

*Northern Tioga  
School District*



District Update  
January 2021

**[www.ntiogasd.org](http://www.ntiogasd.org)**

# *Dr. Diana Barnes Superintendent*



## **January is School Director Recognition Month**

Have you thanked a school board member lately? January is School Director Recognition Month, a recognition that honors members of local boards of education for their commitment to provide quality public education for Pennsylvania's school children.

School directors generously contribute their time and talents toward the advancement of public education. They establish policies that provide the framework for our public schools. They represent their local communities and attend sometimes lengthy and challenging meetings, conferences and institutes for professional learning and understanding of public education.

These dedicated volunteers reside in our community. They are our friends, neighbors, community leaders, parents and engaged senior citizens. Although communities make a special effort to show appreciation to school directors in January, their contribution is a year-round commitment, and deep appreciation is extended to them always.

Take this opportunity to help acknowledge thousands of public servants who make the time to share their vision and voice about the future of Pennsylvania children.

### Region I

Julie Preston  
Jolene Meisner  
Greg Cummings

### Region II

James Neal  
Jean Kohut  
James Moyer

### Region III

Kim Strauser  
Ian McLaughlin  
Ed Bonham

Thank you to each of you for your dedication, time, and effort. Northern Tioga School District is blessed to have dedicated board members.

## **Clark Wood Elementary School**

### **From the Principal:**

Welcome back to school. I am very thankful for the support and communication that we receive from our student's parents. Thank you for working with us to keep our students, school, and community safe and open. We are looking forward to a prosperous new year.

January 15, 2021 will mark the end of the second marking period. I understand that we have had many challenges due to the coronavirus and that our students have missed out on many opportunities. Learning has not taken a back seat at Clark Wood Elementary School. We do, however, have some ground to make up. Please help us by working with your child for a few minutes each night. Whether it be through repeating the alphabet, reading for 15 minutes, or reviewing multiplication facts, every bit of support for our children matters.

Thank you for your help.

Jess Millard

### **Title 1 Reading:**

Encourage your child to read in a place that matches their book setting—it'll help them connect with the story. Your child could build a fort and use a flashlight to read a book about camping. Or if they are reading a winter-themed story sit by the window and watch the snow fall!!

### **Student Council News:**

Our Student Council has been very busy since returning to school after the Christmas vacation. The monthly bulletin boards for January are snowflakes and snow related. We will soon start the Super Bowl banners in the hallway to show support for which team we want to win the Super Bowl. Council members are always busy assisting any staff members with any projects they need.

### **Family Reading Night:**

December 2020

Nothing could ever keep Santa away from Clark Wood Elementary Family Reading Night. Santa shared a video of himself reading the traditional "*'Twas the Night before Christmas*" by Clement C. Moore on Thursday, December 10. The story was posted on our Clark Wood Elementary School Facebook page. It was a huge success. During school that day all students at every grade level received a free book from Family Reading Night. Special book gifts sets were also given at each grade level. The win-

ner was selected using our RAMS cards. When students follow our RAMS expectations, they earn letters and fill up their RAMS cards. Now those full RAMS cards can get you free books as well as prizes in our weekly Wednesday Positive Behavior program.

This is the twenty-second year for the program at Clark Wood Elementary. The staff appreciates all the family and community support that they receive each month. The next Virtual Family Reading Night will be on Thursday, January 21.

**School Wide Positive Behavior Program:**

- R-** Respect Everyone
- A-** Act Safely
- M-** Make Responsible Choices
- S-** Show Pride

**Valley Youth Initiative: Tabor Foundation**

We would like to take a moment to recognize the Tabor Foundation. The Tabor Foundation has provided us with a grant to help provide shoes, boots, hats, gloves, and coats to our children. You are greatly appreciated.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Friday, January 15 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period
- Monday, January 18 – No School
- Friday, February 5 – No School- Professional Development
- Friday, February 12 – School Open – Snow Make Up Day #1
- Monday, February 15 – President’s Day - No School
- Thursday, March 4 – School Open – Snow Make Up Day #2

**Classroom News:**

**Kindergarten:**

We are now studying patterns in math class. Pattern is the underlying theme of all mathematics and is a powerful problem-solving tool. Children will experience patterns, visually, kinesthetically, and rhythmically. We will participate in rhythmic clapping activities where children will have an opportunity to clap patterns and translate those patterns to oth-

er rhythmic actions and to various concrete materials. We will use pattern blocks, unifix cubes, and dot strips.

