



**WMRSD Leaders and Learners – Your Community Connection
White Mountains Regional School District**

Issue 8 – October 31, 2021

At Whitefield Elementary School

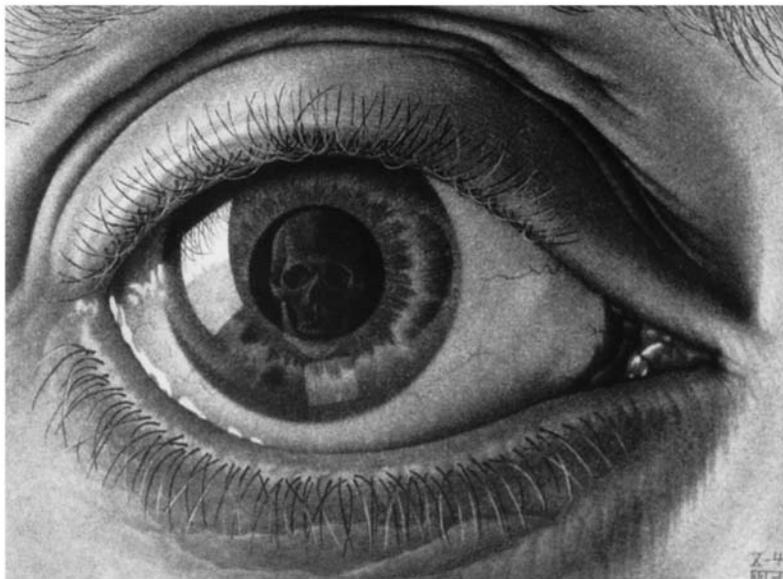
During the month of November, WES will be hosting Parent-Teacher conferences. The window runs from November 1st through December 3rd. Classroom teachers have sent out invitations with a variety of dates and times that parents can choose from. Some will be before school, some during, and some after school. Remote, phone, and some in-person meetings will be made available during that window so as to maximize the opportunities for an individual meeting. Unlike the Open House, the parent-teacher conferences provide the opportunity for parents/guardians and teachers to focus on one child and get to know each other. The teacher will provide information about the fall baseline tests and in K-6 some information about the Walk-to-Read approach to literacy. They will also talk about observations they have regarding socialization. Parents are encouraged to take the time to talk about their children from their perspectives; what are their interests, strengths, and challenges. Students are encouraged to be part of the conferences to talk about their perspectives on the first months of school. The conferences should be two-way conversations with both parents and teachers contributing equally to the conversation and building a partnership to support the student. Mr. Cronin, Mrs. Plumley, and School Counselor, Mrs. Gross are available to join any conference with a little notice. Whitefield School looks forward to this fall's parent-teacher conferences.

At Lancaster Elementary School

Justifying why the arts are an essential part of a student's day is nothing new to those who teach art education. The emotional release one can experience from art is similar to therapy; it is a safe space to create and freely express emotion without fear of judgment. Lancaster Elementary School has teamed up with Shippee Eye Care to promote community engagement with student artwork to share the hard work students are passionate about creating. Each month, the pieces will rotate, giving all students opportunities to display their work at some point throughout the school year. The month of October features Mrs. Beattie's third-graders artwork (featured below). The students created autumn birch trees highlighting their understanding of warm colors and how greens can add contrast to their compositions.



During November, the Middle School Art I course (a combination of 7th and 8th graders) will be on display. Here the viewers will enjoy graphite and charcoal renderings of their Surreal "Window to The Soul" project. This unit revolves around the era of surrealism and focuses on self-reflection, self-discovery, value, contrast, and form. Students used inspiration from M.C. Escher's Eye. (featured below) to create their final pieces. The overall composition explores an object that would be an identifying aspect of the student, and if someone were to look them in the eye, what would they see? Anyone visiting the eye doctor anytime this year will be able to view some compelling work created by the Lancaster Lancers!



The Eye (1946), M.C. Escher



At White Mountains Regional High School

Sophomores at WMRHS began the school year exploring the concept of power in wartime in their Humanities classes. Students studied seminal wars in American history from a variety of perspectives to better understand power: Who makes decisions in wartime, and how are various groups affected by those decisions? Across different classes, students studied World War II, the Vietnam War, and the War in Afghanistan.

To conclude this part of the unit, students considered the perspective of different individuals impacted by war. In preparation for this, students had the opportunity to interview someone who was themselves impacted by the war. Then the challenge for students was to create their own character impacted by war - a task involving both creative writing and application of their historical knowledge. Students wrote diary entries from the perspective of their characters.

Their characters ranged from protesters during the Vietnam War to American and foreign soldiers from a variety of wars to children growing up in Afghanistan. Sophomore Mariah Allin, who wrote about an Afghan girl, reflected, "I found it interesting how I could make a very minor character have such a strong personality and drive to change things. Her life was stunted from the war happening around her; she just had to watch and adapt." This project helped students understand and express the most personal aspects of war.