

Bucks Bulletin is a project of the students and staff of Washington Island School.

# Principal's Report: October School News

By Tim Verboomen

Well, another school year is off to a great start. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our second annual first-day-of-school community picnic. It was such a great way to celebrate our students' return to school. This year the WISD faculty and staff spent time before school started to re-define our school's mission. We asked ourselves, "what is our purpose?" and distilled our answers into our new Mission Statement: We are committed to teaching, learning, growing, and succeeding.

### Citizen-Science

September has been full of many exciting learning opportunities here at school. Our fifth through twelfth grade students participated in some citizen science by tagging butterflies and collecting samples to aid scientists in researching *Ophryocystis Electroscirrha* (OE), a debilitating protozoan parasite that infects monarchs. Those students ended the day on a Zoom call with Monarch scientists researching migration and the Monarch parasites.

### Community Partnership

On September 18th, our students also joined our island community members and senior citizens with a Packers themed lunch in the community gym. We look forward to another similar opportunity to partner with WICHP with them by serving a holiday-themed breakfast at school just

before Christmas.

We're also continuing to look for ways to open the school to our community. This month we've added the Fab-Lab adult class that began September 20th. Community members in these opportunities will have the opportunity to explore the digital fabrication laboratory and learn about the various machines and the design softwares, and will have the option to focus on projects in the Fab Lab or Woods Shop.

### Our Soccer Team

The soccer team is having another great year and has had 7 wins and only 2 losses so far this season. Coach Purinton and our soccer team managed a win for our first home game of the season against Stockbridge and looks forward to winning another one at home against Algoma on October 13th. Our team has enjoyed having Island support at each of their away games, but they really look forward to playing at home for our island fans. Please join us on 10/13, the game will start around 4:00 that afternoon. Go Bucks!

### Rock Island

Our third and fourth graders had an opportunity to go on a field trip to visit the Jacobsen Museum to get a first hand glimpse of Rock and Washington Islands' history in preparation for the bi-annual K-12 trip to Rock Island on September 29th. Our K-4 students crossed on the Karifi, but our

high school students ventured to Rock Island in Island Adventure's Voyageur Canoe. It was a fun way to get a sense of what it might have been like for Father Marquette, Louis Jolliet, Jean Nicolet, and other early explorers to travel across our area.

### Other Cool Stuff

Our high school students were invited to Gibraltar's Homecoming this year. Most of our high school students attended the football game on September 29th and the dance on the 30th.

Our high school art students are planning and creating temporary art installations in and around the school. The first of these installations is already on display, bringing autumn's beauty into our school.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that this year our students will have in-person guidance and high school math, which both had to be done virtually last year. We very excited to have three new teachers in our school this year,

Mrs. Newman (guidance counselor), Mrs. Josifek (secondary math teacher), and Mrs. Jordan (special education director.) They are joining our team of extraordinary teachers. We are truly fortunate to have such a committed group of educators on Washington Island!

### School/Community Partnerships

Partnering with our school We look forward to partnering with you — our community — to continue giving our students ever more exciting, memorable, and meaningful opportunities. Additionally, we're interested in expanding such opportunities to members of our community. We'd love to offer everything from short courses on knitting or basic engine maintenance to cribbage nights or chair-fitness for seniors. If you have any ideas for how we might be able to work together, doing good things for our students and community, please contact us at school. We look forward to hearing from you.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Mr. Verboomen, principal at Washington Island School, made sure to welcome and visit with students at the first day of school picnic.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Marlie (front), Freya (right), Colton (left front), Gabriel (left middle), and Issac (far end) sit and visit at a with adults at the Packer Party.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Once again, WICHP and the School partnered to hold a Packer's Tailgate Lunch Party at the Community Center on Monday, September 18th. Seniors from both on and off Island came to join the Washington Island School students for a bratwurst or hot dog picnic lunch. Many were festively dressed for the event, the tables were decorated green and gold, as well as the cookies for dessert! Inside, after lunch, WICHP raffled off prizes for the students, and outside, several students played Cornhole. The annual Tailgate Packer Party with WICHP is a great opportunity for students to meet new people, have conversations with adults, and share some good food!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

This sixth grader dressed for the occasion had lunch and a conversation with someone from off Island during the Packer Party.





