

Pioneer Press

A publication of Plank Road North Elementary School PTSA Webster NY

January 2019

Craig Bodensteiner, Principal
Heather Balsamo, Assistant Principal



Principal's News

Leadership Notes:

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season with their loved ones! It was great to see the smiling faces of our children as they came back to school eager to tell us about their vacation!

This time of year, always conjures up the idea of resolutions. Resolutions, when we think about them, are really about setting goals and seeing them through. The easier part of the process may be picking something to change or deciding on a goal. To be persistent is probably the harder thing to do. Setting a goal—or coming up with a resolution—is a great conversation to have with your children. Spend some time discussing the idea of resolutions and share your own resolutions with your children. Help them to come up with some of their own. Better yet, set a family resolution and work together to achieve it. Setting a goal/resolution together may help you all to persevere. It is a valuable life skill and one that can benefit everyone. Perhaps you can take the time every day to think of one thing for which you are grateful.

In these cold winter months that follow, please remember to send your children to school dressed for the weather (warm coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and possibly even snow pants). On days when it is appropriate, teachers will try to get their classes outside for some fresh winter air.

Student vs Staff Basketball Game:

On Friday, December 21st we enjoyed our 3rd Annual Student vs Staff Basketball game involving our 4th & 5th grade students! Mr. Russo had the Plank North Pep Band perform and we had Pride, our Plank North mascot attend as well! Other grade levels were able to watch the game as it was streamed on-line. Students ran away with the victory in thrilling fashion!

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Share the Season Family Event:

Our "Share the Season" event took place recently under the leadership of Chairperson, Michele Riedl. Students created a variety of holiday craft items that were donated to local organizations. Wreaths went to Baywinde to serve as door decorations; ornaments to Meals on Wheels for distribution to their clients and Notes of Appreciation for members of the military. In addition, donations were collected for Webster Comfort Care. This simple shift in focus helped us all to start the Holiday Season with a genuine touch of warmth.

Report Card Scoring Guide:

First semester Report Cards will be distributed via the WCSD Parent Portal on Wednesday, January 30th for students in grades K-5. UPK report cards will be distributed via student backpacks.

Winter Benchmark Testing:

All students in grades K-5 will participate in a series of short literacy and math assessments to monitor their progress during the month of January. These are individually administered for the most part with some group assessment in grades 1-5. Students in grades 2-5 will also participate in a computer-generated assessment in these same areas. These short assessments are helpful in guiding instructional decisions and identifying the level of progress students are making in reading and math.

Family Fun Night:

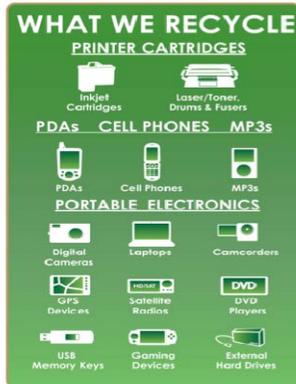
An evening for families to enjoy fun activities is planned for Thursday, Jan 17th here at Plank North. We will rotate families through the different stations over the course of the evening. Flyers are being prepared with more detailed information. Feel free to contact school if you need information about participating.

We look forward to the New Year and the opportunity to continue our work with you, the faculty and staff who support your children!

Craig Bodensteiner
Principal

Heather Balsamo
Assistant Principal

Redemption Programs mean \$ for our School! - THANKS FOR JOINING IN!



Imagine It www.imaginerecycling.com

Heather Balsamo: heather_balsamo@webstercsd.org

Bring in your used printer cartridges, PDA's, cell phones, MP3's, or portable electronics for recycling and Plank North will receive money back to the school.

BOX TOPS 4 EDUCATION www.boxtops4education.com

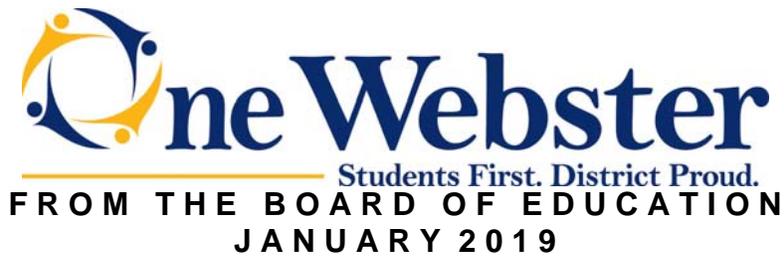


Find Box Tops on hundreds of your favorite products. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents to our school. Send your Box Tops into school. Twice per year, Box Tops will send a check to our school, for each Box Top redeemed, up to \$20,000 per year.

