

# Williams-Cone School Principal's Newsletter

Volume 3

October 13, 2023



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

*-Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners-*

## 2023-2024 School Year

**"Compassionate, Curious, Confident Learners"**

**Hello WCS Community!**

**Come celebrate your Friday the 13th with us for a Halloween-themed Movie Night!**

**Where: Williams-Cone Gym**

**Showing: Hotel Transylvania, rated PG**

**This is not a drop-off event - children must be accompanied by an adult. FOWC will be providing water and our popcorn has been donated by our local 99 Restaurant. You are welcome to bring your own dinner, pillows, blankets, or folding chairs.**



**Here are a few highlights from the past couple of weeks:**

### **Walk to School Day**

The annual Walk to School Day was held on October 4th with students, staff, parents, caregivers and community members joining in the 1.7 mile walk. The walk, organized by Annie Martin, WCS Physical Education teacher, began at the Topsham Fairgrounds and weaved through The Highlands community, ending at the main entrance of our school. The weather was exceptional and the student energy and enthusiasm could be felt by all.







Above Photo Credits: Courtesy of Megan Robertson, Anna Siegel & Laila Valade

### **Dirigo Reads**

Dirigo Reads is a Maine organization that believes that every child should have the opportunity for a successful future. They also believe that strong literacy skills have a direct correlation to a person's self-worth, health, and the ability to achieve a fulfilling career. This year, they are partnering with WCS and Woodside Elementary School and are providing all first grade students access to one new book a month during the school year. Their goal is to open doors to a brighter



future by providing a new book to every public school first grader in Maine, for every month of the school year, by 2025. For more information, please go to: [www.dirigoreads.org](http://www.dirigoreads.org)

Below you will see the books that are being sent home with all WCS first graders this month



### **New Playground Slide is Delivered!!!**

We are very excited to announce that the new playground slide was delivered this week! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to unload the heavy delivery. The new slide is slated to be installed during the weekend of October 20th by FOWC playground committee volunteers. The slide was purchased with funds raised by FOWC as well some of the prize money that WCS received from the 2023 WinterKids Winter Games. Many thanks to FOWC for helping to make this dream a reality for our students!!!







(Photos courtesy of Megan Robertson)

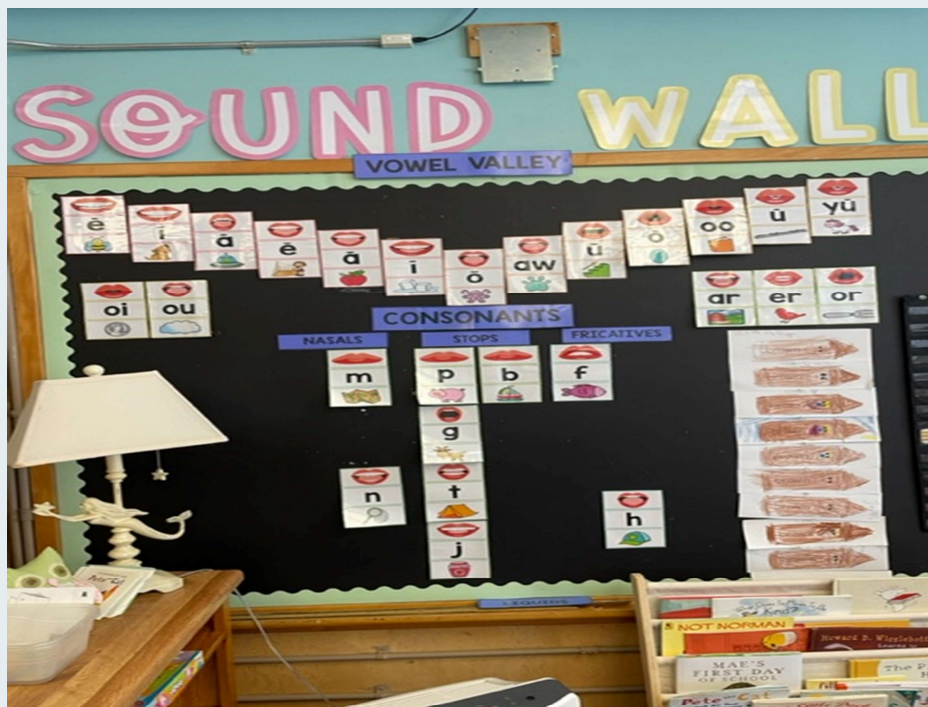
### Special Door Decorations



## Phonics/Spelling Pilot Programs

Phonological and phonemic awareness along with spelling skills are some of the most important stepping-stones in early literacy. When children are familiar with the sounds that the letters make, they are able to use them when reading, to segment and blend words together.

