

Lately At Whately



FRONTIER REGIONAL AND UNION #38 SCHOOL DISTRICTS MISSION STATEMENT:

BUILDING DYNAMIC LEARNING COMMUNITIES, ONE STUDENT, ONE TEACHER, ONE FAMILY AT A TIME.

www.frsu38.org/wes

273 Long Plain Road

ph. 413-665-7826

fax. 413-665-0428

Dear Whately Families!

Students in grades 4-6 participated in a wonderful project in January. A representative of the King Arthur Flour Company came to WES for a bread baking demonstration. Students received the tools and ingredients to bake two loaves of bread at home. In the days that followed, students returned to school with one loaf of bread they had baked to be delivered to the Whately Senior Center. Representatives from each grade were chosen to make the delivery. This was a great opportunity for students to learn about baking while providing a service to the community.

Over the past couple of decades schools have begun to make community service a regular part of the curriculum. There are so many wonderful benefits of involving children in community service projects. They learn leadership, problem-solving, collaboration, time management, communication and empathy, just to name a few. The greatest benefit students get from working on a community service project is that they learn that the work they do can make a real impact on the world.

Like our Learn, Bake, Share project, many of these activities require some kind of input from families. I would like to thank the families of Whately Elementary School for supporting our students in their efforts to "give back" and supporting our efforts to prepare our students to be contributing members of a rapidly changing world.
Krissy Kirton



Whately Wolves Gear

The PTO has Whately Wolves gear available for sale in the display case in the front lobby. They have Adult sweatshirts (including ¼ zip grey), umbrellas, tote bags and children's T-shirts and sweatshirts. Please contact the PTO or stop in the office and we can assist you.

DATE REMINDERS...

January

Kindergarten Registration begins – see Mary
Pre School Registration begins - see Rhonda
665-1155



February

5School Committee Mtg at 8:00 a.m.
6100th Day
7Basketball team pictures in Cafe 5-8pm
8Science Night w/Hitchcock Center 5:45
11.....Tanglewood Marionettes 10:00 & 1:30
12.....PTO Meeting at 3:30
15.....Global Leaders to Soldiers Home
18 – 22**NO School** – Winter vacation
26Frontier Parent info night at 6:00*

March

3PTO Pancake Breakfast
12.....PTO Meeting at 6:30



SAVE THE DATE: 3/3 PTO Pancake Breakfast

6th Grade Parents

6th Grade Parents are invited to Frontier for a parent informational night on Tuesday, February 26th at 6:00.

Tanglewood Marionettes Monday 2/11

JOIN US for TANGLEWOOD MARIONETTES
Performances of
SLEEPING BEAUTY @ 10 am (PK – 3rd Grades)
PERSEUS & MEDUSA @ 1:30 pm
(4th – 6th Grades)

Family Dessert & Science Night!!

Where: Whately School Cafeteria
When: Friday, February 8th 5:45
Presented by the Hitchcock Center.
RSVP by Tuesday 2/5 – Mary 665-7826





Warming up for School



Interested in child development? Check out these 10 **Ted Talks** for parents; including talks on baby minds, language development, motivation, and embracing all kinds of minds.

<https://www.earlychildhoodeducationzone.com/best-ted-talks-for-parents/>

Visitors are always welcomed for lunch.

Please call the office before 10:00 the morning you are planning on eating lunch. Kathy needs to plan enough food for everyone. Adult meals are \$4.25.



News from the Health Office:

Our growth and development curriculum will begin in February with discussions about personal hygiene and self-care for 4th-6th graders - permission slips went home last week, please be sure to return them if you **DO NOT** wish for your child to participate, and please have your student sign the safety contract to help facilitate a respectful discussion.

Additionally, in February we'll be doing scoliosis screening for 5th and 6th graders - please be on the lookout for permission slips.

Hygiene Tips - Developing good personal hygiene routines and habits are important for every age to prevent illness and promote self-confidence. Here are some tips that are great to start teaching at a young age.

- Showering/bathing: every other day or every day to wash away dirt, oils and germs, maintain freshness and prevent infection, skin rashes, etc. If showering at a public facility consider wearing shower shoes. **remind children to wash behind ears, neck, between toes, etc.
- Handwashing: effectively prevents illness by minimizing the spreading of germs/bacteria.
- Washing hair: every day or every other day - remember to rinse!
- Good oral hygiene: brush twice a day for 2 minutes and floss once a day prevents dental diseases including cavities, gingivitis and bad breath.
- Changing clothes: clothes can get stained and dirty and when wet can attract bacteria,

Germ Farm



which causes a foul odor. Remind your kids to change their clothes often, especially underclothes - and their favorite sweatshirt!

- Preventing acne: encourage washing their face once or twice daily.
- Using deodorant and antiperspirants: sweat glands become more active around 8 years old and can cause body odor - when you start to notice this, it is time to start using deodorant on a daily basis (sometimes throughout the day!)
- **Healthy Sleep Routine:** we do not usually think of sleep as "hygiene", but getting adequate sleep helps keep us healthy too. Older kids need a consistent routine for bedtime just as much and sometimes more than younger kids do.



Nurse Esti



News from Preschool:

We would like to send a warm welcome to Sadie. She has just joined our class and is already an active participant. Sadie has two big brothers in the school: Carsten and Braden. Our kids are so welcoming and kind and I know they will continue to help her feel right at home here.

We are a couple of weeks into our study about woodland animals in the winter. We have discovered new animals such as the snowy owl, hedgehog, squirrels, and foxes. We learned from www.mysterydoug.com where bugs go in the winter (ask your child all about it). We have also expanded our vocabulary to include; hibernate, migrate, and adapt. Next week, we will have an animal house building challenge. What will the animals who stay here in the winter need in order to survive? We will try to figure it out.

We will be sending some information home about a Valentine's celebration in the Preschool classroom. We are making a plan with all of the kids to determine how we want to celebrate. It will likely be on a Wednesday since most of our kids will be here.

Preschool progress notes will be coming home next week. We send these out twice a year (as opposed to the three times in k-6). This tool serves to help us communicate about your child's progress in the classroom. However, it is just one tool of several. We invite you to set up a time to meet with us whenever you have a question or concern about your child. You will notice that emphasis is placed on Social-Emotional Development because it is the foundation for all learning that will happen in the future.

Thank you for sending in your child ready to play outdoors. We intend to get outside once a day



because we feel it is important to participate in nature. There may be days when we have to stay indoors (lots of ice, wind chill, and illnesses are all things we take into consideration). You are welcome and encouraged to leave a set of winter gear at school.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2019,
Chrissy Huntley

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News from Kindergarten...

Kindergarten has Literacy Time each morning. Children are working in a small group with the teacher or going to Literacy Areas, such as, Listening Center, Big Books, ABC area, Library, Write the Room, or Writing Area. We work in small reading groups at each child's "point of need". That means that each child is working at his or her own level, and all children feel excited and successful about their reading and writing. One skill we are working on is sounding out and blending small words, such as hat, dad, pig, mom, and cat. One way we practice is to hop out the sounds on alphabet carpet squares.

We also have Writing time every morning. The children have been writing personal narratives. They are doing a great job and love sharing their writing with their classmates at the end of writing time. Next month the children will learn to write "how-to" books (Writing to Teach Others) as part of our Information Writing Unit. This will be a big challenge for our young writers and I look forward to working with the children on this project.

In February, we have two special celebrations. We will celebrate the 100th day of school during the first week of February. We will have lots of ways to practice counting to 100 which is one of our Common Core Standards. Our next celebration is Valentine's Day and we will have a party and exchange valentines. Our focus for the week will be on a friendship theme. There are 16 children in our class and I will send home a class list, as we get closer to the date. If you would like to send in a healthy treat for our Valentine's Day party, please send me an email.

victoria.sittig@frsu38.org.

Kindergarten is having a Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive in February. We will be collecting, counting, and graphing how many of each we receive. At the end, I will deliver our collection to the Western Mass Food Bank in Hatfield.

Ms. Sittig



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NEWS FROM FIRST GRADE...

January has been an exciting time in First Grade! We have dug into a study of long vowel sounds. We have learned about Silent E, two vowels together, vowel combinations that make the same sound and consonant clusters. Students have practiced recognizing these spelling patterns in their independent and guided reading as well as applying them when writing.

In Reading, we are continuing to learn how to better understand a book and get a deeper meaning of it. We learned to infer or say, "I think..." which helps us figure out the meaning of words we don't know, make predictions, draw conclusions, find the big ideas of a text and create mental images or visualize. When we visualize we are bringing in our five senses: seeing, hearing, tasting, touching and smelling. In guided reading groups and literacy centers, students continue to build their skills in reading fluently, understanding and noticing details in what they read, recognizing sight words, and learning phonics principles.

In writing, we worked on reading and making poems in which we needed to infer what the poem was about. The students also created some silly poems with rhyme and repetition. The students have begun a new unit on composing informational or non-fiction pieces. We are becoming experts on a topic and sharing all that we know about it. We are using our non-fiction texts to help us learn more about the topics we write about. Some of these topics and texts are from Science and Social Studies.

In science, we have continued our study of sound, life cycles, animals, sun, moon, and other topics through our reading and writing lessons. As in science, we are also bringing our Social Studies topics into reading and writing. We are learning about National symbols, Martin Luther King Jr., the past and present, etc.. We are reading more about these non-fiction topics and writing all about books about them. In math, we are wrapping up our unit of study on addition and subtraction within 15. Students have worked with counting on and counting back, using number lines, drawing pictures, writing equations, solving word problems, and using number bonds to add and subtract numbers. We have studied fact families and learned how addition can be used to help solve subtraction problems and vice versa. We will continue to practice our addition and subtraction within 20 throughout the year in many ways. We started our new unit of place value, learning to understand that two digits of a number represent amounts of tens and ones. The students have already



been working on this concept all year with our daily calendar work.

Students continue to work hard and enjoy their learning both independently and with classmates! Keep up the great effort first graders!
Ms. Cowles



NEWS FROM SECOND GRADE...

January has been a very fun and exciting month in second grade! The students have been focusing on the genre of nonfiction in our reading and writing groups. We have read many nonfiction books, Science Spin articles, and Scholastic News articles. We are learning how to use graphic organizers to find the main idea of a paragraph or section, and have looked carefully at nonfiction text features (such as captions, headings, icons, glossaries, the index, body print, diagrams, maps, and charts).

As part of our writing workshop, the students are becoming experts at informational writing! We conducted an experiment by sending a car zooming down a homemade ramp on the carpet then on the tile floor to see which surface would allow the car to travel further. The students did a great job-making a hypothesis, recording their findings, developing theories, organizing further experiments, and writing lab reports just like real scientists! We also had a blast making slime. After each student made their own personal batch of slime, we wrote about how to make it while carefully including the correct sequence and important details.

The second graders have been dedicated to mastering their math facts! They have been adding and subtracting two and three digit numbers with and without regrouping.☺ I am so proud of how hard they are working to become experts at these strategies! We are also mastering our measuring skills as the students are practicing problem solving with length. Students have extended their understanding of a length unit while utilizing numerous tools (such as inch tiles, rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and meter tape).
Happy New Year,
Mrs. Kirkendall



News from Third Grade...

Happy 2019! I hope you were all able to spend some quality time with family and friends over the holiday break. I cannot believe we are already one month into the new calendar year and officially halfway through the school year. Speaking of which, the third graders wrote some New Year's Resolutions, to set goals for themselves for the next half of the school year. Many students truly took this to heart and came up with

some respectable goals to work on! We also wrote some beautiful Poems within a Poem that had a winter theme. Students got to choose a winter poem already written by another author. They highlighted 12-15 words from this poem and rearranged the words to create their own unique poem. The poems came out quite nicely and helped to remind us of winter, as we had not seen any real snow (until very recently) since November.

Currently, we are working on our first informational writing project. We are creating "How-to" posters that go along with an engineering and design challenge that we took on before the holiday break. This challenge included constructing tinfoil boats that held penny cargo, but also had a sail, like the Mayflower. We have all been quite focused on this project and the posters are coming out great!

Much of our literacy block this month included learning about the work of Dr. Martin Luther King. We read the books, A Taste of Colored Water and The Story of Ruby Bridges, and discussed some of the images from the book, Remember. These literary works were great learning tools to help us to really understand *segregation* and its damaging effects. We learned about Dr. King's granddaughter from *Scholastic News* and even analyzed his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Did you know that there is a line from The Declaration of Independence that is also in Dr. King's speech? This created some real curiosity amongst the third graders, so we took some time to analyze The Declaration of Independence, too.

In math, we concluded our addition and subtraction unit and are now revisiting multiplication, with a focus on the 6 through 12 tables. This unit includes 2-step word problems and finding the "unknown factor." All students have been given a complete set of flash cards to help them to learn their multiplication facts. I strongly encourage the use of these flash cards whenever possible. Ten minutes a day can go a long way!

We recently began a science unit on magnets. Students are truly enjoying the fun experiments that go along with this unit and discovering how useful magnets are in our everyday lives. Soon, we will be learning about the Colonial Period, the 13 Colonies, and the events leading up to the Revolutionary War.

As we continue to deal with unpredictable winter weather, I'd like to remind parents to please send in the necessary outerwear to keep their children warm and dry during outdoor play. We may not go outside every day, but at least students will be prepared for the elements if need be. Sending in an extra set of



clothes to keep at school is also a good idea (especially extra socks, pants, and undergarments). In addition, please don't forget to have your children wear sneakers for gym on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm THANK YOU to Megan Camp, Melanie Skroski, Diane Cassady, Holly Johnson, Bette Rabbitt, Charlotte Creque, Catherine Wolkowicz, Mrs. Gay, Ms. Clark, and all of the Sixth Graders for helping us with our Stuff-A-Bear Workshop in December. We made 60 bears and donated them to local shelters and organizations around Holyoke. Special thanks to Chrissy and Steve Huntley for helping with the distribution of the bears. It was great to have so many volunteers available to help us with this project!
Mrs. Kellogg



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NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE...

What fun we are having in 4th grade celebrating Halfway Day and doing the Division Dance! We are excited about our upcoming fundraiser at the annual Pancake Breakfast on March 3rd. Please be on the lookout for a notice about our basket raffle. See the weekly newsletter on the front of your child's Friday Folder for a more in depth look at all that is happening in 4th grade.

Mrs. Apanell



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NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE...

Hello Fifth Grade Families, Happy New Year! We are off to a busy start! Our January Read aloud was an intense, quick read, The Well, by Mildred D. Taylor. This book is set in the early 1900s. All the wells in their part of Mississippi have run dry, all except for the Logans'. The Logan family, generously allows white neighbors to come from miles around to collect water, even though they are treated with extreme disrespect. This book is filled with powerful messages about prejudice, racism, and the topic of morals, pride and bravery. It takes a mature reader to be able to handle this book, and the fifth grade class did a magnificent job!



