

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 1

September 23, 2020



"Williams-Cone School is a safe and kind community that inspires every student to succeed. "
-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-

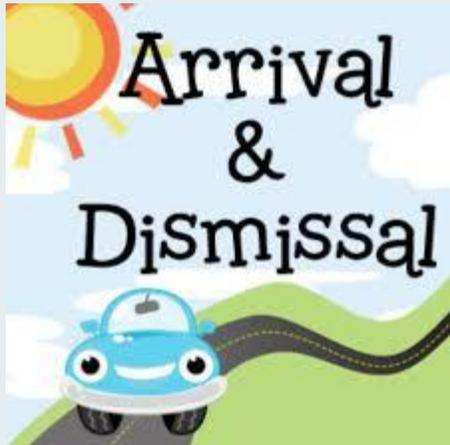


Hello WCS Community!

We are now into our third week of school. Currently we have 191 students in Option #1 in PreK through grade five and 77 students in Option #2 in kindergarten through grade five. The past several weeks leading up to the start of school has been an exercise of patience and flexibility for all-no matter which option your student (s) may currently be in! Moving forward we will continue to work together as one school community to build and strengthen relationships and student learning. Given that we are a community, you will find information that

pertains to Option #1 and/or Option #2 families in this newsletter and future newsletters. The staff and I will continue to do our best to provide communication in as timely and consistent manner as possible.

Here are a things taking place around WCS:



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Thank-you WCS community for supporting and adapting to the many arrival and dismissal changes that have been necessary due to our safety protocols. As a reminder:

Daily Arrival:

8:40-8:50 A.M. Bus Arrival

8:55-9:05 A.M. Car Rider Arrival

9:05 A.M. Walkers Arrive

Daily Dismissal:

3:00-3:10 P.M. Bus Dismissal

3:15-3:25 P.M. Car Riders Dismissed

3:30 P.M. Walkers Dismissed

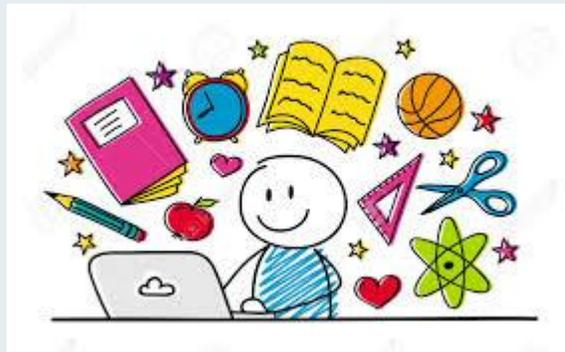


Daily Lunch:

Lunches are currently being served in the classroom. A bagged breakfast is also available daily for students. Students are seated 6 feet apart from one another while eating lunch. School lunches are served in a recyclable container. We also have a large tent located in the lower part of the playground. Once picnic tables are delivered, students will be able to eat lunch in the tent in a socially distanced manner.



Laptops for Option #1 Students



Laptops were distributed to all K-5 classrooms last Friday, September 18th. Classroom staff have are currently in the process of teaching students how to properly use and care for the laptops to support their learning both at home and at school. Fourth and fifth grade students in Group B will take home the school issued laptops on Friday, September 25th and fourth and fifth grade students in Group A will take home the school issued laptops on Tuesday,

September 29th. Students in kindergarten through grade three will take home their school issued laptops at date to be determined by the school district.

Our district is taking a "crawl, walk, run" approach as we transition Option #1 students from paper based assignments into digital assignments. At this time fourth and fifth grade students will be assigned a small amount of digital assignments along with paper assignments and activities. All at-home assignments for students in grades K-5 at this time are meant to support and enhance the in-person learning that is taking place at school. Our district is actively working on finalizing digital At-Home Learning expectations for elementary level Option #1 students. These expectations will be shared with families in the near future.

WCS Children's Garden



Over the summer, Ms. Stephanie Sersich along with other community members tended our magnificent children's garden. (See pictures above and below). Many thanks to Ms. Sersich and her helpers for making our garden a haven of life and beauty for all to enjoy!



