



## Principal's Message

### **Perspective: Middle School Athletic Competition**

*As the weather gets colder and we move into the warm gyms of our region for the basketball season, I wanted to speak about the channels for effectively and appropriately addressing concerns that might arise. Depending upon the issue, whether it is with our coaches or teams or opposing coaches or teams, if you witness something that you feel doesn't seem right to you I would submit that there are several individuals that can be communicated with to seek resolution. This begins, at the first level, with our coaches (unless the issue is specifically about their performance). Our coaches report to Haskell Padgett (the WHES Athletic Director) who would be next in this communication chain. Finally, issues can be communicated directly to me. I can assure you that by using this hierarchy of individuals your concerns or issues will be addressed within the appropriate avenues. Going "rogue" or attempting to confront the perceived source of the problem independently is often inflammatory and seldom results in a positive outcome.*

*Schools sponsor interscholastic athletic leagues because we believe that appropriate competitive endeavors can add greatly to an individual student's school experience. With that being said, "appropriate competitive endeavors" is the key phrase to understand. We field teams to try to be as competitive as possible, always keeping in mind that students' growth and involvement, especially at the middle school level, are most important, not necessarily winning. The WHES Coed Soccer team this fall was voted by other league teams as exhibiting the best sportsmanship throughout the season. To me, this was a significant award to earn. It didn't mean that our participants didn't play hard and try to win each contest. What needs to be pointed out, is that in their quest to competitively engage with other teams, they understood they could accomplish this without arguing with officials or demeaning the other teams. Play hard, play fair and let the chips fall where they may - is a code every middle school athletic team should adhere to and, as fans, I would like to think that we can model that same code. My hope is that we can emphasize all of the many positive aspects of team and individual competition for our student athletes.*

**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 been taken in for the winter!!

**Kitchen:** Another month is about over! Christmas is almost here! We are having our monthly breakfast on Friday, December 13th. We will be having cereal, cinnamon rolls, fruit, and milk. If you would like to have your child participate in this breakfast, please remind them on Friday to join us! We have been very successful offering a hot breakfast, or at least a sit-down breakfast. I hope your children are taking part and enjoy it as well.

A reminder, if you would like to fill out an application for free or reduced meals, please contact me and I will guide you through this process. A big thank you for your continued support of our school lunch program at Whitefield. I would like to take this time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

**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- 2

**Pre K:** Pre K has had a very busy week! The holiday concert was a hit and we would like to extend a big thank you to Mr. Morgan as well as a thank you to everyone that was able to attend. Wednesday we had an extra Art class and started making our Pinata that we will soon decorate and fill with all the fun items that parents have sent in. Thank you!!!

**Beck:** The K Krew did an awesome job at the Concert. Thank you to all the families that came. Please send a snack and drink each day with your child. We have snack time in the morning. Also, please send jackets, hats, mittens, ski pants and boots each day with your child.

**Lamothe:** This week has been full of holiday and winter themed activities. The children made paper gingerbread people when they worked in the Learning Commons. We have been learning about the tradition of the poinsettia. Each child made the most beautiful paper poinsettia, that we have hung on our hallway bulletin board. Our spelling words consisted of words ending in y that have the long i sound. We have been working on alphabetical order with holiday words. In Math our focus has been reviewing odd and even numbers 1-100. Thanks to the families who sent in extra mittens for our classroom. A note was sent home Tuesday informing parents of our classroom Christmas Party on the 20th. I will not be sending home Spelling words or RED books next week. We will start up again after the holidays. Star Student and Happy Birthday to Gabi.

**S. Brewer:** Great job at the concert, everyone!!!! We continue with our study of Holiday Traditions around the World. We have added Mexico and Sweden to our itinerary this week. Ask a second grader about the traditions of Las Posadas and St. Lucia. There are no new spelling words until the new year. K-2 teachers and Literacy Coach, Mrs. Allen attended a one day workshop on early writers on Friday. It was full of great information we can use in our writing classes. Just a reminder to have the Secret Santa presents in by Monday, the 16th, if possible.

