

Windham Center School

Kori Becht, Principal

Kathryn Bates, Assistant Principal

<http://www.windhamsd.org/center>

Dear Windham Center School Community,

October, 2010

Welcome Back! A new school year is upon us, and we couldn't be more excited! It is a warm and welcoming feeling to come into our building as it is once again filled with the laughter of children, early morning arrivals and late leavings of our staff, and the excitement of school and community activities that bring us together. With the beautiful fall foliage comes the return of our students to bring the joy of learning into the building.

There has been much excitement here at WCS as we move into the school year. In fact, just think—our current third grade will be the future WHS Class of 2020! There are new staff and students to meet, new friendships to develop, new books to read, and new skills to master. We look forward to sharing each moment with you.

As we are already heading into the month of October where NECAPs begin, field trips occur, and academic programs flourish, we appreciate working together with you and your children. Our partnership and your continued support make all the difference as we work to ensure that each child's academic experience here at WCS is challenging and engaging. Our focus is on a developmentally appropriate education in which differentiation, rigor, relevance and relationships are key ingredients. Together we can achieve many wonderful things!

We look forward to a tremendous year filled great opportunities to learn and grow. Thanks for making month one a great beginning. The door is always open so feel free to call, email or stop by Windham Center School.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

Sincerely, Kori Becht and Kathryn Bates

Dates To Remember:

October

11 Columbus Day - No School

13 - 18 NECAP Testing Begins

20 Grade 5 Field Trip – Dufour/O'Keefe
Grade 4 Field Trip – O'Connor/Sheehan

21 Grade 5 Field Trip – Fleet/Torrisi
Grade 4 Field Trip –
Testa/Labo/Cataldo/Avallone

22 Grade 5 Field Trip – Moltenbrey/Bouley
Crazy Hat Day

27 Grade 5 Field Trip – Satkwich/Moore
Grade 4 Field Trip – Neary

28 Pumpkins due in classroom for
Pumpkin Decorating Contest

29 Grade 3 Parade/Parties – 9:15-11:15
Grade 4/5 Parade/Parties – 1:15-2:30



A Note from Guidance...

Reminder: NECAP testing will take place every morning from Wednesday October 13th thru Monday October 18th. Please have a healthy breakfast and get plenty of rest.

Junior Jazzercise Is Here!

This fun, active, energized, fitness class for boys and girls combines cool dance moves to age appropriate current music, active games, strength training, endurance, and nutrition and exercise education. Come join in a free class on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 from 3:30-4:30 PM in the WCS cafeteria. Wear comfortable clothing and sneakers.

Six class sessions will run Thursday afternoons at 3:15 - 4:15 from 10/21 - 12/9/10 (excluding 11/18 and 11/25). Cost is \$75 per child and a onetime joining fee of \$25. Classes will be taught by certified Jazzercise/Junior Jazzercise Instructor Terry Mosca and held at Jazzercise in the Breath of Sun Holistic Health and Fitness Community Center located at 46 Lowell Road, Windham, NH.

Pre-registration is required. Checks can be made out to Center School and sent into Julie Lichtmann at Center School. Bus will drop off and parents will pick up at Jazzercise.

Space is limited so act fast! Call Terry (Jazzercise) at 603.566.8156 or Julie Lichtmann (Center School) with any questions.

A Note from Grade 3...

Grade Three Newsletter – September/October 2010

What a great start to the third grade! The students are taking home their agendas daily, so that parents can see what messages and/or homework is written in them. Homework should take about thirty minutes per night, not counting extra projects.

To start the year off, we went to Deerfield Fair for our field trip. Each class participated in the fair by creating a class project. They varied from books to crafts to writing to science. A great deal of pride was felt when we saw our ribbons!

Reading and Math are underway with a big bang! Remember that extra reading and practicing those math facts is always important! Our science and social studies will be spiraling all year with: animal and plant studies, weather, sound, map skills, immigration and the Town of Windham. Of course, our final unit of the year is always Westward Ho!

NECAP tests run for Oct. 13th-15th. Students are all revved to do their best.

Halloween is right around the corner. Third grade will celebrate in the morning of Friday, Oct. 29th. Teachers will send home notices in full detail about the parade and party.

With all this going on, we look forward to a great and exciting year!

A Note from Grade 4...

The Fourth Grade Team is very excited to take our first field trip of the school year to the State House in Concord. It is a great opportunity for students to see the building that makes our state go! In Social Studies, students will be working hard learning about the three branches of government which will coincide nicely with the upcoming trip. In addition, mapping skills are being utilized with the use of classroom atlases. Keep up the good work on the Daily Geography!

Math lessons have explored the many concepts of line formation. Specifically, students have learned about line segments, rays, polygons, and parallel lines, just to name a few. Interpreting tally charts in order to create bar graphs has also been a skill focused on the past couple of weeks. The Fourth Grade Team would like to recognize all the hard work students have been putting into learning multiplication facts. The hard work is paying off and it is critical that these facts are mastered. Language Arts work has emphasized the learning of grammar. Students have learned about declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences. In addition, a large focus has been put on the understanding of subjects and predicates as part of basic sentence structure. Science classes have been learning about the scientific process with not only rocks/minerals, but also simple machines.

