

# From Mrs. Smith's Desk



## Happy New Year!

I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and were able to spend time with family and friends this past week. We were blessed with warmer temperatures midweek and students were able to play with friends in the fresh air.



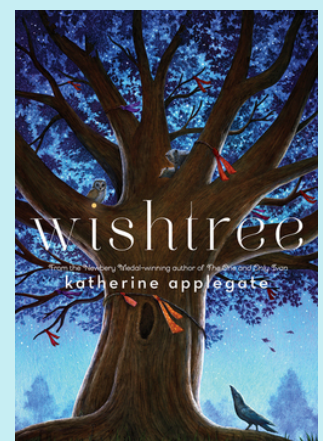
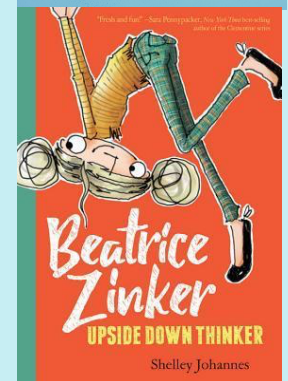
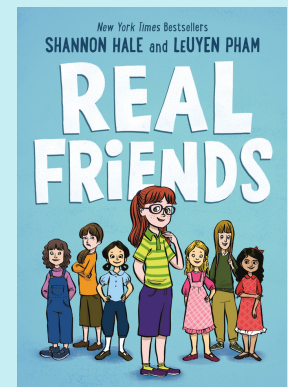
Prior to vacation students and staff participated in the annual door decorating competition. The doors this year were creative and unique! Above are pictures of Mrs. Gronlie's door, highlighting one of my favorite children's books, *Snowmen At Night*. I always enjoy reading this book to my son Griffin during the winter months. Jocelyn King created the snowman on Mrs. Gronlie's door while Mrs. Gronlie worked on the sky. Students from Mrs. Glueck's room created snowmen that lined the hall.

The month of January marks a time in the academic year when we use assessments to measure student learning progress to date. Students will take the NWEA Assessments in Reading and Math this month. You will receive the specific testing dates from your child's teacher. This data helps our teachers to tailor and adjust instruction accordingly to meet your child's needs. Please remind your child to put forth their best effort on these assessments.

This week, the 4th grade teachers at WES kicked off their Mock Caldecott Unit. Students learned about what the Caldecott Medal celebrates and looked at a few of the past winners. Students will discuss the criteria that the committee uses to choose the best in children's picture book illustrations. Once students are comfortable using this criteria (which will be written in kid-friendly language) they will begin looking at the 2018 nominees. The unit will wrap up in when students watch the announcement of the Caldecott winner live streamed in February.

Educationally Yours,  
*Melanie Smith*

Are you looking for great books to put in your child's hands this winter? Here are a few that were recommended by our instructional coach, Shelly Moody:



## Our First Eagles of the Week for January

### Grade 3: Piper Bragg

One of Piper's peers said, "Piper put great effort into all of her work. She took her time on her poster when we were working in class."

### Grade 4: Maiya Lafreniere

Maiya's classmate stated, "Maiya has a growth mindset when we have our math facts test. She is always listening for directions where ever we are. If she is told to do something she always does it. She is always engaged in the assignments given."

### Grade 5: Seth Cole

A student stated, "Seth never talks when a teacher is talking. He is a good listener and pays attention. Seth shows that he is an active listener by keeping his body still and his eyes on the speaker."

## Children's Maker Space

February 10, 2018 from 12:00PM - 3:00PM

Free Children's Event - Common Street Gallery 93 Main Street Waterville.

*"Common Street Arts and the Children's Discovery Museum pair up to host a children's maker day at the common street gallery. The idea of a maker space is to explore creative ideas and build fun things in a place filled with tools and materials. You and your family are welcome to drop in and try some of our challenges in the gallery: take apart a computer, try out a ball maze, build simple bridges of balsa wood and more!"* ([www.watervillecreates.org/event/dwell-childrens-maker](http://www.watervillecreates.org/event/dwell-childrens-maker))

## Message From Our Librarians

The Black Bear Book Award Program is well underway and students are loving it. This is a voluntary program offered by your friendly Williams Elementary librarians and all students are eligible to participate. Students must read 3 books on the 2018 book list. Readers have the option to complete some sort of project (approved by Mrs. Rose Smith), or paper or online book reports to show that they've read the book. You'll find this year's list and access to online book reports on the Library website: <https://weslibrary1.weebly.com> under Reading Programs.

Our goal is to appeal to all kinds of readers and ability levels with a diverse and current selection of titles. We strive to create an inclusive atmosphere where students feel they have the freedom to choose when and what they read. We believe that this program gives students the opportunity to learn that their choices bring them joy, and knowledge about themselves and their world creating lifelong readers.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Rose Smith & Mrs. Kate Bailey

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 11:** PTA meeting at Williams 6PM - 7PM

**January 15:** No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**January 18:** School Board Meeting at Central Office 7PM

**January 22:** No School - Teachers Workshop Day

A stylized, handwritten-style graphic that reads "Happy New Year 2018". The text is written in a black, cursive-like font with a slight shadow effect, giving it a festive and personal feel.

