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Windham Center School

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From the Principal's Corner....



- **The Governor Visited!!** - Our fourth graders had a special visit from Governor Lynch on Tuesday, March 17th. He wasn't available to greet 5 of our classes when they visited the State House and decided to come here to speak to the entire fourth grade. What a special honor!!
- **Just a note** - The annual Windham Middle School Curriculum Fair will be held Wednesday, March 18th from 6-8 PM. This will be a wonderful opportunity to see student projects, presentations, and musical entertainment reflecting the curriculum for all subjects and all grade levels at our school. Also, of course, is our wonderful restaurant, Le Café Rosa, with delicious samples of French and Spanish food. This might be a great opportunity for your 5th grader to visit their new school for next year.
- **Alert Now** - Please listen to the complete message sent out through the Voice mail system or on Email. We are receiving many calls to repeat our message. Thank you!
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** - March 16 -20 Thank you for providing a very special week and lots of "goodies" for our teachers! We really appreciate all of your support.
- **Visiting Author** - Robert Pottle author of "I'm Allergic to School" and many other poetry books, will be visiting our school March 31-April 1. April 1st we'll be hosting a Family Night with Mr. Pottle from 7-8PM in the gym at WCS. See you there!
- **Delayed Opening** - We will be having a delayed opening on April 9th. Students will begin arriving at WCS at 10:30 and need to be present in their room by 10:45. This will be a 2 hour delay for our students.
- **Book Fair** - Our book fair will be held from April 14th - April 24th(noon) in the Media Center. Thank you to those volunteers that make this a very special event!
- **Parent Conferences** - It's that time again. April 21st and 23rd from 3:15 and ending at 8:00PM. Please mark your calendars!

Important Dates

March 16-20 - Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week

March 18 - WMS Open House

March 31 - April 1 - Visiting Author Robert Pottle

April 9 - Delayed Opening

April 14 - 24 - Book Fair

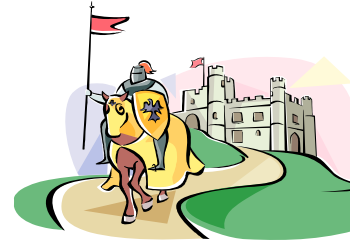
April 21 and 23 - Parent/Teacher Conferences

Grade 3

Third grade has been very excited this month! We are so proud of our third graders for all the knowledge that has been "saved" in their brains. Math is "taking shape" with a study of **geometry**. We will be learning about congruent shapes, symmetry and the names of all shapes. Do you know what a hexagon is? As usual we are constantly working on computation skills and problem solving skills with addition, subtraction,

multiplication and division. Please take some time to help your children memorize those math facts!

We have also jumped into our **Fairy Tale** unit with reading, writing and art activities. Using computers has been a fun way to publish and illustrate our own fairy tales. The third graders have had some great times reading the fairy tales. **Poetry** is also starting with the beginning of spring!



Now that we are full fledged **meteorologists**, we are going to put those weather instruments to good use and predict the weather as well as all other meteorologists!

Our **visiting author** Robert Pottle will be visiting us this month and we have taken some time to look at his books! Happy Spring Finally.....

Grade 4

Center School's **Curriculum Fair** was a great success! Many parents and students attended to get an up close look with some of the work being completed on the 4th and 5th grade level. Teachers presented a wide range of work from their classrooms in a number of different subjects. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend!

Governor John Lynch will be visiting the 4th grade on Tuesday, March 17 and we are all very proud and honored to welcome him as our guest! Fourth graders have created New Hampshire fact footprints that will be posted on the walls to help the Governor find the 4th grade classrooms he is to visit. Very exciting!

Grade 4, Continued

Fourth graders recently participated in the NAEP (National Assessment for Educational Progress) test. Elementary schools were randomly selected across the country and Center School one of them. Students were randomly tested in math, reading, or science. Students were also selected at random so we would like to thank those who took the test!

This year's **Winter Writing Prompt** posed fourth graders with the possibility that we would be removing recess in order to make up for lost time due to the power outages and numerous snowstorms.



This generated a lot of emotion, which was exactly what was intended. Thankfully, the idea was only "pretend" and the fourth grade will not be losing any recess. What a relief!

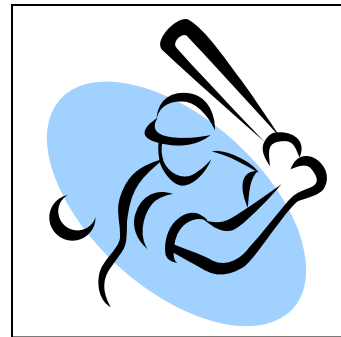
What an unbelievable winter this has been. We love the seasons here in New England, which is why we are certainly ready for some moderate temperatures! Students are anxiously waiting for spring, which will mean full use of the playground. In a few weeks, we'll finally be able to open our windows and get some fresh air. Happy Spring!

Grade 5

The fifth grade classes are moving along in **Everyday Math** utilizing the mnemonic PMDAS (Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally) to remember the order of operations to solve more complicated expressions. Students are being taught how to use their own bodies to walk along a number line in order to add and subtract negative numbers as well as marching toward more difficult comparison of fractions.

