

# WHITEHOUSE NEWS

May 2017



HOME OF THE WHITEHOUSE CUBS

## WHITEHOUSE NEWS

**Mission Statement:** 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 and creating a love for learning.

*From the Principal...*

## *Game On! Map Madness Returns...*



Dear WHS Families,

Our annual school-wide initiative, which involves learning the states and/or capitals, is underway!

We are working on the following objectives:

- Kindergartners are identifying the 13 original colonies
- First graders are learning the 13 original colonies and 12 additional states (for a total of half of the states)
- Second graders are naming the 50 states
- Third graders are identifying the 50 states and their capitals

Between now and the end of the year, I will be challenging classes to "show me what they know" when I ask them to meet me on our outdoor map.

Warmly,

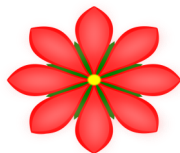
Ann T. DeRosa

### State Trivia: Firsts

1. This was the first state to ratify the United States Constitution. It did so on December 7, 1787.
2. The first American flag was made in this city and state.
3. This state has the highest population density with an average 1,030 people per square mile (13 times the national average).
4. This state was the first to require license plates on cars.

Answers: 1) Delaware 2) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 3) New Jersey 4) New York

# Nurse's News



It's Spring the season for sneezing!

With warmer weather seasonal allergies are about to begin. There are differences between colds and allergies. These are allergy symptoms:

- Repeated or chronic cold-like symptoms that last for more than 2 weeks.
- Symptoms that develop at the same time every year.
- Runny nose, nasal stuffiness, sneezing, throat clearing, nose rubbing,, sniffing, snorting, itchy eyes, runny eyes.
- Itchy throat or tingling in the throat & mouth is a classic indicator of an allergen.
- Recurrent red, itchy, dry skin.
- Dark circles under the eyes caused by nasal congestion.

You can help to control reactions to allergens. Avoidance of the suspected allergen is the best way to prevent a reaction. Other recommendations for minimizing exposure to environmental allergy causing substances include:

- Keep pets out of certain rooms, like your child's room.
- Remove carpets or rugs.
- Remove heavy drapes and other dust collecting items.
- Clean frequently.
- Keep windows closed when pollen is at its peak.
- Change clothing and wash face and hands after having been outdoors.
- Mow the lawn when children are inside or away from the home.
- Keep exhaust fans in working order in mold prone bathrooms,
- Keep bathrooms clean and dry.
- Wash face and hands after coming inside, leave outer jackets in garage turned inside out to prevent pollen entering the home.

If your child requires an antihistamine or other allergy medication while at school please send in the permission to dispense medication form signed by your child's physician available on my webpage with the medication.

Helpful websites for allergy information:

<http://www.pollen.com>

<http://www.keepkidshealthy.com>

<http://www.kidshealth.org>

<http://www.healthychildren.org>



## Overexposure to the Sun

With the warmer weather the children will be playing outside more. The sun can be damaging from UV rays. Every sunburn is damaging to the skin and can lead to adult malignant melanoma. Here are a few simple tips to protect yourself and your children:

- Limit sun exposure during 10am -4pm when the sun's rays are the strongest
- Wear protective clothing. Tightly woven loose fitting clothing, wrap around sunglasses & a wide brim hat work best.
- Use sunscreen SPF of 15+ : 20 minutes before going outside liberally & reapply every 2 hours and after sports & physical activity
- Notify your physician if fever, blistering, dizziness or visual problems accompany your sunburn
- Check the UV index @ [www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html) and be especially prudent of sun precautions if the UV index is moderate or above.

~ Maureen Sjonell RN



# Counselor's Corner



Riding the school bus is an extension of our school day. The bus ride should be a time to relax and converse with friends. Dr. DeRosa and I recently held R-E-S-P-E-C-T assemblies to remind all of our boys and girls of the rules for riding the bus:

- Get on and off the bus carefully.
- Buckle your seatbelt.
- Stay seated.
- Use inside voices on the bus.
- Follow the bus rules.
- Respect the bus driver and other students.
- Use the Kelso's Choice wheel to make good bus decisions.