In reading we continue to work on unit 5 with short e. The new sight word is **are**. We will continue to review daily sight words, letter sounds, and letter writing. Reading to your child every day is a great way to reinforce reading skills at home.

### **First Grade:**

Our student of the month for January is Mason Bliss. Mason has shown much growth since the beginning of the year. He continues to work hard in all subject areas. It is noticeable that he puts in the extra effort at home to make him successful at school. We are so proud of you Mason!

We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday. We are excited to be back in the classroom.

Please encourage your child to practice shoe-tying. Every first grader can be a part of the Shoe-Tying Club. They must successfully show their teacher how they can tie their shoes. Your child will receive a certificate and new colored shoelaces.



It is important for your child to practice their sight words and math facts EVERY night. Knowing these skills by sight will increase your child's reading and math fluency. Have your child read every night to improve their reading. They can read to an adult, a pet, or stuffed animal. Reading is all around us.

Later this month, we will be celebrating the 100th Day of School. Your child's teacher will be sending information about that when the time comes.

### **Second Grade:**

We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday break. In ELA we are reading stories and texts that show the wonder of the world we live in. Students are exploring the purpose the author has when writing a text. We are practicing using similes and meaningful action verbs in our own writing. Students have been using regrouping to solve subtraction problems. These same skills are being applied to solving word problems. Students are learning about the continents and oceans that make up our world. Parents, thank you for all the support at home. Student skills are growing.

### **Third and Fourth Grades:**

#### **Math (3/4):**

In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math, we have been working on two-step problems. These are not easy, but 3<sup>rd</sup> grade seems to be doing a really good job! We will soon move on to number patterns, and the kids always really like those. Students should still be practicing their multiplication facts by practicing flashcards daily. Future concepts rely heavily on knowing your multiplication facts. In fourth grade math, we have begun working in our Coach workbooks in order to prepare for the PSSA tests in April. We are also overlapping this by beginning fractions very soon. **Students MUST know their basic multiplication facts** in order to be successful at these concepts and many more. Please study multiplication facts daily at home.

#### **ELA (3/4):**

We just wrapped up Unit 3! Unit 3 was focused on the elements of narrative literature. Some of our topics were conflicts, settings, sequencing, making inferences, and characterization. We will now move on to Unit 4 where we will discuss the characters and points of view found within different selections of literature. This is a fun opportunity to put ourselves in the shoes of the characters we read about and try to understand their decisions and actions. Spelling and vocabulary words will continue to be a focus as we grow the dictionaries in our brains. Once again, thank you for your support from home. Mrs. Himmelberger and Miss Carson are proud of the work at that was put in during remote learning. We sure do know how to make the best of every situation. Happy New Year!



Our last weeks before Christmas were used to study a novel. Miss Carson's 4th grade used "Indian in the Cupboard" and Mrs. Himmelberger's class studied "Shiloh." We loved looking at how authors used literary elements and their own style to create these wonderful works of literature!

We have just started our fourth unit this month! We will be focusing on how a character's thoughts and actions reveal the theme of a fictional story. We have some wonderful narrative fiction stories that we will be reading, along with a list of spelling and vocabulary words each week. We are steadily improving our writing skills by constructing a TDA every unit. Be sure to check out the Google Classroom to see what we're up to!

**Science (3/4):**

We are having a blast in Third Grade science! Some of the topics we have coming up are focused on the water cycle. We will discuss where water is found on Earth. We will then talk about what the water cycle is and how water moves around the Earth. Lastly, we will focus on the types of weather.

Fourth grade just finished our study on ecosystems. We are going to begin the physical science unit by learning about matter.

**Social Studies (3):**

We are just beginning to wrap up our third unit focusing on Geography. It was a difficult unit as there was so much to cover: regions of the U.S., human and physical features, as well as landforms and bodies of water. We are now beginning our fourth unit which will focus on Economics. We use Study Island quite frequently which has games and videos to help us learn. Please be sure that your child has headphones, so that they may use Study Island and all its features.

**ELA (3/4):****Fifth and Sixth Grades:**

5th grade math classes are working with fractions. We have been very busy; we have reduced fractions, changed mixed number fractions to improper fractions, changed improper fractions to mixed number fractions; found the greatest common factor and the least common multiple. We are now adding and subtracting like fractions and unlike fractions. The best way to be prepared for all this fraction work is to know our multiplication facts.

5th grade science classes are finishing their unit on ecosystems. We have studied producers and consumers, predators and prey, the energy pyramid, decomposers and scavengers, and food chains and food webs. Our next unit of study will be animal behaviors.

