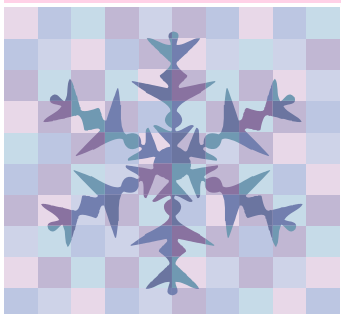


February

2011



WINDHAM

Windham Center School

Principally Speaking....

Dear Windham Center School Community,

As the second quarter comes to an end, we would like to share our appreciation for all of the hard work that everyone put into making the first half of the school year so successful. At Windham Center School we recognize the importance of educating the “whole” child. We offer a rigorous, engaging and meaningful academic education. We also provide exemplary programs in the arts and technology. Finally, we recognize the value in building good citizens and include many programs such as Responsive Classroom and Caught Being Good in order to build our caring community of learners.

We’ve had much to celebrate in January. Of particular note was our Fourth Grade Winter Concert, “Snow Biz”. Students participated in a fun-filled musical salute to the joys of winter-- yes, even snow days!! . The show included singing, instrumental music, acting, and choreography all under the guidance of our very talented music teacher, Mrs. Fothergill. Thank you to all of the parents and family members who attended!! We all enjoyed this concert that showcased the very talented group of students we have here at Windham Center School.

In February, there are many events that are certain to be memorable as well. In particular, we look forward to our Valentine’s Day luncheons. Students and family members alike thoroughly enjoy these special lunches that bring our Center School community together.

We wish you and your family a safe and fun-filled February vacation.

Sincerely,

Kori Alice Becht and Kathryn Bates



Conferences

Coming Soon to Windham Center School; PTC Wizard

PTC Wizard is an online appointment scheduling system.

All Parent/Teacher Conferences will be managed through this system.

More information will be available at a later date.

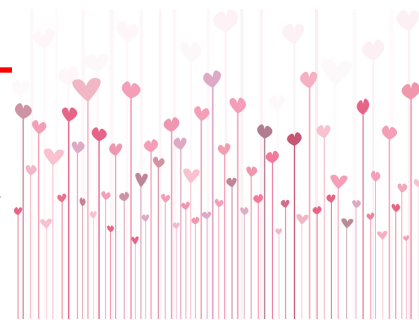
Dates to Remember

- February 1– Report Cards go home.
- February 14–Valentine’s Day Parties
- February 15– Fourth and Fifth Grade Valentine’s Day Luncheons
- February 16– Third Grade Valentine’s Day Luncheon
- February 21-25– February Vacation (No School)

A Note From Guidance ...

National School Counseling Week

February is a very busy month for the Guidance Department. National School Counseling Week is being celebrated February 7-11th. Stop by your counselor's office and just say hi. We will have some fun activities to help celebrate the week.



Guidance Theme: Self Esteem and Anti-bullying

Reminder: NAEP testing will take place on Friday, February 4th from 9:00-10:30.

Approximately half of the 4th grade students were randomly selected to participate. Parents have already been notified if their child was selected.

Fitness Boot Camp

Session 4 - Starts March 7-April 15th, \$59.00 per student, we will bus 1 way from Center School on Mondays and Wednesdays. Parents pick up at Flex Appeal at 4:30. Please call Julie Lichtmann for further details.

A Note From The Office...

Please be sure that children are dressed appropriately for the winter weather. They need coats, hats, gloves, boots, and snow pants in order to play in the snow.

FYI—All Windham Center School activities, times, and places are updated daily on our **Daily Bulletin Link** found on the Windham School District Website www.windhamsd.org

A Note From Grade 3...

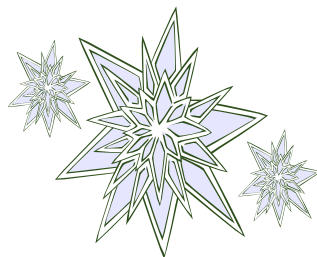
Can you believe we are halfway through the year? In the blink of an eye, we'll be looking at fourth graders! We have lots to do before the other half of the year is through, but let's hear about what we've been doing lately in our third grade neck of the woods...

Valentine's Day is in the air! We will celebrate the holiday with classroom parties filled with arts and crafts, goodies, valentine greetings, and games. Thank you to all the parents who contribute their time by volunteering at the parties or baking cookies at home

You might be tired of all the changes in the weather lately, but we certainly are not! After all, we're studying weather in third grade. We've been enjoying the snow, rain, sunshine, and wind! Now we know why one day it's 50 degrees, and the next day, it's close to 0 degrees!

