

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

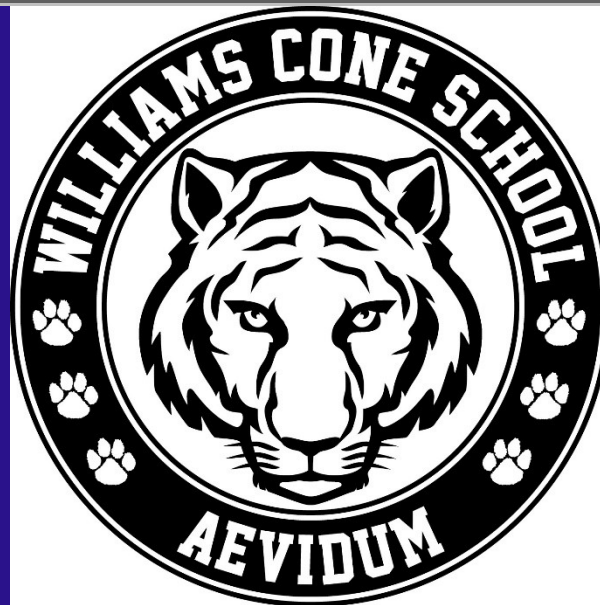
Volume 9

January 22, 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:

### Phase 2 Feathering-In: Grades 2 & 3



Students in grades two and three began their transition into full time, four day per week learning on Tuesday, January 19th. As mentioned in previous communications, this transition has required multiple adjustments to schedules, routines, staffing and

rosters. The first week has gone exceedingly well thanks to our school team, students and parents/caregivers working together to create a positive and supportive transition for all. Thank-you all!

The return to full time in person four day per week learning for grades two and three has required some 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 easily recognize that we need to make a few more adjustments to the arrival and dismissal process to help make it more timely, efficient and succinct. The staff and I appreciate the patience and flexibility that has been extended to this process throughout the week.

A couple of important reminders regarding the arrival and dismissal routines:



## Arrival & Dismissal

### 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 1/25-1/29

1/25 & 1/26 Kindergarten, Grades One, Two & Three , Cohort A PreK and Cohort A Grades 4 & 5

1/27 Hybrid Wednesday

1/28 & 1/29 Kindergarten, Grades One, Two & Three, Cohort B PreK and Cohort B Grades 4 & 5

### Schedule for week of 2/1-2/5

2/1 & 2/2 Kindergarten, Grades One, Two & Three , Cohort A PreK and Cohort A Grades 4 & 5

2/3 Hybrid Wednesday

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

### 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**



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, January 27th: 12:00-1:00 P.M.**

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

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

## Gratitude:

In honor and gratitude for Dr. Martin Luther King's valiant Civil Rights Movement leadership and the recent observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, I share the following quote:



Darkness cannot  
drive out darkness:  
only light can do that.  
Hate cannot  
drive out hate:  
only love can do that.

- Martin Luther King Jr

[quotestosaythanks.com](http://quotestosaythanks.com)

I find this quote especially appropriate in light of the times we find ourselves in. My prayer is that each of you and your families can find hope and confidence in the light and love that our school

community is continuously blessed with.

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 Superintendent Chabot 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: Mrs. Bonnie Spies**

**WCS Health Room Aide**



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

**Family:** My husband and I have three grown children (an artist, an engineer and a veterinarian) who attended Williams-Cone.

**Pets:** “Mabel” the cat, “Kit” the dog, both adopted from the animal shelter

**Favorite Colors:** Sky Blue

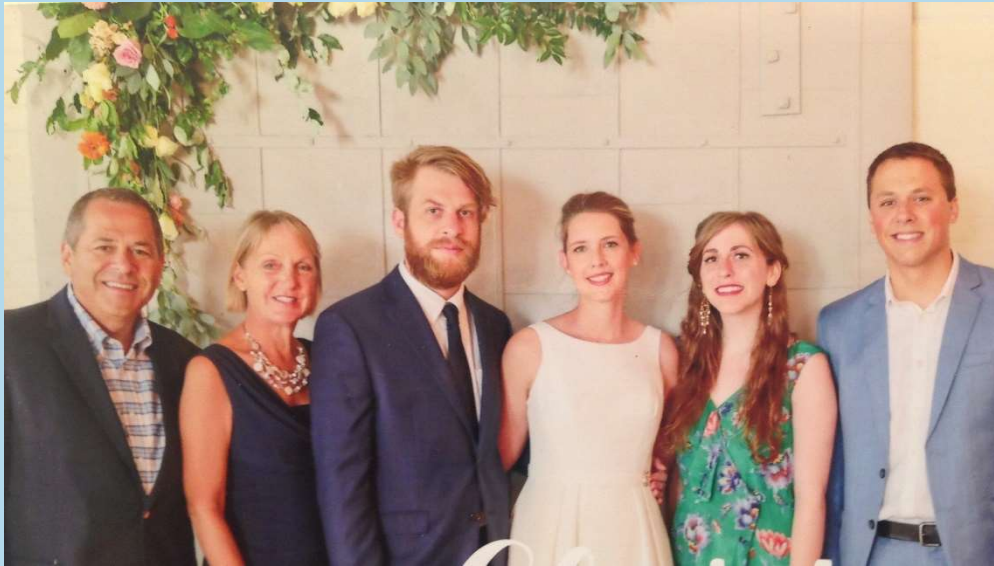
**Hobbies:** Cooking, sewing, hiking and kayaking. I try to spend time outside everyday.

