

Whitehouse School News

March 2019

CHARACTER CORNER

March's Theme:

Trustworthiness

"We say what we mean & we mean what we say!"

"I am dependable and others can count on me."

"Honesty is the best policy!"

March Service Project

Pledges-for-Pages:

A reading drive to promote literacy to be launched in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday!



Are you kidding me?

Where are sled dogs trained?

Answer: In mushrooms

Learning & Growing with Balto



Dear WHS Families,

The Iditarod, otherwise known as The Last Great Race, will begin on Saturday, March 2!!! We purchased an Iditarod "insider" subscription membership for use by our entire school community. Please feel free to use our sign-in information below with your child and family. You can explore all of the amazing things that this exciting resource offers!

Website: iditarod.com

Username: CubsOfCharacterWHS

Password: WHSRocks!

Last week, Ms. Karen Kozal facilitated our very successful Bustling Like Balto Recess Walk-a-Thon on our outdoor Paws Path. Student and staff members did laps as a whole team and we tracked our practice by grade level and as an entire school!

A special thank you goes out again to our Home School Association for funding a very special upcoming event! On March 13, we are actually hosting a Musher-In-Residence. A former musher who raced in the Iditarod will bring her dog to Whitehouse School and after a whole-school assembly, they will spend time with each homeroom class. The musher will share her experiences and answer any questions.

Appreciating Our Men in Blue...



In February, it was *Caring Month* here at WHS. Students and staff members focused on ways to show *caring* toward others in school, at home, and out in the community. In the spirit of *caring*, Whitehouse School teachers and staff members showed their appreciation for Readington's Finest by hosting their annual *WHS "Police Be My Valentine" Dessert Party* in honor of the Readington Township Police Department. Pictured here at the event are Chief Joe Greco and Special Officer Brian Gilmurray. Afterward, the group posed for a picture.

Warmly, Ann 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.

Rescheduled “WHS Science Fair”

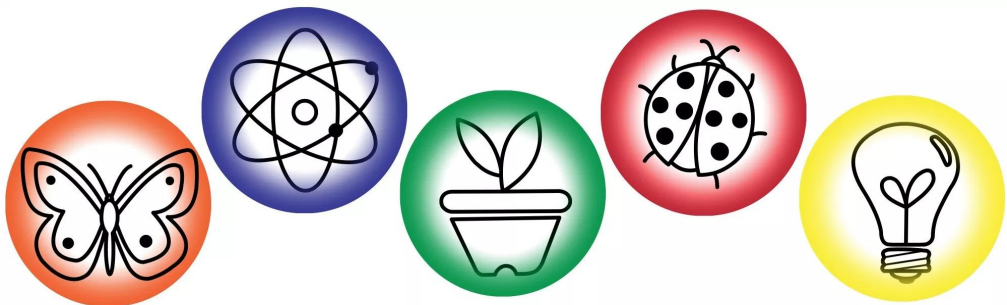
Monday, March 4, 2019

We will have 2 sessions. Please
choose one that is most convenient
for your family:



Session 1: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Session 2: 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm



SCIENCE FAIR

Guidance News

Reminders

Important dates:

March 18-22:
Week of Respect II

March 21:
Sneaker Day

March 22:
Pajama Day

Learning & Growing...

WEEK OF RESPECT II

We celebrated the Week of Respect back in October, but plan on continuing with a Week of Respect II this month. March 18th through March 22nd will be dedicated to being respectful to our classmates, teachers, families, and friends. We will talk about being respectful not only in school with our teachers but on the bus with our bus drivers.



Thursday, March 21st will be Sneaker Day. We are asking everyone to wear sneakers to school to show that we run our own lives, make good choices, and stomp out bad ones.



On Friday, March 22nd we will have Pajama Day. Everyone will wear pajamas to show that we don't give up on our "dreams", and we respect ourselves and our friends. Announcements will be made in the morning to remind the students about being respectful at school, home, and in the community. It will be a fun Week of Respect II.



Character Corner



Be Truthful
— in what you —
Say and Do

HONESTY

Nurse

Reminders

National Nutrition Month® is an annual nutrition education and information campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.



Character Corner

Many of our students have specific food allergies. Be a trusted friend by not sharing foods and packing snacks separately from lunches.



Learning & Growing...

March is Nutrition Month!!!

