

Whitehouse School News

Happy New Year to You and Yours!!!

January 2019

CHARACTER CORNER

January's Theme: Fairness

January Service Project:

Welcome to fairness month at Whitehouse School!!!

Our main service project for January is entitled, *Share-to-be-Fair*.

We will be collecting gently-used sporting goods (e.g., equipment, jackets, shirts, shorts, socks, etc.) and sneakers for children in Guatemala.



Are you kidding me?

Which side of a duck has more feathers?

Answer: the outside!

Learning & Growing Together for 100 years!

I hope the Winter Break proved to be both relaxing and refreshing! As a school, we closed out 2018 with a bang!!! We took our signature *teamwork* approach and celebrated Whitehouse School's 100th birthday in several ways:

- We devoted our December newsletter to the topic in an old-fashioned style format, courtesy of our highly-skilled Mrs. Wendy Reardon!
- We stopped as an entire school and had a six-hour *celebration of knowledge* research endeavor! Students stayed with their classroom teachers and another *buddy* staff member, in a one-room schoolhouse model, and researched aspects of life from 1918:
 - Schooling
 - Communication & Technology
 - Entertainment (Toys & Games, Movies, Music, and Sports)
 - Home Life (Food, Health, and Pastimes, etc.)
 - Transportation
 - Energy (Heating, Lighting, Cooling, and Power)
 - Financial (average cost of things)
 - Historical Events
 - Famous People Born in 1918
 - Random Facts of Interest



- Once the research was completed, we used what we learned as the basis for a door-decorating contest! All doors were judged by a panel, using a predetermined assessment rubric. Congratulations to Mrs. Matteo's winning class, and kudos to everyone for a phenomenal job!
- Classes then did a Gallery Walk to read the doors as they added to their knowledge base and learned more about "then" versus "now" comparisons.
- Each child also received a copy of a photograph of our school as it looked back in 1918. (Please see page 3 for the picture and more history about it!) Classes then went outside to actually look at our current building to see what has changed and what has remained the same!
- Our annual PAJAM! (pajama dance party) was dedicated to celebrating our birthday, facilitated by our very energetic Ms. Karen Kozal!
- Our super-talented Mrs. Dana Pierro designed a banner in honor of our 100th Anniversary Celebration and we had it custom-made to hang in our Gymnasium!
- Finally, please click [here](#) to see a video compiled by our resident video expert, Mrs. Lori Yukniewicz, to commemorate this auspicious occasion!

Thank you for helping to make our school so successful. And, in the words of Mrs. Denise Duncan's class, *Here's to another 100 years of bucket-filling 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.

2018 Governor's Educators of the Year!

Please join us as we celebrate our
2019 Governor's Educators of the Year:
Mrs. Melissa Truempy & Mrs. Maureen Sjonell!!!



They were celebrated during a *Walk-of-Honor*.
They strolled the halls as music played amidst cheers and
applause after being "crowned" with tiaras!

The following teachers were also nominated for this
prestigious award:

Ms. Jennifer Placzankis

Mrs. Arlene Schlosser

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !!!

Library

Reminders

**Fabulous
February
will soon
be here.**

**Let's get
ready to
read, read,
READ!**

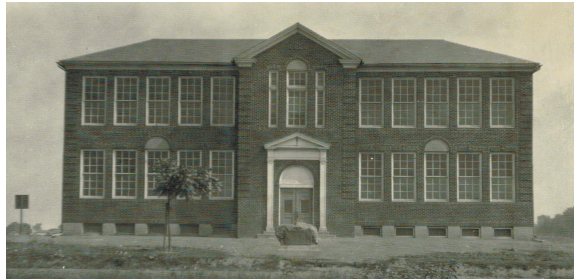
Mrs. Zanardi

Character Corner

Books in the WHS Library are written about many different characters ... and these characters display many of the Character Themes that WHS focuses on every month. During lessons we often identify and discuss these themes. Sometimes, we even find characters who obviously do not attend WHS (gasp!) and we then have suggestions on how they should change their mindsets and behaviors!

Learning & Growing...

100 Years of Whitehouse School



Whitehouse School celebrated our Centennial. In 1916, Whitehouse and Whitehouse Station wanted to build a consolidated school. Before that time, there were as many as 11 one-room school buildings in this district.

The land was purchased for \$500 from the Burdette family's farm. The original building shown above only had 4 rooms for Grades 1-8. The first day students walked through the front doors was September 7th, 1918. Students went to school from 9am-12noon, walked home for lunch, and then came back for classes from 1- 4pm. The first "school bus" was in 1924, a horse and buggy!



