

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!

Hello WES Families,
I would like to wish everyone a wonderful winter break. There are a lot of great family activities in our area. If you're in need of an idea, the list below might point you in the right direction. Have a great vacation week!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Kirton

30 February Break Ideas

1. Go sledding (You might have to head north to find some snow!)
2. Check out [Mill 180 Park](#) in Easthampton.
3. Go bowling.
4. Check out [Billy Beez at the Holyoke Mall](#).
5. Swim at the YMCA, check your local Y's open swim times.
6. Tour the [Basketball Hall of Fame](#).
7. Visit a new to you book store.
8. Go ice skating.
9. Visit the [Smith Greenhouses](#).
10. Visit the butterflies at [Magic Wings in South Deerfield](#).
11. Have lunch at [Freckled Fox in Florence](#). Then stay and play!
12. Play in the [giant sandbox](#) at the Eastfield Mall (Feb 10 – February 25).
13. Explore the [Springfield Museums](#).
14. Take a winter nature walk.
15. Take a ride on the [Holyoke Merry Go Round](#).
16. Visit the [Volleyball Hall of Fame](#).
17. Spend the day at [Yankee Candle](#) (check their website for a schedule of activities)
18. Go rollerskating at [Interskate 91](#)
19. Visit the [Eric Carle Museum](#) and spend time in their art room.
20. Have breakfast at a [sugar shack](#).
21. Have lunch at [Holyoke Hummus](#) (and stay to play with their toys).
22. Plan a summer road trip, get out those maps!

DATE REMINDERS...

January

Kindergarten Registration – see Mary
Preschool Registration - see Rhonda 665-1155



February

17 – 21..... **NO School** – Winter vacation
24 All School Meeting 9:30
25..... Frontier Parent info night at 6:00*

March

1 **PTO Pancake Breakfast 8-11**
2 PTO Meeting at 6:00
3 School Committee Mtg 8:15 am
6 Early Release at 1:30
13..... Early Release at 1:30
16..... **Tanglewood Marionettes 10:15 & 1:15**
20 Early Release at 1:30
23..... All School Meeting at 9:10
27..... Early Release at 1:30



SAVE THE DATE: 3/1 PTO Pancake Breakfast

6th Grade Parents

6th Grade Parents are invited to Frontier for a parent informational night on Tuesday, February 25th at 6:00.

Tanglewood Marionettes

Monday 3/16

JOIN US for TANGLEWOOD MARIONETTES

Performances of

FAIRY CIRCUS @ 10:15 am (PK – 2ND Grades)

AN ARABIAN ADVENTURE @ 1:15 pm

(3RD – 6th Grades)

We are accepting School Choice applications for most grades.

Please spread the word to your family and friends.

23. Visit the [Children's Museum at Amelia Park in Westfield.](#)
24. Visit the [Calvin Coolidge Presidential Library at the Forbes Library in Northampton.](#)
25. Go out for ice cream!
26. Play video games at an arcade.
27. Check out the [Volleyball Hall of Fame.](#)
28. Explore an indoor playspace.
29. Jump around at [Bounce! Trampoline.](#) Go [cross-country skiing!](#)



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.

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.



SPECIAL THANKS TO JOAN LEBLANC FOR CREATING AND DONATING A BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY QUILT TO RAFFLE OFF FOR THE 6TH GRADE NYC TRIP.



News from the Health Office:

February 2020 News from the Health Office

- **Illnesses:** As shared in a recent letter to the community, we have had our share of colds and coughs, flu, strep, pink eye and of course, some concerns about the news on coronavirus. Its always important to make sure you check reputable sources for updates, I recommend looking at the CDC for information:
 - Coronavirus 2019 current status: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
 - Flu 2019-20 current status: <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm>

Please keep reminding your kiddos to wash their hands frequently

- **Weather:** Please continue to send your children in with boots and layers for unpredictable weather.
- **Snacks:** Please send your student with a healthy snack every day, even when there is a delay. This

year there has been a significant spike in students coming to the nurse's office for a snack. We have students in this building who have allergies, so it is not always possible to have snacks that are safe for all students. Please consider sending a donation snack if you see a "buy one get one" box of crackers or string cheese, etc. We also love fresh fruit, such as mandarins or apples. Thank you for considering!! Students are more present for learning when their bellies are satisfied.

- **Extra Clothes:** If you are taking clothes to goodwill, and have any socks or pants size 5-12 in good shape (no jeans please), please send our way! Thank you!
- **Physicals:** Is your child going into Kindergarten next year? Are they in 2nd or 5th grade? If you have gotten a letter from me about needing an updated physical, please let me know when your child has a well-child visit or send in an updated copy, per DPH regulations, thank you!!
- **Girls on The Run:** Please let me know if you have any interest in being a coach in the fall and we can set up an info meeting to consider running this awesome program. It would be an after school program, 2 days a week, with a 5K at the end.
- Check it out here: <https://www.girlsontherunwesternma.org/>

Wishing you all a healthy & fun February Vacation break,
Nurse Esti



News from Preschool:

We continue to be a busy and active classroom here in preschool. We returned from Winter break and got right down to our work that is PLAY. Interests in space and ocean animals has sparked some creative play and even a design of a spaceship, complete with gears created with recycled caps. We will continue to investigate our list of questions about Tanzania, Africa over the coming month and hope to skype with our sister school there. In the lead up to February break we have been sharing stories of kindness and practicing ways to show others we care. Lots and lots of hearts have been made and mailed (in the mailbox donated by Sawyer and Fox). Upon return from break, we also had our friend Liam join us. His big brother Tynan was enthusiastic about showing him the ropes, and it hasn't taken long at all for him to settle in to our community. Additionally, we have added a new special to our current enrichment list of Obstacle course, Physical Education, and library. We will now have music class once per week (on Mondays) with Ms. Sirard in the music room. The kids are loving her

Germ Farm



energy and creative approach to sharing music. I am looking forward to the next few months of fun and adventure here in preschool.

Best, Chrissy



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, 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 had two special celebrations. We celebrated the 100th day of school last Monday. One of our activities was making Fruit Loop necklaces with 100 Fruit Loops. Our next celebration is Valentine's Day and we will exchange valentines. Our focus for the week will be on friendship. There are 16 children in our class and I will send home a class list.



Kindergarten is having a Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive for the Western Mass Food Bank in March. We will be collecting, counting, and graphing how many of each we receive. I will send home information about our drive after vacation.

I will be sending home some math game activities to play at home over vacation. The children like these games and they develop their number sense skills while having fun. Have a wonderful vacation.

Ms. Sittig



NEWS FROM FIRST GRADE...

As we move toward Spring and the days slowly get longer and brighter, First Graders continue to spend much of each day learning how to become confident, autonomous readers. They are becoming quite skilled at finding books that are "just right". I am fortunate to

receive the gift of being surrounded by book-hugging, excited readers on a daily basis!

Students have been forming opinions, then writing about them. We looked at collections and got to be judges by deciding on the "best in show". Writers think about something they feel strongly about, then try and convince their readers to agree with them by providing reasons, details, and proof. The class made a rule: We're not allowed to say or write, "just because".



As Creative Power Hour sessions come to a close, Owl, Bat, Storm, and Solar System studies move toward an investigation of Light and Sound.

Mathematicians have been studying 2D and 3D shapes and finding them in our world. Students work to create designs, patterns, buildings, and even a town in our classroom.

First Graders have been learning about a new hero each week. Some of the people who have inspired us include Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Ruby Bridges, Greta Thunberg, Albert Einstein, and Malala Yousafzai. Each student will create a timeline of any person whom they think has made the world a better place. Speaking of heroes, the children in our class are becoming better stewards of the earth every day! They work together to take care of our class worm bin, compost or save leftover snacks, recycle plastic, foil and paper, and reuse things. Engineers also create inventions from things that may otherwise get thrown away. (After all, there really is no "away".) They are passionate about caring for our planet.



Our days are busy and FUN, but please know that we are making time to freely play in the sun and fresh air as often as possible. Students also take part in Project Time 3 times a week. During this period, children build, paint, create, invent, play, write, sing, read, take part in math games, and laugh.



Mrs. Tibbetts



NEWS FROM SECOND GRADE...

