

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal

October 2017

MARK the DATE!

TEACHER IN-SERVICE: Oct. 27 (No School)

WCS FALLFEST!: 12:30-2:30 Oct. 31

PTO MEETING: Nov. 6

VETERAN'S DAY: Nov. 10 (No School)

ALL-SCHOOL MEETING: 9am Nov. 16

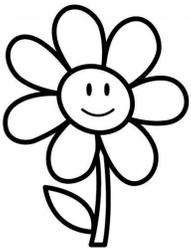


WCS FALLFEST! is Tuesday, Oct. 31st! Our entire school will spend the afternoon outdoors enjoying the fall with buddies and a variety of learning challenges. Parents and younger siblings are always welcome!

THE WCS ANNUAL PASTA SUPPER is THIS Saturday at 5pm!!

This fundraiser is sponsored by our PTO to support enrichment programs and projects, field trips, and celebrations for our children.

A full and delicious meal (including pasta, beverage, salad, bread and apple crisp) is only \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 yrs. Children five and under are free. Our sign-ups were a little sparse this year, which means there is plenty of food and space for "walk-ins." We hope every WCS family will be there to support our students and enjoy a yummy dinner with friends!



SUCH A LOVELY SIGHT! Have you noticed the colorful mums under our school sign and the lovely garden just beyond? Barbara Walker and Tracy Kirley have put a great deal of time and energy into beautifying the entrance to our school grounds and creating a garden to honor the Seago family. Take a few moments to look, breathe, and appreciate the lovely sight. Our thanks to Barbara and Tracey for their thoughtful gift!

PTO NEWS: PTO welcomes new members. Please join us if you can -3pm on the first Monday of every month! Please continue to collect the Box Tops. PTO will collect bags and sheets of Box Tops on October 26th to award the classroom prize. Please be sure to label bags of Box Tops with grade/classroom, so that your child's class gets credit for them!



HALLOWEEN is a lot of fun when celebrated with friends and neighbors. Please note, however, that WCS does not celebrate Halloween. Even during holidays like Halloween, we are trying hard to maintain our focus on learning. Thank you for not sending your child to school with costume or accessories, candy, cupcakes, or other sweets.



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE The Academic Excellence Parent Working Group at the Pioneer Valley Regional School invites you to attend a **COMMUNITY FORUM 6:30 to 7:30 PM NOVEMBER 6, in the Warwick Community School Library** to discuss proposed changes to our graduation requirements. We will share information about our goals for college and career readiness and data on Pioneer's current strengths and opportunities for growth. Your children will be ready for Middle school sooner than you think and we are excited to share our vision for the future of PVRs. **Ms. Jean Bacon, Principal**

THE CLASSROOM BUZZ... **KINDERGARTEN** and **PRESCHOOL** students have been working hard at learning reading, writing, phonics, handwriting, math, listening, social skills, about community helpers and the weather. We are certainly stretching our brains every day!

We are building a strong classroom and school-wide learning community. I have introduced the concept of Growth Mindset and will be working toward fostering that throughout our year. Here is a link that describes what that means and how you can help at home: <https://www.mindsetkit.org/>

We have also begun taking Friday science walks. We will be learning about our environment and community during this time. We also learn about being positive, safe learners outside of our classroom. Keep an eye out in the community for signs of our walks-- we are working on a surprise for you!

Ms. Allison White



GRADES 1 and 2: First and Second grade has started our first writing unit of the year, sharing personal stories from our life. The children are already writing such strong pieces, but as our unit progresses we will be working on adding detail through dialogue and feelings as we stretch our small moments our bit by bit.

We recently finished a social studies unit on leadership. In this unit we studied the qualities that make a good leader and practiced ways that we can be leaders in our everyday lives. The children became experts at spotting leadership qualities in the characters of our read-alouds. These are topics and skills that we will carry through our year and continue to revisit.

We just began a new science unit using Mystery Science. In this unit we will be studying the earth's surface and the way that weather and other natural events can change the earth.

In both math and reading our first and second graders are making gains by the day! Everyone is working hard to build their math fluency within 10 and 20 and practice showing their thinking on paper. We are also building strong reading habits and skills to help ourselves as readers as we continue to grow within our just right reading levels.

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs



GRADES 3 and 4: Things are really moving along in 3rd and 4th grade now that we are in the seventh week of school! We have finished all of our beginning of the year assessments and have created classroom rules.

We have also been working hard to build our classroom community.

In math we have been working on adding and subtracting large numbers (3-digit numbers in 3rd grade and up to 6-digit numbers in 4th grade). We are really enjoying our math stations where we play math games with friends and use technology to enhance our learning.

