

Nov. 17, 2017

Dear Families,

First, thank you all for coming to conferences a few weeks ago and sharing such wonderful information about your children with me. I love taking the time to get to know families. After all, you know your child best! Report cards will go home on December 1st. Should you have any questions about how I scored the report card, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

This morning, we had our annual squash chucking! Mrs. Langley, one of the second grade teachers, has shared one of her family traditions with our school. She remembers growing gigantic Blue Hubbard squash and her family throwing them on the concrete to break them open. She passed this tradition on to us and it certainly is a favorite among the kids. As the teachers "chuck" squash, the kids cheer and the second graders race to collect it all into bags. After, the second graders clean and prepare the squash for the feast. This year the feast will be on Tuesday, Nov. 21st. This is another special tradition our school does each year that really brings us all together as a community. If you donated corn bread, thank you! On Monday we will take the morning and each student will help crack eggs, mix and pour as our way to contribute to the Thanksgiving feast.

White River School is collecting canned peaches and pears for the Hartford-Norwich Holiday Basket Helpers. If you would like to make a donation, please send it in in the next couple of weeks. Thank you for your support!

In reading, as I mentioned to you at conferences, we began a nonfiction unit last week. So far the class is loving it! They are learning as they are reading and it has given reading a whole new meaning for some kids. So far they have learned five strategies about "How to Get Super Smart about Nonfiction Topics." They are:

- Take a sneak peek to start learning
- Stop and study each page
- Guess what might come next
- Chat about a page or the book
- Retell all that I remember about the book

These new strategies are in addition to all of the other strategies we learned in unit 1. Students are still using their "Solving Hard Words" strategies as well as "Reading Partners Work Together" strategies. We are learning a lot about how to be GOOD readers as well as a whole bunch of new topics!

During Writing Workshop, the class is learning about poetry. The class is loving the flexibility and creativity involved in this genre of writing. They still can't get over that they don't HAVE to start and end with proper capitalization and punctuation!:))

Finally, in math we are finishing up unit 2 this week. The unit 3 letter went home earlier this week explaining what will be taught. Basically, we will continue to become flexible with putting together and taking apart numbers within 10 and 20. We will build a better understanding of place value with tens and ones and solve addition and subtraction story problems using pictures, numbers and words.

Upcoming Events/Reminders:

- FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT TONIGHT-Cars 3 Doors open at 6:00. Movie begins at 6:30!!
- Thanksgiving break-Nov. 22-24th
- Winter Concert-Nov. 30th at 6:30. Students should be in the cafeteria at 6:15. Plan to keep your child's jacket with you.
- Craft Fair to support WRS PTA-Dec. 2nd
- Winter Break-Dec. 23rd-Jan. 1st
- As the winter approaches, please plan to send all winter gear daily. This includes, jacket, snow pants, hat, gloves and boots. Students can not play in the snow without all of these items. **Please plan to leave a pair of indoor shoes here at school if you can. PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON ALL ITEMS!**

****Hope you all have a nice Thanksgiving with your family and friends.****