

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

# Principal's Report: November School News

By Tim Verboomen

It's hard to believe that, as of the writing of this article, we're already through 22.2% of the school year, and we've had a great start. With the other 78.8% ahead of us, we still have a lot to look forward to, but we can also already look back on the first couple months with pride. As you probably know, our amazing students and staff are committed to teaching, learning, growing, and succeeding: October was an exemplary month of living out our school's mission.

## Teaching

We began this month with a celebration of excellence in teaching. Our very own Science/STEM teacher, Miranda Dahlke, was one of the Wisconsin Finalists this year for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) award. On October 2, a representative from the DPI came to Washington Island to honor her. We invited all her students, members of her family, teachers and the School Board to surprise Miranda with the honor. The PAEMST awards are the highest honors bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching. The Awards were established by Congress in 1983, and the President recognizes just 110 exemplary teachers each year. Her students and colleagues are very proud of Mrs. Dahlke!

## Learning

Our students have had so many interesting opportunities to learn this month, I can only highlight a tiny fraction of them. I'll start with a mock tri-



PHOTO BY ZUZKA KRUEGER

**These 4k-4th grade students were looking pretty sharp on Fancy Day during Spirit Week.**

al our middle school students held for Christopher Columbus, Columbus' men, the King and Queen of Spain, the empire system, and even the Native Americans. Each stood accused and students took turns defending them. Students rose to offer their arguments as to why each was not guilty of the accused crimes, and as a guest judge I was tasked with determining who the guilty parties were. Of course we discovered they shared the blame, and it was an excellent way to demonstrate the complexity of judging history - in this case European exploration of the New World.

Our students were also able to take their learning on the road last month. Our elementary students were able to visit the Open Door Bird Sanctuary, a 34 acre sanctuary that provides homes for un-releasable birds of prey, near Jacksonport. Our students were able to see some of the most amazing birds from our area and around the world with their raptor educational

program. Our 5-12 students were able to see a live performance of Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Story, by Mystery award-winning, Ken Ludwig. The Peninsula Players performed the murderously funny adventure that took our students from Baker Street in London, to the haunted moors of England as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson worked their way through a dizzying web of clues, disguises, and deceit (as well as getting to see just five actors portray more than 40 characters ... something our cast of Shrek Jr. knows a bit about from last year!) Our 10th grade students also took a trip down to Sturgeon Bay to visit TTX and Hatco to learn more about manufacturing and employment opportunities in the trades they may

be interested in as they contemplate their futures. Our high students will also be attending an educational fair later this year to learn about post secondary learning opportunities from

colleges and universities around the area, as well as cosmetology schools and opportunities in our military.

Our student council has also been very active this year, already hosting two hot lunches, two spirit weeks, and partnering with WICHP for the Packers Party. Our student council is planning to attend the Wisconsin Association of School Council's Leadership Tour in Green Bay in November. The tour will serve over 900 student leaders and student council advisors from all over Wisconsin, and will "combine motivational content, quality instruction, and great ideas."

Finally, we're expanding the learning opportunities in our school to members of our community, beginning with Mr. Sullivan's Fab Lab & Woodshop Class. Community members in this class are working on personal projects on the school's woodworking/shop equipment, CNC router, laser engraver, and more. We'd love to expand class offerings and look forward to hearing from you about what classes you'd be interested in taking or, better yet, teaching in our school. As always, we look forward to partnering with you!



PHOTO BY ZUZKA KRUEGER

**Washington Island students were able to enjoy a Spirit Week October 16-20. One day was to dress patriotically or dress as an American hero. Nia decided to dress like her dad, Chief McGrane!**



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

**On October 4, students in grades 5K-4th were able to take a field trip to the Open Door Bird Sanctuary in Jacksonport. Students learned about and were able to see several different kinds of raptors and owls up close. One of our guides, named Mr. Bill, showed the students a barred owl which is pictured here. This owl along with the snowy owl were the kids favorites!**



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

**After lunch, students were able to have a little fun and take turns sticking their heads in the owl eyes. Pictured here are Williamson and Dakota having a blast.**



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## Learning About Navigation from an Expert



PHOTOS BY MARY GRZELAK

**5th and 6th graders learned about navigation from Captain Joel Gunnaugsson. He brought a chart and navigation tools to demonstrate how a ship can plot a course around our island.**

## Kindergarten Students Embark on a Magical Learning Journey

By Kaitlyn Stoller

In a world of dramatic castles and brave knights, our kindergarteners have traveled through 500 years into the past to learn about medieval times. Over the past few weeks, our kindergarten class has been immersed in a medieval-themed learning adventure. It was as if they had stepped into a time machine and were transported back to an era filled with chivalry and wonder.

