

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

Our Principal's 100 Club has been an awesome addition. So far, over 50 golden tickets have been given out to our students! I have greatly enjoyed my phone calls to families celebrating the positive recognition their child has received at school.

EmpowerME State Tests

Our students will be participating in the EmpowerME state tests from March 18 - April 11. 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 state tests are only one measure of a student's learning in school. We want each student 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.

Juggling Comedian Coming to WES!

Jason Tardy is a high energy juggling comedian who brings a program focused on fun, energy, kindness, and compassion to combat bullying. He will be performing at our school on Wednesday, March 13 to reinforce anti-bullying message and the importance of dedication in learning. He has taken his act on Disney Cruise Lines as well as performed at the White House on three separate occasions! He will also have an interactive evening performance on March 13 in the Williams Elementary School Gymnasium, that will be slightly different than the afternoon performance, to again reinforce the anti-bullying message to our community. The cost of tickets is \$5.00 in advance and \$6.00 at the door. The evening event will also help raise money for our PTA with concessions and other fund raising events taking place that evening.

March Madness

It's the fourth year of our annual school-wide reading tournament. Valerie Glueck and Shelly Moody started Nonfiction March Madness four years ago to celebrate our school community's of reading and capture our excitement in a school-wide event. Every year 16 outstanding nonfiction books are selected that we hope will foster our students' curiosity while building background knowledge about a variety of engaging topics. On February 27, we kicked off our reading event by having a student representative from each classroom run into the gymnasium when each book was announced.

This year we have a book bracket with the 16 outstanding nonfiction books included in this year's tournament. Ryan Sucey created the PDF bracket for us so that students could predict the winner and monitor their favorite books throughout the rounds of our tournament. The bracket is attached to this newsletter. We hope you enjoy discussing your child's favorite books in this year's tournament.



Jason Pellerin is our incredible master of ceremonies for our March Madness events. He really knows how to hype the crowd and get kids excited about reading! Amanda Levesque organizes the music, lights and sound for our events, too! We have many other staff who have helped this year and in the past to make this tradition exciting for our students. It takes a village!

Our big assembly to announce the winning title will be on Wednesday, April 3rd. It's always an incredible event... you are welcome to join us!

Art Show

The Messalonskee District Art Show is being held at the Oakland Library for the Month of March. It is in celebration of Art Youth Month. The opening reception is Thursday evening on March 7th at the Oakland Public Library from 5:30pm until 7:00pm. Light refreshments will be served. The exhibit will be on display for the month of March during library hours. The Atwood Primary art show: An African Adventure at Atwood will take place Thursday evening on March 14 at Atwood in the Atwood Hallways from 5:30pm until 7:00pm.

Congratulations to Our Recent Eagles of the Week!

Grade 3 - Adriana Hague - Adriana has been nominated by Miss Davis for her awesome attitude and growth mindset! Adriana comes to school ready to work hard and try her best. She always has a great mindset about math and comes to class ready to learn. Adriana perseveres when she gets stuck and is always willing to help her peers. She always has a positive attitude, is kind and respectful, and is a wonderful friend to everyone in our classroom!

Grade 4 - Kaylee Fisher - Mrs. Forney nominates Kaylee Fisher for always having an awesome attitude! She takes on difficult tasks without ever complaining. She always puts 100% effort into everything she does! Mrs. Bradford stated that Kaylee is responsible. She is always on time and helps others be on time. She is kind and thoughtful when working with her classmates.

Grade 5 - Jada Forney - Jada has been nominated by Mrs. Brockway for having an awesome attitude and always putting effort into her school work. During math movement and math workshop, Jada encourages her classmates and helps them through math problems when they need help. She always has a positive attitude about math and the concepts we are working on. She perseveres and works hard in every subject area, and continues to encourage others to do the same.

On Wednesday, March 6 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.

Attendance Update

February = 95%

Awesome work everyone!
Thank you for all that you do to contribute to your child's success with attendance.

January = 93%
December = 94%
November = 96%
October = 98%

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

March 6: Grad Level Luncheons for our Eagles of the Week!

March 8: NoSchool- Teacher In-Service Day

March 11: Dine to Donate at Portland Pie (Benefits Grade 5 Field Trip)

March 13: Anti-bullying Assembly 1:30-2:15PM / Evening Event at 6:30PM

March 14: PTA meeting 6-7PM in the WES music room

March 16: Maine Agriculture in the Classroom

March 18-April 11: EmpowerME (State Assessment)

March 21: Parent Teacher Conference Night

March 26: Students Dismissed at 12 (Teacher Workshop)