



Washington Township Schools "Making a Difference"

New in Our Schools: School Resource Officer (SRO)

At their January 6th meeting, the Washington Township Board of Education approved an agreement with the Washington Township Police Department to employ a School Resource Officer (SRO) for our district.

The Warren Hills Regional School District already has an agreement with the department to provide that service to their schools. Our district was contacted by Chief Jim McDonald, Washington Township Chief of Police, in November, 2013 about placing a School Resource Officer (SRO) in our district, as well.

SROs are typically employed by a local police or sheriff's agency and are under contract with the local school district, working closely with school administrators, in an effort to create a safer environment for both students and staff. The responsibilities of SROs are similar to regular police officers in that they have the ability to make arrests, respond to calls for service and document incidents that occur within their jurisdiction.

Having a police officer in our schools should not seem unusual to our students. Washington Township police officers often stop in and visit our students throughout the week. The township police department also sponsors a Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program (DARE) in our schools for our grade 5 students.

The School Resource Officer will begin in our schools and be introduced to the students on Monday, February 3, 2014.

Port Colden School
Brass Castle School

Volume 6, Issue 6

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Ear Buds



Parents: If you prefer that your child use their own personal set of ear buds (or head set), know that you may purchase a pair of ear buds for your child to use in school. Send them into school in a Ziploc-type baggie marked with their name for storage in the classroom. Your child is welcome to use their own set of ear buds when their class goes to the computer lab. Price range for ear buds appropriate for school use is \$5-10.



Winter Band Concert



Due to the snow day, our Winter Concert was cancelled on Wednesday, January 22nd. The make-up date will be on Monday, February 3rd at 7pm at Brass Castle School. Students should arrive at 6:30pm in their concert attire. The snow date will be on Wednesday, February 5th at 7pm.

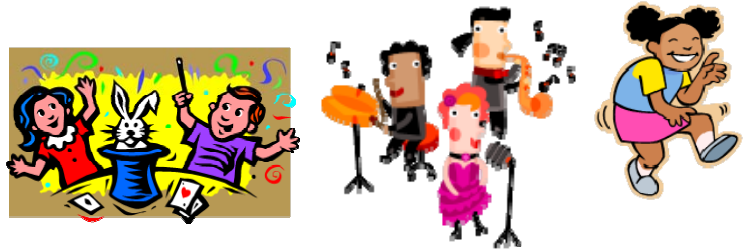
Our next concert will be the Spring Music Concert on Thursday, April 10th at Warren Hills Regional High School at 7pm. There will also be an Ensemble Night concert on Wednesday, June 11th 2014 at Brass Castle School at 7pm where selected musicians will perform in small groups.

Kindergarten Celebrates 100 Days

Kindergarten will be celebrating the 100th Day in February! Some of the activities we have planned are counting to 100 by 1's and 10's, reading books and singing songs about the 100th Day, and visiting some fun websites about the 100th Day. In addition, the students will be participating in the following centers: counting 100 links by 10's, completing a 100-piece puzzle, sorting and counting 100 buttons, and connecting 100 unifix cubes. We will end the day by estimating how far 100 steps will take us and then taking our journey!

2014 Brass Castle Talent Show

Singing, dancing, and flipping, students were all into performing their talent and taking a shot at making the show! Instrumentalists, illusionists (a person who performs magic tricks), and funny comedians were on hand for our talent show tryouts. Thanks to all our young performers for working to prepare for their audition, and good luck to the students whose acts were chosen to perform at our 2014 Brass Castle Talent Show on Wednesday March 19, 2014 at 7:00pm.



Geography Bee

Do you know which continent the Ronne Ice Shelf borders? Did you know that Mount Rainier is the highest mountain in the state of Washington? Several of Brass Castle's geo-whizzes knew the answers to those and many other questions about geography and the world. They recently competed in a classroom level geography bee, and ten finalists went on to the school level bee. Congratulations to these finalists who competed on January 10 at an assembly at Brass Castle: Simon Ribiero - 6 Mitch, Aidan McHenry- 6 Motzenbecker, Dylan Mott - 4 Mikituik, Shrenik Patel - 5 Mahon, Domenic Daugenti - 6 Penner, Zachary Getz - 5 Baxendale, Eddie Kaiven - 5 Hussey, Ryan Galka - 4 Watters, Ronnie Shawiak - 6 Galoppo, and Sarah Frey - 4 Margolin.

