



# NEWSLETTER

Whitehouse School

## Principal's Message

Dear WHS Families,

We hope you are staying safe & healthy as we close out this challenging winter. I know many of you join me as we look with renewed hope to the time when we can return to our "old" beautiful normal, back to the days before COVID-19. In the meantime, I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of spring! Recently, we were thrilled to welcome WHS students back to "in-person" learning four days per week.

It is wonderful to see our students together again. The building has been abuzz with excitement! We continue to learn, grow, and have fun as a school community. We are finishing up with our schoolwide thematic unit on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory!* Every homeroom teacher read the book aloud and students completed interdisciplinary assignments along the way. As a final culminating experience, the teachers are working with me to organize times when all classrooms can be scheduled to independently watch the Willy Wonka movie starring Gene Wilder! Also, please be sure to submit your chocolatey baking photos, by March 15, to be included in our *Home-Sweet-Home ChocolateFest* slideshow!

Warmly,  
Dr. Ann T. DeRosa

## We are Cubs of Character!

**March** is **TRUSTWORTHINESS** month at WHS!!! We are focusing on how to build *trust*. We are helping the children to understand that when we set goals or make promises, we have to be *trusted* to follow-through.

**We say what we mean, and we mean what we say!**

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 **trustworthiness** bucket.

## Read Across America

Read Across America has celebrated books and reading since 1998. Experts suggest the following tips at home:

- Adults are encouraged to spend time reading to children on a daily basis.
- Share stories that celebrate diversity and embrace differences.
- Use books to help students discover their own voices and learn from the voices of others, both currently and historically.
- Encourage readers to believe in themselves, and use their voices & stories for positive change.

Click on the picture below for a virtual library to celebrate  
**Read Across America**



## Charlie Trivia

In what year was the original movie entitled, *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* released?



Answer: 1971



# Counseling News



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

**March 8th**  
CAP virtual parent presentation to 3rd Grade Families. Please see WHS Virtual Backpack for further information [HERE](#)

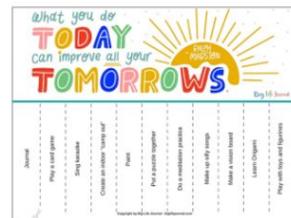
**March 29 & 30**  
CAP virtual presentation to 3rd grade students.

This winter has brought about a new challenge to the school year: snow. While snow is beautiful and a lot of fun to play in, it can also reduce activities in an already restricted time. Similarly, it may push some children towards more screen time as well as less opportunities for socialization. For many parents, it can be hard to find screen-free activities to keep children engaged, especially after a year of social-distancing. Fortunately, Big Life Journal collected 45 screen-free activities and created 4 printable, tear-off posters. You can print all or each of the sheets, pre-cut each strip, and tape it to the refrigerator. Another idea is to cut, fold, and place each piece in a bowl/jar. The next time your child needs an activity or appears bored, have him/her pick an activity strip from the refrigerator/bowl. To access the posters, please click the [HERE](#) to download.

## SCREEN-FREE ACTIVITIES Tear-Off Posters

Feeling a little bored or just want to do something fun? We have A LOT of ideas for you! Tear off an activity from one of the posters to explore your creative side or uncover a special skill. Which one will you choose?

Print pages 2-5. Cut along the dotted line to make strips you can tear off whenever you want to try a new activity.



Big Life Journal

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### Character Corner

"WHEN YOU PAY ATTENTION TO BOREDOM IT GETS UNBELIEVABLY INTERESTING."

ION KABAT-ZINN  
© Lionel Batten

"THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT."  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

“

It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.

ARISTOTLE

BRACKENRIDGE.ORG

With Spring around the corner and increasingly promising news regarding the health of our community, one can only hope that this leads to more outdoor activities and some return to normalcy. While we have all showed our resilience and endurance during the past year, please reach out if you or your child is in need of counseling support.

# Nurse



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

- Compete the COVID screening for any scheduled in-person days
- Pack a spare mask
- Wash masks daily

Eating a healthy snack during the school day increases children's attention and focus during the day.



The best fast food are fruits and vegetables. Also, each day your child will need a water bottle. Hydration helps to prevent sleepiness and fatigue as well.

The children are doing amazing with their masks. As we continue to wear them, please make sure they fit your child appropriately. It must cover your child's nose and mouth.

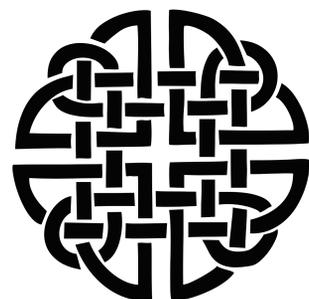
Masks can shrink after being washed. Please check them carefully before sending your child into school.

