



WEDS NEWS

Spring 2018

Message from Head of School

When educating a child, you can truly open up their world. In reading, we teach them to hear other voices and with writing we give them a way to be heard. In science, we open them to the endless world of exploration and through social studies we expose children to past and present branches of society. In art, music and technology, we expand their imagination and creative process. As educators at West End Day School, we do all of this while simultaneously giving them the wonderful gift of community.

This spring, the sense of community and camaraderie among our whole school has been remarkable. Whether it was our students cheering on and high-fiving other students at the Run/Walkathon, buddies reading to each other on "I Love to Read Day", or our whole school ensemble singing "You Will Be Found"; there isn't a stronger community than WEDS.

There's no wonder that we start our mission stating that we are community of students, staff and parents. Our unity is the cornerstone of who we are. "Together we" are doing incredible things- which all starts this summer with our ground floor renovations. A project of this scope is quite an achievement!

I am so grateful to this one-of-a-kind community and want to thank you for a year full of triumphs.

With gratitude,
Carrie Catapano, LCSW
Head of School



Message from Education Heads

The spring has been filled with amazing experiences! We were so impressed with our scientists this year. Our science fair had exciting experiments and the students really enjoyed showing off their hard work. We could see how the students grasped onto the scientific method. Well Done!

Another highlight of the spring was Earth Day. The students' presentations were passionate and well informed. Each class researched and explained different initiatives that the students could do to make a difference both inside and outside of our school community. The all-school assembly was an incredible showcase of how invested our students are in helping our environment. It was a remarkable event.

This year's Field Day was a tremendous success! The children demonstrated outstanding athleticism, teamwork, and enthusiasm. As always, the picnic at school was a wonderful close to a fun filled day. It has been a productive and enlightening year and we are so proud of all that our students have accomplished. Congratulations to our graduates and students who are moving on, we wish you the best of luck. To our returning students, we look forward to seeing you in September!

Katy Jenkins & Jessica Chambers
Co-Education Heads



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Ms. Richard & Ms. Henry's Class

Ms. Richard and Ms. Henry's class have been engaged in a lot of learning this semester! One of their favorite units was dedicated to outer space. They introduced the unit by learning about gravity, which they also incorporated into their whole class Science Fair Project. For the Science Fair, the students each presented a slide containing their hypothesis and results. This was the first presentations the students did in front of a large audience, and they did wonderfully! The unit on gravity then led to a unit on astronauts and what their jobs entail. The students participated in classes focused on "Astronaut Training" where they had to pass different "tests" based on skills that are important for astronauts to possess. One of the most memorable "tests" was the problem-solving portion of the unit. The whole class had to find a way to get from one side of the rug to the other, only by stepping on the poly pods from P.E. class. They were able to successfully do this with ample time for brainstorming and clear communication!

In Social Studies, the students have been learning map skills. They examined different types of maps, map keys, and compass roses. Many visuals were used to help practice these skills and apply them to their everyday lives. The students particularly enjoyed getting to explore the subway map. They were able to share their experiences with the subway and see where they have been in comparison to West End Day School.

Technology and Coding class has provided Ms. Richard and Ms. Henry's class with direct instruction on how to successfully use the Scratch Jr. app. Earlier in the year, the students received foundational skills of what coding is during their weekly Coding class. After excelling in these skills, Mr. Kinsey teamed up with the teachers to instruct them on step-by-step directions on how to use this program. The class has loved getting to use their creativity to generate story plots by adding their own characters, scenery, and movements.



Ms. Berger & Ms. Kaufman's Class

To go along with their classroom theme, the students in Ms. Berger and Ms. Kaufman's class traveled to the Hayden Planetarium to learn about outer space and the Big Bang Theory. The students were amazed by the information about the creation of our galaxy. They had the best time testing out how much they would weigh on different planets in our solar system. This relates to the current science curriculum of the planets in the solar system. The class has been traveling light years at a time through space in order to learn about each planet and then complete a craft of each destination.

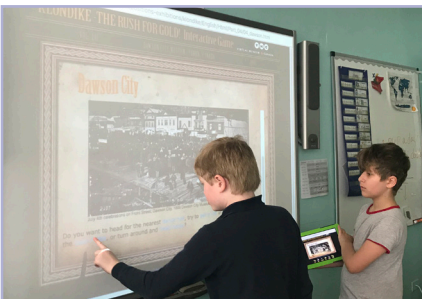
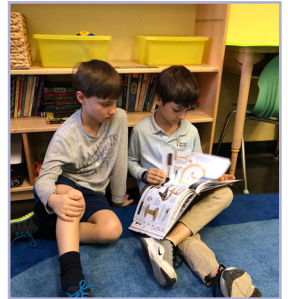
Social studies has brought out the students' individual creativity in their Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities unit. The students were interested in learning about how a bill becomes a law, and even had the opportunity to create their own laws! One of the laws was for social studies to be everyday- that's just how much they are enjoying this unit! After learning about the symbols that represent America, the students were excited to create their own flags, showing that the democracy in our country allows all people to have a say.

