



# Dolphin Press

Each day your child enters Willards Elementary School, we add an academic "brick" to their foundation for success. Our teachers are constantly looking for new ways to improve the skill and craft of teaching. From the beginning to the end of the day, teachers are working very hard to provide opportunities and experiences for our students to learn the much needed skills to be successful in life.

When report cards come out on February 4<sup>th</sup>, please don't wait to set up a parent conference if you wish to have one with your child's teachers. Our next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1 with classroom visitation. This is another opportunity that you can speak with your child's teacher. Communication is always the key to a successful home/school relationship.

With your help as a parent, we want to challenge our students to take an active role in their future. Talk with your child about the importance of participating in the activities in class. Encourage your child to take full advantage of the opportunities to get the knowledge he/she needs to improve. Also, be a good role model. Make sure your child is at school and on time every day. Show them the importance of preparation and punctuality.

Encourage your child to raise their hand and ask a question. There is no shame to say, "I don't understand. Could you go over that again?" It lets teachers know that your child is engaged. Teachers need this feedback to decide if they need to slow down, start over, try a different approach, or forge ahead. Talk to your child about volunteering to read in class, to explain how they solved a problem, or to share an idea.

Learning, just as life, requires "doing" - doing classwork, doing homework, doing projects, and doing reading assignments. An opportunity lost is an opportunity a student cannot get back.

When your child gets home each day, ask what he/she is "doing" in class. Hold them accountable for their daily work by showing you the fruits of their labor. Years ago Nike had a slogan: "Just do it." The same applies to learning. We are looking forward to beginning the third marking term.

## Attendance Counts! (December 2015)

Grade Level	Average Daily Attendance~	Our Goal is
	<b>94% Required</b>	<b>95%</b>
AM Pre-Kindergarten	87.66	
PM Pre-Kindergarten	93.12	
Kindergarten	92.77	
First Grade	92.79	
Second Grade	94.68	😊
Third Grade	94.73	😊
Overall Attendance	93.46	

February 2016



36161 Richland Rd  
Willards, MD 21874  
Phone: 410-677-5819  
Fax: 410-677-5830

Regina L. Rando  
Principal  
rrando@wcboe.org

Jennifer B. Rice  
Assistant Principal  
jrice@wcboe.org



### Special points of interest:

√ **Check your child's agenda book each day.**

√ **Drop off your child after 7:45am.**

√ **Arrive before 8:15am or your child will be counted tardy.**

√ **Send us a note about changes in transportation, illness, and/or contact information.**

√ **Students will not be dismissed from the office after 2:30 unless a note has been sent in stating they have an appointment.**

## **THE ARTS ARE HAPPENING AT WWS!**

The 3rd grade enjoyed making kinetic sculptures with their artist in residency last month. First grade also enjoyed their pottery making experience at OC Center For The Arts. This month, preparation for the 1st grade May spring concert will begin. Art, library and music classes begin the month exploring the Lunar New Year. Arts integration continues pairing dance with snow themed lessons. In music class we will write coordinating snow rhythms and perform them on ball buckets in PE. Library will also join in the fun with books focused on snow.



## **OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SALISBURY UNIVERSITY**

Wonderful Willard's Family is proud to welcome the following teacher candidates to our school for their First SU Intern Placements! In First Grade, Casie Brinck will be working with Ms. Bailey, and Cristina Brown will be working with Mrs. Scholl; in Second Grade, Christine Kedra will be working with Ms. Check, Mary Warren will be working with Mrs. Simpkins, and Katie Rulapaugh will be working with Mr. Thamert, We are happy to have ALL of you in our school and working with our students!

In addition, we want to thank Alia Otwell, in Mrs. Stavely's Kindergarten for the many exciting lessons she prepared and taught over the past few weeks. We wish her well as she begins her next placement.



## GOOD DOLPHIN CHARACTER MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Our January guidance lessons have been centered on self-discipline. The students have been showing ways they can control their own thoughts and actions.

We have discussed how to control emotional anger, handle waiting and manage test anxiety. We have moved to a dance video which reminds us to Stop, Name the Feeling and Calm Down! We have discussed many ways to calm down; such as, belly breaths, counting to 10, use self-talk, read a book, play a game, go to a quiet area, or talk to an adult.

The third graders brainstormed many ideas to help prepare for a big test (such as PARCC) so we don't have high anxiety. Their ideas included: go to bed early, eat a good breakfast, practice/study for the test, take a deep breath, persevere and give your best, think positively, come to school every day and ask questions if you don't understand.

Congratulations to the following students who are being recognized for showing self-discipline! In pre-kindergarten, they are London Adams, Ashlynd Tatum, Adam Geis and Abigail Smith. In kindergarten, they are Mason Bolles, Olivia Church, Hayden Perdue, Kareem Walker, Sarah Williams, Joel Horseman, Natalie Smith and Alexis Mason. In first grade, they are Riley Perdue, Mylah Smith, Max Chalmers, Addison Hibble, Wyatt Richardson, Brayden Grubb, Lara Owens, Axel Garcia, Melin Peek and Cameron Smith. In second grade, they are Rhyan Muir, Layla Roscoe, Lilea Taylor, Heidi Rameriz-Rodriguez, Alexandra Espejo, John Morgan, Hailey Goodwin, Logan Newton, Laiba Akhtar, Daniel Elliott and Rebecca Soto. In third grade, they are Michael Jefferson, Briana Tierney, Eden Hirsch, Jennifer Kimbrew, Lukas Washburn, McKenzi Hamill, Shawn Whitaker, Zoey Richardson, Caleb Raab and Gracie Pumphrey.

In February, we will be concentrating on compassion as our next character trait. The guidance lessons will be centered on bullying, building empathy and relationships.

Sincerely,

*Christina Thompson*

School Counselor





## Pre Kindergarten

February is here and we are going to be busy. We will continue with our theme Seasons All Around. In science we will learn about dental health and ramps. Social Studies we will be introduced to different Presidents. In math we will continue to build sets up to ten and recognize numbers 0-10.

## Kindergarten

In February we will be concluding the Sunshine and Raindrops theme and beginning Wheels Go Around. We will focus on how weather affects us and discuss different ways we travel. We will be using a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts to make connections as we explore how wheels help us. We will be focusing on recognizing teen numbers and counting aloud to 100. We will be solving addition and subtraction word problems. We will be working on reading our Unit 4 sight words- all, but, from, have, his, on, said, that, there, was, with.

## First Grade

During the month of February we will stay warm by keeping busy! We will begin our new reading theme, We Can Work It Out, which will include stories about getting along, how to be a good friend and seeing situations from other's point of view. We will continue with our reading and phonic strategies and build on our comprehension and fluency this month. In math, we of course will continue with our year long standard to work on and master our addition and subtraction facts. Along with our facts we will work on word problems, bar graphs, and time to the hour and half hour. February is also full of exciting science units that focus on our health, these units will include learning about our heart and keeping it healthy, dental health, bones and nutrition. Our social studies units will focus on President's Day and continue with our school cultural study of Australia. Remember to keep reading and recording your minutes as a nightly assignment. We will also welcome Ms. Barbra, from 4-H, and Ms. Gerrie Weirsburg, our stem resource teacher, into our classrooms and they will do extension lessons focusing on snow and health science lessons. As we move into our 3<sup>rd</sup> marking term remember to keep in touch with your teacher and we all thank you for your support this year!

## Second Grade

During the month of February we will be reading stories about Families from our anthology and from our leveled readers. With this theme we will be learning about how families solve problems and how family members should treat each other. In math we will be finishing a unit on subtraction of 2-digit numbers and begin working on addition of 3-digit numbers, including word problems. The children will continue working on becoming fluent with their addition facts as they try to earn their way into the "Minute Club." We will involve the children in numerous Valentine's activities which will integrate math, reading, spelling, and language. Mrs. Gail Johnson, our reading professional development coach, will teach us a lesson on opinion writing with a non-fiction article. This is a skill we will be working on this month. Mrs. Barbara Barga, our 4-H representative, will involve our students in a hands-on study of ways to promote good health in her "Be Healthy" unit. The students always have great fun learning with her! Please continue to read with your child every night and record the minutes on their reading calendar. Also, please replenish any school supplies your child may need. Keep safe and warm this chilly month!

## Third Grade

We're officially half way to fourth grade! In order for your child to be successful, the third grade teachers have just a few reminders. Please make sure your child is prepared for school each day with at least three sharpened pencils with erasers, notebooks, and their agenda. Also, please check your child's homework each night to make sure they are putting forth their best effort.

Our Celebrating Traditions theme in reading is coming to an end. We will soon begin the fan-favorite Animal Habitats theme! In math we are returning to fractions. Topics include: understanding fractions as part of a whole, fractions beyond 1 on a number line, equivalent fractions, and comparing fractions. Please continue to explore measurement at home. Take out those rulers and measuring cups and measure around your home.

Cold and flu season is upon us! If you are able to send in spare box of tissues our runny noses would certainly appreciate it!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			Bookmobile Report Cards			
B 1	C 2	D 3	E 4	F 5	6	7
A 8	B 9	C 10	D 11	E 12	13	14
School Closed 15	F 16	A 17	McDonalds Spirit Night B 18	Spirit Day C 19	20	21
D 22	E 23	F 24	Bookmobile A 25	B 26	27	28
Professional Day School Closed 29						

# FEBRUARY



**Just a reminder to mark your calendars for March 5th for our 13th Annual PTA Fundraising Benefit Auction.**