

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

Dive into the Seaperch 2024 Season

By Miranda Dahlke

For the past four years, middle school students have been able to participate in an underwater robotics program called SeaPerch. In the couple of years since the introduction, the school has sent three teams to the International Competition and has embraced the program as a way to provide an introduction to robotics for our students. Science teacher, Miranda Dahlke and Tech Ed teacher, Matt Sullivan co-teach the STEM course in which the SeaPerch program is one component. This year, students in grades 5-8 have been split into five mixed grade level teams

that feature an Electrical engineer, a Structural Engineer, and a Mechanical Engineer. Teams work together to create an underwater ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) that they can maneuver through an obstacle course and a themed mission course. This year's mission course is based on deep sea exploration with an emphasis in hydrothermal vents. Students will scrimmage other Door County teams on January 24, and then compete in the Green Bay Regional Competition on Saturday, February 17 to try and earn an invite to the International Competition.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team Jaws finalizes buoyancy trials in the pools to ready their ROV.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team Barracuda begins practicing on the Obstacle Course.

A message from Tim Verboomen

Hello Everyone!

As I reflect on 2023 and think about hopes for 2024, I'm constantly reminded of my gratitude to work and live in this community and to serve the island through the work we do here at the school. Your support for our students and school has an incredible, positive impact.

Your support for our school can be witnessed in many ways: Whether cheering from the sidelines at an athletic event; attending dramatic performances; mentoring our Island youth; or any of the myriad of other ways. Our community consistently demonstrates its support and encouragement - your involvement in our students' lives is amazing. Such a positive community presence has a profound influence on our students, teachers, and school.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share some of the goodness you help to bring to our school/community. I'll begin with what we have to offer our students. Preparing our Island youth for their futures means providing them with first-class curricular and extracurricular opportunities. As the smallest public school district in the state, many people assume our students' opportunities are limited, but not so ... at all.

Our students have incredibly dedicated educators who are able and ready to respond to every student's learning needs. We accelerate student learning when we can and provide specific, targeted intervention instruction to every student needing to close proficiency gaps in their learning. Our teachers offer their time to make sure they are available should students have any questions before or after school.

Our high school students have access to Youth Apprenticeships, online learning through Wisconsin Virtual School, Start College Now, and the Early College Credit programs through NWTC and WI Colleges & Universities. We have had students take trades, foreign language, advanced placement (AP), culinary, medical, and a wide variety of other courses.

Our students also have had a wide variety of athletic and academic extracurricular opportunities including, soccer, trap shooting, basketball (our boys are two-time tournament champions in the Great Lakes Islands Basketball Tournament), baseball, softball, forensics (last year five of our students made it to the State Competition), the Academic Decathlon, the Yearbook Club, Student Council, and drama (with an enormously entertaining performance of

Shrek Jr, The Musical).

Our students have also been involved in several STEM opportunities. We have competed in the Samsung, Solve for Tomorrow competition (we were state winners in 2018-19 and 2021-22, state finalists in 2019-20 and 2022-23, and earned an honorable mention in 2020-21 - winning \$31,500 for our district, plus invaluable professional development for our STEM teachers). Our students have also dominated the SeaPerch ROV Competition, earning spots at the Regional event since the 2019/20 school year. Three of our teams have earned their places at the International competition in Maryland.

We're always looking for ways to add more opportunities for our students and for ways to partner with our community. This year we added a Crochet and Knitting Club for students and family members, an adult Fab-Lab/Shop class for community members (where people were able to sign up for evening classes in our fabrication/shop to work on their projects), and a Youth Basketball skills development class for our younger students. Our student council brought back the Polar Express Christmas event and organized & coordinated the Holiday Breakfast for our Island seniors/community. We're also looking to add a Volleyball Club and Yoga Class opportunities this year. We're also restructuring the Community Service/Volunteering our high school students do, so we encourage (and recognize) the good work our students do in our community.

At Washington Island School, we aim to keep earning your trust and continue to build and strengthen our community connections. We are eager to partner with our community members and businesses that are interested in doing good things for our students, their families, and our community. If you're interested in joining us, we'd love to hear from you!

