

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

Bucks Bulletin: March 2022 principal's report

By Michelle Kanipes

Congratulations to Hayden, Ryan, and Zach, for their participation in the National Poetry Out Loud Competition. These seniors competed in the local competition for the WISD. Then, they moved on to compete in the Northeastern Regional Qualifier in mid-February. Students selected a poem, memorized it, and then recited the poem in front of a panel of judges. They competed live in the local competition and then competed virtually, in the regional competition held in Ripon, against four other Wisconsin high schools, each time learning a new poem. This was organized by Ms. Kayla Mann, as a part of their high school English class. Poetry Out Loud works to help students focus on building an understanding of poetry by allowing students to master dynamic reading and public speaking skills.

Congratulations to Nolan (kindergarten), Williamson (first grade), Opal (second grade), Freya (third grade), Erin (fourth grade), Jaida (fifth grade), Jaylyn (sixth grade), Emily (seventh grade), and Mason (eighth grade) for their participation in the national Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Competition. As the local WISD winners, these students now move on to the 2022 Wisconsin

state Zaner-Bloser Competition where they will be judged along with hundreds of other student entries. Thank you to Ms. Johnson, Ms. Wagner and Ms. Stoller for organizing this event for our elementary and middle school students.

Congratulations to Williamson (first grade) and Freya (third grade) for their participation in the Fire Safety Poster and Essay contest. There were 411 entries submitted from students across the state, up from 347 in 2021. Posters were judged on the effectiveness of fire safety, artistic ability, and creativity. Ms. Mel Jones, their art teacher, sent in the entries for the students, and also had their winning posters matted and framed.

Freya took first place with her artwork for her grade level and garnered a \$100 Visa gift card. Williamson took second place for his grade level and earned himself a \$50 Visa gift card.

Congratulations to the entire WISD middle school. They moved on to compete in Sturgeon Bay on Thursday, March 3 in the local portion of the 2022 SeaPerch Competition. Students traveled to Sturgeon Bay to show off the ROVs they designed, created and have been testing

in the Rec pool for this annual competition. They are using these ROVs to retrieve items, in a simulation of retrieving items in space. The theme of this year's event is Space Exploration. They used their ROVs to navigate a "space" obstacle course and gave speeches about their ROVs and the work they have done with them. All teams advanced to the Regional Competition. Great job students!

As you may recall, Ms. Miranda Dahlke and her 2021 MS team went all the way to the state finals last year, which earned them a berth in the International SeaPerch competition. She is assisted by Mr. Tim Verboomen. I would also like to give a shout out to Mr. Shawn Hopkins, an Island electrical engineer who volunteered his time to work with students and staff while they worked on their ROV electronics. He has been a great resource for our middle school teams. The students work on these STEM activities and projects during their sixth-period exploratory class.

Congratulations to the eighth graders: Aidan, Mason, Rita, Cameron, Collin, Magnus, Cydney, and Tommy, as they have secured a state win as the Wisconsin champions of the 2022 Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition. Coach Verboomen

and his team are working on trying to solve the problem of the invasive goby fish that have infested Great Lakes waterways, most specifically in the water of Lake Michigan around Washington Island. They mocked up a model of a trap they created using the 3-D printer and will continue to refine it as the weeks go on.

The team was featured on WFRV news, discussing the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow work, during a filmed interview last week.

Congratulations to the 4K through second-graders, as well as Ms. Wagner and Ms. Stoller, for their work in eSpark this school year. They are internet famous, as the company has them featured in their eSpark Learning ad campaign.

I was notified of our "Sugar Maple" status by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, as well as the U.S. Department of Education. Being deemed a "Sugar Maple" is the highest of honors given to a school district based upon their Green and Healthy Schools initiatives. As a state winner, our summary of achievements is being submitted by the DPI to a panel of judges from the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools committee for review and the chance to be honored in Washington, D.C. this summer. Our state award will be presented to the district this spring.

Thank you goes out to Michael and Lori Whelan for a generous donation to the WISD science department. They lauded the work being done at the school with our science teachers and students.

Thank you to Payton for her continued correspondence with local Island resident, Doc Westring. He received her fall kindness card as he was checking out at the Mann's Grocery Store. He sent her a letter to thank her for the card, as he was impressed with the quote inside the card, and the intention of the card itself. "[You] made me smile and also gave me great hope for the future of our world." The two continue to correspond!

The WISD was awarded \$10,000 from the State of Wisconsin as part of the Get Kids Ahead initiative. The program is designed to address systemic challenges that Wisconsin schools encounter, by providing funding that can be used to promote wellbeing and the creation of a proactive system that serves all students and staff.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Washington Island School kindergarten through eighth grade students whose handwriting was chosen to send into the Annual Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest, anxiously await the Zaner Bloser judges to announce a Wisconsin state winner at each grade level, which will then be sent to compete at the national level. Pictured in the back row: Jaylyn, Mason, and Emily. Middle Row: Jaida, Erin, Opal, and Freya. Front Row: Williamson, and Nolan.