The staff and I would like to thank the WCS community for their ongoing support as we continue to journey through COVID-19 together. Thank you so much to all our families for their help in getting their child adjusted to the new protocols. Like everything, children usually benefit from hearing it multiple times from multiple places. Please review our [PROTOCOLS](#) with your child regularly at home, as we will continue to teach these here.

We miss seeing our Option #2 students on a daily basis but want them to know that they are still very much a part of our school community. Over the next several weeks the staff and I will be working together to review different opportunities to virtually gather our Option #1 and Option #2 students. Stay tuned! As always, if you have questions and/or suggestions as we continue to journey through these first several weeks of school, please do not hesitate to reach out to our school team.

Finally, thank-you WCS community for your continued support, flexibility and grace. It is a privilege to serve alongside all of you!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer

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MSAD 75 Food Services will offer free breakfast & lunch from the start of this school year until December 31, 2020 or USDA funding runs out. This program is for all children 18 and under and all are qualified to receive these meals. While in school, Breakfast & Lunch will be available daily, and meals will be delivered to homes via bus routes every Wednesday starting Wednesday the 16th. Students who have selected option 1, in person learning will get 3 meals (Breakfast & Lunch) & Students who have selected option 2, Full remote learning will get 5 meals (Breakfast & Lunch). All Children under 18 are eligible, but Meals must be picked up at the bus stop by the Student, Parent or Guardian. We will deploy buses from each school building to distribute these meals and the goal is to leave between 11:00am/11:30am. Please be

patient with us as we navigate another new element to our program. Bus routes are being established now, and another communication will come out before the delivery this Wednesday.

Although our meals are free to start the year, the Free & Reduced forms that were mailed home must be completed and sent back. Once this program switches over, we will resume our normal operations. If you have special Dietary needs, please be sure to mail your Doctor's note to the Foodservice Director, to ensure all needs are met. This program is subject to change, any changes will be communicated as soon as possible.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns that you may have, I will do my best to communicate any program changes to you as soon as they happen.

Be well,

Katy DiCara

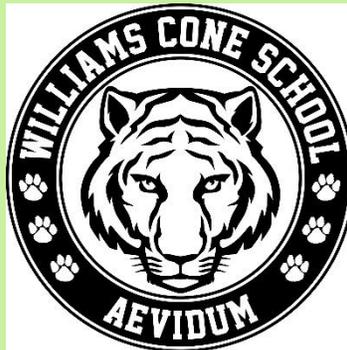
FoodService Director

MSAD 75

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207-729-9961 x 1025

dicarak@link75.org



Message from Mr. C & Ms. Carin

Greetings Williams-Cone School Families!

As we look to the 2020-21 school year, it is a given that the year will be different than any previously experienced. Although filled with many changes and challenges, it will also bring opportunities for healing and growth. Whether your student is returning to our school building or will be joining the remote learning community, it is our hope that Williams-Cone School will remain a place where students can seek comfort and connection.

Since Friday, March 13th, when our school lives ended so abruptly, many issues have arisen in our local, state, and national communities that have had direct impacts on those within our community. For some of us this time has afforded us opportunities for growth (exploring new hobbies, spending more time with family, etc.) and for others, it has posed some significant challenges in the form of loss of employment, financial strains, and a decrease in overall wellness and mental wellbeing.

We understand this has been a trying time filled with uncertainty, fear, and sadness. Many of us grieve the loss of our daily routines, planned celebrations and milestones, and being physically separated from friends and family. Although there have been significant challenges we, as humans, are resilient and it is important to acknowledge and recognize the hidden gems this situation has revealed. Whether it is a newfound appreciation for the outdoors and all the wonders our great state has to offer, a new self-care routine, or a general slowing down of life, we hope you have found some time to reflect on some positive aspects of these trying times.

