



January, 2010
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Windham Center School
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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! Also please remember there is no pick-up from the office after 2:30!

- January 12th – Early Release (12:00)
- January 18th – No School – Martin Luther King Day
- January 29th – Report Cards

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

January 21st – Grade 4 Winter Concert - 9:30 WCS
January 26th – 4th Grade Band – 7PM WCS
January 27th – 3rd grade Strings Performance – 7:00pm WCS
January 28th – 5th Grade Band – 7:00pm at [WHS](#)

•Upcoming Events at WCS

- NWEA Winter Testing – Jan. 11th – Jan. 20th
- Winter Concert – Thursday, Feb. 4th at 7PM WCS
- February 17th – Jump Rope for Heart
- Ski Club begins February 18th and runs through March 25th
- February Vacation – February 22 – 26th



We're warming up to learning about weather in science

Grade 3

Brrr! Our cool third graders have been keeping quite busy trying to warm up from our wintery 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 "how-to" paragraphs and learning the letters of the alphabet in cursive. Teamwork has been our reading theme as we skate through basal readers, 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

Fourth graders are back from a wonderful holiday vacation, and are ready to work hard in 2010! Students are working with decimals, and preparing to launch into longer multiplication and division problems! Please be sure to continue to practice those math facts at home! It definitely helps with the more complicated problems! Addition and subtraction practice is always helpful as well. Grades close on January 22nd... can you believe second quarter is almost through? Be sure to plan to come and see

the 4th grade Winter Concert at 9:30am on January 21st! (Students need to remember to practice those recorders!!!)



"Be sure to plan to come and see the 4th grade Winter Concert at 9:30am on January 21st!!"



Grade 5

Hope everyone had a restful holiday and many wishes for a happy and healthy New Year!

The fifth grade classes have started to battle...**Battle of the Books**. Teams of students will read books for comprehension for about six weeks. During a "battle" session in February, the librarian will ask questions pertaining to these books in many rounds. The team that answers the most questions correctly will win the battle, so students should be reading every night.

The focus on curriculum will be as follows:

Language Arts - The theme of our Reading Series is "Team Work.." In this theme, students discover the importance of working together. They will see how people work together to accomplish their goals and how people and animals work together for their mutual benefit. The focus skills for reading are drawing conclusions, summarizing and paraphrasing, and making inferences. The grammar focus will be on the different types of nouns and figurative language.

Musically Speaking

The third graders are continuing to learn how to play their recorders. They are learning how to be responsible by bringing their instrument to music class every week. You may even ask them to play a song they have learned for you!

Our fourth graders are busy preparing for their Winter Concert. This year, they will be playing more challenging songs on their recorders and performing songs from the musical comedy, "Mighty Minds!" on Thursday,

The writing focus will be on simple, compound, and complex sentences making an effective paragraph.

Math – Some students are still working on division strategies, while others are working with fractions. The division focus is on division with 2 digit divisors, division of decimal numbers, and interpreting the remainder of a problem. In fractions the focus will be on mixed numbers, comparing and ordering, equivalent fractions, and renaming fractions as decimals and percents.

Social Studies – Most students are learning about the Southern Colonies. The focus will be on the colonization of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia.

Science – While some students are finishing up with weather phenomenon, others are having an electrifying experience. (Weather to Electricity)

My the BATTLE begin.....Read, Read, Read



*The fifth grade classes have started to battle...**Battle of the Books**.*

January 21st at 9:30am.

The fifth grade chorus students have been busy preparing for their showing of the musical, "Wicked." This performance will combine acting, singing and thanks to Mrs. Middleton and the art department, incredible costumes, props and scenery in a performance on Thursday, February 4th at 7:00pm!





Notes from the Counselors' Corner



Welcome to a New Year! The new month brings us an opportunity to think about how we can be our best this year.

The following books will guide our classroom lessons during January:

3rd Grade: Enemy Pie by Derek Munson

4th Grade: My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig

Ludwig

5th Grade: "Ricky" from Chicken Soup for the Soul – Teens Talk

Teasing is a sad fact of life for many kids as they grow up. And certain kids do seem to get more than their fair share. We adults tell our children to just "ignore it" and "not take it so seriously," but that's easier said than done. Despite the old adage that "names can never hurt me," name calling does hurt!

Although we can't always stop kids from saying mean things to each other, we can do things to empower our children to handle the problem. One of the best things we can do is to teach them how to respond in a way that discourages future teasing. Learning verbal strategies to respond to teasing can enable your children to feel safe and in control. Remember, what works for one child may not be effective for everyone. One student may be comfortable confronting a teaser directly; another may be more successful ignoring name calling. Here are some ideas for verbal comebacks to teach and practice with your child:

Question it. "Why would you say that?" "Why did you tell me I am dumb and try to hurt my feelings?"

Send a Strong "I Want" message. "I want you to leave me alone" or "I want you to stop teasing me." The trick is to say the

message firmly so that it doesn't sound weak.

Agree. "You've got that right. My shirt is pretty ugly." or "People always say that, I really am as tall as a giraffe."

Say "So?" "So?...Whatever." "So?...Who cares."

