

# Whitehouse School

## NEWS FLASH!



### Greetings from Whitehouse School!

Dear WHS Families,

The holidays are fast-approaching, and it is the perfect time for everyone to reflect on all that is good in our lives. This is why we intentionally chose November as *Gratitude Month* when we developed our school's Social-Emotional Learning program several years ago.

#### **We are Cubs of Character!!!**

Please continue to discuss acts of good character with your child as he/she earns your permission to shade in pieces from his/her bucket filler puzzle. At this time, bucket puzzle sheets are now optional. Please click [here](#) to download the *Gratitude* bucket. The focus of our *gratitude* character trait will center on the affirmation: *I am grateful for the people in my life, and I appreciate the things that I have.*

### **Happy Thanksgiving to You and Yours!**

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#### **Whitehouse School Mission**

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 of learning.



### THE SCOOP



#### Spotlight on the Readington Township School District's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan Goal #1

**Inquisitive Learning:** Create and establish an inquiry-based framework that values an interest-driven learning environment. Learners will, individually and collaboratively, focus on identifying, analyzing, and solving problems as inquisitive members of their community.

*"Questions can be extraordinary learning tools. A good question, can open minds, shift paradigms, and force the uncomfortable but transformational cognitive dissonance that can help create thinkers. In education, we tend to value a student's ability to answer our questions. But what might be more important is their ability to ask their own great questions--and more critically, their willingness to do so."-- Terry Heick*



### Choose "Gratitude"



How can you help WHS?



**COVID19 Safety Checks** Please complete the student health check online no later than 8:00a.m. each morning that your child is attending "in person" school. The list of students without a health check completed is printed out at 8:00 a.m. Students who are on the list are escorted to the Nurse's office until a phone call home is placed, and the health check is on record for the day. This lengthy process can be avoided if the health check is in our system by 8:00a.m.

**Attendance Procedures** Please be sure to call the Main Office attendance line when your child is absent from school. We appreciate how many parents are notifying teachers directly, but we also need to keep official attendance records through the school office. Thanking you in advance for your help & cooperation.

#### **Mindful Moment**

*"The real gift of gratitude is that the more grateful you are, the more present you become." ~Robert Holden*





# Counseling News

## Character Corner

For more resources, strategies, and articles for your child and family, please check out my website: [HERE](#)

## Awareness Weeks Review

-October 5-9  
WHS celebrated **The Week of Respect** which covered topics of respect and good choices.

-October 12-16  
was designated as **School Violence Awareness Week** which covered positive problem solving.

-October 19-23  
was **Red Ribbon Week** which we celebrated healthy lifestyles.

## Learning & Growing...

Whitehouse celebrates [GRIT](#) in the month April, but, let's face it, this may be a weekly or even a daily struggle for some over the past few months. Without a doubt, our students have shown that they have GRIT adapting to virtual learning, transitioning back to school, social distancing, wearing masks, learning new technology, and so much more. While they have shown us that they have risen to this unexpected and unprecedented challenge, it does not mean it's been easy for them or their families.

In times like this, I am reminded of three themes:

**1. In an emergency, you must put on your "oxygen mask" first.**

This means checking in with yourself and being honest with how you are doing right now. What strategies are you using to cope, are they healthy, and are they working? As the saying goes, "It is alright to not be alright" as long as we are continuing to strive for new and healthy coping strategies. However, if you or someone you know needs support and someone to talk to, [NJ Hopeline](#) (1-855-654-6735) is a helpful resource for adults. Also, [NJ211](#) is a wonderful website if you or someone you know is in need of housing, food, employment assistance, and more.

**2. Return to basics.** Sports provide a perfect metaphor for this since you cannot be Lionel Messi without knowing the fundamentals of how to dribble a soccer ball. A time like this is a time to return back to the human basics: a predictable sleep schedule, nutrition, exercise, stress relief/mindfulness, and connecting with others. Each of these provides our minds and bodies with the energy and clarity to bravely go forward and face our challenges.

**3. The one thing we have is 100% control over how we react.**

The pandemic has revealed that we may not have as much control over the world as we once thought. And, while we may not be back to normal, we do have this amazing power to control how we each individually respond to our circumstances. By utilizing the power of social modeling, we can help our students and ourselves by modeling healthy coping strategies and encouraging open dialogue about problems, worries, and feelings. In addition, creating a routine is something that helps students and adults alike feel safe and provides us with structure, especially during a chaotic time. It helps all of us be able to better predict each day as well as create a neurobiological clock that can prepare our bodies and minds for different activities throughout our day such as learning, sleep, exercise, and other daily activities.