The students have truly grown over the course of the year. What an "out of this world" school year this class has had!

Ms. Carhart & Ms. Flerx's Class

The class reviewed and furthered their study of the early exploration of New York State. Students learned that early explorers settled throughout New York, and discussed obstacles they came across in their travels. With their knowledge of the land, students were able to determine reasons for early exploration. The class engaged in an activity where they acted as if they were early explorers in search of new land. They had to use their senses to determine "unfamiliar" smells and sounds. With these senses, students listened to animal noises as well as smelled various foods. This activity allowed students to gain an understanding of how explorers felt and the obstacles they had to overcome traveling on new territory. They learned about various explorers and the impact they had on the region. The class will conclude their unit by researching and completing a case study about an explorer of their choice. Students will further understand that European exploration led to the colonization of the region that became New York State.

In science, Ms. Carhart and Ms. Flerx's class began their discussion of the properties of water by testing how it interacts with different objects. The students discussed density and how it relates to sinking and floating. The class made predictions about which objects would sink or float based on their physical properties. Ms. Carhart and Ms. Flerx's students loved testing each material and comparing their predictions with their classmates'. The class then began exploring properties of water. They determined at what temperature and rate water freezes and boils. The class was eager to use wireless thermometers to track the temperature of freezing water. The thermometers synchronized to iPads, which displayed a graph showing the increase or decrease in temperature in relation to the time passed. Students loved watching the live graph track their data. Afterwards, the students compared their graphs to draw conclusions about the freezing temperature of water. Using an online simulation, the students completed a similar activity to determine the boiling point of water. They applied virtual heat to a pot of water and observed the particle movement and transition from liquid to gas. The students were able to track the temperature of the water using an online thermometer and determine an average boiling point for water. Their discussion of water and its properties helped the class further understand the water cycle. As a class, they tracked the path of a raindrop through a variety of different locations within the cycle. While they tracked it, they recorded the phase changes and discussed whether there is a beginning or end to the cycle. As the class reaches the end of their unit, they have enjoyed using scientific questioning and reasoning skills to enhance their learning.



Ms. Fiasconaro & Ms. Pile-Spellman's Class

Ms. Fiasconaro and Ms. Pile-Spellman's Social Studies has continued to explore the Western Hemisphere. The class studied the geography of Mexico and looked at the traditional Mexican holiday of Day of the Dead, which included creating their own art inspired by the intricate designs of sugar candy skulls. They also did an in depth study of the famous artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera that culminated in art projects inspired by their work. Their creativity continued into Art class where Mr. Robert had the students create life-size Mexican gods. The group continued their studies with Mexican history embarking on a Webquest to fill out a timeline of events in Mexico's independence. After completing their studies on Mexico, the class ventured to Canada with an in-depth look at the Canadian Gold Rush. This included a choose-your-adventure activity where the students tried to successfully mine gold, but many encountered the elements of the frontiers! Their adventures continued to be life-like during their Technology classes on the Oregon Trail, which coupled with their Social Studies unit on Westward Expansion.

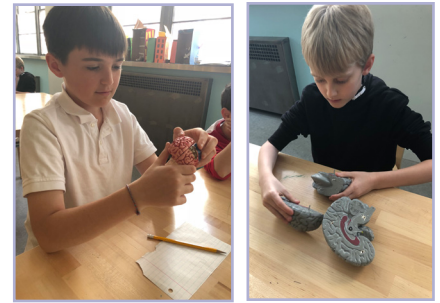
In Science, the students have been studying nutrition. This has focused on categorizing types of food and subcategorizes such as classifying vegetables by color. In their MyPlate studies, the students participated in an interactive race to fill their plate according to the portions and categorizes. Once familiar with MyPlate, pairs of students were assigned certain groups to become experts in. This included doing their own research on daily intake and health benefits while creating a final product. They presented their final projects in the form of a portion of the plate to the other "food groups". This information was used to create a class-wide study guide for the end of the unit.

Ms. Moss & Ms. McGowan's Class

Ms. Moss and Ms. McGowan's class continued to learn about the countries of the Western Hemisphere including Brazil, Canada, and the United States. The lessons focused on geography, history, government, culture, religions, holidays, and traditions. The students did a comparative case study on Canada and the United States with a focus on geography, culture, government, and economics. For the unit on Brazil, the students researched a popular attraction and created a travel brochure. The brochure included location, description, fun facts, and pictures. The students ended the school year with U.S. history. The students discussed colonization and the road to the revolution. Through interactive Smartboard lessons, the students learned about the successes and challenges of the new government structures and functions. They also learned how the people of the Western Hemisphere developed various ways to meet their needs and wants by trade with each other as well as with other countries around the world.