**Favorite Book or Types of Books:** Historical fiction, good mysteries, all Jane Brett books

**One to Three Facts That are Unique to You:** I raised a spotted salamander

this summer and released it back to it's wilderness home.

**Gratitude-Something You are Grateful For:** My wonderful co-workers at WCS, their dedication to public education inspires me everyday.

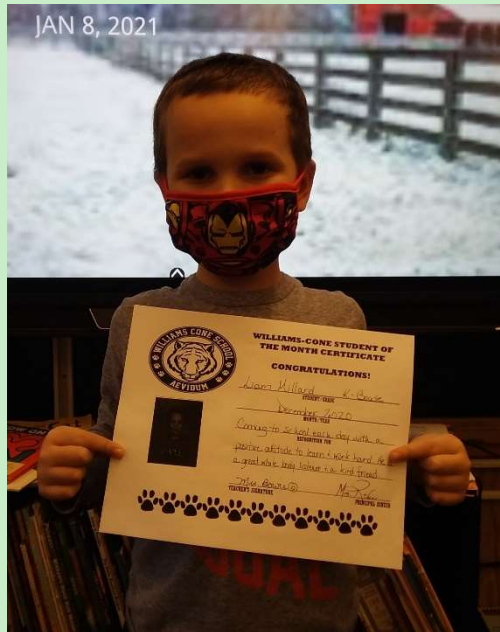


**Congratulations to the December Students of the Month. Students of the month are chosen by staff for consistently following our school's Code of Cooperation: Rights,**

## Respect and Responsibility.

### Kindergarten:

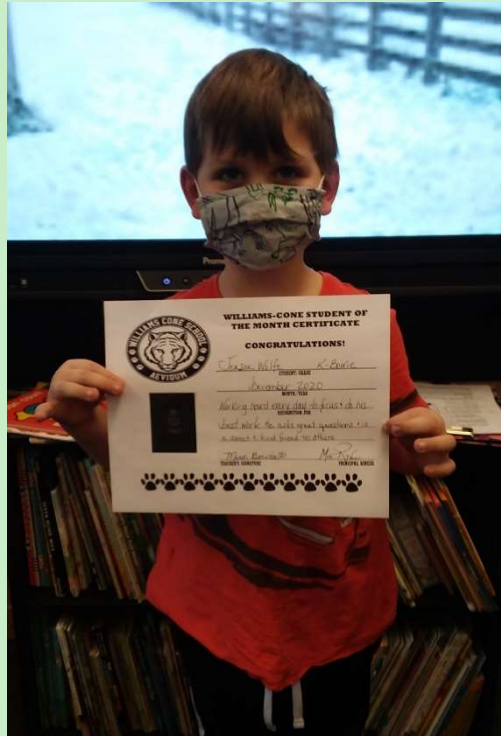
Mrs. Bowie: Liam M.



Mrs. Dubreuil: Jacob A. & Landon J.