Our district is piloting several phonics/spelling programs this year in kindergarten through grade three including UFLI Foundations, Foundations and Bridge to Reading (Project Read). Below you will find an example of a "sound wall" from the UFLI Foundations program that is being used in a WCS kindergarten classroom. Staff have been receiving professional development to support this implementation since the beginning of the school year. All of the programs are research based, multi-sensory and systematic in their approach to teaching phonics and spelling.





### Third grade students exploring life cycles with trees/leaves.

Presentation by Terry Porter, former UMO professor and cross country skiing Olympian.  
(Photos courtesy of John Anagnostis)



### WinterKids Winter Games 2024

Although this doesn't look at all like a wintry scene, students and staff gathered yesterday, October 12th, under the direction of Mrs. Martin, WCS Phys. Ed. teacher to begin creating a WinterKids Winter Games entry video as part of the application process. Mr. Myrick, WCS

Special Education Para, filmed the formation (see below) with his drone.



WinterKids, the non-profit organization dedicated to helping children develop healthy lifelong habits through education and fun outdoor winter activities, will select 16 schools (one per Maine county) to compete in the 4-week competition taking place from January 8-February 2, 2024. Competitive track winners will be announced on November 10, 2023.

The Winter Games is a fun, academic challenge promoting outdoor physical activity, teamwork, and a love of all things winter for children in grades Preschool through 8. Each of the four weeks has a different focus-outdoor physical activity, nutrition, family engagement, and winter celebration, with schools earning points to win cash prizes. If you would like to learn more about the WinterKids Winter games, go to: <https://winterkids.org/winter-games/>

Williams-Cone School was selected to be the Sagadahoc County representative for the 2023 WinterKids Winter Games and proudly won the Silver Medal through the tremendous efforts, collaboration and support of the entire WCS community. We are hoping to be chosen again this



year to compete as the Sagadahoc County representative and if chosen, we are going for the gold medal!!!

## Final Thoughts....



Safety was the major focus of the October 6th district in-service. Staff were trained in the following areas: situational awareness, how to act during a crisis situation and how to support our community members during the recovery phase of a crisis situation. While the training was intensive at times, our staff was very focused and displayed a remarkable level of engagement, genuine desire to learn and understand how to respond effectively in the event of a crisis situation. As the year progresses we will continue to provide safety training to staff. We will also work on the next steps of student training and will do this in a trauma-informed and age-appropriate manner. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Over the next couple of weeks there will be several Halloween related events within WCS and around our local community from Halloween themed movies, a Halloween Dance, Harvest Parties to Trunk or Treats. Topsham Parks and Recreation has asked WCS to partner with them again this year for their "Trunk or Treat" on Tuesday, October 31st at the Topsham Fairgrounds from 4:30-7:30 P.M. If anyone would like to create a trunk, donate candy, and/or donate time to the event, please do not hesitate to reach to the school office (725-4391). Community support will be very appreciated!

Thank-you WCS for your tremendous support.

Enjoy all things fall!

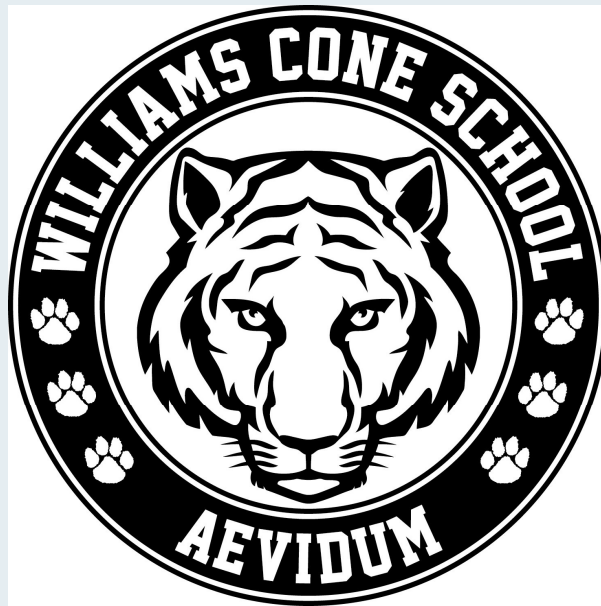
Your Principal,

Randa

Mrs. Randa C. Rineer, WCS Principal

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

(207)725-4391







Pictured above are some spectacular flowers grown, arranged and donated to WCS staff by the Pontau family. Thank-you!