Congratulations to Simon Ribiero, our first place winner. After his win, Simon will take a written test from National Geographic. With this test, he will become eligible to move on to the state level bee. Second place went to Domenic Daugenti, and third place was taken by Dylan Mott.

Congratulations also to our other classroom level winners: Ryan Elbassiouny (5 P), Jake Stria (6 C), Destiny Sheppard (4 C), Alex Yahara (5 R), and Jonathan Knittel (4 P). We are so proud of all of you!



Left to right: Aidan McHenry, Dylan Mott, Ryan Galka, Zachary Getz, Eddie Kaiven, Simon Ribiero, Domenic Daugenti, Sarah Frey, Shrenik Patel & Ronnie Shawiak

Washington Township PTA Spelling Bee 2014

Can you spell 'expunge'? Well, we know that Phoenix Dougherty can! That was the word spelled correctly leaving Phoenix the last speller standing at the Brass Castle Spelling Bee held on January 15, 2014. After eliminating all the other spellers, Phoenix needed to spell the next word to clinch first place. Quietly and slowly, Phoenix spelled B-U-L-W-A-R-K; the audience waited anxiously for the judge to proclaim a 'yes' or 'no'. The crowd released a big breath of air, as Phoenix was announced first place winner; an award she has won for two years consecutively! Justin Spilove spelled his way to place second overall. And, ending the evening, Daniel Pitsch battled it out in an exciting spell-off with Sean Marascia to take third place.

All participants are congratulated for competing within their homerooms to win the honor to compete in this grade 5-6 spelling bee competition. In addition to being super spellers, all our participants demonstrated outstanding sportsmanship. A-D-M-I-R-A-B-L-E, for sure!

The 2014 Spelling Bee participants: Grade 5 - Joseph Accetturo, Eniola Ajayi, Jordan Damiano-Florez, Michael Finke, Cassidy Fredo, Shaun McGahey, Ashley Moskal, Eric Paruta, and Eva Tirado. Grade 6 - Dan Anderson, Annabel Cousins, Phoenix Dougherty, Emma Kaiven, Aidan McHenry, Sean Marascia, Jamison Piatt, Ben Suarez-Pistilli, Daniel Pitsch, Justin Spilove. In attendance were alternates: William Colavito, Meryn McFarland, Kelcie Mannon and Alex Yahara. Those participants who achieved alternate or higher but were not in attendance were: Zachary Connell, Rachel Fitz, Tucker Gabrich, Paulina Georgoutsos, Hannah Kling, Elizabeth Schlaffer, Colin Volckmann,

Many thanks to our PTA parents, pronouncers, Mrs. Gustitus and Mrs. App, and judge, Mr. Mohan, for organizing and preparing this event. A big thank you to Mr. Flumerfelt for the sound system.



Back row, left to right: Ben Suarez-Pistilli, Annabel Cousins, Eric Paruta, Emma Kaiven, Jamison Piatt, Jordan Damiano-Florez, Eniola Ajayi, Ashley Moskal, Cassidy Fredo, Joseph Accetturo

Front row, left to right: Michael Finke, Eva Tirado, Shaun McGahey, Daniel Pitsch, Phoenix Dougherty, Justin Spilove, Dan Anderson, Aidan McHenry, Sean Marascia

Music Students Attend Warren Hills Fine and Performing Arts Day



On Wednesday, January 15, 2014 the Brass Castle 6th Grade Chorus and Blue and White Band members went to the annual fine and performing arts day at Warren Hills Regional High School.