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# Fourth Grade Poetry

## I am a Lava Lamp

Writing with Poet, Carlos Reyes  
By Lilian, 4th Grade

A lava lamp goes up and down, like life.

This lava lamp is like a race, like life.

This Lava lamp is me.

I love challenges.

This lava lamp is in a race or a challenge to beat the other color to the bottom,

But if I tilt it, it will be in the middle, like when I'm not too happy or not too sad.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Lilian's inspiration for her lava lamp poem.

# Back to School Q&A with Grades 1 and 2!

By Alyssa Wagner and her First and Second Grade Students

The beginning of the school year is always very exciting! New school supplies, new shoes, a brand new grade, for some a brand new teacher and classroom, and a whole new opportunity to learn something new and grow, grow, grow as learners! Curious about my new group of students, I sat down with each one and asked them to tell me about their favorite things in school so far and a goal they had for themselves this year. I am quite impressed with their answers and I am excited for a great year ahead! Here are some of the responses from the interviews:

**Question 1: What is your favorite subject in school? Why?**

Nolan said, "Math because I like learning new methods to solve problems."

"My favorite subject in school is art and gym because art is fun when you make crafts, and gym is fun when you play games," said Clara.

Ava said, "I like math because I like learning about new equations and new ways to solve equations."

"Gym!" Cohen excitedly said.

Odin said, "Math because you can count to 10 and make partners of 10."

**Question 2: What is the best activity, game, or lesson we've completed so far this year?**

Dakota said, "The new reading books we get to read everyday."

"The gumball math game," Nolan said matter of factly.

Ava said, "I really like the alphabet cookie and the math gumball game."

Lucia said, "I liked the book we read called I Want to be a Vase because it was a really funny story."

**Question 3: What is one goal you have for yourself this year?**

"One goal that I have for myself this year is to get faster with solving my math equations", Ava replied.

"Listening," said Lucia.

Odin said, "My math facts".

Clara said, "Being a good math learner, getting through math easily, and listening."

Dakota proudly said, "Learning, growing, and succeeding just like the school wants us to!"

