Williams-Cone School

Principal's Newsletter

Important Dates

5/18 Lock Down Drill

5/20 STEM Camp Planning Meeting, 10:00 A.M., Conference Room

5/20 4th Grade STEM Fair, 2:00-2:30 P.M., Gymnasium

5/20 Grade 5 Step Up Day

5/21 Tales Lunch & School Tour with Mrs. Rineer, 11:30 A.M.

5/21 District Budget Meeting, 6:30 P.M., Orion

5/25 Memorial Day, No School

5/27 5th Grade STEM Fair, 2:00-2:30 P.M., Gymnasium

5/29 4th & 5th Grade Active Lifestyles Field Trip

5/27 STEM Night, 6:00-7:30 P.M.-Details TBA

6/1 3-5 Field Day

6/2 K-2 Field Day

6/1 FOWC Meeting, 6:30 P.M.,LC

6/1-6/5 Scholastic Book Fair Week

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

6/5 2015 Kindergarten Screening, 9:00-2:00 P.M.

6/9 2015-16 Budget Referendum, 6:00 P.M., Individual Towns

6/10 Volunteer Breakfast, 8:30-9:30 A.M., Cafeteria

6/12 Grade 5 Field Trip, Boston

6/18 5th Grade Farewell Assembly, 1:30 P.M., Gymnasium

6/18 2015 Kindergarten Mini-Day, 10:00-11:30 A.M.

6/19 Last Day of School, 12:00 P.M. Dismissal

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

With less than 30 days of school left for the year things are in high gear here at WCS! Students in grades three through five recently completed the new Maine Education Assessment (MEA) that measures math and language arts achievement and growth. And this week fifth grade students are completing the Science MEA. While the level of rigor is challenging, students have persevered as they completed this assessment. We are very proud of our students and appreciate the staff's diligence through this implementation as well as parent support. Thank-you!

I am very excited to announce that over 150 students in K-5 completed the Spring Break Principal's Reading Challenge! Participating students are being rewarded this week with some outdoor fun in the form of nature walks, scavenger hunts or building fairy houses. This reward was created and implemented by the WCS Staff Vision Team. The staff and I appreciate the support that parents and caregivers have extended to the Principal's Reading Challenges throughout the year. These challenges are designed to encourage the love of reading and maintain and/or increase student reading proficiency.

We are well on our way to implementing our school's new shared vision (see above). Positive student leadership is critical to successful long term implementation. Beginning Monday, May 18th, WCS students will have the opportunity to participate in an after school "Leadership Academy. " Students will begin to learn how to be positive and caring leaders. Activities will include meeting with local leaders, learning about the various cultures represented within and outside our community, creating a personal vision and goal setting. Danielle Hiltz, WCS parent will be leading the K-2 leadership academy and I will be leading the 3-5 leadership academy. Flyers were sent home with students earlier this week detailing the academy. Please encourage your student(s) to strongly consider this unique opportunity

Enjoy these last five weeks of school. Please continue to encourage your children to do their personal best right until the very end. Thank-you!

-Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

April Highlights

Kid's Academies during the month of April included a a "Crazy Eights" math and science academy 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. A "Move and Groove" Kid's Academy also began in April under the direction of Sarah Ackerly. Many thanks to the facilitators as well as student and parent leaders who help to make these special opportunities possible for WCS students.

Over 150 students participated in the Spring Break Principal's Reading Challenge and fifth grade students completed the language arts and math Maine Education Assessments. Staff participated in district and building level inservice activities on April 17th. Professional development ranged from math curriculum resources and options to scoring student writing samples based on the Teacher's College rubrics.

Arts Festival

Our annual Arts Festival will be held on **Thursday, June 4th.** The evening will begin at 5:30 with a time to see the fabulous artwork that students have created this year.

There will be classroom performances in the music room, opportunities to create art and the Special Chorus will sing. The Book Fair will be open that evening as well. Snacks will be available in the gym. The evening will end at 7:00.

More information will be sent home when we finalize plans and determine the schedule for that evening. We hope you will plan to join us for this wonderful family activity.

Friends of Williams-Cone News

With the ending of school just over 5 weeks away, the Friends of Williams-Cone would like to take a look back at this amazing year filled with fun events, family, friends, and community. The successful fundraisers and communal happenings held by the FOWC could not have happened without YOU! Your constant support along with our astounding staff's backing has made this year truly remarkable! Thank you!

As the end of this school year draws closer, we will say goodbye to our 5th graders and we look forward to welcoming our new Kindergarteners in the fall; seasoned families will continue their journey in middle school and new families will join our friendly Williams-Cone community; established members of the FOWC will move on to the next phase in their lives and new members will join this illustrious group. Will you be one of them?

The officers and members of FOWC are working parents/guardians just like you. We pack our children's lunches for school, shuffle them to their favorite after-school and weekend activities, feed, clothe and tuck them into bed each night. We also take a little extra time to ensure that our children and their teachers have everything they need to make their time in the classroom as fun and productive as possible. Whether we bake cookies for an event, purchase teaching materials for our teachers, or organize a large fundraiser, each member strives to do their part in keeping our little school special. Every person counts.

Please think about how you can participate in your child's school life. How you can add your own special touch to a program, activity or event. Better yet, how you can impact the lives of each child of Williams-Cone. It takes a village to raise a child. The more people in our village, the easier it is for everyone. We welcome you to join us for our last meeting on **Monday, June 1st at 6:30pm** in the Learning Commons. Come see what we do, who we are, what exciting ideas we have for next year. Ask us questions! We'd LOVE to hear your thoughts and ideas too!