

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 18

June 15, 2021



"Williams-Cone School is a safe and kind community that inspires every student to succeed. "

-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-



2020-2021

A School Year Like No Other!

Today marks the end of a year like no other. When we began the school year, none of us knew what to expect, other than knowing that the school year was going to be an exercise in continuous flexibility, grace and patience. While we've grown and stretched in ways that we never dreamed, we've persevered and come out more resilient than ever...and perhaps a bit wiser too! Thank-you amazing community!

Here are some end of school year highlights:

Congratulations Mrs. Morneau & Mrs. Austin!



Mrs. Pam Morneau, WCS music teacher and Mrs. Jan Austin, WCS speech therapist are retiring at the end of this school year. Mrs. Morneau has served as a music teacher at WCS for 32 years and Mrs. Austin has served as a speech therapist at WCS for 24 years. Mrs. Morneau's future plans include spending time with her husband, her two sons and their families including her three young grandsons. She also plans to volunteer in her church's children's ministry and to continue to be involved in music. Mrs. Austin's future plans include spending time with her husband and two daughters, volunteering in the local community as well as reading, knitting and gardening. Both of these staff members will be dearly missed and appreciate their many years of service to our school community!

5th Grade End of Year Activities



5th Grade Play Day



5th grade students under the leadership of the 5th grade team and Mrs. Martin, Phys. Ed. teacher had a special "Play Day" which included a bike trip that began at the Topsham Fairgrounds and ended at Foreside Field on June 3rd. Upon arrival at Foreside Field, Mrs. Martin and the 5th grade team led the students in a variety of games. Students and staff were treated to lunch via Mac Daddy's food truck courtesy of funds raised through 5th grade fundraisers and donations. Following lunch students biked to the Topsham Dairy Queen for a special ice cream treat.



5th Grade Farewell



The 5th Grade Farewell tradition continued this year with an outdoor ceremony on June 10th attended by 5th grade families. Highlights of the ceremony included individual student memories being read from the 2021 WCS yearbook as well as a viewing of the 5th grade

memories slide show created by the 5th grade team. Along with the yearbooks donated by FOWC, students received string bags courtesy of the Topsham Target store filled with fun school supplies as well as Gelato Fiasco gift cards courtesy of 5th grade fundraisers and donations.

The ceremony also included special presentations from FOWC to outgoing 5th grade FOWC volunteers including Steph Sersich and Emily Woodward. Bill and Kristen Stewart were honored for creating the fabulous WCS yearbook. FOWC also honored WCS retirees Jan Austin, speech therapist and Mrs. Morneau, music teacher as well as Mrs. Rineer, WCS principal for this years' service and support. 5th grade parents also presented the 5th grade team and Mrs. Rineer with some very thoughtful gifts to conclude the year.







5th Grade Fundraiser & Gifts



Many thanks to the Williams-Cone School Community for supporting the WCS Class of 2021 5th Grade End of Year Celebration! Due to the generosity of our community and the dedication of so many families, teachers, staff, and community partners, the 5th Grade Class raised over \$7,000! The funds were used to support a fun Play Day, Spirit Week, and a class gift which is the new landscaping to the right of the main doors of the school. A stone plaque will be installed later in the summer. Funds were also used to purchase gifts for the 5th grade teachers (option

1 and 2) and Mrs. Rineer for their incredible dedication to supporting 5th grade. Remaining funds are being directed to Mrs. Martin for new PE equipment, to the refurbishment of the WCS wooden sign, to the Garden Club, and to the new playground fund. There are so many people to thank and this list is surely incomplete. In particular, this effort would not have been possible without the generous contributions of Urban Garden Center of Topsham, Bootleggers of Topsham, Heather Hollenbach, Pete and Jamie Robleto of PR Tree Service, The Hunter Family, Friends of Williams-Cone, an anonymous donor and, for leading us safely around town, the Topsham Police Department. Lastly, massive thanks to Mr. Shaw, Director of Facilities, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Sanders and Mrs. Anderson for their assistance in executing our plans.

