

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 10

March 6, 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!

February came and went very quickly with snow days and winter break. We had a smooth return from the break and so much is being accomplished around our school community. Here are some highlights:

Have a Heart for Hunger Food Drive



WCS held the annual "Have a Heart for Hunger" food drive under the direction of Mr. Cardoza, WCS school counselor. The campaign benefitted the MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program. Over 500 pounds of food was collected! Thank-you for supporting this project that is meant to teach and reinforce kindness, compassion and giving to our local community.

Variety Show

The annual Variety Show took place on February 27th. Students in grades two through five participated. 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 also had a daytime show on February 26th, giving all students an opportunity to view and support their classmates and friends. The much anticipated "staff act" was a hit too!





Read Across America Day

Read Across America Day was held on March 2nd in honor of beloved children author, Dr. Seuss' birthday. Each year community readers visit WCS classroom and read favorite books to students and share about their careers and lives. Pictured below are a few of this year's community readers.

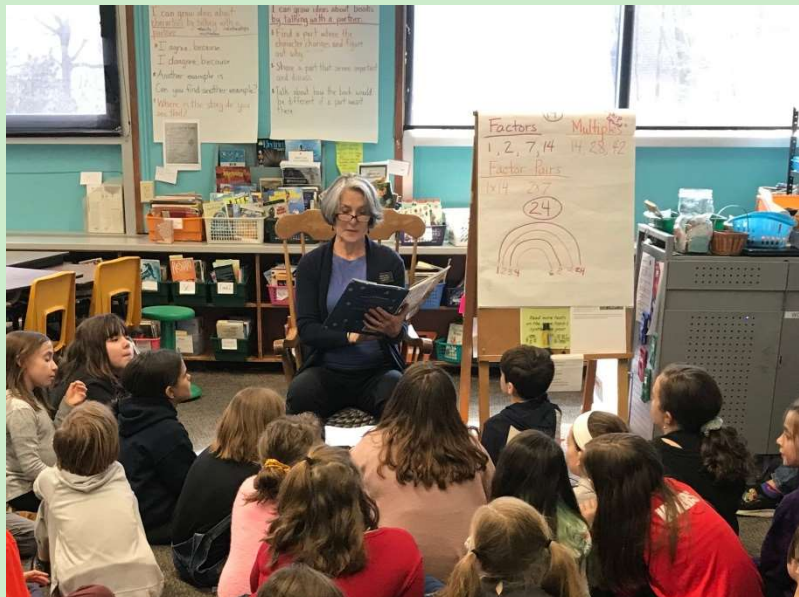
Maine Deputy Commissioner of Education Dan Chuhta reads to PreK



MSAD #75 Student Resource Officer Randy Cook reads to Ms. Carroll's 5th Grade Class



Senator Eloise Vitelli reads to Mrs. Dedek's 4th Grade Class



Dental/Orthodontic Visit

Local dentist, Dr. Obery and local orthodontist, Dr. Sullivan and members of their staff recently made their yearly visit to WCS first grade students. The doctors reviewed the importance of consistent dental hygiene routines with students.





Conferences, Report Cards, Assessments



The month of March presents a variety of opportunities and activities ranging from Parent/Teacher conferences to the beginning of spring. Students in grades three through five will participate in Maine Education Assessments beginning March 16th. Report cards will be sent home with students on March 20th.



As parents, the safety of our kids is always at the forefront. I thought it might be helpful to share some information about the ways our school is addressing issues of safety:

Coronavirus Disease 2019: Prior to the Flu Pandemic in 2009, our District's Safety Committee put together a plan that addressed things like coordination with community partners, infection control procedures, and maintaining core school operations if a large number of students and staff are absent with illness. The district has already reviewed and begun updating this document, now that the novel coronavirus has been confirmed in the United States. All schools are receiving guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Maine Department of Education. While the likelihood of a major impact on schools remains low, I wanted you to know that preparations are underway just in case. If your child has a high fever or other flu like symptoms, please keep them home and let us know.

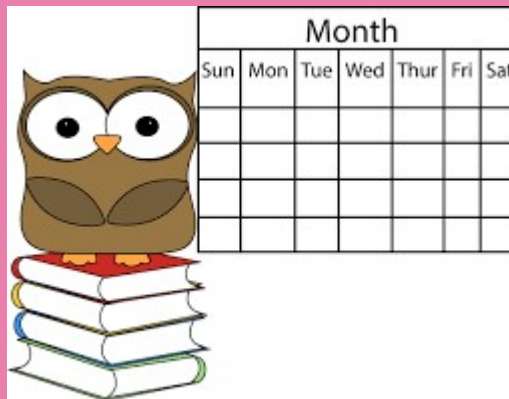
Safety Drills: You may have seen a recent report that criticized schools' use of unannounced active shooter drills. This is an incredibly sensitive subject, and one that most of us would prefer to not have to think about. However, I am very clear on what we as a school stand for. We will never hold an unannounced active shooter drill at our school. Further, we will never simulate or discuss violent or scary scenarios with children. Recently, Mr. Thompson, WCS Special Education Teacher and I have become certified A.L.I.C. E. Instructors for our school, along with staff from all the district's schools. What does A.L.I.C. E. stand for? A.L.I.C.E. stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate.

