

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

## November's School News: Principal's Report

By Tim Verboomen

First, on behalf of our students and staff, I'd like to express our gratitude for the community support we received for our school. The referendum passed with a pretty amazing level of support, and if you are among the community members who voted to accept the referendum, we are profoundly grateful.

We do not take your support for granted and will continue to make the most of what we have as we strive to excel in serving our students, families, and community. Your support ensures we're able to continue doing everything we can to prepare our students for their futures. We are here to serve our students, families, and community!

I see our staff working hard and working together to do (and to be) the best for our students and our District. My hope is, that by pass-

ing the Referendum, it means you see it too and that you already know how fortunate we are to have such an amazing staff. We may be a tiny group from a small island school, but we have so much to be proud of ... go Bucks!

### Learning Island History

A great example of this is the Island History "course" our teachers have developed. It's a course in quotation marks because of the innovative way our teachers have designed it.

Instead of being a semester course that one grade level takes, our students will be taking it for 2-3 weeks every other year for a total of 7 times. They start in 5k, then in 1st or 2nd grade, then 3rd or 4th grade, and so on through 12th grade.

Each research year our students

will end with a culminating project - presentations that our students will be giving at the TPAC, based on their research. The presentations are open to the public on the afternoon of 11/20 this year and we hope the community will come and see what our students have been working on. We also hope to self-publish a book with all the information our students have gathered for generations to enjoy and Island history to be preserved.

Our students have been out interviewing and researching Island heritage and they will complete this Island History course throughout their time with us. Each grade level learns age-appropriate Island history, increasing in depth and breadth as they come up through school.

### Basketball Season

Our teams start practice the week of 11/11 and their first games are against Gibraltar on 11/22. You can see all of their games scheduled on the district website, but be sure to save the date for January 3, 4, 31, and February 1 for our Bucks home games.

This year Bucks Fans can come decked out in Bucks gear by ordering from our new spirit store. You can find information about the store and Bucks blankets for sale by visiting our school's Facebook page.

Also of interest to Bucks fans, the Great Lakes Islanders Basketball Tournament is on South Bass Island, Put In Bay, Lake Erie this year on December 6-7th.

### Art Installation

As many of you will remember the front of our school had artwork

in the gable pediment ... the iconic triangles. What you may not know is that the artwork was created by students over a decade ago. That artwork was taken down last year for the painting and maintenance of the gables. It gave us an idea .... "Why not give another group of students an opportunity to design and create what goes up next?"

I approached Mrs. (Mel) Jones, our art teacher with the idea and she ran with it. The new idea went through a process of gathering student ideas and began a collaboration with Mr. (Matt) Sullivan, or FabLab/ Tech Ed teacher. One of our current seniors created a tessellation (an arrangement of shapes closely fitted together, especially in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping) inspired by flying birds.

We used the district's CNC machine to cut out the interlocking bird shapes and our art students used contrasting warm/cool colors to add pops of color to them. I think they're going to look really impressive on the front of our school.

The artwork is finished and is now awaiting installation. The original triangles will also go back on to the school, finding their new place of honor on the gable pediment that faces the TPAC. The idea is to do the same thing in another decade or so and then to continue that tradition for our future students.

### Thanks again

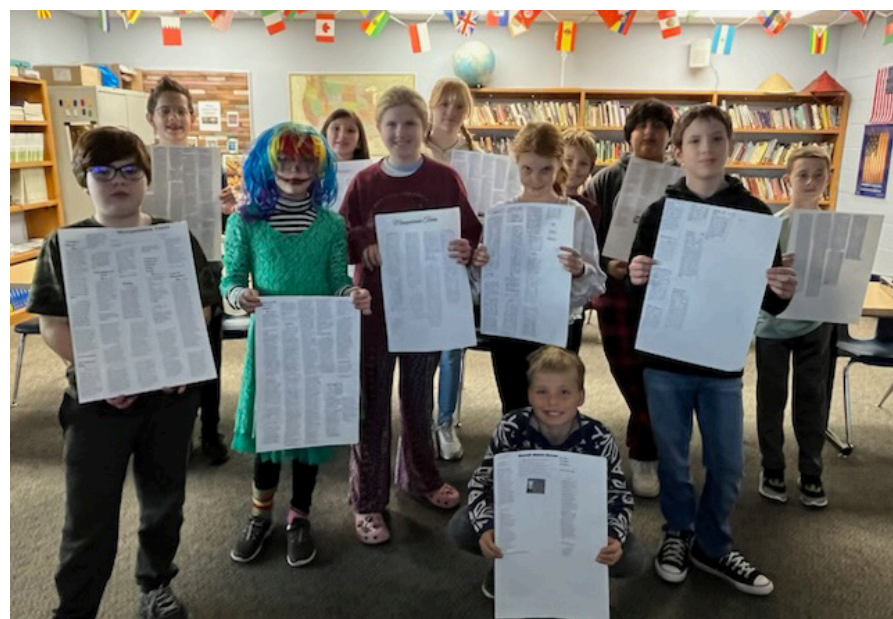
I'd like to end by expressing our gratitude, at least once more. We so appreciate your support of our students, staff, and school. We are committed to teaching, learning, growing, and succeeding; your support makes it possible. Thank you!

## Mesopotamian Newspaper Project



PHOTOS BY MARY GRZELAK

Fifth and Sixth Grade students working on their Mesopotamian Newspaper in Social Studies class.



Their finished Mesopotamian Newspapers!



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## Student and Adult Tech Ed Classes at the School



The 10th grade Fab and Making Class is working on new scoreboards for next season's Island soccer games.

