

# Woodstock Elementary School Principal's Report

by Principal Maggie Mills

During the 2021-2022 school year, there were 251 PreK-4 students enrolled at Woodstock Elementary. This was the first year that Woodstock Elementary operated as a PreK-4 school, with our students in grades 5-6 attending the reopened Prosper Valley School in Pomfret. As a result of the shift in configuration for WES, the school was able to expand its PreK program to house three PreK classes, for a total of 54 PreK students! Following work and input from staff and families over the summer and fall of 2021, WES adopted a new mission: *to provide a strong foundation and foster perseverance and belonging*, as well as a new vision statement: *cultivating compassionate, empowered learners*. The 2022-2023 school year opened with an enrollment of 257 students in grades PreK-4. At the close of the 2022-2023 school year, we will say goodbye to our retiring 2nd grade teacher, the beloved Christine Halik.

Here are some programmatic highlights for the 2021-2022 school year:

- In the fall of 2021, WES was able to resume mixing students across classrooms and grade levels for intervention and enrichment opportunities beyond their homeroom classes.
- Typical in-person art, music, STEM, and PE classes resumed in person for grades K-4.
- Before the snow flew, WES participated in the VT DOT Name a Snowplow program. Penguin the Plow, driven by a WES grandparent, visited in November.
- December was “respect and celebrate differences month” at WES. Our school-wide celebration theme was the uniqueness of each snowflake, and families shared their various winter holidays and traditions via a slideshow.
- In the spring, our 4th grade students partnered with Northern Stage’s BridgeUp theater program to produce an entertaining rendition of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*.
- Parents and guardians were thrilled to begin volunteering in the school again in the winter and spring. We had many volunteers turn out for our book fair, teacher appreciation luncheon, and field day. We had missed the active involvement of parents within the school during the pandemic restrictions, and the 2022-2023 school year is allowing for further rebuilding of relationships.
- Throughout the limited opportunities of 2020-2021, the dedicated members of the WES PTO played an integral role in sponsoring projects including the annual bake sale, assisting with the book fair, and coordinating teacher appreciation week.

Thank you as always to our broader community for your support and commitment to our children.