

WILLARD 6-8 NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the holidays. It's hard to believe that it is already January. We have experienced a very busy first half of the school year. The second semester will be even busier. After winter break, it is especially important for your child not to miss any school. The pace of instruction starts to pick up as we prepare students for testing. Please check with your child daily to see what homework they have and what tests are coming up. You may call the school to schedule an appointment to meet with your child's teacher(s).
Again, thank you for your continued support.

Carly Polder
6-8 Pod Principal



Upcoming Events

- Jan 11—End of Second 9 week grading period
- EARLY RELEASE
- Jan 21— NO SCHOOL., Martin Luther King Day
- Jan 29 & 31—Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Jan 30—Geography Bee



Yearbooks are on sale for \$16.00. If you would like to purchase one, please send money in an envelope with your child's name on it and what class and grade they are in. Two flyers have been sent out already. Extra copies are in the main office. Books will be delivered in the month of May. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Feeney at 330-675-8700.

Grade 6 Welcome back!! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing break! January already! Our sixth grade scientists are still working on our cell unit. We have learned about the different cells, and are now going to be learning about key parts and functions of the cells. The students really enjoy learning about our cells and the organization of our bodies.

Grade 7 "Happy Holidays, Willard Family! This coming January in 7th Grade Science, your student will be learning about the Earth's Atmosphere and Weather. They will learn the characteristics of the different layers of the atmosphere. They will also be able to draw from prior knowledge of chemistry to determine the chemical composition of the atmospheric layers. Students will come one step closer to working on their first PBL (Project Based Learning) assignment that will allow them to create a solution to global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer. Students will also explore the atmospheric conditions that produce weather patterns, and how we can apply this to our everyday lives. Thank you all for your continued support, and I hope you enjoy the holiday season!"

Grade 8 In January, 8th grade science is learning about erosion, deposition, and weathering of the land. They will also learn about the features of Earth's surface and different land-forms. Then they will move onto Geologic History. They will focus on aging, fossils, and climate change.



SCIENCE

www.warrenschoools.k12.oh.us

Geography Bee Practices

Geography Bee practices for grades 4-8 will be on Monday's, January 7, 14, and the 28th from 4:00-4:45 in the band room. The School Geography Bee will be on Wednesday, January 30 at 9:30 in the small gym. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Feeney at 330-675-8700 ext. 1301.

Choir News

The 7th and 8th grade Choir will begin preparing music for the All-City concert, which will be in February. The 6th Grade Choir will return to their study of the fundamentals of singing and reading music, as well as beginning to explore new music for their Spring Concert.

EARLY RELEASE
FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
1:55 PM DISMISSAL

**WILLARD 6-8
CARLY POLDER PRINCIPAL**

Phone: 330-675-8700 Ext 1120
Fax: 330-675-8710

ATTACHED TO THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE FORM FOR YOU TO FILL OUT AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE. CONFERENCES WILL BE HELD ON: TUESDAY, JAN. 29 & THURSDAY, JAN 31 FROM 4:15 PM — 7:15 PM EACH EVENING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Grade 6 Welcome back 6th grade! Hopefully everyone is refreshed and ready to dive into our new semester. We are finishing our unit on childhood. Students will revisit the challenges and triumphs of childhood through the use of Calvin and Hobbes comic strips. We will be taking our NWEA MAP assessment again this month. Please remind your child to take it seriously, as it provides us information on his or her strengths and areas of concern. Towards the end of the month, we will start our new unit on technology; specifically if it is harmful or helpful to society. Homework picks up Tuesday through Thursday again.

Grade 7 The month of January we will be finishing our unit two concept of how we overcome obstacles. The students will be finishing the final lessons in unit two before we start unit three. This is also the time when we need to concentrate on building our computer skills so we can effectively use the tools for the state test. We will continue to independently read for ten minutes at the beginning of each class.

Grade 8 In 8th grade language arts we will be wrapping up our unit on the Holocaust with some final group work sessions. Students will then be moving into unit 3 on argument writing. We will spend the last two weeks of January reading informative texts that will argue different points of view. Students should remember to bring pencils to class as well as their My Perspectives books and binders. Please reinforce the Warren acronym at home: Work ethic, Accountability, Responsibility, Respect, Effective behavior, No excuses.

"According to Ronald Beghetto, the author of "Taking Beautiful Risks in Education," Creativity is risky. It takes courage. Revolutionary artists such as Henri Matisse recognized this about creativity. But you don't have to be a famous artist to understand that creative expression, while often beneficial to oneself and others, comes with its share of hazards. Creativity is risky because it requires doing things differently. And whenever we try to do something new or different, we make ourselves vulnerable to making mistakes, appearing foolish, and even being ridiculed. Put simply, creative endeavors don't always work out.

Creative expression, like all risks, has costs and benefits. But not all risks are the same. Some are good, some bad, and some are *beautiful* (Beghetto, in press). Students who ask for help in front of their peers are taking a *good* risk, because even though there's the potential hazard of appearing less competent, the long-term benefits of seeking instructional help when it's needed outweigh the immediate costs. Conversely, taking your students on an impromptu field trip without notifying families or following established protocols is a *bad* risk. No matter how beneficial the field trip may seem in the moment, the potential hazards far outweigh the benefits."

Encourage your child to think outside the box and have creative freedom. When they are in control of their discovery, they take ownership. Celebrate their successes. Talk through the mistakes. Learning is a life long process. Be creative, be challenged, be educated.
~Heidi Cope-Barker, School Improvement Supervisor.



Social Studies

Grade 6 Students will continue their exploration into the earliest human civilization, Ancient Mesopotamia. During this time, students will focus their attention on the core concepts of: geography, government, economics, history, and society as it relates to ancient Mesopotamia. Through various projects and activities students will internalize and document how the developments and achievements of the Mesopotamians not only set the stage for the growth of later civilizations, but how it continues to impact our lives today.

Grade 7 Seventh grade social studies will continue with their study of the Middle Ages. Students will learn about the social and economic systems in Europe throughout the Middle Ages. Students learn how the different land forms played a role in how their cultures developed. In addition, students will analyze the relationship between social classes making up Feudalism. In conclusion, students will compare and contrast feudalism within Europe and Japan.

Grade 8 I hope everyone had a relaxing and wonderful holiday! January already! Happy 2019! Our eighth grade historians are still learning about the American Revolution and the new government that was established. After we wrap that up, we will be discovering how The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights came about.

Math News

Grade 6 Students will begin the month of January by dividing fractions and decimals. This skill can easily be practiced during meal prep when following recipes. We will end the month by revisiting algebra concepts, where students will be asked to create and solve algebraic equations

Grade 7 I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Holiday break with family and friends! You should see your child's blue binder and book Monday – Thursday. Homework is a problem. Students must study on a daily basis the concepts they learned that day. Every student has their login for the E-Book if students forget their books. There is help for the student and the parent. We will be done with chapter 3 by the time you receive this letter. We will have started chapter 4. The concepts that will be covered in chapter 4 are as followed: 1- How shapes are related, 2- Use patterns to determine missing lengths and area, 3- Make scale drawings, 4- Use tables, graphs, equations and real life situations to determine proportional relationships, and 5- Simplify and evaluate algebraic expressions. If you need to contact me for any reason, please call the school 330-675-8700. My extension is #1106. Leave a message with a phone number where I can reach you.

In 7th grade compacted math we will be continue to work on algebra concepts including work with percent interest and proportions. Students should be completing homework several days a week as it is an expectation of the class. Students will continue to be assessed both as a team and individually. Attendance in class is essential as we are moving at an increased pace through the program. Please reinforce the Warren acronym at home: Work ethic, Accountability, Responsibility, Respect, Effective behavior, No excuses.

Grade 8 In the new year, our mathematicians will move onto working with systems of equations. In Chapter 5 we will again be using $y = mx + b$ to extract useful information about solutions and the graph of the equation. We will be practicing writing equations from word problems and we will be using algebra tiles and equation mats so that students will get a hands-on experience for representing equations and seeing how solutions are made. As we progress through the chapter students will be able to solve two equations at the same time to find one solution that works for both equations. We will still be focusing on the different representations an algebraic relationship can have and students will strengthen their skills at using tables and graphs. Towards the end of the month we will be working with transformations of shapes on the coordinate grid and some geometry. All students should bring a workbook, textbook, and notebook to class each day. If you have any questions or concerns contact me at 330-675-8700 ext.1108 or valerie.thomas@neomin.org



Flu Season Tips

Here are some helpful tips for you and your child as we approach the cold and flu season:

- Wash their hands often
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue or into a sleeve at the elbow
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose and mouth to reduce germ exposure
- Avoid sharing personal items

Supper @ Willard

Students enrolled at Willard PK-8 can receive a free supper immediately after school in the cafeteria Monday through Thursday at 4:00 pm

Bus riders must provide their own transportation home.