# Poetry Workshop with Poet Carlos Reyes

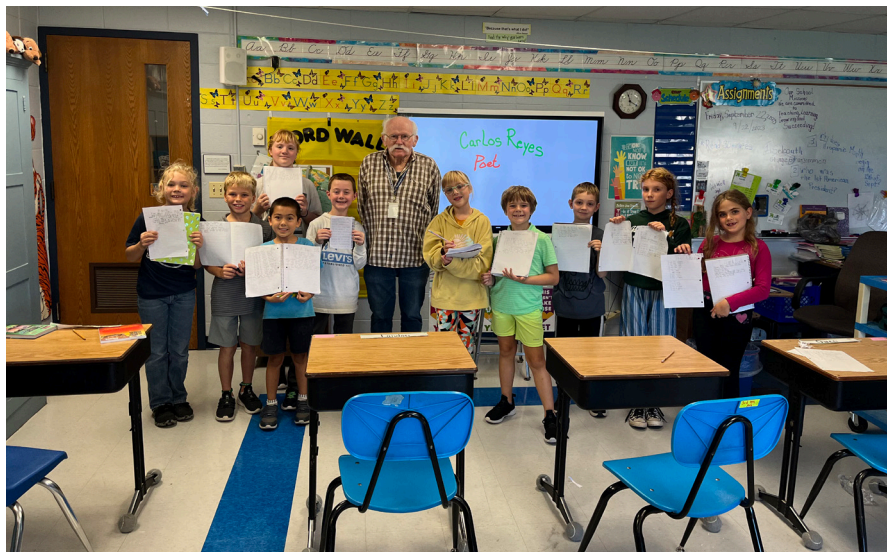


PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

On Friday, September 22nd, the elementary and middle school students were enlightened with a visiting poet, Carlos Reyes, who was sponsored by Write-On of Door County. The students learned about his passion for writing and writing techniques as he guided them while they wrote poetry. One thing the students heard from the professional poet was that it's important to persevere: to keep writing, rereading, and editing their work until they are proud and pleased with their writing. Mr. Reyes is from Portland, Oregon, and we were so lucky to have him at our small Washington Island School! Thank you, Write-On of Door County!

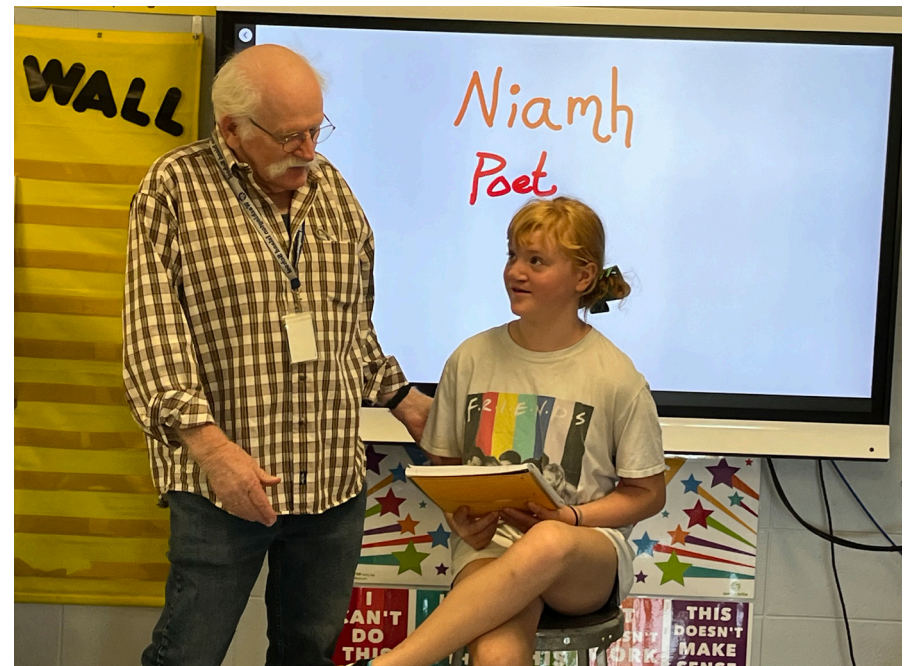


PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Each student was deemed a poet in the front of the room and got to proudly read their poems to their classmates! Nia was in "The Poet's Seat" and is pictured here with Carlos Reyes.



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## Gearing up for Rock Island



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Studying the history of Rock Island, the 3rd and 4th grade students were given a tour of the Jacobsen Museum by Jeanie Hutchins and Nina Herbst. They were particularly looking at Native American artifacts and evidence of fossils from the Silurian Sea that once covered North America below the equator millions of years ago.

