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Windham Center School

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From the Principal's Corner....

October has been a very busy month at Center School. Our children completed the NECAP testing (New England Common Assessment Program) in the subject areas of Reading and Math for all grades and also Writing in 5th grade. Everyone worked really hard and we're so proud of their efforts!

- Our 3rd grade had a wonderful time learning about animals and eating lots of treats at the Deerfield Fair! Congratulations on your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place ribbons!
- The 5th grade spent time at the Saugus Ironworks exploring the mill and water wheel construction of the 1600's!
- On Friday, October 9th our staff worked together learning more about Guided Reading. Our teachers experienced a 90 minute reading block and lots of great discussion!
- Halloween Parties - 3rd and 4th grade parties will be from 1-2:15. 5th grade parties will be held in the afternoon (for a time, please contact your child's teacher) and everyone will attend the parade at 2:15! Students can bring their costumes to school!
- Snow may be here sooner than we'd like! Any school delays or cancellations will be posted on the district web site: www.windhamsd.org. The information will also be reported to the following:

Radio:

WGIR 610AM
WFEA 1370AM
WBZ 1030AM
WZID 95.7FM

Television:

WMUR Channel 9
WBZ Channel 4
WCVB Channel 5
WHDH Channel 7



- Book Fair - Our book fair will be held November 6 - 20th!
- Parent/Teacher Conferences - November 17th and 19th!
- Don't forget to dismiss your child before 2:30 from the office...if later, please use car dismissal. Thank you!!
- Red Ribbon Week - October 26 - 30th Please show your support for a drug-free and healthy lifestyle by participating in the following events:
 - Monday - Wear RED clothing Tuesday - Wear crazy socks
 - Wednesday - Wear your favorite hat Thursday - Wear your slippers
 - Friday - Wear your favorite team shirt

IMPORTANT DATES:

Grade 5 Saugus Ironworks
Field Trip:

10/15; Testa/Dufour
10/21; Miloro/Torrise
10/23; Moore/Satkwich
10/27; Bergeron/Leonard

October 19

Owl Lady
Presentation - Gr. 3

October 30

Halloween Parties

October 26-30

Red Ribbon Week

November 6

End of Marking
Period

November 6-20

Book Fair

November 10

Veteran's Day
Assembly - Grade 3

November 17 and 19

Parent - Teacher
Conferences

Grade 3

We're falling into November here in the 3rd grade wing!

Our projects for the Deerfield Fair were wonderful this year and we won some great ribbons. By visiting the fair on our first field trip we got to see the display and learn so many new things about animals.

Frogs, owls, even worms! Our 3rd grade zoologists are studying habitats and life cycles of various animals. Our "Owl Lady" will be here for a visit to share her winged friends very soon.

Now don't get spooked! We will be dissecting owl pellets this month!

On November 10th, the 3rd grade will host a **Veteran's Day presentation** at 1:30pm. We will prepare essays, songs, and artwork to show respect and appreciation for our Veterans and some local Veterans will be here to visit. All are welcome!

NECAP testing is finally over! But before we rest our weary heads, we will continue to explore the theme of "Changing Patterns" in our new reading series and work on our



Sitton Word Study patterns. The third grade has also started "mixing up" math classes by changing our different groups and teachers.

Halloween is right around the corner! Our party will be held on Friday, the 30th, from 1:00-2:15. We will parade around the school at 2:15. Look forward to seeing you!

Grade 4

Happy Autumn everyone! The trees sure are beautiful as we get down to work here in fourth grade. Our field trips to the NH State House went off without a hitch. We enjoyed seeing the rooms that our Governor, Senators, and Representatives work in. Some of us were even able to meet the Governor, himself! We sure were lucky. NECAP testing has also gone very smoothly. We are very proud of the hard work and dedication the students put into their math and reading tests.

Speaking of math, we cannot say enough how important it is that students know their **multiplication tables** by heart. This will be VITAL towards an easier understanding of the math concepts to come throughout the year.

Students who do not know their multiplication times tables may struggle more than necessary in the upcoming months. Let's give them their best chance possible of succeeding and study those math facts at home on a regular basis.

Halloween parties will be held on Friday, October 30th. Please no weapons, as usual. If you have any further questions about the parties please speak to your child's individual teachers. We are excited for a celebration after all our hard work. The party also falls just before the end of the marking period on November 6th. A great big thank you from fourth grade for all that you do to help your child. We appreciate your efforts!

