

WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

December 2024

Kindness Lives at Willow

Vol. 5 issue 4



DECEMBER



Upcoming:

- 12/3 - Picture Retakes
- 12/13 - Parent/Teacher Conf. (No School for Students)
- 12/18 - Winter Concert 7pm @ HS
- 12/23-1/3 Winter Recess



Cornwall Trait

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



with Mrs. Gandolfini and Mrs. Sweeney

In November we had a BALL as we learned more about the FALL.

Did you ever wonder what it would BE to live like a Native American or a Pilgrim and sail the SEA? We learned about history and words like tradition, celebration and being thankful and grateful. We are always working on reading and writing SKILLS-watching their little minds develop is truly a THRILL.

We did not stop there, and kept on GOING..

In math our minds keep on GROWING. Learning about addition and 2D shapes is just a little part-we can tell you about their sides and corners-because we are so SMART. Also, if you haven't GUESSED we think rhyming is truly the BEST!!

One more reminder- keep practicing your letters, sounds and sight words each NIGHT-This will make your brain a MIGHTY MIGHT!!

Website:
www.cornwallschools.com



Follow us on Instagram:
[@willowavenuees](https://www.instagram.com/willowavenuees)



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

First grade is thankful for all of the wonderful experiences we had this month! Students hiked at Black Rock Forest and observed the habitat of a beaver! They also enjoyed visits from scientists who taught the class about animal adaptations by learning about bird beaks. Students continue to improve by leaps and bounds in reading, writing, and math. We have much to be thankful for!



Principal Awards



- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| Simra A. | Mina B. |
| Lucas B. | Amelia B. |
| Nia C. | Patrick D. |
| Cody D. | Summer G. |
| Jordyn G. | Kira K. |
| George K. | Addison M. |
| Roman N. | Amelia P. |
| Charlotte P. | Emma R. |
| Toby R. | Hailey S. |
| Matthew T. | |

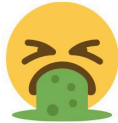


Caring Hands with Nurse Katie

I NEED TO STAY HOME IF...



Temp
100.0F
or higher



Vomiting in
past 24 hrs



Diarrhea in
past 24 hrs



Rash with
itching or
fever



Eyes with:
redness, crusts,
itching,
or discharge



I AM READY TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL WHEN...

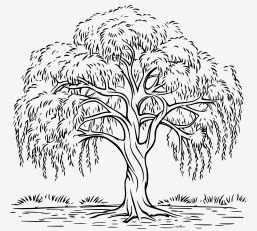
Fever-free for
24 hrs without
fever-reducing
medication

Able to keep
down foods for
2 consecutive
meals

Free from
diarrhea
for
24 hours

Free from
rash
or has been
seen by MD
and has
MD note

Evaluated by
MD
& 24 hrs after
1st dose of
medication



Sensational Second Graders with **Mrs. Byrne & Mrs. Santos**

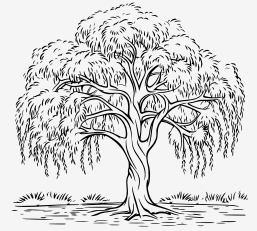
The sensational second graders have had a busy month! It started out with preparation for our Schoolwide Election. We learned about the voting process and then registered. After that, we created posters and made announcements. The school voted and our second graders counted the votes. Extra Recess was the WINNER!!

The students also just finished up our Science Unit on Erosion. They were given \$100 to spend on materials. They talked and planned as a group and used those materials to prevent erosion on their sand tables.



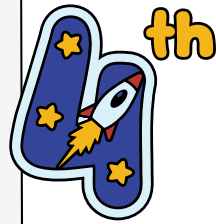
Mrs. Hogan and Ms. Mante's **Terrific Third Graders**

Our inquisitive third graders will be going on a field trip to Locust Grove on December 10th. They will participate in inquiries to study forces and motion by measuring distance and force. On the property is Samuel Morse's summer home and the students will also do a house hunt using clues to find artifacts from long ago. They will visit the barn and walk the grounds to see how simple machines can help you work more efficiently. The third graders blew us away as they learned about weather in science. They learned all about weather and climate patterns around the world, and they applied that knowledge to determine the best place to build a structure to host a sporting event. In ELA, we will begin our new unit and will explore pourquoi tales, which explain "why". Afterwards, we will use Book Creator to create books and publish our tales. In Math, we've marched into learning our multiplication facts with the goal of mastering many of them before winter break. Knowing them will help with our next topic of division. So practice those facts on the bus, in the car, and at the dinner table! They are a foundational skill that makes doing math so much easier. The third/fourth grade floor is looking forward to the 4th annual Winter Wonderland Celebration before our holiday break.



