

Principally Speaking

THE MISSION OF THE WHATELY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IS TO PREPARE OUR STUDENTS IN A SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY TO BE CONFIDENT, RESPONSIBLE, LIFE-LONG LEARNERS.

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Dear Whately Families,

As always, the end of the school year chock full of activities. Please review the **enclosed calendar of events** so that you and your child can discuss and share in the many fun things that the end of the year brings!

Bullying – Informational Parent Forum – June 8, 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Remember that old TV commercial for Oldsmobile... “This isn’t your father’s Oldsmobile” is what I think it said. Their message was, if you think you know what Oldsmobile is all about, think twice, because things have changed. Well, on a much more serious note, the same is true about **bullying**. There is now a **legal definition** of bullying as well as widely accepted literature that defines bullying. What we all once thought we knew has changed. Our district, along with much of the country, subscribes to the definitions found in Barbara Coloroso’s work. In a recent newsletter I included several excerpts from Coloroso and I hope you reviewed it. You can always go to her website, www.kidsareworthit.com, for more information.

On June 8, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM here at Whately Elementary, Stephanie Shafran and Cindy Burch will give a brief and informative presentation about the current definition of bullying as well as our school district’s comprehensive response to this important topic. I hope you will make an effort to attend.

Have a great month of June!

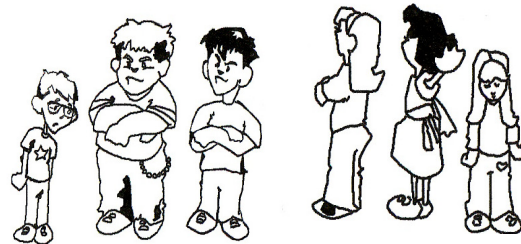
All the best,
Mr. C

DATE REMINDERS...

June

- 2..... Peer Mediation Summit
- 2..... Author Day w/Ellen Feld
- 2..... School Council Mtg @ 5:30/PTO Mtg @ 7:00
- 3..... 5th Grade field trip to Boston!
- 4..... Kindergarten Visiting Day
- 7 5/6 Jr. Olympics
- 7 School Committee @ 7 p.m.
- 8 3/4 Jr. Olympics
- 9..... Jr. Olympics Raindate
- 11..... 6th Grade trip to NYC!
- 11..... 3rd Grade to Pequot Museum/Mystic
- 14-18 Health Awareness Week
- 18..... 6th Grade Graduation @ 6 p.m.
- 21..... ENERGY DAY!!
- 23..... Whately Picnic & Field Day
- 24..... Last Day of school – NOON DISMISSAL

JOIN US FOR A
Bullying Informational Parent Forum
Tuesday, June 8th
6:30 – 7:30 pm
Whately Elementary School



Presented by
Stephanie Shafran & Dr. Cindy Burch

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE. PLEASE CALL DIANE @
247-9147 TO RESERVE A SPOT

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Wow! We have almost finished our kindergarten year. I can't believe we have only one more month together. In May our marigolds plants have continued to grow and we started sunflower plants. As part of our study of insects we made our own insect pictures and learned the parts of an insect. We had a "pet" insect in our class last week and this week we are observing worms. On June 1st Conway Grammar School's kindergarten will be coming to school at Whately Elementary. We are excited to have some new friends. The Conway kindergarten will be using the classroom next to Fourth Grade. We will go to lunch and recess together. In June both kindergartens will be hiking Mount Sugarloaf and having a picnic at the top together.

Ms. Vicki Sittig



NEWS FROM FIRST GRADE...

The month of May, in First Grade, has been busy, busy, busy! Of course, one of the most exciting events was the arrival of our chicken eggs on Tuesday, May 18th. In the past we have gotten our eggs from the coops of Gwenn Thayer, a former Whately student. Gwenn started raising chickens and selling their eggs when she was in first grade. She took home the chicks that year and launched her business. Gwenn is now going into high school and recently made a very difficult decision. She gave her 30 chickens away and closed her coops! So, this year our eggs came from a friend of Susan Yurgielewicz (the preschool teacher). The eggs need to incubate for 21 days. If all goes according to plan our eggs should hatch on June 7th or 8th. We have been reading a lot of books about the different stages of development that happen inside the eggs. We candled our eggs on the 10th day of development and we got to see the embryo, the blood vessels and the air pocket! Candling is done with a flashlight in a darkened space. This actually allows us to see what's happening inside the egg! The first graders thought it was so awesome! All the eggs look healthy at this point; however, there is never any certainty about how many will make it all the way.

