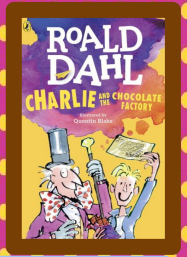




WHITEHOUSE SCHOOL

News Flash



From the Desk of Dr. DeRosa

Project: Home-Sweet-Home



What? *Whitehouse School Chocolate Fest Extravaganza*



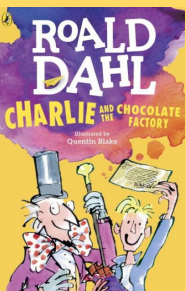
Who? *Cubs of Character & Their Families*



Where? *At Home*



How? *Your challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to celebrate our thematic unit on Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by making chocolate or baking a chocolatey treat as a family!*



When?

Between now and March 15



Then? *Send us up to two photos of the event with your creation, and we will feature the photos in a slideshow to be released this spring!*

Please email pictures to Ms. Emily Bengels: ebengels@readington.k12.nj.us

**Please join us as we celebrate our
2020 - 2021
Governor's Educators of the Year!**

Mrs. Arlene Schlosser & Mr. Paul Smith



**They were recognized during a *Walk-of-Honor*.
They strolled the halls as music played
amidst cheers and applause!**

**The following teachers were also nominated for this
prestigious award:**

Mrs. Kristen Frohn
Mrs. Michelle Mielke
Mrs. Jodi Rehrig
Mrs. Maryann Reilly
Ms. Deanna Schwaiger
Mrs. Alisa Swider
Mrs. Sharon Wilk

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !!!

Readington Strategic Plan Updates

Inquiry Learning

Student-Centered Learning

Children can harness their own natural curiosity and use it as the driving force of their learn. Click on the picture below for more information on inquiry-based learning.



Partnerships

Teamwork

This year, under the direction of our School Counselor, Mr. Paul Smith, School Nurse, Mrs. Katie Lynch, and School Psychologist, Mrs. Sara Grzenda, the Whitehouse School staff members are compiling a directory of local resources that can be utilized by students and families in need. It will be a wonderful resource so the school can serve as a liaison between home & the community.



Social Awareness

**We Are Cubs of Character!!!
January is Fairness MONTH
@ WHITEHOUSE SCHOOL
Choose Fairness**

We are teaching the children to be fair as they learn that there are several meanings for the term (doing what is right or being just, treating people in a way that does not favor some over others, & not being too harsh or critical). Please continue to discuss acts of good character with your child as he/she earns your permission to shade in pieces from his/her bucket filler puzzle. At this time, bucket puzzle sheets are now optional. Please [click here](#) to download the Fairness bucket.



Counseling News

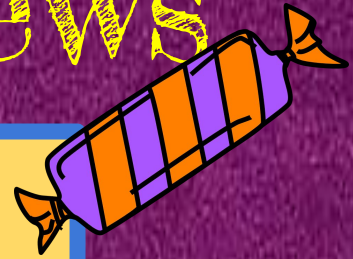
Reminders

The holiday season and winter months can be trying on people who have lost a loved one or are going through a tough time. A quick phone call can help reduce feelings of sadness or isolation.

Character Corner



Learning & Growing...



As we start a new year, I cannot help but think back to the beginning of 2020. Who would have guessed all the trials that our students would individually and collectively face? It has not been easy on them, nor you, but we have all adapted out of need and learned a different way of living. In many ways it has been an exercise in having a growth mindset. In her seminal work, Carol Dweck (2016) defines growth mindset as believing that our basic abilities can evolve through commitment and hard work which fosters a love of learning and resilience that leads to success. This is contrary to a fixed mindset, which is the belief that intelligence and talents are fixed and success is measured by documenting rather than growing these traits. While none of us want to face a situation like COVID-19 again, let us not lose sight of the growth and flexibility that our students have shown in both their academics and life skills. As we maintain hope for a better 2021, we can commit ourselves to continuing to help nurture a growth mindset in our children and ourselves.

