



WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

May 2024

Kindness Lives at Willow

Vol. 4 issue 9



Kindness Awards -

Nola B. - 4th Grade
Aria D. - Kindergarten
Aubrey F. - 4th Grade
Lacie L. - Kindergarten
Bryce L. - 2nd Grade

Anthony N. - 2nd Grade
Penelope S. - Kindergarten
Odin S. - Kindergarten
Nate S. - 4th Grade

***Ms. Merante**

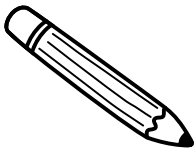
Upcoming:

**5/24 & 27 - Memorial Day
Weekend**



Cornwall Trait

Perseverance-
**To continue in spite of
difficulty and always try your
hardest.**



Our Knockout Kindergarteners with Mrs. Gandolfini and Mrs. Sweeney



Bye Bye April Showers--HELLO May Flowers! The kind hearted Kinders are ready for May flowers and all the things they bring like plants, butterflies and insects. In Science we will learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and their body parts, as well as the body parts of an insect. We will also explore frogs and habitats like ponds--it is sure to be HOPPING!

In Math we will complete subtraction.

A fun activity to keep their minds thinking can be to count out their snack (I.E. goldfish, pretzels, marshmallows, carrots, apple slices, fruit snacks etc.) Then make 2 groups and see what number they make when the 2 parts become a whole. Now the FUN begins as we take away (eat). See how many you have left (did you take away 1, 2, 3!! Words to discuss at home will be minus, whole, part, part , take way, less and more. We will also learn about measurement and using conventional and unconventional methods to do so. They may come home ready to measure everything they see.

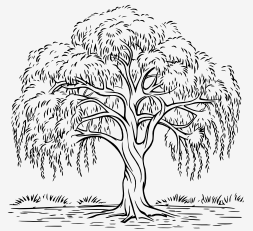
May is a great time for our writers to BLOOM. We have begun OPINION writing. To help support your writers you can ask them WHY? And to answer in a complete sentence. Example--What do you like better pancakes or waffles? Why? What's your favorite season? Why? What Special do you like best at school? WHY?

As this year begins to close we want to continue to be kind, good citizens and GROW our friendships like the flowers outside.

Website:
www.cornwallschools.com



Follow us on Instagram:
@willowavenuees



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

We are very proud of how much our students have grown throughout this school year! Students have become fluent readers, thoughtful writers, and have added and subtracted double-digit numbers, all while losing teeth right and left! First grade students enjoyed a trip to Black Rock Forest and we look forward to two more field trips in June! Students and staff have deepened our bonds and the ending of this school year will definitely be bittersweet.



Principal Awards

Emily B.	Chase O.
Mia C.	Glenn P.
Ryan C.	Lorenzo R.
Tyler G.	Liam S.
Eamonn K.	Emmett T.
Aramis K.	Hugo W.
Elena L.	Weber W.

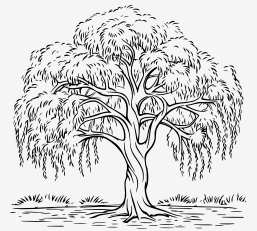


Caring Hands with Nurse Katie



New York State mandates physicals for all new students as well as students entering into K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11. If your student is an upcoming 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, or 11th grade, contact your Primary Care Physician to schedule a school physical. Summer appointments go fast so SPRING into action and book your appointment now. Physicals can be brought in by your student, sent via fax directly to Willow Ave Health Office at 845-314-5849, or emailed to kcowart@cornwallschools.com. (Tip:: make a copy of your student's physical to use for sports, camps, and activities). Let's get physical!

Thank you!



Sensational Second Graders with

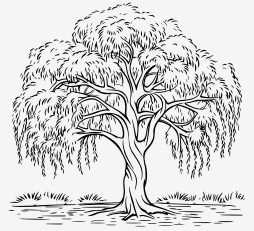
Mrs. Byrne & Mrs. Santos

Sensational second grade has had a stellar month. We are now avid time tellers and coin counters. Our new tasks include measuring up a storm in both customary and metric units. We are wrapping up our Social Studies and Science units on landforms, map skills, and continents. We created our own landforms in groups using clay and made a map with a legend to model our three dimensional creations. This coming month, we are heading to Cornwall Historical Society to learn about Cornwall's rich history and to examine artifacts. We cannot wait to tell you all about it!

