

Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 15

April 30, 2021



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



Pictured above is a spring themed bulletin board created WCS students under the direction of Miss Tombarelli, WCS Art Teacher.

Hello WCS Community!

Spring break has come and gone and it's been quite a week for Option #1 students and families since returning from break!

The quick transition from Plan A (full-time in person learning) to Plan C (full-time remote learning) was unanticipated and overwhelming for all of us. I am pleased to share that that all Option #1 PreK through grade twelve students will return to full time in person learning on Monday, May 3rd. The school district has been able to secure the necessary bus drivers to provide the needed transportation for all Option 1 (in-person) students in grades PreK-12 to return to their regular school schedules on Monday, May 3rd.

As a parent I know how challenging it was for families to rearrange school and work schedules, secure childcare, make alternate plans, etc. While I am sure that families will be glad to return to in-person learning on Monday, I know that many families will once again be required to spend time rearranging plans, schedules, etc. On behalf of the WCS staff and myself, thank-you for your continued understanding, support and flexibility. It is so very much appreciated.

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

5th Grade Bottle Drive Fundraiser

The 5th grade bottle drive fundraiser that was held on April 10th was extremely successful! Thank-you WCS parents, students and community!! Funds will be used for upcoming 5th Grade End of Year Celebration of year activities.





WCS 5th Grade Mother's Day Flower Sale



Huge thanks to the WCS community for supporting the 5th Grade Celebration Planning fundraising efforts. All signs point to a major success!

Just a reminder:

Flowers will be available for pick up at WCS on Thursday, May 6th, from 4:00-6:00 P.M. & Friday, May 7th from 9:30-11:30 A.M. For those who selected the delivery option, flowers will be delivered on Friday, May 7th between 4:00-6:00 P.M.



Maine Educational Assessment 2021

The Maine Educational Assessments (MEA) includes required assessments in Mathematics, English Language Arts (ELA)/Literacy, and Science. For the 2020-21 administration, Maine will be using the NWEA for grades 3- 8 and third-year high school students in Mathematics and ELA/Literacy. Students in grades 5, 8 and third year of high school will participate in the Maine Science assessment. Students in grades 3-8 and third year of high school with the most significant cognitive disabilities will continue to participate in the Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) to assess Mathematics and ELA/Literacy and the MSAA Science which aligns to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). All assessments are administered online.

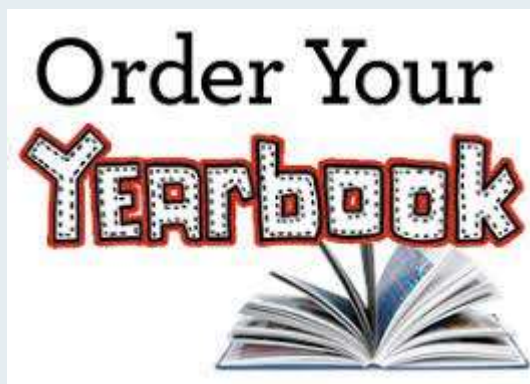
***WCS will be administering the NWEA to students in grades three through five during the week of May 10th through May 17th.**

CoGat Assessment 2021

Due to the transition to remote learning we felt that it was necessary to examine our upcoming Spring assessments and adjust. Spring is already a very busy time in our schools and with upcoming NWEA/MEA tests we made the decision to reschedule the CoGat (Cognitive Abilities Test) to September.

What does this mean? This assessment will continue to be utilized by the district as one of the qualification criteria for Gifted and Talented. We will continue to identify students. Teacher's recommendations will still be a large part of the process this spring. Additionally we will still do the test but instead of in 2nd and 5th grade this spring we will conduct it in 3rd and 6th grade the third week of September. You will also not receive a letter describing your child's results this spring, again you will receive that next fall. This is the same adjustment that we did this year 20-21 as a result of the pandemic and our closure last spring.

