



NEWS

NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



Mr. Formato using technology to confer with scholars on their reading levels.



Yes, it has been that kind of a year... (Tree and Class Courtesy of Mr. Steel)

Virtual Learning Hub

[NECSD Virtual Learning Support](#) site will provide the most up to date information on anything related to technology and Virtual Learning for our Students and Families. It includes sections for general help, resources, help line, and forms related to technology.

Please make sure to visit the site on a regular basis to be informed of current technological updates.

If you have any questions or have specific questions, please reach out to the contact listed below.

helpdesk@necsd.net / (845)568-6532

Here is the link for students/parents to report any issues with Chromebooks:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxcghp9l>



New Year! New Hope!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been a challenging year, to say the least. But we look forward to a brand new year of opportunities and explorations. Although we do not know what the new year will bring us, we do know that we are all striving to do our very best.

Our Teachers and Staff members continue to work hard – behind the scenes – to bring the very best to our scholars and families.

We also know that families are also doing their very best to support our scholars at home. We wish all of you the very best for the New Year!

Mr. Camt
Principal



Ms. Kennedy Preparing for Her Online Sessions



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Importance of Daily Reading!

Reading regularly improves overall student performances!!!



BY: MR. LEE

There are so many reasons to read (paper-based books) on a daily/regular basis. Digital books are fine – but there is no “real” substitute for “real” books – only “virtual” ones.

Reading (paper based books as well as digital books) can have tremendous benefits for our children – especially during the current times. Students are on-line most of the day and also engage in entertainment that involves more screen time. There may be a need for off-screen activities – especially reading (paper based books)!

“Research consistently shows strong correlation to reading & academic success at all ages” – National Center for Educational Statistics

Reading not only gives invaluable tools for later success, but it also provides opportunities for our children to escape into imaginary space where they can explore different worlds.

Daily dose of reading may also reduce stress for many of our scholars (as well as adult scholars). By exploring various interests and topics, we are able to relax and let go of many of our daily baggage.

These are some of the direct benefits of reading on a daily basis:

- Mental Stimulation
- Stress Reduction
- Expansion of the Mind
- Increase in Vocabulary Knowledge
- Improved Memory and Retention
- Critical Thinking Skills
- Increased Focus and Concentration
- Improved Writing Skills
- Peace and Relaxation
- Cost Effective Entertainment



Empty Classrooms – waiting for our kids...

There are more benefit than listed above – but as you can see – there are significant value in practicing daily reading.

It is a life skill that will continue to provide benefits long after our children have grown into adulthood.

“It is clear that reading early in life are critical factors in student success,” – Anthony W. Marx, president of the New York Public Library, New York Times (2015)

Especially during a time when everything is “digital”, reading paper based books may be a great way for students and families to engage in meaningful activities that have great benefits.

You can always rent out books at the local library or purchase books that can be read by all of the family members! You can also look at the right side of this article in the Online Resource section of this Newsletter to find more materials to read.

“Extensive reading was linked to superior performance on measures of general knowledge, vocabulary, spelling, verbal fluency, and reading comprehension.” – Cunningham and Stanovich, 1998

Instilling a passion for reading may be one of the most important gifts that you can give to your children. It costs absolutely nothing – but the benefits that come with the process are incomparable.

So, pick up a book and start reading on a daily basis with your children!!! They will love it and so will you!!!

Make 2021 a year of reading!!!

Mr. Lee



Social distance, please



NWS RESOURCES

Online Resources

There are plenty of resources for our students and families to maximize their learning.

Please make sure to visit the district link for online resources: District Online Resource Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y6fogyzw>

Below are links to some other important websites – but please make sure to visit the district site for a more comprehensive list of links:

- Launchpad: <https://tinyurl.com/y6nuiwao>
- Flipgrid: <https://info.flipgrid.com/>
- Reflex Math: <https://www.reflexmath.com/>
- BrainPOP: <https://www.brainpop.com/>
- BrainPOP Jr.: <https://jr.brainpop.com/>
- Google Classroom: <https://classroom.google.com/>
- NewsELA: <https://newsela.com/>



ACADEMIC PROGRESS UPDATE

January Assessments

There will be several upcoming assessments for our scholars in January:

- iReady ELA Diagnostic
 - 1/6 – 1/22
- iReady Math Diagnostic
 - 1/6 – 1/22
- TC Running Record Benchmark (A-Z)
 - By 1/29

We will keep you posted for other assessments involving our scholars. Please make sure to reach out to your teachers with any questions you may have regarding periodic assessments.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

The Giving Season

BY: MRS. CACI

The holidays are upon us and our days have likely been full of holiday shopping and plan making. While our children may be full of expectation and busy creating wish lists, now is the perfect time to teach generosity and gratitude.

We can start by teaching how gift giving relates to religion and/or culture so that children have a context for why we exchange gifts. Creating context helps children understand the meaning behind gift-giving. Being the recipients of gifts also allows children the opportunity to learn how to express gratitude. The feeling of gratitude can be extended from receiving gifts to discussion of the people and things for which they are grateful. Regular discussion about what children are grateful for helps provide perspective of what they have, which may not be tangible but can be appreciated.