Families can help their children improve health and nutrition in several ways. First and foremost, be a positive role model. Eat at least one meal together as a family. Try to limit sedentary video game time. In the colder months, when this can be challenging, opt for active electronic games. Set simple and specific goals and limits. For example; challenge your family to have at least one green vegetable a day and/or cut back on whole fruit juice consumption by cutting in half with water. Make a game of reading food labels. It is a way to practice reading while incorporating math skills. Don't reward children with food. Instead try extra family fun or prolonged outdoor play times. Lastly, insist on healthy food choices at school.

Students at Whitehouse School who are spotted during March having a nutritious and delicious food item at lunch will receive a healthy eating sticker and/or Cub Tag!!!



Here are some links from the US Government that may be helpful to parents.

<https://www.nutrition.gov/subject/life-stages/children/food-nutrition>

<http://www.eatright.org/>

<http://www.eatright.org/Public/list.aspx?TaxID=6442452090>

http://kidshealth.org/parent/nutrition_center/

<http://www.choosemyplate.gov/>

Maureen Sjonell MSN, RN, CSN-NJ



Speech & Language Therapy

Reminders

Please contact Mrs. Bobal directly if you wish to schedule a time to discuss your child's progress in therapy during parent-teacher conferences.

Character Corner

This month's character trait is:

Trustworthiness

Trustworthy:

(adjective) able to be relied on as honest or truthful

Synonyms: reliable, dependable, true, responsible, steady

Antonyms: dishonest, undependable, unreliable, misleading

Learning & Growing...

Hearing and Listening are Different

Hearing is the ability to perceive sound. This process involves sound vibrations moving from the environment through the outer, middle, and inner ear, until it reaches your brain for processing. You need to be able to hear in order to listen to verbal language, but just because you can hear does not mean that you are a good listener.

Listening is an active choice we make that involves concentration and processing skills. Listening skills are necessary for strong academic performance and also play a key role in social functioning. It is a way we show others that we care about them and that we respect them. The following are examples of behaviors that show others we are listening:

- Not interrupting a speaker or talking over another person
- Looking at a person who is speaking to you, nodding your head in agreement, and using appropriate facial expressions
- Showing interest in the topic of conversation by asking questions or commenting on what the other person has said
- Responding to a communication partner's questions or attempts at interaction

There are many reasons why children struggle with listening skills, including having impaired hearing, language processing difficulties, and attentional issues. Practicing listening skills is targeted in speech and language therapy and can also be easily practiced at home during dinnertime interactions and car ride conversations.

Mrs. Bobal, M.A., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist



Kindergarten

Reminders

Please remember to hand in your money and permission slips for our Field Trips

Don't forget to sign up for conferences

Character Corner

Our Kindergarten friends will be learning how to be trustworthy with their words and actions. They will learn to be dependable so that others can count on them and that honesty is always the best policy!

Don't forget to turn in your Trustworthiness Buckets!

Learning & Growing...

Spring is right around the corner and the kindergarten children's skills in literacy are in full bloom. Their confidence has developed and they are writing words and sentences in their daily writing. As the year continues, the children will fine tune their skills with spacing and using as many lowercase letters as they can.

Phonemic awareness skill development will continue to flourish with their newly-learned skills in phonics. They are excitedly reading decodable books with short vowel blending of three letter words and the sight words that they are learning. In addition, they are beginning to blend two letters together such as "dr" or "sn" to figure out those tricky words like *drive* and *snowman*. In the sharing literature activities, the children will be working on reading comprehension, concepts of print, story sequencing, characters, and retelling. The children will continue to bloom with their new literacy skill development over the next couple of months.

After completing the wood portion of our science unit on Wood and Paper, the children will see that the upcoming paper investigations will be just as exciting and informative. Looking ahead to April, the boys and girls will be celebrating Earth Day with a paper recycling activity where they will actually make their own paper. Then, it will be on to our new science unit on Animals with lots of interesting creatures entering our classrooms!

Kindergarteners have been skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, and creating number stories. The children will continue to review and build on their understanding of addition and subtraction stories. Visualizing teen numbers as a ten and extra ones and continuing partner work for partners 2 thru 6 will be a focus for the boys and girls this month. Yes, we will be busy little bees this spring!

First Grade

Reminders

Please remember to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

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Please return Trustworthiness Buckets to your teacher on time.

Character Corner

Our First Graders will be discussing the importance of being trustworthy in school and at home.



Learning & Growing...

