



I really **Success Through Collaboration**

In Attendance: Parent Reps; Emily Downing Ponce, Sheri Gates, Jaimelee O'Hara, Christina Sicard, Michael Wayman, Brooke Thomas, Kristin Patten, Karen Olson, Shelly Masson; School Reps: Aron Merrill, Rebecca Ashford, Chris Ford, Lyn Porter, Greg Marino.

[See our Calendar of Events at the end of the Minutes!](#)

Welcome – Emily Downing Ponce

- Meeting called to order at 8:21

Financial Report – Emily Downing Ponce

- Annual Fund is on par from this point last year, with the exception of a larger family donation that ended last year.
- Donations are still needed – Please donate [here](#).

New & Upcoming Events

- Variety Show
 - Auditions are complete
 - Tickets on Sale Feb 4 – Feb 8 in WCS Lobby (7:45-8:15am & 2:45-3:15pm)
 - Show is on February 8, 6:00pm
 - WCS auditorium
 - [See event on FB](#)
- Williston Runs for Education
 - Event needs a main coordinator and more volunteer support.
 - At this point last year, much of the planning had already begun.
 - Decision to cancel or move the event needs to be made.
- Lucky U
 - March 11 - 15
 - Notices to go out to staff soon.
- Big Basket Raffle
 - April 13, 6:00 – 8:30pm
 - Williston Central Cafeteria
 - Committee volunteers needed – contact Emily Downing Ponce.
 - [See event on FB](#)
 - Baskets needed - Please drop empty baskets off in either the ABS or WCS Main Office soon.
- Speaker Series

- Appreciative Parenting
- Nicole Morris & Shelly Masson
- April 9, 6:30-8:00pm
- WCS Community Room

Administration Report – Greg Marino

- 1 additional kindergarten, first and second grade classrooms next school year.
- Parent pickup issues are being investigated to make dismissal easier and safer.

Staff Reports

School Board – Greg Marino

- Last chapter of the budget presentation is complete.
- Next school board meeting is January 15.
- Budget will be shared in next meeting

Student Services – Chris Ford

- CVU counselors will be visiting with WCS 8th graders on Friday, Jan. 18th to discuss 9th grade course registration, graduation requirements, and their transition to CVU. Also the 8th grade parent/student night to learn more about CVU is being held on Jan. 24th at CVU from 6:30 - 8:00
- Heather Scandale collaborated with the kindergarten to do a lantern walk. Every kindergartener had a lantern and they paraded and had a campfire on the bike path. This was a great event.

Essential Arts – Lyn Porter

- Lyn Porter was nominated for the Eastern District of SHAPE America Honor Award. This is the highest award presented by the Eastern District. Lyn will be receiving this award in April at the SHAPE America National Convention.
- K-2 music received an FAP grant for flexible seating (balance discs, blackjack-style chairs) Thank you!!!
- 3rd/4th grade chorus concerts will be on Wednesday, February 6th. 2:10pm and 6:30pm in WCS auditorium.
- Some 4th grade chorus members auditioning for VMEA 4th/5th festival chorus. Festival date will be March 19th in St. Johnsbury.
- 3rd/4th grade students completed a music project in which they used WeVideo (on their Chromebooks) to record themselves reading a poem, playing music they created to fit the poem, and choose graphic backgrounds to fit the poem. They will share their finished projects with their families.
- 3rd and 4th Grade Art -Through painting and drawing, third and fourth graders have explored color values and tones as well as 3-dimensional forms, highlights and shadows. Currently, they are working in clay to create masks of animals they find compelling. They are practicing throwing slabs as well as the importance of proper attachment techniques. They will experiment with alternative approaches to painting in order to achieve unusual surface design.
- Williston Schools Penguin Plunge
 - Now in its twenty- fourth year, the Special Olympics Vermont Penguin Plunge event series supports sports training and competition, health screenings, and leadership opportunities for children and adults with intellectual disabilities in Vermont. These fundraising efforts support Special Olympics Vermont and our WCS Unified Sports Team.

In 2018, Penguin Plunge events raised \$542,706, nearly 40% of their operating budget. This event is February 2nd. If WCS raises more than \$10,000 Sam will shave his head again.

PreK-2nd Grades – Rebecca Ashford

- Preschoolers in Ms. Patricia's classroom is excited to have a Mail Room in the classroom. The children are busy "making mail" to send to each other. Both preschool groups are planning a field trip to the Audubon for Maple Sugaring in March.
- Harmony will be attending the Flynn performance of The Magic School Bus, Lost In Space. Thank you FAP! They are beginning their science unit on Earth and space systems with a focus on the moon and the sun. Their family breakfast is on Friday, January 18th. (This was rescheduled due to the snow day they had in November).
- Horizon has just started a study of plant and animal adventures as their science theme. They are using mystery science as a vehicle to teach this. They are also heading to Shelburne Farms next week on a field trip called Active in Winter. They have two full time student teachers that started last week.
- Synergy has started their science unit Properties and Structures of Matter. Students love the hands on experiments with this unit. They are finishing up their mid-year assessments in reading and math.

5th - 8th Grades – Aron Merrill

- Full House 5/6 went to Phantom Tollbooth at the Flynn this week. 5/6 are starting market days as part of their economic unit. 7/8 is working on projects for WWI in SS and ELA.
- Harbor House is in the middle of our play unit titled, The Day the Internet Died. Performance dates will be in two weeks. In addition, we started a new round of Humanities focused on WWII. Students are reading a variety of Lit Group books on the topics and seem really engaged with this time in history!
- Swift House is in the midst of their Independent Project Unit, where students research and write about a topic of their own choosing. We kicked off the unit with an informative presentation from Ellen Arapakos about the great wealth of online resources at WCS.
- Sterling House have resumed regular classes, and we're all getting back to routines after our Integrated Unit on Garbology. We wrapped up the unit with a very well-attended open house on the Friday before break. In ELA, students are developing their skills in narrative writing with an emphasis on figurative language, including metaphor, simile, anthropomorphism, personification, and idioms. In Social Studies students are digging deep into the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In Science, the class is exploring botany, starting with research on important botanists. In Math, classes are working on decimal and fraction operations. It was great to get back from the much-needed break and see everyone. We are looking forward to really digging into some deep learning in the months ahead
- Voyager House just launched our Survival unit. Students are placed on eight 5th-8th grade challenge teams and attend workshops on a variety of survival skills (outdoor first aid, building a fire/shelter, navigation, preparation etc.). Students must keep a survival notebook for all workshops attended. During week two of the unit, teams will put their skills to the test with daily outdoor survival challenges.

Meeting adjourned at 9:54.



Williston Families as Partners (FAP) Calendar of Events

February

- 8th – Variety Show (WCS Auditorium, 6:00)
- 14th - Monthly Meeting (WCS Community Room, 8:15-10:15)

March

- 11th - 15th- Lucky U
- 14th - Monthly Meeting (WCS Community Room, 8:15-10:15)
- Speaker Series - TBA

April

- 11th - Monthly Meeting (WCS Community Room, 8:15-10:15)
- 13th - Big Basket Raffle and Silent Action/ Fun Night

May

- 6th- 10th - Faculty and Staff Appreciation Week
- 9th - Monthly Meeting (WCS- Community Room, 8:15-10:15)
- Williston Runs - TBA