To bring the medieval world closer to home, we partook in a castle-building project that allowed the children to construct their own castle. With cardboard, paint, and a dash of creativity, the students crafted a castle complete with a grand entrance. After completion, students could reenact castle events.

Of course, we couldn't forget the essential castle experience—a medieval feast! Students prepared and feasted on pottage soup and bread. The grand feast transported the kindergartners into the heart of a medieval banquet, where they imagined themselves as lords and ladies of the castle.

Having said goodbye to our captivating journey through medieval times, our kindergarteners are gearing up for yet another adventure. This time, we are venturing deep into Ancient Egypt, where the desert ecosystem, the culinary art of bread making, and the significance of the mighty Nile River await our exploration.

## The Student Council Report, November, 2023

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Kaitlyn Stoller

The Student Council welcomed three new members to its team in the last month! Bennett and Mason Isaacson-Krueger and Tommy Pratt have joined, and that makes ten members now! All other high school students are still welcome to join!

The council has been meeting weekly, and first and foremost, after posting the Hot Lunch Calendar on the school website and getting it sent out to parents, they've been taking care of business, deciding which online Bucks Spirit Wear Company to offer to the students and community to buy Bucks apparel, which members are going to present the Student Council Report at school board meetings each month, which members are going to keep track of inventory and deliver Seroogies, and which members are going to write future Student Council Bucks Bulletin articles. After all the housekeeping was taken care of, the student council hosted an October Spirit Week, which thrilled some students, and teachers, to wear their comfortable pajamas to school! The other fun days that week gave students a chance to dress up fancy, represent a decade of time, and show their pride for America or for heroes of their choice!

On October 24th, the Student Council served a Salad Bar hot lunch and treated all the students in the school to one of Linda Taylor's Famous Fall Fest Caramel Apples! Thank you, Linda, for the delicious surprise!!

Several Student Council members and both Miss Stoller and Ms. John-

son are signed up to attend the Fall Leadership Tour at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Monday, November 13th. It is sponsored by the Wisconsin Association of School Councils, of which our council is now a member. The students and the advisors are excited to attend separate break-out sessions geared towards student councils, learn leadership skills, and meet student council members from other schools. The conference will start with a keynote speaker, Jason Michaels, who will speak about resilience--using a little bit of magic. He was diagnosed with Tourette Syndrome at age 13, and has overcome what he calls, "The Impossible." He motivates audiences to see beyond their challenges and limitations, and teaches empowering techniques to overcome adversity. The conference is from 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. and the students will make it back home that Monday night, weather permitting. :)

The Student Council is also in the process of planning to bring back, "The Polar Express," in December. "The Polar Express" is a few hours of Holiday activities and fun for the Elementary and Middle School Students that begins with a "train ride" on "The Polar Express"--the bus decorated like a train-- to a place where the Student Council will host holiday activities, have pizza for supper, and watch the movie, The Polar Express, by Warner Brothers Entertainment.

On the docket in the future this winter or spring are plans for a Student Council community dinner, like last spring.



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# 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies

By Mary Grzelak

The 7th and 8th Grade social studies students found themselves in a trial recently, each accused of having some role to play in the destruction and death of native populations of the Americas. Columbus, Columbus's men, the king and queen of Spain, and even the Taino natives were being accused of playing a role in the late 15th Century encounter between two civilizations. The students researched the factual information available to them, using Columbus's journal, records from the Spanish court, and various other reliable sources. They then planned how they would defend themselves, and possibly blame another entity.

The trial took place with Mr. Verboomen as the judge and Mrs. Grzelak as the prosecuting attorney. Each student, or group of students, took the stand and explained why they were innocent, expertly pushing

blame onto others. Their research shed much light on the complicated situation! Judge Verboomen eventually ruled that blame was to be shared between Columbus, his men, and the king and queen of Spain. The Taino natives, while greatly outnumbering the Spaniards, were held blameless despite little effort at fighting back.

Each year around Columbus Day we hear many who want to detract from Columbus's accomplishments and only focus on the ultimate outcome of this monumental encounter. The 7th and 8th graders learned that the entire situation is very complicated. Looking back 531 years, we can not judge individuals or their decisions by today's standards, but should focus on learning from the past. Looking at past events from a variety of perspectives is one of the main methods used for learning the history of our country and the world.

