



# Whitehouse School News

## Happy New Year to You and Yours!!!

January 2020

### Learning & Growing Together...

Dear WHS Family & Friends,

Happy New Year to You And Yours!!! I certainly hope that you had some time to relax and rejuvenate over the winter break. If you took any pictures capturing new family memories, please be sure to submit them to the Main Office to be entered into our *WHS Family Photo Contest*, described in last month's newsletter.

We are gearing up for an exciting second half of the year! As you know, we already *launched* our school-wide thematic unit, and it is underway! We have been spending time this year reading, writing, researching, and talking about the *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Moon Landing*, and the various topics related to it. This week, thanks to the generosity of our Home School Association, we are thrilled to be hosting an *Astronaut-in-Residence*. Our special guest will spend the entire day at Whitehouse School, and will meet with classes throughout the day, so your children will have a chance to ask questions as they learn about the intricacies associated with becoming an astronaut!

In other news, as *Cubs of Character*, we engage in a service activity that complements our character trait each month. In December, students again participated in our *Patience for Patients* project. They created the most adorable reindeer paintings that we delivered to children who were spending the holidays in the hospital. These masterpieces were very well-received at several local hospitals. January is *Fairness Month*, and we could use your help as we shift our focus to a global effort. We have a longstanding partnership with a school in Guatemala. They are very grateful that we are again holding our annual *Share-To-Be-Fair* drive for them. Students at that school are always in need of any type of athletic attire including sports shoes or sneakers, socks, shorts, and shirts. Please consider donating clothing that your child has outgrown. We have placed a collection box near the elevator, and will accept items for the entire month. Thanking you in advance for your assistance!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2020!!!

Warmly,

Dr. Ann T. DeRosa

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#### ***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.*

# Counseling News

## Reminders

The holiday season and winter months can be trying on people who have lost a loved one or are going through a tough time. A quick phone call or visit can help reduce feelings of sadness or isolation.

## Character Corner

### SMART Goal Planning

- S** **SPECIFIC** What EXACTLY do you want to accomplish?
- M** **MEASURABLE** How will you know when you meet your goal?
- A** **ATTAINABLE** Is it possible to meet this goal with effort by your timeline?
- R** **RELEVANT** Is this goal worth working hard to accomplish?
- T** **TIMELY** What is the deadline you set to meet your goal?

*A goal without a plan is just a wish. -Antonio De Sant'Angelo*

## Learning & Growing...

### A New Year, A New Beginning

The start of a new year is a great time for self-reflection and a fresh start. Worldwide, people will make goals for self-improvement only to give-up or fall short of their desired outcome. The effect of not meeting a goal can adversely affect our emotional health and motivation to improve. When it comes to students, many report being upset by not attaining a goal that is perfectionistic and unreachable. Sharing your New Year's resolution with your child can help you model that life is about continuous improvement and resiliency (even if you fall short of your goal :)

To help Whitehouse families set challenging, yet realistic, goals for 2020, please consider the following tips for successful resolutions:

1. Choose something achievable
2. Be specific
3. Phrase your resolution positively
4. Make it time-bound
5. Set dates to check your progress
6. Adjust the goals, when needed
7. Use visual reminders to track your progress
8. Have fun!

Wishing you health, peace, and laughter in the new year!

Mr. Paul Smith, WHS School Counselor

Conte, Kim. (n.d.). *Eight Smart (and fun!) New Year's resolutions kids can make:*

<https://www.parents.com/holiday/new-years/resolution/smart-new-years-resolutions-kids-can-make/>

# Nurse

## Reminders

Remember to dress warmly with a jacket, hat, gloves, scarf, earmuffs, warm socks, boots, shoes and undershirts.

It's always useful to have a spare pair of clothes in the bookbag. Here are some examples from 2019:

- spilling syrup
- friend spilled milk
- slid down a wet slide
- had an accident

## Character Corner

**Fairness** - Act of doing things that treat all people equally and with respect

## Learning & Growing...

### Eating Healthy during the Winter

Below is a list of 10 Winter Vegetables to enjoy:

- |                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Cabbage         | 6. Collard Greens |
| 2. Winter Squash   | 7. Radishes       |
| 3. Brussel Sprouts | 8. Parsnips       |
| 4. Kale            | 9. Rutabagas      |
| 5. Parsnip         | 10. Swiss Chard   |

It is important to get outside and enjoy the fresh air! When going outside remember to dress warmly, and have jackets buttoned and zipped up.



This time of year when we are more indoors and it is a great opportunity to try new activities together. These can include playing board games, card games, painting, and coloring.



# Speech & Language Therapy

## Reminders

Please encourage your child to use his/her *good sounds* at home. A gentle reminder or correction will boost important self-monitoring skills.