### Character Corner

Trustworthiness



- Take care of something you borrowed
- Tell the truth
- Keep your promise



# Speech & Language Therapy

## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Please contact Mrs. Bobal directly if you wish to set up a time to discuss your child's progress during conferences!

### Character Corner

What does it mean to be TRUSTWORTHY?

1. Others can depend on you
2. You are honest
3. People trust what you say

Synonyms: reliable, dependable, true, responsible, steady

Antonyms: dishonest, unreliable, misleading

### What is speech?

**Speech** refers to how we say sounds and words, and involves the following:

1. **Articulation**: producing sounds using the mouth, lips, and tongue
2. **Voice**: how we use our vocal folds and breath to make sounds
3. **Fluency**: the rhythm of our speech



### What is language?

**Language** refers to the words we use and how we share ideas including:

1. **Form**: the building blocks of language including grammar, word order within sentences, and phonological (sound) awareness
2. **Content**: vocabulary understanding and use
3. **Use**: social communication skills



# Kindergarten



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

**March 11,12:**  
Conferences

**March 15th:**  
Photos due for  
Home-Sweet-  
Home slideshow.  
Bake a chocolatey  
treat baking at  
home!



### Character Corner

Kindergartners  
will be learning  
how to be a  
**trustworthy**  
friend and  
student.

We will learn  
what it means  
to be honest,  
reliable, and  
dependable.



Spring is right around the corner and the kindergarten children's skills in literacy are in full bloom. Their confidence has developed and they are writing words and sentences in their daily writing. As the year continues, the students will fine tune their skills with spacing and using as many lowercase letters as they can as well as sight words.

Phonemic awareness skill development will continue to flourish with their newly learned skills in phonics. They are excitedly reading decodable books with short vowel blending of three letter words and the sight words that they are learning. In addition, students are beginning to blend two letters together such as "dr" or "sn" to figure out those tricky words like *drive* and *snowman*. Through our literature activities, the students will be working on reading comprehension, concepts of print, story sequencing, characters, and retelling. The children will continue to grow in literacy skill development over the next couple of months.

After completing our Wood and Paper unit in science, the students will begin to investigate with motion. They will learn about *pushing, pulling, colliding, rolling* and the concept of *force*. Then, we will progress to our science unit "Animals Two by Two" with a lot of interesting creatures facts entering our worlds!

Kindergarteners have been skip-counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, and creating number stories. The children will continue to review and build upon their understanding of addition and subtraction stories. Visualizing teen numbers as a ten and extra ones, and continuing sharing work for partners 2 thru 6 will be a focus for the boys and girls this month. Yes, we will be very busy little bees this spring!



# First Grade



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Please remember to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Sign up to be a mystery reader!

MYSTERY?

### Character Corner

Our First Graders will be discussing the importance of being **trustworthy** in school and at home.



In February, our first grade authors were writing so much as they continued to create Opinion Writing pieces. They authored collection writing, reviews, and persuasive letters. Now, in the month of March, our first grade writers will be tackling nonfiction writing. Students will think about a topic they know a lot about and create a chapter book.

What strong, voracious readers our first graders have become! Starting this month, our first grade readers will be introduced to nonfiction reading. Students will get to read a variety of books about things that really interest them.

They'll study author's craft; thinking about specific words or pictures the author chose to include. They will tell you all sorts of facts they learn about!

In math, we just completed Unit 2, and are now beginning Unit 3. In this unit, the students will be working on place value, counting to 120, money, and time to the hour and half hour. Please continue to read the family letters that are sent home on Mondays and have your child practice his/her skills using i-Ready.

We are now beginning our social studies unit called, "Our Changing World and the People In It". Students will learn that while people today are the very much the same as people who lived long ago, the way people live has changed over time.



# Second Grade



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Don't forget to sign up for Parent/Teacher Conferences!

Early Dismissal:  
3/11 and 3/12  
(Conferences)

No school: 3/22  
(In-service Day)

### Character Corner

March is **trustworthiness** month!

We will talk about ways we can be trustworthy at home, school and beyond!

Please help your child demonstrate trustworthiness this month and remind him or her to color in a bucket piece each time he or she shows trustworthiness.

This year, winter seems to be hanging on a little longer, but our second grade skills are getting so much stronger!

In Reader's Workshop, students will explore nonfiction books. We will study and identify different features that authors use to teach readers about various subjects. We also will discuss how our "reading voices" change while we read nonfiction books to sound more like teachers or reporters, instead of characters in fiction books. We will continue to strengthen our fluency skills and use our phonics strategies to help us decode longer and unfamiliar words as we read. Be prepared for your second grade reader to teach you about lots of different subjects in these next few weeks!