In the morning, the students were able to see the middle and high school choruses and bands perform. The high school drama club also performed a scene from their fall play and the high school art students presented some beautiful pieces of art. After lunch, the students participated in master classes where they were able to sing, play and act with the high school students. The students learned so much and had a lot of fun as well!



Anticipating the Science Fair

We are planning a science fair, and we would like you to attend! The Open House for the science fair will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 6pm in the hallways of Brass Castle School. With your encouragement and support, we expect all our "scientists" to participate by preparing and displaying individual experiments.

We have been preparing for the exhibition by discussing the following: choosing a topic, organizing the project, setting up the display, and presenting the results. These exercises should provide direction for making this science fair a valuable learning experience. The student's projects are due Monday, April 7, 2014. The entire school and judges will be invited on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 to attend and evaluate the science fair projects.

Warren County All-Star Band

Congratulations to our 2014 Warren County All Star Band members! The Warren County All Star Band is a collection of the most outstanding sixth grade musicians from each school in Warren County. Students are selected through a rigorous audition process that stresses the benefits of practice and hard work. It is a great honor to be selected! This year's All Star Band members are Phoenix Dougherty, Rachel Fitz, Paulina Georgoutsos, Emma Kaiven, Daniel Pitsch, Alanna Smith, and Jordana War.

As members of the All Star Band, students will participate in a rehearsal at North Warren High School on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 that begins at 11:45am. The students will perform a concert the same night at 7:30pm at North Warren High School. The snow date for this event is Thursday, March 6, 2014. Students should bring a bagged lunch to school on this day. Dinner will be provided for the students at the high school between the rehearsal and the concert. Transportation will be provided for the students from Brass Castle School to North Warren High School.

Troopons ® Totals

Thank you to our student and parent community for your contribution of coupons. The Brass Castle Helping Hands Club, with the help of club advisors Ms. Croasdale and Mrs. Ruperto, clipped and sorted the donated coupons. After coupons were sorted into categories, the coupon total had to be calculated. Our school district made the following contributions to the Troopon ® organization:

Food Coupons	\$ 730.35
Non Food Coupons	\$1,744.10
Pet Coupons	\$ 73.00
Baby Coupons	\$ 46.50
Grand Total:	\$2,593.95

Patriot's Pen Program

What does patriotism mean to you? A truly thought provoking question that was posed to the sixth graders at Brass Castle for this year's Veterans of Foreign War's Patriot's Pen essay contest. After much discussion on the various ways people express their patriotism, the students set off on their own to tell the veterans what patriotism truly means to each of them. The



Mrs. Mitch, Samantha Dugan & Mrs. Casserly

essays were submitted to our local VFW for this nationally run contest opened to 6-8 graders. We are thrilled to announce that Samantha Dugan, representing Mrs. Mitch's sixth grade class, won third place in the district and in the local contest. Samantha was honored at the VFW ceremony on the evening of January 22, 2014, at the Belvidere American Legion. Way to go, Samantha! We are so proud of you and of all the students that wrote beautiful essays.



Samantha poses with post commanders

Snapshot of a City

Students in Mrs. Melhem's third grade class learn about communities across the United States. Each marking period students study a different region of the U.S.A. as pretend to visit a state from the current region being studied and do research about it. They then present a 'snapshot' and a photo from their visit to that state. This marking period, students studied the middle states and their capitols. Some topics students write about are the states' population, whether it is rural or urban, any special landforms or landmarks, if that state has any specific laws, when it was adopted into our union, and if there are any famous people from that state. Students present their mini report on a 'camera' worksheet. Some students, who have actually visited these states, are particularly proud when presenting because they use real photos of themselves as part of their report.

N.J. Schools Near Top in Nation in Student Achievement, New Study Finds

New Jersey schools rank near the top in the nation in student achievement and chance for success, according to a study released today. The Quality Counts report from the non-profit Editorial Projects in Education, the Maryland publisher of Education Week, studies the academic, social and financial forces that are shaping school districts. In addition to state highlights, the report examines key issues facing district leaders around the country. New Jersey is a perennial powerhouse in this and other studies about the quality of education. The state ranked second, behind Massachusetts, in the Chance for Success Index, a measure of the role of education in an individual's life. New Jersey's B+ grade was significantly higher than the national average of C+. As reported by the NJ Department of Education.