Each bus rider at Whitehouse School signed a bus safety contract at the beginning of the school year. These contracts are proudly displayed in the main hallway of our school. Also, each week students have an opportunity to advance their yellow school bus on a chart in the café.



May is "Better Hearing and Speech Month." According to the American Speech and Hearing Association, approximately 46 million Americans suffer from some kind of speech, voice, and language or hearing impairment. It is hoped that awareness will be raised during this month. Hearing loss can happen at any age. Parents should always be alert to signs of hearing loss in their children. Take a close look at your child's ability to speak clearly. Learning to say all of the sounds correctly is a gradual process. May is a great month to remind children of the importance of using good speaking and listening skills.

Here are some tips on speech, language and hearing wellness:

- Talk naturally to your child; simplify your sentences and words, but do not use baby talk.
- Listen carefully and expand your child's language by using well-formed, slightly longer sentences.
- Help your child answer questions appropriately by asking who, what, when, where, why and how.
- Encourage your child to express his feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes and fears.
- Don't misuse your voice by shouting or using a pitch level that is too high or too low.
- Avoid extended periods of exposure to loud noise.
- Keep the volume down on CD's, radios and stereo systems.

~Marie Potenta





The May flowers are blooming! Our kindergarteners are growing into first graders. They've grown so much this year!

In writing workshop, our unit of study this month will be "I Am a Writer! Celebrating My Success"! This unit gives the girls and boys a chance to choose from and practice writing in a variety of forms. The children will be able to write to share an important event in their life, to teach, to argue, to persuade, or to write like scientists. Choosing what to write sets the children up to show all that they know about that type of writing and encourage independence. This will be a time for reflection and celebration of all that they have done and all the ways they have grown as writers.

Phonemic awareness activities for the remainder of the year will focus on the vowels and their two sounds. Study of the vowels will continue into first grade. Our kindergarten writers are getting really good at including vowels in their words, using spaces between their words, and using mostly lowercase letters. They really love writing!

In math, the children will continue to create addition and subtraction story problems, visualize and show teen numbers as ten ones and extra ones, and find the unknown partner when the total and one partner are known. They will count by ones and tens to 100, and compare length, height, weight, and capacity. The boys and girls will also be trying to achieve fluency adding and subtracting within five. Look for everyday experiences to reinforce these skills with your child. These real life connections make math more real for the children.

Our final science unit of the school year is "Animals 2x2". The children will be comparing and contrasting similar animals. They will study goldfish and guppies, earthworms and red worms, pill bugs, and sow bugs. These activities will teach us a lot about animals and we will also be fine tuning our observation skills. Kindergarten is a busy place!





# First Grade

*May flowers*

In writing, students are exploring their creativity by making realistic fiction stories. First, students create characters, imagine a setting, and think of many adventures his or her character could go on. Finally, students develop realistic problems and solutions to complete their stories. We will be focusing on making our books more exciting by bringing our characters to life. We will learn how to use voice, and to share the character's thoughts and feelings. At the end of the unit, students will have multiple books to create an awesome series!

In reading, first graders are studying different characters in their books. They are learning all about the characters' likes and dislikes, making inferences about the character's feelings, and learning about what they do and say. Moreover, students will be able to infer how and why the characters are feeling a certain way. We will also be practicing our fluency and changing our voices to bring the characters in our books to life. Children will be encouraged to develop a passion for reading fiction and realistic fiction stories and can recommend favorite books to others.

In math, children will use what they know about sorting and classifying to sort and display data. They will compare various numbers and develop comparison statements for these specific numbers. In addition, students will use comparison bars to represent problems and create a visual to show how the numbers correlate. We will focus on the terms such as, "more" and "fewer" when comparing different numbers.

Spring is the perfect time to learn all about weather! In science, we are studying air and weather through observations, investigations, reading and journaling. Students will acquire new vocabulary and become familiar with instruments that are used by meteorologists to monitor air and weather conditions.

