

January 2009

Volume 1, Issue 4

Windham Center School

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Andrew Desrosiers, Principal
Cherrie Fulton, Assistant Principal



From the Principal's Corner....

•It's hard to believe that we are already into the month of January! Please remember that your child will have recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below 20°. Coats, gloves/mittens and boots can help keep them warm while out at recess.

•We need your help with getting your child to school on time. Please remember that they must be in their seats at 8:45 when announcements begin. Our list of tardy students keeps growing and growing!

•When emailing or faxing a request for dismissal changes, please confirm with a call to our main office.

•We hope you'll have an opportunity to attend one or all of our many concerts this month...

January 22nd - Winter Concert - 9:30am
January 27th - 3rd grade Strings Performance - 7:00pm
January 28th - 1st year Band/2nd year Strings - 7:00pm
January 29th - 5th grade Band/Show Chorus - 7:00



Important Dates

January 19th - No School -
Martin Luther King Day

January 22nd - Winter
Concert - 9:30am

January 27th - 3rd grade
Strings Performance -
7:00pm

January 28th - 1st year
Band/2nd year Strings -
7:00pm

January 29th - 5th grade
Band/Show Chorus - 7:00

NWEA Winter Testing -
Jan.30th - Feb.5

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

Jump Rope for Heart -
February 12th

Ski Club begins February
19th

February Vacation -
February 23 - 27th

Grade 3

Brrr! Our cool third graders have been keeping quite busy trying to warm up from our wintry weather! Thanks for remembering to bring those boots and snow pants just in case we can enjoy our playground once again!

We're writing our way through the winter with persuasive paragraphs and learning the letters of the alphabet in cursive.

Teamwork has been our reading theme as we skate through fairytales, more book clubs, and learning about different authors and their purpose.

Let's hear about math!

Third graders are practicing those multiplication facts, and problem solving with division and fractions. How many third graders in our community are studying multiplication? (Hint: There are approximately 23 students in our third grade classrooms and there are 9 of those...)



We're warming up to learning about weather in science, including discussion on the water cycle and using weather instruments to predict and confirm the weather. Now the third graders can predict the weather as well as the meteorologists on TV!

Grade 4

Could it be possible that things are actually getting back to normal and we are able to follow a regular routine again? We fourth grade teachers are certainly enjoying spending time with our students again. February will be the start of our 3rd quarter of this year, given that grades close on January 23rd.

Also in February, we are organizing our field trips to the NH State House and the NH Courthouse. Please stay tuned for which day your child's classroom will be going. This trip coincides with our curriculum standards which cover the government processes on the state level. Children will get to see where our NH legislators work as well as the NH Senate. As they are learning about the NH judicial system, they will be able to visit the NH Supreme court, where all the action happens!

Grade 4, Continued

Coming up in March, our school will be undergoing the National **NEAP testing** (National Education Assessment Process). It is considered to be the "Nation's Report Card". 90 students are chosen at random to take this test. The results are not reflected upon each individual student. They are used to judge where the nation stands in the field of education.



With the coat, boot, hat and mitten season in full force, our "**Lost and Found**" area is overflowing!

Please make sure to label all of your children's clothing, so that any lost items can be reunited with its owner.



Grade 5

Reading/Language Arts:

We are currently working in **Theme #3: A Changing Planet**. This theme will focus primarily on nonfiction passages of readings. We will learn about the impact that we can have on our planet. To help improve comprehension we will utilize graphic aids, words skills, sequencing skills, and practice reading for information. The **grammar skills** we will be working on are possessive nouns, pronouns & antecedents, subject & object pronouns and possessive nouns. These can be a challenge so practice is important.

Math:

The fifth grade is currently focusing on **Unit 5 in Everyday Math**. This unit is all about fractions. Students will learn about mixed numbers, comparing and ordering fractions, equivalent fractions, converting fractions to decimals, but also they will be learning about bar and circle graphs. As always, students should be practicing their multiplication and division facts (1-12) at home.

Grade 5, Continued

Social Studies:

Our focus has been to learn about **Colonial America** and how we transitioned from colonies to becoming the country: The United States of America by means of the American Revolution. So much of the start of the Revolution took place right here in New England.

Science:

There are currently three different Science Units being taught. **Electricity, Matter, and Weather** are each interesting topics to cover.

We hope the snow has not blanketed you in and that you get a chance to enjoy this season.

**Enrichment**

It is a new year with new adventures for the Enrichment students of Windham Center School. It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the year, when we have so much more to learn and explore.

Grades Four and Five will continue with Continental Math. Once we complete the January tests it will be three meets down and two to go. The students have shown amazing effort and steady improvement with these challenging word problems. We are developing some amazing mathematicians, and it is a joy to watch them grow.

