

November

2010



WINDHAM

# Windham Center School

## Principally Speaking....

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Dear Windham Center School Community,

The season shifts as November rolls around, and this provides a great opportunity for us to be reflective and take a moment to count all that we are grateful for. As we look forward to celebrating this season with our families and friends, we would like to give thanks to the wonderful people we work with every day. In addition, as we walk around our school, we are constantly reminded of the dedication of our parents and community. Thanks to all of you who give countless hours to support our students and staff!

October 29<sup>th</sup>, the day of our Halloween parades, is one that embodied the sense of community we experience here at Center School. The staff, students and families all came together for yet another memorable moment. The excitement in the students as they walked through the school and around the building was evident. Our parent volunteers, staff and community members were instrumental in making this a successful event.

We look forward to many other moments to remember during the month of November. Events to look forward to include a visit from author Kelly Milner Halls on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and our wonderful third grade Veteran's Day Assembly on November 10<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we will hold parent-teacher conference on November 15 and 18.

Each day at Windham Center School presents wonderful opportunities to make a difference in the lives of our children as we prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We are so proud to be a part of the Windham learning community and look forward to continuing our spirit of partnership.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Kori Alice Becht and Kathryn Bates



## A Note From Guidance...

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**New Student Orientation:** We were very excited to welcome over 30 new students this year. We held a new student orientation over the summer and received very positive feedback from the parents and students.

**Guidance:** Guidance offers a variety of programs throughout the school year. Some of the programs that are offered are: Social Skills Training, Grief/Divorce Groups, Peer Assistants, resources for tutoring, community involvement etc. We provide classroom presentations on Peer Relationships, Peer Conflict Resolutions, Bullying, Friendships, and various other school appropriate topics.

### Dates to Remember

- November 1, 3-5: NWEA Testing- Grade 3 and New Students
- November 1: Visiting Author Kelly Milner Halls
- November 2: Teacher In-Service Day (No School)
- November 5: End of Quarter
- November 10: Grade 3 Veteran's Day Assembly
- November 11: No School
- November 15 & 18: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- November 15-18: Book Fair
- November 19: Picture Retakes
- November 25-26: Thanksgiving Break



## A Note From Guidance (cont.)...

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**Yearbooks 2011:** Center School will once again offer students a 50 page colored Yearbook. Anyone wishing to participate in creating the Yearbook for this year, please contact Mrs. Lichtmann

**Thanksgiving Food Drive:** Windham Helping Hands will be sponsoring a food drive from November 8-19th. We will once again hold our friendly competition with Golden Brook, Middle School and the High School this year. Each year the food is weighed and tallied. Center School took home the trophy last year-let's work hard to keep it home this year too. What a great way to help others by sending in canned goods, stuffing, rice, soup etc. for the Thanksgiving food drive

**Fitness Boot Camp Session 2:** Flex Appeal Training Center, located 60 Rockingham Road, Windham will be starting session 2 after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Center School will provide one-way bus transportation to Flex Appeal on Bus 356 and parents will need to pick up their child at Flex Appeal. The classes will be held from 3:30-4:30 on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. Students will need to bring gym clothes, sneakers and a water bottle. If you are interested in more information please call Mrs. Lichtmann at 432-7312. Permission slips are available on line (field trip form and health information) or in the school lobby. Session 2 will begin on November 8th and will run until December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## A Note From Grade 3...

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November will certainly be a busy month. Our culmination of our Hooray for the USA unit will take place on the day before Veteran's Day with our presentation of the assembly. We will honor 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! 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 will discover 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.

## A Note From Grade 4...

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With a nip in the air and visions of pumpkins and cornstalks dancing in our heads, fourth graders are now well into the school year and working diligently in all areas of the curriculum. We have moved into the second theme of our reading series which focuses on stories which highlight the benefits of teamwork and cooperation. The skills we will be working on include the use of figurative language, cause and effect, narrative elements and summarizing. Our language skills in this theme continue with subjects and predicates and move through compound subjects and predicates, compound sentences, and clauses and complex sentences. The understanding and use of these different sentence types will enhance our stories and enrich our written communication. In Math we will soon finish working with graphs as well as refreshing our addition and subtraction skills. In Chapter 3 we will begin to work on multiplication in earnest. Mastery of our math facts will be of prime importance at that time. Please continue to help your children study their facts for a few minutes each night. In conjunction with our field trip to the State House, our classes are learning about the three branches of government in Social Studies classes. Our young scientists continue to work with simple machines or rocks and minerals in their Science classes.