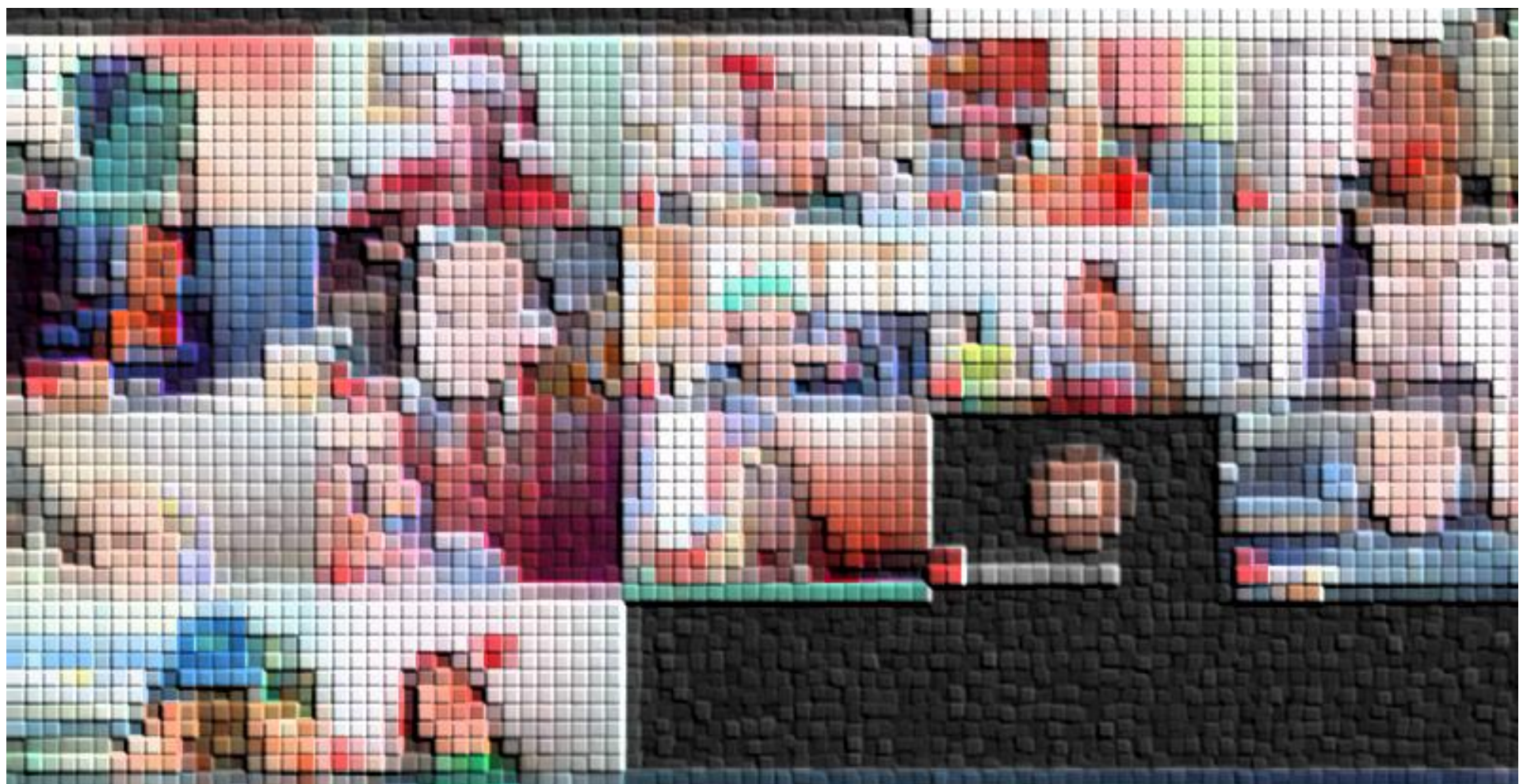
This is also the perfect time of year for children to learn the joy of giving, as giving most often makes us feel better than receiving. If children feel gratitude for what they have this can lead to them realizing that others may not have as much. The act of giving at the holidays – and throughout the year – can be as simple as drawing pictures or making cards for distant relatives or people in nursing homes. Children can also be involved in identifying charitable organizations your family wants to support. These may be connected to family interests, experiences, connections, etc. The experience of helping creates feelings of gratitude and the realization that we all can make a difference.

This article provides additional information and ideas:
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/teaching-kids-an-attitude_b_13821422

And now I would like to express my gratitude to the New Windsor School family and community. Each year New Windsor School conducts food and toy drives for the holiday season. While COVID-19 may have dampened our collective spirits, the spirit of giving has been overwhelming. Our holiday toy drive has been more than successful. The outpouring of donations from our staff, families, and the greater community have been incredible. This year we also partnered with Windsor Academy, who sponsored 10 of our families, supporting 30 children. Additionally, NWS provided toys to 20 more families for 40 children. This could not have been possible without the generosity of all of those who contributed. During a very challenging time our community bands together and creates joy. Thank you!



**GOOGLE MEET IS THE NORM FOR OUR SCHOLARS
 WE ARE GLAD THAT WE HAVE THE TOOLS TO CONTINUE LEARNING ON A REGULAR BASIS!**



This is a Mosaic of a Google Meet with our Scholars during the Holidays!