

Williams-Cone School

Principal's Newsletter

Important Dates

12/9 Annual Holiday
Dinner

12/11 School Board
Meeting, WCS
Gymnasium, 6:30 P.M.

12/12 4th/5th Grade
Chorus Holiday Concert,
2:00 P.M., WCS
Gymnasium

12/12 FOWC Holiday
Caroling, 3:30 P.M.
(Snow date 12/19)

12/23 MAMS 7th & 8th
Grade Band Concert, 9:45
A.M.

12/24-1/4 Winter Break 1

1/16 Teacher In-Service,
No School for Students

1/19 Martin Luther King
Holiday, No School

1/21 STEM Camp 2015
Planning Meeting, 10:00
A.M., WCS Conference
Room

1/23 Family Trivia Night,
6-8 P.M., WCS Gym

1/27 FOWC Meeting, 7:00
P.M., Learning Commons

2/7 Winter Wonderland, WCS
Playground, 1-3 P.M.



WCS: Building a Reading Life..On the Bus!

A new initiative has recently begun on WCS buses as a way of proactively and positively addressing student behavior concerns. Recently Amy Wallace, WCS Counselor and Social Worker and I met with the WCS bus drivers to discuss and brainstorm strategies for addressing student behavior concerns. Based on feedback from our building Vision Team and some creative problem solving led by Don Sanders, the drivers have implemented a bus reading program.

The Topsham Public Library is furnishing the buses with bags of books that will be read weekly on each bus. Older students are sitting with and reading the books to younger students to and from school. Students are rotated weekly as well as the books. To date, feedback from the students and the drivers has been very positive and enthusiastic. We appreciate our school bus driver's willingness to try this type of initiative as well as the partnership with the Topsham Public Library. AND it fits in so nicely with our building theme for the year: **Building a Reading Life at Home and At School!**

In the last newsletter I highlighted that our school community is working together to create a new "shared vision" and included a link for community members to complete the vision survey. During the month of December and early January, WCS students will have an opportunity to contribute their thoughts and ideas through classroom discussions. I will be leading these discussions and using them as an opportunity to introduce students to well known leaders that had great vision and also encourage students to consider their personal vision and leadership potential. I am looking forward to hearing the student's thoughts and ideas as we move forward on the creation of our school's new shared vision.

Moving forward into a new year, the staff and I would like to thank everyone for a successful 2014. The year was filled with growth and success for our school community. We will continue to grow and provide our students with quality instruction and learning as we usher in 2015.

Wishing everyone a blessed holiday season!

-Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal



November Highlights

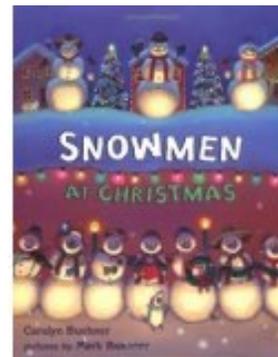
*The Annual Pasta Dinner/Basket Raffle/Silent Auction was held on November 21st at Mount Ararat Middle School. Many thanks to Lori Kane for overseeing the Pasta Dinner, Jen Dwinall for coordinating the basket raffle items, and Andrea Imrie and Sue Lermond for leading the silent auction. And a big thank-you to the many volunteers who supported this fabulous fundraiser from sending in donated food items, working a shift at the pasta dinner to buying raffle ticket items. The community support was just amazing. Thank-you everyone!!!

*The yearly Art Works fundraiser was held giving students and families an opportunity to showcase their personal artwork in items ranging from water bottles to stationary. Many thanks to Ashley McBrady for organizing the fundraiser and to Sue Lermond for providing distribution support.

*Parent-Teacher Conferences were held in November. Many thanks to our teaching staff for spending a great deal of time preparing for these important meetings that directly contribute to student achievement. Thanks also go out to parents, caregivers and students for attending and supporting the meetings.

Building a Reading Life at Home & at School

This month we are featuring one of Mrs. Rineer's family favorites: "Snowmen at Christmas" by Carolyn Buehner and Mark Buehner. From snow babies to icy treats, this book is sure to delight family members of all ages. One can find magical things within the illustrations and of course there is a visit from none other than a "snow Santa". If you are looking for an endearing holiday tale that will possibly become a family tradition, then "Snowmen at Christmas" is just what you are looking for!



Variety Show Information

The annual WCS Variety Show will be here before you know it!! Students in grades 2-5 have the opportunity to audition for the show on January 14 or 21. The Variety Show is Thursday, February 26. Check out the "General Music" section of the school website to read more about the Variety Show. Scroll to the bottom of the music page. There you will find the letter that went home with all the information about the show and how to be ready for the auditions. Students should already be working on their acts. Have fun and good luck!

