

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

The Principal's report: October 2022

By Tim Verboomen

Well, I just did the math and discovered that, as of the print date of this issue, we are approximately 18.5% through this school year already. The remaining 81.5% of our year certainly has a lot to live up to if we intend to keep up the current pace of learning, growing, achieving, and succeeding! October brought another busy, productive, fun month of school on the island.

Citizen Science

Our islander student-scientists continued delving into citizen science opportunities with a visit to Gathering Ground this month. Over the years our students have helped maintain their experimental plantings, recorded the growth of varietal chestnut trees to determine the optimal species to grow here in our unique biome, and learned a great deal about agriculture in our community and region. Mrs. Jones followed up the students' September citizen science (Butterfly Tagging) with "Middle School Monarchs," a study in natural beauty well worth stopping by school to see for yourself. Our island artists have created some remarkably beautiful art! Some of our younger student scientists also had another day of outdoor learning with Mr. Waldron out at the Jackson Harbor Ridges.



PHOTO BY TIM VERBOOMEN

Middle School Monarchs Art Display.

Future Opportunities

Following the Education Fair they attended last month, our high school students will have two more unique chances to explore future career opportunities. Our 9th and 10th graders were invited to CR Meyer for a day of hands-on learning about working in the trades positions ranging from general construction laborers to engineers and architects. Students learned about the many opportunities available, the education and/or training required, and what kinds of livelihoods such positions can provide. And, our 10th graders will be participating, for the first time ever, in Manufacturing Days in Sturgeon Bay Oct. 27. Our student will be touring three companies. We will visit Hatco — bringing opportunities to develop new skills to utilize new technology such as press brakes and la-



PHOTO BY TIM VERBOOMEN

9th and 10th Graders visiting CR Meyer in Kaukauna.

ser systems with robots, automation on laser systems, the development of co-bots -collaborative robots, AMR's -Automated Mobile Robots, and automation of workflow activities. Students also will tour TTX, which is a full-service of complete engineering support, evaluation, testing, design, fabrication, installation, and start-up & field service; and Cadence, which creates products like a highly sophisticated automation cell, that inserts stamped, sharpened blades into a molding process that results in a subassembly used in laparoscopic surgical devices.

Gaga Ball

Our independent study tech students completed the island's first "Gaga Ball" pit, which has been a huge hit here at school. Gaga Ball is a fast-paced, high-energy game our students play in an octagonal "pit." The game is a kind of less aggressive form of dodgeball played with a soft plastic ball. Played correctly, the game combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping, while trying to hit opponents below their knees with the ball. Players need to keep moving to avoid getting hit, making it a fun, easy way for our students to be active during recess and lunch rec times. If you know anyone attending our school, be sure to ask them about Gaga Ball.

Partnering with our school

We continue to look for new ways to partner with you — our community — to continue giving our students ever more exciting, memorable, and meaningful opportunities. If you have any ideas for how we might be able to work together, doing good things for our students, please contact us at school. We look forward to hearing from you.



PHOTO BY TIM VERBOOMEN

A trip to Jackson Harbor Ridges with Steve Waldron and Ms. Johnson gave these 3rd and 4th grade students an opportunity to learn and appreciate the nature that is all around them on Washington Island.

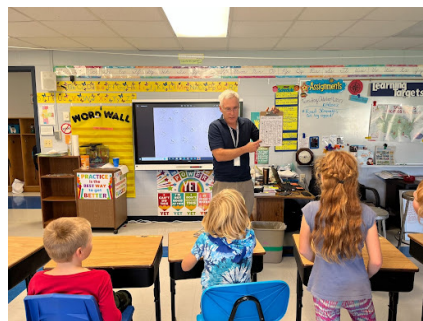


PHOTO BY TIM VERBOOMEN

Before Steve Waldron took the 3rd and 4th grade students out into the field for both the trip to Fernwood Gardens and the Jackson Harbor Ridges, he hiked the trails, took pictures, and created a scavenger hunt of plants, fossils, funguses, and animal habitats and tracks for the students to locate on their field trip. Then, he came into the classroom to teach the students and show them pictures on the SMARTboard of what they were to look for during their scavenger hunt. After the field trip, Mr. Waldron came back into the classroom to reflect with the students on their findings, while Ms. Johnson followed up even further afterward, relating what they learned to the science standards and curriculum.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

7th and 8th graders (and two Seniors) planted 53 Chestnut trees in the Orchard at Gathering Ground on Oct. 14 and harvested some pears.



