



WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Kindness Lives at Willow

Vol. 6 issue 2



Upcoming:



10/6-10/9 Book Fair

10/10 - Early Dismissal Drill

10/13 - No School

10/16 - Picture Day

October Cornwall Trait

Reflection -

Taking the time to think about, meditate on, evaluate, and give serious thought to your behaviors, thoughts, attitudes, motivations and actions and being thankful.



with Mrs. Gandolfini &
Mrs. Sweeney

Kindergarten is off to a great start—we spent September learning our friend's names, the classroom routine and rules as well as OUR Pledge to be Kind each and every day. We are so excited to grow and change together just like the seasons!

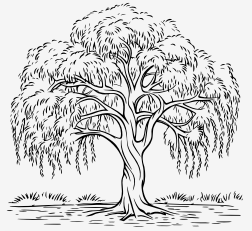
As we FALL into October we focus our studies on Pumpkins, Community Helpers, Bats, Weather and a little seasonal FUN! We will begin our afternoon skills centers and focus our attention to proper pencil grip and letter formation! In Math we are learning positional language, how to decipher longer and shorter or taller and shorter and sorting. We will then move to writing and counting numbers 0-5. We will also visit the orchard on October 15th to pick apples and pumpkins. This year is going to be amazing!

Please continue to check and return folders each day and READ READ READ together each night.

Website:
www.cornwallschools.com



Follow us on Instagram:
@willowavenuees



Mrs. Berchielli &
Miss Karlson

Mrs. Berchielli and Miss Karlson are excited to welcome our new students to first grade! We have been busy preparing for a year full of exciting educational, social, and emotional lessons! Students have already made many new friends, enjoyed reviewing material learned in kindergarten, and are off to a great start using their Chromebooks! We look forward to collaborating with our families to support our students through whatever challenges they face. We are confident that we will have a fantastic, memorable school year!



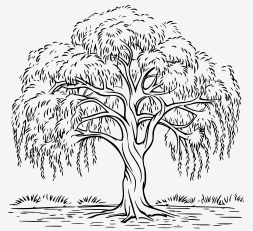
Mrs. Byrne &
Mrs. Santos

Sensational Second graders are off to a great school year. We are having fun getting to know one another and settling into our classrooms and routines. We are learning how to be responsible citizens in and out of school. In math, we are reviewing first grade skills and focusing on decomposing numbers. Students can make a 10 to add and subtract. We have read so many great stories such as Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun, The Recess Queen and What if Everybody Did That? Our favorite was The Recess Queen. We really liked how the main character follows her heart and is kind to her classmates. It is going to be a great year!!

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Our third graders are off to a great start! In September, we were busy working on establishing strong relationships, creating a nurturing learning environment and setting up class routines and procedures. We released many monarch butterflies after observing their amazing transformation and they are on their way to Mexico. In October, we will continue to explore through fiction and non-fiction text why reading, education and books are so important and how we can overcome learning challenges. We are learning how to be close readers and how to construct responses to questions. Many of the stories and articles take place in other countries so it is a nice connection to our Social Studies Geography unit. In Math, our third graders are learning strategies to add and subtract. Next, we will be extending our knowledge of place value to the thousands. The students are using both Reflex and iReady to gain fluency in the addition and subtraction facts before we move on to multiplication and division. We had our first class trip to Black Rock Forest and took part in Black Rock's annual acorn study. In Science, we are learning about how weather and climate affect us and we will practice being meteorologists in Black Rock forest as well. Our third graders are looking forward to learning how to be a scientist in the forest! It will be a fun-filled learning month!

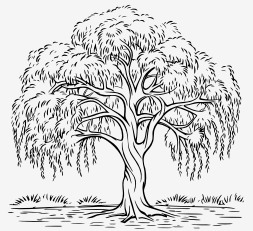


Mrs. Hogan &
Ms. Mante



Mrs. Cleeves &
Ms. Merante

It has been a pleasure getting to know our new fourth graders. They are a lively bunch, who have quickly conformed to the back-to-school routines. We have spent the better part of September building a fun, safe, and loving classroom community. Both classrooms have started the ELA curriculum with a wonderful book called The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate. Writer's notebooks are springing to life! Place Value lessons are being reviewed and lessons through the one hundred thousand are being introduced and mastered. Both classes have been exploring the Earth and narrowing down just where in the world New York State can be found. In tandem with studying the maps and globes, the fourth graders are researching Henry Hudson and our beautiful Hudson River. The students are excited to be taking their first field trip to the river early this month. Once at the river, the students will be participating in "A Day in the Life of the Hudson River." They will be taking samples of the river and making observations of the surrounding area. The data that will be collected will be used by Columbia University so that the university can examine the river elements. We are looking forward to a spooktacular October!



tidbits of mOTivation with Mrs. Lucia

Busy Students to Balanced Kids: An OT Suggestion for After-School Calm

The school day is a complex occupation for children, demanding constant sensory processing, attention, and fine motor skills. After managing this intense "job," their nervous systems need a moment to regulate.

