

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 16

May 8, 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!

Thank-you FOWC and Williams-Cone School Community for the many expressions of appreciation, encouragement and kindness that you generously extended to our staff in honor of School Spirit and Staff Appreciation Day. The community support affirms and energizes our resolve to provide connections and programming for our students. Thank-you!

Pictured below is the "coffee cart" tradition provided each year to WCS staff at the end of Staff Appreciation week. This year, staff were treated to a "drive through coffee cart." Thank-you to WCS parents who provided treats for the cart and to Heather Hollenbach and Debbie Dunn for coordinating this very loved tradition!!





"School Nurse Day" was also observed nationally this week. WCS is blessed to have Mrs. Chamberland and Mrs. Spies overseeing our school's health room. They are truly dedicated to meeting the needs of our students and demonstrate continuous care, compassion and support for our students, staff and families. Thank-you!



A reminder that the breakfasts/lunches can be picked up for an student ages 18 and under on Wednesdays at the following sites: Mount Ararat Middle School, 11:00-2:00 P.M., Bowdoin Central School, 12:00-1:00 P.M. and

Harpswell Community School, 12:00-1:00 P.M.



5th to 6th Grade Transition-Mount Ararat Middle School (MAMS)

MAMS was supposed to host their annual Incoming 6th Grade Parent Night this week at MAMS. In lieu of that, MAMS has produced the following informational video for 5th grade parents:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9UutlI7LxI&feature=youtu.be> [50 min]

MAMS has also posted a newly created [5th to 6th Transition Website](#) linked directly off their main MAMS website. On this page, they encourage all 5th grade parents to post questions to an online Q&A message board MAMS will be moderating.



WCS Caring Connections & Social-Emotional Support

Resources

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

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



Mother's Day will be observed this Sunday, May 10th. On behalf of WCS, I would

like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to all the people who show care for our children. Our community is very blessed to have many individuals who continuously care for and support our children and one another. Thank-you for the hope that you bring and may you be greatly blessed in return!

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.

Free Community Meal Resource

Pathway Vineyard Church in Brunswick offers free weekly meals to anyone in the community on Tuesday's from 5:00-6:00 P.M. The meal is provided through an outdoor to-go/take out service. Pathway Vineyard Church is located at 2 Columbus Drive in Brunswick.

Internet Connectivity During COVID-19 Pandemic

We recognize that not all students in Maine have access to the internet and we are working swiftly to address this. Some companies are offering free internet access options for a limited time to help promote connectivity for remote learning. Nationally, many internet companies have signed the Keep Americans Connected Pledge which allows for flexibility and payment waivers, as well as free access to broadband services for a limited time.

- Charter has offered free Spectrum broadband and WiFi access for 60 days to households with K-12/college students who do not already have a Spectrum broadband subscription.
- The FCC has released a handful of partners including all Maine internet providers: AT&T, Comcast, Consolidated Communications, FirstLight, GWI, TDS Telecom, TMobile, TracFone Wireless, US Cellular, Verizon.
- Comcast: Individuals that sign up for Internet Essentials will receive two free months of Internet service. There is no term contract or credit check. Qualifications and additional details are available here: <https://apply.internetessentials.com/>
- AT&T: Offers the "Access Program" which provides low-cost home internet to qualifying households for \$5-10 a month, no deposit or installation fee. AT&T is expanding eligibility based on income and to households participating in National School Lunch Program/Head Start. Qualifications and additional details are available here: <https://m.att.com/shopmobile/internet/access/>

From <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/InternetConnectivity>

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/>

District Support

Please remember that to support our students, staff, families, and community members, M.S.A.D. No. 75 nurses, nurse practitioners, and Health Coordinator are available for call-in hours. You are welcome to call in with your questions about COVID-19. Our trained staff will provide you with essential health information and/or direct you to appropriate resources.

***School Nurse Call-In Hours, Monday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Monday & Wednesday, Calls Answered by Ellen Martel @ 798-3608

Tuesday & Thursday, Calls Answered by Lori Huot @ 798-3628

Friday, Calls Answered by Therese Chamberland @ 798-3618

General Questions District-wide (similar to the State's 211 number)

- **Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Calls Answered by Mary Booth @ 798-3600**

If you have an EMERGENCY, please call one of the numbers below.

ALL NUMBERS BELOW are FREE and available to all ages 24/7

Life-threatening emergency - dial or text 911

Mental health emergency - State-wide Crisis –1 (888)- 658-1112

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1(800)-273-TALK (8255)

Crisis Text option - Text HOME or HELLO to 741741

Sexual Assault Response Services - 1(800)-871-7741

Child Abuse Reporting - DHHS - 1(800)-452-1999

**Information and referral service - State-wide - Dial 211 or text your zip
code to 898-211**

Staff Interview

**Featuring: Mrs. Bretschneider
WCS Fifth Grade Teacher**



Position at WCS: 5th Grade Teacher-I really enjoy teaching fifth graders (although, second grade was a blast last year!). It is fun to see them developing their personalities. They are starting to have educated opinions, funny personalities, and young adult responsibilities. I also recognize that for many fifth graders it is a transitional time, and enjoy helping them navigate the unknowns they are about to face.

Number of Years at WCS: Two

Family: My husband's name is Ryan. He is a computer software engineer. We have been married 3 years, but have known each other since 2010. We met in college at the University of Maine Farmington.

Pets: I have two wonderful mutts. Our first dog is Tuckerman named after Tuckerman's ravine. Our family loves to hike. Our second dog is named Avacyn (Ava) after an indestructible angel from the card game Magic the Gathering. We also love playing nerdy games.

