



Fort Report



January, 2020

Welcome to a new year AND a new decade! A new year is typically a time when we look at what we do with our lives and evaluate the need or desire for change. In some ways, it's a formal invitation to start over with the ultimate goal being that we will be or do better.

Hopefully you have made good use of your child's report card with doing better in mind. Teaching students to regularly evaluate their performance is an important concept but one made easier by a calendar date we commonly call the "new" year. By engaging in a meaningful conversation with your child focused on approaches to improving his/her school performance, you acquaint them with the concept of re-evaluating their efforts and accomplishments much like we do at the new year. Our school's SMART student and learner matrix(s), available on our school website, can help you guide your student in specific ways.

As professionals we also examine our targets for students with doing better in mind. Our staff's reflection of student performance will be enhanced by a new round of assessments this month. All K-2 students will participate again in DIBELS testing, the assessment we use to evaluate growth in developing early literacy skills. Students in first and second grade will participate in the second round of iReady diagnostic testing which will generate important data on how we are growing students' aptitude in math. The DIBELS is administered to students individually and outside of their classroom. The iReady assessment is an online assessment that students will take collectively and in their classrooms. Being responsive to the data is the most critical part of the reassessment process.

Of course assessment tools are important to chart each student's individual success. They also have a more far reaching impact if we use them to measure the effectiveness of our approach to covering content. The MCAS may be the easiest way to explain this.

Just as MCAS results measure students' individual performance, this assessment system collectively paints a picture of how a district is doing in covering certain content. Similarly a teacher's particular approach may be well tailored to the learning style or needs of a particular student, but be less effective for the class as a whole. If that is the case, it is important to examine the tools and methods teachers are using to cover the content. Teachers often reflect on these assessment outcomes to develop their own student learning or professional practice goals. Administratively the data we yield from these assessments drives our professional development and in some cases, our curriculum selection.

Specifically for families of our English language learner students, please know that ACCESS testing will begin on January 6th

and will continue until all testing is finished. If your child is an ELL student, he/she will be removed from the classroom and will be working with an ELL teacher to complete testing. ACCESS test results will be sent home in late spring.

January is the right time to showcase student learning. Students are already excited to perform for you at our winter concert on Friday, January 24th. Please check your child's backpack for information on his/her scheduled concert time. For planning purposes, each performance is expected to last approximately 25 minutes. And we are hoping to offer another session of Fun at the Fort so keep an eye out for information on that, too.

As we begin a new year together consider these words from Anne Frank, "What a wonderful thought it is that some of the best days of our lives haven't even happened yet." I look forward to spending many of those days with your child!

Your partner in education,
Ms. Pearson, Principal

Shout OUTS!



Thank you to Winthrop Police Dept. and especially Officer Racow for the generous donation of toys and miscellaneous items donated to needy families in our school.

Thank you to the Zonta Club of Chelsea for their generous donation of Stop & Shop gift cards for needy families in our school.

December's SMART students included:

Kindergarten: Jack M., Roman C., Ella R., Dennis V., Kai R., Maya C., Jacob O., Angelina A., Ean M., Katelyn M., Logan L., Ava C., Alicia B., Emily P., Xander C., Amy A., Maureen J., Evan G., Rebecca G., Daniela M., Mia V.

1st Grade: Melany C., Sirene E., Dazlynn J., Joey C., Dominic R., Matthew S., Ashley T., Laynie L., Louie T., Yadiel C., Giuliana V., Ben A., Samantha D., Evan P., Michael F., Prudence S., Mia M., Malak B., Nathaly S., Ava B., Mia R.

2nd Grade: Javon P., Michaela C., Victoria D., Desiree S., William R., David B., Ryan C., Max F., Lawson C., Ava M., Davis P., Jannat E., Chase T., Daniel M., Giovanna B., Giuliana D., Emelly A., Ava P., Alice V., Reis R., Livia P.



Early Release Days: January 29 (Please see calendar for early release times.)

No School Days: January 20/Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

The Winthrop Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age gender, disability, or homelessness for employment, participation in, admission/access to, or operation and administration of any educational program or activity in the School District.

Please call the ELL teacher at your child's school if you need this document translated: or email: translate@winthrop.k12.ma.us

. Por favor llame a la maestra de ELL en la escuela de su hijo si usted necesita este documento traducido, o por correo electrónico: translate@winthrop.k12.ma.us

. Por favor, ligue para o professor de ELL na escola do seu filho se você precisa este documento traduzido, ou e-mail: translate@winthrop.k12.ma.us

Ju lutem telefononi mësuesin ELL në shkollën e fëmijës suaj, nëse keni nevojë për këtë dokument të përkthyer, ose e-mail: translate@winthrop.k12.ma.us

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