

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 5

November 13, 2020



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

-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-



Hello WCS Families!

The next couple of weeks leading up to the Thanksgiving break promises to be busy for our school community. Thank-you to the parents/caregivers and staff who were able to attend the school wide virtual open house and grade

level open houses that were held earlier this week. Your feedback regarding the new report cards as well as in-school and at-home learning was much appreciated and will be taken into strong consideration.

Elementary Survey

Now that we are approaching the end of the first trimester, our school district is asking parents to complete the survey below to help us know which option your child will attend for the remainder of the school year. This survey was emailed to parents last evening (11/12), so if you have already completed the survey, you do not need to complete it again.

[Elementary Parent Letter](#)

[Elementary Parent Survey](#)

Manual Link (Cut and Paste into Browser):

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMLrqzrUVP-X8GBK60uMvPAhKsEA9SVKXzn5r4533ST96a6g/viewform>

At the October 15, 2020, M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors meeting, a decision was made to adopt a "feather-in" approach to returning kindergarten through fifth grade students to full in-person instruction four days a week. The current physical distancing requirements impacts the number of students that can be in one classroom space and may result in some classrooms needing to be split. The following dates will be used for returning to in-person instruction for Kindergarten-fifth grade students:

***Kindergarten and 1st Grade:** December 7, 2020

2nd and 3rd Grade: To be determined at the January 14, 2021, Board of Directors meeting with the potential start of January 19, 2021

4th and 5th Grade: To be determined based on the success of previous grades "feathering in" to four days a week of in-person instruction.

*An additional first grade teacher must be hired for WCS in order for first grade students to be able to return to full in-person instruction and meet the physical distancing requirements. We are currently in the process of recruiting and interviewing for this position. Updates regarding this progress will be shared with first grade parents as it becomes available. The staff and I are committed to working together to create as smooth transition as possible for all students involved in the return to full in-person instruction four days a week.



Schedule for the week of 11/16:

11/16 Cohort A

11/17 Cohort A

11/18 Hybrid Wednesday-At-Home Learning for All

11/19 Cohort B

11/20 Cohort B

Schedule for the week of 11/23:

11/23 Cohort A

11/24 Cohort A-Early Dismissal

PreK : 10:45 A.M.

K-5: 12:00 P.M. -Bus Riders

12:15-12:25 P.M.- Walkers & Car Riders

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Held via Zoom): November 16-24

Thanksgiving Break: November 25-27

Schedule for week of 11/30

11/30 Cohort A

12/1 Cohort A

12/2 Hybrid Wednesday-At Home Learning for All

12/3 Cohort B

12/4 Cohort B



Free breakfasts and lunches continue to be available. Please note the dates and times for pick up at WCS for the next three weeks:

Lunch Distribution:

Wednesday, November 18th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.

***Monday, November 23rd: 12:00-1:00 P.M.** (date adjusted due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday)

Wednesday, December 2nd: 12:00-1:00 P.M.



A new report card has been designed after input from parents, families and staff. This new report card will be implemented in kindergarten through grade five. During parent-teacher conferences your child's teacher will talk with you about what content and skills have been taught during the first trimester. They will share your child's progress with the content and skills.

***December 4th-** Trimester 1 ends

***December 11th-** Report cards sent home with Cohort A students and mailed in PDF form to Option #2 families.

***December 15th-** Report cards sent home with Cohort B students.



As we continue to journey together through the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to encourage all of us- the WCS community to take a moment and reflect on the many things we still have to be thankful for. I am a firm believer that "thanksgiving precedes the miracle."

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

rineerr@link75.org

(207)725-4391



We are quickly approaching Parent/Teacher Conferences. **They are scheduled for November 16th through November 24th and will be held via zoom.** Each grade level team or teacher will communicate with parents the conference format and schedule conferences. The focus of the first trimester parent/teacher conferences will be on building parent/caregiver partnerships, student performance (strengths and growth opportunities) as

well as goal setting for the next trimester. To help better prepare for your upcoming conference, consider the following:

- *Talk to your child-Ask if there is anything that he/she would like for you to discuss with the teacher.

- *Be prepared-Write down things that you would like to discuss/questions that you would like to ask at the conference.

- *Be specific. Describe your child's strengths and areas of need.

- *Arrive promptly to your zoom session or a few minutes early.

- *Exchange information. Feel free to share with the teacher situations in the home that may affect your child's school work (Ex. a new baby in the family, new babysitter, etc.).

- * Discuss the whole child. Your child's social and emotional development is as important as his/her academic success.