# Nurse

## Reminders

- Please complete the COVID-19 screening form by **8am** for any day your child is due to be in person .
- Remember to call the **attendance line** to report your child's absence.
- Wash masks** daily, pack at least **2 extra!**

## Character Corner

Be a good **friend** by working to keep germs from spreading. Stay home when you are sick. Wash your hands, cover coughs, and use a tissue to blow your nose.



## Learning & Growing...

### **HANDWASHING—More than ever, this is very important!!!**

Handwashing with warm water and soap is our best defense to remove germs from our hands. Wash for a minimum of 20 seconds minimum. It is great to have children sing the ABC song or Happy Birthday two times before they finish washing their hands.

Hand sanitizer (60% alcohol based) is an excellent alternative when you do not have access to soap and water, but it should not take the place of good handwashing. The nurse works with each kindergarten class to teach about proper handwashing.

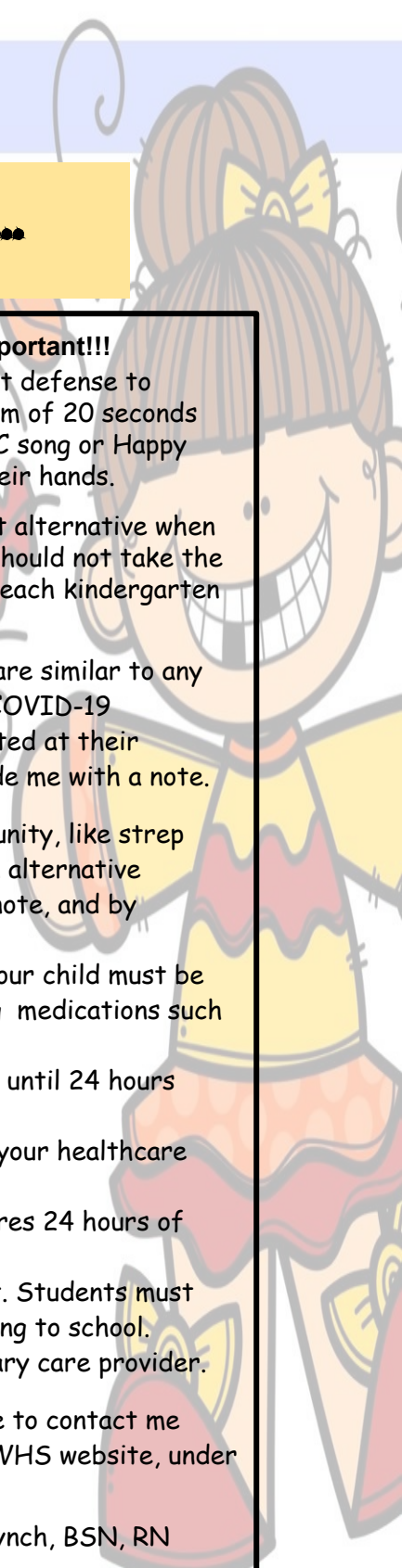
If a child is absent for any new symptom(s) that are similar to any COVID-19 related symptom, as specified on the COVID-19 pre-screening form, please have your child evaluated at their primary care physician and have the doctor provide me with a note.

There are other illnesses circulating in the community, like strep throat and the flu, and once a doctor has given an alternative diagnosis, your child may return to school with a note, and by following the protocol below:

- A temperature of 100 degrees or higher. Your child must be fever free without the use of fever-reducing medications such as Advil or Tylenol.
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea - keep child home until 24 hours without any continued symptoms.
- Any unusual rashes (should be evaluated by your healthcare provider).
- Treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis requires 24 hours of medication before returning to school.
- Strep Throat requires antibiotic treatment. Students must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Earaches should be evaluated by your primary care provider.

We are in this together, so please do not hesitate to contact me with questions! My website can be found on the WHS website, under information tab, Health Office.

Mrs. Katie Lynch, BSN, RN



# Kindergarten

## Reminders

November 23 is  
Crazy Hair Day!

## Character Corner

Kindergarten spent the first few days of school building a new community of friends.

These little kindergartners have learned so much already! How to be a bucket filler, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance flag salute and the WHS Cheer, Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop and so much more.