Grade Three students will continue to play Funny Copy, until everyone has had one turn. We will also be practicing our math facts and methods with Math Games, a variety of learning activities disguised as teamwork and fun.

Soon all three grades will begin **Enrichment's Heart Health Program**, to support and coordinate with the Physical Education Department's Jump Rope for Heart Program, in a multi-curricular effort to improve our knowledge and therefore our health.

It's going to be a busy quarter!

Janice Hurley

Media Center

Battle of the Books

5th grade has begun Center Schools' second decade of preparation for The Battle of the Books. Class battles begin in mid-January and culminate in the Cafetorium with the Final Battle on Friday, January 30 from 9:10am to 11:10am. Details on upcoming 3rd and 4th grade battles will follow.

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. Information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

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>. Completed logs, signed by parents, are due back to teachers by February 18.

Book Club News: Breakfast Book Club meets January 12 to discuss *Oggie Cooder* and January 26 to discuss Andrew Clements' *No Talking*. Lunch book groups will meet twice during January. Third grade is reading *Unicorns: Magical Creatures from Myth and Fiction*. Fourth Grade is reading *The Big One-Oh*, a Great Stone Face nominee. Fifth grade is reading *Virus on Orbis 1*, also a Great Stone Face pick.

Media Center, Continued

February's Breakfast Book Club will read *The Big One-Oh*. In February the lunch groups will read the following: for 3rd grade, *Ripley's Believe it or Not: Totally Gross*; 4th grade will read *My Last Best Friend*, and for 5th grade, *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*.

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/>



Notes from the Counselor's Corner

We hope everyone enjoyed the winter vacation. Ice storms, power outages, and snow storms all in one week made for a very interesting December, indeed! Even as we found ourselves in a hurried and hectic season, the new fallen snow was truly a sight to behold.

As elementary school counselors we are often asked to describe our mission for your children. The elementary school experience can influence a child for many years ahead. Occasionally children may need assistance with the developmental challenges of making friends, separating from parents while at school, and learning appropriate social behavior. Some children may also encounter difficulties that can impact their ability to learn, such as divorce or separation from family, moving, or loss of a loved one. Counseling services are available to assist with these types of concerns. Students can refer themselves by telling their teacher that they would like to speak to the counselor. Parents and families may also refer their child by stopping by the counselor's office, sending a note to school, or by contacting us at 603-437-7312.

We hope you all have a happy and healthy 2009!

Amy Wagoner
Windham Center School
3rd & 4th Grade Guidance Counselor

Jane Bogursky
Windham Center School/Windham Middle School
5th & 6th Grade Guidance Counselor

Physical Education News!

We have some very exciting activities coming up in these next few months. Our Annual **Jump Rope for Heart** Event will be taking place on February 12th. We will be looking for volunteers to help swing ropes that day. The schedule is as follows if you would like to volunteer:

Fourth Grade: 8:50-10:30

Fifth Grade: 10:30-12:00

Third Grade: 1:10-2:45

If you would like to volunteer, please email Marge Leahy at mleahy@windhamsd.org. It is a great day for the students to be able to jump rope for such a great cause.

Last year's event was a huge success. Windham Center School was awarded 1st place in all of New Hampshire and 1st place in the Northeast Region including New York and 7th place in the NATION by raising over \$22,000!! This is a wonderful opportunity for students to understand the importance of exercise for healthy hearts while helping others. We thank the community for all your efforts in our endeavor. Because of our success, the American Heart Association awarded Center School an assembly by one of the leading Jump Rope Teams, the Newmarket Hot Shots on February 6th. Enrichment classes are also involved in our efforts by making billboards, foot prints and quilts to help emphasize the need to live a healthy lifestyle. We thank Mrs. Hurley for her contributions!

The end of February, all Physical Education classes will be snow shoeing again. A notice will be sent home so that students are prepared with the proper cold weather gear. We will be taking rearranging schedules so that we are able to have a longer time hiking. A schedule and notice will be sent home before so that students will be prepared for the adventure!

Musically Speaking

Our **third graders** are continuing to learn new songs on their recorders and will soon be learning western songs to perform for you in a **Spring Concert** that will take place in May.

On Thursday morning, **January 22nd at 9:30am**, our **fourth graders will be performing recorder songs for you along with singing songs from "Snow Biz,"** a fun-filled musical salute to the Joys of Winter! We have been working hard on learning the lyrics, harmony parts and adding choreography moves and instruments too!

Our **fifth grade Show Chorus** has also been busy preparing for their performance of "Gotta Be Jazz." This is an upbeat show which features America's music. The chorus students are practicing harmonies while learning how to snap on the off beats and move at the same time! We look forward to performing for you on Thursday night, **January 29th at 7:30** following the Concert Band.

Sincerely,
Nancy Fothergill