# Notes From The Counselor Corner

By Lynn Newman

October flew for me, and probably our students. The Guidance Curriculum has been ok'd for the rest of the year!

In October, the Kindergarten students worked on "Feelings", Self-Talk for Staying on Task, and Being Assertive. November topics will include Identifying Anger, Differences, and Accidents.

The 1st and 2nd graders worked on Following Directions, Self-Talk for Learning, Identifying Feelings, and Being Assertive. November topics will include Feeling Clues, Similarities and Differences, and "Feelings Change".

The 3rd and 4th graders learned about Being Assertive, Learning to Identify Other's Feelings, Conflicting Feelings, Planning to Learn, and Understanding Others Perspectives. November topics include Differences, Compassion, Making Friends and Managing Emotions.

5th graders learned about Boundaries, Predicting Feelings, Others Perspectives, Differences and Disagreeing Respectfully. November topics will include Compassion, Emotion Management, Calming

Down and Anxiety.

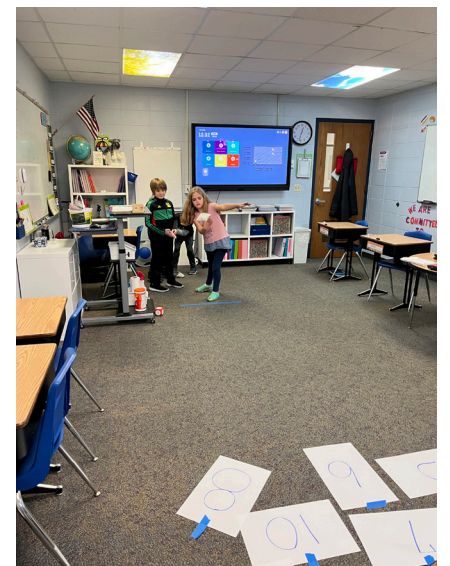
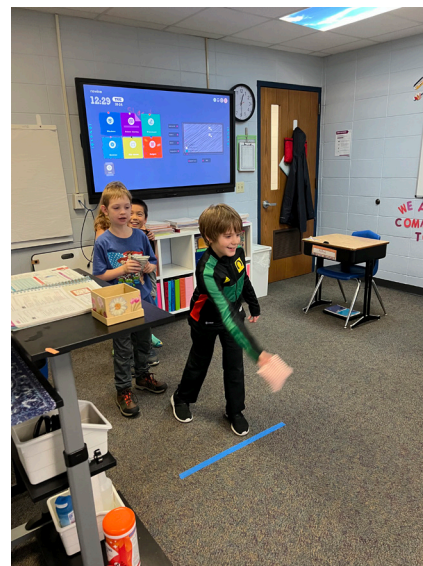
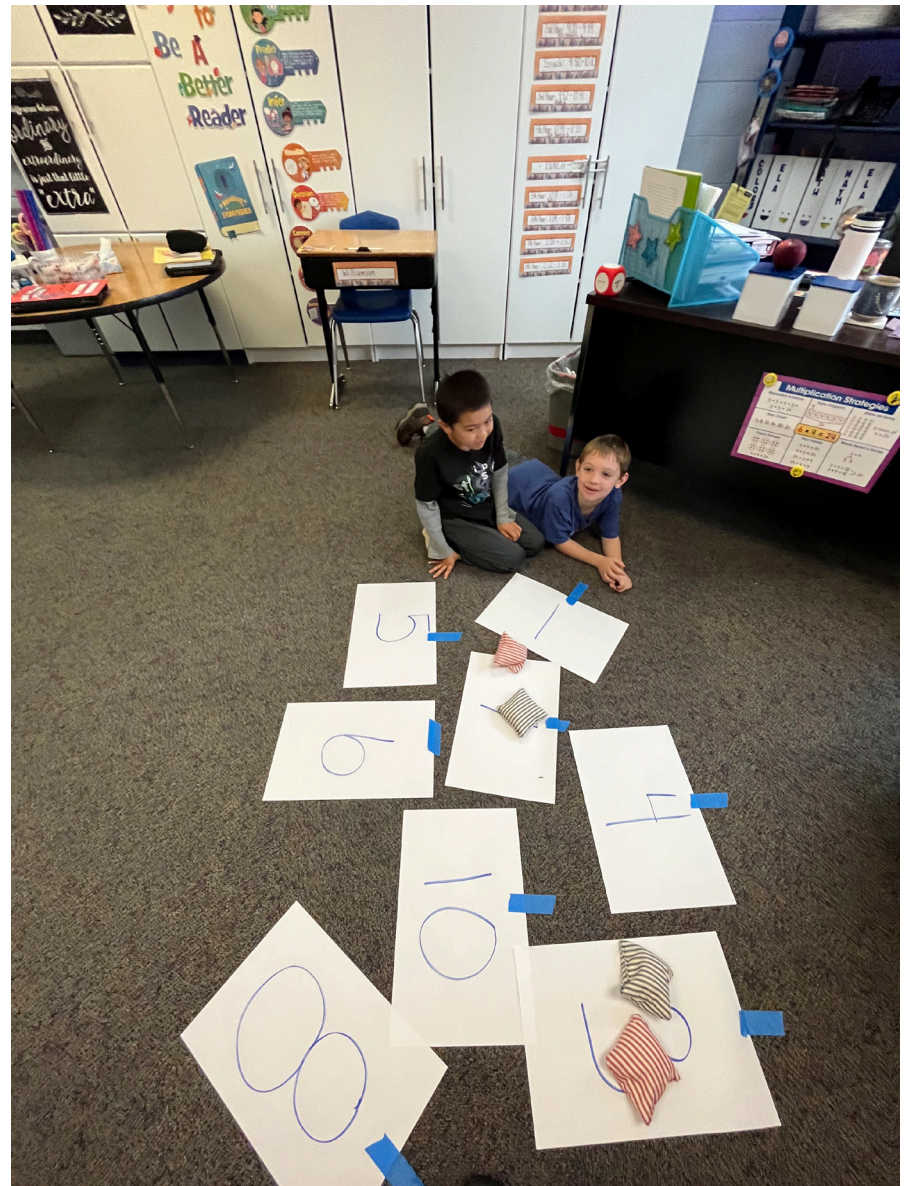
The 6th and 7th and 8th graders worked on Bullying, Relationships Between Physical and Mental Health, and Xello (future preparation for life and careers). In November we will discuss Emergency Planning, Cyberbullying, Security and Xello.