As Occupational Therapists know, a smooth transition is key to preventing after-school stress, irritability, and meltdowns. Instead of immediately rushing into homework or dinner, a few minutes of calming sensory input helps their brains and bodies switch gears.

We've compiled simple activities that use principles of sensory and self-regulation to help your child decompress and recharge!



CALMING ACTIVITIES FOR HOME



Listen to Music



**Drink water
Use a straw**



Draw



Kick a ball



Supported upside down



**Find a cozy corner on
the floor**



Eat



Read a book



Build with Blocks

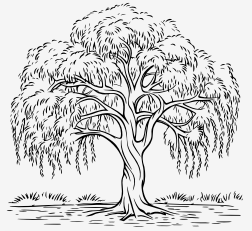


Megan Lucia, OTR/L

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Principal Award Winners

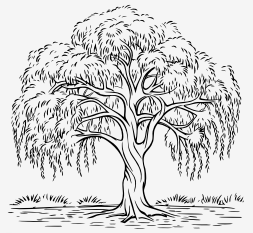
Subhan A.
Keira B.
Jaxon B.
Robert B.
Angel C.
Madison D.
Patrick E.
Sophia G.
Ceileigh H.

Lacie L.
Addison M.
Francisco M.
Anisa P.
Vada R.
Hailey S.
Gabriella T.
Maximo V.

October Birthdays

10/2: Amy D. – 2nd Grade
10/2: Jaxson B. – 4th Grade
10/6: Robert B. – Kindergarten
10/6: Charles M. – 1st Grade
10/6: Emma M. – 3rd Grade
10/7: Ariana R. – 1st Grade
10/10: Felix Z. – 1st Grade
10/10: Marley V. – 3rd Grade
10/15: Rei S. – 1st Grade
10/16: Aria D. – 2nd Grade
10/20: Toby R. – 2nd Grade
10/20: Cole F. – 4th Grade
10/23: Auriella T. – 4th Grade
10/24: George M. – 1st Grade
10/25: Jaraiya D. – 2nd Grade
10/29: Davis B. – 4th Grade





The art room is back in full swing! Our Kindergarten artists are working on an illustration unit during their enrichment time. We have been practicing drawing people using shapes, and adding different hairstyles and facial expressions. In regular art class, we read the story *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon and talked about bats and how they are nocturnal animals. We are making bat sculptures using toilet paper rolls, paint, pipe cleaners and paper- stay tuned for these cuties! Our first grade artists also have enrichment this trimester. We talked about the importance of reusing materials and repurposed cardboard cereal boxes to make front and back covers for nature sketch books. Each week during enrichment, we will be going outside to observe and sketch things we see in nature- this week it was acorns! In regular art class, we are reviewing the warm and cool color families and drawing a sun with patterns and making half of the sun a warm color, and half a cool color. Our second grade artists are reviewing the primary and secondary colors and mixed red & yellow (primary colors) to give us orange, which is a secondary color. They painted a large piece of paper with their orange paint and will be turning it into a pumpkin next art class. Our third grade artists learned about Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama and her love of polka dots! We also reviewed complimentary colors. We looked at many works of her art for inspiration and learned that one of her paintings sold in 2014 for over \$7 million dollars, which is the highest price ever paid for a living female artist's work! Our artists drew 3D pumpkins and will be painting them a color next class, and then adding polka dots using the complimentary color to the one they chose. And finally, our fourth graders are starting the school year off a bit differently than we usually do- I have given our artists the task of brainstorming something that excites them and they would like to make. Students will have 3 class periods to make a work of art of their choice, with many mediums to choose from. I am so excited by all of the ideas that have been presented to me and can't wait to see the finished works! Stay tuned for more fun and exciting news from the art room!

-Mrs. Butler



Caring Hands with Nurse Katie

Tis the season for fun, frights, and flu! Getting a call from the Willow Health Office is a real life fright, but updated contact information helps us reach you without delay when your little pumpkin isn't feeling so gourd. Please make sure that Willow Ave Elementary School has all of your current contact information including phone numbers for all parents / guardians as well as emergency contacts.

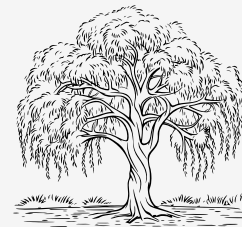
Fast facts that might come in candy: Health Office CCSD considers a fever to be 100.0F. If your student has a fever of 100.0F, please keep them home until the fever subsides and remains below 100.0F for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Cheers to a happy Fall! Stay healthy and feeling ghoul-d!

