

Late Nov., 2008

Volume 1, Issue 3

Windham Center School

2 Lowell Road
Windham, NH
603-432-7312

Safety Phone 432-7962

Andrew Desrosiers, Principal
Cherrie Fulton, Assistant Principal

From the Principal's Corner....



•Our third grade held a wonderful assembly for **Veteran's Day!** We were so proud of their program and there wasn't a dry eye in the place. Thank you to the children and their teachers for all of their hard work!

•The PTA has been sponsoring a **Book Fair** this month with lots of books, toys and crafts for purchase. Each class visited the fair and made a wish list. Thank you to all of the volunteers that made this special event possible.

•**Parent Teacher Conferences** will be Tuesday, Nov 18th and Thursday, Nov. 20th from 3:15 to 8:30PM. This is a great opportunity to visit with your child's teacher after

viewing their report card. The PTA will be providing a dinner for the teachers on Tuesday night and a snack bag for them on Thursday. Thank you so much for fueling our staff before these conference nights. We really appreciate your generosity.

•The Windham **Rotary Club** will be presenting our third graders with new dictionaries on Monday, Nov. 17th. What a great way to start their education at Center School, thank you!!

•Our **Thanksgiving Break** will be Thursday, Nov 27th and Friday, Nov. 28th. Enjoy your holiday and if you are traveling, please return to us safe and sound.

•The correct procedure to **call** your son/daughter in for

illness, etc, is...if you are calling after hours, please press #1 on the Windham Center School main answering message on 603-432-7312. This prompt will connect you to the sick line. If you are calling during our normal school hours, please call 603-432-7962. This will bring you directly to the nurses' office.

Please know that our phone lines are very busy during the normal school hours. If at all possible please try to call your child's absence in either at night or early in the morning. If you are calling during the school day and you run into a problem with the line being constantly busy, hang up and call the main number and we will connect you to the nurses' line.

Please remember that our main focus is to ensure your child's safety. Thank you!!

Important Dates

Nov. 27 & 28 - No School
Thanksgiving Recess

Dec. 17 - Grade 5
Gingerbread house project

December 22 - Grade 3
Holiday Parties from 9:30
- 11:00.

December 22 - Grade 4
Holiday Parties from 1:00
- 2:30.

December 23 - Grade 5
Holiday Parties from 1:30
- 2:30.

Inside

Grade 3	2
Grade 4	2
Grade 5	3
Enrichment	4
Library	5

Grade 3

November has certainly been a busy month. Our culmination of our Hooray for the USA unit took place on the day before **Veteran's Day** with our presentation of the assembly. We honored our veterans with songs, recitations, and displays.

Academically speaking we are continuing our **writing process** with the expansion of paragraphs. Friendly letters to pen pals, journal writing, and written responses are also part of our daily writing. **In math** we have been working on solving

word problems and using all different forms of measurement. Multiplication and division discoveries have been underway as well. Our reading units have involved several books on our country and its symbols like the Statue of Liberty, as well as our basal readings. Personal reading also adds a nice touch to the reading program!

We're about to take a nice holiday break for Thanksgiving and then slide right into December with new and exciting unit on **immigration**. After discovering that there are seven continents (and New Hampshire is NOT one of



them!), we have found that many of our ancestors traveled from some of these continents to come through Ellis Island to America. Family traditions and ancestors will be shared and compared as well. The novel, "Molly's Pilgrim" is an integral part of this unit along with our pilgrim dolls. Thanks for all your help in advance.

Grade 4

With temperatures falling and excitement rising, it is clear we are indeed entering "the most wonderful time of the year!" Although the extended holiday season is upon us, we are managing to stay enthusiastically involved in several units of study.

In our **Language Arts** program we are well into our second theme called "Side by Side." This theme explores situations that highlight the benefits of teamwork. Students learn that cooperation strengthens relationships, and they are encouraged to apply this to their own lives.

Grade 4, Continued

We are improving our understanding of cause and effect, while exploring and learning to recognize the effectiveness of figurative language in **writing**. Our ears are learning to discern similes, metaphors, personification, idioms and hyperbole. We continue to expand our understanding of varying forms of sentence structure in order to utilize them in our own writing.

Our third unit in **Math** takes us deeper into our understanding of multiplication and division facts and the relationship between the two through twelve fact families.



Through weekly timed tests we strive to improve our mastery of these facts to build the necessary foundation for future units involving higher level multiplication and division problems. Nightly study of these facts is necessary to ensure success.

Once again it is "**Fit Kids**" time!! We eagerly await our weekly hands-on lessons about the systems of our body and how we can best take care of ourselves. So far we have done everything from building lungs to surgically removing hearts! All children engage themselves in these hour-long lessons with great enthusiasm and energy!



What a wonderful way to learn about a very important topic.

The recent national **elections** provided an excellent backdrop for our studies of the election process. We learned how lucky we are to be living here in New Hampshire where we are able to experience history first hand from the first primary to the first votes on Election Day. Additionally, we continue our map skills studies, learning about many the facets of our earth. It goes without saying daily geography is an important part of our program.

Grade 5

The holiday season is rushing at us and is sure to be bustling with excitement. The month of December splits us apart with the study of **division** and **fractions**. Students are learning that having a mastery of facts is a gift and is the key to success. Many classes are taking part in **reading** from various literature books. These great stories are being unwrapped through book reports and Noodle

Grade 5, Continued

This month brings in a number of joyous activities. Holiday Happenings will make our bellies jolly as students share their favorite traditions. Our fifth grade readers will visit the third graders as they take a moment to read a favorite book together. **Gingerbread houses** will be built on December 17th.

Holiday parties add to the celebration and the creation of crafts leave us with memories on December 23rd.

The fifth grade team would like to thank all who contributed to the food drive and supporting Helping Hands. Take a moment this holiday season to reflect on your greatest gift, your children. Happy Holidays!



Enrichment

As we begin a new quarter, **Third Grade** students are designing and decorating an original game board, and then, with it, they are learning to play an aboriginal game called Mu Torere (My Star) which originates from New Zealand. The activity also includes a discussion about aboriginal people, and the differences between their culture and our own. The activity emphasizes following directions and good sportsmanship, as well as strategies for successfully playing the game.

Grade Four will be enjoying a Rocks and Minerals show-and-discuss, to go along with their recent classroom studies of rocks and minerals. They will also be playing Smart Mouth, a game that highlights spelling skills, strategies, and team cooperation.

Grade Five will be sharpening skills with some math facts games, as well as New England Trivia, and Science Trivia. They will use these skills in a team setting with the game Unique Knowledge, which rewards teams for coming up with correct answers that are unique from the rest.

Another Continental Math Meet is scheduled for the first week of December, and our review of the first meet's questions are in progress, as we learn best by correcting our own mistakes.

Media Center



Book Fair Thanks: Thank you for your strong support of the Scholastic Book Fair. Thank you also to all of our volunteers and coordinators! In addition to putting quality books into the hands of children, your purchases helped fund library and school projects, including new playground equipment, adding over 100 new books for the library, providing multiple copies of titles for book groups, and purchasing additional computers for the library.

Ladybug Book Award Grade 3 voting happens before Thanksgiving.

Great Stone Face Award: To be eligible to vote in April, 4th & 5th graders must read 3+ books from the list of 25 nominees, posted at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> under "Windham Center School"—Reading Lists.

Vote for Books.com: The winners of the nationwide election were *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *The Polar Express*, *Harry Potter*, and *Captain Underpants*, in their respective categories. Some races were very close. Thanks for voting!