 4pm-6pm, Wednesday from 11am-2pm, Friday from 11am-2pm, and Saturday from 12pm-3pm.
- We are currently planning on continuing delivery service to homebound clients. We will be in contact with them if that plan has to change.
- We will continue to accept drop off food donations but ask that donations be brought between 8am and 10am or between 2pm and 4pm Monday through Saturday to minimize the impact to our operations and help reduce the number of people on our campus at any given time.

Contact Info: mchpp.org – info@mchpp.org or (207) 725-2716 for more information.

Looking for Social-Emotional Skills Support?

Visit: www.emotionalabcs.com for free access to videos, games, and printables teaching skills in basic emotional identification, coping strategies, and frustration tolerance impulse control.

Please feel free to reach out to Mr. C (cardozac@link75.org) or Ms. Carin (stromgrenc@link75.org) for additional resources or visit their blog at <https://calmandcoolcounselors.blogspot.com/>

Staff Interview

**Featuring Mr. Cardoza "Mr. C."
WCS School Counselor**



Name: Mr. Cardoza

Position at WCS: School Counselor

Number of Years at WCS: 7 months

Family: Wife Mrs. Cardoza, 3 daughters Alana (10), Eva (4), Caroline (19months)

Pets: 2 dogs Wally & Winter, 1 cat Nala, 1 bunny Hazel

Favorite Color: Tropical Blue

Hobbies: Going to the beach to swim and body surf, hiking trails, anything musical, playing with my kids and family time, watching sports when I have a minute ;)

Favorite Book or Types of Books: Where the Wild Things Are and Wonder

1 to 3 interesting facts that are unique to you:

- 1. Growing up all of my friends (and some teachers) called me ffej. My best friends still call me that today!**
- 2. In high school, I was in the chamber choir and we went to Canada to compete in a singing competition!**
- 3. I am half Portuguese.**

What is one of the best things about WCS: Seeing students smiles and hearing their laughter...which I totally miss right now!

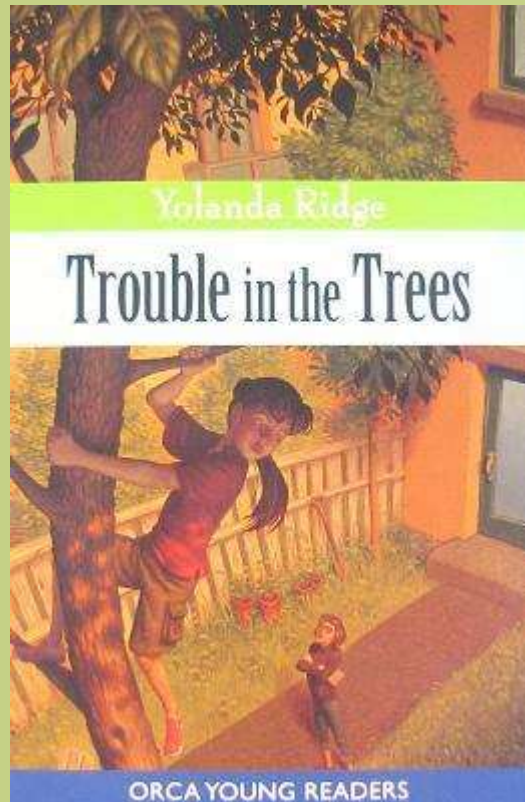
Staff Picks

This week's featured book was chosen by
Mrs. Ebel, 4th grade teacher

Trouble in the Trees

By: Yolanda Ridge

Have you ever thought that a rule was unfair? Brianna Bridges certainly does. Bree, as her friends call her, loves to climb trees, but when tree climbing is banned at her townhouse complex, she has to step outside her comfort zone to stand up for something she loves. From parading the neighborhood kids in protest, to going on a “no bathing” strike, Bree is determined to convince the Cedar Grove Neighborhood Council that kids “Need to be free to climb a tree!”



You will feel right at home with the characters in “Trouble in the Trees”. As I read this story, I felt like I could have been watching these scenes play out amongst some of our own Williams-Cone School students. “Trouble in the Trees” is a good independent reading level for 4th-5th grade students, or a great read-aloud for the whole family! (This book is available on the digital library website, “epic!” <https://www.getepic.com/>)