

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 10

February 5, 2021



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

*-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-*



**Hello WCS Community!**

**Here are highlights and updates of things taking place at WCS:**

### **Spread Love Not Germs Project**

This week and next week WCS students are engaging in a special Valentine's project that is meant to support and promote hope and gratitude in our community. Hearts like the one pictured above are being posted on classroom doors randomly each day. When a heart is posted on a classroom door, the class will engage in creating and implementing a special project that spreads love, kindness, hope and/or gratitude in the WCS community. Students will invite me (Mrs. Rineer) to their classrooms to share and report out on their projects. In turn, I will have a special surprise for each student.

## Phase 3 Feathering-In: Grades 4 & 5

Students in grades four and five are scheduled to transition into full time, four day per week learning on **Monday, February 22nd**. This change will take place pending that our county is still in "green" status as per Maine State Governor Janet Mills. At this time we anticipate having two sections of fourth grade and two sections of fifth grade with fourteen students in each classroom. This is the maximum number of students that can safely be accommodated in the lower Cone level classrooms as per the Maine Department of Education's safety guidelines.

Students will not change homeroom or teacher assignments. However, the fourth and fifth grade teams and I are very aware of the social, emotional and academic changes that our students will potentially experience as a result of cohorts merging together. Therefore; we will work together to ensure a positive and smooth transition for all.



## Arrival & Dismissal

The return to full time in person four day per week learning for grades four and five beginning February 22nd will require some additional adjustments to our arrival and dismissal routines and schedules due to the increase in the daily student population. Safety for all is our priority. We will once again need a lot of patience and grace as we transition to higher volumes of students. To assist us in ensuring a safe, timely and smooth arrival and dismissal we ask that parents/caregivers continue to support and adhere to the following:

### Morning Arrival:

\*Students should exit their automobiles independently and as quickly as possible so as not to hold up the arrival process. If your child is unable to exit your automobile independently, please park in the WCS parking lot and assist your child. Parents/caregivers (wearing face coverings) must walk their child to the Main Entrance. \*This procedure should only be utilized by students who cannot exit their automobile independently.\*

### End of Day Dismissal:

\*Students should enter their automobiles independently and as quickly as possible so as not to hold up the dismissal process. If your child is unable to enter your automobile independently, please enter into the car rider line so a member of the Arrival/Dismissal Team can call for your student(s). Continue through the car rider line, then park in the WCS parking lot.

Parents/caregivers (wearing face coverings) must physically meet their child at the crosswalk area and walk his/her student(s) through the parking lot to his/her automobile. \*This procedure should only be utilized by students who cannot enter their automobile independently.



### Schedule for week of 2/8-2/12

2/8 & 2/9 Kindergarten, Grades One, Two & Three , Cohort A PreK and Cohort A Grades 4 & 5

2/10 Hybrid Wednesday

2/11 & 2/12 Kindergarten, Grades One, Two & Three, Cohort B PreK and Cohort B Grades 4 & 5

## **Winter Break 2: February 15-19**

### **Schedule for week of 2/22-2/26**

2/22 & 2/23 K-5, Cohort A PreK

2/24 Hybrid Wednesday

2/25 & 2/26 K-5 Cohort B PreK

### **Schedule for week of 3/1-3/5**

3/1 & 3/2 K-5, Cohort A PreK

3/3 Hybrid Wednesday

3/4 & 3/5 K-5 Cohort B PreK

### **Schedule for week of 3/8-3/12**

3/8 & 3/9 K-5, Cohort A PreK

3/10 & 3/11 K-5 Cohort B PreK

3/12 Professional Development Day, No School for Students

### **Other Important Dates:**

Trimester 2 Ends: March 19

Trimester 3 Begins: March 22

Parent/Teacher Conferences: March 15-22

Trimester 2 Report Cards Sent Home: April 2



Free breakfasts and lunches continue to be available. Please note the dates and times for meal distribution at WCS over the next few weeks:

**Wednesday, February 10th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday, February 24th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday, March 3rd: 12:00-1:00 P.M.**

**Wednesday, March 10th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.**



### **Valentine's Day Activities**

This year due to Covid-19 related safety concerns, classroom teachers will engage students in creative and fun Valentines projects instead of the typical Valentine's cards exchange. We fully anticipate reinstating Valentine's cards exchanges once we are no longer in a pandemic.