With the area moving away from being a farming community, more houses meant more students. Additions were made to the original 1918 building in the late 1920s and again in the 1930s. In 1958, they added the Gymnasium which also served as the Cafeteria and as the Auditorium with a stage for assemblies. They cooked and served the food in the little room off of the Gym where all of the equipment is now stored.

In 1966, they added the wing that now hosts first grade classes. Art was still taught in the basement until 1992 when the next addition was added, forming the center of the school that houses the Library and Music Room.

And in 2004, the addition was built that completes Whitehouse School as we know it today. The office, two kindergarten rooms, and the Cafetorium were added to the first floor. At that time, the upstairs was constructed for all of the second and third grade classes.

Guidance News

Reminders

Happy New Year!



Character Corner

Kelso also incorporates our character traits each month. January is Fairness.



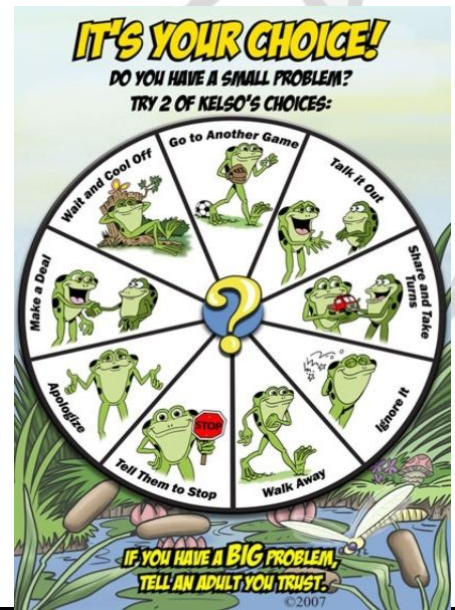
Learning & Growing...

Kelso's Choice is the conflict resolution program that we use at our elementary schools in the district. This program allows our students to develop effective problem-solving skills. It also helps students to deal with a conflict in a positive manner and to make appropriate decisions.

Colorful charts, like the one to the below are displayed throughout our school. Students are encouraged to try two of Kelso's Choices when they have a small problem. Knowing what to do will help children reduce the stress and number of conflicts they have.

Dr. DeRosa and I review this chart with our students each marking period. We encourage you, as parents, to become familiar with the chart and use it with your child.

Thank you for your support!
~Deb Debaro





Nurse

Reminders

This new year set reasonable goals and make gradual changes.

2019

EAT
HEALTHILY,
SLEEP WELL,
BREATHE
DEEPLY.
ENJOY LIFE.

Character Corner

FAIRNESS

Learning & Growing...

The holiday season presented us with many delicious treats. Try to challenge yourself and your family in 2019 to continue to make healthy choices. Research has proven that if a family makes healthier choices together, the children will make long-term success in weight management and nutritional goals.

The American Diabetes Association recommends small steps to big changes:

1. Exercise more
2. Get more sleep-sleep recharges our body
3. Eat healthy
4. Be happy- happy people are healthier people
5. Lower salt intake- many foods have "hidden" sodium
6. Floss daily
7. Build a network of support; friends & family
8. Eat breakfast-include fiber, which will help regulate blood sugar
9. Cut back on coffee-less than 4 cups daily

For additional information on making healthier choices try the following websites:

<http://www.eatright.org> ,
www.healthierus.gov/dietaryguidelines

Speech & Language Therapy

Reminders

Please encourage your child to use his/her 'good sound(s)' at home. A gentle reminder or correction will boost important self-monitoring skills.

Character Corner

You can practice fairness, along with social language skills like turn-taking and appropriately responding to disappointment, while playing card games and board games at home with family and friends.



Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year!

The start of a new year is a great opportunity to set new goals for your family. Consider devoting time each week to practice speech and language targets relating to your child's IEP goals at home as a resolution to adopt this year. There are many apps, ranging in price, that can be used at home for practice. You can also easily go online to find lists of words containing your child's speech sounds. Then, you can make your own flashcards with pictures from the web or use your child's own creations to practice with.

If you are interested in additional ideas for home practice or materials to use, feel free to contact me for assistance.

Mrs. Bobal
Speech Language Specialist
(908) 534-4422 x4758

*practice
makes
perfect*

Kindergarten

Reminders

Students will have outdoor recess whenever possible. The fresh air and the chance to run around and play are an important part of our day. Please be sure your child has a warm coat, hat and mittens or gloves so that they are safe and comfortable during the winter months.