Many thanks again to all of you who volunteer your time in so many ways....from help in the classroom to chaperoning field trips, from helping with math facts at home to organizing class parties. You are the best! We are all looking forward to meeting with you at parent conferences in November when we can continue to build a strong school-to-home bond.

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## A Note From Grade 5...

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Fifth graders are making serious strides through the Everyday Math curriculum ramping up with multi-digit multiplication of whole numbers and decimals. Place value continues to be a focus skill that the students are tackling especially with those tricky tenth, hundredths and thousandths locations. Shapes, angles and their properties will be enthralling everyone as the unit on geometry comes a calling in Unit 3.

In language arts, the students are focusing on the theme of “teamwork” by reading a biographical story about baseball player Roberto Clemente, and a nonfictional story about the Iditarod that takes place each year in Alaska.

Many students are learning to become meteorologists in science as they seek the answers surrounding questions about what causes change in weather, how sunlight affects weather, what is the significance of a water cycle, how are clouds formed, and how does a meteorologist track and predict the weather. The use of Gizmos is making the work a lot of fun.

Fifth grade classes will be attending the Saugus Ironworks National Historic Site in Saugus, MA at the end of October as part of their social studies unit. Students will learn about seventeenth century production of iron in New England and witness blast furnaces run by an actual water wheel as it turns raw materials into iron products.

## A Note From Music...

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As the school year moves on, our third graders are singing songs that reinforce their patriotic unit in order to prepare for their fabulous Veteran’s Day Assembly that will take place next month. They are learning the story of our national anthem as well with singing “The Star Spangled Banner” and other patriotic songs. We are very excited about getting our recorders and learning how to play them too! This will help the students learn how to read music and to prepare them for playing a band instrument in the future.

Our fourth graders are continuing to learn songs they will perform for you in a Winter Concert called “Snow Biz.” They are preparing a fun-filled musical salute to the joys of winter. This is a fun show that will include acting and choreography too! They will also be learning a new song to perform for you on their recorder in the concert that will take place here at WCS on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM.

Our fifth graders will soon begin their unit on music composition. We are very excited about learning how to play the piano and transferring this information to our song writing. They are also learning to sing a “Rap of the Presidents” which is a wonderful way to memorize the names of all of the presidents in order. Look out for a performance of the President’s Rap in February. Ask them to perform a verse for you! Soon we will begin learning songs from the “Broadway Junior Collection of School House Rock Live” which we will perform for you on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. All students have the wonderful opportunity of being involved in this performance!

## A Note From Art...

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This month most art classes at Center School are finishing up their first projects. The third graders are completing their six object pictures by adding the watercolor resists over the crayon. Their next project will be an introduction to Cuevas de las Manos in Argentina and an opportunity to create negative hand prints with chalks. Fourth grade students have finished a quick introduction to compasses and six or eight sided designs, and have been continuing work on their imaginary insects. The final papers will be a watercolor resist, which will then be used as ideas for a clay tile. Fifth grade students have been working on their three dimensional shapes of cubes and pyramids. They will have a choice of what 3D shape they would like to do as their final choice in the unit.

All finished papers will be hanging in the hallways of the school for a short period of time before they are sent home. Thank you to our art volunteer Wanda Rice for contributing time this year to put up our displays of art work in the halls. Any papers that do not get sent home will be saved, if the student gives permission, for the end of the year cooperative show at the High School.

Thank you to all parents who have sent in smocks so their students can engage in messy projects in the art classes. Wearing an old shirt from Mom or Dad over their school clothing is the best way students can be sure to try keeping their clothes clean. We almost have 100% of the students with their own smocks. These smocks are kept in the classrooms and students are required to have them available for every art class. Thank you again to all families who have remembered to send in the smocks.