You will receive a letter two weeks before this testing next fall to orient you on the process. We feel that this adjustment is a prudent decision that allows us to focus on our required NWEA/MEA assessment and also allows us to focus on in-person learning which we agree is the most important focus at this time. Thank you for your understanding and support!



The deadline to order your WCS yearbook is May 10th!

Be sure to get yours today!

<https://www.treering.com/validate?PassCode=1015059372991326>



Gratitude:

*Option #1 students returning to Plan A on Monday, May 3rd!

*Staff and community members who shifted their schedules to make the return to school on May 3rd possible!

*WCS Students: Their individual and collective positivity, kind hearts, flexibility and resilience!!

*Option #1 parent/caregiver/family understanding, flexibility, patience and support for the unexpected and quick transition from Plan A (full time in person learning) to Plan C (full remote learning).

*WCS staff: Their individual and collective positive responsiveness during the transition from Plan A to Plan C.

*Continued support from Option #2 parents, caregivers, and families. We love hearing from you!

* Option #2 Staff; They are quiet heroes!!!!

*Overwhelming community support for the 5th grade fundraisers.

If you are in need of anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself and/or any of the WCS staff. We are here to help!

Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

rineerr@link75.org

(207)725-4391



Schedule for week of 5/3-5/7

5/3 & 5/4 PreK-5

5/5 2 Hour Delayed Start, PreK-5

PreK: 10:00 A.M. Arrival

K-5: 10:40-10:50 A.M. Bus Arrival, 10:50-11:05 A.M. Walkers & Car Riders

5/6 & 5/7 PreK-5

Schedule for week of 5/10-5/14

5/10 & 5/11 PreK-5

5/12 2 Hour Delayed Start, PreK-5

PreK: 10:00 A.M. Arrival

K-5: 10:40-10:50 A.M. Bus Arrival, 10:50-11:05 A.M. Walkers & Car Riders

5/13 & 5/14 PreK-5

Schedule for week of 5/17-5/21

5/17 & 5/18 PreK-5

5/19 2 Hour Delayed Start, PreK-5

PreK: 10:00 A.M. Arrival

K-5: 10:40-10:50 A.M. Bus Arrival, 10:50-11:05 A.M. Walkers & Car Riders

5/20 & 5/21 PreK-5

Schedule for week of 5/24-5/28

5/24 & 5/25 PreK-5

5/26 2 Hour Delayed Start, PreK-5

PreK: 10:00 A.M. Arrival

K-5: 10:40-10:50 A.M. Bus Arrival, 10:50-11:05 A.M. Walkers & Car Riders

5/27 & 5/28 PreK-5

WCS 5th Grade Families: Option #1 & Option #2

5th Grade End of the Year Celebration Planning Meeting

Monday, May 10th, 5:00 P.M. Via Zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/92101790881?pwd=alRyTzZ2UzZhK0ZYaVlaVkpBcGNkdz09>

Meeting ID: 921 0179 0881

Passcode: 598484

Other Important Dates:

FOWC Meeting, Tuesday, May 4th, 5:00 P.M. via zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/91704869577?pwd=akhJTW1aTEdXSGxqbHZCejBZQkl4UT09>

Meeting ID: 917 0486 9577

Passcode: 873391

Staff Appreciation Week, May 10-14

MEA's Administered, Grades 3-5, May 10-17

Memorial Day Holiday, No School, May 31

Virtual Scholastic Book Fair, May 18-June 7, Details TBA

5th Grade Farewell Ceremony, Thursday, June 10th, 1-3 P.M.

MTA Seniors visit and graduation celebration, Friday, June 11 (time TBA)

Raindate: June 14th, 1-3 P.M.

Last Day of 2020-2021 School Year, Tuesday, June 15



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

Thursday, May 6th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.

Thursday, May 13th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.

Thursday, May 20th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.

Thursday, May 27th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.

Kindergarten

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. Kindergarten registration is currently taking place.

