

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

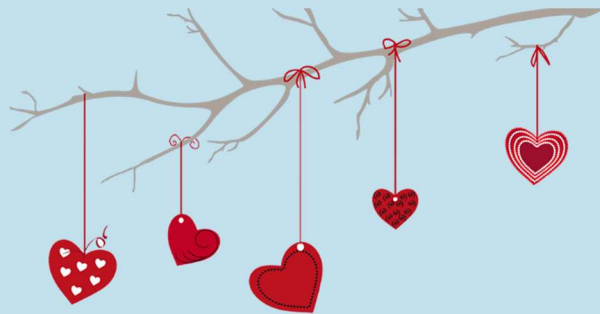
Volume 9

February 5, 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!

January has come and gone and it's now February! January was filled with lots of new learning for our students. Staff reviewed and analyzed mid-year math and reading student achievement data during the

January 21st professional day. This resulted in the creation and implementation of a variety of instructional adjustments, strategies and plans for students and classrooms across our school community.

5th grade band students gave an outstanding first performance at the All District 5th Grade Band Concert on January 22nd at the Orion Theater at MAMS. Congratulations to our band students and thank-you Mrs. Powers, 5th grade band teacher! The monthly Aevium/PBIS assembly was held on January 31st to honor the "Students of the Month" as well as over 100 students who completed the Winter Break 1 Principal's Reading Challenge. We also had a record turn out to the showing of "Toy Story 4" on January 31st. Many thanks to FOWC for sponsoring this free family activity and to Kevin and Kim Gray, WCS parents for loaning a giant movie screen for the event.

A Field Hockey Kid's Academy for students in grades K-2 is currently being held under the direction of Coach Krista Chase, WCS parent and Mount Ararat High School Field Hockey Coach. Students are being introduced to the fundamentals of the sport through fun games and drills led by former WCS students and Coach. Chase's family. Thank-you Coach Chase and crew for bringing this fabulous opportunity to our students!

WCS is currently holding the annual "Have a Heart for Hunger" food drive that benefits the MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program. Canned and dry food donations will be collected throughout the month of February. Please consider how you can support this project that is meant to teach and reinforce kindness, compassion and giving to our local community. Thank-you!

The annual Variety Show will take place on February 27th at 6:30 P.M. This loved tradition gives our students an opportunity to shine while also building their confidence levels. Some students even discover new talents and interests through the Variety Show! We look forward to hosting the daytime show on February 26th, giving all students an opportunity to view and support their classmates and friends.

Winter Break 2 is around the corner and will take place February 17-21. If your family is looking for an enriching, local and **free** activity during the break, check out the Maine Maritime Museum located in Bath. The museum includes indoor galleries, the country's only surviving historic wooden shipyard, a working boat shop, a newly restored 1906 schooner, and more! For more information check out: www.mainemaritimemuseum.org. Admission is free throughout the month of February.

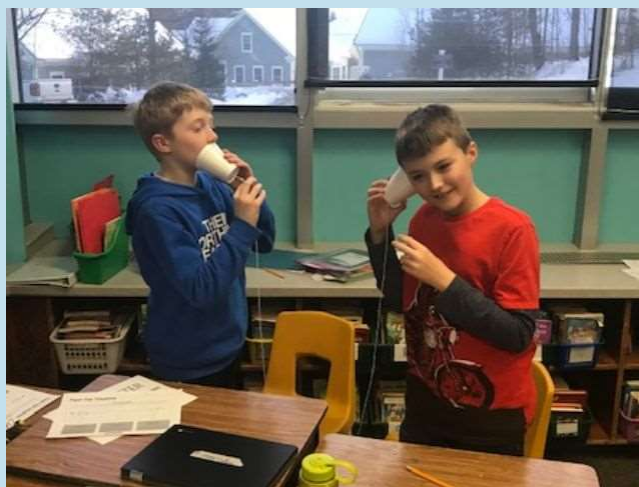
A Winter Break 2 Principal's Reading Challenge will be held for students in grades K-5. Reading Challenge logs will be sent home with students during the week of February 10th. Please encourage your student(s) to participate in this activity that is meant to promote the love of reading and maintain current reading progress. Thank-you!

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

Here are a few highlights of happenings around our school community since our last newsletter:

Fourth Grade Science Fun

4th graders designing and testing paper cup telephones to learn about waves and energy transfer.





