

From the Desk of the Principal

Greetings!

I'm happy to report that we've had a very smooth opening of our 2009-2010 school year. We are in full implementation of our school Restructuring Plan and we are already seeing the results of many of our initiatives. Our restructuring goals focus on the following areas:

- Teacher leadership
- Communication
- Lesson planning and instruction
- Curriculum and technology integration
- Teacher professional development
- Data-Driven decision-making

Our restructuring initiatives have resulted in many more opportunities for students to work at an advanced level, as well as opportunities for students to get extra support to bring skills up to grade level. This year, we have more students than ever taking advanced level courses. We've added Pre-AP science and social studies at each grade level and we've also added an advanced Algebra part II/Geometry course to grade eight. To provide added support for students, we now have a Learning Lab available to any student who needs to work on skills needed to be successful in the classroom. Students are referred to the Learning Lab by classroom teachers and a learning plan is developed along with Ms. Bernier, the Learning Lab teacher. Our goal is to ensure that all students are learning to their potential.

We are very excited about the additional technology that we've been able to purchase through grant funding. We've added four additional interactive white boards to our classrooms, along with LCD projectors and laptop computers. We've also purchased RM Framework software for math and EasiTeach for other content areas - these are software programs that integrate whiteboard technology into instruction. The research tells us that this technology will advance student achievement when integrated on a regular basis. Our teachers are in the process of learning to use this new technology and our students are all highly engaged when it is in use!

Our Science NECAP scores have just been released and I'm happy to report that last year's eighth grade students advanced five points (see enclosed chart). We still have a lot of work to do and I'm confident that the new science curriculum and curriculum alignment will enable us to show even more dramatic advances in the coming year.

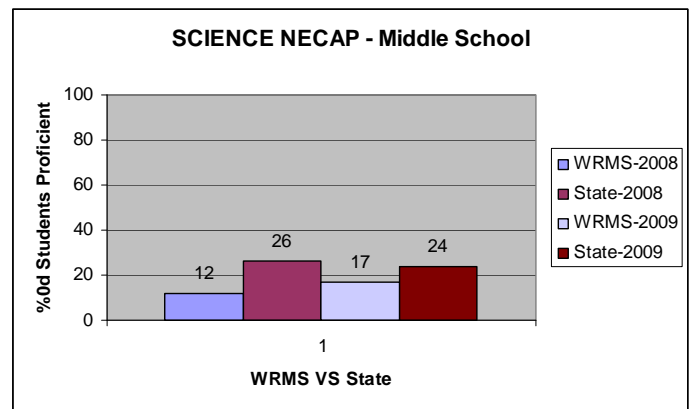
I want to thank all of you for your help in following our new, one-way drop off traffic procedures. This is

working very well and it has improved the safety of our students. Our field will remain closed until the work to repair the drain pipe has been completed. The bids are currently being reviewed and the work should begin shortly.

Our clubs and after school activities have started and there are options for students every day of the week! Please note that students who remain after school need to be in a supervised activity. We are currently exploring other options for those students who have late athletic practices. We understand the challenges for parents who are not available to drive students back to school for practice, however, we need to make sure that students who are at school are safe. Our goal is to find a solution that meets everyone's needs.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am always willing to work with you to make your child's middle school experience the best it can be.

Best Regards,
Dr. Pamela Miller, Principal



Notes From the Assistant Principal

I want to thank all of the seventh graders, eighth graders, and chaperones that attended the dance on 9/18/09. Everyone was respectful of the rules which meant that everyone had a good time. I want to let the parents know that there was an error on the dance permission slip and that student drop-off and pick-up are at the doors in the back of the school by the Art and Tech Ed. classrooms. A reminder to parents that school dances end at 9:00 and students need to be picked up at that time. Thank you.

Our first Gotcha Store was on 9/18/09. We are planning another store on 10/2/09. Students may use any Gotchas that they may have from last year.

T.A.R.G.E.T.S.

T.A.R.G.E.T.S. is a student management program for all WRMS classrooms. The consistent classroom expectations help WRMS to promote a Respectful, Responsible, Attentive, Prepared and Safe school community and culture. A student earns an after-school detention once he/she earns a third letter in a class. A PBIS behavior write-up is issued only when the third letter is earned in a class in a one-week period of time. Each week begins a new cycle. WRMS no longer has demerits. T.A.R.G.E.T.S. signs are posted in every classroom as visual reminders/cues to students.

Grade six piloted T.A.R.G.E.T.S. from 1/09 - 6/09. Data gathered showed that T.A.R.G.E.T.S. was a helpful student management tool for students and staff.

Positive Rewards from T.A.R.G.E.T.S.

- All students earn one Gotcha per class, per week, if they do not earn any letters.
- Teachers often reward their whole class if no-one in the class earns a letter over a one-week time period.
- Students can use their Gotchas at the Gotcha Store or to participate in activities that are planned to reward students.

