

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 1

September 9, 2022



*"Williams-Cone School is a safe and kind community that inspires every student to succeed. "*  
*-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-*

## 2022-2023 School Year "Connections and Belonging"



(Pictured above is the newly restored WCS Mural located at the WCS Main Entrance)

## Hello WCS Community!

We have welcomed over 250 students into our school community in PreK through grade five over the past two weeks. The students and staff alike are doing a fabulous job of relearning many of the Pre-Covid routines ranging from eating lunch in the cafeteria to arrival and dismissal protocols. Perhaps most importantly, students and staff are working together to establish and re-establish connections with one another so that every student has a genuine and strong sense of belonging in our special school community.

### A few highlights from our opening days:

(Photos Courtesy of Megan Robertson & Jennifer Cass)

### Opening Day, PreK, Grades 1-5, August 29th





## Kindergarten Opening Day, September 6th



## 2022-2023 Staffing Changes

We welcome several new staff members to WCS:

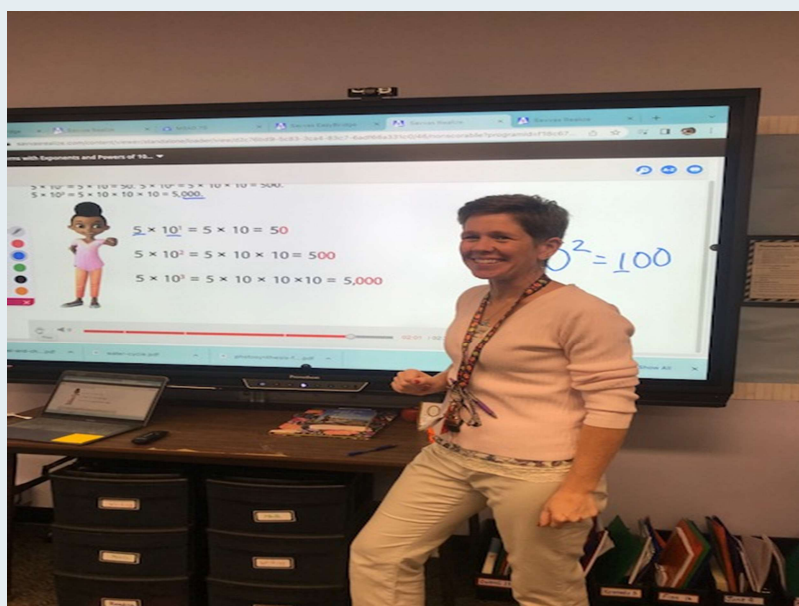
**Mrs. Megan Redd, Art Teacher**



**Ms. Jodi Galvin, Special Education Paraprofessional**



**Mrs. Rebecca Brooks, 5th Grade Long Term Substitute Teacher**



**Ms. Robin Berizzi, Pre-K Paraprofessional**



**Ms. Jean Wright, Pre-K Paraprofessional**



**Ms. Rachel Schoenberg, Third Grade Teacher**



We also welcome back several staff members that are in new or returning roles including:

**Mrs. Laura Bellina, Learning Commons Paraprofessional**



Mrs. Kari Campbell, Response to Intervention, Grades 4/5



Mrs. Sarah Dubreuil, Response to Intervention, Grades K/1/2





Ms. Kieley Hetherington, Response to Intervention, Grades 1/2/3



\*We also welcome back Ms. Julie McAvoy (picture unavailable at this time) who has returned to WCS as a cook/cafeteria manager.

### Volunteer Opportunities



Volunteer opportunities abound at WCS! Our parent/caregiver partnership that provides a wide variety of supports to our school, Friends of Williams-Cone (FOWC) has countless volunteer opportunities throughout the school year. FOWC will host a meeting on Tuesday, September 13th at 5:30 P.M. in the WCS Learning Commons (library). Please join us!

We are also very blessed to have a fabulous and highly motivated Playground Committee that has been working together over the past year to revitalize and equip our playground with some new equipment. Volunteers are needed and very wanted! Come join this fun group of parents/caregivers at our next meeting on Tuesday, September 20th at 5:30 P.M. at the WCS Learning Commons.

### **A Few Important Items:**

\*Morning arrival for students is between 8:40-8:50 A.M. each day with the exception of Wednesdays (9:40-9:40 A.M.). Students who arrive after 8:55 A.M. (9:55 A.M. on Wednesdays) will be marked tardy.

\*Student Dismissal: Thank-you for your continued patience as we work together to ensure a safe, orderly and timely student dismissal. We are continuing to review our protocols and working together to identify strategies that will make the dismissal process safe, efficient and as timely as possible.