## A Note From The Library...

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### Scholastic Book Fair

The Center School fall book fair will be held November 12-19.

- Nov. 12 & 15: Student Previews: students may create a take-home “wish list” of book titles for purchase consideration
- Nov. 15 Fair open 3:00pm to 8:30pm (conference night)
- Nov. 18: Fair Open 3:00pm to 7:30pm (conference night)
- Nov. 19: Fair closes at 9:15am

Proceeds allow our school to purchase books and equipment for student use and to provide activities like our author visit on November 1 by Kelly Milner Halls. We appreciate your support, and the assistance of all the PTA and parent volunteers.

**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 in November.

**Great Stone Face Award:** To be eligible to vote in April, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 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

Monthly contests are found at <http://destiny.windhamsd.org> and at Scholastic Storyworks: <http://storyworks.scholastic.com/contests>

## A Note From The Nurse...

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Please be aware that the first case of influenza in New Hampshire, for the 2010-11 Season, was diagnosed on October 14<sup>th</sup>. We are again asking that you help us to keep our school environment as healthy as possible. Please remember that any staff/student with fever (over 100 degrees) needs to remain at home until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. Also, staff and students who have persistent cough and sore throat should remain at home. **This would be a great time to review with your families the importance of washing their hands, covering their coughs and gargling their throats to promote wellness.**

Medications at school:

If your child will require a prescription medication during the school day, please remember that a nurse can only administer medication prescribed by the doctor with written doctor’s orders, medication delivered to the nurse in an original, pharmacy labeled bottled and also with parent written consent.

THANK YOU for helping to keep Center School safe and healthy!! Enjoy the Fall everyone.

Kathleen Baroni, RN 432-7962

## A Note From PE...

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On October 7<sup>th</sup>, Windham Center School celebrated their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fitness Festival. Students participated in different activities to promote fitness and having fun while raising donations for their school. We would like to thank the community for their support in our endeavors!! The funds help to support supplemental programs here at Center School. We would also like to thank the PTA for all the volunteers who came that day to hike, dance, and referee all the different activities. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Fothergill, Mr. Cicchitto, and Mrs. Jasper for all their efforts in helping to organize all the activities. A special congratulations to Rachel Kane and Caleigh Pimentel for their awesome t-shirt design promoting physical activity and healthy living!

## A Note From The Office...

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Please continue to:

- Check the School Bulletin link on the district website for important updated information.
- Call the Safety Phone, 432-7962, if your student is going to be absent or tardy from school. Our Safety Phone Volunteer will call to confirm the absence, if we do not receive a call from you.
- Send notes in the morning to your student's teacher if there will be a change in dismissal plans.

## A Note From The PTA...

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We still have some open Library and Welcome Desk spots.

### Library

Weekly or Biweekly

Tuesday 9:15 – 10:00 with Mrs. O'Keefe's class

Biweekly

Tuesday 10:05 – 10:50 with Mrs. Bouley's class

Wednesday 2:00 – 2:45 with Mrs. Fay's class

### Welcome Desk

Biweekly

11:00 – 1:00 Monday, Tuesday

Weekly or Biweekly



1:00 – 3:00 Tuesday, Wednesday

9:00 – 11:00 Wednesday

11:00 – 1:00 Wednesday, Friday



# November

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	<b>1</b> <b>GRADE 3</b> Visiting Author Kelly Milner Halls	<b>2</b> <b>N W</b>	<b>3</b> <b>E A</b>	<b>4</b> <b>T E S</b>	<b>5</b> <b>T I N G</b> End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Grade 3 Veteran's Day Assembly 1:30	<b>11</b> <b>No School</b> <b>Veteran's Day</b> 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences <b>B O</b>	<b>16</b> <b>O K</b>	<b>17</b> <b>F</b>	<b>18</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences <b>A I</b>	<b>19</b> Picture Retake Day <b>R</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day 	<b>26</b> <b>No School</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>				