Dear Wonderful Willards Families,

The official winter season is soon upon us! Mrs. Rice and I wish our school families and staff the happiest of holidays this season. Please take time to enjoy precious moments with your children and loved ones during this extended school break. Please note that the last day of school before the break is Friday, December 20, 2019. School will be closed through Wednesday, January 1, 2020. We look forward to receiving our students and staff back on Thursday, January 2nd ready to start the New Year! Please make note that our school office will also be closed during this break. If you have business to be addressed in our office, please make plans to take care of this either on or after January 2nd.

Speaking of the New Year, whether you are in the habit of making formal resolutions or not, it is a wonderful time to reassess current habits and adjust our goals for positive outcomes. Please take the time now to reevaluate bed times, homework routines, and starting each day with a good breakfast. Data shows us that good habits and routines in these areas increase student potential and productivity. Consistency is key . . . so, let’s get a jump start on being the best that we can be by reassessing the areas that need to be improved upon, prior to students returning in January. Reassuring that good habits are in place and practiced regularly will surely help our little ones start the New Year off right.

Once we return from the holidays, we will hit the ground running as we continue to teach our students so they may learn and grow academically. As a reminder, good attendance is a primary goal for our county and school this year! Being present to learn with peers does make a positive difference both academically and socially. You will have an opportunity to mark your child’s growth on the second term report cards coming out near the end of January.

Happy Holidays,

Mrs. Nicholson
Principal
Willards Elementary School
Pre Kindergarten

Happy New Year!!! We are excited to start Unit 3 of Connect4Learning: How Structures are Built. This unit focuses on how tools and structures work, and how to make or do things! We will explore the following topics and skills:
- Science: Exploring forms and functions of objects through experiments, games, and activities.
- Math: Increasing counting skills and learning the plus-one pattern, learning how 2D shapes become 3D shapes and comparing their features.
- Literacy: Reading and writing how-to-texts, which explain how to make or do something. Exploring sequences of events to explain a process, learning more letters, rhyming words, and beginning sounds in words.

We will be hosting our math family night on January 22, 2020, more information to come! Continue to read each night and record the minutes on the reading log. Thank you for all your continued support and we look forward to a wonderful 2020!

Kindergarten

In the month of January, we will continue to work with a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts about animals and our world. We will be working with our letter sounds to sound out cvc words like rug, dog, sat when reading and writing. We will be focusing on making sets for teen numbers, identifying 2D and 3D shapes, and counting aloud to 100. Please continue to work on reading sight words at home so they can become better readers.

First Grade

January brings us many exciting things to look forward to. During our read alouds we will explore fiction and nonfiction stories and discuss the characteristics of each. We will build on our comprehension skills and focus on reading fluency. Our Writers Workshop will also focus on writing non-fiction teaching books. In math, we will continue with our curriculum which will include some non-standard measurement, graphing, and working on addition and subtraction strategies. We will remember Martin Luther King Jr. and work on the importance of helping people, working together, and being fair. Our science unit will focus on, pull and push force, polar animals, and adaptations. We will also welcome Ms. Barbara, from 4-H, to focus on extension lessons to accompany our science curriculum. Remember to keep reading and recording your minutes as a nightly assignment. Keep up with signing the agenda, and if you have any questions or concerns please contact your teacher. The end of the month will also be the end of the second marking term. Expect to see report cards then. Keep reading!!

Second Grade

During the month of January, we will be reading many nonfiction stories and writing informative books about topics we are “experts” in. In math, we will be practicing with place value to the hundreds place. We will continue to work on problem solving with two and three digit numbers, as well. We will also begin telling time to the hour and half hour. The students will continue to practice their basic addition and subtraction facts, but any extra practice at home would definitely help! Martin Luther King’s birthday will also be celebrated this month and we will take time to reflect on his contributions. Mrs. Barbara Barga, our 4-H representative, will involve our students in a hands-on activity which will encourage them to eat healthy. We want to thank everyone for all of the supplies you have sent in for activities this past month and we wish you all a safe and happy new year!

Third Grade

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. Please make sure that your child has all of the necessary supplies. Before the holidays, many of our third graders were running low on pencils, erasers, crayons, and glue sticks. In addition, many of their dry erase markers are almost gone. We need everyone to be prepared to learn. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this matter.