UniBeat Drumbircles Assembly

On Wednesday, January 29, 2014, the students were treated to an engaging and interactive assembly presented by the PTA Cultural Arts Committee. Professional musician and educator, Kenneth Straub, brought an array of percussion instruments for the students and teachers to play. He also incorporated an important theme into the event: "Respect."

The audience learned to play simple rhythms with their hands, feet, and various instruments, including rhythm sticks, tambourines, shakers, and drums. The students had fun as they were reminded how to be respectful to themselves and each other, and why that is so important. Just as each instrument sounds different individually, so do our voices. But when we all work and play together, and practice being respectful, we can create great harmony! ...And they did create harmony...very loudly with big smiles on their faces!

For more information about the Cultural Arts Committee, please contact Bridget Asbury at bridgetasbury@gmail.com.

Don't miss next month's environmental assembly, "The Blue Planet," on Monday, February 24.

Brass Castle's Sixth Grade Honors Dr. King

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits." Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 1964

Brass Castle's Sixth Grade has spent the month of January honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They have read plays about non-violent protests and viewed videos about Dr. King's life and the famous Woolworth Lunch Counter Sit In. They read aloud his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, paying particular attention to all the marvelous symbols and literary devices it employed. To culminate the unit, they will compose an expository essay in response to the above quote. Look for exemplary examples of these essays in the next issue of our district's Anthology.

Grade 2 Enrichment-Math, Science, and Technology

The 2nd Grade Enrichment-Math, Science, and Technology Class participated in the Marvelous Math Program at the Harmony Firehouse on January 24, 2014. The students enjoyed participating in math activities with other enrichment students from Warren County. The students performed math activities at four different stations. The activities consisted of games related to fractions, addition equations and subtraction equations. The students had a great time playing games and problem solving, as well as meeting some new friends.

Summer Reading Program

BRRRRR! It may be cold and snowy outside, but some of us are thinking about summer. Summer reading, that is. Mrs. Kaiven and Ms. O'Cone are starting to plan the summer reading program. If you have any suggestions for the program, please send an e-mail to Mrs. Kaiven (hkaiven@washtwpsd.org) or Ms. O'Cone (rocone@washtwpsd.org).

Port Colden Community Connection

Port Colden teachers and students spent a wonderful afternoon at the Warren County Library on Thursday, January 30, 2014. "The Warm up to Reading" event was designed to bring teachers, students, and parents to the community library to promote the joy of reading. It was amazing to see how proud the students were when they came in with their library cards, while other students were equally excited to get their first library card. First, second, and third graders spent their time searching for books, reading to teachers, and chatting with friends. Mr. Neuhs did a great job searching the stacks for princess chapter books! Parents joined in the fun and provided delicious treats for our young readers. Thank you to all participants, and we look forward to seeing you at the library real soon!



Front: Peter Reilly, Emily Frey, Marissa Padilla, Marissa Schulte, Noelle Kunzle, Mrs. Trush, WC Librarian & Mrs. Melhem



Pleased to be an E.M.T.

What is a highly trained emergency medical technician? A person that provides immediate medical care to patients who have suffered injuries from car wrecks, falls, heart attacks or other accidents. They frequently treat wounds, perform C.P.R., administer drugs, transport patients to hospitals and even, at times, help deliver a baby.

To follow up her Safety, Injury and Violence Prevention Health unit, Mrs. Melhem invited in Mr. Al Jardines, to be her class' January Mystery Guest.

Mr. Jardines is the father of third grader, Jonathan Jardines, who is a student in Mrs. Melhem's class. He is a local E.M.T. (22years) and Fire-fighter for Washington Township Volunteer Fire Department.