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Middle school students advance to 2022 regional SeaPerch competition

By Miranda Dahlke

Five teams of Washington Island middle school students traveled to the Sturgeon Bay YMCA on Thursday, March 3, to compete for a spot in the regional SeaPerch competition. This is the third year Washington Island has partnered with the Door County Maritime Museum to participate. All five teams met the score requirements to move on to the next level of competition. Regional competition will take place in Ashwaubenton on Saturday, April 2.

SeaPerch is a STEM-based underwater robotics program that tests student's skills in the engineering design process. Each year there is a different mission course theme to guide students' underwater ROV design. This year focuses on robots that help astronauts on the International Space Station move tools and exchange battery packs. In addition to designing and building an

ROV, students had to prepare a team presentation, and complete a timed obstacle course. All three scores are totaled to reach their final scores.

The Island program partners with the Door County Maritime Museum, the REC, Gillespie Plumbing, Dennis Rockhill (SeaPerch regional coordinator), Steve Hopkins (for his soldering expertise), Jake Dahlke, Mike Nickell, and Gary Schultz (Mission Course Builders).

Here are some reflections from students about their experience so far:

"It is really fun, and I've learned how to solder."

"Our ROV isn't the best, but we always have a chance to work on it to try and get it to work better."

"I learned how to solder."

"Even though we struggled a lot, I am glad we got to do this."



Cameron and Aidan work to guide their ROV through the underwater obstacle course. This team earned the fastest time.



Introducing Team Bubbles 2!



Team Din Djarin shows off their ROV design.

PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE



Mr. Hopkins helps students solder together their ROV controllers.

High schoolers study British poetry

By Leila Nehlsen and her students

Our English class has been studying British poetry. Students wrote a poem to compare love to a concrete object. Following are some of the poems written by the students.

Thy Love is Like a Sentence

By Aidan

Our love begins with a strong hook,
A point that pulls us both together.
An introduction to the coming confluence of our lives.
The verb is our time to frolic.
The action of our love-sentence,
Runs like a glistening waterfall.
Cascading down to the pool below,
The period ends our relationship.
The ending of your life,
Concludes our happy memory.
The love-sentence over, the end of the story.

Love Is A Tractor

By Spencer

Love is a tractor,
It pulls and pushes all the day
Just as love pulls and pushes us away,
It is fueled by gasoline to force its journey forth,
The same as love guides us on our course,
Only will it work when its spark flies,
Igniting our connection to one another's lives,
It works hard to make our days happy as the clock dies,
Without gasoline it will not run,
It will not work for us as it once has done,
The mighty machine has an eternal appetite,
Just as we long for each other to make things right,
The tractor will do as we ask, so long as we pour,
Then like love, if we provide the fuel; it will live forevermore!

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We are super readers!

By Kaitlyn Stoller

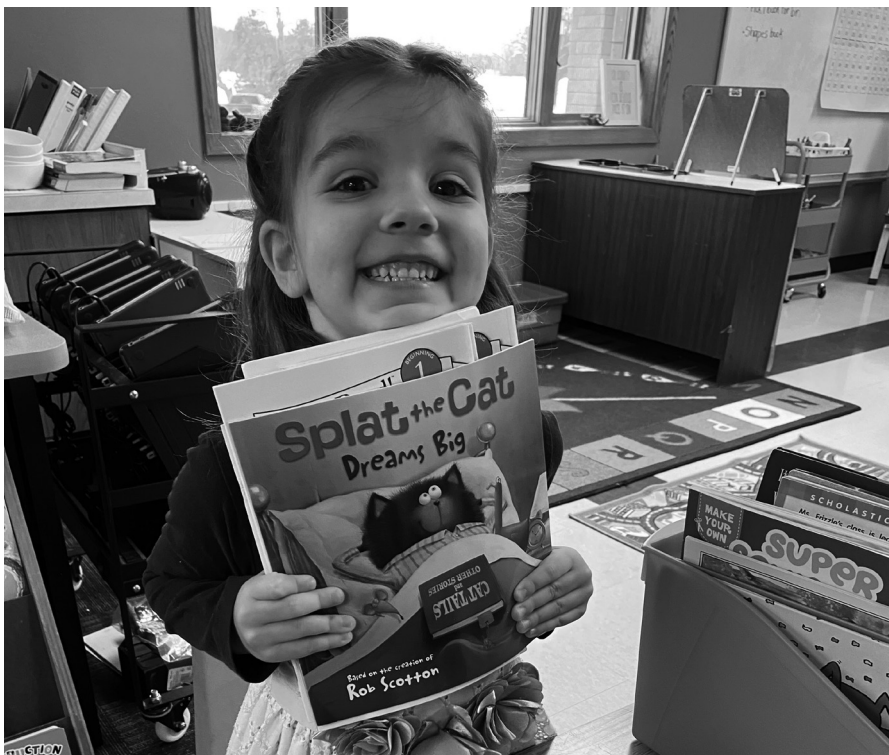
The 4K and 5K classes have been developing their reading skills all year. When we read, we practice telling the story by looking at the pictures and the words; checking that the words and the pictures match and spying words that we know.