MATH TEACHER OPENING

Washington Island School is seeking a passionate, self-starting Mathematics educator for our secondary students. Certified candidates will have a thorough understanding of higher mathematics, as well as experience in lesson planning, curriculum development, and classroom management techniques appropriate for high school students. As a teacher in the smallest K-12 school in Wisconsin, applicants should be comfortable working independently in collaboration with a small community of K-12 educators serving an island school district with a population of approximately 65 students. Qualities of flexibility, professional dedication, and personal fortitude are essential.

Applicants are not only applying for a teaching position but a lifestyle change and adventure! Feel free to contact Sue Cornell or Tim Verboomen if you have questions or wish to learn more about the position. You can also apply through WECAN

(Wisconsin Education Career Access Network)

sue.cornell@island.k12.wi.us

tim.verboomen@island.k12.wi.us

920-847-2507

<http://www.island.k12.wi.us/>

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

Fire Safety



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Students learned how to remain calm and exit a smoke filled room with the help of Washington Island firefighters.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Firefighter Adam Steffen and Chief of the Washington Island Fire Department, Pete Nehlsen, once again, provided Fire Safety Reminders to the students with the use of the Fire Safety House lent to them from Chris Hecht, the Fire Chief at the Sister Bay and Liberty Grove Fire Department.

Student Council Announces 2022 Officers and Members

Here ye! Here ye! We are pleased to announce the election results for the 2022-2023 school year. The Student Council President is Spencer, Vice President is Aidan, Secretary is Joseph and Treasurer is Jake. When applying to be an officer, students had to create a speech and share why they were interested in student council, any experiences they had that would make them prepared for the job, and what they would like to

see happen this year. Then, these speeches were presented to the student body. Throughout the year, student council members will be working with all students to discuss areas of growth and work towards finding solutions in our school and community.

The other Student Council members include: Tommy, Mason, Ashlynn, Rita, Greta, Jocelyn, Cydney, Fisher, Breanna, and Madelyn.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HEATH

Student Council President Spencer.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HEATH

Student Council Treasurer Jake.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HEATH

Student Council Vice President Aidan.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER HEATH

Student Council Secretary Joseph.

Growing Bacteria

By Miranda Dahlke

High school biology students tried their hand at growing bacteria in two different lab scenarios. One group tested the 5-Second Rule and the other tested different types of soaps and sanitizers to see if one was better than the other at killing bacteria on their hands. Students swabbed and grew bacteria over the course of about a week. Read on to find out the results as reported in their formal lab reports.

“For the investigation of hand sanitizers and soap, we used an experimental setup. We tested the effectiveness of one sanitizer and one soap. The independent variable was the type of sanitizer and soap that was used in the investigation. Measuring the bacteria growth was the dependent variable. The control group was measured by how much time we washed our hands and how many pumps of sanitizer and soap we used. The experimental group was to see how much bacteria would grow on the dirty or controlled side of the petri dish. The constants were the type of hand sanitizer and soap used. According to the graph, the product that worked best at killing the most bacteria was the sanitizer. This was evident in the part of the petri dish because we could see that it had fewer bacteria growing on it than the area that contained a sample after we washed it with soap. More expensive products kill more germs than cheaper ones.” — 9th grade student

“In our biology class, we were testing the 5-Second Rule. To prepare for this lab, we needed to establish the independent and dependant variables. Our independent variable is the amount of time the object being tested is in contact with the floor.

The dependent variable is the object being tested. Mine was Welch’s Fruit Snacks. I tested the fruit snacks on two separate occasions, one on clean floors for 4 time increments, and on dirty floors for the same amount of time. Each clean and dirty were done twice, for 4 times. First 0 seconds, as our control group, then 5 seconds, 15 seconds, and finally 30 seconds. The surface I dropped the fruit snacks on were the tiles in the science lab. I had a clean tile, and a dirty tile to drop them on. The clean tile was disinfected with a 20% Clorox bleach concentration, diluted with water. The dirty tiles were made more dirty with a sock that was rubbed on the gymnasium floor, rugs, and the bottom of my shoes. The dirty tile stayed the way it was throughout the experiment, but when starting my second experiment, I recleaned my clean tile to prevent the tile from being contaminated.