### Grades 3-5

**Northrup:** Thank you Mr. Morgan for another successful concert. No spelling next week. Please be sure to have your Secret Santa gift here by Thursday. Our Christmas Party will be on Friday. If you would like to contribute a goodie/snack on the list please let me know. Thank you to all the parents that sent in wipes and paper-towels. It is greatly appreciated. Student of the Week- Kelcie

**Trask:** At HVNC this week, the class studied birds. The class looked at and discussed the characteristics of birds, took notes, and worked together making observations about their nests, feathers, and bone structures. After the observations were made, the class went on a scavenger hunt looking for birds, lichens, mosses and examples of wildlife.

**M. Brewer:** Students have been working very hard demonstrating positive behaviors for our "Winter Break Bingo" in order to earn a holiday party. Students must show expectations such as "engaged learning time", "marvelous morning work time", "successful special report", etc. in order to earn a party. We started learning about division this week. In writing, we related ourselves to snowflakes by stating how we were unique like a snowflake.. We also used sensory details to create Winter poems.

**PBIS News-** This months PBIS assembly will take place on December 19th@8:30. **Please note:** this is a time change for the assembly. We are excited to announce the start of a civil rights team here at Whitefield Elementary. The Civil Rights Team will be comprised of students in grades 5-7, who wish to participate. The Civil Rights Team is a school-based extracurricular activity. The team meets on a regular basis and works on projects that engage the school community in thinking and talking about issues related to the following topics:

- Race and skin color
- National origin and ancestry
- Disabilities
- Gender
- Orientation

These are known as Civil Rights issues, and it's important that we think and talk about them so that all students feel safe, welcome, and respected for who they are. The Civil Rights Team is one of many in Maine, all participating in the Civil Rights Team Project (CRTP). The CRTP is run out of the Maine Office of the Attorney General and supports the work of student civil rights teams in more than 150 Elementary, Middle level and High Schools across the state.

For more information about the Civil Rights team and the Civil Rights Team Project, you are encouraged to contact Meagan Soule (Civil Rights Team Advisor) or check out the CRTP website at [www.maine.gov/ag/civilrights](http://www.maine.gov/ag/civilrights).

### Middle School News

**McCormick:** This week the 7th and 8th grade classes participated in a simulation of a dressing station in the Civil War. It was fun watching them assume the roles assigned. Ask your 7th or 8th grade students about this. 6th grade is participating in the Geologic Time Scale Amazing Race. Ask your sixth grade student what eon, era, or epoch they have visited.

**Capen:** This week in reading students have been focusing on character's relationships, especially character conflicts and how each character contributes to the conflict. Students should continue to read their social issue book, at least 30 minutes a night.

**Crowell:** 6th graders are having fun with an experiment in Social Studies. Because we are studying Ancient Egypt, we have decided to try three different recipes to preserve apples along with a control group. This sort of activity will help students think about the methods our ancestors went through during the mummification process.

All middle school math students have completed their unit 2 test and will begin Unit 3 next week.

### Resource News

**Brann:** Please let me know if any students need books to read over Christmas Vacation. The more they read, the better!

**Grady/Richards:** As it gets closer to Christmas break our school days become busy, and schedules are sometimes off. If your child does not come home with new Title 1 homework, please continue to read books from home. Have a wonderful weekend!

### Art - Learning Commons - Music - PE

**Martin:** Hope you all were able to check out the amazing art in the gym. The kids worked very hard to finish them before the concert. Way to go Whitefield artists!

**Howard:** This week was the Hour of Code Challenge and grades 2-8 participated in it. We will continue learning about block coding over the winter. This can be done from home using the following link [code.org/learn](https://code.org/learn). Students did a wonderful job being self directed learners and asking peers questions when they needed to.

In the Learning Commons we learned about non-fiction books and how to use our on-line catalog to find specific subjects (i.e. social issues) in books to be used in other classes.

Students have created some interesting pieces to 3D print - we will be working on snowflakes over the next two weeks. Have a safe weekend.

Please click the following link to go to the Whitefield Town Library's homepage! <https://whitefieldlibrary.org/>

**Simpson:** Our K-2 students have been enjoying some fun playing winter themed games. Ask them about building a snowman or snowman tossing!

**Morgan:** Thanks to everyone who came out to the music concert!

*Have a great weekend!*