

# Whitehouse News

March 2022

Learning & Growing Together...

Dear WHS Families,

We certainly look forward to having more activities as we begin to “open up” schools in the coming weeks. Here is a peek at some of the things we are doing or have planned:

*February* - The Rutgers Master Gardeners are back and are here teaching grade-specific lessons to students that link science curriculum to our school-wide garden project!

Currently, as we do each year at WHS, we are engaged in a school-wide thematic unit. All teachers are reading the same novels to the children and we are linking learning, as well as connecting fun service projects to that work. This year, the book is about a boy, Henry Huggins, and his dog, Ribsy, so we are coordinating a fundraiser to benefit The Seeing Eye organization and our Book Fair.

*March 1* - The fundraiser begins! All month long, students from each homeroom will be collecting money ~ Pennies for Puppies/Dollars for Dogs/Bills for Books. The teacher of the winning class will do a Teacher/Principal Swap with me one afternoon in April.

*March 2* - Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! To celebrate *Read Across America Day*, the whole school will participate in D-E-A-R (Drop Everything And Read) Time at 2p.m.

*March 3*- The Seeing Eye organization members will visit with their dogs, and the handlers will give personalized classroom presentations to students.

*April*- the *Grade 3 Drama Club* will perform the original musical that they have been practicing after school on our Henry Huggins theme. In addition, the Book Fair & Family Night will take place.

*May* - *Spring Concerts* will be here!

*June* - *Field Day* and the *Grade 3 Send-Off* will occur!

In addition, we have re-instituted "in person" field trips. This should be a fantastic Spring as we remain hopeful that we can return to normalcy in schools!

Warmly,  
Dr. Ann T. DeRosa  
Principal

# Counseling News



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

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

Early Dismissal:  
3/10 and 3/11  
(Conferences)

No school: 3/21  
(In-service Day)

### Character Corner

Feel the feeling but don't become the emotion. Witness it. Allow it. Release it.

-Crystal Andrus



The way we talk to our children becomes their inner voice

Peggy O'Hara

WHS students have put their SEL skills to the test and hit the ground running in 2022! In alignment with our last newsletter about the importance of emotion recognition, Mr. Smith provided lessons to all K-3 classrooms on emotional awareness and identification throughout January. K & 1st grade students used color to express their emotions while 2nd & 3rd grade students took it a step further using their words to express themselves.

In addition, WHS is piloting the Little Aevium (Latin for "I've got your back") wellness curriculum with 2nd grade students. These lessons expand on identifying one's emotions as well as identifying emotions in others, changing one's perspective, empathy, and how to help someone who may be going through a difficult time.

As previously mentioned, emotional identification is a critical building block for emotional regulation, inter- and intra-personal conflict resolution, resiliency, and overall well-being. With COVID-19 numbers falling, students (and adults!) are likely to have greater mental space to process what has transpired over the last two years, if they have not already started. Difficult emotions have and may continue to emerge as a part of this processing and it is important to allow students (and yourself) a safe place to work through these feelings. Everyone processes stressful events differently, from not affected to an intense fight, flight, or freeze response. No matter how your student has perceived the last two years, processing emotions, versus blocking/suppressing emotions, is likely to lead to greater healing and growth.

Below is a link to a thorough article on how to support and develop emotional regulation in children, as well as what to do if your child is experiencing dysregulation. The second link is about conflict resolution, however; much of the step-by-step process and tips can apply to inter- as well as intra-personal conflict. The last link is another set of coping skills that can be done at home!

[How Parents Can Support Emotional Regulation for Kids and Teens](#)  
[Teach Kids Conflict Resolution](#)  
[Coping Skill Activities](#)

# Nurse



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Remember to send your child with a jacket. The weather is getting warmer, but recess time can still be chilly.



As the weather changes and we head towards Spring, seasonal allergies will begin...

Try to stay ahead of the symptoms and help your child by addressing them before they become uncomfortable.

The clocks will be springing forward...help your child stay focused at school by ensuring they are getting an adequate amount of sleep each night..



