

May/June 2009

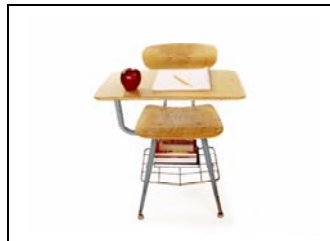
Volume 1, Issue 8

Windham Center School

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Andrew Desrosiers, Principal
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From the Principal's Corner....

It's hard to believe our school year is coming to a close...how quickly the time has flown by!

May 22 - Early Release for our students

May 25th - Memorial Day - No School

May 26th at 7:00 - 1st year Band/2nd year Strings Concert

May 27th at 7:00 - 2nd year Band Show and Chorus Performance

June 9th - 5th grade will be going to Cedardale

June 11th - 3rd grade Round-up Day

June 12th - 4th grade visits Strawberry Banke

June 17th - Last day of school - $\frac{1}{2}$ day.

Ice Scream for Reading!! Our Summer Reading Program - Ask your child about the rewards of lots of reading over the summer!

September 2nd - The first day of school for 2009-2010

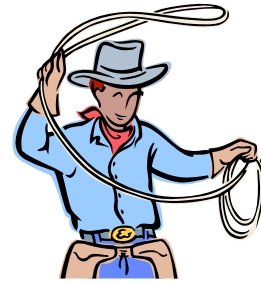
Have a wonderful Summer! Stay safe and we'll see you in September!

Grade 3

Our **animal and habitat unit** is never ending this year with our addition of our eggs which are due to hatch at the end of the month! We will also be taking our last **field trip** to the Audubon Center in Concord, NH to culminate our year long unit.

Hee Haw!!!! **It's Westward Ho time!** Our visiting cowboy Skip Gorman taught us about life as a real cowboy and used music to share his history and tales. Mrs. Fothergill held our third grade concert this month to kick off the

Westward Ho Unit. The students are now studying what the pioneers and cowboys ate! Did you know that the "biscuit shooter" cooks "hot rocks"? All third graders are reading many different books on life on the Prairie and out West, as well as, researching famous people of that time period. Most classes will establish Westward Ho groups and are cooperating in packing their wagons and tackling problems along the trail. All the academic areas are put into practice with this unit.



The rest of the school year is jam packed with events. **Battle of the Books** for the third grade will be held June 4th, the day after Step Up Day. We have **Round-up Day** on June 11th, and **Third Grade Spelling Bee** on June 15th.

Phewwww.....Have a nice summer and thanks again parents for all your help. Third Grade Team

Grade 4

Greetings from 4th grade! We just finished **NWEA** testing last week and now we are moving ahead to **NECAP** testing. Fourth Graders will be participating in the **Science NECAP** test this week. This test involves conducting an actual experiment as well as a book component. In **math**, we are working on area and perimeter and in **reading**, we are enjoying stories of non fiction genre. Students are eagerly awaiting Step Up Day, which is when students will get to meet their new teachers and classmates for next year. Step Up Day will be held on June 3rd. Our final field trip of the year will be to **Strawbery Banke** on Friday, June 12th. Parents are all welcome to meet us there and enjoy the day with us. This field trip enhances our social studies curriculum and is the culminating activity to our year long study of New Hampshire history. We have a lot of work still left to do in the final month of school, and we look forward to the exciting times ahead.



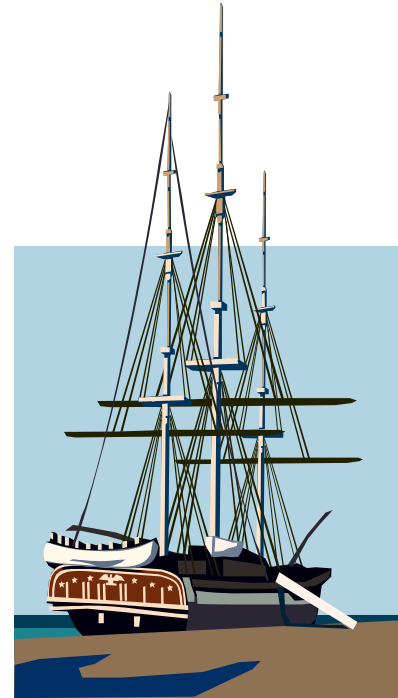
Grade 5

During the last month of school we will be enjoying many activities. The children have visited the Middle School to get acquainted with their sixth grade teachers and the new building. We are looking forward to visiting the **Charlestown Naval Shipyard** in conjunction with our study of the War of 1812. The fifth graders will also be involved in a day long field day on June 5th. We anticipate a fun day.

In addition to these activities, the students continue to work hard each day. The fifth grade teachers continue to encourage each child to work to their full potential. It has been a pleasure working with you and your children this year.