In conclusion my hypothesis was, if fruit snacks are dropped on the floor for five seconds on clean and dirty floors, then either way the samples will still have bacteria on them. My hypothesis was correct because my clean tests did have some small amounts of bacteria still growing. This could have been from the environment not being 100% sterilized but the bacteria still is growing there. These results can prove that it doesn’t matter whether the floors are clean or not. Either way there is still going to be bacteria on the fruit snacks, so just please do not eat them off of the floors.” — 10th grade student.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Bacteria growth on the control petri dish showing the dirty vs the clean tiles. Bleach works!

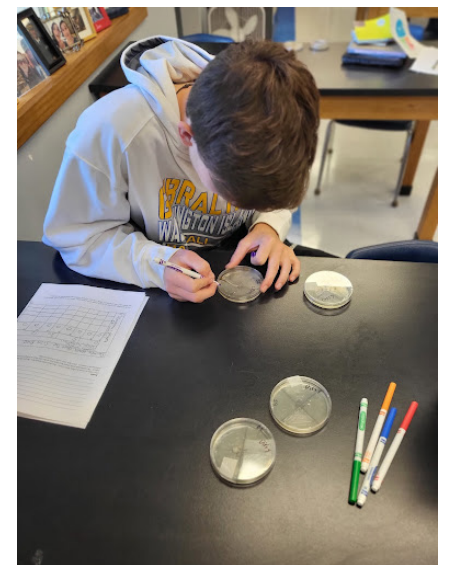


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

A 10th grader tracking the growth of bacteria from the 5-Second Rule lab.

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

Senior Student Poem Selections

Reflections of Rock Island

By Leila Nehlsen

The five senior students and Mrs. Nehlsen met 50 Sevastopol students at Rock Island on Oct. 5 where they shared their ballads and Beowulf "fights." Then our yearbook staff met with Sevastopol's yearbook staff and shared ideas. Following are poems expressing their experiences.

Thordarson's Eyes

By Breanna

Vibrations through the vast vicious waters send warning of the seasonable student's arrival.
Fearless feet fervently step onto the wooden dock,
Thumping up the hill and onto my boathouse's steps.
The doors flutter open and energy fills my great hall,
Voices echo through the tall ceilings like birds singing on quiet mornings.
Students passionately perform, softly sing, and demonstratively dance on my worn-down floors,
Pecking the keys of my piano perfectly playing the tunes.
Quickly running out onto my grass students feast and frolic,
Dispersing into groups they take journeys on trails similar to the ones that I also once ran.
They dip their toes in the water, the same as where I bathed.
Appreciating the thick forest and the rocky terrain that too brought interest to me.
Lighting the dead wood of my fallen trees,
Kids stood in unison, reflecting on all they were grateful for.
Stepping off my land, the vibrations reflectively wave goodbye.

Our Stupendous School Trip with Sevastopol Students

By Aidan

The Pioneers arrive in the sparkly yellow school shuttle.
They emerge from the barf-bus, their coffee in hand.
Caffeine the fuel, powers their legs,
As their bodies traverse the Island of Rock.
Our senior school body seems shrunken,
when seen side-by-side with Sevastopol.
Small in size, but mighty in talent.
Beowulf and Grendel clash in the boathouse,
Ballads ring out the tales of Island Icons.
Post-performance, we gathered for a pleasing picnic.
Our quality quadriceps propel us forward,
As we journey up the hill towards the tower of illumination.
An off-trail adventure ends our march,
Much to the chagrin of some of my fellow hikers.
Sore muscles and broadened minds greet us,
A welcome gift at the end of a great day.