\*Student Safety: Ensuring safety for all continues to be a top priority. Over the summer our school's Crisis Emergency Response Team met together to review and revise our school's safety plan. Last week we hosted a successful school wide fire drill and we will continue to hold more fire drills throughout the fall. We are also actively working with the WCS staff on protocols that address a variety of other types of safety concerns and we will continue this critical work throughout the school year.

### **Final Thoughts....**

As we move out of the pandemic into what is being termed a "peri-pandemic", the staff and I recognize that building and rebuilding strong and positive connections is a basic need for everyone-students, staff and family members alike. The staff and I are committed to building

strong and positive partnerships that are built on respect, trust and transparency. Communication is key and we ask that parents/caregivers contact us with any questions, concerns and/or suggestions that they may have as we work together.

We also recognize that many students are experiencing instructional gaps, primarily due to the impact the pandemic had on their access to consistent teaching and learning. Our school team is committed to building resilient learners by directly addressing the learning needs and closing the learning gaps by building strong connections with students as well as utilizing a variety of instructional strategies and interventions. This will range from differentiated instructional practices at the classroom level to individual and small group interventions, supports and services delivered through specialists including our Response to Intervention/Special Education Team. Our staff will keep parents/caregivers informed of their student's progress, but if you have any questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your student's teacher.

Thank-you again WCS for a most excellent start to the school year. It's hard to believe that I am starting my 31st year as an educator and my 11th year as WCS principal. What an amazing journey it has been and continues to be! One thing remains the same, it is a privilege to serve this wonderful community.

Wishing everyone a new school year filled with great hope, unexpected blessings and contagious joy!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

[rineerr@link75.org](mailto:rineerr@link75.org)

(207)725-4391



gratitude

**As we start a new school year, we have MANY things to be thankful for:**

\*Many thanks to Mrs. Jenn Cass and her family for taking extraordinary care of our school garden throughout the summer months as well as beautifying several areas around our school!

See pictures below that Mrs. Cass shared with us:



\*Our parent/caregivers for supporting (and being patient with us!) the start of school and entrusting their children to our care!

\*New pavement along the Williams Wing.

\*The updated outdoor mural courtesy of Jenn & Sophie Gonzalez and Gracelynn Robertson.  
Thank-you FOWC for the materials!

\*The Topsham Public Library and Miss Mariah for hosting a "Picnic With the Principal."

\*Our district facilities/maintenance crew for doing "double duty" and substituting as bus drivers for WCS.

\*The Topsham Police Department helping to ensure safety for all by supporting our student arrival and dismissals during the first week of school.

\*Topsham Fire Department: An excellent fire drill during the first week of school.

\*Our school's custodial team-Pam Young and Randy Munsey for working diligently to clean, sanitize, organize and prepare our school throughout the summer for the start of the new school year.

\*Our school's cafeteria staff, Ms. Julie McAvoy and Ms. Jesse Goodenow for creating and preparing FREE breakfasts and lunches for ALL students!

\*Our school secretaries, Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Anderson, for taking care of countless details (ex. registrations, phone calls, files, supplies, materials, etc.) and procedures to help us prepare for the start of school.

\*Another shout out to Mrs. Jenn Cass and also to Mrs. Megan Robertson for creating the fabulous signs that were on display at the school entrance for the start of school as well as the various communications for the special events and activities taking place prior to the start of the school year.

\*FOWC and their support of the many start of school activities and preparations.

\*The countless hours and energy that the WCS staff gave in preparation for Opening Day.

\*Our school health room staff, Mrs. Chamberland and Mrs. Spies for their focused attention to the safety and well-being for students and staff alike.

\*Our school's arrival and dismissal team and crossing guard who are working hard to ensure a safe, timely and effective arrival and dismissal process for all students.



## **Start of School Happenings & Preparations**

Several events, preparations and activities took place prior to the start of school. Many thanks to Friends of Williams-Cone for their dedicated support, time, communication and resources that they generously gave to help our school community have a super start to the new school year!

(Photo Credits: Megan Robertson)

## Picnics with the Principal

Picnics with the principal (Mrs. Rineer) were held prior to the start for the school year at the Topsham Public Library and the WCS playground. The picnics gave students and families an opportunity to reconnect with one another and form some new friendships too!

Pictured below: Topsham Public Library with Ms. Mariah, the Children's Librarian



Picnic with the Principal on the WCS Playground





## Williams-Cone School Mural Restoration Project

Sophie Gonzalez and Gracelynn Roberts, both former WCS students and juniors at MTA, recently volunteered their time under the guidance and support of Ms. Jenn Gonzalez (Sophie's mother) to restore the WCS mural. The mural is located in the garden area next to the main entrance at WCS. Both students were very excited to refresh the mural, especially given that they had helped to create and dedicate it when they were fifth grade students at WCS. The renovation included lots of scraping, sanding, and repainting as well as time and energy. Supplies were provided by Friends of Williams-Cone. The project was beautifully completed just in time for opening day at WCS!