## Character Corner

### Fairness

(noun) fair or impartial treatment, lack of favoritism toward one side or another

#### Synonyms:

- Equal
- Impartial
- Just

#### Antonyms:

- Biased
- Unjust
- Partial

## Learning & Growing...

### *Happy New Year!*

The start of a new year is a great opportunity to set goals for your family. Consider devoting time each week to practicing 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 and 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, M.A., CCC-SLP  
Speech-Language Pathologist  
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(908) 534-4758

# Kindergarten

## Reminders

Don't forget to work on your Fairness Buckets!



## Character Corner

Kindergarteners will learn about fairness and that we will recognize, respect, and celebrate the differences in others.

We will recognize that everyone has a voice, and we will respect what they have to say by listening.



## Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year!! This month we will begin our science unit called *Materials and Motion*. The material we will focus on first 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, the children will be immersed in a variety of phonemic awareness, concepts of print, snap word and reading strategy skill building activities while reinforcing their letter and sound knowledge. During *Writing Workshop*, the children will be writing informational pieces. They will be writing "How to" books while trying to remember to try to use spaces, mostly lowercase letters and punctuation in their writing. Be prepared to enjoy the little treasures the boys and girls 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 white boards, 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 lots of practice opportunities, they will get better at it!

# First Grade

## Reminders

Please remember during these cold winter months to 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 writing complete sentences, adding detail, and using capital letters and punctuation appropriately. We will be starting our third writing unit this month, which is our persuasive writing unit. Students will learn how to use their opinions to write reviews.

In math, we will be starting Unit 2. In this unit, children will explore numbers within 20. They will learn that teen numbers are made up of tens and ones. These numbers can be put together and broken apart in many different ways. Students will use what they know about adding and subtracting within 10 to help them.

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 24th to your child's classroom teacher.

Our February Town Hall meeting will be held on February 3rd, 2019. Please wear your Red Cubs of Character Shirt!



# Second Grade

## Reminders

1/10 - Elvis/Hawaiian Day!  
1/17 - Early Dismissal Day  
1/20 - MLK Day-No School  
1/24 - Crazy Hair Day  
1/24 - Fairness Buckets  
Due  
1/31 - Team Spirit Day!

We try to have outdoor recess as often as weather permits. Please remember to have your child dress appropriately.

## Character Corner

January is Fairness month. Please discuss with your child ways he or she can show fairness this month. Please encourage him or her to color in a puzzle piece each time fairness is demonstrated at home. We will be sharing ideas, reading books and incorporating lessons on fairness in class all month.

## 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 and will be learning how to add and subtract double-digit numbers using various strategies. We will continue working with word problems and will also begin to count money. Please continue to practice math fact fluency at home and utilize the take-home family letters to further help your child understand strategies for homework.

We are finishing up our nonfiction units in Literacy and students have learned a great deal about a variety of topics. We have learned to identify features of nonfiction texts and successfully incorporated those features into our own nonfiction writing.

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 build comprehension. 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!

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



# Third Grade

## Reminders

**Jan. 10**-Elvis/  
Hawaiian Day

**Jan. 15**-3rd Grade  
Clubs

**Jan. 17**-Early  
Dismissal

**Jan. 20**-No School

**Jan. 24**-Crazy Hair  
Day

**Jan. 31**-Team Spirit  
Day

## 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, the children 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 continue this work by applying comprehension strategies to a variety of non-fiction books, as well!

In science, students enjoyed learning about "Structures of Life". This unit provided us with the opportunity to explore information about fascinating creatures! Our emerging scientists also studied the skeletal systems in humans and had the opportunity to dissect owl pellets!

Finally, third grade students wrapped up the year equipped with many of the basic multiplication and division facts. They are now working to take these facts and apply them to solving story problems. Students should continue to build fact fluency by practicing at home using iReady and Reflex Math!

## 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.



# Library

## Reminders

**Fabulous  
February  
will soon  
be here!**

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

**Mrs. Zanardi**

[vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us)  
908.534.4411 ext 4143

## 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...

### **A NEW YEAR FOR FABULOUS READERS!**

WHS Grades K-3 will get ready to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America Day on March 2nd with a **Fabulous February Reading Incentive Program**. This enriching reading program will run from **February 1 - 28, 2020**. All minutes need to be turned into the WHS Library by February 28th by 4pm to count toward the rewards. The winners will be announced when we celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday the next week.

~The WHS class that reads the greatest number of minutes by February 28th will earn award certificates and be invited to a special lunchtime based-on-a-book movie party in the WHS Library in March.

~ In every classroom, and thanks to Dr. DeRosa, the student who has the single highest amount of minutes spent reading will select a book from Dr. DeRosa's Reading Wagon.

