



WALES WINDOW

December 2015

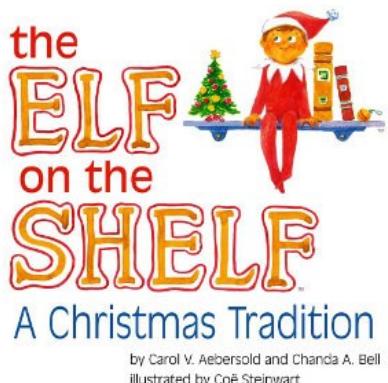
Wales Elementary

Snowflake has Arrived!

Snowflake is Wales Elementary's very own Elf on the Shelf!

He will be arriving on December 1st and will be visiting each class. He is a mischievous Elf and will wreak some havoc in the classrooms. Each teacher will be

reading the Elf on the Shelf book to let children know Snowflakes story.



We will be encouraging the children not to touch Snowflake.



FRIDAYS:

Every Friday is **School Spirit Day!**

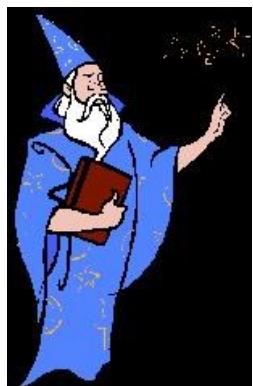
Wear your **Wales Wizards** T-Shirt to show your school spirit!

Wales Wizard T-Shirts can be purchased at anytime and we have lots of sizes to offer. Call us at 413-245-7748.

GIVING TREE UPDATE:

The Wales Elementary Community is helping needy families during this holiday season. We are pleased to announce that **ALL** Gingerbread men have been taken. Age appropriate gifts can be purchased and brought back to the school, unwrapped by [December 11th- with the gingerbread](#). If there are any questions please call Katie at 413-245-7748.

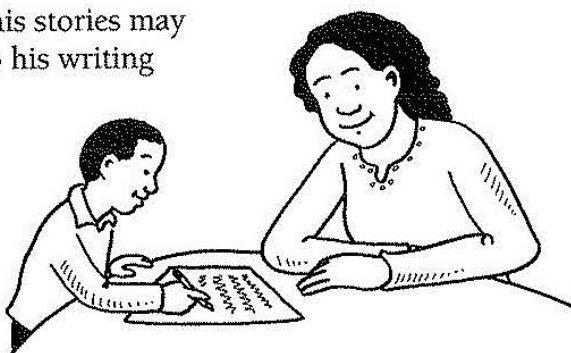
Thanks for your participation!



Writing that makes sense

When a child first learns to write, his stories may not always make sense to others. Help his writing flow logically with these two ideas.

1. Let him read his stories to you. Ask questions to encourage him to add information ("What did you do with your friends at recess?") or to clear up a confusing part ("Who said, 'Let's go home'—you, or your brother?").



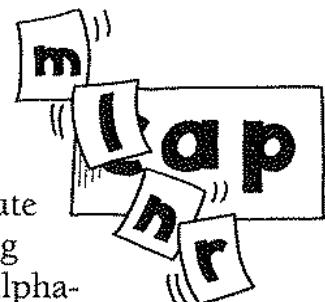
2. Even if he isn't writing sentences yet, he can tell you stories. He might describe the new class pet or something funny that happened at lunch. He'll practice relating events in a logical order, and that can help when he puts his thoughts and ideas down on paper.♥

Reading Connection With *Ms. Christine Nowacki* *Title 1 Reading Teacher*



Fun with Words

Use these activities to build your child's phonemic awareness—her ability to hear sounds in words:



- Choose a three-letter word, such as *cap*. Have your youngster substitute different beginning sounds from the alphabet to make new words (*lap, map, nap, rap, sap, tap, zap*). How many can she think of?
- Pick a long word, and tell her to clap once as she says each syllable. For *mozzarella*, she would clap four times: *moz-za-rel-la*.
- Ask your child to say a word without the first sound. Example: "Can you say *sit* without the *s*?" (Answer: *It*)
- Think of a word, and give your youngster a "sound" clue to figure it out. For instance, "I'm thinking of a word for something that you chew. The word has an *uh* sound in the middle." (Answer: *Gum*)♥

Wordplay

Parent/ Teacher Conferences:



Parent/ Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, December 10th and Friday, December 11th. Please call the front office to schedule an appointment if you haven't already done so.

Holiday Snacks:

In order to adhere to the District-wide Wellness Policy, we are asking you not to send in treats for Holiday Parties. Classroom teachers will contact volunteers to assist in the preparation of individual parties. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Staff Spotlight: Eliza Kibbe—Gym Teacher

Ms. Kibbe is a recent graduate of Springfield College and recently did her student teaching at Belchertown Community School. She enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, whitewater kayaking, skiing, and snowshoeing. By participating in those activities she has gained a lot of experience being a part of different sports. Ms. Kibbe chose physical education because of the positive experiences she had participating in sports growing up. As a teacher, she enjoys finding ways for all students to enjoy physical education class. If you have any questions for Ms. Kibbe you can reach her at: KibbeE@tantasqua.org



Tips From School Nurses on Keeping Kids Healthy

Most school nurses agree: The best way to keep students healthy during the school year is to make sure they wash their hands.

That simple tip matches the advice from experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): "Keeping hands clean through improved hand hygiene is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others."

