

Wildcat World News

OUR MISSION:

To provide an exemplary education for all students to become productive participants in our community.

OUR VISION:

West Newton Elementary School will continue to be a high performing school where all are motivated to make a difference in the school community.



Principal's Reflections

Dear Parent(s),

Parents, I would like to thank you for your support and I am proud to say we are working hard this school year.

In the month of November we had several exciting events take place. We had lunch with our parents and grandparents for Thanksgiving, our Pre-K students dressed up like future business people and they paraded around the building, and our math make and take it night was a huge success. Our parents learned how to support our students outside of school as well as how challenging math is for our students. Special Thanks go out to our Title I staff and classroom teachers for a great program.

During the month of December we will have several school functions that we ask you to be a part of, for example, December 5 is West Newton Day at BJ's in Conyers. We are asking everyone to come out between the hours of 12noon and 2pm. A portion of the proceeds made will benefit West Newton. It is important that we participate in fundraisers so that we can provide incentives for our staff and students. Look for a flyer in the Wednesday folder explaining the event in more detail. Also, this month we will have our annual Spelling Bee and Beta Induction for our 5th grade students.

In closing, please continue to see that your child is at school on time each day. It is imperative that all students are seated in class and ready to learn by 7:45 a.m. daily. Also, please continue to check your child's agenda for information from his/her teacher. Finally, thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do to support your child's learning.

From the West Newton Family-Happy Holidays!

Always Keeping Children First,
Dr. Curry, Principal

Counselor's Corner

We live in a time when teaching our children to be virtuous is especially challenging. Over the years we've had many parents ask us how to help their children develop positive personal qualities. What can I do to help her see that she should treat others with kindness and respect?" and "How can I get my child to be more honest?" One effective way to teach children to be virtuous is to work on character development.

Character development is enhanced by opportunities to do well in the world. Volunteering to help at food banks, helping coach younger children, giving money to a family-chosen charity – all these efforts instill important habits in your children. But don't force them to help at the soup kitchen alone. Join them, and have a talk afterwards. Of course it's hard to find time for such things, hard to interact with people who seem different and tempting to feel judgmental toward people who need help, but the payoffs can be enormous.

Character development begins at home and continues at school. As a parent, consider how you can bring some of your best character-building ideas to your child's school. You can have a voice in having the school choose character-building reading materials, activities and speakers. Talk to your child's school counselor, teachers, coaches or principal about how you can contribute to the challenge of character development in all young people.
WNES Counselors

KINDERGARTEN FUN!

In Math Kindergarten will continue to investigate numbers, practice counting to 100 by 1's, 5's, and 10's, recognizing numbers to 30 and number words from zero to ten, writing numerals through 20 to label sets, and sequencing using ordinal numbers.

In Writer's Workshop we will continue to work on "Informational Writing." Also, we will begin our "Christmas Around the World" celebration. We will study how *different cultures* celebrate during the holidays. We will make lots of crafts pertaining to the different cultures. *Please send a note to your child's teacher this week if you do not wish for him/her to participate.*

Please continue to check your child's folder and sign daily. Thank you for encouraging your child to complete any homework that is given. The purpose of the homework is to reinforce the skills that are taught in the classroom. Continue studying sight words daily. The purpose of learning the sight words is to build fluency in reading. This is a very important foundation for your child's education.

Happy Holidays!

-Kindergarten Team-

First Grade Team

First Grade December News!!

We hope all our students had a restful break and have come back recharged. We have a busy month and we have hit the ground running. After winter break, it will not be long until CRCT is upon us. You can help your child by having them do simple activities with you at home. A good activity is to have them count the change in your pocket. Money is an important part of the CRCT. Also, we are working on telling time to the hour and half-hour. Let your child tell you the time their favorite TV shows begin, eat dinner, and go to bed. Practicing these skills every day will help your child do their best.

First Grade Team

SECOND GRADE Prowl!

Our 2nd graders will continue their focus on stories from the theme Around Town. Our comprehension focus is to evaluate the story, making inferences from the clues of the text. We will review skills such as problem solving, main Idea, supporting details and making judgments. In writing, students continue

to work on their informational writing. They will be engaged in researching or reading non-fiction/informational books to assist them with their writing. In Math, our focus will be telling time (5 *minute intervals*) and measuring using standard units. In Social Studies, we will finish our study on Unit 4: Georgia Becomes a Colony. Our students will continue learning about our state's history and influential people. The children will also participate in an economics unit, ending with a culminating mini-market. Our Mini Market will take place Thursday, December 17 from 8:30- 10:30 where students will gain hands on experience in trading.
Second Grade Team

English Language Learners (ELL)

The computer is a great way to practice skills.

Here are a couple of websites that students really enjoy:

www.starfall.com – practices reading skills

www.sightwordswithsamson.com – practices sight words

www.multiplication.com – practices multiplication facts

www.coolmath.com – practices different math skills

www.myschoolhouse.com – practices different skills in reading, math, science, social studies

ELL Team

Specialist News Art Class

It's getting cold outside, but things in the WNES art classroom are just warming up! Thanks go out to all of the families who participated in the fundraiser and to those of you who donated "recycled" materials. We can always use gallon buckets, old magazines, egg cartons, etc. for our projects. The WNES Art Club meets December 10 and then again on January 14. Have a safe and Happy Holiday!

