



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

Back to school Q&A with the first and second grade

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 eager students, I asked them to tell me about their favorite things in school so far and a goal they had for themselves this year. Surprisingly, none of the students mentioned lunch and recess as their favorite! I am quite impressed with their answers, and I am excited for a fantastic year ahead. Here are some of the highlights from the interviews with each child:

What is your favorite subject in school? Why?

Opal said, "Can I pick two favorite subjects? If I can, then my favorite subjects are math and science. I like math because we get to play fun math games and I like science because we get to test things and do experiments."

Lilian said excitedly, "Math, because math is super-duper fun and we get to learn math strategies like the doubles strategy and make-a-ten

strategy and now it is really easy to solve problems!"

"I like gym because you get to run around and play fun games like turtle tag," said Colton.

Ruth said, "Math because it is all about adding and subtracting and I love adding and subtracting!"

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

Owen happily said, "The math football game!"

Landon said, "The math gumball game!"

Lilian said, "Building the 3D spaghetti towers in science because we got to use spaghetti noodles and marshmallows!" (Yes, this was a hit for all the students!)

What is one goal you have for yourself this year?

Williamson said, "I want to get better at painting in art class!"

Nia said, "I want to solve math equations faster."

Opal said, "I want to become a better writer and always remember to use capital letters and punctuation. I also want to get even better at reading."

Colton proudly said, "I want to keep being the best me I can be!"



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

It was an awesome first day of school for Ms. Wagner's happy campers! We're all ready to learn s'more at Camp Learn A-Lot this school year!

Students reflect on monarch tagging on Plum Island

All the middle school students traveled out to Plum Island, courtesy of Shoreline Charters, to capture, tag, and release monarch butterflies on Friday, Sept. 10. Volunteers from Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services partnered with the school to educate students about the migratory patterns of the monarch butterfly.

In 2019 students captured and tagged 11 butterflies, whereas this year they captured and tagged 28 total. Sixth graders logged the tags on monarchwatch.org and we hope to see where our butterflies end up along their journey this year. Here are some reflections from the middle schoolers.

"The last time we went to Plum Island there were only a couple butterflies but this time there were so many. When we first got there, we got split up by grade and then started to look for monarch butterflies. Right as we started walking there were butterflies already. Julia was one of the catchers and Payton was the data person and I helped tag the butterflies."

"It started off slow with my group until we reached an opening where we could see all of the monarchs flying around in the air. I caught three monarchs in all, but two of them escaped before I got a chance to tag them. One fact I learned in class before going on our voyage was how monarchs travel to Mexico before winter. Overall, I had a great experience going out to Plum Island and tagging monarch butterflies."

"There were a few monarchs that led us off the trail and in a little nook there were at least ten butterflies in a ten-foot radius. We caught many there and continued along the path to the lighthouses where there was an occasional butterfly here and there. The whole point of capturing a monarch was to put a tracking sticker on the wing to find out how far they could get on the migration. The trip was fun and relaxed, and I am ready to do it again next year."

"When we went to Plum Island the best part of the day was when we were in this long open field because me and Cam and Mason were capturing most of the butterflies. One thing I learned while I was there was that you shouldn't sprint right after a monarch butterfly, you should try to sneak up on them..."

"I loved shouting, 'I got one!' to my classmates when I caught a butterfly with my net and cheering when one of my classmates caught one."



PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

A group of seventh-graders capture, tag, and record the data about their captured monarch.



Middle school students joined with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to tag monarch butterflies on Plum Island.



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A look inside the school day at Washington Island



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

Future engineers in the making! This first grader is in step two of the design process and is working hard to build a tower with only spaghetti, tape, and string that will hold a marshmallow on top without tipping over the structure.



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

First self-portraits of the year for kindergarten, first, and second grade.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH JOHNSON

To learn about thunder and lightning, this fourth-grade student is discovering how electrons move around and are attracted to positively charged areas.



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

Owen and Isaac face off in physical education class during a game of Extreme Rock Paper Scissors.

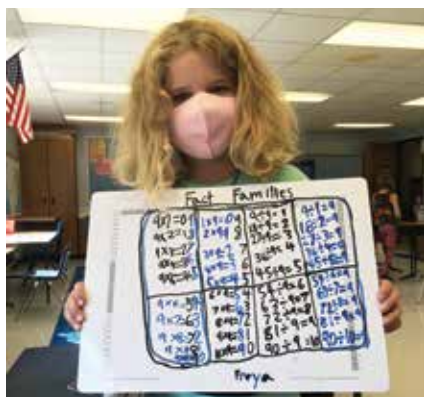


PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH JOHNSON

Freya is showing off the patterns of the nines' multiplication and division facts that she and her dad talked about the night before. She couldn't wait to show the other students and Ms. Johnson! "Parents truly ARE a child's first teachers!"



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Eighth-graders are proud of their structure they built only using vocally shared clues with each other.



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

The sixth grade art class shows off their Van Gogh-inspired oil pastel and glue drawings.



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Fun facts from student learning

By Tim Verboomen and his students

Did you ever wonder about all the mind blowing, peculiar, and interesting facts students learn in their classes each unit? Well, you are in luck! This month, the students in Mr. Verboomen's middle and high school science and social studies classes are sharing a fun fact they have learned. We hope you enjoy the trivia and learn a little something new, too!

WORLD HISTORY Grade 6	
Alli	Did you know 12,000 years ago the last ice age ended?
Addi	Did you know that until about 5000 years ago people had no way to write things down?
Xander	Did you know I learned that some early human people named Homo Habilis created and used the first tools. Scientists learned that 61 years ago.
TJ	Did you know that the early humans and dinosaurs never coexisted?
Jaylyn	Did you know that Donald Johanson and his team uncovered hundreds of pieces of bones?

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY Grade 8	
Rita	Did you know that around 5,000 years ago early Native Americans first learned to farm by growing crops?
Cydney	Did you know that Mayan priests had to know exactly when to honor their gods? That led to huge advances in learning astronomy and mathematics.
Aidan	Did you know that the Mayan learned to predict eclipses and that they created an accurate 365-day calendar similar to ours?
Magnus	Did you know the Olmecs were thriving 3500 years ago around the lowland areas near the Gulf of Mexico?
Tommy	Did you know that 10,000 years ago people from Asia settled in North America? These were the first people in North America ... that's crazy!
Mason	Did you know that the earliest known civilization in the Americas was the Olmec Civilization, found in present day Mexico?
Cameron	Did you know the Olmec people carved giant stone heads and small figures that were part animal and part human?
Collin	Did you know that massive sheets of ice covered our planet at one point of time, and made many of the rivers and big masses of water on our planet?

US HISTORY Grade 9	
Jocelyn	Did you know there were roughly 2 1/2 million people living in England's 13th colonies during the 1720's?
Bennett	Did you know that the Olmec culture emerged between 1500 B.C. and 1200 B.C? That's over three thousand years ago!
Fisher	Did you know that Anthropologists think the first people to develop a civilization in Mesoamerica were the Olmec people?
Jaxin	Did you know that in 1676 Virginia's governor refused to protect backcountry farmers from attacks made on them by the Native Americans?

CHEMISTRY Grade 11	
Bree	Did you know that you are made up of octillions of atoms, but only about 40 elements, and that 99% of you is made up of just 6 elements!? (FYI, an octillion is the number one followed by 27 zeros!)
Joseph	Did you know that each electron shell, electron orbitals manifest different energy levels and up to two electrons?
Aidan	Did you know that the order the elements are put in the periodic table was very thought out and is very important? They are put in the table by groups and classifications based on their characteristics. Also the lightest element hydrogen is at the top.
Spencer	Did you know that the element Boron is located in group thirteen, in period two on the periodic table of elements? Period two means that Boron has two electron shells.
Jake	Did you know that the periodic table of elements may seem daunting at a first glance, but with some basic knowledge, it's an exciting topic of study in chemistry? For example, did you know that carbon is present in every living creature on the planet? Though that fact may seem strange, carbon is a necessary element because of its flexible ability to bond with other atoms. Since all known life is carbon-based, without carbon, life as we know it wouldn't exist!

Middle school '30 Book' challenge

By Kayla Mann

Washington Island Middle school students are setting off on a unique reading challenge for the 2021-2022 school year. All middle school students have been presented with an assignment to read 30 books throughout the school year spanning over various genres. These students spent the first few days of the school year "tasting" books from all different genres, finding books that piqued their interest, and then they began to dig into the challenge. Popular categories so far have been realistic fiction, dystopian, mystery, and graphic novels (yes, those absolutely count as books!)

The goal of the reading challenge is to support our students in becoming passionate readers. No outside book reports or assignments are assigned on these novels, as the stu-

dents should just be able to enjoy the act of reading and will confer with the teacher to gauge comprehension. Students are presented with countless book options that they can check-out and bring home. My desire as an educator is to immerse these students into the vast world of literature and to encourage them to be lifelong readers.

We still will be reading whole group classroom novels, and they will receive separate assignments on these books, but their outside reading novels are there for them to dig into and just enjoy.

If you run into a middle schooler while at the grocery store or out to dinner, I encourage you to ask them what they are reading and cheer them on as they embark on their reading journey!



Seventh grade students enjoying a moment of reading.

The summer of 2021

By Leila Nehlsen and her ninth grade English students

In English 9, students interviewed each other about their summer and then wrote a poem from the information about their partner. When done, they used their poem to introduce each other to the class.

In this exercise, they reviewed figures of speech, action verbs, imagery, adjectives, and oral presentation skills, and had fun doing it. We all got to know each student a little better. Their work and a picture of themselves enjoying the summer was on a cool bulletin board display outside of the classroom.

Bennett's 2021 Summer

Written by Jocelyn

In the wind and dusk
 Bennett spent his spectacular summer playing baseball
 Tons and tons of new friends filled his days
 He leapt into the sparkling Bailey's Harbor beach after each hot game
 When he lost a game, he got flustered but sweet cold ice cream
 Always made it better, medicine to his spirit
 Then he went home to see his dogs:
 Bailey, Belle, Tricksey, Lily, Isla, Kiera
 And tasty tacos danced on his tongue
 He spent most of his time in Green Bay
 Going on amazing adventures with his daring dad
 Biking with fantastic Fisher was like attending the Door County Fair
 Often ending up at the Alby for delicious ice cream
 Basketball in the steamy sun melted him like an ice cube in hot chocolate
 His summer was fast like Julie Jeony's purple Charger