PARENT'S GUIDE TO A GROWTH MINDSET

*Your brain is like a muscle. When you learn, your brain grows.
The feeling of it being hard is the feeling of your brain growing!*

Big Life Journal

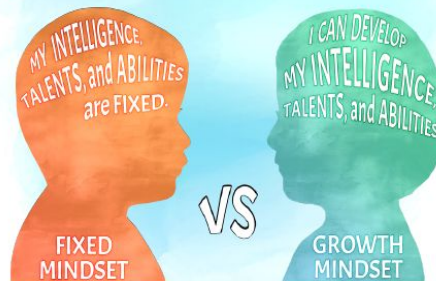
PRaise
FOR:
EFFORT
STRATEGIES
PROGRESS
HARD WORK
PERSISTENCE
RISING TO A CHALLENGE
LEARNING FROM A MISTAKE

NOT FOR
TALENT
BEING SMART
BORN GIFTED
FIXED ABILITIES
NOT MAKING MISTAKES

THE POWER OF "YET" SAY

"YOU CAN'T DO IT YET."
"YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET."
"IF YOU LEARN AND PRACTICE, YOU WILL!"

BRAINS can GROW



FAILURES AND MISTAKES = LEARNING

SAY

"MISTAKES HELP YOU IMPROVE."
"YOU CAN LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES."
"LET'S SEE WHAT OTHER STRATEGIES YOU CAN TRY."

RECOGNIZE YOUR OWN MINDSET

BE MINDFUL OF YOUR OWN THINKING AND THE MESSAGES YOU SEND WITH YOUR WORDS AND ACTIONS.



ASK

"WHAT DID YOU DO TODAY THAT MADE YOU THINK HARD?"
"WHAT NEW STRATEGIES DID YOU TRY?"
"WHAT MISTAKE DID YOU MAKE THAT TAUGHT YOU SOMETHING?"
"WHAT DID YOU TRY THAT WAS HARD TODAY?"

PRINTABLES BY BIG LIFE JOURNAL - BIGLIFEJOURNAL.COM

Dweck, C. S. (2016). *Mindset: The new psychology of success*. New York: Random House.

Guha, N. (2020). 5 tips for raising a resilient child with strong coping skills. Retrieved from:

https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/raise-a-resilient-child-with-strong-coping-skills?_pos=13&_sid=c53afc105&_ss=r

Nurse

Reminders

Complete the COVID screening form every morning your child is scheduled to be in school.

Also report any symptoms to the nurse on days your child is not in school.

If your child has a change to their attendance from in person to virtual, for any reason, remember to call the Attendance Line.

Character Corner

FAIRNESS

To have this character trait you need to have many of our other character traits...

Learning & Growing...



COVID information:

Testing Centers:

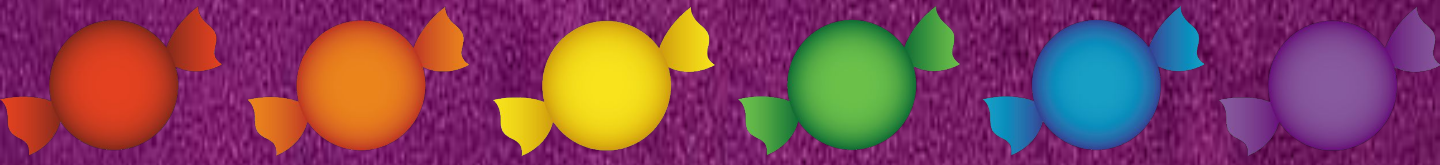
- Multiple testing centers around the area.
- There are walk-in and by appointment centers.
- Be sure to check that **pediatric testing** is available.
- **Readington District is accepting Rapid test results!**
- At www.Hunterdoncares.org, you can read information and register for the at home testing kits.

While NJ is in the color **orange** where COVID levels are considered high, below is information to keep in mind:

Close contact is considered 15 minutes or more, less than 6 feet within a 24 hour period.

- If you are in close contact with a **positive person**, you will need to quarantine.
- If you are in close contact with a **symptomatic person**, you will need to quarantine until the person has a negative test results.
- If someone is awaiting test results the household needs to quarantine until those results are confirmed.

