

WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

January 2025

Kindness Lives at Willow

Vol. 5 issue 5



2025

Upcoming:

1/1-1/3 - Winter Recess

1/20 - Dr. MLK Day

1/29 - Lunar New Year



Cornwall Trait

Integrity:

To use good judgement and conduct oneself according to a sense of what is right and wrong.



with Mrs. Gandolfini and Mrs. Sweeney

The weather outside was frightful but our learning was so delightful--

We had so many places to GO--

we will learn, we will learn and we will GROW...

In December we practiced addition and subtraction using numbers 0-5.

Our Social Studies lessons took us around the world to see how others celebrate their HOLIDAYS--the kids loved it.

Comparing stories about Gingerbread characters came NEXT--

Setting, story and sequence and which one we liked BEST.

We officially began reading groups (books will be coming home in January). The Kinders are doing great as 2024 came to an end.

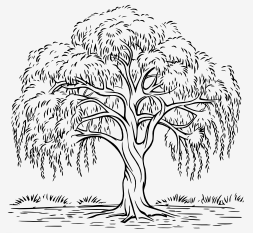
We wrapped up last month with a day for the GRINCH--it was a BLAST!!

As January begins we want to wish you all a Happy New Year!

Website:
www.cornwallschools.com



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Fantastic First Grade News with Mrs. Berchielli and Mrs. Line

Our Fabulous Firsties had an amazing month of December. We continue learning strategies to help us solve math problems, we are becoming such good readers, and we continued learning about how living things stay safe and grow. In social studies we learned about different holidays around the world and enjoyed several treats. We had color wars, we had a visit from the high school carolers, and we loved the fourth grade winter concert. It was so nice meeting our parents and having a chance to chat about the children's progress. Of course, we loved our long break!



Principal Awards

Allana G.	Edie G.
Grayson H.	Olivia J.
Lucas K.	Liam M.
Julianna M.	Harper M.
Jaxon N.	Chloe P.
Mikayla R.	Cristen S.
Grayson T.	Jenna Z.



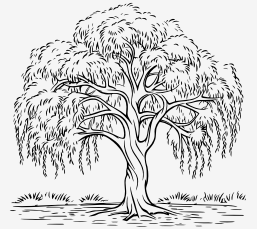
Caring Hands with Nurse Katie

Welcome to Dry January! Dry lips, dry skin, dry air - oh my! Did you know that dehydration can happen in the winter? It can! Have you ever been outside and were able to "see your breath"? That's moisture leaving your body! I bet you didn't even feel it! Same with sweating in winter - it feels like we sweat less but really, the cold, dry air only makes it seem like we sweat less. We even feel less thirsty in the winter when we are cold! It is important to drink water throughout the day to replace the fluids we lose without knowing it and before the symptoms of dehydration start. Symptoms of dehydration can include headache, and dry lips and mouth.

Bottle filling stations offering filtered water are available throughout Willow Ave and all CCSD schools.

Please pack a water bottle for your student that can be refilled to prevent dehydration. Please also pack your student's favorite lip balm so they can apply it as needed to prevent and treat dry, cracked lips.





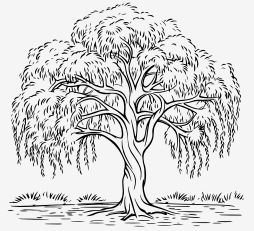
Sensational Second Graders with Mrs. Byrne & Mrs. Santos

Sensational second grade has been super busy this January! Ask us about the 7 continents and their locations. We even know all of the oceans! We are learning how to regroup in both addition and subtraction and can represent this using place value models. In science, we are continuing to work on our landform models. We created clay models of 2 different landforms and discussed climates that each possess. We will be beginning a unit called Fight For A Cause. The first person we learned about was Martin Luther King Jr. There will be many more famous Americans to follow, stay tuned.



