

# Williams-Cone School

## Principal's Newsletter

### Important Dates

4/12 & 4/13 Grade 5 Maine Education Assessment (MEA)

4/17 No School, Teacher In-Service

4/20-4/24 Spring Break

4/27 FOWC Meeting, 6:30 P.M., Learning Commons \*\*Note Date Change\*

4/29 STEM Committee, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room

4/27-5/1 Grade 5 MEA

4/29 Grade 1 Kennedy, Field Trip

5/4-5/7 Grades 3 & 4 MEA

5/5 Grade 5 Field Trip to Portland Symphony Orchestra

5/12 All District Elementary Chorus & Band Concert, Daytime Performance, MAMS, Orion, 9:30 A.M.

5/13 Kindergarten Field Trip to Kinderkonzert, Crooker Theater, Brunswick High School

5/13 All District, Elementary Chorus & Band Concert, 7:00 P.M., MAMS, Orion

5/25 Memorial Day, No School

5/27 FOWC Meeting, 7:00 P.M., LC

6/4 Arts Festival, 6:00 P.M.

6/12 Grade 5 Field Trip, Boston

6/19 Last Day of School



*Pictured above are students participating in the school wide Read A Thon.*

Woo Hoo! Yes! Spring has FINALLY arrived! If your house is anything like my household, the next two months will hold tons of activities and action. Maintaining a consistent schedule each week is a challenge due to sports practices and games, music lessons and concerts, etc. , not to mention, dare I say it, homework and reading expectations! It can be nothing short of overwhelming for everyone involved.

However, following spring break we still have seven weeks of instruction. And while there are lots of fun things happening from field day to field trips, much academic learning still occurs. So, the staff and I ask our parents and caregivers to please continue to partner with us, ensuring that your child completes his/her homework and nightly reading expectations. This will help support a strong finish for each of our wonderful learners here at WCS! Thank-you!

Another trend that is often observed following spring break is a decline in positive student behavior. When making any type of choice, students are encouraged to “stop and think” before they act and consider the “Real 3 R’s-Rights, Respect and Responsibility.” Every student has the right to feel safe and that he/she belongs at WCS. Therefore; students are expected to treat all staff and students with kindness and respect in all school settings including the bus, hallways, playground, classrooms and hallways. To help encourage kind and respectful behavior, our school’s Vision Team has implemented “#Project Kindness.” Whenever students are “caught” by staff members engaging in an act of kindness around our school community, their picture is taken and posted on a special bulletin board.

Spring Break is right around the corner. A Principal’s Reading Challenge will be sent home with students for the break. I ask that all parents and caregivers encourage their children to participate in this challenge that promotes the love of reading as well as helps students to maintain and/or increase their reading proficiency. Thank-you in advance for your support!~

*-Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal*

*“WCS is a safe and kind community that inspires every student to succeed- Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners.”*

### March Highlights

Over 160 WCS students recently completed the Winter Break 2 Reading Challenge, making them eligible for a “Dr. Seuss Birthday Party on March 3rd. Students enjoyed celebrating the beloved author’s birthday by partnering third through fifth grade students with kindergarten through second grade students and reading to them. Students also enjoyed a brief Dr. Seuss birthday celebration video and concluded the celebration with enjoying Dr. Seuss themed cupcakes made by Bun Bun’s Bakery in Brunswick.

Our 2nd Annual Read-A-Thon week was held March 9-13 benefitting classroom libraries. A whole school “Read In” was held on March 11th. Mariah Sewall, Topsham Public Library Children’s Library kicked off the event by reading to the students followed by 30 minutes of school wide reading. Over \$900.00 was raised for our classroom libraries. Thank-you to our generous school community!

Kid’s Academies during the month of March included a field hockey academy for students in grades 3-5, led by WCS parent and Mt. Ararat Guidance Counselor Krista Chase. A “Crazy Eights” math and science academy was held for students in grades K-2. This academy was led by Sam Chamberlain from the Maine Cooperative Extension/4H program. A tennis academy was offered to K-5 students through Maine Pines Tennis under the direction of Andrea Georgian. Many thanks to the facilitators as well as student and parent leaders who help to make these special opportunities possible for WCS students.

### 2015-16 Classroom Placements

When we assign students to classes for the new school year, our primary consideration is to ensure equitable, workable groups. While we cannot take requests for individual teachers, parents are encouraged to provide us with information about their child’s learning style and to inform us if there is a legitimate reason why the child should be separated from another student. For example, if a personality conflict between your child and a peer will impact on learning for those two children, and for others in the class, please communicate that information.

The staff and I take a great deal of time and thought as we put together classes, working to create “balanced classes” that will work best for everyone. This is what we consider when creating “balanced classes”:

***Reading/writing level, math level, special education needs, RTI needs, behavioral needs, boys, girls, and combinations of students who have a history of needing to be separated to maximize their learning.***

It is quite a process, and once we have taken a look at all of this, we step back, look at the lists and make sure they are balanced as a team. Then we look at the match-up of learning and teaching styles and tweak the lists one last time to place students in classes where we know they will be successful. Then we rebalance to allow for any changes we have made. Our special education staff, social worker/guidance counselor, special area teachers, Literacy Teacher Leader and RTI strategist, also review the lists with fresh eyes (from their perspectives) and make a final adjustment if necessary. Then we finalize our class lists!

## Friends of Williams-Cone News

Trivia Night was a great success!! We would like to extend a special thank you to Birdie for coming out and adding her charismatic grace and style to our event. We would also like to thank Andrea Imrie, Sue Lermond, and Michael Preble for their invaluable help, and also to all the parents who baked the delicious goodies we had on hand. We would also like to give a special thank you to Michaud's for their always delectable pizza!

Gelato for Boston- We are overwhelmed and our hearts are filled with gratitude. This event was so successful that we are proud to announce that our 5th graders have reached their goal and will be going to Boston!!! In June, due to the outstanding support from our school community our Fifth graders will be visiting Fenway Park and the Science Museum. We would like to send a special thank you out to all our celebrity scoopers!! Ms. Warner, Ms. Carroll, Amy Wallace, Mrs. Dunn, Mr. Anagnostis, Ms. Dutton, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Kish, Ms. San Pedro, and Mrs. Rineer!! Thank you all so much, we could not have achieved our goal without you!!