Spring



Our second grade classrooms are blooming with all sorts of exciting activities and learning experiences! In Reader's Workshop, we have finished our unit about folk tales, fables and fairy tales. We learned about the different elements of each genre and have compared characters, settings, morals of the stories, and problems and solutions faced by the main characters. Throughout the month of May, we will revisit nonfiction and readers will learn how to describe the connection between a series of scientific ideas and will participate in shared research. In June, our studies will focus on celebrating all of our favorite genres, series and authors and poetry.

In Writer's Workshop, we wrapped up our "Edge of Your Seat" unit, which was very enjoyable for our young authors. The unit allowed us to expand upon our earlier unit of Small Moment writing and students were taught how to include elements of tension and suspense in their stories and focus on feelings and emotions. Our May unit immerses us in writing nonfiction science lab reports. In June, we will be writing about our reading and exploring poetry. We will be studying a wide variety of poets and poems, paying close attention to the differences between poems and stories. Students will be engaged in analytic reading of short texts and poems so that they can apply what they read to their own writing. Identifying repetition of sounds and patterns, figurative language, mood, and line breaks will be studied.

Our little scientists will become entomologists during our new unit on insects! We will learn about the different parts of insects and will be observing live insects in our classrooms. We will also spend some time working outside in the garden. Springtime is always fun in second grade!

Our math unit teaches students about telling time as well as reading and interpreting graphs. Continue to reinforce at home! Counting by fives and the ability to identify the hour hand and the minute hand are important skills for successful time-telling.

We are so proud of our hard-working second grade students!





Third graders were very busy writing non-fiction pieces in correlation with our school-wide thematic unit on the *Winnie the Pooh* book series. After reading *The House At Pooh Corner* by A.A. Milne, students brainstormed a list of animals from which the characters were based. Third graders then learned to research and create an informational project based on an animal from the list. Our upstairs hallway was transformed by the many fabulous research projects and writing pieces produced by our students.

With the onset of the beautiful spring weather, third grade students are being reminded of the importance of caring for their environment as they become more involved in our school garden. Our Master Gardeners are assisting the children by teaching them the proper use of gardening tools while caring for our WHS garden. They are learning the responsibility of maintaining the garden beds by ridding them of those pesky weeds! Classes are also watching the vegetables grow as we anticipate the fun of our Harvest Day and Salad Day Feast. Details regarding requests for parent volunteers for these amazing events will be coming soon!

As the year continues to fly by, we are working to prepare the children for the transition that they will make to Holland Brook School as fourth graders. Each class is pairing up with another third grade class from Three Bridges School. The students are writing pen pal letters as the first step towards getting to know one another. This is an attempt to provide the students with a chance to connect with another Readington third grader whom they may see next year in Holland Brook. Another highlight will be when we visit Holland Brook to meet some of the staff and tour the school. These activities will help to generate excitement about the coming year and address some of the questions students may have about going to fourth grade!





I can't believe spring break has passed and the weather has been really warming up nicely. All students created fantastic versions of Winnie-the-Pooh, Tigger, Piglet, and Eeyore for our interdisciplinary thematic unit. Wait until you see how colorful they came out. Everyone also took a break from their normal art projects to help our Spanish teacher Señora de los Santos celebrate Cinco de Mayo by creating some hot artwork!

Your kindergartners have been making nice progress with their portfolios. We're going to be learning about Vincent van Gogh's *Starry Night* and creating a camouflaged chameleon. Towards the end of the year, we will be watercolor painting the most beautiful colorful flowers. They have become quite the artists. I can't wait for you to see their self-portraits!

I'm so glad our first graders have finished their cardinals in the snow because that symbolizes spring has come! We have moved on to learning about Edgar Degas' ballerinas, as they create the most colorful skirts to accompany their drawings. Once these are done, we will move on to one of my all-time favorites: cherry blossoms in the sun. These beauties will look fantastic hanging in your home!