WCS Student Artwork on Display

WCS student artwork is currently on display at the MSAD #75 District Office. Many thanks to Ms. Brooks, WCS art teacher for creating a wonderful showcase of student talent. Here is a sampling of the artistry:

Pictured Below: Spirit Animals: Mixed Media Collage Paintings: Grade 3 students were inspired by looking at reproductions of Australian aboriginal paintings. We noticed their use of animal motifs, earth tones, line, and pattern. The following third grade students' work was displayed: Abby B., Jackson B., Madilyn C., Sadie B., Logan E., and Olivia M.



Pictured Below: Painted Houses—a Mixed Media Project: Artwork by Grade 1 Students: The children "met" a little girl named Thandi and learned about her tribe, the Ndebele people of South Africa in a read-aloud of the book by Maya Angelou, My Painted House, My Friendly Chicken, and Me. The following first grade students had artwork on display: Jackson B., Sophia B. , Audrey T., James F., Amelia O., Willa T. and Graham M.



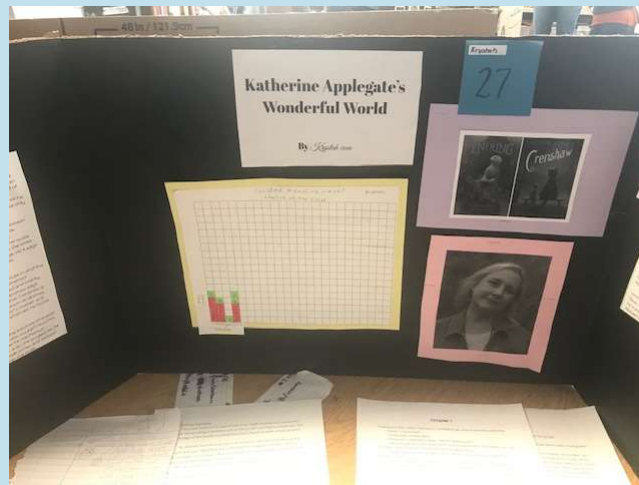
Fifth Grade Literacy Celebration

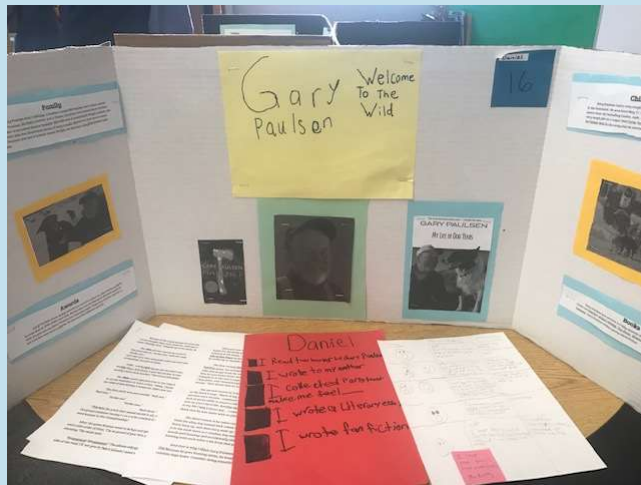
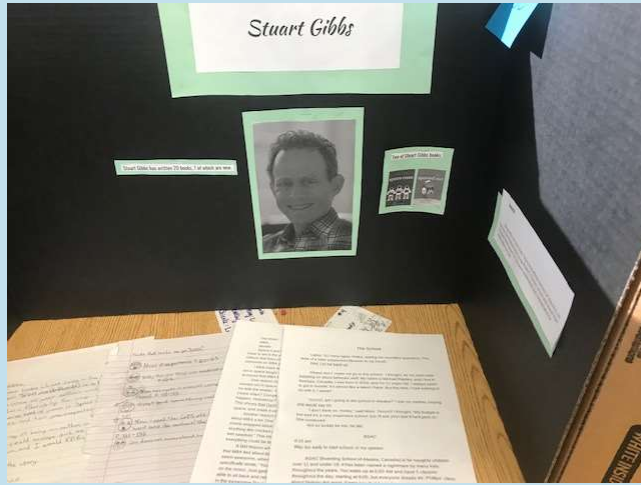
Students in Ms. Bretschneider's fifth grade reading class celebrated their "Read Like A Fan" unit with tri-fold displays. Students read TWO books by their selected authors. The most common authors were Stuart Gibbs, Mary Downing Hahn, Gordon Korman, Dan Gemeinhart, and Katherine Applegate.