Fifth and sixth grade language arts classes are continuing their study of genre in literature, specifically examining the elements of narrative text. Students are examining the different elements found in narrative text. Students are also continuing to hone their grammar skills by learning more about parts of speech, context clues, and base-words/ prefixes.

Fifth grade social studies classes are finishing our study of the American Revolution and will be reviewing primary documents from the time period. We are excited to learn more about the founding of our country and the freedoms we all enjoy.

6th Grade Math is beginning the unit on Algebra. They will be learning about variables, operations, and solving equations. It began with creating a word chart to help them discern which operation to use when creating their expression or equation. Also, function tables and how to solve for the variable will be included. This is a very important unit that will carry into high school.

6th Grade Social Studies is beginning a unit on the 8 Traits of Culture. SHRED GAL is the pneumonic they are learning to help remember them. Once this is concluded we will be comparing other countries to the United States, the first being Canada. We will move onto other countries from there.

**Clark Wood Students of the Month:**

Kindergarten:	Charleigh Balfour
First Grade:	Mason Bliss
Second Grade:	Styles Herman
Third Grade:	Braydon Reed
Fourth Grade:	Bennett Campbell
Fifth Grade:	Castiel Harkenrider
Sixth Grade:	Emerson West

**Clark Wood Student of the Month: Emerson West**

Emerson is a 6th grade student in Ms. Lyon's homeroom. She works hard and always strives to do her best. She uses corrections to improve her errors and works hard to improve her academics. She is excellent at helping in any way needed. Emerson is supportive of her friends or anyone who is in need. She is a friend to everyone. She has an excellent sense of humor and participates constantly. Miss West is truly a joy to have in class and she exemplifies all our RAMS qualities.

While in school she participates in Student Council and has participated in Band and Chorus. In her free time, she has a dynamic range of interests. Emerson designs and sells jewelry. She creates stage makeup illusions (example: a pencil protruding from her brother's face). She enjoys long walks with the family and cooking. One of her favorite pastimes is playing with her dog Sadie.

Emerson has an amazing personality and has an even more amazing future ahead of her. We at Clark Wood Elementary School are very proud of her.



## Westfield Area Elementary School

We have an amazing group of **kindergarteners** here at WAES and we are so excited to have them back with us for the new year. Before break, we learned about the differences between needs and wants in order to write our letters to Santa. The students made fun ceramic ornaments with Mrs. Mckee and different holiday projects in their classroom.

The kids fell right back into step after their Christmas break. We're working hard to create patterns using different attributes and labeling them. We'll spend time reading and writing about places we routinely visit throughout the week. Kindergarten at WAES continues to impress us with their letter and sound recognition, blending and segmenting sounds, and overall desire to learn.

WAES **First Graders** have zipped right along with using addition and subtraction strategies to solve problems. Fact families will help students to see how related numbers use the same facts, which in turn will make it easier to add and subtract. Place value is the new focus. This will help students to understand the value of two-digit and three-digit numbers. In reading, students continue to build decoding and comprehension skills. Long vowels have been the new focus. Oh, the many rules to remember! Fifteen minutes of daily practice at home really can make a difference! Students have been anxiously awaiting the return of their Flat Stanley's and Sally's (Flat Me's). They were sent to family and friends all over the US. It will be fun to use map skills to see where our friends have been.



The **Fourth Graders** at WAES are hard at work in the new year! In writing, we have started writing a narrative about our winter fun. The students are learning that we can use words to express emotions without writing using emotion words in addition to using what they have already learned about writing a story. In Science, we are discovering the parts of an ecosystem and how they work and rely on one another. We are also looking into what and how animals eat and how a food chain works within an ecosystem. We have had some fun working on labs to see how we effect our ecosystems for the good and the bad. In Social Studies, we are looking way back in history to explore how people first arrived in Pennsylvania and what life was like for these very early Native Americans. In Math, we are diving into long division. We are studying the standard algorithm, working to see how large of a number we can solve, and using hands-on resources like Monopoly

money and candy to help represent long division problems conceptually. We're working hard and having lots of fun in Fourth Grade!

December was a busy month for **sixth grade** students at WAES. In geography, students were introduced to the traits of culture, and completed a research project to learn more about the holiday traditions of several countries around the world. In reading, students concluded their study of the novel "Bud, Not Buddy" by Christopher Paul Curtis, and continued to analyze the use of dialect in writing. Math classes worked on an escape challenge called the Gingerbread Bakery in which the gingerbread man locked them in the bakery and they had to answer questions to escape.

Students and teachers wrapped up 2020 with classroom holiday parties. This included several fun games in each classroom, a movie, and delicious ice cream floats.