It sure has been a very fun and exciting few months 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 have been learning to write like a scientist! 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 hypotheses, recording their findings, developing theories, organizing further

experiments, and writing lab reports just like real scientists!

The second graders have also 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! Soon we will begin our measuring unit in which the class will be practicing problem solving with length. Students will have an opportunity to extend their understanding of length units while utilizing numerous tools (such as inch tiles, rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and meter tape).

In social studies, we have continued our map studies by learning how to read, interpret, and create maps using map keys, symbols, cardinal directions and the compass rose. We have also explored the seven continents and have learned a lot about the geography and cultures through a variety of texts.

On the 100th day of school, the second graders drew portraits of what they will look like when they are 100 years old. They also wrote and illustrated what they predict the world will be like in 100 years. To further celebrate the 100th day, the children paired up to toss two dice and record the sum 100 times to graph which sum landed on the most. Many students were surprised to find that their predications and estimates were correct or close. The class also participated in an engineering challenge using 100 toothpicks and mini marshmallows. The goal was to build the highest, freestanding structure without it leaning on anything. The students did an awesome job creating and having fun!

Mrs. Kirkendall



News from Third Grade...

Wow! It's hard to believe that we are almost two months into the new year. The third graders started 2020 by writing some New Year's resolutions to set new goals for themselves. 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, which had a winter theme. In addition, we are currently adding the final touches to our Genius Hour posters. The third graders researched a variety of

different topics for this purpose. Part of this process included learning about various informational text features that we can incorporate to add interest to our posters. The third graders are quite eager to share the information they have learned! We recently began gathering facts on a famous person that has a connection to Massachusetts. Soon we will begin writing biographies, using the facts we learned.

The month of January is always a great time to review the important work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In order to accomplish this, we read the book, [A Taste of Colored Water](#) and discussed some of the images from the book, [Remember](#) to help us to really understand *segregation* and its damaging effects. We even watched a short video from *Scholastic News* about Ayanna Najuma. Did you know that this brave person took part in a lunch counter "sit in" when she was a child? This brave feat helped to change the laws in the restaurants in her town. We were quite fascinated and impressed by this! Soon we will be learning about the Colonial Period, the 13 Colonies, and the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. Currently, the third graders have been engaged in 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.

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 goes a long way!

Finally, I'm happy to report that we had a great video visit with our buddy class from New Mexico! Students received letters from their buddies and were able to answer questions via this video chat. We discovered that there are plenty of Super Bowl fans in New Mexico, too! They even eat the same kinds of foods that we do, while watching the "big game." We will follow up this exchange by writing a new set of personal letters to send back to our buddies. I'm sure we'll be using our newly acquired dictionaries to help us with this writing project. I'd like to thank the Whately Grange for once again providing us with these wonderful books. It was very nice of Mrs. Leahey and Ms. Olanyk to visit our school to personally deliver them to us. Many thanks for being such a supportive part of our community!

Please take note of these important M.C.A.S. testing dates for third graders:



April 15th - 16th: English Language Arts

May 6th-7th: Math

Warm wishes for an early spring!

Mrs. Kellogg



NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE...

We are working hard in 4th grade and the year is flying by! Our only fundraiser for our trip to the zoo is coming up and we need help from 4th grade families. This fundraiser covers the cost of the coach bus and admission into the zoo. The theme for the 4th grade basket is "movie night". Please send in a small donation for this basket. We will also need help wrapping the baskets and selling tickets on February 29th at the basketball games, as well as Sunday, March 1st at the Pancake Breakfast. If you are able to help in any way please contact me.

Please see the weekly newsletter on the front of your child's Friday folder each week for an in depth look at all the hard work we are doing in 4th grade.

Mrs. Apanell



NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE...