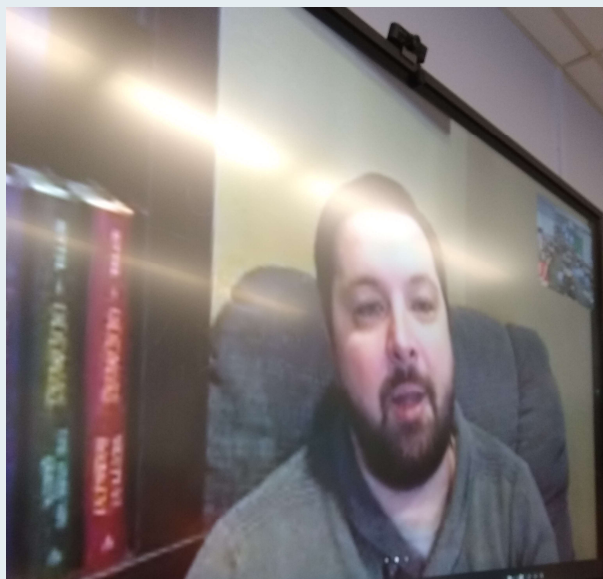
-Written by Ms. Mary Kate Appicelli, WCS Parent

5th Grade Fun



To celebrate the end of the school year Option #1 and Option #2 fifth grade students have come together for some special activities. Activities have included theme days (ex. beach day...see photo above), tie dying day, a walking field trip to the Topsham Public Library, pizza and a zoom presentation from Dr. Drew, animal handler to a virtual visit with author William Ritter and a video from Tony DiTerLizzi, co-author of the "Spiderwick Chronicles." And of course, there have been a couple of visits to the WCS favorite....Dairy Queen!





Volunteer Appreciation Coffee



A Volunteer Appreciation Coffee was held on June 2nd at WCS. Highlights of the event included honoring FOWC officers including Andrea Imrie, (FOWC Chair), Meredith Pinkham (Treasurer), Jennifer Cass (Secretary), and Emily Woodward (longtime FOWC supporter). Bill and Kristen Stewart were honored for their creation of the 2021 WCS yearbook along with Steph Sersich for her longtime dedication to the WCS school garden. Mary Kate Appicelli was honored for facilitating the 5th grade fundraisers and end of year activities. Many thanks to these volunteers along with the many other individuals who supported WCS throughout the year with generous donations of time, resources, energy and/or talent.

Other WCS Happenings

Lots of things were happening in the WCS community leading up to the end of the school year. Here are a few highlights:

Mrs. Campbell's 2nd grade class taking a hike on The Highlands trails with Mrs. Martin, WCS Phys. Ed. teacher.



Mrs. Dedek's Option #2 fourth grade class playing an end of year scavenger hunt.



Mrs. San Pedro's class visits Dairy Queen!



Mr. Cardoza, the WCS Tiger and Ms. Carin leading the final "Tiger Moment" for the school year.



Congratulations WCS Mount Ararat Seniors

Class of 2021!



Almost 30 former WCS graduating seniors marched through WCS on June 11th. They were greeted on the playground by excited WCS students who clapped and cheered them all, celebrating the senior students' success!



We look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday, August 30th. A reminder that 2021-2022 first grade through fifth classroom placements will be finalized and communicated to families prior to the start of school in August. WCS staff will be working

closely together to create classroom rosters that balance student strengths and areas to grow. Placement letters along with school supplies lists and a Principal's End of Summer Reading Challenge will be mailed to students and families in August. Incoming kindergarten students will be screened during the week of August 30th and individual classroom placements will be communicated following the screening. Our school office will contact incoming kindergarten families in August to set up screening appointments. **Kindergarten students will officially start school on Tuesday, September 7th.**

Thank-you again WCS community for your incredible support over this past school year. It is a privilege to serve this community. The staff and I look forward to returning to school at the end of August!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

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Gratitude

As the year comes to a conclusion, we take this moment to share a couple of the many things that we are grateful for at WCS:

Arrival/Dismissal Team



Given the many Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions, we were required to change our arrival and dismissal routines dramatically. WCS saw a huge increase in car riders, requiring our school team create a safe, timely and effective arrival and dismissal plan.

