

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

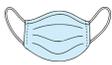
Dear Families,

I can not believe this is the final newsletter for the 20-21 school year! This school year has certainly been a unique year, however we have had a fabulous one despite the circumstances. I want to thank you all for your endless support with protocols this year, quarantine situations, and remote learning. Our students did an amazing job with remote learning prior to April break as a result of teachers implementing google classroom early on in the year, students practicing logging in and submitting work, and your support during these days. We had awesome attendance for both of these remote days and can not thank you enough.

I am SO proud of our resilient students. Throughout the year they have continued to amaze me with how well they adjusted to changes and followed rules and protocols that were put in place to ensure the safety of all. Our students, staff and parents diligence with these protocols is what has allowed our building to remain open this year and for that we are all forever grateful.

Recess Change

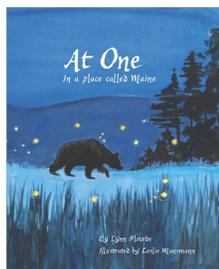
On Thursday, April 29, RSU 18 made the decision to no longer require face masks during recess. Students will need to carry their mask with them while at recess (wear it around their neck, place it in their pocket or wear it on their arm) as they will need to put the face mask back on when they are lining up with their classmates to enter the building.



Masks are still required to be worn while in the building unless the students are having snack or lunch. We have talked a lot about personal preference and the choice to still wear a mask or not to wear a mask while on the playground. Students did a fabulous job on Thursday when the mask requirement was lifted. Students socially distanced, kept track of their mask and responded respectfully and appropriately to staff reminders about social distance.

Lynn Plourde's Virtual Visit WES

The Atwood/Williams PTA is funding our special virtual author visit happening on May 12. We are very excited for Lynn Plourde's visit. Lynn Plourde was born in Dexter, Maine and attended the University of Maine. We have had her visit in the past and students are always engaged with her personal stories about the process she goes through as a professional writer. Plourde has written the following books, Pigs in the Mud in the Middle of the Rud, Maxi's Secrets, Winter Waits, and At One. Each child will walk away with one of Lynn's books. Thank you to our Atwood/Williams PTA for purchasing these books for our students.



IMPORTANT DATES

May 3-9 Teacher Appreciation Week and Screen-Free Week

May 4: "Be the Light" Virtual Assembly

May 5: School Board Meeting at 7PM

May 12: Virtual Author Visit - Lynn Plourde

May 18: Early Release - students dismissed at noon

May 19: School Board Meeting at 7PM

May 20: District Budget Meeting at 6PM

May 31: No School - Memorial Day



June 1: Field Day

June 2: Field Day (Rain date) & School Board Meeting at 7PM

June 7: Virtual "Be the Light" assembly

June 8: 5th Grade Celebration Event from 5:30-6:30PM (more details will be sent home to 5th grade families)

June 9: Last Day of School - students dismissed at noon. Report cards will be sent home with students.



PTA Challenge

This year our creative PTA has offered monthly challenges for our students and their families. This month we are focusing on movement. We invite you to submit photos by posting pictures on the ATW/WES PTA Facebook page of your children and family moving throughout the month of May for an opportunity to win some cool prizes. There will be a winner from Atwood and Williams announced at the end of the month!



End of Year Assessments

During the month of May students will be participating in a variety of assessments. Classroom teachers will be conducting our district reading assessment, the DRA, to evaluate your child's progress this year. This assessment focuses on rate, accuracy, fluency and comprehension. The DRA was administered in the fall and spring this year due to not having a spring score for the 19-20 school year. Students will also be taking the NWEA reading and math assessments in this month. The NWEA is now our state assessment. Your child's teacher will share your child's NWEA scores with you as soon as the assessments are complete. Our 5th graders will also be taking the state science assessment, which is now the New Meridian Science Assessment. In the past this assessment has been paper based. This year, the state has moved to an online assessment for science. Our 5th graders will have an opportunity to complete practice released items prior to taking this assessment. We wish all students the best of luck on these assessments.

Screen-Free Week

May 3-May 9 is National Screen-Free Week. We encourage you and your children to try giving up watching TV, playing video games, using computers/tablets or phones for one week. Please look in your child's folder for great resources to utilize this week that were provided by Northern Light Inland Hospital and Let's Go!

Bikes For Books

The Oakland Masonic Lodge has graciously offered to bring the Bikes For Books Program back to WES again this spring. The program will begin Monday, May 3, and run through Friday, June 4. To participate children need to read books at their reading level. Teachers will fill out reading slips once a student completes a book on their reading log. There is no limit to how many entries a student can submit. 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. Winners will be announced at our June 7th "Be the Light" assembly! Let's get kids excited about reading! We are so grateful to our local Masonic Lodge for encouraging literacy in our community.

Congratulations to this Week's Eagles of the Week!

Grade 3 - Tyler Fisher

Mrs. Suzy would like to nominate Tyler Fisher for Eagle of the Week. Tyler is always giving his best effort. He is a great listener, friend, and classmate. He helps others often and is so kind every day. Tyler makes us all laugh with his smile, jokes, and laughter. Tyler works hard every single day and encourages others to do the same. Tyler, you are a great role model and friend here at WES and we are all so lucky to have you in our class! Keep up the fantastic work!!

Grade 4 - Camille Pearson

Ms. LaPointe would like to nominate Camille (Millie) Pearson for Eagle of the Week. Millie is often the first one at our morning meeting each day. She comes to school every morning with a big smile on her face and is quick to greet everyone. Millie is focused during our class time and loves to share her thinking. She completes her work on time and is open to feedback. Millie is a hard worker and enthusiastic learner. Keep up the good work, Millie! We are proud of you!

Grade 5 - Elton Hardy

Miss Davis and his classmates would like to nominate Elton Hardy for Eagle of the Week. One classmate said, "Elton is always engaged no matter what. He has an awesome attitude every day and makes jokes and is happy all the time. Elton has a growth mindset on a lot of things in the school. Elton is always ready to get called on and answer a question. If something is hard Elton would not give up and put effort in his work." Elton is a great role model and friend in our classroom! When he is at school, he is ready to work hard and doesn't mind a challenge. Way to go Elton, keep shining your light!

Educationally yours,

Melanie Smith