All our third graders are becoming quite the "techie" with their expertise ranging from Word documents, Power Point presentations, and even Excel workbook and charts. Check out our Moodle pages to see what your child has been doing.

Now before spring arrives, we have a lot to do! Our fairy tale units will soon be under way! We will be reading and writing and discovering what a true fairy tale has for characteristics. And since there is usually a "big bad wolf", we are learning about these wonderful animals. That will help us revisit our ongoing unit – animals and their habitats!



A Note From Grade 4...

Between the craziness of this stormy weather and a little collection of snow days, it is hard to believe we are already in the midst of January. Where has the time gone?

Fourth grade has been very busy. In math, this is the time of year when students are taking those multiplication facts that they have been focusing on for so long, trying to memorize, and putting them to good use as they learn different ways of doing long multiplication. Soon, they will use this knowledge again as we begin to find ways of doing long division! It is so important to keep up the at-home studying of facts. This ends up making the process of learning new things much easier.

Student Council has come up with the idea of a “snowman” challenge. Students throughout the building have been invited to create a snowman...without using snow! The most decorative and well-thought out snow-people are on display outside Mrs. Bates’ office. Come check them out!

This is also the time of year where fourth grade students take part in the Ski NH program. Students are invited to do research on any aspect of Winter in New Hampshire. They can create posters, make a brochure, create a PowerPoint, etc. When they present their projects in the classroom, they will then receive free ski passes to different ski areas in New Hampshire!!

Fourth graders enjoyed performing in Mrs. Fothergill’s winter concert. The songs were very entertaining, and students played those recorders as well as musicians in the Boston Symphony Orchestra!!

Stay warm, everyone! This winter hasn’t been very kind to us so far!



A Note From Grade 5...

The fifth grade classes are starting **Battle of the Books!!!** Teams of students will be reading books and then competing against other students and classes to answer comprehension questions during Library.

In Language Arts, students are learning about our changing planet. Students focus primarily on nonfiction passages, where they learn about the impact that we have on our planet. To help improve comprehension students will utilize graphic aids, word skills, sequencing skills, and practice reading for information. Grammar skills being worked on include possessive nouns, pronouns & antecedents, subject & object pronouns, and possessive nouns.

In Math, students continue to work on division strategies and fractions. Division strategies cover division with 2 digit divisors, division of decimals, and interpreting remainders. As for fractions, the focus is on mixed numbers, comparing and ordering numbers, equivalent fractions, and renaming fractions as decimals and percents.

Social Studies has a plethora of topics as students study explorers, American colonies, presidents and first ladies as well as the continued focus on map skills and geography.

Our scientists continue to study numerous topics including weather, electricity, and astronomy. Classrooms are filled with hands on experiments and projects from our amazing scientists.

Let the Battle begin.....Read, Read, Read !!!!!!!

A Note From The Library...

We enjoyed our presentations by visiting author Kelly Milner Halls on January 25. Kelly shared information from her books on dinosaur mummies, albino animals, the Baghdad zoo, and cryptids (mysterious creatures like Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster). In addition, students were able to touch coprolite and replicas of Bigfoot tracks and fossilized dinosaur skin and claws.

Third grade will have an Internet safety presentation this month with Mrs. Keating. Then they will reflect on what they learned, creating an artifact for their e-portfolio.

Grades three through five have been researching topics using print and online encyclopedias. Britannica Online School Edition Encyclopedia can be accessed from home by password through the Destiny library website, destiny.windhamsd.org. Through the same site, fifth grade students can access Noodletools to create bibliographies.

This month all grades will begin keyboarding instruction, with weekly practice, as part of the library curriculum. We will begin with home row position and work on touch typing, progressing to the full keyboard. We will use "Type to Learn 4" software, an individualized tutorial with a "secret agent" theme. Our software package includes free home downloads of web-enabled Type to Learn 4 software for students. Students will have the option of having additional practice at home, and their progress can be saved to the Type to Learn website. This way, lessons that students complete at home will be integrated with their progress at school.

A Note From Music...

Third Grade

As the school year moves on, our third graders are continuing to learn more songs on their recorders. They are being reminded to blow gently and to cover the holes completely in order to produce a pleasant sound. They will be earning badges for each song they learn! They will be singing songs that reinforce math facts and their weather and western expansion units. They will also be experimenting with music composition by using a music software program called, "Groovy Jungle."

