

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

We are excited to be heading into the second half of the school year. Our school community is gearing up to have a fabulous February with Global Play Day, The Great Kindness Challenge and February vacation taking place this month. Last week, as I walked through classrooms I noticed student centered lessons happening in our classrooms that were engaging our students and pushing their thinking. Our teachers are dedicated to meeting the needs of every learner at Williams. Teachers and students were also discussing EmpowerME released items as our school prepares for the upcoming state assessment in March.



Hearts for Heroes

We recognized our local first responders on January 24. Our fifth graders lined the halls to welcome our guests with cheers and applause. Student speakers welcomed our guest and our 4th graders sang heartfelt songs to kick off our special event under the direction of Mrs.



Peterson our music teacher.

Our third graders shared artwork they created to thank our guests for all that they do for our community and our 5th graders read poetry about our local heroes. It certainly was a special day for our school community and everyone in attendance.

Global Play Day Coming Soon!

We are excited to participate in Global Play Day on February 5. This is a full school day dedicated to play. Students will have an opportunity to play with toys, build with legos, construct forts, sing & dance, participate in arts and crafts, go for a hike, conduct science experiments, enjoy open gym, play board games, and run around at extra recess. Just a friendly reminder, 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). Parents are invited to join us on this day. If you have not returned your slip stating what time you will be visiting on this day it is not too late, simply email your child's teacher. The more the merrier! We are looking forward to a fun-filled day for all.



The Great Kindness Challenge

We are joining 24,000 schools worldwide to celebrate kindness and to encourage all

The Great Kindness Challenge:
February 10 - 14.

Spirit Week

Monday, February 10

We Dream of Kindness!

Wear your pajamas.

Tuesday, February 11

Hats off to Kindness!

Wear your favorite hat.

Wednesday, February 12

CRAZY for Kindness

Crazy hair, crazy socks
and crazy hats.

Thursday, February 13

WES Kids Are Kind.

School spirit day. Wear
white & blue Williams/
Messalonskee gear.

Friday, February 10

We LOVE Being Kind.

Wear RED.



in our community to spread kindness to others. We have lots of exciting activities planned for this week. We will be having a coin collection competition between our classrooms. Students are collecting coins to help Mexico build a new school. Throughout the week, students will be encouraged to perform random acts of kindness. We will have to Photo Booth opportunities for students: Be the "i" in Kind and WE LOVE

Being Kind. In an effort to have our students socialize with different students we will have a random seating activity happen during lunch. Each table will have some questions for students to discuss and explore at their tables. Staff will be circulating around to help facilitate conversations.

Sluggers Reading Challenge



"Slugger, of the Portland Sea Dogs, is challenging students to read five books above and beyond any school required reading. Each student that successfully completes the challenge will be given a FREE ticket to a Portland Sea Dogs baseball game!" <https://www.milb.com/portland/community/readingchallenge>. Mrs. Smith, our school librarian, will be sending home a reading challenge form for your child soon.

All challenge forms are due back to school by Monday, March 16.

Attendance Update

Truant (has 7 absences unexcused or 5 consecutive unexcused absences) = **0.94%**

Approaching Chronically Absent (missing 5-9% of the school days) = **21%**

Chronically Absent (missing 10% of the school days) = **8.49%**

On February 3, 51% of our students were recognized during our Champions Assembly for having perfect attendance during the month of January.

Board Game Bonanza Returns!

Mr. Seekins and Mr. Suty, of The Oakland Recreation Department, will be hosting Board Game Bonanza again at Williams Elementary after school on Tuesdays. Be on the look out for sign up forms coming your way soon. The first Board Game Bonanza will be held on March 3 and will run through June 2.

Warm Regards,

Melanie Smith

Melanie Smith, Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

February 3 - Champion Assembly 8:15-8:45AM

February 5 - Global Play Day

February 13 - PTA Meeting in the WES Music Room 6-7PM

February 17 - 21 - February Break

February 28 - PTA Fun Night for WES students grades 3-5, 6-8PM

Our Eagles of the Week

Grade 3: Molly Swett

Molly has been nominated by a few of her classmates and Ms. Kinney for her focus, kindness towards others, and doing her very best in her work. She is proud to put her name on her work. Molly quietly listens to the teacher's directions and participates in our discussions. She is a prime example of what an EAGLE is all about!! Keep up the great work Molly!

Grade 4: Graham Fitzsimmons

Graham was nominated for eagle of the week by his classroom teacher, Mrs. Veilleux! Graham is working hard in the eagle code area of effort. Graham puts a lot of effort into focusing on his learning and making positive peer interactions. Graham is a hard worker and is always looking for ways to challenge his and Mrs. Veilleux's thinking. Graham has a great out of the box way of thinking about tasks. Keep working hard and thinking beyond, Graham!

Grade 5: Aaliyah Caouette

Aaliyah was nominated by Ruby and Miss Davis for her outstanding effort! Ruby said, "When Miss Davis is teaching Aaliyah always tries to do things to help keep the class focused." Aaliyah always perseveres and puts her best effort into her work. She is a friend to all her classmates and is always helping others do their very best. Her awesome attitude brightens our classroom

Congratulations Aaliyah, we are proud of you!