



# Whitehouse School NEWSFLASH!

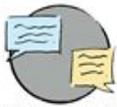


## Greetings from Your Friends at Whitehouse School!

Dear WHS Families,

It has been an exciting Fall! We are so happy to be as "back to normal" as possible, and we hope to continue to be able to enhance our program as the situation with the pandemic improves.

We are still focusing on the 3 district Strategic Plan goals. Building *social awareness* and cultivating *partnerships* are two of our ongoing endeavors. The third goal is to promote *inquisitive learning* in the classroom and foster critical thinking in students.



STUDENTS SHOULD QUESTION  
ANSWERS AS OFTEN AS THEY  
ANSWER QUESTIONS.

\*\*\*\*\*

### We are Cubs of Character!!!

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. Please click [here](#) to download the *Gratitude* bucket. The focus of our *gratitude* character trait will center on the affirmation: *I am grateful for the people in my life, and I appreciate the things that I have.*

### **Happy Thanksgiving to You and Yours!**

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### Whitehouse School Mission

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, while creating a love of learning.



## THE SCOOP



**Extra, Extra, Read ALL ABOUT US!!!**



### **CHECK OUT 2 AMAZING NEWS DISTINCTIONS FOR WHS...**

*According to U.S. News & World Report,  
Whitehouse School Ranks Among the Top 7%  
of BEST Elementary Schools in New Jersey!*

<https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/new-jersey/badge-eligible-school-251508>

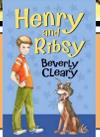
&

*Whitehouse School Recognized as a Leader on  
Climate Change Education  
and Featured on Governor Murphy's Website!*

Click [here](#) for more information.



## Choose "Gratitude"



### *Thematic Unit News*

WHS is getting ready for our school-wide thematic unit. As you know, we will be celebrating the brilliance of Beverly Cleary this year by reading *Henry Huggins* and *Ribsy*, who are best friends.

The WHS Library would like to "fetch" photos of students and their best friends. Please **send in a small photo** to Mrs. Zanardi. The picture should feature best friends (labeled with the student name and class **on the back**). As submissions arrive, Mrs. Zanardi will add them to a bulletin board in the main hallway.

P.S. You may interpret "best friend" anyway you want (e.g., dog, cat, fish, human, stuffed animal, etc.)

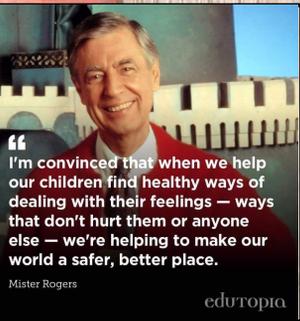
### Mindful Moment

"The real gift of gratitude is that the more grateful you are, the more present you become." ~Robert Holden



# Counseling News

## Character Corner



## Learning & Growing...

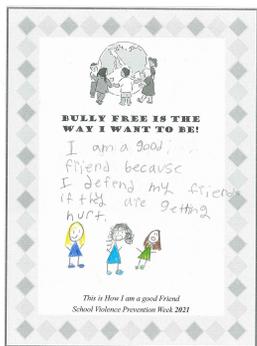
October was awareness month where we highlighted important topics such as respect, healthy coping skills, conflict resolution, and making positive friendship choices.

Students and staff celebrated **The Week of Respect** from October 4th-8th. The topics of respect and good choices were discussed. Students described ways to show respect and completed Friendship Pledge cards. On October 4th, we observed World Day of Bullying Prevention by wearing blue to show world-wide solidarity in eliminating bullying. We concluded the week by wearing our Red Cub Shirts for a school spirit day to show unity because WHS students expect respect!

The week of October 18th-22nd, was designated as **School Violence Awareness Week**. The students and staff wore purple on Tuesday, October 21st, as a reminder that we use different ways to solve our problems rather than to hurt each other with our words or hands. Students also completed Friendship poster where they illustrated the kind of friend they want to be.

Then, Whitehouse School celebrated **Red Ribbon Week** from October 25th-October 29th. This is a special week set aside for schools to celebrate a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Over 100,000 schools and communities nationwide joined in the event, making it the most successful drug prevention activity in America. On October 28th, the school observed **Courage Day** with a presentation from the Readington Volunteer Fire Department.