Our second graders are almost finished recreating Vincent van Gogh's 15 Sunflowers. They look amazing so far! Once they're finished, we will be trying a new drawing technique, where we'll be scratching hedgehogs out of special paper. As one of our last major projects, we will be creating a very bold looking hosta plant drawing.

The third grade rainforest birds are almost done! Wow, I hope you are as impressed with your child's talent as I am. These pieces look awesome! Frame-worthy. Next, we will be creating a 3D cupcake out of Model Magic, which will be a keeper of jewelry or whatever little treasures students would like to keep safe. This is a neat pottery project, as children will learn how to make a pinch pot and a coil pot all for one creation.

I hope you all continue to create drawings, paintings, and sculptures once school is out. Creativity should never end!

~ Dana Pierro







April Showers bring May Flowers! The computer lab is in full bloom. We are am amazed at how much the student's computer skills have grown throughout the year.

Kindergartners have made amazing progress in the Computer Lab. Each student has learned how to log on and navigate to the computer lab website, an essential skill that will be used throughout each student's career in Readington. Kindergartners have also utilized the Bee Bots to learn computer programming skills and coding, Students created a pattern book through the program *Microsoft PowerPoint*. Each class practiced their rhyming skills while being introduced to *Microsoft Word*. Check out your child's Earth Day drawing on the school's website.

First graders utilized the Bee Bots to continue learning programming skills and coding. Students navigated their Bee Bots to their favorite "Winnie The Pooh" characters celebrating our school wide thematic unit. Students have also joined our Computer Lab Google Classroom. We will be using Google Classroom for the remainder of year. Our first assignment in Google Classroom will celebrate Earth Day by creating a work of art utilizing Google Draw. These pictures will be displayed on the Computer Lab website.

Second graders learned how to use Google Slideshow through their Google Classroom. Students integrated their Spanish studies by creating a slideshow about their favorite foods and drinks. Each student's Google Slideshow included Clip Art, text, backgrounds and slide transitions. Each second grade class celebrated Earth Day using Google Draw to create an Earth Day themed drawing. These drawings will also be displayed on the school's website under the Computers tab.

Third graders were introduced to the program *Scratch*. Students created a simple Pong type game to bounce the ball off of an object. If you want to make computer games, *Scratch* is a great place to start. A game is a set of detailed instructions, or "program," followed by the computer. *Scratch* uses ready-made blocks that make building programs easily. Students have created their own *Scratch* accounts and can continue the fun at home. Each third grade class celebrated Earth Day using Google Draw to create an Earth Day themed drawing. These pictures will also be displayed on the school's website under the Computers tab.

**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/>**

Mrs. Wendy Reardon (Tues., Weds. & Friday Classes)

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Mrs. Tiffany Barca (Monday classes)

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## Music Newsletter – May 2017



**Spring Concert Dates:**  
Kindergarten: May 18, 2:15  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: May 18, 9:00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: May 18, 1:15  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: May 18, 10:20



**Students will be wearing their brand new Cubs of Character t-shirts,  
courtesy of Whitehouse School!  
Stay Tuned!**

The students of Whitehouse School are creating, reading, singing, moving, and playing instruments! Kindergarten is preparing for their Proud Day concert as well as learning comparatives in music, beat keeping, and practicing using their singing voices. Among many other things, each grade level has been working on learning and practicing new rhythmic concepts. First grade is practicing the quarter note, eighth note, and quarter rest. Second grade has added the sixteenth note, and half note and rest. Third grade has been working hard on the dotted half note, whole note, and eighth note-sixteenth note combinations. Students are also learning about composers, melodic reading, and musical vocabulary.