Character Corner

During the month of January, the theme of Fairness will be our focus. Larger concepts of diversity and justice will be shared through literature and activities. Often young children think that "fair" means everyone gets the same thing. Passing out Band-Aids to each child when one is injured is a fun and silly way to introduce the concept that fairness is actually when everyone gets what they **need**.

Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year!! This month we will begin our science unit called Materials and Motion. The material we will first focus on is wood. The children will be introduced to a variety of wood samples (pine, particleboard, plywood, basswood, and cedar). The girls and boys will observe and compare the properties and they will be acquiring vocabulary associated with these properties. They will go on a wood hunt in our classroom and label the different kinds of wood found in the school environment. Our kindergarten scientists will be busy this month! We will be observing, comparing, and communicating! The children usually enjoy these activities very much!

In literacy, students will be immersed in a variety of phonemic awareness, concepts of print, sight word and reading strategy skill-building activities while reinforcing their letter and sound knowledge. During our Writing Workshop time, the children will be writing narrative pieces. They will be sharing true stories while trying to remember to use spaces, mostly lowercase letters, and punctuation in their writing. Be prepared to enjoy the little treasures that they will produce. The children have grown so much as writers since the beginning of kindergarten!

In math, the girls and boys will be developing their own strategies for counting, collecting, and calculating while observing some teacher-introduced strategies. We'll be using these new skills when we reach Day 100! In math this week, we will practice telling number stories. Using our whiteboards, we will illustrate our stories with simple drawings, and even try to write the equation! Yes, we are familiar with the word "equation"! :) We will keep the stories short and use simple language. At home or in the car, you might want to play a game where you take turns making up number stories. An example would be - Zachary has ten pennies, but he lost one of them. How many pennies does Zachary have now?

Since winter weather is here, this would be a good time to work with your child on zipping, buttoning, snapping, and tying shoes. Some winter coats can be tricky to fasten, but by giving children practice opportunities, they will get better at it!

First Grade

Reminders

Please remember during these cold winter months, that you send your child to school in a warm coat, gloves, and winter hats. We will go outside for recess on most days.



Learning & Growing...

We hope you are well-rested after winter break and read lots of wonderful books! Throughout December, our first graders learned a variety of reading strategies to help them become better at decoding tricky words and comprehending nonfiction books. In January, we will be focusing on our fluency, phonics, and continue working on our comprehension. Writing has become a very productive time of the day for our first graders. They are practicing on their skills for writing complete sentences, adding detail, using capital letters and punctuation, appropriately. We will be starting our third writing unit this month. Students will learn how to use their opinions to write reviews.

In math, we will be starting Unit 4. In this unit, children will explore tens and ones using physical groupings and math drawings. They will be building two-digit numbers to extend these place value concepts. We will continue to focus on strengthening students' knowledge of addition facts to twenty.

We will be continuing our unit on light and sound during science. Students will be collecting data and designing tools to solve problems and answer questions. We are having a fantastic time experimenting!

Character Corner

This month our character theme is fairness. We will be working on fairness during our Morning Meeting and SEL periods.

Our fairness buckets our due Friday, January 25th to your child's classroom teacher.

Our February Town Hall meeting will be held on February 1, 2019.

Second Grade

Reminders

Even in the winter months, we will have outdoor recess whenever possible. Please make sure your child is dressed comfortably for outdoor play.

Character Corner

January is Fairness month. Please encourage your child to color in a puzzle piece each time he or she demonstrates fairness. Buckets are due to your classroom teacher on January 28th.



Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year! We are so excited to begin a new year of learning in second grade!

We have launched our new unit in math, Length and Shapes, and will learn different units of measure, including centimeters, inches, feet, yards, and meters. We will be using rulers, meter sticks, and yardsticks and will be measuring various objects and line segments throughout the unit. Additionally, students will learn how to identify different shapes by their sides and angles.

Our reading and writing units will focus on nonfiction and students will be learning about a variety of topics. We will identify features of nonfiction texts and learn how to incorporate those features into our own nonfiction writing. Our students are going to become experts!

Our next science unit will teach students about solids and liquids and we will perform a variety of experiments and investigations in our science lab. Social studies lessons and activities will concentrate on strengthening map skills and learning about weather, climate and landforms.