Hello 5th Grade Families,

Happy New Year! We are off to a busy start! The students have been learning how to write argument essays. They have been researching a variety of real world issues, taking notes to support both sides, writing a claim to support one side of the issue, and backing it up with reasons and evidence. In math, we wrapped up our unit on adding and subtracting fractions. The students have done a marvelous job persevering and learning a variety of methods including drawing models, using a numberline, and using a formula (standard algorithm). In

science, we have learned that minerals have many characteristics and there is a scale called Moh's that we can use to identify minerals based on their color, luster, streak, and hardness. We enjoyed testing minerals for each of these characteristics to identify a variety of

minerals. We also started a unit on chemistry and chemical reactions. The students have learned that salt and vinegar can be used to make copper pennies shiny, as well as discovered a solution that can give steel a copper coating. We are wrapping up our Nonfiction Reading Unit on the Revolutionary War and will be moving on to learn about the Branches of Government. Thank you for your involvement in our fundraiser, Penny Wars Feb. 10 - 14th. We are very excited to go to Boston in May! And, of course,

Mohs Scale of Hardness	
Mohs Scale Number	Common Tests
1	scratched by fingernail
2	
3	scratched by copper penny
4	scratched by steel nail
5	
6	
7	scratches glass
8	
9	
10	
scratches all common materials	

Nature's Classroom is just around the corner on March 31st! I hope winter is treating everyone well and you are all able to stay healthy and warm!

Mrs. Pittelli



NEWS FROM SIXTH GRADE...

We have been very busy writing letters to the local farms and businesses to ask for donations to our spaghetti supper. Our supper is April 4th and we would love anyone in our WES community to join us. More information will be going home to families in March about the supper. All the money raised from the supper will be used for our field trip in May to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty.

As always, 6th grade parents check out our daily email updates for more details about our classroom!

Mrs. Gay



COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEECH ROOM...

In the field of speech-language therapy, it is important that I use science to inform my diagnostic and treatment practices. Over the years (and I mean lots of years....I graduated in 1987), there have been changes in my understanding of fundamental aspects of our profession. Here are a few:

- Autism is not caused by vaccines or parenting practices. It is a complex neurological difference, with genetic components at its roots in some cases. Otherwise, the cause is unknown.
- Stuttering is not an emotional disorder. It is a brain-based difference that impacts motor speech control.
- Doing oral motor exercises like using straws, puckering the lips and moving the tongue side to side will not improve speech sound articulation.
- Auditory processing disorders may not be a distinct diagnosis; scientists are working to determine when it can be differentiated from attention and other learning disabilities.
- Learning disorders are not static; brains change and improve with proper treatment

Speech, language and hearing scientists keep researching, to check the reliability of studies by repeating them, and to have high standards of peer review and scientific methodology. Science underlies evidence based practice. As tools of research are made more precise (e.g. PET scans, MRI's), we gain more

detailed information. Keeping up with current thinking and best practices can be a challenge.

Fortunately, there are workshops, webinars, conferences and journals in speech-language science that distill this information. Also, I am a part of a professional learning group that discusses these developments several times a year.

As important as the science is, there is also an art to making treatment work – that lies in developing a trusting, relaxed and positive relationship with a student. So let's all continue to combine the best of both worlds in our school jobs - the evidence-based, scientifically-researched parts with compassionate and human-connection parts.

Sally Rice, SLP



Global Leaders Get Going!

The Global Leaders have been all over the place the past couple of months. Between presenting posters in classrooms, leading December's All School Meeting, and having a tea party and decorating the school in honor of the Lunar New Year, they have been on the move.

In late December, the Global Leaders took a turn leading the All School Meeting, where they presented the posters they made showing the importance of global learning. All students were given tea lights to make the darkness of December less dreary. We noted that, all over the world, festivals of light are celebrated. The gym was beautiful!

In January and February, the students took posters into classrooms and led discussions about them (These are the "We All..." posters, received from the Peace Corp). Every grade had insightful observations about the themes on the posters, which now hang in our hallways.

Finally, we had a delightful tea party with fancy china, little red packets containing a gift, and fortune cookies. We learned about the Lunar New Year, celebrated throughout Asia and in our big cities. We decorated the hallways with festive red banners and there is even a dragon hanging from the ceiling in the cafeteria!

Our Global Leaders will be taking Valentines made by Whately students to the Soldiers' Home on February 10. This is a big day for our students, when they get to meet veterans and spend time getting to know them. And of course, we have pizza on the way home.

Thanks to our Global Leaders for going the extra mile, literally.

