

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
March 2017

SAVE THE DATE:

IN SERVICE DAY FOR TEACHERS: March 24 (No school)

GARDEN CLUB! 1:45-2:45PM March 31, April 7 & 14

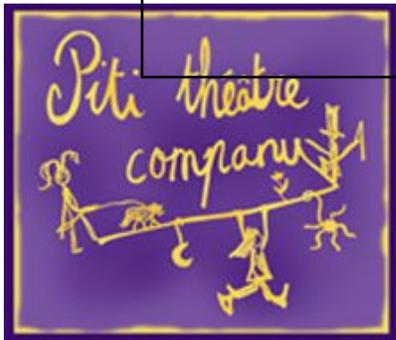
FAMILY FUN NIGHT: 5:30-7PM April 12

5:30-6pm: Pizza Supper for WCS Families

6-7pm: Piti Theatre presents "Sammy and the Grand Buffet"

APRIL VACATION: April 17-21 (No school)

MCAS2 TESTING BEGINS: April 25



**WCS and WARWICK ARTS COUNCIL present
PITI THEATRE COMPANY'S JONATHAN MIRIN in
"SAMMY AND THE GRAND BUFFET,"**

Wednesday, April 12th at 6 pm at Warwick Community School

It's an international-physical comedy for all ages - an American

clown in Paris, Sammy is woken up by a phone call from his boss. It's time to get things ready for the Grand Buffet. He does his best to follow the "to do" list but . . . it's not easy being Sammy. Forty five magic, music and accident-filled minutes later, the Grand Buffet may or may not be served to a group of hungry students from WCS who happen to be traveling in France. More at:

www.ptco.org/sammy

Critics respond to Jonathan's solo performance: "Mirin manages to find comedy in his struggle as he bounces between 20 different characters during this celebrated hour-long production."- *Boston Magazine* Supported in part by a grant from the Warwick Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



IT'S OFFICIALLY SPRING! Time to start planting!

Garden Club begins after school on Friday, March 31st. and continues on April 7th and 14th. We need a signed parent permission slip by the Tuesday prior to each meeting for every child planning to participate. (Call the office if you need another.) Every child will need a ride home, an extra snack, and their "grubbies" for workin' in the dirt.

THE WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL COUNCIL will reconvene this month to continue its fine work. This is an important group of parents, teachers, administration and Warwick community members that contributes to policy, governance, and the continuous improvement of our school. We will meet once a month after school. Please call Trish in the office, or speak with Elizabeth, if you would be willing to serve on our School Council.

OUR CLASSROOM BUZZ...

KINDERGARTEN and GRADE 1: As you know, it has been a tough couple of weeks for families, staff, and children and the town. Thank you so much for all of your support and understanding -- you are an amazing community. The children are still processing in various ways, but we have begun to settle back into the daily work routines. If you have any questions or concerns as families or that come up for your children, please let me know.



Children in the class have been working on a unit in non-fiction in writing. They have been writing to teach others. Now, each child has chosen an animal to study.

They are using video (thanks Mrs. Leyden!) and books to find out facts about their animals and learning to take notes. They will use these notes to write a teaching book.

We'll hold a publishing party so the children can share their books when we are finished.

I have begun teaching the children more about Antoni Gaudi, the architect I studied in Spain. We will be incorporating STEM building projects that use some of this architect's ideas in our science lessons. We will also be using data collection and graphing to help decide what special place in Warwick our bottle cap mosaic will depict. More on this later...

Ms. Allison White

GRADES 2 & 3: Over the next few weeks our class will be working to complete our informational writing unit. The students have truly immersed themselves in their topics, and their books are coming along great!

We have also been working on creating a coinciding powerpoint presentation on our topics in the computer lab. The students have been practicing doing keyword image searches to find images that match their topic and creating text boxes where they will write summary sentences for each chapter of their book. We are looking

forward to getting our publishing party on the calendar to share all of our hard work!



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Our class has taken some time to work on a small group math project; where groups decided on a topic they were interested in collecting data on, surveyed the other classrooms in the school, and are currently creating graphs to display the data. Be on the lookout for our graphs to be displayed up in the halls soon!

We continue to work hard exploring nonfiction books in reading as we fill up our reading logs to earn more pennies!



Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 4 & 5: Your children are amazing! We have held each other together through this long and emotional week. I just adore them and am so grateful for each and every one of them. I just want you to know that we are doing okay. We are taking a lot of body breaks, we are listening to music, we are laughing and joking with each other, and we are working hard on our school subjects as well.