Our next Writer's Workshop unit will teach students how to write letters to friends about the books we read. Writers will learn how to express opinions about characters and plot lines, and also practice retelling and summarizing books within a friendly letter format. Additionally, we will learn how to write book recommendations so we can share our favorite stories with each other.

Mathematicians continue building and working with three-digit numbers in math class. In the next few weeks, we will be comparing and adding and subtracting them. Keep practicing math facts and strengthening automaticity with Reflex Math!

Scientists continue to investigate solids and liquids and we are doing a great job recording our data and practicing the scientific method. We are enjoying our discussions and experiments as we uncover a deeper understanding of the unique qualities of the different states of matter.

We are looking forward to watching the amazing growth that will sprout these next few months with your children!



# Third Grade



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

March 11-12th  
are Early Dismissal  
Days for  
Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

March 22nd-  
No School



Students and teachers have been enjoying this year's thematic unit as we celebrate the novel, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Classes have been reading the book and having fun as we imagine exploring the wonderful world of Wonka's Chocolate Factory. We are crafting related projects that complement our SEL and Literacy curricula. Third graders think that Roald Dahl deserves a golden ticket for his writing talent and extraordinary imagination!

Our third grade writers are becoming more confident in their ability to persuade others as they discuss a topic of their choosing. As they write, students are learning to utilize persuasive language as well as to incorporate facts and details that properly support their arguments. Teachers continue to focus on the importance of revision as a critical stage in the writing process. This helps students make decisions about organization and word choice. With each unit of study, our writers are developing their ability to edit their own work by adding punctuation or fixing spelling errors that they identify independently.

Our current themes in reading revolve around character studies and mystery stories. Students will be using their detective skills as they learn to read for clues! Additionally, they will continue to notice and think about characters as they look closely for habits, strengths and suspicious behaviors. As they reflect on their reading, students continue to practice locating and providing evidence from the text in both written and oral responses. They are also learning to infer meanings of unfamiliar words by using clues in the text and prior-knowledge.

In math classes, students worked with multiplication and division facts and applied problem solving strategies. They practiced other applications of multiplication, such as finding the area of shapes. Next, the **whole** third grade is excited to begin learning all the interesting **parts** about our unit on **fractions**. The teachers are **equally** enthused! Remember to encourage practice of all math skills at home using the websites, iReady and Reflex Math!

### Character Corner

March is  
**trustworthiness**  
month!  
We will be  
discussing the  
many ways  
students can be  
trustworthy at  
home and school.  
Please  
encourage your  
child to color in  
puzzle pieces  
for their  
trustworthy  
behavior  
choices!

# Music



WHS  
Music Staff

## Learning & Growing...

Mrs. Laurie Levesque  
[llevesque@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:llevesque@readington.k12.nj.us)  
(908) 534-4411  
ext. 4141

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

### Google Classroom Reminder

The third marking period ends April 14, just after Spring Break.

Please ensure that your child completes a minimum of one Music project for the marking period.

Projects and optional Enrichment are posted in your child's Music Google Classroom.



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

Hello, WHS Families!

Did you know that March is National Music in Our Schools Month? This year's theme is "Music - The Sound of My Heart" and, to that end, we wanted to share with you some fun cardio drumming activities that we hope will inspire your child's love of music while also promoting physical wellness.

These family-friendly activities can be done inside or outside and are the perfect opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise as the days get longer and we anxiously anticipate the arrival of spring!

The last year has shown us how creative and resourceful our Readington families are so, if your child does not have any of the equipment used in the videos, encourage him/her to improvise. As always, we welcome any "home movies" that you wish to share with us!

Cardio Drumming Links:

[Uptown Funk \(Kidz Bop version\)](#)

[The Chicken Dance](#)

[Baby Shark](#)

[Happy](#)

# Art



## Learning & Growing...

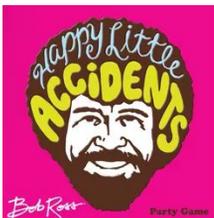
### Reminders

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

### Character Corner

"WE DON'T  
MAKE  
MISTAKES,  
JUST HAPPY  
LITTLE  
ACCIDENTS"

-Bob Ross



Welcome back! It is so great to have everyone here once again! Now, we are getting close to spring! I hope your children enjoyed their virtual field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and learned some fun facts along the way. I also love how creative their Golden Tickets have been! As we move into spring, our third graders will be finishing their rainforest birds. They look amazing so far, so I can't wait to see them painted! And, kindergarten through second grade children will be creating spring-themed art. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions.