In February, our first grade authors were writing up a storm as they continued to write Opinion Writing pieces as they authored collection writing, reviews, and persuasive letters. Now, in the month of March, our first grade writers will be tackling (Scenes to Series) Realistic Fiction Writing. They will be creating fictional characters, settings, problems, and story solutions to create a series of books similar to the Henry and Mudge series.

What strong, voracious readers our first graders have become! Starting this month, our first grade readers will be introduced to various realistic fiction book series such as Henry and Mudge, Mr. Putter and Tabby, Poppleton, and Zelda and Ivy. During this next unit of study, we will be focusing on retelling stories, while looking for main characters, setting, problem and solution. At home, be sure to practice reinforcing these retelling skills and ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of their fiction stories.

In math, we are now working on counting, reading, and writing numerals to one hundred twenty as they learn and use strategies to add and subtract within twenty and understand place value for 2-digit numbers. Our students will be solving addition story problems with two and three addends. They will also be adding and subtracting decade numbers and will be learning to find 10 more or 10 less than a given two-digit number.

We are now beginning our Air and Weather science unit. During this unit, students will engineer parachutes to explore the properties of air. Students will be using instruments to observe and record weather patterns and connect them to the changing weather conditions.



Second Grade

Reminders

We look forward to meeting with you for Parent-Teacher Conferences!

Character Corner

March is trustworthy month! We will be talking about ways we can be trustworthy at home, school and beyond! Please help your child demonstrate trustworthiness this month and remind him or her to color in a bucket piece each time he or she shows trustworthiness.

Please don't forget to return your signed bucket to your child's classroom teacher!

Learning & Growing...

Spring is in the air in second grade! Our classrooms have been blooming with activity! Reader's Workshop is abuzz with book clubs. Students are reading several books within the same series to compare and contrast different elements and notice how an author carries similar themes, characters, structure, plots and moods throughout multiple books. Within each book club, students also learn how to really talk to each other about books; they question, critique, and discuss different points about the books and respectfully take turns sharing their ideas with each other. We are enjoying these more mature and complex discussions!

Second grade writers are blossoming as they learn how to write strong persuasive reviews. We revisit the tenets of opinion writing and build upon prior knowledge of how to share opinions with others. Students are immersed in persuasive writing and debate and will learn strategies for crafting organized, convincing, and detailed reviews which will be revised and edited to strengthen those skills, as well.

Mathematicians have been working hard with subtraction and word problems. Students are revisiting different types of word problems and solving for unknowns in all positions. Continue working with Reflexmath.com to keep fact fluency skills sharp and practice counting money at home.

Scientists are investigating Solids and Liquids and we are very excited to be moving on to lots of new experiments! We will discuss and explore the different properties of solids and liquids and discover the unique qualities of each. We are looking forward to watching the amazing growth that will sprout these next few months with your children!



Third Grade

Reminders

**Early
Dismissal**
**March 14th
And
March 15th**

Character Corner

March is trustworthy month! We will be discussing the many ways students can be trustworthy at home and school. Please encourage your child to color in puzzle pieces for their trustworthy behavior choices!

As always, please remember to return signed buckets to your child's classroom teacher by the assigned date.

Learning & Growing...

Our whole school is following the Iditarod! Excitement is in the air as classes prepare to track the progress of the mushers and dog sled teams. This ties in well with our third grade study of geography and maps in social studies. Students have also been enjoying their research as they identify facts about Alaska in correlation with our previous nonfiction units in both reading and writing.

Our third grade writers are becoming more confident in their ability to persuade others as they discuss a topic of their choosing. As they write, students are learning to utilize persuasive language as well as to incorporate facts and details that properly support their arguments. Teachers continue to focus on the importance of revision as a critical stage in the writing process. This helps students make decisions about organization and word choice. With each unit of study, our writers are developing their ability to edit their own work by adding punctuation or fixing spelling errors that they identify independently.

Our current themes in reading revolve around character studies and mystery stories. Students will be using their detective skills as they learn to read for clues! Additionally, they will continue to notice and think about characters as they look closely for habits, strengths and suspicious behaviors. As they reflect on their reading, students continue practice with locating and providing evidence from the text in both written and oral responses. They are also learning to infer meanings of unfamiliar words by using clues in the text and prior-knowledge.

In math classes, students worked with identifying the place value in numbers and practiced estimating multi-digit sums and differences. Next, the **whole** third grade is excited to begin learning all the interesting **parts** about our unit on **fractions**. The teachers are **equally** enthused! Also, as we mentioned in previous newsletters, multiplication and division facts should be reviewed nightly. Students have made tremendous progress so far! Remember to encourage practice using the websites for iXL and Reflex Math!

