



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



**WELLFLEET
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Mary Beth Rodman, Principal

October 2017

Thank You!

Thank you for helping us usher in the 2017 - 2018 school year! Students are arriving to school on time, are settling into their routines, and are ready to learn!

Attendance

School begins at 7:45 AM and ends at 2:00 PM. On early dismissal days, school begins at 7:45 AM and ends at 11:00 AM

School Committees recognize that parents of children attending our schools have special rights as well as responsibilities, one of which is to ensure that their children attend school regularly, in accordance with state law.

Therefore, students may be excused temporarily from school attendance for the following reasons:

1. Illness or quarantine
2. Bereavement or serious illness in family.
3. Weather so inclement as to endanger the health of the child.
4. Observance of major religious holidays.

A child may also be excused for other exceptional reasons with approval of the school administrator.

A student's understanding of the importance of day-to-day schoolwork is an important factor in the shaping of his/her character. Parents can help their children by refusing to allow them to miss school needlessly. Accordingly, parents will provide a written explanation for the absence and tardiness of a child. This will be required in advance for types of absences where advance notice is possible.

In instances of chronic or irregular absences reportedly due to illness, the school administration may request a physician's statement certifying such absences to be justifiable.

Fall Pumpkin Harvest

On Thursday, October 26th, all WES students will enter our "Pumpkin Patch" to choose a pumpkin to decorate with Ms. Swanson in the Art Room! Parents are welcome to join in the fun and assist students. A schedule will be sent home listing the activity time for each grade level. We are looking for four volunteers who would be available to assist Ms. Swanson throughout the day. Please contact Mrs. DeSandis at 508-349-3101, ext. 10 if you are able to join us as a volunteer! Thank you!



Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL

School will not be in session on Monday, October 9th in observance of Columbus Day.

Fire Safety Week

Firefighter Joe Cappello will be visiting with all WES classrooms during Fire Safety Week, October 10 – 13, 2017.

After School Enrichment Program - A.S.E.P.

Meghan Swanson, A.S.E.P. Coordinator, has scheduled the ASEP program sessions. Three 6-week sessions and one 4-week session are anticipated during the school year.

- SESSION I: October 10th-November 20th
- SESSION II: January 8th-February 16th
- SESSION III: March 5th-April 13th
- SESSION IV: April 30th-May 25th (4 weeks)

Registration for classes is on a first come basis so be sure to turn in your form before each session's deadline!

Light on Literacy - from Mrs. Kocaba

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Let's figure it out mathematically!

Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week;

Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.

Student A reads 20 minutes x 5 times a week = 100 minutes/week.

Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes/week.

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.

Student A reads 400 minutes/month.

Student B reads 80 minutes/month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year.

Student A reads 3600 minutes/school year.

Student B reads 720 minutes/school year.

Student A practices reading the equivalent of ten whole school days a year!

Student B gets the equivalent of only two school days of reading practice.

By the end of sixth grade, if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits,

Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days.

Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 school days.

One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Some questions to ponder:

Which student would you expect to read better? Which student would you expect to know more?

Which student would you expect to write better?

Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?

Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and in life?

Visitors to WES

If you are visiting WES, please remember to sign in at the Main Office. In accordance with the **Nauset Regional School District Emergency Response Plan**, all visitors are to report to the Main Office upon entering the building. Visitors may not go directly to classrooms. All visitors shall present a form of picture identification to school staff before receiving a visitor identification tag or sticker from school staff. For safety and security, we need to know who is in the building at all times. For all Visitors, staff shall record the following information and retain as a matter of record:

- Full Name
- Date of Birth
- Residential Address
- Home & Cell phone numbers
- Name of the student you are here for
- Arrival & exit times
- Name of the school employee you are visiting
- Name of business, group, or entity you are representing.

Vacations

According to State regulations, the school year includes 900 hours of instruction over 180 days. Every school-age child is expected to attend school on a daily basis. Please make every effort to schedule your family vacations at the same time as school vacations. Vacations taken on scheduled school days result in unexcused absences and are highly discouraged by the school. A student's progress and promotion may be affected by vacation absences of any length. Taking work on vacation or attempting to make work up after returning does not replace being in the classroom. **Teachers are not required to provide work for unexcused vacations.**

Student Conduct on School Buses (File: EEAEC)

The School Committee and its staff share with students and parents the responsibility for student safety during transportation to and from school including bus stops. The authority for enforcing School Committee requirements of student conduct on buses will rest with the Principal.

To ensure the safety of all students who ride in buses, it may occasionally be necessary to revoke the privilege of transportation from a student who abuses this privilege. Parents of children whose behavior and misconduct on school buses endangers the health, safety, and welfare of other riders will be notified that their children face the loss of transportation privileges in accordance with regulations approved by the School Committee. The District reserves the right to use video surveillance of students at our own discretion.

Children in grades Pre-K, K, One and Two must be met at the bus stop in the afternoon by an adult or a parent-designated person or the child will be returned to school. The parent will be called and will have to pick up the child at school.

