Dear Parents and Family Members,

In the next few weeks, students in grades 3 through 8 will engage in a series of New York State Department of Education designed assessments. The assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics will take place over the course of two days each. Although the assessments have a suggested time recommendation according to the grade and the subject, students will be allotted as much time as they need. In the event a student needs more than the suggested time, he/she may continue the assessment in his/her current setting, or in an alternate location with a different proctor. If you have any questions regarding the assessments, please email mpassarelli@nredlearn.org.

Very truly yours,
Melissa A. Passarelli

Our Daniel Webster Studio Arts program was a huge success as students showcased their visual and performing arts talents during our Studio Arts Festival on January 31st for grade 1, 2 and 3, and February 8th for grades 4 and 5. If you haven’t had an opportunity to see the amazing visual arts that students created, they are still proudly on display in the Webster hallways.

Our first graders celebrated Black History Month by learning dances from Nigeria, Jamaica and the Georgia Sea Islands during their dance residency with the Vanaver Caravan. The program focused on building the 5 “C”s in our first grade students: Celebration of Diversity, Cultural Awareness, Community Building, Character Growth, and Creative Expression. The content is also related to first grade Social Studies and their Sociology Humanities strand. They did an amazing job performing for their families and our school community.
Mrs. Brenna’s 2nd grade class recently presented their culminating non-fiction project to their peers. They discussed their topic and various text features that were evident in their projects. Students had the opportunity to share their knowledge with one another and ask questions.

As a part of their fourth grade science study on food chains and food webs, the students in class 4 Reeves had a fun science lab experience dissecting owl pellets. The students felt like real scientists as they put on their gloves and lab covering and got their dissecting tools ready. As the students gently took apart the pellets, they observed and documented everything. They used an identification guide to help classify all the bones, skulls and jawbones that they found in each pellet. Owls eat many rodents and, in looking through their regurgitated pellets, students got a better understanding of an owl’s food web and where the owl fits in its food chain.

"I was surprised that all those bones fit in one pellet! I learned about the owls’ preys and what their bones look like." - Jacob Pantelis

"It was gross yet very interesting." - Gia Boyer

"This helped me understand more of what an owl eats." - Senoi Gordon

"This lab was very cool." - Ajani

"In the beginning, I was very grossed out, but then I started to feel like a scientist." - Sophia Malespin
**Black History Celebration**

On February 9th, the school district’s Annual Black History Celebration took place at New Rochelle High School. Webster 4th and 5th graders composed art, poetry and books for the event. Also, our Webster Singers participated in the performing arts portion of the event, during which they sang a medley of songs by Aretha Franklin. All of our Webster students did a fantastic job! Special thanks go to teachers Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Horton, Mrs. Sperling and Ms. Jaye for facilitating our students’ contributions.

**Box Tops for Education**

The winner of the trophy for January was Mrs. Barnes’ 1st grade class...again! The winner of the Mikey Dubbs gift card was Ava Quigley from Mrs. Barnes' class. The raffle prize for February is a hot chocolate party for the class of the winning student.
Second graders in Mr. Minei's class started their STEAM project with Ms. Huston and Mrs. Coyne. They used Legos to build houses, dams, and irrigation systems. They learned to plan, design, build, and revise. After completion, they were able to test their designs.

This winter, the fifth grade science classes worked collaboratively in groups to recognize the differences between physical and chemical changes. Their discoveries were amazing!
In Our Library

Under the direction of Mrs. Price, lots of exciting things are happening in the Webster library! Recent activities included:

- A Skype session with an author
- Third grade buddy reading for Women’s History Month
- Star Serve Reading Buddies with 2nd and 5th graders
- A visit from Clifford, the Big Red Dog at the Scholastic Book Fair!
Encourage your child to get a good night’s sleep, eat a healthy breakfast, and arrive to school on time on all testing days. If your child arrives to school after the test administration has begun, your child will take the assessment on a make-up day. If you have any questions, please email me at mpassarelli@nredlearn.org.

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