*~ Mrs. Kruger
Assistant Principal*

GRADE 6

The Grade 6 team would like to welcome you to the middle school. If you were not able to attend the Open House and would like more information about any of your child's classes, please contact your children's teacher(s). E-mail addresses can be found on the district website.

We are starting off the year with a unit on Diversity and Tolerance in 6th Grade Reading/Language Arts. Students listened to The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes read aloud. This is a short novel that addresses the topics of tolerance and bullying. Block A students will be continuing the unit with a variety of literature, including the short story "All Summer in a Day" and the novel The Summer of the Swans. Blocks B and D students will be reading The Witch of Blackbird Pond next.

~ Mrs. Hewey

Sixth Grade English Language Arts

Our class recently had their first test on Dragon, Dragon. Summer reading projects, presentations and papers were due on Friday, September 25th. This project will be worth one quiz grade on the first quarter midterm. Students have also been given their Accelerated Reader goals. Students have goals of between 12 and 20 points, based on past data from testing. Students should be reading at least 25

minutes per night, five nights per week in their Accelerated Reader books at home.

~ Mrs. Anderson

In two of my Reading/Language Arts classes, we are working on a Quest Unit. Students are learning the four parts of a quest. They are: desire/interest, goal, perilous journey, and reward. We have been reading various types of literature and discussing the quest components. Students from all of my reading classes have Summer Reading projects due Friday 9/25. We will work on the compare/contrast essay in class after the Friday due date for the projects. Students in my other Reading/Language Arts class have started their group rotations this week (Instructional Software, Modeled and Independent reading, and Small-Group Instruction). All students should be reading 20 minutes at home five nights a week.

~ Ms. Sanders

GRADE 7

During the first unit of 7th Grade Social Studies, we study political and physical maps and make sure we are familiar with lines of latitude and longitude. Since fall started this week, we also reviewed the terms equinox and solstice. Next we will look at some population issues, review culture and then head into our unit on the US and Canada.

~ Mrs. DiNardo

We are having an exciting start to the new year in science! Right now, we are studying the human brain and senses. Our focus has been analyzing different learning/memory strategies and how using your senses can help. The students are teaching each other about the body systems and how they work together to maintain homeostasis. We are all anxiously awaiting the delivery of our cow eyeballs so we can dive into the study of the parts of the eye, how lenses work, and perception!! Please call or email with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Thank you for your support!

*~ Ms. McKenney
7th Grade Science*

Mr. Saltmarsh's math class is off to a great start with the unit on variables and patterns. This is a pre-algebra book of the Connected Mathematics Project curriculum. Students are learning new terms and concepts which connect their knowledge from previous years into an introduction to algebra. Warm-ups will be class work that is done most days; projects and evaluations will be done routinely throughout the quarter, and homework will be assigned as it is needed to strengthen weak areas or reinforce learned concepts and operations. You may want to take a look at what we are doing in math this year at the Connected Mathematics Project website. There are many interesting and helpful menu options at this site (<http://connectedmath.msu.edu>) to help you

understand what we are doing and to provide additional work or help for homework.

You may contact me or other grade seven teachers by email from the middle school web page. Just click on the address of the teacher you want to email, listed with the grade seven team. Also remember, you can check the online grade book to follow your student's academic progress.

*~ Mr. Saltmarsh
7th Grade Math*

Our first themed unit of the year is *Growing Up and Responsibilities*. The students have created name tags and folders which demonstrate a reflection of who they are now. They also have done some character analysis activities from the novel, *A Wrinkle in Time*. Currently, they have been exploring the idea of responsibility. We have begun to incorporate spelling, vocabulary and writing into their daily routine. Please feel free to ask them about how we have organized the binders in English. Lastly, the MAP testing is finally completed. We were pleased with the results and would like to congratulate all of those who did well.

Keep up the good work!

~ Ms. Simoes & Mrs. Morse

GRADE 8

Welcome, new 8th graders! We (students and teachers) have all settled into our new wing and have had a successful start. We have all adjusted to the new waterfall schedule as well. Some new additions to the curriculum include Pre-AP classes for all subjects.

The Science Program is excited to have new textbooks.

The Eighth Grade also has the privilege of going over to the high school during Accelerated Learning time to participate on a weekly basis in the Agriculture Program.

Parents were able to meet teachers at the Open House on September 17th. Thanks to all who helped with the Pizza dinner beforehand, for the PTO, or attended the Open House portion. It was nice to see all the parents and students. Parent conferences are in November and several signed up in advance. Please look for more information on the WRMS school site at a later date.

We're exploring options for a possible 8th Grade trip this year. More information to follow!

