



NEW WINDSOR SCHOOL NewsLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Families,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing today to highlight something that has a tremendous impact on your child's success: daily school attendance. While academics are important, consistent attendance is equally essential for your child's social and emotional well-being.

Over the past few years, schools nationwide have seen a significant rise in chronic absenteeism. Before the pandemic, about 15% of students were chronically absent. That number nearly doubled to almost 30%, and although attendance has begun to improve, it still remains well above pre-pandemic levels. These trends matter because missed days aren't just missed lessons—they are missed opportunities for children to feel connected, confident, and supported.

Elementary school is where students learn how to build friendships, work through challenges, communicate their feelings, and become part of a community. These skills grow through daily routines, social interactions, and trusted relationships with teachers and peers. When children attend consistently, they develop a stronger sense of belonging, show more positive behavior, and are better able to manage emotions. Research also shows that students who feel connected to school experience better mental health and higher engagement overall.

Our staff is deeply committed to creating a warm, safe, and inclusive environment where every child feels seen, valued, and supported. Your partnership plays a vital role in making that possible. By helping ensure your child comes to school each day—unless they are ill—you are giving them the gift of stability, confidence, and stronger social-emotional foundations.

If your family is facing challenges that make attendance difficult, please reach out. We are here to help and can connect you with resources, transportation support, or other assistance.

Thank you for all you do to support your child's growth. Together, we can help every student thrive!

Warmly,



Mr. Camt
Principal



UPCOMING EVENTS



THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS

11-19 & 25-2025



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

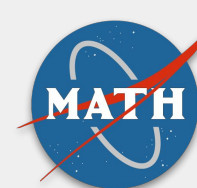
MORNING: 11-26-2025 @ 9:15 AM

EVENING: 12-04-2025 @ 5:00 PM



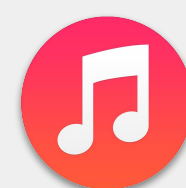
WINTER BOOK FAIR

12-04 & 05-2025



5TH GRADE MATH MEET

12-11-2025



KINDERGARTEN HOLIDAY SING-ALONG

12-15-2025



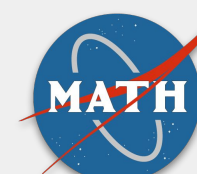
PICTURE RETAKE DAY

12-16-2025



HOLIDAY FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY THE NWS PTO

12-18-2025



5TH GRADE MATH MEET

01-14-2026



WINTER CONCERT

01-22-2026

*Mark Your Calendars!
So you don't miss any events!*

[Cont'd on Next Page]



NWS Thanksgiving Food Drive!

Dear New Windsor Families, Students, and Staff,

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in our Thanksgiving Day Food Drive. Your generosity and kindness have made a meaningful difference in the lives of families in our community.

Thanks to your thoughtful donations, we were able to provide much-needed food and support to those in need during this special season. The spirit of giving and community you've shown truly reflects the values we cherish at New Windsor School.

We are so grateful to our students, families, and staff members for coming together to make this event a success. Your contributions have brightened the holiday season for many and serve as a wonderful reminder of the power of caring and community.

From all of us at New Windsor School, thank you for your generosity and for helping us spread joy this Thanksgiving!



[Cont'd on Next Page]

RECENT EVENTS



NWS: MOCK ELECTIONS OCT - NOV - 2025

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: CHARACTER AMBASSADOR AWARDS 3-5 11-13-2025

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY 11-17-2025

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: THANKSGIVING CELEBRATIONS NOV-2025

[Link to Album](#)



Whooo Knew?



Ms. Lynch's class with their Owl Pelets!

In November, Ms. Lynch's class learned about owls. We read the book *Whooo Knew?* by Annette Whipple. Using the book as a mentor text, we learned about owl habitats, life cycle, and what owls eat. We learned new vocabulary words like talon, rodent, and camouflage. Throughout the unit, we dove deeply into how owls live by locating important facts in the text and in videos. We created an anchor chart of everything we learned about owls and used that information to guide a writing project at the end of the unit. To explore more about what owls eat, we dissected owl pellets. Did you know that pellets are the parts of owl prey that owls can't digest? We found bones from different rodents including mice, rats, and voles! We even found a bird's feather! We had lots of fun learning about owls.

Ms. Lynch

Special Education Teacher/ RtI Chairperson
New Windsor School



OUR MISSION

As the Goldback community, we will educate and empower our students to build their futures and support their community.

OUR VISION

Creating voice, choice, and opportunity for impacting the future of all Goldbacks.

[Cont'd on Next Page]

RECENT EVENTS



NWS: MS. LYNCH'S CLASS LEARNING ABOUT OWLS
11-20-2025
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE WINNERS
ONGOING-2025-2026
[Link to Album](#)



NWS: PBIS Expectations!

**Be Responsible,
Be Respectful,
Be Ready, and
Be Safe!**



NWS: Attendance Pledge

**I pledge to go to
school every day,
be on time, and be
ready to learn.**

Newburgh



School Psychologist's Corner!

Making the Holidays Meaningful for Children

The holiday season brings excitement, anticipation, and plenty of opportunities to create lasting memories. For children, this time of year can be magical—yet it can also become overwhelming amid the busyness, gifts, and high expectations. By focusing on connection, gratitude, and simple traditions, families can help children experience the true meaning of the season.

1. Focus on Time Together

Children often remember moments, not things. Baking cookies, reading seasonal stories, making homemade decorations, or taking an evening walk to look at lights can become treasured traditions. These simple experiences help children feel grounded and connected.