Our December focus for Writing was learning about various literary devices in Poetry. Writing poetry is not an easy task, however, the students worked so hard, adding different literary elements to their poems. The students have enjoyed trying to add alliteration, onomatopoeia, rhyme patterns, and have enjoyed choosing the line length, number, stanza, and word and punctuation placement. The children should be so proud when they can look at an ordinary object in new ways, comparing it (using similes, metaphors, personification, hyperboles, and imagery) to another object or idea. In January, we practiced summary writing using videos and nonfiction articles. We are now starting our Literary Essay Unit. Ask your child about the Panyee Football Club and what thesis they have chosen for their essay!

In math, we have been learning how to name a decimal using word form, standard form, and expanded form, how to compare and order decimals, how to round decimals to a given place value, and have practiced how to multiply and divide decimals by powers of ten. We have also learned how to add and subtract decimals, and are starting to multiply and divide decimals, using a place value chart, as well as the standard algorithm.

In Science, we have been enjoying our unit on chemical reactions. We learned all about the alchemists, a historic group of people who experimented with "potions" that could transform materials. In one activity, the students tested whether different substances change the appearance of copper pennies. The fifth graders were also introduced to acids, and they tested several common household substances in order to identify which contain acids. Next, we learned that chemical reactions create new materials that have useful and interesting properties by trying to produce slime. Another fun STEM project was determining what happens when we trap "chaos" (gas) in a bag, by mixing and trapping baking soda and

Decimals

vinegar inside a baggy! The reactions from the students were priceless! Please check out the videos of this experiment on our Class Dojo. If you have not yet signed up for our Class Dojo, please contact me so I can help you! I plan to do lots more updates in this New Year!

In Science, we also wrapped up our Solar System unit, by presenting our at home projects to the class. The students were able to choose between creating a model of the solar system, writing a travel brochure containing convincing reasons to visit a certain planet, or a newspaper article about the

challenges of living on a certain planet. The students worked so hard, creating beautiful work. They should all be so proud of their hard work!

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who planned and facilitated a holiday craft during our Craft Workshop! It was so much fun and I appreciate your thoughtfulness from the bottom of my heart! Also, thank you to the students and parents who baked Bread for the Senior Center! Again, your kindness is amazing!
Lacy Pittelli

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NEWS FROM SIXTH GRADE...

We have been very busy learning about the Statue of Liberty for our Empatico exchange. Empatico is a platform that "...empowers teacher and students to explore the world through experiences that spark curiosity, kindness, and empathy." The class will be having a virtual conversation with a classroom in Nigeria on Thursday morning. Each country/classroom is sharing about a landmark. It seemed fitting that we learn and share about the Statue of Liberty since we will be seeing her in May. In the upcoming weeks, we will be starting to put together our spaghetti supper fundraiser. Everyone is welcome to come and dine with us on April 6th. Reservation forms will be going out as the date approaches.

For other up to date information about our classroom, please see the weekly classroom newsletter.
Mrs. Gay

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEECH ROOM...

Co-articulation is an energy saver. In my profession, we think about the automatic, quick, precise movement of the speech muscles (there are hundreds of them). The precise use of speech and language is important for clear communication. However, every day, we all make little, almost undetectable

adjustments, which serve to ease movement – this is known as co-articulation. For example, when we say "button" we actually are saying "buh-in" with our tongue lifted for the N sound rather than the T sound ... our need to do the "double lift" for the T and the N is mitigated by using the throat to make a little stop for T. That form of "T" is clearly understood and it uses muscles more efficiently! In everyday colloquial speech, we change "going to" to "gonna", T's become D's (tomato, watermelon), P's are not popped at the ends of words, consonants are rounder if an O follows or smilier if an E follows...the list goes on. In fact, think of how formal and odd it would sound if every sound was produced perfectly in our day to day speaking (vs. presenting to an audience or talking to a boss). Co-articulation is not lazy speaking or poor speaking. It is natural speech.

Sally Rice, SLP

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Global Leaders Get Going!

Our global leaders were community minded in December and collected TONS of fleece for Dakin Animal Shelter. Our school community is really generous. Thanks to all of you that contributed.

