

WES News

JANUARY 2024

From the Principal's Desk

Happy New Year to you all! It's hard to believe that we're now halfway into January. I hope you all had a lovely holiday break with your children. The students came back ready to learn and get back to their normal routines.

Monday was the day that we honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. With that in mind, I would like to mention that there has been an increase in the use of racially offensive and derogatory language at WES; when these events happen, we are holding students accountable and providing education around why this language is not appropriate. Here is a few resources about talking to your child about race, if you are interested in supporting these conversations at home.

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/talking-about-racism>

What is Race? Having the Conversation with Young Children

Talking to Your Children about Race and Racism

Thank you for your continued support,
Venus Dean, Principal

What's In This Month's Issue?

- Save the Date
- PTO News
- NAEP Testing
- PBIS Survey Info
- Board Games
- Students of the Month
- Literacy Night Flyer
- Guidance/Wellness



Save the Date

- **Jan. 26th:** ASMM & PTO Popcorn Sale
- **Feb. 2nd:** Winter Carnival & Movie Theater Field Trip
- **Feb. 5th:** NAEP Testing for 4th Graders
- **Feb. 6th:** PTO Meeting 6-7pm
- **Feb. 10th:** Date Night (see PTO News)
- **Feb. 12th:** Prek-2 Family Literacy Night
- **Feb. 14th:** Early Release Day (1:00 dismissal)
- **Feb. 19th:** WES Spelling Bee Final @ WMHS
- **Feb. 20th:** 2nd & 3rd Grade Allied Arts Night
- **Feb. 26th-Mar. 6th:** School Break
- **March 22nd:** Family Paint Night (PTO sponsored)
- **March 25th:** Preschool FamilyMath Night
- **April 4th:** 3rd-5th Grade Family Math Night
- **April 30th:** 2nd-5th Grade Family Math Night

DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to:

Lillyanna Pilette, Raiden Smith, Ethan Jarvis-Comi,
Ashlyn Flammia, Tenley Storrs, KC Richardson

Addelyn Hebert, Hailey Manning, Emily Mills-
Brown, Ella Bisson, Charley Powell,



A December to Remember Survey

In December, WES did an entire month of spirit days. We'd love to have family feedback about that. Please take this quick, 4 question, [survey](#) to share your thoughts.

PBIS SURVEY

Williamstown Elementary is looking for collect information via a Climate Survey. This will give us information about your experience, as well as your child's experience, in our school.

On page 6, you will find the parent letter explaining the survey in more detail, along with the survey link that is unique to WES. Please take the time (5-10 minutes) to tell us how we're doing.

Students will also be doing a short survey on the early release day, Feb. 14th. If you would not like your child to participate, you can find the opt-out form on page 6.

BOARD GAMES

There are many benefits of board gaming for children such as:

- enhancing social skills,
- boosting their self-esteem,
- developing fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination,
- teaching number, shape, color and word recognition,
- encouraging flexible thinking, and
- increasing a person's attention span and ability to focus on a task.

The WES Library is going to be working in the coming months to build a small lending library of board games that students can bring home and then return. We are hoping this allows families to have easier access to a variety of games that will support those skills listed above.



Congratulations to our two 5th grade readers who won new bikes!