gratitude

**We have MANY things to be thankful for:**

\*A very successful Scholastic Book Fair. Thank-you WCS community for your tremendous support! Thank-you to Mrs. Bellina, Learning Commons Para, for coordinating and organizing the event with support from Ms. Hartley, K-5 Library Media Specialist and Ms. Wright, Learning Commons Para.

\*131 students participated in the Principal's End of Summer Reading Challenge and received \$5.00 certificates for the Scholastic Book Fair.

\*K-2 students completed the Fall NWEA's and 3-5 completed the Fall Maine Through Year Assessments.

\*Grades 1, 3, 4 & 5 held "Curriculum Nights" for parents and caregivers. Thank-you grade level teams!!

\*A fabulous "Walk to School Day" and beautiful weather for the event! Thank-you WCS for your support and to Mrs. Martin, WCS Phys. Ed. teacher for coordinating and organizing this very loved fall tradition.

\*Substitute teachers and substitute paras.

\*Mrs. Graviett will be returning to WCS as a long term substitute teacher for Ms. King, third grade teacher. Ms. King will be taking Family Medical Leave.

\*The Run-Hide-Fight training that was provided for all district staff.

\*Safety

\*Fall has returned to Maine.

### ***From Friends of Williams-Cone:***

\*Monday, October 2nd was National Custodian Day - Much love for Ms. Pam & Mr. Randy for making our school shine! We had a few families step in to make the day extra special.

\*Heather & Jenn did an amazing job pulling together our Clynk Distribution. We thank all of our families willing to help us collect returnable cans and bottles for our school.

\*Our Raffle Basket & Halloween Dance Crews are working SO hard - we appreciate you all for digging deep and getting all those behind-the-scenes tasks accomplished.

\*Thank you to all our families making contributions to our Raffle Basket Event! This event would be impossible without your commitment.

\*Kids Academy is full steam - Thank you Heather for all your coordination to make these activities possible. Shout out to her volunteer base for stepping up to support such fun opportunities.

\*Thank you Topsham 99 Restaurant for your generous donation of popcorn kernels for our Spooktacular Movie Night event!

\*Many thanks to our Book Fair crew! Laila, Kelsey, Anna, Kate, Gregory, Heather, Marci, Melissa, Haley, Amanda, Megan, Christie, Mrs. Bellina, & Ms. Candice - it was a whirlwind week and we appreciate you all for taking some time to support this event.

\*Way to go 5th Grade Fundraising Group! They are cooking up some awesome plans to help the WCS-MTA Class of 2031 raise the necessary funds for their year-end activities.

\*What a wonderful Walk to School Day! Many thanks to Mrs. Martin, our Bus Drivers, Topsham Fairgrounds, and all the teachers, staff, parents & caregivers who were able to be a part of the event. The weather didn't disappoint!







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

Greetings Williams-Cone School Families!

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year! Whether your student is joining us from last year or for the first time this year, it is our hope that Williams-Cone School will be a place where students grow to be compassionate, curious, and confident learners.

Last year, our focus was on developing students' sense of connection and belonging. Our year was filled with opportunities for students to build lasting connections with peers and teachers alike. We will continue to build on these established connections and will also seek opportunities to teach students the qualities associated with what it means to be a compassionate, curious, and confident learner.

As we transition into the new school year, 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 new school year. Please do not hesitate to contact either one of us should you have specific concerns you would like to discuss. Below we have included some resources which we have available to our school community. Please take a moment to complete and return to us (**only if needed**). Here's to a great school year!

