



Principal's Message NAEP & MIYHS

Selected students from various grades at WHES will be participating in an upcoming assessment and survey to provide necessary insights into academic and social growth among our students. Parents of students involved in either of these two activities were sent explanatory letters early in January regarding these two activities.

The NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) is a national assessment given to selected students from grades four and eight each year. Students are assigned to complete either a Reading or Mathematics test that is administered by individuals from the Maine State Department of Education. On Monday, January 28th, our 8th grade will complete the assessment in the morning followed by our 4th graders in the afternoon. While the school never receives back individual student or group school results from the NAEP, our students' results contribute to something called our "Nation's Report Card" and measures performance in those two content areas. The assessment takes about two hours to complete. All students in our 4th and 8th grade will participate in the testing unless I am contacted directly by the parent/guardian requesting that their child be excused.

On February 8th the students from grades 5-8 at WHES will be completing the MIYHS (Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey). This survey is completely anonymous and seeks to gather information from across the state of Maine related to a variety of physical and mental health issues that young people face today. Meagan Soule is coordinating the administration of the survey here at WHES and, again, all students within that grade span will participate unless we hear from parents seeking to have their child excused. The gathering and collating of this data aids many agencies and governmental departments here in Maine, providing genuine insight into a variety of issues and then helping in the development of programs and services for youth across the state.

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.

Flocking for Food: The flock has landed safely back to the school and will be flying to CB Haskell Fuel this week for a visit in hopes they stay warm and dry!!! Thank you all for the continued support through anonymous donations and donations through flocking.

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.

Art - Library - Music - PE

Martin: 3-8 will be starting a ceramics unit.

Abbott: Please help your child look for any overdue library books!

Simpson: Please see the attached letter for middle school families regarding our upcoming cross country ski unit.

PBIS News- This week we had our monthly PBIS assembly and it was packed full of "FUN". We started the assembly with opening greetings from Mr. Deblois who introduced and welcomed our new staff member Terri Soohey. She comes to Whitefield Elementary with background in education and training. Terry also has a strong connection here at Whitefield Elementary as her twin sons both graduated from Whitefield and are now both students at Tufts University in the medical field. Also being recognized yesterday for her role here at Whitefield Elementary, is Nina Byers. Nina has brought an exciting new element of education and team building activities to Whitefield School. This is Nina's second year in a row at Whitefield. She is working as what's called an "Educator in Residence" through The Kieve Leadership school. Nina has worked at The Leadership School for nearly three years and loves to get kids outside, working together, and pushing them to their challenge zones. She will be preparing the 6th graders for their trip to Kieve in April and tries to meet with grades k-8 at least once a week. In addition to helping out in the classroom, Nina can be found in the hallways, in the gym, or running our new afterschool program! In closing I want to thank all the staff here at Whitefield for coming together to make this month's assembly a very special one for all award recipients and their families. Thank you "K" Crew for braving the stage and singing the Chubby Little Snowman poem, we have some very talented kiddos. The next PBIS assembly will be held on February 28th@8:30.

Grades Pre K- 1

Pre K: Congratulations to Ollie (Excellent Effort) and Aden (Responsibility) for the month of January. The children are enjoying the dramatic play area that has been turned into a Vet Office, making farms, memory games with numbers, and writing our names with upper and lower case letters. Stay dry and enjoy the rest of the week.

Beck: The K Krew is working on letter sounds this week. In Writing we are "stretching out our words" to figure out what sounds we hear. Please send a snack each day with your child. We could use some baby wipes in the K room. We use them for gluing activities, cleaning up after snack etc. Have a great weekend!

Lamothe: The first graders have been working hard on describing characters, setting, and major events in a story using key details. They have reached 10 minutes of uninterrupted Read to Self time!!! They are able to explain the difference between books that tell stories and books that give information. In Math we have been working on place value, specifically tens and ones in a 2-digit number. We read several books about Martin Luther King Jr. followed by a writing activity in which the students were able to write about their dream for the future. Congratulations to Anthony, Brooklyn and Bennett! They were our award winners at this month's Community Meeting. We are in need of snacks for our classroom.

Grades 2-4

Brewer: In grade 2 we have been focusing on random acts of kindness. The students are on the lookout for random acts of kindness throughout our school. In math we are reviewing telling time and practicing rounding to the nearest 100. We completed our Martin Luther King Jr. projects. Be looking for them on the bulletin board outside our classroom.

Northrup: We had NWEA testing this week and I was very pleased with the growth the kiddos made in all 3 areas of the test. We have started our Informational unit in writing. Chapter 3 math tests went home this week. Please go over these with your child. Congrats to Canyon, Jaxon, and Grace for receiving recognition during our Jan. Assembly/Community Meeting. Student of the Week- Thomas

Trask: In reading, the class has finished reading, "Little House on the Prairie." Next week we will start reading in two groups. Both groups will focus on comprehension, vocabulary, and basic skills.

The class just took the Unit Three test in math. They will start Unit Four next week. Much of the unit will have the students working with multiplication. Please continue to review the basic facts with your child.

Middle School News

Norris: We thoroughly enjoyed our field trip to the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum on the campus of Bowdoin College. Having studied explorers who traveled in the 1600s and 1700s, we jumped ahead to early 1900s and learned about Arctic and Antarctic exploration. Our preparation for this trip included reading several of the museum brochures, looking for the main ideas throughout and preparing questions for our guides. Emily and Diana, our guides, were so knowledgeable and interesting! Now we are enjoying polar bear videos and marveling at their size and strength!

McCormick: The sixth grade just finished a unit on geology. We are going to start learning about the earth, moon, and sun system. In social studies, we continue to learn about Mesopotamia. 7th grade has started a unit on classification in science. We are getting ready to plant our luffa seeds. We also have a new saltwater aquarium complete with crabs, an urchin, a sea star, and a snail. Everyone enjoys watching the organisms interact. 8th grade has been working on calculating speed, velocity, and acceleration. In social studies, we completed a Cereal Box Biography project for Black History Month. It has been a very busy week.

Mathews: This week all classes finished the NWEA language test. 6th and 7th grade are continuing their nonfiction unit by reading books and articles to conduct research on various topics. 8th grade is writing thematic literary essays using short stories. Each student should be reading at least 30 minutes each night and recording their progress. As always, students should be working to revise previous work to improve their grades.

Howard: What a busy week - students have done great work. Eighth grade has begun working with algebraic expressions where they need to combine like terms before solving. Seventh grade are working with fractions: unlike, mixed and complex. Sixth grade is finishing up with decimal work and will begin fractions next week. Have a safe weekend.

Resource News

Brann: We are proud of all of the students who completed the NWEA this week! HUGE progress has been made! Have a great weekend.

Grady/Richards: The students are finishing up NWEA. It has been great to see them grow as readers. Please continue to read with them each night at home! Have a wonderful weekend!