

# 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



Jan 20— NO SCHOOL, Martin Luther King Day

Jan 22—Geography Bee Competition

Jan 28 & Jan 30— Parent/Teacher  
Conferences 4:00 pm—7:00 pm

Jan 31— Academic Awards



## Choir News

The 7th and 8th grade Choir will begin preparing music for the All-City concert, which will be on February 19th. 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.



Eighth grade students will be beginning their semester of art. They will be learning about the basics of creating interesting art that has a good composition. They will be practicing how to fill their paper, instead of drawing something very small that does not take up much space. They will then practice activating the space by filling it with texture, pattern, details, and shading.

Sixth grade students will be beginning their nine weeks of art. They will begin with a project about illuminated letters and how to create patterns. They will move on to creating texture with paint.

## Guidance News

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break. We are so excited to welcome your students back for the second semester! During the month of January, middle school students will begin the third unit in the Second Step curriculum. This unit focuses on thoughts, emotions, and decisions. Students will participate in a variety of lessons, activities, and discussions that focus on anger management, handling rejection, anxiety, and staying calm in stressful situations. Middle school is a time when students experience a lot of challenges when it comes to decision making and managing emotions, and this unit will provide them with tools and exercises to master these skills.

## 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

**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. 28 & THURSDAY, JAN 30 FROM 4:00 PM — 7:00 PM EACH EVENING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.**

**S** Grade 6 Sixth grade social studies will have the opportunity to see a world beyond the borders of our town, state, and country-- and particularly to see the world as it was before our time. Students will continue studying Ancient Civilizations. Students have been using a variety of primary source documents through their learning process and will continue to do so.

**O** Research on the internet, creating presentations, online scavenger hunts and writing essays using this information is an important part of our social studies curriculum. Students will continue their work as archaeologist, performing an interactive dig to find artifacts and create a museum exhibit with a group of partners!

**I** Grade 7 In seventh grade social studies we will first finish up with the Middle Ages. These things include the social structure of the Feudal System, the struggle between kings and Popes, the influence of the Church, and the plague in Europe. We will then start the Islamic Civilization in which the main idea will be the influence of Islam both in the Middle East and throughout the rest of the world.

Grade 8 Happy New Year! In United States History we will be examining two core documents in January, the Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution. We will focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and examine how those weaknesses helped to develop the Constitution we have today.

Grade 6 Welcome back! I hope everyone had a nice and relaxing break! This January our sixth grade scientists will be finishing up our Earth science unit and moving to Life Science. In Life science, we will be learning about different types of cells. We will be studying unicellular, multicellular, prokaryotic, eukaryotic, animal and plant cells. The students really enjoy this interactive unit.



Science

Grade 7 Seventh grade science will be moving forward with our study of energy flow and transfer. In addition, students will examine energy transfer and the conservation of energy neither being created nor destroyed during processes. Students will conclude with the ways in which heat energy is transferred through conduction, convection, and radiation. Looking forward to a great start in 2020.

Grade 8 "Hello Willard Families! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break, and you spent lots of time with the ones you love. For the month of January in Science Class, your student will begin learning about Earth's topical features like mountains, valleys, and rivers. Your student will learn about geologist's tools for studying the Earth's topography and geological history. This month will end with an introduction into Earth's rich geological history, with a look at the fossil record. This unit is where Science really begins to come alive for our students, and I am thrilled to introduce them to all of these exciting new concepts. Keep encouraging your student to show perseverance and integrity in the classroom so they can finish out their year strong! Keep enjoying these winter months and Go Raiders

Book Fair will be held on January 27-31. It will be open during conferences until 6:30 both nights. K-2 Pod's shopping day is Monday, January 27, 3-5 Pod's shopping day is Tuesday, January 28, 6-8 Shopping day is Wednesday, January 29 and Cross Cat's Shopping day is Thursday, January 30. The Book Fair will close on Friday at noon.



#### Geography Bee Practices



The Geography Bee will be on Wednesday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the small gym. Geography Bee practices are from 4:00-4:45 every Monday in room 144 (Band Room)

Dates of practices are January 6 and 13. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Feeny at 330-675-8700. Ext 1301.

#### 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.



**Grade 6** In January 6th grade will be working on the skill of multiplying and dividing with fractions, decimals and percent. They will be applying these skills to real world scenarios such as construction, cooking and sale price.



**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 moving away from the 7th grade standards and into algebraic concepts. Students will begin working with algebra tiles to build their understanding and develop ideas related to algebra. Please make sure students are completing weekly homework assignments and coming to school every day! Please reinforce the WARREN acronym at home: Work ethic, Accountability, Respect, Responsibility, Effective behavior, and No excuses.

**Grade 8** In the new year, our mathematicians will continue with Chapter 4 and making connections with tables, graphs, and equations in the form of  $y = mx + b$ . Our studies will lead us to 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 graph 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. 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](mailto:valerie.thomas@neomin.org)



**Grade 6** Welcome back! I hope you are refreshed and ready to go! In the new unit for this nine weeks, students will learn about technology. They will consider concepts relating to how technology has benefited people and consider criticisms about how it has changed our relationships to one another. Students will read a variety of texts and listen to and view media as they discuss the Essential Question for the unit: How is modern technology helpful and harmful to society? Some talking points to have with your child are: What do the selections you are reading say about our relationship to technology? How can we learn to find a healthy balance with modern technology? Why do you think stories about technology are so popular in the media and in books and film? Please remember that homework is Tuesday- Thursday. I am available at 330-675-8700 x1100 with any questions or concerns.

**Grade 7** The month of January Essential Question will be: Should we make a home in space? The Process writing for the third nine weeks is an Argument Essay. The On Demand writing will also be an Argument Essay. The essays will be a great determinant to show how well they will do on the state exam. Topics we will cover in January are: TAPE strategy, claim, and author's point of view. January begins the third nine weeks, and we are getting closer to the state exam. Please talk your child about being prepared and having the right mindset. Homework is given Monday thru Thursday, if they tell you there is no homework please have them read something for at least 15 minutes. Thank You.

**Grade 8** In 8th grade language arts we are starting fresh in January with argument! Students will be reading texts that make an argument and analyzing whether they make a good argument or not. We will write an argument essay on this topic in the month of January as well. Students should continue to come to class with all required materials which are listed outside my door and include a pen/pencil. Please reinforce the WARREN acronym at home: Work ethic, Accountability, Respect, Responsibility, Effective behavior, and No excuses.

