

Wales Elementary

www.tantasqua.org/wales



October News

Oct 1, 2015

Words from the Principal

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to all our new staff at WES!

Amy Chabot— Physical Therapist Assistant

Eliza Kibbe— Physical Education Teacher

Amanda Polak— Psychologist

Katie Radebaugh—Administrative Assistant

Kaitlyn Smith— Speech & Language Pathologist



Free Breakfast & Lunch

The Wales Elementary School is launching a new program this year (2015-2016) that will offer **FREE Breakfast and Lunch**, as part of the Community Eligibility Provision universal meal plan. The move allows all students to eat **Free Breakfast and Lunch** without having to fill out applications or other paperwork.

* ***Please have your student(s) take advantage of this wonderful program. Without participation the program will go away!***

* ***Parents: This means no more packing Lunch boxes!! All students eat Breakfast & Lunch for FREE!***

Breakfast will be served at 8:15. Breakfast menu items can be found on the Wales Website under: Lunch Menu at www.tantasqua.org/wales/lunch.htm

Lunch menus can be found on the Wales Website under: Lunch Menu at www.tantasqua.org/wales/lunch.htm

October's Spotlight Staff Member: Amanda Polak—School Psychologist

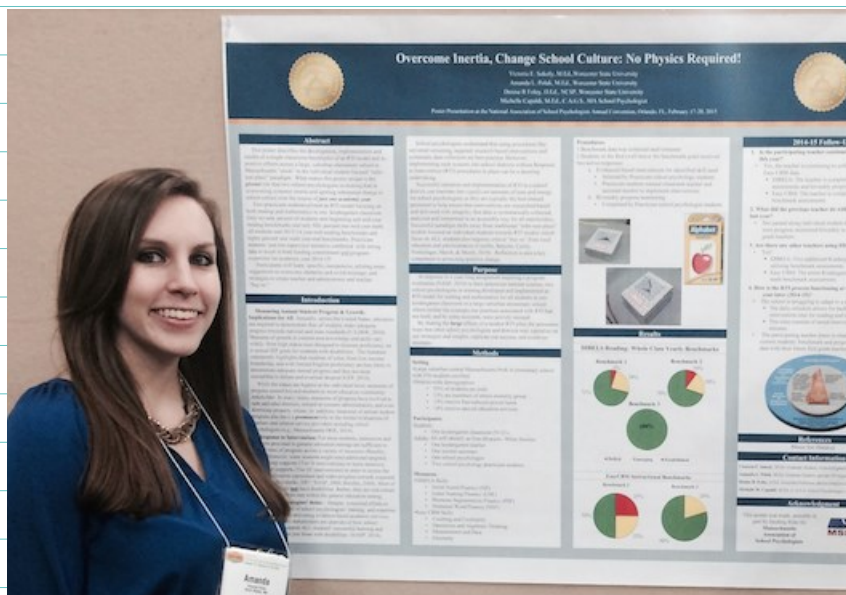
About Me:

I received my Bachelor's Degree at Westfield State University, majoring in both Psychology and Social Work. My Master's of Education and C.A.G.S. in School Psychology was achieved at Worcester State University. Through my graduate work I completed my practicum and internship hours at Burgess Elementary and in the Spencer-East Brookfield Regional School District.

Skills & Services in:

- Neuropsychological and Psychoeducational Assessments
- Consultation and Collaboration with teachers, families, community resources, administrators, and other professionals
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Program Development, Research, and Evaluation
- Response to Intervention
- Behavior Management
- Crisis Intervention
- Special Education

I am here to help students achieve their personal, social, and academic goals, as well as join and support our teachers and families. Please email me



Pre K News:

There's Nothing In My Bag Today

Author Unknown



Today I did math and science when I toasted bread,
I halved and measured and used my eyes, ears and head!
I built a tower of blocks and counted with a friend,
I figured out which came first, next and at the end.
I learned about a rainbow and I learned how to weigh.
So don't worry when you ask, "Is there anything in your bag today?"

For you see, I'm learning all about sharing as I play.
I explained the creation I made out of clay!
I learned to listen and speak clearly when I talk,
To wait my turn, and when inside, that I should walk.
I learned to put my thoughts into a phrase,
To guide a crayon through a swirly maze,
To find my name and write it down,
And to do it all with a smile and not with a frown!
Today I learned to put my painting brush away.
So don't worry when you ask, "Nothing in your bag today?"



