

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are off to a wonderful start to our new school year! It is so nice to see the children each morning as they arrive for school, excited and ready to learn. Thank you for your support in helping them arrive on time, with snacks and/or lunches and their homework completed. We appreciate your dedication to making this a successful year for your child. We promise to do the same!

As our school year gets underway, here are just a few reminders to help your child with their school day. If you are driving your child to school, please remember to drop them off behind the school between 8:30 and 8:45 a.m. School begins promptly at 8:45 a.m. with morning announcements and the pledge of allegiance. If your child is tardy they need to come to the office to pick up a tardy slip before going to class. Afternoon busses begin lining up in front of Center School at 2:30 p.m., and there is no dismissal from the front of the building after that time. A note is required if you are going to pick them up or if they are going to ride a different bus home. If you are picking your child up from school, they are not permitted to cross carpool lanes until all cars have come to a complete stop and a teacher has given them permission to do so. These are all procedures that we have in place to help keep your child safe while in our care.

Some exciting upcoming events and days off at Windham Center School include:

- Fun Festival – Sept. 30th
- NECAP testing - Oct. 1 – 21st 9:15 -10:45am each day
- Fifth Grade Field Trips - Oct. 6th – 9th
- Early Release Day – Oct. 10th
- Columbus Day – No School – Oct. 13th

Right now it doesn't seem possible, but soon the weather will be changing and our mornings will begin to get cooler. Please help remind your child to dress in layers to ward off these unpredictable temperature changes. Also encourage them to bring a nutritious snack to school each day to help keep their energy levels high and their minds awake for learning.

In September our PTA hosted a wonderful Ice Cream Social for families in the gym. The turnout was terrific and many staff members helped serve the toppings to these delicious sundaes. We thank them for all of their efforts. Our PTA membership is in full swing. Please consider joining if you haven't already done so. Your commitment of \$25 per family, made payable to the Windham PTA, goes to support the varied and exciting PTA sponsored events.

Thank you everyone for a great beginning! We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Cherrie Fulton
Assistant Principal
Windham Center School

Grade Three Newsletter – September 2008

What a great start to the third grade! The students are taking home their agendas daily, so that parents can see what messages and/or homework is written in them. Homework should take about thirty minutes per night, not counting extra projects.

To start the year off, we are heading to Deerfield Fair for our field trip. Each class will be participating in the fair by creating a class project. They vary from books to crafts to writing to science. Please check out our project in the School Building at the Fair.

Third grade is working with their reading series and Six Traits Writing. Our word study program is Sitton, which works with word patterns and expanding the child's ability to "think through" the spelling of words. Every Day Math is still our math series. Please help children at home with spelling and memorizing math facts!

Our science and social studies will be spiraling all year with: animal and plant studies, weather, sound and nutrition, map skills, immigration and the Town of Windham. Of course, our final unit of the year is always Westward Ho!

We've finished our "laptop tests" (NWEA) and will settle down a little before the NECAP testing in the classroom in October. Please keep an eye out for those notices.

With all this going on, we look forward to a great and exciting year!

News from 4th grade: September 15th, 2008

The fourth grade teachers are so happy with how the year has started off. Students settled in to their new routines nicely... and soon after, we jumped into NWEA testing. All in all, things went fine. Now... on to NECAPs!!

We have enjoyed the beginning of the year activities. The Ice Cream Social fell on a very HOT evening... many people turned out to enjoy a cool treat and to say hello to friends old and new. We are also having our Student Council elections this week. Students are stepping up to the ballot box as 2 representatives will be chosen from each classroom.

The first unit in Everyday Math concentrates on geometry. Students are reviewing lines, rays, polygons, etc. Please make sure your child is practicing those times tables. This program moves quickly, and students

will find that it is much easier for them when they are comfortable with their facts.

Also, there are book reports being assigned in all fourth grade classrooms. It is wonderful practice for your child to be reading at least 15 to 20 minutes a night.

