

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WES

PRINCIPAL: MELANIE SMITH- MSMITH@RSU18.ORG & DEAN OF STUDENTS: MAGGIE SOLIS -MSOLIS@RSU18.ORG

WES STAFF UPDATES

NEW STAFF

Mr. Aaron Parker is our new physical education teacher.

Ms. Lindsey Desmarais will be teaching 5th grade.

Mrs. Tammy Pullen will be teaching 4th grade at WES this year. Prior to teaching at WES, Mrs. Pullen taught 2nd grade at Atwood.

Mrs. Kahlie Derosiers will be our Title 1 reading and math specialist. Mrs. Derosiers previously taught 2nd grade at Atwood.

WELCOME BACK!

Mrs. Moody will be teaching 5th grade at WES. Previously she has been an instructional coach at WES, Atwood Primary, Belgrade Central School and Messalonskee Middle School.

NEW POSITION

Ms. LaPointe has changed roles. For the past five years she has been our Title 1 math and reading specialist, this year she will be teaching 5th grade.

Welcome to the 2022-2023 School Year!

Dear Students and Families of Williams Elementary School!

We hope this letter finds you all enjoying the gorgeous summer! You are probably having fun swimming, playing games and going on fun adventures. We have had a blast this summer spending time with our families. We've been fishing, swimming, hiking, camping and have also visited Storyland. It has been a wonderful summer.

Welcome families new to Williams and returning families to a new school year. We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our children can achieve their highest potential. We recognize that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education.



A Message from our new Dean of Students: Maggie Solis

I am so excited to introduce myself officially as the new Dean of Students at Williams Elementary! Many of you know me from my twelve years of teaching Pre-K and Kindergarten at the Atwood Primary School. I find myself so fortunate to be joining such an amazing group of students and staff at Williams!

I recently moved to Belgrade where I live with my husband and our two small children, Maevia and Rocco and our beloved dog, Blue. I grew up in Oakland and I have felt so fortunate to give back to a community that gave me so much as a child. I attended the University of Maine at Farmington and then made my way back to RSU18 shortly after graduating. When I am not at school I love spending time at our camp in the Western Mountains, DIY



projects, baking, spending time with family and friends, cheering on the men's rugby team at Colby where my husband is an assistant coach, and volunteering in our community and surrounding communities. I am looking forward to being a safe haven, a cheerleader, and a guide on your child's educational journey right alongside Mrs. Smith and our incredible teaching staff at Williams! Please always feel free to reach out with anything.

We're excited to announce our theme for the year, "22-23...Our year to THRIVE!"

- T - Take Responsibility
- H - Help Yourself and Others
- R - Respect Everyone & Everything
- I - Inspire Others
- V - Be Voracious learners
- E - Expect Success by Working Hard

IMPORTANT DATES

August 29 - Open House and Popsicle Party, 4:30PM - 5:30PM

August 31 - First day of school for students in grades K - 6 and 9!

September 5 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

September 20 - Early Release Day - students dismissed at noon.

September 22: Flu Clinic

September 30 - School Picture Day

SAY CHEESE!



Our theme song for the year is, *Work Hard and Be Nice* by Michael Franti & Spearhead. Mrs. Smith heard this song while seeing Franti perform live at Snow Pond Center for the Arts this summer. We both felt this was the perfect song for our new school year. If we all work hard and be nice to others everything else will fall into place and make our year of learning a positive one with memorable experiences.

We thank you for your support and we both look forward to seeing each of you at our Open House on Monday, August 29 at 4:30PM! We hope you all enjoy these last few weeks of summer vacation! Soak up all the sunshine, play outside, make memories, rest, and find joy in the simple things. Summer in Maine is a wonderful thing.

Here is to a school year of lifting each other up, supporting each other's goals, being kind people, sharing joyful moments, and thriving together. Together we will make this the best year yet!

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith, Principal & Maggie Solis, Dean of Students

PARENT DROP OFF & PICK UP

In the morning, when dropping your child off for school, please be aware of traffic moving by on your passenger side. If you need to go into school, please park in the spaces and not in the "No Parking" areas nearest the curb. The teacher is on duty at 7:15, so that is the earliest students may be dropped off in the morning.

After school, parent pick up takes place in the front of our school. The person picking up the child will need to sign the child out with Mr. Parisi (our school social worker) or Mrs. Smith. Children will be seated in the WES lobby until their person arrives to pick them up. Our goal is to ensure that all students are safe. Thank you for your help.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is absent, please call or send a written note to the office upon his/her return stating why he/she was absent. We are required to report unexcused absences to the State, so these notes are really important. We will continue contacting all families whose children are marked absent unexcused. Thank you!

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL PACKETS

Your child will be bringing home a packet of materials that need to be completed. All free/reduced lunch forms need to be returned this year (this is a change from previous years). Please fill out the free/reduced lunch form or check off one of the following boxes: our family doesn't qualify / I completed the online application and return to school with the rest of the forms in the packet. The office needs this information by Wednesday, September 7, so please make it a priority to complete. If you need help with any of the forms, please call the office and Mrs. Alley or Mrs. Smith will help you. Your child's safety depends on WES having this information. Thank you very much for completing these forms quickly.