### Character Corner

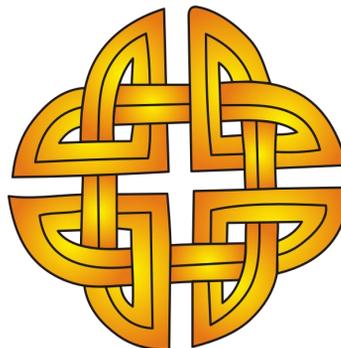


*Trustworthiness is our character trait in March!*



There are some amazing seasonal vegetables that are going to be ready for Spring...

Artichokes, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cauliflower, leeks, lettuce, mushrooms, parsnips, radishes, rutabagas, and turnips.



# Speech & Language Therapy

## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Sign up for parent/teacher conferences! You may schedule a conference with me or request that I join a scheduled conference.

Remember...make communication natural and fun while you practice turn-taking with your child in play, reading, and during conversations. The reward for your patience will be improved language skills, cognitive abilities, and academic success.

Try this at home! Give your child 2-3 things to remember before you go to the store. Have them visualize the items and then recall them. Visualization is picturing objects/events in our minds to help us remember details and facts.

### Character Corner

Trustworthiness is the character trait of the month at WHS!



Did you know? Freesia is a flower that symbolizes trust.

### Books to enjoy this month:

*Goodbye Winter, Hello Spring*

*Too Many Carrots*

*How to Catch a Leprechaun*

*There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Clover*



# Kindergarten



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Parent teacher conferences will be held on March 10th and 11th. Keep an eye out for the sign up through Genesis. Also, those days will both be early dismissal days for students.

### 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 skills in literacy are in full bloom. Student confidence has developed and the children 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!

Kindergartners 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!



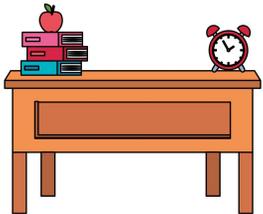
# First Grade



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Please remember to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences.



### Character Corner

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



In February, our first grade authors continued to create realistic fiction writing pieces. They created their own fictional character and authored a book series. This month, our first graders 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! This month, our first grade readers will begin 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.

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 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:  
3/10 and 3/11  
(Conferences)

No school: 3/21  
(In-service Day)

Winter might last just a little bit longer, but second graders' skills are becoming so much stronger!

Last month, all second grade classes enjoyed reading Beverly Cleary's beloved novels, *Henry Huggins* and *Ribsy*. Each student completed a book review of *Henry Huggins*, as well as a character sketch of the main character, Henry.

In Writer's Workshop, our young authors have become immersed in our poetry unit. Students are learning how to see things "through a poet's eyes" and are studying how poets incorporate elements such as rhyme, rhythm, pattern and mood into their poems. We also will be learning about specific types of poems, such as acrostic, cinquain and haiku.

Second grade readers have been improving their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills in Reader's Workshop by reading longer chapter books. Readers are encouraged to self-assess and set goals as they read each day. We also have begun our Word Builders unit in Phonics, which focuses on building longer, more complex words syllable-by-syllable using vowels and vowel patterns.

Mathematicians continue adding and subtracting three-digit numbers in math class. In the next few weeks, we will begin our unit on measurement. Keep practicing math facts and strengthening automaticity with Reflex Math! You also can continue allowing your child to count loose change and identifying coins to keep those skills sharp.

Our Scientists continue to investigate solids and liquids and are doing a great job recording 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!

### 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.

# Third Grade



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

March 10, and 11:  
Early Dismissal  
Conferences

March 17: St.  
Patrick's Day

March 21:  
No School for  
Students -  
Teacher  
In-Service Day

### 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 on  
his/her  
trustworthy  
behavior  
choices!

Students and teachers have been enjoying this year's thematic unit as we celebrate the novels, *Henry Huggins* and *Ribsy*. Classes have been reading the books and having fun as we imagined all the adventures that Henry, Ribsy and the children on Klikitat Street experienced. We are crafting related projects that complement our SEL and Literacy Curricula. Third graders believe Beverly Cleary was an amazing author and the students cannot wait to continue reading her books after our thematic unit is complete.

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 theme in reading revolves 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 are working 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!

# Music



WHS  
Music Staff

## Learning & Growing...

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(908) 534-4411  
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ext. 2016



MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH®

Did you know that March is National Music in Our Schools Month? This year's theme is "Music - The Sound of My Heart". We strive to touch the hearts and minds of students in our Music Room each and every day here at Whitehouse School. We hope your children leave class each week feeling like Music has an important place in their lives!