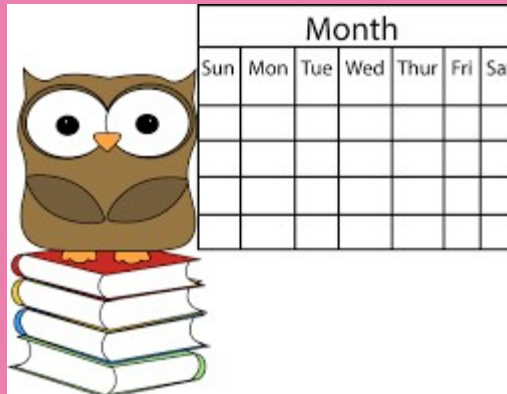
While reading their books, these fifth graders created displays of their work. The projects included letters to their authors, some responses from authors, fan fiction in the style of the author they chose, and parts of the book that made them feel big feelings.

The major objectives of the unit included summarizing fiction, identifying the theme of stories, noticing author's craft moves, and describing fictional structures. These skills were then applied to their literary essays in writing class.

After the projects were completed, staff helped the students celebrate by leaving positive notes on their projects during one of the staff development days.







Important Dates.

2/12 Variety Show Rehearsal, 3:30-5:30 P.M.

2/13 Grade 3 Field Trip to the Bowdoin Art Museum

2/17-2/21 Winter Break 2

2/25 Variety Show Dress Rehearsal, 3:30-6:00 P.M. *Mandatory to be in the show.*

2/26 Variety Show School Assembly

2/27 Variety Show, 6:30 P.M., WCS Gym (Snow Date, 3/3 @ 6:30 P.M.)

3/2 Grades 2 & 3 Active Lifestyles Field Trip to the Roller Drome

3/3 FOWC Playground Committee Meeting, 5:00 P.M., LC

3/3 FOWC Meeting, 6:00 P.M., LC

3/4 Variety Show Pizza Party, 3:30-4:15 P.M.

3/9 Kindergarten Field Trip to Crooker Theater

3/12 Half Day Dismissal, 10:15 A.M. Pre-K, 12:00 P.M. K-5

3/13 No School for Students, Teacher Compensation Day

3/16-3/18 Grade 5 Maine Education Assessments Administered

3/23-3/25 Grade 4 Maine Education Assessments Administered

3/23 2020-2021 District Budget Meeting, 6:30 P.M., Woodside Elementary

School

3/30-4/1 Grade 3 Maine Education Assessments Administered



2020-2021 Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child who will turn 5 no later than October 15, 2020, he/she is eligible to attend kindergarten beginning the 2020-2021 school year. Kindergarten registration is currently taking place March 2nd through March 27th. Please call the WCS office at 725-4391 to schedule a time to register your child.

Registration information is available on the district website at: www.link75.org



2020-2021 Pre-K Registration

In an effort to increase access to high-quality early childhood learning opportunities for students prior to entering Kindergarten, M.S.A.D. No. 75 provides two PreK classes, for a total of 32 students. Students must be 4 years old by October 15, 2020. The program uses the same calendar as grades K-12, runs five days a week and approximately 6 hours per day. Transportation is not provided. One class is at Williams-Cone School in Topsham, while the other is at Midcoast Maine Community Action's (MMCA) Head Start location at Cook's Corner in Brunswick.

Applications are available

at: http://www.link75.org/parents/student_registration/prek_registration

During the period of March 2nd through March 27, 2020, applications can be delivered to any district elementary school or the Superintendent's Office. (Application materials include a certified birth certificate, immunization record, and proof of residency in the District in the form of a recent utilities bill.) *The application period may be extended based upon the number of applicants.*



While the official Global School Play Day is being observed on February 5th, WCS classrooms will be participating in Global School Play Day 2020 (GSPD) activities over the next week to better suit our busy schedules. Each WCS classroom will be engaged in unstructured play that does not involve electronics for up to one hour. GSPD has been promoted by "Psychology Today" magazine and is being celebrated at schools around the world. You can learn more about the benefits of unstructured play by visiting the official GSPD website: www.globalschoolplayday.com. Students will be invited by their teacher to bring in toys to play with or will engage in special activities. However, electronic devices will not be included as a toy or an activity.

Though our play day will be unstructured, it will still be supervised by staff. It is our hope that this unstructured play opportunity will inspire families to plan for more unstructured play time during non-school hours.