We have an outstanding team working together to prepare our Island Youth for their futures; I'm proud and grateful to be part of it. Our future looks bright with two of our teachers welcoming new babies this school year and several more "Future Bucks" in our community!

Once again, on behalf of our Island school's hard-working students and dedicated staff members, thank you for your support.

*Appreciatively,
Tim Verboomen (Washington Island School District Administrator)*

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The Student Council Report, January, 2024

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Kaitlyn Stoller

November, 2023

Six Student Council members attended the Fall Leadership Tour at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Monday, November 13th. It was hosted by Bay View Middle School, and it was an experience in itself to see their student council leadership and join a couple hundred other student council members from schools in our region of Wisconsin. Magnus, Julia, Tommy, Mason, Rita, Emily, and Advisors Kaitlyn Stoller and I attended the conference from Washington Island School. Our students paired up and went to a variety of breakout sessions offered that day. Several different sessions that all of our students attended were like the ones Tommy and Mason went to that gave them ideas, activities, and challenges to bring back to our Student Council to implement in our school. Rita and Julia attended the President Training Session and said that they learned more about Parliamentary Procedure and the president's role on the student council. Magnus and Emily attended the Leadership Training for Student Council Treasurers and Public Relations, along with a Student Caucus, where they were given the opportunity to ask questions of the elected students to the State of Wisconsin Association of School Councils. Miss Stoller and I attended an Advisor's Caucus, where we participated in questions and discussion. We also attended a Senior Citizens Day presented by Marinette High School Student Council and a Self-Care Techniques Presentation for Leaders, which gave us information to give to our student leaders. One thing that we all definitely found exciting about attending the Leadership Tour is that our Student Council is doing well! We're holding similar activities and succeeding just as well as other councils! All in all, we learned of ways to improve and offer more experiences to our students and community, but not without a discussion, of course, about adapting "big school student council activities" to our small school.

On Tuesday, November 21st, the Student Council successfully put on a Thanksgiving hot lunch, and all the students in the school each listed things they are thankful for on a colorful feather which was attached to a paper turkey that decorated the school commons bulletin board. Center pieces and candles were on each table, and orange and brown paper chains hung from the ceiling. Ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing and applesauce were served with turkey-shaped decorated cookies donated by North Water Bakery in Algoma.

December, 2023

Whew! It was one busy December for the Washington Island Student Council, and the holiday break after that was well-deserved!

On December 15th, the Student Council held a holiday event, which offered children and their families a ride through town on the Polar Express (the school bus) to see holiday lights along the way to the North Pole (Bethel Church Community Room), where the children could visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, take silly pictures in a photo booth, decorate photo frames, create pinecone Christmas trees, be decorated like a Christmas tree, stack presents and knock them down, decorate cookies, and enjoy pizza and popcorn while watching the Polar Express movie!

On December 18th, the Student Council worked with WICHP at the annual Community Holiday Breakfast in the School Commons. This year, the students helped Sue Cornell cook and serve waffles, pastries, and sausage-egg-cheese wraps. The students of all ages were encouraged to sit and eat with the guests, talk with them, get to know them, and share a little bit about themselves. The Community Holiday Breakfast is becoming a tradition that many from young to old look forward to each year!

In December, the last hot lunch before break was Hawaiian cuisine. The main part of the meal was a Poke' Bowl of rice and Teriyaki Chicken, with a choice of toppings, like shaved carrots, cucumbers, and edamame. Pineapples were served on the side, a donut was dessert, and a drink of Hawaiian Punch to wash it all down! Of course, all the students were given a lei at the beginning of the day to add to the Hawaiian attire they wore! The lunchroom was decorated with palm trees, colorful fish and flowers, and Emily Nickchen played her ukulele and sang a Hawaiian song to add to the ambiance.

The last day before holiday break, the Student Council delivered Santa Grams to students who were sent holiday notes with a candy cane and a chocolate kiss from other students who purchased them for \$.25 apiece the days before.

January, 2024

In January, so far, the Student Council has spent their time planning for an upcoming Spirit Day, a community dinner, an exciting future fundraiser, and the Lions Club Fish Derby Luncheon, where the Student Council will sell homemade desserts.