Mrs. Laurie Levesque  
Wednesday and Thursday classes  
[llevesque@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:llevesque@readington.k12.nj.us)  
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Mrs. Elissa Bowen  
Tuesday and Friday classes  
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823-0454 ext. 2016

# In the



## Physical Education doesn't skip a beat!

The third grade students participated in our Annual Cup Stacking Challenge. The children were extremely enthusiastic and competitive. Cup stacking offers a range of benefits including improving eye-hand coordination and ambidexterity. Another advantage of cup stacking includes using both sides of the brain. This year's winning class was Mrs. Swider's class! Mrs. Davies' class took the top spot when it came to sportsmanship. To view this year's champs and all the action visit the P.E. website!

In our physical education classes, students have been busy playing two games: Gold Rush and Busy Bees. These games promote both teamwork and good sportsmanship. They also presented the students with opportunities to work on April's monthly character trait of Honesty.



This year at Whitehouse School, we will continue implementing the program called The First Tee. This is a golf program that exposes the student to life skills and character education through the game of Golf. This program creates an environment where young students experience the lifelong sport of golf while learning basic golf motor skills and the inherent values of the game including health-enhancing habits. The First Tee Program has provided us with specially modified equipment allowing the students to learn two basic golf shots: putt and chip. Through the game of golf, students will be exposed to the values of sportsmanship, courtesy, respect, honesty, integrity and perseverance.

~Ms. Karen Kozal and Mr. Adam Lillia





**WHS is very fortunate to announce that John Bemelmans Marciano will once again visit our school!**

WHS students have an exciting opportunity coming on May 17th. Mr. Marciano, author of many of the books we studied for our thematic unit last year, will make an appearance at WHS once again. He just wrote a chapter book series, *The Witches of Benevento*, specifically aimed at our older students' reading level.

Mr. Marciano will stop in at the 2nd- and 3rd-grade lunches and then meet with the 1,000-Minute Readers from the Fabulous February Reading Incentive Program, as well as some 3rd graders who have been studying this new chapter series as part of a Book Club. In addition to answering questions, he will show the pre-publication format of forthcoming books #5-8 to get feedback from these dedicated readers.

If any 2nd & 3rd graders are interested in purchasing the author's books for autograph, please return the form on Genesis ASAP (due by May 3rd).

Questions? Please contact [vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:vzanardi@readington.k12.nj.us)







We are approaching the end of another successful academic year and like always, it has been a real pleasure teaching your children. I am delighted with all of the students' great effort and as a result, their confidence of speaking another language has grown.

During the last three months, Kindergarten has been practicing greetings, basic questions, commands, colors, numbers (0-30) days of the week and sizes. They have enjoyed playing multiple interactive games, singing in Spanish and reading the Spanish version of the book "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you See?" by Eric Carle.

First graders have been working very hard on the family members, pets and farm animals. They have had a blast creating their own farm and explaining their favorite animals to their peers.

Second grade has completed the food and drink unit by creating their own Google slide presentation about their favorite food and drink for each meal. They are very creative! In addition, second graders have been focusing on jobs connected with the family unit; what their family members are doing for a living. They have learned the verb "Trabajar" (to work) and the personal pronouns he and she.

Third grade has been working on the concept of time and the school subjects. They have created their own schedule and using the sentence structures of "what time is it?" And "what time do you have (school subject)?" Moreover, third graders have been busy learning to describe people. They have had fun guessing peers by describing themselves.

Like every year, we celebrate our Cinco de Mayo with a fiesta where we have enjoyed typical Mexican music, traditional games and la "Piñata." Also, the students have participated in some projects related to Cinco de Mayo.

In the upcoming weeks, kindergarten will focus on shapes and will connect them with sizes and colors.

First graders will learn about fruits, their fruit preferences and the use of the sentence structures of "I like and I do not like." They will also read the book "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" in Spanish to review the learned vocabulary.

Second graders will study the community, where they will match people with their jobs and places. In addition, they will study the parts of a house, create their dream house and describe it to their peers.

Third graders will concentrate on learning about their school environment: its places, people and directions.

To increase students' retention of the lessons learned and to continue to foster their excitement about Spanish, I suggest practicing the vocabulary at home. You can find the theme vocabularies and links in the World Language area of the Whitehouse School website.

Saludos,

Señora de los Santos

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