

Walden School News

December 4, 2018

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Liz Benoit, Principal

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- **Principal's Message**
- **News from Pre-K—Grade 8**

Upcoming Dates:

December

12/15 - PTA Craft Fair

12/17 - CCSU Board Mtg @
Waterford

12/20 - Gifts 101

12/21 - Peace and Light
Ceremony

January

1/16 - Winter Concert

Principal's Message:

Walden School is busy with a flurry of academic, artistic, physical and social activities during the month of December. Students participate in several classroom assessments and continue to engage in a variety of learning opportunities across content areas.

December is also the month in which the Walden School community highlights the character trait, *thankfulness*. During the upcoming weeks, students across the Walden School campus will acknowledge we have much to be thankful for and should, therefore, pay it forward. Tomorrow, the middle school students will lead the Walden School community in the monthly Morning Meeting, when they will introduce the character trait, *thankfulness*.

The Winter Solstice falls on December 21st this year. It is the day in which the fewest hours of daylight are visible in our hemisphere. Each year, the Walden School community gathers together for the annual *Peace and Light* ceremony. The *Peace and Light* ceremony is focused on bringing peace and light during this season. Students enter a darkened multi-purpose room holding tea lights. They then read inspirational quotes in recognition how we can spread peace and light through our interactions with one another. Following the reading of inspirational quotes, we sing songs representative of the season. The ceremony concludes with members of the 8th grade class extinguishing their candles and walking out of the gym in a spiral pattern.

**** Food Service Director, Ken Cyr, is soliciting feedback on the 2018-2019 Meal Program. Along with the newsletter, is a brief survey. Please take a moment and complete the survey and return it to school by December 19, 2018. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.



Kindergar-

thors and illustrators are writing up a storm!

ten au-

Preschool

Kendra Darrell

Preschoolers have been working on recognizing different types of patterns within our school environment as well as making patterns based on attributes other than color. We have also been working on sorting with attributes other than color. We continue to work on counting with one to one correspondence as well as numeral recognition. We have enjoyed reading books that are all about colors and are excited to continue working with wordless books. To go along with literacy, we are working on recognizing our letters, letter-sound correspondence, and writing our letters. We have been excited to play in the fresh snow and we have even brought some in the classroom to explore with.

Kindergarten

Marie Langmaid

Math--On Friday, we started a new unit on length, height, weight, and volume. The students are comparing the length and height of a variety of math materials, items in the classroom, and themselves. The students continue to document and count each day of school with paper clips and items in their math boxes. They are recognizing finger patterns to 10 and counting on from any given number within 60. Please encourage and listen to your child practice counting by ones and tens to at least 70.

Literacy--During daily shared reading experiences, students find common sight words in text; listen for and identify rhyming words; locate the beginning and ending sounds in words; locate and identify the punctuation; and much more. Our current interactive reading theme is Noticing the Way the World Looks: Color followed by Exploring Pictures: Wordless Books. The students practice identifying the characters, setting, problems, solutions, and events in the stories. As a group, they will be learning how to edit a written piece. They will be looking for missing punctuation, capital letters at the beginning of sentences and proper nouns, and misspelled words.

Science--Hibernation, migration, and adaptation will be our focus for this week.

Grades 1 & 2

Randi Collins (Lowe)

Reading - Students are working on their sight words. Students are doing Daily 5 where the students either read to self, read to a partner, work on writing, word work, or listening to books. Students meet in reading groups every day. For read aloud we are reading books written by Kevin Henkes.

Writing - Students are working on picking a piece of narrative writing to make a final draft. They will be learning about how to edit their writing. We are going to be working on how to draw pictures for our writing pieces.

Math - 1st grade math - Students will be using commutative property to make ten. They will be making ten with one addend is 8 and when the addend is 7.

2nd grade math - This week second graders are finishing their unit on place value to 1,000. They will be taking an assessment towards the end of this week.

Science - This week we are learning about weathering and erosion. The Montshire Museum is coming in to do a science experiment about weathering and erosion.