Fourth Grade

Our fourth graders are feeling very proud from their performance of recorder songs and the musical "Snow Biz." They will be soon be learning African drumming techniques that they will play along with their recorders. They will be learning how to play xylophones, met allophones and other pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments that will reinforce unity, reading and playing in an ensemble.

Fifth Grade

Our fifth graders will be composing music to go with artwork and poems they created in both music and art class. They will be continuing to learn how to play the piano and will use Finale notation software to create music to enhance our song writing. Speaking of composition, they will continue to learn about famous composers such as Vivaldi, Mozart and Beethoven. They will be learning a "Rap of the Presidents" that some classes may even perform for you! They will be learning songs from the "Broadway Junior Collection of School House Rock Live" which they will perform for you on **Wednesday, May 25th at 9:30AM at the Windham High School in the auditorium!** All students have the wonderful opportunity of being involved in this performance!

Yearbook Information...

Show your school spirit and be a part of the Windham Center School's yearbook. The yearbook will represent all three grades. We have representatives from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade to include all of Center School's experiences. The last day to order a Yearbook will be March 1st.

Order forms have gone home. Yearbooks will be \$20.00 each. Buy your books now. We will accept cash or checks made out to Windham Center School. If you haven't ordered yours today-please do. Last day to order is March 1st. All books are in color this year.

A Note From Art...

Third graders at Windham Center School have been finishing up some of the projects dealing with art elements. They completed a parallel line picture of a flower done with markers: the flower was drawn first in pencil, then a series of parallel lines were drawn across the paper in different colors of marker for each section of the flower. When the parallel lines were finished the pencil lines were erased leaving just the lines to show the shape of the petals. The next element project was a cool/warm puzzle picture. A silhouette was drawn in the center of a paper with grid lines drawn over it to the edges of the piece. Any space inside the silhouette was colored a cool color and all spaces outside the silhouette were colored warm colors. Both of these projects have been hung in the hallways at school and are being sent home after they have been displayed for about a week. The third graders are very excited to be starting a project of clay faces. Many older brothers and sisters still have this project at home and the students are looking forward to getting their hands into the clay.

The fourth grade classes have been working on drawings similar to the prehistoric cave paintings found in Chauvet and Lascaux in France. Students first prepared a large piece of brown paper with watercolors to simulate a rock wall. They then studied some of the paintings from the caves to learn what was important for the original artists. We discussed drawing animals using simple lines that could imitate the chunks of charcole that were used by the original artists. When the paintings were dry, fourth graders used oil crayons and paper towels to draw animals on their cave walls. Though they are irregular shapes, these papers are on display in the schools halls.

Fifth graders have been busy in art for the past month. The classes have all been divided in half, with half the class studying perspective and drawing a Greek peristyle, and the other half using computers and creating a HyperStudio presentation combining art, music, and poetry. Each week the students switch. The creation of the peristyle has taken some time but students are starting to be able to see how the perspective technique gives the illusion of depth to their papers. The art section of the HyperStudio project will be completed the end of the week of February 4th, when Mrs. Fothergill will be taking over the direction of the music and poetry components. When completed these HyperStudio stacks will be uploaded to the students' Moodle pages as one of their artifacts.

Beginning on January 24th, fifth grade students will be working with tile artist Rob Rossel of Symmetry Tile Works in Epping to create a mural for the school. Mr. Rossel and his crew will be working with the students in the cafeteria each morning for one week during their regular art time. During the first week each student will complete a tile that will be used in the mural. The second week will happen in February, when the Symmetry Tile Works crew will return to Center School to teach students how to mix glazes and apply the colors to their tiles. During our April vacation, barring too many winter storms, the group will return to install the mural on the wall at the intersection of the third grade and office hallways.



