



THE WASHINGTON POST

Principal's Message

Important Phone
Numbers

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(860) 645-4813

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PTA President
Jen West
PTA Vice President
Sara Austin

Dear Parents/Guardians of Washington Elementary School Students:

December was filled with many enjoyable activities including a visit from the Science Center, Poetry Teas, Gallery of Writing, Lutz Museum, Mystic Aquarium and more. Science Fair and Invention Convention have begun and we are looking forward to the children sharing their creations and theories. The Washington staff realizes the importance of incorporating real life experiences into your child's education and is always looking for ways to broaden their exposure and knowledge base.

As we turn in the heart of the winter, we always encourage you to label your child's hats, gloves and coats. If you are ever in need of an additional coat for your child or sibling, please do not hesitate to contact the social workers. We are very lucky to always receive generous donations of new and gently used winter items. I want to remind you that our school doors open at 8:45 am, which means that it is important that your child is dressed appropriately if they are coming to school prior to 8:45 am. There is no supervision outside prior to 8:45am.

January will bring new beginnings, new learning, and new and exciting events. Please be sure to attend our PTA meeting on January 14, 2015 to get involved in all upcoming activities.

As always, thank you for your continued support, please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Gray

Principal



Be a Word
Detective

Developing Your Child's Vocabulary



Talking to and reading with your child are terrific ways to help him/her hear and read new words. Conversations and questions about interesting words are easy ways to get new words into everyday talk. Here are some ideas to get you started.

What parents can do to nurture vocabulary development at home:

Sharing a new word with your child doesn't have to take a long time. Take a few minutes to talk about the word and then focus back on the book or conversation. Carefully choose which words to talk about — choosing every new word might make reading seem like a chore. The best words to explore with your child are ones that are common in adult speaking but are less common to see in the books your child might read.

When introducing new words to your child, keep the following helpful hints in mind:

- **Provide a simple, child-friendly definition for the new word:** *Fortunate* means to be lucky.
- **Provide a simple, child-friendly example that makes sense within his/her daily life:** *Even though you woke up late today you were fortunate to get to school on time.*
- **Encourage your child to develop his/her own example:** *Can you think of a time when you were fortunate? Can you think of a time when you were lucky? Yes! You were fortunate to find the book that you wanted at the library today!*
- **Keep new words active within your home.** Over the next few days and weeks, take advantage of noticing the new words while reading, watching TV, or during conversations. Take advantage of opportunities to use new vocabulary words in conversation together.
- **Ask your child about words used in school.** Using school vocabulary at home will help to strengthen your child's academic vocabulary. Find out what words are being used in math, social studies, science, art, etc. and make them part of your conversations at home. Using words in different settings will help your child to build word awareness.

Take the time to share new words and build your child's vocabulary and 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 writing skills.

Happy New Year & Happy Reading!
Dr. Fiano



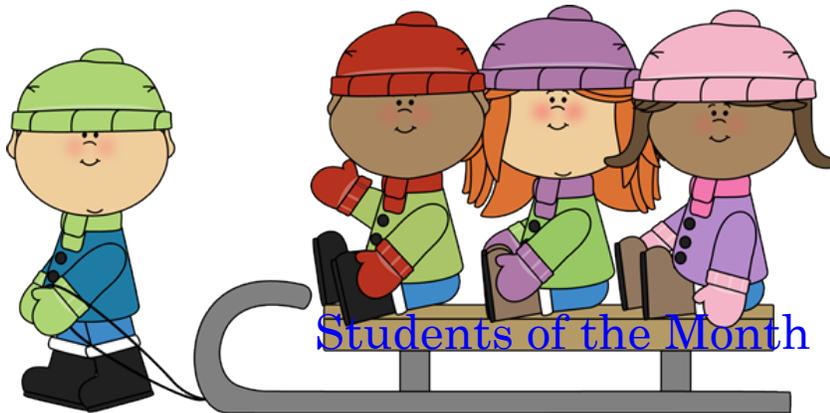
January Good Deed Doers



Ivanalee Pou, Anthony Williams, Anthony DelGuidice, Caytlyn McLaughlin, Corbin Mitchell, Gwen Robbins, Skyla Gabourel, Cristobell Addo, Destiny Butryman, Na'ryah Mearise, Cela Hayes, Zayda-Lyn Downes & Mayte Palomino

This month's art kit was presented to Caytlyn McLaughlin!

