

Volume 1, Issue 4

May 2016



HOME OF THE WHITEHOUSE CUBS

# WHITEHOUSE NEWS

## WHITEHOUSE NEWS

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

Dear WHS Families,

I opened my mail on Monday and this is what I found:



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20202

April 22, 2016

Dr. Ann T. DeRosa  
Principal  
Whitehouse School  
P.O. Box 157  
Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889

Dear Dr. DeRosa:

Congratulations on being recognized as a 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School. This award acknowledges your school's achievements in taking a comprehensive approach to sustainability.

Your status as a 2016 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School affirms the commitment your school has made to environmental stewardship, student and staff health, and sustainability education. You are using your achievements in these areas to cut your school's costs, improve student health and productivity, and teach your students STEM subjects, civic engagement, and skills for the careers of the future. You have demonstrated that students, parents, staff, and community partners working together can build a school of the future, where all students have the opportunity to reach their full potential. You remind us that with resourcefulness, creativity, and community collaboration, anything is possible.

President Barack Obama and I believe that every child in this country deserves a world-class education. We are investing unprecedented resources in realizing a vision of education that supports students from cradle to career. Our plan begins with high-quality early childhood programs, continues with world-class P-12 systems, and culminates in accessible and affordable college and career options in order to support pathways to fulfilling green careers, engaged citizenship, and lifelong wellness. As you know, to succeed in an increasingly competitive, high-skill global economy, we must provide education geared toward the needs of the future, and your school is doing precisely that.

I commend you for your commitment to environmental stewardship, health, and sustainability and for inspiring your entire school to aim high. You are representative of promising practices that improve achievement and equity, not only for aspiring green schools but for all schools. I look forward to celebrating your accomplishments during the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools recognition events on July 20, 2016, and to sharing your innovations with the country all year long.

Thank you for all that you do.

Sincerely,

John B. King, Jr.

# Nurse's News

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It's Spring, the season for sneezing!

With warmer weather, seasonal allergies are about to begin. How you can tell the difference between a cold and a suspected allergy? These are allergy symptoms:

- Repeated or chronic cold-like symptoms that last for more than 2 weeks
- Symptoms that develop at the same time every year
- Runny nose, nasal stuffiness, sneezing, throat clearing, nose rubbing, sniffing, snorting, itchy eyes, runny eyes
- Itchy throat or tingling in the throat & mouth is a classic indicator of an allergen
- Recurrent red, itchy, dry skin
- Dark circles under the eyes caused by nasal congestion

You can help control reactions to allergens. Avoidance of the suspected allergen is the best way to prevent a reaction. Other recommendations for minimizing exposure to environmental allergy causing substances include:

- Keep pets out of certain rooms, like your child's room
- Remove carpets or rugs
- Remove heavy drapes and other dust-collecting items
- Clean frequently
- Keep windows closed when pollen is at its peak
- Change clothing and wash face and hands after having been outdoors
- Mow the lawn when children are inside or away from the home
- Keep exhaust fans in working order in mold prone bathrooms
- Keep bathrooms clean and dry
- Wash face and hands after coming inside, leave outer jackets in garage turned inside out to prevent pollen from entering the home

If your child requires an antihistamine or other allergy medication while at school, please send the medication along with the permission to dispense medication form signed by your child's physician. It is available on the Health Services webpage.

Helpful websites for allergy information:

<http://www.pollen.com>

<http://www.keepkidshealthy.com>

<http://www.kidshealth.org>



# Counselor's Corner



Lunchtime chat groups have been ongoing at Whitehouse School. The group topics are as follows:

Banana Splits (Divorce/Separation/Single parent homes)  
Circle of Friends (Making and Keeping Friends)  
I'm Special, You're Special (Self-Esteem)

These chat groups are kept small in order to establish a friendly atmosphere. The children eat lunch with me in my office. They may purchase a school lunch or bring a bagged lunch. If you think your child would benefit from being included in any of these groups, please give me a call at 534-4411 ext. 4741.



Mrs. DeBaro

May is "Better Hearing and Speech Month." According to the American Speech and Hearing Association, 46 million Americans suffer from some kind of speech, voice, language or hearing impairment. It is hoped that awareness will be raised during this month. Hearing loss can happen at any age. Parents should always be alert to signs of hearing loss in their children. Take a close look at your child's ability to speak clearly. Learning to say all of the sounds correctly is a gradual process. If your child's speech sounds significantly different from his peers, he may have a speech disorder. The most common cause of hearing loss in children is otitis media, the medical term for a middle ear infection. May is a great month to remind children of the importance of using good speaking and listening skills.

Here are some tips on speech, language and hearing wellness:

- Talk naturally to your child; simplify your sentences and words but do not use baby talk.
- Listen carefully and expand your child's language by using well-formed, slightly longer sentences.
- Help your child answer questions appropriately by asking who, what, when, where, why and how.
- Encourage your child to express his feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes and fears.
- Don't misuse your voice by shouting or using a pitch level that is too high or too low.
- Avoid extended periods of exposure to loud noise.
- Keep the volume down on televisions, radios and stereo systems.
- If you have any questions regarding your child's speech and/or language, contact a speech/language specialist.
- If you suspect a hearing problem, contact an audiologist.

If you have any question please contact Marie Potenta.  
534-4411 ext. 4758





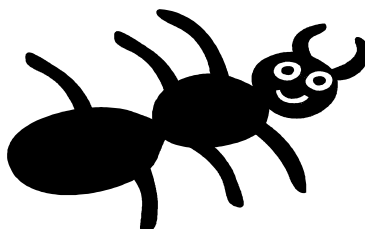
The May flowers are blooming! Our kindergarteners are growing into first graders. They've grown so much this year!

In writing workshop, our unit of study this month will be persuasive writing of all kinds! The children will be writing signs, songs, petitions, and letters about problems they see in their classroom and their school. The girls and boys will look at the world around them in new ways. The children will learn how to reflect on the troubles they see around the classroom and school and think, "What could make things better?" and then do all kinds of writing to make a change. They will be sharing opinions and convincing others to make a change.

Phonemic awareness activities for the remainder of the year will focus on the vowels and their two sounds. Study of vowels will continue into first grade. Our kindergarten writers are getting really good at including vowels in their words, using spaces between their words, and using mostly lowercase letters. They really love writing!

In math, the children will continue to create addition and subtraction story problems, visualize and show teen numbers as ten ones and extra ones, and find the "unknown partner" when the total and one partner are known. They will count by ones and tens to 100, and compare length, height, weight, and capacity. The boys and girls will also be trying to achieve fluency when adding and subtracting within 5. Look for everyday experiences to reinforce these skills with your child. These real-life connections make math more real for the children.

Our final science unit of the school year is Animals 2x2. The children will be comparing and contrasting similar animals. They will study goldfish & guppies, earthworms & redworms, and pill bugs & sow bugs. These activities teach us much about animals and we will also be fine-tuning our observational skills. Kindergarten is a busy place!



# First Grade

May flowers

Currently, our first graders have been busy strengthening their writing skills by working on writing opinion pieces. In this unit, Writing Reviews, students are creating persuasive reviews of all sorts - pizza reviews, TV show reviews, ice cream flavor reviews, and finally book reviews that hook the reader, clearly express the writer's opinion, and reinforce their argument in convincing ways. In addition, students will also work on becoming more independent in their abilities to go back to edit their sentences for capitalization, punctuation and spelling.

In math, we are in the midst of Unit 6. Throughout this unit, the students have learned to draw comparison bars to represent comparison situations. The underlying meaning of comparison story problems involves someone or something that has "more" or "less." The comparison statement or question has two key pieces: Who has more? and How much more? Students will ask themselves these two key questions and figure out if they have to add or subtract. For example: Tessa has 15 pens. Sam has 9 pens. How many more pens does Tessa have than Sam?

In reading, our first graders have been working on making sure that their reading looks right, sounds right and makes sense. They have been working on fluency and trying to read in the same manner we talk. Students are also learning how to distinguish between stories, poems, and informational books. They are learning that they can connect information and ideas across two or more texts on the same topic. For example, in the realistic fiction book, *Charlotte's Web*, readers learn that the story includes real facts about life on a farm and the life of a spider.

We started off this spring by getting involved in the school garden. First graders planted lettuce, beans, snap peas and other vegetables in the garden beds. Students were so excited to see that they have already started to grow. We will continue to monitor our plants in the garden as we begin our new science unit of studying organisms. Students will be creating terrariums and aquariums for our organisms. We will be caring for and observing pill bugs and millipedes in our terrariums. In our aquariums, we will have the opportunity to care for snails and guppies. Students will get to observe how these different organisms live and grow within different environments.

We are thrilled to finally see that the warmer weather has arrived.

Happy Spring, everyone!