Music

Reminders

Third grade students should periodically wash their recorders to prevent the spread of germs!

Separate into three pieces and rinse with warm soapy water or use the top rack of the dishwasher.

Character Corner

"You have
BRAINS
in your HEAD.

You have FEET in
your SHOES.

You can
STEER yourself
any DIRECTION
you CHOOSE!!"

-Dr. Seuss



Learning & Growing...

Did you know that March is National Music in Our Schools Month? This year's theme is "All Music, All People" and we strive to bring that spirit to life each and every day here at Whitehouse School. We hope your children leave class each week feeling like music has an important place in their lives. Be on the lookout for more information from Readington's Fine and Performing Arts Committee to learn about how our district will be celebrating Arts Week (March 11 to March 15).



1.

Please note our Spring Concert times.
We look forward to seeing you in the audience!

Thursday, May 23
Kindergarten @ 9:00 AM
Grade 1 @ 2:15 PM
Grade 2 @ 10:00 AM
Grade 3 @ 1:15 PM



Reminders

Arts Week:
March 11 - 15

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Dana Pierro  
[dpierro@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:dpierro@readington.k12.nj.us)

## Character Corner

### **Trustworthiness:**

As the children sit at tables together, instead of individual desks, we **trust** that our tablemates handle the art materials properly. When everyone does the right thing, it minimizes paint or markers from getting on someone else's artwork.

## Learning & Growing...

I can't believe we're more than halfway through the school year! As we enter the second half of the year, the art room seems to run like a well-oiled machine. Students have jobs to do and responsibilities. They set-up and clean-up their tables when we paint. They are doing a great job!

We recently finished our school-wide art project about Balto. Each class learned about Native Americans living in Alaska and created our own totem poles by class. They are amazing!

Our Kindergartners have been steadily adding artwork to their portfolios. In their latest creations, we learned how to cut true 6-point snowflakes out of paper. They painted their backgrounds with watercolors and glued their snowflakes down for a winter wonderland feel. For their next masterpiece, we started creating self-portraits. They are learning about facial feature details and how to draw them properly. I love how they are turning out and I'm sure you will too!

The second graders will be starting their Complimentary Zebras. They will be learning about complementary colors and also about complimenting each other in this fun play-on-words. We will explore what homophones are and learn how the English language can be a little unique sometimes.

Our third graders are well into the painting phase of their rainforest birds. They are learning so much about watercolor painting techniques and how to apply what they know to their paintings. They look fantastic already and they're not even finished yet!

Thank you for sharing your children with me. Seeing their enthusiasm in the art room brings a smile to my face everyday!



# Physical Education

## Reminders

Please remember to wear sneakers on your Physical Education days!



## Character Corner



Character Builds Trustworthiness



## Learning & Growing...

### Never a dull moment in Physical Education...

MOVE, MOVE, MOVE! That's what we continue to do in Physical Education class.

During the month of January, students played Pillow Polo Hockey. The high excitement game features plenty of scoring and goal defense. Each student had the opportunity to play the action-packed position as the goalie.

During the month of February, students played a variety of cooperative games and challenges such as Pirate's Gold and Save our Ship. Our classes have also enjoyed playing Snowball Pin Dodge and Snowball Pin Guard. This new game is a twist on our traditional Pin Guard in which we add a "Snowman" to both sides and students can earn back pins they have lost by targeting and knocking over their opponent's snowmen.

The students have also been busy working together participating in Speed Stacking Relays. Students had the opportunity to use both traditional Speed Stack cups and JUMBO cups and were asked to build patterns such as a 2-1, 3-2-1, and a 1-10-1. We also did a partner challenge using the same patterns listed above. Speed stacking is an exciting individual and team sport where the students stack and unstack 12 specially designed high-tech cups. When the students are stacking, they are using both sides of their bodies and brain to develop skills necessary to dribble, throw, catch, play a musical instrument and type on a computer, and more!

Students can look forward to Pinky's return, Rescue the Dinosaur and the Penguin Activity. These are two activities the students really love which help to promote team spirit and cooperation.

~ Miss Kozal & Mr. Lillia



## Reminders

The last minute to  
enter minutes for  
Fabulous February  
is at 4pm on  
February 28th.

