

November 30, 2018

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a nice holiday and was able to spend some time with family. As everyone knows, the next few weeks will become very busy both in and out of school. Hopefully, you will be able to take time to enjoy your child's excitement.

The weather has really kept us on our toes this week. I know Mr. Debalsi tries his best to make the correct decision. He wants the best for all students and staff. If you did not get a notification from him this week about the delay, you need to update your information in the parent portal.

We began our week with a visit from Firefighter Dan from the Hartford fire department. He will come several times this year to discuss fire safety with the students. He sent papers home with the students describing what he will be doing throughout the year. If you did not get this, please check in your child's backpack. He showed the students his gear and talked with his mask on as this can be very scary for children. He also talked a bit about meeting spots and how important they are. We will be talking about safety plans throughout the year. You should encourage your child to talk about this with you as well. You can practice at home as we do at school for all types of emergencies.

In our flex block this week the topic was caring. The students learned about what it means to care for someone and how you can show it. They wrote notes to the Firefighters and EMT's with the help of their big buddies. This is always fun for the students.

We are in the process of finishing our second unit in our Readers Workshop program. It is amazing what the students are doing. I am now beginning to change out student books as they grow and gain skills. It is so exciting to see happen. Please spend some time with you child around books and share this excitement with them. You will be amazed at how much they are growing in this area if you haven't noticed already. We also added new snap words this week so they have 10 words on their rings: a, and, at, I, like, look me, the, to, we.

In Foundations, we have practiced more sentence work. They also gained the last vowel. We are now up to 13 letters. I have spent time this week checking in on their skills and they are gaining a lot through this first unit. Letter formation is always the hardest and we try to spend a lot of time on this in kindergarten in preparation for first grade as they spend a lot of time writing.

In math, we are beginning to work on number combinations from 1-10. We use a lot of visuals and manipulatives to help with this. We are also continuously working on practicing the number formations as well. We practice a lot of these skills through our lessons and our math centers.

Today was our first student recognition assembly. This is a tradition at WRS to recognize each child throughout the year with a certificate that they can bring home. They are recognized for really working hard on something. A picture is taken and hung in our lobby. Many students come back as they get older to look for their picture hanging in the lobby. If your child did not get a certificate today they will receive one sometime this year.

I am sending home one last book order before the holidays. I will need to send it in next weekend in order to get it back for the break. If you would like me to hold onto anything for gifts please just let me know. Books make great gifts.

The PTA craft fair is tomorrow from 9-2. They are always looking for help to set up tonight or help break everything down tomorrow. If you can't help out, please try to stop by and do some holiday shopping. They will also be having a bake sale.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the winter concert next Thursday at 6:30. The doors will open at 6:15 for students to meet in the cafeteria. They should give you their coats as we will dismiss from the gym and not from the cafeteria. We try to keep the program to one hour so everyone can get home. The fifth grade band will play first, k-2, 3-5 and then to close k-5 will sing. The students don't need to wear anything special. If they would like to dress nice that is fine or whatever they happen to wear to school that day. We just like everyone there. It is a great evening. Please contact me if you have any questions.

I know this upcoming month will be challenging for many reasons. I always encourage parents to try to keep the normal routines as much as possible, but still build in some fun activities. I know it can be challenging to juggle all of this. We try to keep our routines at school as much as possible over the next busy month. Thanks for your continued support.

As the weather has changed and clothing has changed we had a visit from Mrs. Hutchins, school nurse, to talk about bathing and wearing different clothes. It is always good to have a quick refresher on taking care of our bodies properly. She talked about taking a bath/shower and how important it is to keep our bodies clean to keep them healthy. Ask your child about this short visit.

I am sending home towels today to be washed. Thanks for washing and returning them.

Upcoming Events:

November 30: Canned Peaches and Pears due for Holiday Baskets

December 1: PTA Craft Fair- 9-2

December 6: Winter Concert K-5, 6:30

December 7: Report Cards will come home with students, Book Order Due

December 24-Jan. 1: Holiday Break

Have a great weekend!