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Windham Center School
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From the Principal's Corner....



"Top of the Morning!"



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- Just a note - The annual Windham Middle School Curriculum Fair will be held Thursday, 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.

- Teacher Appreciation Week – March 15 -19 Thank you for providing a very special week and lots of “goodies” for our teachers! We really appreciate all of your support.

- Visiting Author – Lita Judge (from Peterborough, NH) author of “One Thousand Tracings I” and many other books, will be visiting our school March 25th.

- Teacher Workshop Day – March 9th there will be no school for students due to a Teacher Workshop day in Windham.

- School Play – Our school play will be held April 14th at 7PM. Our Understudy Performance will be April 7th at 9:30AM.

- Book Fair – Our book fair will be held from April 12th – April 23rd (noon) in the Media Center/Lobby. Thank you to those volunteers that make this a very special event!

- Parent Conferences – It’s that time again. April 20th and 22nd from 3:15 and ending at 8:00PM. Please mark your calendars!



Our fairy tale units are under way!

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 Lita Judge will be visiting us this month and we have taken some time to look at his books! Happy Spring Finally.....

Grade 4

Fourth Grade News for March
Fourth grade students are excited to participate in our "Read Across America" week. Students are taking part in celebrating the world of Dr. Seuss by being very creative. We have seen students dressing in green, wearing crazy socks, wacky hair-styles, and dressing as a favorite Seuss character. We are also eagerly

anticipating the Battle of the Books for this year. In each classroom, students are busy reading as many books as they can as they prepare for the classroom challenges that will take place in the library. Mrs. Jasper will then hold the "Final Battle" with the champion group from each classroom taking on each other in a television-like Jeopardy game.



"Fourth grade students are excited to participate in our "Read Across America" week."



Grade 5



It's hard to believe that crocuses, spring peepers and daylight savings time are soon to be upon us with the white, wild and windy weather we have been experiencing recently! Yet fifth graders have returned from their winter vacations ready to dig into a variety of new and exciting units. From the Revolutionary War to Astronomy, from adding and subtracting fractions to creating all manner of charts and graphs, our students are immersed with many different, cross-curricular units of study.

Language Arts: While reading in theme three of our reading series, we have been studying the ever-changing nature of our planet. Additionally, many classes have or soon will enhance their reading instruction with novel studies. Whether as independent reading or literature groups or adjuncts to the study of the Revolutionary War, these literary works are an enjoyable and meaningful addition to our reading instruction. We continue to focus on comprehension strategies which are useful in our reading in all areas. The Battle of the Books has come to a close, with our final battles having been "waged" just before February vacation. Congratulations to all who competed with enthusiasm, intelligence and great sportsmanship! Hats off to the two classrooms who made it to the final battle – Mrs. Satkwich's room and Mrs. Leonard's room. Language skills have focused on possessive nouns (always problematic!) and all forms of pronouns. Our written pieces have ranged from informative writing to fanciful creative story telling. We are constantly challenged to push ourselves farther with each written journey!

Math: Our classes have finished-up our first Math Journal and are ready to dive into fractions, fractions, fractions! Before beginning this, we have practiced reading and creating all

manner of graphs: circle, bar, line plot, stem and leaf. We definitely consider ourselves masters of graphing at this point! We also will review exponential notation, order of operations, and ordering and comparing decimals.

Social Studies: Having finished studying the colonies and colonial life, our classes have marched off to war – the Revolutionary War that is – with excitement and intensity. Whether using the text book, the computer, or novels (or any combination of these), this is always an engaging and interactive unit for fifth graders. Following this, students will learn about the trials and tribulations, failures and successes that our country experienced as we began our journey as an independent country. Recognition needs to be given to the classrooms who presented their delightful Presidents' Day program. Bravo! Other classrooms will be sharing Revolutionary War presentations shortly before April vacation.

Science: Students are exploring a variety of topics in their Science classes. While some are studying Astronomy and those things we can see only with a telescope, others are studying the smallest particles of matter – atoms. A review and expansion on previous studies of magnetism and electricity is soon to begin in some classrooms as well.