We would like to thank all volunteers who continue to do a fantastic job helping students and teachers. Your work is extremely appreciated and we cannot thank you enough for all that you do! With the changing of seasons, students should be dressing appropriately. We are asking students to write their name in their jackets, reducing the chances of anything being lost. Everyone is looking forward to a great autumn at W.C.S.!

A Note from Grade 5...

We've had a great start to the 2010-2011! The students are working hard and learning all of the responsibilities of being in the fifth grade. We are gearing up for the NECAP testing which will be held on October 13-20th. No homework will be given during this time. Starting on Wednesday, October 20th – Wednesday, October 27th, two classes of fifth graders a day will be attending their first field trip of the year to the Saugus Iron Works. Descriptions, dates, and permission slips will soon be coming home. Another important day will be when we participate in the Student Council Crazy Hat Day on the 22nd.

In math we are beginning the second unit which focuses on place value, addition, subtraction, and multiplication of decimals, along with estimation. In reading we're progressing through the first theme of our book. It's entitled Look Inside. This theme takes a look at young people who discover their strengths and abilities.

We will celebrate the end of the month with the annual Halloween Parade and party. See you in November!

A Note from Art...

Since September, students have been getting used to art on a cart and the changes we sometimes have to make to the desk and chair arrangements when it's art time. Please remember that all students are expected to have an art smock that they keep in their classrooms for any messy projects we may be doing. Not having an art smock, especially when we do messy projects, will contribute to a lower preparedness grade on the report cards.

Third graders have started out the year discussing the six basic shapes and identifying them in objects in the art room. After they practiced drawing the objects, they started a final paper with the six objects that overlapped and filled the paper. These drawings will then be traced with colored crayons and to finish, will be painted to create a watercolor resist.

The fourth grade classes have been working on their entomology. Parts and features of insects were discussed in class, before the students got a chance to design their own bugs. Each fourth grader should have at least four different ideas for each of the three basic body parts of their insects. The final choice combinations will be put together as a watercolor resist and as a clay tile. In preparation for the testing that is coming up we have also been talking about making circles with compasses, defining circumference, diameter, and radius.

The fifth graders have started an intensive study of three dimensional shapes. They started out with creating their own pattern for a two inch square three dimensional cube, decorating each of the six sides with overlapping patterns, and being careful in the coloring and workmanship of the gluing. After the cubes, students will be working on pyramids, and then will be going on to several other three dimensional shapes. These will be hung on display from each student's desk - they all have bars going across the front that come in handy for us to use as individual art display space.

A Note from Music...

As the school year begins, our third graders are singing songs that reinforce their unit on habitat. They are also learning about 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 have begun 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 on Thursday, January 20th at 9:30AM.

Our fifth graders have begun 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. 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 Thursday, May 26th. All students have the wonderful opportunity of being involved in this performance!

A Note from the PTA...

We are still looking for volunteers for the following times in the library and at the welcome desk. Please contact Lisa Strong at strongs99@comcast.net if interested.

Library:

Monday 2:00 – 2:45 (Mrs. Brown (Bastian))

Tuesday 9:15 – 10:00 (Mrs. O’Keefe) weekly or biweekly

Tuesday 10:05 – 10:50 (Mrs. Bouley) biweekly

Tuesday 11:45 – 12:30 (Mrs. Neary) biweekly

Tuesday 2:00 – 2:45 (Ms. Prouty) weekly or biweekly

Wednesday 2:00 – 2:45 (Mrs. Fay) biweekly

Welcome Desk:

Monday 11:00 -1:00 biweekly

Tuesday 11:00 -1:00 biweekly

Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 weekly or biweekly

Wednesday 9:00 – 11:00 weekly or biweekly

Wednesday 11:00 -1:00 weekly or biweekly

Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00 weekly or biweekly

Friday 11:00 -1:00 weekly or biweekly

Friday 1:00 – 3:00 weekly or biweekly

If you are not receiving email updates from the Center School PTA team and would like to, please email Krissy Letourneau at Kristin.letourneau@comcast.net with PTA Database in the subject line.

A Note from the Library...

Book Swap

From **October 1-12** students may bring in up to three books that they would like to trade in. Please attach the green take-home green forms to the books. During the week of **October 25 – 29**, children will have be able to “shop” the book swap during their library time and pick out as many books as they traded in (up to three). Books dropped off in excess of the three per student will be available for other students at the swap. Please send in books that are in good condition and appropriate for ages 8-12. Participation is voluntary. Thanks to PTA volunteers for coordinating this!

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

Summer Reading

Remember to turn in your summer reading logs (list of book titles read) by October 25, so that we can see Mrs. Becht perform a silly stunt for the student body.

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

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