

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

The Student Council Report, January 2025

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Pam Josifek

It's in crazy busy times like the last week before the holiday break that all those on the Student Council really learned about each other, and it's also after times like these that advisors feel so much gratitude, success, and pride in the team members that unselfishly worked together to give others a great experience! Pam Josifek and I are so proud of the teamwork all the Student Council members showed during the crazy busy holiday week before their break, and the Student Council is thankful for all those who volunteered to make each event successful. Sue Cornell, who has helped the Student Council order food and prepare hot lunches all year so far, was again helpful in cooking for the Community Holiday Breakfast on Monday, December 16th. Thank you to Mr. Verboomen, too, who always "jumps in" to help the Student Council whenever an extra hand is needed! Thank you to Rick Weil-

baker, who drove the Polar Express "train," and to Santa and Mrs. Claus for giving the kids an unforgettable experience! Both young- and some older- children took turns telling Santa what they'd been wishing for.

Thank you to the Rec Center for their use of the building to host the Polar Express Extravaganza, and to Katie McGrane and Dani Gillespie for putting in extra time during our set up and clean up! After a ride on the "Polar Express" through town, the games and activities were spread out between the Rec Center lobby and the Mosling Room, where the kids could also grab pizza, popcorn, and a hot chocolate to watch the Polar Express movie, by Robert Zemeckis. Spontaneously, singing karaoke at the event became a hit for a few, but watching and listening to the music for many.

After the students returned to school from their holiday break, the green and red paper chains and the



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

All Aboard! All ready for the Polar Express train ride!

gold garland were taken down, however, the red garland still decorates the Middle School hallway and will soon have hearts hanging from it in preparation for Valentine's Day Candy Grams and an upcoming Middle School dance planned for Saturday, February 15th.

The Student Council recently updated its hot lunch schedule to adjust to upcoming events added to the school calendar. All students were given paper copies of the new hot lunch schedule to hang in their lockers or give to their parents, but par-

ents can also find the schedule in an email sent to them or on the school website.

The Student Council is in the process of planning dates for a community dinner and the End-of-the-Year Carnival. A vote was taken to transfer the money raised last year for a new digital sign to the Bradley Jordan Foundation's savings for a new gym and digital sign. This year's proceeds from the community dinner in spring will go towards the Bradley Jordan Foundation to support building a new gym.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Santa was "all ears" listening to all the wishes of the children at the Student Council's Polar Express Extravaganza!

Budding Journalists work with local expert

By Miranda Dahlke

Emily Small, a local resident and Door County Knock journalist, has been working with middle school students to expose them to various journalist topics and experiences. Once a week Small pushes into the classroom to teach mini-lessons; from choosing a topic to determining types of sources, and writing interview questions. Based on student interest, Small was able to use grant money to purchase supplies they'll use to produce and edit video footage. Items that were purchased include a green screen, lighting props, a gimbal, a Samsung phone to house and use for recording, and wireless microphones. The ultimate goal is to take their creative juices and create something to publish. Most interest

lies in creating a news show, with featured segments. Students are writing, recording, editing, and producing it all from start to finish.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Students unbox materials to use in their Journalism experience with Emily Small.

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“Snow” many snowflake shapes



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

This 7th-grade student is working with a 4th-grade partner to classify the snowflakes they captured and took pictures of outside.

By Miranda Dahlke

Washington Island School middle and elementary school students continue collecting data for the NASA Mission SnowGLOBE citizen science program as the snow falls. This year, grades 3-7 are collecting data during the school day, when it snows. Prior to collecting snowflakes, I teach students how to use a macro lens attachment on a tablet, how to classify snowflakes, and how the temperature and humidity affect the shape of the crystals. After collecting snowflake pictures, students take some time to classify the type of snowflakes and submit that data along with the depth of snow accumulation since the last time we captured snowflakes. This year it’s been easy to track the snow depth, since most of the time we’ve accumulated some snow, it’s melted, and then snowed again. We are one of many schools who submit data in Wisconsin and across the nation. Many of our students are becoming experts and defining shapes without needing the classification key! Check

out some student photos from our December and January snowfalls.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Like a scientist, this 6th-grade student checks his picture of the snowflakes he captured with a macro lens, provided in partnership with the SnowGLOBE Initiative, before going inside to classify them.



SUBMITTED BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Pictures taken by WISD Students, Students capture snowflakes using black felt and a macro lens.

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Highlights and Happenings Throughout the School



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Spreading holiday cheer, the 3rd and 4th-grade students brought smiles to all in the bank that day as they caroled!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Each student in grades 3-6 was given a recorder to take home and practice in between music classes where Mrs. Kari Gordon is teaching and giving them the opportunity and experience of playing an instrument.

