

Whitefield Wildcat Weekly



Issue 14

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Principal's Message

Some Random Thoughts & Reflections

It's been a rough couple of weeks here at WHES as we have all experienced the very unexpected death of Dennis Cullenberg. Students, parents, staff and community members have found themselves struggling to deal with this loss and find appropriate ways of moving forward. This past Wednesday we celebrated "Cullenberg Day," connecting our monthly community recognition meeting with an opportunity to demonstrate our remembrance of Dennis. Members of our student body originated this idea and students and staff responded in true "Cullenberg" style, dressing either in green (Dennis aggressively celebrated St. Patrick's Day each year), in regalia of his beloved Boston Red Sox, wearing an assortment of neckties (Did Dennis ever wear the same tie twice?), styling creative headwear or a combination of many of these things. All students and staff, at the conclusion of our assembly, were also treated to green pancakes (another Cullenberg St. Patrick's Day tradition). Our entire school community also welcomed three of Dennis' siblings (sisters Anne and Carol and brother Carl) who presented to the school, on behalf of Dennis's family, a beautiful framed photograph of Dennis partnered with quotations related to teaching. To have his family members participate in such a joyous event, seeing all of the kids who found ways of commemorating Dennis as well as experiencing the high regard this community held for their brother, was the ribbon on a delightful package. We, as a school community, will continue to remember, observe and highlight our lost community member and, hopefully, turn our sadness into positive recollections of a very important individual.

I also would like to recognize and thank so many colleagues from around RSU #12 and Whitefield community members for their outpouring of support during the challenging period. Please know that your thoughts have been deeply appreciated by everyone here at WHES.

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: Thank you for all of the donations. We can always use granola bars, and other individually wrapped snacks!

Flocking for Food: The frozen ground and lack snow accumulation is not going to stop the pink birds from flying to a new residence this week. The flock is headed to a new destination today and this will be it's third stop. Thank you everyone for your support and participation.

Health: Flu season is around the corner, start reminding your children now about the importance of good hand washing!

Sports: The JV Basketball Tournament has been rescheduled to January 12th.

PTA News: There will be a PTA meeting Tuesday, December 18th at 5:30 pm in conference room. Please join us!

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 reminder 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.

Click below to check out the Whitefield School Collaborative Problem-Solving Project!

<http://www.svrsu.org/o/whes/page/whitefield-collaborative-problem-solving-project>

Grades Pre K- 1

Grades 2-4

Pre K: Please make sure you are checking your child's folder daily. Lots of school information is shared and the children bring home their amazing artwork to show you. This week, we are making a pinata to extend the book we have been reading *Hurray A Pinata!* Ask you child what we are making for a character from the book. They are very excited.

Beck: Please send ski-pants and boots each day to school. The temps are cold and ski-pants and boots keep your children warmer. The K Krew is bringing home a note about the Christmas party. Please watch for it. Have a great weekend.

Lamothe: Our theme this week has been Gingerbread People! We practiced skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's using our gingerbread flashcards. In writing, we made a book of Christmas Words which the children can refer to in their writing journals. Look for a decoding strategy sheet to come home with your child today. Use this as a reference when your child is reading to you at home. Christmas Party information was sent home to all parents this past Tuesday. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized at our Community Meeting!
Samantha C., Kayden E., and Ava T. Star Student this week was Brooklyn C.

Brewer: I'd like to commend Mr. Morgan and the students for a job well done at the Winter Concert. As part of our Traditions Around the World unit, we invited Teddy and his mom to share about their beliefs and customs. We learned that their big celebration takes place in the springtime around the time of the full moon. We finished up the week in England and learned about Christmas Card writing. Parents, keep an eye out for something special in your mailbox. In Literacy Block we are working in small groups; focusing on phonics, fluency, comprehension, inferencing, sequencing, and retelling, to name a few. Second graders are impressing me with their addition and carrying skills. Some students are working with 7 digits. We will be having a small Christmas Party on Friday, December 21. Please find the informational paper in your child's blue take home folder.

Northrup: Please continue to check folders nightly. I am finding that during this time of year kiddos may forget to unpack/pack folders daily. No new spelling words next week. We will use this time during class to review High Frequency Words. Congratulations to Audrey, Bristol, and Jacob for receiving recognition at this months Community Meeting. Student of the Week- Richie

Trask: The class is continuing to take weekly multiplication tests. They are also improving. Please continue to practice the basic multiplication facts at home.

It was a cold day at HVNC. The kids worked on observations, studied adaptations, and participated in activities about birds.

I want to thank all of the chaperones for braving the cold weather and helping make the trip a successful one.

PBIS News- We had an amazing assembly on Wednesday!! We rolled out the red carpet for all of our winners who then sat in the VIP section, we zumba danced with our big buddies, had an amazing dedication to the school from Mr. Cullenberg's family and ended the morning with green pancakes. Thank you all for helping to make our assembly successful and fun for everyone!!

Middle School News

Norris: This week reading has been a major focus. We read about a cabin boy who sailed with Christopher Columbus. Mrs. Howard came in and checked on our language progress in our Mobymax program. Mrs. Abbott helped us find the Maine Student Book Award collection, and we are looking at the selection in the WHES library. Finally, we all have a Gary Paulsen book to read over the next few weeks. Many of the Paulsen books are set in the winter - which is our next major unit of study.

McCormick: 6th grade has started their unit on Mesopotamia; we have been looking at the major themes in geography right now to see how they apply to this ancient civilization. Do you know why Mesopotamia was called the Fertile Crescent? Ask your 6th grader. 7th and 8th grade is finishing up learning about the branches of our government. Ask your child how the Electoral College works.

Mathews: All grade levels are diving into new writing units. Our focus will be writing literary essays with an emphasis on character work. Students are learning the boxes and bullets method of essay

Howard: 8th grade is working with linear equations - solving for the unknown. This work will prepare them for working with two linear equations and finding equality. 7th grade is looking at negative and positive numbers and using them in all orders of operations. 6th graders are learning all the rules for working with decimals - this is important work, especially when working with money! Have a safe and warm weekend.

Resource News

Brann: I'm pleased with the progress students are making in reading, writing, and math. K-4: Please practice math facts at home. 5-8: Please check in with your child about any missing assignments posted on

writing. I encourage families to look at their students' writing and provide feedback in spelling and grammar, whenever possible. This will boost the level of our classwork. As we move forward with these units, we will all continue our nonfiction work in reading.

JumpRope. Have a great weekend!

Grady/Richards: A week and a half until vacation. Please let us know if you would like extra books to be sent home during that time. Have a wonderful weekend.



Art - Library - Music - PE

Martin: 4th grade has been busy making ugly sweaters. There will be a contest for the most unique sweater, which will be displayed Wednesday by the art room. Staff and kids will vote and the winner will get a prize from the school store. I also encourage everyone to wear a fun/ugly sweater on Wednesday if you have one!

Abbott: Thank you to everyone who has helped promote our School Store fundraiser. The teachers are loving the gift cards that are being donated, and the students are loving the prizes!

Morgan: Thank you to everyone who attended the music concerts on Monday!

Have a great weekend!