



# Whitehouse School News

## Governor's Educators of the Year!

Please join us as we celebrate our  
WHS Governor's Educators of the Year:  
~ Mrs. Kristy Pieloch & Mrs. Katie Lynch ~



They were celebrated during a *Walk-of-Honor*.  
The following teachers were also nominated for this  
prestigious award:

*Deanna Schwaiger*  
*Melissa Truempy*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !!!**

# 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

### POSITIVE LANGUAGE ALTERNATIVES

- Calm down. → How can I help you?
- Stop crying. → I can see this is hard for you.
- You're ok. → Are you ok?
- Be quiet. → Can you use a softer voice?
- Don't hit. → Please be gentle.
- Stop yelling. → Take a deep breath, then tell me what happened.
- Don't get upset. → It's ok to feel sad.
- That's enough. → Do you need a hug?



3 things you are in control of:  
 your response to your feelings  
 what you hold onto  
 what you let go

- Dhiman

## Learning & Growing...

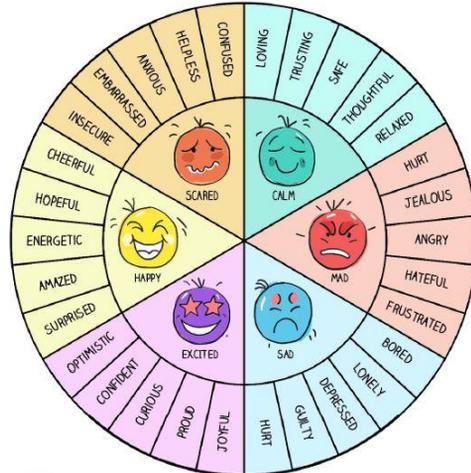
For many of us, the start of a new year is full of hope and excitement that the next 365 days will bring about health, positive changes, and achieving our goals. For this year, like last year, this optimism is at contrast with the unprecedented challenges we continue to face. In talking with many students and families, fatigue is setting in and it is becoming more difficult for many students to manage their internal worlds (thoughts and feelings) while the external world is constantly changing. The good news is that an antidote to this fatigue can be found in [emotional self-awareness](#) by accurately identifying and labeling feelings. Researchers have identified 6 basic emotions hardwired into the human brain that have been observed around the world and across cultures. While humans are capable of many more complex emotions, some of which are culturally bound, identifying and labeling basic emotions can provide a starting point for making positive, healthy solutions. I will frequently say to students, emotions are never wrong, but the choices/behaviors we make with how we respond to our emotions is where problems can arise. Children's emotional brains and their understanding of their emotions are still very much under development. They continue to need adult assistance in processing their daily feelings and modeling healthy emotional responses. Below is a Link to Wheel of Emotions to help parents and families support their student in identifying emotions and increasing student emotional vocabulary. Once the emotion is identified, the next link is to a grouping of six different strategies to encourage healthy coping skills, especially for big emotions. Lastly, there is an article from Child Mind Institute with additional information may be helpful to parents.

[My Wheel of Emotions Strategies to Help Kids Calm Down How to Help Children Calm Down](#)

May your new year be full of calm and joy!

Mr. Smith

## My Wheel of Emotions



# Nurse



## Reminders

**As I am tracking illness and absences closely, please remember to call the attendance line each day your child is absent.**

**Please send in updated immunization records for your child.**

**Please ensure your child has a jacket, hat and gloves during these winter months.**

## Character Corner

**Fairness** doesn't mean giving every child the same thing, it means giving every child what they need.  
-Ricky Lavoie

## Learning & Growing...

**Happy New Year!** Staying healthy and strong are the most important actions these winter days.

Please remember these important lifestyle choices to keep you and your family healthy and to help reduce the likelihood of illness:

Eat more fruit, vegetables and legumes

Sleep 10-12 hours every night

Drink water

Plan down time to relax and unwind

There are many vaccination clinics available throughout Hunterdon County. Click on this link to connect to the county's page, <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Coronavirus/clinics.html>

Please remember to send a copy of your child's vaccination card so their immunization records can be updated.

Try to get vitamin D during these shorter days. Remember to bundle up with any of the following items:

Jacket, hat, gloves, mittens, ear warmers or muffs!



# Kindergarten



## Reminders

Please remember that we will try to go outside for recess each day. This is a time to run and play and have a mask break, 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 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. 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 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 *Henry Huggins* in class. We are studying how the author, Beverly Cleary, developed the characters in the story. The children will have the opportunity to create a *Henry Huggins* themed activity.

# Second Grade



## Reminders

Even in the winter months, we will have outdoor recess whenever possible. Please make sure your child is dressed comfortably for outdoor play.



## Character Corner

January is Fairness month. Please encourage your child to color in a puzzle piece each time he or she demonstrates fairness and facilitate conversations at home. We will be using a variety of read-alouds and activities in our classrooms to exemplify fairness this month.

## Learning & Growing...

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

In math, we continue adding and subtracting double-digit numbers using various strategies. We also will learn how to identify and count coins and learn how to tell time.

This is a great opportunity for you to give your child a handful of coins to sort and count (and maybe even allow them to keep what they count correctly) and to review the hour and minute hands of a clock and counting by fives. Students will be more successful learning these skills with repeated practice and reinforcement at home.