Ignore it. Walk away without even a look at the teaser, pretend the teaser is invisible, look completely uninterested, or pretend you don't hear it.

Be amazed. "Really? I didn't know that." Sounding like you are really surprised is the trick.

These verbal comebacks can be very effective in reducing teasing. When a child stays calm, uses a strong, firm voice to respond to the teaser and then walks away, he/she takes away the "audience" that a teaser is looking for. If your child comes home from school with hurt feelings because of name calling, your care and support can make a big difference. Consider whether or not your child is ready to learn some verbal comebacks and practice with you.

Sticks and stones are not the only things that can hurt a child. But we can work hard to be sure that mean teasing and name calling are not a painful part of every child's life. Together, we can teach them the skills to respond to the challenges of teasing with confidence.

We hope you all have a happy and healthy 2010!

"Despite the old adage that "names can never hurt me," name calling does hurt!"



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Media Center



Battle of the Books

5th grade has begun preparation for The Battle of the Books. Class battles will happen February 1-5, with the Final Battle tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 8 in the library. Details on upcoming 3rd and 4th grade battles will follow.

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. 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 picked up in the media center.

Book Groups The current Breakfast Book Club title is *Sent*, the sequel to *Found*. This club meets next on Jan. 11, a Monday morning. Grade 3 lunch book group meets every other Thursday, and is reading *Stink and the World's Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers*. Grade 4 Lunch Book Group meets on alternate Fridays is reading *The Encyclopedia of Immaturity*. All groups use Moodle for online discussions. It's not too late to sign up!

Writing Contests

1) **Reading Rainbow Writing Contest:** Details about the Reading Rainbow *Young Writers & Illustrators Contest* will be posted at www.nhptv.org/rrcont/ sometime in January. 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 published online. First place winners in grades K-3 will compete nationally. Due date is in March.

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

Jump Rope for Heart



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our school is participating in a very special community service program to raise funds for the American Heart Association. We're joining the fight against our nation's No. 1 and No. 3 killers-cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

On Wednesday, February 17th during school we will hold our 8th Annual Jump Rope for Heart event. These events are held nationwide and help students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health while they raise funds to support vital research and education programs.

Family and friends are welcome to support your child's participation by making contributions. We ask that children not go door to door or ask strangers for donations. Supporters can donate online at www.americanheart.org. Help your child register and create his or her own web page with the tools provided online. Your child can include a message about why he or she is participating in Jump rope for Heart. Last year a student raised over \$2000 online!!

All checks should be made payable to the American Heart Association. Asking about matching gifts programs can increase donations to make the event more successful. If your employer has a matching gifts program, please note the matched amounts on the sponsor form of the collection envelope.

Jump Rope for Heart is a fun event that helps our children understand the importance of community service and physical activity. The money contributed will fund research that will save more lives each year...maybe your own or that of someone in your family. Our efforts truly make a difference!

This past year, Windham Center School placed first in all of New Hampshire and first place overall in all of New England and New York raising \$17,370.00. We would like to continue our success not only in donations but also educating our students in the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and giving back to our community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call either Marge Leahy or Joni Matthews at 432-7312. Thank you for your support!
by making contributions making contributions.



Instrumental Music Department

Rehearsals and winter concert details for all grades!!!

(1st Year Band/ 2nd Year Strings)

All rehearsals will continue every Tuesday morning at 7:45 until the concert! The performance will be **Tuesday, January 26, 2010** in the **Windham Center School Auditorium (GYM) at 7:00 P.M.**

(1st Year Strings) Third Grade

There will be 2 *mandatory violin rehearsals*. The first practice will be **Wednesday, January 20th at 2:00 P.M.** The second rehearsal (dress rehearsal) will be **Monday, January 25th at 2:00 P.M.**

The strings concert will be **Wednesday, January 27, 2010** in the **Windham Center School Auditorium (GYM) at 7:00 P.M.**

(2nd Year Band/ 3rd Year Strings)

All rehearsals will continue every Thursday morning at 7:45 until the concert. The performance will be **Thursday, January 28, 2010** in the **Windham High School Auditorium at 7:00 P.M.**

Performance Dress:

All students should wear black and white for the performances. Although these young musicians are only in elementary school, they should look appropriate and professional during their special evening. Students must be responsible for their work and performance during lessons, and part of that responsibility has to do with how they appear for the concert.

Ties are optional for boys. Though black shoes look great, sneakers are sufficient as long as they are very **clean!!** Girls can wear dress pants or long dresses (skirts). No jeans and no bright colors!!! If black and white is not an alternative, then the closest outfit to dress clothes would be appropriate.

Enrichment News,

Enrichment News

As we head into the New Year, our fourth and fifth grade students will participate in Meet 3 of Continental Math. Students are showing great effort, and therefore doing quite well so far in tackling these tricky word problems, we have even had a few perfect scores! Two meets to go after this one, and we will celebrate another successful CM season.

All classes will be working on a Winter Grid, a "partner" activity that requires students to categorize words, by making use of their research skills, and of their skills in the use of resource materials.

Grade Three will participate in a team game, called Unique Knowledge, which requires the cooperation of team members, and which will test the general curricula knowledge of our students.

Janice Hurley