## **R.B. Walter Elementary School**

**Kindergarten:** It's a Happy New Year in Kindergarten! We are right back into our daily routine and working hard as we move towards the end of the second marking period. Our reading lessons continue to focus on the people in our neighborhood. We are learning how important our neighbors are as friends and community workers. The lessons provide opportunities for insightful conversation, reading practice, and informative writing. We are finishing our lessons on patterns. Manipulatives are a fun way to show and create the many different kinds of patterns. Ask a kindergarten student about AB, AAB, ABB, AABB, and ABC patterns! We are beginning lessons on the numbers 11-20. Students will learn to complete ten frames, show with manipulatives, count objects, recognize, and write the numbers. The 100th day of school is approaching, and we look forward to our celebration. Counting to 100 is one of the many challenging goals that kindergarten students work toward every day. We always enjoy the many creative collections of 100 items that students put together and bring in to celebrate. It is important to remember to exercise the body as well as the mind, and our weather has provided the most fun outside. Our snowbirds are having a great time on the mounds of snow out on the playground! Remember to bundle your child in a winter coat, winter boots, snow pants, hat, and mittens, so everyone can join in the fun!

**First Grade:** We are off to a great start this New Year. In Language Arts we recently have been working on reading comprehension, phonics and contractions. Please continue to read with your student every day. In Math students have been working on skip counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's to 120. Next in Math we will start place value.

Please remember to dress for the weather. Students are welcome to bring in snow pants and boots on snowy days to play in the snow at recess time. Also, please continue to practice shoe tying, and zipping jackets with your student.

**Second Grade:** Second graders at R.B. Walter are excited to be back in school after a fun Christmas break. In math, students are learning how to subtract with regrouping using two and three digit numbers. The students continue to practice addition and subtraction facts daily. Some students have even moved on to multiplication facts!

In science, we are studying the phases of the moon and learning why the moon looks different each night. In social studies, we are learning about different types of maps, keys, and how to use them correctly.

In reading, we've been studying many nonfiction texts about the world around us. We have learned about Earth's forces, what we see in the sky, communities, and different types of weather. It has been fun to learn about different types of severe weather, such as hurricanes and tornadoes.

**Third Grade:** RB Walter Third Graders continue to expand their grammar, spelling, and writing skills in the New Year. We will continue to learn and practice grammar skills, such as pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and the many more ways to use verbs. Third grade students recently planned, composed, edited, and wrote a funny pig story. The final draft is on display in our hallway.

How do people figure things out? Third grade students brainstormed and came up with many ways to figure things out. People can experiment, ask questions, create or invent plans, use senses, and dream/imagine to solve problems. In reading class, students will read various free verse & limerick poems to find similes and determine author's point of view.

We just finished our multiplication and division unit in Math. Students enjoyed the multiplication ice cream sundae party celebration! Students are now using what they know about multiplication and division and applying it to understanding fractions.



**Fourth Grade:** We are so happy to be in school! In Reading, we have been practicing using clues to find point of view – thoughts and feelings about a topic-, as well as determining who the narrator of a story is. We will soon be studying biographies and learning about people who have made a difference in the world. Please continue to encourage daily reading of AR.

In Math, we finished up double digit multiplication before Christmas break and have moved on to long division. We will begin fractions at the completion of this unit. Please continue to practice basic facts with your child.

In Science, we will be learning about the transfer of energy from producers all the way up through top level consumers. We will create and write about food webs and how they all begin with the sun's energy. In Social Studies we are continuing our discussion of natural resources found in our state.

2021 is a new book with 365 blank pages, make your story a good one!

**Fifth Grade:** In ELA, we are working on analyzing a story's theme. We will be moving on to stories that focus on sensory details. For math class, we are continuing our study of geometry. In science, we are studying how organisms meet their needs as they respond to their surroundings. In social studies, we are learning about the Desert Southwest Indians. Students compared and contrasted 3 shared characteristics about the Pueblo people to the Desert Newcomers.

**Sixth Grade:** Happy New Year! RB sixth graders are well-rested from the nice break and ready to get started on many new topics in each subject. In math class, we are studying algebraic equations and area. Next up: algebraic inequalities and surface area. Students are excited that calculators are now a part of their daily assignments.

In science 6th grade has been finishing up our outer space unit. We explored comets, meteors, and asteroids. Students learned how each are connected and what a shooting star actually is.