We are planning a publishing party for our argument essays on Thursday, March 23 at 1:30. We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting unit's finale!

All of the students are beginning new math units on fractions (4th grade) and algebra (5th grade). The 5th grade will also continue to work on dividing decimals throughout the month. We will be spending some math time on MCAS open response questions as well. After April vacation we will be entering our final math unit on geometry.

We are studying colonial America and the thirteen original colonies in social studies through a simulation (like the Pilgrim one from last year) and act-it-outs as well as readings and discussions. Their explorer maps and projects were very well done. The maps showed quite the improvement over the Viking one! We have one more map to go for the year.



We are kicking off electricity and circuits next week, too.

We will be exploring conductors and insulators as well as series and parallel circuits. In addition, we will be exploring circuitry with the items we have received for our makerspace. This past week we had a take-a-part lesson and learned about circuit boards and the way our household electronics work.

In second step we will be reading the book *Wonder* with Beth, our counselor, to discuss differences and disabilities, as well as bullying.

Again, thank you for all of your support and your amazing children. Please let me know if there is anything you think we should be aware of here at school or if you need help or advice in this difficult time.

Please take note of our modified tutoring schedule which changes from week to week. Let me know if you need another copy of the schedule.

Ms. Christine Mullen

GRADE 6: It's been quite a busy month in 6th grade! In math we have completed our algebra unit on expressions and equations and are now learning how to find the volume of three-dimensional figures. We are simultaneously working on an additional unit on data and statistics in which students are computing mean, median, mode, range, and mean standard deviation.

Students are continuing work on their Google Slide presentations on their countries of study. In addition to learning about physical features, climate, and political history, they are using Google Sheets to create double bar graphs related to population statistics and import them into their slides. They are likewise doing the same with creating pie charts that show the percentages of the different religions represented in the countries that they are researching. Ultimately, they will work on their verbal presentation skills as they share their Google Slides with the rest of the class.



We're forging ahead with human body systems in science, short nonfiction texts in reading, and will soon be learning to craft compare and contrast essays in writing.

Hillside Pizza and Cookie Dough Fundraiser Updates: Thank you to everyone who supported the 6th grade fundraiser through your purchases and donations! 73 units were sold and we raised about \$765! Since Hillside is donating their share of the proceeds to the Seago fund, this money will go a long way! **Ms. Lynn Hansell**



MUSICAL NOTES It's difficult to believe that spring is only a few days away, with the sharp winter wind blowing in over a foot of snow! Both grade 6 and the 4/5 class will be leaving Europe, where we sang in French, Italian, German and Russian, and heading off to Japan for the cherry blossom festival. We'll learn Sakura, which is about the cherry blossoms, and we will compose in a pentatonic scale of our own choosing. Then we will add a simple ostinato to our piece, similar to one we learned in St Basil's Hymn (from Greece). The 2/3 class continues to inspire and amaze me with their practice and persistence on the recorder. They can play Hot Cross Buns and Juba, and are adding right hand fingering to learn the note E. The difficulty increases, but I think they are up to the challenge! K/1 is singing seasonal songs, exploring rhythm instruments, playing music games and dancing together. Once again we created Aiken Drum from fruits and vegetables, and sent an anonymous woman

flying down a mountain in scratchy red pajamas. We are finding comfort in the familiar patterns of singing, playing and dancing together. **Ms. Kim Wallach, Music**



ART WORKS! The students have been hard at work creating their recycled mini golf obstacles in the art room! They have had one opportunity to test their creations in PE class and now will refine and decorate their designs in the art room. We will combine all the obstacles to make one giant mini golf course in a couple of weeks and have a school wide tournament. Thank you to everyone who donated recycled building materials! **Ms Hope Phelan, Art**



TECH NEWS

Here's a brief summary of the digital literacy projects that students have been working on at WCS!

Kindergarten and Grade 1: Students refined their digital artistry skills using KidPix while representing the artistic style of Eric Carle using solids and patterns to create their own Very Hungry Caterpillar illustrations.

Modeling the popular children's story, [If You Give a Mouse a Cookie](#) by [Laura Joffe Numeroff](#), students created their own video version of this story entitled [If You Give a Giraffe a Piece of Steak](#). This video can be viewed using the link posted on the WCS homepage.