Are you still looking to show off your Washington Island School spirit? It's not too late! There is an online

store where you will find all kinds of ways to do that! You will find t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, water bottles, and even a backpack that shows off our school's Bucks emblem! Check out the Washington Island School's Face-

book page for the link to the online Washington Island Bucks Apparel Store and to the commercial that Julia Pratt created to show you some of the items available!

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PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

With the highest attendance ever, the tables were full at the WICHP Holiday Breakfast!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

The goal the Student Council had for the Polar Express event was to provide fun holiday activities that families could share together! Accomplished! Liz Pratt, with her arms full is watching her two little ones create pinecone Christmas trees.

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One of the simplest activities to prepare, and one of the most popular with the little ones at the Polar Express Night: Present Stacking... and of course... Present Knocking Down!



PHOTOS BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

The Student Council came together to take a picture at the Polar Express Photo Booth. (Not pictured: Emily)



The students and the Student Council all shared in the Hawaiian festivities by dressing for the occasion.



Santa and Mrs. Claus took time out of their busy schedule at the North Pole to visit the children and take pictures with them!



Ava and Marlie decided to be decorated as a Christmas tree together at one of the Polar Express activities.



Dakota is proudly showing off the picture frame she decorated for the picture her mom and her took together at the Photo Booth.

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Snowflake classification underway in SnowGLOBE partnership

By Miranda Dahlke

As the snow begins to fall and accumulate this winter season, some students are participating in a new citizen science initiative. The eighth grade science students are partnered with the third and fourth grade students in Mrs. Marleen Johnson's class in order to collect and interpret data together. These students are participating in the SnowGLOBE Youth Citizen Science Initiative. GLOBE is a collaboration among the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and was created as an international science-education

program to bring together students, teachers, citizens and scientists in gathering local environmental data.

In December, the eighth grade students taught the third and fourth graders how snowflakes form and how to classify them by shape. The data these students will collect includes pictures taken with macro-lenses during snowfalls that they will classify, and snow depth measurements. Now with a few snowfalls in the new year, students have submitted some of their data and are looking forward to more snow showers to track this winter.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Kinsey and Addi teach their snowflake buddies about the shapes and classification forms of snowflakes. All the 8th grade science students are grouped with the 3/4 grade students to collect and analyze snowflake data they collect this winter season.

First Graders Write Procedural Informational Texts

By Alyssa Wagner

The first grade class wrapped up their procedural or "how-to" writing unit the week before winter break. This unit's prompt required students to write about how to make a new friend. Students needed to have a proper introduction, the four necessary steps using the time order words first, next, then, and finally, and a conclusion to wrap up their text. Much time was spent on the planning, revising, and editing phases to ensure a detailed and descriptive step by step text. When the writing was complete, students were able to add a cover to their writing to create a published copy. One of the favorite parts of writing is when each child gets a turn to read in the "share chair" to the rest of the class. Students who are in the audience are expected to give positive feedback to each reader to complement them on a job well done. Some sentence starters are provided to ensure high quality and thoughtful feedback such as "I like the part where..."

"I like how you described..." "You did a great job with..."

I am very proud of the first graders' accomplishments and writing development so far this year and can't wait to see what the rest of the year holds!



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

Lucia reads her story, "This is How to Make A New Friend" in the share chair to her classmates.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

The Student Council came together to take a picture at the Polar Express Photo Booth. (Not pictured: Emily)