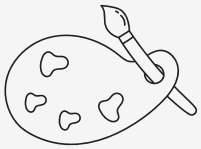
Mrs. Hogan and Ms. Mante's Terrific Third Graders

We all came back refreshed from our winter holiday break and we got right to work. To set a focus for the new year, our third graders completed a project called, "One Word" during the first week back. The students thought about goals that they wanted to achieve in their personal and school life. Then, they wrote down what they wanted others to say about them at the end of 2024. Finally, they decided on a word and created a presentation using Google Slides. Our students loved this project! They are proudly hanging outside our classrooms. We are finishing up our multiplication facts fluency with 7s, 8s, and 9s. We will be using what we learned about multiplication and division when we start our next unit in math on Area. With Martin Luther King Jr. day coming up, we will explore his impact and contributions in our society. We are learning how to write a narrative and will be completing our pourquoi (a narrative that explains why) using Book Creator. Afterwards, we will begin learning how to research so we can become experts on frogs. In Social Studies, we are learning about the geography, economy, and government of the United States. Ms. Mante and Mrs. Hogan would like to share a wish for our students and their families for the 2025 year: "I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something." —Neil Gaiman



Fabulous Fourth Grade with Mrs. Cleeves & Ms. Merante

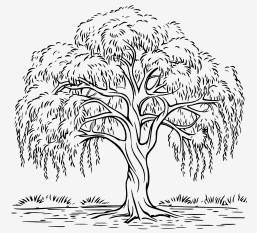
Happy New Year! The fourth graders were delighted to return to school after the long winter break. They were excited to see their friends and to get back into a learning routine, The students are currently reviewing the chapter on division and preparing to take that quiz before we move on to chapter 7. Chapter Seven's focus is on area and perimeter. Both classes are finishing the book, *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Sphere. In social studies, students have been learning about Native American tribes in New York State. The end of January will have the student's focus shifted to science. They will be learning about how motion energy moves and changes. Students continue to reach for their independent book goals and master their fluency with multiplication and division. The students are looking forward to a field trip to Urban Air at the end of the month, courtesy of our wonderful PTO.



Artful News from Mrs. Butler



Our Willow Avenue artists have been busy since we've been back from winter break! Our Kindergarten artists have been practicing their tracing, cutting and gluing skills to create "heart creature" collages. First graders read the book "Love Monster" by Rachel Bright and we have been working on creating our own love monsters. We learned what symmetry is and how if we fold a paper and draw and cut half of something, it will be symmetrical when we open it. Second graders are drawing an animal of their choice in black and white only and focus on simple details like fur and scales depending on their animal. Third graders have just begun a printmaking project, where we also talked about symmetry. Students drew and cut out a symmetrical heart and are designing it with patterns before transferring it to styrofoam where they will roll ink on with a brayer and create prints. Finally, our fourth grade artists are just wrapping up a figure drawing lesson in which they drew a person in motion ice skating- I am so proud of their progress from sketch to final product! On deck we've got a sculpture project, stay tuned!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1/2: Anthony B. - 4th Grade
- 1/2: Alessandra B. - 4th Grade
- 1/6: Brendan H. - 4th Grade
- 1/7: Robert S. - 3rd Grade
- 1/7: Ryan C. - 1st Grade
- 1/8: Matthew P. - 2nd Grade
- 1/8: Simra A. - 4th Grade
- 1/10: Aria E. - Kindergarten
- 1/11: Theodore U. - 4th Grade
- 1/13: Olivia K. - 4th Grade
- 1/14: Amelia B. - 2nd Grade
- 1/16: Isabella L. - 3rd Grade
- 1/16: Bryce L. - 3rd Grade
- 1/17: Odin S. - 1st Grade
- 1/18: Jaxon N. - 1st Grade
- 1/21: Charles M. - 2nd Grade
- 1/22: Oliver W. - Kindergarten
- 1/24: Matthew S. - 1st Grade
- 1/24: Aiden I. - 1st Grade
- 1/25: Chloe P. - 4th Grade
- 1/31: Zaden K. - 4th Grade
- 1/31: Marlee G. - 1st Grade



Kids in Motion - Ms. Nissen



We've started the New Year off to a great start by finishing our Basketball Unit and continuing our Jump Rope Unit by learning how to use Chinese jump ropes.

