



KEEP
CALM
AND
HOOT
ON

a **WES** me news

The word 'WES' is in large green letters. Inside the 'W' is the word 'WHITON' and inside the 'E' is 'ELEMENTARY'. To the right of 'WES' is a circular seal for 'WHITON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL' featuring an owl. The word 'me' is in large black letters, and 'news' is in large black letters below 'WES'.

September 25, 2015



From the Desks of Mrs. Shober & Mr. Fornaro

- Welcome Back to School! We've had a terrific opening to the 2015-16 school year and students have been learning a lot of new and exciting things!
- Welcome to Mr. Fornaro – our Acting Assistant Principal
- Dates to Remember:
 - 9/28 & 9/30 – Picture Day
 - 10/3 – Kick-Off for Week of Respect
 - 10/12 – School Closed
 - 10/13 – PTO Meeting
 - 10/16 – Pre-K, Kindergarten, & 1st Grade Family Movie Night
 - 10/30 – Halloween Parties & Parades



Reminders

- As per school policy, students are not able to hand out invitations for parties at school (birthday, etc.)

Parent Pick-Up Safety

- Please drive on the RIGHT side of the road
- Please be careful when pulling out of parking spaces, as children are small and cannot be seen well
- Children need to walk with their parents at all times

Week of Respect Kick-Off

The beginning of a new school year is the perfect time to highlight Whiton's commitment to a positive and inclusive school climate. From October 2-9, students will participate in a weeklong *Kick Off for Character* and from October 5-9 in New Jersey's statewide initiative, the *Week of Respect*. All classes will take part in a Guidance lesson that focuses on being friendly and celebrating our commitment to a bully-free environment.

We look forward to a *TeRRiFiCC* year!

The colors to wear for the spirit days of the *Kick Off* are as follows:

Friday, October 2

Wear Blue for **T**rustworthiness



Monday, October 5

Wear Yellow for **R**espect



Tuesday, October 6

Wear Green for **R**esponsibility



Wednesday, October 7

Wear Orange for **F**airness



Thursday, October 8

Wear Purple for **C**itizenship



Friday, October 9

Red for **C**aring





From the Teachers' Desks

■ Ms. DeLorenzo

Our class has been busy readers in 1-LD! We have enjoyed listening to many great stories throughout the beginning of the year. We have read the story, Only One You, by Linda Kranz. This is a book that our whole school has enjoyed reading.

This book is about a fish named Adri who learns a lesson that there is only one you and that being yourself is important.

In the story Adri's parents tell him that it is important to have friends. The students discussed the importance of making new friends and we created a poster of friends that we have made in our classroom. The students have been busy learning about their new friends and classmates during their first weeks of school!

After reading the story, we also talked about the importance of making the world a better place. Each class member illustrated a way that they could take care of the earth. These included picking up garbage, recycling, taking care of our friends, helping others, and more! Take a look at our illustrations! They are displayed in the hallway.

Our class is excited to "be themselves" throughout the rest of the school year and continue to make new friends!

EXCITING NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MULTI-SENSORY GARDEN

■ NEW BENCH

- Last fall, Somerville High School student, Sean Kunz added a beautiful bench to our school's garden. He carefully designed and crafted the bench, providing a volunteer community service for Whiton Elementary School. Everyone is welcome to enjoy sitting on his bench while they spend time in the garden. We will enjoy the bench for many years to come.
- Thank you Sean!



■ NEW BIRDS

- This past summer, a family of blue birds made a home in the bird house in the garden. They raised their fledgling family then they all flew away. Bye bye birdies!

Speech and Language

During the month of September, the speech therapists have been busy getting to know their speech students and their current goals and objectives. The speech therapists at Wharton service students from preschool through third grade with Individualized Education Programs, consult with teachers, conduct evaluations and play an active role in other school and district wide programs. Students receiving speech or language services work on speech sounds and overall language and social communication skills throughout the school year. Some fun language activities caregivers can reinforce at home include:

- n Answering riddles (I come in handy when leaves fall off the trees).
- n Naming three items in a category (Name 3 community helpers).
- n Answering "WHEN" questions (When do you go to the doctor?)
- n Discussing similes and idioms (Brandon stood like a statue on the stage).
- n Cause and effect sentences (Jared forgot to feed his cat. The cat is _____).

On behalf of Mrs. Weighart, Mrs. Koscielski and Mrs. Gesualdo, we wish all the children a happy and successful school year!