Terri Anderson, Sally Rice & Paula King



NEWS FROM LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER...

Several great events are happening in or through our library!

It is with great pleasure that I announce the return of Tanglewood Marionettes! This year the marionette troop will be performing *The Fairy Circus*, to Preschool through 2nd graders and *An Arabian Adventure* to our 3rd through 6th graders. It is always a treat to watch the masterful puppeteers hover over the stage in this magical performance geared to an elementary school audience. **Please save the date to join us on March 16th for Fairy Circus, which begins at 10:15 or for An Arabian Adventure beginning at 1:15.** A big thanks goes to our

Whately Cultural Council for funding more cultural performances to our community!

Another event that is going on through the library is our **Annual WES Readathon**. The time period for the Readathon this year is from **February 7th - February 26th**. This is a three week period in which students are encouraged to read daily on their own or with a family member and log their progress on the yellow sheets provided. Students are also encouraged to get "sponsors" for their reading, as all monies earned go directly back to our school. Sponsorship could be a monetary amount for the entire Readathon or done on a daily basis. I thank you for considering this aspect of the Readathon. The PTO does a fabulous job fundraising and supporting our school with classroom supplies and extra books for the library. This year they helped me purchase more bookcases, which have made it easier to accommodate our growing chapter book section. There have always been prize incentives, meant to encourage students to do their best. **Please note that this year SixFlags is asking families to log their child's reading progress directly online. I suspect this to not be a huge process, but it is a new requirement for obtaining a SixFlags ticket this year.** Please see the paperwork and code that has been sent home as a part of the Readathon packet.

I am eager to catalog **50+ new books** that have just arrived! This current order was partially geared toward updating some of our outdated nonfiction book collection. I also ordered with an eye for bringing in more current biographies that could be of interest to our students.

As always, please come in with or without your kids to take out some books. If you are reading a picture book a night to your young one, by all means come on in a take out a stack for the week!

Happy reading,
Mrs. King





NEWS FROM GYM...

Hello Whately Wolves,

In class we have continued to work on our "muscles of the month" and have started our throwing and catching unit. The most recent warm-up exercise that we've worked on was the wall squat, which strengthens our foundational leg muscles. These students have shown AMAZING amounts of poise and determination, at times holding their wall squat poses for minutes on end all while focusing on form and individual achievements along the way. The school favorite throwing activity is called battleship. This strategic life sized version of the board game is less about guessing and more about continuous offense, defense, strategy, and aim. A small team has pins surrounding a gymnastics mat (their "battleship"), and the opposing team's goal is to throw the "cannonballs" across to knock down the "battleship's" pins. Seeing teams work together to develop their own strategies and to even create new rules in the game to make it their own is a continuous highlight in my day.

Be strong and enjoy an active February break!

Sincerely,

Mr. Steven A. Carra



News from the Spanish Room...

Students in Whately begin each class with the date and the phrase "¡Bienvenidos a la clase de español!" (Welcome to Spanish class). As we begin a new year, the students can proclaim our year as 'veinte veinte' (twenty-twenty), which is kind of fun to say. Once we have done that, the younger students begin class with a game called 'punto punto punto' and sing a greeting song called 'Hola Amigos'. The older students usually begin with introductions, where they can volunteer to say something about where they were born, whether they like or do not like winter, or their preferences about foods, vacations or favorite activities.

As the New Year came, we spent some time decorating posters proclaiming "Happy New Year!" in Spanish. We then learned a bit about Martin Luther King, Jr. and the song 'We Shall Overcome' in Spanish, which was sung to rally and encourage his supporters as they faced the daunting task of standing up to oppression. Much of the month has been spent learning family vocabulary, and students have responded well to a call and response game to help learn the names of family members. We have also been assisted with a program called Rockalingua, which has online resources in many different themes, including short videos, handouts and activities to enhance the classroom experience.

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



News from the Music Room...

It's been an exciting start to the new year in the Music Room. We have added weekly music classes to Pre-K, where they get a chance to learn some new songs, play with instruments, move to a steady beat, and move in an expressive way. Current research in early childhood music development finds that all children are born with a level of music aptitude that can fluctuate until age 9 according to the richness of musical experiences they are exposed to, with the first 5 years being most crucial to development. How wonderful to have the Whately Pre-K in the music room!



