

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the holiday season and the end of the 1st trimester is right around the corner! Our school-wide parent/teacher conference night is November 20. Classroom teachers have started sending home conference sign up sheets. Be on the look out if you have not received one yet. We encourage you all to attend as our teachers are excited to share with you the progress your child has made during the first trimester. Your child's teacher will also share with you our new report card at the conference.

We have an extremely exciting, fun filled community read in occurring on November 28. Students will participate in engaging literacy activities all day long. Activities could include reader's theater, literacy games, book mark making, literacy Kahoot, and/or mad libs. Be sure to ask your child about the activities they participated in during this special day. Our day ends in the gym with a community read in. We hope you can join us! Don't forget to bring with you your favorite book.

Book Fair Coming To Williams!

We are excited to be brining the Scholastic Book Fair to WES during the week of 11/26-11/30! This is a great time to purchase books for your family and also help us earn money for books for our school. We are looking for parents to volunteer an hour or two of their time working at our book fair. If you are interested in volunteering your time to help our with our book fair please contact Melanie Smith at msmith@rsu18.org or by calling 465-2965. Thank you. Everyone will receive a flyer with all of the Scholastic Book Fair details.



Attendance Update

This month our average attendance rate was **98%**! Thank you for making a commitment to making sure your child attends school every day possible this year. We couldn't achieve this high percentage without your support. The evidence is clear: children with good attendance are more likely to be successful in school. High attendance rates are linked to high student achievement.

Congratulations to Our Recent Eagles of the Week!

Grade 5- Nevaeh Baylis

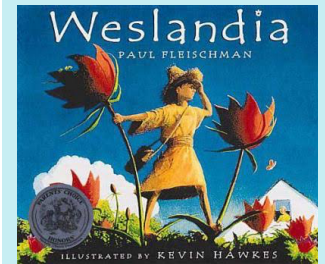
Nevaeh was nominated by three of her classmates. One of her peers said, "Nevaeh is a kind friend. She always stays on task. When people are sad or stressed, she is always there. Whenever people are mean, she always stops them." Another peer said, "Nevaeh always has a growth mindset. She gives it her all everyday and pays attention to the teacher." The third peer said, "Nevaeh is engaged by raising her hand and listening. She always has a growth mindset and is funny. She always brightens up my day."

Grade 4 - Elsie Spear

Mrs. Levesque nominated Elsie Spear for her eagerness to learn and her awesome attitude. Elsie is always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need. Each day she comes to school with a smile on her face and an enthusiasm for what the day has in store.

Grade 3 - Kolby Bernier

Miss Davis nominated Kolby Bernier for his awesome attitude and effort in the classroom. No matter what we are working on Kolby is always putting in his best effort and trying his best even when things are tough. Whenever I look around the room I always see Kolby taking time out of his day to



Thank You WES PTA!

Last month, Kevin Hawkes visited our school. Students were able to watch Mr. Hawkes create amazing characters right before their eyes.

Each child went home with a new autographed book, *Weslandia*, thanks to our amazing PTA! We hope you enjoy reading *Weslandia* with your children.

I want to thank all families that joined us for the evening event with Mr. Hawkes and also those families that attended the special math event in our library.

I also want to thank our fabulous PTA for providing our students and families this awesome opportunity.

help his friends if they have a question. No matter what we are working on Kolby always has an awesome attitude about it and it spreads to everyone else in our class. He will always make sure our classroom is neat and tidy and will pick up messes even if he didn't make them. Kolby always has an awesome attitude and puts in his best effort every day!

Mastering Multiplication Tables

“Learning multiplication and memorizing the times tables are building blocks for other math topics taught in school - higher learning such as division, long multiplication, fractions and algebra.” (https://www.lawyerment.com/library/articles/Self_Improvement/Mind_and_Memory/102.htm). Learning the times tables can be a challenge, below you will find ways you can support your child at home with learning their multiplication tables.

How to Help Your Child Learn Their Multiplication Tables

(from <https://www.whizz.com/blog/fun-ways-to-teach-times-tables/>)

1. **Make it visible.** Print off a multiplication chart and fill in the table with your child. Hang up a times table sheet where your child will see it regularly (on the refrigerator/bedroom door etc.). Finally set a regular time for both you and your child to sit down and have a casual, no pressure run through a particular set of times tables, perhaps just before dinner. Remember, the more often they see and practice their times tables, the more likely they are to learn them.
2. **Teach your child some tricks.** One of the great things about maths is that it's full of tips and tricks – and times tables are no different. Our favorite trick involves using your fingers to figure out nine times tables. Start by spreading all 10 fingers in front of you. To figure out 9×1 , put your left pinky down. What are you left with? 9 fingers! For 9×2 put your left ring-finger down. What are you left with? 1 finger and a gap followed by 8 fingers or 18. This trick works up to 9×9 (8 and 1 or 81). That said, when teaching children these tricks, encourage them to ask why these techniques work and the mathematical reasoning behind them.
3. **Music.** Listen to some fun songs about multiplication to help your child remember their facts. There are many songs online.
4. **Stage a multiplication war.** Play this fun card game with your child. The game is simple, two players draw a card from a deck. They then flip their cards over and the first person to correctly guess the total of the two cards multiplied together gets to put the cards in their winning pile. For example, if a 3 of hearts and a 7 of diamonds are flipped over, the first person who says 21 gets to keep the two cards. The person with the most cards in their winning pile at the end of the game wins.

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

November 5: Picture Retake Day

November 6: Grades 3 & 4 Concert at 6:30PM

November 7: School Board Meeting 7PM at James Bean School

November 8: Hat Day at WES. Pay a \$1.00 to wear a hat. All proceeds go toward the 5th grade end of year trip.

November 9: NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workshop Day

November 12: NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day Observed

November 16: Grade 5 Field Trip (State House, Maine State Museum, & Blaine House)

November 20: Parent/Teacher Conferences 3-7PM

November 21-23: NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Vacation

November 26 & 27: Dental Clinic

November 26-30: Scholastic Book Fair

November 28: School-wide Read-In / Family members are invited in to participate from 1:30-2:15PM in our gym.