In **science**, students have been exploring space and learning how the tilt of the Earth on its axis and its rotation results in our changing seasons. Others are learning the various aspects of electricity, both its innovation and use, and the need for safety when working with electricity.

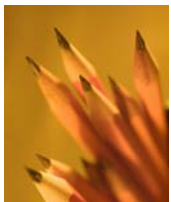
Grade 5, Continued



Social studies units include studying the formation of the United States from the arrival of the colonists and understanding the cause and impact of the Revolutionary War.

On April 6, Mr. Miloro's class will be serving "Fenway Franks" to the entire fifth grade class in celebration of "Opening Day at Fenway Park." The

students will be engaged in several math, language arts, reading, and cooperative learning activities throughout the day in anticipation of the first pitch. More information will be forthcoming. Go Sox!!



Enrichment

Fourth and Fifth grade students will soon know who our **Continental Math Champions** will be, as our final Meet is now complete. The students have shown remarkable stamina and effort on this very challenging activity, and the results are the reward, as the scores on this last meet were no less than amazing!

Third grade students will be enjoying an activity called Unique Knowledge, where team skills and strategies are as important as factual knowledge.

We will be exploring symmetry in another lesson, and will create our own symmetrical creation.

Grade Four will be exploring New Hampshire Trivia, as well as facts about the rest of the United States, improving our map skills as we go.

Grade Five will be taking a look at alliteration, and applying this knowledge creating tongue twisters to tangle the tongues of their classmates.

Media Center

Author Visit April 1—evening program

From 7:00 to 8:00pm on April 1, Center School will host a free family presentation by "giggle poet" Robert Pottle, in the gym. Complimentary refreshments will be provided. Books will be available for purchase and signing, from 6:30 to 7:00pm and from 8:00 to 8:20pm.

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.

Battle of the Books

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

Book Club News: The Breakfast Book Club will meet March 30 to discuss *Hank Zipzer: the Life of Me*; April 13 to discuss *The Boys' Book: How to be the Best at Everything*, and April 20 to discuss *Moving Day (Allie Finkle's Rules for Girls, book 1)*. Lunch groups will read the following in April : for 3rd grade, *Oggie Cooder*, 4th grade will read *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*, and for 5th grade, *Found (The Missing, book 1)*.

Reading Rainbow Writing Contest: due date is March 24. See www.nhptv.org/rrcont/.

Pine Tree Poetry: Entries are due May 8. See pinetreepoetry.com.

Pine Tree Art: 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.

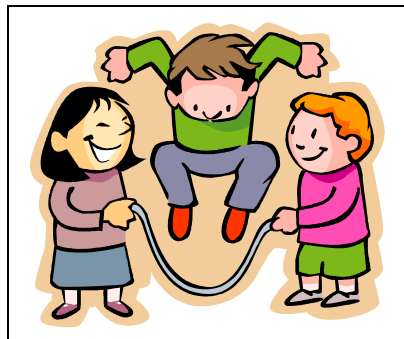
Book Fair

The Scholastic spring Book Fair will run from April 14-24. Register for the world record summer reading challenge that starts on May 1.

Physical Education

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to swing ropes during our **Jump Rope for Heart** event! It was a wonderful day for such a worthy cause. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Mrs. Letourneau and Mrs. Strong for spending an entire day counting all the donations made to the American Heart Association. Students will be receiving their thank you gifts the end of March.

A new event to take place on April 7th at Center School is our **First Annual Hockey for Heart** event. With help from the Manchester Monarchs Hockey Team, we will be having team competitions and some individual competitions. Information about this event is forthcoming, so mark your calendars for another great afternoon for a great cause!





Notes from the Counselors' Corner

We hope everyone had an enjoyable February vacation plus the added bonus of an unexpected snow day. March has certainly come in like a lion! Now that we are back into the swing of school, we wanted to take a moment to share with you one of our favorite stress reducers - laughter.

Laughter not only makes you feel better, but it actually releases healing throughout your system. In fact, medical science tells us that when people laugh, it boosts their immune system. It reduces blood pressure. People who laugh regularly are less likely to have a heart attack than people that don't laugh regularly. Laughter triggers the right side of the brain, which helps release creativity so we can make better decisions. Laughter activates the body's natural tranquilizers that not only help us calm down, but also help us to sleep better. And laughter is free!

According to Leslie Lindeman, Gina Kemp, M.A., and Jeanne Segal, PhD. at www.helpguide.com, the following are some suggestions to help us lighten up:

- **View your life in context.** Even world leaders realize they have limited ability to affect others' lives. While we might think taking the weight of the world on our shoulders is admirable, in the long run it's unrealistic, unproductive, and unhealthy.
- **Be less serious.** Realize that while your ambitions may be noble, being overly serious about them weighs you down and lessens your chances for achieving them.
- **Keep a toy on your desk or in your car.**
- **Laugh at yourself.** Share your embarrassing moments.
- **Pay attention to children and emulate them.** They are the experts on playing, taking life lightly, and laughing.

Remember, during these stressful times our children need to see us laugh.

Warmest regards,
Jane and Amy