

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

The School Scoop - December

By Tim Verboomen

Holiday Events

Our Student Council planned the 2nd year of the return of “The Polar Express” event on December 18th from 5:30 - 7:30. It’s such a fun event for our youngest Islanders, and tickets include a ride on The Polar Express (it looks remarkably similar to our school bus) and activities. The “North Pole” was at The Rec this year (thank you to the Mosling Rec Center).

The last week of school before the holiday break in December was highlighted with a school spirit week, and our Student Council hosted a Community Holiday Breakfast in partnership with WICHP to kick off that week. The breakfast was served in our commons on December 16th. We always look forward to seeing our Island seniors/community members at this fun community event.



The Fall 2024 Trap Team Receives Awards.

PHOTO BY TIM VERBOOMEN

Island Athletics

Our Island trap-shooting team won 2nd place in our conference, and Ashlynn won third place among female shooters! We compete against schools with many times our numbers and budget, so winning these honors is really something special. Go Bucks!

Our Bucks basketball season began on November 11th and will run through February 8th this year. The Bucks’ first games were away games against Gibraltar on November 22nd. Our players traveled to Put in Bay, Ohio to play in the Great Lakes Islands Basketball Tournament on South Bass Island, Lake Erie. Our girls took second and our boys took first place (for the third year in a row)!

We have home games for both teams on January 3rd (4:00 & 5:15) and 4th (9:30 & 11:00) against Chesterson Academy of Green Bay, and games on January 31st and February 1st against the Escanaba DC Knights. Our student-athletes love your attendance/support at their home games, and we hope to see many of you there!

We are excited to have our returning coaches this year: Boys’

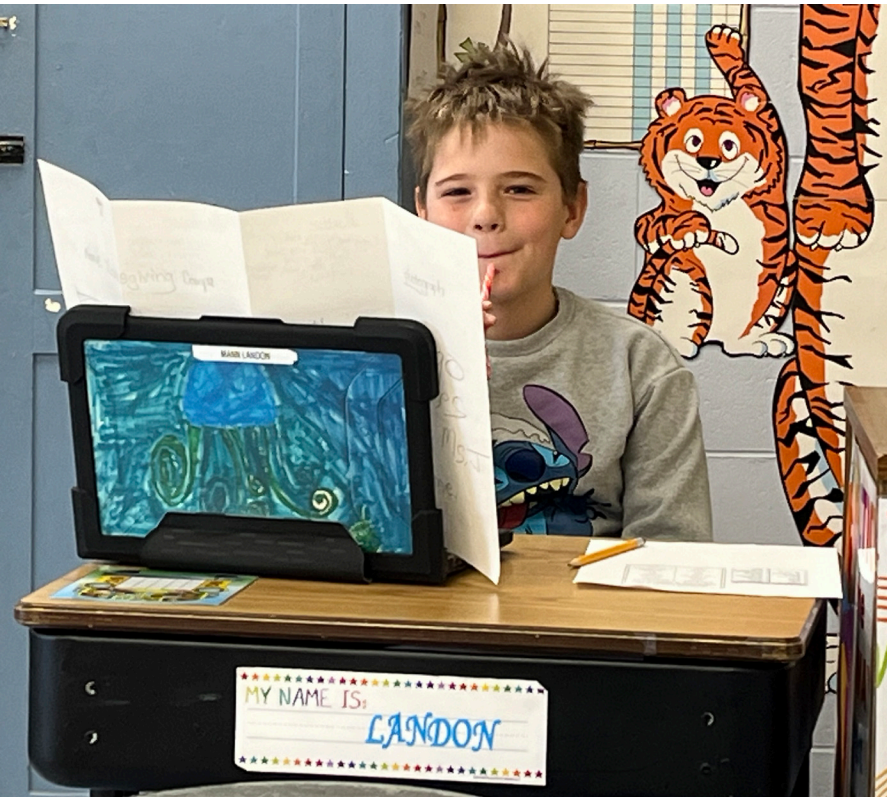
Head Coach, Josh Mann & Assistant Coach, Matt Grandy; and Girls’ Head Coach, Sara Gibson & Assistant Coach, Marisa Kehren.

