

Cougar Paws

News from North Warren Elementary School

June 2017



Principal's Message

As I reflect on the 2016-2017 school year, I am so pleased and proud of all the North Warren Elementary students and staff for their accomplishments. I want to take a moment to express my sincere appreciation to the staff, students, and families of North Warren for all their efforts this year. During the summer, please encourage your children to continue reading, learning and wondering. Time at the park, in the backyard, or at the beach can be a great place to get lost in a book or let the imagination run wild. It has been an honor to be the elementary principal. Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer. Highlighted in this newsletter are just a few of all the great things that go on daily at North Warren.

Mrs. Shelley Dupuis, Elementary Principal

1st Grade Field Trip to the MiSci Museum

In the fall we were able to visit the MiSci Museum in Schenectady. We saw an awesome planetarium show and got to participate in a dinosaur and fossil class. We then walked through the museum and got to touch and play with all kinds of hands on science experiments.

Reading Buddies

Our first graders were lucky enough to have sixth grade reading buddies this year. Both grades really enjoyed their time together and getting to know one other. The first graders always love to have "Big Kid" friends and the big kids seemed to really love taking on that role.

Off to 2nd grade!

As this school year comes to an end, we are so proud of all the hard work and effort each and every child has given. It is amazing to see their growth since September! We know they will continue to be successful as they enter 2nd grade in the fall.



Battle of the Books

On March 13th, a group of 8 fourth graders and 6 sixth graders went to Skidmore College to participate in a competition called Battle of the Books. Each team was responsible for reading 10 books and had to correctly identify the title and author of a book based on the information in the question. This was the first time North Warren has participated in this competition and both teams placed third against a very competitive field. Based on the enthusiasm this will not be our last competition. Team captains, Molly Gould, fourth grade and Natalie Nelson, sixth grade, share their experiences:



Battle of the Books was really fun, especially being team captain. It was a bit nerve-racking since I was expected to lead my team. You see the team captain is the only one who can submit answers or challenge a question. The sixth grade team included Sean Evans, Carter Kelly, Ruth Brior, Trey Johnson, Keziah Winchip and me, Natalie Nelson. First we beat Whitehall and we had to formal about it, so I met with their team captain and said, "Good game." Truthfully, my heart was doing cartwheels and flips because we won the first round. Then we moved on to the playoffs against Glens Falls and St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus School. We beat Glens Falls but got beaten by St. Mary's/St. Alphonsus. It was a win-lose situation and we were neck and neck, only 5 points away from being in Sudden Death. I left with my teammates and we got third place. I left wearing my school's colors and with pride and defeat in my hands. Even though we had some bitter tastes, the experience overall was sweet. I would definitely do Battle of the Books again.

By Natalie Nelson
Sixth grade team captain

This year North Warren participated in a reading program called Battle Of The Books. Battle Of The Books is a group of five to ten kids that read ten books throughout the year. In fourth grade our team members were, Madison Moon, Oliver Sanders, Jessica Paul, Theigen Plumley, Gwen Lippa, Amelia Scroggins, and Autumn Gregson-Brzozowski and me, Molly Gould. We read five fiction and five nonfiction books. After we read the books we studied the title and author, took notes and had meetings to talk about each book. At the battle at Skidmore College it was like a trivia. We would go back and forth answering questions between schools either with two or three schools with only twenty seconds! Each round was thirty-two questions that got harder as you went along. If you win the first round then you would go on to the next round, but if you tie then you would go to a Lightning round with only fifteen seconds. But if you tie that round you would go to Sudden Death with only five seconds! If you get to that round then you would be going against the other school that won their first round. If you won that round you would go on to the finals. The finals are three schools that go back and forth with questions. The finals determine who will be in first, second and third place. North Warren came in third place in the final round. After finals we received a banner for third place. Then we went back to the school. I hope we can participate next year too.

By Molly Gould
Fourth grade team captain



Kindergarten Fun

On June 2nd, the Kindergarten class visited Up Yonda Farm in Bolton Landing to learn about gardening. They met with master gardeners and were given the opportunity to plant beans and peas. They each got to bring a potted seed home as well as plant a seed in the farm garden. They also had an opportunity to walk through the Sensory Garden where they were encouraged to use their senses to explore the plants. The trip ended at Bolton Beach with a picnic and some playtime.



Citizen Science Project

North Warren 5th Graders had the opportunity to participate in a "citizen science" project sponsored by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and locally supervised by Cornell Cooperative Extension and Mr. John Bowe. Students had lessons on bird adaptations and identification and bird feeders were installed outside the 5th grade classrooms for observation. From November to May, the students made and recorded bird observations daily, using technology (iPad and several Apps) to assist them in correctly identifying the birds. After making correct identifications, students uploaded their data to an ebird account, sharing the information with birders all over the United States and the scientists at Cornell. The data the students contributed will help the Scientists at Cornell working to advance the understanding of nature.