Grade 5

Dear Parents,

We got off to a fabulous start this year! We're looking forward to working with you and your children.

The theme for reading is "Look Inside." In this theme, students will learn about young people who discover their strengths and abilities. Students will be encouraged to look within themselves and examine their own unique attributes.

In math, the first unit builds on students' understanding of factors and products to explore topics from the branch of mathematics called number theory. It builds on the students' prior informal work with multiplication and division of whole numbers. We will work on arrays factoring, prime and composite numbers, square numbers, and square roots.

Our first topic in Social Studies will be The New England Colonies. In conjunction with this study, the fifth graders will be going on a field trip to the Saugus Iron Works the week of October 6-9th. Information will be coming home soon.

Our future scientists are exploring various topics depending on which team of teachers your child has. Weather and planets are two of the favorites most children are working on now.

Happy Fall!

September Newsletter—Center School—Library News

Summer Reading Great job to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders for reading well over 3,115 books during our Summer Reading program! (6.2 books per student, on average) Coming soon, the reward: watch for Mr. Desrosiers to direct traffic in full costume—the costume that students picked out.

Ladybug Book Award Grade 3 students are reading the 10 nominees for the NH Ladybug picture book award. Each student may vote for their favorite book in November.

Great Stone Face Award: To be eligible to vote in April, 4th & 5th graders must read 3+ books from the list of 25 nominees, posted at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> under “Windham Center School”—Reading Lists.

Book Group The Breakfast Book Club will start the year reading *Oggie Cooder*. Watch for a notice to come home.

Contests

1.) **Cat Calendar Art Contest:** Winners will have their “vacationing cats” scene published in a calendar, and choose \$100 in free books. Due to library Oct.1, or mail on your own. See http://www.btol.com/pub_details.cfm?id=390

2.) **Create a Character** from your imagination. Winners will have their characters appear in Storyworks magazine. In fact, Roland Smith, the author of *Peak*, might write a story starring your character, and your whole class could get a signed copy of *Peak*. Due to library October 15, or mail on your own. <http://storyworks.scholastic.com/contests> has new contests each month.

3.) **Scholastic’s “Kids Are Authors”** group author/illustrator contest is back. Groups of 3 or more K-8 students write a book together. See <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/kaa/> [Entries due March 15.](#)

Vote for Books Kids can vote for their favorite chapter, series, and picture books at voteforbooks.com, now through November 4. Vote just for fun!

NURSE’S NOTES:

Medication at school: Welcome to Center School to all our third grade families and welcome back to all our returning families!! Hopefully, we will have a healthy and safe school year. Please remember, the nurse at school is just like a nurse in any other institution, we are not allowed to administer any prescription medication (i.e. Antibiotics, inhalers, epi-pens, eye/ear drops, lotions/creams, or any other prescribed medication) without the written permission from both medical provider and parent. When your child will require medication at school, please remember to follow this policy.

Home injuries: When your child is hurt or injured outside of school, and will require care or special accommodations while at school, please call the health office and discuss the situation with the nurse. We want to make sure they are as safe and comfortable as possible at school.

Allergies/Emergency Care Plans: If your child has an allergy/medical condition that requires the use of an Epi-Pen or other emergency medication, please contact the nurse and complete the necessary paperwork as soon as possible.

Safety Phone: If your child is going to be out sick, please remember to call the safety phone line @ 432-7962 (messages may be left at any time of day or night). If the school does not hear from you and your child is on our absentee list, a safety phone volunteer will call you. We appreciate your timely calls as it helps us to streamline the process of accounting for each absent child.

Again, welcome back and if you have any health related concerns, please contact me at 432-7962. Kathleen Baroni, R.N.