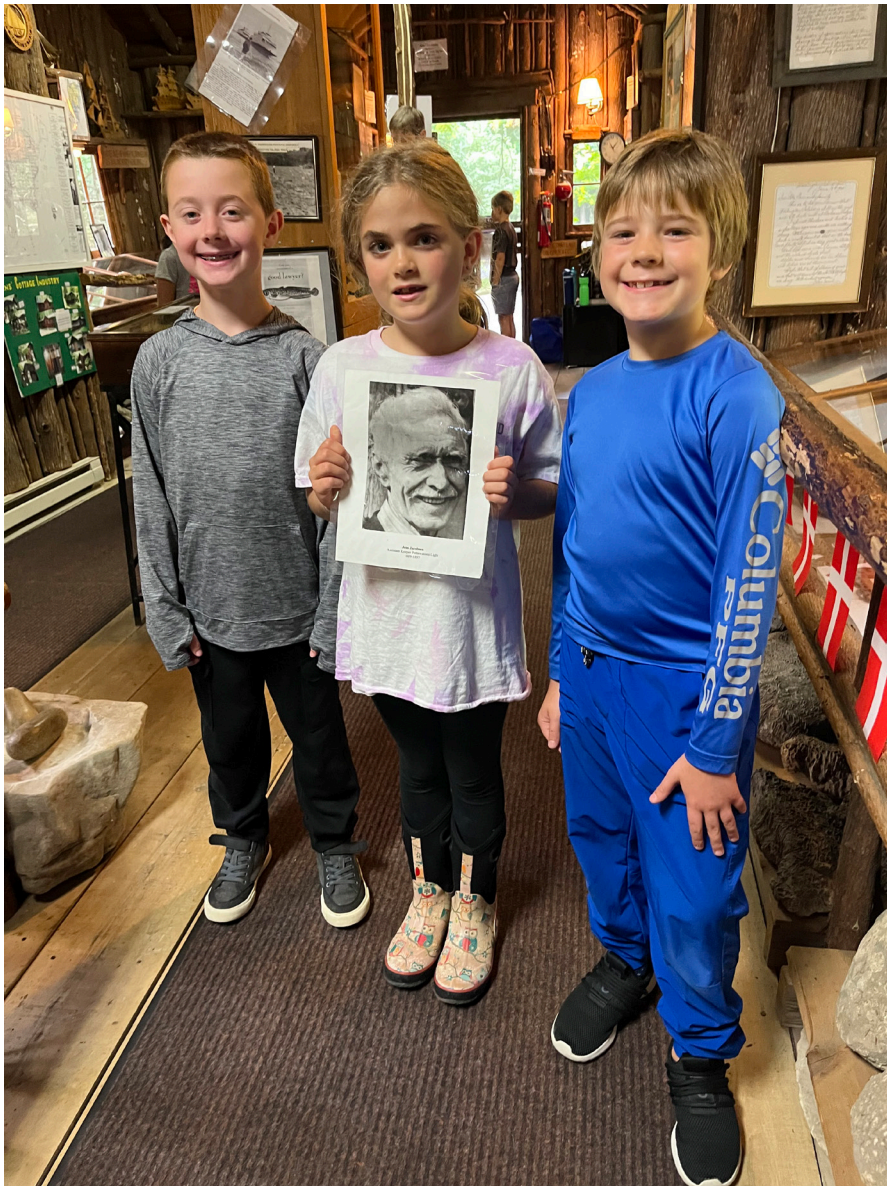


PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Devon, Ruthie, and Landon are pictured here with Jens Jacobsen, their Great Great Great Grandpa!

## Guidance Counselor's Corner

By Lynn Newmann

It's been a fun start of the year with new Guidance Classes. The youngest ones have been working on listening ("ears listening"), looking ("eyes watching"), being quiet ("voice quiet"), and being still ("body still"). They will be moving on to self-talk next.

The 3rd and 4th Graders have been focusing on being respectful, which entails all the above. The 5th graders are learning about empathy and the 6th,7th and 8th Graders are working on identifying the different forms of bullying and will move on

to factors that lead to bullying. We will start the Mental Health Unit in a few weeks. The overall theme for the 6-8th graders for the semester is to learn safety in all forms.

I am meeting with each High Schooler separately starting with the 11th and 12th grades. The purpose is to assess where they are, in terms of high school success, where they might be "heading" after high school, trying to envision their possible future lives and how to get there. This school has a fantastic group of kids!