In addition to the above, we have also introduced students to coding using a website called Kodable, offering a K-1 Code Club session during choice time on Monday afternoons.

Grade 2 and 3: Students completed a Scratch programming unit that culminated in programming engaging geometric designs using regular polygons.

More recently, grade 2 and 3 students have been working on turning their personal choice research projects into stunningly beautiful Google Slides presentations.

Grade 4 and 5: Students applied their problem solving skills to program video quiz games using Scratch with quiz questions based on their research of world explorers.

Students are currently learning to use Thinglink, an image annotation tool, to document what they are learning about the 13 colonies

Grade 6: Students explored their marketing know how to design and program a video game for a specific target audience. These games will be "tried out" and "evaluated" by the age groups of WCS students for whom the game was designed.

More recently Grade 6 students have continued their study of Digital Citizenship exploring the topics of efficient and effective use of a search engine and Copyright and Fair Use.

Ms. Mary Leyden

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Our WCS band students are busy preparing for our District Band Concert to be held on June 6th. Our audience will be treated to some marches, lyrical ballads, a patriotic piece, and more! More detailed information will be sent home to band parents soon. Mark your calendars, Tues., June 6th at 7:00!



READERS' CORNER!

Make Family Reading More Enjoyable by Inviting Other Families to Join You!

Reading and sharing stories not only promotes literacy and an overall love of books, it also builds strong relationships. When you expand the activity to include other families, you encourage your kids and their friends to associate reading with fun, especially when you turn club meetings into parties complete with treats and activities that bring to life the books you and your kids are reading.



A family reading club can also improve communication by using the featured book as a springboard for discussion.

There's no end to the insights and feelings that can flow from a fun read. Parents can use stories to teach valuable lessons and offer solutions to the kinds of conflicts we all face. And kids are more likely to take those lessons to heart if they come in the form of interesting and appealing stories. Have fun! **Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist**

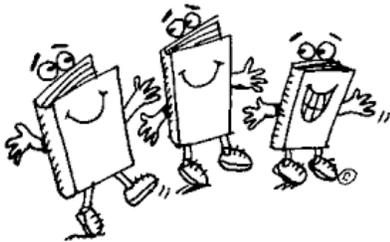


PHYS ED! PE class has been an exciting place! Students have put their art creations to the test by checking to see if the mini golf courses they created in art with Ms. Phelan need some more work or if they are well on their way! The

combined unit of mini golf with Art and PE has allowed students to be creative while using their project as a way of learning a new lifetime skills of mini golf (putting). The next couple of weeks will sure be fun to see what the final golf courses turn out to look like.

Thank you for helping your child remember their sneakers on Thursday. We will soon be outside; please, snow.....melt! I look forward to activities such as t-ball, baseball, softball, backyard games, track and field and cooperative games during the next couple of months. Think Spring!

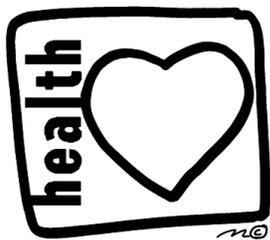
Ms. Sue Scott



LIBRARY LEARNING! We are lucky to have such a wonderful library. We have a great selection of books, and if you have not done so already, I encourage you to come see for yourself! Families are allowed to borrow books, and I am here from 9 - 10:30AM, and 1:30 - 3PM if you want to stop in. During library time with the

students, I try to encourage them to explore their own interests. I remind them that I can get any book they desire through an 'interlibrary loan'. Our library is able to access materials from a resource sharing consortium called CW MARS. The consortium consists of hundreds of public, academic, school and special libraries. C/W MARS offers a shared online computer system and combined collections of more than nine million items. Families also have access to this resource with a library card. You can start this journey by visiting your local library, and here <http://www.cwmars.org/>. Whether for leisure, or for research, navigating books, libraries, and the various other resources and services libraries offer, are important and fundamental skills for the next generation of information consumers.

Erika Nygard, Librarian



HEALTH NEWS! March is National Nutrition Month. The theme for 2017 is "Put Your Best Fork Forward". Be sure to check out the website: www.eatright.org for recipes, tip sheets, videos, and great information to assist you and your family to make healthy food choices. A tip sheet will be sent home next week for you to explore. Try something new!

Ms.

Suzanne Linden, WCS Nurse



AND SOMETIMES WE JUST HOLD ON TIGHT