



## **From the Principal's Desk**

Dear Wyman Families,

After considering several other options, it appears that Wolfbites and listserv may be the best ways for me to regularly reach families. As I have stated previously, I feel that ongoing communication is an important part of the educational community-building process here at Wyman. I will be sending you updates on curriculum and building strengths and needs every few weeks via listserv. If you know of any parents that are not subscribers, please feel free to forward me their email addresses. Paper copies of these updates will be available at school upon request.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first six weeks as principal. It has been a wonderful opportunity to see the building and classrooms from a different perspective. Ms. Daniel is getting stronger by the day and is looking forward to transitioning back to work.

## **EVENTS**

- First of all, let me commend the PTA and all of the volunteers on their excellent work at this year's Harvest Fest. Joan and her crew were amazing. It's hard to believe that the event can get better each year, but it does.
- Our congratulations to Mrs. Fortier for running a wonderful "Sidewalk Chalk" event, which brought together families, and raised some funds for another tile mural at school. It was a great afternoon.
- Our Crazy Hat Day generated over \$200 to help subsidize the shirts for our chorus. Nice work Ms. Kimber and Mrs. Leal! The PTA has also made a generous contribution to this cause.
- Many classes wrote letters to soldiers deployed overseas this past week. I was extremely impressed with the sincerity and thoughtfulness of this correspondence. These letters will undoubtedly make quite an impression on our fighting men and women. The process involved a lot of writing technique,

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as well as a bit of social studies. I had the opportunity to participate in the process in several classrooms. This was by far the highlight of my week.

- Our next big event is our canned goods drive here at school. Starting November 1<sup>st</sup> we will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to needy families in our local community as well as other parts of the state. The Feinstein Foundation will put \$1 in our school Feinstein account for each can donated up to \$2000. What a great bonus. There will be a prize for the classroom with the highest can to student ratio.
- Check out the updated bulletin boards outside the all purpose room. There are some pictures from Science Night and Crazy Hat Day.

### NECAP

The students in grades 3-6 did a fantastic job taking the NECAP tests in reading, math, and writing (grade 5 only) for several weeks in October. It takes a tremendous amount of focus and effort to get through the challenging prompts and problems. These assessments give all of us a gauge of student learning in relation to our curricula, standards, and instructional practices. Scores will be out in the spring. If you are interested in more information on NECAP check out the following link. The released items are an excellent sampling of what your child experienced.

<http://www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/necap.aspx>

### CURRICULUM

I wanted to take a few moments to discuss our new mathematics curriculum. For the past year or so, teams of teachers and administrators district-wide have been working with the Charles A. DANA Center out of the University of Texas [www.utdanacenter.org](http://www.utdanacenter.org) on the development, rollout, and implementation of a “guaranteed and viable” K-12 mathematics curriculum. In Our building Mrs. Walsh and Ms. Bowden are on the writing teams. Ms. Daniel, Mrs. Houle, and I are on the leadership team. These teams are involved in ongoing professional development to monitor and improve the process. Implementation started in September of 2011. This program differs significantly from curricula of the past. The DANA curriculum is based on student outcomes and backwards design. Design starts with the concepts and skills students should know and be able to apply after experiencing a given unit. The units are then designed backwards with these outcomes in mind. In other words, the goal determines the course of getting there. It is similar to a car company deciding they would like to have a hybrid vehicle which gets 60 MPG, can carry 8 passengers, and cost less than \$25,000. They would start with these outcome criteria desired and then work through the design and development phases. In the case of DANA, outcomes are based on the Common Core State Standards. These standards are also outcome-based and have been adopted by 48 states. The Common Core is focused on teaching students 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, making

them contributing members of a global society. Go to <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards> if you would like more information on the standards. The Common Core will soon replace the Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) that we have been following for several years.

Our teachers have done an excellent job of learning and implementing the DANA curriculum. The units are tied to particular concepts and follow a tight scope and sequence. Teachers have some autonomy in their selection of materials, assessment, and pedagogy

they utilize to achieve student outcomes. In other words, teachers in two different classrooms at the same grade level may be teaching a concept in two different ways, using two different sets of resources. However, students in both classrooms will learn the same concepts and possess a similar ability to apply them to future situations. This allows teachers to play on their strengths as educators, while at the same time taking advantage of student strengths and needs.

