

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a happy and healthy New Year. I hope everyone had a wonderful break with their loved ones. Our students returned from winter break ready to learn! By January 18, your child will have participated in the reading and math NWEA assessments. Please remind your child to give their best effort on these important assessments. Our teachers use the data they collect from the NWEA assessment to update each child's personal learning plan. Teachers also use the data when planning small group instruction and activities for their students. The NWEA assessment is a mid year check point to see how your child is progressing. Your child's teacher will report your child's scores once they have completed the assessment.

Williams Elementary School is 1 of 66 schools in the state that has been identified as a Tier 3 school by the Department of Education due to our academic achievement levels in math and ELA and our chronic absenteeism rate. Chronic absenteeism is when a student misses 10% of the days they are enrolled. If a student is with us the entire year that would equate to roughly 18 days. This means we will receive help and funding to improve student learning. Currently we have a literacy and math coach we are working with to improve math and ELA scores. We also have two professional book talks taking place currently that focus on these two content areas. Mr. Parisi and I review attendance data weekly. Any help that you can provide ensuring regular attendance for your student is greatly appreciated.

Breakfast with the Best

Our Breakfast with the Best was a wonderful event. I would like to thank everyone that was able to attend. We were so happy you could join us. The Williams staff and students certainly pulled together for this event. Our kitchen staff organized and prepared the breakfasts, the custodial staff had the gym set up and ready to go for the morning events, many staff attended multiple breakfasts to help out, and several students volunteered to stay in during recess one day to make paper flowers to decorate the tables. Many students also helped set up for the event, and cleaned up after the event took place. The breakfast will certainly be a day remembered by many for a long, long time.



Bedtime Math Available for Our Third Graders

Parents of 3rd grade students will find attached information about the Bedtime Math App that they can download for their children. Bedtime Math is a fun, free app that has a new problem each day for your child to solve. There are three levels of math for ages 3-9. Just 5 minutes a day solving a daily problem will make a difference. We hope you enjoy this engaging way to help your child practice a variety of math skills.

Williams Elementary Writing Celebration

Our students have been busy writing during the first trimester and they're excited to share the pieces they have finished. We hope you can join us for a writing celebration on January 30 at 1:30PM. Your child's classroom teacher will be sending out a communication about this event. We hope to have refreshments available to enjoy as you listen to your writer share their piece. Teachers will be sending home a sign up sheet if you would like to volunteer to donate a snack or drink for this event.



Slugger Reading Challenge

Our school librarians, Mrs. Rose Smith & Mrs. Kate Bailey, will be sharing an exciting reading challenge with our students this month. Portland Sea Dogs have announced the Slugger's Reading Challenge. "Slugger is challenging students in grade k-8 to read five books beyond any school required reading." More details will be shared with students in school-wide assembly. Be on the look out for important details about the Slugger Reading Challenge being sent home this month.

Attendance Update

Our attendance rate for the month of December was 94%.

November = 96%

October = 98%

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 10:** PTA meeting at Williams 6PM - 7PM
- January 11:** WES Fun Night 6:30-8:30PM
- January 16:** School Board Meeting at Central Office 7PM
- January 21:** No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 22:** No School - Teachers Workshop Day
- January 30:** School-wide Writing Celebration at 1:30PM
- January 31:** School-wide Writing Celebration snow date

