

THE WASHINGTON POST

Happy Holidays!

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians of Washington Elementary Students:

November has been busy! Grade 5 went to Discovery Camp for three days, then the Connecticut Science Center came to Washington to do presentations. The Lutz Museum came right to Washington to share with some kindergarteners and third graders; at an Author's Tea some of the second graders shared their individual writing and the fourth graders continue working with the technology to learn about various ecosystems. It has been a wonderful month of learning and unique experiences!

As the weather begins to cool down, please remember that our school doors open at 8:45 a.m. and there is no supervision outside before this time. It is important that all children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Please consider marking your child's hats, gloves, mittens and coats with their name so that they do not get lost. In the event that school is closed or closing early due to weather, please listen to the news for any information.

Right after Thanksgiving, we will be having report card conferences. This is a time for you to have one on one time with your child's teacher to ask questions, see how they are doing, visit the classroom and learn about their growth. Having a relationship with the teacher is central to your child's growth. Please put aside some time to make an appointment to meet the teacher either December 2, 3, or 4th. There will be a 1:17 p.m. dismissal on all three conference days.

As always, if at any time you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to call me. Stay warm!!

Sincerely,

Karen Gray
Principal

Important Phone
Numbers

Mrs. Karen Gray

Principal

(860) 645-4813

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Mrs. Joan Charnas

Assistant Principal

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Ms. Elisabeth Heil

Social Worker

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Carla Trovato

Secretary

(860) 645-4813

Ms. Mindy Olson

Nurse

(860) 645-4813

Cafeteria

(860) 647-3338

Attendance Line

(860) 645-4813

After School Program

(860) 647-6973

PTA President

Jen West

PTA Vice President

Sara Austin

2nd Grade News

Wow! How is it already December? Second graders have been working so hard this year on being safe, smart and respectful. There are too many role models in second grade for us to count! We were so happy to have been able to share the students' Small Moment writing pieces with family and friends in special celebrations in our individual classrooms. Now we are moving onto writing letters about reading. Ask your child what they are writing about! In math we are working on double digit addition and subtraction, and in reading we are studying story elements and fiction books with strong characters. As the weather gets colder, please remember to send your child to school with a jacket and gloves and a hat if necessary. We can't wait to tell you more about the awesomeness happening in second grade at conferences. See you then!

~Mrs. English, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Frosti & Mrs. Jones



Mystic Aquarium Visits Third Grade

Third graders had a special treat last month when Mystic Aquarium came to visit. Students learned about classifying sea animals based on their adaptations. Students learned that sea animals have adaptations that help them survive in their environment. For example, snails are able to hide in their shells on the ocean floor to hide from predators. Students were amazed to see the horseshoe crab, hermit crabs, snails, and much more. It was a little scary at first picking up a crab, but Ms. Kaley taught us how to hold the crab appropriately. Did you know that what is known as a starfish is actually called sea stars?

~Mrs. Salerno, Ms. Herchuk & Mrs. Steffenson



December FRC Dates

- Infant/Toddler Playgroup 10:00 - 11:00 - Dec. 3, 10
- Preschool Playgroup 10:00 - 11:00 - Dec. 4, 11
- Dec. 8 - Kindergarten Lunch Bunch
- Dec. 9 - 2nd Grade Lunch Bunch
- Dec. 11 - 1st Grade Lunch Bunch



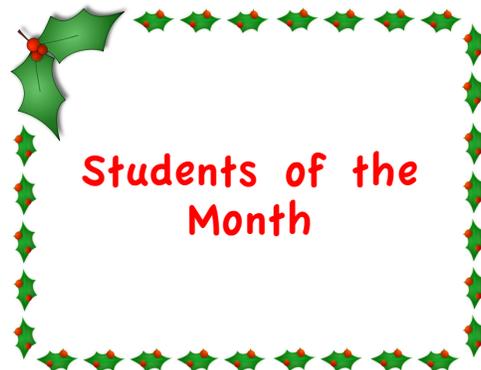


December Good Deed Doers



Joeynix Oliveras-Garcia, Nyiasia Thoms, Haylie Sanchez, Gwen Robbins, Jayden Vernali, Kevin Hurst, Derek West, Nevaeh Belton, Tristan Alayon, Skylah Wilson, Krystal Schlosser, Christian Franco & Princessilla Peprah

