

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

# Bucks Bulletin: October principal's report

Congratulations to the middle school students who competed in the 2021 International Sea Perch Competition last spring. The winning WISD team of Julia, Magnus, and Rita represented the MS in the final contest on June 4-5. The WISD team was the only Door County school district to have a representative group in this competition. They were also the only Wisconsin team to compete.

Results of the contest were reported to Ms. Dahlke, the coach, during the summer. The team placed right near the middle of the 35 international teams. Students were judged by a panel that provided feedback and scores in engineering technical design and approach report [20/35], team interviews [26/29], and pool course finals with their ROVs [7/9].

Our WISD students competed against U.S. students from the East and West Coasts, the Midwest, as well as students as far away as New Zealand and China. There are plans in the works to compete again in the 2022 competition. Congratulations to the middle school and Ms. Dahlke, for all their work and representation in this great STEM experience.

Thank you to Ms. Virginia Thomas for her generous donation to assist the WISD to "fill out the library bookshelves." Thanks, too, to Fair Isle Books, as owner Deb Wayman has really worked hard to rally this cause.

Congratulations to Ms. Welke, as

she completed her extended graduate work in mathematics for her NWTC adjunct teaching qualifications. She is now certified to teach a myriad of NWTC math courses here at the WISD, to our students for dual-enrollment credit. Thanks for your hard work, Ms. Welke.

Congratulations to the 6-8th grade students, Ms. Dahlke and Mr. Verboom who successfully completed the 2021 monarch butterfly tagging this fall on Plum Island. Twenty-eight butterflies were tagged. There was no catch of butterflies tagged from 2019. Students will work to research the "why" of this observation.

All spring of 2021, FORWARD testing results have been mailed home to WISD families for review. These reports included a letter of explanation and Wisconsin DPI resource sites and links for families to utilize. ACT and ACT Aspire results were mailed home as well for review by families and 10-11th graders. Our district will not receive a WI DPI "report card" this fall, as our enrollment at the high school level, and last year's elementary-middle school enrollment did not meet the minimum number of students to report district test results. The anonymity of the test results of each grade becomes compromised because of small numbers. I was required to complete the WI DPI Alternative Accountability Determination report for the high school and elementary-

middle school on two separate report forms. These were completed in June and August respectively.

The newly formed MS-HS soccer team has competed in all seven of their season games. The team has grown technically, with players improving tactically. Congratulations to the 14 team members: Ryan, Zach, Aidan, Spencer, Bennett, Fisher, Cameron, Aidan, Mason, Magnus, Collin, Tommy, Emily, Gretta, and their Coach, Kirsten Purinton for a job well-done!

The first-ever WISD Homecoming Week was celebrated during Sept 27-Oct. 1. Events included:

Monday- dress to support your favorite sports team

Tuesday- dress as your favorite character

Tuesday- Family Trivia Night held virtually

Wednesday- dress as your favorite career

Thursday- Bucks school pride day (wear blue and white)

- Hot dog lunch for students
- Student and staff introductions at 1:30 p.m. at the soccer game
- All students and staff were able to watch the soccer game at 2 p.m. vs Sturgeon Bay
- Coronation of the first-ever WISD homecoming king and queen. King Aidan and Queen Andrea resided over the afternoon events
- Open house for parents and community at 2 p.m., to visit

inside the building to see classrooms and learning spaces, and a chance to see students at the soccer game, and visit with staff Friday- hat day on Rock Island

- First through twelfth grade learned and explored Rock Island and were treated to a special performance of Beowulf by the junior and senior Classes

Oct. 1 marked with mid-term of the first quarter and mid-term progress reports were mailed home to families. The first quarter ends Nov. 2.

11-12th grade students who are currently enrolled in an NWTC course for dual-enrollment credit completed their first eight-week term during the finals week of Oct. 11. Staff have been diligent in working to keep students moving through these college classes. The second eight-week session will begin on Oct. 20.

Officer Gary Schultz completed the exterior door and interior room number plan which serves to make us compliant for our school safety and security audit. The school safety and security team will meet in October to review the WISD SS Plan, as well as make any mandated updates and revisions. The team will look for School Board approval of this document in November to meet the state DOJ deadline.

## Service project at Farm Museum



PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

**Eighth graders work hard at the press to create apple cider for the Farm Museum.**



**Sixth graders participate for the first time in the fifth annual Middle School Service Project pressing cider for the Farm Museum.**



**Sixth and 7th graders hold up all the gallons of cider they pressed for the Farm Museum to sell at the annual Fall Fest. Within two and a half hours, the Middle Schoolers pressed enough apples to make about 35 gallons of cider for the Farm Museum (that comes out to about two gallons per kid).**

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

## Outside the classroom adventures to Rock Island



PHOTO BY LEILA NEHLSSEN

Art teacher Mrs. Jones helped students create a children's book of Beowulf, so the elementary students would understand the story of Beowulf through pictures. Here, Jake, Aidan, Breanna, and Spencer present the book.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

They did it! The elementary students hiked one and a half miles on their field trip on Rock Island. What a beautiful day of learning! Thank you to all who supported our Rock Island Trip and the school.



