



Principal's Message

Temperature Check - Whitefield Elementary School

As we approach the first major break in the school year (our Christmas holiday vacation), it seems an appropriate time to reflect on where we are as a school and our plans for moving forward. I would like to highlight our PBIS and Restorative Practice initiatives that contribute so much to the creation of a positive climate within the school and an excellent mechanism for productively addressing problematic situations and behaviors. I see students and staff diligently engaged in these processes as the benefits to all can be seen so readily. We recently received the school's results from last spring's Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) and there are areas that are quite positive in the growth WHES students are exhibiting. In particular, our Reading results show increasing strength with a greater percentage of our students falling into the top two categories of being At or Above state standards. As is true throughout our RSU, our Mathematics results are not as positive and we are focused on taking the steps necessary to address these deficiencies. As a school, we continue to work on refining our curriculums, our instructional practices and our assessment protocols so as to serve our students even better. I sense a collective enthusiasm building within the staff, embracing best practice strategies to facilitate the growth of all WHES students. No school ever reaches perfection but, most importantly, the WHES staff remains focused on those practices that will advance our students in all realms (intellectual, social, emotional and physical) of their growth. The prospects are so very positive and together, with the support of the WHES parents and Whitefield community, we will continue to strive for excellence every day, remembering always that; "At WHES, We Have Pride Inside".

Enjoy the holiday break and we all look forward to an exciting 2019!

Office: Have a wonderful Christmas Break. See you next year!



Food Pantry: With so many generous donations we were able to send extra food home to our families in need. Thank you all!

Flocking for Food: We flocked Country Corners!

Health: I hope everyone has a healthy and restful Winter break!

PBIS News: Mr. Cullenberg's family presents the school with a plaque to remember him by.



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

Pre K: We would like to thank all of the families who have brought in items for the pinata; Friday will be the big day to find out what is inside. We would also like to thank our parents, grandparents and the upper grade students for all of their help in making wreaths. They came out wonderful!

Beck: The K Krew has been busy this week with decorations and getting ready for the Christmas party. Please make sure your children have mittens, hats, boots and ski pants each day. We try to get out daily, depending on the weather. Have a wonderful vacation with your little ones!

Lamothe: We have had a busy week here in first grade, filled with fun holiday activities! Thank you to the parents who sent in goodies for our Christmas party. I hope all of our first grade families have a restful Christmas break!

Grades 2-4

Brewer: We had a wonderful class Christmas Party. We welcomed a new student into our classroom family this week. Welcome, Kelcie! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Northrup: A BIG thank you to all those that contributed to our classroom party. Have a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! Reading Logs will be due on Jan 4th (200 minutes). Student of the Week- Bristol

Trask: Thank you to all the parents for sending in items for the treat bags and party.

If possible, try to have your child go on Moby Max and practice some math skills over vacation.

Please rest and have a peaceful holiday season.

Middle School News

Norris: Our target area in math for January will be mastering multiplication facts. This skill will contribute to our success in the unit on division. Fact families in addition and multiplication are the building blocks for further math study. Thank you to Mrs. Howard, who visited us and reminded us of the importance of *showing your work* in ALL math problems.

McCormick: Wow! Winter break is already upon us! 7th and 8th graders have officially wrapped up their Government work in social studies and are ready to move into learning about Maine when we return. 8th grade is also headed into a study of motion and forces. 7th grade will be learning about classification and the cell in science. 6th graders are working on the last couple of standards on rocks and minerals in science and are learning about Mesopotamia in social studies. They will work on some writing when we return from vacation. Have a safe and happy break.

Mathews: Students have selected short stories for in depth study. They will be closely examining the characters, forming claims, and producing argumentative writing pieces. 8th graders have formed reading buddies with the kindergarten class. They are doing an excellent job mentoring the younger kids! I wish everyone a relaxing and safe vacation. Give yourself time to curl up with a good book!

Howard: What a busy week! 8th graders were able to help in various classrooms to assist in projects - thank you for doing a great job! In math, 8th graders used the hands-on-equation manipulative to practice equality of one-step equations. 7th grade has been working with negative and positive integers - adding and subtracting. This is a difficult concept because students must have an understanding about Zero Pairs - ask them. 6th grade has been working on addition, subtraction and multiplying of decimals - we will work on division of decimals after the break. If any child has free time, please log into Moby and work on some problems to keep skills fresh. Please have a safe and happy break.

Coding Club - Coding Club will begin in January - permission slips will be handed out when students return (Grades 5-8) - we will be meeting on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30. This year we will specifically be working with Sphero Lab. For more information you can contact Mrs. Howard at choward@svrsu.org.

Resource News

Brann: Have a wonderful holiday break! Please try to squeeze in some time for reading a good book.

Grady/Richards: Start a new tradition! Grab a favorite book that you can read year after year! Have a wonderful vacation!

Art - Library - Music - PE

Martin: The winner for the 4th Grade ugly sweater contest is: Cassidy Brann! It was a tough decision, they were all fabulous. Nice job 4th graders.

Abbott: Students in grades 3-8 took an online survey this week, regarding the district's nutrition program. It was nice for the students to have a chance to offer their input about breakfast and lunch here at school!

Simpson: I hope everyone has a great winter break and the weather is warm enough to get outside!!