Our Global Leaders are preparing for their trip in February to the Veterans Home in Holyoke. They will be delivering valentines from our whole school. The GL's are planning games and special music to share with them. In addition, our GL's are planning our next fun day on Tuesday, January 29th. That one will be Crazy Hair Day. Our GL's make the flyers that Mary Lesenski sends out to you.

This week's GL meeting featured a closer look at the paper plates that were sent from Tanzania. We spent some time looking for signs of culture, geography, animals and plants that might be different from what they drew last spring. They identified pineapples, a new mammal and different flowers. They noted the Swahili descriptors on some of the plates as well. In addition, they viewed a short 5-minute video of soccer players on a tiny island in Thailand that ended up being champions. Ask your child more about that. The video was used first by Ms. Pittelli in 5th grade and our 5th grade leaders were pleased to be the ones to introduce it to the group. Stay tuned for next month's activities!
Terri Anderson & Paula King

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NEWS FROM GYM...

Hello Whately Wolves, I hope you have been having fun in the snow! In all of the grades we have been working carefully with balance, and counterbalance poses. Gymnastics movements demand the highest level of self-control, and self-mastery. We continue to



focus on the process rather than product while keeping safety as our number one goal. Our students are bravely accepting poses that are more challenging by slowly expanding their comfort zones. All movements and obstacles are challenge by choice. At every grade level, students have achieved TRULY REMARKABLE feats within just our first week of practice. Skills of: strength, balance, composure, safe spotting, and peer coaching are shining here in the gymnasium. Now I will let the student's effort and determination speak for itself. Enjoy the Pictures, play often, and stay strong!
Mr. Steven A. Carra



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News from the Spanish Room...

¡Hola! We have spent some time during Spanish in thinking about the contributions Martin Luther King made for all people. We have been singing Nosotros Venceremos (We Shall Overcome) which is a nice addition to the class repertoire that students often request throughout the year. The upper grades translated a quote from MLK as well, and then watched a clip of the original speech. It was remarkably like poetry in both languages.

As the New Year began, the lower grade made posters for "Feliz Año Nuevo" (Happy New Year) that have been hung around school. They do have a short shelf life, so will be coming down soon, but added a bit to the fine decorations we have been seeing around the school.

As January ends, we have passed the halfway point in the year. Students in the lower grades are learning a song and reviewing one hundred words to celebrate the 100th day of school. Students in the upper grades will have a chance to contemplate the second half of the year at this milestone as well, while also learning about places and materials used in school.

As always, it important to note my gratitude for the opportunity to work with your children and the great Whately Elementary School community.
Chuck Edgerly

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News from the Music Room...

In all grades, we have been learning new folk songs. Although the students enjoy The Rattlin' Bog, 500 Miles, and Big Rock Candy Mountain, If I Had a Hammer seems to have become the favorite.

Youngster students have been studying form. While musicologists get very fancy with their analyses of musical pieces, here at WES, we keep it simple. We use colorful uni-fix cubes. When a musical element (tempo, dynamic, articulation, etc.) changes, we use different colored cubes to show the event.

Sixth graders are intently working on their compositions, using music and poetry. I hope to have some of the students perform their pieces at the Spring concert.

Mr. Damon

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Greetings from the Band Room

This winter has brought renewed excitement in anticipation for our upcoming 3rd Annual Bandfest Concert on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7pm in the Frontier Regional Gymnasium. It is my hope to have 100% attendance. This is a wonderful opportunity for the elementary band students: They will perform with almost 200 other band students in the FRSU band program. More details will be coming home shortly.

In preparation for the concert, please utilize the band blog, <http://frsu38elementaryband.blogspot.com/>. The blog contains links to the listening resources for home practice.

Lastly, in addition to preparing music for the Bandfest Concert, Prelude Band members have assigned songs in the method book and Encore Band members have assigned scales to prepare.

