



Principal's Message **Out of the Darkness**

The passing of Dennis Cullenberg sent shock waves through the WHES staff and student body as well as through the entire Whitefield community. Through these very tough days since his death, however, many positive supports and behaviors have been noted. First, so many colleagues from around RSU #12 have offered condolences and assistance. Clearly, Dennis's influence and connections to people move well beyond the borders of Whitefield and it is helpful for all WHES staff members to feel connected to a greater community of educators and colleagues. WHES parents and Whitefield community members have offered immeasurable support and a willingness to come forward in so many ways to assist the school in moving through this sad event. Most significant is the resiliency of the students and staff of WHES. They have pulled together, demonstrated countless acts of support and empathy for one another and have acted as a true community. On Friday, the day of Mr. Cullenberg's death, students across the grade spans began creating paper chains (one of Mr. Cullenberg's favorite holiday activities with his students) with a goal to have the chains connect all areas of the school and all classes. Watching students working through their grief and sadness by participating in this mutual project was both endearing and awe-inspiring. Messages from students related to Mr. Cullenberg filled his whiteboards and many older students, having had Mr. Cullenberg as their teacher in previous school years, made pilgrimages to his classroom to support his current students and to reminisce. Many stories related to Mr. Cullenberg were shared by both staff members and students and all members of the community were allowed to demonstrate their emotions without fear of embarrassment or reprisal. Some of our population chose to call parents and go home but most stayed within the school to share the sad moment together.

As we move into the new week, the school continues to offer supportive services and be sensitive to the needs of students and staff. Howie Tuttle, RSU #12 Superintendent of Schools, in recognition of the large number of the WHES staff who wanted to attend Dennis's funeral services and the resultant issues that presented to trying to run a typical school day, decided to close school on Thursday. His action removed all obstacles for students and staff, allowing them to pay their respects and support Dennis's family as well.

Out of the darkness of a horrible loss to our community, the goodness, generosity and resiliency of our community is demonstrated. Not a way that we would certainly choose, but noteworthy and heartwarming nevertheless.

Office: Please remember to send your child to school with a note if they are going to a different destination on the bus after school. It helps to avoid last minute phone calls to the school, which can make dismissal very chaotic. We appreciate the advance notice and thank you for not calling with these changes after 2:00 p.m.

Food Pantry: The Kindergarten and NJHS collected non perishable food for the Food Pantry. We collected 313 items! Mrs. Lamothe's class collected the most at 91.

Flocking for Food: *Update-* It has begun!!! "Flocking for Food" started this week as our own NJHS students put those pesky pink birds on the "North's" front lawn. If you see the flock on your lawn don't be surprised!!! It is important that in order to have the flock removed you must fill out the paperwork attached to the leader of the flocks neck and return it to WHES and a removal technician will be over within the day.

Kitchen: There is now an easier way to pay your students lunch bill online! Please go to our school website, under parents is "My School Bucks" and sign up there! Just as a re. minder when sending money in for lunch accounts, please be sure to label it with the name of your student(s) and the amount(s) to be deposited into their account. We also encourage everyone to fill out the Free and Reduced Lunch form. It is open to everyone! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Kara Waller or Amanda Lincoln in the kitchen.

PBIS News- As we continue to process the passing of Mr. Cullenberg, it is important to be sensitive and aware of stressors that may be surfacing this time of year. Holidays can often be very stressful for our children and the adults in our lives. Please be mindful of the many different ways children process grief and loss as it often is not the same for everyone. We are rolling out the red carpet next week on Wednesday, December 12th@8:30 for our monthly PBIS Community Assembly. Please come support all students that will be recognized and help Whitefield Elementary School in building a positive climate and culture for our children.

Grades Pre K- 1

Pre K: We would like to thank Mr. Tuttle and the Whitefield Community for their support and allowing the staff to have the day to come together as we paid our respects to Mr. Cullenberg. We hope everyone has a great weekend!

Beck: I would like to thank the parents and the community for their understanding and support as we deal with the death of our friend, Dennis Cullenberg. A special thanks to Mr. Howard Tuttle for allowing us to have the time to attend Mr. Cullenberg's funeral and spend time with his family. Have a wonderful weekend with your families!

Lamothe: I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Whitefield parents, community members and Mr. Tuttle for allowing the staff to have the day to attend Mr. Cullenberg's services.

Grades 2-4

Brewer: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Whitefield Community for all their support in dealing with the sudden passing of Dennis Cullenberg. I'm so grateful that Mr. Tuttle closed the school to allow ALL of us to attend his services and to the Whitefield parents for understanding. It meant a lot to each and everyone of us. Thank you so much.

Northrup: Have a great weekend. Wish List- snacks and wipes
Student of the Week- Lilianah

Trask: Next week the class will visit HVNC. They will be studying and observing birds. The kids will be learning what makes a bird a bird. Also they will be looking at some of the adaptations of birds. In Everyday Math the class has been studying fractions. Many of the kids are getting proficient with finding equivalent fractions, writing fractions, and understanding what fractions are about.

Middle School News

Norris: My name is Junia Norris and I will be the long term sub for Mr. Cullenberg's class. You may recognize my name because I was a 5th grade teacher at WES from 1998-2010. Next week, our class will begin to complete the globe project. Look for book order forms to come home this week. A challenge for our class is to increase proficiency in multiplication facts.

Mathews: Students have been practicing collecting evidence from a text and tying that evidence to a claim or idea. I am very pleased with the work they are doing in reading notebooks. Everyone is continuing to read in their nonfiction books, while we examine the book, *Fast Food Nation* as a class. Over the next week we will be gearing up to begin a unit in literary essays.

Howard: All classes participated in the Hour of Code challenge - they enjoyed all the choices this year. 8th grade will begin Expressions and Equation work next week. 7th grade will begin the Number System and 6th grade will begin working with decimals. Special Note - all classes participated in a **Moby Max challenge** and they won a reward - all students in grades 6-8 received earbuds! Congratulations to the students for their dedication and hard work - so very proud of them.

Resource News

Grady/Richards: This week has been a very sad week for many. We have tried to keep things running as smoothly as possible. Sometimes choosing a good book can take us a way for a little bit. Please give this a try when your mind needs a break, or your child craves that special place beyond reality. Have a great weekend!

Art - Library - Music - PE

Martin: 8th grade will have their claymation presentations in the music room December 19th at 9:45. More details to come!

Abbott: 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade continue to work on typing skills at their levels. 1st grade is working on capitalizing letters on the keyboard using the shift key. Kindergarten has begun learning how to use the "back" button. Have a great weekend!

Morgan: Our Winter Concert Series will take place on **Tuesday, December 11th**. There will be two concerts, the first featuring **grades K-3 at 5:30pm** and the second featuring **grades 4-5, 6-8 Chorus, and 6-8 Band at 6:30pm**.