You can view our most current/updated calendar for extra-curriculars by visiting our website (<https://www.island.k12.wi.us/parents/calendar.cfm>) and scrolling down to the Extra-Curricular Calendar. We are hoping to add a few more games, and this webpage will be the easiest place to find the latest updates!

In Other News

We’ve had several successful fundraisers recently, including the Black Friday soup sale for the DC Trip. The DC trip is also selling really cool Washington Blankets for \$30 - there are still some for sale in the office at school. We also have an amazing parent organizing the Bucks Spirit Wear fundraiser. Players, fans, and families can support Island Athletics by purchasing Bucks gear online and/or at the home games in January and February. We will also be offering a Saturday morning Youth Basketball skills development program this winter. Contact Zuzka if you’re interested in signing up!

Students hard at work before the Holidays



Sucking on a candy cane and checking over his notes twice before writing his compare and contrast sentences about his classmates’ Thanksgiving traditions.

PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON



These 3rd and 4th grade boys were measuring the effects of force on the motion of the car.

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A Peek into the First and Second Grade Classroom

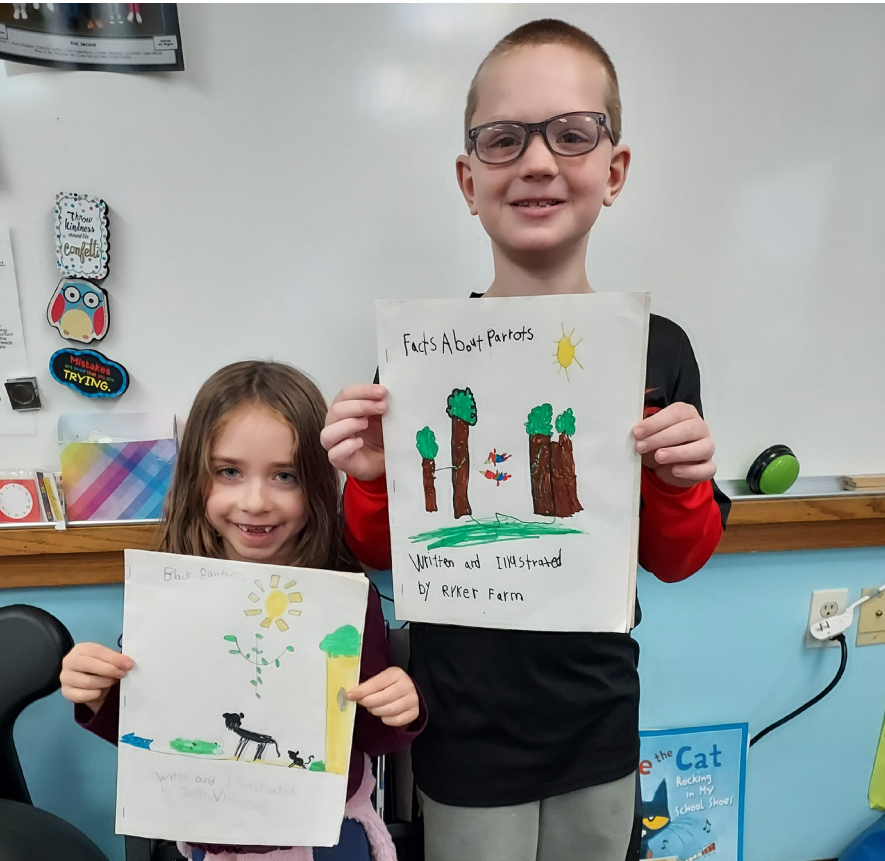


PHOTOS BY ALYSSA WAGNER

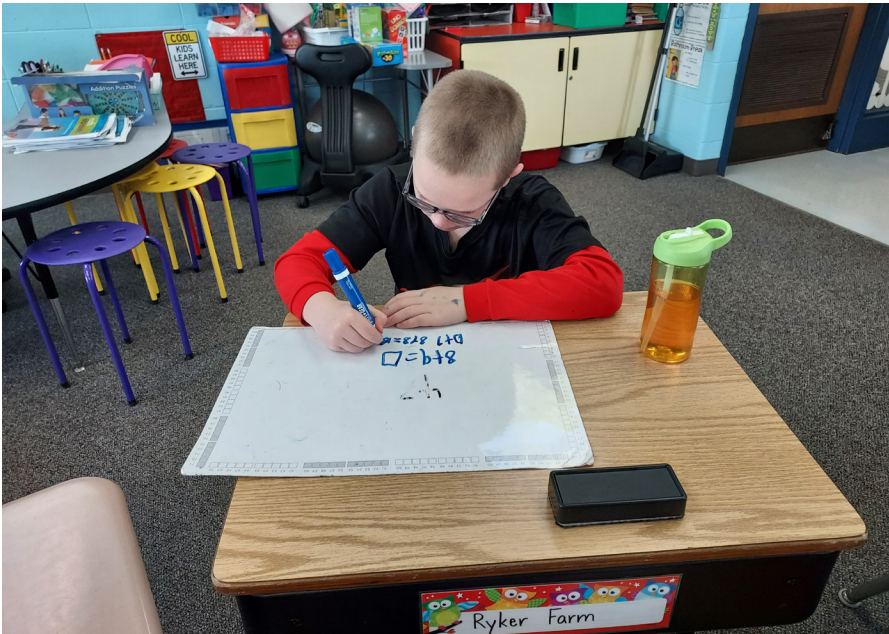
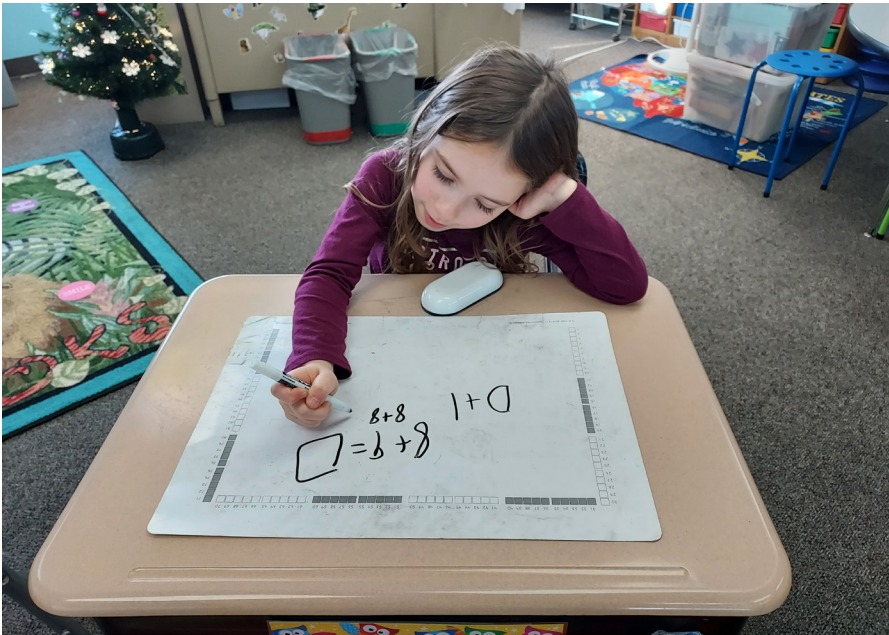
For the past few weeks, Rita has come into the 4K and 5K and 1st and 2nd-grade classes on Mondays and Fridays to teach lessons on how to be a kind friend and not bully. She has kept the students engaged with different activities, role-playing, and read-aloud stories. Thank you, Rita, for planning and teaching these lessons!



Next up in Social Studies for the first and second graders was to learn about the different winter holidays and the special traditions people do to celebrate around the world. The students learned about Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, Kwanzaa, and Los Posadas, created a craft, and completed various activities for each celebration. Pictured here are the students playing dreidel. So much fun was had by all!



The first-grade students recently wrapped up their informational text unit by researching their favorite animal and writing a research essay. One student chose the black panther and one chose parrots. They had to research what their animal eats, where they live, and other facts their reader may find interesting. Lastly, an informational text isn't complete without a table of contents, a cover, and many illustrations on each page, so that's exactly what they added!