November is the month we will be focusing on Gratitude. The children will learn how to display thanks, appreciation & Gratitude for the people in their life and the things they have. We will be drawing and writing about someone we are thankful for. We will also be reading a few books about being Thankful, for example "Gratitude Soup".

We are so grateful for your continued support and flexibility during this adventurous kindergarten year!

## Learning & Growing...

The kindergarten children will continue their phonemic awareness study of letters and sounds this month, both in the classroom and virtually. The boys and girls will be actively involved in many shared reading experiences, handwriting, word study, and retelling activities where the letter sounds will be emphasized. Blending sounds, making, and reading short vowel words are some of the ways the children will utilize their vowel knowledge. They will also be encouraged to include vowels in their writing. Don't forget to review those sight words at home too!

In science, we will be working hard and learning a lot about trees and weather. We will continue to participate in many investigations such as observing trees at home using our five senses, comparing trees and leaves for similarities and differences, communicating our observations verbally and with drawings and labeling with a word or two. Our little scientists will also be observing and comparing weather by using their senses and tools, recording weather observations using pictures and words. We have some very active little kindergarten scientists!

In math, the kindergarteners will be building counting skills with numbers up to 10, learning to compare within 10 and will be sorting and counting objects by attributes such as color, shape, size and weight.

Children will be learning about pumpkins, turkeys, Native Americans and Pilgrims. We will be very busy in kindergarten this November!





# First Grade



## Reminders

- Students should come to school with a fully charged Chromebook daily.



- Don't forget your headphones and other supplies!



## Character Corner

One way our class has connected is by identifying and expressing an array of feelings. We have been closely paying attention to the feelings of story characters and acting them out.



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## Learning & Growing...

Our first graders have kicked off this year in an extremely positive way, virtually and in person! We have made new friends, renewed old friendships, and come together as new classroom communities.

In Writer's Workshop, we are finishing our *Small Moments* unit of study and moving into *How-To Books*. Students will be working on how to explicitly tell someone how to do something using organizational words such as *first*, *next*, *then*, and *last*. In Reader's Workshop, we are working on becoming avid readers by setting goals for reading and using strategies to tackle tricky words. In Phonics, we are learning how to spell words by stretching out the sounds that we hear.

In Math, we are working in Unit 1. This unit extends children's understanding of adding and subtracting within 10. At home you are encouraged to practice these skills using your child's i-Ready account.

Our Social Studies unit focused on communities, citizenship, laws, and rules. The children have been learning about laws and rules as they apply them at school and in the community. This unit fits in very nicely with our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program.

In Science, we are observing Sound and Light. In this unit, students will learn that sound comes from vibrating objects. They will explore volume and pitch. When they study light, students will work with sources and receivers. They will explore how to use sound and light devices to communicate information.

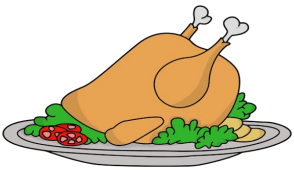


# Second Grade

## Reminders

### No School

November 5  
November 6  
November 26  
November 27



## Character Corner

Second graders show good character! This November we are talking about Gratitude. Students will learn how to show gratitude and identify different things they are grateful for. Keep up with the discussion at home!



## Learning & Growing...

### Autumn Greetings from Second Grade!

We have been very busy building our stamina and learning strategies to strengthen our reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension skills. As you read with your child at home, stop and ask him or her questions about the characters or plot. Remind your child to "chunk out" tricky words and to read smoothly with expression!

Second graders did a wonderful job with our small moments writing unit. Our second writing unit is Scenes to Series, which focuses on realistic fiction. We continue to incorporate spelling skills and use of conventions into our lessons.

Mathematicians have been busy learning various addition, subtraction and word problem-solving strategies. We will continue strengthening our math discourse skills and using a variety of strategies to solve problems. Encourage your child to continue practicing his or her math fact fluency with Reflex Math and foundational skills with i-Ready.

We are completing our first science unit, Pebbles, Sand and Silt, and will be moving on to our first social studies unit, Governing the People. We will learn about the three branches of government, the rights and responsibilities of citizens and how communities are governed.



# Third Grade

## Reminders

\*All students should bring charged Chromebooks and chargers to school on their in-person instruction days.

\*Remember to bring a snack and other school supplies each day.