PHOTO BY LEILA NEHLSSEN

Juniors and seniors with Mrs. Nehlsen, English teacher, after presenting their choral reading piece of Beowulf.



PHOTO BY LEILA NEHLSSEN

Beowulf, played by Spencer, fights evil Grendel, Aidan. Beowulf rips Grendel's arm off causing Grendel's death.

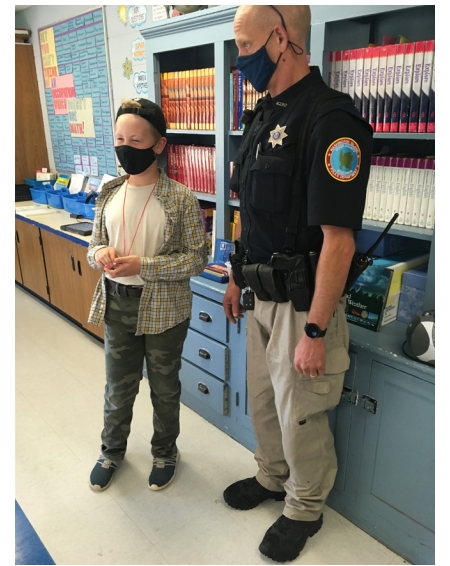


PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Gary Schultz stopped in the school just in time for George to show him the compass skills he was going to use on Rock Island.

## Fire safety



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Tom Pratt and Pete Nehlsen gave the students the chance to see a firefighter put his gear on and to see what a firefighter would look like when he or she comes to help them out of a fire.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Adam Steffen led students into the Fire Safety House to give them a chance to practice picking out unsafe situations that they may find in their houses at home. He encouraged the children to remind their parents to check and change the batteries in their smoke detectors, as well as to plan for a safe family meeting place outside in the event of a fire.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

With a magnifying glass in hand, this second grader is excited to investigate her fossil's unique features.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Proud to be holding history in her hand, Nia is showing off the fossil she found on Rock Island from the Silurian Age, 440 million years ago!



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

# Reflections of Rock Island in poetry

By Leila Nehlsen and her high school English students

After returning from a day filled with the sights, sounds, and feelings of adventure on Rock Island, each high school student wrote a poem about Rock Island. Following are some of those poems. Enjoy!

## Rock Island 2021

By Aidan

The boathouse stands tall against the teal water.  
The white boulders stare warmly onto the grass.  
The sun filters over us like a flowing river.  
The hot weather tires us out,  
five miles of hiking burdens our legs.  
Our feet feel like bricks,  
Dragging along behind us as we soldier on.  
We will all sleep well tonight.  
The Karfi makes the crossing every other hour.  
Its hull of black and sides of white,  
Cut through the crystal water.  
The trusty captain commands the wheel from his chair.  
His face of stone scans the sea.  
Many years of experience sit under his belt.  
Jake the jubilant deckhand,  
Ties the boat to the dark dock.  
A safe crossing has been completed,  
The boat sleeps in preparation for the next trip,  
Ready to carry more campers,  
to the paradise that is Rock Island.

## Breathtaking Rock Island 2021

By Breanna

The soft cool wind kisses my cheeks as we cross the aroused gray waters.  
The fish playfully dance at the water's feet, swimming alongside the care-free Karfi.  
Slimy slithering snakes and brilliant bluebirds scatter at our arrival.  
The beautiful boathouse stands at our toes.  
The wooden engraved chairs, carved as precisely as my grandmother's needlework,  
Reflect a Viking era long gone.  
The great wide windows attract the golden yellow glow of the morning sun.  
Lost life lingers.  
The tall trees topple over the great land, like great umbrellas.  
Great walls built of rock welcome the island's guests.  
Miles upon miles of trails intertwine within each other, creating a mess like tangled yarn.  
Various shades of green build the backbone of the trail.  
Nature invades the grounds where buildings previously stood.  
Big brown mushrooms cling to the tall trees.  
Feathery ferns flutter at our feet.  
Rickety rocks tip and turn as we step on them.  
Festive flowers full of fragrance fill our noses.  
History is embedded into this sacred ground.

## Rock Island 2021

By Spencer

The small Karfi slides through the deep lake as Leila boldly blows her hollow horn  
We quickly land at a concrete dock that extends out like a small peninsula  
Gracious green grass whispers the delightful day's wily weather forecast  
The sleeping-yellow sun sneakily smiles behind charcoal-colored clouds that bask beneath it  
A cumbersome breath of weak wind wooshes through the flexible trees  
The sky blue water is the isolated island's liquid blanket of protection  
Talent filled tales of warring warriors are thrillingly told in the red-roofed boathouse  
Students share a slapdash boast in the otherwise perfect performance of heroic Beowulf  
Fresh aromas fill the honey-sweet air as large lunches are enthusiastically eaten like fresh feasts  
Happy children cheerfully explore interesting locations about the wet islet  
Rigid-grey rocks form a great boathouse that stiffly stands like a venerable Viking hall  
The tall lighthouse is a sharp sailor's friend on the dangerous path through Death's Door  
High cliffs stretch along the salt-free shorelines like the winding trails on the limestone land  
Beautiful birds loudly laugh in the boundless brown trees like small children slowly singing  
Great groups of tired teachers and exhausted children end their long day of field-trip fun  
They sleepily long for their next joyful trip to this interesting island of rock