Grades 3,4 & 5

Humanities - Tamara Thompson

3rd-5th Grade - Students are introduced to a new and complex informational text, *Giant Squid: Searching for a Sea Monster*. Students will examine how an author uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas and will then apply what they learned by incorporating linking words and phrases into their writing. Students will have a comprehension assessment followed by delving further into text features and content, so they can compare the organization of the text with that of a video they will watch on *Giant Squid*. Following this, students will finish reading *Giant Squid* and reflect on new knowledge in their Knowledge Journals. In the end, students will use the texts: *Shark Attack!* and *Giant Squid: Searching for a Sea Monster* to gather evidence about why and how scientists study sea creatures. This evidence will be used to create two informational paragraphs following the correct structure.

4th & 5th Grade - Students have been learning about poetic elements such as imagery, rhythm, meter, etc. They have been reading *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech that is written in free verse. As they read the text, they are analyzing the structure as well as how the structure reveals change in the main character, Jack. Students will finish reading *Love That Dog* within the next week. Then, they will continue to think about what is revealed by the final events in the book.

Students have been learning how the words great heart can have both a literal and a figurative meaning. They read texts that use great heart either literally or figuratively. To conclude the module, students will gather and record evidence to show figurative great heart based on what they read in *Love That Dog*. Students will participate in an end of module task in the form of a Socratic Seminar that assesses their ability to orally synthesize evidence from the texts to answer the Focus Questions: What does it mean to have a great heart, literally and figuratively? The last task students will complete in this module is a culminating writing assignment where they will synthesize the evidence from the literal and figurative texts they read throughout the module.

Grades 3, 4 & 5

Math & Science – Travis Hill

3-5 Math - Third graders are working on solving word problems using all four operations. Soon they will switch to rounding to the nearest 10 or 100. While doing this rounding, they will be working on problems that relate to metric measurements. The fourth graders have been working on multiplying by multiples of ten. The next series of lessons are dedicated to multiplication of 2 digit numbers. They will solve problems using area models, partial products, and the standard algorithm. The students are actually pretty strong with the standard algorithm thanks to extension T Time instruction. Fifth graders are currently working on division with a focus on 3 digit dividends divided by 2 digit divisors.

5th Grade Social Studies - The fifth graders have been analyzing what makes complex societies complex. They have looked at innovations made by the Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas in order to make survival possible as well as make life easier. These innovations include written language, artificial islands for agriculture, and roads.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math & Science - Tammy Russell

7/8 grade STEM

Students are working well together in cooperative groups to uncover their heredity. We are diving into genetics with hands on, minds on activities to answer the question, "Why am I who I am?"

7th grade math

Students continue to use "The Integer Game" to apply integer strategies. Students also worked with Integer jeopardy last week to help introduce multiplying and dividing integers.

8th grade math

Students are solving multi step equations and justifying their first step. In addition, students are solving equations for known variables, and will soon classify their solutions as: one solution, no solution or infinite solutions

7th grade tutorial

Students are working to add/subtract/multiply/divide fractions and mixed numbers. They have homework every night.

Grades 6, 7 & 8

Humanities - David Irwin

6,7, & 8th Grade Humanities-6th Grade students have made wonderful progress in writing. Students have worked on organizing their thoughts, crafting a topic sentence, and supporting their ideas with textual evidence. Additionally, we have also learned to use appropriate and meaningful transition words in our writing. 7/8th grade students have been learning about tone and expression in fluent reading and writing. In small groups, students recently acted out *The Miller's Tale*. *It was an educational and hilarious experience.*

6th Grade Social Studies: 6th grade students have learned about the background to the French Indian War. As part of our study we looked at the painting, *Domain of Three Nations*, depicting a young George Washington delivering a letter to a remote French fort, and in the process, gaining recognition from his superiors in the British Army.

Please visit the school website: walden.ccsuvt.net

Thank you for your continued support of your children's education.



Stu-

dents in Mrs. Thomp-

son's fourth and fifth grade Humanities class are studying poetic elements including figurative language and onomatopoeia