Math News

Whew.....have we been busy. I hope everyone will be practicing their addition, subtraction and multiplication facts over the Winter Holiday. Please keep practicing. We will be working on measurement, and geometry this month, too. This is a great time to have your child practice measuring things around the house with rulers, measuring tape and food scales. Keep up the good work.

Language Arts News

We are enjoying the new reading series and growing as readers. We are also ready to kick off our unit on Opinion Writing. Continue to encourage your child to read every night. This is the best way for your child to improve his/her reading ability.
GOOD DOLPHIN CHARACTER MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

The character trait for December was being fair. Our students were showing fairness by including a friend who didn’t have a partner, cleaning up their mess, sharing crayons and playing by the rules of a game just to name a few.

The students shared that fairness means sharing, taking turns and everything is equal for everyone. I asked the students to think of fairness as “everyone gets what they need to be successful” and we don’t always have to get the same amount as everyone else to be fair. We listened to the story Fair is Fair by Sonny Varela where the hare, giraffe and elephant learned that fairness is everyone getting what they need to be happy and healthy. PK and kindergarten students also listened to Me First by Helen Lester to learn that we should take turns being first to be fair and our 1st – 3rd grade students showed fairness traits by working together to create the longest paper chain.

Congratulations to the December Dolphin Good Character Club Winners who are being recognized for fairness! In pre-kindergarten, they are Hazel Seaton, Charlotte Walker, Huriya Akhtar and Jackson Ward. In kindergarten, they are Keyonna Luckett, Emerson Gray, Elijah White, Liam Richardson, Dalton Tubbs, Sophia McDorman, Coner Smith, Jensen Cockey and Aarion Bradford. In first grade, they are Greyson DeJesus, Kendall Tarr, Nash Williams, Mason Tomblin, Preston Caldwell, Thomas Walton and Ellie St. Clair. In second grade, they are Lillian Adkins, Finn Cook, Alisha Akhtar, Shane Jones, Mackenzie Davis, Aubrey Cockey, Harmonie Lemus and Ethan Wilkins. In third grade, they are Kaylee Harbour, Thomas Sonnier, Hannah Walton, Aaliyah Hutchins, Van Ringgold, Ashlynd Tatum, Natalie Parsons and John Hurley.

The character trait for January is showing self-discipline. Please acknowledge situations when your child is working independently without being asked.

Yours truly,

Christina Thompson
School Counselor
Ripley's Believe It or Not Incredible Kid Award

Audra & Braydon Ely visited Wonderful Willards to present all nominees the Ripley’s Believe It or Not Certificate and announce the Incredible Kid Award. The following students were nominees for this award: Tavey Langdon, Musa Yuzon, Lily Rayne, Anastasia Wilson, Courtney Tull, Kade Friese, Malia Gray, Jillian Flower, Dominic Spock, Dahlia Wootteon, Journey Daubach, Jaxon Moore, Luke Weigand and Ashlynd Tatum. Those students either received an individual or family pass to Ripley’s Believe It or Not in Ocean City along with their certificate. Congratulations! Mr. and Mrs. Ely are proud to announce they have completed many renovations and they will be open over the winter break.

Canned Food Drive

During the month of December, our students collected canned goods for the Delmarva Evangelistic Church. We collected 2,341 non-perishable items to donate to their food pantry. The kindness and generosity our Willards School Families showed was amazing! Thank you for helping those in need this winter season.
MEDIA NEWS!!!

Students in grades 1-3 voted on the 84 pumpkins in the contest. The winners were...

1st placed with "Elsa" pumpkin--
   Neveah Henderson

2nd place with "Bryce Harper" pumpkin--
   Bryce Wagner

3rd place with "Mario" pumpkin--
   Brayden Allen

Honorable Mention--Alan Stewart ("Batman" pumpkin)
   & Trey Hornsby ("Bendy" pumpkin)

**Thank you to all who supported our Book Fair. We will be able to choose over $3800 in Scholastic products for our children here at Willards… you helped make it a success!
THE ARTS ARE HAPPENING AT WWS!

Special area teachers continue to collaborate with the classroom to enhance instruction using the arts. Students continue to learn facts, culture, and traditions about the continents they are studying. Lessons include Sweden and learning the Swedish clap dance, Italy and learning the Tarentella, and Ireland and learning Irish dancing.

Music Update

What an amazing 2nd grade performance of “Narbert the Narwhal’s North Pole Neighbors”! I am very proud of the students and thankful for my colleagues here at Wonderful Willards! The pre-k will hold our next concert entitled, “The Tale of the Gingerbread Man”, sometime in February, keep your eyes peeled for the date and time which will go home sometime in January.

PE Update!

This has been such an exciting year thus far and can’t wait to see what the rest of the year holds in store. This month students will focus on striking and foot skills. Please continue encouraging your child to complete their monthly fitness calendars. Remember, it’s a competition within your grade levels, so let’s have fun with fitness at home and get as much participation as possible! Calendars are ALWAYS due on the first day of the new month. Please remember to include your child’s name, teacher’s name, and your signature.

Please continue to review your child’s schedule and be sure to send your child in TENNIS SHOES on their scheduled PE day!


Visual Art Update

Students have worked at creating a variety of artwork for the Winter Concert and Art show. Monoprint, painting, drawing and sculpting techniques have been used by students to express themselves. In the coming months we will continue to experiment with techniques while exploring the winter season, Art from around the world and Art’s role in society.
**Medication Reminders**

- Please remember that all medications (prescription and over-the-counter) to be given at school must have a doctor's order.

- Medications must be brought in by a parent/guardian along with the completed School Medication Administration Authorization Form. The form is available on the School Health Web site, marylandpublicschools.org. The link for the form is as follows: [http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/SHS/medforms/medicationform404.pdf](http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/SHS/medforms/medicationform404.pdf)

- Please do not send any medicines to school with your child. If your child brings any medication to school, the medication will be confiscated, and the parent will be notified to pick up the medication from the nurse.

**Head Lice**

- Head lice are parasitic insects that can be found on the scalp. Head lice infestations are very common among pre-school and elementary school children.

- Although head lice are a nuisance, they are not a public health hazard because they do not spread disease.

- Head lice move by crawling. They do not hop or fly. They are spread by direct contact with the infested person’s hair. Occasionally, head lice may be spread by sharing personal items, such as headbands, combs, or hats.

**What to do if you are worried about head lice:**

- Check your child periodically for head lice and/or nits at home.

- If you are unsure if your child has head lice, you may contact your school nurse so that your child can be screened.

- Teach your child/children not to share personal items, such as hats, combs, or hair accessories, and to avoid head-to-head contact with other children.

- If you discover that your child has head lice and have questions about treatment, please contact your school nurse for information.

- And most importantly, stay calm! Rest assured that your school nurse will follow the procedures established by the Wicomico County Public Schools for prevention, identification, and treatment of head lice infestations.

**Strep Throat**

Sore throat complaints are very common among children during late fall and winter months. When a child develops signs and symptoms of malaise, cough, and sore throat, many parents worry that their child could have strep throat. Below are some facts about strep throat, and what to do if you suspect your child may have strep.

- Strep throat is an infection of the throat caused by group A *Streptococcus* bacteria.

- Signs and symptoms of strep throat are sore throat, pain when swallowing, fever, red and swollen tonsils, and sometimes nausea/vomiting.

- Most sore throats are not caused by strep, but by viruses; however, if you suspect your child has strep throat, please take him/her to the doctor to get evaluated.

- The only way to positively diagnose strep throat is by performing a throat swab/strep test at your doctor’s office.

- If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat, he/she should **stay home for at least 24 hours** after starting antibiotics, and until fever has resolved. Please follow your doctor’s orders for treatment and make sure your child finishes a full course of antibiotics so that the infection does not come back.

- To avoid contracting strep infection, wash your hands often, and do not drink from the same glass, eat from the same plate, or share utensils with the individual who has strep throat.
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<td>School Closed Professional Day</td>
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**NOTES:**

Upcoming dates to remember:

Feb. 6 – Bookmobile
Feb. 8 – PTA Valentine’s Day Dinner/Dance
Feb. 17 – School Closed-President’s Day
Feb. 18 – PTA 5:30-7:00
Feb. 21 – Spirit Day
Feb. 27 – Bookmobile
Feb. 28 – Progress Reports distributed