In reading, we have been building up our reading stamina and can now read for 20-30 minutes uninterrupted. The children have been setting reading goals each time they start reading and are happily reporting that they read 15-25 pages most days at reading. They are also devouring the series books that we have in our classroom library.

In science, we are studying the human body systems and adaptations. We have been learning about how our eyes work, the way that signals are carried to our brains, and the way that our skeletal system works. We will be expanding on this topic to cover the way animals use their body systems to adapt to their environments.

We are looking forward to displaying scarecrows at Bernardston's Scarecrow in the Park Festival on Oct. 21 and 22. With the kind help of Tracy Kirley, Myndi and Mallory Elwood, Pamela Prue, Laura Stephens, and Lisa Rhodes we have made scarecrows that represent our school community. Come out and see them on display at the festival.

Ms. Christine Mullen



GRADES 5 and 6: As we kick off our school-wide theme of "Digging Deeper" this year, the 5th and 6th grade will literally be digging deeper! Our next science unit will be to revisit what we have previously learned about decomposers and composting as we prepare our two garden composting bins for a longer term study. Many of our families and community members already compost.

WCS has been composting garden, lunch, and snack scraps for years. But what are the organisms that are responsible for creating healthy compost? What else does

healthy compost need? Which of our two composters do we predict will compost more completely and why? How can we design an experiment to test that? How often should we check back with them to see what is happening? How can we tell that decomposition is happening? How can we measure the rate of decomposition? These are the questions we will try to answer as we literally "dig deeper".

We are also digger deeper in the figurative sense. Students brainstormed several important topics that have been in the news lately. They then narrowed them down to three that they wanted to dig deeper into. The issues they selected are, "Should NFL Football Players Have Safer Helmets?", "Should NFL Players and other Professional Athletes be Allowed to Kneel During the National Anthem?", and "Should we Build a Wall Between the United States and Mexico?". After researching both sides of one of these issues, each student will write his or her own research-based argument essay for the side that they chose. These are tough topics and most articles written on either side of any of these issues are in publications for adult readers. Students will have to dig deep within themselves and find the perseverance it takes to tackle these texts. Investigating these very important and relevant issues are ways in which we are digging deeper in the figurative sense.

Ms. Lynn Hansell

PE! IT'S HAPPENING THING! Students just finished up the beginning of the year portion of PE class. We focused on group challenge activities, cooperative games, large group recess type activities, chasing and fleeing and parachute activities. We have been very lucky with warm weather since the beginning of the year! It's now starting to get a bit chilly outside. Please help your child to remember that wearing sneakers and dressing in layers is PERFECT for PE class. Some days students will be warm while other days they will feel the cold of good old New England! All students will begin Turkey Trot training this week. Students will run/walk laps around the field, as they collect Popsicle sticks which will count the number of laps. Each week the goal will be for students to try and improve what he/she did the week before. We will end this Cross Country unit with a field



trip to Bernardston Elementary School for a district Turkey Trot on Wednesday November 22nd! More information coming home soon! Enjoy the weather we are having! I hope to see you all at the Turkey Trot in November. **SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

NEWS FLASH! PVRSD is selling calendar raffle tickets to support our district Special Olympics program. This raffle is a wonderful opportunity for our district to earn the money needed to support our district wide Special Olympics program. ALL proceeds that we make from the ticket sales will go directly towards purchasing adapted equipment, team tshirts, costs associated with after school bowling, Young Athlete event supplies, certificates etc. You still

have time to buy one, two or more! Please email me at scotts@pvrsdk12.org if interested in purchasing a ticket. Tickets are \$10 (checks can be made out to Special Olympics of MA) and you have a chance to win 31 times during the month of December! Thank you for supporting our students! **Ms. Sue Scott, PE**



GROWING READERS Reading with a child every day from birth through elementary school has lasting, positive outcomes for children, families and communities. Reading aloud is practically free, you can do it anywhere, and children often beg for "just one more" story. Even adults who are not fluent readers can provide a good experience for children by telling stories from their lives, from their imaginations, or from pictures in wordless books. It is best to read to your child early and often, but it is never too late to start opening the reading door for your child. Reading aloud with children is linked to these powerful results:

- Expanded knowledge and vocabulary
- Improved attention span and memory
- Increased curiosity and imagination
- Greater self-esteem, empathy, and confidence
- Stronger, closer relationships
- Higher educational achievement and quality of life

Mr. Tom Ziniti, Reading Specialist



MUSICAL NOTES! I am enjoying this long, slow and warm October, grateful to delay turning on the heat. In PK/K we are singing songs and chants about picking apples and raking colorful leaves, as well as songs that take us through the four changing seasons. The 1/2 class has been learning songs that intrigue the imagination: dancing vegetables, learning to spell CHICKEN in a country school house long ago, loving a Banana Slug. In 3/4 we are moving from songs about American tall tales to songs about the 50 states. The 5/6 class continues to explore the characteristics genres have in common, and those that set them apart. They learned, "Find Out Who Your Friends Are", then listened to a sampling of country songs going back about 80 years. The 1/2 and 3/4 classes listened to Saint-Saens' Danse Macabre and Carnival of the Animals, and enjoyed guessing what animal Saint-Saens was depicting in each short piece.