In social studies we wrapped up our study of the 8 traits of culture and are getting ready to head around the globe into Canada and South America. Students will soon learn about the daily lives of students from places all around the world. They will learn about other cultures, ethnicities, and ways of life in places that don't have some of the amenities we experience every day.

**Art Education:** I hope everyone had an amazing Holiday Break. We are glad to be back in the classroom and back to work. The last section of 4<sup>th</sup> Grade is beginning the *Cars of the Future* project. It is our hope to have this project finished and in the hands of folks at Tesla by the

end of January. The student designs will be sent out to the Tesla corporate headquarters in Palo Alto, California in hopes that we get a great response from that innovative company. The rest of the students will be finishing up projects and pushing into new concepts soon. Drive safely! - Mr. McKee

**Physical Education:** Since the last update, special area teachers have finished their first set of lessons with Group 3 and started new lessons with Group 4. The final group started classes on December 8<sup>th</sup>. I think I can speak for all the special teachers when I say that we are excited to finally meet the rest of the Kindergarten students as well as any new students in the school. Once Group 4 completes their first set of lessons, we will start the second semester all over again with group 1. The second semester starts January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Like the other groups, Group 4 participated in many of the same lessons. Grades 3-6 participated in several activities such as Beach-ball Volleyball, cooperative activities, Candy land, and team handball. Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade worked on locomotor skills, simple games, and basic cooperative activities. At the time of this write up, Group 3 still has 2 weeks left of instruction. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for reading this update and to also try to encourage everyone, regardless of age, to make physical activity a daily habit. It doesn't always need to be intense; it just needs to get you moving. Take care everyone, Mr. Durst

**Title 1 Reading:** We welcome Rachel Howe to our Title 1 team. Rachel started this school year at Clark Wood and will finish the year with us. We are excited to have her here as we start the New Year with our DIBELS Benchmarking of all students K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. After that we will all be on track to dive into more Reading. Let's make a new year's goal to set aside more time for reading fun!

**Music Education:** This month in music, the Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will all be learning about dynamics (how loud/soft music is) as well as tempo (how fast/slow music is). The Kindergarten students will be listening to and learning about Haydn's Symphony No. 4, and why it is nicknamed the "Surprise Symphony." Grades 2 and 3 will be listening to Grieg's "In the Hall of the Mountain King" and listening for dynamic and tempo changes throughout. Grade 5 will be not only learning about dynamics and tempo but will also be practicing their musical score reading skills, by rhythmically playing along with "Viennese Musical Clock" by Kodaly. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have just started ukulele, and are working hard on the C, Am, F, G, and G7 chords, so that they can play along with several popular songs.

## **Cowanesque Valley High School**

Three CV students will be participating in the PMEA District 8 VIRTUAL Choral festival on January 29th. Calyssa Hurler is a Junior who sings Alto; Seth Neal a Senior who sings Tenor and qualified for District Chorus last year; Joel Tubbs is a Junior who sings Bass and qualified for District Chorus last year. The virtual festival will allow students to attend clinics about the mental, emotional, and physical aspects of singing as well as learning technical aspects of auditioning and performing. Students will have a virtual rehearsal session on the songs chosen for this festival, Eric Whitacre's "Sleep" and Haydn's "Achieved is Thy Glorious Work." Students will later record their part in those pieces to be mastered into a virtual choir with all the students who qualified for the District 8 Chorus.

Seth and Joel qualified in the top of their sections giving them the opportunity to try out for Pennsylvania Music Educator's Association's All State Chorus, as well. Send some love and encouragement to all three of our singers - we're CV Proud of them!



## **Williamson High School**

The Williamson High School History Club

Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 American Legion 86th Annual Essay Contest sponsored by our Williamson High School History Club. This year's topic was "What does the 26th Amendment Mean to Me?". This is the Constitutional Amendment passed in 1971 that changed the federal voting age from 21 to 18 years old. Students submitted over 25 entries and the top entries will be forwarded to our local American Legion posts and become eligible for awards and cash prizes.

The following received Honorable Mention:

Carl Bartlett

Justus Doty

Meghan Gardner

The top essays forwarded to the district level are:

Abby Thomas

Cassandra Stratton

Owen Gontarz

Rachel Dorn

Seth Selvick

3rd Place Andrew Berkan

2nd Place Andrew Smith

1st Place Madisen Cody

We are proud of your hard work, patriotism and commend you for your fine representation of Williamson High School. Thank you for your participation and good luck!

Thank you to our local American Legion Posts for their support: Leon O'Bryan Elkland Post 428, Herbert Lee Webster Tioga Post 235, and Gerald G. Griffin Westfield Post 519.

