



WHITEHOUSE SCHOOL NEWS

From the Principal...

January 2024



CHARACTER CORNER

We Are Cubs of Character!

It is Patience Month!

We are discussing how *patience* involves being self-aware, showing calmness & demonstrating self-control. Students are learning that when we handle delays or frustrating situations without getting angry or upset, we are showing *patience*.



Patience is waiting with a happy heart!

Whitehouse School Mission Statement

The mission of Whitehouse School is to provide children with a nurturing environment where they will feel safe and accepted. Our school community encourages respect and builds independence while fostering academic and personal growth, and creating a love of learning.

Dear WHS Families,

It is time for our *WHS Family Photo Contest*. This is a good way to promote family fun and memory-making! The contest guidelines are listed below.

WHS FAMILY PHOTO CONTEST



- The contest is open to all students and their families.
- One photo entry per student is permitted.
- Photos should be recent, taken during the duration of the contest (January 2024 to February 2024), and must include the child.
- The back of each photo should contain the participant's name, grade, and a brief description of the picture.
- All photos are due by February 15, 2024 and will be displayed near the Main Office.

THE PRIZE

Winning photos will be published in the March 2024 issue of the Whitehouse School News. Winners will be selected for each of the following categories.

CATEGORIES

Most Exciting Activity

Silliest Picture

Most Educational

Farthest Location

Best Pose with a Celebrity

Again, I am looking forward to seeing all of the amazing photo submissions. Best wishes to you and yours in the new year!!

Warmly,
Dr. Ann T. DeRosa

Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory! ~ Dr. Seuss

Counseling News

Learning & Growing...



Happy New Year Whitehouse School!

We hope you had a cozy and relaxing break. In January, all students will find Calming Corners in each classroom. The Calming Corner will be a dedicated, safe, and nurturing space in each classroom where students can go to explore different strategies that help students come-back-to-calm when feeling overwhelmed, stress, angry, or overstimulated.

What Does It Look Like?

The objective is to allow students the opportunity to recognize and regulate their emotions in a healthy way.

At school:

- A spot in the classroom where students can spend time recognizing their emotions
- Filling the area with coping strategies with check-in & check-outs to allow students to recognize what strategies work best for them
- The space allows for students to regulate their body and mind.

At home:

- Designating an area in a quiet room
- Fill the space with comfy seating and some of your child's favorite books, stuffed animals or quiet toys

Self-Awareness is how we think about ourselves and who we are. It includes understanding our culture, our thoughts and feelings, and what we believe we're capable of. It's also about understanding how these things can influence our behaviors and beliefs. **Self-Management** is about managing our emotions, thoughts, and actions as we work toward goals. This includes coping with stress and anxiety and persevering through challenges. **Relationship Skills** are how we get along with others and how we form lasting friendships and connections. This includes communicating clearly, solving problems together, managing conflicts and disagreements, and standing up for ourselves and others.



Character Corner

January
Character Trait:
Fairness means:

Agreeing with what is thought to be right or acceptable

Treating people in a way that does not favor some over the other

Giving others and ourselves what we need to be successful.

Speech & Language Therapy Services



Reminders

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Character Corner

This month we reflect on fairness.

Fairness means:

Sharing

Taking turns

Compromising

Admitting when we are wrong

Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year, Whitehouse School Friends and Families!

We hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing break! In the speech room, we have been busy working on expanding our expressive and receptive language skills in addition to improving our articulation and fluency. In December, we incorporated themes such as Hibernation and Winter into our sessions. We will explore Snowmen, Penguins, and Arctic Animals in January.

Below please find some suggested activities for the winter months.

Hot Chocolate Slime

Search online for a hot chocolate slime recipe (Natural Beach Living has great ones). Discuss measurement and how to follow a recipe.

Magical Appearing Art

You will need: white crayon, white paper, paint brush, and watercolor paint. Have your child use the white crayon to draw a winter item (tree, snowman, snowflake, mitten, igloo, etc) while using descriptive words. Then use the water color paint to paint the paper. Watch your child's creation magically appear!

Kindergarten



Reminders

Please remember that we will try to go outside for recess each day. This is a much needed time to run and play, but children need to dress appropriately for the cold weather.



Character Corner

Kindergarteners will learn about fairness and we will acknowledge, respect, and celebrate the similarities and differences in others.

We will recognize that everyone has a voice and respect what they have to say by listening.

Fairness

Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year!!

Kindergarteners continue to amaze us with their resilience and tenacity to keep at it! The joy of this year for you will be in your child's growth. Kindergarteners are little sponges just looking to soak up every little bit that is offered to them and we are so proud of them!