## Awareness Weeks Photos



Week of Respect  
October 2021



I respect my Friends And Follow all my school Rules By...



# Nurse

## Reminders

- Pack extra masks in back packs
- Use a **CLEAN** mask every day
- Pack a change of clothes in case your child spills his/her water, falls in the mud, or slides down a wet slide.

## Character Corner

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a very small heart, it could hold a rather large amount of **gratitude**."

~from Winnie the Pooh



## Learning & Growing...

As we are getting into these winter months, below are a few tips that can help keep our kids healthy:

- Getting enough sleep (10-12 hours is recommended for this age group)
- Drink around 5 cups of water a day
- Eat an assortment of fruits and vegetables
  - In season now are:
    - apples, blueberries, broccoli, broccoli rabe, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cranberries, kale, leeks, parsley, pears, pumpkins, squash,
- 60 minutes a day of physical activity
- Good oral hygiene - flossing and brushing (2 minutes)

Our kids are doing great with handwashing. It continues to be the best form of defense against illnesses. Common colds, strep throat and stomach bugs are all still around.

Please teach your children how to blow their noses, and insist that they wash their hands immediately afterward.

If your child is having COVID symptoms and will be absent, please call our attendance line 908-534-4411 and give a reason for the absence. I may need to call you back to clarify symptoms.

Check out my website, under the "Our School" tab on the WHS site. In it you can find forms, information on annual screenings, COVID information, immunizations and community resources.

# Kindergarten

## Reminders

Nov. 4 & 5 School Closed  
Nov. 17th Picture Retake  
Nov. 24th Early Dismissal  
Nov. 25, 26 School Closed

## Character Corner

Kindergarten spent the first few days of school building a new community of friends.

These little kindergartners have learned so much already...How to be a bucket filler, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance flag salute and the WHS Cheer, Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop and so much more.

November is the month we will be focusing on Gratitude. The children will learn how to display thanks, appreciation & gratitude for the people in their life and the things they have. We will be drawing and writing about someone we are thankful for. We will also be reading a few books about being thankful, such as *Gratitude Soup*.

We are so grateful for your continued support and flexibility during this adventurous kindergarten year!

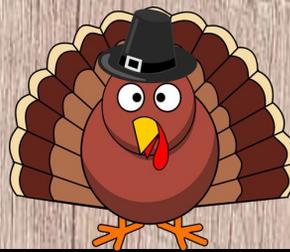
## Learning & Growing...

The kindergarten children will continue their phonemic awareness study of letters and sounds this month. The boys and girls will be actively involved in many shared reading experiences, handwriting, word study, and retelling activities where the letter sounds will be emphasized. Blending sounds, making, and reading short vowel words are some of the ways the children will utilize their vowel knowledge. They will also be encouraged to include vowels in their writing. Don't forget to review those sight words at home, too!

In science, we will be working hard and learning a lot about trees and weather. We will continue to participate in many investigations such as observing trees at home using our five senses, comparing trees and leaves for similarities and differences, communicating our observations verbally and with drawings and labeling with a word or two. Our little scientists will also be observing and comparing weather by using their senses and tools, recording weather observations using pictures and words. We have some very active little kindergarten scientists!

In math, the kindergarteners will be building counting skills with numbers up to 10, learning to compare within 10 and will be sorting and counting objects by attributes such as color, shape, size and weight.

Children will be learning about pumpkins, turkeys, Native Americans and Pilgrims. We will be very busy in kindergarten this November!



# First Grade



## Reminders

Students should continue to practice his/her snap words weekly!

There will be no school on the following dates:  
November 4th  
November 5th  
November 25th  
November 26th

## Character Corner

One way our class has connected is by identifying and expressing an array of feelings. We have been closely paying attention to the feelings of story characters and acting them out.



## Learning & Growing...

Our first graders have kicked off this year in an extremely positive way! We have made new friends, renewed old friendships, and come together as new classroom communities.

