

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

April 2014

Randa C. Rineer, Principal



On April 17, Friends of Williams-Cone will host a twilight 5k run/walk to raise \$ for books in our classrooms! Adults can register for a \$10 fee and kids 12 and under can register for a \$5 fee. The 5k will start and finish at the Foreside Field Recreation area and feature both a Pajama Dash for kids 8 and under and the 5k run/walk. The 5k will include a milk and cookies finish, and participants are invited to complete the course running with their favorite book! Registration forms will be coming home, and event t-shirts can be purchased separately for \$8 if pre-ordered by 10. Online registration is available at:
http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=2128661 Please support your classroom libraries by joining us!

Hello WCS Families!

Let's give a collective shout out to spring!! Spring break is just two weeks away and many things are taking place at WCS from Circus Smirkus to hosting a Scientist in Residence.

There will be a "Principal's Reading Challenge" during the upcoming break. Reading logs will be sent home with students that will be based on the actual volume (amount) of reading instead of the number of minutes read each day. This important activity helps to ensure that students maintain their current reading levels. The staff and I ask that all parents and caregivers partner with us to ensure that students participate and complete the reading challenge.

Following break the staff and I will begin to prepare class lists for the 2014-15 school year. When we assign students to classes for the new school year, our primary consideration is to ensure equitable, workable groups. While we cannot take requests for individual teachers,

parents are encouraged to provide us with information about their child's learning style and to inform us if there is a legitimate reason why the child should be separated from another student. For example, if a personality conflict between your child and a peer will impact on learning for those two children, and for others in the class, please communicate that information in writing.

The staff and I will take a great deal of time, effort and careful thought as we create class lists, working to create "balanced classes" that will work best for everyone. When compiling class lists we consider the following: Each student's individual reading, writing and math levels, special education needs, RTI needs, behavioral needs, boys, girls, and combinations of students who have a history of needing to be separated to maximize their learning.

Once the initial lists are created we will step back, look at the lists and determine if they are balanced as a team. If needed we will rebalance to allow for any changes we have made

and follow with having special area staff, special education staff, the guidance counselor, Literacy Teacher Leader and Response to Intervention Coordinator review the lists and share their thoughts and recommendations. Adjustments will be made if necessary with the lists being finalized prior to the end of this school year.

As you can see, a lot of thought and careful consideration is involved in this important process. The staff and I are committed to fostering and supporting classroom communities that are beneficial for every student.

Enjoy spring everyone!

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal



Important Dates

April 8th: Parent/Staff STEM Committee Meeting, 6:00 P.M. Learning Commons

April 16th & 17th: Scientist in Residence

April 16th: Scientist in Residence Family Night, 6:30-8:00 P.M.

April 17th: Run for Reading

April 18th: In-Service, No School for Students

April 21-April 25, Spring Break

April 29th: FOWC, 6:00 P.M. Learning Commons

April 29th: Grade 5 Parent Night at Mount Ararat Middle School, 6:00-7:30 P.M.

April 30th: Parent/Staff Bullying Prevention & Education Committee Meeting, 6:00 P.M. Learning Commons

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Read Across America month was celebrated during the month of March. Activities included guest readers from the local community visiting classrooms courtesy of the United Way. As part of our ongoing "Blue Ribbon Projects" a school wide "Read a Thon" was held on March 12th. Local children's author and WCS parent Jessica Kinney delighted students with a reading of "The Day the Crayons Quit", by Drew Daywalt. The entire school read for thirty minutes in the gymnasium following the presentation. Students collected a total of \$2008.00 for the town of Topsham's heat relief fund! Thank-you WCS community!!

Parent-Teacher conferences were held throughout the month of March. Many thanks to FOWC including Darcy Leighton and Jen Dwinal for providing awesome conference snacks for staff!

Wellness Connection: Let's Go! 5-2-1-0+8

0 Servings of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages

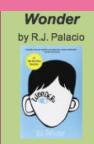
Water is a key ingredient to good health, but many children simply do not drink enough of it. What is your child drinking to replace water and low-fat milk?

Tip: Kids will drink what is there—so consider removing juice drinks and punches, sodas and other sugary beverages from the home. Moderation is the key (so try having these "once in a while" flavored drinks occasionally *outside* the home.) Remember to have a cool "water-only" bottle and make drinking water fun by adding lime, lemon, orange or even watermelon and strawberry slices.

What's Happening in the Learning Commons?



We've been reading and voting for our favorite books. Kindergarten through Grade 4 students have been reading or listening to the Maine Chickadee Award Books. Our students voted on their favorite book and added their voice to the rest of the students in Maine. The winner is *Jangles, a Big Fish Story* by David Shannon.



Also, many of our fourth and fifth graders participated in reading the Maine State Book Award books. Students who read at least three books voted for their favorite as well. The winner is *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Haven't read all the books? Want to know where to find the titles? Glad you asked! Here is a link to the state's site! <http://msba.umeedu.maine.edu> It gives a list of the titles along with reviews. Happy Reading!

Meet Destiny, our new search tool. Finding books in our Learning Commons just got a whole lot easier! Head on over to your school's Learning Commons website and look for the Destiny link. Type in a title or keyword or author and find out what's in our Learning Commons. No need to use a log in. You can search as a guest. This is a great way to be involved with helping your child to select a book from our wonderful collections. We are excited to add this new search tool and will be telling you more as we learn about all its features!

Looking for Some Good Sites? There are so many excellent resources out there on the web, but it's hard to know what's appropriate sometimes. Common Sense Media is a great place to start when looking for an age-appropriate game, app, book or even a movie. <http://www.commonsensemedia.org> A site some of our fifth graders have used recently is LearnZillion.com. This site offers lots of online video for math and reading instruction aligned to the Common Core State Standards. If you are looking for a little extra practice for your child, this is a site worth checking out. It is appropriate for grade 2 and up.