Shoparoo App www.Shoparoo.com



Snap pictures of your receipts from any store, big or small, that sells grocery items to earn Roo Points (cash donations) for your school. Whether you're shopping at a supercenter, dollar store, or local convenience store - it doesn't matter where you shop or what items you buy - Shoparoo will make a cash donation for every receipt! Submit up to 20 grocery receipts within a rolling 7-day period



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“LIKE” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WebsterCentralSchools
Visit us on YouTube: www.youtube.com/WebsterSchoolsProud

One Webster Community Approves Capital Improvement Project!

We want to thank the One Webster community for heading to the polls on Tuesday, December 11 and APPROVING the district's capital improvement project by a more than 2:1 margin! The final vote tally was 1,595 (68%) YES and 763 (32%) NO.

The \$69.5 million project is focused on community wellness, safety and security, and infrastructure integrity and touches all 11 school buildings and the transportation department's headquarters -- truly transforming our district for generations of WCSD students to come! The project includes new state-of-the-art libraries/media centers at all elementary schools, Willink Middle School, and Webster Schroeder HS. There will also be substantial renovations to the Webster Thomas HS technology education wing, district-wide safety and security upgrades, and playing field improvements at both high schools, to name just a few highlights.

On behalf of the entire board of education, thank you for making your voice heard regarding this transformative project. We look forward to sharing details of the project's progress in the months and years to come.

We also wish all WCSD families a Happy New Year! Check back often for important board updates throughout 2019.

WCSD Announces WonderCare Before and After School Childcare Program

WCSD is pleased to announce the opening of **WonderCare**, the district's new before and after school childcare program. WonderCare will open its doors in September 2019 at each of WCSD's seven elementary schools and will be available to all WCSD-enrolled kindergarten through sixth grade students.

WonderCare has been established in an ongoing effort to ease the transition for families as the district prepares to shift to an earlier start time for elementary schools in fall 2019. New start times for elementary schools will be 7:45 a.m.-2:15 p.m., and 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. for secondary schools (middle and high schools), with all times plus or minus five minutes.

WonderCare will provide an outstanding part-time, full-time, or drop-in program for WCSD elementary and sixth grade families seeking childcare at a reasonable rate. The program includes caring, experienced directors and staff members with an onsite coordinator at every elementary building. All elements of WonderCare programming will support WCSD's curriculum and provide even more worthwhile educational experiences for our students. As with all public education programs, WonderCare will be overseen by the New York State Education Department.

WonderCare will serve as an option for families seeking before and after school childcare programming for the 2019-20 school year. Enrollment packets will be available beginning in January 2019.

Please visit our new [WonderCare webpage](#) for more information about the program, including pricing structure and FAQs. Should you have any questions, please contact wondercare@webstercsd.org or call 216-0017.

Stay Informed With Your Board of Education Throughout the New Year!

Please stay updated and informed on your board's activities by visiting [our website](#). There you'll find agendas, minutes, and even the latest meetings, which run live (and taped) on WETV, Spectrum Cable Channel 1301, and streamed live via the board's web page.

The One Webster community is encouraged to attend upcoming board meetings:

- **Thursday, January 10** - BOE Workshop: Long Range Financial Outlook/Update on Capital Projects (time typically 6:30 p.m. – please refer to WCSD website, websterschools.org, Conference Room B, District Offices, 3rd floor of Spry Middle School)
- **Thursday, January 17** - BOE Regular Meeting: Humanities - Seal Bi-literacy or Diversity (6:30 p.m., Spry Middle School auditorium, 2nd floor)

Library News
Gretchen Pulver
 Librarian

The library has been a busy place in December. Kindergartners and first graders read several holiday books and explored a variety of learning center activities to reinforce the lessons. Second graders completed a fractured fairy tale activity and designed their own fractured fairy tale book cover. Third and fourth graders finished mini-research projects. Third graders used a book and online resource to learn about a country of their choice. They designed a library or transportation system for their country. Fourth graders researched explorers and collaboratively made and presented a Google slideshow. Fifth graders read some holiday stories, completed the bibliography for their rainforest paper and did a variety of learning center activities including Breakout EDU and coding tasks.

