

WHITE PINE CHARTER SCHOOL December 2020



December 2020 Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, January 4th - Return from Break
- Virtual Day

Tuesday, January 12th - PBIS Assembly -
2:00PM

Monday, January 18th - MLK Day - No
Virtual Day

Tuesday, January 26th - Regular School
Board Meeting - 6:30PM

SERVICE SPOTLIGHT:

Junior Miss of Idaho, Ella Rhinehart and The Cougar visited EIRMC this week to deliver cards. Ella, a former White Pine student asked us to partner with her to make cards to bring joy to patients that might be in the hospital and might not be allowed to have visitors. Thank you for including us, Ella! White Pine misses you!



A Note From Mr. Graham:

Families,

With schedule changes and COVID-19 spread in our county increasing, it is more important than ever to stick together! Check out this video that shows students and staff getting this message across: <https://youtu.be/1mP3at5DpOQ>

The first trimester ended on November 20th and electronic report cards went out on Friday, December 4th. Here are some resources to help families understand our report card.

Standards-Based Report Card

Video: <https://youtu.be/6H7Hu9pErFM>

What do the standards mean? **Standard Key**

We have also made changes to our COVID-19 Plan with the goal of having students in school more and basing our decision making on spread of the virus in our schools. A big THANK YOU goes out to the families, teachers, Board members, and administrators that were part of

the committee to drive these decisions. **COVID-19 Plan**

Thank you for choosing White Pine Charter School for your children. With the best teachers and staff members we continually strive to meet our mission, "Success for Every Student."

Have an amazing break!
Mr. Graham



TEACHER HIGHLIGHT: Mr. Walton

During a year of unknowns and constant changes, Mr. Walton continues to exceed expectations. Aside from his usual grade A teaching, Mr. Walton has taken on three clubs in the afterschool program, created spreadsheets for each grade level to assist in Standards-Based grading, and serves in the role of Captain Connected, all while keeping a smile on his face that keeps everyone else moving. Here's to you Mr. Walton. May we all whistle a bit more in the hallway because of your example!



BOARD CHAIR: EMMALEE ROBINSON

Well, it has been a year. I remember before the start of the school year I was dropping my son off to football practice. Our skies were a dirty red from all the forest fires. There was a protest at another school board meeting. Everything in the news was debating about safety of holding school and the

need to educate our children, and physical health of people vs. mental health of people. We had just finished a very transitional year that was hard on employees, students, and parents. I remember feeling an immense feeling of hopelessness. I finally came to the reality that there was no right choice for everyone. We have a responsibility to educate our children and we responsibility to keep people healthy and safe. There really was no debate because nothing would align. We couldn't say that one choice was better or more important than the other. At this point I chose to focus on serving people in our community and school. I inherited a very difficult situation as a new board member and board chairman. Then we added a global pandemic. None of these things matter if we cannot stick to our foundation that we were built upon, "Success for every student." This year has been far from perfect, but I have been so impressed with teachers and leaders who continue to do amazing things. With all the negativity in our media, I have shared how much teachers and administrators are still doing. I have been beyond humbled seeing the hopeless start of a school year turn into hope from people who focus on serving and loving despite the trials in their own lives.

Alan Cohen said, "Do not wait until the conditions are perfect begin. Beginning makes the conditions perfect." There is so much that our school needs to do to continue on the success we were built upon. We have had several meetings about our future. I am so excited to share what we have been working on in our next few board meetings.

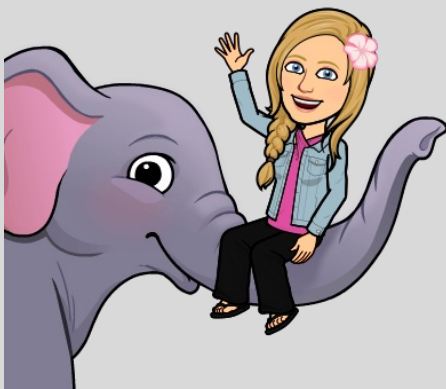
Emmalee Robinson



Emmalee Robinson has served as the White Pine Charter School Board Chair for a little over a year.

The members of the Board of Directors are the public agents who control and govern the Charter School. The Board is governed by Corporate By-Law.

The Board of Directors consists of no less than three (3) members and no more than seven (7). At least one director shall not have children attending White Pine Charter School. At least two directors shall be parents with children in attendance at White Pine Charter School. White Pine Charter School will be a legally and operationally independent entity established by the nonprofit corporation's Board of Directors.



