

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

April & May 2018

So much fun - so little time! **MARK the DATE!**

WCS PTO MEETING: 3pm May 7

PTO PANCAKE BREAKFAST & 6th GRADE CARWASH: May 19

ELEMENTARY SPRING BAND CONCERT: 7pm June 5 at PVRs

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU & FAMILY PICNIC: 12pm June 7

WCS FIELD DAY: 12:30-3pm June 7

ALL SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT & GRADUATION: 6pm June 20

MT. GRACE STUDENT, STAFF & FAMILY HIKE: 9am June 21

ALL-SCHOOL SPRING CONCERT & 6th GRADE GRADUATION!

Please join us in the WCS Gymnasium at 6pm on June 21st to celebrate and send off our graduates and enjoy the marvelous vocal performance of all our talented students, who have been practicing their songs for weeks!



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SPRING BAND CONCERT! This year's PVRSD Elementary Band Concert will be held on June 5th at 7:00 in Pioneer's auditorium. Our musicians have been working hard to learn some challenging repertoire. We hope that you'll come out to join us for this evening of music.

EVERYONE LOVES PANCAKES! (and shiny cars!!) Saturday, May 19th, will be our annual PTO Pancake Breakfast and 6th Grade Car Wash!!! PTO has planned a delicious breakfast and some fun activities for students. PTO is still looking for volunteers, so if you can help please contact the school or a PTO member. Thanks for your support!



DRESSING FOR COMFORT, LEARNING AND FUN! As our spring fashion unfolds at WCS, a few quick reminders that we dress for comfort, but also for safety and consideration of others. Please no clothing with rude, provocative, or unkind words. No spaghetti straps, shorty-shorts, or underwear garments exposed. Sneakers are always best for our playground. Flip-flops are never allowed and backless sandals are not allowed on the play structure.

FIELD DAY AND FAMILY PICNIC: Noon-3 PM June 7th

We will kick off our Field Day with a Volunteer Thank you Picnic and hope family members will join us. Parents and younger siblings will be able to purchase school lunch or bring their own and join us for lunch outside (weather permitting!) and then cheer us on at our Field Day fun and games! Watch for a notice with more details coming home after Memorial Day!



FIELD TRIPS GALORE! All WCS classes are taking Field Trips this spring. The field trip experience is an exciting, and memorable part of elementary school. And we are very fortunate in these times of desperately tight school budgets, to still be able to make this experience possible for our children. I want to thank our PTO, Parents, and Student Activities for providing the necessary funding, as well as our Teachers and Parents for driving and chaperoning. Without you, we simply could not manage to fly our coop and visit the world!

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL SCHOLARS: All our students in Grades 3-6 have completed their ELA MCAS tests! More challenges ahead with Math and Science. Extra kudos! to the scholars who stayed after school for MCAS coaching with Mr. Ziniti and Ms. Musgrave.

PLANNING AHEAD: 2018 MCAS TESTING DATES

- Math: May 10 - 18
- Science: May 22 & 23 (grade 5 only)

THE CLASSROOM BUZZ... KINDERGARTEN and PRESCHOOL:

In the multi-age classroom, we have begun to learn about how plants grow. Children will be planting seeds and flowers. They have collected seeds from things that they eat and I and some parents have purchased seeds. We will sort these seed by different attributes, and already did an experiment about seeds that float and why they float. I hope to grow some flowers to share with people in the community.

With this animal loving crew, we had to add in life cycles of frogs and other spring creatures due to interest. The class collected the most box tops this month and the PTO has agreed to purchase a small creature keeper for the class for a prize. We are hoping take care of some tadpoles and watch them grow and maybe a snail or worm or two. We will learn what they need to live and grow and take care of them, then let them go back to the wild.

We can't believe it is already May!! End of year plans are in the works. More information on events specific to our class will be coming soon. **Ms. Allison White**



GRADES 1 and 2 The first and second graders are currently exploring balance and motion in science. In this unit the big scientific words that we focus on are *rotation, force, weight, counterbalance and stable position*. If you get a chance to chat with a first or second grader ask them to try to balance something and explain to you how they got it in a stable position. We'll end this unit by going on a field trip to the Children's Museum at Holyoke to explore all the exhibits of the museum but hopefully have an extra focus on their *World of Motion Room*.