### **Back to School Open House/BBQ & Potluck**

A school-wide Open House was held on August on August 25th, giving students an opportunity to sneak a peek at their classrooms and to greet their teachers. Following the Open House, FOWC sponsored a BBQ/Potluck dinner on the WCS playground. A great time was had by all!





# Important Dates



9/13 Friends of Williams-Cone Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Learning Commons

9/14 School Wide Assembly, 2:15 P.M.

9/19-9/30. NWEA, Grades 1 & 2

9/20. Playground Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Learning Commons/Playground

9/26. School Picture Day

10/3-10/28 FALL NWEA Assessment Window, Grades 3-5

10/3-10/6 Scholastic Book Fair

10/7 District In-Service Day, No School for Students

10/10 No School, Holiday

10/28 FOWC Halloween Dance, 6-8 P.M.

11/7 School Picture Retakes

11/11 Veterans Day, No School



Notification of policies: Each year the school district is required to make the following policies available to parents/caregivers for their review. [https://mcusercontent.com/a9f659059e5e5b7e261a70e21/files/005b6507-4d89-cb4f-793c-2a29740fa897/PDF\\_Policies\\_for\\_Parents.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/a9f659059e5e5b7e261a70e21/files/005b6507-4d89-cb4f-793c-2a29740fa897/PDF_Policies_for_Parents.pdf)



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**-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners**

Greetings Williams-Cone School Families!

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year! Whether your student is returning to us from last year or for the first time this year, it is our hope that Williams-Cone School will continue to be a place where students can find a true sense of connection and belonging.

One initiative we have been working on over the last few school years is the implementation of schoolwide social-emotional awareness skills through our weekly "Tiger Moments." Every other Monday, we provide new grounding, focusing, or mindfulness skills and/ or practice of learned skills via the Promethean board. Our observation from last year is that students continue to gain greater self-awareness and skills to regulate their emotions in order to more fully participate in social and academic opportunities. We are excited to be continuing with this initiative during the coming school year!

As we transition into the new school year, we would like to extend our support in whatever way possible to better support your child/ren and your family to ensure a successful transition into the 2022-23 school year. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us should you have specific concerns you would like to discuss. Below we have included some resources which we have available to our school community. Please take a moment to complete and return to us if needed. We hope this school year brings each of us newfound ways to realize what it means to feel a sense of connection and belonging.

With Kindness,

Jeff Cardoza: School Counselor  
[cardoza@link75.org](mailto:cardoza@link75.org)  
207-725-4391 ext. 6009



Carin Merrill: School Social Worker  
[merrill@link75.org](mailto:merrill@link75.org)  
207-725-4391 ext. 6041



----- (detach here) -----

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Parent Name:</b>
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<b>Please check off any resources you would be interested in learning more about and return to school:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly food bags from Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday meal help
<input type="checkbox"/> Area counseling services	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday gift help
<input type="checkbox"/> Parenting groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional help with housing/ clothing/ etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	



## **W.I.N.G The Food Pantry at Mt. Ararat Middle School**

### **New Hours for the 2022-2023 School Year**

#### **Wednesdays 3:15pm to 5:15pm**

W.I.N.G. is open weekly with fresh produce, dairy, frozen foods, and hygiene items available to any MSAD No. 75 family. If you have special requests or would like your order packed in advance, please call 729-2950 x7202 and leave a message with your name and phone number and a volunteer will give you a call back. If accessing the pantry is a hardship, please let us know. We are happy to work with any family to make alternate arrangements.

**W.I.N.G. is looking for new volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering in the food pantry, please reach out to Catie Meier at [meierc@link75.org](mailto:meierc@link75.org).**



# PICTURE DAY

IS ALMOST HERE!



**NEW!**  
CUSTOM  
PACKAGE  
LAYOUTS!  
Build your own  
CUSTOM  
package!

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use your unique  
code to login  
& pre-order  
photos

**3**

select your  
packages, prints  
or novelties and  
checkout

Be sure to take a look at the packages, prints & novelties we offer and place an order online until **midnight** of picture day.

*Pay full price for first two children's orders and receive each additional child's order for **FREE**.*

## PICTURE DAY

09-26-22

## UNIQUE CODE

**A6NWD6SU**

### TAKE A LOOK!

WE'VE ADDED NEW TRENDY, SEASONAL & FUN BACKGROUNDS WE THINK YOU'LL LOVE!

Products Shown:

Fall 2022-23 Print  
Keychains  
Digital Download  
Magnets  
Ornate Square Ornament  
World's Best Mom Card  
Metal Print



Williams-Cone School