**This month's art kit was presented to Gwen Robbins!
Congratulations to you all! Keep up the good work and
remember YOU can get caught doing the right thing too!**



Kindergarten ~ Harsh Patel, Viktorianne Tabachenko & Izaiah Nieves

1st Grade ~ Damon Brown, Cayden Caplette & Jandel Herrera

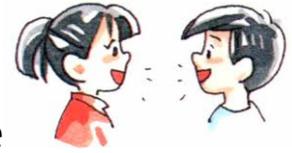
2nd Grade ~ Ayden Marinaro, Des'Monae Gordon, Karina Vazques & Haylie Sanchez

3rd Grade ~ Jayveon Robinson, Naiara Douglas & Jordan Cabonita

4th Grade ~ Joseph Greene, Mahim Khan & Kaleb Elias

5th Grade ~ Jazmin Scales, Robert Clarke & Kaiden Flynn

**Remember, YOU can be Student of the Month in your classroom too!
Washington Scholars who are Safe, Smart and Respectful are always
eligible to be Student of the Month. Congratulations to all of
November honorees and good luck in December!**



Developing Your Child's Expressive Oral Language

"Ultimately, the educational goal is to help children adapt to, participate in, and negotiate a range of communicative situations in our sociolinguistically complex world" (Gehishi & Dyson, 2009).

Children seem born not just to speak, but also to interact socially. Even before using words, children cry and gesture to tell us what they want; children also understand a lot of what others are saying. The point of learning language and interacting socially, then, is not to master rules, but to make connections with other people and to make sense of experiences (Wells, 1986).

What parents can do to nurture language development at home:

You can help promote natural language development by providing environments full of language development opportunities. Here are some ideas:

- **Let your child talk...**Every child's language or dialect is worthy of respect as a valid way of communicating. It reflects the identities, values, and experiences of the child's family and community. Do not be quick to correct language, this will limit willingness to talk.
- **Include your child in conversations...**Treat children as if they are conversationalists. Children learn very early about how conversations work—taking turns, making eye contact, using facial expressions, and continuing a topic with conversing adults.
- **Encourage interaction with other children...**Peer learning is an important part of language development, especially in mixed-age groups. Activities involving a wide range of materials can promote talk. There should be a balance between individual activities and group activities that include discussion, such as dramatic play, book sharing, block-building, and board games.
- **Talk with your child daily...**Remember that parents/caregivers are an important part in language development. Ask about your child's day at school, "What was something interesting you learned today?" "What did you learn in science/math/art class today?"; read and discuss a book, play a board game, make a recipe, create a craft, review homework together—any activity can encourage talking together; be mindful of long periods of silence.

Remember that promoting a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere is key to helping your child become a successful learner.

Next month I'll share tips on helping your child develop his/her vocabulary.

Happy Reading!
Dr. Fiano



Washington Elementary Music

Dear Parents and Guardians,

December 1, 2014

On Tuesday December 23, 2014 Washington Elementary School will be holding its annual 5th Grade Band, 5th Grade Strings and Chorus Winter Concert. Students in these ensembles will be performing for the school at 2:15 pm in the gymnasium.

Students have been practicing diligently and should continue to practice in preparation for our concert. To ensure the highest quality of performance please make sure that your child continues to practice and attends all remaining before school rehearsals. Students should dress appropriately (no jeans, sweat pants or workout pants please.) There will be no evening performance. We hope that you can join us!

Best Regards,

Nicole Stickle

K-5 Music Teacher



Important Dates To Remember



December 2, 3, 4 - Early Dismissal 1:17 pm - Report Card Conferences

December 5 - Mystic Aquarium Visits Kindergarten
- 3rd Grade Science Center

December 10 - Early Dismissal 1:17 pm - Professional Development

- PTA Meeting

December 17 - Lutz Visits Kindergarten

- Soroptomist Club

- December 19 - Lutz 3rd Grade

December 23 - Winter Concert 2pm

December 24 - Jan. 2 - No School - Holiday Vacation