We are currently working on finishing up our opinion writing unit. In this unit we wrote letters to other readers about books we loved. Our final project for this unit was creating our own Reading Rainbow style video with one of our letters. We're looking forward to sharing these videos with family members soon! We'll be moving into our poetry unit soon, which will coincide nicely with our spring weather!

In reading, first and second graders have really been practicing getting to know their characters and then becoming them as they read. As you listen to first and second grade students read, I hope you can hear the hard work that they're putting into becoming their characters and using appropriate voices for different feelings. Towards the end of the month we'll put all of this practice into action as we start to work on a classroom play!

It's an exciting start to spring in our classroom and we're looking forward to all the learning still to come!!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs

GRADES 3 and 4: The year may be winding down but our classroom projects and activities are just getting started!

The 3rd and 4th graders are working on a huge regions and states project to wrap-up our yearlong study of the Regions of the United States. Both projects are interwoven and will be ongoing from now until the end of the year. We will be presenting these projects during a "state fair" in early June. Keep on the lookout for additional information.

We have worked very hard to complete our math units before our math MCAS in mid-May. We are currently studying geometry and focusing on all of its unique vocabulary. We will be hosting a geometry vocabulary parade on May 25 at 2:15pm. All are welcome to attend and check out our amazing costumes while learning a whole new language, the language of geometry! Our culminating math project for the end of the year will be to create a 3D geometry city.

Our class was lucky enough to receive full funding for a Donor's Choose project this past month. All open projects on Donor's Choose (a crowdfunding website for public schools) were funded in full by private donors and corporations in early April. Our class had an open project, to obtain Ozobots for our math



studies. We now have a full classroom set of color reading, line following robots that we have used to enhance our study of area and perimeter as well as geometry.

During science we have been studying sound and how it travels. We have created paper cup phones and done experiments with ropes and balloons to study sound waves. With the arrival of warm weather, we are anxious to begin our last science unit on rocks and minerals.

In March and April we spent a great deal of time getting ready for the ELA MCAS. We became expert essay writers. We are now pros at stating a claim and backing it up with evidence and comparing and contrasting stories. We will end the year with some fun poetry activities and book clubs in addition to our end of the year reading and math assessments.

Ms. Christine Mullen

GRADES 5 and 6: We just had the amazing opportunity to participate in a STEM Education Day sponsored by Citgo at Fenway Park!

It was the perfect culmination to a year of focus on STEM education and projects within our classroom. One of the events at Fenway was the Egg Drop Competition. Each school got to enter one "apparatus" designed to protect a raw egg from a 37' 2" fall from The Green Monster. Our students worked hard to devise creative solutions, which we tested in our gym. One was made from a foam football, some used Tupperware or to-go containers with foam in them, some used sponges, all used bubble wrap, and packing tape was liberally applied. Traffic kept us from arriving in time for the Egg Drop at Fenway, but we have decided to do our own from the Tower on Mt. Grace on our final day hike! Of course, our trip to Fenway Park included a baseball game, Red Sox vs Kansas City Royals!

Our Red Sox triumphed! The perfect end to a terrific day!

We had such a great time and want to thank all of the parents who drove and chaperoned. We couldn't have done it without you and it was so much more fun to share the time together!

6th Grade Car Wash!! The car wash is on again this year! Come to the PTO Pancake Breakfast and get your car washed as well! \$5 for exterior wash and \$3 for interior vacuuming, cleaning and window washing. Funds raised will go towards the 6th grade trip and class gift. **Ms. Lynn Hansell**

If School Were More Like Baseball
by Kenn Nesbitt

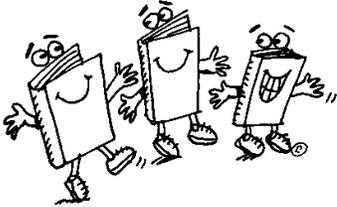
If school were more like baseball
we'd only have to play.
We'd hang out in the sunshine
and run around all day.
We wouldn't have to study.
We'd practice and we'd train.
And, best of all, they'd cancel
whenever there was rain.