From Mrs. Peterson: School Counselor

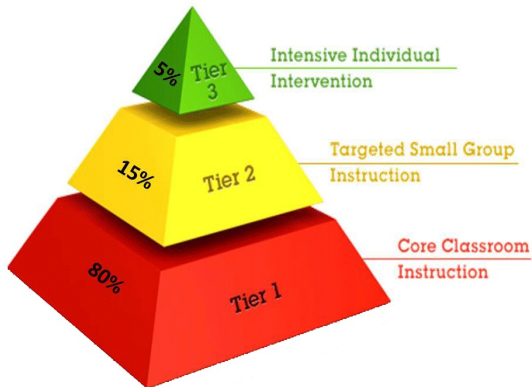
I just wanted to take a moment to thank the White Pine community! This year has been hard on many families, and in true White Pine spirit, families came together to make sure the needs of other White Pine families were taken care of. This year 23 White Pine families received turkey boxes and 13 families received gifts from the giving tree. This is all made possible because of you, and I could not be more proud to be a part of this fantastic community!

PROGRAM UPDATES

RTI Minute



hey.



Meeting the needs of every student begins with having a great core curriculum. This is the Tier One instruction, designed to meet the needs of most students. Regardless of any learning differences or difficulties, we believe that every single student deserves to have access to great grade level instruction. At White Pine, our adopted curriculums are Core Knowledge Language Arts for reading and writing, and Bridges Math for grades K-5. Our 6th graders use Amplify Reading and Illustrative Math to help them transition to Middle School expectations and content. These programs were carefully selected by a committee of White Pine teachers and administrators. We love CKLA because it follows the best research based practices for teaching children to read. It engages students with a variety of topics that build knowledge and align with the Core Knowledge learning sequence for science and social studies, and it develops students' language and writing skills. We love Bridges and Illustrative Math because these programs put math in children's hands with manipulatives, models, games, and practice that develop a deep understanding of numbers and mathematical concepts in a way that builds from year to year. With these strong Tier 1 curriculums in place, our teachers can give each student a strong foundation, upon which we can build with more targeted enrichment and interventions to meet students' individual needs. We'll share more about our Tier Two strategies next time.

Mrs. Sarah Cook

PBIS Minute

Our WPCS students were introduced to a villain by the name of the Reluctant Rapper. The Reluctant Rapper does the opposite of our superheroes and does NOT follow our school wide expectations of being willing, positive, connected, and significant. Willing Woman joined us for a recent PBIS assembly that can be seen here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rmYuhPtWbJjULui0PwNb6danz0UcNeER/view>

Home Activity: Talk to your students at home about the actions of the Reluctant Rapper. How can we help? I challenge students to write the Reluctant Rapper a letter talking about our expectations and helping to solve our problem.



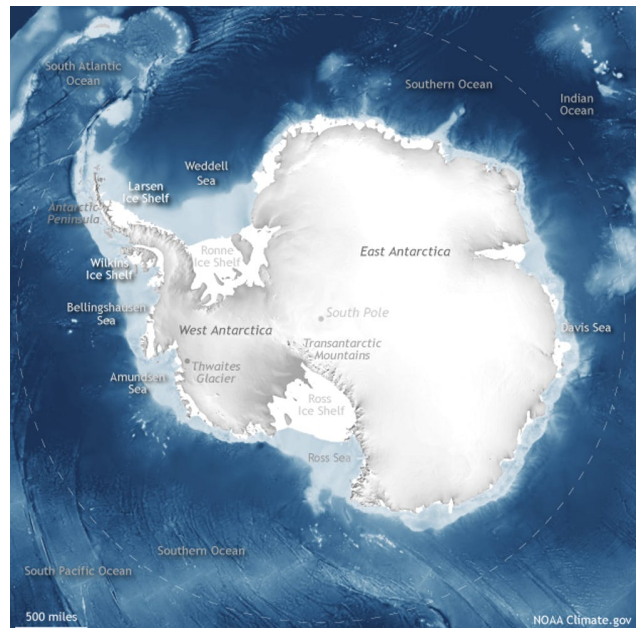
Core Knowledge Corner

Kindergarten Spotlight

Core Knowledge follows the idea that teaching rich content in foundational grades is essential for children to grow and develop. This month, Kindergarten built strong foundations in the study of Antarctica.

Kindergarten isn't the only grade that teaches about the 7 continents. However, they dive deeply into Antarctica. Children learn about wildlife such as seals and penguins. They explore how these animals stay warm in such cold climates and how penguins' feathers repel the icy water. This sets up learning in future grades.

Way to go kindergarten!



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM UPDATES: New Clubs in December!



STEM Club with Mrs. Attebury:

STEM Club uses science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts to encourage students to become problem solvers as they investigate real world problems in the global sphere. They learn to code through the implementation of our drone curriculum. STEM Club students are also learning to use the 3D printer to problem solve and innovate. They will eventually run the STEM store. The goal of the STEM club is to promote student engagement and interest in STEM topics and careers.