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



We can hardly believe it's already May! Our third graders had a beautiful day at Black Rock Forest observing clouds and learning about vernal ponds. Did you know that glaciers carved out the depressions in the earth that fill with water every spring to create vernal ponds? And that various insects and amphibians depend on these vernal ponds to complete their life cycles or to get food? We got to see salamander and frog egg masses in the vernal pond in Black Rock. Now we can't wait to see the pictures from our trail cameras we placed in the woods in March to find out which creatures came to eat our acorns. We took our NYS math assessments this week. Next we'll be learning about perimeter, reviewing area, and then we'll be exploring geometry. In ELA, we're finishing up Peter Pan and then we'll venture into a new book. I wonder what interesting characters we'll meet? In Social Studies, we're continuing to learn about the United States and our country of heritage. We're doing the research for this in Library enrichment and we are creating Google Slides to compare the two countries. And of course, we're super excited about our trip to the Bronx Zoo! The year may be winding down, but our third graders are still learning a lot of great things!

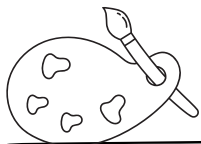


Fabulous Fourth Grade with Mrs. Cleeves & Ms. Merante

If April showers bring May flowers what do May flowers bring? EXCITED FOURTH GRADERS! As the school year begins to wind down, we can see the growing excitement in all students. Late last month the fourth graders took a wonderful trip to Wood N Wheel in Ulster Park, NY. As many of them had not skated before, it was wonderful to see them practice the life skills of perseverance, patience, cooperation, and friendship as they learned how to skate. Both classes are excited to earn DOJO points so that they may head to Legoland in June!

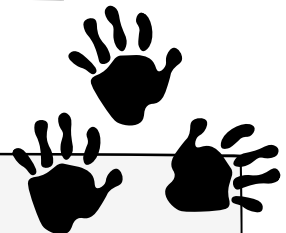
Early May found us reviewing for the NYS math test. Students are eager to start the last math unit

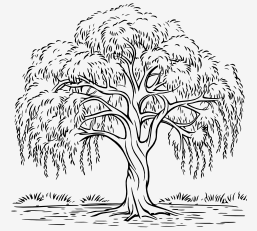
on decimals. We continue to uncover events of the Revolutionary War while simultaneously wrapping up our novel study of *The Winter of the Red Snow*. Later this month, we look forward to wrapping up the year with our science engineering unit; *How Can We Provide Energy to People's Homes?* We are looking forward to a fun and eventual end of the year!



Artful News from Mrs. Butler

-It is hard to believe that we are in the homestretch of the school year already! Kindergarten artists have been busy learning about chameleons and that their superpower is that they can change color to blend in with whatever they are near. Our students read the story "A Color of His Own" by Leo Lionni and then we sculpted chameleons using model magic. Once our chameleons dried, we painted them with a solid color and then using another color we gave them a pattern- they are so cute!! First grade artists learned about artist Wassily Kandinsky and his color studies. Students used oil pastels to fill their paper with multicolored circles, inspired by Kandinsky, and then with a mixture of soap & black paint, they covered their paper- this makes homemade "scratch art" paper! Next art class, students will be using wooden dowels to scratch drawings onto their paper. Our second grade artists have been multitasking on our latest project- we made a picture frame using air-dry clay and painted it, and then we also drew self-portraits to go in them! They are almost finished and SO adorable!! Third grade artists are learning about fractals and how they create patterns. Students drew one piece of a fractal on cardboard and then traced it with glue and laid a piece of yarn over the glue, creating a printing plate/stamp. Students then dipped their stamp in paint and printed it over and over creating a design. Next art class, students will be coloring their design with watercolor colored pencils and going over it with a wet brush to create watercolor paint. Last but not least, our fourth grade artists have been learning about different animals and were challenged to choose 2 different animals and combine them as one in a drawing. Students drew these on watercolor paper and will be painting them when finished drawing. Our fourth graders have also been very busy working on their cardboard arcade games! Please save the date of Monday June 17th at 2pm if you would like to join us on the back lawn to play our arcade games!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY



5/5: Jevin F. - 3rd Grade
5/8: Logan P. - 4th Grade
5/8: Isabelle C. - 3rd Grade
5/9: Angela Q. - 4th Grade
5/10: Greyson M. - 1st Grade
5/14: Richard T. - 1st Grade
5/14: Mason H. - 3rd Grade
5/15: Stella C. - Kindergarten
5/16: Mason D. - 2nd Grade
5/19: Paetyn M. - Kindergarten
5/19: Aiden A. - 1st Grade
5/21: Edward S. - 2nd Grade
5/22: Sumer C. - 4th Grade
5/22: Keira B. - 2nd Grade
5/22: Amelia R. - 3rd Grade
5/24: Victoria S. - Kindergarten
5/24: Zaria K. - 2nd Grade
5/25: Charlotte C. - Kindergarten
5/27: Ember F. - 3rd Grade
5/31: Parker S. - 3rd Grade

Kids in Motion - Ms. Nissen

MAY is the month to PLAY outside!

With the weather warming up, we will be heading outside for PE Class as much as possible, so please remind your child to dress accordingly on PE Days. Our unit of Track & Field will be wrapping up this month, with the older students running a mile or half-mile improvement test.

Lacrosse (or the game of Scoops) will be a fun unit played outside on the field, along with the introduction of Baseball skills and Kickball by the end of this month.

Mark Your Calendars!

Willow's Field Day 2024 is on Friday, June 14th !



Stay in the Know with our Willow Ave PTO

The PTO still has some fun in store for our Willow students. See important dates below:

Muffins with Mom- Friday May 17th right after school. Rain date Monday May 20th

4th Grade Renegades night - Friday May 31st

Donuts with Dad - Monday June 17th with a rain date of Tuesday June 18th

Summer Reading Book Swap- Thursday June 20th

Please come out on Wednesday May 15th at 4pm to vote in your 24/25 Willow PTO Board Members. As a reminder, nominations will continue to be accepted up until the vote.

Open positions and people nominated:

President 1 Spot Open- Jazmine Cisneros nominated

Co-President 1 Spot Opened- Isabel Laufenberg & Laura Baldi nominated

VP- 1 Spot Opened- Melissa Rutenber nominated

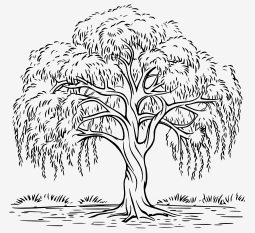
Treasurer- 1 Spot Opened- Chris Bauer nominated

Secretary- 1 Spot Opened

4th Grade Parents- 3 Spots Opened- Dawn Lynch, Jaimie Faraon, Angela Shapiro nominated

Any questions about nominations and voting please reach out to President Rachel Dass at RachelDass86@yahoo.com.

Thank you Willow Families for your endless support.



Ms. Zawacki's Mindful Moment

Keep in Touch:

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

For the month of May, our Character Trait is Perseverance, which means to continue in spite of difficulty, always try your hardest and to use positive strategies when we are feeling frustrated, angry or sad. Strategies which can assist us in persevering during difficult times include, mindful breathing exercises, intense physical exercise, an outdoor walk in nature or just around the neighborhood, drawing, playing with friends or enjoying a hobby that brings you joy. It is very important to use one of your positive strategies on a daily basis so you can have them strong, well-practiced and ready to go during the tough times. Practice is key for any mental health or physical strategy.

