

WINDOW INTO WELLS ELEMENTARY

News from the Principal's Office

January 2018

Happy 2018

As we enter into the new year, I wish students, staff, families and community members a healthy, positive new year. I look forward to the academic and social growth that occurs the second half of the school year. Students blossom at unbelievable rates, and I'm proud to partner with you as we watch that progression.

Acapella Spreads Cheer

Thank you to the High School Acapella group who sang through the hallways of the building on Thursday before the holiday vacation.



STWEAM fun!

After reading the book *"How to Catch an Elf"* during the last week of school in December 2017, the students in Multi 1-2 and Looping 1 embarked on a STWEAM (science-social studies, technology, writing, engineering, art, and mathematics) adventure to design



January Dates:

- 2: School resumes
- 10: Early release
- 15: Martin Luther King Day: No School
- 17: Early release
- 18: PAC meeting @ 5:30
- 19: 4th grade Band performance @ 10:00
- 19: Grades close
- 19: PTSA movie night
- 23: PTSA meeting @ 5:30
- 24: Early release
- 26: Report cards sent home
- 31: Early release

Wellness Update

Thank you for reading the regular 5210 flyers for ways to encourage wellness at WES. Hopefully the monthly calendars have also encouraged participation in your homes. Please continue to send in healthy snacks, and remember that water is the best source of fluid to stay hydrated throughout the day!



PAC UPDATE:

This month PAC will be meeting to brainstorm a community event where the entire WES community can gather to celebrate and give back to locals in need. If you have ideas you would like considered, please share them with a PAC member. (Kim Bohn, Summer Roy, Sarah Moody, Andrea Hall, Jennifer Adams, Michelle Allen, Eric Lawson, Morgan Gaines, Eilean Worchester, Theresa Bolduc, Jenny Jo K. Collin, Nichole Donovan, and April Noble)

PBIS UPDATE:

This month, staff will be nominating students from grades 1-4 for CORE Value Awards to be celebrated at our Breakfast of Champions in February. Continue to encourage your children to demonstrate our core values: Honesty, trustworthiness, compassion, responsibility, and respect.

Report Card Update

WES student reporting runs on quarters. Two times a year (November and April) parent teacher conferences are conducted to report on student progress. Two times a year (January and June) physical report cards are sent home to report on progress toward the common core state standards. Hard copies of report cards will be sent home on January 26th this month. Should you have questions or concerns, please first contact your child's teacher for clarification.

and build an elf trap, which would hopefully catch an elf! First the students met with their fellow team members, discussed their ideas, created a design, and then used their allotted 20\$ to purchase supplies. The students could choose from items such as paper plates, a foot of masking tape, pipe cleaners, plastic cups, etc. Next the students worked together as a small group and built, tested, and recorded in photo, their elf traps. Even though the designs were well thought out and within budget, zero elves were caught!!! Better luck next time young engineers!!!



Letter from Mrs. Cryer, Technology Teacher/Integrator:

In the computer lab, students in grades 1-3 spent several weeks learning about internet safety and digital citizenship. While we can never keep our children completely safe on the internet, much like we cannot keep them completely safe in real life, we CAN teach them rules and strategies to stay safer and know what to do if something online makes them uncomfortable. A note went home before Christmas with a list of the safety rules students learned. I encourage you to review these rules with your child periodically.

Grade 4 students will have a similar unit in a couple of months when they finish a project they are currently working on.

As we go into the second half of the school year, all students will be spending a couple of months with various coding projects. Coding, writing the algorithms (set of steps) a computer follows to accomplish a task, is a valuable learning opportunity. Not only do students learn computer programming, they also practice lots of math, reading and writing skills. They also have to use critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration skills. There are a lot of free coding apps and websites for students to take their learning even farther. My favorites are Scratch (online) and Scratch Jr. (app). There are many more available on the Code.org website and the [eboard](#).

Winter Fun!

Sliding is new for me at school, and boy do the kids have fun! This is what a little sun and temperatures above the teens will give you at WES!!!



Band Performance

A reminder that the WES band performance will be January 19th at 10:00 am in the gym. All 4th grade band families are welcome to attend.



Grades 3 and 4 coming back from carolling at the high school.