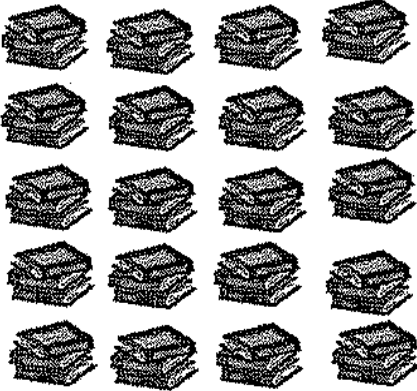


I've learned about a snail and a long, brown worm,
And remembered how to take my turn.
I helped a friend when he was stuck,
And learned that water runs off a duck!
I looked at words from left to right,
And agreed to differ, not to fight.
So please know all this when you say,
"Did you only play today?"





Reading News:

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
► 20 mins per day	► 5 mins per day	► 1 min per day
► 3,600 mins per school year	► 900 mins per school year	► 180 mins per school year
► 1,800,00 words per year	► 282,000 words per year	► 8,000 words per year
		
► Scores in the 90 th percentile on standardized tests.	► Scores in the 50 th percentile on standardized tests.	► Scores in the 10 th percentile on standardized tests.
If they start reading for 20 mins per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

News from Art!

In art class this fall the students at Wales Elementary School will be working on the following.

- ♦ Throughout fall the **Kindergarten** students will be focusing on several lessons, beginning with self portraits. Once complete they will create texture rubbings of leaves. Later in the fall, **Kindergarten** students will be learning about the primary colors and how to mix them to create the secondary colors.
- ♦ Students in **1st Grade** began the year by creating self portraits. Then they will create collages based on the life cycle of a butterfly. This interdisciplinary lesson will give students an opportunity to explore lines, symmetry, shape, and form.
- ♦ Students in **2nd Grade** began the year by creating self portrait collages inspired by Pablo Picasso and cubism. They are learning about abstract art and exploring shape, color, line, and space in their artwork.
- ♦ The students in **Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6** began the year by working on a collaborative art display. In this lesson the students are creating drawings and paintings about the seven Elements of Art (Line, Color, Shape, Form, Space, Value, and Texture). We will be exhibiting their finished work in the cafeteria when it is complete.



Finally, we are always in need of the following supplies in art class. If your family is able to donate any of the following items during the year it will be greatly appreciated! Thank you for your support!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Baby wipes | • Aluminum Foil |
| • Thin Paper Plates (small and large) | • Q-Tips |
| • Gallon Sized Ziplock Bags | • Sponges |
| • Quart Sized Ziplock Bags | • Cotton Balls |
| • Colored Sharpie Markers | • Coffee Filters |

School Banking News



School Banking Program

Country Bank offers a School Banking Program designed to teach students the importance of banking, economics and finance. Through the cooperation of your child's school and Country Bank, students learn how to save money as well as the great importance money has in our society. Students become actively involved in the program by depositing funds at school during "banking days" into real savings accounts established at Country Bank. Prizes are awarded to participating students every sixth banking day and any dollar amount is accepted. Bank representatives, teachers, and students organize and run school banking days.



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.

Member FDIC/DIF

Cafeteria News

Please Join Us for LUNCH: Oct 13-16

SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK is celebrated from October 13th to October 16th. Please take this opportunity to enjoy a "school lunch" with your child/children!



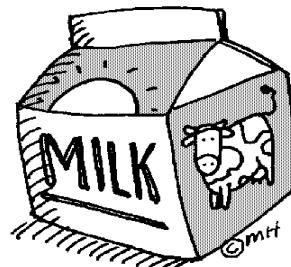
Please DO NOT bring your own lunch. The purpose of "School Lunch Week" is for parents/guardians to eat a school lunch with their child. Lunches for adults are \$3.50. Please call to let us know you are coming.

Local Wellness Policy:

The goal for the Wales Elementary Cafeteria is to serve nutritious, balanced, good tasting lunches that promote healthier eating habits.

