

Good evening WMS families

Last week, for the second year, students participated in the largest learning event in history: Hour of Code, an international movement to get kids of all backgrounds, races, and genders interested in Computer Science. The goal is to teach kids that computer science is exciting and empower them to continue to learn to code using a whole suite of free, kid-targeted programming games.

To best prepare our 8th grade students for their transition to high school students participated in an activity with the NHS counselors on December 1st. Mrs. Jones, NHS Principal, spoke with students, and students met with their school counselors to speak about the importance of academics. The next activity, planned for **Jan. 19th**, will be a trip to the high school to tour the school and meet with elective teachers. Permission slips for the trip will be given out in January.

Halftime is an opportunity for students to take a break, move around and socialize with peers. We are asking that parents remind students to wear jackets, gloves and proper attire for outdoor halftime. Of course, temperature and rain/snow dictate whether it will be held outside, but if we can go out for a few minutes when it isn't too cold students should be prepared. We are looking for donations of gently used board games, decks of cards and puzzles for indoor halftime. We request donations have all pieces necessary to use the game or puzzle. Please send any donations to the WMS office.

Please come out and support our basketball teams. Next week the Warriors play:

Tuesday **12/20** - Boys Home vs. Litchfield and Girls Away vs. Litchfield

Thursday **12/29** - Boys and Girls Away vs. Rochambeau

Student fans are invited to attend. If students choose to stay for the game WMS provides supervision for students. Students should bring a snack; they WILL NOT be allowed to leave school grounds between the end of school and start of the game. The game supervisor will be with them from 2:15 until 3:25 and then will escort students to the gym for the game.

Students in grades 6 through 8 have completed their first unit of the Second Steps program through their Wellness classes. The overarching theme of unit one was around Empathy and Communication. The topics that were covered included, respectful disagreements, perspective taking, working in groups, and kindness.

Mark your calendar for **Jan. 5th**, when Courtney O'Brien-Ernest will be presenting the Impact of Technology on Child Development. Children are more engaged with technology than ever before, and are bombarded by digital input with every click. Dr. O'Brien-Ernest will share the pros and cons of the increased role that technology plays in the lives of our children and the influence of the use of technology on study skills and social interactions. Parents will learn strategies for setting guidelines for technology use and to model a balance between technology use and other endeavors. See parent workshop flier below.

Warmest wishes for the holiday break,
Eric and Pam



Upcoming dates:

12/23 – Modified Day

12/26 - 1/2 – Winter Break – school closed

1/3 – return from break

1/5 – “Technology and Child Development” – District wide presentation 7-9 @ NHS

1/10 – CT Writing Heroes

1/13 – Modified Day – PD

1/16 – MLK Jr. Day – No school

1/17 – Speaker in 7th grade Science Classes

1/19 – 8th grade Electives Fair @ NHS – 11:30 – 2:10 (Snow day 1/20)

1/24 – 1/28 – Boys Basketball Invitational Tournament @ WMS

Please review the attached document:

Parent Workshop Flyer - “Technology and Child Development”

Staff Holiday Luncheon