



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

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### **At the Lancaster Elementary School - Play is Serious Business**

As the snow melts, the playground becomes muddy, water flows downhill creating a small stream, and some of the four year old students at Lancaster Elementary are fascinated, spending several days building tiny dams with twigs, rocks, and pieces of ice. They observe how the water stream changes course and notice which materials are most effective at stopping or diverting the water. Curiosity is a natural trait of young learners who show eagerness to discover and explore. Play provides children with invaluable opportunities to learn. Besides the benefits for physical activity and exercise, children learn how to control their emotions and impulses when they are playing. When children are busy at play, they also learn how to persist and find solutions. For example, when children learned the stream had frozen overnight, they worked on finding elements they could use to break the ice and if something would not work, they would keep on trying to find the “right” tool. Play helps children develop a very important skill called *Executive Functioning*, which will help develop their ability to learn, focus, pay attention, and get along with others. Children who have the opportunity to play screen free, will have an enormous advantage in their learning. So when you see a group of children playing in the mud or running on the playground, know that indeed, their play is serious business.

### **At Whitefield Elementary School**

Whitefield School singers have been busy during the last month. On March 15th WMRHS's Progressive Styles band performed for the student body. A special guest performer that afternoon was Aurora Haines. Aurora came to Mr. Martin's attention a few months back after he heard her ukulele playing in the String Class. After some discussion and some work with him and the Progressive Styles group a version of "TV" by Billie Eilish was arranged and performed. Aurora wowed the WES audience with a standing ovation from her peers.

On Wednesday the 22nd the WES Chorus performed as part of the Arts Night celebration. After viewing student art pieces in the Library, parents and students gathered in the gym for a very upbeat and contemporary arrangement of songs including “Sky Full of Stars” by Coldplay, “Rise Up” by Andra Day (solos sung by Zoe



Read and Isabella McElwain) and “Brave” by Sara Bareilles (solos sung by Payton King, Elizabeth Mooney, Carrington Tetreault, and Rain Rouleau). Clapping along, the audience clearly enjoyed the performance and the students were all smiles on the risers.

Finally, on Friday the 31st, Rain Rouleau and Ava Donovan were chosen to perform in the Elementary Honors Choir festival in Concord . These two were chosen to participate in a choir of over 60 NH students in grades 4-6. They rehearsed and performed five pieces, working with Director Melanie Cometa from CT. Ava was chosen to do a solo for one of the pieces. The girls represented WES wonderfully.

### **At White Mountains Regional High School**

#### **Cat Tobin - Drama Festival, Classical All State**

Things have been busy for our musicians and thespians here at WMRHS. On March 25th, eleven members of the White Mountain Players traveled to Kingswood Regional High School to participate in the New Hampshire Educational Theatre Guild (NHETG) Regional Theatre Festival. For the first time in almost a decade, students from our school joined students from four other New Hampshire high schools for a day of one act performances. Junior Rachel Travers has spent the past three months directing White Mountains submission, “The Layover” by Tracey Wells. Although White Mountains wasn’t selected to move on to perform at the state festival, freshmen Mak Gilfillan was selected to the All Star cast for their role as Charlie. Special thanks to Mr. Jon Dugan-Henriksen and Mrs. Maria Duncan-Black for chaperoning our trip. We look forward to heading back to the festival next year!

From Thursday March 30th to Saturday April 1st, three White Mountains vocalists headed to Concord to participate in the NHMEA Classical All State Festival. All three students auditioned in November and were selected for two different ensembles. Junior Adrianna Dami and senior Tala Hammon were chosen to perform in the Treble Choir under the direction of Dr. Felicia Barber, Associate Professor of Conducting and Conductor of Camerata at Yale University, while junior Scott Black was chosen for the Mixed Choir, which performed under the direction of Dr. Anthony Trecek-King, Associate Professor of Choral Music and Director of Choral Activities at the Hartt School of Music. Rehearsals were held Thursday evening and all day Friday, with a concert concluding the weekend’s activities on Saturday afternoon at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord.