

From Mrs. Smith's Desk



Dear Families,

We are fast approaching the 100th day of school! We hope you are excited about the progress your child has made so far this year. The Williams Elementary staff are focused and committed to providing all students with a rigorous instructional program. Students are continuing to receive challenging learning opportunities on a daily basis, whether it is through accelerated instruction or additional support and extra practice. We are also gearing up for the EmpowerME state assessment. Students will have an opportunity to experience the state assessment prior to taking the assessment in March by working on state released practice test items.

Read to ME Challenge

Did you know that February 1st is World Read Aloud Day? February 1st also kicks off the Read to ME Challenge. Are you up for the challenge? How to Participate:

- 1) Read with your child or children for 15 minutes.
- 2) Take a photo or short video of you reading with your child/children
- 3) Post it on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or other social networks with #ReadtoMe and #ReadaloudME.
- 4) Tag your friends in your post to take the challenge.

“Reading aloud to children is one of the most cost effective and highly beneficial methods of building children’s literate abilities. The simple act of reading aloud to a child 15 minutes a day for five years results in 27,375 minutes of language exposure which can put children on the path to high literacy achievement.” (<https://mainedoews.net/2018/01/11/read-to-me-challenge-set-to-kick-off-february-1st/>)

Let's Go Mini Grant & Screen-Free Week Challenge

Recently, Williams Elementary School was awarded \$500 for the Let's Go Mini Grant. The money received will be used to purchase new equipment to be used in our gym and outside. Teachers will be able to utilize this equipment for classroom rewards. We also plan to have a screen free week the week of February Break. During this week, students will be challenged to participate in a screen free week. Classroom teachers will send home more information about this event and a list of possible fun ideas and activities students could participate during this week. If 80% of the class successfully completes the screen free week, the class will have a

Personal Body Safety

Parent Night

February 26

Personal Body Safety Classroom Presentations

Grade 3: March 5 & 26 and April 30

Grade 4: March 5

Grade 5: March 12

Presentations will focus on 3 areas:

Personal Safety

Touching Safety

Assertiveness & Support

Wellness Checks

Our school nurse, Candace Tardif, will be conducting wellness checks this month per state policy. Wellness checks include: height, weight, vision and hearing screenings. Please call the nurse or send a note if you do not want your child to take part in the wellness check.

special class award with fun physical activities.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month!

"Because developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums, the American Dental Association sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month each February. The ADA offers free downloadable information, kid-friendly oral health worksheets and games on MouthHealthy.org." (<https://www.colgate.com/en-us/oral-health/life-stages/childrens-oral-care/ada-02-february-is-national-children-s-dental-health-month>)



The dental sealant program will be open to 3rd and 5th grade students this spring. This program includes sealants and dental cleanings. One permission slip has been sent home and a second permission slip will be sent home after February Break. There has been a change in our dental hygienist, Alyssa Wade will be taking over this program.

March Madness Kick Off Assembly

On Wednesday, February 7, we will kick off our third annual Nonfiction Picture Book March Madness tournament with an assembly in the gym at 1:30. Over the next month, teachers at WES will read aloud sixteen outstanding nonfiction picture books to their students. After the texts had been read aloud, students vote between pairs of books to determine which nonfiction books will move on in the tournament. We have already planned another epic assembly for Wednesday, March 21st to announce our 2018 March Madness Nonfiction Picture Book Champion. Parents are welcome to join us for these special events!

Our fourth and fifth graders know how much our March Madness nonfiction book tournament means to the students and staff at WES. During the month of March, our kids are passionate, not just about basketball, but about reading! We encourage you to take the time to check out our March Madness book bracket in the lobby and ask your child to tell you about his or her favorite contenders in this year's tournament. Let the fun begin!

Congratulations to Our Recent Eagles of the Week!

Grade 3 - Hannah Adams & Matthew Young
Grade 4 - Rylee McKay & Adriana Pettengill
Grade 5 - Aldia Willard & Hannah Phair

Educationally yours,

Melanie Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

February 1: World Read Aloud Day

February 7: March Madness Kick-off Assembly

School Board Meeting at Central Office - 7PM

February 18: Please join the Let's Go Family Fun Series for their next event, Winter Fun Days at Quarry Road Trails.
FMI: quarryroadtrails.org

February 19 - 23: NO SCHOOL - February Break

February 26: Personal Body Safety Parent Night