Best of Luck Sixth Graders!!!

Fifth Grade Team



Enrichment News

Grade Three will be exploring symmetry, and designing and creating a project to showcase their knowledge of symmetry. They will also participate in Backwards Spelling Bees, which is always a fun activity, where students are usually much more successful than they would expect!

Grades Four and Five will be involved in a following-directions activity called Lucky Dots, as well as another round of Unique Knowledge, a team game where unique answers earn bonus points.

All grades have been working on our new **United States maps**, designed to assist students in learning to correctly identify their state names and their capitals. We have discovered some real geography champions during this activity.

Enjoy your summer, hope to see lots of you at Summer Camp.

Janice Hurley

Media Center

Battle of the Books

Third grade will have class battles the week of May 26, with the Final Battle on Thursday, June 4 from 9:10am to 11:10am.

Great Stone Face Voting

Congratulations to author Jeff Kinney, the author who wrote *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, the Great Stone Face Award winner for 2009. Thanks for voting! **Start reading now for next April's voting** (incoming 4th-6th graders). You must read 3+ books to be eligible to vote. The 2009-10 list is posted online at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> under "Windham Center School"—Summer Reading.

Summer Reading Challenge—students entering 3rd-5th grades

Students: do you want to see Mr. Desrosiers and Mrs. Fulton dressed as the "Good Humor Man/Woman" serving your table in the cafeteria? They have agreed to do so, in September, if students meet the challenge of collectively reading at least a quarter million minutes over the summer. Also, students can submit their minutes online at www.scholastic.com/summer to help set a new world record. Summer reading packets will come home and include suggested reading lists and a reading log for students to return in the fall. **Reading lists also will be posted in early June at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> under "Windham Center School"—Summer Reading. Please help students remember to use the log to record their summer reading. Thanks!**

Summer Reading—students entering 6th grade

Fifth graders will be receiving information about summer reading early in June. While summer reading is not required at WMS, it is strongly suggested. Students who are interested in receiving a quiz grade that can be used to replace their lowest Reading quiz grade during the first quarter have the opportunity to complete a project about one book they have read over the summer. This is an easy way to start sixth grade with some extra credit. In early June all **suggested reading lists and criteria for the project will be found at <http://moodle.windhamsd.org> in the WMS Unified Arts/Media Center/Technology section under Mrs. Greenleaf.**

Book Fair

The Scholastic spring Book Fair was a great success, earning us free books and over \$3,000 in cash for the school and library, to buy equipment for student use, and computers and curriculum materials for the library. Thank you to all the volunteers and customers for your support!

Book Groups:

There is still time to sign up for our May-June lunch and breakfast book clubs!

Notes from the Counselors corner



Spring has finally arrived! What a glorious time of year. We are all very excited to see the flowers, the fresh green leaves, the signs of baseball and softball, and be outside! This time of year can remind us of the "blossoming" we see in our children, as well. One of the best ways to foster growth in our children is to allow for open communication.

Communicating with children of any age can be one of the most important parenting skills, as it helps build self-esteem and confidence. Here are some tips for communicating with your child:

- Make the time to talk with your child, in the car, at the dinner table, cleaning, etc.
- Listen without judgment; hear the meaning behind what your child is saying
- Ask for opinions on what's happening in your child's life and in the world
- Listen to the little things; everyday things like schoolwork, best friends, interests
- Look for the non-verbal communication. You might try, "You seem upset. Do you want to talk about it?"
- If you can't listen completely, tell your child you will talk later and keep that promise
- Ask clarifying questions - "So what you're telling me is . . ."
- Be honest with your child

Keep the doors of communication open. If you listen, they will talk!

Fondly,

Jane and Amy

Physical Education News

June 1st with a rain date of June 2nd, the Physical Education classes will be celebrating **Walk NH Week!** We will be combining classes so that students will be able to hike from Center School to the new high school. The schedule is as follows:

Fourth Graders: 8:50-10:25

Fifth Graders: 10:30-12:05

Third Graders: 1:10-2:45

The rain date schedule would change to:

Fifth Graders: 8:50-10:25

Third Graders: 10:30-12:05

Fourth Graders: 1:10-2:45



It is important for the students to bring water bottles and sneakers!!! If you would like to join us for our Walk NH Hike, email mleahy@windhamsd.org or jmatthews@windhamsd.org. This is a great opportunity for students to take part in this statewide event to promote physical activity!!

As you know Field Days have been altered this year. The week of June 8th through June 12th we will be having various field day events during the students' regular Physical Education class. Some of these activities include water balloons, squirt bottles and wading pools. It is our suggestion that students bring in extra clothing for those days!!!!!! We will remind students as the time gets closer.

We would also like to wish everyone a safe and fun filled summer!!!