Friends Made On Rock

By Spencer

A sparkling sun paints the magnificent morning sky
A packed passenger vessel makes an easy passage
Cuddly clouds rapidly roll in like big blimps that screen the lushious light
The day is carefully calm and excellently exemplifies the isolated island
Smiling students fill a great viking hall
Reenacting some history and unknowingly creating their own
A seriously small, groovy-group easily becomes large
Island students cautiously mingle, making new Sevastopol student friends
Each school shows its stunning styles
Teachers sit satisfied with many proud smiles
Battling beasts are fast to form friends when the silly skits cease
Feastful food is graciously given and words flow free in the wistful wind
Warming up to each other becomes less cautious
People play games, and cheerfully collaborate in memory book-making
Some stay back while others challengingly climb to a huge house of light
Stunning sights amaze eyes along the way
Daring seniors quickly part the broken path
Carelessly creating their own through varying island terrain
All make their way back to a house of boats to gratefully gather once more
Fire enlightened minds express their great gratitude to each other before they part
Grandpa David is happily honored two times this day
Once in song, then when women aim at his grandson's heart

Rock Island Poem

By Jake

The winter wind whips wildly,
Swaying stagnating grass slightly.
The boat bounces boisterously in the bay,
On this chilly autumn day.
The boathouse groaned a sigh,
Knowing the good forecast today was a lie.
The rocks on the ground formed barriers,
Occasionally tripping cargo carriers.
We ate our lunch at eleven,
My food was a gift from heaven.
The trail stole my friend and bro,
The trees seemingly swallowed up poor Joe.
We hiked the trail, and saw the green trees tower above the brown floor,
All while eating my candy, a plethora of colors, from orange to green to ever more.
Into my mouth went the delectable treat,
Always tasting ever so sweet.
From the shore waves could be heard crashing,
In their work of endlessly thrashing.
The red glowing campfire's smoke filled my nose,
Watching as the curling tendrils rose.
The lumpy stones beneath my feet were rough,
To withstand it barefoot you'd have to be pretty tough.
The trees swayed in the gusts like a crowd,
Blowing the children who were ever so loud.
The boat ride back was that of a swan's,
Still the weather's pros were outweighed by cons.
Rock Island is a very special place,
And I was lucky to see it with my own face.

Lights! Camera! Action!

By Kaitlyn Stoller

Kindergarteners are spending their year retelling stories a little differently than they may have in the past. The focus of our first unit is fairy tales. Our fairy tale books include *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. Each day of the week, we read a different

version of our story. On Friday, we read a fractured tale. A fractured tale is when an author puts a spin on a fairytale or folktale. For example, we proved that the wolf was framed in the *Three Little Pigs*, and all he did was sneeze to blow their houses down.

During the first day of reading, they familiarize themselves with the characters, setting, and order of events from the book. After that, students work hard on creating all of the props they need to be able to act out the story. Then, each student has a chance to portray one specific role. Students do this through the distribution of role cards which have the character and their name on them.

This week, kindergarteners focused on *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. They created many props ranging from a golden hair crown to the beds of the three bears. Students have fun acting out the story, sharing details and dialogue along the way.



PHOTO BY KAITLYN STOLLER

Kindergarten students acting out *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.



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

Mid Quarter Check In with Middle and High School Students

By Mary Grzelak

With the first exciting weeks of school under our belt, it is time to check in with students. What are they actually learning? What are they enjoying? Is there anything they would like to see changed or improved at their school? These questions were recently posed to several of the middle and high school students.

What have you learned in school this year?

