

# Washington School News

Principal: Cheryl Cunningham  
[ccunningham@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:ccunningham@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Clerk: Elaine Nolan  
[enolan@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:enolan@lowell.k12.ma.us)



January 2018

Volume 7

Issue 4

## Principal's Corner

It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching the mid-year mark! There is so much learning to take place and we don't have a minute to lose if we want each child to "Be the Best That They Can Be!"

Please help us by ensuring that your child completes their homework assignments each week. This includes math and word work for grades 1-4 and weekly reading for grades K-4. Completing the reading portion may require some help on your part, especially for our youngest students, but it is so important and will have a lasting benefit. See the last page of this newsletter for more information on the benefits of reading!

Sadly, we only had fifty-five students with 100% Homework for September, October, and November that were eligible for the Great Wolf Lodge Water Park tickets. The lucky winner of the tickets is: **Finnegan Splaine from Room #3** Congratulations!

## Kudos to Our Families

The turkey project results were spectacular! We had over 141 students participate. Our halls are lined with really great work!



## Attendance Goals & Rewards

### Individual Awards:

Perfect Attendance for the month= a charm

Outstanding Attendance (1 absence and/or 1 tardy)= a charm

### Classroom Award:

10 minutes of bonus recess for each class that meets the benchmark set for the month.

### Congratulations to

October: Rm. 5/Mrs. Brady and Rm. 8/Mr. Deshler

November: Rm.14/Mr. Donovan

December: No class met the Benchmark

January's Benchmark is: 13 days

## Save the Date

End of the Year Learning Showcase  
Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00-8:00



This should be a spectacular Sea Life themed event with a Tide Pool and Storyteller on site!

Next Family Project is a  
At-Home Winter Olympic Activity



Watch for information to come home!!

## Character Education

### November's Most Honest

PreK AM	Reyden Chhim
PreK PM	Anavee Touch
K/3	Aaron Chea
K/6	Romaine Le
1/4	Alessandra Griffin
1/5	Taylor Ly
2/1	Alison Bui
2/2	Isabella Heng
3/7	Hailey White
3/8	Tezman Soy
4/9	Khole Chanthavongsack
4/10	Ansley Son

### December's Most Caring

PreK AM	Nason Nop
PreK PM	Adrianna Russell
K/3	Kaily Mao
K/6	Oceana Pereira Garcia
1/4	David Lacoy
1/5	Ella Koehn
2/1	Sam Long
2/2	Evanjalene Ouk
3/7	Madison Casey
3/8	Johenrique Lanes
4/9	Cristhian Tejada
4/10	Jayla Phachansiri

## Character Education

### January Trait: Self-Discipline

Choosing to do what you should do, not what you want to do

- demonstrating hard work
- controlling one's emotions, words, actions, impulses, & desires
- giving their best in all situations
- using time wisely

## Charms

Our charms are a hit! Students were all provided a keychain that should stay on their backpack. Each month they have a chance to earn charms for a variety of things that include:

100% Attendance

Outstanding Attendance (absent or tardy 1 day)

100% Homework (includes reading 4X per week)

Caught Being Good

Random Acts of Kindness

Teacher Selected Awards

Student of the Month

3 Pledges for the Move-A-Thon

The charms are hanging on your child's backpack. Check them out!

Please remove the keychain and charms before changing backpacks!



## Homework Champions

Ms. McCoy's second grade class was our homework champion for the months of October, November, and December!

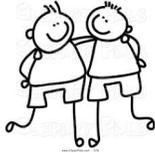


They will be treated to some bonus time with Mr. Z.!

FYI- No class met the December Homework Challenge of 90%.

## Gr. 4 Leadership Teams

**PALS-** The PALS did a great job supporting the Holiday Shop. They enjoyed making Slime to sell and helping students select gifts for their loved ones. They will meet soon to plan their next endeavor.



**Recycle Team-** On our Leadership Training Day, we met and learned about what happens to garbage and recycled materials. After reading various books, pamphlets, and doing some online research, teams were able to create posters and Powerpoint presentations. Group research topics included: what happens to garbage, materials to recycle, materials not to recycle, how to compost, and ways to reduce and reuse. Our next step is to go to all the classrooms to educate students about reducing garbage and encouraging proper recycling habits.



**Photography Team-** The Washington School Photographers are pleased to announce the funding of a grant through Donors Choose, titled "[Apprentice Photographers](#)". The 4<sup>th</sup> grade photographers, Seth, Aubrey, Ryan, Hana, and Robert thank Mrs. Cunningham for her support. The additional equipment will facilitate the opportunity for students to use their own camera.



**School Beautification Group-** We met before vacation and started making signage for a positive messaging board in the basement and were lucky to have the city painter paint the area for us before we hang our messages. We received grant funding to remake the Kindergarten play space outside and will start planning this project soon.



## Important Dates

### January

- 8<sup>th</sup> Access Testing for all ELL students begins
- 8<sup>th</sup> PTO Meeting at 6:30
- 9<sup>th</sup> Science Night Session #1 6:00-7:30
- 10<sup>th</sup> Early Release Day@ 12:50
- 15<sup>th</sup> No School/ MLK Day
- 16<sup>th</sup> Science Night Session #2 6:00-7:30
- 18<sup>th</sup> Jeanne D'Arc Banking

### PreK & Kindergarten Registration Information

Information Sessions:

January 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00AM or 6:00-7:00PM

Registration:

March 5<sup>th</sup>-April 27<sup>th</sup> 8:00-4:00 and TH till 6:00PM



## Next Friends of Washington Parent Meeting

February 12th

Please join us from 6:30-7:30

Learning Focus: Reading



## Stay Connected

School Website:



<https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/Domain/29>

Like us at:



<https://www.facebook.com/lpsdWASHINGTON>

Follow us at:



<https://twitter.com/lpsdWASHINGTON>

# Benefits of Reading

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it.

After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.

2. Reading exercises our brain.

Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than watching TV, for example. Reading strengthens brains connections and builds NEW connections.

3. Reading improves concentration.

Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do it for longer.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.

Through reading a variety of books children learn about people, places, and events outside of their own experience.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.

Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination.

As we read our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.

7. Reading helps children to develop empathy.

As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.

8. Reading is fun.

A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry, so you take it anywhere so you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.

9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.

Reading together on the sofa, bedtimes stories, and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

10. Children that read achieve better in school.

Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

