

## **WES PTO Principal's Report**

**March 9, 2020**

### **Little Theater**

1. **Thank you** to Mrs. Staffeldt *and* the Community Outreach Committee, as well as all students and parents who participated in MLK Day of Service.

5<sup>th</sup> grade Movie night headed by Mrs. Grifo and Mrs. Merriam once again had a big turnout and fun was had by all!

International Week had our school transformed into India! Music, art, dance, food, as well as assemblies designed to share geographic, and cultural studies enriched and intrigued students and staff alike. As always, the culmination of the week was the annual Pot Luck Dinner which was very well attended and enjoyed by all! Thank you to our Committee Chairs Mrs. Kapadia, as well as all of the volunteers who supported this week-long immersion into Spain.

The Science Fair was once again creative, engaging, and allowed our students to shine! Thank you to Mrs. Patel for coordinating this event.

Cultural arts committee has enhanced and expanded our student's experiences through historical performances of Bessie Coleman, Harriet Tubman, and Martha and George Washington. We also enjoyed a week of Hip Hop fundamentals! Thank you Mrs. Oblack, Mrs. Mascioli, and the rest of the team.

**District News/ WES- Please join with us in celebrating!**

### **Acting Assistant Director of Operations**

Mr. Vaughn Bryan was appointed our Acting Assistant Director of Operations. Mr. Bryan has served as Wayne Elementary School's maintenance professional since February 2010 and started in Radnor in 2004 as Elementary Food Service Coordinator. With 29 years of military service, Mr. Bryan is a Sergeant First Class in the U.S. Army Reserves and, as a Platoon and Company Sergeant, has led anywhere from 25 to 250 soldiers. He has received numerous citations and awards for completing military tasks and requirements. Ask anyone who knows Mr. Bryan and they'll confirm just how dedicated he is to his work, and how beloved he is by his co-workers and students.



## **Assistant Principal of Ithan Elementary School and Radnor Elementary School**

Mrs. Heather Gillan-Esposito was appointed our new Assistant Principal and will split duties between Ithan Elementary School and Radnor Elementary School. She assumes the position after a successful two years as the district's Elementary Dean of Students. Mrs. Gillan-Esposito joined Radnor in January 2007 as a 5th-grade teacher at RES and also spent several years teaching both 4th and 3rd grades at Wayne Elementary School. As a member of the WES School-Wide Positive Behavior Committee and the school's Crisis Team, Mrs. Gillan-Esposito is a perfect fit to support IES and RES. She will officially begin her tenure as Assistant Principal once a full-time Assistant Principal is hired for WES, which we are able to fully fund through the Federal Title I grant program.

Needless to say we are happy for our colleagues and so proud! They will be missed immensely and I will keep our community informed as to who will be "filling their roles".

- 2. SWPB update from Mrs. Tracy:** As always, SWPB's focus is on culture, relationships and connections. Through the use of our School Climate Survey, we are pulling together a "Task Force" and asking a cohort of students, questions to dig deeper and gain a better understanding of ways to improve those connections and build stronger relationships. Information gained from these conversations will help guide our action plan for next year.

We are excited about the poster maker that was bought for us through a grant writing by the Sue Dahlstrom and Nancy Ferguson. Our vision with the poster maker is for our students, parents and staff members to see the connections students are making with staff and with each other.

On March 3rd, we hosted our Stay and Play celebration with over 200 students. Even though Mother Nature was not overly cooperative, the students had fun playing gym games with Mr. Tracy and Mr. Bratsis and several other staff members. A shout-out to our Ambassadors for helping and making this event successful.

At the end of the month, we will be celebrating "Kindness Week" along with Radnor High School and the other two elementary buildings. Our week celebration will include the following:

### Kindness Week:

Monday: Get Cozy with Kindness- Cozy Day (PJ, Sweats, Yoga pants)

Tuesday: Kindness Walk- Quotes around the Building

Wednesday: Kindness is the Radnor Way- Wear your Radnor Apparel

Thursday: Thank you Thursday- Notes to Teachers and Paras

Friday: Free Sit Friday- Find and Be Kind.

