

September 17, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

# Windham Center School

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From the Principal's Corner....

## We're Off To A Great Start!

•September has been a wonderful beginning to the 2009-2010 school year! Our children have been busy learning about their teachers, classmates and the grade level expectations. This is going to be a great year!

\*NWEA testing will be for all third graders and any new students to Center School. The dates are Sept. 16 - 22<sup>nd</sup>.

• Moodle - Information on how to log onto Moodle from home will be distributed at Open House.

• Open House - **Children are encouraged to attend this year.** Please make your way to your child's room by 6:45 to hear a brief talk from the teacher about the class.

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Grade 3 - 6:30-7:30pm

Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Grades 4 and 5 - 6:30-7:30pm

\*School Pictures - September 25<sup>th</sup>

•NECAP - This test is for all students at Center School and will begin Oct.1<sup>st</sup>. We will also be testing on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. Our make-up dates are scheduled for Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your child to get a good night rest and eat a nutritious breakfast each morning!

•Deerfield Fair - Grade 3 on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

\*Fun Fitness - Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Sept 16-21

NWEA grade 3 and new students.

Sept 22

Open House grade 3.

Sept 23

Open house grade 4 and 5

Sept. 25

School Pictures

Oct 1

Necap testing begins

Grade 3 field trip to Deerfield Fair

Oct. 5

Fun Fitness Festival - school fundraiser

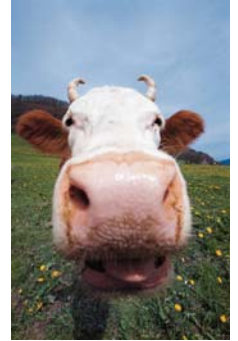
## Grade 3

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 are heading to **Deerfield Fair** for our field trip. Each class will be participating in the fair by creating a class project. They vary from books to crafts to writing to science. Please check out our project in the School Building at the Fair.

Third grade is working with their reading series and Six Traits Writing. Our word study program is Sitton, which works with word patterns and expanding the child's ability to "think through" the spelling of words. Every Day Math is still our math series. Please help children at home with spelling and memorizing addition and subtraction math facts!

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!**

We're taking our "laptop tests" (**NWEA**) and will settle down a little before the **NECAP** testing in the classroom in October. Please keep an eye out for those notices.

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

## Grade 4

Well, a new year is underway, and what a smooth beginning it was! The new students have settled in nicely, and they seem to be getting used to the new routine of their school day.

Fourth grade students will be visiting the **State House** in Concord this month. This is part of our New Hampshire unit in Social Studies. Students get a chance to tour the State House and visit the House of Representative, the Senate, and even the governor's office. Keeping our fingers crossed that we get to meet Governor Lynch while we are there!

We are also preparing for the **NECAP** tests in October. We have a new schedule this year, which allows us to devote more preparation time for the testing.

More adults will be available in the classrooms, which means that teachers are able to meet the needs of a variety of learners at one time. It is important for all students to practice their math facts at home... this is a big year for math. Students will be learning "long" multiplication and division... so knowing those times tables makes things so much easier.

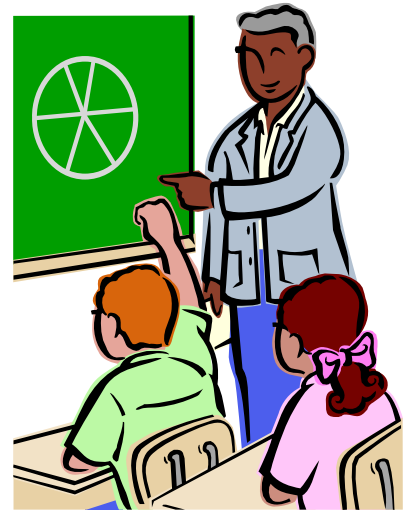
We are also going to be very "proactive" at fighting the germs this year! We want to keep all flu and other sicknesses away! Please make sure your child brings a bottle of hand sanitizer to school, and keep reminding all children the importance of washing their hands as often as possible.

## Grade 5

Welcome to a new school year! We are off to a great start and have an exciting year planned. Already the entire fifth grade class held its first "Mixer" outside to greet and learn new and interesting facts about one another.

This year fifth grade is incorporating **Responsive Classroom** tools into their learning communities. Also our first field trip to the **Saugus Ironworks** is being planned for October. Watch for notices and permission slips to be sent home.

Fifth grade is a very important year as students begin to prepare for middle school, so we will be focusing on student organization, independence, and responsibility. As always, continue to encourage your child to read often and keep practicing those math facts.



