

# Lately in 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](http://www.frsu38.org/wes)

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## Fun and Learning

Some schools have a policy of assigning work for students to complete over the summer. So much learning can be lost over the summer but traditional school work is not the only way to continue learning. I believe that "down time" is a necessary part of a well-balanced life but it can also provide the very best learning experiences. Here are some suggestions for supporting your student(s) development over the summer:

- Take a walk in the rain
- Get up early and take a walk to listen to the sounds of morning
- Play in the mud
- Plant something in your garden and keep track of growth
- Read a book
- Write a book
- Create something with found and/or recycled objects
- Create art with nature (paint rocks, press flowers, leaf rubbings)
- Sing songs
- Do science experiments (there are many websites with ideas for doing safe home experiments)
- Bake something together
- Cook dinner together
- Visit a museum
- Attend a live music performance
- Learn about animals at a local farm
- Go bowling
- Go for a bike ride together
- Play charades
- Play board games
- Start a journal
- Catch an outdoor movie at Look Park
- Catch a children's theater production at Look Park
- Write a letter to a relative or far away friend
- Write a letter to your principal (273 Long Plain Rd, South Deerfield, 01373)
- Participate in a volunteer activity
- Help a neighbor
- Visit the library

There's a never-ending list of wonderful activities that will support your child's physical, mental and emotional growth. Any experience can become a learning experience when

## DATE REMINDERS...

### June

- 3 ..... Jr. Olympics grades 5 & 6
- 4 ..... Jr. Olympics grades 3 & 4
- 4 ..... School Committee Mtg. 8:00
- 6 ..... 4<sup>th</sup> Grade presentations 1:30
- 6 & 7 ..... Fire Safety lessons
- 7 ..... 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to Skinner Mtn & Bernesky Museum
- 10 ..... 6<sup>th</sup> Grade international potluck at 12:20
- 11 ..... PTO Meeting at 3:30
- 11 ..... PreK graduation at 5:30
- 13 ..... End of year Picnic
- 13 ..... 6<sup>th</sup> Grade to Tri-Town Beach
- 13 ..... 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation 6:00
- 14 ..... Last day of School - ½ day - out at noon



**1<sup>st</sup> day of School - August 28<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**See you then!**

children have the opportunity to talk about it. The real key to successful summer learning is that it is done in the company of family and friends. Take advantage of those long summer days to enjoy your amazing child(ren)!

### Farewell For Now

It's hard to believe that we have already arrived at the end of the school year. Getting to know the students, staff and families of Whately Elementary School has been a truly wonderful experience for me. It has been a privilege to watch all of our students learn and grow throughout the year. It is so rewarding to watch them in a classroom setting and I have also thoroughly enjoyed getting to know students and families at community activities and events. I would like to wish all the students, families and staff a summer vacation filled with family, fun and relaxation. We'll be very busy all summer at WES getting prepared for another exciting year! See you at the end of August!



**PS - I'd like to document the wonderful things our students do over the summer. Please email pictures from your adventures! ([kristina.kirton@frsu38.org](mailto:kristina.kirton@frsu38.org))**





## Health News From the Nurse's Office June 2019

Hello everyone! As summer fun approaches, please review the following **tips for summer safety**. Please note: if you want your student to be able to apply sunscreen at school, please send in the permission slip coming home this week.

Consider sending your child with a hat they can keep in their cubby

### Be Sun Smart

- **Wear protective clothing:** such as long-sleeved shirt, pants, wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses
- **Seek shade:** when appropriate, remembering the sun's UV rays are strongest between 10am-4pm
- **Generously apply sunscreen:** to all exposed skin using a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15 that provides broad-spectrum protection from both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays.
  - \*Reapply every 2 hours, even on cloudy days, and after swimming or sweating.
- **Use caution near water, snow and sand:** they reflect the damaging rays of the sun, which can increase your chance of sunburn
- **Do not burn:** five or more sunburns double your risk of developing skin cancer



### Playground Tips:

- Take your children to playgrounds with shock-absorbing surfaces. Choose parks and playgrounds that are appropriate for their age.
- Teach children that pushing and shoving on the playground can result in accidents and injuries.
- Remind kids to go down the slide one at a time and to wait until the slide is completely clear before taking their turn. Teach them to always sit facing forward with their legs straight in front of them. Insist they NEVER slide down headfirst!
- Remind children to swing sitting down. Encourage them to wait until the swing stops before getting off and to be careful when walking in front of moving swings.
- Before sending kids out to play, make sure they always wear shoes to protect feet from cuts, scrapes and splinters, and wear sunscreen to protect from sunburns and harmful ultra-violet rays.

Swim / water Safety: Supervision and common sense can go a long way to prevent accidents and injuries. Always practice these tips to ensure your family's safety around water:

- Teach children to never swim alone or go near water without an adult present.
- Give children your undivided attention when they are swimming or are near any body of water.
- Always jump in feet first to check the depth before diving into any body of water.

- Never dive in the shallow end of a pool or into above-ground pools.
- Boating/tubing/water sports - safety for fun on the water:
  - Always have your children wear a Coast Guard approved, properly-fitted life jacket while on a boat, around an open body of water or when participating in water sports.
  - Educate yourself. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, 86 percent of boating accident deaths involve boaters who have not completed a safety course.\*
  - Always check water conditions and forecasts before going out on the water. The safety of your passengers is dependent on you.

### Lawn mower safety:

- Teach children to never play on or around a lawn mower, even when it is not in use. They should never be permitted to walk alongside, in front of or behind a moving mower.
- Children under 6 years of age should be kept inside the home while mowing.
- Children should be at least 12 years of age before operating a push lawn mower and at least 16 years of age before operating a riding lawn mower.



Resource: Shriner's Hospitals for Children

<https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/shc/safety-tips>

Be Well, Nurse Esti



## Warming up for Summer

### Summer adventures

Looking for some great resources to help you get out and about with your little one's? Check these out:

[www.hilltownfamilies.org](http://www.hilltownfamilies.org) resources for local activities and resources

[www.momypoppins.com](http://www.momypoppins.com) search for family friendly activities by state

[www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org) so many local trails and landmarks. For a nice easy afternoon walk near us check out Bullit Reservation in Conway

[www.acookiebeforedinner.com](http://www.acookiebeforedinner.com) a western mass resource for local activities and articles

[www.macaronikid.com](http://www.macaronikid.com) another regional event source  
[www.cwmars.org](http://www.cwmars.org) find a local library. There are many free events, story hours, and of course books. You can even check out a library out of town and return books to the local library. Locally, the Whately and Sunderland libraries have many fun summer events.

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/massachusetts/waterfall-roadtrip-ma/> A great way to find some magical adventure  
And if you still are wondering what to do this summer check out this list: <http://redtri.com/things-to-do-with-kids-during-summer-vacation/>

Remember, a little boredom is okay too  
Boredom always precedes a period of great creativity.  
Robert M. Pirsig

Whatever you do, may you make many memories this summer!





### News from Preschool...

The end of a school year is always bittersweet for me. I know change is ahead and parting is inevitable. I look forward to the change in my schedule that allows for more time with my family, the change in weather and a season of possibilities.

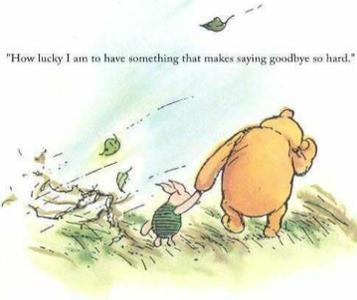
I know that change is important and transitions are opportunities. Some of you will be embarking on kindergarten, some of you new schools and some of you will join us for another year as a leader in the Preschool. Whatever the change, it is an opportunity to seek new adventures, take on new challenges, and continue to grow.

As an early childhood educator, my hope is to instill a love of learning, a passion for adventure, courage for taking risks, and a sense of purpose. Most of all, I want to lead them as

they take care of our community and our world.

I have appreciated the adventure that your children have taken me on this year. Their interests served as a vehicle to meet all of my hopes and goals for the year. Every child in this class is unique and I look forward to all of the change they will bring to this world.

Happy summer, Chrissy



### NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN...

As we begin June and we approach the end of the year, kindergartners eagerly choose to practice reading in their "Poetry and Song Books". This is a collection of poems and songs that we have learned since September. We vocalize each piece as a group, study it on the Smartboard, and add it to our poetry/song books. The children love to return to "1, 2, Buckle My Shoe", "Hey, Diddle Diddle", and "The Popcorn Chant". They love to sing "This Land is Your Land" and "Hello, Spring". Our choral readings in these books are a fun trip down memory lane. These books will go home the last week of school along with their writing folders and kindergarten portfolio.

It is hard to believe that the year is almost over and we are at the end of kindergarten. We recently visited First Grade and learned that some of the things that will be the same and some things that will be different next year. The children have done a great job this year and have grown so much. They are ready for First Grade and they should be so proud of themselves.

Ms. Vicki Sittig



### NEWS FROM FIRST GRADE...

The year has flown by in first grade! We are busily embarking on the final month of the school year.



In writing, we continued to compose opinion pieces in which students express what they think or how they feel about a given topic and give supporting reasons.

We tasted different cheese, chocolate, and candy. After we decided which was our favorite we graphed our results. We then wrote our opinion pieces about which cheese, chocolate and candy was the best. We also read a few books and gave our opinion about what the character was or what would happen next in the story. The students are using their time in the mornings to write more personal narratives and create more All About and How To books.

In reading, we are reviewing changing the first and last letter of a word to make a new word, consonant clusters, consonant blends, long and short vowels and vowel combinations. We are also learning how to study the characters in a book and to decide if the book had an important lesson for us to learn. We are reviewing how to preview, predict, retell, and revisit books to notice more and to get more out of what we read. We continue to make connections and comparisons of the books we read to other books.

Small group work continues during reading time and students have made leaps and bounds of progress since the fall. It is amazing to see the readers they've become!

In math, we are finishing up the year by continuing with the topics of fractions, measurement, telling time, money and data.

In science, students compiled the data that we've been gathering through observations on seasonal change throughout the year. Students also completed another hands on science and engineering project.

In social studies, students have been hard at work researching the countries of their heritage by reading books and using the computer for research. We have also reviewed goods and services, needs and wants, and past and present.

It was an honor to have these students in class this year. They are amazing people!!!! Have a great summer.

Ms. Cowles



### News from Second Grade...

Wow! It is hard to believe May is over and summer is on its way! In math, students are becoming experts on telling time. In addition, the second graders have been busy studying various shapes and fractions. I am so

impressed with their focus on each of these units. The children have also been working hard to keep our gardens flourishing! We have learned the importance of compost and the characteristics of good, healthy soil. The students have loved getting their hands in the soil while weeding and planting new seeds in our garden.

In science, the second graders will continue to explore the wonders of biodiversity. Students gain practical experience in identifying animals and sorting them into scientific groups. They will then apply their knowledge in numerous engineering





design challenges. This unit is focused on habitat and species, which are two critically important concepts in biology.

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us to celebrate our animal research presentations. The children worked diligently for the past few months and I could not be prouder of their accomplishments! It has been truly amazing to see the progress each student has

made throughout this journey.

As the school year comes to an end, I would like to thank all of our parents, students and staff for making this year in Second Grade so delightful! The abundance of support and kindness each of you has shared is incredibly heartwarming. I hope everyone has a fun, relaxing, and safe summer!

Warmly,

Mrs. Kirkendall



### **News from Third Grade...**

May has proven to be another busy month. Congratulations to the third graders for making it through the final round of M.C.A.S. testing! Everyone truly worked hard and made their best effort. We are all relieved to have the standardized testing behind us. The students also did a FABULOUS job presenting their biography projects to their families! I am so proud of all of them! We celebrated the completion of the testing and our biography presentations with a movie and some special treats. Thank you to all of the third grade families who contributed snacks for our movie celebrations. Your generosity was much appreciated!

We are in the final stages of completing our second persuasive writing piece. Our first piece was an argumentative one based on a problematic topic associated with school. Some of the topics have included: needing more chapter books in our classroom library and not enough recess time! Our second piece includes a persuasive essay and advertisement for selling a monster! We've even written some catchy slogans to go with our ads. Such fun!

Our classroom pea growing experiments had some interesting results. The peas that were growing in the closet grew very tall, but they were also weak. We discovered that plants will automatically do this in search of the sun. We also discovered that plants growing in a greenhouse might not grow as well because there is too much moisture in their environment. We were able to adjust the growing conditions of our plants and most of them have now been added to our school's garden. They appear to be growing stronger each day.

Finally, as we conclude another school year, I'd like to thank all of our families for their continued support. We are very fortunate to have such a wonderful community that values the educational needs of our students. I wish you all a fun and relaxing summer!

Mrs. Jennifer Kellogg



### **NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE...**

It is hard to believe that our year in 4th grade together is coming to an end! It has flown by with all the adventures we have been having. Thank you to all the families that helped fundraise for our recent trip to the Roger Williams Zoo. It warmed my heart when so many of the children were commenting on what an amazing trip it was. Thank you to Amy Fournier, Angie Hutkoski, Maureen Nichols, and Catherine Wolkowicz for spending the day with us to ensure that all the students were supervised. Thank you to all the families who joined us for our Arts Night celebration during this busy time of year. 4th grade was very well attended! We will be sharing what we have learned about famous Americans with families on Friday, June 6th at 1:30 in the library. We hope you can join our press conference. We are looking forward to our hike up Skinner Mountain on Friday, June 7th with a guide from the Hitchcock Center to point out the local geology, and from there we will travel to the Beneski Museum on the Amherst College campus to see continue this conversation. Our final celebration will take place on Friday, June 14th when we open the Mexican pinatas we will be creating as part of our study of Mexico. Please see the information about all of these upcoming events in your child's Friday folder. Thank you for a great year and enjoy your summer!

Mrs. Apanell



### **NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE...**

Dear Fifth Grade Families,

May was an aMAYzing month for us! The fifth graders' hard work and perseverance paid off as they completed their eight MCAS and NWEA testing days! It was fun to celebrate their hard work with an incredible Field day! I had so much fun playing with the students. What a wonderful day to unwind and enjoy each other's company!

In math, the students have been working on creating their own Taco Trucks! They are working as a team to collaboratively create a name, logo, slogan, menu, pricing, and model of their truck. The students are working on adding, subtracting, and multiplying decimals, as well as area and perimeter to create their trucks.

In Social Studies, Reading, and Writing, students are working hard to learn about a certain subtopic within the large topic of Westward Expansion. They will be creating a group dramatization about one of the subgroups of people at the time of Westward Expansion, as well as a slide show about their subtopic to present to the class.

The fifth graders are excitedly preparing for a Skype call with Nigeria. We have been preparing posters about a festival in our area to share with students from a school in Nigeria. We cannot wait to learn all about a festival that they celebrate!



Thank you so much to all of the fifth grade families for all of your support this year! Thank you also for helping the fifth graders and I raise money for [waterforsouthsudan.org](http://waterforsouthsudan.org). Thank you for all of the donations that will go towards building wells in South Sudan! We hope you join us on June 12th at 1:00 for our Fundraiser to support Water for South Sudan! I hope you have a fantastic summer!  
Mrs. Lacy Pittelli



**NEWS FROM SIXTH GRADE...**

Our long awaited trip to New York was amazing. Thank you to everyone who helped along the way. Please check our weekly newsletter for our up to date classroom information. I wish everyone a wonderful summer and best luck in middle school. It has been a pleasure to work with you this year!  
Mrs. Gay



**News from the Speech Room...**

**The Joy of Bubbles**

Summer is perfect for bubble blowing. I blow bubbles a lot. Here are ways I use bubbles as a speech and language tool, albeit a very fun and cheap tool:

Requesting: I dip the wand, put the bubbles up to my face and wait for a request (verbal, sign, point, gesture, eye gaze – whatever a child is able to do). The anticipation and expectant pause elicits communication in most kids I work with. I may blow lots of bubbles then put the cap on tight. I then get them handed to me with strong eye gaze or have “more” signed to me or I may help a child say “open”.

Expand vocabulary and grammar: Bubble play can elicit size, quantity, position and action words. We use comparative word endings (-est, -er), plural -s and tense markers (-ed). We can poke, pinch, clap, chop and kick bubbles to pop them.

Question Answering: I can ask questions like “Do you want a big bubble or a small bubble?” or “What else can we use to blow bubbles?” or “How high did that one go?” When we engage in sensory play with a



variety of materials, kids think in interesting and complicated ways. Older kids can experiment with tools and bubble soap recipes to make the biggest, smallest, highest quantity or most colorful bubbles.

Social Skills: Turn taking, sharing attention and joy, maintaining our focus and keeping our bodies in good control are ways we show our social smarts with bubbles. Bubbles are a great summertime activity - it is good to know lots of good language and social skill learning can happen, too!  
Sincerely, Sally Rice



**News from the Art Room...**

Hello from the art room!