- I've learned about lines and where they are located on a globe for example: prime meridian, tropic of cancer and capricorn, and the equator. I have also learned about culture and what makes up a culture. Also, how to add and subtract fractions, vectors in science (still learning about it), how to use items in tech, and more!
- How to wake up and catch the bus on time.
- Geography and how to draw maps easily. I learned how to use the saws and power tools in tech, vectors in science, negative and positive integers, and some self control.
- I've learned a lot about maps and how to tell degrees and angles. I've learned taking notes in math helps a lot, maps are a lot more helpful than a globe, a lot of new words, and new cool things in science.
- Tool techniques in tech ed.
- I learned about the French, Dutch, and English; the Northwest passage and how the explorers never found it; I learned about the Columbian exchange and the items they sent across. I have learned about tagging butterflies, plotting on a graph, genetics, and so much more.
- So far we've learned about the natives living in the Americas, Columbus's journey, Spanish conquistadors, and now we're learning about Jamestown. I've learned a lot about monarch butterflies in STEM, heredity in science, plotting and graphing in math, cartoon drawing in art, and writing in ELA.
- I learned about Columbus and his real journey to North America and how he and his crew treated the Indians so poorly. I learned about genetics in science and how to use different saws and tools in tech class.
- So far in social studies I have learned about the first settlers to go to the Americas. I have learned about conflicts with the Indians while the Spanish tried to establish colonization in South America. I can now name multiple first civilizations that lived in Mexico and South America. I also learned that England was jealous of Spain conquering land in America and decided to sail across the ocean and start making permanent settlements. I have learned about genotypes and phenotypes, everything that I thought was super confusing when my older brother did it last year.
- I've learned the "GRAPES" of several civilizations that have influenced history. Mrs. Grzelak has made sure to push our intellectual learning abilities while also helping us to prepare for whatever assessment in her class that lies ahead. I have learned different ways to study and how to potentially save myself a lot of time by saving assignments that could help me in final tests/studying.
- I've learned about early civilizations and the beginning of humankind. Also the basics of geometry, basics of wood-working, abstract art, health, and the Crucible.
- I've learned more about China, Mesopotamia, and Ancient Egypt. Also, high school is tough.
- I have learned about early civilizations, their religions, achievements, and many other things. I honestly have learned so many subjects and different things.
- Egypt, early Americans, some stone age things and some Bronze and Iron Age things. Also, high school is hard.
- I've learned about Mesopotamia, China, and Egypt. I have learned that high school is difficult.
- I've learned about Hammurabi's Laws, etc. I have learned many things about high school. Like high school is a good learning challenge because it is hard, makes you persevere, many opportunities to work with the community, and opens many other doors to opportunities.
- I have learned about the Teotihuacan civilization this year and I knew next to nothing about it before.
- We have studied many ancient civilizations such as Mesopotamia, China, India, Egypt, etc. and are only on the second test of the year.

- I have learned that China is the oldest country in the world.
- I learned a lot in social studies, and I have learned a lot more in geometry. I have also learned that sophomore year is very similar to freshman year, you just are more knowledgeable.
- I have learned this year about Mesoamerican people who lived differently. I have learned how to write, and read well.
- How to take good notes on only the important stuff in the book. I have learned how I learn and comprehend the best.
- I have learned about early civilizations that lived years ago. Some examples are early India and China. I've learned that there is still a lot of information for us to learn, but being in high school means that we've already learned so much.

A compilation of what has been enjoyed the most at school:

- Being in places other than school, such as the college meet and greet and field trips.
- I have enjoyed recess and the amount of time we get outside.
- I have enjoyed the learning I have done in tech. Mr. Sullivan has not only helped me understand and become confident with this certain technology but also has taught me more than I have ever learned within this class
- What I have enjoyed the most about this school year is being with my peers, experiencing new opportunities, helping out for the DC Trip, and clubs/extracurriculars.
- I have enjoyed learning new things in my classes and with teachers I've never had.
- I enjoy English class.
- One of the most fun activities we've done this year was going to Plum Island to tag monarch butterflies. We got to ride over on a boat, and spent the day catching, tagging, and releasing butterflies. It was really cool.
- What I have enjoyed most this year is drawing upside down in art. It's challenging but also really fun.
- I enjoyed learning about genetics in science.
- 7th grade has taught me to love school a lot more and to be true to yourself, and your teachers love it when you find a method that helps you.
- I have really enjoyed being able to be with my friends but also learn and use the Gaga Ball Pit.
- Challenging myself to keep straight A's.

What would you like to see improved or changed at our school?

- I would put science and math in the first half of the day so I could do my favorite classes in the second half of the day.
- I would like to have more after school activities/clubs.
- More outside and hands-on activities.
- Less homework.
- To have gym instead of health class half of the year.
- Honestly, I don't know what I would change about the school, just because I'm back after two years, and it's only a month or so into the school year, so I'm just going to wait and see what happens.
- I think I would like to incorporate more fun activities every few weeks to break up the schedule a little bit so kids have more to look forward to.
- The only thing I would change about school would be my important classes to be more spread out, however I still like to get them all done in the morning.
- I would change how everyone's grades define them as a person.

In summary, a lot is being learned within the walls of our school. Field trips, recess, tech class, and Gaga Ball are huge hits, but high school is difficult. More after school clubs and activities were requested several times and less homework. While our students learn from us, we also can learn from listening to them. Stay tuned for more exciting events and happenings at Washington Island School.