Allied Arts Night

2nd & 3rd Grade

Allied Arts Night

February 20th
6-7 pm

WES gymnasium

GUIDANCE/WEELLNESS

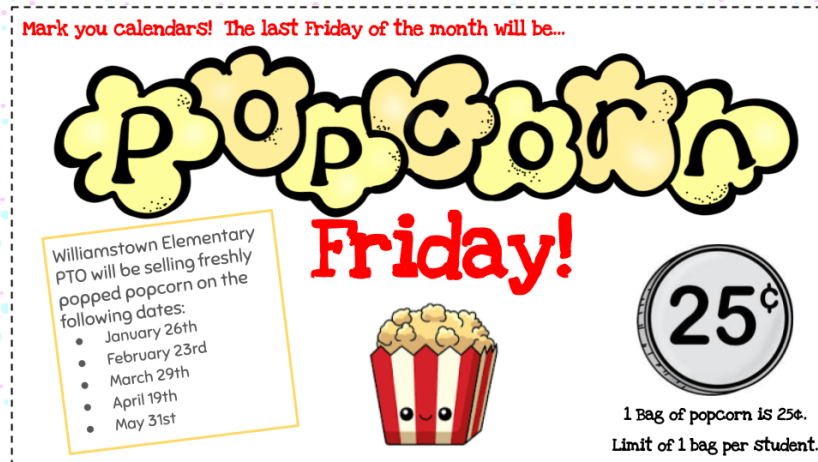
The goal of this class is to help students develop empathy, healthy relationships, coping and regulation skills as well as personal safety. Empathy is a key ingredient in development of prosocial behaviors and interpersonal problem solving skills. Children who understand emotions tend to be less aggressive and have better social skills. Friendships and emotions can be hard to navigate. Children who understand emotions tend to be less aggressive, have better social skills, and healthier relationships. In the coming weeks, Safeline will be working with our School Counselor to support lessons in Guidance. Here is a quick overview of lesson topics that your child will encounter in Guidance/Wellness.

- Feelings Change
- Feelings can be the same or different
- Understanding differences
- Understanding Care and Empathy
- Helping others
- Personal Safety
- Healthy Choices

PTO News

Popcorn Fundraiser: Last Friday of the Month (1/25).

The PTO is bringing back Popcorn days on ASMM days. Students who would like to buy a bag of popcorn, for snacktime, can bring in \$0.25 on this day. Students are limited to 1 bag each.



Date Night Fundraiser: Saturday, Feb. 10th, 5-8 pm

Looking for a date night without the kids? In honor of Valentine's Day, the PTO is offering an opportunity for families to drop off their school-aged children for the evening so they can have a few kid-free hours. The PTO will supply pizza, snacks and entertainment for your children.

Look for information coming home soon regarding sign up and cost.

PTO Meeting: Tuesday, February 6th, 6-7 pm

The PTO is looking for members to join the group. Please consider coming to a meeting; no commitment. We meet the first Tuesday of each month in the WES Library.

We love reading!

Pre-K through 2nd grade families,

please join us for a WES

FAMILY Literacy Night

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

6:00-7:00PM

WILLIAMSTOWN ELEMENTARY GYM

Make and take Activities

Play learning games with your family

FREE BOOK FOR EACH STUDENT

ELEPHANT AND PIGGIE BOOK SET RAFFLE

Light refreshments served



Please complete this portion of the flyer and return it to school by 2/5/24 if you plan on attending.

MY CHILD'S NAME: _____

MY CHILD'S GRADE LEVEL (PLEASE CIRCLE): Pre-K Kindergarten 1st 2nd

Matthew C. Fedders
Superintendent of Schools

Vicki Hummer
Director of Special Services



Renee D. Badeau
Director of Curriculum

Christopher F. Locarno
Director of Finance & Facilities

Committed to cultivating within all our students the knowledge, skills, and character essential to becoming purposeful, productive and engaged members of their world.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We want to hear about your experience with your student's education. We invite you to participate in completing the School Climate Survey. This survey includes questions about your student's learning, school safety, and interpersonal relationships, as well as your attitudes about the institutional environment and your personal involvement in school. Your responses will be very helpful in improving student relationships, learning conditions, and the overall school environment.

Beginning today, February 18, 2024, we invite all parents, guardians and caretakers to complete this survey for our school. The survey is completely anonymous and brief; it contains 21 questions and takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. You can take the survey online by using the following unique school link: <https://www.pbisassessment.org/Anon/syW104PeY80>. (If you cannot access this online survey, please pick up a paper copy in your school office, complete it, and leave it in the box designated for that purpose.) Please submit your responses by March 8, 2024.