Thank you for being punctual when meeting your youngest children as they get off the bus in the afternoon. This enables the buses to travel to Nauset Regional High School in time for the high school dismissal at 2:57 PM.

Communication

It is important to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. Notes, phone calls, parent-teacher conferences, email messages, and report cards provide this communication.

- ✓ **Back Pack Mail:** *Thursday* is “notice day” at WES. Occasionally notices will be sent home on other days. Most news and notices will be sent via email.
- ✓ **Monthly Calendars:** Monthly calendars provide a snapshot of known activities scheduled each month and are subject to change.
- ✓ **Telephone:** Our voice messaging system will take your call. Due to classroom responsibilities, teachers will return calls at the end of their day.
- ✓ **Internet Information:** Log on to the Nauset website www.nausetschools.org to access information and contact staff.
- ✓ **Report Cards:** Report Cards are issued three times each school year.
- ✓ **Conferences:** Conferences are held two times (Fall and Spring) each school year. Students are dismissed early (11:00 AM) on afternoon conference days. (*Childcare is available at school during afternoon and evening conferences.*)

Teachers are available to meet with parents any time there is a need.

Technology News - Mrs. Holmes

Wellfleet Elementary School subscribes to lots of great educational websites! The following sites monitor individual student progress and can be accessed from home for extra practice:

- Lexia Reading Core5
- Xtramath (math fact practice)
- IXL Math and ELA
- Wonders Reading Program

The WES Computer Lab has its very own website full of fun, educational links to explore. Check it out!
<http://www.nausetschools.org/webpages/lholmes>

Contact me for your child's login information for any of the subscription websites, or if you have questions about any of the programs.

Lisa Holmes, Technology Teacher
holmesl@nausetschools.org
(508) 349-3101 ext. 36

Personal Property

- Trading or purchasing of items from other children is not permitted.
- Please do not send expensive items to school with your child.

Toys are not permitted in school (unless they pertain to a specific project and have been preapproved by the teacher or Principal.) This may include, but is not limited to: fidget toys/spinners, cell phones, electronics (i.e. iPods), comic books, radios, trading cards, collectibles, remote control toys, CD players, electronic games, tablets, skateboards, skates, sneaker skates, anything depicting graphic violence (including clothing, hats, etc.), or any kind of weapon (real or toy). Unapproved items will be held in the office until a parent is able to claim them.

Health Office News

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

All families are invited to join the school community in celebration of International Safe Routes to School Day on Wednesday, October 4th. Students across the country will be walking and biking to school to promote healthy and active lifestyles. While our location makes walking and biking to school out of the question for many, WES students and staff will participate in a "Walk About the School". Please join us from 7:30-7:45 AM with your walking shoes on! Let's hope for nice weather! In the event of rain, we will walk through the school.

DENTAL PROGRAMS AT WES

The Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program is a weekly, 60-second swish and spit option for grades 1-5. Participation in this program, sponsored by the MA Department of Public Health, is shown to reduce the incidence of tooth decay by 20-40%. Permission slips went home in September but it is not too late to sign up.

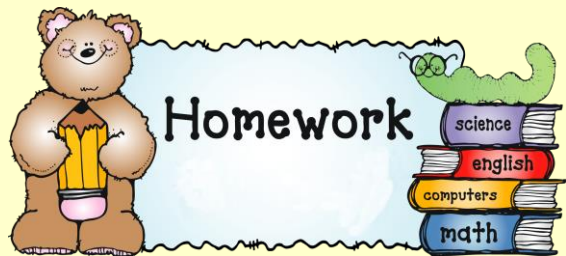
The Polished Dental Team will return to WES on October 26th and April 12th for exams, cleanings, and sealants as needed. The bright yellow parent permission folders went home in September. Contact Mrs. Cope-Crosen at 508-349-3101 ext. 14 or at copec@nausetschools.org if you need another form or if you have questions.

Homework

We believe that homework in every grade improves learning by providing needed practice. Please let us know if homework becomes a problem in any way. Homework is any task assigned students during the school day, which is to be completed outside of regular class time. While the results are hardly uniform, there are indications that homework improves learning, test scores, and grades. Homework may be assigned Monday through Thursday. Homework can foster student initiative, independence, and responsibility/ reinforce, supplement, and improve learning/ support the school-home connection/ ease time constraints on the curriculum.

Homework Time Guidelines:

- **Kindergarten:** 5 to 10 minutes plus 10 minutes of reading.
- **Grade One:** 10 to 15 minutes plus 20 minutes of reading.
- **Grade Two:** 20 to 25 minutes plus 20 minutes of reading.
- **Grade Three:** 30 to 35 minutes plus 20 minutes of reading.
- **Grade Four:** 40 to 45 minutes plus 20 minutes of reading.
- **Grade Five:** 50 to 55 minutes plus 20 minutes of reading.



Invitations (birthday parties, etc.)

When every child in a classroom is invited to a family-hosted event, children may distribute invitations at school. If not every child is invited, we kindly suggest you refer to the Student Directory for other ways to communicate an invitation to select people.