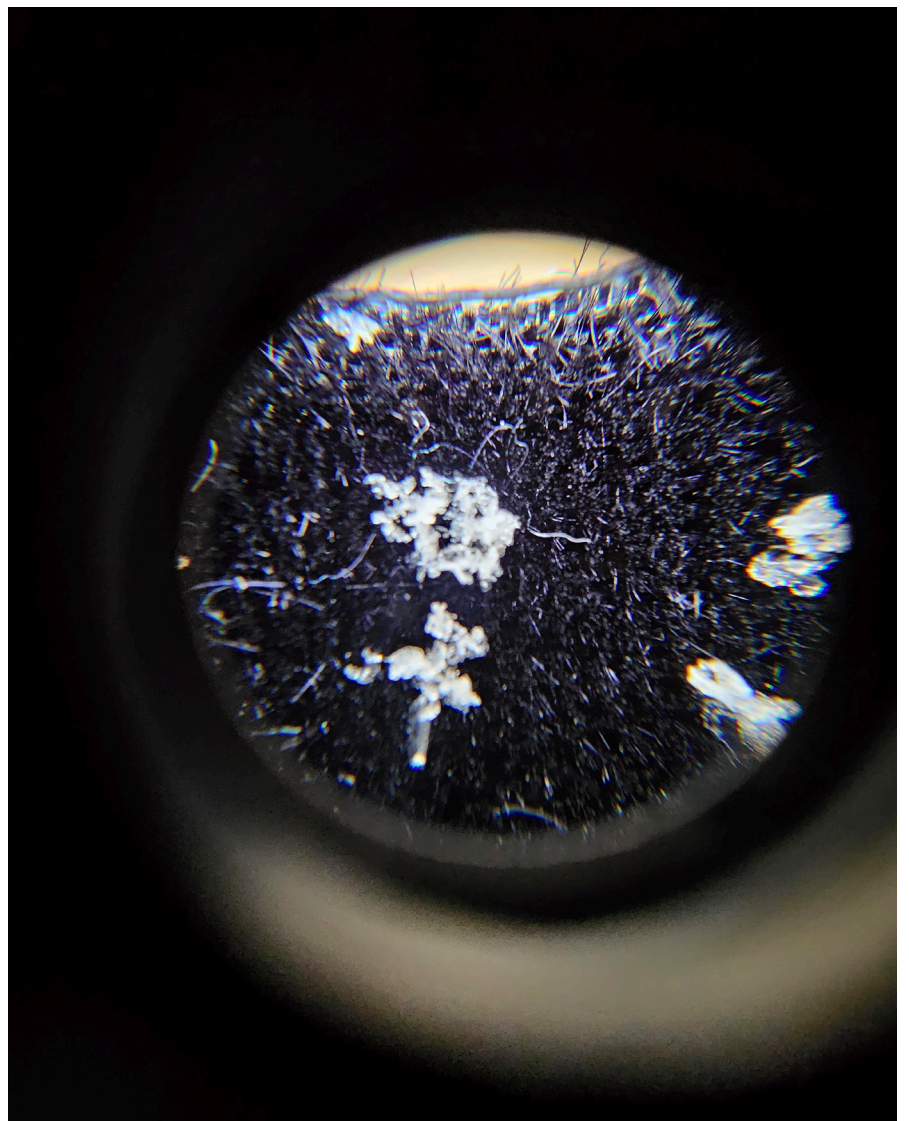


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

An image of a snowflake captured with the macro-lenses provided in partnership with the snowGLOBE Initiative.



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Island Electricity and Power

By Miranda Dahlke

To wrap up the first semester of Physical Science, the ninth and tenth grade students toured the Washington Island Electric Co-op to learn about how the island receives power. Robert Cornell greeted the group of high schoolers on the morning of January 4 and led a tour of the facilities and grounds. Students learned about the current partnership between Quantum Technologies and the initiative to bring high speed internet to island residents. Students got to hold the section of damaged cable that was replaced and now runs fiber optic line from the mainland to the island. Then students went behind the scenes to learn about the machines that help keep the lights on. Students had an opportunity to ask questions that Cornell was more than happy to answer before heading back to school. Here are some of the reflections from the students:

“The generator information was really interesting. It was cool to see what was used in the past compared to what is used today... I also found it interesting how there is an electricity scare because of converting to natural forms of energy too quick-

ly.” -10th grader

“I thought that the cable that was damaged was cool. I liked that you could see the wires on the inside and feel how heavy the small part of the cable was. I also thought that it was cool that the Co-op had all previous generators still, I like seeing how the Co-op has evolved over the years.” -9th grader

“I found it interesting that lots of placings are facing problems with people using more energy than is being produced. I thought that it wasn't a likely situation, but it's interesting to learn that it's an actual problem. I also never really knew that there were spikes in energy usage.” -9th grader

“I learned that the generators used to run 24/7. I also learned that heating is the main consumer for power.” -10th grader

“I found it interesting that we still have the first machines in the electric co-op. It was cool to see how much power and watts the new backup machines had, and how many watts of energy is produced on the lines. I also thought it was kinda cool to see how big the engines were and how powerful they were.” -10th grader



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

High School students hear about the history of the island generators at the Electric Co-op.