## Character Corner

Our students are engaged in routine school-wide and daily classroom Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities such as Morning Meetings, Self-Reflections and Mindfulness Exercises. Our theme for November is Gratitude and December is Patience. Thank you for encouraging your child to demonstrate these positive character traits at home. By the end of each month, please encourage your child to complete his/her monthly bucket puzzle.

## Learning & Growing...

The weather is getting cooler, but things are really heating up in third grade! Citizenship has been the third grade focus during social studies. We have learned about rights, responsibilities and ways to be a good citizen. After celebrating Constitution Day on September 17, each class created their own "Class Constitution" which established the framework of rules by which a positive learning environment is maintained both virtually and within the classroom.

Moving on to math, students are using problem solving strategies such as equations, drawings and explanations to "express their thinking" and validate their answers with extended responses. Building multiplication and division fact fluency is also part of our lessons. Students will continue to practice with the goal of mastering the 0-10 facts by the middle of March. Many resources are in place within the classroom to help our students achieve this goal. At home, students are encouraged to regularly log onto their student accounts in Reflex Math and IXL.

Each day, the children are actively engaging in literacy. The beginning of our year focuses on building routines and stamina in both reading and writing. Students are independently reading and writing for longer periods of time. The writing genre for this marking period is Personal Narrative. The students are gathering ideas from their decorated writers' notebooks and from people and places in their lives that matter most to them.



# Music



## WHS Music Staff

Mrs. Laurie Levesque

[llevesque@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:llevesque@readington.k12.nj.us)

(908) 534-4411 ext. 4141

Ms. Jessica Richter

[jrichter@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:jrichter@readington.k12.nj.us)

(908) 823-0454 ext. 2016

## Character Corner

“It is the  
sum of  
our small,  
everyday  
choices  
that defines  
who we are.”



## Learning & Growing...

### MUSIC CLASS VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP



Dear Families,

The WHS Music teachers will be hosting a “virtual field trip” in December! We hope you will join us via your child’s Music Google Classroom to see “The Nutcracker”. This rendition of the holiday classic will be performed by the Southern California Ballet and participation in the virtual field trip will count toward your child’s second marking period Music class grade. We look forward to enjoying the magic with you!

Sincerely, Mrs. Levesque and Ms. Richter





# Art

## Reminders

Please remind your child to regularly visit his/her **Art Google Classroom** to see assignments, announcements, and teacher comments on submitted work!

## Character Corner

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.

-Pablo Picasso

## Learning & Growing...

The WHS Art Room is not open yet, but I know how eager your children are to be creative at home! If they have finished their art assignment already and they are looking for online drawing How-To's, please have them visit [Art for Kids Hub](#) or [Cartooning4Kids](#). They can also create their own artwork by playing with chalk outside, building something, coloring a window in your house (make sure they use window markers!), or draw or paint something from observation! Feel free to have them share their masterpieces with us!

Mary Coyle  
[mcoyle@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:mcoyle@readington.k12.nj.us)

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





# Physical Education

## Reminders

- Make sure to remember to wear comfortable clothes and sneakers on days you have PE. We will be going outside so as it gets cooler you may want to bring a sweatshirt or jacket.

-Continue to fill out your activity logs!

## Character Corner

In October, students showed friendliness by focusing on sportsmanship in our socially-distanced PE activities. This month, we will continue to focus on friendliness, but also incorporate ways to show gratitude.

## Learning & Growing...

Welcome to Physical Education, where being fit is fun!! In September, our Kindergartners and First Graders learned about "Spatial Awareness" and gained an understanding of the importance of moving around the gym while still being socially distant. We have played motor skill games that develop basic movements such as running, skipping, galloping, & hopping, while changing directions. Students are learning about the benefits associated with warming up and practicing different exercises before taking part in the day's activity.

We have started to learn about striking and kicking movements to manipulate a ball by playing games such as "Target Ball" and "Soccer Bocce Ball". During these games, students are not only learning the proper way to strike a ball with their feet, but also about teamwork.

In October, we welcomed our Second and Third Graders and had a great time playing Fruit Loop Tag, which emphasized foot and eye coordination. We continued to incorporate hula hoops into the remaining classes through games such as Hula Hoop Toss, Extreme Rock Paper Scissors, and Live Action Simon. Students will soon be learning single jump rope fundamentals such as the Basic Bounce, Side Swing, Jumping Jax, One Foot Hop, and the Full Twist.