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music

ART WORKS! Autumn is one of my favorite times of year - so many inspirational sights to see and wonders of nature! In the past few weeks, all students have been working on some type of autumn themed art project.

Students in 5th and 6th grade completed autumn-themed Zentangles.



Using the shape of a leaf, students drew in pen, many different types of lines and patterns to fill the space. These were then watercolor painted with autumn colors and now adorn a fall tree in the hallway.

Third and fourth grade students viewed the work of Austrian artist, Gustav Klimt. A well-known painting by Klimt is his tree of life. He used gold leaf in many of his paintings and many repetitive patterns and shapes. Third and fourth grade artists stamped gold fall trees using corrugated cardboard. They then stamped a variety of shapes as borders and fall colored leaves. Lastly we added some sequin bling.

Our first and second grade artists learned about the primary colors red yellow and blue. With a primary color tempera paint palette they learned how to mix two primary colors to get a secondary color. These colors were used to paint a fall leaf. These are also on the fall tree in the hallway. 1st and 2nd graders also had the opportunity to draw an autumn still life of pumpkins and gourds. We talked about how artists use "tricks" to show 3D space on a 2D surface. IN our still lifes we used overlapping and placement to show 3D space.

Preschool and kindergarten artists learned how to cut geometric shapes from 4 inch squares. We made sure our thumb was up when cutting and cut rectangles triangles and circles. The following week we used our shapes to create a collage. Preschool and kindergarten autumn themed project was fall trees. We drew "Y trees" using the letters V and Y to aid in drawing a tree trunk and its branches. The leaves of the trees were created with crayon leaf rubbing.

Our next unit in the art room is portraits.

Ms. Hillary Ferro, Art

DIGITAL LEARNING NEWS! Student use of the amazing selection of digital learning tools at WCS is off to a great start. In addition to using iPads and Chromebooks in their classrooms, PreK - 6 students have participated weekly sessions in the computer lab with Mrs. Leyden. The following is a sampling of what each classroom has worked on so far this year.

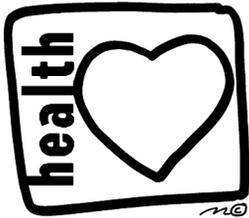
Allison's PreK and K students have learned how to navigate from the WCS homepage to the Student Learning Links page for their grade level. They have used websites such as Starfall.com and the Math Learning Center's Shapes website. They have also enjoyed a number of online video stories from Storyline.com and Fables by Shapes.

Kristyn's Grade 1 and 2 - The primary focus has been to learn how to use a new digital illustration tool named Wixie. Thanks to a mini grant from the Foundation for Educational Excellence, WCS students in grades K-4 each have their own subscription. After several week of guided exploration, these students completed their first illustrated video project of the year named In Kristyn's Class We... A link to this video can be found in the Grade 1 and 2 Student Learning Links page on the WCS website.

Mrs. Mullen's Grade 3 and 4 students began the year with several lessons in Digital Citizenship, an introduction to the use of Chromebooks in the classroom, and a review of helpful word processing skills such as cut, copy, and paste, the use of spell check, spacebar, and shift keys.

Mrs. Hansell's Grade 5 and 6 students have also explored several topics in the Digital Citizenship curriculum. In addition, they've completed a review of helpful word processing skills and have also learned how to insert and modify tables, and bulleted lists and to use the Explore and Define tools embedded in Google Docs.

Ms. Mary Leyden, Digital Learning Coach



HEALTH NOTES! The desired outcome of the Massachusetts

Department of Public Health Screening Program is improvement in health and well-being of school aged children so that they are healthy, ready to learn, and are able to achieve academic success.

During November and December all students will have their hearing and vision screened, their height and weight measured and their Body Mass Index (BMI) calculated. I will complete your child's screenings and will make sure your child's privacy is respected at all times. The results of your child's hearing, vision, height, weight, and BMI measurements are confidential - the results will be kept in your child's school health record and will not be shared with anyone without your permission.

Parents and/or legal guardians may request in writing that their child be excused from the screenings. This letter should be sent to me prior to November 1st. Please feel free to call me at 978-544-9786 Ext. 103 with any questions you may have about the screenings. Thank you.

Suzanne Linden, Nurse