Kindergarten students can be registered electronically at:

<https://ic.link75.org/campus/OLRLoginKiosk/msad75>

If you prefer paper registration, forms can also be downloaded at:

http://www.link75.org/parents/student_registration



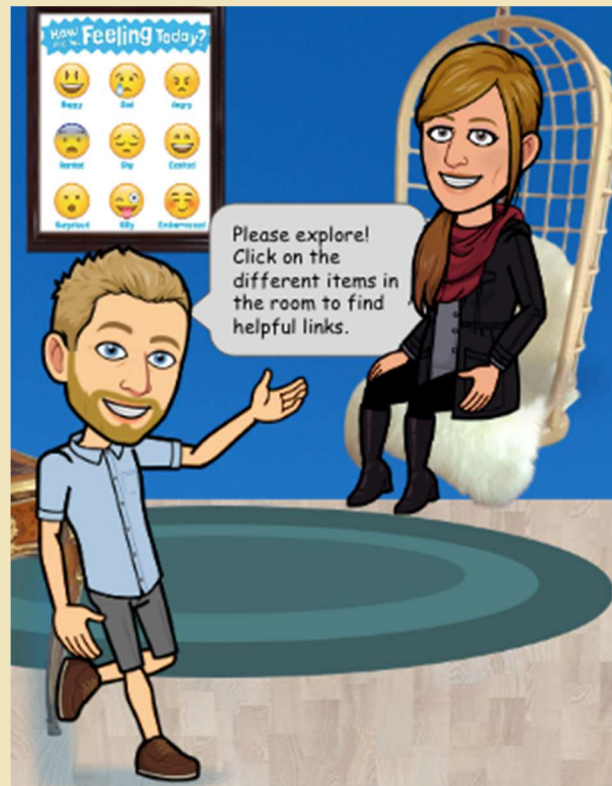
In an effort to increase access to high-quality early childhood learning opportunities for students prior to entering Kindergarten, M.S.A.D. No. 75 provides two PreK classes, for a total of 32 students. Students must be 4 years old by October 15, 2021. The program uses the same calendar as grades K-12, runs five days a week and approximately 6 hours per day. Transportation is not provided. One class is at the Williams-Cone School in Topsham, while the other is at Midcoast Maine Community Action's (MMCA) Head Start location at Cook's

Corner in Brunswick.

Applications are currently being accepted for the 2021-2022 school year. Additional information is available through the following link:

http://link75.org/parents/student_registration/prek_registration

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



Now presenting....

Mr. Cardoza and Ms. Carin's Virtual Counseling Office! Please use the link or find it on our schools website to access our virtual office with many different resources for you and your child. Students can watch calming videos, play

fun games and fill out an on-line form to say hi or meet virtually with Ms. Carin or I! Use the left and right arrows on your keyboard to switch between rooms. Almost everything in our 4 "rooms" is clickable. Enjoy, click on and stay calm

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vSThG6PkpPQYTZ-hV7PillSMnYtKcB93owO_NqFfjPkvfd22_oqdrJV-QcnkjrjZOrCEEOLYrg--OBK/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000

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, 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

Message from Mrs. Chamberland

WCS Nurse



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.



March Students of the Month

*Each month K-5 teachers choose two students from their classrooms who are consistently doing their personal best to follow our school's Code

of Cooperation: Rights, Respect and Responsibility. The following students were honored at a recent zoom assembly :