Action-packed Scooter Hockey games are now underway, as the entire class scoots around on four-wheeled scooters and use mini-hockey sticks.

Kindergarteners are practicing and focusing on their scooter riding skills. Volleyball will be our next major unit. Students will be practicing bumping, setting, and spiking balloons and volleyballs over the volleyball net.

** Also, if we are lucky and get (enough) snow at some point this winter, I may be sending home a special note asking students to bring in their snow gear to wear for a PE Class outside in the snow!

This will ONLY happen if I send a special note home with students a day (or two) before the special PE Play-in-the-Snow Day!

PE

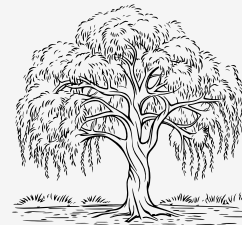


Stay in the Know with our Willow Ave PTO

PTO upcoming events:

Popcorn Friday - 1/17/25

Drama Practice - Wednesdays



Ms. Zawacki's Mindful Moment

Keep in Touch:

Email: kzawacki@cornwallschools.com or
845-534-8009- ext 3026

Welcome Back Willow and Happy New Year!!!

This month's Character Trait is Integrity, which means doing the right thing, even when no one is watching! I will visit each class to talk about this character trait as well as our Mindfulness theme of the month which is Emotional Regulation.

What are some ways you can show Integrity?

- **Telling the truth and Being Honest:** If you accidentally broke a toy or made a poor choice, admitting it to your parents even if you're worried about getting in trouble.
- **Returning lost items:** Finding a dropped item in the hallway and giving it back to the owner.
- **Being Helpful & Keeping promises:** Saying you'll help your sibling with their homework and following through, even if you're busy.
- **Standing up for what's right:** If someone is being bullied, speaking up to defend them.
- **Taking responsibility:** Apologizing when you accidentally bump into someone and saying "excuse me".
- **Doing the right thing when no one is watching:** Not taking an extra cookie when your mom isn't looking.
- **Be Respectful:** Treat everyone with respect, and avoid speaking negatively of others.
- **Be a Role Model:** Set a good example for others by demonstrating positive behavior.
- **Be Prepared:** Arrive to school on time and ready to complete tasks.
- **Be Considerate:** If you have a conflict or emergency, let an adult know immediately.
- **Be Kind:** Share your feelings and ideas with other people in a kind and respectful way.

The cold weather is here to stay! As always, if your family has a need and could benefit from support for food or winter coats please contact Amy Bishopp at Food Services Department to complete the confidential paperwork.

Email: abishopp@cornwallschools.com Phone: (845) 534-8009 ext. 7704

Bookmarks from our Librarian - Mrs. Ebenhoe

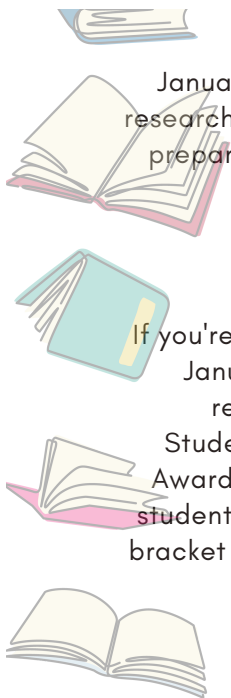
January has been a busy month! Our third and fourth graders have been exploring and comparing online research sources. Second graders will continue to enjoy a selection of past Caldecott Medal winning titles to prepare for our mock Caldecott vote. First grade is exploring the organization of the library. Kindergarten classes have been enjoying activities centered around a wintry, snowman theme.