Students Love the Wonderful World of Reading

By Kaitlyn Stoller

In a journey into the world of literacy, kindergartners are making strides in their reading skills. One of the highlights of this literacy journey is the introduction of the students to a variety of books. These young readers are not only mastering basic phonics and letter recognition but are also discovering the enchanting world of storytelling. From colorful picture books to simple narrative tales, the kindergartners are exposed to a diverse range of liter-

ary genres.

To add to the excitement, the kindergartners have been sharing their favorite books with each other. From classic fairy tales to stories featuring their favorite animals, the classroom is filled with animated discussions about the magical worlds found within the pages of these cherished books. With books in hand and smiles on their faces, the future looks bright for these budding readers.



PHOTO BY KAITLYN STOLLER

Kindergartners dive into the world of books with their friends.

Journey Into the Jungle

By Kaitlyn Stoller

In a creative twist to their recent jungle learning expedition, students in the kindergarten classroom have combined education and entertainment by crafting riddles about the diverse array of animals they encountered in their jungle exploration. This project not only showcases their newfound knowledge but also engag-

es their peers in a fun learning game.

Riddle: I live in the canopy layer of the rainforest. I am an omnivore. I have fur and long arms. What am I?
Answer: An orangutan

Riddle: I live on the first floor. I am a carnivore. I have spots. I have sharp teeth and claws. What am I?
Answer: A jaguar



PHOTO BY KAITLYN STOLLER

Joslyn and Ryker present the jungle animals they crafted riddles for.

Washington Island
Observer

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Third and Fourth Grade Fun and Learning!



PHOTOS BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

The 3rd and 4th Grade Students stopped to carol on December 20th at Donna Briesmeister's house, bringing her much joy with their songs and kind words! In this picture they were singing, "Oh Tannebaum" in German that Mrs. Gordon taught them at school. Donna had one song request: the "Preamble to the Constitution" song by Sandy Wilbur that she taught them. There were lots of smiles on the children's faces seeing their former music teacher!



It doesn't get any better than this! Mr. Nikolai is almost always ready in a moment's notice to help students, teachers, and administration with their computer needs! Here, Tom Nikolai is pictured helping Freya.




The 3rd and 4th Grade students took to the Washington Island Roads to spread holiday cheer, caroling on December 20th. Their first stop was the Velkommen Community Room! After that they sang at Mrs. Briesmeister's, Manns Store, the Mercantile, the REA, and some of their parents' houses.



It's called the Soda Experiment. It's a fun way to learn the Methods of Science: Observation, Question, Hypothesis, Experiment, and Conclusion. The students perform the experiment to prove Ms. J's Hypothesis: Smell and sight are related to taste; if a person is blindfolded and has their nose plugged, they will not be able to taste the flavor of soda they are drinking. In the picture, Owen is handing one kind of soda to Williamson to taste. Ms. J has his nose plugged, and Williamson's partner is recording the kind of soda he guesses is in the cup. He tasted four others after that, and after all the students had a chance to taste and guess the sodas, they completed a formal experiment write-up.

**Washington Island School
Fundraiser Fiesta & Trivia Night**



Outstanding Prizes!

March 2nd
5:00 pm

Community Center Gym
\$30 per person or
\$200 for a table of 8.

Tickets available at school office. Cash or check only. Call the School office for tickets or info at 920-847-2507

Supports the 7th and 8th grade class trip to:

- Soo Locks
- Fort Mackinac
- Fort Michilimackinac

Mexican Buffet

Featuring
Pork Carnitas
Beef Barbacoa
Fajita Chicken & Veggies
And More!