



February, 2010
Volume 2, Issue 6

Windham Center School
2 Lowell Road
Windham, NH 03087
603-432-7312

Andrew Desrosiers, Principal
Cherrie Fulton, Assistant Principal

From the Principal's Corner....

Happy February!

We hope everyone is enjoying the "slightly" warmer temperatures that February has brought. Please remember we will be going outside for recess ...Dress Warmly!!

•Lost and Found items will be donated to a local charity during our February vacation. 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 time.

•Important Dates...

School wide Morning Meeting – Feb. 19th

Jump Rope For Heart – February 17th

Ski Club begins – February 18th through March 25th (Thursdays)

Vacation – February 22rd – 26th

Teacher Workshop Day – March 9th

Teacher Appreciation Week – March 15-19th

Looping Information Night for 3rd Grade – March 23rd 6:30-7:30

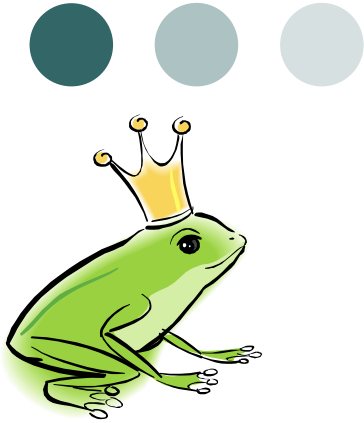
Visiting Author – March 25th

Have a safe vacation! We'll see you on March 1st!

Contents:

Grade 3	2
Grade 4	2
Grade 5	3
Enrichment	3
Counselors' Corner	4
Media Center	5

Grade 3



Our fairy tale units are under way!

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. We have a battle within the classroom, and then the winning group from each classroom participates in the Big Battle.

In Language Arts, some classes are working in Theme 3 or 4 in the Harcourt Brace series while others are working in individual chapter books. Throughout these units, we continue our study of vocabulary,

comprehension, and fluency. 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!

Fourth graders will visit the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium in April. More information is forthcoming

We are very busy here in Fourth Grade!!!

"We are very busy here in Fourth Grade!!!"

Grade 5



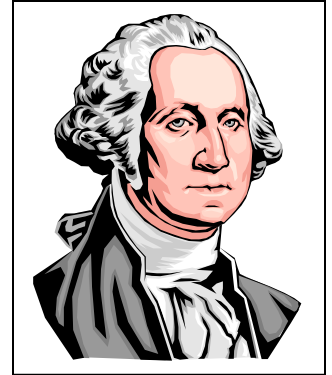
February is a very busy month at Center School. Some of the fifth grades will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" of the presidents and first ladies on Presidents' Day. What an exciting day for the actors. Valentine celebrations add to the festivities this month.

In Everyday Math, fifth graders are working on fractions, decimals, and percents. We are very busy exploring conversions as well as reviewing key fraction concepts.

A meteorologist's visit with fifth graders to further awareness about weather is also planned. Other fifth graders are busy learning about electricity.

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 competing for the championship in "Battle of the Books". In addition to this activity, students are reading novels and stories from the Harcourt reading series. February vacation is a well deserved break for all of the fifth graders. Enjoy the time with your families.



Some of the fifth grades will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" of the presidents and first ladies on Presidents' Day.

Enrichment News

The major focus of all Enrichment classes this month will be our Jump Rope for Heart Unit, which combines with Physical Education classes to improve student's knowledge of how to have and keep a healthy heart. Enrichment students will be discussing heart health, and the ways that each student can have a positive effect on both their own heart health, and on those around them. This year's theme is "It Takes Heart to Be a Hero", so we are exploring the quiet hero in each of us, by doing the right thing for our own hearts, and setting a good example for others.

Each grade level will express what they have learned, and what message they wish to pass on, in a different fashion, and their work will decorate the

gymnasium during the Jump Rope for Heart Unit. Third graders will trace and cutout a personal footprint and add a heart healthy message. All of the third grade footprints will combine to become "The Pathway to Good Health". Grade four students are designing a heart healthy logo for a t-shirt contest. A selection team will choose the best ten t-shirt designs to send in to the contest. Very exciting! Grade Five Enrichment students will work in teams to create large posters to carry their messages about heart health, and to show ways they have discovered that they can become quiet heroes. The creative ideas that come from this project are always surprising and impressive, truly something to look forward to.

-J. Hurley





Notes from the Counselors' Corner

During February . . .

CELEBRATE COMPASSION ~ By being kind and thoughtful toward others.



CARING FOR OTHERS

Adults know it is a wonderful feeling to help another person. Children, like adults, enjoy sharing and caring for other people. Caring and sharing allow your child to feel needed and capable for other people. This month remind your child of the beauty of "giving of yourself." Some ways children can "give" to others are hugs, smiles, kisses, kind words, and being helpful. It is important to recognize your child's "gifts" of love and caring and to show appreciation for the ways that your child cares and shares.

COMPASSION TIPS FOR PARENTS

Involve your child in making rules and decisions – People support what they help create.

Show you care by being consistent – Consistency reinforces the value of a rule.

Respond to misbehavior quickly and calmly – Identify a problem early to give your child time to correct behavior before a bad habit develops.

Recognize when rules must change – As your child matures, certain rules may need to be rewritten.

Get to know your child – A strong parent-child bond encourages greater cooperation at home.

A person with healthy self-esteem balances care for the self with empathy for others.

Amy Wagoner
Windham Center School
3rd & 4th Grade Guidance Counselor
Counselor
(603) 432-4296

Elizabeth Jodoin
Windham Center School
5th & 6th Grade Guidance
(603) 432-4296

Media Center



Battle of the Books

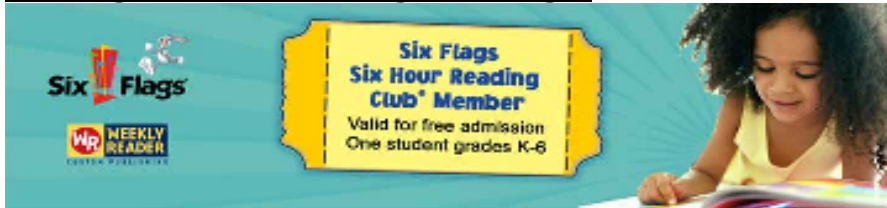
The 5th grade Final Battle is scheduled for Wednesday morning, February 10 in the library (a new location and configuration for this year's Battles). 4th grade is now preparing for Battle of the Books, culminating on April 7th, when 3rd grade will receive their books to read.

Writing Contests

1) **The Reading Rainbow Young Writers & Illustrators Contest** is now the **PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest**. K-5 students write and illustrate a fiction or non-fiction story. Winners compete for prizes and have stories published online. Entries are due March 24. See nhtv.org/kidswrite

2) Monthly contests are found at Scholastic Storyworks: <http://storyworks.scholastic.com/contests>

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 (available in the media center) are due back by March 1.

Visiting Author/Illustrator

Lita Judge, of Peterborough, NH, will visit Center School on March 25. She has written and illustrated *One Thousand Tracings*, *Pennies for Elephants*, *Yellowstone Moran*, and *D is for Dinosaur*. She also illustrated *S is for S'mores*; *Ugly*; and *Mogo, the Third Warthog*. See LitaJudge.com

Fisher Cats Tickets Reading Challenge



Each student in grades K-8 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. Forms must be postmarked by April 16.