Students in grades K-5 helped make the Plank North Kindness Tree. It was great to read about all the kind things our students do for others.

Below are the top 5 most highly circulated books this school year:



Top 5 Picture Books

The Book with no Pictures by B.J. Novak
Carrots by Aaron Reynolds
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
I Broke my Trunk by Mo Willems
Creepy Pair of Underwear by Aaron Reynolds

Top 5 Fiction Books

Wonder by R. J. Palacio
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling
I Survived the Shark Attacks of 1916 by Lauren Tarshis
Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories by R. J. Palacio
I Survived the Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967 by Lauren Tarshis

The resource I am featuring this month is [World Book Encyclopedia for Kids](#).

username: planknorth

password: webster

This is a general online encyclopedia designed for students in K-3. Third graders used this resource for their country research project. In addition to articles about a variety of topics, there are activities, science projects, maps, pictures, videos, and fun and educational games. I encourage you and your student to select an interesting topic to learn about and then have fun exploring World Book Kids.

World Book Kids (and many other resources) can be accessed from the [Plank North Library Media Center Databases page](#) (password: 1Webster).

Top 5 Graphic Novels

Dog Man and Cat Kid by Dav Pilkey *Creepy*
Sisters by Raina Telgemeier
Ghosts by Raina Telgemeier
Dog Man by Dav Pilkey
Dog Man Unleashed by Dav Pilkey

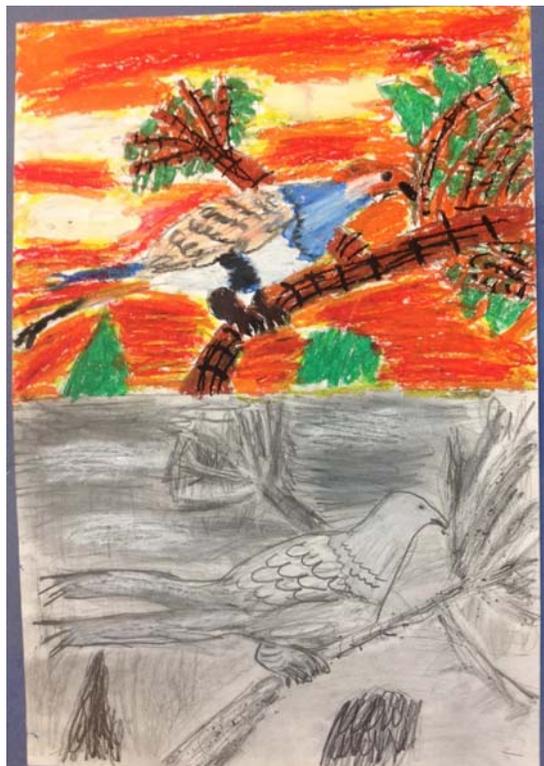
January 2019 NEWS FROM ART CLASS with Ms. Palermo...

January STUDENT ARTISTS OF THE MONTH...



2nd grader **Jacob Arena** is our primary level (grades K-2) **Student Artist of the Month**. Here is an above image of Jacob's colorful line composition.

5th grade student **Jameson Gaffield** is our intermediate level (grades 3-5) **Student Artist of the Month**. Here is an image below of Jameson's grayscale and color value drawing of a bird.



WHAT WE ARE LEARNING AND WORKING ON IN ART CLASS...

Our **kindergarten** students have just completed a cityscape paper collage with tool and nature shapes. They learned how to overlap shapes and worked on their fine motor skills of cutting with scissors, gluing and drawing details such as window panes, birds and tree texture with oil crayons. Our **1st grade** students are completing their scratchboard design of a Mola. They learned about creating contrast between color and the black background for details to stand out. Our **2nd grade** students have started their paper weaving pattern unit. They are creating colorful wefts to weave into their loom where they will then draw patterns. They learned that weaving requires resilience - when you make a mistake, you can push through a challenge and accomplish the art skill! Our **3rd grade** students are working on their sculpture unit of making an African mask in clay. They showed coiling and actual texture in their mask. Our **4th grade** students are completing their atmospheric perspective unit of a landscape or seascape. They blended oil crayon colors in the grass and water to add an additional art element to their detailed colored pencil drawing. **5th grade** students are completing their self-portrait project. They painted a patterned background with bright colors then glued down their self-portrait onto this.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF OUR PLANK NORTH FAMILIES!!!