- * Leave with a plan. The conference should end with a clear statement of what you will do and what the teacher will do.

Thank-you in advance for your support and attendance. Strong, positive and supportive parent/caregiver partnerships are essential to a student's overall school success.

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



WCS Help for Families 2020

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.

Easy Steps for Getting Help:

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.

Holiday Assistance Williams-Cone School has a variety of community members who offer assistance with holiday meals and/ or gifts for families. Should you need

assistance with meals or holiday gifts please call Mr. C or Carin to discuss your family's individual needs.

United Way and Other Community Groups are organizations committed to offering help of many kinds, for things such as housing, heat, and holiday gifts 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, holiday gift help, heating help and can be a general resource for Topsham families.

Jeff Cardoza, School Counselor
cardozac@link75.org 725-4391, ext 6009

Carin Stromgren, School Social Worker
stromgrenc@link75.org 725-4391, ext 6041



Message from the School Nurse

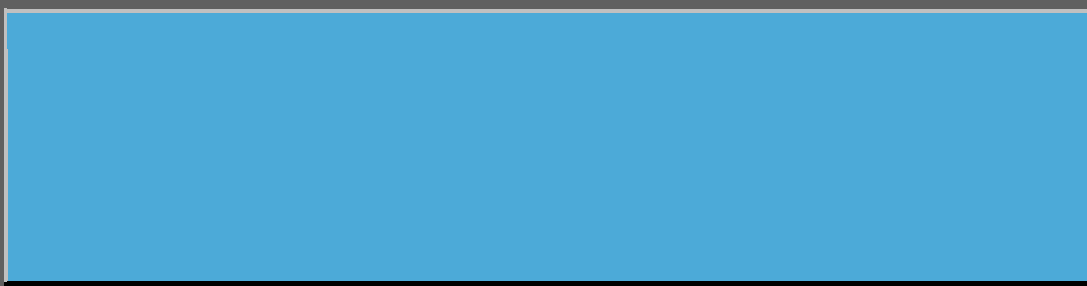


Quick Reminder About Travel Over Thanksgiving

Maine residents who travel to non-exempt states as well as non-exempt states' residents who travel to Maine **are required** to either quarantine for 14 days or get a negative test. This also applies for day trips (e.g., a trip from Maine to Rhode Island for shopping).

Current exempt states include: New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts. However, the Maine CDC recommends either quarantine or testing when traveling to or from Massachusetts given its higher prevalence of COVID-19 than in northern New England.

*From State of Maine COVID-19 Response, Office of the Governor
FAQ for Travelers (Updated 11/1/20)*



WCS Staff Interview

Featuring: Mrs. San Pedro, Grade 2/3 Teacher



Number of years at WCS: 26 years

Family: Husband Rick, Sons Will (age 19) and Nate (age 16)

Pets: Boston, a Pekingese dog who is old and can be grumpy.

Favorite Color: I love so many colors and combinations. One of my favorites would be royal blue and teal.

Hobbies: Watching soccer, walking with friends, floating on Sebago Lake, quilting

Favorite Types of Books: I love read alouds with strong characters to read to students. I look for characters that make us have a strong reaction in some way. I enjoy reading historical fiction and mysteries in my free time. A book that I just finished reading is Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly.



Facts that are unique to Mrs. San Pedro:

*I have only been a teacher at Williams-Cone School.

*When I was 25 I completed the Trek Across Maine!

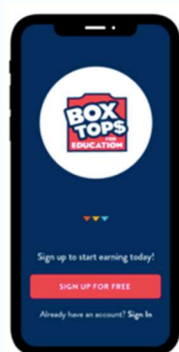




Friends of Williams-Cone

Williams-Cone Wear Sale: Flyers will be sent home with students in the upcoming weeks for Tshirts, sweatshirts and beanies featuring the WCS mascot and logo. Distribution of the items will be completed in time for the Winter Break holidays.

Food Drive: FOWC is helping our community by collecting non-perishable food items for Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program. Throughout the month of November, donations can be placed in boxes in front of the school office. A box will be available outside the main entrance for remote students' donations. Items needed most: peanut butter, boxed cereal, canned vegetables, tomato sauce and tuna.



Box Tops For Education Has Gone Digital!

The box tops clippings are becoming more few and far between as they transition the program to be fully digital.

Download the app to your phone and scan your grocery receipts to earn easy money for WCS! The app will find participating products that you purchased at any store and instantly add cash to our WCS account.

Scan the receipts within 14 days of purchase.

There are special bonus offers on top of your Box Tops earnings too!

