



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

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At Lancaster Elementary School

Last week the Lancaster Elementary School's Third Graders grabbed their passports and set out on an around the world holiday adventure! In a collaborative group project, students studied the holiday customs from Mexico, Sweden, Italy, France, Australia, and Germany. Each group researched information about their country's traditional meals, holiday feasts, holiday figures, and history. Along the way, they created holiday crafts, illustrations, maps, and informational graphics, and used them to assemble a beautiful poster display. Along with the poster, they learned how to build and present a PowerPoint presentation to share their knowledge about their countries' holiday traditions.

As a culminating celebration, on December 21st families were invited for a gallery walk where they checked out all of the students' hard work and listened to their presentations. Please look for pictures on our Lancaster Elementary School Facebook page!



At Whitefield Elementary School

Last week, students in WES's Preschool and Kindergarten classes connected virtually with residents at Summit in Whitefield for some songs and merriment. As the saying



goes, “The best-laid plans of mice and men...” students and residents were not able to meet in person as planned due to the flu visiting WES, so the staff shifted gears and set up a virtual holiday gathering on Tuesday morning. Students sang a variety of holiday and seasonal songs including Jingle Bells, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, We Wish You a Merry Christmas and two rounds of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. A little dancing and movement accompanied the songs and at the end each student got the stage to themselves to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! Hand-made ornaments were shared with the residents for their community and personal trees. Nothing matches the excitement of the littlest Pirates at holiday time!

At White Mountains Regional High School

December 14 was an exciting evening for the SAU 36 Band/Instrumental department as it was the annual Holiday band concert in the WMRHS auditorium. The district bands performed for many parents, grandparents, and community members and the program contained mostly Holiday and some jazz selections. The combined WES and LES band performed arrangements that included the theme from Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony, a call and response based arrangement called “I Heard The Drums On Christmas Day” and the well-known “We Wish You A Merry Christmas.” The WMRHS Band is in the formation of a standard jazz band this year and performed “Zoot Suit Riot,” “Funky Ol’ Saint Nick,” “New York, New York,” “It’s The Holiday Season,” and “Hot Chocolate,” from the film “Polar Express.”

The high school band remains focused on running student-led rehearsals, solving their own musical challenges, and collaborating in order to fix problems. At times, they decide which compositions they will work on and make choices on how they will proceed through rehearsals on that selection. The other class in the WMRHS Band department is Progressive Styles. This is a rock based ensemble, fully equipped with a rhythm section, vocal section, light show, sound technician and full P.A. system. This class also “owns their learning” by choosing most of their work, collaborating through rehearsals, and working out their own solutions to musical issues. Please keep an eye on the district social media accounts to find out about upcoming performances and shows.