

January

2011

Principally Speaking....

Dear Windham Center School Community,

We hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy, happy, and ready for the New Year! The New Year is a time to reflect on all that has happened in the past year and plan for the upcoming year. As we reflect on 2010, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve Windham Center School. We are proud of the work we are doing and honored to work with such dedicated staff, students, parents and community members.

We've had much to celebrate in December. One memorable event was our grade 5 "Gingerbread House" activity. Students enjoyed building their own gingerbread houses and we were so impressed with the creativity that went into each and every one. Thanks so much to the teachers and volunteers who helped to make this a success! Another special event in December was the visit by the Windham Middle School Select Band and Chorus. The entire Center School Community came together to enjoy a concert by this talented group of Windham students.

In January, there are many events that are certain to be memorable as well. Of particular note are our Winter Concerts. We have our fourth grade recorder concert on January 20th; first year band/second year strings concert on January 25th, and first year strings concert on January 26th. These concerts will take place at WCS. Our second year band/third year strings concert will take place at WHS on January 27th. We are looking forward to a new year of amazing student performances!

We wish all of you a Happy New Year, and we look forward to all of the opportunities that come with it!

Sincerely,

Kori Alice Becht and Kathryn Bates

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2011

Keyboarding

The ability to keyboard is an important skill in today's computer based society. With this in mind, in January, Windham Center School will offer direct instruction in keyboarding to our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders through our library/media classes. The keyboarding curriculum will build critical 21st Century skills for students through an integrated cycle of review, demonstration, practice, assessment and reinforcement of skills. We are excited about this new opportunity and look forward to facilitating growth in this important skill.

Dates to Remember

- December 24-31: Winter Break
- January 3-Students and Staff return to school
- January- Artist in Residence begins to work with 5th graders
- January 11- Early Release Day
- January 17- No School
- January 20- Grade 4 Recorder Concert at WCS
- January 25- First Year Band/Second Year Strings Concert at WCS
- Author Kelly Milner Halls Visits WCS
- January 26- First Year Violin Concert at WCS
- January 27- Second Year Band/Third Year Strings Concert at WHS

WINDHAM

Windham Center School

A Note From Guidance ...



It is never too early to be thinking about college. On January 26, the 5th grade will be having a presentation on higher learning. A presenter from NHHEAF will be here to present an interactive game to get students thinking about middle school, high school and after high school plans.

Guidance Theme

The theme for December was Study Skills. The School Counselors visited all 5th grade classrooms to present some important tips on study skills and preparing for homework and test taking.

Fitness Boot Camp

Fitness Boot Camp Starts on Wednesday, January 10th - February 18th and will continue for six weeks on Mondays and Wednesdays. A bus will be available to take you to the facility. Please See Mrs. Lichtmann. The cost is \$59.00 per session.

Artist in Residence

5th graders will have a unique opportunity in the month of January. Artist Robert Rossel will be working with students to create a mosaic tile mural to be displayed in the entry way. This will hopefully become a 5th grade tradition and one that every student looks forward to.

District Wide Health Fair

Mark your calendars for the first annual District wide Health & Wellness Fair to be held on January 19th at Windham High School. Please come visit the many local businesses that offer health and wellness products or services. Representatives from many Windham businesses that offer exercise programs, nutrition counseling, physical therapy, pet support, dental and many more will be in attendance. Raffles and prizes will be offered as well as many discounts. The fair will be open from 7pm-8:30pm. Live demonstrations and interactive booths will be some of the highlights.

A Note From Grade 3...

Brrr! Our cool third graders have been keeping quite busy trying to warm up from our wintery weather! Thanks for remembering to bring those boots and snow pants so that we can enjoy our playground once!

We're writing our way through the winter with "how-to" paragraphs and learning the letters of the alphabet in cursive. Teamwork has been our reading theme as we skate through basal readers, more book clubs, and learning about different authors and their purpose.

Let's hear about math! Third graders are practicing those multiplication facts, and problem solving with division and fractions. How many third graders in our community are studying multiplication? (Hint: There are approximately 23 students in our third grade classrooms and there are 11 of those...)