Ms. Moss and Ms. McGowan's ecologist completed the year with an Ecosystem Unit, where they learned about the factors in an Ecosystem. The students were able to distinguish between abiotic and biotic factors, artificial and natural ecosystems, as well as terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The whole class completed a scavenger hunt around the school, where they found abiotic and biotic factors. After discovering and outlining the different Biomes in our world, each student researched a Biome of their choosing. The students closed out this unit by making their own Diorama for the Biome they chose. The dioramas included all abiotic and biotic factors in the biome (plants, animals, and landforms). Additionally, the class cared for their own Ecosystem of ladybugs. The students were able to observe the life cycle of a ladybug. The students were able to visualize the stages from egg to larva to pupa to adult. The scientists made daily visual observations on the size, color and movement of the ladybugs. The students were also responsible for watering and feeding the ladybugs every other day.

The students went on a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Ms. Ludovica Lumer led them through the ancient Egypt exhibit. The students completed a scavenger hunt to find Egyptian hieroglyphics for words relating to the brain.



Mr. Kassel & Ms. Michilovich's Class

It was an exciting year for Mr. Kassel and Ms. Michilovich's class as they surveyed the history and culture of the Eastern Hemisphere. This spring began with the classic period of China, the Han Dynasty. After learning about the ancient Chinese earlier in the year, the class picked up with this chapter of history to study how the Chinese evolved from a river civilization to a powerful empire. Following their study of the classical period, the class began their unit on World Religions. Covering the six most influential religions in the world today, the students discussed the questions that these religions attempt to answer through their respective belief systems. Ms. Fiasconaro guest taught the final social studies unit of the year, introducing the students to economics.

In science this semester, the class wrapped up their unit on plant and animal cells. The students created test questions for their final assessment. The test included both student and teacher developed questions. To end the year, the students moved on to their final unit on the Interdependence and Diversity of Life. Their unit consisted of exploring biomes, including the relationship of organisms as producer, consumers, and decomposers. The students also learned how scientists classify living things. During their field trip to the American Museum of Natural History, the class watched the film Amazon Adventure, which explored the rainforest biome. It also depicted the life and field research of Henry Walter Bates, who provided proof for Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.



Race for Rabbits

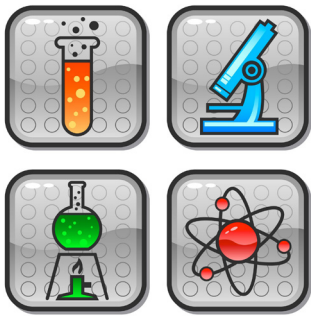
In honor of Ms. Chambers' 10 Years at WEDS, our student council coordinated with students and staff and held a Run/Walkathon to raise money for the organization Rabbit Rescue & Rehab. The whole school showed their support by walking and running the track at Riverside Park, as well as cheering on their fellow students in a great show of school spirit. We surprised Ms. Chambers with the donation at the Annual Benefit as part of our tribute to her decade as a member of the WEDS family.



Celebrating Our Love of Reading

In April, WEDS held the annual Book Fair during "I Love to Read Day". As part of this celebration of literature, each class had a special staff member read aloud. Our oldest classes also visited the ground floor to read to the younger students. The students also had the opportunity to explore the book fair to find books for home and to suggest for their classroom library.





Calling All Scientist to Our Science Fair

- There was an amazing mix of research projects and science experiments at this year's Science Fair. The students covered a wide range of scientific fields. The creative displays filled the auditorium illustrating the hard work the students put into their projects. Additionally, Ms. Richard's class performed a collaborative experiment that they presented in their classroom.



A Fun-Filled Field Day

- The weather was beautiful and the WEDS family gathered at Riverside Park for Field Day. The students exhibited their gamesmanship to complement their physical skills. It is always a treat to watch as they cooperate, support each other, and display their athleticism. This event spent with friends and family is always a highlight of the year. Ending the day with our traditional picnic is the perfect exclamation point to the day!



An Adventure to the World on Wonders

We took a trip down the rabbit hole at this year's June Show of "Alice in Wonderland". WEDS poured their creative talents into the production, both on stage and behind the scenes. The students, young and old, outdid themselves with the scenery, songs, and of course the acting. The show marked an incredible end to our school year!



Caps off to the Class of 2018

Congratulations to our 2018 graduates and students who are moving on! We wish you the best of luck and look forward to hearing how you continue to grow and learn.



CLASS of 2018

Spring 2018

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