Pictures to the right and below - 3rd graders

working on their clay African masks





Music “Notes”
-Ms. Rosenberry

Follow us on Twitter! @PlankNorthMusic

As the second marking period draws to a close at the end of January, parents of 1st and 2nd graders will be able to see how their child is progressing in music class. (3rd, 4th and 5th graders will receive their grades for music class at the end of the school year.) A variety of aspects and skills are assessed and reported at this time. Here are the areas that are assessed for each student using the “I can” statements:

Artistic Literacy

- I can demonstrate my knowledge of musical concepts.
- I can utilize my singing voice with accuracy.
- I can play instruments with accuracy.
- I can persevere in the process of music learning.

As you can see, music class is not just about singing fun, cute songs. Since many of these aspects are skills based, most of the assessing goes on during music class within the context of a game or whole-class activity. Any written quizzes or tests are carefully planned and prepared for in music class.

Grading musical skills at the elementary age is particularly challenging because the development happens at a unique time for each child. Sometimes it even happens overnight! A student who has not “found” their singing voice may all of a sudden come to class the next day singing right on pitch. So, if your child receives a lower grade on their report card, please realize that that is very likely to change as they continue to work towards achieving the standards.

Plank North Physical Education Students of the Month

Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers are very proud of all the students at Plank Road North Elementary. We would like to take this time to recognize two 5th grade students that have demonstrated characteristics that were extraordinary for this month. These two students have shown that they are working continuously at a high level of achievement. A student must go above and beyond what is expected of them, and demonstrate they are not only an outstanding student of Physical Education, but also a superior member of the Plank Road North community. Characteristics exhibited include the Webster essential skills, personal living skills, and skillful moving. Congratulations to this month's recipients Emma Riedel and Nick Scott for the month of January. Mrs. Craig and Mr. Sayers sat down with the students to ask them a few questions, and here are the responses.

January Student Athletes:

Emma Riedel is a fifth grader in Mrs. Rokosz's class where her favorite subject is math. Outside of school Emma plays softball for the Webster Xtreme fastpitch softball organization where she plays in multiple positions. At school Emma is very busy participating in intramurals, playing violin in the orchestra, attending Art Club, and holding the position of Kindergarten Safety. If that's not enough, Emma is also singing in the Plank North Choir and participating in Girl Scouts! If you want to make Emma happy the easiest way is to offer her some ice cream, but not any kind of ice cream, she likes cookies and cream the best. Emma dreams of becoming a teacher when she grows up. When we asked Emma what grade level she would like to teach she responded, "kindergarten". When Emma cheers for a professional sports team she hopes the Buffalo Bills will win.

Nick Scott is a fifth grader in Mrs. Rokosz's class. His favorite subject is math. Outside of school Nick plays hockey for the Rochester Coalition as a defender. To stay in top physical shape for hockey, Nick likes to run and ride his bike. At school, Nick is a member of the Plank North Safety Patrol as a Kindergarten Helper. He also participates in intramurals and the advanced coding club. When we asked Nick what his favorite food is, he answered, steak cooked well done. He would rather eat steak at home because his parents cook it the best; better than any restaurant! When Nick grows up he would like to become a professional hockey player for the Buffalo Sabres. Nick's favorite team is the Buffalo Sabres.

Congratulations to our Student Athletes of the Month!





Memberships and Calendar

We hope you will consider supporting the PTSA by joining. There is no obligation to join! The \$10 membership helps by \$6 coming back to Plank North just by showing your support you will also receive discounts from several local businesses. Calendars are \$5 and 100% stays at Plank North.

<http://websterptsa.org/news.cfm?story=1521&school=0>

Get your WC PTSA membership card and start saving!

Members support our programs and events, strengthen our vision on behalf of all kids, get great local discounts all year long, and are entered in exciting prize drawings! \$5 students \$10 adults WebsterPTSA.org/JOIN

Return this form to school with your check made out to **Plank North PTSA**. Be sure to indicate at the bottom how you wish to use your membership card(s). No matter what school you sign up at, you'll be a PTSA member throughout the district. Questions? PTSA@websterpsa.org

MEMBER 1: Student \$5 Adult \$10

MEMBER 2: Student \$5 Adult \$10

Send my card(s) home with the student indicated on the line below. (Be sure to include their teacher's name.)
 Email me when my card(s) can be picked-up from the main office.