Volunteer Opportunities

Kid's Academies

Kid's Academies provide WCS students with before and after school enrichment and exploration opportunities. Most offerings are free or at a very low cost for participants. Activities range from arts and crafts to music, athletics, science, and technology to name a few. If you have an idea for a Kid's Academy and/or if you are interested in leading a Kid's Academy, please contact Jen Gonzalez, Kid's Academy Coordinator at: jozalia@gmail.com

STEM Camp 2015

We are very excited to announce that Trust for Our Future, the education foundation that benefits MSAD #75 has awarded WCS a \$1,000.00 grant to support a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Camp during the summer of 2015! However, in spite of the generous donation, volunteer support is essential in implementing a camp of this nature. This year we are in great need of a STEM Camp Coordinator. The role of coordinator includes assisting in STEM Camp planning beginning in January and organizing volunteers. If you are interested in supporting STEM Camp 2015 in this or any other capacity please contact Mrs. Rineer at rineerr@link75.org.

Learning Commons News: December 8-19th An Hour of Code is Coming...Again!

Our MSAD 75 elementary schools have joined the Hour of Code event. Last year over 15 million students around the world participated in this event. What is Hour of Code? Students learn to write computer code in a variety of engaging ways! During Learning Commons time students in grades kindergarten through grade five will have an opportunity to complete at least one coding tutorial. From moving an angry bird through a maze to writing Java Script, there is something for everyone to learn! Why Code? Many jobs now exist and more are being created everyday that need computer science skills. This is an opportunity to begin to shed some light on this career path. It's not too early to begin and it's fun! Learn more by visiting code.org



Friends of Williams-Cone News

A heartfelt "Thank You" goes out to everyone in our little community. We had an overwhelming response to our pasta dinner this year, feeding more than 350 people! This event wouldn't have been nearly as successful without your support! We want to show our gratitude by planning a "Winter Wonderland" event in your honor On February 7, 2015. Stay tuned- all the details will be revealed in January!

The holiday season is fast approaching. If you would like to share some holiday cheer and donate items to children in need, a "Giving Tree" in the front lobby will have the requests of two young children in need of clothing, other necessities and a precious toy. Please deliver your gifts to the office by Wednesday, Dec. 17th.

The FOWC will host an Elementary Trivia Night on Friday, January 23, 2015 from 6-8pm. Pizza slices and desserts will be available to purchase while enjoying a fun night out with the family!

May you have a wonderful holiday season filled with joy, love and cherished moments with your loved ones!

Mt. Ararat High School Project

November 25, 2014

After many years seeking state funding, M.S.A.D. No. 75 will be addressing facility needs at Mt. Ararat High School. The Board of Directors is looking for members of the community to serve on committees that will be closely involved in the process.

The District has applied for school construction funding for high school improvements in all of the state Department of Education's rating cycles since 1999, and recently received approval from the Maine Department of Education to begin this lengthy and comprehensive process.

The next step now is the selection of a designer to provide architectural and engineering services. Once selected, the architect leads a 21-step process for major capital development. This will begin with an analysis of the current building and site to determine whether renovation or new construction will best serve the needs of our students. Typically such a study and decision will be completed within six months from the time the architect is selected. It is important to note that the District will work in partnership with the Maine Department of Education to provide the quality of learning environments for our students designed for the next 40-50 years.

Mt. Ararat High School was originally built in 1973 and is a two-story structure augmented by three portable units providing six classrooms. Its original design was an "open" classroom concept for grades 7-12. Facility upgrades have been made to the school over the years, but educational needs and changes throughout the years have made the school a likely candidate for major capital improvements.

The Board of Directors is looking for one parent or community member to serve on the ***Designer Selection Committee (DSG)***, which will follow the State's process to select an architect for the project. This committee will meet several times over the next few months, which could include both day and evening meetings. The process may involve visitations to other schools. Committee members will work to:

- identify qualities the District desires in an architectural/engineering firm
- review applications and select those firms to be interviewed
- participate in interviews
- recommend an architect to the Board of Directors

Once this task is complete, the work of the DSC will come to an end.

The Board is looking for two parent or community members for the ***Building Committee***, which are positions requiring a long-term commitment. This committee may be active as long as five years with the following responsibilities:

- meet at least once per month for the duration of the project
- work with the architect and sub-committees
- develop the concept and design of the project
- oversee the process from construction through completion

There will be numerous ***sub-committees*** formed to address specific aspects of the school design through this process. The work of these committees will be of a shorter duration and will be focused on specific areas.

Interested parties should send a letter responding to the following:

1. On which of the following committees are you interested in serving?
Building Committee ____
Designer Selection Committee ____
Sub-committees ____
2. Why are you interested in serving?
3. What experience, skills or interests do you have that will help the committee(s)?
4. Are you prepared to commit to the time required?
5. Please provide your name and contact information.

Parties interested in serving on the ***Designer Selection Committee*** must submit their letters of interest by ***December 10, 2014***.

Parties interested in serving in the ***Building Committee*** and ***sub-committees*** must submit their letters of interest by ***January 12, 2015***.

Letters of interest should be sent to:

***Office of Superintendent of Schools
Attn: Mt. Ararat HS Building Project
50 Republic Avenue
Topsham, ME 04086***

Parents and community members who are interested in serving on committees associated with the project can find more information on the District's website at www.link75.org. Additional information about the project will be posted on our website.

Provided by: Bradley V. Smith
Superintendent of Schools
M.S.A.D. No. 75

