

White River School



Growth Mindset work at WRS!

February 3, 2017

If you've visited our school recently, you may have noticed a bulletin board as you enter the building that looks like a superhero busted through with the "Power of Yet". One of our teachers, Mrs. Derosier prepared this display to help our entire school community know that we as a school staff have focused our attention on the work of Professor Carol S. Dweck of Stanford University. Ms. Dweck has done extensive research on the amazing brain's ability to learn and develop for all of us. She's done extensive research on the psychology of this and she's written a powerful book that I highly recommend: *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. (Follow [this link](#) to review this book on Amazon or enter this link into your browser: https://www.amazon.com/Mindset-Psychology-Carol-S-Dweck/dp/0345472322/ref=mt_paperback?encoding=UTF8&me=)

During monthly assemblies with our students in grades k-5 I've introduced the work of Dr. Dweck by teaching our students that our brains have neurons and that when we are learning new things if we persist and practice, these neural pathways (brain pathways) become stronger and with enough **effort, persistence and practice** we solidly learn the skill. This is true when we learn to walk, talk, track with our eyes or learn how to divide and multiply fractions! As a staff we have begun the work of not only teaching this to our students, but also trying to focus our praise on **effort, process and strategy**. We are focused on helping our students learn that mistakes are expected and that when we make them it means that we haven't learned the skill **yet!** However, when we think deeply about the mistake made and ask ourselves, "What part did I do correctly, or well?" and "Which part didn't I do well or understand?" Then we **take responsibility** for figuring out our mistakes and then...we learn!

Here are a few resources that I've used recently with our staff. These may be helpful to you to help you understand Dr. Dweck's work and why we as educators value it:

"The Power of Yet" and the Growth Mindset

Dweck video - [here](#) or enter this into your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ>

Clip from Google Talk Dweck interview: [clip from 11.00 minutes to 13:33](#)

Another Carol Dweck video in which she explains how one can develop a growth mindset [from the Teaching Channel](#) (See www.teachingchannel.org)

Accessing State Mandated Test Results on the Vermont Agency of Education's Website:

On March 8th I will make a presentation to the Hartford School District Board of Directors to highlight the very good and hard work that our students and staff do at the White River School. Part of this presentation will include a summary of results from State Mandated Test Results including Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) and New England Common Assessment Plan (NECAP) - science taken by fourth graders

Long term statewide testing results of WRS students [Access SBAC data from VT AOE here](#)

Or type this into your browser: <http://edw.vermont.gov/ReportServer/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?%2fPublic%2fSmarter+Balanced+Assessment+by+Grade+Report>

Calendar:

February 14th - Valentine's Day - Classroom Teachers will inform you of plans for celebrating

February 16th- Grade 4 only will take National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) test. [learn more about NAEP here](#)

February 17th - Read on the Beach Day at WRS

February 20th – 24th - Winter Break - no school

February 27th - School Budget Discussion and Candidate's Night 7:00-9:00 p.m. @ HHS

March 7th - Voting Day

SAVE THE DATE: Hartford Performing Arts Camp (HPAC) 2017 will be held during the week of August 7-11 at Hartford High School. Incoming sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grade students (both Hartford and non-Hartford residents) are eligible to be campers. Registration will occur through the Hartford Recreational Department later this spring.