



"Hills Happenings"



Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center

October/November 2019

Hello families of the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center community,

I am excited to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year! Hopefully the summer has provided you with many memorable opportunities to spend time with families and friends. I'm so excited to serve the children, parents, and teachers of this wonderful learning community. As we prepare to embark on this school year, I am reminded that the beginning of school is a special time, and I am eagerly looking forward to partnering with you as we continue to nurture the ongoing development of your child. Fortunately, Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center continues to be a team of exceptionally talented staff. With that being said, we have hired additional teachers and instructional aides to help us continue in our excellence tradition. These new staff members will be introduced to you later in the newsletter.

To ensure that our learners are receiving developmentally appropriate, challenging, and outcome driven curriculum, we are revising our ELA curriculum. We are also revising our report cards K-4 to ensure that the report cards are parent friendly and reflective of what our grade level standards are.

We are also hoping that we continue to streamline our communication with ClassDoJo! This communication device is a classroom communication app/website used to share reports between parents and teachers. Our hope is to have communication easy and accessible.

Our Meet the Teacher Night was on Thursday, September 5th. Our Watch D.O.G.S. Program is still going strong and our next sessions will be held Thursday, November 7th at 7 p.m., Friday, November 8th at 7 a.m., Thursday, January 9th at 7 p.m., and Friday, January 10th at 7 a.m. You must attend an orientation to participate in the Watch D.O.G.S Program. You will also need all of your clearances submitted to the District Office before we can schedule your day.

Welcome to the new school year!

Very truly yours,

Kate Bobst



WHEC School Rules:

Walk silently with eyes forward in the hallway.

Hands, feet, and objects to yourself.

Everyone follows staff directions the first time.

Communicate using kind words and actions.



Character Traits

September – Responsibility / Making good choices

October – Respect

November – Appreciation / Thankfulness

December – Kindness

January – Perseverance

February – Honesty

March – Courage

April – Fairness

May/June – Citizenship

Bus Behavior Expectations:

Everyone agrees that the safety of our children is paramount. Students are expected to follow and comply with the school bus rules for their safety and the safety of other students. Your cooperation is needed by demonstrating/modeling proper bus behavior at all times. I would like to remind you of appropriate bus behavior expectations.

- 1) Students will sit properly in their assigned seats facing forward.
- 2) Students will refrain from throwing any objects on the bus or out of the bus.
- 3) Student items must be secure.
- 4) Students will keep their hands, feet and objects to themselves.
- 5) Students will be courteous to their fellow passengers.
- 6) Students will refrain from shouting and speaking loudly on the bus.
- 7) Students will not change seats at any time.



Parent Pick-Up:

Reminders –

- Dismissal begins at 3:15.
- Please follow all parking procedures. No parking in bus lanes or at yellow lines.
- Please carry ID at all times.
- Parents/Guardians sign students out at table. Students are called by staff and escorted to parents/guardians.
- No pets are permitted.
- Please do not use the playground area near parent pick-up.
- Students will be escorted to the Main Office at 3:25. Parents/Guardians arriving after this time will need to sign students out of the Main Office.



Walker Lines:

Are you aware that your student can exit our building using 3 different walker lines? You may want to meet your child in one of these lines, instead of waiting at parent pick-up. Parents do not sign out students in the walker lines.

Recess Walkers – students walk diagonally across the 3rd and 4th grade playground toward Valley Road.

Woodland Walkers – students walk to Woodland Road.

Lawndale Walkers – students walk down the driveway to Lawndale Road.



***IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any time your child changes his/her dismissal plans, a note must be sent in the morning to your child's teacher; who then forwards the note to the office. ALL changes must be **in writing BEFORE 12:00 PM** – no exceptions will be made for the **SAFETY** of your child(ren).

Please note: Dogs should not be walked on school property.





Important Dates



Tuesday, Oct. 1-

Thursday, Oct. 3

Monday, Oct. 14

Friday, Oct. 18

Tuesday, Oct. 29

Thursday, Oct. 31

PTA Book Fair

NO SCHOOL

Evacuation Drill

(be sure to dress for the weather)

Picture Retake Day

Halloween Parade – 2:15

Welcome
November

Friday, Nov. 1

Sunday, Nov. 3

Thursday, Nov. 7

Friday, Nov. 8

Friday, Nov. 15

Monday, Nov. 25

and Tues., Nov. 26

Wednesday, Nov. 27 -

through Mon., Dec. 2

NO SCHOOL-Staff In-Service

Daylight Savings Time ends

Watch D.O.G.S. Orientation 7:00 PM

Watch D.O.G.S. Orientation 7:00 AM

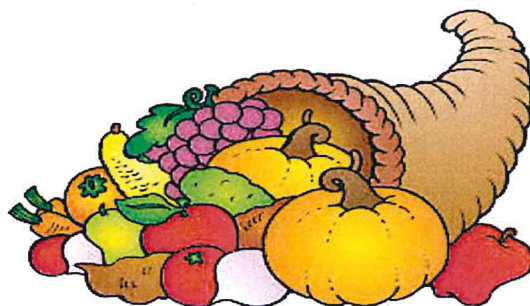
1st trimester ends

NO SCHOOL due to

Parent/Teacher Conferences

NO SCHOOL

Thanksgiving break



Counselor's Corner

The counselors at Wyomissing Hills welcome you back to another exciting year!

