

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

Fingers crossed the temperatures will rise throughout the month of May! This spring is certainly off to a chilly start. We are now into the third trimester and are working to have an epic finish to our school year. I recently came across a wonderful article in Scholastic, titled "4 Ways to Help Your Student Finish the School Year Strong. Here are three tips they shared that will help your child continue to put forth their best effort until the last school bell rings:

"1) Lead by Example

Kids learn by example, and are quick to adopt our attitude. If your child hears you talking about how you wish it was summer, or how you can't wait for school to be over, he/she is likely to adopt that mindset. Avoid speaking negatively about school, homework, etc. in front of your child. It will be harder for your child to put forth his best effort if he thinks you don't care, don't like school, etc.

We like to tell our kids that every assignment is an opportunity to do their best. Encourage your kids to try their best, continue to set aside time to complete homework, and prioritize school attendance. Your positive attitude about school (even when it's sunny and almost time for vacation!) can help your children finish strong.

2) Stick to the Routine

When it's warm and light outside, it can be more difficult to enforce bedtime, but it's super important to help your child continue to get a good night's rest through the end of the school year. Stick to your child's regular bedtime and continue to make time for homework and at-home reading.

Help your child develop responsibility and perseverance by maintaining that good learners do what they need to do until the job is done. Sunny days and a looming summer vacation can't stop motivated and eager learners! Maintaining your school-year schedule will help reinforce these beliefs.

3) 1-2 Reasonable and Reachable Goals

Goals are a great way to keep students motivated and on-task towards the end of a school year. Help your children select one or two small goals to accomplish before the end of the school year. The goals should be challenging but reachable. Some ideas include things like moving up a level in reading, memorizing their multiplication facts, having a certain number of positive behavior days, etc. Work with your kids to determine steps to take to work towards their goals and encourage practice at home." (<https://www.scholastic.com/parents/school-success/learning-toolkit-blog/4-ways-to-help-your-student-finish-school-year-strong.html>)

Assessments

Our students did a fabulous job giving their best effort and persevering on the state assessments that took place throughout the month of April. In the

IMPORTANT DATES

May 8: School Board Meeting - 7PM at Central Office

May 9: PTA Meeting - 6-7PM in the Music Room at WES

May 14: GT field trip

May 15: James and the Giant Peach performance by MMS at MHS PAC

May 16: Northeast Livestock Expo Field Trip

May 21: Early Release - students dismissed at noon

May 27: No School - Memorial Day

May 28: Grade 5 Chorus Concert- 7PM at MHS PAC

May 28: Grade 4 Gray Animal Farm Field Trip

May 28 & 29: Dental Sealants Clinic

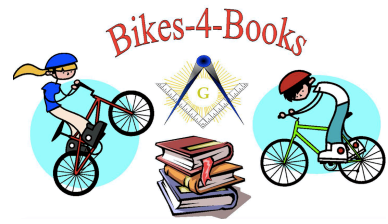
May 30: Title 1 - Learning Celebration at WES 5:30-6:30PM



following weeks, classrooms will be participating in the end of year assessments with DRA's, which will assess student growth in the area of reading and NWEAs in both reading and math. The data gathered from these three assessments will be used by our teachers to tailor instruction for your child throughout the remaining weeks of this school year.

Bikes For Books

The Oakland Masons are again sponsoring a Bikes for Books program. To participate children need to read books at their reading. Each book (or 100 pages for the longer books) allows for an entry to be made for a bike. There are two bikes that will be awarded for each grade level. Please help use increase participation by encouraging your child to read each night. Representatives from the Oakland Masons will visit our school on June 14 to announce the winners!



Attendance Update

Mr. Parisi and I visited classrooms on Friday and Monday to recognize students with perfect attendance for the month of April and to also recognize students who have made great improvements on attending school regularly. 63% of our students received perfect attendance certificates for the month of April!!! This is outstanding. We greatly appreciated all of your support with our attendance efforts.

Northeast Livestock Field Trip

On May 16, our entire school will be traveling to the Windsor Fairgrounds in Windsor, Maine to attend the Northeast Livestock Expo. We will be departing from our school at 8:15AM and we will return to our school by 2:15PM. Permission slips were sent home on Thursday, April 25. Please turn in your child's permission slip as soon as possible. We would like to thank everyone that has already turned in their child's permission slip.



Congratulations to this Week's Eagles of the Week!

Grade 3 - Owen Wathen

Owen was nominated by Caleb and Miss Davis for his awesome attitude! Owen always tries his best and encourages others to stay on task and do their very best. Caleb said that Owen has been a great friend to be around this year and he always has an awesome attitude! He is a role model for our class! Way to go Owen!

Grade 4 - Braeden Bennett

Braeden was nominated by Mrs. Forney for having an awesome attitude and always being engaged! Braeden is always a team player! He is very positive and encourages others. He works hard and doesn't give up on difficult tasks.

Grade 5 - Denny Martin

Denny Martin was nominated by both Adriana and Miss Cotter for having a positive, and helpful attitude. Denny's positive attitude is demonstrated in his classwork, and when he's working with his peers. Adriana claims that Denny is also great at solving problems, and whenever she needs something, he is sure to be there for her! Above all, Denny brings out the best in everyone around him! Keep it up, Denny!

Educationally yours,

Melanie Smith