

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

Principal's Report: April 2023 School News

By Tim Verboomen

First, on behalf of our students and staff, I'd like to express our gratitude for the community support we received for our school. The referendum passed with a pretty amazing level of support, and if you are among the community members who voted to accept the referendum, we thank you. We do not take your support for granted and will continue to make the most of what we have as we strive to excel in serving our students, families, and community. As always, we strive to do everything we can to excel as we prepare our students for their futures. We are here to serve our students, families, and community!

Speaking of excelling, I can't resist this opportunity to share a few more examples of how incredible our students/families - and how amazing our teachers/school - are. We may be a small group from a tiny island school, but we have so much to be proud of ... go Bucks!

Sea Perch 2023

If you're a regular reader of The Observer you probably already know that teams came from around the region in competition to earn one of the two qualifying positions to go to the Sea Perch Internationals this year. Washington Island School sent four middle school teams to the regional competition. Those students are part of our school's STEM program headed up this year by Miranda Dahlke and Matt Sullivan.

Our middle school students have spent many weeks working their way through the iterative engineering design process in teams of three. Teams designed, built, tested, and refined their underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs). They practiced piloting their ROVs through two underwater courses designed to test the maneuverability and functionality. Each team of students also created, rehearsed, and shared a presentation for judges that highlighted their journey through the iterative process and what they learned along the way.

Gale force winds forecast for the day of the competition meant Sea Perch judges came to the island a day before regionals for the underwater trials, and our students competed right here at The Rec Center while our high school and elementary students cheered on our middle schoolers. On the day of the Regional Competition our students Zoomed their presentations for judges live at the event in Green Bay.

When the competition was over and the points were tallied our Middle Schoolers also Zoomed into the award ceremony, where the first through fifth place teams were announced in reverse order. As the fifth and fourth place teams were announced for others, our students waited in the hope

that at least one of our teams might still be announced a winner.

Then, third place was announced ... "Team Moby from Washington Island!" Our students were thrilled, and then went from thrilled to ecstatic when "Team Sea Angels from Washington Island" was announced as the second place finishers, and "Team Flounder from Washington Island," was announced as the first place team. Our teams, from the smallest public school district in the state, took first, second, and third place! This means that, not only are we going to the Internationals back-to-back, but this year we are sending two teams to Maryland.

Forensics Speech Competitions

This year our high school students and their coach, Kayla Mann, participated in competitive speaking competitions commonly called, "Forensics." We were fortunate to have twelve entries from Washington Island in the Sub-District level of competition, where seven of them qualified to move on to the District level. At the District competition five of our high school students earned their spots at the state competition in Madison. They will be sending in their performances virtually, however, as the state competition and prom weekend unfortunately coincide. We'll keep you posted!

The Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Competition

Racking up the wins and honors is fast becoming the norm for our school, and the results of the national Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Competition once again honor the students of Washington Island. Students in our

elementary and middle schools sent in entry submissions and three of our middle school students won the state-level competition. All three will be going on to compete at the national-level competition, with chances to be named National Winners and/or the Handwriting Grand Champions!

Other Cool Things

Elementary students in grades 1-4 sent in their original poetry to the Young American Poetry Digest with hopes of being published in their book of student-written poems. Last year almost all our student poetry submissions were selected and published in the annually published anthology.

All students in grades 6-8 participated in The Try Your Hardest Math Contest. The problems are tough, multi-step, complex story problems, and we are fortunate to have had a winner in Round 1. That student has moved on to the Round 2 level of competition. Our school is also in the running to win a gift card and a computer through this competition.

Our school is also a "Society for Science STEM Research Grant" winner, helping us to purchase additional STEM materials such as arduino starter kits, water quality testing, trail cams, and pocketlab sensors. We are constantly looking for ways we can offer our students unique, meaningful learning experiences and opportunities.

All This and So Much More

There are so many fun and interesting opportunities for our students on Washington Island. From solving a "murder mystery" case while study-

ing macromolecules with Biology students in 9th and 10th grade; to planting over 50 chestnut trees this year at Gathering Ground; to the 1st and 2nd graders who researched and wrote their own non-fiction books (including front and back covers, titles, tables of contents, glossaries, and labeled and detailed illustrations); to our 8th graders' in-depth study of early documents such as Thomas Paine's Common Sense, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution to develop a strong foundation of American principles and government, or the year-long "trip" our 10th graders take through time and around the world, bringing awareness of ever-changing borders, philosophies of governing, and the movement of people over time; through the exploration of drawing, clay, collage, painting, embroidery, printmaking, and sculpture in our art classes and honors such as an award of excellence for a marker drawing and an honorable mention for a clay sculpture at the Miller Art Museum in Sturgeon Bay for the Salon of High School Art, and the beautiful Island landscapes painted by our middle school students displayed at WIS-CO; to our 4K/5K students having "taken adventures" to five different countries learning history and science along the way, celebrating the 100th day of school with a glow party, learning how to identify common animal tracks, and reading over 500 books this year; to the return of the Washington DC and Chicago/Madison trips; and through much more fun, exciting learning experiences ... our students are truly learning, growing, achieving, and succeeding!