Congratulations to you all! Keep up the good work and remember YOU can get caught doing the right thing too!



Kindergarten ~ Ayla O'Meally, John Ortiz, Aamiyah Pantojas & Cheyenne Hicks

1st Grade ~ Izabella Dudley, Dominic Lombardo & Mackenna Booth

2nd Grade ~ Jamil Hussain, Jasmin Noble, Vivian Truong & Logan Robbins

3rd Grade ~ Keyshawn Hurst, Gwen Robbins & Aracelis Ortiz

4th Grade ~ Helena Johnson, Cerenitee Clarke & Aneea Joiner

5th Grade ~ Dashawn Douglas, Emani Slater & Gabrielle Brown

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 December honorees and good luck in January!

January F.R.C. Dates

- 1/12 – Kindergarten Lunch Bunch
- 1/13 – 2nd Grade Lunch Bunch
- 1/13 – Girls Circle (After School 21 Century kids only)
- 1/15 – 1st Grade Lunch Bunch
- 1/15 – Boys Club (After School)
- 1/20 - Girls Circle
- 1/22 – Boys Club



Washington Elementary School Students Spread Joy this Holiday Season



Lindsay English and Carly Herchuk's students proudly display the holiday cards they created for hospitalized children. (Posted by Ifitzger1, Community Contributor)

By Community Contributor Ifitzger1

Lindsay English and Carly Herchuk's second and third grade classes at Washington Elementary School in Manchester created holiday cards for children spending their holidays in the hospital. The two classes brainstormed ideas to write in their holiday cards in an effort to make other children smile or laugh. They decorated their cards and then sent them to the organization "Holiday Cards for Hospitalized Children." The classes will receive a thank you letter back sometime next month telling them what hospital their cards were delivered to.

Happy New Year! To start the new year, I wanted to remind students, teachers, & parents how important it is to learn sight/high frequency words. Here is a list of fun ways to practice. Enjoy! – Miss Moore ☺

Sight Word Practice

- **Fancy letters** – use old magazines, catalogs, or newspapers to cut out letters and glue them down to spell your words
- **Sentence please** – write a sentence for each word
- **Colorful words** – use 2 different color pens to write your spelling words. Use one color to write the consonants and one color for the vowels (a, e, i, o, u). After writing the word with 2 different colors, write the word with one color.
- **Memory game** – make pairs with your words (write each word twice). Flip them over and take turns trying to match two words.
- **Finger tracing** – use our finger to spell out your words, one letter at a time, on a buddy's back
- **Scrabble letters/Letter tiles** – use letter tiles to spell your words
- **3D words** – use play dough (rolled thinly) to spell your words
- **Silly string** – with long string make each letter and write your word
- **Bingo stampers** – write the word in pencil then bingo stamp every letter to spell the whole word
- **Rainbow writing** – write each word in a rainbow color; red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple
- **Magnetic letter tiles** – use magnetic letter tiles to spell sight words
- **Write and trace** – write each word then trace
- **Sand/rice dig** – have your partner bury all the letters in your word in sand or rice. You then dig up all the letters and write your word
- **Pipe cleaner words** – write your words with pipe cleaners
- **Links** – write your words using links
- **Finger paint** – write your words in finger paint
- **Water colors** – write your words with water colors





Important Dates To Remember



Jan. 1 & 2 – No School Holiday

January 14 – PTA Meeting 7pm

School Governance Council 6 – 7pm Library

Soroptomist Club

January 19 – No School – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jan. 28 – Soroptomist Club