Initial teacher and student response to DANA has been positive. Keep in mind this process is ever evolving and regularly revisited and updated. **This undertaking represents a tremendous amount of time and initiative on behalf of classroom teachers.** They are given a framework and have to develop the program to reach the outcomes. This differs significantly from an out of the box mathematics program taught in sequenced chapters. The fidelity with which the staff has embraced this task has been impressive to say the least. I have completed many classroom walks to monitor the implementation of DANA. In every classroom I have seen high levels of student engagement and progress. This curriculum is not perfect but it is a positive step towards the development of those 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

In addition to the DANA curriculum teachers are again integrating the Exemplars problem solving program into their math instruction. Problems selected are coordinated with the different units in the DANA math curriculum. In many cases teachers have had to realign these problems or even develop their own. Some sample problems are available at <http://www.exemplars.com/materials/samples/>

I strongly encourage all of you to ask your children about their daily math experiences and programs. You may want to review some of the above links. Please feel free to discuss any of the math programming and concepts with your child's teacher.

Next month there will be a bit about the English language arts curriculum.

If there is some aspect of curriculum you wish to hear more about please email suggestions to the building principal [marcaccion@warwickschools.org](mailto:marcaccion@warwickschools.org)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Student Drop Off and Parking- Thank you parents for your understanding as we work to improve the traffic pattern at drop off and pickup time. Please observe the one way arrows in the parking lot and always drop your students at the gate next to the maroon storage unit and dumpsters on the north side of the playground. Please park in the designated spaces if you choose to watch and wait in the morning.
- Lunchroom- there have been some questions raised about efforts to promote appropriate noise levels and behavior in the lunchroom. I realize I made a mistake in not outlining policy ahead of implementation. With my apology I offer a bit of an explanation. There has been an excessive amount of noise and questionable behavior, particularly during the intermediate lunch, grades 4-6. We have many students with noise sensitivity issues at Wyman. At times the all purpose room has been loud enough to disrupt instruction in other parts of the building. Every effort has been made to reason with the students and involve them in the solution to this problem. They have been given the opportunity to earn positive rewards or consequences as a result of their collective behavior. Positive rewards consist of praise, red apples, etc. Consequences can be individual or collective, including loss of recess, a note or call home, or in extreme cases, silent lunch. This last consequence has raised the most concern. I assure you I do not typically issue or support blanket consequences such as a silent lunchroom. However, the problem itself is a collective responsibility and ownership belongs to all students. When the noise situation gets out of control all students are forced to raise their voices to be heard. This has an exponential effect on ambient noise. It is virtually impossible to single out offending students in these situations. I am pleased to report the situation is improving. The positive reward system will continue and consequences will remain the same for the foreseeable future. I encourage you to contact me with suggestions or concerns regarding this or any other policy at Wyman. I welcome the opportunity for discussion.

I would welcome any and all suggestions of topics for future communications. Chances are if you are questioning something, there are other parents who could benefit from discussion and answers. Some of the best ideas I have heard come directly from you.

In closing my thanks to all of the families, teachers, and staff at Wyman for everything you do on a daily basis to make our community great. Let's keep it growing.

Sincerely,

Neil D. Marcaccio, Acting Principal

[marcaccion@warwickschools.org](mailto:marcaccion@warwickschools.org)

## President's Letter, November 2011

We are approaching the end of the first quarter of the school year...can you believe it? Time is flying by this year. I also get startled at this time of year when I see the stores adorned with holiday products and promotions. Let the chaos begin!

In the PTA, we are reaching full stride too! With Science Night and Harvest Fest behind us, we forge ahead with the upcoming play and new afterschool programs. We also have some new, first time volunteers, embracing some of the committees that needed leadership, for which I am extremely grateful. You will also start to see information coming home with your children about joining the PTA. A portion of each membership comes back to Wyman. Being a member of the PTA also gives you voting privileges at our meetings. Again, the more people that join, support and attend meetings, the stronger the program.

I must also commit some space in this message to share some frustration that stems from Harvest Fest. Several people responded to the need for food donations that were never delivered. This forced us to scramble at the last minute and purchase these items. We were short on some items due to the lack of available quantities needed in such a short time. I'm sorry for those people who did not received all that was promised, but we did the best we could with what we had access to. My fear is that instead of asking for donations, the decision will be made to increase the cost for everyone to be able to purchase all the necessary items and avoid the circumstances we were faced with at Harvest Fest this year.