School Counselors

Mrs. McClennan works with all students at WHEC and teaches guidance lessons in grades K-3. Each monthly lesson is based on the current month's character trait (the character trait for September is Responsibility!). She uses Spunky, her talking puppet monkey, and her Groovy Girl doll to teach students anti-bullying strategies. Mrs. McClennan incorporates career awareness into her lessons, too.

Our new school counselor, Ms. Kramer, is available to work with all students at WHEC and she also teaches guidance lessons to all fourth grade students. These classes will focus on building communication, problem-solving, and conflict-resolution skills. Students will practice understanding, expressing, and coping with emotions. Throughout the year, students will work on career awareness activities and preparation for the transition to 5th grade.

Small Groups

Mrs. Wendi Line, a counselor from the Caron Foundation, runs small groups with students on the topics of Grief and Loss, Changing Families (for children with divorced parents), Team Building (friendship and cooperation skills), and Strong Kids (managing anger and other strong emotions). The first round of groups started on Tuesday, September 17 and will continue throughout the year. A permission form for this group was sent home with all students on the 2nd week of school. If you did not turn in a permission form and you decide you would like to sign your child up for a small group, please contact us for a permission form.

What do School Counselors Do?

- Coordinate a comprehensive school counseling program
- Teach developmental classroom guidance lessons to all students
- Meet with individuals and/or small groups
- Help identify student needs and provide services to meet the need
- Assist students in crisis situations
- Work with teachers and parents to help students succeed

Our counseling team is dedicated to supporting the students and families of the Wyomissing Area. If you have questions, concerns, or feedback, do not hesitate to contact us at:

Mrs. Kelly McClennan
School Counselor
Teaches Guidance lessons in Grades K-3
(610) 374-0739 x4115
kmclennan@wyoarea.org

Or

Ms. Melissa Kramer
Part-Time School Counselor
Teaches Guidance Lessons in Grade 4
(610) 374-0739 x4109
mkramer@wyoarea.org

Relocation Practice

Friday, October 18, 2019

Wear your sneakers and dress appropriately for the weather!



Street Crossing and Student Safety

Parents and guardians: Please be advised that children must cross WOODLAND ROAD with a CROSSING GUARD. We have instructed children to only cross at the bottom of the hill with a crossing guard, or at the top of the hill with a crossing guard. PARENTS who park along the side of the road on WOODLAND MUST NOT WAVE their child on to cross the road at a location other than with a crossing guard. Please work with us to keep our children safe by directing them to cross the street with a crossing guard. Additionally, bike riders are reminded to make sure they wear their helmets when riding to and from school.



Parents - We Need Your Help

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL ANY ITEM(S) YOU BRING TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR YOUR CHILD TO PICK UP. LABEL WITH YOUR CHILD'S FULL NAME (PLEASE PRINT) AND YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER. THANK YOU!

Halloween:

Our Halloween parade is **Thursday, October 31st at 2:15 PM**. We are asking for your cooperation with the following:

- Students are not permitted to wear masks of any kind.
- Students are not to bring weapons or anything that looks like a weapon.
- After the parade is over, parents should leave the campus immediately so we may begin our dismissal procedure. Only those parents who are volunteers at the parties will be permitted to take their children and siblings home with them. **For the safety of our students, we want to keep dismissal as normal as possible. Therefore, please follow your everyday dismissal procedure.**
- If your family does not celebrate Halloween, please send a note to your child's teacher.





WHEC Music News



Mrs. Foo's 4th grade class led the school in the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the morning announcements to celebrate Constitution Day and Francis Scott Key's penning of our National Anthem.

Take Note:

3rd Grade Winter Concert (Chorus and strings)-Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium

4th Grade Winter Concert (Band, chorus, and orchestra)-Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school auditorium

Music Students Still Needed!

Any students who are still interested in playing an instrument in 3rd or 4th grade are welcome to join! 3rd grade is eligible to play string instruments (violin, viola, cello, or bass), and 4th grade is eligible to play string instruments and band instruments (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, French horn, trombone, baritone, snare drum, and bells).