Student Council News

The Elementary Student Council had a busy year! Student council members do a variety of things throughout the year but some highlights of our year were collecting food for our local food pantries - classes competed against each other to see who could bring in the most items. Ms. Cooper's 4th grade class won the food pantry challenge. Our next classroom competition was collecting Box Tops which was won by Mr. Lawson's 6th grade class. We donated \$500 to the SPCA as well as collecting \$420 worth of coins to be donated to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



Spelling Bee Champ

Congratulations Kimya Hayes for winning our District Spelling Bee! Kimya represented North Warren at the Regional Spelling Bee on June 7th in Saratoga. We are so proud of Kimya and all her efforts. Kimya made North Warren proud!!



Reading and Research Buddies

All students in 5Korniak and 2Bedell participated in Research buddies this year, a special off-shoot of the Reading Buddies program. 2nd graders and 5th graders worked in groups of five to come up with research questions pertaining to Westward Movement in the 1800's. The groups read the book "If You Travelled West in a Covered Wagon", collected facts pertaining to their topic, and published paragraphs demonstrating all they had learned about life on the Oregon Trail. This project linked to both grade level's Social Studies and Language Arts standards.



1st Grade Classroom Visitors

In the spring we had two visitors come into our classrooms. The first were nurses from the Glens Falls Hospital Day Surgery Center. Students listened to their heartbeats and had their oxygen levels taken. The second visitor was a gentleman from DEC who came to talk to us about how to leave "no trace" when in the woods or camping. We learned about safe distances from water to set up camp, how to keep food safe from wild animals, and how to keep the environment clean.

1st Grade Science Fun

Around Halloween we did a science experiment that has been the favorite all year long! We carved a pumpkin and used vinegar, baking soda, and food coloring to make the pumpkin have bubbles and foam come out the eyes and mouth. We talked about how the combination of vinegar and baking soda makes a gas. Ok, the teachers may have enjoyed this one too!

Bike Rodeo

The bike rodeo was amazing. I did not bring a bike to school. We learned a lot of safety lessons. One is check A-air, B-Brakes, C-chain. To check your helmet you make sure it's not moving and make sure it is nice and tight and the buckle has to be two fingers from your chin. I walked the course and after I stood by the yield sign to remind people to signal stop and signal right. I like it because I got to signal people. It was, really, really fun. The Bike Rodeo was amazing.

By Madison Granger

The Bike Rodeo was fun. They had signs. They had a stop sign, a yield sign, and a train track sign. My Aunt Amy brought my bike to school. I was so happy. We learned safety and wear a helmet. You have to check these things first, check air, two check brakes, and last but not least check your bike chain. With the obstacle course we had to follow the line. When someone is walking you get off and walk your bike across the walk line. Same thing when you get to a railroad track, get off your bike and walk it across the railroad track. I liked it because I could get on my bike and learn about.

By Kaitlyn Gutierrez

The Bike Rodeo is for safety when you are riding your bike. We bring our bikes to school so we can do an obstacle course. I learned that I have to check my chain and how to check my chain. We had to stop at the crosswalk and walk our bike and when we heard a siren we had to get off our bike and walk the bike to the sidewalk. I like it because learned safety for my bike.

By William Henderson





4th Grade and Pre-K Reading Buddies

Our reading buddies are AMAZING! They are the best people in the whole world! We are teaching them how to read. Some are learning to read pretty well. They are very fluent readers! They are beginning to be perfect readers because of us and their teachers. They are very cute kids! We LOVE them as friends and family!!!

By Isabella Tucci and Zoe Wallace

Elementary Guidance News

This school year we have had eight K-3 Character Assemblies and three 4-6 Character Assemblies where we recognize and celebrate the good character our students exhibit, including such traits as compassion, honesty, responsibility and self-discipline.

We have twenty-four students and twenty volunteer staff that have participated in our Mentoring Program where the students spend some quality, fun time with their mentor on a weekly basis.

We have twelve classes that have participated in our Reading Buddies Program which matches up Pre K through 2nd grade classes with 4th through 6th grade to have the "older" students read to the "younger" students on a weekly basis and form a buddy relationship.

Mrs. Hill, School Counselor, has gone into the Kindergarten classes weekly for twenty weeks with her blue dragon puppet friend "Pumsy", for the Bright Beginnings Program, to teach positive thinking skills and self-esteem.



Above: North Warren 2017 Spelling Bee Contestants

Mrs. Hill joins the fourth grade classes weekly to facilitate the research and evidence based Second Step Program which includes lessons on managing strong feelings, empathy, respect and interpersonal problem solving.

Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Benway, Home & Careers Teacher met with 6th graders for Career Education Program this year to help students make the connection between what they study in school and the world of work. Each student took short surveys that explored his/her personality traits, interests, abilities and values and we had some parents join us to share about their careers.

The K-6th graders have had monthly "Olweus" lessons which is our Anti-Bullying Program that focuses on teaching ways to stand up for ourselves and others, accepting others' differences, good communication, teamwork and gratitude.

Mrs. Hill facilitates "Banana Splits" groups in 2nd-6th grades that is a school based, preventive oriented group program designed to help children deal with the challenges associated with parental divorce, separation, death or not living with a parent for any reason.



Have a great summer!