We're warming up to learning about weather in science, including discussion on the water cycle and using weather instruments to predict and confirm the weather. Now the third graders can predict the weather as well as the meteorologists on TV!

A Note From Grade 4...

The fourth grade halls at Center School are filled with works of poetry, timelines, and graphs from excel programs. Our busy little elves are taking turns each day during this month of December to share Gifts of Kindness about each of their classmates. They are writing poetry about "When I was young at Christmas" and all of the holiday memories and traditions they have held onto in their short lives. We are currently studying decimals in mathematics as they learn to compare decimals through the thousandths. Using the Scientific model, we are discovering topics that range from life science- heredity and rock cycles to physical science-simple machines. In Social Studies, we continue to practice and review map skills, NH Government and geography. Daily Geo is a wonderful opportunity to practice resource skills, another reading skill in Theme 2. Always remember that homework is a study skill. Let's continue to work together to create lifelong learners. Enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends.

A Note From Grade 5...

Math

This month we will be focusing on a many topics in the Everyday Math Program. Division skills are being practice so it is important to know multiplication and division facts. We will also be focusing on Fractions. Students will be learning about equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, and ordering fractions. They will also be exploring the connections between decimals and fractions. It should be an interesting month.

Reading and Language Arts

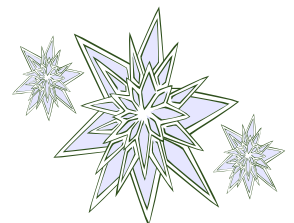
In Theme 3, *A Changing Planet*, we will be reading about the how changes effect the earth and all who live here. Some of the stories we will read will tell about the everglades, wildfires in Yellowstone Park, and the oceans. Some of the comprehension skills we will be focusing on are sequencing, identifying main ideas and details, & utilizing graphic aids. We also will be learning and practicing with pronouns and possessive nouns. Possessive nouns tend to be a challenging skill for students, but with practice it does get easier.

Science

Some of our fifth grade scientists will be learning about astronomy. They will be studying the basics of our solar system, and the relationships between the Earth, Sun, and Moon. Other fifth graders will be sharpening their Meteorological skills.

Social Studies

Students are busy studying the early historic events of our country. Learning about these and the 13 colonies are important to understand. We can then focus on the reasons why our founding fathers decided to form a new government and create this nation that we live in.



A Note From The Library...

In January grades three through five will begin keyboarding instruction 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.

Another web-enabled tool to which students have free access is the Pebble Go Animals and Earth and Space database. They used this tool to practice research and note-taking skills in the library during December. This resource may be accessed at PebbleGo.com with the username "windham" and the password "03087." This information-packed database is great for research on animals, weather, space, and earth sciences. It also is a great educational site for recreational browsing of information, photos, and video clips, and playing content-related games.

A Note From Music...

Third Grade

As the school year moves on, our third graders are going to be learning how to play more songs on their recorders. We are very excited about this! They are being reminded to blow gently and to cover the holes completely in order to produce a pleasant sound. They will be given practice sheets so that they can monitor the amount of time they are practicing at home. This unit will help the students learn how to read music and to prepare them for playing a band instrument in the future.

Fourth Grade

Our fourth graders are practicing the 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 that will take place in the gymnasium. This is a fun show that will include acting and choreography too! They will be practicing a challenging song to perform for you on their recorder in the concert that will take place here at WCS on **Thursday, January 20th at 9:30AM. Please mark your calendars!** More information will come with regard to the concert in the near future.

Fifth Grade

Our fifth graders will be composing music to go with artwork they created in art class with Mrs. Middleton. 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. 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 new Windham High School in the auditorium! All students have the wonderful opportunity of being involved in this performance!**

A Note From The Office...

Winter has arrived! We would like to remind parents to have the children dress appropriately. The students will have at least a five minute daily "fresh air" break. If students do not come to school with coats, snow pants and boots, they will not be allowed to go out for recess.

Yearbook Information...

The Yearbook Club will meet on Thursday, January 6th, 2011. Photographers please report to the café at 8am and computer design team, please meet in the Media Center after school until 4:15. Yearbooks can be ordered until the end of January for \$20.00. Please send in your orders soon.

A Note From Art...