GROWING READERS! Reading Tips from Kids!

- Let kids pick out their own books.
- Set goals and reward reading.
- Make sure your kids see you read.
- Make reading together fun and memorable.



Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist



LIBRARY LEARNING! The library has a nice selection of new books! It is so exciting to see them fly off the shelf at library time! We also have had a large collection of Roald Dahl books, new and squeaky clean, and several new Dork Diaries books donated. These have been immensely popular! After reading passages out of several of Dahl's books, we have a new group of fans here at WCS as these too have flown off the shelves these past few weeks. So fun!

Last year I created a graphic novel section in the library. These books are very popular, especially amongst reluctant readers. The most popular books have been the Wimpy Kid series and Dork Diaries, closely followed by Raina Telgemeier. This year's new genre section is a historical fiction section. Several students have shown great interest in this genre recently, especially books relating to WWII. Although I do not intend genre-fying the entire library, it has been easier for students to find books when placed on display under 'Science Fiction' or 'Mystery'.

As great as it is to see books fly off the shelves, in a few weeks I may begin to send home notes to try to make sure they all are returned by the end of the school year. I encourage families to watch out for information about summer reading programs, and look out for events held at your local public library. This is a great way to keep students engaged with good reading habits and prevent that 'summer slide', when students can lose some of the reading skills they've gained.

Ms. Erika Nygard, Librarian

DIGITAL LEARNING!

Allison's PreK and K students have been working with Wixie, our very favorite online drawing tool, to illustrate a collectively written Earth Story in which a reindeer with a bad habit learns an important lesson about the impact littering on his woodland friends and the home they share.

Kristyn's Grade 1 and 2 students have just wrapped up filming another green screen project. This one is modeled after the popular TV show "Reading Rainbow" in which children encourage others to read a favorite book. Look for a posting of this project to the WCS homepage in the upcoming week.

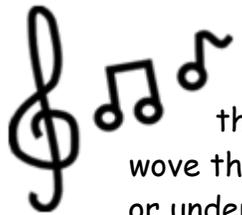
In addition to filmmaking, grade 1 and 2 students have also been introduced to Prodigy, an engaging adaptive math practice website filled with wizards that work to solve challenging problems at the "just right" level for each student.

Mrs. Mullen's Grade 3 and 4 are currently conducting research and collecting images for a green screen video project that will take their audience on a trip through the regions of the United States. This project will also be posted to the WCS homepage later in May.

Mrs. Hansell's Grade 5 and 6 has been learning about the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and have been using a website called Free Rice that rewards users for learning languages and world facts by donating 10 grains of rice to the WFP for every quiz question correctly answered. So far our efforts have resulted in the donation of more than 25,000 grains of rice!

Ms. Mary Leyden, Digital Learning Coach

MUSICAL NOTES! The warm weather has finally arrived, making us want to



dance with joy! That's what we did today around the May Pole. The PK/K danced around the pole, winding and then unwinding the ribbons, waving them and observing the rainbow of colors as they wrapped. The 1/2 class wove the ribbons for the first time, challenged by remembering whether to go over or under next, staying behind the same person the whole time, and keeping their ribbon the right length. The 3/4 class undertook the 3 dimensional group problem solve of unwinding after weaving most of the pole. With much discussion, and some intervention from me, they did it! 5/6 wove and undid the weaving independently!

Coming up: patriotic songs for Memorial Day, the choosing of songs for the joint graduation/spring concert set for June 20th at 6pm, our May listen and color to Aaron Copland's Appalachian Spring, and a review of everything we've learned this year - repertoire, recorders and rhythm writing, to highlight a few. Hope to see you all on June 20th!

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music



PHYS ED IS A HAPPENING THING! After a very long winter, we are finally outside for PE class. Students have recently learned the "fair" rules of kickball! This will help so that everyone understands if they choose to play during recess. We will finish the year with wiffle-ball, track and field, tennis, and lawn games. A peek at some favorite

PE activities: Snake Pit....students work together to get to the opposite side of the gym while sharing equipment and not being able to touch the floor.