WNES ART DEPARTMENT

Melissa Johns
Art Teacher

Physical Education Department

West Newton has truly been blessed this year! The Box Tops, Campbell's Labels, and Coke Points donations have been through the roof! Thank you everyone for your support! A huge thank

you goes out to the Black family who donated a Nintendo Wii Fit bundle to our PE program!!! Also, the students have accomplished so much.....and the year is only half way through. Coming up the students will have an opportunity to take part in a county wide basketball shooting completion. The contest is called the Elks Hoop Shoot. They will also get use the new parachute we received with Coke Points. Other upcoming lessons will be Basketball, Bowling, Jump Rope (Jump Rope for Heart Event), Frisbee, Nintendo Wii Fitness games, plus much more. Please continue to encourage your children to exercise and spend time getting daily physical activity.
Mr. Matthews
West Newton PE

Third Grade News

We are having a great and busy year! In math, we continue to work on geometry and measurement. You can assist your child with measurement by having them measure things at home. You don't always need a ruler to measure. You can use many different things such as paper clips, ribbon, and other household objects to measure distances. As you know, multiplication is a very important skill in the third grade. The students need to continue practicing facts at home, especially during the break. Along with multiplication, please continue to practice basic math facts in addition, subtraction, and missing number. In reading, we are continuing our Incredible Stories theme. We continue to work on reading skills. For the remainder of the nine weeks, we will be focusing on following directions, drawing conclusions, and story structure. Ask your students to tell you about the characters, the setting, the problem, and what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of a story. Please make sure you student is reading 20-30 minutes each night, this engages your child to become a fluent reader. We are beginning a unit in science on heat and thermal energy. How is heat made? Your child should be able to tell you by the end of this unit.

Third Grade Team

THE FOURTH GRADE TIMES

We, the fourth grade team, can't believe how fast this year is going by. It seems as if it were yesterday that your children entered our classrooms. Due to Christmas Holidays this month's instruction will be cut. In essence, we will continue to provide your child with

effective instruction daily. In Reading, students are working on making personal connections with authors. In Mathematics, students are being tested on mastery of multiplication and division procedures. The students will begin studying the basic principles of Geometry. We are eager to begin our next unit of study in Science which is Force and Motion. Many students are finding Social Studies quite interesting. We are concluding our unit of study on Early Explorers and will begin studying the colonization of North America, New England, Mid Atlantic and Southern American colonies. Writing is an area of concern for many students. We are continuing to provide the practice that they need to become better writers through the implementation of Writer's Workshop. We are finalizing our unit on writing to inform. Students will begin studying persuasive writing techniques. The fourth grade has been selected to attend a field to Newton Co. High School. Students will go on December 11, to see the Nutcracker. We are asking that students dressed their best on this trip. The fourth grade team wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

The Fourth Grade Team

Fabulous Fifth Grade News

Over the past six weeks, 5th graders have been working diligently researching and creating an informational writing piece. Students will have a mock writing test on Informational writing on Thursday, December 10th. Fractions are the focus in math. Your child is learning to compare, add, subtract, multiply, divide, order, and convert fractions. Please encourage your child to use the resources available to review every day. Language Arts and spelling are taught ongoing through Writers Workshop. Social Studies and Science continue to be integrated with all content areas. We are finishing the Civil War and are now beginning to focus on Physical Science. It is very important that students study multiplication facts and read for 30 minutes every night in order for skills to improve. Also, keep in mind that you can access your child's progress through Infinite Campus; just type in your child's lunch number (students know their number) and birth date. You will be able to see students' grades and missing assignments.

Fifth Grade Team

RELAY FOR LIFE

Relay for Life is an organization that helps raise money for the American Cancer Society. We have some exciting events planned and would love for you to come join our team! If you would like to be a part of our Relay for Life team, please contact Ms. Beard and she will get back with you as soon as possible. Our West Newton Relay for Life team is having a Winter Dance on Friday December 11, 2009. WE ARE SO EXCITED! This dance will be for ALL West Newton Students P-5. It will be directly after school from 2:45-5:00p.m. in the gym. Parents can begin picking students up at 4:45 from the gym. To ensure the safety of all students, parents will be required to show proper identification to sign students out from dance as you would if you were signing them out of school. Admission will be \$2.00. We will sell food and other items at the dance as well. The permission slips will be sent out on Thursday, December 3rd. Please turn the permission slip and money into the child's homeroom teacher no later than Tuesday, December 8th. We would love to have parents as chaperones. There is a part on the permission slip to check if you would like to chaperone! We hope to see you at the dance.

**Congratulations
Ms. Yvonne Peters and
Ms. Rosemary Reed**

**West Newton
Staff of the Month**



IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 4th - Class Pictures with Santa

Dec. 5th - West Newton Day at BJ's in Conyers from 12-2pm. (Wildcat Chorus and West Newton Step Team will perform)

Dec. 7- 11- 5th Grade Composers Biographies are due to Mrs. Houston

Dec. 9 - 5th Grade BETA Inductions

Dec. 10- Spelling Bee

Dec. 11- School Dance (2:45-5:00pm)

Dec. 17- Holiday Program @ 6pm. (Pre-K, Wildcat Chorus and West Newton Step Team will perform)

Dec. 21-Jan. 4- Holiday Break

Jan. 5- Students Return to School