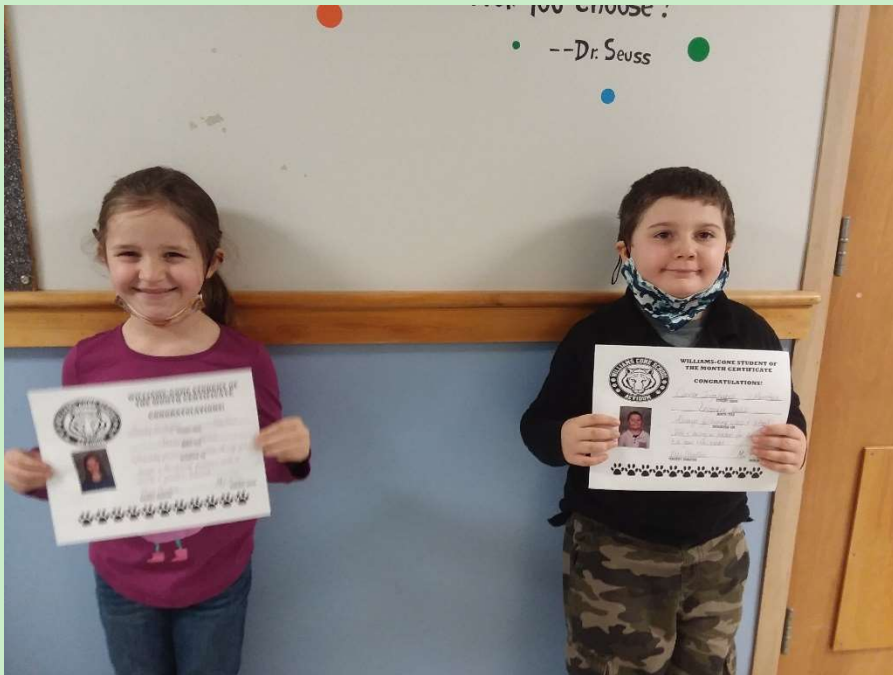


Mrs. Bowie: Jensen W.



## Grade One

Ms. Marsters: Bailey H. & Connor I.





Ms. Folger: Zoe O. & Shepard D.



Mrs. Greenleaf: Alexandra H. & Henry W.



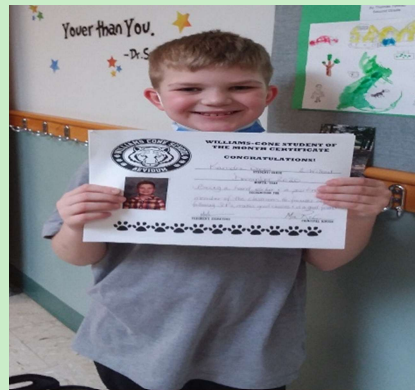


## Grade Two Cohort A

Mrs. McCormick: Sylvia A.



Mr. Wilbur: Kamden D.

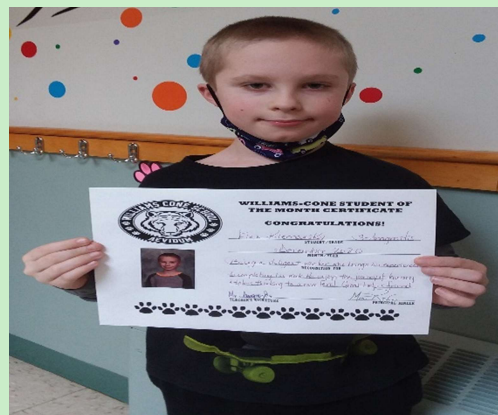


## Grade Three Cohort A

Mrs. San Pedro: Delaney K.



Mr. A: Finn K.



## Grade Four Cohort A

Ms. Theberge: Ella D.



Mrs. Ebel: Abby B.



## Grade Five Cohort A

Ms. Bretschneider: Chloe D.



Ms. Carroll: Cooper H.



## Grades Two & Three Cohort B

Mrs. McCormick: Thomas T., Mrs. San Pedro: Ripley R., Mr. A: Kai M.



Mr. Wilbur: Graham M.



## Grade Four Cohort B

Mrs. Ebel: Sadie B.



Ms. Theberge: Abby P.



## Grade Five Cohort B

Ms. Carroll: Chloe M.

Ms. Bretschneider: Landen T.

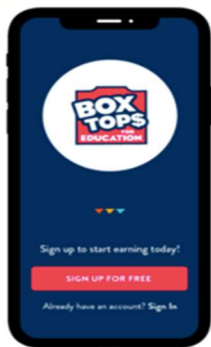




## Friends of Williams-Cone



FOWC is currently holding a fudge fundraiser. Order forms were sent home with Option #1 students and are available for pick up at WCS for Option #2 students. The scrumptious choices include chocolate, peanut butter, tiger butter (a layer of pure peanut butter sandwiched between two layers of vanilla fudge, topped with a swirl of peanut butter and chocolate fudge), dark chocolate salted caramel, mint chocolate swirl and raspberry chocolate swirl. **Orders are due by February 1st and the fudge will be distributed starting on Thursday, February 11th.**



### 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

### Miss Tombarelli, WCS Art Teacher

I am the art teacher and I love reading books about art. You might have guessed that. The book I read is **"Painting the Wind"** by Michelle Dionetti. This book is about the famous artist, Vincent Van Gogh. It is a historical fiction book. What does that mean? Historical Fiction is a story that takes place in the past using real people and places but also including created people. Vincent Van Gogh was a real painter that lived in a real place, France. The fictional character is the little girl named Claudine. This book is about the interactions between Claudine and Vincent. I love this story because it highlights the importance of hard work and creativity. If you enjoy art, I think you also will enjoy this book.

**-Miss Tombarelli**

**\*\*Also some photos below in the art room, working on our Vincent inspired artwork. \*\***