*****Field Day** is Thursday June 7th. Students need to bring a change of clothes (there will be some water activities), appropriate footwear (sneakers.) Please remember to apply sunscreen before school. Thank you! **Ms. Sue Scott, PE**



ARTWORKS! In the art studio we have been exploring printmaking and spring related projects. There are many different printmaking styles and techniques. Over the course of your child's elementary school art education, they will be exposed to multiple techniques.

5th and 6th graders looked at examples of Islamic tiles and tile designs that when pieced together to create further designs. Students planned out a carefully measured symmetrical design, transferred them on to a carving block to make a relief printing block. Relief printmaking is traditionally a carving on wood or later a linoleum block, inked and printed. We are using a material called EZ cut. It feels like an eraser, and is fun to carve. We are carefully using linoleum carvers to carve our blocks. Most students have now completed an artist proof to see where they need to make changes. Our tile designs are printed 4-16 times, showing repetition and in many cases making new designs where the corners meet.

3rd and 4th grade made collagraphs as a printmaking project. A collagraph is similar to a collage and can be made by gluing cardboard or found materials to make a low relief design. We used foam shapes to design and construct a symmetrical design. We also water-colored paper to use as our printing surface. Once our paper and collagraphs were dry, we printed our blocks four times on our watercolor paper, turning our block each time to keep the center of our blocks consistent. This resulted in a radial symmetrical design. The results are stunning. We have mounted them on backgrounds and added minor hints of oil pastels for color.

1st and 2nd graders also used forks to stamp spring flowers. Using forks stamped in paint and construction paper, they put made a spring still life of flowers in a vase on a table. We completed our still life with oils pastels, adding patterns to the vase and table cloth. First and second graders also explored stamping for their printmaking lesson. Using corrugated cardboard and found objects (legos, caps, etc) we stamped symmetrical compositions with black tempera paint. The following week, we added further details and color with oil pastels. First and second graders also spent a day trying their hand at relief printmaking. This is traditionally done by carving into a woodblock with ink rolled on the block. We used styrofoam pieces and markers to make miniature relief printmaking delights. This past week, first and second graders were especially excited to work with clay, making pinch pot tea cups. We learned how to make a pinch pot, slip and score to attach clay pieces together and add texture to our work.

Preschool and Kindergarten students have explored a variety of stamping techniques. We viewed artwork by artist, Sonia Delaunay. She is best known for the abstract paintings with bold colors and many, many circles. Pre-k and kindergarten artists used a variety of circle objects to stamp lots of circles. We used marker caps, lids, paper towel tubes, etc. to achieve many different sized

circle. We overlapped and stamped circles within circles. The following week, we added color with oil pastels. A second stamping activity with this group was stamping spring flowers with paint and forks.

The Foundation for Educational Excellence (FEE) has graciously supported a grant to fund clay projects for all students at both Warwick Community School. A huge thank you to FEE for funding this project. Each student will have opportunity to make a sculpture in clay.

Ms. Hillary Ferro, Art



HEALTH NOTES! Help your child be active every day.

An hour of activity every day will help your child grow up healthy.

An active child:

- Does better in school, at solving problems and thinking creatively
- Feels better about themselves and gets along well with other kids
- Has more confidence when playing games and sports
- Sleeps better at night
- Maintains a healthy weight and grows strong bones and muscles

Keep your child safe.

- Always provide proper sport and safety equipment for your child - helmets, elbow pads, and knee pads, etc.
- Be a role model by wearing protective gear when you are active.

Help your child be more active. Make physical activity a daily part of family life.

- Be a role model and set a positive example. Children want to do what you do.
- Take family walks after dinner, walk the family pet together, take weekend bike rides or play active games together.
- Find out what your child likes to do or learn and then help them do it.
- Practice skills with your child. Ask your child to show you what they learned. Play together as a family. Praise their progress. Encouragement helps your child stick with an activity and try new ones.
- Choose activities and games appropriate for your child's age and abilities. Take them to places where children can be active and provide ideas, games and equipment that encourage active play.
- Limit the use of computers/TVs/portable electronics
- If it's safe, let your child walk or bike to school.
- Keep it fun! Encourage your child to play sports or games with friends.

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2009 » Go to Mass.gov/MassInMotion for more information

Ms. Suzanne Linden, School Nurse



WELCOME SPRING!!