## Rock Island, What Secrets Do You Hide?

By Jake

A stone Titan casts oily amber light from its arched eyes,  
The structure suppresses the screams sounding within.  
Black waves greedily attack the shore like an army charging forth,  
And the wind arms itself with pale glacial blades.  
This solitary island shall be rightfully reclaimed by Nature,  
Let the verdure spread in a verdant wildfire!  
May petrichor permeate the air perfectly,  
The stark stone shores shall shadow sunken ships.  
Brown branches reach with their new freedom,  
And leaves become thorns.  
The human presence will dwindle,  
Like rats fleeing a sinking ship.  
Once that wealthy man lies within the Earth,  
Erase all remnants of a bygone history,  
So, none shall know in full this land's great mystery.

Washington Island  
**Observer**

It's all about the Island!



**LIKE US ON  
FACEBOOK!**

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

## Chemistry with the 11th graders

By Tim Verboomen

Washington Island 11th grade chemistry students have been learning about the periodic table of elements and each student has conducted research on six (or 5%) of the 188 elements that make up all matter in the known universe. They've gathered their research, organized their data, and published their work online for you (and the world) to enjoy.

Go to: <https://sites.google.com/island.k12.wi.us/atoms-and-elements/home> to check out their amazing work. You can also find this link on the district's web page and the district's Facebook page.

Throughout their research, the students also conducted chemistry demonstration, experiments to learn more about chemical reactions. Aidan, pictured here, preps one of those reactions by vaporizing isopropyl alcohol (C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O). You can see the results of this chem-demo, and others at: <https://bit.ly/islandchemdemos>.



Aidan, prepping the chemical reaction:  $2C_3H_8O + 9O_2 \rightarrow 6CO_2 + 8H_2O$ .

## Rock Island slideshow and podcast available with QR code



Over the past few years, the Washington Island School students have been creating a slideshow and podcast on Chester Thordarson, and the history of Rock Island. To view and listen, scan the QR code.

### QR Code Instructions:

- On your smartphone or tablet, open the camera app.
- Point the camera at the QR code.
- Tap the banner that appears on your phone or tablet.
- Follow the instructions on the screen.

## Seventh graders interview teachers

Washington Island 7th graders have taken on the task of interviewing the teaching staff to introduce both our new and veteran teachers to the community.

Emily: Why did you choose to become a teacher?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I love learning and working with teenagers! Teaching keeps my head young because I am learning right along with my high schoolers.

Evelyn: What subject and grade do you teach?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I teach high school English and social studies. This year I am teaching 9th and 11th grade students.

Payton: How long have you lived on Washington Island?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I was born on Washington Island. My children are fifth generation Islanders.

Teagan: Are you a cat or dog person?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I would say both, but I am not very happy about it! My husband loves dogs, so our dog gets full run of the house.

Julia: What is your favorite part about teaching?

Mrs. Nehlsen: Well, I just love it all. I love making literature matter to kids and helping kids understand the world better by reading a book and connecting it to their lives.

Emily: Do you have any pets?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I have a deaf dog named Caesar. He knows a bit of sign language, but that only works when he is looking at us. We have trained him to look for the flashing lights of the house when he goes out at night, so he knows to return.

Evelyn: Where did you live before the Island?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I taught in a few different places before getting married and eventually moving back to the Island. I went to Whitewater University and taught in Kenosha, Sturgeon Bay, and worked in Chicago with multiple sclerosis awareness in high schools. This is part of the reason I love doing the Chicago-Madison trip with my students.

Payton: When you were in school, what did you want to do for a career?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I always loved school, music, and dance. I knew I wanted to teach high schoolers but didn't know what subject. I always received As in English, so that helped me make my decision to get my English degree and to keep music as a hobby for enjoyment. I also loved that teaching allowed me to be with my kids in the mornings and afternoon. I strongly recommend teaching as a great career.

Julia: What do you like to do in your free time?

Mrs. Nehlsen: I love spending time with my grandchildren visiting parks and museums. I enjoy every minute that I spend teaching, but I like spending my free time reading, going to church, knitting, visiting with my neighbors, and listening to books in the car.

Teagan: Do you have any book recommendations?

Mrs. Nehlsen: There are so many! I am always reading a book before bed, a book on tape in the car, and whatever book I am reading with my students. I recently read "The Last Sin Eater" and "Before We Were Yours." I would recommend both!

Julia: Final Question for you - Do you have any advice for us?

Mrs. Nehlsen: Enjoy school and enjoy your time with your friends. Some of my favorite memories are from when I was in school. Enjoy every minute.



Seventh grade students interview teacher Leila Nehlsen.