**\*\*Don't forget to check out Wayne's Twitter account created and updated by Mr. Tracy. \*\***

### 3. Extra- Curricular Updates from February

- a. International Potluck Dinner was February 1st.
- b. Cultural Arts for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades- Dr. Daisy Century- was February 6<sup>th</sup>. (5<sup>th</sup> grade was Bessie Coleman and 4<sup>th</sup> grade was Harriett Tubman)
- c. Martha Washington- Grade 2 was February 7<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Science Fair was February 21st from 6:30 pm. to 8:00 pm.
- e. Read Across America Day was **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** as well as our Day of Unplugging!

### 4. Curricular updates:

- a. Second trimester ended February 28<sup>th</sup> with conferences March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.
- b. SRT (Student Resource Team) and Data teams continue to meet to plan for building and individual student needs.
- c. Teachers continue to meet/mentor with Humanities and Technology Coaches while collaborating in teams and with specialists.
- d. FIC (Focused Instruction Collaboration Meetings) continue twice per month so that teachers can continue to collaborate on best instructional practices and strategies.
- e. We continue to use "regular education" interventions to support all students and help make growth in English Language Arts utilizing small group instruction and review/reteach with teachers and paraprofessionals during I/E.
- f. We use Title 1 funds for regular education interventions in math for all grades utilizing a full-time math support teacher.
- g. "WOW" words are words that are academic vocabulary and are used across the content areas, highlighting the critical thinking happening in all of the classrooms. Each Monday the word of the week is posted around the school and then teachers challenge students to recognize and discuss how they are applying these concepts. This year the words are shared with all families on their homeroom teacher's Schoology page.
- h. PSSAs are coming at the end of the month It is the district philosophy that these standardized assessments aid in our ongoing efforts to provide the very best teaching and learning for all students.
- i. The district continues to encourage student participation in the PSSA and uses the data collected to make instructional decisions for individual students and the overall instructional program. Questions about PSSA testing can be directed to your child's teacher or the building administration.

**PSSA Dates:**

**ELA: April 20-21-22 (grades 3-5)**

**Math: April 27-29 (grades 3-5)**

**Science: April 30-May 1 (grade 4 only)**

**5. Reminders:**

**Please wear your printed badge when in the building and go to where your business is without detour. Please sign out when you leave...and please don't make alternative trips to your child's classroom when volunteering...thanks!**

Please be sure your child dresses appropriately for the weather! As per the handbook students are not given the option of remaining indoors while the class goes outside for recess, therefore they need to be prepared to go outdoors. In severe weather conditions or wind chill factors below 20 degrees we will limit the time outdoors and/or schedule an abbreviated recess period. Thank you for your understanding.

A review of **three step** car pick up procedures.

One, (**send in a note**) please remember to send a note to your child's teacher indicating they will be picked up and by whom. If no note is received, your child will board the bus.

Two, (**Display a sign**) please have a sign visible on the **passenger side** of your vehicle with the last name, and grade level of the child(ren) being picked up.

Three, (**Keep it moving**) please stay in your car and keep traffic moving until you reach the "loading zone" (**first 3 cars in line**). If your child is delayed, we may ask you to park on **W. Wayne Ave.** Until your child is present. An adult will walk your child across to you. Pulling into the staff parking lot creates further traffic issues, thus we ask you to park on the street.

**6. School Hours**

At 8:57 a.m. students are permitted to enter the building and at 9:07 a.m. instruction begins. The school day ends at 3:40 p.m. Buses arrive at school each morning between 8:50 and 9:00 a.m.

**Students being transported by parents/guardians should arrive no earlier than 8:45 a.m.**

Prior to that time no one is on duty to supervise children outside. The drop-off area in the morning is the parking lot traffic loop rather than the bus loop. The driver may not park and leave the car in the drop-off area. Parents/Guardians who need to enter the school for any reason must park in a legitimate space in the parking lot.

**7. Upcoming dates to keep in mind for March:**

- a. 3/17- American Historical Theatre
- b. 3/18- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Rocks and Minerals
- c. 3/25 & 3/26- Talent Show

8. Any additional questions or topics please write them on a post-it note with your name and best way/time to get in touch with you and I will respond as soon as I can.

Thank you for working with us to provide the best educational experience we can for all of our students!

Respectfully submitted,

*Nancy Ferguson*

