

Pioneer Valley Regional School District
Warwick Community School News
NOVEMBER 2009

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 2- All School Meeting: 2:15
November 5- Reading is Magic! Family Literacy Night with "Ed the Wizard" 6:30 PM
November 9- PTO Meeting: 6:30 PM WCS Library
November 11- Veteran's Day: No School
November 13- Thanksgiving Dinner: 12:00 PM
November 17- Report Cards sent home
November 18- Early Release: Parent Conferences
November 19- PVRSD School Committee: 7:00 PM PVRSD Library
November 25- Early Release
November 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday- No School

November is Family Literacy Month!!!
"Reading is Magic" Family Literacy Night, November 5
6:30 PM

On Thursday, November 5, we will be celebrating the magic that happens when families read together. Families are invited to school for an evening of building magic places for reading with blankets, chairs and pillows. Children will have a chance to choose a new book to bring home from the "Magic Cauldron of Books". Following these activities there will be a magic show with "Ed the Wizard". We are grateful for the funding of this program through the Local Cultural Council, and hope families will be able to join us!

Please bring flashlights and/or battery lanterns for reading together!!!

WCS Thanksgiving Dinner:

The Warwick community is invited to join us for our traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday, November 13 at 12:00 PM.

The cost of the dinner will be \$5.00 for adults.

Please call the school office (978-544-6310) by Friday, November 6th if you are planning on attending.



Parent Conferences:

Parent Conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 18th. Please call the school office to schedule a conference time, if you have not done so already.

Winter Greens Fundraiser

We will be offering lovely poinsettias and wreaths from 5 Acre farm as a fundraiser for our Student Activity Fund. Order forms are attached, and need to be returned to the school by November 6. Orders may be picked up at Parent Teacher Conferences on November 18th.

Spotlight on Grades 1 and 2 :

The students enjoyed the hayride even with flurries in flight! Each child chose a sugar pumpkin, enjoyed apple cider as well as a cider doughnut, and then picked a bag of apples. The grade 1/2 class then created its own class "List Book" about events from the trip. All are welcome to come read about Red Apple adventures.

In the first and second grade class, along with the multiage, had a terrific field trip to the Red Apple Farm. Other class news, students have been learning about mapping and about insects. On a recent insect hunt students recorded their observations of insects they found outside. We brought a few specimens back into the class inside some bug jars. Well, the jars were accidentally dropped and the grasshopper and large ant escaped! Luckily we were quick on our toes and got the critters safely back to the jars, and then safely returned to their outdoor habitat.

The grade 1/2 class is seeking donations of healthy snacks that will not perish quickly. Healthy crackers, popcorn or dried fruit would be much appreciated. Thank you!
~ Julianne Webster

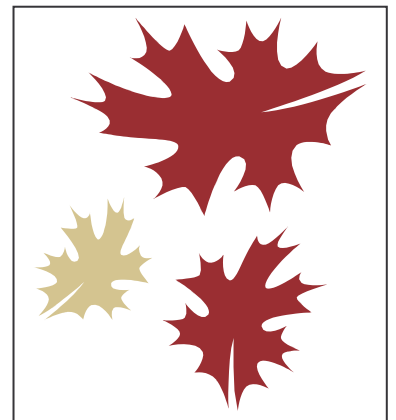
Notes from the Nurse:

H1N1 flu is on everyone's mind and it is a legitimate concern. We continue to encourage frequent and effective hand washing, as well as proper cough and sneeze etiquette (into your elbow), and keeping hands out of your eyes, nose and mouth. In addition, absent children and staff are tracked for any illness and are required to remain at home until they are well and have had no fever (without medication) for 24 hours. Many students are staying out longer if they still have other illness symptoms such as a significant cough. Cooperation and respect for attendance guidelines has been widespread and very appreciated.

Please be aware that children with any kind of chronic disease need their parents/guardians to contact their pediatrician and discuss getting the H1N1 vaccine. Chronic disease leaves children more open to the more serious consequences of the H1N1 flu.

Health classes will continue for this school year. We began with the reviewing or learning the healthy practices named in the first paragraph. Starting in November each classroom will receive one health class a month. In future newsletters the content of the health classes will be summarized.

~ Mrs. Dempsey



DID YOU KNOW?

- Did you know that each classroom at WCS has a Buddy Class? Grades 5 and 6 are buddies with the first and second graders and Grades 3 and 4 are buddies with the Multiage class. Classroom buddies pair up for literacy activities, with older students helping the younger students. We are proud of how well our students help one another with learning in our school!
- Did you know that even though Mrs. Walker is retired, she still is hard at work in our school? Since September, Mrs. Walker has been a substitute teacher in almost every classroom, and also as subbed as our Gym teacher and our Title I teacher!
- Did you know that Nathan, our new custodian, is a very handy person!! He has taken apart and moved our compost bins from the garden area, to a spot outside of the kitchen, making it much easier for our student compost haulers to do their chore!

Title I Funding for WCS:

Why fill out the free and reduced lunch form?

Title I is a federally funded program, originated in the Johnson administration, and reauthorized in 2001 under the No Child Left Behind legislation. Funding is based on the number of low income families residing in the district and is determined by **free and reduced meal eligibility**. At our current poverty rate, three of the four elementary schools qualify for services.

Students do not have to be low income to qualify for Title I services, it is just how the program is funded. Those students most in need academically must be served first. Extra support in reading and math is provided to students experiencing difficulty in acquiring skills who do not qualify for special education services are supported. Extra support might take the form of assistance within or outside the classroom individually or in small groups. Title I services are supplementary to regular classroom instruction, rather than replacing it. The intent is to provide struggling students an *extra* boost toward proficiency.

Should your financial situation change at all during the school year, please fill out a free and reduced lunch form. They are available at your school throughout the school year.

PTO News:

The WCS PTO is in need of membership!!! This important group helps support many of the schools special events and funds many and various classroom projects. Please consider coming to a meeting to find out how you can be involved.

***Next Meeting: November 9
6:30 PM WCS Library***

Author and Illustrator

David Costello Visits WCS

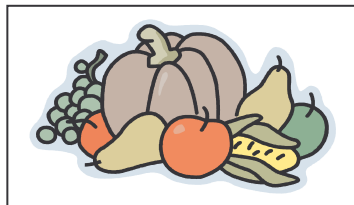
Thank you to the PTO for supporting the program presented by David Costello, author and illustrator. David read us his book, and shared his talents as an illustrator, as well as a puppeteer! While the students were entertained, they also learned about the process an author uses to develop a book idea, and bring the story to publication. Again our thanks to the WCS PTO!!

WCS Technology Integration

We welcome our new Technology Integration Teacher, Michael Lipinski! Mr. Lipinski recently retired after 36 years of teaching at the Erving Elementary School, and brings with him lots of experience both as a classroom teacher and as a technology specialist.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Please return UNICEF Boxes to ASAP. Thank you to our Third and Fourth Graders and Mrs. Comiskey who are helping organize the collection!



WCS Wish List

Thanks in advance if you can contribute in any of the following ways:

- * Volunteer to: 1) read to and with students!!!
2) work in our school library
3) sew new aprons for Holly, our Cafeteria Manager*
- * Donations of table cloths for special occasion community meals*