

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

Bucks Bulletin: February 2022 principal's report

Highlighting our School, Students, Alumni, Staff, and Community

1. The Washington Island School District has officially been notified of its Wisconsin SUGAR MAPLE status from the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. I completed the DPI-DNR paperwork which was submitted in early December. We have been officially entered in the final review process for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. Completed and current bathroom, sink, toilet, flooring renovations, STEM activities, water bottle filling stations, paper recycling, chemical removal and abatement, HVAC improvements, Fab Lab improvements, the Gathering Ground outdoor education project, and student work and involvement at the Gathering Ground site, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow work, and the International SeaPerch Competition work were but a number of notations submitted for review in this honor.

2. Congratulations to the members of the DPI Educator Effectiveness pilot program, from the WISD, who are part of the state-wide initiative between DPI and all of the CESA organization throughout Wisconsin. WISD is part of a select group of school districts that are working in the new Educator Effectiveness system. The team has completed two (of the required four) state sessions. They met with Dr. Colleen Timm from CESA 7 on Dec. 15 to finalize their work, their SLOs, their mentoring and conference assignments, and many other materials that had to be submitted before the end of this year. Marleen Johnson, Alyssa Wagner, Miranda Dahlke, Michele Welke and Margaret Foss began this work with me on August 17. Their participation in, and collaboration with the DPI and the CESA agencies in this program, will assist in creating an improved state Educator Effectiveness program that is targeted to improve all facets of teaching and student learning growth for all Wisconsin teachers and students.

3. Congratulations to middle and high school mathematics teacher, Michele Welke, for her work to achieve transcribed credit status. Her graduate work and training from NWTC afford our high school math students the ability to take the six-credit, tech math 1a-b course for dual enrollment credit right here in our school. She works as an adjunct teacher for NWTC, which enables our students to receive this two-semester college level class at no cost to the district. This program has saved the district approximately \$5,000.00 in the current school year. We have also been recognized as

a district for our dual enrollment numbers, our Youth Apprenticeship partnerships, Start College Now, and Advanced Standing participation.

4. Kudos to Donna Briesemeister, our music education teacher, and Ham Rutledge for their work to provide the WISD students music classes during the district's virtual learning time. Briesemeister did a great job last January and continues now to provide this education service to our students.

5. Congratulations to Kayla Mann for the Max and Gayle Laird Educational Foundation grant she received. She garnered \$500.00 for classroom library books through her grant work with the Door County Community Foundation, Inc.

6. I was sent a Guest of Distinction invitation by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association for the 50th celebration of Title IX, honoring women's accomplishments and work regarding female athletics. This program is being held in conjunction with the 2022 Inaugural Girls High School Wrestling Tournament in LaCrosse.

7. Congratulations to Max Johnson, Class of 2021, for being honored at the Lamp of Knowledge Celebration this past summer. The CollegeReady WI Foundation acknowledged Max as a "Distinguished Student" representing the WISD.

8. Congratulations to Julia Valentincic, Class of 2021, for being an Honor Roll student at St. Norbert College. President Brian J. Bruess sent a personal letter to my office thanking the staff and school personnel for the support Julia was given during her high school years.

9. Congratulations to the WISD middle school "TEAM GOBY" for winning the state of Wisconsin's only seat in this year's Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition.

Tim Verboomen and Miranda Dahlke worked collaboratively during the middle school exploration hour this year with all sixth- through eighth-grade students on two separate submissions to the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Competition. The eighth-graders' submission was the winner! They will now move onto the national competition. They have already accrued \$6,500, a video kit, and a mentor who is an employee of the Samsung Corporation, to assist their team and coaches as they move into the next phase of this competition.

Only the top 10 projects will be selected for the 2021-22 final round. Of the top 10, three national school winning teams will be awarded \$100,000 in classroom technology and supplies. There is also a Community Choice winner garnered by the most

online public votes, and an Employee Choice winner, determined by the Samsung employee voting competition. Each provides an additional \$10,000.

10. Thank you to Roxanne Boren, for her donation to the WISD. She has partnered with the school to support the card and letter writing program that the district has been involved with for a second year. Ms. Boren is part of the WI Meals on Wheels program. She delivers the cards our elementary and middle school students make to the elderly, shuts in, and seniors living on the Island.

11. Thank you to Richard Schmidt,

for his donation to the school district.

12. Thank you to Jackson Harbor Soup, LLC., for their donation to the WISD athletic department.

13. Thank you to the Washington Island Town Mutual Insurance Company for their donation to the WISD sports programs.

14. Thank you to Becky Lloyd for her donation to the WISD. Becky read an article in the Peninsula Pulse newspaper about WISD and followed up with me in early January regarding how she could assist in supporting the district in its educational efforts.