Windham Center School **Fun Fitness Festival 2008**

Great News!! Due to the tremendous success of last year's Festival, Center School has decided to continue this fundraising tradition. As part of our ongoing commitment to promote healthy choices for our students, Center School has adopted a fundraising program encouraging physical activity. Our 2nd Annual Fun Fitness Festival on September 30th will give students the opportunity to raise donations for Center School and be active at the same time! We are confident this approach will help emphasize the important role exercise plays in a healthy, active lifestyle.

It is our belief that when the community understands the goals of a school fundraiser, they will be more supportive and generous. All monies collected from our only, yearly fundraiser will be spent on the numerous supplemental activities and programs the school has found to be the successful and beneficial for our students. Since there are no commercial products sold, we are able to keep all the profits!

Students will be asking for donations towards this event. For every \$5.00 collected, a student will receive raffle tickets for our Tea Cup Raffle. All raffles are based on our continuing effort to promote activity. Last year, due to the generosity of our community, our Fun Fitness Festival raised over \$20,000 to help support our school and its programs. Please help us again in continuing our efforts to keep our children healthy and support for our school programs. If you would be interested in donating a prize for the Tea Cup Raffle, please call Marge Leahy or Joni Matthews at 432-7312. We hope you will help us to make this year's fundraiser even more successful than last year!! Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!

Welcome to Enrichment

As another school year begins, Enrichment classes will explore many different learning adventures, individually, as a whole classroom, and on teams.

Grade Three students will start off with an activity called Funny Copy, where asking pertinent questions, and giving concise answers, are the goal. Listening skills and questioning strategies are discussed, and students learn to get the most information from each verbal interchange.

Grades Four and Five will begin with an activity called Smart Mouth, where students will work on teams to create the longest words they can within specific parameters. Spelling skills, dictionary use, and teamwork all contribute to success in this activity, and it is a great opportunity to increase vocabulary as well.

Enrichment grades are based on effort as well as performance, so those students who give me their best will do well.

We are looking forward to a great school year.

Janice Hurley

Art Room at Center School

Welcome back to another year at Center School and specifically to the art classes upstairs in room 307. This year we started out the year really trying to stretch the imaginations of all our students. Third graders have been reviewing the six basic shapes and learning how to apply them to drawings of hands. Traditionally, hands are thought of as being hard to draw but our third graders are stepping up to the line. These pictures will be completed as watercolor resists and hung matted in the hallways of the school for a few weeks before being sent home.

The fourth graders have designed their own insects, a project that coordinates with their classroom environmental studies. They will be adapting their insects to fit on a clay mug which they are now in the process of building. These will have to dry for a week before we can fire them and glaze them. Watch for the bug mugs to be coming home in about a month.

Fifth grade classes have been taking the six basic shapes to the next level learning how to draw the shapes in three dimensional form. They have had their choice of finishing these overlapping shapes with either chalk shading or using a 4B pencil in one of five different shading techniques. When these are done they will also be hung in the halls at school before they are sent home.

On occasion, papers are saved here at school till the next music department concert and then will be hung in the hallways as display. Papers will be sent home immediately after these concerts. Thank you to all parents who have made sure that their students have come to school prepared for art classes with a smock to protect their clothes. If your son or daughter still does not have a smock, we will try to loan them one for a class, but we will appreciate all your efforts to get one here for them to wear every week.

World Language

Bonjour and Hola!

For World Language, all students need the same things - whether they are

5th graders learning French all year, 4th graders learning Spanish all year, or 3rd graders learning French the first half of the year and Spanish the second half of the year - everyone will need:

- a folder
- index cards
- a great attitude

I am so excited to get started. We have Country Projects to look forward to in the 4th and 5th grade, where each student is assigned a country that speaks the language they are studying to find out more about and share with the class. In third grade we will be learning the alphabet in French, along with a very catchy song to help us remember it, as well as numbers 1-30 and some essential expressions.

You can keep up with what we are doing on my web page at Teacher Web found under Coakley.

Au revoir and adios!

Mademoiselle/Senorita Coakley