Collectively, our class has read over 600 books this year. We have accomplished this feat by reading every day.

Some of their favorite books and characters are: "Peppa Pig," "Splat the Cat," "Sharks," and "Minecraft." When asked what they loved most

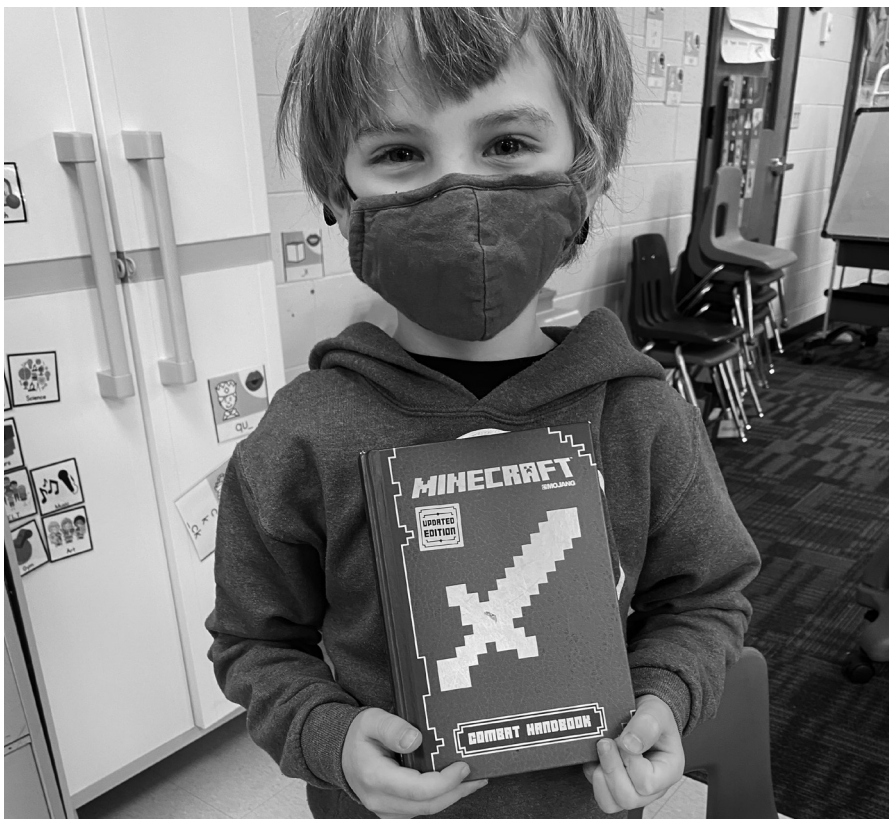
about reading, some of the responses were: "I like to look at the pictures and tell the story," "I like to blend my sounds into words," and "Splat the Cat is so funny!"

While we read a great deal in school, students also know it is important to read outside of school. Our class has been working on the Tundra Tales challenge sponsored by the Green Bay Packers. Students are challenged to read 60 minutes a week for eight weeks. You did the math correctly, that is the equivalent of eight hours total!



Lucia loves Splat the Cat books!

PHOTOS BY KAITLYN STOLLER



This kindergartner loves everything Minecraft, so these books are right up his alley!



Read, read, read! That's what this girl loves to do!



Ava is a proud and happy reader!

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Valentine's Day poetry



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRlich-JOHNSON

Valentine's Day! What a great time of year to share your poetry! Pictured is Erin, sharing her poem about chocolate:

Chocolate, Chocolate, Chocolate,
I love it very much!
It tastes very good,
I would eat it all day long if I could!



On Valentine's Day, the third through fifth grade students shared their original poems.

March Mammal Madness 2022 has begun

By Miranda Dahlke

This year marks the 10th annual March Mammal Madness tournament designed to engage learners in the study of animal attributes. Ultimately, four divisions of animals are chosen and then pitted against each other in simulated battles. Each battle winner is chosen by random, but initial division rankings will determine how likely the animal will perform in battle.

Our middle school students engage in MMM by researching animals to make an educated guess of the overall champion. They all make a poster to represent their chosen winner, and as the battles unfold between March 14 through April 6, they earn points for correct battle predictions. Students engage in discussions about trophic levels, ecosystems, and animal adaptations. To participate in this year's tournament, head to libguides.asu.edu/MarchMammalMadness or follow along on the YouTube Rodent Roundtable Channel.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

This year's March Mammal Madness trophy. Who will be the winner?