

Weare Middle & Center Woods Upper Elementary
NEWSLETTER
Issue #8/ December 12, 2021

Dear families,

Dr. Coe messaged earlier this month about snow cancellations and remote learning this year. I wanted to follow-up with more specific information about what a remote day looks like in our building.

The biggest change, of course, is that students will work with their teachers and peers virtually instead of being together in school. Outside of that, the day should look the same - with teachers and students working collaboratively on learning.

Students will follow the same daily schedules, attend the same unified arts classes, and have snack, lunch, and recess at the same times as they would in school. Teachers and service providers will continue to work with students in the same ways that they do at school - with direct instruction (in whole groups or in small groups), by providing opportunities for independent practice, and by providing time and opportunity for enrichment, extension, and support. This structure means that students won't be staring at screens all day; whole group instruction is only a portion of any instructional block whether in our building or at home.

When students arrive at school, they have a very short homeroom period and instruction begins at 7:30. They will follow their regular schedules to join their teachers at the start of each instructional block. Your child's classroom teachers will share the grade level schedule with you and post it on their Canvas homepage.

Many of our classrooms have already practiced using Canvas and so we are confident that we are able to support remote learning should the need arise. We will continue to have opportunities to access information on Canvas so our students understand how to log-in and where to find items on the homepage.

As Dr. Coe shared in her message, the first weather impact day will be a traditional snow day off from school. After that traditional days and remote days will be balanced.

As always, we're thankful for your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

*Shawne Hilliard
Principal*



For the remaining days until the holiday break we will have Spirit Days. The idea for the original Spirit Week came directly from a group of students during their advisory. We will send out the schedule for December 20-22 later this week.

The themes are:

Monday - Sports Day

Tuesday - Twin Day

Wednesday - Anything but a backpack day (nothing inappropriate or dangerous, needs to hold school supplies, must be able to fit on the bus even if students are driven to school.)

Thursday - Holiday Day**

- 8th - Christmas
- 7th - Valentine's Day
- 4th of July
- 5th - Halloween
- 4th - St. Patricks

Friday - Beach or PJ Day**

****** Costumes and outfits for Holiday Day and Beach/PJ day must still follow the school dress code.

Our Winter Concert is being postponed. We have not yet chosen an alternative date as we want to be in a position to have a live presentation with community guests in attendance.

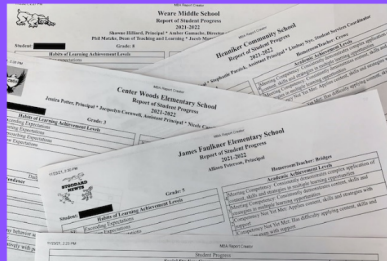
Your administration team,

Mrs. Hilliard, Mr. Matzke & Mr. Morrill

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Superintendent's office hours

Henniker, Weare, John Stark & Stoddard Districts



K-8 REPORT CARD CHANGES

December 16 from 6-7 PM

**Office Hours
with the
Superintendent**

Have questions about anything in SAU 24? Join the monthly Zoom meeting with Superintendent Coe on the 3rd Thursday each month, alternating at noon & 6 PM.

Ask a question, say hello, or just listen via Zoom <https://bit.ly/2Yx51YJOfficeHours>
Meeting ID: 821 4229 1994 Passcode: 225191 or Join by phone @ (US) +1 240-623-0475 PIN: 538 949 965#.

Given recent events we wanted to let you know the staff and students have been practicing and preparing for the unlikely event of an intruder. Our first step was to train all classroom staff and support staff in the ALiCE protocols. We next supported classroom teachers to talk through expectations should an intruder enter our building. Our next drill will involve announcing an intruder and processing with students appropriate steps. These will include where we would place ourselves in the classroom, what we might use to create barricades for our doors and when we might choose to leave a location.

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From the Special Education Department

Over the course of the last few newsletters, we have explored the various executive functioning skills and what they might look like in children. As we have seen, these skills are pretty important when thinking about our children's ability to meet the demands placed on them daily, both at home and at school. You may even have a fairly good idea of what executive functioning skills your own child shows strength in and which ones are still challenging for them. So how can we help our children develop those skills that may be lagging, and continue to improve those skills that are typically developing?

One suggestion is to try the minimum intervention first. The goal is to give your child a boost towards the skills they need to be successful without making your own life more challenging, so keeping it simple might be the way to go. If you can provide simple environmental modifications that your child will eventually internalize on their own, then this sounds like the best direction to go. An example of a simple environmental modification would be a note left on the kitchen table that says *Please walk the dog as soon as you get home from school.* Then if you leave the note for three weeks, and then don't leave it, does your child still remember to walk the dog? If they do, this is their working memory in action.

In the case of a child who already has a particular executive function skill but needs to be encouraged to use it, a motivational strategy may be a good way to go with them. A number of parents help their children by setting up a folder system to help them keep track of their classwork and homework assignments, but sometimes we find that kids continue to stuff their work into random books and notebooks. A potential motivational strategy could be some kind of point system that you develop together with a reward at the end. Maybe when your child is finished with their homework each night, they can show you their folder and if it is organized they can earn 5 points. When your child has accrued 25 points, they may receive a pre-established reward, such as an extra hour to play video games over the weekend, their favorite dessert being served after dinner that night, etc. This small reward may help to motivate your child to utilize the skill they already have which will also help them to be more successful overall.

Simple environmental modifications and a motivational strategy may not be effective in all cases, but it's a good place to start without making your life more complicated.

Ms. Gamache (Director of Special Education for CWUES/WMS)

Weare School Librarian helps raise money for CHaD



Weare Middle/Center Woods Upper Elementary School Librarian Jodie Antione participated in the Storybook Tablescape Tour held at the Bedford Event Center in October to benefit the Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock (CHaD). Ms. Antione was one of the many volunteer designers who brought to life a favorite fall or Halloween-themed book into elaborately decorated tabletops. Ms. Antione, who has participated in this event since 2018, selected the book, *There was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat* because the book speaks to her as a school librarian. "I've read this book to my students for many years and it's always a hit. They like the repetition and they enjoy seeing what will come next. It's a classic story," she commented.

Antoine became involved with the fundraiser because she loves to read and she wanted to give back to Dartmouth-Hitchcock. She suffered a stroke in 2010 and credits the hospital and staff for the life-saving surgery she received in their care. According to the DHMC website, this year's event raised \$108,635.

Courtesy photo

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Tools, Talk, and Tech: New Elective Offered at Weare Middle School

Students in 7th and 8th grade who are not taking a foreign language now have the opportunity to take an elective class during that time period called E3—Engage, Enrich, and Extend. One of the

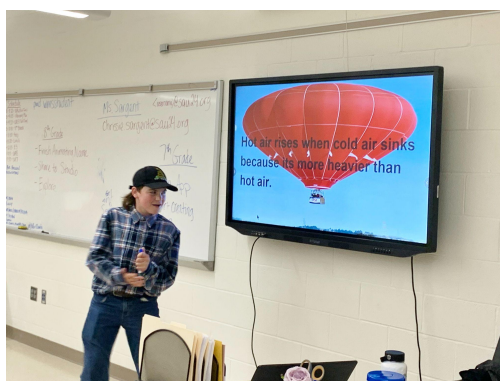


electives within E-3 is *Tools, Tech, and Talk*, team-taught by Instructional Technology Specialist Chrissie Sargent, Tech Ed teacher Mark Boucher, and Enrichment Coordinator Wil Crabtree.

In a recent unit, students in *Tools, Tech, and Talk* learned about the history and science of hot air balloons. Working in groups, they created a research poster on lighter than air flight by either balloons or airships. They had to find visual primary sources (mostly historical photos) and explain the images, cite their sources. "It was exciting to share with them how research skills are used in hands-on professions and that the skills they learn in school have many real-world applications," said teacher Wil Crabtree.

"Our students also presented to the class how hot air balloons work and made hot air balloons out of tissue paper," explained Chrissie Sargent, a teacher on the team. "It was a memorable day when students were able to launch their hot air balloons, using a propane-powered hot air launcher, outside on a beautiful fall day," she continued.

Other topics covered in E-3 will include creating websites, planning and building a model city, 3D printing, learning communications skills through a formal presentation, and learning about a range of tools, from power saws to computers.



Courtesy photos: Top, Mr. Boucher and 8th grader Sean Crean fill a hot air balloon; left, students watch their balloon float away; right, 8th grader Ben Labrecque gives a presentation about hot air balloons.

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Notes from the Nurse

If your child has symptoms, these are the steps to follow:

- **Keep your child home from school**
- **Call the school nurse at 529-8015**
- **Acquire a Covid test. We accept PCR, Rapid, or**

BinaxNOW home tests.

- Call with results and email documentation: marcia.magdziarz@sau24.org
- Follow instructions from the school nurse for returning to school.

We are continuing to encourage good hand washing, social distancing where possible, and masking.

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Athletics

Any questions related to athletics can be sent to our athletic director, Kristen Lundeen, kristen.lundeen@sau24.org

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SAU 24 is Hiring!

It takes a community to keep our schools running smoothly.

[Visit our website](#) to see our job openings. We are always looking for paraeducators and substitutes.

The Weare Bus Terminal is also looking for drivers! On-site job interviews take place every Wednesday from 10 am - 12 pm. Stop by our location for a walk-in interview and tour!

58 Carding Mill Road, Weare 603-529-4744

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PUP Default Plans

[WMS/CWUES Pickup Patrol Default Plans](#)

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Upcoming Dates - [full calendar can be found here](#)

December 23-Jan 2 - No School, Holiday Break

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Community News

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Pats Peak 2022 Learn to Ski and Ride

Registration is now open for students in grades 4-8 to register for the ski program. Ski days are on Thursdays beginning January 6 through February 3.

This is not a school-sponsored program, students do not get dismissed early and parents are responsible for transportation from school to the mountain.

To register online: [Pats Peak LTSR](#)

Grades 1-5: cwes2022

Grades 6-12: wmsjssnow2022

Questions??

Grades 1-5: Nancy Pearson 603-491-6467 or nancypearson92@gmail.com

Grades 6-12: Sharon Destefano 603-785-0743 or rstdestefano@aol.com

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The PTO Secretary Position is Open!

The primary duty of the PTO secretary is to take minutes at the Board meetings. Pursuant to the PTO policies, the secretary also prepares the minutes for approval by the group and maintains either hard copy or electronic copies of the minutes.

If you are interested in this position please join us at our next board meeting on 10/24 at 6:30pm via zoom! <https://fb.me/e/1zyL52pgv> Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3918999556?pwd=T0M2cnpzbzJuaWRXbnNISG1Ta1Nkdz09>

Meeting ID: 391 899 9556 Passcode: WEAREPTO