Spring

# Second Grade

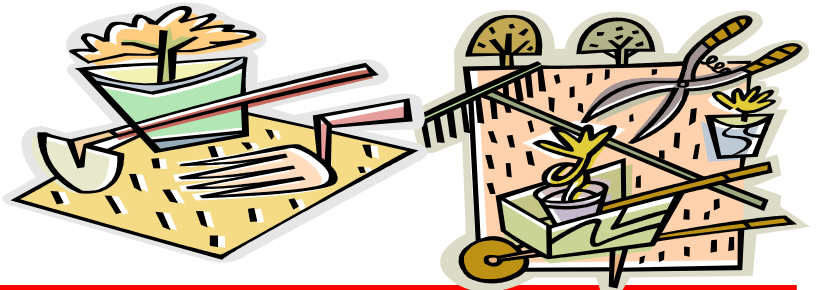
Our second grade classrooms are blooming with all sorts of exciting activities and learning experiences! In Reader's Workshop, we are reading and discussing folk tales, fables and fairy tales. We learned about the different elements of each genre and have compared characters, settings, morals of the stories, and problems and solutions faced by the main characters. Individual book club groups have had the opportunity to perform Reader's Theater scripts and we have had so much fun bringing out each student's inner actor/actress! In our final reading unit for the year, we will revisit nonfiction and readers will learn how to describe the connection between a series of scientific ideas and will participate in shared research.

In Writer's Workshop, we wrapped up our Edge of Your Seat unit, which was very enjoyable for our young authors. The unit allowed us to expand upon our earlier unit of Small Moment writing and students were taught how to include elements of tension and suspense in their stories and focus on feelings and emotions. Our final unit immerses us in poetry. We will be studying a wide variety of poets and poems, paying close attention to the differences between poems and stories. The focus of the unit is to engage students in analytical reading of short texts so that they can apply what they read to their own writing. Identifying repetition of sounds and patterns, figurative language, mood, and line breaks will be studied. We will conclude the unit with an Author's Tea...details to follow!

Scientists have become entomologists in this unit on insects! We have learned about the different parts of insects and will be observing live insects in our classrooms. We will also spend some time working outside in the garden. Springtime is always fun in second grade!

Our math unit teaches students about telling time and reading and interpreting graphs. Continue to reinforce these skills at home! Counting by fives and the ability to identify the hour hand and the minute hand are important skills for successful time-telling.

We are so proud of our hard-working second grade students!





Third graders were very busy writing opinion and nonfiction pieces in correlation with our school-wide thematic unit on the *Madeline* book series. Students learned to write sharing their thoughts and feelings on a topic while discovering the power of persuasive language. Exploring the book *Madeline and the Cats of Rome* inspired the children to research and learn about the historical significance of the most popular sites in Italy. Our hallway was transformed by the many fabulous research projects and writing pieces produced by our students.

With the onset of the beautiful spring weather, third grade students were reminded of the importance of caring for their environment through a variety of Earth Day activities. Each student was given a tree sapling to take home and plant. Trees were provided by the State of NJ Division of Parks and Forestry. This is a state-wide program that entitles every third grader in New Jersey to a free tree seedling. Its goal is to acquaint young students with the value and importance of trees. The focus is also on increasing environmental awareness as we teach students about the benefits of trees. The seedlings were a perfect way to get students involved in environmental activities, especially during Earth Day and Arbor Day. Students are excited to care for and nurture these young trees as they watch them grow.

As the year continues to fly by, we are working to prepare the children for the transition that they will make to Holland Brook School as fourth graders. Each class has paired up with another third grade class from Three Bridges School. The students are writing pen pal letters as the first step toward getting to know one another. This is an attempt to provide the students with a chance to connect with another Readington third grader who they may see next year in Holland Brook. Another highlight will be when we visit Holland Brook to meet some of the staff and tour the school. These activities will help to generate excitement about the coming year and help eliminate any uncertainties students may have about going to fourth grade!





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Spring has finally sprung! Now that Madeline has made her rounds around the world, it's time to spring into some art action!

Our kindergarteners are learning about Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night* painting. We're creating our own "brighter" version of this masterpiece. Ask your little one about Vincent Van Gogh. They should be able to tell you how many paintings he created over his lifetime and how many he actually sold before he passed. What a great lesson his life is...do what you love and love what you do. We will also be creating self portraits - learning about facial features and where they are accurately placed on a face.

First graders have made the jump from drawing cardinals in the snow with colored pencils and learning how the pressure of our hand can help create different tones of a color to learning about watercolor paint and washes while they paint cherry blossoms. They are so talented!