Valerie Zanardi  
WHS Librarian  
vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us

## Character Corner

Trustworthiness is  
very important during  
our month of reading  
for Fabulous  
February.

All students are  
reading in hopes of  
earning a Movie Party.  
We trust that all  
students are totally  
honest in the minutes  
they submit so that  
they can feel proud of  
themselves.

The WHS Library is  
proud of ALL students  
who read and  
submitted minutes.

You ROCK !!!

## Learning & Growing...

### Hunterdon County Librarians Association Enthusiastic Readers 2019

*The following students were nominated by staff  
members to represent Whitehouse School in  
recognition of their enthusiasm for reading.*

*Congratulations!*

Anne Albrecht-Smith  
Madison Bola  
Madelyn Bruner  
Alexandra Burgey  
Jayden Chen  
Allison Ciarelli  
Sara Ciarelli  
Xia Cobb  
Lucas Dalfonzo  
Max Dustin  
Sara Egbert  
Sarah Erd  
Maelyn Gawlowski  
Gia Geiger  
Chase Keebler  
Phoebe King  
Remy Knoll  
Elliott Kremer  
Ava Larrea  
Sophie Luk

Alexa Marchese  
James Maraventano  
Michael Moran  
Aiden Myers  
Shiloh North  
Adonis Pitts  
Devin Rogal  
Sophia Sartin  
Luke Schnaudt  
Bruno Somma  
Michael Somma  
Leah Soucy  
Shawn Spring  
Homer Stone  
Roger Sun  
Thomas Toback  
Brynn Van Lenten  
Max Woodworth  
Bryan Yacullo  
Marvin Zhu

# Computers

## Reminders

Tiffany Barca  
[tbarca@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:tbarca@readington.k12.nj.us)  
908-534-4411 ext. 133  
Mondays

Wendy Reardon  
[wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us)  
908-534-4411 ext. 133  
Tuesdays  
Wednesdays  
Fridays



## Character Corner

Students will be using Google draw to create a computer drawing on what it means to be "trustworthy".



## Learning & Growing...

Kindergartners continue to make amazing progress in the Computer Lab. Students were introduced to our new robotic friends, The Bee Bots. Students learned simple programming skills to navigate the Bee Bots to letters in the alphabet. The Bee Bots allow students to learn sequential programming by pressing forward/reverse/left/right buttons in order to make the Bee-Bots go from one place to another.

First graders will learn how to use *Microsoft Powerpoint* to create a slideshow about their favorite animals. Stay tuned for our Favorite Animal Videos. Students will use Microsoft PowerPoint to create a scene from the Iditarod to celebrate our school-wide thematic unit.

Second graders are continuing to use Google Classroom for all of their in-class projects. Each class will celebrate our schoolwide thematic unit on the Iditarod by creating a Kidspiration research web on their chosen musher.

Third grade students have applied their foundation in computer skills to larger research projects. All third grade projects are completed through Google Classroom. Students completed research on Martin Luther King Jr. Each student creates a slide show showcasing three facts. Students will use these research skills to learn about one of the Iditarod Mushers.

Every third grade class spends 10-15 minutes on *Typing Club* 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 this website. <https://readington.typingclub.com/>



# Spanish



## Reminders

A great way to review and practice Spanish vocabulary is playing online games :) Please visit the Spanish website to have direct access to the links.

## Character Corner

We have learned how to say in Spanish:  
Fairness  
**"Justicia"**  
(**ser**  
**justo/a**)  
and Caring  
**"Preocupar**  
**se por los**  
**demás."**

## Learning & Growing...

Dear Parents,

As we have reached the middle of the school year, the students have demonstrated their strength in Spanish. Each grade level is reviewing the basic vocabulary and connecting the words with our new units.

Kindergarten is practicing colors, counting up to 50, the days of the week, shapes and they love singing a new song "Five Snowmen."

First grade has been focusing on learning how to label the body parts. They especially enjoying acting out the body parts for their classmates. Currently, first grade is working on counting up to 100, learning winter clothing vocabulary and reviewing the colors when they describe the winter clothes.

Second grade can state the date, identify their meals and drinks. They are practicing the verbs "To Eat" and "To Drink" through a variety of dialogue. Second graders love to perform the conversations in front of the class.

Third grade has mastered the alphabet. They are able to spell their first and last name. They have enjoyed competing to see which team can spell correctly the classroom materials and school subject first. At the moment, third graders are learning the time.

Saludos,

Señora de los Santos