



PRIMARY LETTERS

WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Emily Judd

Grateful energy permeated Washington Primary School this month. To honor American Education Week, over eighty parents visited our school on Parent Visitation Day. Parents were welcomed with smiles as they participated in a variety of activities throughout the day learning first hand about their child's school program. Parents became scientists, mathematicians, writers, makers and artists. Several parents participated in parent workshops to gain a better understanding of math fluency and to help analyze the spring 2018 family survey. Parents especially enjoyed visiting with the students during lunch times. We thank our families for their



sponsors, program organizer, Tammy Marquis, and the many parent volunteers for making this event a great success. This luncheon brings all generations together to create an opportunity to learn from one another, and to experience the rippling effects of kindness.

December can be a busy month for many families. Carve out some family time and join us at the Winter Singalong on December 13th from 3:30 to 4:30. We will sing winter songs, recite poems and share special time with one another. On

December 14th, our chorus will perform at Holiday in the Depot at 6:00 PM bringing holiday cheer to the community at large. Lastly, we will celebrate Holidays Around the World with a school-wide study of Thailand and Scotland. We hope that you will be able to join us for these fun-filled learning activities.

As we anticipate the holiday season, look for the good each day, smile often and appreciate the many ways that you and others make a difference. On behalf of the Washington Primary School community, we wish you a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. If you should have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at juddle@region-12.org or at 860-868-7331.



support and positive influence.

Later in the month, our senior citizens were treated to a delicious Thanksgiving Luncheon. Shepaug band students played several selections while guests arrived to a cafeteria transformed into a harvest themed dining hall. Reach students greeted our guests with a balloon parade followed by special songs and poems from students in kindergarten through third grade. Our fifth grade



students served our guests and engaged in meaningful conversations. We thank the PTO, our community

CALENDAR

Fri	Dec 7	Grade 5 to CT Science Museum
Thurs	Dec 13	Report Card Distribution Winter Sing-a-long (3:30)
Fri	Dec 14	Holiday in the Depot (6:00)
Mon	Dec 17	Internet Safety Night (Shepaug, 7:00)
Fri	Dec 21	Holidays Around the World
Mon	Dec 24	NO SCHOOL thru Jan 1 Winter Holiday through Jan 2

KINDERGARTEN MRS. DESENA

In Reader's Workshop this month, kindergarteners have been using their "super powers" to help them read.



Children started with the power of pointing under each word to read what it actually says and they have been using pictures to help them predict and read unfamiliar words. Kindergarten readers are using their sound power to look at the first letter of a word and make that sound to help them figure the word out. They have learned that super readers monitor which reading strategies they use the most and set goals to use others more often. Most recently, kindergarteners learned how to bring their books to life by using their voices in different ways and talking about their books with partners.

FIRST GRADE MRS. ORLETSKI

First grade was so excited to preform at the Senior Thanksgiving Lunch. They learned sign language to go

along to their poem they recited at the lunch. Whenever the students learn something new, they are always curious about the sign, too.



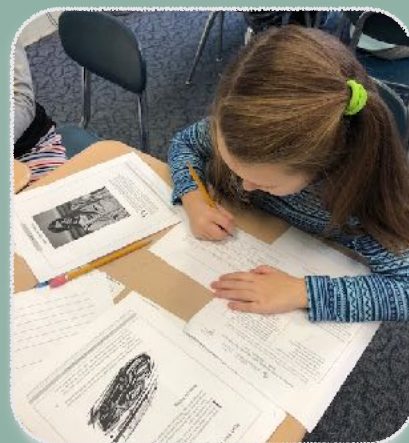
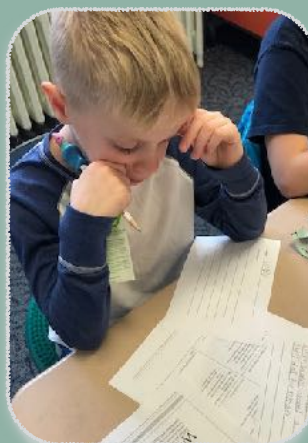
SECOND GRADE MRS. FEOLA



Second grade scientists are applying their knowledge about properties of matter. Students considered the properties of several different materials as they considered how they should design a hat with limited supplies that would keep them safe on a hot deserted island. Students have created inventive design plans for their hats. Look out for some creative student made hats in your child's backpack. Be sure to ask them why they chose their materials and how they planned their design.

THIRD GRADE MRS. RAY

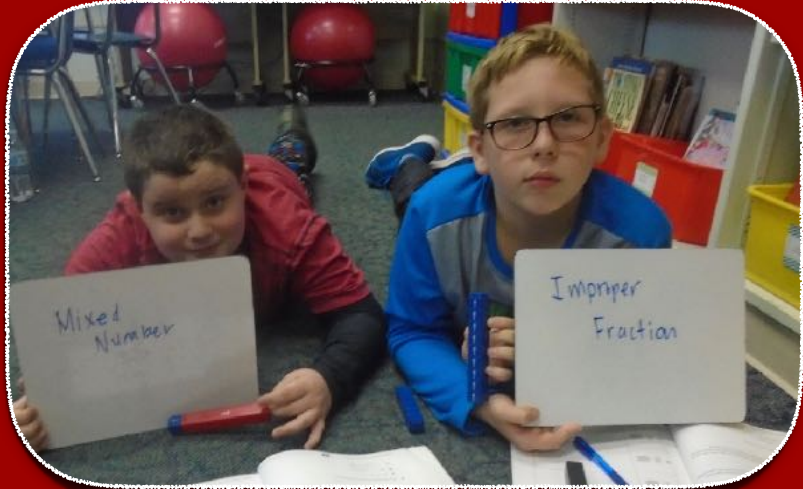
Third graders are reading to learn! They are getting their minds ready to read nonfiction by previewing the text, predicting what information they will learn and where in the text it will be, and thinking about what they already know about the topic and subtopics in the text. Then students are writing about their reading. They are summarizing, synthesizing, and growing ideas while remembering to cite evidence from the text. Third graders are becoming experts on all sorts of topics like animals, motor racing, rocks and minerals, and more!



FOURTH GRADE

MRS. WHITE

Students created a set of construction paper fraction strips, then used their fraction kits to justify equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, and improper fractions.



FIFTH GRADE

MRS. ROTUNDA

The month of November flew by for fifth grade. Everyone was excited and proud to be a part of the Senior Luncheon, modeling respectful and kind behavior. We are especially grateful to the families that joined us on visitation day to help us create acrostic poem placemats for the luncheon. We are launching research reports in writing and adding skills to our toolbox to help us navigate non-fiction reading.



Parent
Visitation Day
Thanks for
coming!



WPS Rocks!

WPS has been digging deep into the meaning of **Responsibility**, the **"R" IN ROCK!**

Students learned that showing responsibility means to take charge of their own life. It means to show self-control with your choices, your emotions, your health and your jobs. We took a closer look at emotions and learned that we can experience different levels of emotions. Regulating strong emotions and using strategies to restore balance helps our brain problem solve in peaceful and productive ways. This month we learned that holding back when your really want to do something or have something is part of self-control. Holding back shows that you can control your actions for the good of others and for your own personal growth.



When your child is experiencing strong emotions, ask them to take a break, count to ten backwards or do a calming activity. Remind them that the goal is to bring their emotions down from a "red" level (high frustration) to a "green level (calming)."

Games such as Freeze or Green Light/Red Light are fun to play and promote self-control.

When your child is pushing to do something or to have something, remind them to practice, "holding back" and to wait with patience. Suggest they do a different activity or think of something to take their mind off of their immediate impulses.



Congratulations Robbie!

—It's hard to be a parent!!—

During Parent Visitation Day, several parents generated ideas to respond to survey questions related to learning behaviors. Their thoughtful input was greatly appreciated and **WPS PARENT ADVICE** is offered below for your considerations.



Problem

Data: 53% parents indicated that their child has difficulty working on independent learning activities and persevering through tasks perceived as being hard at home.

Advise

- * Encourage your child to work alone for 15-20 minutes then offer assistance.
- * Accept that not finishing and letting your child experience the natural consequences is "okay."
- * Give your child permission to make mistakes.
- * Offer a break, eat a snack or go outside. Then try again.
- * Alternate the time when work is to be done. Try the morning hours instead of after school.
- * Bring in examples that your child finds interesting to relate to the work/task.
- * Stretch out assignments to allow for more time to complete.
- * Use a positive reinforcement chart for completing homework.
- * Model how to do the task and invite your child to share in the work until he/she understands what to do.
- * Be empathetic, but do not waiver in expectation. Grit is not the opposite of empathy. Show grit as a team effort can overcome challenges.



Problem

Data: Approximately 60% of the parents indicated that their child struggles to get organized for school or is easily distracted when working on school activities.

Advice

- * Practice consistent routines for: getting dressed/undressed, bathing, reading, bedtime, waking-up, homework, bus, packing of school materials. Thorough routines help children and parents be successful partners.
- * Establish a space for school items that is consistent.
- * Post a checklist of things that need to be packed. Students can use the checklist to check their backpack.
- * Provide a space for completing homework with materials. Separate spaces may be needed for siblings.
- * Provide a consistent time frame for doing homework so that students avoid distractions.
- * Set a timer to distinguish snack or break times from homework time.
- * Consider utilizing the aftercare program to help develop the habit of completing homework everyday within a consistent time frame.

Notes from the Nurse

Call Mrs. Truczinkas
(Tra-zin-kiss)
with any questions
860.868.6879!

'Tis GERM
season:
wash hands, get
sleep, drink water, eat
fruit and veggies

This is a
reminder that **lice**
are ever present among children.
It is a good idea to check your child once a
week for any signs of lice. There is no need to
panic if you discover lice. There is helpful
information on the refrigerator door and on
the cdc.gov/licehead/index.html and
hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html. Please
call the school nurses office with any
question or concerns at
860-868-6879.

Please use the
PASSENGER DOOR ONLY for
dropping your child off in the morning. If
you need to exit the driver seat,
please park in the lot.

PRE K:
Flu Vaccines are
REQUIRED in REGION 12.
Documentation needed by Dec.
31st.....or your little one can't
come to school!

Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon

