

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

273 Long Plain Road • PO Box 158

ph. 413-665-7826

fax. 413-665-0428

## Back In The Swing Of Things!

The 2019/20 school year is off to a fantastic start! Getting a new school year up and running can be a daunting task. I would like to acknowledge every member of the WES staff for their hard work and dedication to being fully prepared to provide our students with a positive school experience. I would also like to acknowledge our students for returning to school fully ready to take on the exciting challenges they will face in the coming year. In no time at all, we had slipped back into all the rituals and routines that allow us to maintain the atmosphere of kindness and hard work that is the trademark of Whately Elementary School. It is truly a remarkable community and I am grateful to be part of it. Last, but certainly not least, I would like to express my gratitude to the families of our students. The support you provide to your child(ren) and to the school is the foundation of what makes this school great.

## Exciting News From the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

While I'm on the subject of greatness, I am so pleased to announce that, based on spring MCAS performance, Whately Elementary School is one of 67 schools in Massachusetts to be designated a School of Recognition. As a school, we met 100% of the targets that were set for us by the state. Our students demonstrated tremendous growth, which is the measure that I put the most faith in. Our growth scores are derived by comparing each child's performance to his or her own previous performance. I am extremely proud of the students and staff for achieving this designation from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. I look forward to continuing our quest to provide the very best educational experience in which all WES students thrive academically, socially and emotionally.

Mrs. Kirton

## DATE REMINDERS... BOO!



### October

- 3 ..... School Picture Day
- 4 ..... Early Release 1:30
- 8 ..... Joint School Committee Mtg FRS 6:00.
- 7 ..... PTO Meeting at 6:30
- 11 ..... Early Release at 1:30
- 14 ..... NO School Columbus Day
- 21 ..... All School Meeting at 9:10
- 25 ..... Early Release at 1:30
- 26 ..... HALLOWEEN PARTY 6 – 8 pm



### November

- 1 ..... ½ day – **NOON** dismissal Parent/Teacher Con.
- 5 ..... **NO SCHOOL** – Parent/Teacher conferences
- 6 ..... **School Picture Re-take day**
- 11 ..... **NO SCHOOL** – Veterans Day
- 12 ..... School Committee Meeting at 8:15 a.m.

.....  
Please be sure to read the PTO Article for information on the **Halloween Party**.



### Reminder from the office:

Please be sure to date and sign all notes you send to the School. Also, if you use your own lunch/milk envelope, please be sure to indicate your child's name on the envelope. Reusable envelopes are available from the office.



### JOIN US FOR LUNCH

PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THEIR CHILD FOR LUNCH. PLEASE GIVE US A CALL (BEFORE 9:30) TO LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING AND WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR LUNCH. (ADULT MEALS \$4.25)



### CORI FORMS

Anyone planning to **attend field trips, volunteering in the classroom, or doing any activity working with the children** requires a CORI check. CORI checks must be done every **3 years**. (Criminal Offender Record Information) Even if you are "CORI'd" somewhere else, you need to have one done by our District Office. There is no fee to you or the school for this procedure. Just stop in the office and ask for a CORI form. You must also submit a copy of a picture ID (ie: driver's license) with the form.

**DO YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER HAVE ANY INSTRUMENTS LAYING AROUND NOT IN USE? PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO OUR MUSIC PROGRAM.**



### **NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE...**

Happenings: Health screenings are coming along- vision screening complete for PK and K, continuing with 1-6th and hearing screening PK-3rd ongoing. If you have not heard from me then your child passed. If you did receive a referral letter, please return the form signed by the specialist.



Upcoming: **Free dental program** in October (date TBD).

You can still sign up - it's free and a terrific opportunity for your child to experience a dental screen in an environment where they feel safe and learn tips for keeping their teeth healthy.



Health Tips from your School Nurse: Model healthy habits and your children will follow!

- *Handwashing* - before eating, after playing outside, touching pets, after using bathroom
- *Cough etiquette* - covering with elbow when coughing or sneezing
- *Regular exercise* - take walks together, go for a bike ride, hike up sugarloaf mountain
- *Healthy snacks and meals* - involve kids in preparing food and grocery shopping, encouraging choosing foods from all food groups, and a variety of fruits, vegetables, grains and proteins
  - Remember to pack an ice pack with foods that need to stay cold (yogurt, cheese)
  - Healthy foods, low in sugar will help your children perform better in class!
- *Bedtime routine* - no tv/screen an hour before bed, avoid eating right before bed
- *Consider a flu shot* for everyone in the family to stay healthy- its that time of year again



◦ See the Nurse's Office page on the WES website under 'events' for local flu clinic dates and locations

- Take extra precautions against EEE & WNV until the weather begins to frost. Follow the suggestions from DPH/Mass.gov (see below link) including wearing insect repellent at dawn and dusk when risk of being bitten is higher.
  - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/eee-eastern-equine-encephalitis>
  - <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/west-nile-virus-wnv>

Wishing you good health,  
Nurse Esti



### **News from Preschool...**

It has been a wonderful beginning to our new year. It was great to see so many current and former families during open house. I look forward to sharing many other experiences with you at this great school.

The start of the preschool year is always quite busy. New beginnings, transitions, and sharing time and space with others are all part of the learning that has been happening. We have

begun to find our groove and focus on the important work of childhood-PLAY!

With the seasonal change, we have been exploring nature and many of the toys that nature provides us. We have made nature collages, made leaf people, counted acorns, sorted leaves, and painted with natural materials. Leaves and acorns are a cool way to explore paint and create great art. We are beginning to explore other classroom materials, like scissors. We will find items outdoors and practice snipping and clipping. We will be lacing some leaves and creating some weaving art. All of these experiences teach beyond the finished product. Through these opportunities, children are learning to share, interact, create new ideas, develop fine and gross motor skills, early learning concepts, and lots and lots of language. All of this under the guise of play.



Play is not only important but it is a necessary foundation for all learning to come. Allowing for unstructured play is essential to our early childhood curriculum. We have administrators who value and support this work and I am encouraged by the overwhelming current research in early childhood education. For many years, children's museums have emphasized the importance of setting up engaging environments. Our preschool team is constantly looking at ways to make learning more engaging and meaningful. One exciting thing about these early learning years is that we can dive into the interests of our current group of children and weave in important building blocks for learning. Read here to learn more about the importance of play in learning.

<https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/power-of-play>.

For all current families, please enjoy the weekly news with more specifics about what we have been up to in preschool. Happy Fall, Chrissy



### **NEWS FROM PRESCHOOL AFTERCARE PROGRAM...**

Whately Preschool's Aftercare Program is pleased to share with you some of the fun our little group has had these first few weeks back in school! With a focus on being outside and interacting with the natural world as much as possible, this program has had a great start.

We've had a warm and welcoming transition from Summer's end into the "official" Fall, which has allowed for easy access to outside, just where the kids are happiest! We've enjoyed discovering and naming go-to areas of the lovely school grounds, including "The Pine Needle Forest", "The Field", "The Mushroom Forest" and "The Raspberries!!!" :) Following are some of the highlights from our "explore time", brought to you via the words of the children, themselves...



-- [The raspberries] were nice and juicy and the bugs liked them and Gavin liked them." (Gavin)

--There was thunder! (Avery)

--I never heard thunder when it's sunny out, only rain. (Ben)

--I saw two bumblebees! (Tynan)

--We went to the field and ran and threw rocks! (Danay)

--We noticed some leaves have holes in them. I think it's because of bugs eating! (Peter)

--We noticed the ants and eggs (from yesterday) were all gone! (Gavin)



--I don't like ants on my hands; but I got it off, myself! (Avery)

Aside from the observations of the natural world and its changing over time, the above statements reflect children's natural curiosity and "making sense" of the world, including growing in independence and interdependence. In noticing an American toad amongst rocks and how easily we lost track of it due to its coloring being like the rocks, children naturally understand the concept of camouflage. A bit of questioning brought the discussion to why this might be helpful to the toad.

Finally, Whately's PreK Aftercare Program crew has enjoyed playing new and old games, recording the weather, spending time on the playground equipment and time coloring and, of course, time enjoying snacking! We look forward to exploring a new season together!

Miriah Freemole



### NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN...

Our kindergarten class begins each day with a morning meeting where we all come together on the carpet. Morning meeting is a time for children and teachers to greet and welcome each other into the classroom. We are learning important social skills during meeting time. The three components of our morning meeting are –

1. **Greeting:** Students and teachers greet one another by name.
2. **Message:** As a class, we write the daily message. The morning message informs the students about our daily schedule and is a great way to work on reading and writing skills.
3. **Group activity:** We may dance, sign songs, do yoga, or play a game. The children are doing a great job learning our classroom routines.

Most mornings we follow Morning Meeting with our Literacy Centers. During Literacy Centers, the children experience a wide range of activities that involve speaking, listening, reading and writing as they learn about the relationship between oral and written language, and the relationship between letters, sounds, and words. The children also have a chance to work in a small group with the teacher, have a time for snack, and go to literacy centers.

It was wonderful seeing so many families at Open House. If you did not have a chance to sign up for a parent teacher conference, I will be sending home a sign-up sheet next week. I look forward to seeing everyone at our November conferences. Ms. Sittig



### NEWS FROM FIRST GRADE...

The First Graders are filled with curiosity and wonder! They have done a great job of assisting me in learning the WES "ropes". We have spent the first few weeks of school establishing routines, getting to know each other, and becoming a community. Students have authored our Class Rules, which include Try Your Best, Have Fun, Be Kind, Have Safe Bodies, Listen to Each Other, and Take Care of our Classroom. Young entomologists have been learning about insects, spiders and their habitats. This particular group



is especially interested in animals, plants, and caring for the earth. We are lucky to have Miss Chapdelaine in our classroom every day to help with everything having to do with our very busy days in First Grade. I appreciate the way in which this community has embraced and supported me thus far! For more detailed information on the nuts and bolts of First Grade happenings, please see our weekly news that comes home each Friday.

Amy Tibbetts



### NEWS FROM SECOND GRADE...

September has been an exciting and busy month in Second Grade! We spent the first few weeks getting to know each other and learning the classroom routines! Our literacy time has been filled with lots of reading, writing, and learning about words. The students have started to learn about our reading block, which we call the Daily 5. During this time, students are working independently while the teachers will be working with small reading groups. Before we can start reading groups, we have to build up our "stamina." We have spent time graphing how long the whole class can work independently! The first day we could only do it for about 2 minutes. Now, the whole class is able to work for almost 20 minutes at a time! We are very proud of our accomplishment! One of the highlights about Daily 5 time is that the students can spread out around the room and read on the beanbag chairs or floor cushions.

In math, we have been reviewing strategies that help us add and subtract numbers. The second graders have been playing many math games to help practice in fun ways! Numerous tools have been introduced to the students such as ten-frame cards and a math rack in order to assist learning. We have also been using the smartboard to help us learn and practice new strategies.

The students have become experts in their scientific thinking while observing and collecting data on their mealworms. Our mealworms are currently in their larva stage as we eagerly await the next stage of the mealworms life cycle to occur.

Students are observing, collecting data, and documenting as we anxiously await for them to emerge into their final phase!

Warmly,  
Mrs. Kirkendall



### News from Third Grade..

Welcome back Whately families and friends! Things are definitely up and running for another exciting year! We have 19 enthusiastic third graders this year. Two new students have joined our class. I'd like to extend a warm welcome to Austin and Cassie! I would also like to welcome Mrs. Brenda Jerome back to third grade. She will be working as the Instructional Assistant in our classroom. Brenda has lots of experience in third grade, as she and I have worked together in past years. We are glad you are all here!

We are off to a great start in third grade and have already set the tone for our classroom climate by composing our classroom rules and writing our own individual goals (also known as "hopes and dreams"). We all agreed that it is important to "make a good effort" and persevere in everything

you do. We discussed this important character trait with the help of the book, The Little Engine That Could. Kindness and working together to help one another are foundational social themes that we also discussed. We read a book about bees to help us with this discussion. We will work on these themes throughout the entire school year. In addition, students had the opportunity to share some summer memories over the course of the last few weeks by bringing in summer souvenirs. We also completed some time capsule pages that we placed in a box, only to be opened on the last day of school.

We have spent some time being reacquainted with books by bringing in some "just right books" from home. We classified our books into various genres, designed book covers, and completed accompanying book reviews. The third graders have been working very hard on this project! We have also reviewed story elements using the book, Appelmando's Dreams, and have taken some time to concentrate on "lessons learned" with the help of some traditional fables.



In math, we will be using the *Engage New York/Eureka Math* and *Context* programs this year. We recently learned that multiplication is a quick way of adding equal groups of things. We used a grocery store scene to help us to come up with clever ways to add some equal groups. You can support your child in this area by helping them to practice counting by 2's, 3's, 4's, 5's, and 6's.

I am excited to report that our class will be taking part in the Empatico program this year! With the help of Mrs. Anderson, we will be face timing a third grade "buddy class" from New Mexico once a month. Students who were second graders here at W.E.S. last year, wrote letters to this same group of students in June. We've already face timed our friends on September 13th and discovered that we liked many of the same kinds of foods and sports. We look forward to developing a deeper relationship with our buddy class throughout this school year.

In conclusion, it was great seeing so many families at Open House. I am always amazed at the pride and joy that students express, as they guide their families around the room and show them all of the many projects and activities that they have completed during our first month of school. Nice job, third graders!

Mrs. Kellogg



### NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE...

What fun we are having in 4th grade! We had a spectacular day at Mike's Maze! We used what we had learned about the Woodstock Music Festival, as well as Janis Joplin, Joan Baez, Jimi Hendrix, and Carlos Santana to answer trivia questions and earn sugar pumpkins. Thank you to Tracy Keyes and Holly Johnson for joining us.

I enjoyed seeing so many families at Open House and watching your excited children share with you all that we have worked on so far. If you did not sign up for a parent conference, please check in with me.

See the weekly newsletter on the front of your child's Friday Folder to see a more in depth look at all the learning that is taking place in 4th grade.

Happy Fall!  
Mrs. Apanell



### NEWS FROM FIFTH GRADE...

Hello Families,  
I am so excited to be working with you and your children! It has been a fantastic start to the school year. Thank you so much for all your support with the mum Fundraiser. We earned **\$1,257.00** ! Thank you to Brent Young at Mill River Farm for providing the mums. I hope you have all been receiving my daily/weekly emails and the Class Dojo posts. If you have not received these, please let me know as soon as possible so I can make sure to add you! It was wonderful to see so many of you at Open House and I look forward to our year together! Please see my daily/weekly emails and Class Dojo posts for updates on the learning and happenings in fifth grade! Thank you,  
Lacy Pittelli



### NEWS FROM SIXTH GRADE...

The school year is off to a great start. We are learning about six systems of the human body, in Science. We also have our first field trip under our belt. The class went to Morse Hill earlier in September. What a great experience for the class. Please look check your e-mail for daily classroom updates. If you have any questions during the school year, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with everyone this year.

Mrs. Gay



### News from the Library Media Center...

It is already the end of September and Library and Technology Classes are in full swing. By all means, ask your kids what we have been reading, learning and doing in both Technology and Library Classes.

**This year the Library Classes will be as follows:**

- Preschool Friday
- Kindergarten Thursday
- 1st Grade Tuesday
- 2nd Grade Wednesday
- 3rd Grade Thursday
- 4th Grade Thursday
- 5th Grade Monday
- 6th Grade Monday



**Books need to be returned by Library Class Day, in order to take out more books.** Please help your children get into a good routine of where to keep school library books at home. Also, please help them remember what day is Library Class Day, so that they can check out books each time. Preschoolers, Kindergarteners and 1st Graders may take out one book at a time, whereas older students often take two books at a time. I am so happy to be seeing more 4th, 5th, and 6th graders checking books in and out on a daily basis!

Parents, I also welcome you to come in and check out a stack of books under your name. Students and families are always welcome to come in before or after school to check out those extra books. Daily, I love being greeted by kids asking for yet another book because they just finished one they previously enjoyed!  
Happy reading,  
Mrs. King



### NEWS FROM SPEECH-LANGUAGE ROOM...

As a speech and language specialist and a member of our school's Global Leaders, I am interested in civility, clarity and accuracy in talking. In the larger world, however, we are exposed to leaders whose talking can lack a sense of common good. Respectful, meaningful communication around important issues and concerns is hard to find some days. In the interest of "the greater good", we should all (teachers, parents, community members) commit to teaching the following skills: respectful disagreement, clear and principled argument, the effective use of facts and evidence when taking positions and, above all, empathy.

Through various activities and lessons, our Whately students learn the art of argument and persuasion - how to make a convincing case, how to state your point and then listen to the rebuttal, and how to argue a position that is the opposite of your own. In writing, they work hard to find the best evidence to support their claims in articles, books and on websites. There are Second Step lessons on how to be assertive speakers and empathetic listeners, attuned to feelings and motives. Through our connections with Tanzania, Kenya, New Mexico and other places, our kids learn that communicating (even with less than perfect Skype connections) with those who are far away, living very different lives, is fulfilling. We always find that we have so much in common. Whately students are building the foundations of civil communication at an early age.

We want our students to have strong opinions and to be assertive when voicing their questions, ideas, positions and concerns. We want them to listen to others with empathy and respect, which is especially important when they have opposing opinions. Here at Whately Elementary, we work hard to support a civil, caring community. Someday, our president may say she learned the basics of good communication and civility from her Whately grade school teachers!

Sally Rice



### NEWS FROM BAND ROOM...

The Whately Wolves Band is already filling the hallways with glorious sounds! I am thrilled that we have 19 students enrolled. That is about two-thirds of the upper-wing students. All second and third year students are currently working on scales, songs from the band method book, and a band arrangement, "Cousin Louie." First year band students should be working on perfecting those all-important first notes. The coordination and forethought required to play that first note takes a lot of trial-and-error. Perseverance is key! All students have a weekly goal of practicing five times a week for at least 10 minutes a day. Please feel free to email me with questions. I am more than happy to be of help!

I would also like to mention that I am thrilled to have two new music colleagues by my side this year. Mrs. Sherrill's substitute for strings this year is Ms. Katie Miranda. She comes to us with a lot of energy and a thorough background in strings instruction. Ms. Chris Sirard is our new general music teacher with diverse teaching experience and big ideas to bring to our community. I am beyond excited to share our students' music with you in our first concert of the year, Wednesday, December 18th at 1:30pm.

Warmly,  
Mrs. Carr



### NEWS FROM THE GYM...

Hello Whately Wolves,

In PE we have been engaged in our cooperative games, and tag games. As always, our primary focus is on our core values. We have recently built teamwork puzzles, each puzzle having its own saying, but all ending with ". . ." as the students had to write the story with their team. The relay race leading to the creation of the puzzle was a challenge of its own, but even more so, I was impressed with the conversations that occurred afterward. Here, the class had the opportunity to shape their learning, and create a super hero code to work by for the year in PE. Some of my favorite discussions were about vision, ownership, and leadership in the classroom. I am so very proud to see how active our young learners have been through the start of the year in spirit, mind, and body. These conversations can make us stronger everywhere and anywhere. Maybe even at home, create your own code with that very special team. Our puzzle sayings can even help and go as follows: "Even on hard days I will . . ./ Inner strength means . . ./ Our team finds success when . . .".

