

# Williams-Cone School

## Principal's Newsletter

### Important Dates

10/6-10/9 Bus Driver Appreciation Week

10/7 Parent/Staff STEM Committee Meeting, 6:30 P.M., LC

10/8 Annual Walk to School Day, 9:15 A.M., Topsham Fairground

10/10 No School for Students

10/13 Columbus Day, No School

10/20-10/24 Scholastic Book Fair

10/23 Scholastic Book Fair Evening Hours,

10/24 Halloween Dance, WCS Gym

10/27 Grade 5 Field Trip to Portland Symphony Concert

10/29 FOWC Meeting, 6:30 P.M., LC

11/7 Picture Retake Day

11/11 Veteran's Day, No School

11/21 FOWC Annual Pasta Dinner/Basket Auction Fundraiser

11/24 FOWC Meeting, 7:00 P.M., LC

11/25 Early Dismissal

11/26-11/30 Thanksgiving Break & Holiday

12/6 FOWC Craft Fair



### We are Building Our Reading Lives!

We are well on our way to implementing our 2014-15 school year theme- Building a Reading Life at Home and at School. At the end of a fantastic opening week, staff and students kicked off the new school year with a "Welcome Back" assembly. Throughout the assembly staff and students presented songs, poems and dances that promoted the "Building a Reading Life at Home and at School" and the "Real 3 R's-Rights, Respect and Responsibility" theme. Students particularly enjoyed a reading "flash mob" presented by the WCS staff!

Throughout the month of September I made extended visits to each of the classrooms. These visits gave me a great opportunity to reconnect with many of the students after the summer break. I also reviewed with each class our school's positive behavior/social skills framework, "The Real 3 R's" and promoted our school's theme for the year. Each visit ended with making some book recommendations as well as reading one of my favorite children's books to the class. I have to say, the visits were so much fun! I plan to visit the classrooms again throughout the year to share and read favorite stories with students.

Students who completed the Principal's Summer Reading Challenge were treated to "Reading Celebration" this month. The celebration included a book swap, popsicles, prizes and bonus recess time. Many thanks to the parents and caregivers who helped to support this challenge. Special thanks to Mrs. Diane Bartels who assisted me with the Reading Celebration.

Throughout the year there will be many other opportunities for students and families to build their reading lives at home and at school. Establishing consistent routines including daily reading (weekends too!) and completing teacher assigned reading logs is essential for long term success. There will be many more opportunities throughout the school year to work together to build our children's reading lives. Thank-you all for a super start to the new school year!

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

## Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Committee

The Parent/Staff STEM committee will meet on Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30 P.M. in the Learning Commons. The committee would like to continue implementing STEM related Kid's Academies and begin planning for a 2015 Summer STEM Camp. Volunteers are needed and very welcomed to ensure that our students continue to have these types of opportunities!!

### September Highlights

The annual Boo-Hoo breakfast was a great success thanks to Diane Bartels. Our playground received a much needed clean up and the hopscotch/ four-square lines were repainted thanks to Gordon & Deborah Kinney's family, the Bartels', the Byrnes, Ann Dean, and Carey Douglass. We had record numbers attend the Open House/Ice Cream Social. This WCS tradition ran smoothly thanks to Emily Woodward, Carey Douglass, Sue Lermond, Jen Gonzalez, Diane Bartels and Donna Lee Murphy. Picture day was held with special assistance from Sue Lermond and Emily Woodward. Many thanks to these individuals and to everyone who supported these activities and events!

## Counselor's Corner -Talking to Your Child About School

Most of the time when a parent asks their child how the day went at school, we as parents get the pat answers such as "OK or, boring, or fun, or nothing happened". When asked what was something they learned the child says "nothing, stuff, or lots of things". When asked what were the best things that happened at school a lot of children will reply "recess or everything". As a parent I would often get frustrated by these remarks until I started asking more open ended/targeted questions that required my child to elaborate about their school day. Some ideas to try are:

\*Tell me what book your teacher read today. Can you retell me the story? What did you like about the book?

\*What was one funny thing that happened with a friend today?

\*Who did you play with at recess and what did you play?

\*What game did you play in math today?

\*How was (PE, Music, Art). What activity did you do there...did you learn a new game, song, what did you create in art?

It is important to model conversation skills with your child by talking about your day and/ or through role play. Children need to learn that eye contact, body language, and warmth in their voice are all important when carrying on a conversation. These skills will help them as they meet new people and make new friends.

If your child tells you that s/he is being teased or picked on by a classmate or on the bus; or if they are refusing to go to school, please contact the teacher or the school counselor to help determine what is going on, so that together we can solve the problem. We are a team and want a safe environment for you child to grow and learn.

-Amy Wallace, WCS Counselor/Social Worker



## Wellness Information

Parents are frequently concerned about the decision of when to keep their children home, or send them to school. The following information is intended to help you with this decision:

### Children should stay home if they:

- Have a **fever** of 100 degrees or more, and should remain at home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal without medication.
- **Vomited** or have had **diarrhea**, and should remain at home for 24 hours after it has stopped.
- Been diagnosed with **strep throat** (stay home until on antibiotic for 24 hours).
- Have a **persistent cough**.
- Have a rash that is spreading or draining.
- Have red, inflamed or **draining eyes**.

**If your child is ill, please call the school attendance to report the illness.**

The annual **Flu Shot Clinic is Saturday October 18, 2014 from 9 am to 12 pm** in the MAMS cafeteria. This is a free clinic with donations accepted. The public is invited; parents or guardians must accompany minors. **Booster clinic date is Tuesday November 18<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6 pm** and this is for all, not just for the booster needed for young children.

### Friends of Williams-Cone News

We have had a busy start with the Boo-hoo Breakfast, playground cleanup, Ice Cream Social and picture day, kicking off the new school year. A great big "thank you" to all our wonderful parent volunteers that made these events happen!

Some exciting and fun events are planned for this fall. Next week, (Oct. 6-9) we celebrate our wonderful school bus drivers and crossing guard. Please show your appreciation in your own unique way! In the past, homemade goodies, cards or a simple, "thank you for keeping me/us safe" has always made an impact.

Next is our book fair, Oct. 6-9 with evening hours that Thursday. Volunteers are needed for classroom times!! (You can contact your child's teacher for times or visit our Facebook page: Friends of Williams-Cone.) Then, we will have our very first Halloween dance on Friday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Flyers will come home soon with more info. Don't miss this **Thrilling** event! We also have our annual Spaghetti Dinner and Craft Fair coming up. The dinner will be on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> and the Craft Fair will be Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> (NOTE: date change). More info to come! Our next meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. We'd love for you to join us!



