



Principal's Message

From "Captain Underpants" to "The Catcher in the Rye"

The print and television media has recently presented material related to a bill being submitted to the Maine Legislature making it illegal to disseminate, to school children, materials (print or film) that contain obscene content or depictions of sexual assault. The bill was brought forward by Representative Amy Arata of New Gloucester and was predicated by an event with her 12th grade son in which he was given the novel "Kafka on the Shore" by renowned Japanese author Haruki Marakami. Interestingly, the bill was submitted to the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee and not to the Education Committee which would have seemed to be a more logical landing spot for this concern. Ultimately, Rep. Arata amended her original bill to require schools to provide advanced warnings to parents and students, as well as securing written parental consent before exposing a student to materials that could be deemed obscene or containing depictions of sexual assault. The legislative committee tasked with examining this bill has not yet acted on it.

Schools have long contended with the tenuous decision making process that leads to the materials that are used with students. In my experience, great care and forethought is given before showing a film or assigning a novel. As an administrator, I have always required teachers to act on the side of safety and, if there is any belief that some materials might be controversial, to alert students and parents ahead of time. A library in a PreK - 8 school has additional challenges in identifying appropriate books for a population that can range in age from 4 - 14. Schools take this responsibility very seriously, so seriously that our school board has created a policy (IJJ-E Instructional and Library-Media Materials Challenge). This process allows any parent who believes that any material being used with or presented to their child in school is inappropriate to file a formal complaint and have their concerns addressed. In the case of Rep. Arata and her son's school district, she did, in fact, file her complaint and her son was not required to read that specific novel.

From "Captain Underpants" to "The Catcher in the Rye", parents have historically complained about materials in school classrooms and libraries. The essential question is who is the determiner of what is appropriate and what is not. For schools, clearly a parent can make that determination for their own child and the aforementioned policy assists parents in doing just that. However, things become much less clear when an individual parent or legislator attempts to make that decision of appropriateness for someone else's child. My promise is that we will continue to be thoughtful and diligent in our selection of the materials that get presented to WHES students and please feel free to communicate with us if you believe we have erred in our choices.

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.

Winter Carnival Dress Up Day Schedule

Monday 2/11	Crazy Hair/Crazy Hat Day
Tuesday 2/12	Maine-ah Day
Wednesday 2/13	Mustache/Beard Day
Thursday 2/14	Throwback Thursday/ Retro Day
Friday 2/15	Team Color Day - Make sure to wear sneakers too!

***PK -2 STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN IN THE FUN AS WELL!**

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: Please send in extra clothes for your child's cubby. After coming in from outside we often have wet clothes, even when we have our ski pants on.

Beck: The K Krew has had a wonderful week dressing up! Our favorite day was Super Hero Day! We have been working on writing our numbers this week(1-20). Our class party is on the 14th. The Valentine name list went home yesterday. Valentines are due on February 14th. We will be making mailboxes for them next week. Have a great weekend.

Lamothe: The first graders started working on action words this week. They have been introduced to three parts of speech; nouns, adjectives and verbs. In Math we worked on creating and reading graphs. The children have been learning about two of our famous United States Presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The next list of first grade sight words were sent home on 2-5-19. A reminder... our class Valentine Party is on the 14th. I sent home class lists on 2-5-19. Please be sure your child has something to wear on their feet each day, other than boots. Thank you to the families who sent in extra snacks! Star Student was Max.

Grades 2-4

Brewer: Please find information about the Valentine's Day Party in your child's folder today. A huge thank you to Ms. McCormick and the NJHS for a super fun Winter Carnival. We appreciate all their time and effort into making it such a fun day.

Northrup: I have sent home information about our Valentine's Day Party. Please contact me if you can provide a "goodie" for the gathering. We will not have spelling next week. Winter Carnival for grades 3-8 will be on Friday. Please be sure your child wears sneakers and their team color on this day.
Student of the week- Franky

Trask: Next week the class will visit the HVNC. We will study how animals survive winter in Maine. The students will also make observations on the changes that trees go through as the year progresses.
Please continue reviewing the basic multiplication facts.

PBIS News- It's been a very exciting week here at Whitefield Elementary. We have modified the the utilization of wildcat cards this week and included grades 3 and 4 in this modification. Mr. Trask's and Ms. Northrup's classes will now be using their wildcat cards as currency and have access to the PBIS store. When introducing this new concept to those classes this week, it was received with GREAT enthusiasm. We are very excited to make this change and always continue to check and adjust systems of PBIS.

Middle School News

Norris: We are putting the final touches on the plans for our Colonial Open House. Next Wednesday evening, from 6-7 pm, our classroom will be transformed into a colonial kitchen, complete with samples of colonial food. Guests will watch tradespersons demonstrate and explain their trades, and also engage in exciting board games designed to teach the players about life in the original 13 colonies.

Remember, Valentine message pops are for sale for \$1.00 this week and next to help fund our May 17th trip to Boston.

McCormick: Next week is winter carnival for grades 3-8. See the dress up schedule above!!!!

Mathews: 6th and 7th graders wrapped up the second portion of their nonfiction reading work. Both classes are preparing to study literary essays with a focus on theme. 8th graders are finishing work in literary essays by studying compare/contrast writing. All students should be reading for 30 minutes most nights and completing weekly vocabulary work. Stay involved with your middle school student's progress by asking them to tell you about their book or by reading a piece of writing. [Congratulations to Ava Davis](#) for submitting a poem to the Whitefield Newsletter. Watch for her poem in an upcoming issue.

Howard: 8th grade has begun working slope and their first lesson is learning about constant rate of change and proportionality. Also 8th grade had a field trip to Lincoln Academy to view the campus as they make decisions of where they wish to attend High School.

7th grade is working with properties, i.e Associative and Communitive, as they begin learning about algebraic expressions.

6th graders have really worked hard on multiplying fractions (improper and mixed) so that they can now begin working on dividing decimals.

Have a safe weekend.

Resource News

Brann: Parents - please help your child remember to bring back their reading bags! Thank you!

Grady/Richards: It's been a busy week. Please continue reading with your children each night. Have a wonderful weekend!



**“Love is Friendship set on Fire”
-Jeremy Taylor**

Art - Library - Music - PE

Martin: 3rd, 4th, 7th and 8th grades have begun their clay unit. I’m very excited to see our projects come to fruition in the upcoming weeks.

Abbott: Next week the middle school students will begin having a weekly technology class. Right now, the focus is on MLA paper setup and typing skills! Have a wonderful weekend.

Simpson: Middle schoolers - Make sure to return Cross Country Skiing Permission Slips!

Have a great weekend!