

February 2009

Volume 1, Issue 5

Windham Center School

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From the Principal's Corner....

We hope everyone is enjoying the "slightly" warmer temperatures that February has brought. Please remember we will be going outside for recess if the temperature is over 20°(or if the wind chill is over 20°)...Dress Warmly!!

•Lost and Found items will be donated to a local charity on Friday, Feb.20th. The children have been given many opportunities to search through the pile for items they have lost. If your child is missing anything, please pick them up before that date.

•Picking up students before 2:30 can be done through the office. After 2:30, please meet your child at car dismissal in the back of our building. If you try to pick up your child in the front of the building after 2:30, our buses are blocked. Thank you!

Have a safe vacation! We'll see you on March 2nd!

Important Dates

February 6th and 20th - Our 4th grades will be visiting the State House

Jump Rope for Heart - February 12th

February 17th - 6th grade teachers will be meeting the 5th graders

Ski Club begins February 19th

February Vacation - February 23 - 27th

March 10 - No School
Teacher Workshop Day

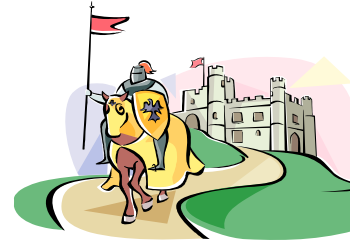
Grade 3

Can you believe we are halfway through the year? In the blink of an eye, we'll be looking at fourth graders! We have lots to do before the other half of the year is through, but let's hear about what we've been doing lately in our third grade neck of the woods...

Valentine's Day was in the air! We celebrated the holiday with classroom parties filled with arts and crafts, goodies, valentine greetings, and games. Thank you to all the parents who contributed their time by volunteering at the parties or baking cookies at home. If spreading those warm greetings weren't enough,

how about our jump roping? We put all our jump roping skills to work when we participated in the annual Jump Rope for Heart in gym class. All the third graders collected sponsorships and we will contribute all our fundraising to those in medical need.

You might be tired of all the changes in the weather lately, but we certainly are not! After all, we're studying weather in third grade. We've been enjoying the snow, rain, sunshine, and wind! Now we know why one day it's 50 degrees, and the next day, it's close to 0 degrees! Our big finale will be sharing weather projects and



experiments in all our classrooms.

Now before Spring arrives, we have a lot to do! Our fairy tale units are under way! We have been reading and writing and discovering what a true fairy tale has for characteristics. And since there is usually a "big bad wolf", we are learning about these wonderful animals. That will take us right into our next big unit - animals and their habitats! Have a wonderful vacation and see you next month!

Grade 4

February/March is when we participate in Battle of the Books. Each fourth grade class is divided into four teams that are responsible for reading approximately 18 books. The week of March 16th, groups will compete in a Jeopardy style game that will result in a class group winner. Then, the Final Battle will be Friday, March 27th in the cafetorium. One team will emerge as the 4th grade champion!

Fourth graders will visit the New Hampshire State House in Concord, NH as a culmination of their study of New Hampshire Government. Mrs. Labo's class, Mrs. Neary's class, Miss Prouty's class, and Mr. O'Connor's class will be going on February 6th,

Grade 4, Continued

Miss Morabito's class, Mrs. Fleet's class, Mrs. Cataldo's class, Mrs. Leonard's class, and Mrs. Bergeron's class will attend on February 20th.

Students need to bring a bag lunch to school that day.

In Language Arts, many of us will be working in Theme 4- *Creative Minds*. Throughout this unit, we will continue our study of vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency. In addition, Theme 4 covers the following subjects: subject and object pronouns, possessive

pronouns, adjectives and articles, comparing with adjectives and suffixes. All classes continue to practice their writing skills through a variety of activities.

In Everyday Math, multi-step math problems become more and more prevalent. Therefore, it is essential that students know their basic math facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students should practice their math facts every night!

We are very busy here in Fourth Grade!!!

Grade 5

February has been a very busy month at Center School. Fifth graders enjoyed many activities on February 10th to celebrate the one hundredth day of school. Students also enjoyed Valentine's Day by traveling on the "Love Boat," touring the fifth grade classrooms, and participating in special activities including classroom parties. Some of the fifth grades hosted a "Meet and Greet" the presidents and first ladies on Presidents' Day. What a great time we are having in school!

In Everyday Math, fifth graders are using numbers written in exponential notation. Students are also learning to use parentheses and apply the order of

Grade 5, Continued

operations to evaluate expressions and solve number sentences. Ordering, comparing, adding positive and negative numbers are a challenging part of this math unit. We are very busy mastering all of these skills and concepts together.

Fifth graders are continuing to work on various types of written expression while

developing their own personal styles of writing. It is exciting to read works of future authors. In reading, fifth graders are completing novels and Theme 3.

February vacation is a well deserved break for all of the fifth graders. Enjoy the time with your families.



