

April 2009

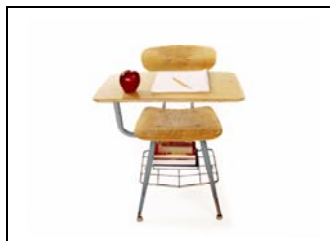
Volume 1, Issue 7

Windham Center School

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Andrew Desrosiers, Principal
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From the Principal's Corner....

Thank you again for our wonderful Teacher Appreciation Week!!

Parent Teacher Conferences - Our parent teacher conferences will be April 21st and April 23rd. Please be sure you've made an appointment with your child's teacher.

Spring Vacation - April 26 - May 1. Have fun and return to us safely!

Book Fair - April 14-23rd Please come see our wonderful selection of books in the Media Center. Great for summer reading!

Senior Citizen Performance - May 5th at 9:30 the Drama Club will perform the play for our Senior Citizens in Windham.

5th Grade Lunch - May 5th the 5th graders will be having lunch at Windham Middle School. The buses will depart at 11:00 and return to our school by 12:30.

Our play, The Jungle Book will be performed on May 7th at 7:00pm for our WCS families. Please join us for the fun!

3rd Grade Spring Concert - May 20th at 9:30am

3rd Grade String Concert - May 21st at 7:00pm

Early Release Day - May 22nd Our students will eat an early lunch and be dismissed at 12:00.

Memorial Day - No school on May 25th

1st year Band/2nd year Strings Concert - May 26th at 7:00pm

2nd year Band/Show Chorus - May 27th at 7:00pm

Reminders: Teachers have a 24 hour notice for homework make-up when a student is absent

Drop off is 8:30am. Staff is not available to supervise before this time.

Happy Spring Everyone!

Grade 3

The third grade has once again flown through a month of fun and exciting activities. We have been studying about sound, Windham, plants and weather, depending on which class. We are always busy! Our Battle of the Books has begun and the classes have been divided into their teams! What a great way to

share literature and have fun reading. We have finished our unit on multiplication and division awareness and are now trying to memorize all those new facts! We have also been studying about all the shapes in the world around us. We know the difference between a polygon and a polyhedron - do you?



Fractions are next on the list and we all love eating those fractions! Vacation is right around the corner and then onto our exciting Eggs to Chicks unit and our Westward Ho! Unit! We can't wait!

Grade 4

Spring is here! Fourth grade has been enjoying opening the windows and letting in some of this fresh air! We have completed our third quarter, and parents and teachers will be making time this week for conferences. Be sure to stop in and visit the book fair in our media center! When we return from April vacation, we will be preparing for more testing. Spring NWEA testing will be taking place in early May, with the Science NECAP testing at the end of the month. It does seem never-ending sometimes! Students have been enjoying the after school floor-hockey tournaments. The excitement is everywhere!

We enjoyed our visit from the PSNH representative. She spoke to the fourth grade students about electricity. It is always a great presentation, as it is so important for students to hear about all of the many ways to stay safe.

Grade 5

Fifth graders celebrated Opening Day of the Red Sox by enjoying Fenway franks as they completed various math activities.

Math - In Everyday Math students are studying fractions and ratios as they learn to multiply and divide fractions and explore ratios.

Science - Students continue to study electricity, astronomy, and weather, while some classes are exploring various careers and occupations.

Social Studies - Students continue their studies of the American Revolution and the formation of a new nation.

Language Arts - Students moved on to Theme 4 Express Yourself. In this theme, students are reading about expressing themselves by learning about different forms of creativity. Reading selections include reading strategies and skills such as word relationships, main idea and details, inferring, fact and opinion, classifying, categorizing, synthesizing, and figurative language.



Various classrooms continue to read and discuss trade books that enhance the reading curriculum. Many classes are preparing photo essays, scrapbooks, Photostory or Powerpoint presentations. As we continue to learn about persuasive writing some classes created persuasive commercials on Photostory. Many classes have begun exploring many different forms of poetry and then are creating their own poems.