As we transition into the new school year, it will be important now more than ever that students feel safe to express their thoughts and feelings and receive

validation of their own experiences of the last 6 months. We would like to extend our support in whatever way possible to better support your child/ren and your family to ensure a successful transition into the 2020-21 school year. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us should you have specific concerns you would like to discuss.

WCS is a kind and caring community and we will get through this together! We must remember to treat each other with grace, compassion and respect. We all have an innate need to be listened to, heard and seen. Bearing witness to other's experiences and listening to understand is how we can honor each other and lift each other up. Let us continue to focus on the positive moments in our lives and the things we can be grateful for as we begin the school year and beyond. Here's to a fabulously unusual, remote and socially distanced, rollercoaster of emotions school year 😊 😊 !

With Kindness,

Jeff Cardoza: School Counselor

Carin Stromgren: School Social Worker

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Message from the School Nurse

**Mid Coast–Parkview Health Announces Drive-
Thru Flu Shot Clinics**

Free clinics offered every weekend in October, first

weekend in November

BRUNSWICK, ME — During October and November, Mid Coast–Parkview Health will host a series of drive-thru flu shot clinics in Bath, Brunswick, and Topsham. Clinics will be offered every weekend in October at Mid Coast Hospital’s Parkview Campus, 329 Maine Street in Brunswick and at varying Mid Coast Medical Group practice locations. The fall 2020 drive-thru clinic schedule is available at www.midcoasthealth.com/flu.

New Staff

We are very pleased to introduce the following new staff to the WCS Community:

Ms. Nicole Tombarelli, Art Teacher

Ms. Tombarelli is joining us as our WCS art teacher until further notice. Nicole currently teaches art at Bowdoinham Community School and she will teach at both schools. She will be at WCS on Monday and Friday. Nicole is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine. In addition to teaching at Bowdoinham



Community School Nicole has previously taught in the American School in Vietnam.

Mrs. Darcy Sachs, Resource Room Teacher

Mrs. Sachs comes to MSAD #75 as a graduate of Hamilton College, Clinton, New York with a Bachelors of Arts History and she is currently finalizing a Masters in Special Education degree from the University of Maine at Farmington. For the past seven years Darcy has been an Educational Technician in the Brunswick School Department.

This has included working in the Resource Room, the Connections Program and Social Foundations Program at Harriet Beecher Stowe School. Through these programs Darcy has provided academic and behavioral support in both general education and special education settings to students with a range of academic, social, emotional and behavioral needs.



Ms. Jessica Theberge, Fourth Grade Teacher

We are also excited to announce that Ms. Jessica Theberge has recently transferred from



Bowdoin Central School (BCS) to teach 4th grade this year at WCS. Ms. Theberge has extensive teaching experience with a total of 21 years in MSAD #75. Her experience includes teaching 5th grade at Bowdoin Central for 16 years. Prior to that, she taught computer classes for 1 year at Harpswell Islands and she taught the Kinderstart program for 4 years at BCS. Ms. Theberge is a graduate of Sonoma State in Northern California with a BA in Spanish. She received her teaching

certificate from Chapman University, Northern California and a Masters in Literacy from Walden University.



Friends of Williams-Cone

Friends of Williams-Cone (FOWC) welcomes you back to school! We have two opportunities for you to help the school community and the greater mid-coast area too. There are many families in need right now, and others asking how they can help! We'll help make community connections.

Starting now through month of October, we're having a mask drive - collecting and making masks for those at WCS that could use them. If you can, please send in clean, 2-layer, cotton masks, mostly in children's sizes and some adult ones too. We could also use a troop of mask-sewers and some cute fabric. Be in touch with Stephanie at: ssersich@mac.com if you, a friend or grandparent can help sew. Could you make just a few? We'd love it! We have an easy pattern/template to use, if you need one. Many hands make light work. In November, we'll be collecting non-perishable food items for Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program. More about this in the next newsletter. FOWC will really miss seeing your kids at programs and events this fall, but we'll do our best to stay connected. Have you visited the newly re-stocked Little Free Library in front of the school? Books for all levels - the top shelf even has books for grown-ups. Come take one or leave one.