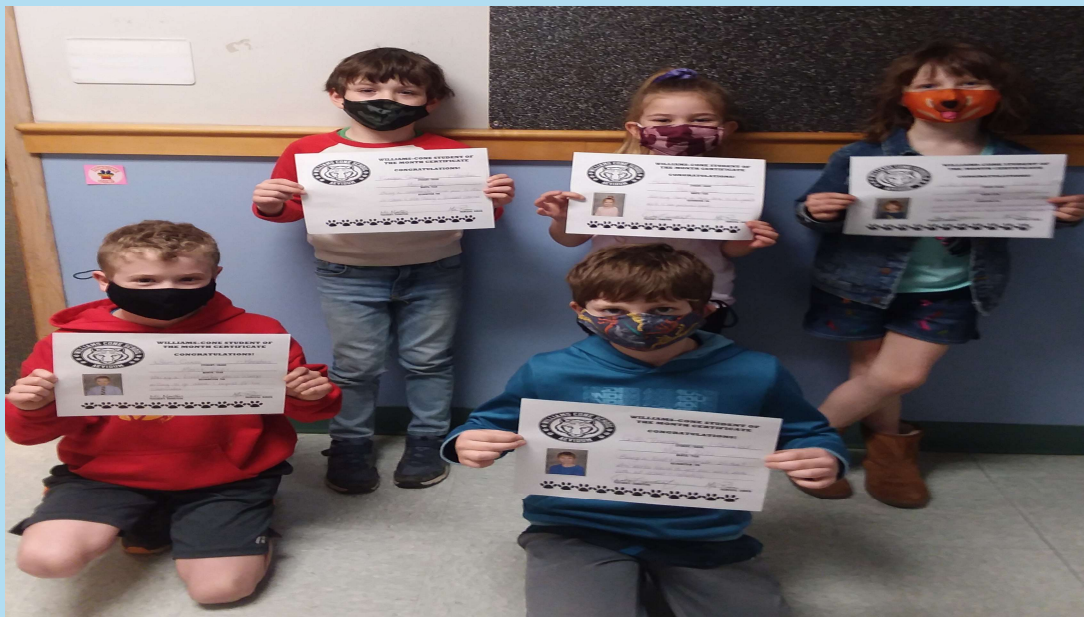
Kindergarten

Bowie: Luna H., Adria H. Dubreuil: Liam D., Brayden P.