That said, I believe the community remains strong and dedicated to making the Wyman experience a great one for the children. I welcome any and all feedback from the community and look forward to another great month!

Best Regards,

Ted Larson

## Nurse's Corner

The Warwick Public Schools is required by law to ensure that school age children receive appropriate dental care. As a result, Warwick Public Schools is required to ensure that dental screenings are performed by our school dentist. Our school dentist will be performing screenings on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. If you **do not** want to have your child screened, then please let the school nurse know as soon as possible.

November 18th the students in grades K-3 will be having their hearing tested by the State of Rhode Island Hearing Center. Please note that hearing screenings are **mandated** by state law. If you have any questions regarding this screening please contact the school nurse at 734-3180.

## November

### Important Dates:

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – Canned food drive

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – School Store

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ends

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> -No School, Veterans Day

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> – Report Card Day/Red Apple Day

Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – PTA meeting 7pm/Dental Screening K-5

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> – Hearing screening K-3

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> – School Store

Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> – No School, Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – Box Tops Collection

Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> – School Pictures

All Month – Calendar Raffle Sales\*



## What's Going On:

### Canned Food Drive

We are conducting a canned food drive which is ongoing from November 1 – November 17<sup>th</sup>. This is part of our Feinstein Good Deeds project to help our neighbors in need as we approach the Holidays. Please send in appropriate non-perishable food items. Thank you!

### After School Hoops –

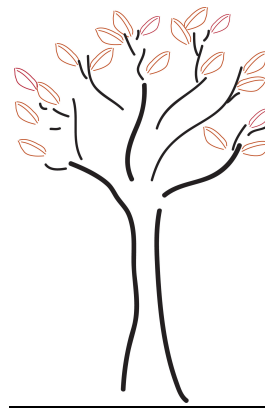
As part of our Enrichment Programs, One on One basketball is being offered on Thursday's after school in the all purpose room. Registration was due Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program runs from 2:45 – 3:55pm. Please pick up your child promptly.

### Hip Hop Dance!

After school, Hip Hop Dance will be offered on Fridays 2:50 – 3:50pm. It is now open to Kindergarteners also. Info can be found on Listserv and Facebook under "docs".

**A BIG thank you to all of the students, parents, teachers and the Wyman PTA who supported the "Crazy For Chorus Hat Day". This will help us with embroidered matching shirts for participating children participating in chorus!**

### The 2012 Wyman Chorus



## **Wyman's Version of the Toy Story**

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> is our school play which will be at Aldrich Jr. High School. Rehearsals will vary depending on your child's role, the exact days have been updated and sent out on listserv . This will also be a toy drive for kids in need at the holidays. Your help and participation with props, set design and program sponsorship is greatly appreciated. Any questions, please contact Joan McMullen: [tnjirish@cox.net](mailto:tnjirish@cox.net).

Friday, December 2nd  
Aldrich Junior High school Auditorium  
7 pm - \$5.00 per family and please bring a toy

## **After School Enrichment Programs**

### **2012 Wyman After School (WAS)**

Chess Club (actually starting wednesdays in December)

Art from the heart drawing basics. (Tuesdays)

Karate/martial arts (Tuesdays or Wednesdays)

Hip Hop for grades 4-6pm (Fridays)

African drumming

All sports all ball

Indoor soccer

Mad Science

Yoga

Creative writing

Reading program and possibly more...

I am still working some of these out and they will run in 2 sessions one in winter and the other in early spring please contact me if you have any question or would like to help out with any of these programs, Thanks. Toni Andersen [otoni1968@yahoo.com](mailto:otoni1968@yahoo.com) or 228-7001

### **Language Arts**

Spanish is happening. Look for sign ups via Listserv and Facebook next week. For all grades K-3 Fridays and 4-6 Tuesdays. Que Bueno!

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Committee Meeting**

Would you like to be a part of your child's end of the year activities?

6<sup>th</sup> Grade parents can help make this the coolest year ever for outgoing students:

1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING AFTER SCHOOL 3 PM

AT WYMAN-(ROOM TO BE ANNOUNCED) NOVEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

Please contact Joan at: [TNJIRISH@COX.NET](mailto:TNJIRISH@COX.NET) if you can make the meeting or if you want to help but cannot come due to time constraints.

## Teachers' Turn

### **Art News, from Mrs. Fortier**

We are busy, as always, in the art room! Here's what's going on...

\*My **first graders** have been exploring lines, shapes and pattern. After reading Elephant Dance: A Journey through India to them, they created beautiful elephant drawings. Their elephants are dressed up in traditional Indian costumes, full of lines, shapes and pattern.

\***Second graders** just completed seascapes with lighthouses. They learned about the history of lighthouses and created their own. To finish this artwork, students had to make decisions about their seascapes, such as, time of day, what's in the distance and close up, and the weather.

\*My **third graders** just finished a unit on color and the color wheel. They painted like the artist Sonia Delauney and included every color on the color wheel in their painting: primary colors, secondary colors, intermediates and neutrals. Their paintings are magnificent!

\***Fourth graders** just finished a drawing using perspective and space. Their drawings are of faces in a crowd and are very comical! The facial expressions they used are fantastic! Using tricks of perspective, students made their flat drawings look as though they have depth.

\*Dead of the Dead is the art history lesson being taught in **fifth grade**. Students learned about this Mexican Holiday and about the rich traditions of Mexican people during this time of year. They are working on skull sculptures made out of clay that they will be designing very soon.

\***Sixth grade** students just finished the most beautiful animal drawings. They learned how to use value and shading to create realistic animals. They used kneaded erasers and tortillion stumps, just like a professional artist, to help with their shading.

\*\*\*Please don't forget to check out [artsonia.com](http://artsonia.com). Your child's user name and security keys went home last week and this week...keep them in a safe place!

## **From Mrs. Benevide's Class**

We have been working very hard in Third grade. In Social Studies we have been learning the differences among, urban, suburban, and rural communities. We are reviewing place value and telling time to the quarter hour in Math. In Language Arts, we've been working on writing paragraphs, and drafting letters to our pen pals at Cedar Hill. One craft that we did was to carve pumpkins and make them look like cheeseburgers! We had a Halloween party that was super fun! We danced to spooky music, did the limbo, ate, and drank blue punch, (It was very good!). We love third grade.

By: Grace Seufert and Isaac Rodriguez – Jones

## **News From VOWS**

VOWS is currently recruiting volunteers interested in presenting the "Heads Up" Anti-bullying and conflict resolution program to second grade students in Warwick. A minimum of two trained volunteers are needed from each school that wishes to receive the program. All training and materials for the program are provided by the VOWS office staff. The program begins in January and runs weekly through April. If you'd like to be part of this dynamic, effective program, contact Toni Andersen, Wyman School's VOWS Coordinator at 228-7001.

Also looking for volunteers to help making copies for teacher, filing, laminating, let me know if this interests you.

## **Parents' Picks**

Chess -This website has some nice games and intro to chess. under Play chess and Learn. Help develop your child's interest in the upcoming chess program:

<http://www.kidchess.com/index.html>

Funbrain – great educational game website that breaks up by category and grade level. Do not have to be a 'member' to play:

<http://www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html>

## **REMINDERS**

### **Raffle Calendar**

Our annual fundraising raffle calendars went home on Friday – they are \$20 for 2 months worth of prizes, including cash and Boston Red Sox tickets! Please take the time to sell over the holidays to friends and family. If each child sells 2, we will reach our fundraising goals for the year. These funds allow the PTA to assist with field trips, school assemblies, fun events, and items to help teachers, DVDs, projectors, etc.

### **Box Tops Collection**

Mrs. Please keep collecting those Box Tops. November 30<sup>th</sup> will be our next collection. There is a new way to get credit for products you purchase online. By visiting <https://www.boxtops4education.com> you can register and shop through their marketplace to earn points for Wyman.

### **Stop and Shop A+ Bonus Bucks**

If you have not registered already the season to earn A+ Bonus Bucks for our school through Stop and Shop has begun. Please register your card to support our school. Our id # is 07300 and is registered under “Elwood T. Wyman”. Tell friends and family!

### **A quick note from the Editor**

I am super excited about this issue, beginning to bring news from our teaching staff and their classes. This will help the parent community get a glimpse of what our students are working on and what might be “up the road” as you peek inside the other grade levels. Again, the parent’s picks are always welcome to be sent to me if you find something interesting and educational! Send to Lyndsay Drew at [LMDrew@Verizon.net](mailto:LMDrew@Verizon.net).

Our effort to go green is going strong; we have not been asked for any paper copies of Wolfbites yet. Thank you for helping us to conserve trees and money. That said, if you do need a paper copy, please feel free to contact me or the front office to request a copy to be sent home with your child. Thank you!