This spring, Mr. Thompson and I will be engaging our staff in some learning about emergency decision making, using the A.L.I.C.E model. It is of the utmost importance that school staff know and practice options in an emergency. As we move into next school year, we may adjust some of our drills to be sure we are able to keep our kids as safe as possible in an emergency. But as with everything else, we will make sure even our safety preparedness is done with children's whole wellbeing (physical, mental, emotional) at the forefront. If you ever have questions or concerns about safety at our school, I hope you will reach out to me.

Spring is just around the corner!

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS

Principal



Important Dates

3/9 Kindergarten Field Trip to Crooker Theater

3/12 Music in Our Schools Assembly

3/13 Half Day Dismissal, 10:45 A.M. Pre-K, 12:00 P.M. K-5

3/16-3/19 Grades 3 & 5 Maine Education Assessments Administered

3/16-3/20 CoGat Testing, Grades 2 & 5

3/17 Grades 2 & 3 Active Lifestyles Field Trip to Rollerdrome

3/19 & 3/20, 3/23 & 3/24 Grade 4 Maine Education Assessments Administered

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

3/27 FOWC Family Movie Night, WCS Gym, 5:00 P.M.

3/31 ALL District Band Concert, Grades 5-12, Orion Auditorium, 7:00 P.M.

4/14 FOWC Meeting, 6:00 P.M.

4/17 No School For Students, Teacher Inservice

4/20-4/24 Spring Break

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

Guidelines for Staying Home

| | 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.”*



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.*



Staff are currently holding Trimester 2 Parent/Teacher Conferences. The focus of the second trimester parent/teacher conferences will be to continue to build strong and positive parent/caregiver partnerships, student growth and achievement as well goal setting for the final trimester. To help better prepare for your upcoming conference, consider the following:

- *Talk to your child-Ask if there is anything that he/she would like for you to discuss with the teacher.

- *Be prepared-Write down things that you would like to discuss/questions that you would like to ask at the conference.

- *Be specific. Bring any work with you that is of concern. Describe your child's strengths and areas of need.

- *Arrive promptly or a few minutes early.

- *Exchange information. Feel free to share with the teacher situations in the home that may affect your child's school work (Ex. a new baby in the family, new babysitter, etc.).

* Discuss the whole child. Your child's social and emotional development is as important as his/her academic success.

* Leave with a plan. The conference should end with a clear statement of what you will do and what the teacher will do.

Thank-you in advance for your support and attendance. Strong, positive and supportive parent/caregiver partnerships are essential to a student's overall school success.



The monthly PBIS/Aevidum assembly was held on Friday, February 28th. Two students from each WCS classroom were honored as "Students of the Month" during the February 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.

***During the January assembly, one additional fifth grader Natalie V. received the student of the month award but was not announced. She received the award along with Brynner M., Daniel B., Matthew**



The February 2020 Students of the Month are:

Kindergarten: Nevaeh A, Ethan D, Vienne M, Henry W, Eamon F, Zoe O

Grade One: Jack M, Zachariah D, Abby D, River D, Sylvia A, Rowan W

**Grade Two: Luke A, Rozalynn R, Sophia F, Delaney K, McKenna M,
Jaxson C**

Grade Three: Olivia M, Jack S, Lisa D, Beatrix T

Grade Four: Fox N, Lukas J, Amos E, Clementine F

Grade Five: Camden R, Ryleigh W, Liam J, Sam C

Photos Courtesy of Rebecca Brooks, WCS Ed Tech

Grade One



Grade Two



Grade Three

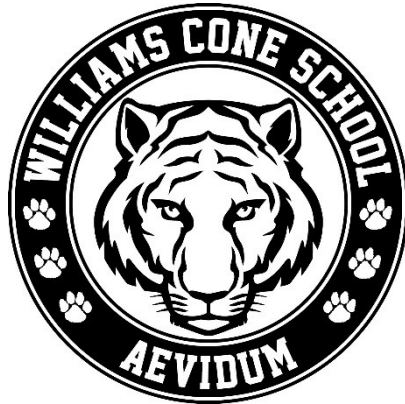


Grade Four



Grade Five





PBIS
POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS

