



November, 2009
Volume 2, Issue 3

Windham Center School
2 Lowell Road
Windham, NH 03087
603-432-7312

Andrew Desrosiers, Principal
Cherrie Fulton, Assistant Principal

Important Dates:

- Nov. 16
Owl Lady
- Nov. 17 and 19
Parent Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 19
Family Feast
- November 26 and 27
Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 17
Gingerbread Houses
- December 23
Winter Parties

Contents:

Grade 3	2
Grade 4	2
Grade 5	3
Enrichment	3
Counselors Corner	4
Media Center	5

From the Principal's Corner....

•Our third grade held a wonderful assembly for Veteran's Day! We were so proud of their program; 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. Classes are visiting the fair and making a wish list. Thank you to all of the volunteers that made this special event possible.

•Please put away your shorts until next May! Our weather is turning cooler now and we don't want anyone to catch a cold! Please remember a jacket, hats and gloves if necessary!

• **Parent Teacher Conferences** will be Tuesday, Nov 17th and Thursday, Nov. 19th from 3:15 to 8:30PM. This is a great opportunity to visit with your child's teacher and view 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 presented our third graders with new dictionaries on Wednesday, Oct. 28th. What a wonderful way to start their education at Center School, Thank you!!

• **Family Feast** – Parents and grandparents are invited to join their children for a Thanksgiving Luncheon on Nov. 19th. Please refer to the flyer your child brought home the first week of November for reservations.

•Our Thanksgiving Break will be Thursday, Nov 26th and Friday, Nov. 27th. Enjoy your holiday and if you are traveling, please return to us safe and sound.

•The Owl Lady will visit our 3rd graders on Monday, Nov. 16th. It's so interesting seeing the different types of owls she brings with her.

•Mark your calendars for the following December events:

Grade 5 – **Gingerbread Houses** from 9-11:15 – Dec. 17th (Snow day – Dec 18th)

Parties:

Grade 3 - 9:30-11AM Dec. 23rd

Grade 4 – 1-2:30PM Dec. 23rd

Grade 5 – 1:30-2:30 Dec. 23rd

*Please carefully read all Alert Now email messages that come from our school. Often due to illnesses or weather, lessons must be cancelled and this is one way that we can reach you! Thanks so much!



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.



Immigration unit starts in December

Academically speaking we are continuing our writing process with the expansion of paragraphs. Friendly letters to penpals, 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! The use of our 90 minute reading block with all our support staff helping in the room has helped with our small group instruction! Boy are we busy!

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.



"With the flu arriving in Windham, please be sure to donate tissues and antibacterial wipes to your child's classroom."

Grade 4

We have had a very busy first quarter in fourth grade. Students enjoyed their Halloween parties, and it was fun to see Mr. Desrosiers dressed up as a princess as he led our parade around the building. With the flu arriving in Windham, please be sure to donate tissues and antibacterial wipes to your child's classroom. We seem to be going through them very quickly. Students have been enjoying the Fit Kids program, which takes place for 7 weeks as part of our science unit. So far we have

learned about our lungs and heart, the dangers of smoking, and how to make fitness a part of our everyday lives. Parent conferences will be taking place on November 17th and November 19th. Be sure to stop in and visit the book fair during conferences. We are getting geared up for a fun-filled second quarter! Be sure to check the "teacher Moodle sites" to find out what is going on in your child's classroom!



The Fit Kids Program runs for 7 weeks.

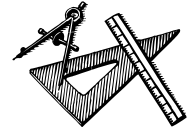


Grade 5

The fifth grade enters the month of November in a colorful manner. Geometry has us identifying, drawing, and measuring angles and polygons using compasses and protractors. Guided reading has grouped us together to work on skills, vocabulary, and to enjoy a good book. Descriptive and narrative writing fills our pages as we expand our usage of adjectives and figurative language. Weather blows us away as we accumulate our

knowledge of instruments, clouds, and weather maps to forecast the future. A visit to the colonies has enlightened our understanding of the past. Students are reminded to have their agendas signed daily to insure communication and that all assignments are completed.

The Fifth Grade Team would like to extend their warmest wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving. We are grateful for your support and for your children's love of learning.

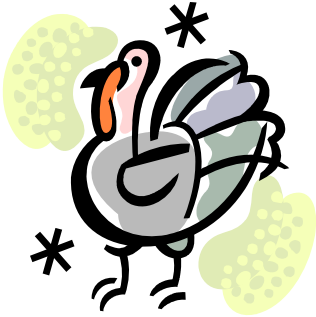


Geometry has us identifying, drawing, and measuring angles and polygons using compasses and protractors.

Enrichment

Grade Three will finish up a two-week activity on Animal Habitats. Using spelling, planning, and creative thinking skills students will search for hidden animal words, and then create a suitable habitat, on paper, for the animal of their choice. The next activity for Grade Three is also a two-week project called Mu Torere. It is an aboriginal game, and the students will first learn a bit about New Zealand and the game itself, then they will design and create a game board, and finally students will team up to practice the game, using strategies that the class has discussed.

Grades Four and Five are heading into their first Continental Mathematics League Meet, after having done some practice work to prepare. The students have worked hard during our practice runs, and have embraced this rather large challenge with grace. Fourth and Fifth grade students will also explore general curriculum subject matter in an activity called Unique Knowledge. Students work in teams to come up with not only correct answers to questions posed, but to discover answers that no other team has, earning their team bonus points for uniqueness and original thinking.



Notes from the Counselors' Corner

Warm Greetings to All!

The Attitude of Gratitude

Thanksgiving is the time to appreciate all the good things in life. It is a time to acknowledge the good deeds of others and to be thankful. Celebrate this Thanksgiving by showing an attitude of gratitude.

Windham Center School students have been asked to participate in a food drive to support Windham's Helping Hands. The food drive lasts for two weeks from November 9, 2009 through November 20, 2009. All Windham schools participate in a "friendly" competition to see which school can bring the most food to help our neighbors. The winning school is awarded the honor of keeping the "coveted" Turkey Trophy throughout the year. We all have fun while learning to give from our hearts. Thank you for your

participation.

November Theme for Classroom Lessons: My Support System

We have so enjoyed getting to know all of our students through the classroom guidance lessons during Morning Meetings. In November, third grade students will learn about supportive friends through a story called, The Rag Coat. Our fourth graders will learn how a teacher can make all the difference in a student's life in Thank You, Mr. Falker. The fabulous fifth graders will learn about developing a supportive group of friends by listening to The Lemonade Club. Ask your children about these stories and the lessons they portray.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

"Celebrate this Thanksgiving by showing an attitude of gratitude."



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



Media Center

Book Fair Thank you for your continued support of our Scholastic Book Fair. Last year our proceeds helped purchase 7 new laptop computers, and hundreds of new books, for the library. We are looking at another great literary fundraiser this time around.

Tricycle Race/ Waiting Tables Mr. Desrosiers and Mrs. Fulton will dress up to wait tables at the Thanksgiving feast on November 19. On Nov. 20 students will see their principal and assistant principal race on tricycles at morning meeting. Both events are rewards for meeting their quarter-million minute summer reading goal.

Book Groups The next Breakfast Book Club title is *Sent*, the sequel to *Found*. This club meets every other Monday morning. Grade 3 lunch book group meets every other Thursday, and is reading *Never Glue Your Friends to Chairs*. Grade 4 Lunch Book Group meets on alternate Fridays and will read *Zoobreak* next. All groups use Moodle for online discussions. It's not too late to sign up!

Ladybug Book Award

Grade 3 students are reading the 10 nominees for the NH Ladybug picture book award, posted at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> under "Windham Center School"—Reading Lists. Each student may vote for their favorite book before Thanksgiving.



Mr. Desrosiers and Mrs. Fulton will race on tricycles as a reward for meeting the quarter-million minute summer reading goal.

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.

Writing Contests

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

2) Scholastic's "Kids Are Authors" group author/illustrator contest is back. Groups of 3 or more K-8 students write a book together. See <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/kaa/> Entries due March 15.



"Thank you for your continued support of our Scholastic Book Fair."