Please contact Ms. Godek (jgodek@wyoarea.org) about the 3rd grade string program, Ms. Barra (cbarra@wyoarea.org) about the 4th grade orchestra, and Mr. Shuey (dshuey@wyoarea.org) about the band program.

Notes from the Nurse

Every year parents ask us for guidelines for deciding when to keep children out of school. Common sense, concern for your child's well-being, and the possibility of infecting classmates should all contribute to the decision about whether your child should stay home.

When should I keep my child home from school?

- Fever- children with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher must be fever-free (without fever reducing medications such as Tylenol) for 24 hours before returning to school
- An upset stomach accompanied by vomiting and/or diarrhea
- The beginning stages of a cold when sneezing and coughing are not well controlled. Also, please teach your child to cover sneezes and coughs using tissues or his/her bent elbow, not hands.
- A sore throat with fever and/or a stomachache and/or white spots on the back of the throat
- An unexplained rash
- Injuries that happen at home or over the weekend should be taken care of prior to returning to school. Please notify the nurse with any instructions or restrictions related to such injuries.

Friendly Reminders:

- ALL MEDICATION must be brought to school by the parent or guardian, not the student, and stored in the nurse's office. A log-in process will be completed.
- ALL MEDICATIONS, prescription and over the counter, need to be accompanied by BOTH a parent note and a PHYSICIAN'S ORDER requesting administration by the school nurse during school hours.
- Lozenges/cough drops are considered a choking hazard to our elementary school-aged students. Please consider sending a water bottle with your student to help ease your child's symptoms.
- Students with asthma and/or allergies are recommended to complete action/emergency plans which are available in the health room.
- Some children have bathroom accidents at school even if they don't have them at home. Please pack a change of clothes in your child's backpack "just in case".
- Health forms are available on the district website, www.wyoarea.org. Click on Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center and select Health Services.

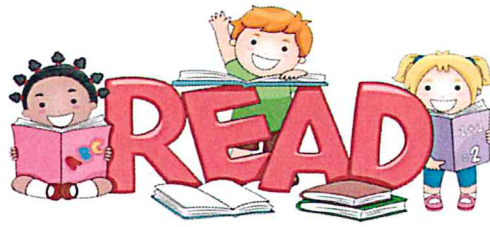
Kindergarten News!



It is fall in Kindergarten! We will be taking our field trip to the apple orchard. We will study the new season as well as Fire Safety.

In Language Arts, we continue to practice our letters and letter sounds. We will also start our Kindergarten writing program: Kidwriting. This is a wonderful program tailor-made for Kindergarten students. Parents are an integral part as they volunteer each week to help out in the classroom with Kidwriting.

This program helps children focus on a few important things including: writing sentences, finger spacing between words and stretching words to hear the letter sounds in each word. The children get to share their writing with their peers and hear the praise from their peers for their good Kidwriting! It is so much fun to watch the children grow in their writing as the year goes on.



Grade 1 News...

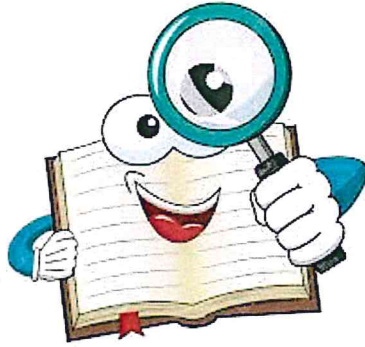
First grade is already off to a great start! We have begun incorporating the "Daily 5" into our Language Arts block. Children are excitedly filling their book boxes and practicing the activities of read to self, partner reading, listening to reading, writing, and word work during their center time. Special thanks to first grade families for your efforts at home! Nightly practice with spelling and sight words, math review, and reading aloud makes all the difference for your child.

Wyomissing Fire Department will arrive in early October to discuss fire safety in the home and at school. Children will enjoy a close up look at the hook and ladder truck and meet with the firemen to hear about the importance of preparedness in any emergency.

Classes will spend several weeks discussing real bears and storybook bears while comparing and contrasting some of our favorite bear stories. Ask your favorite first grader about some of the facts they have learned about these fascinating animals. Also check in for a description of our favorite bears from our fiction selections. Look for our bears of all shapes and sizes as we celebrate this unit at our Teddy Bear Picnic on September 27th!



Grade 2 News...



Our second graders have gotten off to a super start! In September, we enjoyed spending time getting to know our new teachers and classmates. The start of the year can be intimidating, but everyone has quickly settled back into the routines of the school year.

In reading, our students became detectives with a focus on finding Central Message and supporting details. They have become super sleuths, and have applied these skills to a variety of different fiction stories. In the future they will broaden their search to include non-fiction writing as well.

As October approaches, our second graders are eagerly looking forward to celebrating Fire Safety Month. In honor of this annual event, our second-grade classes will have the opportunity to learn safety tips from the Wyomissing Fire Department! During the visit, the students will learn the proper way to call 9-1-1. Each student will have the opportunity to call a 9-1-1 simulator and answer questions that would be asked in a true emergency.