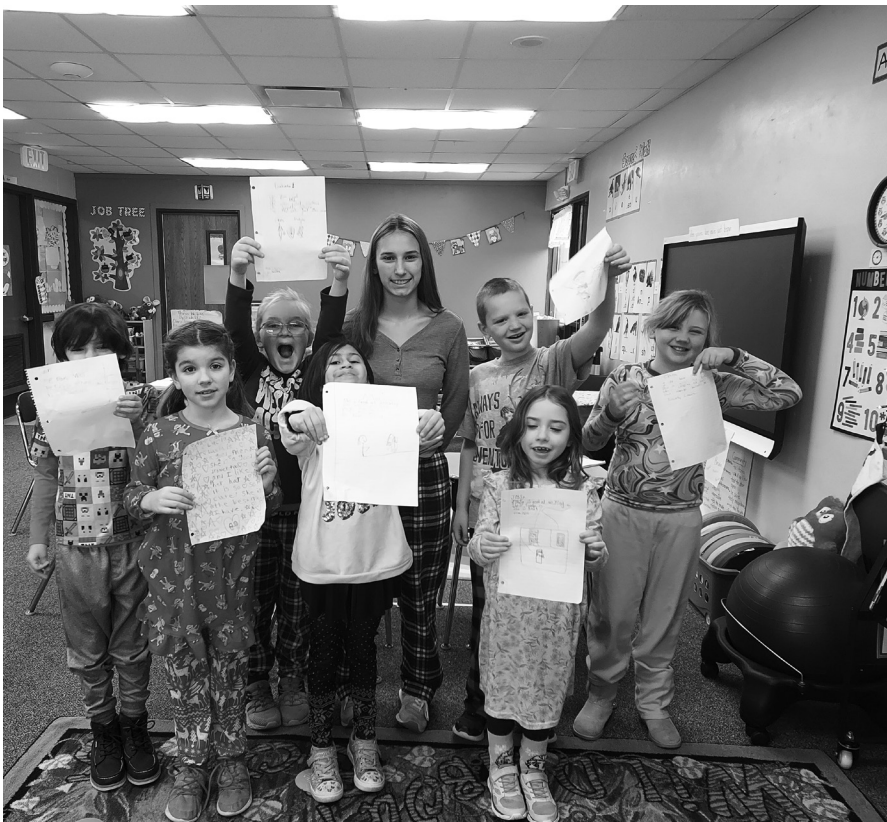


PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

As a culminating activity for Rita's weekly Friendship Lessons, Rita had the first and second-grade students write a poem about a classmate, sharing what they liked about that person, their talents, and how they are good friends. Each student developed a very thoughtful and kind poem that they shared with the whole class.



PHOTOS BY CHELSEY HEFT

The 2nd graders have been working on an imaginative story for the past couple of weeks. The students are to use their creative imagination to create a vivid story for their readers. This type of writing must include details about who the characters are, what they look like, and where the story takes place. We are just starting our draft where the children will put their imaginations to work to create an original imaginative story. We also have junior, Rita, in our 1st-hour writing class who has been an excellent asset in our classroom aiding the 2nd graders with their writing.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Potential future Bucks Basketball player, Lukas, watches the home team play on the island.

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Science In Action Elementary Coders

By Alyssa Wagner

Before winter break, 8th Graders, George and Jaida, planned a challenging coding lesson with Mrs. Dahlke for the first and second graders using the Code & Go Robot Mice. Each of the first and second grade students were assigned to a section of the coded path that spanned the classroom floor and given the task of programming their mouse to get through each destination and reach Grandma's house, but beware, there were some tricky obstacles along the way! The students first had to learn how to op-

erate each button on their controller and practice to succeed. Accuracy in this challenge was key - one mistake could lead the mouse completely off course! Thanks to some help from George and Jaida, the first and second graders completed the mission's course and led the mouse safely to Grandma's house! Teamwork, STEM, directional skills, determination, and much more were all involved in this activity. The students look forward to more coding opportunities using the Code & Go Robot Mice this year!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRlichJOHNSON

Using a magnet, Ava is making a paperclip float. The 3rd and 4th-grade students are learning and discovering the everyday uses of magnets. Next, they will design a way to use a magnet to unlock a small cardboard door.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Biology students took the time to model the cell cycle using cookies, frosting, and sprinkles.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Middle school students engineering their underwater ROVs. Each student has a role on their team for the Seaperch competition.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

First and second-graders are learning how to use the Code & Go Robot Mice with George.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

Lucia is starting to get the hang of correctly coding the mouse to follow the path.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

Jossy and Odin working with Mrs. Dahlke to code their mouse to get through their section of the challenge course.