In Writer's Workshop, we are finishing our *Small Moments* unit of study and moving into *How-To Books*. Students will be working on how to explicitly tell someone how to do something using organizational words such as *first, next, then, and last*. In Reader's Workshop, we are working on becoming avid readers by setting goals for reading and using strategies to tackle tricky words. In Phonics, we are learning how to spell words by stretching out the sounds that we hear.

In Math, we are working in Unit 1. This unit extends children's understanding of adding and subtracting within 10. At home, you are encouraged to practice these skills using your child's i-Ready account.

Our Social Studies unit focused on communities, citizenship, laws, and rules. The children have been learning about laws and rules as they apply them at school and in the community. This unit fits in very nicely with our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) program.

In Science, we are observing Sound and Light. In this unit, students will learn that sound comes from vibrating objects. They will explore volume and pitch. When they study light, students will work with sources and receivers. They will explore how to use sound and light devices to communicate information.



# Second Grade

## Reminders

No School:  
11/4, 11/5 and  
11/25, 11/26

Picture Retakes:  
11/17

## Learning & Growing...

Autumn greetings from Second Grade!

We have been very busy building our stamina and learning strategies to strengthen our reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension skills. As you read with your child at home, stop and ask him or her questions about the characters or plot. Remind your child to "chunk out" tricky words and to read smoothly with expression!

## Character Corner

Second graders show good character! This November we are talking about Gratitude. Students will learn how to show gratitude and identify different things they are grateful for. When your child demonstrates gratitude at home this month, have him or her color in a puzzle piece. Encourage your child to bring back his or her bucket at the end of the month.

Second graders will soon begin to explore nonfiction in both Readers and Writers Workshop. Students will be immersed in factual information and will learn how to glean important information, research topics and identify different characteristics of nonfiction books. By the end of the Writing unit, students will have researched and written an informational book.

Mathematicians have been busy learning various addition, subtraction and word problem-solving strategies. We will continue strengthening our math discourse skills using a variety of strategies to solve problems. Utilizing My Path on i-Ready and Reflex Math will also allow students extra practice.

Scientists continue their journey through our Pebbles, Sand and Silt unit. In social studies, students will learn about the roles and responsibilities of citizens and government. Also, students will practice map skills and learn about directionality and elements of a map.

# Third Grade

## Reminders

All students should bring charged Chromebooks and chargers to school each day.

\*Remember to bring a snack, water bottle and other school supplies each day.



## Learning & Growing...

The weather is getting cooler, but things are really heating up in third grade! Citizenship has been the third grade focus during social studies. We have learned about rights, responsibilities and ways to be a good citizen. After celebrating Constitution Day on September 17, each class created their own "Class Constitution" which established the framework of rules by which a positive learning environment is maintained within the classroom.

Moving on to math, students are using problem solving strategies such as equations, drawings and explanations to "express their thinking" and validate their answers with extended responses. Building multiplication and division fact fluency is also part of our lessons. Students will continue to practice with the goal of mastering the 0-10 facts by the middle of March. Many resources are in place within the classroom to help our students achieve this goal. At home, students are encouraged to regularly log onto their student accounts in Reflex Math.

Each day, the children are actively engaging in literacy. The beginning of our year focuses on building routines and stamina in both reading and writing. Students are independently reading and writing for longer periods of time. The writing genre for this marking period is Personal Narrative. The students are gathering ideas from their decorated writers' notebooks and from people and places in their lives that matter most to them.

## Character Corner

Our students are engaged in routine school-wide and daily classroom Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities such as Morning Meetings, Self-Reflections and Mindfulness Exercises.

Our theme for November is Gratitude and December is Patience.

Thank you for encouraging your child to demonstrate these positive character traits at home. By the end of each month, please encourage your child to complete his/her monthly bucket puzzle.

# Music



## WHS Music Staff

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

## Learning & Growing...

Dear Families,

We have had the most amazing start to the school year in the Music Room! Students have been singing, playing instruments, learning about rhythms and even taking a virtual field trip to hear Sonia de los Santos and the Okie Dokie Brothers perform at the Poway Center for the Performing Arts! This bilingual performance for Hispanic Heritage Month included songs from across North America and celebrated the collective power and joy of singing together!