The 8th grade team is as follows:

Mrs. Anderson-English/Language Arts
Mrs. Beliveau-Mathematics
Mrs. Berry-English/Language Arts
Mrs. Coughlin-Mathematics
Mr. Hampe-Science
Mrs. Jurta-Social Studies
Mrs. O'Donnell-Mathematics
Mr. Wyman-English/Language Arts

Mrs. O'Connor-Grade 8 Special Education
Mrs. Hall and Mrs. D'Agnesse-Support Staff
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Read 180 - Grades 7 and 8

In Read 180, we have gotten into the full swing of our rotations. Students have three stations that they work in for twenty minutes per station per day. In small group instruction, students work in the R books for twenty minutes in a small group with me. The R book is an interactive work book which stays in school. Students read, write and react in these books. Students go at their own pace but are supervised and coached by me every day. In the software station, students spend twenty minutes working with Read 180 software in which they practice fluent oral reading, vocabulary and spelling. In the guided and independent reading station, students spend twenty minutes reading a novel. Students fill out a daily reading log and can take a computer generated test upon completion of a book. Students are not assigned homework in Read 180, but I strongly recommend that students read at least twenty minutes, five nights per week on reading of their choice.

~ Mrs. Anderson

Unified Arts Physical Education

We are four weeks into the first quarter of physical education. We have been taking advantage of this wonderful fall weather and getting outside whenever possible! We have covered cooperative games, emphasizing teamwork and fair play, fitness, and are currently playing handball. As part of the fitness curriculum, the eighth grade students are going over to the high school fitness center. Each student will have the opportunity to use the facility about three times during the quarter. Just a reminder that students need sneakers to participate in class as well as the fact that they need to be changing for class every day; thanks for helping to remind them!

Intramurals have started. Mrs. Crowell is offering tennis on Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2:30-3:30. Students need to have a signed permission slip to play and a way home at 3:30. We have all the equipment they need and we head over to the courts at the high school. Come join the fun. Permission slips are available in the office or from Mrs. Crowell. We will continue playing as long as the weather allows!

~ Mrs. Crowell and Mr. McNutt

Art Education

There are lots of things happening and more planned for the art program at WRMS:

Remember the Rousseau traveling show last year? Well, Vincent Van Gogh will be here this year, during parent conference week. Look for the LARGE colored reproductions and the student works it's inspired.

The NH Dept. of Education has also asked us to return. This exhibit will be in a month or two. Arts Alive 2010 will be in early winter at the Belknap Mill in Laconia.

The Scholastic Arts Awards are in January and hopefully we will do as well as last year.

More information on all these upcoming shows will follow.

Lastly, the Art Club meets 2 Thursdays a month. You do not have to attend all, just the sessions that are convenient for your schedule. If you're interested, pick up a permission slip in the Art room.

~ Mrs. Johnson

Guidance Department

8th Grade Guidance Classes will focus on career education this year. Every student has guidance class for one quarter of the year, one day per week. During this time, we will focus on learning about our interests, values and various careers that match our individual preferences. We will also learn about how career choice affects our lifestyle, to include everything from what classes we will have to take in high school, to the type of house we would like to have, to where we live and what kind of hours we would like to devote to our work. Lastly, every student will engage in research on chosen careers - some that match personal preferences and interests and others that just peak our curiosity. All of the information that we gain from class will be compiled to create a career portfolio that will follow each student to the high school where career education classes will continue and students can expand on the information they have already learned about themselves and possible careers. Please feel free to contact me at WRMS 286-7143 x207, if you have any questions or would like more information about our class curriculum.

~ Ms. Zimmerman
Grade 8 School Counselor

Quarter I: After School Activities:

- Homework Club* meets every day after school until 3:30 p.m. and Fridays until 5:30 p.m. in the RRAPS Room
- Monday: Cooking Club** 2:25 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Wednesday: HG Design* 2:25 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Woodworking** 2:25 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday: Recycling** 2:25 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Sewing* 2:25 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Every other Thursday, Veterans Club** 2:25 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please see Mrs. Smith in the Guidance Department, or call 286-7143 ext. 209, for more information.

Drama (Ms. D'Agnese) and Art Club (Mrs. Johnson) will be starting soon!

*Funded by DHHS State Grant

** Funded by TNS

~ Mrs. Smith

6th and 7th Grade Guidance Counselor

Nurse's Corner

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a fun and restful summer! I realize that everyone is busy in the morning and it can be a very hectic time of day, but eating breakfast and packing a morning snack is so very important. I frequently have students coming into my office with tummy aches from not eating breakfast. This takes away from their classroom time while they sit and eat. We do offer breakfast in the cafeteria for a dollar from 7:25 till 7:40 a.m. daily. For students receiving free or reduced lunch, this would also apply to breakfast. Please discuss with your child the importance of eating breakfast, whether it is at home or school. All students are given a morning snack time; please encourage your child to bring a snack to school daily. Students may or may not choose to eat a snack at snack time, but at least they have it if they are hungry. I also encourage all students to bring a clear bottle of water every day.