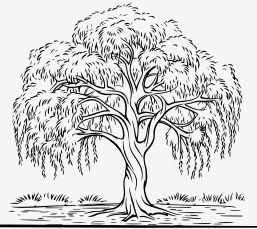
Remember, if you're at home with nothing to read, check out:

- Sora, an e-book and audio platform available through your student's Google account
- Libby, also by the creators of Sora, and available to you through Cornwall Public Library.

If you're looking for other great, new titles, check out the American Library Association awards. At the end of January, the ALA voted on the best books and media of the past year. These winners, as well as past recipients, are all listed on their website: (<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia>)

Students are invited to begin reading to participate in our state-wide, annual selection of the 3 Apples Award. 3 Apples is a New York state reading award where the list of nominees is chosen by children. If a student reads three or more titles from the reading list, he or she is eligible to vote for a winner in their age bracket (K-2, 3-6). Reading lists will be posted on students' Google Classrooms. Voting will be done over the month of April. Contact Mrs. Ebenhoe for any questions.





tidbits of mOTivation with Mrs. Lucia

BENEFITS OF CROSS CRAWLS



- Motor planning
- Coordination
- Brain break
- Attention
- Concentration
- Strength
- Coping tool
- Balance
- Visual skills
- Crossing midline
- & more!

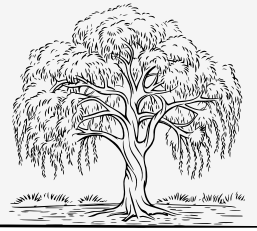


Megan Lucia OTR/L

Here is a list of cross crawl exercises that can be incorporated into obstacle courses, brain breaks, exercise sequences, etc. These can be modified to meet the needs of individuals of all ages. Find age-appropriate and play based cross crawl activities that occur naturally in daily tasks.

1. Standing cross crawl- Stand on the right foot. Raise the left foot and touch the left knee to the right elbow. Hold the pose. Then raise the right foot and touch the right knee to the left elbow. Hold the pose. Try to maintain balance without falling.
2. Seated cross crawl- Sit on a chair, bench, or surface without a back support. Repeat the directions from #1 in a seated position.
3. Bug exercise- Lie down on the floor with your arms above your head on the floor and your legs straight. Keep your right arm straight and raise it up as you raise your left leg straight up to touch your right hand to your left foot. Repeat on the other side.
4. Standing toe touch- Stand with your feet shoulder width apart and your arms stretched overhead. Bend and reach your right hand down to touch your left foot. Stand back up and repeat on the other side.
5. Seated toe touch- Sit on the floor with legs spread wide. Reach across the body and touch the right hand to the left toes. Hold. Then repeat on the opposite side.





“Live from Room 212, it’s Mrs. Jennings with the Speech News”

SPEECH NEWS

Happy New Year Speechies!



Themes

- Winter
- Weather
- Arctic animals
- Hibernation

Children benefit from having repeated exposure to a vocabulary word in order to improve retention and generalization to the classroom.



Activities

In speech this month, we'll be making snowflake buddies and snowflakes out of cotton balls for a winter wonderland effect, while focusing on our speech goals!



Practice

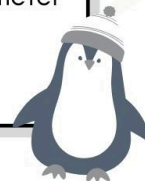
Take a look outside, how would you describe the weather? Use your words for this month to talk about how it feels and looks outside! Give a synonym (same meaning) or antonym (different meaning) to define the words and use them in a sentence.



Vocabulary

Here are some of the vocabulary words your child will be exposed to during therapy:

- arctic
- blizzard
- breeze
- earmuffs
- freeze
- frigid
- hibernation
- hot cocoa
- ice skates
- skis
- icicle
- icy
- melt
- mittens
- penguin
- polar bear
- scarf
- snowtubing
- snowboard
- thermometer
- walrus
- windy



I HAVE A DREAM

