As we spring into the fourth marking period, we hope the weather catches up with the season. This year truly was *Frozen*!

On the educational front, students have been working very hard on our Smarter Balanced Field Test. Along with all of the hard work done in classes this year, our students have done well because they are so familiar with technology. Since it began last March, students and teachers have been utilizing the BYOD campaign. Teachers in both 5th and 6th grade have been integrating technology and the internet into lessons utilizing iPods, iPads, laptop computers, and smartphones with their students. The program has worked amazingly well and Carrigan remains at the forefront of technology and education in West Haven.

With warm weather in the forecast, I predict our students will be able to leave their books in their lockers – at least for a day. The 6th grade Holiday Hill trip is planned for Monday, June 9th and our 5th grade Field Day is scheduled for Friday, June 20th. Both days are great fun for students and staff alike, and truly celebrate the awesome progress that our kids have accomplished this year.

Let’s hope the weather finally warms up for these great events in June. Mr. Paolino, Mrs. Shirden, and I can always be reached here at school if you have questions or concerns.

Wishing you a happy and healthy Spring,
Rich Weber, Assistant Principal

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### 6th grade Parents:

**Don’t Forget** … the last day to remit payments and permission slips for the Holiday Hill field trip is **Tuesday, May 27th**.
Congratulations to our Caring Cougars!


6th grade: Erika Arce, Isaiah Belton, Anabella Calvao, Yarelis Cardoso, Jessica Drost, Angela Ellis, Alexander Franklin, Sarah Fullerton, Jeff Granda-Arias, Lesli Lara, Aquell McKay-Henderson, Justin Medina, Crystal Millet, Jake Nicolelli, Sophia Nugent, Kenya Olvera, Ivy Santos, Mia Silva, Robert Songhurst, I'trelle Telfair, Heidy Vasquez
Come join us on May 22nd for Math Night. There will be a representative from Bailey for 6th graders and their parents to discuss what is expected in the Middle School math setting. For our 5th grade families, there will be a discussion of what the students will be experiencing in their math class next year.

The first **Westie Day of Hope** will be held on Sunday, May 18, from 12:00-4:00, in the West Haven High School courtyard to raise money for Camp Rising Sun, a camp in Connecticut for kids across the state who currently have or have previously battled cancer.

In the past two years, Carrigan, WHHS and Bailey Middle School have raised almost $70,000 to fight childhood cancer. The Westie Day of Hope will feature booths from school clubs and organizations and be centered around a head-shaving event showing support for cancer patients who often lose their hair from treatments.

Information about participating in the event – including how our students can volunteer and have their heads shaved – will be coming home soon.

For more information, email westiedayofhope@whschools.org.
Open-door angles
Doors in your house are the perfect place for hands-on practice with angles. Take turns opening or closing a door and asking, “Acute, right, or obtuse?” Partially open a door, and it’s an acute angle. Open it straight out, and it’s a right angle. Open it wider, and it’s obtuse.

Habitat for rent
Help your child think about what animals need to survive (shelter, food, water). Then, have her choose an animal (monkey) and write a classified ad for a home that will meet its needs. Example: “Tall tree in a tropical rain forest. Large river nearby for drinking. Plenty of leaves, fruit, and insects to eat.”

Book picks
1. Hotel Infinity is fully booked, but there’s always room for more. Read The Cat in Numberland (Ivar Ekeland) for a clever introduction to infinity.
2. Learning about the solar system is fun when planets tell the story themselves. Dan Green’s Astronomy: Out of This World! contains fascinating facts and details along with cartoon illustrations your youngster is sure to love.

Fractions of fun
Understanding fractions is much easier when your child can visualize them. Here are ideas to help her see—and use—fractions.

Keep a diary. Show her that fractions are a part of everyday life. For a week, have her record and illustrate each one she notices. For instance, she might write, “We had a half day of school today,” or “Mom asked for 1 1/2 pounds of turkey at the store.” How many examples can she find and draw?

Play a game. Have each player cut a sheet of construction paper into six horizontal strips. She should leave the first one whole and then cut the second one in half (fold it, and cut along the fold), and the others into thirds, fourths, sixths, and eighths. With bits of masking tape, label a die: 1/6, 1/4, 1/8, and “wild.” To play, roll the die, and lay the matching piece of paper on your whole strip (for “wild,” choose any piece). The goal is to be the first one to fill your strip without overlapping any pieces (example: 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 = 1 whole strip).

Put in order. Together, make a set of fraction cards, with one fraction per index card (1/1, 1/2, 1/3, 1, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 2). Shuffle the cards, and see how quickly your youngster can put them in order. Then, while she closes her eyes, lay the cards in order but leave out a few. Give her the missing cards, and have her put them where they go.

Look at me!
Help your youngster learn about the science of optics with this mealtime activity.
Have him look at himself in a clean spoon. What happens if he looses in the bowl of the spoon? (He’s upside down) What happens on the other side? (He’s right side up.)
Next, have him bring his finger toward the spoon and watch what happens on each side. The bowl (the concave side) will magnify his finger, or make it look larger. The back (the convex side) will make his finger look smaller. Ask your child how scientists might use this information to make eyeglasses, cameras, or telescopes.
Tip: He can remember which side is which by thinking of concave as “caves in.”