If your child will be late or absent from school, please call the school at 286-7143. I will be monitoring illnesses. I do need to know if a child has a temperature above 100 degrees, especially if it is accompanied with a cough or sore throat. Students should return to school only after they are fever-free for at least 24 hours, without the use of Tylenol or Ibuprofen, and are feeling better. Please encourage your child to keep objects out of his or her mouth, not to share food/drinks, and wash his or her hands before eating.

Students already seem to be passing around the common cold. Generally, if your child needs to have cold medicine during school, he or she is probably not feeling that well and should be home for the day.

The Preston Center:

A Free Kids Clothing & Toy Closet

Serving children in need in the communities of Northfield, Tilton and Sanbornton by providing free clothing, toys and other necessities for ages newborn through 12. Located in the lower level of the Pines Community Center in Northfield. Check out their website at www.prestoncenter.org. They are open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 3:00-6:00 p.m. (extra Wednesdays in September and December). Their scheduled open days will be as follows: September 2, 16 & 30; October 7 & 21; November 4 & 18; December 2, 9, 16 & 23. They are always accepting donations of new and gently used infant and children's clothes, toys, shoes, backpacks, diaper bags, blankets, etc. Washed and cleaned items are especially appreciated!

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns you may have at 286-7143 ext 204. Have a great school year!!

~ Mrs. Labranche, R.N.

Library/Media Center

During opening day assemblies, our librarian, Ms. Chapley, gave each grade an overview of the library and responsibilities of each student who uses the material owned by the district.

All sixth grade reading classes viewed a PowerPoint that discussed the responsibilities and privileges of the library. The students had a chance to start to explore the library and the selections that are available.

Mrs. Jurta's social studies classes researched the years from 1980 to 2009, using material that covered historic events, scientific discoveries, and people who made the news.

Mr. Wyman's classes selected Accelerated Reader books for class.

This summer, Ms. Chapley had an opportunity to travel and participate in two prestigious National Endowments for the Humanities teacher workshops. She attended Mark Twain's Hartford Years, 1871-1891 which discussed the important masterpiece The Adventures of Huck Finn, by placing it within the context of African American history. In Boston, she attended the Democratic Vistas: Civic Life, History and American Art workshop. The middle school was awarded the "Picturing America" grant which included 40 prints of famous and thought-provoking works of art that signify the democratic process in action. She will be highlighting these works of art by correlating with book titles each month. On display this month is the painting by John Singleton Copley of Paul Revere, 1768. The book Johnny Tremain by Esther Forbes would give students an appreciation of how silverwork is produced and life in colonial times.

The library is looking for volunteers who could consistently give an hour or two a week to help with tasks. If you are interested, please call Ms. Chapley at 286-7143, ext. 212.

Parent Involvement Month

October 2009 is Parent Involvement in Education Month in NH! Governor John Lynch is once again proclaiming October as "Parent Involvement in Education Month" in NH. The proclamation celebrates the importance of parent engagement in the academic achievement of children and in the improvement of NH schools.

The proclamation will be announced at a press conference being held on October 1 at 11 a.m. at the Legislative Office Building in Concord. Prior to the press conference, parents, educators, and family-school-community partnership projects from around NH will be honored at the first Parent Involvement Recognition ceremony.

In the study, *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family and Community Connections on Student Achievement*, researchers Anne Henderson and Karen Mapp show that students from families of all different backgrounds and incomes who have involved parents are more likely to earn academic credits, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and graduate and go on to post secondary education.

All parents of WRMS are encouraged to celebrate Parent Involvement in Education month is October and throughout the coming school year. You can support your child's education through simple things that can make a profound difference, for example:

- Take time every day to ask open ended questions in order to draw out your child's knowledge about what he or she is learning in school.
- Ask to see your child's homework, test papers, writing projects and ask questions based on what you observe.
- Read everything the school sends home and be willing to send messages back and forth to the teacher, particularly if your child is struggling with homework.
- If your child has received a poor grade, avoid criticizing and instead ask if there is anything you can do to help his or her performance.
- Encourage your child to read at home, and set a good example by letting your child see you read instead of watching TV.
- Set rules about game playing or internet activities; encourage your child to focus on completing homework first.

Visit www.NHParentsMakeTheDifference.org to enter a drawing for a chance to win a variety of parenting resources. The website also features a wealth of information and ideas for promoting parent involvement in education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|-------------|----------------------------------|
| October 2: | Midterm grades close |
| October 6: | Midterms sent home with students |
| October 9: | No School / Teacher Workshop |
| October 11: | Race For Hope |
| October 12: | No School / Columbus Day |