### ENRICHMENT NEWS

Our new **third graders** have been busy in Enrichment classes, learning the rules of the class and the cart, and exploring some new activities. Third grade classes have been learning an activity called Letter Getters, where students must complete sentences from letter clues. We will soon begin Funny Copy, an activity that is all about asking the right questions, and about learning how to form questions so that they

evoke the most information from their answers.

**Grades four and five** have been enjoying New England Trivia, and Smart Mouth, a spelling game that requires quick thinking and teamwork, as well as spelling skills. They will soon begin practicing for Continental Math, which presents the challenge of math word problems, and exploring the strategy skills that they will need to meet that challenge.

Coming up, we will also play Unique Knowledge, a game that stretches students to think outside their usual, comfortable zones.

With all the eager third grade Enrichment students I have met, and the return of our awesome fourth and fifth graders, it looks like this year will be full of the fun and adventure of learning.

Janice Hurley

## Media Center

**Summer Reading** Remember to turn in your summer reading logs (list of book titles and approximate number of minutes read), so we can see Mr. Desrosiers & Mrs. Fulton race tricycles and wait cafeteria tables.

**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 can 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.

**Book Groups** The Breakfast Book Club will meet on Monday mornings. Lunch book groups will meet for each grade level. Online discussions will use Moodle.

## Writing Contests

1) Monthly contests are found at Scholastic Storyworks:

<http://storyworks.scholastic.com/contests>

Have your **Haiku** published in Storyworks magazine, or **Create a Character** from your imagination. The winner will have Margaret Peterson Haddix, the author of *Found*, write a story starring their character, and their whole class would get a signed copy of *Found*. Due to library October 14, or mail on your own.

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



Welcome to the new school year! We are so excited to be back in school. It was great to meet new friends and connect with some we haven't seen since for awhile.

### **The Windham Center School Counselors**

As school counselors, we work with individuals, groups, and classes to help students acquire social and communicative skills, and to build the confidence and self-esteem necessary for productive interaction with teachers, peers and families. The counselors provide students with the skills they need to solve their problems, enhance their lives, and help them learn to relax and cope when confronted with stress-producing situations. The counselors are also available for consultation with teachers and parents. Typically we provide short-term counseling, crisis intervention, and problem-solving skills. If your child says that he or she met with the counselor, please don't be concerned! We often help children with "quick and easy" problem-solving strategies. If you do not hear from us, know that the situation was a typical elementary school kind of problem. However, if there is a concern and we would like to work with your child to help him or her with an on-going problem, we will call you so that we can work as a team. Parents also need to know that confidentiality is a part of the counseling process; however, we may ask permission to share information with a child's teacher if it would be in the student's best interests.

### **September Theme for Classroom Lessons: Safe and Caring Schools**

At Windham Center School, a big part of our school community involves learning friendship and problem-solving skills needed to get along and create a positive school climate. This month we began our counseling lessons by joining Morning Meetings and sharing how to create a safe and caring learning place for all students. We provide literature-based lessons to encourage discussion. Please know that if you ever have questions about the counseling curriculum, we would be happy to talk with you.

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

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3rd & 4th Grade Guidance Counselor  
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## Physical Education News

### Windham Center School Fun Fitness Festival 2009

Great News!! Due to the tremendous success of last year's Festival, Center School has decided to continue this fundraising tradition. As part of our ongoing commitment to promote healthy choices for our students, Center School has adopted a fundraising program encouraging physical activity. **Our 3rd Annual Fun Fitness Festival on October 5th** will give students the opportunity to raise donations for Center School and be active at the same time! We are confident this approach will help emphasize the important role exercise plays in a healthy, active lifestyle.

It is our belief that when the community understands the goals of a school fundraiser, they will be more supportive and generous. All monies collected from our only, yearly fundraiser will be spent on the numerous supplemental activities and programs the school has found to be the successful and beneficial for our students. Since there are no commercial products sold, we are able to keep all the profits!

Students will be asking for donations towards this event. For every \$5.00 collected, a student will receive raffle tickets for our Tea Cup Raffle. All raffles are based on our continuing effort to promote activity. Last year, due to the generosity of our community, our Fun Fitness Festival raised over \$20,000 to help support our school and its programs. Please help us again in continuing our efforts to keep our children healthy and support for our school programs. **If you would be interested in donating a prize for the Tea Cup Raffle, please call Marge Leahy or Joni Matthews at 432-7312.** We hope you will help us to make this year's fundraiser even more successful than last year!! Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!