## Character Corner

“It is the sum of our small, everyday choices that defines who we are.”



Somos Amigos:  
Songs on  
Common Ground  
Sept. 1 – Oct. 30, 2021

POWAY  
ONSTAGE

Virtual Field Trip

Looking ahead, students and teachers alike are excitedly counting down the days until December and the arrival of our special guest, “The Nutcracker”! He will bring with him the magical sounds of Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s famous ballet, a holiday classic!

Sincerely, Mrs. Levesque and Ms. Richter

# Art

## Reminders

Please send your child in to school with a smock or old shirt for painting in art class!

## Character Corner

We are grateful to be making beautiful artwork in the art classroom! Coming up in art, students will create artworks based on gratitude using less common art materials that they have access to at school.

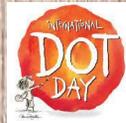
"Just make a **MARK** and see where it takes you."  
-The dot by YIP T. HUNG

## Learning & Growing...

WHS students celebrated International Dot Day in September by reading the book "The Dot", a story that illustrates growth mindset, perseverance, as well as the creative process and how art evolves. Students created their own dots to celebrate International Dot Day:

**Kindergarten:** Painted Primary Color Dots and Printmaking Rings  
**First Grade:** Texture Dots, Crayon, and Watercolor (Wax Resist)  
**Second Grade:** Concentric Balance Circles  
**Third Grade:** Large Concentric Circles

Students analyzed the artwork of Wassily Kandinsky and compared the elements of art within his work to their own.



In art, students have been working hard learning important technical skills and working with a variety of art materials.

**Kindergarten** students have been learning about primary and secondary colors and practicing fine motor skills such as safely using scissors and gluing. Students have created Rainbow Birds of Color and will soon be introduced to clay and color mixing.

**First Grade** students have been learning about value and space. Students drew pumpkins from life using observational skills and were introduced to watercolor colored pencils and chalk pastels.

**Second Grade** students have been learning about proportion and creating fall trees from a worm's eye view using the wax resist method.

**Third Grade** students have been creating beautiful fall landscapes with a concentration on space, filling the foreground, middleground and background with fall trees.

# Physical Education



## Reminders

Please make sure that your child has sneakers and comfortable clothing for PE! Also, please ensure that your child has a water bottle to bring with him/her to class.

## Character Corner

In PE class, we have been working on teamwork and how we show respect for ourselves, others, equipment and community by following our R.O.A.R.!

## Learning & Growing...

We have had an awesome start to the school year in P.E. We went over rules and expectations in the Gym. The students also learned about several designated places with the Gym such as our “home bases” and the Peace Corner.

Our first unit involved cooperative activities. Each class focused teamwork, cooperation, strategy and communication skills. We also introduced some “core” games that can be played throughout the course of the school year.

Our second unit was soccer, where we worked on a variety of skills such as foot dribbling, trapping, passing and shooting. We ended the month with a spooktacular Halloween Unit !

All of our units reinforce our spatial awareness skills along with basic motor skills such as skipping, galloping and hopping at the K-1 level. At the end of each class, we practice our mindfulness skills by having a “mindful minute” where we perform activities to bring ourselves back-to-calm before exiting the Gym. We will keep integrating different physical fitness components as we continue to grow as Cubs of Character!



# Library

## Reminders

Please help your children to remember to bring in their library books on their library day.

Thanks!

Mrs. Zanardi

vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us

## Character Corner

### Gratitude!

There is so much we can be grateful for ... and I am especially grateful for books and reading.

I was grateful to have the time to re-read my favorite book this Fall.

What is a favorite book that you feel grateful to read?

Send me a message with the title ...

## Learning & Growing...

This fall, **Grade 3** participated in the "Global Read Aloud" with students from schools in Vietnam and Virginia.

We read 6 books written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh. Over one million students from all over the world participated and read the same books at the same time.

### Highlights for the coming months...

Ask your **Kindergarteners** what a series is. They will respond, "More than one book about the same character." We are exploring many "Super Series" (we fly like Superman when we read one!) that are of interest to young children, to help inspire them to read more.