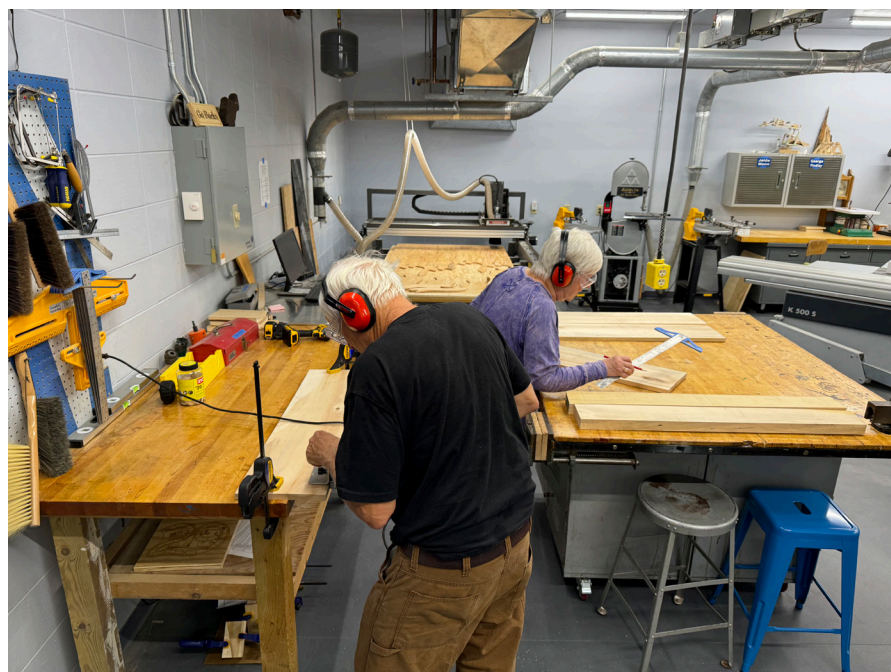
PHOTOS BY MATT SULLIVAN



The 5th and 6th graders completed The Cedar Hook project designed to help students practice drilling skills.



9th-grade students in their Intro to Fab and Making Class measure boards for their Farmhouse bench project.



Pictured here are two participants biscuiting and measuring maple boards.



For 6 weeks this past September and October, 9 participants attended WISD's adult woodshop class. They brushed up on techniques and learned to use new machines. All while working towards a final project. Pictured here is a couple jointing and planing boards.



Returning middle school students to the shop apply cutting and fastening techniques as they build a shelf for their locker at school.



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## The Student Council Report, November 2024

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Pam Josifek

On Monday, October 28th, the students walked into the school hallways decorated with orange, black, and purple streamers, paper pumpkins, witches, and skeletons. It was the first day of the first Spirit Week of the year! The Student Council members gathered at school over the weekend to deck the hallways! To show their spirit, students “Dressed to Impress,” wore pajamas, witches, zombies, and other Halloween costumes throughout the week, and on “Freaky Friday” they dressed with crazy hair and hats, backward and upside down clothes! Mummy Dogs were served at hot lunch on Tuesday of the week, and hot chocolate with whipped cream and sprinkles on Halloween.

In early November, the full year’s hot lunch schedule planned by the Student Council was sent home in the same envelope with student report cards, along with a letter offering parents an option to pre-pay for ten hot

lunches. When students are pre-paid for hot lunches, they still have the choice each day of hot lunch to have a hot lunch or to bring their own lunch that day. Their pre-payments will only be used when they decide to have a hot lunch. Then, in March, when students may run out of pre-paid hot lunches, parents will be given the option to pre-pay again for the remainder of the school year’s hot lunches.

The Student Council planned a Middle School Fall Fling for Friday, November 15th from 7:00-9:00 P.M. in the school commons. There will be a \$2.00 admission fee to help cover the cost of pizza and snacks, but the commons will be festively decorated for fall and music will be played for the students to sing and dance along.

Still on a future agenda, is updating the website to buy Washington Island Bucks apparel and merchandise, as well as a discussion about the upcoming Polar Express Holiday Event.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Four witches, including Miss Wagner, showed up to 1st and 2nd grade one day during the Student Council Halloween Spirit Week!



PHOTOS BY MELANIE JONES

A few high school art students hold their plaster pumpkin sculptures, each inspired by the style of a different artist. After researching their chosen artists, the students sculpted and painted the pumpkins to reflect that artist’s unique approach. Can you name all five artists?

## Art Class Projects



Elementary students design costumes for wooden mannequins in art class as part of their Halloween-themed spooky stations.



These 5th and 6th graders showcase their realistic ice cream drawings, demonstrating a full range of values by varying the pressure of white colored pencils on black paper. These middle school students focused on capturing depth and texture through their technique.



Odin starts his Jasper Johns-inspired artwork by rubbing various textures with oil pastels.



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## Look What's Happening Throughout the School



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON  
Kari Gordon is once again teaching music to K-6th grade students, and she sure looks like she's having fun dancing with them on Halloween!



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES  
This fall, juniors and seniors had the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin Education Fair at UW-Oshkosh, where they explored over 100 colleges, universities, and military branches to help refine their college search. After the fair, students toured the campus and enjoyed lunch at Blackhawk Commons.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON  
On Halloween, the 3rd and 4th grade students invited their families, friends, and other students to come and listen to them tell their scary stories just by the light of jack-o-lanterns.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON  
From the end of September and throughout October, Jameson O'Brien, son of Rachel O'Brien(Swan) came into the 3rd and 4th grade classroom two times a week to read aloud as the students followed along in their books. Jameson graduated high school last June and used this time while still on the Island to volunteer before venturing out to continue to work on his future plans. He read Bridge to Terabithia, by Katherine Patterson and half of The Sign of the Beaver, by Elizabeth George Speare. What a great experience for all!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON  
This 3rd-grade student is learning Latitude and Longitude with a Sharpie and a pumpkin.