Art Club with Ms. Kennedy:

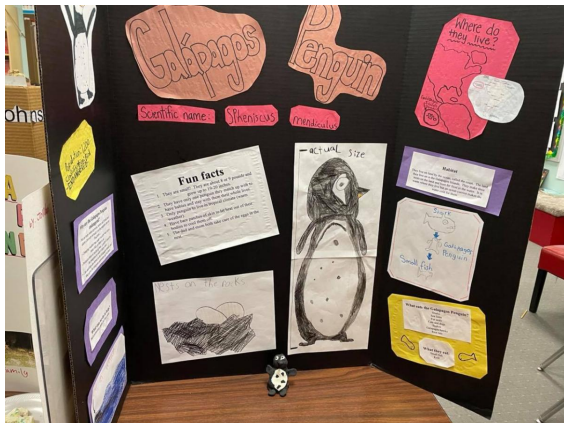
Art club works to provide students with an opportunity to express their individuality through the creation of artwork and give back to our community, school, and others, using our talents and gifts in unique ways. Students are given the opportunity to explore their creative ideas and talents through their projects. Art club introduces students to a variety of mediums to explore their love of art and create lifelong artists and creators.



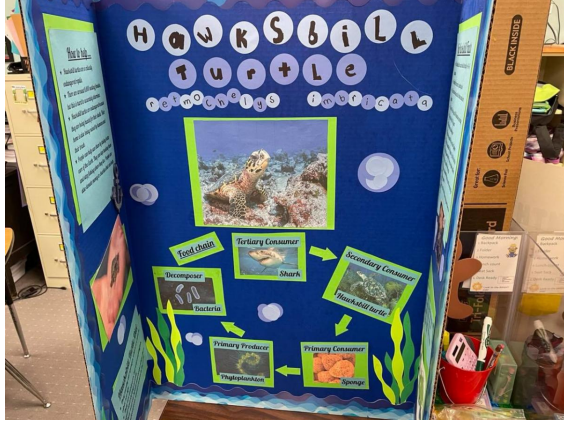
G.A.T.E with Mrs. Walker:

The program for gifted and talented students is designed to aid in the optimum development of their intellectual, emotional, and social abilities and to honor the diversity among the identified students through the provision of varied placement options and differentiated and more challenging curriculum. It is special education for gifted and talented students to help them develop their extraordinary abilities and recognizes that gifted and talented students in this district have unique values, needs, and talents.

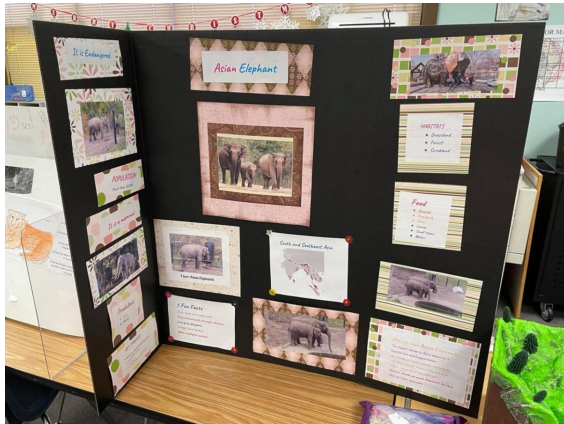
3rd GRADE ENDANGERED SPECIES ZOO



It is a tradition for third graders at White Pine Charter school to create an Endangered Animal Species Zoo. Students research animals that are endangered, then they create a poster and a model or costume of that animal to share at school. This year there was a new kind of Endangered Species Zoo for third grade! Students still researched and presented projects about endangered animals to their classmates, but this year those projects were shared by video! Some projects were filmed by teachers and others were filmed by students! Students did a terrific job and worked hard to find out



about these animals. They also had great ideas about how to help those animals survive.



BIG THANKS!

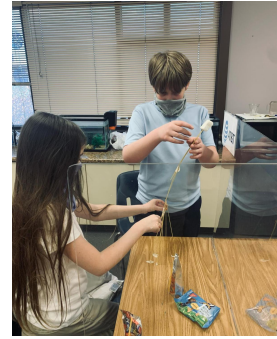


We want to thank Melaleuca for donating computers to White Pine families who do not have them at home! We are proud to be a part of this type of community!

Thank you to Director Sylvia Medina for coming to the school to read her book, Grizzly 399! It's a wonderful book, so go find it at your local bookstore. The first graders absolutely loved it!



COUGAR SIGHTINGS!



Mrs. J gets a pie in the face after a student saved up all of his cougar bucks!



Mr. Walton helps a student during Creative Writing Club.



Senorita Ortega chats with students during Spanish Club.