Winter Poetry

Snow Angels
By Madelyn Kellerman

Strong winds push in
a swirling dance
The cold snow coats in the air
Strands of hair whip my face
Like sticks caught in
a restless breeze
The chill of the snow
is nearly paralyzing
My hands surrender to the frost

Our cheeks bloom red
against the cold
The snow crunches under our
backs as we fall to the ground
My limbs start to move
carving the snow with
the force of a plow
Creating drifts around my body
The occasional flakes
settle on my face
as our snow angel comes to life

Do you know the Doubles +1 and the Doubles -1 strategy? How about the Doubles +2 or the Doubles -2 strategy? Well, these two first-graders do! They are Super Strategic Solvers, learning over six different addition and subtraction strategies, or methods, so far this year!

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The Student Council Report, December 2024

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Pam Josifek

The Middle School Fall Fling on Friday, November 15th, was a great success! Students came dressed up in fancy clothes and danced for almost two hours straight limboing, line dancing, and showing off their new moves, and now, just a month later, there are rumblings of requests in the Middle School hallway for another dance! Cheers to a fun Friday night!

The Student Council is having a busy holiday season preparing for two hot lunches, the Polar Express Extravaganza, the annual Holiday Celebration Breakfast, and selling Santa Grams! All of these will be held the week of December 15th. Well, except for one hot lunch that already happened on December 3rd.

At the Student Council's Holiday Hot Lunch this year on December 17th, we will celebrate Christmas cuisine and traditions from Italy. Baked Mostaccioli will be the main course, and dessert will be something sweet and Italian! Italian Christmas music will set the mood, and the traditional Italian folktale of Old Befana will be told to all.

The Polar Express Extravaganza will be held at the North Pole (the Rec Center) on Wednesday, December 18th from 5:30-7:30 P.M. To get there, the Children and their parents will ride on The Polar Express (the decorated school bus) and will more than likely see holiday lights in the Town of Washington on their way! The Polar Express Extravaganza is the Student Council's way of using Robert Zemeckis's Christmas mov-

ie, The Polar Express, which was based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg, to create a holiday celebration for children and their families. It's an extravaganza because while The Polar Express movie plays in one corner of the room, there are games, crafts, cookie decorating, a photo booth, and a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus taking up the rest of



"A penny for their thoughts!"
These Middle School boys seem to be enjoying their dance-floor conversation at the Fall Fling.



Someday, these Middle School girls will call these "The Good Ol' Days!"

PHOTOS BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON



A few Middle School students couldn't make it, and a few just didn't join in this picture, but a good time was had by all who came to the Middle School Fall Fling!



Mrs. Jones's son got "service with a smile" at the Student Council's Thanksgiving Hot Lunch!

the room! At the Polar Express Extravaganza, no one should go home hungry! There's pizza, popcorn, cookies, lemonade, and hot chocolate. The Washington Island Student Council's Polar Express event started when Michelle Jordan was the Student Council advisor years ago. It hasn't happened every year since then, but this year's Student Council is excited to give this opportunity to the children and their families for the second year in a row!

At the WICHP and the Washington Island School-sponsored Holiday Celebration Breakfast on Mon-

day morning, December 16th, the Student Council will help decorate, set up, cook, and serve in the buffet line. In years past, this celebration has been a great time for the students and the adults to have conversations and get to know each other better over coffee, juice, and good food.

To top all these happenings, the week of December 15th is a Holiday Dress-up Spirit Week, which will end with the Student Council delivering Santa Grams, sweet treats and messages bought for a quarter, from others, on the last day before break.

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The Island History Project

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson

Like the Voyages the Washington Island students took some years ago, the whole student body K-12 dove into studying Washinton Island History this fall, which concluded with a community presentation at the Trueblood Performing Arts Center on November 20th.

The goal of the Island History Project was to provide a learning experience, not only through research but also through interaction with community members and hands-on activities where students would be exposed to the diverse cultures and resilient people that shaped Washington Island's history. To culminate their experiential learning, the students were expected to present their new knowledge to the community as they did at the TPAC.

