

# From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I wish you all a happy and healthy 2020. I hope you enjoyed the break and were able to spend time with family and friends. One of my highlights from last week was sledding with my children and helping my son learn to downhill ski on a backyard hill. I was so happy we finally had enough snow to do so.

Students returned from vacation excited to see their teachers and friends and ready to work. As I walked around the building during the first two days back I noticed students conducting experiments with cookies, working on solving an open response math problem using mathematical representations, trying parsnips during our "Pick A Better Snack" program, and participating in fitness tests during their physical education classes. We certainly hit the ground running!

## Thank You!

We have received an abundance of donations for our school's new food pantry. I can not thank you enough for your generosity. Our food pantry is already providing food for our students. We will continue to accept donations for our food pantry to ensure its sustainability.

## New Year's Math Challenge

If your child participated in the New Year's Math Challenge that was sent home prior to vacation please have them return their entry forms to their classroom teacher by January 9. I hope your child enjoyed the puzzles that were included in the packet and interactive games online.

## Hearts for Heroes

Our school was awarded one of the district gratitude grants. We are looking forward to recognizing our local first responders on January 24. Our fourth graders will be kicking off this memorable event by singing a few songs to show our appreciation. Works of art were created by our third graders to share with our special guests and our 5th graders will be reading the heartfelt poems they wrote about our local heroes and the qualities a hero possesses.

## NWEA Assessments

By January 24, your child will have taken their winter NWEAs in both math and reading. Please wish your child good luck and remind them of the importance of these assessments. Your child's teacher will be using this data to plan next steps instructionally for your child as well as create new W.I.N. groups based on areas of need.

## Here is a list of items we are collecting for our WES Food Pantry Supply Drive:

- Instant Noodle Soups
- Ramen Packages
- Canned Foods (*i.e.* *spaghettios, ravioli, beefaroni, soups, vegetables*)
- Fruit cups (all varieties)
- Granola Bars / Breakfast Bars
- Small boxes of cereal
- Easy Mac Macaroni and Cheese
- Boxes of Macaroni and Cheese
- Microwave Popcorn
- Jars of Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Loaves of Bread
- Pop Tarts
- Canned Tuna Fish or Chicken
- Mayonnaise

## Global Play Day Coming Soon!

Global Play Day will occur on February 5. This is a full school day dedicated to play. Students are encouraged to bring in toys from home to play with on February 5 (as long as they do not require batteries or electricity). Electronic devices are not allowed on this day. Students may bring in board games, dolls, Legos, blocks, trucks/cars, playing cards, puzzles, cardboard/blankets (for forts), etc. Be on the look out for more details from your child's teacher.



### Attendance Update

**Truant** (has 7 absences unexcused or 5 consecutive unexcused absences) = **0 students**

**Approaching Chronically Absent** (missing 5-9% of the school days) = **6.64%**

**Chronically Absent** (missing 10% of the school days) = **6.16%**

We are doing an outstanding job with our goal around increasing our daily attendance percentages. We are so proud of our students and families. This exceptional data is possible because of your support and all that you do to help your child attend school each day. Thank you. There is room for improvement. Let's see if we can decrease the percentage of students approaching chronic absenteeism and chronically absent over the next couple of months. We can do this.

Warm Regards,

Melanie Smith, Principal

## Our Eagles of the Week

### Grade 3: Isaac Pratt

Isaac was nominated by a friend in the classroom, Hunter. He said that Isaac is an EAGLE because he is focused in the classroom and does his best. Isaac is also a helper in and around the classroom. He picked up paper towels up off the bathroom floor even when it wasn't his mess. Thank you Isaac for being such a great exemplar!

### Grade 4: Logan Wyman

Logan was nominated by a classmate for working hard. Logan has been staying focused on his work and putting in a lot of effort. He has been working hard at adjusting to a new school. Logan has an awesome attitude and always makes us laugh. He is an amazing artist who draws pictures for students when they need a pick me up. Thank you Logan for spreading kindness through your artwork and awesome science and history facts!

### Grade 5: Kayden Violette

Kayden is nominated for being an active listener and being engaged in his work. Kayden is always very focused and paces himself to get tasks done - very responsible. He always shows signs that he is listening and is eager to participate in class discussions. He is polite and helps others when he is needed, including his teacher. He has a super funny sense of humor and can make people laugh. Kayden is a true EAGLE!

## IMPORTANT DATES

**January 9** - PTA Meeting in the WES Music Room 6-7PM

**January 10** - PTA Fun Night at WES 6-8PM

**January 6 - 24** - NWEA testing window (your child's teacher will send home the exact dates your child will be testing)

**January 20** - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed

**January 21** - NO SCHOOL - teacher workshop day

**January 24** - Hearts for Heroes Event

**February 5** - Global School Play Day - students are encouraged to bring in toys from home