If you or your family would like referrals to any outside resources to support you please visit my website: https://waes.cornwallschools.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=818611&type=u

**Let's
talk it
out**

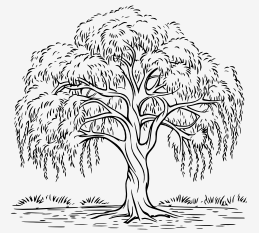
Tidbits of MOTivation with Mrs. Lucia

Creating a challenging outdoor path with chalk is a great way to provide sensory input and mindfulness as they move along a unique path.

Here are some activity ideas to include:

- **Hop/jump-** Add a fun twist with numbers to skip-count
- **Spin/twirl-** draw a twirly circle starting from the middle outward
- **Sing/dance-** draw a music note or radio
- **Clap while skip-counting, spelling names**
- **Tip-toe**
- **Blow bubbles-** or pretend, if no real bubbles are available
- **Spell as they move**
- **"Climb"-** draw a ladder (or a beanstalk!) and kids "climb" on hands and feet
- **Touch shoulders, toes, ears...**
- **Balance on a "tightrope" (line on the ground)**
- **"Roar and Stomp" on dino footprints**
- **Hop in and out of Hula hoops**

**Make it fun! Demonstrate for them so they have the visual of where to start and finish. Instead of just a jump be creative and verbalize jumping on lily pads, or into a rocketship.
Megan Lucia, OTR/L**



Bookmarks from our Librarian - Mrs. Ebenhoe

• Thanks to our PTO for putting on the Spring Book Fair last month. This great event provides families with an opportunity to stock up on reading material for their home libraries.

• Summer reading is just around the corner! Be on the lookout for Mrs. Ebenhoe's summer reading recommendations in June.

• May is Physical Fitness Month. We circulate a variety of books on staying active and being healthy. Reading also keeps our minds healthy, so be an active reader!

Picture Book Pick: *The Truth About Dragons* by Julie Leung. In a mix of Eastern and Western mythologies, a mother tells her child about two forests inhabited by different, but equally enchanting dragons that coexist within the child's heart. Be sure to give this Caldecott Honor book a try!

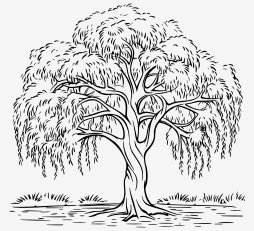
Do you have a great recommendation? Fill out a book review for Mrs. Corby in the library. Let people know what they should read next!

Noggin Newsflash!

By Ms. Dillon (the Dynamic Duo School Psychologist Team)

Resiliency is the ability to “bounce back” after a challenge. Being resilient is important for kids and adults because it helps us to look at the world differently, especially when things aren’t going our way. Luckily for us, our brains are very good at handling challenges. We have the ability to make new neural connections (think of these as highways in the brain) as we adapt to our surroundings or do things that are hard for us. This is called neuroplasticity. It’s like our brain’s superpower! Just like how our muscles get stronger when we exercise, our brains can also get stronger. When we make a habit of trying new challenges and learning new skills, the stronger these neural connections become. Having perseverance means being resilient. It’s like our brain’s way of saying, “I can do this! I just need to keep trying!” By looking at setbacks, failures, and challenges as opportunities to grow and learn, we teach ourselves that we can do anything.

HELLO!
May



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



May is National Speech- Language- Hearing Month.

Speech- Language and Hearing Month is observed in May each year to increase awareness about communication disorders and hearing health. It is also used to promote understanding about speech and hearing disorders, to prevent hearing loss, and encourage people to seek treatment for hearing and speech-related issues.

5 speech-language facts:

Speech disorders occur when a person is unable to produce speech sounds correctly or fluently, or has problems with their voice.

Language disorders occur when a person has trouble understanding others (receptive language) or sharing thoughts, ideas and feelings completely (expressive language).

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) identify, assess, and treat speech, language, cognitive communication, and swallowing disorders.

About 15% of Americans have some degree of hearing loss.

Annually, more than 1 million students ages 3 to 21 receive special education services for speech and language disorders through public schools.

I am so fortunate to be the SLP here at Willow Avenue, and be a part of such a wonderful community, to help these students in Cornwall!

MENTAL

HEALTH

Awareness Month