Students should continue reading at home each night to improve fluency, decoding, and comprehension skills. Ask your child questions as he or she reads to you to help keep track of characters and plot. Notice if your child is using decoding strategies independently - chunking out words, looking for words inside words, or stretching out words. Keep up the good work!

Third Grade

Reminders

*Early dismissal
on January 18th

*No school on
January 21st.



Character Corner

Students will be practicing and learning about "Fairness" during the month of January. Please encourage conversation about this character trait at home and discuss examples as a family. Children should color puzzle pieces as they work to complete Fairness Buckets throughout the month.

Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had time to relax from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

Throughout the past couple months, third graders have been engaged in reading independently, with partners, and listening to a variety of realistic fiction stories. Students' stamina for reading keeps growing and growing! To develop stronger comprehension, students have learned to dig deeper into the meaning of the text by asking themselves purposeful questions, retelling the story, making connections and inferences, and writing responses to their reading in their journals. Third graders are currently applying comprehension strategies to a variety of non-fiction books!

In science, classes enjoyed learning about Motion and Matter! Students were "attracted" to the many hands-on activity opportunities as they experimented with magnets. We also "got things rolling" as students created ramps, along with wheel and axle systems.

Finally, third grade students wrapped up the year equipped with all of the basic multiplication and division facts. They are now able to take these facts and apply them to solving story problems that include area, order of operations, and the more challenging multi-step problems. Students should continue to build fact fluency by practicing at home!

Music



WHS Music Staff

Mrs. Laurie Levesque,
Wednesday and
Thursday classes
534-4411 ext. 4141

Mrs. Elissa Bowen,
Friday classes
823-0454 ext. 2016

Character Corner

“Music is the
movement of
sound to reach
the soul for the
education of its
virtue.”

- Plato



Learning & Growing...

Music is ringing in the New Year! If you are looking for more ways to engage your children in musical learning, take a look at the Whitehouse School music webpage at [WHS Music](#), where there is a list of great music websites, songs, and ideas for your child to visit. Later in the year, grade level concert materials will be added.

Questions to ask when your child comes home on Music Day:

- What rhythm did you work on?
- What melody or notes did you use today?
- What songs did you sing, play, listen to, or dance to? (Have them perform for you!)
- Do you have any music homework? (Third grade students should now be practicing their recorder four to five times weekly and completing their “practice bugs”).

We are looking for volunteers to help out at district music events. Families are invited to support and promote the arts in Readington by joining the Readington Fine and Performing Arts Alliance (RFAPAA). This organization exists to create meaningful relationships between parents, students, the performing and arts faculty, and the public, as well as to support all performing and arts departments in the Readington Township Public Schools. Please visit the WHS Music webpage for more information at: [Readington Fine and Performing Arts Information](#).

Mark your calendars!

The spring concerts for each grade level will be:

Kindergarten: Thursday May 23, 9:00 am

1st Grade: Thursday May 23, 2:15 pm

2nd Grade: Thursday May 23, 10:00 am

3rd Grade: Thursday May 23, 1:15 pm



Art

Reminders

Mrs. Dana Pierro,
Monday and Tuesday
classes
534-4411 ext. 4126

Mrs. Mary Coyle,
Thursday classes
823-0454 ext. 2017

Character Corner

Fairness

We respect
the inner
artist in
everyone!



Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year! WOW! It is already 2019! It feels like the school just started! We are so proud of our second and third grade artists. Before 2018 ended, second graders created Flags for the Faithful, which were delivered to local veterans. Third graders painted snowflake pictures, which were delivered to children in local hospitals. Both projects were beautiful! The students definitely put their hearts and souls into this thoughtful work.

Kindergarteners have been working feverishly on their portfolios. We will use tin foil to create sea turtles and explore a different texture. This is a fun art lesson, which involves watercolor paint and salt. They will have a great time exploring what the salt does to the paint.

Our first graders will finish up their art lesson based on the book, *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae. Ask them about the "magic paint". They won't forget it anytime soon! Once they are finished, they will move onto another literary based- project, starring *Pete the Cat*.

Second graders will embark on a color theory project, where they will learn about complementary colors by painting zebras. They will also explore homophones when they write their "compliments" to the other zebras in the herd!

Third graders are going to take a little break from their rainforest birds to learn some useful watercolor techniques. So, when it's time to paint their masterpieces, they will have some unique ways to expressive themselves!



Physical Education

Reminders

Please remember to wear sneakers and comfortable clothing on your PE days.