WASHINGTON ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT
An Island Community Where Every Child Matters

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to all community members who have supported our students and school with the passing of our School Referendum. We are very proud of our staff and students, and we will continue to strive to excel for the good of our students and our community.

Thank you!

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Students Leave Their Prints at Peninsula School of Art

By Joseph

High school students along with Mrs. Jones, Art and PE, and Mr. Sullivan, Tech-ed, visited Peninsula School of Art in Fish Creek to participate in an interactive class on printmaking. Printmaking is a collection of artistic techniques that involve transferring images onto another surface.

After arriving at the impressive building, they strolled through a white hallway, illuminated by tall windows and were greeted warmly by the program's director, Crystal Chesnik. Chesnik presented several popular artists and explained their style of printmaking, for example, Andy Warhol's vibrant pop art on Marilyn Monroe. After being shown a brief demonstration of stencil printmaking, the eager students and teachers sat down to design a picture of up to three colors. At each table, several coloring and carving utensils

were provided to use to portray the creativity of each participant. Afterward, the students took turns using varieties of colored ink paint, squeegees, and open meshes to screen-print unique images up to six times. Also, some students engaged in lithography, famously used by Guadalupe Posada, engraving and printing from a plate onto damp paper.

Near the end of class, students gave final touches and signatures to their printed art to be displayed in the museum. After the relief of accomplishment and cleaning up, the students followed Chesnik into a large cathedral-like gallery where other artwork had gone through the same process.

This printmaking experience showed the students how to express their artistic skills by carving a template to create multiple works and spread a message to the masses.



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

High school art students learning about printmaking at the Peninsula School of Art.

The Art Corner



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

Joseph Lux's marker drawing, titled **Copy + Paste**, wins an Award of Excellence at the 49th Annual Salon of Door County High School Art Show. Joseph is one of 16 Washington Island High School students participating in the show this year. This year's exhibition features 164 works from students throughout Door County. The show will be on display at the Miller Art Museum in Sturgeon Bay Library through Saturday, May 27th.



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

Middle school art students pose next to their Door County landscape paintings that are hanging at WIS-CO. Students viewed and analyzed examples of paintings by impressionist painters as well as Washington Island artist, Rodger Bechtold. Students learned about underpainting, and how to use color, size, and shape to create perspective in their landscape paintings.



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PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

Elementary students show off their impressive pigeon drawings!

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A creative couple's visit to the Island school brightens a cold day

By Aidan

Students at the Island school welcomed two special guests from the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation. Skip and Judy Jones spent the day with students, Judy, a water-color artist, in the art room and Skip, an accomplished musician in the school library. They even enjoyed the student council hot lunch along with the students. Skip Jones is a 14-year Navy veteran, and subsequently spent many years working with veteran outreach and suicide prevention. He says his goal now is to sing for as many people as he can, especially the elderly and young people. He has traveled to all seven continents, and has picked up his music along the way. Skip's wife, Judy, worked as a teacher before she left the public school to homeschool her children. Skip and Judy were the twelfth family in the state of Wisconsin to homeschool their children.

Skip shared songs with kindergartners through 12 grade while playing the guitar. The students were encouraged to sing along, and ask questions about the various folk instruments he brought. Senio, Spencer Johnson said, "I was inspired by his ability to connect his music with life lessons." He explained that music is so powerful that it can change the direction a nation takes on an issue. He said that when Pete Seeger serenaded members of Congress, his music convinced them to clean up the Hudson River. His song

"Along the Blue Highway," reminds people that water is life.

Judy worked with the art classes throughout the day in Mrs. Jones's room. She taught them about water-color painting. Ironically, Judy learned watercolor painting during a summer she spent on the Island. She took a painting class taught by Lorna Cornell through NWTC, where she traveled with other artists around the Island to paint different scenery and landscapes. Senior art student Joseph Lux had this to say, "Judy was extraordinary, showing fellow students and I about composition and the vibrant colors that portray the artist's story. Along with her, I painted the sunrise I saw that morning, and I think the objective was to remind ourselves of the warmth and beauty through the medium of watercolor."

Skip and Judy said the welcoming Island community is like the native people, in that we care deeply about one another. Skip's favorite part of the day was the enthusiasm and passion for music shown by the elementary students. They were very excited to sing their own songs to him. Judy said the kindness of the students, combined with their knowledge of the Island, was what made the day special for her.

We would like to thank them both for visiting us. I will leave you with a quote Skip learned from an elderly farmer and subsequently wrote into a song: "Life is delicious, take a big bite every day!"

Congratulations State Level Handwriting Contest Winners!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Three Washington Island Students were chosen as state-level winners of the Zaner-Bloser 2023 National Handwriting Contest. All of the students in grades 1-8 participated in the contest in February, and a winner from each class was sent on to the state-level competition. These three students' handwriting samples will now be moved on to be judged in the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest, and the winners will be announced sometime this spring.