Mary Coyle  
[mcoyle@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:mcoyle@readington.k12.nj.us)

Dana Pierro  
[dpierro@readignton.k12.nj.us](mailto:dpierro@readignton.k12.nj.us)

# Physical Education



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

- Please remind your child to wear sneakers and comfortable clothing on PE days.
- Virtual students need to submit two entries per week in their Weekly Activity Logs.

### Character Corner

#### Trustworthiness in Physical Education

- Working together and using teamwork.
- Following the rules
- Demonstrating good sportsmanship



## NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION...

We have been moving and having a blast in Physical Education class!!!

During the month of January, we utilized teamwork and cooperative skills for the *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* scavenger hunt! Students looked for golden tickets throughout WHS. Students also worked with our jump ropes and learned the health benefits associated with them. We will keep progressing with jump ropes and incorporate them into our warm ups. The Angry Birds game was a big hit with the students, as they also learned how to properly perform an overhand throw. Then, in February, we went back to the Angry Birds game, but focused on frisbee-throwing. The frisbee throw will be utilized when we play our frisbee golf game in the spring. Other activities we played were box soccer & hockey, hula hoop showdown, aerobic bowling, and flip the hoop.

Fitness was really emphasized these past couple of months, Students have been focusing on 6 different exercises which are part of our everyday warm up. We will continue to take advantage of good weather by having classes outside when we can. As always, we will continue to follow our standard safety protocols. Equipment will not be shared, and is sanitized beforehand, as well as afterward.



# Library

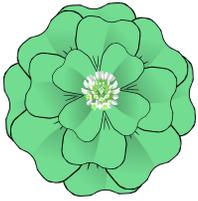


## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

**Valerie Zanardi**  
School Librarian

[vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us)



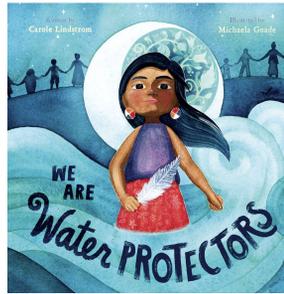
MP3 projects are due by April 7th.

### Character Corner

Thank you to all the **TRUSTWORTHY** students who submitted minutes during the **FABULOUS FEBRUARY** Reading Incentive Program!  
Join Mrs. Zanardi in the afternoons when she is teaching library to each of the homerooms.

### Caldecott Theme for MP3

The latest Caldecott Medal winner was announced at the end of January. This year the winner, Michaela Goade, has the distinction of being the first Native American to be honored with this award. She illustrated the book *We Are Water Protectors*. WHS can relate to this book because all staff and students RESPECT our ENVIRONMENT!



The enrichment for MP3 includes additional Caldecott Medal winning books. If you click on the books below, it will provide links for you to go to BookFlix to watch them. The associated enrichment projects, with questions and activities, will be posted weekly in your child's Library Google Classroom.

### Exploring Caldecott Books on BookFlix



The students learned in the MP3 library project that a book wins the Caldecott Medal award because the illustrations were the best fit that year for enhancing the story and the theme of the book.

# Computers



happy earth day!



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

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

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

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

### Computer Lab GOOGLE CLASSROOM

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The third marking period is in full swing. The Computer Lab assignment is posted in our Google Classroom under the classwork tab.

Optional enrichment opportunities are posted weekly for Extra Credit. You only need to complete one optional enrichment assignment to improve your report card grade.

### Character Corner

Students will have the opportunity to visit Interland. **Interland** is an adventure-packed online game created by Google. It takes key concepts about digital citizenship and safety, and puts them into hands-on practice for students.

**Trustworthiness** is a key component to being a Good Digital Citizen!

Be Internet Awesome.



We will be celebrating **Earth Day** in the Computer Lab. Each grade level will create an **Earth Day** Poster to honor our planet and show how we protect the Earth throughout the year.



Each student will be able to see their classmates posters in a video. The video will be posted in our Google Classroom. Make sure you complete the assignment by **April 7th**.

# Spanish



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Please remind your child to check the **Spanish Google Classroom** for assignments, announcements, enrichment activities and office hours.

Hola WHS families,

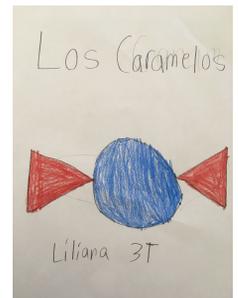
Students are having a BLAST working on the Spanish project:

**Mi Dulce Favorito and Chocolate Caliente!**



### Character Corner

### Trustworthiness



Please enjoy these songs related to the projects:

[Osito Gominola:](#)

[El Chocolate](#)

Optional enrichment opportunities are posted for Extra Credit. You only need to complete ONE optional enrichment assignment to improve your report card grade.

### Digno de confianza

