



Principal's Message

WHES Responds to Flu Season

By Mark Deblois & Kendra Anderson

WHES has been going through a very challenging period of time with several staff and students becoming ill. While the Coronavirus is seizing most of the national news, WHES is contending more with your standard seasonal influenza-like illnesses. At this time we have not had a large number of confirmed Influenza Type A or B cases but, certainly, we have had a number of individuals developing flu-like symptoms and our attendance has struggled. We do our best to track the patterns of these illnesses to provide data to inform our actions.

*Several parents have reached out to us asking what the school was doing to respond to this health outbreak. Beyond the tracking of data that was previously mentioned, we have altered our daily cleaning protocols to follow recommendations from both the CDC and the Maine Department of Education. Primarily this is disinfection of the most likely spots that hands come into contact with (computers, doorknobs, desktops, handrails, lockers, etc.), in many cases several times each day. Most importantly, we are emphasizing the **Universal Precautions** that are recommended by all health agencies. This includes frequent and thorough handwashing, coughing into one's sleeve or elbow, maintaining one's personal space, keeping your hands away from your face and staying home if you seem to be manifesting any of the classic flu symptoms (fever / chills, cough / congestion, body aches, loss of appetite).*

We have also had questions asking if we are considering closing the school during this period of time. The school district follows the guidelines set by the Maine Department of Education (in consultation with the CDC) that sets various thresholds that must be met before considering such a drastic action as closing the school. So far, WHES has not approached any of those thresholds. Parents can assist us in gathering accurate data by being specific any time you are communicating that your child is going to be out sick. That is, when contacting the school to report an illness, please state such things as: diagnosed with influenza A or B, sore throat, sniffles, stomach upset. We are not being nose-y, rather, we are trying to fully understand the nature of the illnesses our students are out of school with and build our planning accordingly. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Finally, Howie Tuttle, RSU #12 Superintendent of Schools, forwarded to all parents and staff a detailed informational letter of the Coronavirus. This note provides you with an excellent information base about the Coronavirus and what actions everyone should take. We hope that you've all had the opportunity to read this letter and if you missed it we can provide you with either a link to access it or a hard copy.

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.

Health: Please remember that our school health policy states that a child with a fever greater than 100.0 will be sent home and kept home until they have been fever free for more than 24 hours without medication. If you send your child into school and it has not been 24 hours, you will be asked to come and pick them up. We are working very hard to prevent further spread of viruses.

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:

Beck: We are adding one more in Math. In Reading, we are continuing to practice at our independent level and trying out new levels. Please have your children wash their hands before they come to school and then again when they get home. We are washing during the school day too. Have a great weekend. We could use clorox wipes and baby wipes in the K room.

Lamothe: Welcome to our new first grade student, Lilly! This has been a challenging week for many students as well as myself. I would like to thank all my parents for your continued support while I have been out this week. My hope is that all of the children who have been out this week are feeling better and will return soon. A special thanks to the wonderful staff and substitutes who have helped to make this week run smoothly. We are in need of snacks, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes and baby wipes. Thanks in advance.

S. Brewer: A huge thank you to all the staff and substitutes that helped out this week while I was out. It is greatly appreciated. Please continue to practice those math facts at home. We will begin pronouns next week and begin finishing up our opinion writing pieces. We will be moving on to informational writing. This is always a favorite of the kids. We are in need of disinfecting wipes. Have a great weekend.

Grades 3-5

Northrup: BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!!! We started chapter 5 in EDM this week. In science, third graders are working on their planet books. We continue to gather facts for our informational piece in writing. Reading groups continue to go very well. Ask your child what book he/she is currently reading during our time together. Student of the Week- Teddy

Trask: At HVNC the class learned that animals have external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival and behavior. The kids played a game, "Oh Deer!", that helped them understand how an animal's habitat can affect their population.

M. Brewer: We have been working on providing reasons and evidence for whether or not our cafeteria should continue to serve chocolate milk. Students have been reading through articles and finding evidence to support their opinion, and including that evidence in their writing. We have been working on estimating sums and differences of decimals. Deputy Gilbert will be here Monday to begin DARE. We are very excited!

PBIS News- We have continued to work on Internet Safety this week with students. This is a topic that deserves quite a bit of attention due to connection with cyberbullying. This week we had guidance counselors come to Whitefield from Lincoln Academy and Erskine Academy to support students in course registration/selection. Please review those forms with your child. Course registration for Erskine is due by March 13th. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Also, if your child would like to do a full shadow day I would be happy to arrange those for your child. Our next PBIS assembly is scheduled for March 26th@1:30.

Middle School News

McCormick: Ask your 7th grader what the hardest part was when they made an artificial heart. I bet it has to do with leaking blood! 8th grade is working on making a roller coaster theme park. They have been working hard and have some giant paper coasters that will be completed soon. 6th grade just finished up models of the lunar phases. They have learned lots about the seasons and the moon phases. In 7th and 8th grade social studies, we are learning about the Rise of Hitler and beginning World War II.

Capen: 7th and 8th grade are in full swing with their historical fiction unit. Right now we are focusing on looking at the role the protagonist plays in the historical conflict that is in the backdrop of their books.

6th grade is also working hard in their non fiction reading units. They are focusing on finding the main idea of their reading and being able to revise their initial ideas based on new information.

Crowell: To culminate our work with Ancient Egypt, 6th graders are mummifying hot dogs and observing the changes over 14 days. Ask them more about it!

7th graders are working hard with understanding percentage increases and decreases in real world situations.

8th graders completed Unit 3 and have started a new unit on linear equations and linear systems.

Resource News

Brann: It was an exciting week for 8th graders who had the opportunity to choose their high school courses! I hope everyone rests up over the weekend.

Grady/Richards: Please keep reading even when you are not asked to. There are so many books just waiting to be read. Have a great weekend!

"The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read" – Mary McCleod Bethune

Art - Learning Commons - Music - PE

Howard: 8th grade did a lab on Newton's first Law of motion (an object at rest stays at rest and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction unless acted upon by an unbalanced force) called Drop Zone - ask them if they were able to hit the target! Some other classes created the old telephone activity (two cups and string) - this was to learn about sound and vibration.

During Learning Commons, Library books that are being highlighted are based on St. Patrick's Day, Spring and The Maine Student Book Awards 2019-2020. Please encourage your child to select a book to read.

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

Simpson: There may be a delay in some of the Jump Rope for the PTA packets coming home to our K-2 students, as their classroom teachers have been out with illnesses this week. If you have not seen one by Friday, please let me know and I will make sure it gets sent home ASAP. **I'm seeing lots of students struggling with their jump rope skills due to lack of appropriate footwear! PLEASE make sure your student has their sneakers for PE Class. Kindergarten: Mondays & Thursdays. 1st Grade: Wednesdays & Fridays. 2nd Grade: Tuesdays & Thursdays.**

Morgan: All MMEA music festivals have been cancelled for the month of March. This includes the 6th grade honors festival on March 13th in Freeport and the 4th & 5th grade elementary honors festival on March 28th in Brunswick.

Have a great weekend!