



February 2019

Learning, Growing, & Having Fun Together!

CHARACTER CORNER

February's Theme: Caring

February's Service Project:

**Welcome to *caring* month at
Whitehouse School!!!**

Our main service project for February is a *"Bustling Like Balto"* Recess Walk-A-Thon.

Students will on the WHS Paws Path during recess. Proceeds will benefit the dogs in Alaska's Iditarod Race.



Fact: Since 1925, there has been a statue of Balto in Central Park, New York City (shown above).

Are You Kidding Me?!

What was Balto's favorite food?

Answer: Brrrrritos!

WHS is Bustling like Balto!!!

Each year, we engage in an annual school-wide thematic unit. We learn and grow together while we study the same topic as an entire community! As a school staff, we work to ensure that your children have a robust educational experience. With the help of our generous Home School Association and parents, here is a snapshot of the plans that are underway or coming very soon...

- *This year's topic is Balto & the Iditarod, otherwise known as The Last Great Race. In order to launch the unit, each homeroom teacher is currently reading the same book aloud to students. This historical fiction selection is from the Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osborne and it is entitled, Merlin Missions #26: Balto of the Blue Dawn.*
- *Grade level teams are now planning ways they can integrate the non-fiction content across the curriculum. For instance, students will read and write about Balto or the Iditarod or Alaska or dog sled racing, etc. They will examine Balto's character traits (SEL). They will study geographical locations (social studies), weather (science) and distances covered on the trail from Anchorage to Nome (math). Some samples of student work products will definitely be on display for you near your child's classroom in time for Spring Conferences!*
- *We are so excited because the H.S.A. is providing the funding for a Musher in Residence for the day. An actual musher and her dog will be spending the day with us! The musher will begin the day with a whole school assembly and then visit small groups throughout the rest of the day! She will share her knowledge, experiences, and answer any questions.*



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- *As a school community, we will also be tracking the 2019 Iditarod Race, which begins on March 2. Each homeroom teacher has already selected 2 mushers to follow (one from Tier 1 & one from Tier 2) under the smart guidance of third grade teacher, Mrs. Alisa Swider, who taught about the Iditarod years ago when she was at Holland Brook School!*
- *Our amazingly talented parent, Mrs. Suzanne DeVries, has the list of mushers adopted by the respective homerooms and she is creating a large interactive bulletin board that we will use to track the progress of the race!*
- *We are subscribing to the Iditarod website's deluxe package, so as a school, we will have special access to the Teacher on the Trail web program and various other exclusive learning resources during our studies.*
- *Through the official Iditarod education program, we also plan to purchase a bale of straw that will have our school's name on it. We will then be notified of the actual checkpoint on the trail where it is being used for the dogs to rest upon!*
- *February is Caring Month at Whitehouse School. As our service project, students will "work off" the cost of the bale of straw that will benefit the dogs in the Iditarod. We will be hosting a recess WHS Paws Path Walk-A-Thon. Students will bundle up and show **grit**, as they begin Bustling like Balto while tracking their fitness goals! Together, can we combine our totals to walk a grand total of 1,000 miles...like the distance from Anchorage to Nome?*
- *Finally, as a culminating experience, we will be watching the Balto movie together in school!*

It will certainly be an exciting winter at Whitehouse School!!!

*Warmly,
Ann T. DeRosa, Ed.D.*

WE ARE CUBS OF CHARACTER!!!

The mission of Whitehouse School is to provide children with a nurturing environment where they will feel safe and accepted. Our school community encourages respect and builds independence while fostering academic and personal growth and creating a love for learning.