



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

Issue 20 - February 22, 2023

At Lancaster Elementary School

This year at Lancaster Elementary School, teachers are implementing a model of Guided Reading into their classrooms that will help reach more students and hopefully get them to their individual reading goals faster. This 'Walk to Read' model takes a lot of behind the scenes preparation to get up and running. It truly takes a village of educators that are committed to their students to smoothly run an ELA block that allows students to travel throughout the building to participate in reading groups that are tailored to their individual needs. If you walk into one of the first grade classrooms at The Lancaster School during the morning ELA block you will find students participating in a number of activities that support and grow them as readers. Students will be working independently on various assignments. These assignments include independent reading from their book boxes, using technology with LexiaCore5, paper/pencil practice and hands on manipulation of words, known as the Daily 5. All of these assignments are tailored to the needs of the student and are designed to sharpen the students skills in phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. When students are not engaged in these activities they are meeting in small guided reading groups with classroom teachers and title 1 staff. The beauty of 'Walk to Read' is that the students in one classroom might travel to another classroom to participate in a group that is on their level. This frees up teachers to have fewer, yet more meaningful groupings of students to really target their needs. Students and teachers alike have practiced these routines and are able to transition from their independent work, to reading groups, and back to independent work with ease, even to another classroom. It is truly remarkable to see what some of our youngest learners are capable of!



At Whitefield Elementary School

Whitefield Elementary is excited to partner with WMSI (White Mountain Science, Incorporated) as an after school co-curricular program for students in grades 3-6. The program highlights STEM activities and allows students to participate in hands-on projects That bring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math to life. In addition the students work as partners or in small groups to problem solve and communicate solutions. Grades five and six are wrapping up their seven-week program within the next couple of weeks. Students have been creating Wiggle Bots using centripetal force, coding on Scratch (scratch.mit.edu), and producing short stop motion animation videos.

Grades 3 and 4 will be starting after February break and WMSI will take place on Tuesdays from 2:30-4:00, running from March 7th through April 4th. They will be covering many of the same ideas as fifth and sixth, but on a more introductory level. We can't wait for them to get started!

At White Mountains Regional High School

On Saturday, February 11th, 9 adults and 14 students from White Mountains Regional High School traveled to Hampton Beach in Hampton, New Hampshire to participate in the annual Special Olympics (SONH) of New Hampshire's High School Penguin Plunge. This was the Spartan's ninth year of participation in the High School Plunge. The past two years, SONH held the event remotely, and the Spartans participated with a water slide into a freezing pool. After two years of completing the Plunge remotely at WMRHS, the Spartans were excited to dash into the Atlantic in support of SONH.

The theme was "Party Like It's 1999," and the sound of "This Is Sparta" rolled through the Casino Ballroom when students and staff took to the stage during the costume parade. The Spartans rocked the house with their 90's garb, and they won first place for best representing the 90's theme.

The Spartans would like to thank parents, families, and community members for their generous donations to this wonderful cause. The Spartans raised and donated \$7,606 to SONH. In their 9 years of plunging, WMRHS Spartans have raised and donated over \$40,000 to Special Olympics. This was yet another opportunity for WMRHS students to get involved and be part of something bigger than themselves. We are so proud of these students for taking on this challenge and "freezing for a reason." THIS IS SPARTA!