The Student Council Report

By Spencer Johnson, President and Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Kaitlyn Stoller

This month the Student Council organized a Health Week that was held April 11th-14th. Each day the Student Council began with a healthy fact on the morning announcements followed by a Student Council led all-school exercise in the hallways, like jumping jacks, sit-ups, tricep dips on a chair, and burpees. Mid-morning, throughout the week, the Student Council delivered healthy snacks to each classroom, like carrots, apples, bananas, oranges, and "Ants on a Log." One afternoon during Health Week, Josh Mann, who is a personal trainer, talked with the high school students about nutrition and fitness. Near the end of the week, the Student Council held an all-school student walk around the block to show them that exercise can easily be a part of their everyday life. It was perfect timing during Health Week that the Middle School and High School teachers organized Officer Gary Schultz and Andy Kehren to speak on Safety in the Digital Age with both students and community members. Before the school year closes, the Student Council hopes to organize a panel of mental health speakers to talk with the Middle School and High School students. The Hot Lunch during Health Week was a chicken salad bar with all kinds of toppings, strawberries, bananas, and pudding for dessert.

On Sunday, April 30th, the Student Council is inviting the community to a Spaghetti Dinner in the school commons! They are raising money to support the Kids Wish for Kids Program which is part of the Wisconsin's Make-A-Wish Foundation. The students will be serving spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and beverages, but because of limited seating in the school commons, there will be two dinner seating times. One will be at 4:00 P.M. and the other at 6:00 P.M. The price for a dinner is \$12.00 per person or \$6.00 for children seven years old

and younger. We are asking that you purchase tickets in advance at the school office. Of course, if not all seats are reserved on the date of the dinner, there may be tickets available to be sold at the event. Come and enjoy Italian food, homemade desserts, and the camaraderie of family, community members, and the Student Council members who are working to support a child's wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

But wait! Another way the Student Council is raising money at the Spaghetti Dinner for the Make-A-Wish Foundation is by each selling two hours of their time doing yard work, car washing, window or house cleaning, or babysitting. The students will work in pairs for the total cost of \$35 for the two hours. At the Spaghetti dinner, you can sign up and pay for the service of your choice and within a day or two, you will hear from a student about setting up a time to come to help you. The services will need to be completed by the end of school, June 2nd. There will only be 7-10 services sold.

In May, the Student Council is planning an end-of-the-year Carnival for Middle School and Elementary students, which is tentatively planned for after school on Tuesday, May 16th.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

And they're off! Health Week at Washington Island School traditionally has a scheduled "All School Walk!" around the block!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Bananas handing out bananas...and oranges! Promoting healthy snacking, the Student Council handed out healthy snacks in each classroom every day during a Student Council organized Health Week.



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Hands-on Learning



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Just in case you didn't get a chance to stop by the library to see one of the latest Native American Exhibits that the 3rd and 4th grade students created with Grace Woodruff, here is a picture of the totem poles made of parts that they each created, representing the Pacific Northwest Native Americans.

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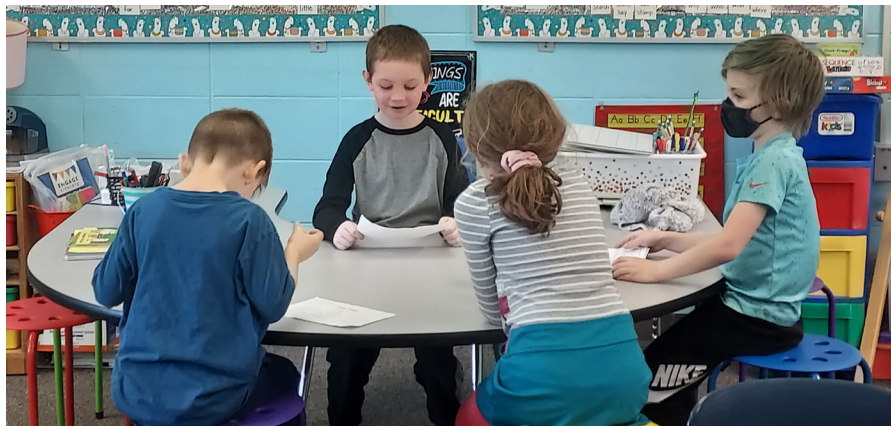


PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

First and second grade students shared their poetry with their classmates one afternoon in a "poetry cafe". In true poem reading fashion, the students snapped for their peers after each poem was read.



PHOTO BY MARISA KEHREN

Several hands-on, math activities the classes have enjoyed this year are: practicing fractions and measuring through baking, hunting for math problems hidden in easter eggs, creating a new game and strategies using probability, and practicing geometry skills through a scavenger hunt throughout the school and playground.



PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK

During their study of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery, 8th graders made a board game to teach others about the challenges and successes of the journey. 4th Grade was invited to play the game and learn about this time in US history.