WMRSD Leaders and Learners – Your Community Connection
White Mountains Regional School District

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Building a Safe, Healthy, and Resilient School Community

At Lancaster Elementary School, autumn is a season marked by crisp morning air, colorful foliage, and a shared commitment to building a safe, supportive environment for all students. October is a pivotal month in the school calendar, bringing together essential life skills, community partnerships, and wellness initiatives. From hands-on fire safety training with local emergency personnel to meaningful discussions about healthy choices, Lancaster Elementary students demonstrated what it means to be leaders and learners both inside and outside the classroom.

Fire Prevention Safety Week: Partnering with the Lancaster Fire Department

Safety education began with Fire Prevention Safety Week, an annual initiative focused on equipping students with practical, life-saving knowledge. Lancaster Elementary welcomed members of the Lancaster Fire Department to campus for an engaging series of instructional visits and hands-on demonstrations.

Firefighters met with students across grade levels to explain fundamental fire prevention principles. Younger learners reviewed household fire risks, practiced the stop, drop, and roll technique, and learned the importance of recognizing smoke detector alarms. To help ease anxiety surrounding emergency personnel, firefighters suited up in full protective gear, demonstrating that behind the heavy helmet and mask is a friendly community helper dedicated to keeping everyone safe. A highlight of the visit for students and staff was the opportunity to explore some of the features of a working fire truck and try out the fire hose!

Mastering Preparedness: Successful Emergency Drills

Hands-on fire safety education complemented Lancaster Elementary's routine safety protocols. As part of its comprehensive emergency preparedness plan, the school conducted scheduled evacuation and safety drills to test procedures and refine emergency response protocols.

Students and staff responded with remarkable composure, efficiency, and maturity. Classes exited the building calmly along designated routes, assembled at designated safety zones on the school grounds, and accounted for all individuals efficiently. Lancaster Elementary collaborated with the Town of Lancaster, Colonel Town, the Lancaster Police Department, the Lancaster Fire

Department, the Coos County Sheriff's Office, and the Whitefield Police Department to support smooth and orderly evacuation procedures.

Emergency preparedness is not just about following rules; it is about creating an environment where students feel secure, confident, and empowered to respond appropriately in any situation.

Through consistent practice and strong collaboration with local public safety officials, Lancaster Elementary continues to prioritize the safety and well-being of its school community.

Red Ribbon Week: Choosing Healthy, Drug-Free Paths

Following Fire Prevention Safety Week, the school shifted its focus to personal health, positive decision-making, and drug prevention during Red Ribbon Week. Coordinated by School Resource Officer Lemoine and School Counselor Mr. Buteau, the week's activities combined age-appropriate guidance with spirited daily themes designed to foster community pride and self-advocacy.

Officer Lemoine and Mr. Buteau visited classrooms throughout the week to facilitate interactive discussions about making positive choices, standing up to peer pressure, and caring for physical and mental well-being. By combining law enforcement expertise with counseling support, they provided students with a strong foundation for developing healthy habits.

To reinforce these core messages in a fun and unified way, students and staff participated in five creative themed dress-up days:

- Monday – Proud to Be Drug Free: Students wore red to kick off the week and demonstrate their commitment to making healthy choices.
- Tuesday – Team Up for Health: Students wore their favorite team jerseys and athletic gear to highlight the importance of teamwork and active living.
- Wednesday – Sock It to Drugs: The hallways filled with mismatched and colorful socks, symbolizing the importance of standing strong against peer pressure.
- Thursday – Hats Off to Making Healthy Choices: Creative headwear served as a fun reminder to keep positive decision-making at the forefront.
- Friday – Scare Off Bad Choices: Students and staff wore festive costumes and attire to close out the week while reinforcing the importance of avoiding risky behaviors.

Growing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

The success of October’s safety and awareness initiatives highlights the vibrant spirit of Lancaster Elementary School. By combining practical safety training with positive character education, educators, support staff, and community partners help students grow not only academically but also into responsible, healthy citizens.

Lancaster Elementary extends its gratitude to the Lancaster Fire Department, Officer Lemoine, Mr. Buteau, and the dedicated school staff for guiding students toward a bright, healthy, and secure future.