

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

May 2014

Randa C. Rineer, Principal



The Circus Comes to WCS!

Hello WCS Families!

Fabulous opportunities abound for WCS students this spring! At the beginning of April we hosted "Mr. Rick", an artist in residence from Circus Smirkus. Mr. Rick, a veteran of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, conducted classes that taught a variety of circus arts including spinning plates and juggling, but the residency was designed to give students the learning tools they need to reach their goals. Students and staff had a wonderful experience developing their powers of concentration, focus and persistence, as well as gaining confidence and strength for dealing with challenges. Many thanks to FOWC for sponsoring this amazing week, Leslie Beattie for leading fundraising for the program and assisting with organizing the week and to Mr. and Mrs. Peterson for hosting Mr. Rick during his week long stay.

As part of our "Year of Science, Technology, Math and Engineering (STEM)" activities, scientist in residence, Priscilla Scaife, from Union

College, Albany, New York spent two days presenting STEM experiments and activities to students. A Family Science Night was held on April 16th, featuring over twenty hands-on STEM activities for students and their families. This well attended activity was fun and enriching for all! Many thanks to Holly and Ian Kopp for helping to make this event possible by hosting the scientist in residence in their home and supporting the daily activities.

A new tradition may possibly have been started on April 17th. FOWC, under the leadership of Heather Hollenbach, held a "Bedtime Stories 5 K and Pajama Dash." The twilight run/walk, which started and ended at Foreside Field, raised over \$900.00 for WCS classroom libraries! Many thanks to the volunteers who acted as guides for the race, made cookies and/or assisted with making the race possible.

I never cease to be amazed by the tremendous support that the WCS community generously extends to it's students. This is the time of year where families have many things

competing for their time and attention from sporting events to end of school year programs. This can make it quite difficult for students to stay focused on daily school and home responsibilities. Reading logs, math fact practice, and homework in general sometimes take a backseat to activities and nicer weather. Challenging student behaviors and unkind interactions sometimes increase too. All of these factors combined can result in a decrease in student skills, achievement and feelings of safety and belonging.

The staff and I ask that parents and caregivers support our students by reminding them that the "Real 3 R's"- Rights, Respect and Responsibility continues to be daily expectation. This means that students must continue to strive to do their personal best, be good leaders and treat each other with utmost respect. This is also integral for being a Blue Ribbon School community!

Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal



Important Dates

May 12th & 13th: Maine Educational Assessment -Science Administered -Grade 5

May 13th: 2014 New Kindergarten Parent Information Night 6:00 P.M. Learning Commons

May 14th: All-District Band & Chorus Concert, 7:00 P.M., Orion Auditorium, MAMS

May 20th: Parent/Staff STEM Committee Meeting, 6:00 P.M., Learning Commons

May 26th: Memorial Day, No School

May 27th: -FOWC, 6:00 P.M., Learning Commons

June 2nd: Field Day, Grades 3-5

June 3rd: Field Day, Grades K-2

June 5th: WCS Arts Night, 5:30-7:00 P.M.

June 11th: Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 8:30 A.M., WCS Gymnasium

June 19th: Last Day of School, 11:30 A.M. Dismissal

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to Circus Smirkus, the Scientist in Residence and the Twilight 5K, Kid's Academies were held during April. Kristy Oulette from the Maine Cooperative Extension and Peter Rosenberg, WCS parent, facilitated a STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) Academy for third grade students with support from several WCS parent volunteers. Students were actively engaged in fun hands-on science activities which ranged from making ice cream to slime. A Tennis Academy, sponsored by Maine Pines was held for students in grades 2-5. Kelly Anchors, teaching pro at the Maine Pines and Sarah Ackerly, WCS parent volunteer led the academy that introduces and helps students to discover this sport. Many thanks to our volunteers for providing these wonderful opportunities for our students!

Staff participated in professional development activities led by facilitators from Columbia University's Teachers College throughout April. WCS hosted first grade teachers from around the district in a lab site model that focused on increasing reading and writing skills and achievement.

Congratulations to Andrew Chamberland, son of Therese and Glen Chamberland who won the WCS Geography Bee earlier this year. Andrew qualified for and participated in the State Geography Bee at the University of Maine at Farmington which was held in early April.



Safety Survey

Last fall we sent home a letter informing you that all third, fourth, and fifth grade students would be taking a safety survey both in November and May. The safety survey will be conducted in the Learning Commons from May 19-May 30. If you have any questions please contact Amy Wallace at school.

News From The Topsham Library

Hello from the Topsham Public Library! We are getting ready for our summer reading program next month, but until then check out these cool programs that are going on in May!

Wednesdays, May 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 4 pm: Family Yoga

Stretch into spring! Yoga sessions are basic and last for about 30 - 40 minutes.

Designed for ages 4 and up, but all ages are welcome.

Thursday, May 15 at 4 pm: Young Green Thumbs: Let's Make a Smoothie Connection

Arrive ready with your chef's hat and spatula to make fresh, springtime smoothies! Wash, rip, combine, and blend fresh ingredients to make a delicious drink for a healthy afternoon snack. Learn how and where all the ingredients came from to delight your taste buds!

Ages 4 and up, younger children may need adult assistance. Registration required.

Thursday, May 22 at 4 pm: Young Green Thumbs: Baaaah Ram Ewe!

Join a sheep farmer, Tom Settlemire, to learn the amazing stories of farm sheep. Be introduced to the life of a sheep – from lamb to ewe or ram – and how these baaaa-utiful animals are part of a farm.

Ages 4 and up, registration required.

Saturday, May 24 from 11 am – 3 pm: Drop-in Activities

Modeling clay for mini-sculpture building will be available, as well as create-your-own-craft art materials. (Sorry, clay creations cannot be taken home!)

Saturday, May 24 from 1-3 pm: Legos!

Come play with our Lego collection and build some amazing creations!

See you at the library!

CHORUS NEWS

The SAD 75 Elementary All-District Concert will be held on **Wednesday, May 14, in the Orion @ 7:00**. In order to be ready for this performance, the Chorus will need to have some extra rehearsals. These rehearsals will be held on the evenings of **Wednesday, May 7,** and **Monday, May 12.** Rehearsals will run from 6:30 - 7:30 in the Orion. Please join us on Wednesday evening for the concert.

FOWC News

Planning for the 2014-15 school year is well underway. The FOWC officers have met several times over the last several months to determine the organization's vision, goals, and how FOWC can best support the WCS community. This includes creating a budget and a new leadership structure that will be implemented beginning September 2014. The leadership structure includes a fundraising co-chair, a volunteer co-chair, two treasurers, two secretaries and a Kid's Academy coordinator. It is anticipated that this new structure will promote greater communication, collaboration and support for FOWC and the WCS community.

A new role of "Room Parent(s)" will be added to the volunteer structure during the 2014-15 school year. A "Room Parent's" role will include communicating and organizing classroom (Ex. instructional) volunteer needs and school (Ex. fundraising) volunteer needs to parents. FOWC would like to have at least one Room Parent per classroom, but Co-Room Parents are also welcome too. The FOWC officers are in need of a Fundraising Co-Chair, Co-Treasurer and Co-Secretary for the upcoming 2014-15 school year as well as Room Parents for all classrooms. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact Diane Bartels at: joeanddianebartels@yahoo.com.

A preliminary 2014-15 FOWC budget will be presented at the upcoming FOWC meeting on May 27th at 6:00 P.M. in the Learning Commons. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend!

ARTS FESTIVAL

Our annual Arts Festival will be held on **Thursday, June 5th.** You will not want to miss this wonderful evening of Art and Music. We 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.