Fabulous Fourth Grade with Mrs. Cleeves & Ms. Merante

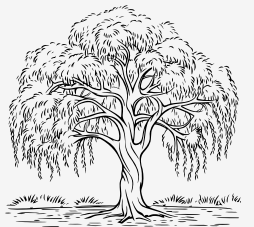
"Sleigh Bells Ring" are you listening? December in the fourth grade is full of happy students anxiously anticipating the holidays! While we tick off the days until the holiday break, we will be focused on completing Chapter 5 of our Go Math program- division. The students are excited to learn how to investigate and interpret remainders. They are even more excited by the "big kid" math of deciphering long division. Throughout this month we will be reading our class book of *The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speare. This is a story about a young boy who is left to defend his family homestead. In the process he meets a Native American boy. The adventures they take explore the Native American culture. This book is a good connection to our social studies unit which focuses on the first Americans who came to live in New York. The kids are excited to uncover the connections that the book makes to Native American life here in New York. We are wrapping up our science unit of Evidence That We Live on a Changing Earth. At this time students are working in small groups to build earthquake resistant structures. They are excited about this hands-on project and anxiously await the day we can test their structures. We wish you a very happy holiday season. Please have your child continue to read and practice Reflex over the break whenever possible.



Artful News from Mrs. Butler



Whew, 2024 has flown by! Our artists have been so busy in the art room. Kindergarteners just started their snowman project. We talked about reusing materials and how we try to do that as much as we can in the art room. Our artists were given part of an egg carton (with three sections) and they painted it white. Next week we will be talking about all of the parts of a snowman and adding details like buttons, earmuffs and a carrot nose! Our first graders are also creating snowmen, except they are using air dry clay! They are turning out so cute and I can't wait to display them. Second graders are rounding out our snowman unit with painting snowmen at night, inspired by the book, "Snowmen at Night" by Caralyn Buehner. Our artists are using only white and blue paint to create tints and shades- I am so impressed with their work!! Our third graders are wrapping up their fall leaf zentangle project which they are finishing off with watercolor paints. Finally, our fourth graders! Our fourth graders have been practicing gesture drawing and are drawing people ice skating. We have been sketching for a few weeks now and have started our final copies. Stay tuned for lots of fabulous winter artwork lining our hallways!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 12/1: Anisa P. - 3rd Grade
- 12/1: Sophia P. - Kindergarten
- 12/2: Brayden B. - 3rd Grade
- 12/4: Galilea B. - 4th Grade
- 12/4: Wesley J. - 1st Grade
- 12/4: Ceileigh H. - 2nd Grade
- 12/5: Caleb R. - Kindergarten
- 12/5: Andrew M. - 3rd Grade
- 12/5: Jonathan A. - 1st Grade
- 12/6: Shane M. - 2nd Grade
- 12/9: Piper S. - 3rd Grade
- 12/10: Fionnuala K. - 3rd Grade
- 12/13: Bryce D. - 3rd Grade
- 12/15: Aria I. - 3rd Grade
- 12/17: Riley S. - Kindergarten
- 12/19: Savannah R. - 3rd Grade
- 12/20: Madelyn K. - 4th Grade
- 12/22: Emma R. - 4th Grade
- 12/22: Declan A. - 3rd Grade
- 12/22: Colin L. - 3rd Grade
- 12/26: Gabriel S. - 3rd Grade
- 12/26: Briella Z. - 1st Grade
- 12/30: Glenn P. - 1st Grade
- 12/31: Olivia J. - Kindergarten



Kids in Motion - Ms. Nissen

For the past few weeks, you might have heard your child mention our newest Student Teacher from SUNY Cortland, "Coach J" ! Coach J has been doing a wonderful job with the students, and has made lots of friends throughout the school with his friendly and outgoing personality! The students have been fully enjoying his positive presence everyday in the gymnasium.