The firefighters will also provide the students with a hands-on learning opportunity through the use of the fire safety trailer. Here the students will be taught about the fire hazards that can be found in a typical household and how to reduce the risk of being injured. The trailer will also have a smoke simulation that will allow the children to practice safe evacuation methods. Our second graders are looking forward to learning fire safety from the very best!






Grade 3 News

It's been a great start to the year in 3rd Grade at WHEC. Students have been hard at work and learning each day. We started the year off with Solar System activities, rounding estimating, adding, and subtracting! The kids' brains are working hard, and we can't wait to continue learning with them. We've been learning to be more responsible by writing our assignments down each day and following the WHEC rules, especially in the hallway.

In October we'll be learning about descriptive writing. Our next math unit will focus on graphing, and the kids will begin to learn how to analyze data. It's going to be a great month of learning in third grade! We are all excited.

Mrs. Cirba, Mrs. Fiorentino, Mr. Koz, Mrs. Metzger, Mr. Miller,
and Mrs. Wojo



Grade 4 News...



Fourth graders feel fantastic about their final year at the fabulous Hills!!

Can you identify the figure of speech in the previous sentence? It is alliteration! Fourth grade students created a figures of speech flipbook including alliteration, similes, metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia, and idioms. The flipbook will be used throughout the year to identify figures of speech in reading and to improve the quality of writing.

Fourth graders began thinking like a scientist by learning the steps of the scientific method: Ask a question, Make a Hypothesis, Design and Perform the Experiment, and Draw a Conclusion. These steps will be used with each experiment in the science curriculum. Ask a fourth grader how the steps of the scientific method were used in experiments which included pencils and a bag of water, raisins and soda, and mixing vinegar and baking soda.

Maps and globes are being used to help identify our location on earth in social studies. Do you know the latitude and longitude of where you live? Do you know we live in two hemispheres? Fourth graders will use this information later in the year to study early explorers and colonial America.

The months of October and November will be especially “eggsiting” in fourth grade!! It’s time for chicken embryology!!





I have been working in Wyomissing since February of 2011, but I spent the past 8 and a half years at the Junior-Senior High School. This is my first year teaching elementary learning support in Wyomissing. I live nearby with my husband, one-and-a-half-year-old son, cat, and three turtles! In my free time, I like to read. My favorite vacation spot is any beach!



Hello! My name is Mrs. Tiffany Bixler and I am so excited to become a part of the WHEC family! This is my fourth year teaching second grade. I taught second grade for three years in Susquehanna Township School District in Harrisburg. I completed my Bachelor's at SUNY Geneseo in Childhood and Special Education and my Master's at Walden University in Elementary Reading and Mathematics. In my spare time I enjoy reading, spending time outdoors, and spending time with my husband and dog. I'm looking forward to a fantastic school year.



I'm very excited to be the new part time school counselor at WHEC! I grew up in a suburb of Chicago and moved out to PA after finishing my undergrad degree at the University of Illinois. About a year and a half ago I graduated from Villanova University with a Master's degree in school counseling. I love working with elementary students because they are excited to be at school, they are enthusiastic about learning, and they are incredibly creative! In my free time I like to go hiking with my dog, Guster, at Valley Forge. I also enjoy trying to bake some of the complicated desserts featured on the Great British Baking Show.



My name is Albert Sampson and I am excited to be teaching 4th grade this year at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center! Before coming to WHEC, I taught 1st grade in Harrisburg. I graduated in 2018 from Lancaster Bible College where I studied Early Childhood Education. When I am not teaching, I enjoy traveling, hanging with friends, and wedding planning with my fiancé. It is my desire and passion to help all my students reach their full potential. I am so happy to be a part of the WHEC community!



My name is Sue Wojciechowski, Mrs. Wojo as the kids call me, and I am the new third grade teacher at WHEC. I may be new to WHEC, but I am no stranger to the Wyomissing community. My husband and I both graduated from Wyomissing, and we are now raising our family here. Mr. Wojo is a 5th Grade teacher in the Schuylkill Valley School District, but he coaches football and baseball at Wyomissing. We have two children, Ben, a first grader at WHEC and Grace, our 20 month old who keeps all of us constantly laughing. We also have a beautiful Golden Retriever named Bauer who loves to swim in the ocean. The first twelve years of my career were spent teaching Second Grade and STEAM in the Wilson School District, but it has always been a dream of mine to come back "home" to teach at Wyomissing. I

feel so fortunate to have this opportunity. Teaching is truly a passion of mine, and I'm so excited to work with the families in Wyo. If you see me out and about in the community, don't hesitate to say hello!