### Winter Break 2 Principal's Reading Challenge

WCS students are compassionate, curious and confident learners. The Principal's Reading Challenge is designed to promote the love of reading and help maintain current reading growth over the break. All WCS students are encouraged to participate during the upcoming Winter Break 2. Additional details will be sent home with students the week of February 5th. Thank-you in advance for your support!



If you have a child who will turn 5 no later than October 15, 2021, he/she is eligible to attend kindergarten beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Our school office is currently creating a roster of students that will be eligible for kindergarten beginning the 2021-2022 school year. Please call the WCS office at 725-4391 to place your student's name on the roster. Additional details regarding kindergarten registration and screening will be shared in the near future.



## **Gratitude:**

\*We've completed over 20 weeks of school!

\*We've been able to successfully "feather in" Option #1 students in Kindergarten through grade three.

\*Our students are demonstrating to us daily that they are growing and learning!

\*All Option #1 and Option #2 staff-their dedication, diligence and creativity.

\*Our substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, bus drivers, etc.

\*Our school health room staff: Their care and commitment to keeping all of us healthy and safe.

\*Our Child Nutrition Program-free breakfast and lunch for all students daily as well as weekly meal bags.

\*Our bus/van drivers and crossing guards.

\*The WCS custodial staff: Keeping our school sanitized and our sidewalks cleared of snow and ice.

\*The WCS Community: The continuous grace and support that you so generously extend.

\*Our students: Their contagious joy and energy.



Your Principal,

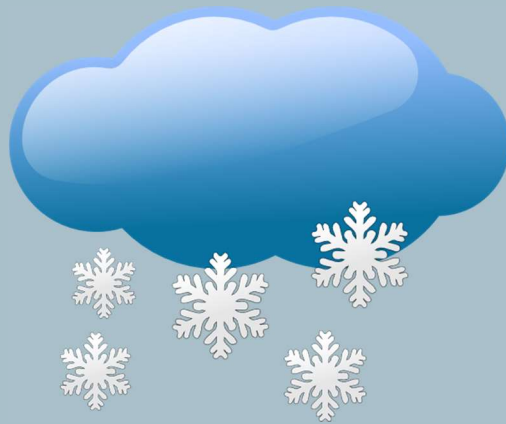
Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

[rineerr@link75.org](mailto:rineerr@link75.org)

(207)725-4391





## **Inclement Weather Procedures**

As we venture through the winter months, inclement weather (especially in Maine!) is pretty much a given. Please review the new inclement weather procedures that have been adopted by our school district this year:

### **Remote Learning Day Due to Inclement Weather for Option #1 Students**

- All students scheduled for in-person activities will activate the remote schedule provided by their teacher(s)/school.
- Families or students who have isolated power or internet loss will be marked excused absence and be allowed to make up any missed work without penalty. Parents or students are expected to communicate their particular situation of loss of power/internet with the classroom teacher(s) as soon as possible (once power/internet is back on) via email or phone.
- Teachers and paraprofessionals assigned will be working regular hours remotely.
- All activities that require any form of transportation will be canceled. Virtual activities and meetings would be held unless there is a specific need to cancel.
- Students should use the storm food package (shelf-stable) that is available through our nutrition program. These storm packets contain breakfast and lunch.

In the event that the Superintendent calls for a School Closure the following will take place:

- All school classes, activities, and meetings scheduled in-person or remote (including Option 2 classes) will be canceled.
- These days will need to be made up. Day(s) will be added at the end of the school year to make up for the canceled day.
- All after-school athletics, activities, and meetings will be canceled.
- This is the typical "snow day."
- Students should use the storm food package (shelf-stable) that is available through our nutrition program. These storm packets contain breakfast and lunch.

Communication:

A Remote Learning Day or School Closure day will be communicated via School Messenger by phone, text, and email as well as the District website and Facebook page and in addition to news Channels 6, 8, and 13. If you have not signed up for texts/emails, please contact your school office.

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



## **WCS Help for Families 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.

### **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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:cardozac@link75.org) 725-4391, ext 6009

*Carin Stromgren, School Social Worker*

[stromgrenc@link75.org](mailto:stromgrenc@link75.org) 725-4391, ext 6041

## Message from Mrs. Chamberland WCS Nurse



Covid-19 cases in Maine have risen rapidly in the past weeks. Here are some reminders to help keep our school community safe and healthy.

