



PRIMARY LETTERS

WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It is always a privilege to have a birds-eye view of WPS. Now after several weeks of school, classroom routines and expectations are fully integrated and students are diving deep into the academic standards.

Students are growing in independent and collaborative work habits and are practicing growth mindset and caring attitudes.

Students have been working exceptionally hard during Writer's Workshop capturing small life moments and stretching them into descriptive

pieces using sensory words and rich details.

Additionally, students have been refining their scientific skills of observing, exploring, explaining and evaluating to

learn about natural phenomena and important science concepts. We are all so excited to see our students embrace learning challenges, integrate knowledge and skills and foster positive learning partnerships with one another.

We had a great gathering for our Ice Cream Social. Although it ended up being indoors, families re-connected after a long summer and

shared hopes and dreams for a new school year. We thank the PTO for organizing this fun social event for our families. The WPS Open House was another opportunity for families to come together and to learn about school initiatives and their



child's school experience. We hope the evening was informative and we look forward to seeing all of you at our Parent/Teacher conferences on October 17, 18, and 19. If you do not have an appointment yet, please contact the office at 860-868-7331.

Many exciting things are planned for October. We will celebrate International Walk to

School Day, Fire Prevention Day with a visit from the Fire Department, and Character Week with a visit from the Danbury's Women Group and the Animal Embassy Program. The PTO will have its annual Fall Book Fair and Trunk or Treat events. Please check the Refrigerator Door often for details as well as our School News section on the website.

As the year unfolds, setting our sights on stretching our students minds, and growing self-directed learners will be our continued priorities. We thank you for supporting your child's education and our school community. If you should have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at judde@region-12.org or at 860-868-7331.



CALENDAR

Fri.	Oct 5	NO SCHOOL: PD DAY
Mon.	Oct 8	NO SCHOOL: Columbus Day
Tues.	Oct 9	6:30-7:30 PTO Meeting in the Library
Wed.	Oct 10	8:30-9:00 Meet at Pavilion "Walk to school" Fire Department Visit
Fri.	Oct 12	Band Rehearsal
Tues.	Oct 16	Scholastic Book Fair in WPS Gym
Wed.	Oct 17	1/2 Day Parent Teacher Conferences Scholastic Book Fair in WPS Gym
Thurs.	Oct 18	1/2 Day Parent Teacher Conferences Scholastic Book Fair in WPS Gym
Fri.	Oct 19	1/2 Day Parent Teacher Conferences Scholastic Book Fair in WPS Gym
Fri.	Oct 26	Grade 5 Track Meet at Shepaug
Wed.	Oct 31	5:30-7:30 Trunk-or-Treat at WPS

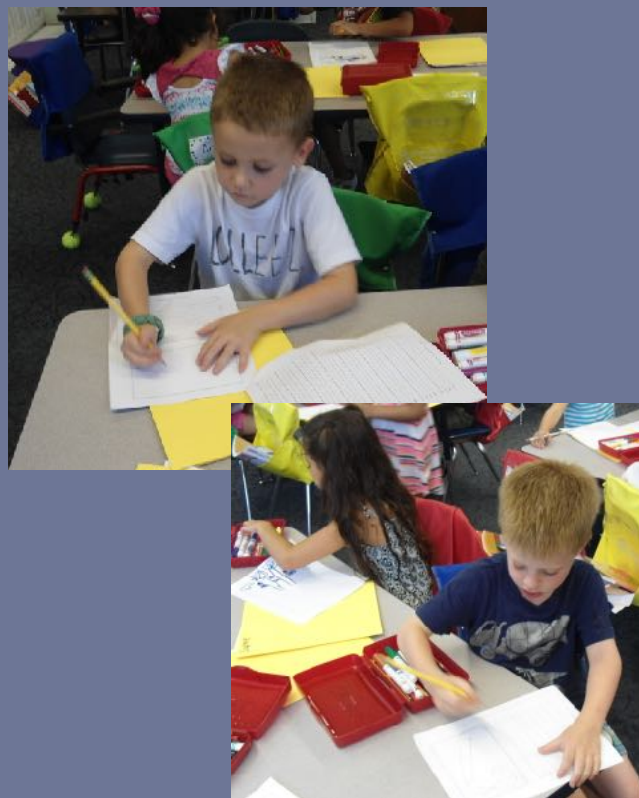
KINDERGARTEN MRS. DESENA

Kindergarten scientists have become weather watchers! Students are learning the different factors involved in accurately describing the weather and they have been observing and drawing the weather regularly. Our class meteorologist tracks, records and graphs the weather and even dresses Froggy each morning. Kindergarteners are beginning to notice and describe weather patterns.



FIRST GRADE MRS. DeSOUSA

First grade students have been working on writing Small Moments in writing workshop. They have been learning to write teeny tiny seed topics instead of big watermelon topics. This has allowed them to focus on the small details of story and elaborate using words and pictures. We are building stamina and working hard!



SECOND GRADE MRS. FEOLA

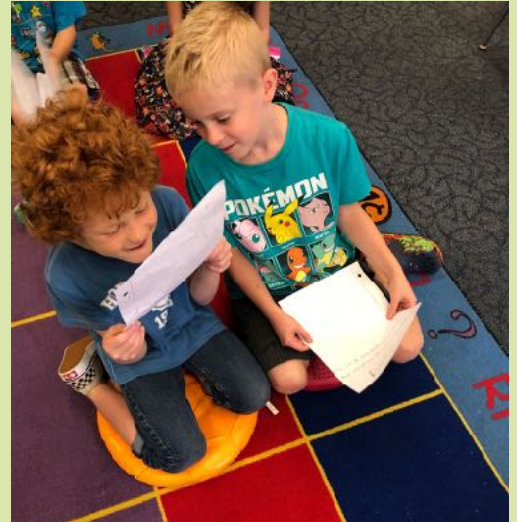


Second Grade has been working together as a team! We have spent the first month of school incorporating kindness and cooperation across all parts of our day. As we dive into our academics, we are celebrating the many ways that working together helps us discover new things. This foundation of teamwork and community will set us up for a joyful and productive school year!

THIRD GRADE MRS. RAY

Third graders have been working with their writing partners on personal narrative stories. Each student has worked hard to plan, write, and revise their stories. They are including strong leads, transition words, dialogue, and details in their work.

Partners help each other to revise and edit along the way!



FOURTH GRADE MRS. WHITE

Fourth grade scientists are discovering how our bodies are like machines. We developed a robotic finger based on how their own fingers work. From there, we created a working model of a human eye and and experimented to see how the pupil affects vision. Finally, students tested their reflexes and develop a mental model of how their brain works.



FIFTH GRADE MRS. ROTUNDA

Fifth grade is off to a great start! Being in fifth grade means many responsibilities. We are the oldest in the school and that means being a role model for the younger grades. We are up for the challenge and look forward to making our last year at WPS amazing!





Notes from Nurse: Mrs. T!

Keeping our school healthy!

call 860-868-6879

with any questions!

- ✿ Tips to stay healthy:
- ✿ Remind children to **WASH HANDS!**
- ✿ Cover coughs and sneezes
- ✿ Eat a balanced diet
- ✿ Get enough **SLEEP!**
- ✿ Get outside/ exercise



To all REACH families: Reach students have a flu vaccination requirement: 1 dose administered each year between August 1 - December 31st. Documentation required for state



All students who are injured or who visit the ER require a written medical clearance form when returning from school.

24 HOUR RULE FOR SICK CHILDREN

To come to school, a child must be ...

- ✿ free of fever (under 100 degrees) for 24 hours without fever-reducing medicines before returning to school
- ✿ free of nausea/vomiting for 24 hours
- ✿ any child with a persistent cough, runny nose, and/or watery eyes should remain out of school even if there is no fever.
- ✿ if your child has conjunctivitis ("pink eye"), they must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.



Please check your children for **LICE** as a precaution.



PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: OCT 17, 18, 19

Conferences provide a special time to focus on your child and school success.

Here are some things to keep in mind:



BEFORE THE CONFERENCE:

- Tell your child that you and the teacher are meeting to review progress and if there is something that he/she would like you to talk to the teacher about.
- Prepare a list of topics and questions that you would like to discuss with the teacher. (Examples: Does my child participate, hand in homework, seem happy at school, etc.?)

AT THE CONFERENCE:

- Ask the most important questions first.
- Ask your child's teacher for ways to support your child at home.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE:

- Discuss the conference with your child, highlighting positive points and areas for improvements.
- Ask your child for input in generating plans for success.

Keep in touch with your child's teacher throughout the year. Frequent communications shows your child that school and learning are important to your family values.



GROWING GRITTIENESS AT WPS



Grit is one of many character traits that is linked to personal success. Grittiness in individuals is often observed through personal interests that over time are developed and honed with hard work and perseverance and are important to oneself and to others. Underlining skills of self-regulation and kindness provide the foundational strength to explore interests with focus, and to impact others in positive ways.



During our WPS Community Meetings, students experienced being a member of a larger community committed to growing one another's strengths while caring for others. Students revisited kindness and learned that kindness is more than just being nice. Kindness is focused on the greater good and caring for one another. Students relearned the three types of kindness through the Ben's Bells Project:



KIND
MIND



SELF-
KINDNESS



SOCIAL
KINDNESS

Additionally, students learned about the human brain and how regulating strong emotions can increase thinking capacity and problem solving. They viewed a Kids Want to Know video, "Why do we lose control of our emotions?" which used the analogy of "flipping a lid" to show students what happens when the brainstem and the cerebral cortex do not communicate effectively. Michele Borba, author of "UnSelfie", states that scientific advancements have revealed that self-regulation is teachable. Here are some tips shared in the text to support self-regulation:



- ▶ Model Calmness - Kids are always watching
- ▶ Tune in to your child - How does your child handle stress?
- ▶ Identify body alarms - What are your child's warning signs...flushed cheeks, clenched fists, quicker breaths, etc.?
- ▶ Create a quiet space - Introduce a place to calm down for every family member.
- ▶ Make a stress box - Create a box for the quiet space with calming items like a koosh ball, bubble blower, notepad, crayons, books, etc.
- ▶ Model mindful practices - Deep breathing exercises, visualizing, or yoga practices.



Glider's pledge:

I am somebody.
I believe in me.
The me I see is the me I will be.
I am cooperative, assertive and responsible.
I show empathy and self control.
I am a Washington Primary School Student, and I SOAR!

LIBRARY BOOK RETURN DAYS:



Kindergarten- by Friday
Grade 1- by Friday
Grade 2- by Tuesday
Grade 3- by Tuesday
Grade 4- by Wednesday
Grade 5- by Wednesday

Summer Reading Success!

Thank you, parents, for prioritizing reading during the summer...and proving it with 100% participation in the Governor's Reading Challenge! At WPS students know their community cares about reading!



SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Classrooms generated their hopes and dreams for this year. In order for their hopes and dreams to flourish, students and staff created the following expectations.

- * **We practice kindness and treat others the way we would like to be treated.**
- * **We follow directions and keep each other safe so that we can all learn.**
- * **We care for ourselves, others, and our school.**
- * **We work through challenges and by not giving up.**
- * **We always try our best, show our best, and let others be their best!**

Please review the expectations. Discuss with your child how these shared expectations can help our school learn and play together in important ways.



WPS
MISSION STATEMENT

Washington Primary School is a learning community dedicated to educating and inspiring children. We foster engagement and collaboration to achieve high expectations. In partnership with families and our community, we prepare children to be respectful, caring, and contributing citizens who will lead us into the future.