After being interviewed, Mr. Jardines was able to teach the students all about his EMT equipment through an exciting Bingo game. Mr. Jardines designed Bingo boards that laid out vocabulary words that matched the items in his emergency first aid knapsack. By turn, students selected a 'front' or 'back' pocket supply item. After locating it on their Bingo boards, Mr. Jardines explained its purpose and function to aiding the sick or hurt. After all items were discussed and everyone got bingo, Mr. Jardines concluded his health lesson and left leaving treats and smiles. Thank you for coming in and serving our community, Mr. Jardines!



Jonathan and Al Jardines

News from the Transportation Office

Allow me to introduce myself! My name is Peggy Edmiston and I am the Transportation Coordinator for Washington Township and Warren Hills. While I am new in this role (as of September), I have been working in the transportation department for just shy of 5 years now.

School bus and child safety is my priority every day! Throughout the school year, my department provides our teachers with tools to reinforce bus safety and safe behavior for our students.

So far, this winter has been a bit challenging. Not only have we had snow, but we have also encountered black ice and sub zero temperatures.

Here are some valuable tips I would like to share to help keep children safe around buses.

Students:

- Stay back at least 10 feet from the road while waiting for the bus.
- DO NOT play games or run around at the bus stop.
- DO NOT rush to the bus. When you see the bus coming, form a line. DO NOT push others to try to be the first on the bus.
- If you must cross in front of the bus, look at the driver for directions and cross in front of the crossing gate arm.
- NEVER walk behind the bus.
- DO NOT try to pick up something dropped near the bus - the bus driver may not see you! Ask the driver first.
- Have respect for others' property at the bus stop and on the bus.

Parents:

- DO NOT crowd the bus stop with personal vehicles. This poses a danger by obstructing traffic and blocks drivers' views.
- Park all cars legally - 25 feet back from the intersection. Do not park in the wrong direction.
- DO NOT block the area where the bus makes its stop. Do not block the driveways of the property owners at the stop. Do not block walkways or mailboxes.
- Have students in an orderly straight line as the bus approaches.
- Look carefully before allowing your child to exit your vehicle at the bus stop.
- DO NOT pull your vehicle directly behind a bus and release your child to run alongside the bus.
- DO NOT "chase" the bus from one stop to another. If your child misses the bus, please take your child directly to school. The driver will not allow your child to get on another stop.
- Have your child at the bus stop at least 10 minutes prior to the scheduled bus arrival.
- Check your child's clothing! Make sure it's safe - long, dangling drawstrings and straps, long scarves, loose clothing and oversized backpacks pose a safety hazard.

Head Lice

What are they? Head lice are small insects that survive on human hosts. They are generally found close to the scalp, primarily around the ears and at the back of the neck. The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, and can be the color of your child's hair. Eggs, or nits, are smaller and white or silver in color.

Symptoms: The most common symptom is itching, which is caused by an allergic reaction to the louse saliva. When the itching begins, it usually means that the individual has had lice for about four weeks already. There may be redness or sores that are caused by scratching. About 1 in 100 U.S. elementary school children will become infested with head lice in any given year. It can occur throughout the year, although the most common times are summer and back - to - school time periods. Girls are more likely to become infested. A head lice infestation has nothing to do with cleanliness or parenting skills.

How do you get head lice? Lice infest all socioeconomic groups, races, genders, and even ages. They are most common in children, due to their close contact with each other. They spread from one child to another, primarily through direct head to head contact, or secondarily through the sharing of personal items, such as hats, scarves, helmets, brushes, combs, and pillows. Having head lice is not a sign of poor hygiene. Lice are not a disease, and do not spread disease. If someone in your child's class at school develops head lice, do not automatically assume that your child will "catch" head lice, too.

How do I know if my child has head lice? Diagnosis is made on the basis of symptoms, and confirmation of a live louse on the head.

Prevention:

Teach and reinforce with your children to avoid head to head contact during lice outbreaks.

Teach your children not to share personal items, such as hats, scarves, headbands, helmets, brushes, combs, and pillows.

Check your child's hair daily during an outbreak, and routinely otherwise.

Long hair should be pulled up/back.