- Conduct the daily Covid-19 screener before sending your student to school and report all student absence to the office. If you have questions about whether or not your student is well enough for school, please contact the health office to discuss.
- Let the health office know if your student is sick with Covid-19 symptoms, or has tested positive for the virus.
- Stay home and quarantine immediately if identified as a close contact to someone testing positive to Covid-19.
- Follow Governor Mills' executive order for testing/quarantining if your family travels out of Maine to non exempt states.
- Continue to wear face coverings, wash hands, maintain social distance, and stay home when sick.



## **WCS Staff Interview**

**Featuring: Ms. Jody Haskell**

**WCS PreK Paraprofessional**

**Number of years at WCS:** Three Years

**Family:** My family consists of myself and my two teens - My 15 year old son Jacob and my 14 year old daughter Sarah.

**Pets:** I have a yellow lab named Remington.

**Favorite Colors:** Sunshiny Yellow

**Hobbies:** Fishing, hunting, camping, hiking, anything outdoors!

**Favorite Book or Types of Books:** "The Shack" by William P. Young and "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio.

**One to Three Facts That are Unique to You:** Hmmmm...my ankle is fused...I cant move it haha...that's pretty unique I guess.

**Gratitude-Something You are Grateful For:** Faith, Family, and friends!





## Friends of Williams-Cone

Thank-you to everyone who supported the fudge fundraiser that was held recently. **The fudge will be distributed starting on Thursday, February 11th.**

**CLYNK** THAT'S WHAT CHANGE SOUNDS LIKE

10<sup>th</sup> Annual CLYNK for Schools Recycling Challenge

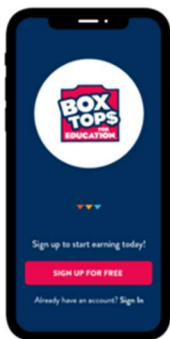
February 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021

**During this time period, for every \$1 raised, WCS will get an added .50 cent match!**

Let's CLYNK all year long to help raise money for WCS! Pick up bags from the bin outside the front door at school. Fill up the bag and drop off at Hannaford. Easy as that!

You can donate to WCS through your personal online CLYNK account too! Visit [www.clynk.com](http://www.clynk.com) for more information.

Note: Bags are always available year-round for WCS Fundraising. Just pop by school and grab them from the bin outside the front door. Every nickel counts!



### Box Tops For Education Has Gone Digital!

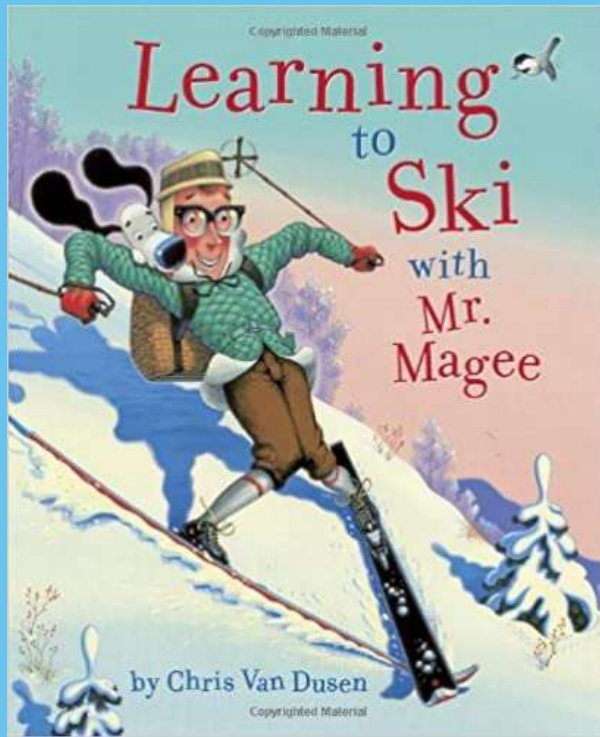
The box tops clippings are becoming more few and far between as they transition the program to be fully digital.

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!





## Staff Picks

I recently had the privilege to read and share this story with Option #2 kindergarten and first grade students. I typically enjoy books written by Chris Van Dusen, but this one is quickly becoming a favorite! From the clever rhyming patterns to the vibrant illustrations, this story is sure to delight both children and adults alike. This winter adventure chronicles Mr. Magee's experience as he learns to ski along with his great companion the lovable dog Dee. Include a moose and a "great little hill with a view of the bay" (Camden Hills!), you've got the perfect Maine adventure. I highly recommend this wonderful story along with the

other books in Chris Van Dusen's Mr. Magee series (see below).

**-Mrs.**

**Rineer,**

**WCS**

**Principal**

