

NEWS & TIDINGS

WARWICK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Elizabeth Musgrave, Principal
September 2017

MARK the DATE:

ALL-SCHOOL MEETING: 9am Sept 28

PTO MEETING: 3pm Oct. 2

COLUMBUS DAY: Mon., Oct.9th (no school)

CONGRATULATIONS, GARDEN CLUB!

ON A HARVEST OF BEAUTY AND WELCOME!

I'm sure you have noticed how beautiful and inviting our front walkway looks! That is the work of the GARDEN CLUB, who last spring tilled the ground and planted seeds and seedlings to create the gorgeous gardens we can now all enjoy! And a big thank you to Tracey Kirley who led these activities on Friday afternoons for our young gardeners - and the many parents who also turned out to help.



WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES TO JOIN PTO!

Our meetings are the first Monday of every month at 3pm at the school. We hope you'll join us, but we know that not everyone can attend meetings, so there are lots and lots of ways to be part of PTO. Please contact Myndi Elwood President and Treasurer boobalocha@aol.com or Lisa Rhodes , PTO secretary lisaannrhodes@hotmail.com if you are

interested in helping out in one of hundreds of ways!

The big news this month is that our Mums fundraiser a great success and made over \$1000 profit! And our annual Pasta supper is coming up on October 21st with raffles, Chinese auction, and entertainment! Ticket packets will be coming home the first week of October.

Please start collecting BoxTops. We'll send more information about this and how it helps our school soon! And finally, check out and join our Warwick Community School PTO Facebook page!



HOMWORK ROUTINES Homework provides the practice vital to learning gains. One of the most important things that a parent can do to support the academic success is to help their child to establish good homework routines. Dedicating a quiet, well-lit space and a consistent daily time for homework makes an important statement to children about priorities and the value of school.



Encouragement from you is crucial, but the work should be their own. If your child is frequently unable to finish their homework within a reasonable period of sustained effort, let the teacher know. Homework should be a challenge, not a battle - and certainly not a defeat!

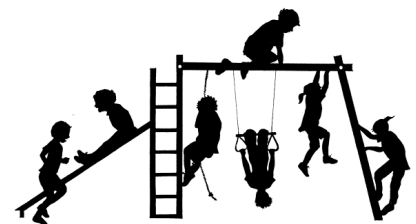


SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S PRIORITY: A friendly reminder to parents that, even in our small community, it is important to know who is in our school building at all times. Please sign in and wear a name badge whenever you move beyond the front foyer - even if you are a frequent visitor to our school.

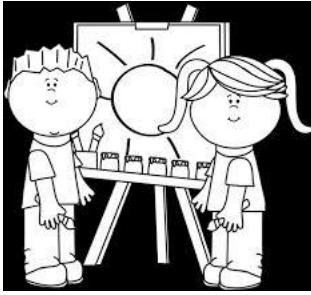
As in previous years, all schools in PVRSD will be practicing lock down drills with the Franklin County Safety and Security Task Force this fall. This task force works with individual schools, districts, and local officials in Franklin County. They make recommendations for our facilities, meet with staff, and help us practice safety drills on site. The Franklin County Safety Task Force members include MA State Police, Franklin County Sherriff, local emergency officials. We will also be practicing our fire drills with help from the Warwick Police Department. These drills and procedures help to keep us all safe and the single most important skill our children learn is, that in any emergency situation, to quickly and carefully follow the instructions of the adults in charge.

DRESSING FOR MAXIMUM FUN!

We dress for fun, safety, modesty, and comfort. Just a few friendly reminders while the warm weather is still with us: Please make sure clothing choices will preserve dignity on the monkey bars and avoid clothing with any disrespectful wording. Hats are fine for outside! Sneakers are the best footwear for playing outside and are a "must have" for PE.



THE CLASSROOM BUZZ...



KINDERGARTEN and PRE-K: Welcome to all of the new and returning families in grades Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten! We are so happy to have your children join our school. We are starting off the year really learning classroom expectations and learning HOW to learn. A huge focus in the beginning 6 weeks is building classroom community. Children learn how to use and return materials, and learn about their new friends and teachers and how to get along with them. Very soon kindergarten will launch into more formal content lessons.

Our beginning theme is Community. We will be learning about our classroom community, then the school, then our towns. We also have a tank of Monarch caterpillars in the classroom science area to study life cycles. **Ms. Allison White**

GRADES 1 and 2: First and Second graders have been doing a great job exploring their new classroom as they learn new routines and get to know new expectations.

We've spent the first few weeks of school exploring with a wide variety of learning materials; practicing how to use them in safe and appropriate ways. Each day we continue to build our classroom community as we share more about ourselves through our work and play! The children are eager to learn, share their thinking and get to work! I'm looking forward to starting more of our direct lessons in math, reading and writing to see what this wonderful group is capable of!