Please look at my website for any additional information and forms. It can be found on the WHS site, in the information tab, drop down to Health office (nurse).



Kindergarten

Reminders



Please work with your child on zipping, buttoning, snapping and tying shoes. Some winter coats can be tricky to fasten, but by giving children lots of practice opportunities, they will get better at it! Bundle up!

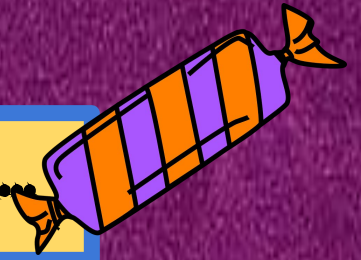
Character Corner

Kindergarteners will learn about fairness and we will acknowledge, respect, and celebrate the 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 and your child is in them. Kindergarteners are little sponges just looking to soak up every little bit that is offered to them and we are so proud!

Our young scientists have just finished a month of investigations of 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 and notice the material, and 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 discussion at home as we wonder and ask so many questions!

In literacy, the children will be immersed in a variety of phonemic awareness, concepts of print, snap word and reading strategy skill-building activities 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. An example would be - Zachary has ten pennies, but he lost one of them. How many pennies does Zachary have now?

First Grade



Reminders

Please remember during these cold winter months that you send your child to school in a warm coat, gloves, and winter hats. We might go outside for snack, mask breaks, and gym class.



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 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 our first graders. They are practicing writing complete sentences, adding details, and using capital letters and punctuations appropriately.

In math, we are 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.

We are enjoying reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. We are studying how the author, Roald Dahl, developed the characters in the story. The children will have the opportunity to create a *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* themed activity.



Second Grade

Reminders

1/8- Elvis/Hawaiian Spirit Day!

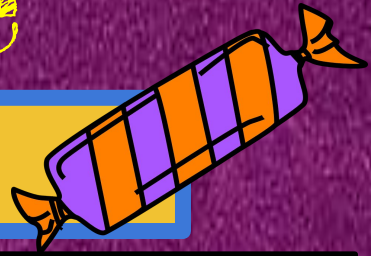
1/18 - No School for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Please remember to dress appropriately for outdoor weather mask breaks.

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 that can be found on the Character Corner tab of the WHS website.

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. We will continue working with word problems and will also begin to count money. Please continue to practice math fact fluency at home and utilize the *Reflex* and *i-Ready* tools found on *Clever* to help your child strengthen his or her math skills. You can also help your child with coin identification and counting change.

In Writer's Workshop, students will switch gears from realistic fiction writing to non-fiction how-to writing. Reader's Workshop will focus on building strategies to improve comprehension, retelling, and fluency, while students also will learn to pay attention to authors' intentions. Students should continue reading at home each night to improve fluency, decoding, and comprehension skills. Ask your child questions as he or she reads to you to help strengthen comprehension and retelling. Notice if your child is using decoding strategies independently (chunking out words, looking for words inside words, or stretching out words). Keep up the good work!

In social studies, we will complete our unit about maps & directions, and will begin our next science unit about solids & liquids.

We are also excited to continue reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl as part of our school-wide thematic unit.



Third Grade

Reminders

- January 8
Elvis/Hawaiian Spirit Day!
- January 16
No School (MLK Day)
- January 27
End of MP 2

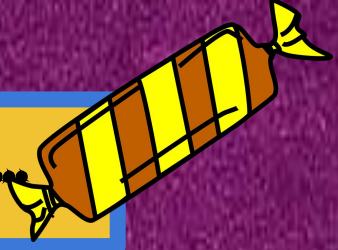


Character Corner

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 throughout month.



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, we are reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl!

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 continues 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!

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 *Reflex Math*!



Library

Reminders

Learning & Growing...



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

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

Mrs. Zanardi

vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us

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!**

NOTHING STOPS FABULOUS READERS !

WHS Grades K-3 will continue to 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 - 28, 2021**. All minutes need to be turned into the WHS Library by February 28th at 4pm to count toward the rewards. The winners will be announced when we celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday the following week.