Grade 5



The last few weeks have been a busy one for the 5th grade at Windham Center School. The students are adjusting to the school year quite well and the teachers are working diligently to implement new teaching strategies such as Guided Reading in the classroom.

Students are just now finishing up the NECAP state testing where the 5th grade is being tested on Reading, Math, and Writing. NECAP test results are typically returned in the spring.

In **science** students have been exploring weather through daily weather reporting and tracking weather systems such as hurricanes. In **Social Studies** students are exploring the New England colonies.

During the last week of October the students will be visiting Saugus Iron Works in Saugus, Massachusetts. The students will be exploring how early settlers produced iron at this local mill.

Mrs. Moore, a 5th grade teacher, was recently awarded a Fellowship with Earthwatch Institute. She will be studying alongside research scientists in New Orleans, Louisiana from October 22-November 1. The project is titled "**Caterpillars and Climate Change**". She will be presenting lessons to her students via Skype and an on-line blog. If your child is not in Mrs. Moore's room and is interested in learning more, Mrs. Moore's blog link is <http://www.earthwatch2.org/LFF/AMoore/>

Again this year, 5th graders will be participating in the **Halloween** Parade on Friday the 30th. They are allowed to wear costumes. All students are required to wear costumes that are not gory and do not include weapons. Your child should bring their costume to school; it should be a costume that does not require using the restroom to change. Thank you for your understanding.

ENRICHMENT NEWS

Grade Three Enrichment students will be practicing and improving their skills at asking questions during our ongoing Funny Copy activity. One of the Funny Copy rules is that questions must be framed in yes or no form. Students are finding it tricky at first, but are showing great improvement as they become more familiar with the activity.

Third Graders will also continue to improve their critical thinking skills with Plexers, where students are showing great imagination and creativity. All grades are using various Math Games to help with the practice needed to solidify their knowledge of math facts, which are vitally important as a foundation that will serve them for the duration of their education.

Grade Four and Five Enrichment classes will be working on an activity called Tricky Triangles, in preparation for Continental Math.

These triangles are challenging, but most students are enjoying the challenge, putting forth great effort, with many showing amazing strength in critical thinking skills. We have also started "word of the day", designed to improve their vocabulary, and their understanding of how our language works.

Media Center

Book Fair Save on titles like the brand-new *Diary of a Wimpy Kid 4: Dog Days*. \$6.99 in Scholastic softcover vs. \$13.95 hardcover at bookstores. Also coming: *Sent*, the sequel to Haddix's *Found*, and new books by Gordon Korman and Roland Smith. Support your schools while gift shopping and promoting reading. Coming in early November.

Tricycle Race Center School students read over a quarter million minutes over the summer, earning the reward of watching Mr. Desrosiers and Mrs. Fulton race on tricycles in October.

Book Groups The Breakfast Book Club is reading *Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix. It meets every other Monday morning. Grade 3 lunch book group meets every other Thursday. Grades 4 & 5 Lunch and Recess book clubs meet on alternating Fridays. 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 in November.

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.

Notes from the Counselors corner



Happy Fall!

It is that wonderful time of year when the air is cooler, the leaves are changing and the smell of fall is in the air. School has been in full swing for a month. Students, teachers and parents have settled into their daily routines and are learning new information everyday.

Windham Center School is celebrating **Red Ribbon Week** 2005 October 26th -30th to teach and promote healthy and drug-free lifestyles to the students. Red Ribbon week involves over 100,000 schools and organizations throughout the U.S. We have lots of fun and unique activities planned to encourage a drug-free and healthy lifestyle. Activities will be taking place at each of the Windham schools. Each grade level will experience a Red Ribbon Week presentation.

During Red Ribbon week each day has a theme:

Monday 10/26- Wear Red Day

Tuesday 10/27- Sock it to an unhealthy lifestyle (wear crazy socks)

Wednesday 10/28- Put a lid on an unhealthy lifestyle (wear hats)

Thursday 10/29- Give the slip to an unhealthy lifestyle (wear slippers)

Friday 10/30- Team up against an unhealthy lifestyle (wear favorite team shirt)

** Halloween costumes will be worn in the afternoon**

October Theme for Classroom Lessons: Discovering Our Feelings

This month our guidance morning meetings will focus on empathy and the ability to communicate effectively. These are key qualities children need in order to get along with others. Before we teach them to be assertive, they should recognize the causes and effects of negative attitudes and behaviors. They need to realize they have the power to choose how to respond to conflict. Being "emotionally fit" helps children face daily challenges in positive ways.

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

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