Please do not hesitate to email me with questions.
Warmly,
Mrs. Carr





Hello from the Art Room...

The younger grades have been busy printing with different textures. We have used bubble wrap and circular sponges.



We also learned how to draw a frontal view of a polar bear and used oil pastel resist with some pretty blue watercolor paint. They came out adorable please check them out in the hallway.

Older grades learned about geodes. To achieve a realistic look, we applied salt to our watercolor markers and used glitter to get that crystallized affect. All of them look different because we discussed organic shapes.

Right now, all of the grades are working on Valentines for the Soldiers Home. The global leaders will be delivering them by Valentine's Day.

Best,
Mrs. Meyer



Greetings from your PTO...

Hello Whately families! We hope everyone had a great holiday!

In January, the PTO sponsored the Learn, Bake, Share program run by King Arthur Flour. King Arthur donated the ingredients needed for any student in the upper wing who wanted to participate in this bread baking/donating event. They also sent a representative to the school to give a bread making demonstration for the students. On January 23, students brought in almost 50 loaves of home baked bread to donate to the South Deerfield Senior Center! Several students got to go along for the delivery. Thank you Holly Johnson, our PTO Co-President, and Paula King, our fabulous librarian, for making this great community event and learning experience happen!

On February 8, WES will host Family Science Night, with a healthy dessert bar sponsored by the PTO. This program is put on by the Hitchcock Center, and will include activities and discussion about our local natural environment, and even some live animals! A reminder will be sent home before the 8th. Look for details about the yearly Read-A-Thon coming home soon. This will take place for three weeks in February, and has some fun prizes for participants. The Read-A-Thon is an important fundraiser for our library, and we thank Paula for her great work in making reading fun!

The date for our annual Pancake Breakfast has been set for March 3, from 8 –11am. We hope that many of you will volunteer to help with this event, and that many more will attend – extended family and friends welcome! This breakfast provides an opportunity for our larger



community to come to the school and show their support. Thank you Stirling and Diana Hastings for your tireless commitment to running this event! As always, the 4th Grade will be doing their basket raffle at the breakfast to raise money for their field trip. The baskets will be on display in the school entryway starting sometime in late February – keep an eye out for them!

Also in February, the PTO will be having a quilt raffle! Joan Leblanc, grandmother of Jacqueline and Owen in the 5th grade, generously made and donated a stunning quilt for us for this purpose! We are so lucky to have such an involved and industrious community – thank you, Joan! Please look for a flyer with raffle tickets coming home in early February. The winner will be drawn at the pancake breakfast; if the winner isn't present, they will be contacted soon after.



The PTO board has had several changes this year, including the stepping down as co-presidents Ainsley Jackson and Megan Wentzel. Ainsley has been our fearless leader for several years now, and has given so much time and energy to us, and we would like to thank her profusely! Megan has also brought great, fun ideas and energy to the table for some time now, and has moved on to work in the preschool here and contribute to our school community in other ways! Thank you, Megan, and we wish you the best on your new venture! On the flipside of that, we are so pleased that both Holly Johnson and Laurie Cendrowski have stepped up to fill the co-president positions. These are two wonderful people taking charge of the PTO's meetings and overall planning, and we are so grateful for their service – thank you, Holly and Laurie! Holly's becoming a president left open the treasurer position, and Cate Wolkowicz has volunteered for that job. Another big thank you to Cate – we couldn't do it without you!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, February 12, at 3:30. Childcare will be provided. All are welcome! Joining the PTO is a great way to meet Whately parents and get to know teachers, and to stay connected to what is happening at the school. The PTO is always looking to have more participation from parents and guardians. New people coming in bring new ideas and energy, and there are plenty of ways to help, big and small! If you are interested in getting involved but can't make it to a meeting, you can email us at Whatelypto@gmail.com, or connect with us on Facebook.

Thank you,
Whately PTO