Word study and spelling for the month of May included compound words and contractions. The first graders loved all the compound words and contractions. They are great detectives in finding contractions and compound words in their reading!

In math we worked on identifying coins, remembering their value and learning how to add them together. We read a great series of books that told us about each coin. We learned the metals that each was made of, the name of the person depicted on each coin, and the meaning of the symbols on the back of each coin. Did you know that pennies and nickels have smooth sides but dimes and quarters have bumpy sides? Do you know, without looking, which coin has the head looking to the right, while the others are facing left? Another book that was an absolute favorite was **Follow the Money** by Loreen Leedy. This humorous book follows the adventures of a quarter from the

time it gets stamped in the mint to eventually coming full circle and ending up in a bank again. It is filled with facts that are presented within a fictional story. The first graders also discovered the identities of the people on paper money. They discovered that most are former presidents but two are not! Do you know which paper money does not have a president on it? We have now begun to study time and how to read those analog clocks!

We finished our science unit on sound and coming soon we will be studying rocks.

We have a field trip to Northfield Mountain, called Pond Probe, coming up on Wednesday, June 9th. It will take place in the morning. We leave school, by bus, at 9:00 and we will be back by 12:00. We will need chaperones (you do not need to pay) so check your schedule and see if you can join us for this fantastic trip.

Ms. Collette



NEWS FROM SECOND GRADE...

Wow! The school year is coming to an end and we have been very busy in Second Grade. Our timelines are on the wall and our habitat and animal projects are in full swing. We have made large murals of some of the habitats we are studying and have hung them in the hall. Our timelines decorate the classroom and we enjoy looking at each one.

In reading, we continue to work on our reading strategies. We are currently focusing on making predictions and using context clues. Each reading group is currently reading a **Magic Tree House** book independently.

In writing, we are preparing for our Author's Tea on June 8th. Your invitation should have come home on May 24th. If you are able to attend we have been practicing our stories to share with you. We have made book covers for our poetry collection and have been concentrating on journal writing. We look forward to sharing our work with you.

In math, we are working on a measurement unit. It is so much fun to find different objects to weigh and measure. This is a very active unit and allows us to get up and move around!

In science, we have been studying all the different types of habitats and the animals that live in them. Our murals show that all habitats need food, water and shelter for animals to survive. We are just beginning our animal study of single animals and look forward to sharing our finished projects with you on June 8th.

During read aloud we have been reading **Matilda**. We hope to watch this movie at the conclusion of the book. We look forward to see you on June 8th and hope you can make it.

Miss Bielunis



NEWS FROM THIRD GRADE...

Be sure to save June 10th from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on your calendars for the spectacular presentation of "If These Doors Could Talk." This year's focus is the oral history of the children's families. Third graders have been interviewing parents and grandparents to discover some very interesting facts about their families. We are also planning a visit to the Whately Historic Museum to learn more about the history of the Quonquont Milk Bottle. This is the sixth year we have photographed our doors to create a class poster. Every year the "Doors" project continues to inspire me with all the creative energy of children, parents, and staff.

I must acknowledge a few people for their enormous contributions this spring:

- * Adelia Bardwell and Lois Bean for their classroom visit and history of Whately
- * Patty Devine for organizing and printing our classroom t-shirts
- * Richard Stowell for planning and printing our "Doors" posters
- * Jen Glenowicz for helping with the paper mache milk bottle
- * Lois Lively for creating our "Doors" slide show
- * Our parent chaperones-Margaret Christie, Jill Carey, Emily Ewell, Chip Patten, Patty Devine to Pequot Museum and Mystic Aquarium
- * Lola Stone and Mr. Crisafulli for driving students to Whately Historic Society
- * All the children and parents who worked so intensely this spring

What an incredible group of students, and parents! Hope to see everyone on June 10th.

Best,

Pat Bell, patbell@wes.whately.ma.us



NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE...

We are still working hard in 4th grade! The students all gave their best effort on our last round of MCAS testing. Thank you to families for making sure your children were well rested and had a good breakfast. We are working hard on animal research. We will be presenting our reports and at-home projects on Thursday, June 3. More information on this event will come home in your child's Friday folder. We are all becoming experts on a province/territory in Canada. The students will be building small power point presentations to share in the library. As the end of the year approaches it is very easy for the students to get "Summeritis". Please help them stay well rested and focused for our last few weeks together. I promise to make it as fun and hands-on as I can to hold their interest! For a more in-depth look at what happens each week in our classroom, please see the weekly newsletter that comes home in your child's Friday folder each week.