Our second graders just finished painting their complementary zebras and writing "compliments" to each other. They came out so cool! Next, we are learning the finer points of blending watercolor paints in a cute and fun stylized grass painting. This lesson will help them next year when they start their Rainforest Bird paintings.

Third graders have had a few interruptions along the way with their Rainforest Birds. We've created holiday cards for the card exchange program. We also did a guided drawing of the Grinch's hand around the holidays. They created 2 larger-than-life-sized cutouts of Madeline and her friend Pepito for our thematic unit, *Madeline*, and they'll be working on a Cinco de Mayo project. But in between all of this, they have been focused on their Rainforest Birds...and you can tell how hard they've been working on them...they look amazing so far!

Artfully Yours,  
Mrs. Dana Pierro





April Showers bring May Flowers! The computer lab is in full bloom. I am amazed at how much the students' computer skills have grown throughout the year.

Kindergartners have made amazing progress in the computer lab. Each student has learned how to log on and navigate to Google Classroom, an essential skill that will be used throughout each student's career in Readington. The boys and girls continue to use ABCMouse.com for the first 20 minutes of class. Students are making much progress on their Learning Path through this program. Students celebrated Earth Day by playing multiple games including Recycle Roundup.

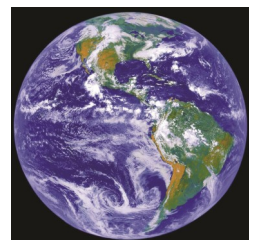
First graders are mastering logging on and navigating directly to Google Classroom. Students are practicing their typing skills weekly. First graders are learning how to create a slideshow through Google Slides. They created a class slideshow and are on their way to create their very first slide show, *Favorite Summertime Activities!* The first grade class celebrated Earth Day using *Microsoft Word* to create an Earth Day-themed poster.

Second graders continue to practice their typing skills. Students type their writing pieces during computer class. They also create cover pages for the stories they choose to publish. Each second grade class celebrated Earth Day using *Microsoft Word* to create an Earth Day-themed poster.

Third graders have applied their foundation in computer skills to larger projects. Students will begin to develop an informational packet of a skill, animal, or sport. Students will learn how to create a cover page, table of contents, informational pages including pictures and captions, and a glossary. Each third grade class also celebrated Earth Day using *Microsoft Word* to create an Earth Day-themed poster.

It was a pleasure teaching your children in computer class this year!!

~Mrs. Yukniewicz





Are you ready to take a journey around the world? Just like Madeline did in her adventures, the WHS Cubs have been experiencing new places and cultures these last few months as they have worked to prepare their concert songs. Our shows will be held on **Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>** and will last approximately 30 minutes. Please mark your calendars!

Kindergarten @ 2:15 PM - "Proud to be a Kindergartner"

Grade 1 @ 9:00 AM - "It's a Small World, After All"

Grade 2 @ 1:15 PM - "All the Way Around the World"

Grade 3 @ 10:15 AM - "The Wonderful World of Music"

Students should dress in nice school clothes on concert day. Any questions may be directed to your child's Music teacher. We hope you will be able to join us!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Laurie Levesque

(Wednesday and Thursday classes)

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

Mrs. Elissa Bowen (Tuesday and Friday classes)

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



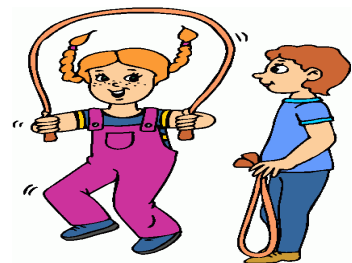


## Physical Education doesn't skip a beat!

The third grade students had their Annual Cup Stack Challenge. Mr. Tumolo's class won this year's competition. Mrs. Truempy's class won the sportsmanship award. Cup stacking offers a range of benefits including improving eye-hand coordination and ambidexterity. Another advantage of cup stacking includes using both sides of the brain. To view this year's champs, visit the P.E. website.



The students have also been busy developing their jump roping skills. They have been working on the proper ready position allowing them to turn the rope over their heads correctly. Once mastering the basic bounce, students were able to move on to more difficult challenges such as a one-foot hop, side swings, full twist, jumping jacks, cross, and the jogging step. Since jump ropes are provided, WHS students have the opportunity to continue their skill development during their recess time.