Counselor Corner

Over the past few weeks, Mr. Cardoza, WCS Counselor, has been discussing the importance of goal setting and helping students create an "Aevium goal" for themselves or their classroom. Students have been working together to come up with ideas on how to create a more kind, caring, and "I've got your back" atmosphere at WCS. In 5th grade, students created an individual goal to work on for the next two weeks and thought of steps they could take to accomplish their goal. They wrote their goal on a paper airplane and then wrote some action steps on the wings. It will be exciting to see their goals soar into action!



Is It A Cold or the Flu? Should I Send My Child to School?

Guidelines for Staying Home

The flu season is going to be a particularly tough one this year and we are already seeing cases among students and employees in M.S.A.D. No. 75 schools. If your child is sick, please keep them home until they are better. Influenza is highly contagious, and the contagious period in children lasts up to 7 days!

The Maine CDC created a quick checklist to help determine if your child might have the flu.

	YES	NO
Does your child have a fever of 100 degrees or more without Tylenol or Ibuprofen?		
Does your child have a cough?		
Does your child have a sore throat?		
Does your child have stomach ache or vomiting?		
Does your child have body aches, a headache, fatigue, or a runny or stuffy nose?		

If you checked YES to a fever of 100 or more, **AND** any other symptom, then your child may have an influenza-like illness and you should **KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FOR 24 HOURS AFTER THE FEVER RESOLVES WITHOUT THE USE OF MEDICATION, AND THEY ARE NO LONGER COUGHING UP SECRETIONS.**

If you checked YES to only one of the questions in the checklist above, or if your child is ill with other symptoms, then **KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY TO OBSERVE FOR ADDITIONAL SYMPTOMS.** If additional symptoms develop, use the check list again to decide whether to continue to keep your child at home.

HERE ARE A FEW STEPS EVERYONE SHOULD FOLLOW TO MINIMIZE SPREADING GERMS:

- Teach your child to cough and sneeze into their elbow, not their hand.

- Wash your hands often. Use hand sanitizer or wash hands after coughing or sneezing.
- Practice “social distancing”. If you do have to be around others, avoid close contact. Do not share phones, pens, snacks, chap sticks, and other personal items.

Remember...it's not too late to get a flu shot. For more information go to:

www.MaineFlu.gov

From the M.S.A.D. No. 75 Health and Wellness Team

“We believe healthy people make better learners – when we feel well, we work and learn well.”



Mark your calendar for **Thursday, February 27!!** The WCS Variety Show begins at 6:30 that evening in the gym. The suggested donation is \$2.00/adult, \$1.00/child or \$5.00/family. There will be a bake sale during intermission. We hope to see you at this fun family event.

For the cast and crew:

We have two regular rehearsals left before vacation. Please continue your practice during vacation week. This will help to keep the acts fresh. Here is the schedule for what's coming up:

Remaining Wednesday Rehearsals: Feb 5 & 12 (3:30-5:30)

VACATION WEEK: February 17-21-No Practice

Dress Rehearsal: Tuesday, Feb 25 (3:30-6:00) **MANDATORY**

School Show: Wednesday, Feb 26 (Time to be determined)