Treatments include:

Over-the-counter (OTC) products

Prescription products

Alternative therapies, such as natural and herbal—these are not regulated by the Food and Drug administration (FDA)

Nit picking with a special, firm/metal fine-tooth comb, or removing each nit individually with your fingers down the hair. Combing takes time and patience.

TIPS:

If using an OTC or prescribed treatment, it is important that you read and follow all directions on the product label.

DO NOT treat someone who does not have live lice, or if the nits are not close to the head. These products do not prevent lice.

8-12 hours after product treatment, examine your child's head again. If lice are still alive, but moving slowly, do not retreat. Comb dead and remaining lice out of the hair with the nit/lice comb. When combing hair, sit in a well lighted area. Part the hair into small sections and comb through one section at a time. Be patient and thorough. **It is important to check the hair and comb through it at least every morning. This lets you know if there are new nits being laid overnight. If there are more nits, removing them decreases the chance of self re-infestation.** Comb daily until there are no lice or nits discovered for two weeks. While short hair makes searching for lice and nits easier, it is not required.

Retreat the hair ONLY per the product guidelines.

Combs, brushes, hats, and hair accessories used should be washed in hot water daily.

Clothes dryer set at high heat will kill lice and their eggs on bedding, pajamas, towels.

Objects that cannot be placed in a dryer can be bagged and placed in a basement or garage for two weeks, or placed outdoors in freezing temperatures.

Thorough vacuuming the house, furniture, and car is necessary. Major cleaning is not required, and insecticides are not needed.

The School Nurses are available to answer any questions, and to show and explain how to check your child's hair. Your physician should also be a resource to you. Thank you.

Janine Barzdines, RN
Port Colden School
908-689-0681, ext 507

Ashley Colnett, RN
Brass Castle School
908-689-1188, ext 607

Resources: National Association of School Nurses, Center for Disease Control, American Academy of Pediatrics

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Field Test

New Jersey is leading the way in assessment innovation by developing new next generation assessments with other states and the District of Columbia as part of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) consortium. PARCC is developing a set of assessments in English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) that will be used by all states in the consortium.

In preparation for the first operational administration of PARCC assessments in the 2014-2015 school year, a PARCC Field Test will be administered in the spring of 2014 to more than one million students across all PARCC states. Participating students in grades 3-11 will be assessed in English Language Arts/Literacy or Mathematics.

PARCC assessments comprise two components: *Performance-Based Assessment* and *End-of-Year Assessment*. Each of the components will be field tested as described below:

Performance Based Assessment (PBA):

The English Language Arts/Literacy PBA will involve literature analysis, narrative writing, and research simulation tasks. Students will read passages and write several pieces to demonstrate they can:

- Read and understand sufficiently complex texts independently;
- Write effectively when using and analyzing sources; and
- Build and communicate knowledge by integrating, comparing, and synthesizing ideas.

The Mathematics PBA will involve tasks requiring students to demonstrate they can:

- Solve problems involving key knowledge and skills;
- Express mathematical reasoning and construct mathematical arguments; and
- Apply concepts to solve/model real-world problems.

End of the Year Assessment (EOY):

The English Language Arts/Literacy and *Mathematics* EOYs will involve tasks requiring students to demonstrate their content-specific acquired skills and knowledge.

The English Language Arts/Literacy EOY assessment requires students to:

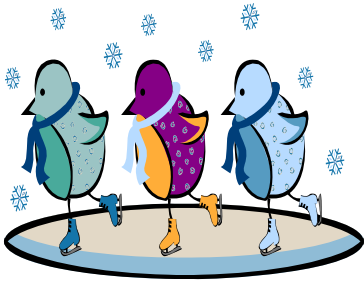
- Demonstrate their ability to comprehend a range of sufficiently complex text, including literature, literary nonfiction, and informational text from history/social studies, science, and technical subjects;
- Engage in the reading of texts that require them to draw conclusions;
- Interpret the meaning of words and phrases and technical vocabulary; and
- Compare, integrate, and synthesize ideas presented in texts.