Enrichment

Continental Math continues to keep fourth and fifth grade students busy, with only two meets to go, scores continue to be impressive, and every point counts. Top scoring students, as well as those who show impressive effort, will be rewarded with medals and certificates when the season is complete.

All Enrichment classes will continue with Math Games of all kinds, as we can never have too much practice on math skills and facts.

Third Grade classes are still playing Funny Copy, (we promise that every third grader will get their turn to be it), and the students have greatly improved their question asking strategies, as well as their listening skills, while engaged in this activity.

Hope everyone enjoys February Vacation.

Janice Hurley

Media Center

Battle of the Books

Congratulations to Mrs. Satkwich's 5th graders, the winners of the 5th grade Battle of the Books.

4th grade is preparing now for battles the week of March 16, with the Final Battle on Friday, March 27 from 9:10am to 11:10am.

Fisher Cats Tickets Reading Challenge:



Each student may earn 2 tickets to a NH Fisher Cats Reading Night baseball game, by reading 5 books outside of the normal curriculum during this school year. Reading log must be mailed to Fisher Cats by April 15.

Six Flags Tickets Reading Challenge:



Any K-6 student may earn a free ticket to a Six Flags amusement park by reading for 6 hours recreationally (outside of a school assignment). Official reading logs may be downloaded at

<http://www.windhamsd.org/center/PDFs/SixFlagsReadingLog.PDF>.

Signed logs are due back to teachers by Monday, March 2.

Book Club News: In March the Breakfast Book Club will read *Hank Zipzer: the Life of Me*. Lunch groups will read the following: for 3rd grade, *Stink and the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers*; 4th grade will read *Virus on Orbis 1*, and for 5th grade, *The Big One-Oh*.

Media Center, Continued

Visiting Author

In preparation for Robert Pottle's visit March 31, we are reading his humorous poetry in the media center. His books will be for sale before the event, and he also will present to families (with dessert!) on April 1 at 7:00pm.

Reading Rainbow Writing Contest: Details about the Reading Rainbow *Young Writers & Illustrators Contest* are at www.nhptv.org/rrcont/. K-5 children may make up a story, relate a true experience, or write a poem (with illustrations). Winners at each grade level will have stories posted online. First place winners in grades K-3 will compete nationally. Due date: March 24.

Scholastic Writing Contest: Scholastic's "Kids Are Authors" group author/illustrator contest deadline is March 15. Rules are at <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/kaa/>

Pine Tree Poetry / Pine Tree Art:

Congratulations to the 20 Windham students featured in the just-published *Pine Tree Poetry 2008 Collection*. Entries for the next volume are due in May. See pinetreepoetry.com.

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

Book Donations

Center School has space for a limited number of book donations in excellent condition, if your children have outgrown them. In particular, we are in need of **hardcover** books on how to draw, *Where's Waldo*, *Star Wars*, and *Pokemon*. We also can use **series paperback** books, including *Geronimo Stilton*, *Hank Zipzer*, *Cam Jansen*, *A to Z Mysteries*, *Henry & Mudge*, *Horrible Harry*, and other easy readers.

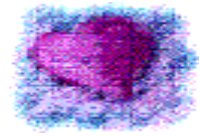
Book Fair

The Scholastic spring Book Fair will run from April 14-24. Volunteer openings will be posted in early March.

Physical Education News!

Jump Rope For Heart

The Physical Education Teachers would like to thank everyone for all their support for this year's Jump Rope for Heart Event. We would especially like to thank the volunteers that came to swing ropes and the volunteers to help count all the donations. The students had a wonderful day jumping both long and short ropes while adding notes to some of the people they were jumping in honor of to our Wall of Honor. We would also like to thank the community for your continued support of our annual event to raise donations for the American Heart Association. Through your assistance, the fight against heart disease and stroke and the education of our students of this fight will help us all to live happier and healthier lifestyles. On March 18th, we will again be sponsoring our Annual Hoops for Heart Basketball Tournaments. Look for the information coming soon!



Notes from the Counselor's Corner

Random Acts of Kindness are plentiful at Center School! A school wide program where our students are encouraged to commit Random Acts of Kindness (either at school or home) is underway! Our goal is to create a wonderful "wall of kindness" here at Center School. Do stop by and check our progress.

Simple acts of kindness are natural for children. At Center School this is encouraged; as, it is understood that kindness is the connection that links people together and enhances the bonds within our schools, communities, neighborhoods and families.

Below are several suggestions for bringing more kindness into your family:

1. Model kind behavior...volunteer, shovel a neighbor's walkway or simply treat others with dignity and respect
2. Be kind to your children—children learn from kindness and respect. Discipline is necessary, but make certain it comes with an explanation
3. Reward kind acts-catch your children being good and reward them. Children thrive on positive attention!

Enjoy your February! Please do not hesitate to contact us if questions or concerns arise.

Best Regards,
Jane and Amy