Our reading unit is Fables, Folktales and Fairy Tales and students will be journeying through magical kingdoms with fantastical characters who often learn a lesson at the end of a quest. Students will identify patterns and characteristics within each of these genres and learn about the various types of characters, settings, problems, solutions and lessons learned.

In Writer's Workshop, students will formulate opinions about books they are reading and learn how to share those opinions by writing book review letters. Later in the unit, we will transfer what we learn about writing book reviews into writing restaurant reviews, as well.

Scientists will be learning all about matter in our new science unit, Solids and Liquids. We will perform a variety of experiments and investigations and compare and contrast the different states of matter. Additionally, we will learn how and why some objects can change their state.

We are excited to be reading two of Beverly Cleary's books, *Henry Huggins* and *Ribsy* for our thematic unit!

# Third Grade



## Reminders

\*Jan. 7th-Elvis' birthday/Hawaiian Day!

\*Jan. 17th-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 throughout the 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 *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary. This was the first novel that Beverly Cleary ever wrote!

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!

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](mailto: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, 2022**. 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, 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/WHSfabfeb22>

# Music



## WHS Music Staff

Mrs. Laurie Levesque  
[Levesque@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:Levesque@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

## 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!

As winter progresses, students will be making a lot of music about animals. From bears to dogs, groundhogs to kangaroos -

a "Musical Menagerie" is headed our way! Please encourage your child to tell you about what we did in Music class each week!

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

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

January is **Fairness** Month at Whitehouse School!

Bucket - Fillers have a flair for being **Fair!**

## Learning & Growing...

In art, during the month of December, students in kindergarten through third grade participated in "Patience for Patients". Each student created a snowman painting for children in the hospital. Students learned new painting techniques such as flecking/splattering and honed fine motor skills by painting the detailed snowmen. The paintings were brought to Hunterdon Medical Center and are bringing joy to both the children, and to the halls, of the children's hospital wing.

Creativity is messy, and we are very creative! Students in grades 1-3 continue to practice being responsible artists by respecting art materials and working together to keep their art making space clean. Kindergarten students will soon be introduced to art room clean up procedures, such as washing paint brushes, and drying tables.



All students in art will further explore new art materials such as charcoal, clay, mixed media art, as well as try new art making methods such as printmaking this winter.

# Physical Education



## Reminders

### Emails:

Mr. Abney  
[aabney@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:aabney@readington.k12.nj.us)

Mr. Lillia  
[alillia@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:alillia@readington.k12.nj.us)

Don't forget to wear sneakers!



## Character Corner

Students have been reminded of the importance of the word of the month for December, which is patience, and how that applies to PE! Students have also been reminded to continue to show good sportsmanship and be kind to others!

## Learning & Growing...

### Hello WHS Families and Greetings from the Gym!

All WHS students got to interact with Pinky and Peggy who came (all the way from Florida) for a special visit! These are our pink omnikin balls. We played all sorts of fun games focusing on our overhand throwing, underhand rolling and dodging skills.

Additionally, all WHS students participated in our Disco Bowling unit at our very own "Cub Lanes". The gym was decorated with colorful lights to divide the six bowling lanes. Students also got a chance to not only bowl, but also to help set up pins and collect the ball as well as use their math skills to keep score.

Before winter break, students have enjoyed our Winter Wonderland unit which involved winter-themed activities.

We will kick off the New Year by working hard and having lots of fun during our fitness unit!



# Computer



## 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



All computer classes celebrated *Computer Science Week* (Dec. 6–10). The 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](http://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. This month, students will be introduced to the *Bee Bots*, programmable bee robots that help reinforce coding skills.

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 continue to practice how to copy and paste objects to create snowmen in the Computer Lab. Now, we will also be practicing our typing skills, writing about our snowmen at night. First grade students will also be using the *Bee Bots* to reinforce their computer programming skills.

In second grade, students continue to complete many of their assignments in *Google Classroom*. Students will also be mastering their *Google Docs* skills by creating snowmen and writing a short story about them. The children will also be introduced to *Google Slides* this month.

Each week, every third grader spends 10-15 minutes on *Typing Club*, a practice program, in class to enhance their 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. Please visit the following website to access your child's account:  
<https://readington.typingclub.com/>



## Character Corner

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

### Fairness



# Spanish



## Reminders

## Learning & Growing...

Please visit the World Language website to practice Spanish

<https://www.rea.dington.k12.nj.us/domain/260>



¡Feliz Año Nuevo! I hope everyone had a restful winter break.

Kindergarten students have been learning everyday greetings in Spanish. They can count up to twenty and say all the colors of the rainbow. All students love to listen our Spanish songs.

## Character Corner

**December:**  
**Patience**  
**"Paciente"**



**January:**  
**Fairness**  
**"Justicia"**

First graders are able to count up to 50 (with a little assistance) and they are able to identify the parts of the face. They have enjoyed learning some songs about the face and body parts.

Second graders have been studying clothing. They are able to describe in Spanish what they and their classmates are wearing.

Third graders are practicing the verb "Tener" (to have) while they learn the Spanish words for the items in their backpacks.

Un cordial saludo,

Señora de los Santos

