

A P R I L 2 0 1 6  
**WILLIAMS-CONE SCHOOL**  
**PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER**

**“WILLIAMS-CONE SCHOOL IS A SAFE AND KIND COMMUNITY THAT  
INSPIRES EVERY STUDENT TO SUCCEED-COMPASSIONATE,  
CURIOUS, CONFIDENT LEARNERS”**

4/15 Professional Development Day, No  
School for Students

4/18-4/22 Spring Break

4/25 FOWC Meeting, 6:30 P.M., LC

4/26 Grades 2 & 3 Visit to Rolldrome

4/26 5th Grade Transition Parent  
Meeting at OPAC, 6:00 P.M.

5/2-5/6 Teacher Appreciation Week

5/4 2016-17 Kindergarten Screening,  
9:00-3:00 P.M.

5/10 All District Chorus Concert, Grades  
3-5, A.M., MAMS

5/12 Gr. 5 Warner Trip to Growstown  
School

5/12 Kinderkonzert Trip to Crooker  
Theater, A.M.

5/13 Gr. 5 Carroll Trip to Growstown  
School

5/17 Gr. 4 Field Trip to Kotschmar

5/20 Gr. 5 Field Trip to Northeast  
Livestock Expo

5/23-5/26 Scholastic Book Fair

5/25 Gr. 5 Step Up Day

5/25 Arts Festival & Book Fair, 5:30-7:00  
P.M.

5/30 Memorial Day, No School

5/31 Professional Development Day, No  
School for Students

Today's world is filled with many changes and challenges. The daily news highlights the effects of poverty, conflict and strife on local and national levels. These factors and conditions certainly reinforce the need for our community to work together to teach our students to be compassionate, curious and confident learners. Throughout this school year our students have had many opportunities to engage in learning activities and experiences that reinforce these integral skills. Our community has generously provided positive support and resources to help make these learning opportunities a reality.

During the month of March WCS students came together for an all school "Read-A-Thon." Students read together and raised over \$800.00 for our classroom libraries. Barb Whitten, from the Maine State Music Theater was the guest reader, treating our students to a reading of Robert McCloskey's "Bert Dow" story. During the assembly students were also introduced to new opportunities that will help build their curiosity and confidence in reading. This included a "Little Red Reading Wagon." The wagon, generously donated by WCS parent, Sarah Ackerly, will be circulated throughout each classroom

at WCS, giving students the opportunity to add donated books to their personal libraries for free! The second opportunity presented was the unveiling of a "Little Free Library." Several WCS students created the library, which will be located next to the WCS Children's Garden, during a recent Kid's Academy. The Kid's Academy was led by WCS mothers, Sarah Ackerly and Jen Gonzalez as well as John Treutel, WCS community supporter. Students and community members are encouraged to take part of this national movement and read and/or share a book.

To further promote curiosity and confidence, students are encouraged to participate in "National Screen Free Week" May 2-8. Screen free week is a chance for children to read, play, think, create, be more physically active and spend more time with family and friends. Additional information will be forthcoming, including some motivating and fun incentives and challenges!

Spring break is almost upon us. A reminder to please encourage your student(s) to complete the Spring Break Principal's Reading Challenge. Enjoy the upcoming Spring Break!

***Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS  
Principal***

## Attendance Matters-Tardiness

We all realize that there are times when your child is late to school. There are doctors or dentist's appointments and/or an occasional time where they are teetering on being sick and need some extra sleep. However, as a school we have numerous children that are consistently late. Even a few moments can have an effect on both your child and your child's classmates

When a child is late to school, he/she misses out on important instruction. Every minute that a child is in school is important to his/her learning. When a child is tardy, he/she faces the challenge of trying to settle in and catch up with what other students are doing. She/he is behind and has to struggle to understand material the teacher has already explained. Being late is detrimental to his/her learning, especially if it occurs on a consistent basis.

Other students also suffer when a child is late to school. They have to wait to proceed with a lesson because the teacher is busy trying to catch the late child up. The interruption of a late student entering into a classroom and the teacher having to address who is coming in is distracting and can cause students to lose their concentration as well.

Being on time to school is preparation for the world outside of school. Punctuality prepares the child for the world of work and all that it entails, from a job interview to daily work attendance and job security. When parents focus on punctuality, students learn that not coming to a meeting or event on time is disrespectful of other people's time and that they miss out on important information.

Have your child set out their clothes for the next day the night before. Their backpack should contain all the books, supplies and homework they will need for the next day. Get all of the supplies and equipment needed for after school practices and activities ready. Have your child make lunch or pack their snacks at night before bed, and ensure they are in bed at a reasonable hour. Set the alarm 10 or 15 minutes earlier than absolutely necessary to ensure your child has enough time to get to school before the tardy bell rings.

## FOWC News

Williams Cone Families,

Happy Spring! Thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraiser at Smitty's. It was fun seeing so many friends at the movies and we raised a little over \$400 for our school! We plan on doing this again on a Sunday in May, stay tuned for a date.

The Box Top Bot is doing great and his belly is filling up with box tops. Remember, there is never a deadline for submitting so send them whenever you can, just make sure they haven't expired.

At the end of April we are going to make a major improvement to the school by painting the large hallway from the office down to the learning commons. A flyer will be coming out shortly asking for volunteers to help prep and paint. This will be a great way to hang out as a community and do something wonderful for our school. Prepping the walls will be on Friday, April 29th (pizza provided!) and painting will be Saturday morning, April 30th (donuts provided!). Please consider lending a hand for as long or short as you can!

Another date to keep in mind is the week of May 2nd which is Teacher Appreciation Week. FOWC and volunteers help to make the teachers and staff feel extra special this week by providing meals, snacks, and treats. Any thoughts from you on how we can make this week great are always appreciated!

## Class Lists 2016-17

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 negatively impact 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!

## WCS Kid's Academies Code of Cooperation

WCS is very fortunate to offer a variety of Kid's Academies throughout the year. Participation in a Kid's Academy is a privilege for our students.

To maximize student learning and ensure that all students have a positive experience, it is essential that students adhere to the Kid's Academy Code of Cooperation:

**\*Rights:** Every student has the right to feel safe and that they belong at the Kid's Academy. This includes engaging in behavior that promotes learning for everyone.

**\*Respect:** Every student must show respect for school property, the instructors, other students and themselves.

**\*Responsibility:** Every student has the responsibility to follow school rules and engage in behavior that promotes learning for themselves and others.



## Upcoming Art & Music Events

Please mark your calendar for these family events. More information will come home in May:

May 10 - SAD 75 All-District Band & Chorus Concert  
7:00 PM in the Orion Auditorium at MAMS

May 25 - WCS Annual Arts Festival & Book Fair  
5:30-7:00 PM at WCS