Even if you wear boots to school with the cold weather, remember to pack a change of shoes so everyone remains safe!

Character Corner

Fairness in Physical Education

- Play by the rules.
- Take turns and share.
- Be open minded; listen to others.
- Don't take advantage of others.
- Treat people fairly.

Learning & Growing...

Never Boring in Phys. Ed.

Physical Education classes at Whitehouse School have been working to keep students motivated. Students were introduced to fun activities encouraging them to continue an active lifestyle at home. Children that appreciate being active are more likely to remain energetic throughout their lives. As physical education teachers, our main goal is to find activities that not only address the components of fitness, but also promote our students' interest and levels of abilities.

The students learned the basic skills and fundamentals of basketball, along with some fun tricks and challenges. Practice these challenges at home and see how many you can do!

Students have continued working on improving their throwing and dodging skills with Snowball Pin Guard. This fun and entertaining game forces the students to work cooperatively to be successful. They must work together to earn "snowballs" which will be used to help their friends get rescued from the "igloos" and return back to the game.

Interactive systems such as Nintendo Wii and XBOX 360 Kinect are a fun way to keep the students engaged and very active. Nintendo Wii, which uses motion sensor controllers, requires players to be physical movers and work their skill level while playing baseball, golf, tennis, and bowling. XBOX 360 allows the students to be the controllers. This is a full body game where the students' movements control individual or partner challenges.

The wide variety of activities available enables each child to find his/her comfort zone with physical activity.

~Ms. Kozal and Mr. Lillia



Computers

Reminders

Tiffany Barca
tbarca@readington.k12.nj.us
908-534-4411 ext. 133
Mondays

Wendy Reardon
wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us
908-534-4411 ext. 133
Tuesdays
Wednesdays
Friday

Character Corner

Second grade students will be creating a Word Cloud on our character theme for this month:

Fairness



Learning & Growing...

All computer classes celebrated Computer Science Week (Dec. 3—7). The students in every country around the globe, including Whitehouse School, participated in the Hour of Code. This initiative is a one-hour introduction to computer science designed to demystify coding for students and encourage them to pursue technology careers. Whitehouse School students, K-3, participated in this year's Hour of Code. Please visit code.org for more information on the Hour of Code.

The kindergartners are continuing to master basic computer skills including the mouse and touch screens while reinforcing their classroom curricula through various educational websites including ABC Mouse. This month, students will be introduced to the Bee Bots, programmable bee robots that help reinforce coding skills.

The first graders have made amazing progress in the Computer Lab. They have been learning how to utilize *Microsoft Word* as a tool in school and everyday life. Students continue to practice how to copy and paste objects to create snowmen in the Computer Lab. Now, we will also be practicing our typing skills, writing about our snowmen at night. First grade students will also be using the Bee Bots to reinforce their computer programming skills.

In second grade, students continue to complete many of their assignments in Google Classroom. Students will also be mastering their Google Docs skills by creating snowmen and writing a short story about them. The children will also be introduced to Google Slides this month.

Each week, every third grader spends 10-15 minutes on Typing Club, a practice program, in class to enhance their keyboarding skills. The great news is Typing Club is accessible from home. Since keyboarding is an essential skill, students may choose to practice at home. Please visit the following website to access your child's account:
<https://readington.typingclub.com/>





Spanish

Reminders

A great way to review and practice Spanish vocabulary is playing online games :)

Please visit my Spanish website page to have direct access to the links.

Character Corner

In December, we learned how to say Patience "Paciente" in Spanish.

In January, we will learn how to say Fairness or "Justicia".

Learning & Growing...

Dear parents,

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! I hope that you had a wonderful winter break.

Kindergarten students have been working on greetings, questions about their name, age and how they are doing. They have continued learning the colors and numbers (up to 20.) Kindergarteners love to sing the Spanish songs "Chocolate" (Chocolate) and "Con Mi Dedito" (With My Little Finger.)

First graders have been extending basic questions and counting up to 50 (with a little assistance.) They have learned the parts of the face by pointing at them on puppets, playing Simon Says, and learning the Spanish song "En mi Cara Redondita" (In My Round Face.)

Second graders have been focused on the questions about the weather, seasons, dates, and birthdays. They have studied clothing vocabulary, connected it with colors and the seasons, and described what they and their peers are wearing.

Third graders have mastered communicating the date for yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In addition, they are able to state what they have and don't have in their backpack, as well as ask to borrow any materials that they are missing.

Saludos,

Señora de los Santos