2. Encourage a Spirit of Giving

The holidays are a perfect time to teach children about generosity. Involve them in choosing a toy to donate, helping wrap gifts for others, or making cards for neighbors and relatives. These acts help children understand empathy and the joy of giving.

3. Keep Traditions Simple and Consistent

Traditions don't need to be elaborate to be meaningful. Something as small as lighting a candle at dinner, sharing a favorite holiday song, or preparing a special recipe each year can create a sense of continuity and comfort.

4. Talk About Gratitude

Help children reflect on what they appreciate—not just the material gifts, but the people, experiences, and feelings that make the season special. A gratitude jar, a family reflection night, or simply naming one thing each day can reinforce a positive mindset.

5. Make Space for Rest

The holidays can be overstimulating. Protecting downtime allows children to enjoy the season without feeling overwhelmed. Quiet mornings, unstructured play, and early bedtimes can go a long way in helping kids stay regulated and joyful.

6. Celebrate Diversity and Inclusivity

Many families celebrate holidays differently—and some may not celebrate at all. Take time to talk with children about a variety of traditions and cultures. This helps foster understanding, respect, and curiosity about the world around them.

7. Model What Matters Most

Children learn from what adults prioritize. When we slow down, focus on kindness, and stay present, we show them that the heart of the holiday season isn't in the hustle—it's in the connection we share.



Mrs. Caci

School Psychologist

[Cont'd on Next Page]

BLAST FROM THE PAST



NWS: RED RIBBON WEEK 2024

OCT-2024

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: PROJECT ENERGY ASSEMBLY

OCT-2024

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: FIRE SAFETY ASSEMBLY

10-08-2024

[Link to Album](#)



NWS: HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ASSEMBLY

06-21-2024

[Link to Album](#)



The School Counselor’s Corner!

What is SEL? The Zones?

In October it was all about the blue zone, our lowest energy zone. In November we moved on to the green zone. When we’re in the green zone, we’re feeling calm, happy, focused, ready to learn without anything distracting us, and in control of what we do and say. There are countless other feelings and states that can be associated with the green zone, but today I’m going to spotlight the last one, “in control of what we do and say”.

A lot of us can remember a time when someone made us angry and, without really thinking things through, we reacted with our hands or our words, and that reaction escalated the situation (made things worse than they already were). Not surprisingly, this happens a lot to our children. When I talk to the students of New Windsor about conflicts, we talk about the fact that we have no control over the words that other people say to us but what we do have control of is what our response looks or sounds like. With our older students, I demonstrate this in an activity I call “Who’s Got The Ball?”, where we play an imaginary game of catch with an invisible ball. The idea behind this is that, like words, we have no control over what kind of ball someone throws to us, but after we catch what was thrown, we can change it into whatever kind of ball we want. It’s the same thing with dialogue. If someone says something that pushes us into an undesirable zone, we have a choice to make: React with the first thing that comes to mind and risk escalating the situation, or take a beat, get back to that “in control” space, and think about the most productive way to respond.

We also have to recognize the fact that finding the balance of the green zone is tricky for many of our scholars. Some of them have a lot of restless energy which keeps them in Yellow (That’s next month). This is a skill that’s learned over time.

On another note, parents of third, fourth, and some fifth graders, we had an overwhelming interest in interviewing for the student leadership team. The current team and I are finishing those interviews next week and should have five or more new members on board before our next Character Awards at the beginning of December.

NEWBURGH

GOLDBACKS™



Mr. Michalek

School Counselor

NWS FAMILY TIPS

iREADY DIAGNOSTIC SCHOOL LEVEL DATA: ELA



ELA Support at Home

- 1. Build Strong Reading Foundations**
Why it matters: Early reading skills (phonics, phonemic awareness, sight words) are essential for fluency and comprehension later on.
How to help:
 - Practice letter sounds and blending words during car rides or routine moments.
 - Play rhyme games (“What rhymes with cat?”) or segmenting games (“What sounds do you hear in *ship*?”).
 - Read alphabet books, decodable books, or short passages together daily.
- 2. Grow Reading Fluency**
Why it matters: Fluent readers spend less effort sounding out words and more energy understanding what they read.
How to help:
 - Have your child reread familiar books to build speed and confidence.
 - Read aloud to them and let them echo-read short sentences.
 - Use timed but low-pressure practice (like reading one paragraph for 1 minute).
- 3. Strengthen Comprehension**
Why it matters: True reading success comes from understanding, not just decoding the words.
How to help:
 - Ask questions before, during, and after reading (“What do you think will happen next?” “Why did the character do that?”).
 - Talk about favorite parts, problems, and themes.
 - Encourage your child to retell the story in order using beginning, middle, and end.
- 4. Build Vocabulary and Language Skills**
Why it matters: A strong vocabulary helps with reading, writing, and speaking across all subjects.
How to help:
 - Introduce new words naturally during conversations (“This pasta is *delicious*—that means really tasty”).
 - Play word games like “I Spy,” Scrabble Jr., or categories.
 - Read a wide variety of books—fiction, nonfiction, poetry.
- 5. Support Writing at Home**
Why it matters: Writing helps children organize thoughts, express ideas, and deepen reading skills.
How to help:
 - Encourage daily writing: journals, lists, letters, comics, or stories.
 - Help them stretch out sounds to spell words independently.
 - Practice simple editing by rereading sentences together and checking capitals, spacing, and punctuation.

[Cont’d on Next Page]