All your responses are completely anonymous. We have no way to connect you to your answers, and results will only be reported as group responses. There are no right or wrong answers. We just want to know about your personal experiences. Responses are housed securely in an anonymous format with the University of Oregon Technical Assistance Center projects for evaluation research purposes. All evaluation research projects are in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, (343 CFR 99.31 (6)) and human subjects regulations (Protection of Human Subjects 45 CFR 46).

As you respond to each item, think about your own personal experiences as a parent, caregiver or guardian at your student's school. Please answer all of the questions, or your answers won't be recorded, but you can mark "I prefer not to answer" if you don't want to answer a question about you.

We hope you will take the time to provide us with this valuable information. Feel free to call the WES school office if you have any questions. Each school's total survey results will be used to inform and develop appropriate strategies, procedures, and/or programs to enhance our school climate.

The link to complete the survey is <https://www.pbisassessment.org/Anon/syW104PeY80>

Thank you for your time and participation!



CENTER ON

PBIS

Positive Behavioral
Interventions & Supports

SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEYS

Parental Notification/Opt-out Form – School Climate Survey: Elementary (English)

The *School Climate Survey: Elementary* is an anonymous survey used to identify school climate issues within our school. The survey for elementary school students includes 11 questions and should take no more than 10–15 minutes to complete. The survey is anonymous, but parents/guardians should be given the option to opt out if desired.

The data collected from the survey will be used to identify student perceptions of school climate issues within our school. School staff use the results to inform our efforts at improving our school climate. Responses are housed securely in an anonymous format with the University of Oregon Technical Assistance Center projects for evaluation research purposes. All evaluation research projects are in compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, (343 CFR 99.31 (6)) and human subjects regulations (Protection of Human Subjects 45 CFR 46).

Our desire is to involve parents in their children's education. If you **do not** wish for your child to participate in this important activity, please sign and return this form to the school by 1/24/24. If you would like to examine the survey, please come by the school between 7:30 and 4:00, and we will be happy to provide you with a copy for your review.

Do not return this form if your child CAN participate in this survey.

If you do not wish your child to participate in this survey,

Please sign this form and return it to school by 1/24/24.

I would prefer that my child NOT participate in the *School Climate Survey: Elementary*.

School Name _____

Student Name _____ Student Grade _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Thank you for your participation.

NAEP Testing

For FOURTH Grade Families

Monday, January 15, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Williamstown Elementary School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on Monday, February 5, 2024. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it is a common measure of achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents/guardians, policymakers, and the public.

Your child (will/may) take a mathematics or reading assessment. In addition to subject-area questions, students voluntarily complete NAEP survey questions. These questions provide valuable information about participating students' educational experiences and opportunities to learn both in and outside of the classroom. Additionally, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students will be included in the National Indian Education Study (NIES). NIES describes the condition of education for AI/AN students in the United States. More information about NAEP survey questions is available at <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/parents> under the section "What Questions Are on the Test?"

The assessment takes about 120 minutes for most students, which includes transition time, directions, and completion of survey questions. The information collected is used for statistical purposes only. Your child's grades will not be affected. Students may be excused for any reason, are not required to complete the assessment, and may skip any question.

While the assessment is voluntary, NAEP depends on student participation to help policymakers improve education. However, if you do not want your child to participate, please notify me in writing by Monday, January 29, 2024.

There is no need to study in preparation for NAEP, but please encourage your child to do their best. Contact Venus Dean at or at vdean@cvsu.org if you have any questions.

We are excited that our school is participating in NAEP. We know that Williamstown Elementary School's students will show what our nation's students know and can do.

Sincerely,

Venus Dean, Principal

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) conducts the National Assessment of Educational Progress to evaluate federally supported education programs. All of the information you provide may be used only for statistical purposes and may not be disclosed, or used, in identifiable form for any other purpose except as required by law (20 U.S.C. §9573 and 6 U.S.C. §151). By law, every NCES employee as well as every NCES agent, such as contractors and NAEP coordinators, has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term of up to 5 years, a fine of \$250,000, or both if he or she willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you. Electronic submission of your information will be monitored for viruses, malware, and other threats by Federal employees and contractors in accordance with the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015.