~ The WHS class that reads the greatest number of minutes by February 28th will earn award certificates.

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

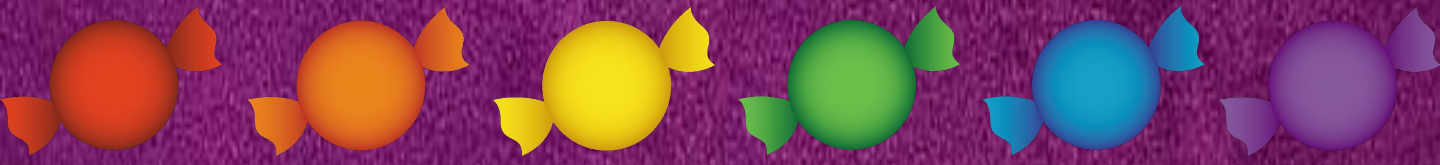
~ Students who reach the 1,000-minute mark will be posted on the WHS Library website and special certificates will be issued. That is just 35 minutes a night ... soooooo do-able!

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, over 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/WHSfabfeb21>



Music

WHS Music Staff


Mrs. Laurie Levesque
lvesque@readington.k12.nj.us
 (908) 534-4411 ext. 4141

Ms. Jessica Richter
jrichter@readington.k12.nj.us
 (908) 823-0454 ext. 2016

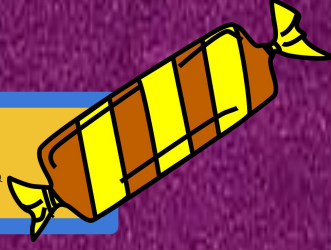
Character Corner

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.”

-Plato



Learning & Growing...



Dear WHS Families,

A central theme of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is determination, perseverance or GRIT! Your children have definitely displayed grit as they continue to work diligently on their Specials assignments each week. Second marking period projects are due by **January 20**. We are so proud of you, Cubs of Character!

The third marking period begins January 28 and we hope your child(ren) will enjoy the fun project we have planned. Here’s a sneak peek!



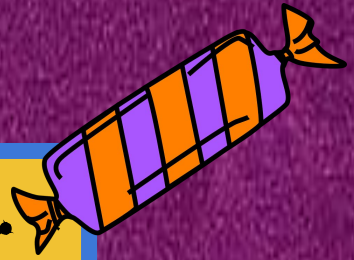


Art

Reminders

Please remind your child to regularly visit his/her Art Google Classroom to see teacher comments on submitted artwork, announcements, and classwork!

Learning & Growing...



Happy New Year to my creative and curious Cubs of Character! Even though the art room isn't open for business as usual, we are still planning a culturally rich field trip! For our 3rd marking period, all grades will be taking a virtual guided field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City! Follow along and learn a little something about some famous pieces of art and the artists who created them, all while participating in a scavenger hunt! It will be fun, it will be engaging, and without having to park in the city!

Also, please remember that second marking period specials assignments are due no later than January 20, 2021

Character Corner

"EVERY ARTIST WAS FIRST AN AMATEUR"

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mary Coyle
mcoyle@readington.k12.nj.us

Dana Pierro
dpierro@readignton.k12.nj.us



Physical Education

Reminders

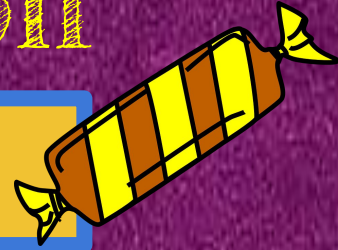
- Please remember to wear sneakers and comfortable clothing on your PE days.
- Remember to fill out your Weekly Activity Logs. "In-person" PE students only need 1 entry. Virtual students need 2.

Character Corner

Fairness in Physical Education

- Play by the rules.
- Take turns and share.
- Be open-minded; listen to others.
- Don't take advantage of others.
- Treat people fairly.
- Understand how to win & how to lose, appropriately.

Learning & Growing...



