



PRIMARY LETTERS

WASHINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL NOTE

Mrs. Emily Judd

Washington Primary School students unanimously agree that having a choice to

pursue their personal interests fills them with excitement and motivation to be active explorers and makers of their own learning. During Green Week, students in grades one through five had an opportunity to choose from a variety of workshops for Environmental Choice Day. Students selected three environmental inspired workshops to learn more about a personal topic of interest.

Workshops in solar, water and wind energy, and pollination were just a few options. Students made solar ovens, hummingbird feeders, beautified the depot and learned how important bees are to our environment. As Angela Duckworth states in the text, *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*, "First comes interest. Passion begins with intrinsically enjoying what you do...Next comes the capacity to practice. One form of perseverance is the daily discipline of trying to do things better than we did yesterday... Third is purpose. What ripens passion is the conviction that your work matters..." Infusing choice in day to day activities builds a foundation for students to discover and develop interests that ultimately can lead to life-long passions that bring joy, satisfaction and purpose to work. Great

appreciation goes out to all the staff, parents, PTO, and community members that made this day a success.

As we move into the month of May and welcome the spring weather, we have many important events. Along with our grade 3-5 state



assessments, we have All Children Exercising Simultaneously, several field trips, Spring Book Fair and our Spring Art Show and Concert. Be on the lookout for further details.



If you should have questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me at judde@region-12.org or at 860-868-7331.

CALENDAR

Thurs	May 3	Gr. 2 to Everwonder Museum 5th Grade Play Auditions
Fri	May 4	PTO Newbury Place Fundraiser
Tues	May 8	SBAC
Tues	May 8	SBAC Art Show & Spring Concert Referendum
Wed	May 9-10	SBAC
Fri	May 11	Gr. 2 to Bridgeport Cabaret Theater SBAC Make-up
Mon	May 14-18	SBAC Scholastic Book Fair
Tues	May 15	5th Grade Play Rehearsal 8:00am PTO Meeting 6:30pm
Wed	May 16	3rd to Capitol
Thurs	May 17	5th Gr. Play Rehearsal 8:00am
Fri	May 18	5th Grade Play Rehearsal Family Fun Night
Mon	May 21	5th Gr. Play Rehearsal 3:15
Tues	May 22	Gr. 1 to White Memorial 5th Gr. Play Rehearsal 3:15
Thurs	May 24	5th Gr. Play Rehearsal 3:15
Fri	May 25	5th Gr. Play Rehearsal 8:00am
Mon	May 28	NO SCHOOL-Memorial Day
Tues	May 29	5th Gr. Play Rehearsal 3:15
Thurs	May 31	5th Grade Play Rehearsal 3:15
Thurs	June 1	5th Grade In-School Production 2-3:00 5th Grade Performance 6:00pm

KINDERGARTEN MRS. MCGOVERN

Kindergarten recently finished an author study of Leo Lionni. We wrote an opinion piece and a poem based on our favorite season. We each sanded and painted a wooden mouse as a special keepsake in honor of Fredrick the mouse. We are avid readers and recently read to our friends in preschool.



FIRST GRADE MRS. RAY

First graders have been busy learning in and out of the classroom! Students took a field trip to EverWonder Children's Museum where they explored science concepts through hands-on exhibits. They also enjoyed a program in which they made their own solar system model. First graders learned about environmental sustainability through various Green Week activities. They participated in the Walk for Water, parkour event, environmental choice activities, and learned about a hybrid vehicle. They are looking forward to one more field trip this month!



SECOND GRADE MRS. FEOLA

Engineers in second grade are studying the form and function of materials. Students had fun investigating properties of matter using kitchen utensils. Students observed and compared the strength, hardness, flexibility and absorbency of several kitchen tools. Students had great discussions about what materials in nature inspired these designs. Over the coming weeks, Engineers will put their knowledge in action by designing and creating a device to help disperse seeds over a field. Ask your child about his/her design plan!



THIRD GRADE MR. HOSKING



Third Grade Makers have been increasing their skills in a wide range of

projects. Students are exploring coding, crafting, circuitry, building and robotics. Each experience allows students to grow their understanding, and often requires determination and cooperation to be successful. It has been great to see the students share their enthusiasm for such a wide range of interests.



FOURTH GRADE MRS. WHITE



This month, fourth graders completed a special project with Mrs. Horan's REACH class. Students worked with each other to plan, create, and present a recycled art project. Fourth graders helped our REACH buddies to make decisions and to communicate with one another! It was a lot of fun!



FIFTH GRADE MRS. ROTUNDA

Fifth grade was busy this month with many fun activities.

We celebrated Green Week during the week of April 23rd. The students participated in choice activities creating crafts and learning all about the environment. This past month fifth grade practiced yoga and mindfulness two times a week. It was one of our favorite times of the day! We feel more prepared and mindful about our work habits, learning, and test-taking skills.



MINDFULNESS



LOOKING INWARD...

...was the message students in third through fifth grade received as they participated in six sessions of Yoga with certified instructor, Dawn Delpha.

Mrs. Delpha shared with students that the real yoga happens after the mat, and to use the practices to fill their minds and bodies with good feelings, and to give them the tools to work through tricky times with a calm body and mind.