The Mathematics EOY assessment requires students to:

- Demonstrate their ability to solve multi-step problems, conceptual questions, applications, and carry out substantial procedures.

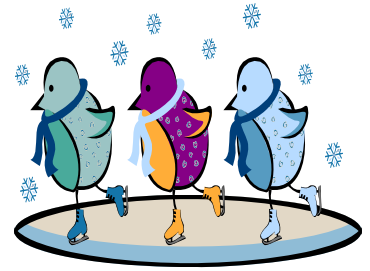
The Washington Township School District has been chosen as a field test district. We have been selected to administer the online PARCC assessment in both Performance Based and End of Year to two Grade 5 classrooms. Using a random generator selection method, Mrs. Peterson and Ms. Mahon's Grade 5 classrooms have been selected for the field test.

Please visit www.parcconline.org for the latest news and developments as well as <http://www.parcconline.org/field-test> for frequently asked questions about the Field Test.



Counselor's Corner

February 2014



This morning (6:40am and 5 degrees outside, warm and toasty 68+ under the covers) my husband says to me "Ok, I'm done with winter." "What?! You can't be," I exclaimed, thinking that it is only the end of January and we have quite a way to go before the weather becomes our friend again. It has been a rough winter with the bitter cold, ice and snow, but it IS winter after all. I think that it is easier to get through the gray, winter months if we take the time to appreciate the diversity of our seasons. We truly are fortunate to live in a region where we celebrate nature's glory: through the hot, sticky, humid days of summer; with the crisp, colorful months of fall; in the lovely spring days when the scent of sweet blossoms are in the air; and yes, even in the dark days of winter. Embrace this time and know it will soon pass.



Enjoy the innocence of children sleigh riding, remember the delight of a snow day, build a fire, snuggle under a blanket with your favorite book, indulge in a sweet, rich hot cocoa (you can't do that in the summer!). I encourage you to celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of each season much like we celebrate and respect the differences in each other.

As a tie-in to our Month of Tolerance in January, we continue with the focus on Diversity in February. One of my favorite lessons addresses the power of our words and the damage that can be done by making assumptions about people. We talk about rumors, stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination and how these vices can be overcome through tolerance and celebrating differences. The students are very receptive and insightful - you would be proud of our kids!

You know I love to hear from you anytime, whether you have a concern or would like to share a 'happy' milestone, I am always available. I can be reached at Brass Castle 908-689-1188 ext 611 or Port Colden 908-689-0681, x 543, or via email dtierney@washtwpsd.org or on my cell phone (if you need it, just contact me and I'll share the number with you.)

I challenge you all to embrace the diversity of our seasons and find the joy in the freezing cold, the beauty in the falling snow, the gift of time indoors with our children... and remember that the spring will be that much sweeter for having passed through this rough winter...

February 2014 – Diversity

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Respect each others opinions - we don't have to agree to get along	4 Our differences are what make the world so interesting	5 Be a positive leader and accept others differences	6 Love what makes you special	7 Choose something unique about you to share with others this month	8
9	10 Its ok not to like someone, but its <u>not ok</u> to be rude and disrespectful	11 Don't judge others by clothing or hair color - get to know the person on the inside	12 Remember kind thoughts become kind actions - keep it positive	13 There is something to be learned from all types of people - have an open mind and listen	14 Treat others extra special today - will you be my Valentine? J	15
16	17 No School	18 'Individually we are one drop, together we are an ocean'	19 Diversity keeps life interesting - celebrate our differences	20 Accept your differences and be PROUD of them	21 Don't be afraid of someone who is different - you might learn something	22
23	24 Treat others as you would want to be treated - Practice the Golden Rule	25 "In diversity there is beauty and strength" M. Angelou	26 Laugh <i>with</i> your friends and not at them	27 Being surrounded by differences expands our world and opens our mind	28 What did you share this month? How did you feel sharing a piece of yourself?	
	"Diversity is the art of thinking independently together!"					
		<p><i>"We should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter their color."</i></p> <p><i>Maya Angelou</i></p>				