



The Clark-Wilkins Villager

August 31, 2018

[Clark-Wilkins Website](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS – [Click here for the 2018-2019 SAU39 Calendar](#)

- August 27 – New Student Orientation Grades 1-4 (For Families/Students new to Wilkins)
- September 4 – First Day of Instruction – Grades 1-4
- September 4 - Kindergarten Orientation
- September 5 - First Day of instruction Pre-K and Kindergarten
- September 8 – PTA Ice Cream Social – Wilkins Playground, 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM
- September 8 – [Amherst Old Home Day Festival](#)
- September 11 – Late Start
- **September 14 – Community Flyer Day (Please contact school offices for distribution details)**
- September 18 – Godin/Chazanoff Hike
- September 19 – Vaupel/Wright Hike
- September 20 – Alger/Kidder Hike
- September 24 - Open House – Grades 1 & 2, 6:15
- September 25 – Open House – Preschool, 5:30, Kindergarten, 6:15, Grades 3 & 4, 6:45
- October 8 – Columbus Day – no School
- November 5 – Teacher In-Service Day – no school
- November 6 – Election Day – no school

CHECK OUT OUR [COMMUNITY NEWS PAGE](#) FOR INFORMATION ON:

- Amherst Old Home Week, September 8
- Amherst Soccer Club

Welcome Back

This week we welcomed back all of our incredible Clark-Wilkins educators. It was great to have everyone back in the building, the excitement and enthusiasm were at 100%. Many staff members were celebrated and appreciated by their colleagues during the welcome back breakfast at Souhegan High School. During the afternoon our staff participated in “The Amazing Race.” There were a lot of laughs, and we have put together a short video together to welcome all new students back to school. To view the [video](#), click on the following link: [Welcome Back Video](#), make sure your sound is turned on!

Ice Cream Social

The PTA is hosting an [Ice Cream Social](#) for all Clark-Wilkins families, students, and staff on Friday, September 7. Please join us on the Wilkins playground between 4:00-6:00 PM to share a treat, meet new staff, and connect with CW families and friends.

[Breakfast](#) and [Lunch](#) Menu – please click on the links to view the September CW menus

Changes to Wilkins Dismissal Procedures – Pick Up Only

At Clark-Wilkins, it is our priority to ensure that ALL of our students are safe, physically and emotionally, throughout the school day. This includes during the time that we are dismissing children into your care at the end of the day. There are a variety of ways that children can travel to and from school, and we understand and value the importance of our families making the best decision for their family and children.

Each day at CW we have children that ride the bus, are picked up by parents, walk into the village, ride bikes and scooters, and even attend after-school programs. The majority of our dismissal procedures have not changed for the upcoming year. However, the purpose of this communication is to highlight those areas where adjustments have been made. In all situations, changes have been made to improve safety for your child(ren) and our staff.

Pick-Up (car riders)

Beginning on the first day of school, 9/4, we will **no** longer release children to adults waiting on the outside corner of the multi-purpose room at Wilkins until all other students have been picked up. This area is used to gather children that will be loaded into vehicles. It is extremely difficult for our staff to attempt to dismiss children to standing adults plus monitor the traffic pattern, load the correct children in the correct vehicles, and act as a crossing guard through two lanes of traffic all the while maintaining student safety.

Adults picking children up from school must remain in their vehicle and wait to be called forward into a loading bay (numbered 1-4) by a member of staff. We recognize that this process can take upwards of 10 minutes and can present a challenge for after-school activity schedules. If you prefer not to wait in the car line, there are three alternate options.

1. Children can ride the bus
2. Children can be dismissed as a walker (“walkers” are children that are walked by a staff member to the end of the school driveway and crossed by a crossing guard. Many children then walk to the village to meet their designated adult).
3. Children can wait with other students on the “pick-up” list. The adult picking up can park in the parking lot, wait until all vehicles have been loaded, and then walk to the corner of the MPR to sign-out your child.

Regardless of how your child is dismissed, we ask all families to review and update their dismissal plans in Pick-Up Patrol regularly. Daily changes can be made until 12:30 PM and changes after this time must be made by telephoning the school.

Enjoy the long weekend, the cooler temperatures, and we look forward to seeing all of the students at school next week.

Respectfully submitted by Nicola Fraley, Principal

ALL ABOUT THE WILKINS SPECIAL SUBJECT TEAM

Top Row, left to right – Mary Prescott-Ninness, Robert Allwarden, Gail Polio
Bottom Row, left to right – Brenden Holt, Sarah Strauss

Mrs. Prescott-Ninness graduated from UNH in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Art Education. She has held K-12 credentials for over 43 years and will be retiring June 2019. She has taught at Clark as well as Wilkins. She acquired her Masters in Education degree from Lesley College in 1996 and achieved an Excellence in NH Art Education Award that same year. Lots of other achievements and Art events too numerous to mention here. Teaching Art has always been a deep passion. Family and friends are scattered across the USA.

Robert Allwarden will be starting his 24th year at Clark-Wilkins and is looking forward to another year full of music, song, and dance. In addition to playing music, he loves to kayak, run, hike and ride motorcycles with his son. He likes to go to the flea market, find old instruments and turn them into lamps, tables other things. Robert is excited about the start of a new year and can't wait to create music with all of the Clark-Wilkins students!

Gail Polio is excited to be working all Clark-Wilkins students during their technology specials class. She is looking forward to seeing all students try new things, experience success, and grow in their knowledge and skills.

Brenden Holt is excited to begin his career as the new Physical Education teacher at Clark-Wilkins! He loves to advocate for healthy, active living and demonstrates this in his own life through fitness and various sports. One of his most important goals as an educator includes helping to develop students to become confident and efficient movers.

Sarah Strauss is so excited to be starting her second year as the library media specialist at Clark-Wilkins! She lives in Amherst with her husband and two children and loves to read, hike, kayak, and bike in her free time! She is looking forward to another great school year with the wonderful staff and students at Clark-Wilkins!