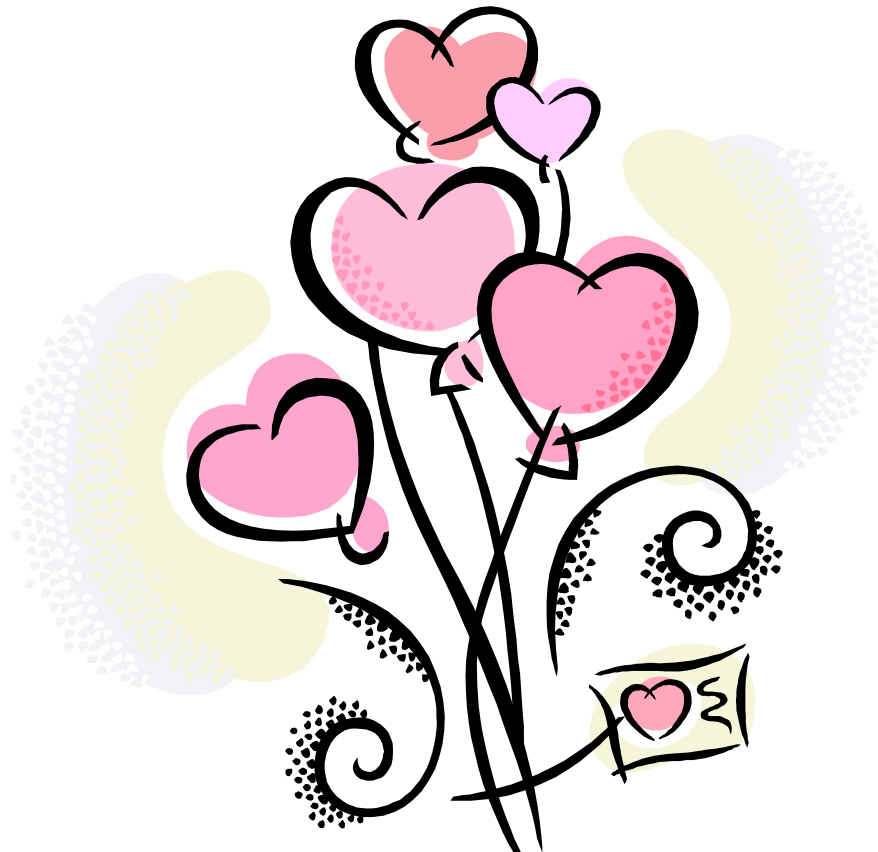
A Note From PE ...

On February 14th, WCS will again participate in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart Day. Throughout the month, Physical Education classes will not only be jumping rope but learning the importance of good heart health. We will concentrate on the importance of exercise and how this improves one's heart. We will also be using materials provided by the AHA that will inform students on the effects of smoking and exactly what happens when one has a stroke. If you would like to volunteer for our day to come help swing ropes and participate in the fun, please contact the PTA for information.

This is also a great opportunity for students to give back in the fight against heart disease. Information will be sent home with students on helping the AHA by raising funds for this cause. WCS has again, due to the generosity of the community, to be given a first place award for the most funds raised this past year through our Jump Rope for Heart, Hoops for Heart and Hockey for Heart programs. We feel this program is a wonderful way for students to not only jump for their own hearts, but also to help others in return. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Joni Matthews or Marge Leahy. Thank you in advance for your support!

A Note From the Nurse ...

The nurse's office has been quite busy of late with illness and other issues. Please remember that your child should stay at home until they are fever free for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications. There have been many students experiencing stomachaches, vomiting and diarrhea and others ill with sore throat and fevers. Also, Center School students are still having sporadic cases of head lice. Please check your children's heads frequently, especially if they are scratching and itching. Call the health office with any questions, 432-7962. Hand washing, drinking lots of fluids and covering coughs are always in season!!! Stay warm and healthy during this frigid weather!!!



*On Tuesday February 15th and Wednesday February 16th
Windham Center School
Invites you to dine with your child for a Valentine's Day Luncheon*



*Spaghetti with Meatballs
Homemade Garlic Breadsticks
Dark Green Garden Salad with Low fat Dressings
Cupids Midnight Chocolate Cake
Farm Fresh Milk*

DINING TIMES

Lunch Times for Parents Will be:

4th Grade ONLY on **Tues** will be 12:35-1:10pm

5th Grade ONLY on **Tues** will be 11:55-12:30pm

3rd Grade ONLY on **Wed** will be 12:35-1:10pm

Adults \$3.00 and Siblings \$1.90

All payments will be paid at the door please do not send in payment with your child.

February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14  Valentine's Day Parties	15 <i>Valentine's Day Lunch</i> 4 th grade 12:35-1:10 5 th grade 11:55-12:30	16 <i>Valentine's Day Lunch</i> 3 rd grade 12:35-1:10	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
FEBRUARY VACATION						
27	28					

2011