"Retired Rescuers"



L to R: Kevin Ridge, Nancy Andersen, Elaine Graviett, Jane Marstaller, Don Baker

Over the course of this school year, a number of retired educators came alongside our school community to help support wherever and whenever needed. Their support ranged from substitute teaching to paraprofessional support for the learning commons, special education, RTI, K-5 classrooms and/or PreK. Their dedication, flexibility and selflessness saw our school community countless staffing shortages due to quarantines, student support needs, recess and lunch coverages, arrival and dismissal support and everything else in between. We are so very grateful to this amazing group of people!!!

Gratitude:

*Bus Drivers *Office Staff *Health Room Staff
*District Groundskeeping Staff *WCS Garden Volunteers
*Custodial Staff *Cafeteria Staff *District Facilities Staff
*Crossing Guard *Free breakfast & lunches for all students
*FOWC *District Technology Department *Topsham Police Department
*Topsham Fire Department *Classroom Staff *Special Education Staff
*Option #2 Staff *Central Office Administration & Staff
*MSAD #75 School Board *Special Area Staff *Paraprofessionals *Specialists
Staff *Support Staff *Parents/Caregivers
*Students *Volunteers *Family Focus *End of Year Activities
*2021 WCS Yearbook



**Message from Mr. Cardoza & Ms. Carin
WCS School Counselor & Social Worker**



WCS Help for Families Summer 2021

The pandemic has created many needs for many families. We are thinking about all of you and want to offer support and assistance as we continue to live through this difficult time. If you are in need of assistance for your family we hope you will feel comfortable being in touch with us or accessing community resources.

Jeff Cardoza, our School Counselor, and Carin Stromgren, our Social Worker are familiar with resources in our community that help families meet their basic needs for food, shelter and heat, and other needs related to holidays, divorce, job loss, moving, etc.

NEW Resource: StrengthenME

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services is launching StrengthenME, a resource to help Mainers cope with stress in the face of a pandemic.

It offers free tools, support, and community connections aimed at promoting wellness, resilience, and recovery.

If you or someone you know needs help, you are asked to call the Strengthen ME team at 221-8198, seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm.

Easy Steps for Getting Help:

Kids Eat Free This Summer!

Join M.S.A.D. No. 75 this summer at the locations listed below for free meals when school is out! Breakfasts and Lunches will be provided at no cost to all children 18 and under:

- **Mt. Ararat Middle School**

Monday - Friday: 11:30am-12:30pm

Program runs June 28th- August 27, 2021

- **Bowdoin Central School**

Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 11:30am-12:30pm

Program runs June 28th- August 27, 2021

- **Elijah Kellogg Church**

Monday - Friday: 11:30am-12:30pm

Program runs July 6-July 30

All meals will be served together, breakfast and lunch. Program runs from June 28-August 27 unless otherwise listed. Bowdoin Central School will offer two meals at pickup. Please see MCHPP for other locations where meals are served.

Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program offers our students and families snacks at school and bags of extra food to help over the weekend. Snacks can be accessed through the classroom teacher, and weekend bags of food can be requested on Wednesdays at the lunch pick up at Williams-Cone School. Please call Mr. C or Carin if you are interested in some food help.

United Way and Other Community Groups are organizations committed to offering help of many kinds, for things such as housing, heat, and food. Calling the number **211** will connect you with a friendly person at United Way who can hear what you need and steer you to the best place. Particularly due to changes in the ways community groups are operating right now, calling **211** is an excellent starting place.

Linda Dumont at the Topsham Town Office at: 725-1725, ldumont@topshammaine.com, can help families access general help for basic needs, heating help and can be a general resource for Topsham families.

Mental Health Supports: A reminder that if you, your student, or someone close to you needs mental health support, here are some resources to help:

NAMI Maine HELPLINE: 1-800-464-5767 (press 1)

Crisis Assistance: 1-888-568-1112

Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741-741

Trevor Text Line: Text START to 678-678

Jeff Cardoza, School Counselor

cardozac@link75.org 725-4391, ext 6009

Carin Stromgren, School Social Worker

stromgrenc@link75.org 725-4391, ext 6041



The May Students of the Month were announced during a recent virtual assembly. Staff choose students who are doing their personal best to follow the WCS Code of Cooperation-Rights, Respect & Responsibility.