Enjoy these last few weeks of "real" winter! Perhaps Punxsutawney Phil will be wrong this year and those crocuses will surprise us with their lovely smiles sooner rather than later!



Enrichment News

Grade Three students will practice their spelling, rhyming, and other phonics skills this month during an activity called Grid Word Search. Students will recover words hidden in a grid, following specific rules, and developing and using different strategies during their quest.

Grade Four Enrichment classes will be exploring and assessing the students' knowledge of New Hampshire Trivia, focusing on our state

symbols as well as some more obscure and little know trivia about the Granite State.

Students in Grade Five Enrichment classes will begin writing poems, which we will edit and rewrite during Enrichment classes, students will then add music during Music classes, and finally, they will add artwork, using Hyperstudio, during Art classes.

Janice Hurley

Notes from the Counselors' Corner

Counselors' Corner



Your school guidance counselors continue to visit every classroom in the school on a regular basis. We join each class for their morning meeting around once a month. This usually involves a "greeting", sharing a text and responding to it. We have ensured that our lessons include reading strategies such as prediction, visualization, questioning, and making connections. The social, emotional content of our lessons include the use of turn-taking, eye-contact, listening, respect, and empathy for others. We really appreciate all of the valuable contributions that the children make during these discussions.

Our school guidance theme for March is "Conflict Resolution." Some of the character traits involved in this theme include, active listening, self-control, respectful communication and getting along with others.

We have given the children some steps that they can take to resolve conflict:

1. Calm down.
2. Talk, listen and identify the problem.
3. Brainstorm solutions
4. Agree on a solution that everyone accepts.

We hope everyone has a wonderful March!

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
<i>"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." - Franklin D. Roosevelt</i>	

Media Center



Author Visit March

At 7:00pm on March 27, Center School will host a free presentation by author Laurence Pringle, in the gym. Mr. Pringle will present to students at Golden Brook and Center Schools earlier that day, sharing from some of his fictional and non-fiction picture books.

The evening talk is appropriate for families of students grades T through 6. Pringle's titles may be pre-ordered (form to come home) for book signing on the 27th.

Book Fair

The Scholastic spring Book Fair will run from April 19-23 (student previews will be held April 13-16). Volunteers are welcome!

Book Groups:

The two March book groups are reading *Peak* and *Cleopatra VII*. April's breakfast book club will read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and May's will read the sequel, *Prince Caspian*, in anticipation of the summer movie release.

Battle of the Books

5th grade Battle of the Books class battles begin after Winter Break and culminate in the Cafetorium with the Final Battle on Wednesday, March 12th at 9:10am to 11:10am. Details on upcoming 3rd and 4th grade battles will follow.

Reading Rainbow Writing Contest entries due March 24. See www.nhptv.org/rrcont/ **Scholastic's "Kids Are Authors" group contest deadline** is March 15. See <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/kaa/>

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>
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

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.

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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.

Book Groups The current Breakfast Book Club title is *Early Sunday Morning: The Pearl Harbor Diary of Amber Billows*, a *Dear America* book. The next meeting is March 8. It's not too late to sign up for this club, or the 3rd or 4th grade lunch book clubs.

Windham Center School
Jump Rope for Heart 2010

Windham Center School celebrated their seventh annual Jump Rope for Heart Day on Feb. 17th. The day was such a success on so many levels! First, we would like to express our appreciation to the community for all their donations to the American Heart Association. With these donations, the AHA will continue their efforts to fight heart disease and stroke. We would also like to thank all the PTA members who donated their time to come swing ropes for the students. And of course, we would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs. Hurley for all her continued efforts in helping the students to understand the importance of good heart health. The posters, t-shirts designs and footprints the students made and decorated the gym for our event with Mrs. Hurley were fantastic. The Jump Rope for Heart day was made so special by the efforts of the students jumping to help their own heart health while thinking of others.