

## Building School Spirit & Bjorn is Born

Running a school is hard work, but sometimes it can be fun as well. In August the question was raised by some students, why don't we have a school mascot? It was a legitimate question, but frankly I didn't have a really good answer. So the staff found a cute "Buck" costume online and made the order. It wasn't hard to find a student who wanted to be the mascot but then came the question what would be our new mascot's name. We knew the right name was out there but what could it be. Hmmm... Bucky was taken by a Badger. B.... Ben the Buck, hmmm... not quite, Hmmm.... B... B... Bob, Brad, Bo ... Nothing seemed to stick. We were at a momentary loss of finding name among staff and students. Then Mr. Nuskewicz, our new Science and Technology teacher, who was learning about the island's Scandinavian heritage and history, offered, "What about Bjorn?" Sometimes you just know when something is just right and "Bjorn the Buck" was born. The Hype Team quickly adopted Bjorn as one of their own and began to get the word out to the student body. "Where's Bjorn" became a fun part of a week of anticipation finally satisfied by the day of Bjorn's Official arrival to Washington Island School, October 7, 2016.

There are few times in any given school year, a date has any major significance. October 7<sup>th</sup> will always be Bjorn the Buck's Birthday. The arrival of Bjorn was documented at our 2<sup>nd</sup> school Pep Rally and can be found on our school webpage. [www.island.k12.wi.us](http://www.island.k12.wi.us) I would to thank the hard work of Mrs. Krueger and Ms. Wagner and the whole Hype Team as they gave Bjorn a Big Washington Island School welcome.

Our recent School Pep Rally highlighted the theme of Belonging and Respect in our school. At Washington Island School there a number ways for our students to belong, and show and earn respect. Participation in our first ever Washing Island Cross Country Team and newly formed Hype Squad are two new ways for students to be involved. There is also Elementary and High School Golf Team, Co-op Boys' Baseball and Co-op Girls' Softball, High School Boys' and Girls' Basketball, Middle School Boys' and Girls' Basketball. Each group represents an opportunity for our students to be involved, make a contribution and show their Buck's Pride. I take personal pride in each student's commitment to be involved and get excited. I believe Bjorn the Buck could not have found a better place to show his Buck's Pride as well. Welcome Home Bjorn!

Go Bucks,

Mati Palm-Leis