Students practiced different breathing exercises with yoga movements and developed greater attention to their senses.

We thank the PTO for supporting this effort!

H2O FOR LIFE



On April 27th, representatives for Know Obstacles and H2O for Life visited our school to bring to life the reality of the water crisis around the world. Students participated in a “walk for water” carrying jugs of water for a mile to simulate the challenges that many children face around the world.



Obstacle courses allowed students additional opportunities to carry water with a physical challenge to stretch students’ understanding of perseverance. Students were full of enthusiasm and not only enjoyed the experience but also had a sense of appreciation for the availability of water in their own lives. Funds raised from this project **will bring running water and proper sanitation to 500 students at EZ Kabane High School in Port Elizabeth, South Africa**

WPS has raised over \$1000 raised so far!!



If you would like to donate, please send cash and checks (made out to H2O for Life) to school in a marked envelope, or donate online at www.h2oforlifeschools.org. We thank you for your contributions.

GROWTH MINDSET

Fueling a Growth Mindset takes effort. Students are encouraged to see new learning and to embrace challenges as a way to strengthen their brain muscle. Although, we all know that frustration can set in when we are faced with something hard or something that is not going our way. Using mishaps, accepting feedback or sticking to something can be overwhelming and requires an openness to try new strategies in order to “push through” and succeed. This openness can also be called *optimism*.

Optimism is believing that you can be the agent of change.



At WPS, we are encouraging students to see that they have the power to change things in their lives, and to notice the “silver lining” in situations that are not going their way. Next time your child seems negative about something, help them find tools to impact the situation in positive ways, and to find the good in the situation.

This will grow optimism and and Attitude of Gratitude!

ALL CHILDREN EXERCISE SIMULTANEOUSLY

Thank you Mrs. Werkhoven
and Mrs. Nettleton



KINDNESS CAMPUS



This is the month we install our Kindness Mural! The tiles are all painted, fired through the kiln, and ready to be assembled into an awesome kindness flower on the exterior wall of WPS. The installation will be May 31 and June 1. If you have an hour to spare and would like to volunteer, please email judde@region-12.org or call the office. Please look for further information regarding our special unveiling.

Notes from Nurse Pat - *Safety tips for spring!*

call 860-868-6879 with any questions!

Outdoor time is healthy and fun for kids as the weather warms. Make it a safe time too by making sure your children wear a helmet when riding bikes, skateboards, and scooters. Knee pads and elbow pads also provide a lot of protection.

If your child is sensitive to pollen, you can check the daily particulate counts on the weather channel.

Showering at the end of the day will help wash the pollen off their skin. Eye drops can help rinse the eyes.

Teach your children to recognize poison plants like: Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac. Check the areas around your home and instruct your children to avoid these plants.

If your child gets stung by an insect, remove the stinger as soon as possible with a scraping motion. Do not rub the area and release further venom from the stinger. Once the stinger is removed, wash with soap and water and apply a cold compress. If you notice any signs of difficulty breathing, severe swelling, or fainting, call 911 right away.

The sun is strongest between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Use SPF 15 or higher on your children age 6 months and up even on cloudy days if outdoor time is expected. It is important to get a healthy dose of sunshine each day.

Ticks are an issue in this area. Remove the tick by using fine-tipped tweezers to grasp it as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Wash the area with soap and water and call the pediatrician for symptoms of rash or fever.

On April 26, WPS recognized the many volunteers that help in our classrooms, at special events, and serve as leaders organizing the many school-wide activities throughout the year. We thank each and everyone of you for sharing your positive energy, time and talents with us.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY!



Regional School District 12

Serving the Communities of Bridgewater, Roxbury & Washington

2018-2019 BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PROPOSAL

Public District Hearing - Monday, April 9, 2018
Shepaug Valley School

Annual District Meeting - Monday, May 7, 2018
Shepaug Valley School

Referendum - Tuesday, May 8, 2018
Voting Hours 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**JOIN
US FOR
WPS
ARTS
NIGHT**

Tuesday
May 8th



6:00: School Opens

6:00-6:30 Enjoy viewing the artwork while small ensembles perform around the building

6:20: All students meet in their classrooms (Band students will meet in the music room)

6:30: Concert begins in the gym

State Assessments

2018 Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment Program

As part of the Connecticut Comprehensive Assessment program, the Smarter Balance Assessment Tests will be administered to all students in third, fourth and fifth grade in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The Smarter Balanced assessments are designed to measure each student's progress toward meeting expectations for the Connecticut Core Standards.

The Smarter Balance Assessments will be administered in May:

- May 8th...Language Arts (multiple choice/short answer)
- May 15th.....Mathematics (multiple choice/short answer)
- May 17th....Mathematics Performance Task

The Science Assessment will be administered to all students in grade five on **May 23rd**.

- This test assesses the knowledge and skills identified in the science standards for grades 3-5.

Your child needs to be relaxed, alert and capable of giving his/her full attention to each test. As always, a good night's sleep and a nutritious breakfast will help your child be successful.



Washington Primary School is a learning community dedicated to educating and inspiring children. We foster engagement and collaboration to achieve high expectations. In partnership with families and our community, we prepare children to be respectful, caring, and contributing citizens who will lead us into the future.