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

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At the Lancaster School

Lancaster Elementary School is strengthening teaching and learning through purposeful professional development partnerships that support both mathematics and literacy instruction. During the current school year, staff members are engaged in ongoing work with the Vermont Mathematics Initiative (VMI), CSS Literacy Consultants, and Classroom Routines with Erin Moore, all with a shared focus on improving classroom practice and student outcomes.

Through the partnership with the Vermont Mathematics Initiative, Lancaster Elementary teachers are deepening their understanding of high-quality mathematics instruction aligned with best practices. VMI supports educators in building conceptual understanding, encouraging mathematical discourse, and using problem-solving strategies that help students explain their thinking. This work ensures that mathematics instruction is rigorous, engaging, and accessible to all learners.

In literacy, staff continue to collaborate with CSS Literacy Consultants to strengthen reading and writing instruction across grade levels. This partnership emphasizes structured literacy practices, data-informed decision-making, and targeted interventions designed to meet students where they are. Teachers receive coaching and support to refine instructional strategies that promote strong foundational skills and comprehension.

Additionally, Lancaster Elementary staff are examining effective classroom routines through their work with Erin Moore. This professional learning focuses on establishing consistent, effective routines that support student engagement and independence. These routines help clarify expectations, maximize instructional time, and foster positive, supportive learning environments.

Collectively, these professional learning opportunities reflect Lancaster Elementary's commitment to continuous improvement. By investing in high-quality training and collaboration, staff are working to ensure that every student receives engaging instruction in classrooms where learning is purposeful, supportive, and designed for long-term success.

At the Whitefield School

Seventh-grade Life Science students began the year studying cells and refining their microscope skills using samples collected from various local water sources. They researched common bacteria and shared their findings through creative "Insta-germ" posters. During the human body systems unit, students dissected chicken wings and owl pellets to explore and compare muscular and skeletal structures, and they built model lungs to investigate how altitude affects breathing. As this unit concludes, they will begin their study of genetics and heredity.

This year, students will benefit from additional learning opportunities through new partnerships with Trout in the Classroom and the Algae Academy. Later in the spring, learning will move outdoors as students study local ecosystems and the complex interactions within them. Planned activities include vernal pool exploration and Tick Talks, combining research and fieldwork to deepen their understanding of these arachnids and local amphibians.

In math, seventh graders recently completed the Bubble Project, during which they accurately measured the diameter of each bubble they created and calculated the radius, circumference, and area. Students graphed and analyzed their data, ultimately determining that Palmolive produced the largest bubbles. Applying their mathematical skills to solve real-world problems proved both engaging and rewarding.

Both seventh- and eighth-grade students are also looking forward to the annual return of March Mammal Madness. Students will join thousands of classrooms nationwide in cheering for or against animals in hypothetical, science-based, single-elimination matchups—an educational journey created by Katie Hinde of Arizona State University. This event remains one of the most anticipated traditions at Whitefield School.

At White Mountains Regional High School
WMRHS students took advantage of the time provided during Choice Block to attend five preparatory sessions for their upcoming trip to Peru this spring. This year's group of 18 student travelers is led by Profe Martina Macakova, along with chaperones Colonel Peter Russo and Ms. Janine Holmes.

The focus of these pre-trip sessions was to share helpful information and practical guidance for traveling abroad, specifically in Peru and throughout Latin America. Students began by testing their knowledge of the country and identifying key locations on their itinerary, including Lima, Cusco, and Machu Picchu.

The group then shifted its attention to packing tips, as the trip will include a variety of environments and activities. Students will visit the capital city along the Pacific coast, fly to the Andes to explore Machu Picchu—one of the Seven Wonders of the World—and return to the coast to volunteer on the outskirts of Lima. Each setting requires different clothing and preparation, making thoughtful packing essential.

The sessions also introduced students to traditional dishes they may encounter during their journey, with an emphasis on respecting cultural differences and embracing the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to try new experiences. Health precautions and recommended preparation steps were reviewed as well, including high-altitude medication and visits to an international travel clinic.

During the final session, students heard from former traveler Noah Enos, who shared insights from his own experience in Peru. The group is now eagerly counting down the days until departure.