Wilkins Weekly 2-16-19

- I start with the sad news of the unexpected passing of Jeanne Russell’s husband last week. Services are being arranged through Dewhirst and Boles in Methuen. If you wish to send a card or note, please send it to school and we will deliver them to Jeanne and her children. She will be back after the winter break. We have not shared this information with students, feeling that the decision to share or not, and what your child can handle, should come from you.

- Valentine’s Day was celebrated at NS quietly, with the sharing of cards, kind words, and a schoolwide shared read aloud on kindness that all students heard read by their teachers. Grade 4 won the pink/red Spirit Day contest with 100% participation! They were followed closely by grade 2, and 1 with 97% and 98%. It was a love-ly day overall.

- Last year’s hugely fun and successful day of Winter Olympics will be repeated on the Friday before vacation as a Winter Games day, celebrating this season, healthy bodies, sportsmanship, and community in sharing this fun with Panther Pals. Last year we were able to run it on our own, but this year we would welcome some help in either the AM, PM, or both with our K classes, or running events with staff. This is NOT as big as field day, and so we only need about 10 people or so. If you can help, shoot me an email at jwilkins@sau57.org and let me know AM, PM or both. AM will be 9-11; PM 12:30-2:30.

- Grade 5 raised just over $800 with their power of 10 “Dime Drive”! The money will be donated to a pediatric cancer charity in remembrance of classmate Ava Doiron-Frankland.

- We will have our March POWER OF THE PENNY grade level wars this year starting after the break. For this challenge it is the PENNY that is worth the ONLY positive point! Other coins, dollars, all have negative values. This challenge involves classroom strategies for building up your own points – and having the opportunity to thwart other grades by filling their jars with negative-value coins (all the silver!). The prize – an ice cream or pizza party! The purpose? This year we are hoping to raise monies to provide seating/work benches for the pavilion. I’ve attached a picture of what our staff team is proposing (in different colors other than what is shown ) at the bottom of this weekly. Thanks in advance for your support! These sturdy, weather resistant benches run about $800 apiece.

- Salem High’s “Bye Bye Birdie” runs tonight and tomorrow. What a unique family outing! How often do children get to see live theater??

- Thanks to our fabulous fifth graders and their families for a great family fun night at Pasta Palooza! Monies raised will go towards their special end of their time at NS events this spring.

- Our next upcoming Family Fun Night is Pizza Bingo in March. Donations of “gently” used children’s books for prizes are welcomed.

- Our chosen 4th graders represented us VERY well during NAEP testing last week – as shared by the testing representatives themselves! Our students attended well, and put forth great effort. Panther Pride!

- Winter gear still needs to be worn. Melting and high water tables make the fields messy and the hot top areas too.

- We thank Mrs. O’Hare, Mrs. Waterman, and Mrs. Smeltzer for a great book fair week. It is always exciting to be able to buy a brand new book, and I’m appreciative of their efforts in negotiating a nice selection of lower-cost books to broaden accessibility for all student.

- We formally welcome Jordan Blazak, Josie Long Coco, and Shelby McLaughlin to our staff. Jordan and Josie help during recess and lunch times, and Mrs. McLaughlin can be found primarily in team 23. Although not here long, they are already proving to be great additions to our school community!

Have a great week!

Janice