For the month of December, we will be Jump, Jump, Jumping in the Gymnasium! All classes will be practicing their jump rope skills throughout the month, as our warm-up activity each day. Older students will also be practicing jump rope with partners and in groups of three or four. Basketball will be our focus unit, practicing our dribbling, passing, and shooting skills.

With the holidays quickly approaching.. don't forget to think about gifts that will help keep your child active and moving! Here are a few ideas:
 -soccer ball - jump rope - hula hoop - football - ribbon wand - scooter - basketball -frisbee -kickball - volleyball - baseball -roller skates - bicycle

PE



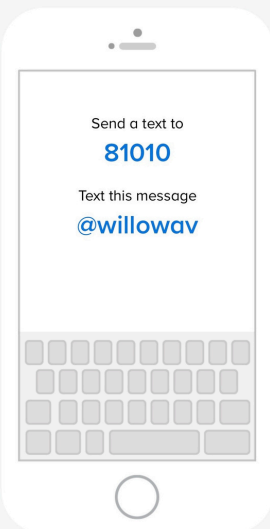
Stay in the Know with our Willow Ave PTO

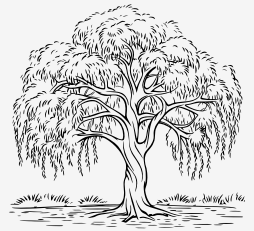
Toys for Tots Donation box due December 6th

4th Grade Field Day Shirt Design Contest due December 6th.

Willow PTO Holiday Shop is December 3rd. All items will be \$2.00

Keep a look out soon for the Sign up sheet on Gingerbread Making. There will only be a 2 day event. Willow Students Only.





Ms. Zawacki's Mindful Moment

Keep in Touch:

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

Winter Greetings!

December's 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
- 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.

The holidays are upon us and the hustle and bustle of family gatherings and holiday shopping are well underway. Although this is a joyous time of year, it is also a time that can bring much stress and big emotions. As you go about your daily routines, as you prepare your family dinners and complete your holiday shopping, remember to take time for yourself. Maintain healthy eating, do something enjoyable and find time to rest. This is an important time to reflect on what we are grateful for and to teach and model for our children the deeper meanings of the holidays.

The holiday season and cooler weather are here! 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.

tidbits of mOTivation with Mrs. Lucia

Laughter is truly the best medicine! It offers a wide range of benefits for both our physical and mental health. Some areas of benefit may include:

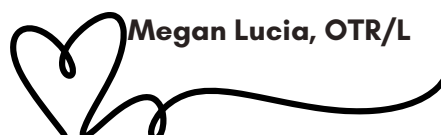
- **Good for the heart**
- **Increased energy**
- **Stress relief**
- **Increased mood**
- **Increased self esteem**
- **Improve creativity**

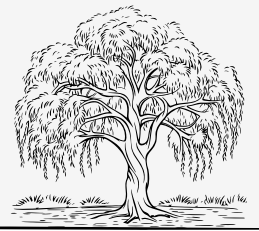
1. What did the turkey say to the cranberry sauce? "
You're my favorite side dish!"

2. What do you call a lazy kangaroo?
A pouch potato!

3. What did the buffalo say to his son when he went to college?
Bison!

4. Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field!

 Megan Lucia, OTR/L



Bookmarks from our Librarian - Mrs. Ebenhoe

What a busy month! Our students are continuously learning new aspects of using the library.

