

Woodstock Elementary School
Principal's Report

During the 2022-2023 school year, there were 251 PreK-4 students enrolled at Woodstock Elementary School. We were thrilled to expand our PreK program yet again to include five classrooms for a total of 66 PreK students enrolled in our school. The 2023-2024 school year opened with an enrollment of 253 students in grades PreK-4. We are happy to serve the children of Bridgewater, Pomfret, Plymouth, and Woodstock as well as those attending via school choice from Barnard and Reading. Our teacher retention over the past year has been very strong, and our staff remains dedicated to our mission to provide a strong foundation and foster perseverance and belonging.

Here are some programmatic highlights for the 2022-2023 school year:

- In the fall of 2022, many teachers at WES began piloting new literacy programs with the goal of identifying a district-wide literacy program that will better meet all students' learning needs. In addition, many WES teachers engaged in a year of intensive training in best practices in literacy instruction through the LETRS program.
- All students in grade K-4 resumed taking Spanish two or three times a week. The student response to learning about Spanish language and culture has been enthusiastic
- In October, we reintroduced the tradition of a WES Halloween Parade around the Green and were accompanied by parent musicians for a jazz/blues/funk parade.
- Our students participated in fall and winter Walk and Roll to School events sponsored by Local Motion.
- Our school librarian, Joyce Yoo Babbitt, launched a wildly popular weekly 3-minute podcast that featured student voices promoting great books.
- In December, all students in grades 1-4 were able to travel to Dartmouth College for education day at the basketball arena and attend a women's basketball game.
- In the new year, students, staff, and families participated in a Winter Wishes kindness and empathy challenge, where people were encouraged to send positive notes to one another through an inter-school mail program.
- In March, our PTO helped launch an effort to reinvigorate parent and caregiver volunteerism in the school to great results, and the PTO pulled off a successful new tradition, a spring carnival, "The Spring Fling."
- Spring also saw the renewal of our traditional in-person talent show, "Show Your Stuff," which featured the talents of students and staff on stage at the Town Hall Theater.
- Our fourth grade students rounded out their time at WES shining as members of a Shakespeare company performing *Hamlet* through Northern Stage's BridgeUP: Theater in the Schools program.

We are grateful for community partners such as Artistree, Billings Farm, Yoh Theater, and Pentangle Arts who graciously invite us to their programming, and more broadly we are thankful for our community's ongoing engagement with and support of our school. We are proud to be a part of this community.