Pizza Party Winners

Before break our two winning classrooms enjoyed a pizza party. Mrs. Hanley's second grade class was selected at random from all classes who had PTSA members. Mrs. Merkey's fifth grade class won for having the most PTSA members.

Thank you to all of our members who have joined. There is still time to join and support the PTSA and take advantage of savings from many local businesses who support the Webster PTSA. You can earn discounts at The Waffle Factory, Salvatore's Old Fashioned Pizzeria, Buffalo Wild Wings, Dairy Queen, Yolickity, Brueggers, Schutt's Apple Mill, Baycreek Paddling Center, Color Me Mine, and Henderson Ford.

Share the Season

Thank you to everyone who came out to Share the Season. We created hundreds of ornaments, cards and wreaths that were donated to Meals on Wheels, Baywinde Senior Living and soldiers for the holidays. We also delivered donated nonperishable items to Webster Comfort Care Home.



Thank you to all our volunteers! Without you many events would simply not happen.

Upcoming Dates:
 January 28– PTSA Meeting 6:30 pm (*new date)
 March – Pick a Reading Partner
 March 6-7 – Scholastic Book Fair



January



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
No School K-12	1	2	3	4
7 Kindergarten Library Day D 8:30 – 9:00 am SST Mtg – Conference Rm	8 Grade 1 Library Day A 	9 Grade 2 Library Day B Traditional Staff Curriculum Mtg.	10 Grade 3 Library Day C 8:00 am Lead Teacher Mtg - Library	11 Grade 4 Library Day D School Spirit Day <i>Wear your favorite Sports Jersey!</i> 
6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout 363 –Cafeteria	6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout 363 –Cafeteria	6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout 363 –Cafeteria	6:30-8:00 pm Daisy Troop – Rm 209	12:45pm Care Ambassador Mtg–Rm 209 Green and Gold Day <i>Wear Green and Gold!</i> 9:15am Pioneer Pow WOW Assembly – Cafeteria
14 Grade 5 Library Day A 8:30 – 9:00 am SST Mtg – Conference Rm	15 Kindergarten Library Day B 9:30am-12:20pm Grade 4 Field Trip George Eastman House	16 Grade 1 Library Day C 8:30-9:00 am Crisis Team Mtg – Library 1:30 – 3:15 pm 5 th Grade Pre-Flight Video Conference – Cafeteria	17 Grade 2 Library Day D 8:15-9:00 am PBIS Meeting-Library YMCA after school program at Plank South 6:30– 8:00 p.m. Family FUN Night 	18 Grade 3 Library Day A 8:00 am Tech Team Mtg - Library
6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout 363 –Cafeteria	3:30-4:30pm Foam Dart League-Gym 6:00-8:00 pm Girl Scout 60601 – Cafe	6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout 363 –Cafeteria 5:30-7:00 pm Brownie 60291 - Library	24 Kindergarten Library Day D 8:30 am Staff – BAC Meeting, Room 112 Jump Rope for the Heart Kids Heart Challenge – During PE Classes	25 Grade 1 Library Day A Jump Rope for the Heart Kids Heart Challenge – During PE Classes
No School Martin Luther King Day <i>I have a dream...</i> 	22 Grade 4 Library Day B 9:10 – 10:40 am – Mindfulness Visit - Cafeteria 3:30-4:30pm Foam Dart League-Gym	23 Grade 5 Library Day C 6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout 363 –Cafeteria	31 Grade 5 Library Day A 9:15 – 11:15am Grade 3 Field Trip Northern Hemisphere (P.E.) DeWitte/Stauber	
28 Grade 2 Library Day B 8:30 – 9:00 am SST Mtg – Conference Rm 11:30am-2:30pm Grade 5 Field Trip Challenger Mission - Merkey	29 Grade 3 Library Day C 11:30am-2:30pm Grade 5 Field Trip Challenger Mission - Pelfley 3:30-4:30pm Foam Dart League-Gym 6:00-8:00 pm Girl Scout 60601 – Cafe	30 Grade 4 Library Day D 9:15 – 11:15am Grade 3 Field Trip Northern Hemisphere (P.E.) Gorski/Bizizgotti 11:30am-2:30pm Grade 5 Field Trip Challenger Mission - Rokosz 6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout Pack 363 - Cafeteria		
6:30 - 8:30 pm Cub Scout 363 Cafeteria 6:00 – 8:30pm Girl Scout 60620 – Library 6:30–7:30pm PRSA Meeting Library				