With Kindness,

Jeff Cardoza: School Counselor  
[cardoza@link75.org](mailto:cardoza@link75.org)  
207-725-4391 ext. 6009



"We've got your back!"  
**aavidum**

Karin Merrill: School Social Worker  
[merrill@link75.org](mailto:merrill@link75.org)  
207-725-4391 ext. 6041

----- (detach here) -----

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Parent Name:</b>
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<b>Please check off any resources you would be interested in learning more about and return to school:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly food bags from Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday meal help
<input type="checkbox"/> Area counseling services	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday gift help
<input type="checkbox"/> Parenting groups (community based)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional help with housing/ clothing/ etc.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	



**10/13** Spooktacular Movie Night, WCS Gymnasium, 5:00 P.M.

**10/27** FOWC Halloween Dance, 5:30-8 P.M., WCS Gymnasium

**11/1.** Fifth Grade Fundraising Meeting, at 6:00 PM (location TBD)

**11/6** School Picture Retakes

**11/9** FOWC Raffle Basket Auction Fundraiser/Community Potluck, 5:30-7:00 P.M., MTA Cafeteria

**11/10** Veterans Day, No School

**11/13-11/21** Parent/Teacher Conferences

**11/14** Playground Committee Meeting, 5:30 P.M.

**11/21** Trimester 1 Ends

**11/21** Half Day Dismissal

10:45 A.M. PreK

12:10 P.M. K-5

**11/22-11/26** Thanksgiving Break, No School

**11/29** FOWC Meeting, 5:30 P.M., Learning Commons



Get caught up on the latest news from Williams-Cone School's PTO group

### Message from FOWC:

October is here and so is all of our fall fundraising! After another amazing meeting, we are actively planning the Halloween Dance, Raffle Basket Fundraiser, Community Potluck, AND Holiday Caroling & Cookies! Come join our next PTO meeting, we would love to hear what YOU would like to see as fundraising and community events for 2024.

### Upcoming FOWC Events:

Spooktacular Movie Night - 10/13/23 at 5:00 PM in the WCS Gymnasium

Halloween Dance - 10/27/23 from 5:30-8:00 PM in the WCS Gymnasium

5th Grade Fundraising Group Meeting - 11/1/23 at 6:00 PM (location TBD)

Community Potluck - 11/9/23 from 5:00-7:00 PM at the MTA High School Commons

Playground Committee Meeting - 11/14/23 at 5:30 PM location TBD

FOWC Meeting - 11/29/23 at 5:30 PM in the Learning Commons

\*Can't make meetings but want to stay in the loop about events and volunteer needs, fill out this form so we can add you to our email list: <https://forms.gle/gPsyziAYkqgWtnp49>



FOWC PRESENTS

A SPOOKTACULAR  
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT  
AT WCS



***Meet us  
in the gym  
Fri Oct 13th  
at 5 PM***



Come celebrate your Friday the 13th with us for a Halloween-themed Movie Night!

**When: TONIGHT! Friday, October 13th at 5 pm**

**Where: Williams-Cone Gym**

**Showing: Hotel Transylvania, rated PG**

This is not a drop-off event - children must be accompanied by an adult. FOWC will be providing water and our popcorn has been donated by our local 99 Restaurant. You are welcome to bring your own dinner, pillows, blankets, or folding chairs.



Calling all 5th Grade Families, please join us for the next 5th Grade Fundraising Meeting on Wednesday, November 1st (location TBD). Please contact Jonathan Robertson

([jrobertson06@gmail.com](mailto:jrobertson06@gmail.com)) or Kevin Thompson ([redbrushdesign@gmail.com](mailto:redbrushdesign@gmail.com)) for more information.



A TISKET, A TASKET,  
OUR CLASS IS MAKING  
A BASKET!

## Fundraising Season is here!!!

Collection for our Annual Raffle Basket Fundraiser is underway and we need your help. All basket donations are due by Friday, October 20th.

Please help us by donating an item toward your child's grade-level basket theme. If shopping is not your thing, we are now accepting PayPal, cash, or check (made out to Friends of Williams-Cone) donations and our volunteer team will do the shopping.

Paypal: [paypal.me/WilliamsCone](https://paypal.me/WilliamsCone)

Need a reminder of your child's class theme?

Kindergarten - Arts & Crafts (for all ages)