Ms. Kristyn Gibbs



GRADES 3 and 4: School is a fun and exciting place to be in September!

The third and fourth graders are beginning to establish our classroom rules and routines. We are settling into our daily schedule and learning about working in partnerships as well as independently.

We are enjoying being some of the older children in the school and demonstrating role model behavior for our PreK/K buddies as well as during lunch, recess, and all school meetings.

Our focus this year is on perseverance. We are going to work hard, even when things are tricky. We are going to try, and try, and try again. To kick off this theme we are spending a lot of time challenging ourselves in math and science.

These STEM challenges have shown us that mistakes are okay. That failure helps us to grow. That together we can achieve anything. We have worked together to create wrecking balls, to create a structure that can hold a tennis ball, to build towers with cups, and to conquer tricky math concepts during our week of

Inspirational Math. All the while we have kept our positive attitudes and worked together as a team.

We have just started our math centers and are excited to try out Chrome books to practice our math skills on. Our first unit is on Place Value. The students impress me daily with their knowledge of numbers and math vocabulary.

During reading we have been working on Read-to-Self expectations and Read-with-Someone expectations. We love hunkering down with a good novel in a cozy spot. It's the best time of the day!

Our first social studies unit will cover mapping skills and then take us through the Northeast Region of the United States. Mrs. Leyden is already planning ways for us to share our knowledge using technology!

We would love to give you a window into our daily work. Please follow us on Instagram @msmullensclass!

Ms. Christine Mullen



GRADES 5 and 6: The beginning of the year is always busy and exciting! We have been establishing our classroom routines, culture, and rules while completing our initial beginning-of-year assessments. It's exciting to find that all 5th and 6th graders have either held steady in their reading levels or have actually grown since the spring because they were reading over the summer!

Meanwhile, we have been starting up our first units of study. In reading, are working on reading fiction with depth and power with specific foci on characters, main ideas, and themes. Our mentor text is an interactive read aloud of a powerful book called *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DiCamillo.

Our social studies curriculum this year is *World Geography and Cultures*. We begin with a review of latitude and longitude and then dive into the Five Themes of Geography (location, place, region, interaction, and movement) and how they pertain to Warwick.

The 5th grade math curriculum dives right into fractions and mixed numbers as a continuation of the work the students started in 4th grade. They are now working hard on mastery of comparing, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. 6th graders are learning about a handy tool called factor puzzles which will be helpful to them all year long. Right now, they're using them to solve ratios, rates, and proportions.

Finally, we are studying cell structures and functions. We are able to use the wonderful microscopes that we are blessed to have at WCS to investigate single-celled organisms in pond water this fall (when they are still active). Later this year, we will see how cells organize into tissue and organs when we study human body systems.

Of course, this doesn't cover all of the incredibly busy activities that fill our days. Regardless of what we are engaged in, this group of students who have been together for three years now, are friendly, kind, enthusiastic, energetic, bright, funny, and a joy to work with!

Ms. Lynn Hansell



ART WORKS! It has been my great pleasure to join the Warwick Community School as your art Teacher. My name is Hillary Ferro. I have been teaching art for many years and am honored to work with your children. Each classroom has started off learning to take care of materials, the art studio, their artwork and their classmates' artwork.

Preschool and kindergarten learned how to use the white glue. In order to avoid puddles of glue, our saying for the proper amount of glue was "just a dot, not a lot." They did an amazing job gluing small squares onto the letters of their name.

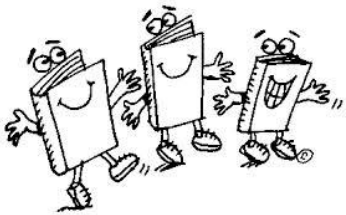
First and second grade students had fun learning how to use Dry Transfer Letters to write their names. We noticed that there are many different fonts or styles of lettering. To their names, they added a variety of lines and designs using oil pastels. Lastly they learned how to take care of watercolor brushes and palettes, painting over their pictures. We learned about watercolor resist, noticing how the watercolor doesn't stick to anywhere there is already oil pastel.

Students in third and fourth grade, made their names into wild monsters insects and symmetrical pictures.

Our **fifth and sixth grade students** learned how artists have "tricks" to show 3-dimensional space on a 2-dimensional surface. One of these tricks is linear perspective. Students used a vanishing point, rulers and parallel lines to create shapes and letters in 3D. Super cool! Ask a fifth or 6th grader to teach you how.

Thank you for the warm welcome,

Ms. Hillary Ferro, Art



LIBRARY LEARNING! The year has already started on an interesting note for me. I have watched how students have grown and developed their interests over the last year and I will be taking this into account as I put together my plan going forward.