The coordinators of the Island History Project, Mary Grezlak and Kayla Mann, gave each grade level a focus (with flexibility to adapt) that was unique to their group with the purpose that students will grow in their depth of Washington Island History knowledge as they repeat the project biennially and progress in their schooling at Washington Island School.

The Kindergarten, First, and Second-grade students took a field trip to visit four early Island homes. Then, while looking at pictures from the archives of the same homes from a

long time ago, they drew their own interpretations of them. During the culminating event at the TPAC, their pictures of the early Island homes were shown in a slide show while they sang the Fishermen's Song with Julian Hagen.

The 3rd and 4th graders presented information from the formation of Rock and Washington Islands, through the time when only Native Americans lived on the Islands and were visited by French explorers, and up to the time when early white settlers started making Washington Island a permanent place to call home.

The 5th and 6th-grade students learned about the Scandinavian immigrants and their cultural influence on Washington Island. Each student was given a topic to research, but before they could begin, they first had to learn about the Archives. That's where Steve Reiss's expertise was a big help! After researching, each student interviewed a community member knowledgeable about their topic, and to add to their experience, they learned rosemaling, a new Scandinavian dance, and how to make a rubbing of a gravestone. On the last day of working together, the 5th and 6th grade students visited the places on the Island that each of them studied. Then, at those places, each student taught the others in their class about

what they learned.

The 7th and 8th-grade students focused on the economic development of the Island. By taking the opportunity to visit with local experts on the topic, students were able to gain a better understanding of the overall development of the Island's economy throughout the years. Students created a video that was shown at the TPAC to showcase their learning.

The 9th and 10th-grade students focused on historical and cultural landmarks on the Island. Photos were taken, dates and changing ownership were noted, and the usage of certain buildings over the years was researched. Older photos were found primarily in the archives, and many Islanders were interviewed for additional information.

The 11th and 12th-grade students

focused their research on the historical evolution of Washington Island and its cultural heritage. Students utilized the Archives and community interviews to gain insight into the Island's past and present. Their research focused on three main topics: Washington Harbor, Death's Door, and the cultural significance of Island baseball.

Emily Nickchen, a sophomore, was the Master of Ceremonies at the Island History program, and just before the end when Kindergarten - 4th-grade students led the audience in singing Northern Lights with Julian Hagen, she announced... "Generations of hardworking, resilient, passionate people have shaped our Island and still are today! Washington Island's history is a testament to the strength of community and the enduring connection between people and place. As we look back on what we learned, remember that we are all part of this ongoing history. The legacy of Washington Island continues through each of us—whether we are preserving traditions, sharing stories, or simply appreciating the beauty and uniqueness of this place we call home."

The students, staff, and administration would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who made this Island History Project possible—without those who helped us research, from the archives to the countless community members who took time out of their busy schedules to meet with us—your participation helped keep the spirit of Washington Island alive for future generations. We are incredibly grateful.



PHOTO BY ANDY KEHREN

Donna Benson taught Rosemaling to the 5th and 6th-grade students to enhance their research about the influence of the Scandinavian cultures on Washington Island for the Island History Project.



PHOTO BY STEVE WALDRON

... So why not live it up while we can! About 30 years ago, Julian Hagen wrote a song called Northern Lights. The song has become an Islanders' favorite possibly because it seems to capture the feeling of that special peace and quiet found on the Island when looking up at the clear night sky full of stars on a cool night, often in fall, and streaks of color dance across the sky. Then, as Julian sings on, a feeling of gratitude seems to fill you up, not only as you think about standing in awe of the gift of nature's colorful surprise dancing in the sky, but gratitude for that moment in life you've been given, surrounded by friends, in such a beautiful place. At the end of the Island History presentation at the TPAC on November 20th, Julian and the Kindergarten through 4th grade students lead the audience in singing, Northern Lights.



PHOTO BY STEVE WALDRON

These Seniors at the TPAC podium are awaiting their turn to share the history they learned about Island Baseball after they researched at the Archives and interviewed the manager, players, and fans of the Islanders.