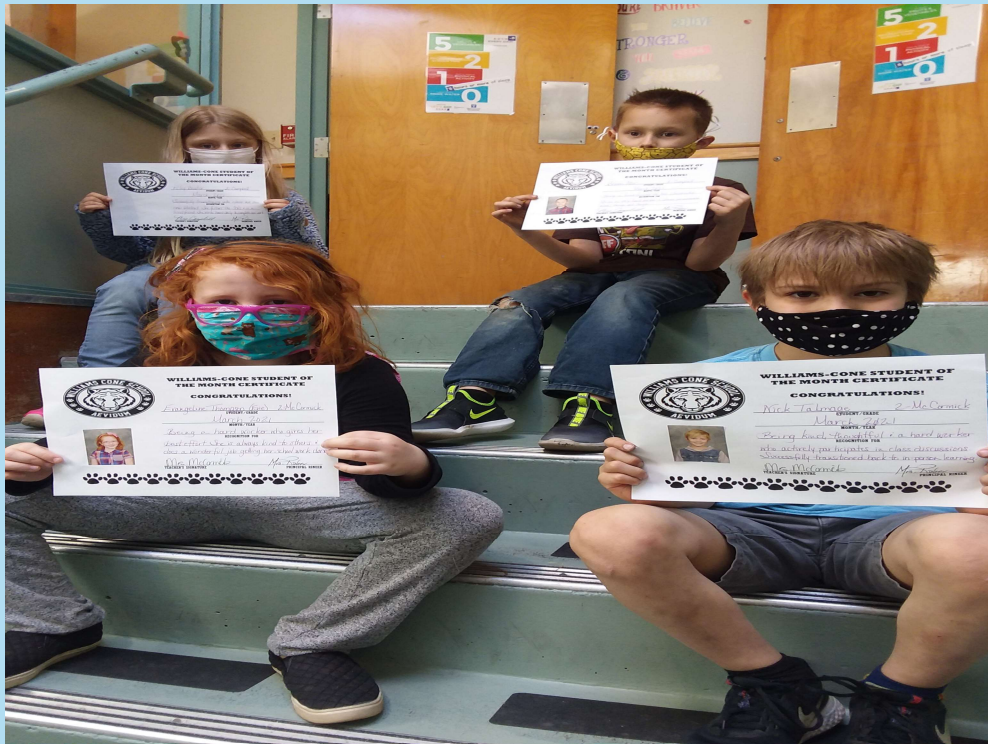
First Grade

Marsters: Sam C., Finnegan G., Greenleaf: Griffin T., Kallie D., Folger: Libby D., Alexis D.



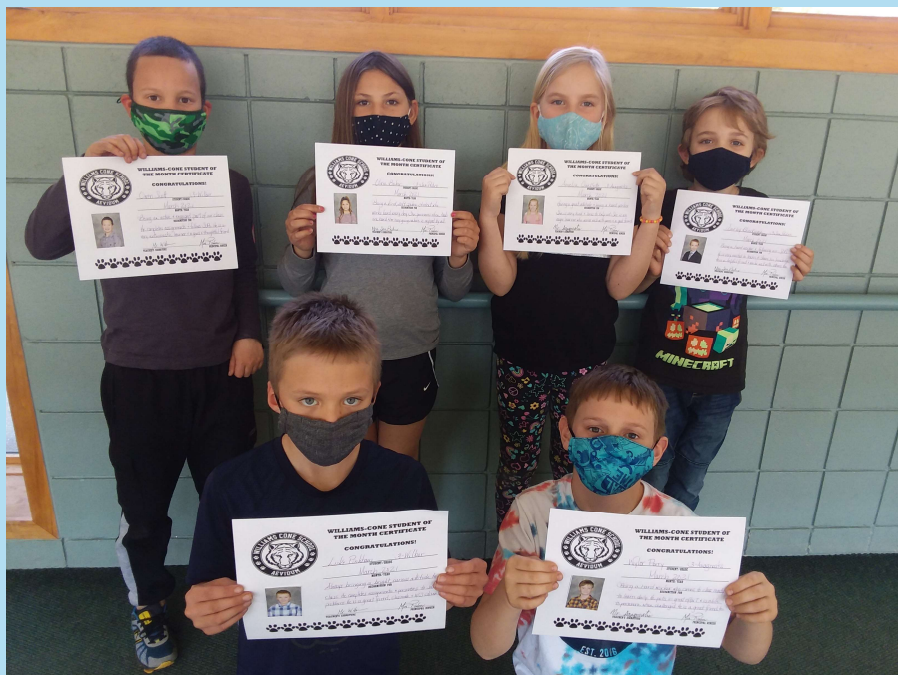
Second Grade

McCormick: Evangeline T., Nick T., Campbell: Riley B., Bryson A.



Third Grade

Wilbur: Luke P., Owen S., San Pedro: Olivia B., Darby B.,
Anagnostis: Amelia O., Wyler P.



Fourth Grade

Ebel: Lisa D., Josie J. Theberge: Claire M., Vinny A.

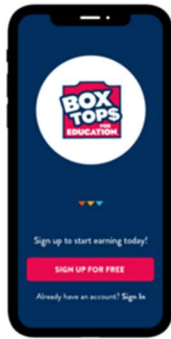


Fifth Grade

Bretschneider: Allie B., Alex D. Carroll: Oshy Y., Colby M.



Friends of Williams-Cone



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!

2020-2021 Yearbook

The deadline to order your WCS yearbook is May 10!

Be sure to get yours today!

<https://www.treering.com/validate?PassCode=1015059372991326>

Next FOWC Meeting, Tuesday, May 4th, 5:00 P.M. via zoom

<https://zoom.us/j/91704869577?pwd=akhJTW1aTEdXSgxbHZCejBZQkl4UT09>

Meeting ID: 917 0486 9577

Passcode: 873391