Happy New Year!! I hope everyone found time to stay active and healthy over break.

Physical Education classes at Whitehouse School have been working to keep students motivated and active. Students were introduced to fun activities, encouraging them to continue an active lifestyle at home. Children who appreciate being active are more likely to remain energetic throughout their lives. As a physical education teacher, a main goal is to find activities that not only address the components of fitness, but also consider our students' interest and levels of abilities.

Physical Education will still be held outside as much as possible (please have your children bring appropriate clothing), but as the temperature drops and the weather changes PE will be spending more time in the gymnasium. During the current climate, the safety and well-being of our students is the highest priority. When inside, students will be participating in circuit / station activities where they can remain socially distant and still remain active. Fitness will be a major emphasis, where students will explore the 5 different components and the individual benefits associated with each.

Students will be introduced to some classic games with socially distant adaptations such as "Line Soccer", where students will remain in a certain area and have to use their kicking and teamwork skills to score goals. Per our standard protocols, equipment used will not be shared, and is sanitized beforehand.



Computers

Reminders

Learning & Growing...



Tiffany Barca
tbarca@readington.k12.nj.us
908-534-4411 ext. 133

Wendy Reardon
wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us
908-534-4411 ext. 133

Feel free to reach out through email or office hours for help. Office hours are located in our Google Classrooms.

Character Corner

Students may complete an Optional Enrichment Activity and create a word cloud on our Character Trait for this month:

Fairness




Computer Lab GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Please remind your child to regularly visit his/her Computer Lab Google Classroom to see announcements and classwork!

All computer classes celebrated Computer Science Week (Dec. 7–11). Students were assigned a Computer Science Choice Board in their Optional Enrichment area. The Choice Board included read alongs, videos and computer programming games for all grade levels. In addition, I added a Virtual Classroom everyday to spotlight one of my favorite Hour of Code activities. The Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science designed to demystify coding for students and encourage them to pursue technology careers. Please visit code.org for more information on the Hour of Code.

Second and Third Grade students can continue their adventure with Charlie Bucket from *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory* by visiting a Virtual Classroom filled with "sweet" games, videos and books.

Kindergarten and First Grade students will practice their clicking and dragging fine-motor skills to create some pixelated candy. 

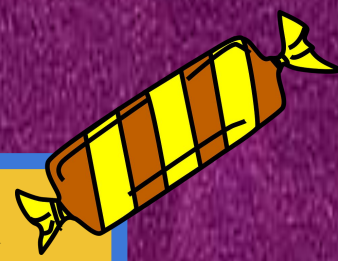
Reminder: Second marking period projects are due by **January 20**. We are so proud of you, our Cubs of Character!

The third marking period begins January 28 and we hope your child(ren) will enjoy the fun projects we have planned.





Spanish



Reminders

Learning & Growing...

Please remind your child to check his/her school emails and to regularly visit the **Spanish Google Classroom** to see announcements, classwork and enrichment activities.

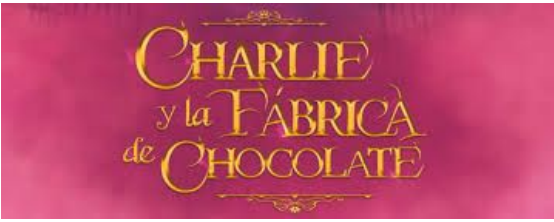
Dear WHS Families,

Happy New Year - Feliz Año Nuevo!
I hope you had a great winter break.

For the third marking period, we are going to focus on our school's annual thematic unit. This year it is...

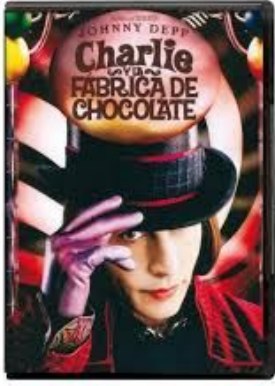
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!

Character Corner



Fairness

Students will have the opportunity to learn very "SWEET" vocabulary while they are working on a "YUMMY" project and "CHOCOLATEY" enrichment activities.



Justicia