This year at Whitehouse School we will continue implementing a program called, The First Tee. This is a golf program that exposes the student to life skills and character education through the game of golf. This program creates an environment where young students experience the lifelong sport of golf while learning basic golf motor skills and the inherent values of the game including health-enhancing habits. The First Tee Program has provided us with specially modified equipment allowing the students to learn four basic golf shots: putt, chip, pitch and full swing. Through the game of golf, students will be exposed to the values of sportsmanship, courtesy, respect, honesty, integrity and perseverance.



First Tee 2016 summer programs are located on their website [www.thefirsttee.org](http://www.thefirsttee.org) or call 908-245-1120

~Ms.. K. Kozal & Mr. G. Gormly

# Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Beverly Cleary!



## What a memorable time to be at Whitehouse School.

One of the most beloved children's authors - Beverly Cleary - just celebrated her ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY! When questioned about this momentous occasion, Mrs. Cleary responded, "I didn't plan this on purpose!"

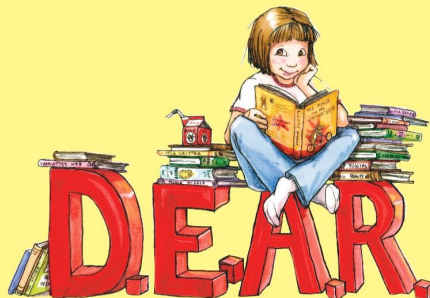
But planning is one of the things our school does best, and WHS planned two FUN activities for the month of April to help celebrate this 100th birthday ... as well as celebrating the wonderful series of books that Beverly Cleary has created.

The first event was an all-school Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.) on her actual birthdate of April 12th. Ever since Beverly mentioned D.E.A.R. in her book *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*, it has been a national push to do one every year on her birthday. Mrs. Cleary "included a passage about the D.E.A.R. program after she received numerous letters from readers who mentioned the great reading program they were doing in class. It seemed like something Ramona's class would do, too, so she put it in the book."

On April 20th, the students at WHS participated in a viewing of the live-action adaptation of Beverly Cleary's book - and her two most famous characters - *Beezus and Ramona*. These sisters make reading FUN, and I personally love that the girls visit a library in the first few chapters - though I may have to use Ramona as a bad example during my book-care lesson next year. Every WHS student knows that it is not acceptable to practice writing your name with a purple crayon on the pages of a library book!

Whitehouse School students love to read ... and they also love to celebrate ... so we were happy to commemorate Beverly Cleary's 100th birthday in a BIG way this April.

Mrs. Zanardi, WHS Librarian





Dear Parents,

We are approaching the end of another exciting academic year and I am very delighted with all of the students' hard work. We have continued adding more vocabulary, practicing short-conversations, oral and writing activities, reading, games, songs and projects.

Kindergarten has continued practicing questions about their name, age and how they are doing. Also, they have been enlarging their knowledge about colors and the days of the week. Kindergarten had a great time reading the popular book, *Oso Pardo, Oso Pardo (Brown Bear, Brown Bear)* in Spanish to review the colors. By the end of the year, Kindergarten will focus on sizes and basic shapes.

During the last three months, first graders have extended their vocabulary about animals by learning pet names. In addition, they have learned extended shapes and continue to review size, numbers, and colors.

In the upcoming months, first grade will learn about the months and the fruits. They will be able to tell if they like the fruit or not by using the phrases, "I like and I do not like." First graders will read the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* in Spanish, and do a project about it to review colors, numbers, the days of the week and fruits.

Second grade has been working on the extended family and the community (people's jobs and places). Students have been explaining family members' jobs and the places where they work within the community. In addition, second graders have learned the verb "to work" (trabajar), the subject pronouns "he" and "she," and the use of the gender in Spanish words. Ex: "Tio/ Tia" (Uncle/ Aunt) or "Hermano/ Hermana" (Brother/Sister).

By the end of the school year, second graders will work on learning the names of items in a house and will be engaged on the project "My Dream House," in which they will design their dream house, label each part of it, and describe it to their peers.

Third grade has been working on telling time and discussing school topics. They have created their own schedule and they have been using the sentence structures of "What time is it?" and "What time do you have (subject)?" Moreover, the students have been focusing on the different parts of the school and how to ask and give directions to get to different places in the school.

This year, all students will celebrate "Cinco de Mayo" by working on an art-craft project, listening to some Mexican music and learning some history (based on student's grade level).

To increase students' retention of the lessons learned and to continue to foster their excitement about Spanish, I suggest practicing the vocabulary at home. You can find the themed vocabulary and websites on Whitehouse School's World Language website.

Saludos,

Señora de los Santos

mdelossantos@readingtong.k12.nj.us