The 10th graders went down to Sturgeon Bay to tour 2 businesses on October 26th, Thermatronix and Hatco. We learned about Manufacturing, and the Departments that support their businesses (IT, Finance, Engineering, etc.) Our tour hosts also discussed the paths their own lives took to the present.

I also met with individual students in 11th Grade to discuss their hopes for the future. I will be working with the 10th Graders in November. November is Apprenticeship Month and I will also be discussing STEM/AI, Education, and Training. Lastly, our Yearbook Committee has been formed! We fortunately have a former WI graduate working with us.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your children!

# Fact Fluency Fun



PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN FOSS

Mrs. Foss's 3rd-grade math class is practicing multiplication fluency by getting up and out of desks and tossing bean bags! Students tossed the bean bag across the room and then rolled a dice to see what the other addend would be. Did they get the answer right? YES. Lots of fun was had as they tried to come up with the correct answers quickly.



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# Science in the School

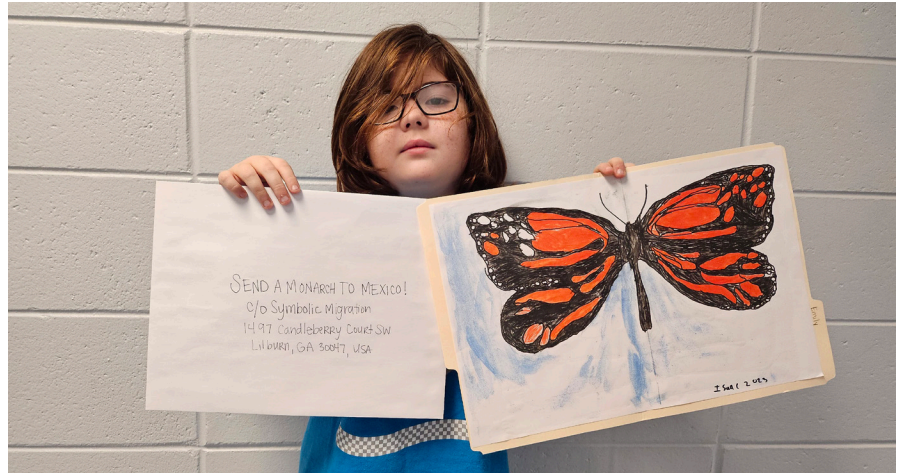


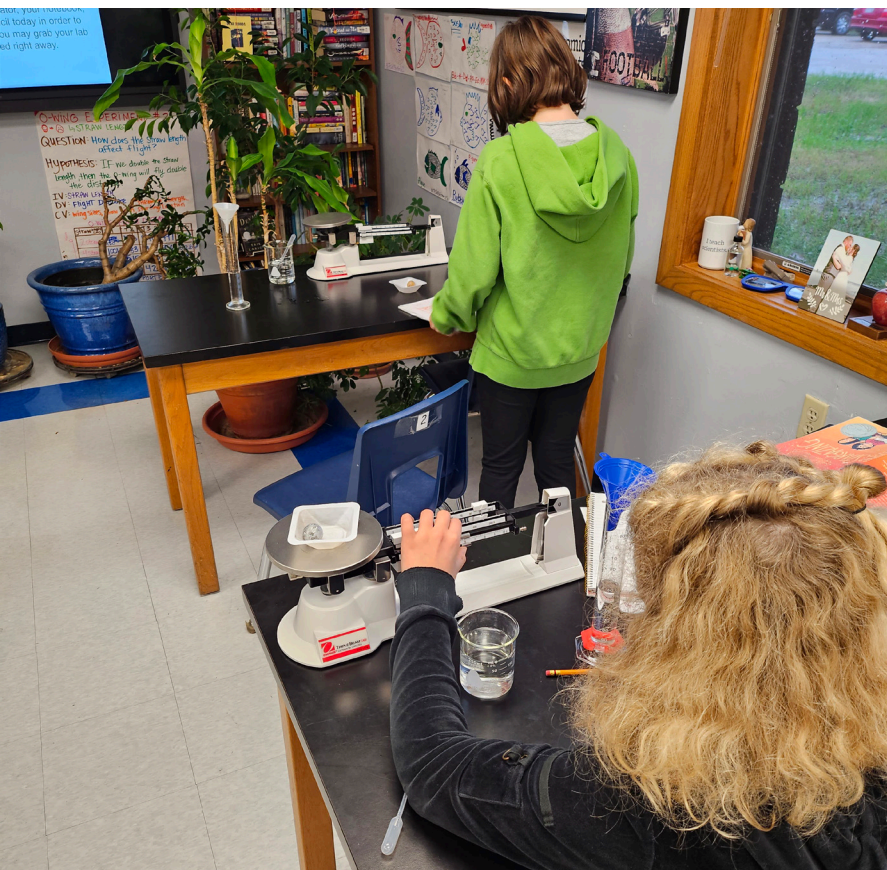
PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

5th grader, Isaac's monarch butterfly drawing was voted in as the image to grade this year's Symbolic Monarch Migration care package sent to a partner school in Mexico, where the monarch's overwinter. This is the 6th year our students have participated in this opportunity.



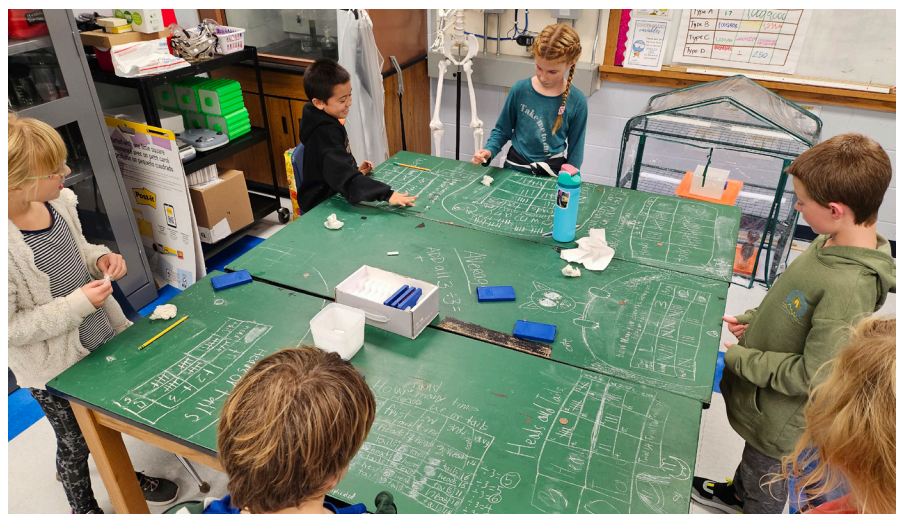
PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

The High School Plant Chemistry class has been working to repot and trim up plants donated to the school by Ed Heyward. Stay tuned about info about cuttings and propagations for pick up!



PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

5th grade science students test their ability to identify 9 unknown solid substances by calculating the density.



PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

3rd and 4th graders create and track data collection about coin flips with Mrs. Dahlke.