## Bay Beach Blast A Summer Narrative

By Williamson, 3rd Grade

One day this summer I went to Bay Beach with my mom, dad, and little sister Dorene! We had a lot of fun! First, I went on the Tilt-A-Whirl with my dad and sister. There were seats that we sat in that spun in circles on the giant metal rings that seats were attached to. The Tilt-A-Whirl moved up and down while the seats spun right and left, in circles, and in the opposite direction! Next, we went on the Scrambler. It was exactly like the Tilt-A-Whirl, but just the seats were connected to a metal pole sticking out of the ground in the middle of the ride. It was much faster than the Tilt-A-Whirl. After those two rides, my dad almost puked!

Then, Dorene made me go on a fake helicopter that went round and round in circles. It was the worst ride ever because it was so slow! Next, I went on the Zippin Pippin. The Zippin Pippin is a roller coaster! It was so fast, I almost flew out of my seat!

Then, I went on the Sea Dragon! The Sea Dragon is a fake boat that swings forward and backward. I went so high in the air that I thought the Sea Dragon was going to flip over! Then, I had to leave because Bay Beach was closing soon. I was sad, but then my dad bought me a slushy! We stayed in a hotel for a night, and then we went home. I had a good time at Bay Beach!

**THANK YOU**  
 Fair Isle Books and all your customers for all the book donations to Washington Island School students!

The WISP





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# The Rock Island Trip 2023



PHOTO BY STEVE WALDRON

**High School Students Cross Over to Rock Island in a Voyageur Canoe.**

**By Marleen EhrlichJohnson**

The morning was foggy, but the Island Adventure Voyageur canoe, filled with high school students and a fearless leader in a red French Voyageur hat made by Mary Grzelak, found its way to Rock Island on Friday morning, September 29th. The canoe is similar to the ones the French fur traders used passing by Rock Island in the 1700s. The Karfi carried the rest of the Washington Island students for their biennial Rock Island trip. For many years, Mrs. Nehlsen took the juniors and seniors to Rock Island after studying the life of Chester Thordarson and using the perfect backdrop of the Viking Hall in the boathouse to perform the poem of Beowulf to the juniors and senior students of Sevastopol. The all-school Washington Island School trip to Rock Island was started years after with the thought that all the students at Washington Island School should know the history of the home they came from. The Town of Washington actually began on Rock Island in 1850.

This year the students were split into groups of six or seven from

different grade levels, and half of the groups headed to the Pottawatomie Lighthouse for a tour in the morning, while the other half toured the boathouse and hiked on the south side finding fossils, plants, and other natural features that were on a Scavenger Hunt list created by Steve Waldron. Other teachers put together a Scavenger hunt list for students to learn the lay of the land and the history of Rock Island, including the lighthouse, the Native Americans and the fishermen and their families that once lived there, the French ships that passed by trading furs, fish, and other goods, as well as the life of Chester Thordarson, which students could read about in the boathouse. By 11:30 A.M. all the groups met near the boathouse for a picnic lunch and then switched activities for the afternoon.

By the end of the day, the fog had long cleared out, and the high school students had the opportunity to row in the Voyageur canoe back to Washington Island. The rest of the students rode the Karfi, some for the first time in their lives. It was a great experience for all!



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

**Nolan was super excited to make the journey over to Rock Island on the Karfi!**



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

**Steve Waldron, who met with high school students in Mrs. Dahlke's Science class to prepare them for a nature scavenger hunt, came along on the school's trip to Rock Island to help students locate different plants, animals, and natural features. Mr. Waldron is showing these students a Brachiopod fossil from the Silurian time period when North America was below the Equator and covered with saltwater.**



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

**In addition to hiking up to the lighthouse and receiving a tour, the students also had to work together to complete a Rock Island scavenger hunt. Topics included the flora and fauna of Rock and boathouse, lighthouse, and general Rock Island history. One of the items on the scavenger hunt required each group to pose in front of the Rock Island sign. Check! Nice job students!**



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

**Madelyn, Dakota, and Magnus led this group uphill to the lighthouse on Rock Island! The student-groups were made up of mixed ages, which gave them a great opportunity to interact with each other.**