

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

When it comes to safety at Williams Elementary School we implement fire drills and lockdown drills throughout the year to practice procedures we have in place for each drill. The goal of these drills is to familiarize staff and students with the specific procedures we have in place for both situations. When drills are conducted I contact our local fire and police departments to inform them that the drills are taking place. Often local responders will assist me with these drills. Last week, we conducted a lockdown and a fire drill. Prior to the drills teachers reviewed the specific procedures and expectations for each drill. The dates of the drills were announced to alleviate any stress they may have caused students and staff due to recent events in our country and state. Three Oakland Police Officers joined us for our lockdown drill. I want to applaud our students and staff on the success of our drills. It was evident that procedures were reviewed thoroughly. Each year we conduct a minimum of ten drills to ensure that staff and students are aware of procedures and we are efficient in locking down our school or evacuating our building.

March Madness Kick Off

Our March Madness Kick Off occurred on February 14! We had many students and staff participate in knock out games to kick off the event. Congratulations to our four knock out winners who are pictured below.



From left to right: Logan Toothaker, Isaiah Rice, Jed Olkkola, and Dagen Gooding.

Students were also introduced to the nonfiction books in each bracket of this year's tournament. The tournament is underway and the Elite 8 were announced today.

The Elite 8 include: *What Makes a Monster?*, *Give Bees a Chance*, *Grace Hopper Queen of Computer Code*, *Malala's Magic Pencil*, *Dazzle Ships*, *How the Cookie Crumbled*, *Can an Aardvark Bark*, and *The Youngest Marcher*. Be sure to ask your child which book they are rooting for to be crowned the winner.

Our community read *Maxi's Secrets* was also announced and students had an opportunity to view a quick book trailer and hear the first part of the book which was read aloud by our librarian, Rose Smith. As part of our community read, we are asking families to donate items to help our local humane society. You may send in

Personal Body Safety Classroom Presentations

Grade 3: March 26 & April 30

Grade 4: TBD

Grade 5: March 12

Presentations will focus on 3 areas:

Personal Safety

Touching Safety

Assertiveness & Support



items like canned/hard food for cats and dogs of all ages, shavings for small cages and food for smaller animals. Any donation would be helpful. You can go to the following Waterville Humane Society website for more details: <http://hswa.org/donate-now-waterville-humane-society-maine/> or hswa.org and click on Shelter Wish List.

EmpowerME State Tests

Over the next three weeks our students will be participating in the EmpowerME state tests. Students will take seven tests. The tests include two reading tests, two math tests, two writing/language tests, and an essay. Students will only take one test each day. Your child's classroom teacher will inform you of their classroom's testing schedule. It is important to remember that tests are only one measure of a student's learning in school. We want each students to have an opportunity to do his/her best. Families play an important role. Here are reminders of the things you can do to help your child feel comfortable on testing days:

- make sure your child gets plenty of rest and eats breakfast
- make sure your child arrives to school on time
- if your child is sick, do not send him/her to school that day (there are scheduled make up days following the test)
- test days are days our children need lots of support. Hugs and positive words are important. The children work hard and deserve our praise for their efforts.

Congratulations to Our Recent Eagles of the Week!

Grade 3 - Justin Cyr & Hunter Doiron

Grade 4 - Daymion LeBlanc & Brad McKechnie

Grade 5 - Lizzie Letourneau



On Wednesday, March 14 we will be honoring all of our Eagles of the Week with a special luncheon. We will hold a second luncheon at the end of the year to celebrate Eagles of the Week that are selected for the remainder of the year.

Budget Work Session

On March 27 and 28, the budget workshop sessions will be held at Messalonskee Middle School at 6:00pm. This is the first step in the board's work on the budget. It is also a time to ask questions and get answers. These are events you should attend if you want to send a message to the school board about what you would like them to do this year. Also it is the best time to get answers to things that you question in the proposed budget.

Educationally yours,

Melanie Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

March 12 & 26: Personal Body Safety Presentations

March 6: Early Release - students dismissed at 12

March 7: School Board Meeting - 7PM at Central Office

March 8: Title 1 Literacy & Math Game Night 5:30-6:30PM at WES

March 10: Winter Carnival at Atwood 9-11

March 16: No School - Teacher Workshop

March 19: State Testing Starts

March 21: March Madness Assembly

March 22: WES Conference Night

March 27: Budget Workshop at MMS 6-8PM

March 28: Budget Workshop at MMS 6-8PM

March 28: Maine Agriculture in the Classroom
ReadME Program