Favorite Color: White

Hobbies: I love road biking, snowboarding, rollerblading, going to the gym, hiking, swimming, etc. Staying active and being in nature are two things that I find the most comfort in. I find solace in music as well. I can play some musical instruments. I also love learning as a hobby. I enjoy taking classes and continuing my education in my free time. I also love to read.

Favorite Book or Types of Books: I enjoy many kinds of books. I can be quite picky though. In order to best support students, I have read over half of the books from the MSBA list for the last 8 years. In addition, I have authors that I follow on twitter including Sharon Draper, Jason Renolds, Kwame Alexander, Jennifer Holm, Dusti Bowling, Victoria Jameison, and MANY more. I get their latest books and always have a full amazon cart! This means I read lots of kid-literature. When I am not reading, I listen to audiobooks on audible! Besides kid-literature, I also enjoy non-fiction books about teaching and learning. Philosophy has interested me lately.

Interesting Facts About Mrs. Bretschneider:

* In high school, I traveled in a chamber choir group that went to Hungary,

Canada, El Salvadore, and around the United States. I sang the high soprano parts.

***I can speak a reasonable amount of German. By reasonable, I mean enough to order cake!**

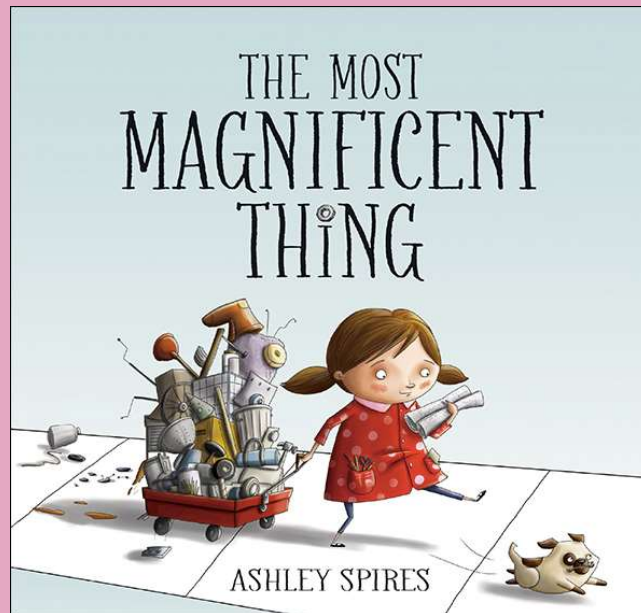
***I have my masters degree in Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. I am in the process of pursuing another degree.**

What is one of the best things about WCS: One of the best things about WCS is the students. The first Monday morning without seeing student smiles made me really understand how much of my energy, and passion comes from them! I tried videotaping the lesson, and without feeding off of their interest and curiosity, I was lost and genuinely sad. Since then, I have seen how students have adapted to these different conditions. And it has brought me so much joy, and also reminded me of another reason why I love WCS students so much: They are supported by wonderful families, who thrive in the face of adversity.

Staff Picks

This week's featured book was chosen by Ms. Hayes
WCS Kindergarten Teacher

Have you ever had a great idea of something you wanted to draw or build but when you went to create it your creation it didn't come out the way you wanted? Have you ever had a hard time with something and found yourself getting frustrated? If so you might enjoy the book "The Most Magnificent Thing" written and illustrated by Ashley Spires. This book has a wonderful message about having a growth mindset and using your persistence power to overcome hardships you might face. The illustrations really express how the character feels during her attempts to create the most magnificent thing and the vocabulary used to describe her actions really brings the story to life. While it is a picture book I would recommend it to all ages due to its positive message and Ashley Spires use of precise action words like --- "tinkers and hammers and measures"--- "smoothes and wrenches and fiddles"--- "twists and tweaks and fastens." Students of all ages may feel the need to create after reading or listening to such a story.



Get Out! Get Local!



Otter Brook Preserve & Curtis Farm Preserve

Recommended by Mrs. Brooks, Special Education Technician

Mrs. Brooks recommends the following family friendly hikes in Harpswell:

Otter Brook Preserve



This trail offers families a beautiful easy hike through 71 acres of freshwater marshland. The 1.6 mile path takes you through a forest where several bridges cross one of Harpswell's largest freshwater streams. Otter Brook is located on route 123 and is 6.1 miles from the Bowdoin College-Bath Road intersection. Parking and trail-head are on the left.

Curtis Farm Preserve



This beautiful 86 acre preserve provides a 1.25 mile trail system that will take you through forest and field and lead you to both Curtis and Basin Cove. The trail is well marked with a moderate level terrain. There is a beautiful trail that circles the Williams Field. The Preserve is located on

**route 123, 11.4 miles from the Bowdoin College-Bath Road
intersection. Parking and entrance are on the right.**

Pathfinders

Written by Mrs. Brooks, WCS Special Education Technician

**The family takes another hike
in the woods today;
an effort to escape boredom
which tries to creep inside like a tick
and cause phantom crawlies.**

**The Robert Frost trails
provide entertainment
but a path beyond the “No Trespassing” signs
offers these rovers a thrilling adventure.**

**A discovered quarry
bedazzles these treasure seekers
with quartz and mica.**

Soon pockets hold no room for hands.

**The only proof of a crime
is curious footprints abandoned**

in the half-thawed New England clay.

**The February air holds April hostage
as frozen thumbs stay busy
sending out more selfies from the woods.**

**Through spruce and pine
the house comes into view.**

**A cauldron of coffee waits in the kitchen
and sends out a long anticipated aroma
to welcome these weary wanderers home.**

**Tonight they will thank the day
and each will share
their own interpretations of today's expedition.**