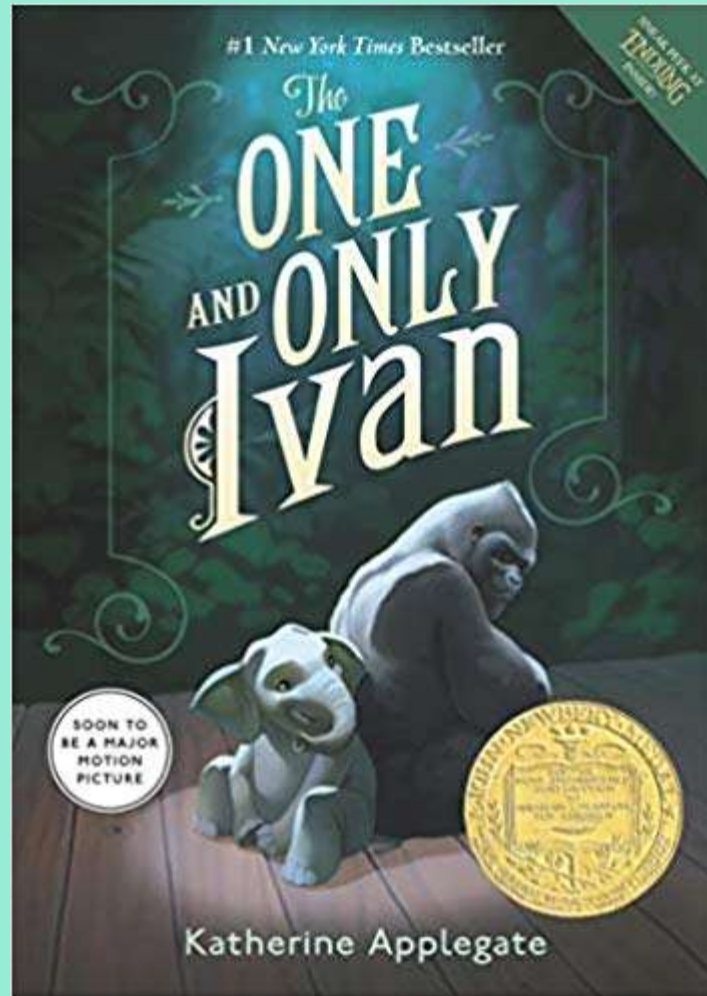
Evening Show: Thursday, February 27 (6:30)

Snow Date for evening show: Tuesday, March 3 (6:30)

Pizza Party for cast and crew: Wed, March 4 (3:30-4:15)

Staff Picks

This month we feature a favorite book chosen by Ms. Bretschneider, WCS fifth grade teacher:



The One and Only Ivan

Katherine Applegate

This book is a wonderful introduction into the world of Katherine Applegate's creative writing. In *The One and Only Ivan*, Applegate writes from the perspective of a captive gorilla, Ivan, in a shopping mall. It follows the true story of Ivan and his friends in a style at times compared to *Charlottes Web*.

This book is good for students in grades 3-8 which makes it a fantastic family read aloud, although you might need some tissues!

In addition, Katherine Applegate writes books of various levels that would be great follow up books for the whole family including *Endling*, *Home of the Brave*, and (a blast from the past) *Animorphs*!

Another benefit of reading this book now, is that there is another book coming out called *The One and Only Bob* which comes out May 5, 2020!



The monthly PBIS/Aavidum assembly was held on Friday, January 31st. Two students from each WCS classroom were honored as "Students of the Month" during the January assembly.

The following criteria is used for choosing "Students of the Month":

- *Students chosen by teachers have not received any Discipline Reports for the month.*
 - *Students are chosen by teachers based upon the student doing his/her personal best.*
- *Students chosen have/continue to exhibit excellence in character - good role models, making right choices.*
- *Students who are chosen can be routinely recognized for following our Code of Cooperation (Rights, Respect, Responsibility) across all school settings (classroom, hallways, recess, playground, cafeteria, bus).*
- *Certificates will be issued, photographs will be taken and displayed on the bulletin board outside of the cafeteria each month.*

The WCS Student of the Month Award is a part of our school's ongoing Positive Behavior Intervention Supports/Discipline Program.

The January 2020 Students of the Month are:

Kindergarten: Logan P., Kallie D., Nya C., Lucca S., Blair S., Annie M., Jackson S.

Grade One: Evangeline T., Amelia P., Jackson B., Audrey T., Jayda A., Saul G.

Grade Two: Kennedy P., Darby B., Ryder H., Bentley J., Finn K., Penelope J.

Grade Three: Ethan F., Marissa G., Evie C., Aidan D.

Grade Four: Stella M., Cambell L., Caroline V., Vivienne M.

Grade Five: Brynнен M., Daniel B., Matthew S.

Photos Courtesy of Rebecca Brooks, WCS Ed Tech

Kindergarten



Grade One



Grade Two



Grade Three

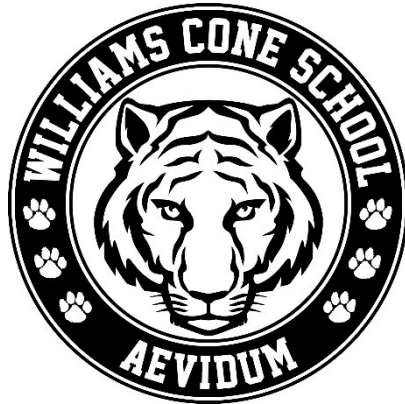


Grade Four



Grade Five





PBIS
POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS