



# PRIMARY LETTERS

WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Mrs. Emily Judd

Classrooms are busy diving deep into reading! Students in the upper grades are focusing on character development and learning to use character traits and actions to uncover the author's message. Through active discussions, students are generating themes and justifying their ideas using details from the text. They are learning that characters are multifaceted and can reflect real life situations that can help us stretch our own social skills of empathy, kindness, gratitude and peaceful problem solving.

To continue our efforts with growing character traits, students were treated to a PTO school-wide assembly, Animal Embassy. Rescued animals such as a tortoise, skink and rabbit were used to teach students how to respect animals and their habitats. The presenter told stories about the animals to help students draw parallels to their own personal lives. The big ideas of kindness, respect and valuing similarities and differences were embraced by the school community.

Our annual visit from the Danbury Women's Group seamlessly supported building character with their social skills programs. During the Act Out-Upstander Program, students in fourth and fifth grade were presented with several engaging skits highlighting common social issues and were invited to offer multiple solutions to shift negative situations into positive energy through the use of respect, kindness and empathy. Pre-K through second grade students participated in the Care and Kindness and Safe Touch puppet show programs and learned to respect personal space and to be assertive. Third grade enjoyed a read aloud of Bully Beans by Julia Cook focused on empathy. These programs were a great way to enrich our work on character development supported a greater understanding of one another and how to apply strategies to grow kindness and respect for all. We are especially grateful for the positive role the Danbury Women's Group and our PTO play in promoting important social skills within our school community.

October was also Fire Prevention week. This is always a highlight for our students as the Washington Fire Department instruct students

about fire safety and provide opportunities for them to explore the role of a firefighter. Students learned about specialized equipment and the importance of having working fire alarms and practicing fire escapes. Firefighters were posed many questions and situations as students



were eager to learn about fire prevention. We are grateful for our partnership with our emergency personnel and their dedication to providing safety education to our students.

During the month of November we will celebrate American Education Week with our Parent Visitation Day on November 14th. Please look for a schedule for your child's classroom visit times in the near future. On November 19th, we will honor our senior citizens at our annual Senior Citizen Luncheon with a Thanksgiving meal and class presentations.

I thank all of you for your continued support and for your positive energy. If you should have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at [judde@region-12.org](mailto:judde@region-12.org) or at 860-868-7331.



## CALENDAR

|        |        |  |
|--------|--------|--|
| Fri.   | Nov 2  | Lyman Pie Delivery                                 |
| Mon.   | Nov 5  | Picture Retakes, ASAP Writing workshop 3:15-5:00pm |
| Tues.  | Nov 6  | NO SCHOOL: Election Day, PD Day                    |
| Mon.   | Nov 12 | NO SCHOOL: Veteran's Day                           |
| Wed.   | Nov 14 | Parent Visitation Day                              |
| Fri.   | Nov 16 | 1:30pm Spelling Bee                                |
| Mon.   | Nov 19 | Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon, 12-1:00              |
| Wed.   | Nov 21 | NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Recess                     |
| Thurs. | Nov 22 | NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Recess                     |
| Fri.   | Nov 23 | NO SCHOOL: Thanksgiving Recess                     |
| Tues.  | Nov 27 | PTO Meeting 6:30-7:30                              |
| Wed.   | Nov 28 | ASAP Pre-K @1:30, Writing at 3:15                  |



## KINDERGARTEN MRS. DESENA

Kindergarten writers have been learning how to reread their pieces and add onto their first draft. Students have been working on including more detail and information through pictures and words, before beginning a new piece of writing. Children have been practicing picturing in their minds what they want to write about first, then putting all of the details onto the page. They learned that when writers have more to say about their topic, they can staple more pages to their book. Kindergarteners are getting better at stretching words out by saying them slowly and then writing down the sounds that they hear. Writers have been working with a partner to ask and answer questions about their work, so that they can go back and add more to their story.



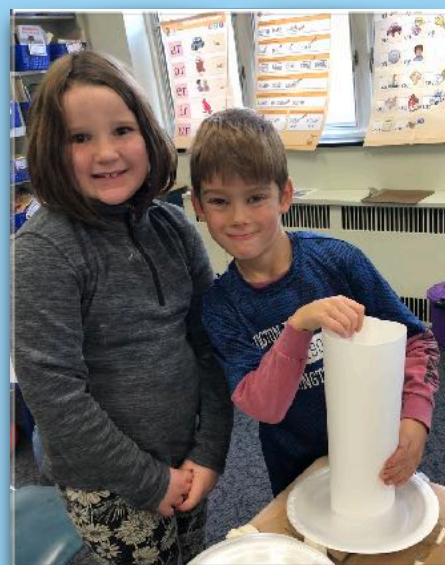
## FIRST GRADE MRS. ORLETSKI

First graders were given a problem: what could you build on the playground if students felt the area was too sunny? The budding engineers got right to work to design, build, and test their sun shield models!



## SECOND GRADE MRS. FEOLA

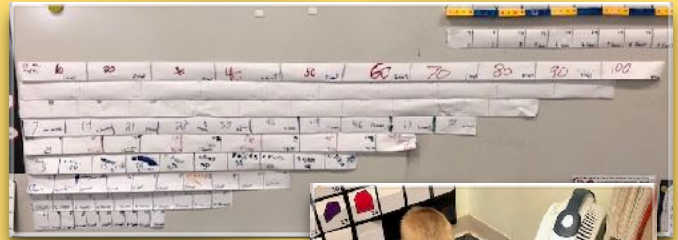
Second grade material scientists have observed and tested the properties of different kinds of matter. First, scientists studied the different states of matter and found some changes that were reversible and non-reversible. Next, students conducted experiments to see what solids are the best insulators and conductors of heat. To celebrate our learning, engineers are in the process of designing a container that will keep a popsicle frozen under a heat source. Next week, we will test our results. Ask your scientists if their popsicle design was successful!





## THIRD GRADE MRS. RAY

Third graders are learning all about multiplication. They worked hands on with partners to build cube trains with multiples of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Then they created multiples strips to match their cube trains. Finally, we posted the multiples strips in the classroom for easy reference as we embark on our multiplication journey!



## FOURTH GRADE MRS. WHITE

During the month of October, fourth grade readers have planned and presented various positions about debatable topics in books. They supported their position with evidence from the text aiming to persuade the other person or other side. This experience allowed for students to work as a collaborative team to create rich book discussions.



## FIFTH GRADE MRS. ROTUNDA

During the month of October fifth grade worked hard on revising their narratives in writing. Meeting with our book clubs and deepening our interpretations was a focus. We enjoyed many fun and enriching activities this past month as well: Fire Safety, The Women's Center Presentation, the Region-wide Fifth Grade Track Meet, and the Animal Embassy Program.



# DO YOU FLIP YOUR LID?



During the month of October, students have been exploring how our brains regulate emotion.



Students learned that our brains have different parts with different functions.

When our **EMOTION BRAIN AND THINKING BRAIN ARE COMMUNICATING** we can look at situations in thoughtful ways and respond with respect.

Students learned the importance of **IDENTIFYING EMOTIONS** and to use strategies to keep both parts of their brain working together.

They also learned signs of progressing emotions to help them regulate so they **DON'T "FLIP THEIR LID"** and hurt someone's feelings or do something unpredictable.

Self-regulation is the ability to manage your emotions and behavior with the demands of a given situation.



View the "Kids Want To Know" video "Why do we lose control of our emotions" on YouTube

Helping students understand and practice self-regulation will help them grow the skills necessary to pursue goals and to navigate strong emotions in various situations.

## ANIMAL AMBASSOR





The symptoms of flu can include fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches and fatigue (tiredness). Cold symptoms are usually milder than the symptoms of flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems. Chart below from the CDC website.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/qa/coldflu.htm>

| Is it a cold or flu?    |               |                  |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Signs and Symptoms      | Influenza     | Cold             |
| Symptom onset           | Abrupt        | Gradual          |
| Fever                   | Usual         | Rare             |
| Aches                   | Usual         | Slight           |
| Chills                  | Fairly common | Uncommon         |
| Fatigue, weakness       | Usual         | Sometimes        |
| Sneezing                | Sometimes     | Common           |
| Stuffy nose             | Sometimes     | Common           |
| Sore throat             | Sometimes     | Common           |
| Chest discomfort, cough | Common        | Mild to moderate |
| Headache                | Common        | Rare             |

A friendly reminder to all REACH PARENTS. All students attending REACH must be immunized for Influenza. Proof of vaccination must be in the Nurse's office prior to December 31st. It is strongly encouraged that your child be immunized soon as the flu has already started to appear in some areas.

To Parents, it is that time of year again. The weather is changing and the days are starting to become colder. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for these colder days.

Getting outside for fresh air during recess is an important part of the day for the students. It allows them to exercise and be energized for the remainder of the day. Please see that your child comes to school with a coat and mittens when needed, and of course snow pants and boots when the time warrants.

WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER  
FIRE DEPARTMENT VISIT

TIME TO CHECK AND  
REPLACE YOUR FIRE ALARM  
BATTERIES





## INTRODUCING THE 2018-19 WPS STUDENT COUNCIL

**PRESIDENT:** Lexi Thomas

**VICE PRESIDENT:** James Kersten.

**TREASURER:** Robert Donaldson

**SECRETARY:** Reese Evans

**Third Grade Class Reps:**

Sarah Low and McKenzie Callahan

**Fourth Grade Class Reps:**

Agnes Schiesel and Brooke Leahey



DANBURY  
WOMEN'S CENTER



## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Is a **HOMEWORK** a tricky time for you and your child?

Need ideas on how to grow sustainable **WORK HABITS** ?

Check out the **Super Homework Support** article in the October Home and School Connections on the Refrigerator Door (Parent Education Tabs).

## SAVE THE DATE

PARENT VISITATION DAY is on **NOVEMBER 14th**

Check the **Refrigerator Door** next week for details!

**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.