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Kids in Motion with Ms. Nissen

Welcome Back to PE! I hope you had an amazing and active Summer Break!

All students attend PE Class every-other-day. Students are expected to be wearing sneakers, for safe participation.

We will be going outside often for PE Class, while the weather is still enjoyable.

Soccer was our first Unit of the Year! But students have also been participating in cooperative activities, skill stations, and various locomotor movement drills.

Football skills will be our main focus for the beginning of October.



Stay in the Know with our Willow Ave PTO

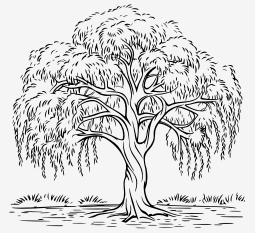
Lots of exciting things are happening in our PTO this year!

We had such a great turn out for our Fall Festival! Thank you to everyone for coming out and supporting us. We have lots of fun things coming up in the next few months. This Friday 10/10 is our first popcorn Friday! We encourage our students to lend a helping hand at home and earn \$1 for popcorn.

Get ready, get set, and GLOW on 10/17 for our Dragon Boys Outdoor Game night. This is such a fun event for our boys and their favorite dragon to have some fun!

Memberships have been rolling in! Please get your memberships in by 10/31 so we can tally up the winning class and throw them a pizza party!

As always, you can email us at willowavepto@gmail.com with any questions. Please also join our Google Classroom (code: a5is2not) and join our Facebook page!



Ms. Zawacki's Mindful Moment

Keep in Touch:

**Email: kzawacki@cornwallschools.com or
845-534-8009- ext 3026**

Welcome Autumn

We have been busy the first few weeks of school, meeting new friends and learning about the Character Trait of Patience and practicing our Mindful Moment.

Our Character Trait for October is Reflection/Gratitude.

Both Reflection and Gratitude offer us an opportunity to practice our Mindful Moment, where we can take a moment to pause and quietly think about how we are feeling, how we are treating ourselves and others, what our strengths are and where we can make improvements in our attitudes and behaviors. Each moment is an opportunity to make a positive and healthy choice and spread kindness.

As the cooler weather is approaching, your family may have more needs that require some assistance. If you could benefit from support for extra food or winter coats, please contact Amy Bishopp at Food Services Department to complete the confidential paperwork.

Email: abishop@cornwallschools.com Phone: (845) 534-8009 ext. 7704

If you or your family would like referrals to any outside mental health resources, counseling or community resources you can reach me at kzawacki@cornwallschools.com
(845) 534-8009 ext. 3026

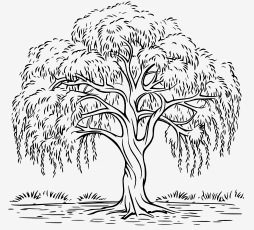
*Let's
talk it
out*



Bookmarks from our Librarian - Mrs. Ebenhoe

October is National Book Month, so come to the library to pick up your favorite books and make time to read them! The benefits are:

- **Reading provides mental stimulation. Our brains need exercise and nourishment to help it stay strong and healthy.**
- **It reduces stress. Take a well-deserved break and sit down with a book.**
- **It provides you with knowledge. Even if you're reading fiction, everything you take in provides your brain with new knowledge.**
- **Reading expands your vocabulary and memory. It improves your memory because it trains your brain to remember characters, plots, and other things that are happening in your book after you set it down.**
- **It's free entertainment! And if you ask me, it's entertainment in the best form.**



Speech News with Mrs. Jennings

Fall into Speech this October! 🍁

Can you believe we are in October already?! My favorite season! We are rocking and rolling in speech, working on all of our goals for articulation and language!

Let's focus on some tips to use at home, as we start the year off strong in our speech sessions.

Repetition– Repeat, repeat, repeat 😊 – Repeat your child's sentences out loud using proper grammar, continuously use the same vocabulary words in your conversation (the words can change weekly), repeat what your child says focusing on their articulation sounds

Visuals– use a mirror if your child is working on articulation, allow your child to see your mouth while they pronounce their sounds

Model– model the correct pronunciation of sounds, model proper grammar usage in your everyday speech, model appropriate social skills when you're in different settings

Ask open ended questions– instead of "Did you have a good day at school today?" rephrase your question to elicit a longer response "What did you do in school today?" Some examples: Ask what special they had for the day, ask about specific subjects, ask who they played with at recess, or sat with at lunch. ** If open ended questions become overwhelming, try to give choices– i.e. "Did you have art or music today? Once they respond, and they're comfortable, follow up with another question: "Tell me what you did in art."