1st - Cooking with Kids

2nd - Legos

3rd - Sports & Games

4th - Outdoor Adventures

5th - Made in Maine



**Please join us for our 8th Annual Halloween Dance!!**

**Friday, October 27th from 5:30-8:00 pm in the WCS Gym**

**Sensory Friendly 5:30-6:15 pm (lights on and music softer)**

**Music provided by 8th STREET ENTERTAINMENT PREMIER DJ**

**Cost: \$5 per person (max \$20 per family), Children age 4 & under FREE**

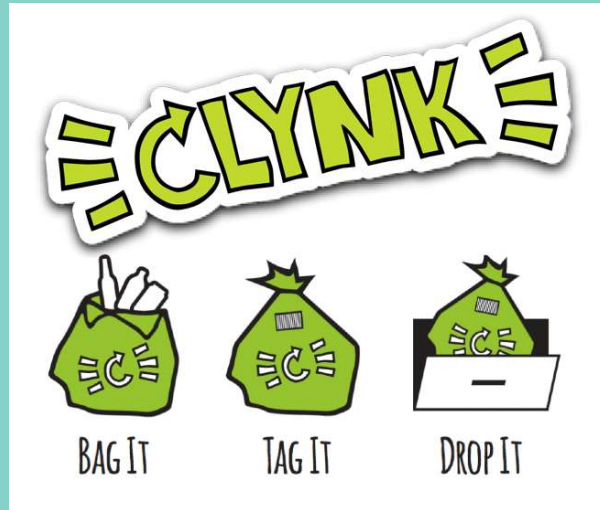
**You can pre-register or pay at the door. This is not a drop-off event - children must be accompanied by an adult. Help us by bringing a tasty snack to share. FOWC will be providing water and paper goods. Costume Contest winners will be announced around 7 PM. This event is open to current WCS students & their adults in grades Pre-K-5th and their younger siblings. Be on the lookout for our event flyer in a backpack near you!**



# WILLIAMS-CONE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Join us for the next Playground Committee Meeting scheduled for 11/14/23 at 5:30 PM.

The group continues to explore long-term playground improvements and find creative ways to fund these renovations. Looking forward to seeing you!



Another way you can support FOWC is by filling a bag with empty bottles and cans. You will see Clynk bags coming home with students in the coming weeks to help us boost this fundraising effort and spread awareness for this ongoing program. You can pick up extra bags in the bin outside the WCS entrance.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Grab a bag
2. Fill it up with returnables
3. Drop it off at any Clynk location (buildings next to Hannaford stores)

Your participation is optional. If this fundraiser is not for you, feel free to write 'return to school' on the flyer and send it back with the enclosed clynk bag to the school. We appreciate your support!



WSC Kids Academy has a variety of fun sessions planned through December including garden club, craft club, STEM activities, and more! If you are interested in volunteering to help with this after-school club, please contact Heather Rogers ([heather.rogers3@gmail.com](mailto:heather.rogers3@gmail.com)) for specific dates and more information. We always welcome new club ideas, so please reach out if you are interested in starting something new!



A reminder - You can help us raise money by participating in the Box Tops Program. You use the Box Tops App and scan your receipts to see if you purchased any qualifying products and apply that to the school account.

Download the App here: <https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/get-the-app>

# Official Williams-Cone School YEARBOOK

**10% OFF**  
purchase by  
October 31st

Purchases **MUST** be made  
online through the TreeRing  
website to take advantage of  
this discount price.

In case you missed an email -  
TreeRing is offering 10% off  
yearbooks for Williams-Cone  
School through October 31st.  
However, you **MUST** make your  
purchase through the website.  
(paper order forms will go home

in November).

**!! 5th Grade Families !!** FOWC purchases a softcover yearbook for every 5th grader as part  
of the Farewell Celebration. Please only order a yearbook if you wish to have a hardcover  
version.

Email us with any questions - [WCSYearbook@yahoo.com](mailto:WCSYearbook@yahoo.com)

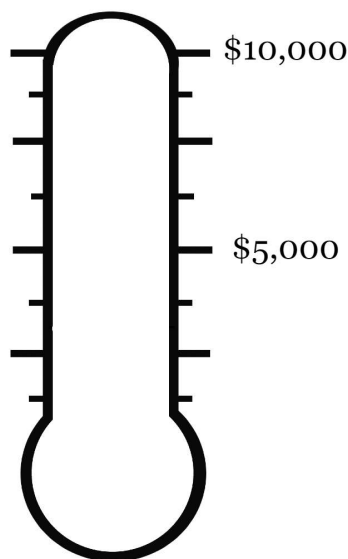
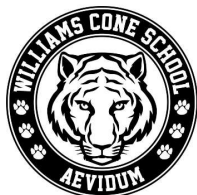
Want to order or need to create an account? Click this link:

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

friends  
OF williams-cone

SUPPORTING THE STAFF AND FAMILIES  
OF THE WILLIAMS-CONE COMMUNITY

Annual  
Fundraising  
Goal



as of September 2023