We have also added a **Performance Ensemble** for grades 4-6 who meet Mondays at recess.

We're off to a great start with 13 members and are working on several Irish songs that we can perform for the school in March. Students in the Performance Ensemble are moving to choreographed dances, learning how to sing with good technique, and learning instrumental parts to accompany their singing. We are having lots of fun and look forward to our first performance.

Chris Sirard



Greetings from the Band Room

Bandfest is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 pm with a rehearsal the evening before. The concert and rehearsal are at Frontier. A more detailed letter will go home next month.



WES Arts Night is Wednesday, May 27th at 5:30 pm.

With the many illnesses, snow days, and delays, it is especially important for your child to practice at home between Tuesday lessons. All students need gentle reminders to practice. It is normal in a musician's development to have days of frustration and feelings of wanting to quit. The students who practice less at home tend to feel less confident in lessons. Those who persevere learn the biggest lessons and feel the most pride.

How do I know if my musician is practicing properly?

Listen for your musician to stop and play troublesome sections repeatedly at a slow, steady pace. A metronome can help assist with this. There are metronome apps (ex. Metrotimer), Google metronome, and metronomes for purchase (ex. Korg TM60 metronome)



Watch to see that your musician is looking carefully at the music before playing it. 'Silent' practicing is still effective practicing - your musician is learning note names, fingerings, and rhythms; all concepts that require forethought.

Praise your musician when you hear something that has improved. A little acknowledgement goes a long way.

Thank you for supporting your young musician in his/her band endeavours. It is always a pleasure to work with your musician!

Warmly,
Mrs. Carr



●●●●●

Hello from the Art Room....

The younger grades have been using watercolor paints to paint overlapping spirals. The spirals became our background for penguins. We learned how to draw penguins and pretended they needed outdoor clothing such as hats and scarves. We picked a pattern to color in our hats and scarves.

The younger grades have started learning about printmaking. We learned all about brayers and printing ink (water soluble of course). The students were mesmerized about the process. Every time they peeled the paper off of their printing block they were amazed!



Older grades learned about some architecture and famous landmark buildings around the world such as the Eiffel tower and the Empire State building. Our background consisted of light and dark tints of watercolor paint for color. We then learned how to draw some of our buildings to look 3-D. We considered doorways and windows as part of our buildings.

All of the buildings were outlined in a contrasting black sharpie marker. Once they had all the buildings drawn, they cut them out and designed their own composition. This became a city scape snow globe.

All grades have a chance to create Valentine's that will be delivered to the Soldier's Home just in time for Valentine's Day! Global leaders from Whately Elementary will be delivering them!

Best,
Mrs. Meyer

●●●●●

Greetings from your PTO...

We hope everyone is managing the winter weather. We would like to thank our WES community for all the support of our fundraisers. The **lottery calendars** were a great success; thank you, Annie Scagel for monitoring the numbers and announcing the winners! We would also like to thank Laurie Cendrowski for running the **Hillside Pizza** fundraiser again! We hope everyone who got some of Hillside's delicious pizza has been enjoying it.

The annual **Pancake Breakfast** is Sunday, March 1, from 8 – 11am. Extended family and friends are welcome at this event! This breakfast provides a fun opportunity for our larger community to come to the school and show their support. We hope that many of you will attend! Also, please consider volunteering; there is plenty to do! WES parents Stirling and Diana Hastings have been kindly running this event for years now, and we are so grateful. As always, the 4th Grade will be holding their **basket raffle** at the breakfast to raise money for their field trip. Take a look!



WES parents, Beth and John Reilly, owners of the **BridgeSide Grille**, have generously offered to donate a portion of an evening of sales one day in the spring. We are thrilled to have this opportunity! We'll be setting the date at our next meeting. Look for information coming home soon.

The PTO would like to encourage anyone in our school community to volunteer with us. We are happy to have participation on any level. Come see what we do and how you can get involved! Our next meeting is **Monday, March 2, at 6pm** at the school. The PTO provides so much for our school – and we can't do it without the participation of our members!

Thank you,
Whately PTO