From the Art Room

The Art Program is in full swing at Whiton! Preschool and Kindergarten students are starting the year off learning about the color wheel. First graders will be completing many projects this year with an emphasis on texture, beginning with their tri-colored texture collages! Second graders are excited to begin their dot paintings, while the third graders are beginning to learn about the expressionistic style of Japanese Sumi-e ink paintings. Also new for this year, is the school wide art project that all K-3 Whiton students will be working on during their extension art period. The project relates to our school-wide book, Only One You. The story is illustrated using photographs of painted fish, each one being unique in its own way, based on their individual colors and markings. During our extension Art period, each student will be designing and painting a fish on a rock of their choosing. When all rocks are complete, the students will be placing their fish into the Whiton Rock Garden outside of the school! We can't wait to see the finished project!



Mrs. Baier's Second Grade All Star Citizens



Mrs. Baier's Class has been demonstrating positive citizenship inside and outside of the classroom. The class earned 30 Gold Slips for cooperative behavior. We voted for the reward of Game Day this Friday, September 25. Students will bring in a game from home to share.

The class is participating well during our Social Studies discussions. The class was given the following scenario to think about. *Students were working in partners to complete a science project. Suddenly 2 students started an argument. They were screaming at each other in the middle of science class. They weren't able to finish their project.* I asked the class



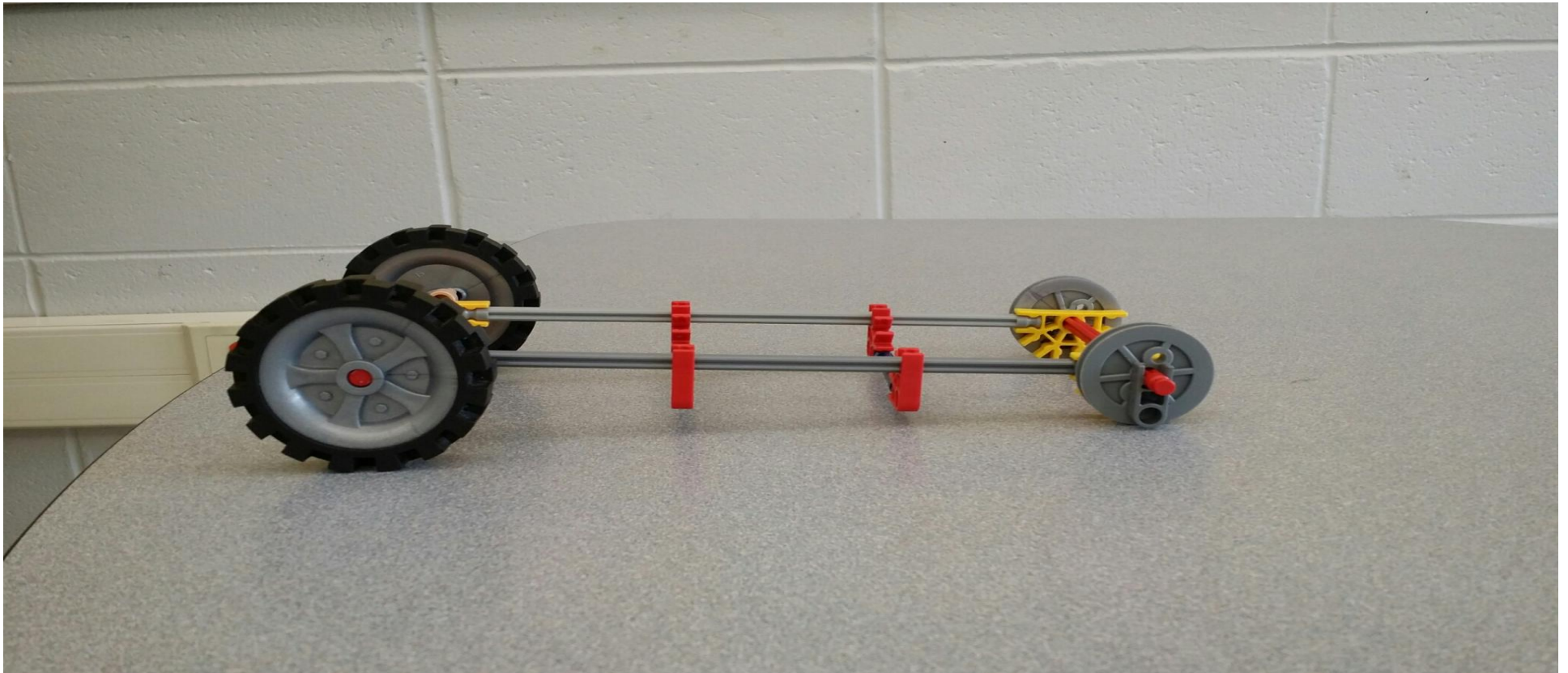
“What could the students have done differently?” I was so impressed with the quality of the students’ responses. Here are a few:

- They should have talked it out.
- Someone should have walked away and cooled down.
- Take a deep breath and relax.
- Get help from the teacher.
- Screaming doesn’t solve anything.
- They could have taken turns being in charge.

Our All Star Citizens are going to have a banner year in second grade!