This marking period, we are connecting our musical studies to many other special topics such as, The Olympics, Black History Month, Dr. Seuss' birthday and our school-wide thematic unit about the novels *Henry Huggins* and *Ribsy*.

Although Spring may seem far off, we will soon begin to prepare songs to share with you at our annual Spring Concerts. Please mark your calendars with the following dates:

Thursday, May 26 (rain date Wednesday, June 1)  
Kindergarten - 9:00 AM  
Grade 1 - 1:00 PM  
Grade 2 - 10:00 AM  
Grade 3 - 2:00 PM

We look forward to seeing you in the audience! Please check the weekly Genesis blasts for more information as we get closer to concert day.

### Character Corner

"You have  
BRAINS  
in your HEAD.  
You have  
FEET  
in your SHOES.  
You can  
STEER  
yourself  
any  
DIRECTION  
you  
CHOOSE!!!  
-Dr. Seuss



# Art



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

The Young Artists Showcase at the Hunterdon Art Museum opening date is Saturday, April 2, 2022.

Selected student artwork from Whitehouse School student artists will be exhibited.

### Character Corner

Students in art are encouraged to **TRUST** in themselves, in their ability to learn, and in their ability to imagine and create!



ART IS A PLACE FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN TO TRUST their ideas. THEMSELVES, AND TO EXPLORE WHAT IS POSSIBLE. —MARYANN F. KOHL

Art students have been experimenting with new materials and techniques. They will continue their exploration and create Spring theme

Second and third grade students learned how to use the watercolor resist method. Third grade students built on their knowledge of landscapes by creating sleepy foxes with detailed surroundings. Students are currently taking on the role of being an illustrator and are creating illustrations of Henry Huggins and Ribsby.

First grade students have explored three-dimensional art by creating colorful clay owls and paper line sculptures using various folding and rolling methods.

Kindergarten students have been working on making proportionate self-portraits with details that show their uniqueness!

Kristen Halozan  
[khalozan@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:khalozan@readington.k12.nj.us)

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

# Physical Education



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Please remember to wear sneakers on P.E. days.

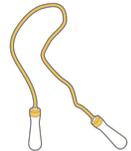


### Character Corner

Students were great **Cubs of Character** during our Jump Rope Ninjas activity and did such a great job counting for their partners.



### *This month in PE!*



In January, students participated in fitness stations which were loads of fun!

Each class practiced their jump rope skills such as the double bounce, the jogger and the hop. Additionally, all students participated in the Jump Rope Ninjas challenge! Kindergarten and first graders were able to earn different colored belts based on the amount of jumps they could complete. Second and third graders earned belts based on how many different jump rope skills they could do consecutively.

In February, students participated in our Winter Olympic stations! Stations included curling, speed/figure skating, the luge and the bobsled. Students honed their basketball skills for the rest of the month!

**Coming soon....** Safety Town! The Whitehouse gym will soon be turned into a mini town which will help students learn about walking and bike safety while having lots of fun!

# Library



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Please help your student to remember to bring back library books. Thanks!

Valerie Zanardi  
WHS Librarian  
[vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us)

### Character Corner

Thank you to all the **TRUSTWORTHY** students who submitted minutes during the **FABULOUS FEBRUARY** Reading Incentive Program!

## Hunterdon County Librarians Association Enthusiastic Readers 2022

*The following students were nominated by staff members to represent Whitehouse School in recognition of their enthusiasm for reading.  
Congratulations!*

Jack Bakerman  
Mili Balaji  
Hannah Baldassano  
Sienna Brooks  
Jayden Chen  
Xiao Cobb  
Xun Cobb  
Nicholas Darling  
Cora DePinto  
Natalie Dustin  
Isabella Garrido-Diaz  
Maelyn Gawlowski  
Macklin Gutowski  
Declan Kablis  
Jonah Kairawala  
Ava Larrea  
Sawyer Lepinski  
Sarah Mansour  
Abbey Measel  
Wade Merson  
Preston Mest  
Naevia Mora Corrales

Maeva Morgan Allen  
Emerson Myers  
Britney Nieto  
Moyosore Ogunmefun  
Clark Panas  
Maxwell Perper  
Michael Primamore  
Elizabeth Regan  
Jiovani Ritter Manigo  
John Rodriguez  
Jason Roscher  
Ella Schott  
Declan Schwartz  
Lucinda Shaw  
Madeleine Shaw  
Maribela Smith  
Harrison Strelko  
Samantha Szymonowicz  
Becky Urbanowicz  
Caroline Wieben  
Charlotte Willigan

# Computers



## Learning & Growing...

### Reminders

Tiffany Barca  
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908-534-4411 ext. 133  
Mondays

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



### Character Corner

Students will be adopting virtual pets in the computer lab. Each child will fill out an adoption interest form.

Their pet will be delivered to them through their Google Classroom.

Students will need to take care of their pet during the month of March & April to receive a special prize at the end.

Henry Huggins and Ribsby will be proud.

Kindergartners continue to make amazing progress in the Computer Lab. Students have learned how to log into their computer on their own and navigate to their Google Classroom.

First graders learned how to use Google Slides and created a slideshow about their favorite animal. Check out their Google Classroom to view these amazing class videos. Students will use Google Slides to create a *Guess Who? Game*. They will guess their classmates from the provided clues.

Second graders are continuing to use Google Classroom for all of their in-class projects. Each class used knowledge of *Google Slides* to create a slideshow about themselves.

Third grade students have applied their foundation in computer skills to larger research projects. Students completed research on Martin Luther King Jr. Each student created a slideshow showcasing one fact. Students will use these research skills to learn about different cultures around the world.

Every third grade class spends 10-15 minutes on *Typing Club* 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 this website. <https://readington.typingclub.com/>

Next month, all classes will create an Earth Day poster focusing on Climate Change. Videos will be posted on the school website.



# Spanish



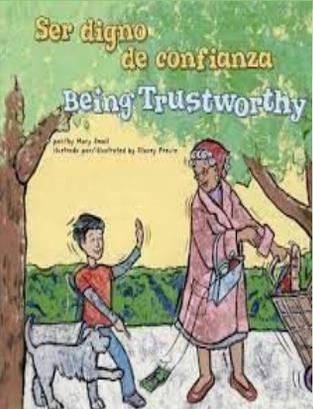
## Learning & Growing...

### 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

### Trustworthiness



### Digno de confianza

Dear Parents,

Students have spent the winter reviewing vocabulary and asking basic questions. They have made tremendous progress with their Spanish as they have increased their vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and knowledge in Spanish by engaging in written and oral exercises.

Kindergartners have learned basic shapes. They can describe the color of the shapes using the correct sentence structure in Spanish.

First graders have focused on learning the body parts. Students created "Mi Monstruo" (My Monster) and can describe the amount of body parts that their monster has to the class.

Second grade has been working on clothing vocabulary, and they have connected it with colors, weather and seasons. Second graders are able to describe what they and their classmates are wearing with details.

Third graders are mastering classroom and school supply vocabulary. Also, they have learned the Spanish alphabet and they are able to spell their name.

In addition, students have participated in a virtual tour to "El Alcázar de Segovia," a medieval castle in Segovia (Spain,) where the students have enjoyed visiting its rooms, armours exhibition, patios, gardens and the beautiful views.

Also, the students have virtually participated in the greatest annual parade of Spain celebrated at the beginning of January. Originally, the parade was in honor of the Three Kings, it has become a national tradition in Spain. It is a "Magical Night" for the children.

Saludos,  
Señora de los Santos

# School Wellness Week

March 7- 11 2022

**Monday: Take a mindful moment**

- Watch ["Take a Moment"](#)

**Tuesday: Take a moment for your mental health**

- Teachers are welcome to customize or create their own playlist.
- Play music in the morning or during lunch.

**Wednesday: Take a Moment to Connect with Others. You're not alone.**

- Be a bucket filler

**Thursday: Take a Moment for Your Emotional Health.**

- Students and staff may create positive messages around school using paper.

**Friday: Take a Moment to ask your child about bike/walking safety.**

- Students will explore Safety Town in P.E. classes this week.

Click [here](#) to watch a video and see what School Wellness Week is all about...