Continue to read and practice those math facts with your child every day!

Media Center

Book Fair

The Scholastic spring Book Fair will run from April 14-24. Register for the world record summer reading challenge that starts on May 1. Thank you to all the volunteers and customers that support us!

Battle of the Books

Congratulations to Mrs. Neary's class, the 4th grade winners. Third grade will have class battles the week of May 26, with the Final Battle on Thursday, June 4 from 9:10am to 11:10am.

Poetry Contest

April is **National Poetry Month**. Each K-12 student may enter 1 poem, any style, on their favorite subject for review and publishing consideration in the *Pine Tree Poetry 2009 Collection*. Students may read their own published poems in the free library copy we will receive, or purchase their own copies in January 2010. We had many student poems published last year! Entries are due to the library by May 8. Information is at pinetreepoetry.com.

Art Contest

Each student may enter one piece of be 8½" x 11" artwork for potential publication in *The Pine Tree Art Collection*. See pinetreepoetry.com. Entries due to the library by May 8.

Successful Author Visit

Robert Pottle entertained and educated us on March 31 and April 1. Over 150 family members attended the evening family session. Thanks to all who helped to make the night a success!

Book Club News: Upcoming Breakfast Book Club meetings include *Moving Day* (*Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls*, book 1), *The Encyclopedia of Immaturity*, and *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. Lunch groups will read the following: for 3rd grade, *Oggie Cooder*; 4th grade will read *A Crooked Kind of Perfect* and *Found*, and for 5th grade, *Found* (*The Missing*, book 1) and *Yellow Star*.

Notes from the Counselors corner



Greetings and Happy April!

Spring is a wonderful time in New England...birds, flowers, warmer weather. One should feel wonderful...correct? Unfortunately with today's uncertain economic times, job lay-offs, house foreclosures, etc. this is often not the case.

As school counselors, both Amy and I are seeing an increase in student's who struggle with both stress and anxiety. Listed below are some tips parents can employ, to help your children navigate through, these uncertain and often difficult times.

1. Please, take great care not to burden your children with your fears. Generally speaking, children under age 10 will not have the emotional maturity to comprehend adult difficulties, like finances or economic concerns. Nevertheless, one may use this time as an opportunity to teach your children financial responsibility...teach the value of a dollar through the development of a strong work ethic. Reward children with money for chores well-done. Financial rewards as a direct result of productivity may enhance these values and beliefs.
2. Address your children's economic concerns using simple language. If you are uncertain how to answer your child's questions, explore with your child their current knowledge of the situation. Perhaps your child knows more than you think or has come to illogical conclusions. Be patient, your child may need to repeat things often or you may need to repeat yourself as well.
3. Hugs, extra affection and attention can often be the best medicine. This can provide support, reassurance and a sense of connectedness. Doing enjoyable activities as a family doesn't always need to be expensive...a trip to the library, a hike, bike ride or picnic in the park with a Frisbee and friends, are wonderful and inexpensive ways to stay connected.

Best Regards,
Jane and Amy

Musically Speaking

Our **third graders** are now learning western songs to perform for you in a Spring Concert that will take place on Wednesday, May 20th. They will be playing songs on their recorders along with performing songs from the musical, "Go West". This show is a musical celebration of America's westward expansion and integrates nicely with the third grade unit that studies the growth of the country's development.

Our **fourth graders** have been busy learning how to play both pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments and African drums in an ensemble setting in the music room.

The **fifth graders** have begun their unit on music composition. This unit requires them to integrate writing with music software programs.

Our fifth grade **Show Chorus** is busy preparing for their performance of Disney's "**High School Musical III.**" This is an upbeat show that features songs that are fun to sing and provides many opportunities for creative choreography ideas. The chorus students are practicing harmonies while learning how to create choreography movements that will enhance the show at the same time! We look forward to performing for you on Wednesday, night, May 27th at 7:30 following the Concert Band.

Sincerely,
Nancy Fothergill