Thank you!

Mrs. Apanell



NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE...

Boston is just right around the corner, and we are getting very excited!

In Social Studies, we recently compared the Loyalists, Patriots and Neutralists, "To declare independence or not?" We are getting a

better perspective on this time in our country's history. There will be much to report after June 3rd! In the meantime, we also visited Colonial Williamsburg, Va. It was interesting to learn about the House of Burgesses, Dame schools, social life that took place at the taverns, the importance of the Church of England (Bruton Parish Church, still an active Anglican church) and of course slavery. Thank you to Joe Morawski for sharing his pictures and stories of Colonial Williamsburg. As a culminating activity, I made peanut soup for everyone to try. It was an interesting taste test. Needless to say, not everyone wanted the recipe!

This month in word study, we have focused on Eponyms (a person whose name is the source of the name of something. Rudolph Diesel is the eponym of diesel fuel), comparatives and superlatives (busy, busier, busiest), Greek and Latin roots (scribe, describe, description), and Greek and Latin prefixes (decathlon, epidermis).

In math, we have been spending our time with fractions. Mixed numbers, equivalent fractions, estimating, GC F (greatest common factor), simplest form, comparing fractions, decimals, adding, and subtracting fractions are some of the ways we've looked at math in May.

Weather has been our most recent science topic. The students' Sky Journals were an excellent way for them to observe weather changes with different types of clouds, wind speeds, and temperature. We just finished up our geology unit with a wonderful trip to Skinner State Park with Micky McKinley from the Hitchcock Center for the Environment. We discovered the stories in the rocks around us! The Holyoke Range can tell us a lot about how the Earth's crust is shaped. It is a geologically unique area. We found evidence of shifting tectonic plates, earthquakes, volcanoes, glaciers and erosion all in one place. A BIG thank you to our chaperone/drivers for this trip, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. McDonough and Mr. Gagnon. It was delightful to have you "along for the ride".

Haiku and concrete poems were our recent writing endeavors. Please stop by our bulletin board and enjoy the student work. Their art work matches the tremendous verse they wrote. These are very talented children!

Again, I want to thank everyone who continues to collect our "bottles and cans". It is through your efforts that we are able to enjoy all these great experiences and even get a "creamee" afterward.

K. O'Rourke



NEWS FROM SIXTH GRADE...

We are looking forward to our trip that is coming up on June 11th. The students are looking forward to a wonderful day! Again, we would like to thank everyone who helps us fund-raise for it. Please keep looking at our weekly newsletter for specific information about our class.

Mrs. Gay

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM...

Congratulations to our band and string students on their very successful concert on May 6! They performed at Frontier Regional, combining with students from the other Union 38 schools to form impressive groups. If you meant to order a souvenir cd, it's not too late! They cost \$10 and are a fundraiser for the music department. Forms are available in music class. If you missed the performance, we will be presenting much of the same music at our annual Instrumental Assembly on Tuesday, June 15, at 2 pm. Families and friends are welcome!

Ms. Denise Gendron



NOTES FROM THE GYM...

It is great to have summer back! This is a great reminder to have your child(ren) be prepared for the sunny and often hot weather. Physical Education is on Mondays and Fridays so **please be sure that you pack a water bottle for your child.** A hat and sunscreen are also welcomed considering the 90+ degree weather that we have been having lately. Finally, if your son/daughter is planning to wear sandals to school please have them pack sneakers so that they may be able to run without having their shoes come off or twist an ankle.

The beginning of June is an exciting time for our students as we hold our annual Junior Olympics for Grades 3,4,5, & 6. Everyone is welcome to come attend the event and it will be held at Frontier High School the beginning of June. Each child will be assigned a "color" that will represent their team (white, blue, red, or green). Please be sure that your child wears the corresponding shirt color for the Junior Olympics. This is a great event for everyone involved. This event not only promotes physical activity but it also allows the students to get to know other children in the district pre-Junior High. A letter has already gone home so if you have any questions feel free to ask your classroom teacher or feel free to stop by the gym and talk to me. Let us all hope for great weather!

Mike Rejniak, Physical Education Teacher



The Fresh Air Fund

servicing children since 1877

Families are needed to open their homes to New York City children for two weeks in the summer. First time visitors are six to twelve years old and stay for two weeks. With your help, a child will get to experience the freedom of playing outdoors and life outside of the city.

Please call to host a Fresh Air Fund child.

Your local contact is:

Kathy O'Rourke

413-665-7590

The Fresh Air Fund ~ 1.800.367.0003 ~ www.freshair.org