The Wellness Policy greatly effects what we an sell on our snack cart. All items cost 50¢. The items that the cafeteria will be selling this year are:

- * 100% fruit juice—apple, orange, grape, - 4 oz.
- * Bottled water
- * Milk/1% white, fat free chocolate, fat free chocolate, fat free strawberry, skim—8 oz
- * Goldfish Crackers—baked
- * Smartfood popcorn
- * Rold Gold pretzels
- * Cereal (bowl pack)



Philosophy of Wales Elementary School:

We at the Wales Elementary School are eager to meet the challenge of providing our young people with the skills to face the world today. We believe this can best be accomplished by a cooperative relationship between our community and our school, using the strengths of both groups. It is our hope that the school and community will share the following responsibilities.

Our Responsibilities are:

- To build a strong foundation for every child enabling each one to define and solve life problems now and in the future.
- To provide a relationship that acknowledges both strength and weaknesses while fostering self-esteem, self-confidence, and self-discipline.
- To maintain a nurturing and safe environment where students can mature physically and emotionally.
- To provide a healthful school environment, not only as a requirement for safety and the prevention and control of disease, but also to develop healthy attitudes and good health management skills and practices.
- To instill an atmosphere of respect and responsibility for the rights, feelings, and property of others.
- To establish and maintain high standards in academic and social settings through developmentally appropriate methods.
- To develop every child's skill for effective communication in listening, speaking, reading, writing, mathematics, arts and all the sciences including social and computer science.
- To bring realistic experiences into the learning process in a creative way that enhances the understanding of the relationship between learning and life.
- To stimulate appreciation and respect for the arts, the environment, new and different ways of thinking, other cultures and times.
- To foster open lines of effective communication in a community wide partnership that involves citizens, students, staff and administration.

Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for every child by providing an environment that fosters the development of lifetime skills, dreams and goals. Our hope is to encourage a continuing thirst for knowledge throughout life and to empower the children with the confidence to achieve their potential.

LEARNING
IS
FUN

Notices:

1. **Picking up your child/ren after school?** If someone other than a parent is picking up your child, please indicate their name in your note. An ID may be requested
2. **Early Dismissal:** Kindly refrain from dismissing your child/ren from school early as this disrupts the educational process for all students in the classroom.
3. **Separated/divorced parents:** We ***MUST*** have a copy of the official restraining order, custody determination, etc. before we can refuse either parent from taking their child out of school.
4. **Procedure for Expressing your concerns:** If you have a concern about your child's progress or what is happening in class, please speak with your child's teacher first. If you are not satisfied with the results or action taken, then feel free to call the principal. Concerns should be handled at the level closest to our problem for the best solution. Our "chain" is teacher, principal, superintendent and then school committee.



Legal Notices:

Water Quality: Our water is tested on a regular schedule for 59 volatile organic compounds twice a year in accordance with the state regulations. The results of these tests are on file in the office and are available to anyone who wishes to review them.

Asbestos Notice: Our building has been inspected for asbestos and asbestos containing material. We are fortunate not to have any health hazards to our children. However, we are required by the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act to notify you that an asbestos management plan has been developed for our school. These plans are available for review in the school office. We make routine investigations of all asbestos containing materials in school.

Information Release:

The office and/or classroom teachers may release to the PTF, room mothers, or school related committee members the names, phone numbers, and the addresses of students to contact parents regarding school related functions. (Unlisted phone numbers are not given). Parents who do not wish the above mentioned persons to receive such information must submit a written request.

Student Records:

Testing results, health records, and other pertinent information are kept in your child's record folder. You have the right to inspect your child's records if you wish. A copy of the general provisions of 603 CMR 23 regarding parent rights is available in the school office.

Volunteering In The Building

As mentioned in the Open House, all Volunteers must have a CORI check on file in order to be with children. If you do not have a form on file and wish to do so, please see Mrs. R. As always, our biggest need for volunteers is during lunch times from 11:35am to 12:45pm. Thank you to those who attended the mandated orientation sessions.

Dates to Remember:

October 2 - School Banking
October 5-6 - School Pictures
October 5 - School Council 4pm
October 9 - No School - Professional Development Day
October 12 - No School - Columbus Day
October 16 - School Banking
October 16— Fire Prevention Sponsored by Wales Fire Department
October 16 - Mid-Term
October 21 - Progress Reports
October 21 - School Committee 6pm
October 22-23 - Lion's Club SightMobile
October 27—Parent Camp

Wales Public Library:

Storytime is each Wednesday @ 10:30, year round. Cancelled only when Wales Elementary is closed for winter weather. During the school year we have a teacher from the Community Partnership for Children to run Storytime.



All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.