Have a wonderful and active year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Steven A. Carra



### NEWS FROM ART ROOM...

It is so exciting to start the new year! I cannot wait to see what the Whately Elementary students will be creating! We jumped right in with a little bit of art history. We studied Vincent van Gogh and his famous paintings of sunflowers. We worked on large pieces of white paper with sketching. We discussed different techniques on how to blend oil pastels and how to use a wooden tool to etch small details. The sunflowers came out fabulous; some examples are hanging in the hallway. Check them out!

In the younger grades we read a book called: "The Day The Crayons Quit". It was a book based on crayons that had come to life and wrote letters to a student. The pretend letters were funny & everyone had a good laugh. We then pretended that Mrs. Myer's art supplies came alive in the art room! We had some art supplies to trace to get us started. Some students drew freehand and added some speech bubbles. The imagination was fabulous!

With the older grades, we are moving on to learning about Mexico's Day of the dead cultural celebrations. Again, it is an honor to teach art to the students of Whately Elementary. I am looking forward to a great year of creativity!

Best, Mrs. Meyer



### NEWS FROM THE SPANISH ROOM...

¡Hola Familias! Spanish classes at Whately Elementary School are underway, with classes meeting each week in grades K-6. In the earlier grades, we are learning about some basics such as colors, parts of the body, the family, the days of the week and months of the year. As a starting point, I think of teaching using songs, games and art. We have songs about colors, flowers, birthdays, losing teeth and more through the seasons. Our current project in the lower grades is to make 'Caras curiosas' (Silly faces).



With the older students, we have been reviewing words for the familia (family) months and birthdays. Soon, we plan to learn Spanish through story-telling, which begins with some basic details, then takes unexpected twists and turns to keep things interesting, while repeating details to allow students to remember the words.

It is a great pleasure to be your children's "Maestro" (teacher), and thank you for the opportunity to work with them.

Chuck Edgerly  
ELL/Spanish Teacher



●●●●

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

Greetings from your PTO! We hope everyone had a great summer and a good start to the new school year. We have had one PTO meeting so far, and were so pleased to have some new families joining us!

Our yearly pie fundraiser is about to begin. Forms will be coming home soon with the full list of all the wonderful treats that are offered. Everything arrives in time for Thanksgiving! Keep an eye out for the information.

Planning has started for this year's Halloween Party, which will be on Saturday, October 26, from 6 – 8pm. This event includes a DJ, crafts, bake sale, and a Haunted House. We wouldn't be able to do this event without plenty of volunteers! Volunteer forms will be coming home soon – please consider helping out!

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, October 7, at 6:30pm at the school. The PTO provides so much for our school – and we can't do it without the participation of our members!



●●●●

### **FREE Drop-In**

### **Union 38 Family Network Playgroups**

Come join the playgroup for an informal morning of play, interactive literacy activities and conversation with other families.

*Families and caregivers with children 5 years and younger are welcome to join the playgroup for playtime and interactive literacy activities!*

Tuesdays @ Whately Elementary 9:30-11:30

Fridays @ Sunderland Elementary 9:30-11:30

(Except for school vacations and winter school closings)

For information contact: Amy Battisti, CFCE Coordinator, at 413-362-9145 or at [amy.battisti@frsu38.org](mailto:amy.battisti@frsu38.org)

## **Teddy C. Smirowski** **Farmstand & Creamy**

### **Potato Festival**

Featuring our own award winning Polish food  
Prospect Meadow Farm Goat Gang  
Meet & Greet w/Mr. Potato Head  
Potato Patch  
Fun & Games for the little ones  
Photo Booth  
Arts & Crafts  
Tractor Rides

**October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 6 pm**

**320 River Road, Route 47, Sunderland, MA**



### **Frontier Regional & Union 38 Special Education Parent Advisor Council**

### **Does your child have an IEP or 504 plan?**

Join our parent-run meetings to connect with supportive parents find local resources and attend workshops.

Wednesday, October 23 at 6 pm  
Sunderland Elementary School Library.

Free childcare provided by qualified staff.  
Email Aja at [frsu38sepac@gmail.com](mailto:frsu38sepac@gmail.com) at least one week in advance to register for childcare.