Students in the third grades have been finishing up their Cuevas De Las Manos pictures. They studied the pre-historic cave paintings in Argentina, discussed how the people painted the hands, and then worked in chalk to replicate the ideas on large brown papers. Students have also been working on parallel line drawings, and warm/cool pictures. Both of these last two are projects from the New Hampshire Standards for Visual Arts, studying the elements of art.

Fourth graders have also been working on prehistoric drawings, this time from the caves at Lascaux and Chauvet, both in France. They started out preparing brown papers with watercolor and then will be using oil crayons to draw the types of prehistoric animals seen in the caves. Students have also been working on clay tiles illustrating insects.

The fifth grade students have been working on one point perspective drawings. They have studied the peristyles of Greek and Roman homes, and are working on designing their own courtyards in perspective. The computers are also being used in the fifth grades for a project done in cooperation with the music and science classes. Students are using Hyperstudio to create three cards that will illustrate the student's choice of a weather pattern. They will be drawing pictures of their chosen weather system, writing a poem, and creating a piece of music to accompany the cards.

A Note From PE ...

Over the past two months, the classes in Physical Education have spent a great deal of time learning the importance of living a healthy lifestyle. The students have participated in many activities have centered on nutrition and exercise. The four components of exercise, flexibility, strength, endurance and muscular endurance have been practiced and used in fun filled activities. Understanding the food groups and the significance of what each group does for the body has been a major focus in understanding wellness.

A Note From the Nurse ...

The health office has been a very busy place over the past few weeks. We are definitely into the flu season. I will be doing daily reporting to The Department of Health and Human Services on our staff and students who are having ILI (influenza like illness) symptoms. Please help us to do this by calling (432-7962) or e-mailing (wcsnurse@windhamsd.org) us each day of your child's absence and report their symptoms. We need to report any individual that is having a fever greater than 100 degrees, cough and sore throat.

Please remember that all staff and students should remain at home until they are fever free, without the use of fever reducing medications, for 24 hours. Also, students who have vomiting and/ or diarrhea should remain at home for 24 hours after symptoms resolve. Any student with a cough accompanied by phlegm production, sneezing and congestion should remain at home.

Lastly, if your student will require any type of prescription medication during the school day, the nurse will need written MD and parental permission to administer the medication.



Eat Breakfast !

Dear Center School Parents,

The Abbey Group is offering breakfast to students before school starting at 8:30. Breakfast will include one or more of the following choices daily: Cold cereal, bagel with cream cheese, or a fresh baked muffin.

Date: EVERYDAY

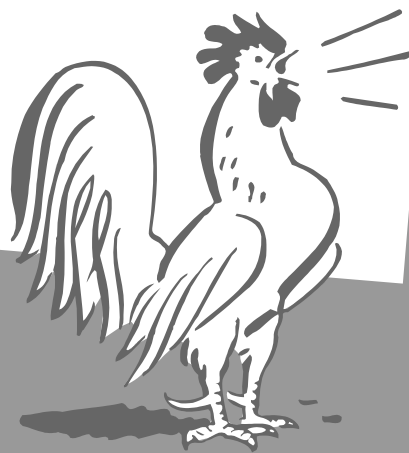
Time: Before the bell

Each Breakfast includes:

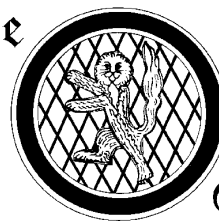
- . Farm Fresh Milk**
- . 100% fruit juice or fresh fruit**

Student \$.30/\$ 1.00

Adult \$ 1.75



The



**Abbey
Group**

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Early Release 12:00 dismissal	12	13	14	15
16	17 No School Martin Luther King, Jr Day	18	19	20 <i>Grade 4 Winter Concert</i> 9:30-10:30	21 End of 2 nd Quarter	22
23	24	25 Visiting Author, Kelly Milner Halls <i>1st yr Band/ 2nd yr Strings Concert</i> 7:00pm cafe	26 <i>1st yr Violin Concert</i> 7:00pm cafe	27 <i>2nd yr Band/ 2nd yr Stings Concert</i> 7:00pm <u>WHS</u>	28	29
30	31					

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