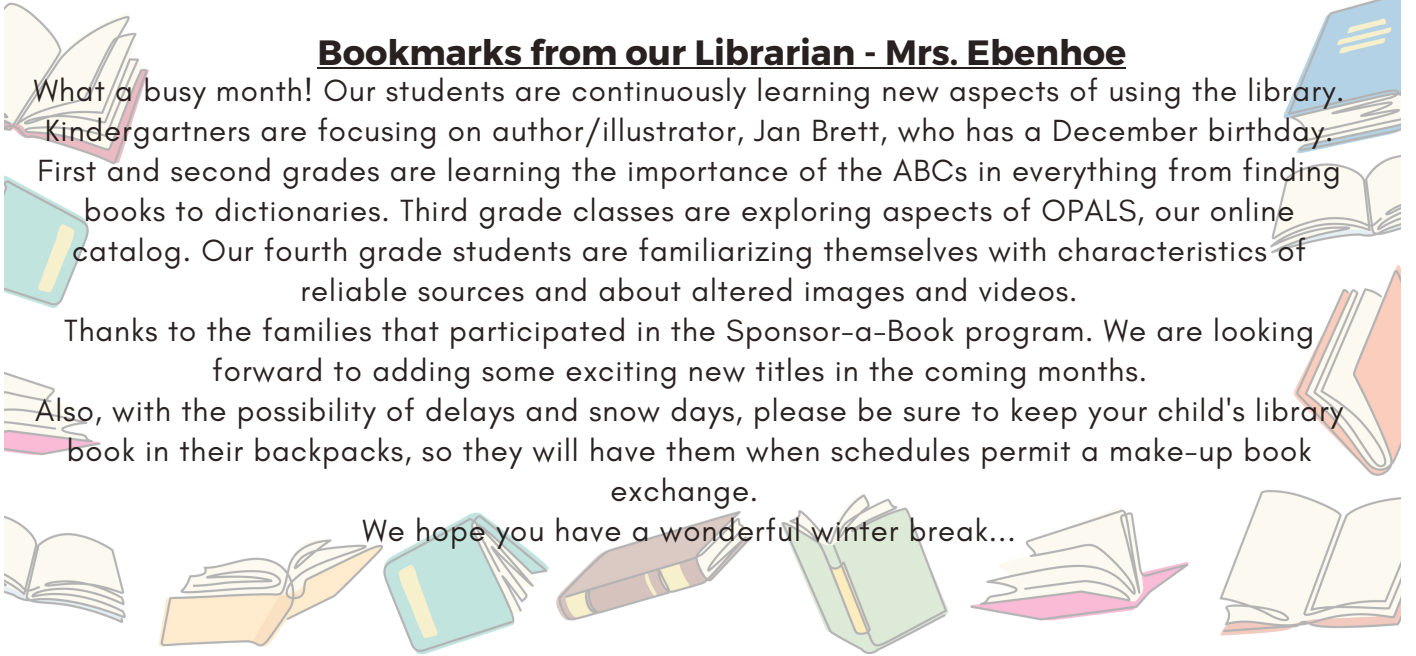
Kindergartners are focusing on author/illustrator, Jan Brett, who has a December birthday.

First and second grades are learning the importance of the ABCs in everything from finding books to dictionaries. Third grade classes are exploring aspects of OPALS, our online catalog. Our fourth grade students are familiarizing themselves with characteristics of reliable sources and about altered images and videos.

Thanks to the families that participated in the Sponsor-a-Book program. We are looking forward to adding some exciting new titles in the coming months.

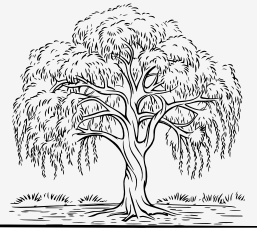
Also, with the possibility of delays and snow days, please be sure to keep your child's library book in their backpacks, so they will have them when schedules permit a make-up book exchange.

We hope you have a wonderful winter break...



THERE'S
SNOWBODY
LIKE
YOU!





DECEMBER SPEECH NEWSLETTER

MRS. JENNINGS



EXPRESSIVE

Winter Vocabulary:

- Traditions
- Frigid
- Blizzard
- Celebrations
- Joy

Winter is a great time of year to encourage reading.

Start a new routine of reading with your child before bed every evening. Allow your child the ability to pick out the book, read it out loud together, take turns reading or read it to them. Ask questions along the way, such as, **Where** did the story take place? **Who** is the main character?

What is the story trying to tell us? Ask them if they liked the story or not and **why**? Have your student retell the story in their own words.



ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS TO ENGAGE IN CONVERSATION AT GATHERINGS (FOCUS ON TURN TAKING, MAINTAINING TOPIC & LESS INTERRUPTIONS)

RECEPTIVE

SOCIAL