As I look back on this year, I am so grateful to have the job that I do! The best part of my job is that the students teach me as well.

It was a wonderful year filled with learning different art techniques and art history. From printmaking to plaster molding and etching into copper. I already have ideas bubbling for next year. Thank you to families who have donated recyclable materials to help us with our projects.

I will miss the sixth graders and wish them the best in junior high. I also can't wait to meet the new kindergartners in the fall. For my family, and myself, I plan on spending time this summer visiting the many art museums we have close to home.

I look forward to seeing families at our annual spring concert and art show. As I save much of the artwork for the end-of-the-year, students will be bringing home their artwork after the art show.

Enjoy your summer with your families,  
~ Mrs. Meyer



**News from the Gym...**

Hello Whately Wolves, Happy end of the school year. We are revisiting some of our favorite games in class, monsters at midnight (played back in Oct.), Capture the flag and more. We also just had a wonderful field day. The largest inflatable obstacle course in New England was part of our celebration. Two lanes of racers vaulted and climbed their way to a giant slide before running to the finish. All grades including preschoolers took on this tremendous challenge! Also we are about to start Jr. Olympics with the upper grades and have practiced different field and running events. Lastly, thank you all for a wonderful and active school year. I have loved watching our young learner's grow for the past two years. There are so many different ways to be strong inside out, and our students cover the spectrum. I am honored to be part of this process and can't wait to see what they achieve in the future. Enjoy a beautiful summer in the fresh air. Very gratefully, Mr. Steven A. Carra





### **News from the Music Room...**

WES students amaze me. Due to MCAS, music classes have had to be very quiet. This is challenging. We prepared for Arts Night by "whisper singing." The day of Arts Night, some classes got to rehearse at normal volume. I (when instructing singers) do not use the word "loud." I use "big." I reminded the students that MCAS was over and we could use our big voices. The children relaxed, opened their mouth, and let beautiful sounds escape. Very well done, youngsters of WES. "Chord"ially Yours,  
Steve Damon, Music Educator



### **Global Leaders Get Going...**



The Global Leaders continue leading the way by raising over \$1,200.00 to help support the education of children in rural Tanzania, through Asante Sana for Education. This year the monies earned went toward tables and chairs for the growing preschool program called BEE Montessori. Thanks to Mr. Brent Young of Mill River Farm for his continued support through this hanging basket fundraiser. We also thank our generous community for buying a record number of beautiful plants so that we can help our friends in Tanzania. It was an exciting day when the Mill River truck pulled up and the students helped unload close to 200 plants! This month, our Leaders have also focused their efforts on amore local level. They sponsored another successful teacher appreciation breakfast and decorated the teacher's room with posters of gratitude. These students are still busy at the end of this year. They are making a presentation to the school committee, contributing in the All School Meeting and sponsoring Book Character Day as well. Since it is our last newsletter of the year, we want to say a special thanks to our first group of Global Leaders that have shown commitment to making our Whately World better for all of us.  
Terri Anderson, Sally Rice & Paula King



### **News from the PTO...**

Greetings from your PTO!  
The PTO would like to thank everyone that made this year such a success yet again. From our hard working officers to everyone who volunteered and showed up for events, to all those who donated to our various fundraisers: we couldn't do any of our work without all of you! The school year is long and a lot of work, and we truly appreciate the involvement of staff and family members who help the PTO add so much to our wonderful school. We love being able to bring the community together with events like the Pancake Breakfast, and getting to show our love for WES with supporting events like Field Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, and so much more.

Coming up on the last day of the school year we will be putting on our Teacher Luncheon. This is a really nice way to finish the year showing our faculty and staff our appreciation for all they do. We set up the cafeteria banquet style and provide the food for after the school day ends at noon. We are always in need of volunteers to help with set up, clean up, hosting, and making food. Please return the volunteer form if there is a way that you would like to help. Also, this summer the PTO is hosting a couple of WES playground playdates for new families entering Kindergarten next year. These have been set for July 13 from 10 – 11:30, and August 17, also from 10 – 11:30. This will give you and your kids a chance to meet some of their new classmates before school starts!

Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 11, at 6:30 pm. Even though it's the end of the year, we would love to see new faces! 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](mailto:whatelypto@gmail.com), or connect with us on Facebook.  
Whately PTO