Hand Washing Is the Top Recommendation

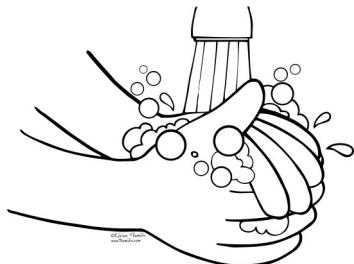
A total of 271 school nurses responded to a KidsHealth in the Classroom survey in October and November 2014. When asked, "What do you think is the most important thing parents can do to help keep their children healthy during the school year?," 28% of the nurses said parents should make sure kids and teens wash their hands.

"Educate children on hand washing and how to cover their coughs and sneezes. We at the school cannot do all the education; it has to start at home," said a school nurse from Fayette, Alabama.

"Teach them how and when to wash their hands and to keep their fingers away from their eyes, nose, and mouth, and how to cover coughs and sneezes using their elbows," said a Bradford, Rhode Island, school nurse.

Here's what else school nurses suggested:

- 18% said parents should encourage kids and teens to eat a nutritious diet.
- 17% said parents should help kids and teens get enough sleep.
- 11% said families need to stay up to date with all recommended immunizations, including flu shots.
- 8% said parents have to keep students home when they're sick.



Keep Sick Students Home, School Nurses Say

When asked, "What's the biggest health problem at your school?," here's what the nurses said:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • colds and flu (22%) | • asthma (16%) |
| • parents sending sick kids and teens to school (11%) | • stress and other emotional problems (7%) |
| • poor nutrition (7%) | • lack of hygiene and hand washing (6%) |
| • obesity (5%) | • inadequate sleep (3%) |
| • allergies (3%) | • lack of exercise (2%) |

"I think the biggest health problems occur because there are parents who send their children to school knowing they are sick," said a Piermont, New York, school nurse.

A Newport Beach, California, school nurse agreed that the biggest problem is "Parents who send sick kids to school (even with a fever) because 'they have to take a test.'"

Many schools require that students stay home until at least 24 hours after a fever has broken naturally, without fever-reducing medicines.

When asked "What's the most important thing teachers can do to help keep students healthy during the school year?" even more school nurses recommended hand washing:

- 73% said teachers should encourage proper hygiene and hand washing, and keep desks and classrooms clean
- 12% said teachers should be role models to their students for healthy behaviors
- 3% said teachers should send students home or to the nurse's office as soon as students say they feel sick or show signs of illness



Student Conduct

The entire staff of Wales Elementary School has the goal of establishing an atmosphere throughout the school in which children feel safe, secure, happy, and have a maximum opportunity to learn. The complete discipline code is found in the back of the handbook.

Personal items with the potential to cause harm to others or distract from the educational process are not permitted on school property. This includes shoes with wheels, toys, games, electronic devices including: Walkmans/CD's, Game Boys, cell phones, etc....



Attendance:

When it comes to school, students who miss school....miss out. They miss out on opportunities to learn, build lasting friendships, and develop the skills and attitudes needed to become good citizens and valued employees. There is a very strong connection between student attendance and student performance in school. Research shows that students who attend school every day pass state tests in reading and math at much higher rates than students who attend school less than 85% of the time. Higher attendance equals higher achievement for **all** students.

JUST A REMINDER THAT SCHOOL STARTS AT 8:30am.



No School Announcements:

A Connect-Ed call will be sent if school is cancelled.

“No School” announcements can also be heard on the following stations:



WESO Q100 FM

WTAG/WSRS 580 AM/96.1 FM

WBZ 1030 AM

Ch. 5 WCVB/Boston

Ch. 7 WHDH-WRKO/Boston

Ch. 40 WGGB-TV/Springfield

Fox 25 WFXT/Boston

Remember : Please call the school when your child is going to be absent:
413-245-7748.



Teacher of the Month



Country Bank is proud to sponsor the Teacher of the Month program. Is there a special teacher making a difference for you or your child?

Visit www.countrybank.com/student to nominate them.

Along with other special gifts, Country Bank is proud to award the winning teacher a \$100 Amazon gift card and the nominating student a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Sign up today for the School Banking Program to make saving money even easier. If you are interested in participating and are not already enrolled, contact the Financial Education Department at 1-800-322-8233, for more information.

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Fun December Facts:

1. An almanac prediction states that if snow falls on Christmas Day, Easter will be warm, green and sunny.
2. The name December comes from the Latin *decem* for “ten”, as it was the 10th month in the Roman Calendar.
3. December 12th is Poinsettia Day.
4. Saint Nickolas, who would eventually be called Santa Claus, was originally the patron saint of children, thieves and pawnbrokers!
5. December 28th is considered by some to be the unluckiest day of the year.
6. The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany, fashioned out of goose feathers that are dyed green!
7. Spiders and spider webs are considered good luck on Christmas.
8. “Jingle bells” was composed in 1857, and not for Christmas – it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song!



Boots:

Many students wear “boots” as all day footwear in the building. It is the winter season and boots are needed for outdoor recess, it is unhealthy to keep them on during the day. As stated in our Student Handbook, “Boots are not appropriate and unsafe during physical education classes”.

****PTF Fundraiser Winner****

Jay Hathaway

Ticket sold by:

Natalie Dewdney

Congrats and Thanks to all
who participated

December 2015



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4 School Banking
7	8	9 Report Cards Sent Home 	10 Parent Teacher Conf. 3-7pm	11 1/2 DAY 11:45 Dismissal ◦ No Preschool ◦ Parent Teacher Conf. 12:30-3pm
14	15	16	17	18 School Banking
21	22	23	24 Christmas Vacation	25
28 	29	30	31	
School Vacation Thru January 3rd				