**Grade 1** will be comparing the content of Fiction books to Nonfiction books, as a prelude to a more in depth study of nonfiction text features in January.

**Grade 2** will be celebrating Thanksgiving as we read narrative nonfiction books on how this glorious food fest came to be!

It's coming, **Grade 3!** The wait is almost over. Soon the students will learn how to use the scanner to check out their own books. Woot woot!

Keep up the great reading! ...Mrs. Zanardi

# Computers



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Wendy Reardon  
[wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us)  
908-534-4411 ext. 133  
Tuesdays  
Wednesdays  
Fridays

Tiffany Barca  
[tbarca@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:tbarca@readington.k12.nj.us)  
908-534-4411 ext. 133  
Mondays

### Character Corner

Each month, one grade level completes a lesson showcasing our character education theme:

**In November, the first graders will be creating Gratitude turkeys.**



In the Computer Lab, we are back in the swing of things and chugging along, full steam ahead. Each grade started the year off with projects and activities designed to refresh and/or establish students' basic computer skills.

In **Kindergarten**, students learned how to use the mouse, touchpad and the touch screen computers. Students are mastering these skills by playing interactive games and activities on the computer.

**First graders** mastered logging onto their computers with their usernames and passwords. Students also learned how to navigate to our Google Classroom. Each student has had the opportunity to explore our Computer Lab Virtual Classroom.

We have also been practicing our mouse skills. Students have been clicking and dragging to design some fall decorations. We are also learning how to copy and paste.

In **second grade**, we started the year off by logging into our Google Classroom. Students created an avatar that looks like them. In November, we will be using this avatar when students learn how to use Google Slides to create a presentation about themselves.

Students in **third grade** also brushed up on their computer skills by logging into their Google Classroom. Students created an All About Us slide. This activity allowed each student to learn about their classmates' interests and likes.

Each class started the school's typing program. This program will help our students to become more efficient at typing. **The program is available for use at home.** The Typing Club program website is <https://readington.typingclub.com>. Students log in using their usernames and passwords. Please email me for assistance with this new program. Students will also be practicing during computer lab time.

Please visit the school website and go to the computer section under "classrooms" for age appropriate educational websites you can enjoy at home.

# Spanish

## Reminders

A great way to review and practice Spanish vocabulary is playing online games :)

Please visit the Spanish website for direct access to the links.

## Character Corner

We have learned how to say in Spanish:

Responsibility  
"Responsabilidad"  
and  
Friendliness  
"Amistad"

Up next:  
Gratitude

## Learning & Growing...

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful start we had this year!

Kindergartners are learning colors, numbers (up to 10) their names and how to greet someone in Spanish. Each student can follow simple commands in Spanish and they love the book *Oso Pardo, Oso Pardo (Brown Bear, Brown Bear)* by Eric Carle.

First graders have studied numbers up to thirty, colors, the days of the week and how to follow basic commands in Spanish. Students are also learning the Spanish words for the different types of weather. Each class was exposed to vocabulary related to our Halloween project..

The second graders are learning about aspects of the calendar in detail (how to state the date, season and weather.) In addition, they are exploring the words for different types of clothing, which they are going to connect with colors and weather.

The third graders are describing what they have in their backpack, both orally and written.

Second and third graders experienced the Mexican Holiday, "El Día de los Muertos" (The Day of the Dead) by reading a book and watching a video.

Saludos,  
Señora de los Santos

# Speech and Language Therapy Services

## Reminders

My WHS web page can be accessed through the Whitehouse School homepage. Click on "Speech" under the Our School tab.

## Character Corner

To encourage confidence and an awareness of their strengths, students pull a card from the speech room's motivation deck at the beginning of each session. Students improve their positive "self-talk" skills as they increase their vocabulary, one session at a time.

## Learning & Growing...

**Our WHS students are enhancing their communication skills! Speech and language therapy services are provided to our students who benefit from increased exposure to activities designed to expand their expressive and receptive communication skills. Such skills may include articulation, voice, fluency of speech, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, auditory processing, and/or social skills.**