### Physical Education Google Classroom

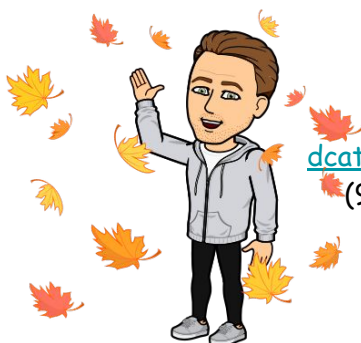
Please continue to check the PE Google Classroom for news and announcements. The link for the PE Virtual Gym is located under the classwork tab in the Google Classroom as well as the activity logs.

### Teacher Information

DJ Catalano

[dcatalano@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:dcatalano@readington.k12.nj.us)

(908) 534-4411 ext. 4135







# Library

## Reminders

## Learning & Growing...

This is a  
friendly  
reminder to  
**KEEP  
READING!**

Valerie Zanardi,  
School Librarian  
vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us

## Character Corner

### Gratitude!

There is so much we  
can be grateful for ...  
and I am especially  
grateful for books  
and reading.

I am grateful I found  
a new favorite book  
this Fall.

What is your favorite  
book that makes you  
feel  
grateful to read?

Send me a message  
with the title ...

The WHS Library is not open yet,  
but odds are you're still looking for  
a good book to read???

Try Hunterdon County Library's eBooks!  
<https://hclibrary.overdrive.com/library/kids>

Below is the link to get a card  
*without* leaving your home:

<http://hclibrary.us/services/ehcl.htm>

And directions to get to the eBooks:

<https://www.readington.k12.nj.us/Page/6758>

We are all grateful (see box to the left)  
that RTSD has purchased many, MANY  
subscriptions to online books for YOU.

Please "check" some out by scrolling  
down to the bottom of the link below --  
also found on the WHS Library webpage.

<https://www.readington.k12.nj.us/Page/6749>

# Computers



## Reminders

## Learning & Growing...

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

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

Feel free to reach  
out through email or  
office hours for help.  
Office hours are  
located in our Google  
Classrooms.

## Character Corner

start each  
day with  
a grateful  
heart



### Computer Lab GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Please remind your child to regularly visit his/her  
Computer Lab Google Classroom to see announcements and  
classwork!

\*\*\*\*\*

Each week, we are posting an **OPTIONAL** enrichment activity to  
our Google Classroom. Several of our assignments are valuable  
tech resources that can be used all school year long.

**Typing Club:** TypingClub is an educational platform for  
keyboarding. It is web-based and fully customizable, so your  
children can practice in class, at home, or wherever an internet  
connection can be found. Students are already familiar with the  
layout of the program because the design is very similar to popular  
games. Every lesson provides instant, meaningful feedback that  
encourages students to continue practicing. **Each student can log  
in to his/her account using the Clever Portal.**

**Kodable:** Kodable is an award-winning coding curriculum for kids  
ages 4-10. **Kodable** features age-appropriate games and activities  
that transition your kids from learning how to think like a  
programmer all the way to writing real code using the custom,  
built-for-kids coding interface! **Students log into Kodable by  
using the Kodable link and their class code found in our Google  
Classroom under the OPTIONAL enrichment tab.**

**Code.org:** Code.org is a nonprofit organization dedicated to  
expanding access to Computer Science in schools. The students  
will also participate in the HOUR OF CODE in December. **Students  
can log on to Code.org by using the Clever Portal.**





# Spanish

## Reminders

### SPANISH CLASS GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Please remind your child to regularly visit his/her Spanish Google Classroom to see announcements and classwork!

## Character Corner



## Learning & Growing...

### *Tips for Learning a Second Language at Home*

**Let learning happen naturally** by singing songs or reciting nursery rhymes in another language, watch bilingual TV shows and movies together, and play board games that include two languages.

**Encourage your child to be the teacher** by asking your child to give you a lesson based on what he/she has learned in the classroom – and you'll boost his/her confidence in the process! One of the best ways for a child to truly learn something is to help teach someone else.

**Use positive reinforcement** by providing positive encouragement when your child makes an effort to learn or practice her second language.

**Create journals together** by learning new words with your child and then create journals together of the new vocabulary you've absorbed.

**Read together.** Bilingual books can expand your child's vocabulary and help him/her develop an awareness and appreciation of different cultures. These books either provide side-by-side text (parallel text) or intersperse non-English words throughout the story.