We have a strong group of readers and many lovers of books this year! The PK and kindergarten are so excited to be able to borrow library books and hear stories! The first and second graders have an insatiable appetite for books and are enthusiastic readers! The third and fourth graders are diving into some meaty chapter books now. And the fifth and sixth graders, well they are beginning to realize that libraries are about more than just books! This year I will be presenting them with challenges to help strengthen their research skills.

Exciting times lie ahead!

Ms. Erika Nygard, Librarian

PE! IT'S HAPPENING THING! We have been very busy this year during PE

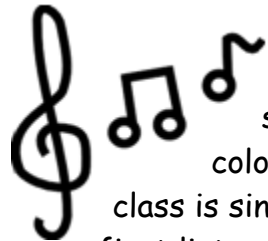


class playing cooperative games, working on teamwork activities, soccer skills and drills. Soon, we will start cross country running. During Cross Country we will learn about healthy habits, warming up, stretching, pacing, cooling down, healthy hearts, and teamwork! Each child will run or fast walk around the field each

week. The goal will be to improve the number of laps he/she completes. Please help your child to remember to wear layers (hats, gloves, sweatshirt, jacket) as we will be outside for PE each week through Thanksgiving. If your child is able to bring an extra pair of shoes and/or socks on Thursdays it will be helpful. You will soon receive information about the very exciting event that will take place at Bernardston Elementary School on Wednesday November 22, 2017. We will be having a TURKEY TROT fun run! This will be the culminating activity to our cross country unit. I will be looking for parent/adult volunteers on the morning of the trot. Stay tuned for more information! I have created a wish list for PE related materials. If you are able to donate please have your child bring donations to the office. 1. Clean, clear 2 ltr. plastic bottles 3. metal clothes hangers 4. liquid food color 5. Clean plastic gallon milk jugs 3. knee-highs (women's nylons) 6. heavy-duty "gorilla" tape. Thank you,

Ms. Sue Scott, PE

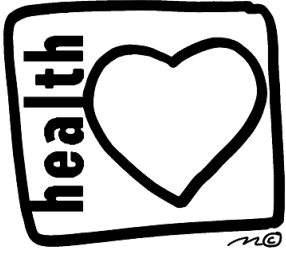
MUSICAL NOTES! I love autumn in New England! Last weekend I helped



friends make apple cider with a hundred year old hand cranked cider press! In PK/K, we will be singing about the changing seasons and chanting counting finger plays about apples and colorful leaves, learning to sing and move at the same time. The 1/2

class is singing about insects and dancing vegetables, and enjoying their first listen and color class, hearing Vivaldi's The Four Seasons for the first time. The 3/4 class is learning songs that contain tall tales about figures from American history, and learning to tell fact from fiction. In 5/6 we have embarked on a journey of discovery of the roots and branches of American popular music stretching from the founding of the nation to the present. Today we listened to samples of shape note singing, Mozart, music from West Africa, and traditional contra dance tunes. All classes are working on learning and remembering the rules of being together as a respectful learning community while still having fun. It's both challenging and joyful.

Ms. Kim Wallach, Music



HEALTH NOTES! We would like you to be aware that there are children in our school this year with food allergies. One student is known to have a severe peanut allergy. For safety reasons, the Pre-K and Kindergarten classroom will be a PEANUT FREE CLASSROOM. What this means is that snacks and lunches may not have peanuts in them. It is important to read the ingredient list to be sure the product contains no peanuts. For this class, snacks will be eaten in the classroom and students will sit at peanut-free tables in the cafeteria.

The Art Room, Computer Room, Music Room, Gym, and Library will also PEANUT FREE CLASSROOMS. To avoid spreading the oil from peanuts, as well as germs, we are implementing hand washing before and after eating during the school day. If there are activities or events afterschool hours, it is important for this procedure to be maintained. Therefore, we would ask that food only be eaten in the cafeteria and that hands be washed before and after eating. The tables should be carefully wiped down.

It is always our goal to keep everyone safe at school. Feel free to contact me if you would like more information. Your assistance and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Below is a short list of suggestions for peanut free snacks:

- Fruits and vegetables- fresh or canned (applesauce, raisins, dried fruits)
- Dairy- yogurt, string cheese, other cheeses, ranch dressing for dip
- Chips and salsa
- Meats- cold cuts, pepperoni, Slim Jims
- Crackers (without peanut butter), animal crackers
- Popcorn (popped ahead)
- Breads, bagels, pita
- Dry cereals
- Cereal bars or granola bars (without peanut products), rice cakes, pretzels
- SunButter (sunflower butter)

Suzanne Linden, Nurse

WELCOME to a WONDERFUL NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