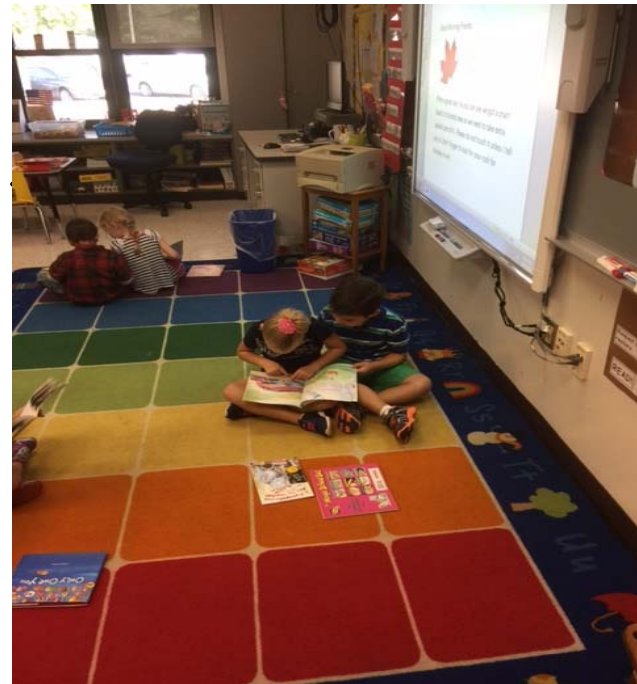
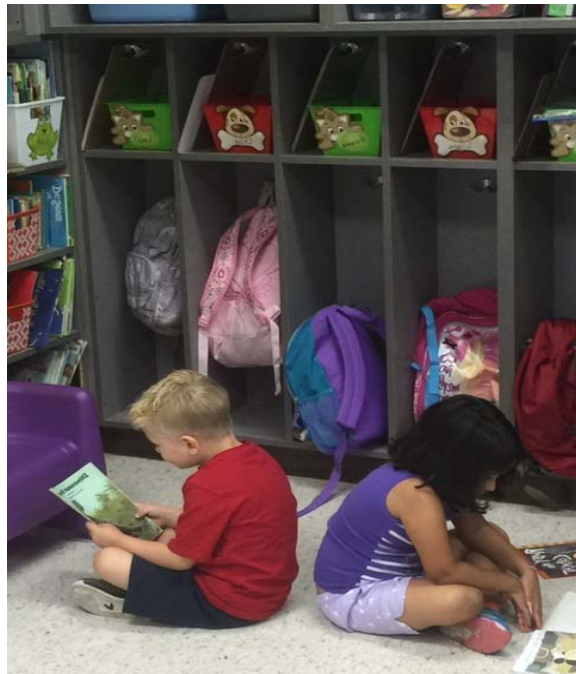
Ms. Sydlowski and Miss Cook's Science Class

- In science, Ms. Sydlowski's and Miss Cook's class is learning about motion and design. Using various types of connectors, rods, and a diagram, students worked in small groups to make their vehicles. Students are enjoying learning about force, friction, mass, and weight and are exploring how those variables affect movement of the vehicles. As they continue to learn about motion and design, students look forward to designing their own vehicles!



Kindergarten Learns the Whiton Ways

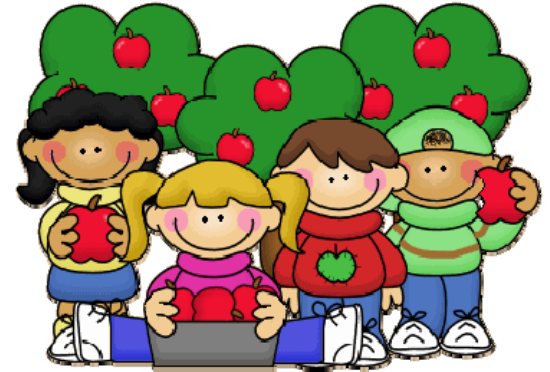
- Mrs. Abey's kindergarten class is off to a great start. They have begun their reading adventures. We have been exploring words in our world and learning the routines for reading workshop. This week we learned how to read privately and read with a partner. Our partners can help us with tricky words and to find treasures in our pictures that we may have missed. Stay tuned to learn more about how kindergarteners become readers.



Ms. Buffa's Third Grade News



■ Welcome Back!



- We are off to a great start, making new friends, and learning new routines. Third graders are learning to build a reading life and to generate ideas for writing. In math, they are reviewing telling time, rounding, and using a number grid. They are very excited as they begin to learn to read and write cursive writing. They have also begun their first word study cycle, as well as our first units of science and social studies.
- The month of September is flying by. Everyone is so busy learning and growing. It was wonderful to see so many parents at Back to School Night. We know that it is going to be a wonderful and successful year for your children. Thank you for all of your continued support!