

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear WES Families,

Happy Spring! I can not believe April Vacation is right around the corner. We are having an amazing school year and look forward to sharing with you all the fun experiences your child(ren) have during their 3rd trimester via our teacher and principal newsletters. Thank you for taking the time to meet with our teachers during Parent Teacher conferences. Our teachers enjoyed the opportunity to share your child's progress with you.

Messsalonskee Sock Fundraiser Update

Our Messo Socks shipment has been delayed. We are expecting the socks to arrive this week. We appreciate all of your support with this successful fundraiser. Thank you for your patience.



Screen-Free Week Challenge

During April Vacation, we challenge all of our students to participate in a Screen-Free Week. Attached to this newsletter is a Screen-Free Bingo, that MaineHealth Let's Go 5-2-1-0, provided our school. This BINGO sheet has a variety of activities students may select from throughout the week. If your child gets "BINGO", please have them return their form to their teacher on April 25 for an opportunity to earn a special prize. We will select a winner from each grade.

Slugger's Reading Challenge

"*Slugger and the Sea Dogs realize the value of reading, and encourage students to read by allowing them to earn a FREE ticket to a Sea Dogs' baseball game and FREE day pass to Aguaboggan Water Park!*"

Slugger's Challenge:

Slugger is challenging students to read three 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 and a FREE pass to Aquaboggan Water Park!"

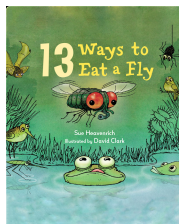
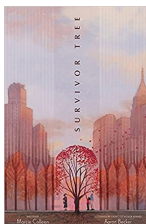
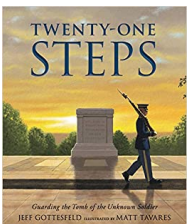
(<https://www.milb.com/portland/community/readingchallenge>)



Students still have time to participate. If your child needs a challenge form, they can visit our librarian, Mrs. Smith, for one. We will be mailing in all challenge forms on April 13.

March Madness - Our Final Four

Students have greatly enjoyed the books in this year's Nonfiction March Madness bracket. We are down to the Final Four! Here are our Final Four contenders:



Be sure to check in with your child(ren) to see who they are rooting for to be crowned the winner of this year's book tournament.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 5 & 6: Author Mary Cerullo visits WES

April 11: PTA meeting at 6PM - here is the link to join the virtual meeting: <https://meet.sangoma.com/400315731532#1042>

April 13: Slugger Reading Challenge forms are due.

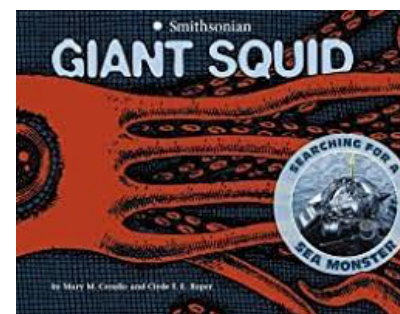
April 15: No School - teacher comp. day

April 18-22: No School - April Vacation



Mary Cerullo Visits WES!

On April 5th and 6th, award winning author Mary Cerullo will meet with students in the library to discuss her book, Giant Squid. Mary is the Associate Director of Friends of Casco Bay and is the Communications Coordinator for the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. She was named Maine Outstanding Educator of the Year and is the author of numerous nonfiction books for children. We extend our thanks to the PTA for helping fund this event and ensuring that every WES student takes home a signed copy of Mary's book, Giant Squid. We have been preparing for Mary's visit by learning about our oceans and the diversity of life they hold and have compiled a "book" for Mary about all the things we learned. One lucky student who participated in our library learning challenge will win a "pirate's treasure chest". All students will receive a real fossilized shark tooth!



Library Book Ambassadors

After April vacation, students will be invited to become book ambassadors. They will meet with our librarian, Mrs. Smith, to help select books to add to our library collection for the 2022-2023 school year. This new program is designed to help engage and excite students about the wonder of books and create life long readers.

2023 Casella Calendar Art Contest

Congratulations to Jamison Barry, from Ms. Kinney's 3rd grade class, on recently being announced as one of the Winners of the Casella Art Contest. Jamison's awesome picture will be included in the Casella 2023 calendar.



The Koala Project Update

On March 14, Aspen Kingsbury spoke about the koala project and fundraiser during the WES "Be the Light Assembly" to share information about the Australian koalas, adoption information and also shared an informational video that I received from the Koala Hospital. As you know, Williams held a special hat day fundraiser on Wednesday, March 16. Students were able to make a donation of any amount to the Koala Project to wear a hat on March 16. The Williams' adoptions will help with "the rescue and treatment of sick and injured koalas and release back to their home range where possible. The WES adoptions will also assist with the conservation and expansion of habitat, collection of information for research relating to habitat, disease, nutrition and habits of wild koalas. It also helps to provide educational material to increase public awareness of all aspects of the koala," (<https://www.koalahospital.org.au/page/adopt-a-koala/>).

I am pleased to announce that on March 16 the WES community raised \$ 550.63 and adopted 8 Koalas for a year and donated \$70 to the Koala Hospital Port Macquarie. The staff and students of Williams Elementary School greatly appreciate the generous donations from everyone that donated to this special cause.

Here is our WES Koala Crew:



LINR Anwen



Emerald Downs Mary



Kooloonbung Close Trevor



Lion Leo



Wauchope Jade



Ocean Summer



Evans Head CW

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith, Principal