~ WHS will have a billboard in the hallway listing students who reach the 1,000-minute mark (and special certificates will be issued). That is just 35 minutes a night ... sooOOOoOOOoo do-able!

All students should log the amount of time they spend reading outside of school. WHS is recommending 20 minutes a night as a good starting point. Please note that any time with a book, magazine, or online program counts, even if someone else is reading it to the student! And, if the student reads aloud to a sibling, parent, pet, stuffed animal, etc., that counts too!

Last year, over 50 students read over 1,000 minutes ... and some students read over 2,000 minutes! *What goal will you set for this year?* Did you know that studies link reading at home to academic success?

**WHS, GET YOUR READING ENGINES READY!**

# Music



## WHS Music Staff

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

Ms. Jess Richter,  
Friday classes  
823-0454 ext. 2016

## Character Corner

“Music gives a  
soul to the  
universe, wings to  
the mind, flight  
to the  
imagination, and  
life to  
everything.”  
- Plato



## Learning & Growing...

Music is ringing in the New Year of 2020! 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!

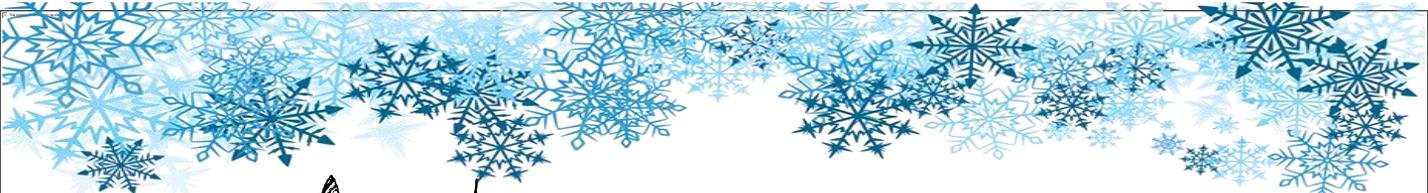
The Spring Concerts for each grade level will be:

Kindergarten: Thursday May 21, 9:00 am

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Thursday May 21, 2:15 pm

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Thursday May 21, 10:00 am

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Thursday May 21, 1:15 pm



# Art

## Reminders

## Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year and welcome back to the art room! Your children are amazing! In December, they created artwork for our *Patience for Patients* project, which were holiday-themed pieces to give to children in hospitals. They were so generous and kind...it made me proud to be a part of such a wonderful community!

I can't wait to get started on our thematic unit projects! Our theme this year is outer space. Kindergartners and first graders will be creating a charcoal and chalk rendition of our galaxy. Second graders will be creating a wordless out-of-this-world book. And, our third graders will be creating a graphic mind map about the International Space Station.

Once our thematic unit is complete, we will be picking up where we left off in December. The kindergartners will be continuing building their portfolios with a watercolor painting and mixed media project about turtles. First graders will be painting their background images for Gerald from *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae. Our second graders will be drawing a Zebra and painting them with complementary colors...this will not be your run of the mill zebra! And, the third graders will be starting their technique sheets, where they will learn about watercolor painting for their rainforest birds.

## Character Corner

Fairness does not mean everyone gets the same. Fairness means everyone gets what they need.

# 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 aiming 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. They should practice these challenges at home to see how many they 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.

We strive to help 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. 9–13). 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 will 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 by 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, the children 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. They 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

We have learned how to say in Spanish:

Gratitude

**"Agradecimiento"**  
**"Ser Agradecido"**

Patience

**"Paciencia"**  
**"Ser Paciente"**

## Learning & Growing...



Dear parents,

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! I hope that you enjoyed your winter break.

During the fall, kindergarteners were working very hard on learning basic questions such as :What is your name?." "How are you?" and "What day is today?" They have increased their vocabulary by singing the song, "Uno, Dos, Tres", which they love! Also, they had so much fun singing the song "Chocolate" with different pacing, and following the commands: "stand up", "sit down", "go fast", "go slow", "spin" and "jump".

First graders have been learning basic questions and how to count up to 50. They have also been practicing reading and writing vocabulary in Spanish and they are able to point, and identify the face and body parts. They have a blast singing and dancing to different songs in Spanish, in particular "Las Partes del Cuerpo."

Second graders are able to describe in detail what they and their peers are wearing, and what to wear based on the weather and seasons. Also, they have been working on questions about the weather, season, date and birthdays.

Third graders have focused on stating the date for yesterday, today and tomorrow; practicing the verb "Tener" (to have) while they stated what school supplies they had and didn't have in their backpack. In addition, they have learned how to ask to borrow materials that they are missing.

Saludos,  
Señora de los Santos