Our young scientists have just finished a month of investigations centered on wood. They are learning and wondering and asking questions everyday. Like all scientists, our students write down what they see and we discuss our observations. In the New Year, we will continue to investigate fabrics. Students will be asked to look closely at material to notice its properties. We will continue to investigate and learn why we use one material over another in various situations. Thanks for continuing all of the incredible discussions at home as we wonder and ask so many questions!

In literacy, the children will be immersed in a variety of activities that build their skills with phonemic awareness, concepts of print, and snap words. We expand their repertoire of reading strategies, while reinforcing their letter and sound knowledge. During Writing Workshop, the children will be creating informational pieces. They will be writing "How to" books while trying to remember to use proper spacing, mostly lowercase letters, and punctuation in their writing. Be prepared to enjoy the little treasures the boys and girls will produce. The children have grown so much as writers since the beginning of kindergarten!

In math, our students will be developing their own strategies for counting, collecting, and calculating while observing some teacher-introduced strategies. We'll be using these new skills when we reach Day 100! We will practice telling number stories. Using our white boards, we will illustrate our stories with simple drawings and even try to write the equation. Yes, we are familiar with the word "equation". :) We will keep the stories short and use simple language. At home or in the car, you might want to play a game where you take turns making up number stories.

Have a wonderful January! Stay Warm!



Reminders

Please remember during these cold winter months to send your child to school with a warm coat, gloves, and winter hat. We will go outside most days for recess.



Character Corner

This month our character theme is fairness. We will be working on fairness during our Morning Meeting and SEL periods.



Learning & Growing...

We hope you are well-rested after winter break and have read lots of wonderful books! Throughout December, our first graders learned a variety of reading strategies to help them become better at decoding tricky words and comprehending nonfiction books. In January, we will be focusing on fluency, phonics, and continue working on our comprehension. Our writing period has become a very productive time of the day for first graders. They are practicing writing complete sentences, adding details, and using capital letters and proper punctuation.

In math, we will be working on Unit 2. In this unit, children will explore numbers within 20. They will learn that teen numbers are made up of tens and ones. These numbers can be put together and broken apart in many different ways. Students will use what they know about adding and subtracting within 10 to help them.

During Social Studies, students are learning about various roles and responsibilities that contribute to a family structure and what makes a family unique.



Second Grade



Reminders

1/8- Elvis/Hawaiian Spirit Day!

1/15- No School for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Please remember to dress appropriately for outdoor recess!
We love the fresh air!

Character Corner

January is **Fairness** month. Please discuss with your child various ways that he or she can demonstrate fairness this month. Encourage your child to color in a puzzle piece on his or her character education bucket each time he or she demonstrates fairness.

Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year! We are so thrilled to begin a new year of learning in second grade!

Our mathematicians have been practicing addition and subtraction strategies within various word problems and will be learning to count money and tell time. Please continue to practice math fact fluency at home and utilize the *Math Facts Pro* and *i-Ready* tools found on Clever to help your child strengthen his or her math skills. You also can help your child with coin identification, counting change and reading clocks at home.

In literacy, we will finish up our non-fiction writing and reading units and then transition back into fiction. In Reader's Workshop, our new unit will explore reading and role-playing with fairy tales, folktales, fables and fantasy. We will continue building strategies to improve comprehension, retelling, and fluency, while identifying different types of characters, patterns and other features of these wonderfully fun genres. Students should continue reading at home each night. Ask your child questions as he or she reads to you to help strengthen comprehension and retelling skills. In Writer's Workshop, we will begin our opinion writing unit and will learn how to write book reviews about the books we are reading.

In social studies, we have completed our unit about community wants and needs and will begin our next science unit about solids & liquids.

Additionally, we have begun our school-wide thematic unit plans by reading the magical story of *Mary Poppins*. We are excited to begin 2024 with so many fun activities and learning opportunities!

Third Grade



Reminders

*Jan. 8th-Elvis' Birthday/
Hawaiian Day!

*Jan. 15th-MLK
Day (No School)



Character Corner

Students will be practicing and learning about "Fairness" during the month of January.

Please encourage conversations about this character trait at home and discuss examples as a family.

Children should color puzzle pieces as they work to complete Fairness Buckets.

Learning & Growing...

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had time to relax from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

As a whole school, we are continuing our adventure by coming together for our annual thematic unit. This year, it's *Mary Poppins*.

Throughout the past couple months, third graders have been engaged in reading independently, with partners, and listening to a variety of realistic fiction stories. Students' stamina for reading keeps growing and growing! To develop stronger comprehension, students have learned to dig deeper into the meaning of the text by asking themselves purposeful questions, retelling the story, making connections and inferences, and writing responses to their reading in their journals. Third graders are currently continuing this work by applying comprehension strategies to a variety of non-fiction books, as well!

In science, students enjoyed learning about "Structures of Life". This unit provided us with the opportunity to explore information about fascinating creatures! Our emerging scientists also studied the skeletal systems in humans and had the opportunity to dissect owl pellets! Our unit ended with a visit from our friends at the Raptor Trust. The highlight was a special guest, a rescued owl, who won our hearts!

Finally, third grade students are now equipped with many of the basic multiplication and division facts. They will work to take these facts, and apply them to solving story problems. Students should continue to build fact fluency by practicing at home using *iReady* and *Math Facts Pro*!



Library



Reminders

**Fabulous
February
will soon
be here...**

**Let's get ready
to read, read,
READ!**

Mrs. Zanardi

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Character Corner

**It is January, and
even though GRIT is
our trait for April...**

There are so many
GREAT reasons why
all students should
participate in the
Fabulous February
Reading Incentive
Program.

One of them is that
we are all **Cubs of
Character** ... and
reading 1,000 minutes
truly shows that we
have **Cubby GRIT**
because we keep
reading every night
until we have reached
our goal.

**Let's do this!
You've got this!**

Learning & Growing...

NOTHING STOPS FABULOUS READERS !

WHS Grades K-3 will again celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday and Read Across America Day with our annual **Fabulous February Reading Incentive Program**. This enriching reading program will run from **February 1 - 29, 2024**. All minutes need to be turned into the WHS Library by February 29th at 11:59pm to count toward the rewards. The winners will be announced when we celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday later that week.

~ The WHS class that reads the greatest number of minutes in February will earn award certificates.

~ In every classroom, the student who has the single highest amount of minutes spent reading will receive special recognition.

~ Students who reach the 1,000-minute mark will be posted on the WHS Library website and special certificates will be issued. That is about 35 minutes a night ... soooooo do-able!

All students should log the amount of time they spend reading outside of school hours. WHS is recommending 20 minutes a night as a good starting point. Please note that any time with a book, magazine, or online program counts ... even if someone else is reading it to the student! And, if the student reads aloud to a sibling, parent, pet, stuffed animal, etc., that counts too!

Last year, almost 50 students read over 1,000 minutes ... and some students read over 2,000 minutes! *What goal will you set for this year?* Did you know that studies link reading at home to academic success?

The form to record reading minutes will open at 12:01am on Feb 1st.

<https://tinyurl.com/WHSfabfeb24>

Music



WHS Music Staff

Mrs. Laurie Levesque
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Character Corner

FAIRNESS

is January's character education trait at Whitehouse School.

We show **FAIRNESS** in Music when we:

- take turns and share
- play by the rules
- listen to the ideas of others
- give people what they need to succeed

Learning & Growing...

Greetings from the Music Room, WHS Families! We've been having a blast kicking off the New Year with some fun winter songs, such as "Snowpants" and the "Rock and Roll Snowman". As Snoopy (our "class pet") will tell you, nothing chases the winter blues away like a catchy tune!

A special note for Grade 3 families:

Students must bring their recorders and music folders to class each week. Please encourage your child to leave the items in his/her backpack when not in use. Recorders should be periodically washed with warm, soapy water to reduce the spread of germs. The recorder case can be laundered along with clothing.

It may feel like Spring will never arrive, but plans are starting to take shape for our annual Spring concerts on May 22nd. Please be on the lookout for more details in upcoming newsletters and Genesis blasts. We always enjoy sharing our budding skills and talents with you!



Sincerely,
Mrs. Levesque

Art



Reminders

Learning & Growing...

Ms. Iglesias

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Character Corner

In art we show patience by sharing materials and waiting calmly until it is our turn. Let's get ready to study fairness.



Kindergarten

Students finished their Dot artwork inspired by artist Alma Thomas. Each class also read the story *They All Saw a Cat*. The moral of the story was about how every person has a different perspective of the world. Students are now creating texture cats inspired by the illustrations from the story.

First Grade

Students completed pumpkin portraits. They used chalk pastels and blending techniques to create a pumpkin that uses the art element of value. Students are now reading the story *Giraffes Can't Dance*. They are creating dancing giraffes that will demonstrate movement in their artwork.

Second Grade

Students finished their gratitude tree artwork. They read the story *Where the Wild Things Are*. Students have been planning their Wild Thing design using the illustrations from the story.

Third Grade

The children have been learning about the artist, Keith Haring, and Pop Art. They have been creating artwork inspired by Haring that shows movement.



Physical Education

Reminders

Please make sure that your student has sneakers on PE days.

Optional monthly activity calendars can be found in Coach's Corner.

Stay active!

Character Corner

Students have been working on patience during PE! An example of this took place during our Disco Bowling unit when bowlers waited to roll until the pin setters were done resetting the pins. Now, let's get ready for Fairness Month!



Learning & Growing...

