

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

November storms have certainly disrupted our plans for Parent/Teacher Conferences and our Art Show. Thankfully there was no snow in the forecast for Thursday, December 6, so that our Parent/Teacher Conferences and Art Show could take place. Ellen Gronlie and her amazing artists have brightened up our cafeteria and hallways with the beautiful artwork that has been displayed. The Art Show is a fantastic way to celebrate the hard work and creativity of our students and we were happy to have so many of you in attendance at this awesome event.



December is upon us and with it comes all the excitement the season brings. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season with you families. The new year will bring new learning experiences, new challenges and new fun. I look forward to what lies ahead for us as a school community in 2019.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. The book fair was open from November 28 through December 1. Parents and teachers volunteered to work at the book fair. Thank you to Jim Belanger and Shelly Moody for organizing this wonderful fair for our students and their families. Currently, we have about \$2000 in sales. Our online fair is open until Friday, 12/7 (so you still have some time left to shop). Our school has \$583.33 Scholastic Dollars available from this sale to purchase books for our school. Woohoo!

Breakfast with the Best!

It is important that we help our students develop strong character traits by creating activities that allow them to be compassionate, respectful and responsible citizens. At Williams Elementary School, we will be providing our students with an opportunity to express their gratitude to a person in their life that they are thankful for and/or that has made a difference in their life.

We will celebrate all of the people selected, by our students, with a breakfast at Williams Elementary School on December 19 in our gym. Please talk with you child this weekend about who they plan to select for this writing project to ensure that it is someone who will be available to attend the breakfast. We will have three breakfasts, one for each grade level.

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING ALOUD TO BIG KIDS

by: Melissa Taylor

<https://www.readbrightly.com/importance-of-reading-aloud-to-big-kids/>

Only 17% of parents of kids ages 9–11 read aloud to their children. Yet 83% of kids ages 6–17 say being read to is something they either loved or liked a lot. (Scholastic's "Kids & Family Reading Report™")

Fluent Reading

When you read to kids, you're modeling how to read language. You pause at commas and periods. Your voice inflection changes when you read questions or exclamations. And you can show what you, a fluent reader, do when you come to a word you don't know.

Helps Expand Their Vocabulary

Kids' auditory comprehension is higher than their reading comprehension. When you pick a challenging book that your kids can't read on their own, you are exposing them to a wealth of new vocabulary words. This stretches a child's language development, particularly if you stop to talk about the meaning of these harder words.

Exposes Kids to New Authors, Texts, and Genres

Reading aloud can get kids hooked on a new author or series of books. Once a child falls in love with the story or author, it's hard to hold them back from reading it on their own. Plus, reading aloud gives kids a chance to explore genres and texts they wouldn't normally select.

Builds Awareness and Empathy

Literature is one of the best ways to help kids understand something without experiencing it for themselves. And books do this with all sorts of subjects and concepts, building our children's understanding of humanity and the world around them.

Breakfast Schedule for December 19

3rd grade breakfast: 8:15 - 8:45AM

4th grade breakfast: 9:00 - 9:30AM

5th grade breakfast: 9:45 - 10:15AM

Each child will have an invitation to share with their special person inviting them to the event. We ask that all people invited RSVP to the child's classroom teacher. Due to limited seating and space each child is allowed one guest.

Attendance Update

Our attendance percentage for the month of November is **96%!!!**

We are very proud of everyone's effort to help improve our attendance rate while at the same time, decreasing the number of students tardy and dismissed early. We could not achieve this high percentage without your support. It has been mentioned before that 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. We know cold/flu season is in full swing! If your child is sick it is important to keep them home so they can rest and get better. In the event that your child is absent, please call the office to notify us. Thank you.

October = 98%

November = 96%

Congratulations to the Following Eagles of the Week!



Grade 5- Paisleigh Lewis

Paisleigh has been nominated for giving her best effort and having an awesome attitude. Paisleigh is a hard worker on every task given to her and always ready to learn. She is always paying attention and stays focused. Paisleigh is also kind to others on a daily basis. She is always smiling no matter what, and stays positive and patient with others.

Grade 4- Kamren Fennell

Kamren always has an awesome attitude and a growth mindset. He often helps to encourage others to make good choices. He gives 110% in everything he does.

Grade 3- Kayla Lizzotte

Kayla Lizzotte was nominated for having an awesome attitude. Kayla had an awesome attitude at recess. She was being kind and asked if a friend would like to play with her when they had no one to play with. Kayla was also nominated for effort. Kayla always does her best work and often looks for ways to improve her work.

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

December 7: The Polar Express (movie, cookies and a visit from Santa) at MHS in the PAC at 6:00PM

December 12: School Board Meeting at China Middle School - 7PM

December 13: PTA meeting in the WES music room - 6-7PM

December 17: Grade 5 Chorus Community Field Trip

December 24-January 1: NO SCHOOL - Have a wonderful holiday break!

January 2: Students return to school