Congratulations to the following May Students of the Month:

Kindergarten

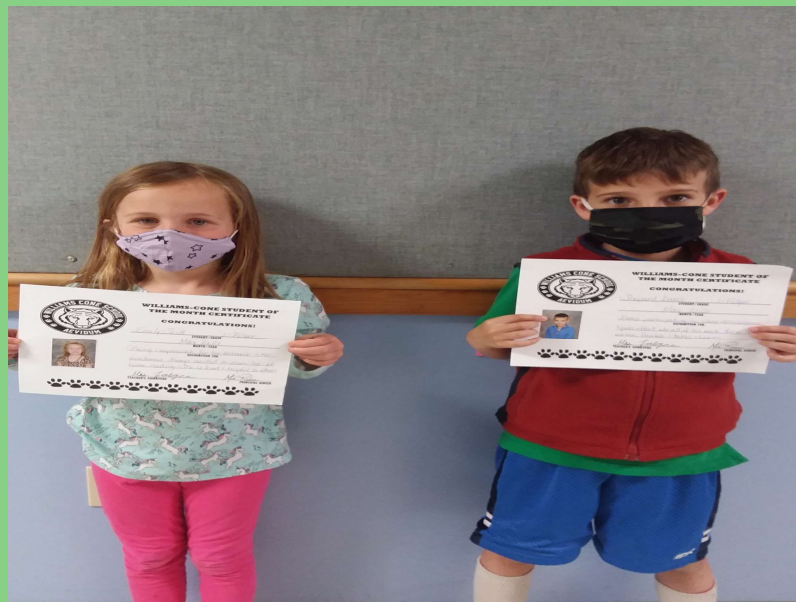
Bowie: Kashis L. & Liliana W. . Dubreiu: Chase S. & Adele C.



First Grade

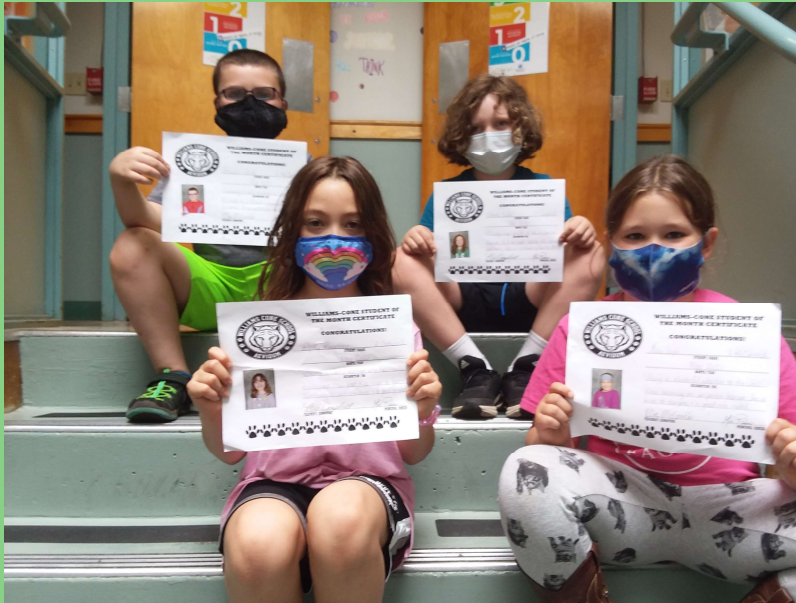
Folger: Shepard D. & Emily S. Greenleaf: Alex H. & Nya C.

Marsters: Ari V. & Elliott Y.



Second Grade

Campbell: Ripley R. & James F. McCormick: Abby D. & Braxton S.



Third Grade

Anagnostis: Wyatt L. & the entire class, Wilbur: Connor L. & Adler R.

San Pedro: Emi T. & Jaxson C.



Fourth Grade

Ebel: Abby B. & Elena S. Theberge: Anabel H. & Lucy H.



Fifth Grade

Bretschneider: Christopher C. & Stella M. Carroll: Landon P. & Kamryn C.

Kenney: Rylie S.