We have been having so much fun in PE! Pinky and his cousin (our omnikin balls) visited the Gym in November! It was so great to see them again. All students practiced their overhand throwing, dodging/fleeing and kicking skills within our omnikin unit.

We also played Strikerball at the end of November, which is a similar style game to Gaga Ball. Students worked on their striking and defensive skills during the unit.

At the start of December, we worked on our underhand rolling skills during our disco bowling unit! The Gym was set up with lots of different lights, which was so much fun!

To conclude December, we played our Winter Wonderland activities which has worked on various skills!

There is so much fun in store for the start of the new year!

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Mr. Bors
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Computers



Reminders

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Character Corner

Second grade students will be creating a Word Cloud on our character theme for this month:

Fairness



Learning & Growing...

All computer classes celebrated Computer Science Week (Dec. 4—8). Students in every country around the globe, including Whitehouse School, participated in the Hour of Code. This initiative is a one-hour introduction to Computer Science designed to demystify coding for students and encourage them to pursue technology careers. Whitehouse School students, K-3, participated in this year's Hour of Code. Please visit code.org for more information on the Hour of Code.

The kindergartners are continuing to master basic computer skills, including the mouse and touch screens, while reinforcing their classroom curricula through various educational websites.

The first graders have made amazing progress in the Computer Lab. They have been learning how to utilize *Google Doc* as a tool in school and everyday life. Students will be introduced to *Google Slides* this month.

In second grade, students continue to complete many of their assignments in Google Classroom. Students will also be mastering their Google Slide skills by creating an All About Me presentation. We will have a gallery walk to view each student's slideshow.

Every third grader spends time on Typing Club, a practice program, in class to enhance keyboarding skills. The great news is Typing Club is accessible from home. Since keyboarding is an essential skill, students may choose to practice at home. You will find the program in Clever.

Third graders also used our NEW Lego Spike Essential kits in December. Students created a robot to help launch a boat in the water solving a real word problem.



Spanish



Reminders

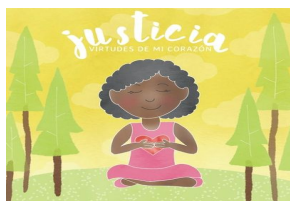
Please visit
Rockalingua.com
to practice
Spanish

Username:
whitehouse

Password: hola

Character Corner

JUSTICIA



PACIENCIA

PACIENCIA NO ES LA
HABILIDAD DE ESPERAR,
SINO LA HABILIDAD DE
MANTENER UNA BUENA
ACTITUD MIENTRAS
ESPERAS.

Learning & Growing...

Dear Parents,

¡Feliz Año Nuevo! I hope that you have enjoyed your winter break.

Last fall, Kindergarten students were working very hard on learning basic questions such as: What is your name? and How are you? They have increased their colors and numbers vocabularies and have enjoyed singing the song "Chocolate" at different paces. They have also followed the commands to stand up, sit down, go fast, go slow, spin and jump.

First, second and third graders routinely go through the calendar, reviewing the days of the week, the numbers, months and stating the date with some assistance based on their grade. They describe the weather and the season and also, these grades practice basic questions in Spanish like the name, age, feeling, favorite color and their birthdate.

In addition to their daily routine, each grade focuses on different units in which, beside learning the vocabulary, they also learn how to read, write, and use the vocabulary. The students are engaged in diverse activities to develop all the competencies described above.

In December, first graders practiced the days of the week and the weather. Second graders focused on the months and fruits. Lastly, third graders learned the seasons and school supplies (with reinforcement in the use of the verbs "to have" and "to borrow").

We will kick-off the New Year by learning about the traditional Spanish "La Cabalgata de los Reyes Magos." The Cavalcade of the Magi is a traditional parade in which floats carry the wise men. This takes place in practically all Spanish cities and villages. The cavalcade usually includes dancers and musicians. The first Cavalcade in Spain happened in 1855 in the city of Barcelona.

Saludos,

Señora de los Santos



SCIENCE FAIR

The goal of the Science Fair is to give all students the opportunity to experience the fun and excitement of scientific inquiry and exploration.

As usual, our theme is "Going Green." We encourage students to consider Science Fair projects that address sustainability issues or have a green component.



Save the Date:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Session 1: 4:00-5:00 pm

or

Session 2: 6:00- 7:00 pm

Look for more details to follow!



“New” Whitehouse School Recycling Initiatives

What you can recycle at WHS...

Printer Cartridges	Writing Utensils
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ink cartridges• Toner cartridges & drum units	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crayons• Pens & markers• Wooden & mechanical pencils

Where you can recycle at WHS...

Please drop off all recyclables in the correct bins located outside of the Computer Lab (Room 133).

 **Staples**

**Recycling made
easy for you**