Students preparing for SeaPerch 2022 Competition

By Miranda Dahlke

The 2022 SeaPerch Season has begun. Five teams of middle school students will compete for the Washington Island School's spot in the Green Bay regional competition taking place Saturday, April 2, 2022. Mr. Verboomen and Mrs. Dahlke are coaching students through the Engineering Design Process as they design, build, and use an underwater remotely operated vehicle to complete a variety of tasks.

This year's tasks revolve around space, specifically, how robots are

used around the International Space Station. The Challenge Mission course is based on remotely operated tasks, such as carrying tools from one location to another, replacing used batteries with newly charged ones, and opening hatches.

Currently, students are in the design and build phase. They will construct their designs out of PVC, solder together a controller, and assemble thrusters to add to it before pool trials.

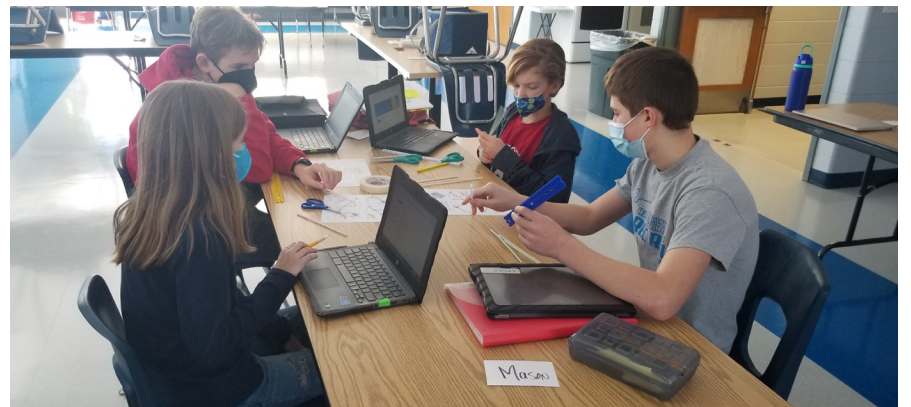


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Magnus, Julia, Allison, and Collin build the prototype of their ROV.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Emily and TJ follow the specs to help construct the straw prototype design of their ROV.



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Students compete in Academic Decathlon

By Miranda Dahlke

Seven high school students competed in the 2021-22 Wisconsin Regional Academic Decathlon competition Jan. 6-7.

The competition included seven multiple choice tests, and the addition of a speech, an interview, and an essay portion. The Decathletes wrote their essays in December about this year's novel "Sea Wolf" by Jack London.

This score is added to their total from the multiple choice tests. Then, each team member must prepare for a four-minute prepared speech and then an impromptu speech. During competition, students log in to a Zoom session in order to give their speeches and complete the interview portion. All these scores are combined to give each student an individual score.

This year's regional competition was fierce, and we did not qualify for one of the top 20 spots to compete at the state level, but we did have some ribbon winners. For the first time, we had two students earn third place ribbons in their divisions. This means out of all the students who competed at our regional location, these two gentlemen had the third highest scores.

Spencer earned a ribbon for his written essay and Aidan for the literature test.

Congratulations, I am so proud of our team: Jocelyn, Fisher, Spencer, Aidan, Jake, Breanna, and Andrea. We will lose Andrea due to graduation, but I am looking forward to the incoming ninth-graders to fill our team spots next year.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Students participated in the annual Academic Decathlon. Front row: Fisher, Coach Dahlke. Back row: Jocelyn, Aidan, Jake, Andrea, and Breanna. Not pictured: Spencer.

Students interview teachers

Washington Island seventh-graders have taken on the task of interviewing the teaching staff to introduce both our new and veteran teachers to the community. This month, our students interviewed Mrs. Michele Welke, the seventh-through 12th-grade math and financial literacy teacher.

Emily: Why did you choose to become a teacher?

Mrs. Welke: I never cared for school up until high school, when I had a teacher that really made a difference. Also, my mom used to be a teacher, and that helped me to choose this career.

Evelyn: What subject and grade do you teach?

Mrs. Welke: I teach math and financial literacy, grades 7-17.

Payton: How long have you lived on Washington Island?

Mrs. Welke: I've been teaching on the Island for three years while living here part-time. When I'm not up here teaching, I live in Tomahawk, Wis.

Julia: What do you like most about teaching?

Mrs. Welke: I love working with the students and interacting with them.

Emily: Do you have any pets?

Mrs. Welke: Well, my husband and I don't have the usual pets. We have about 30 fish, and two frogs.

Evelyn: Where did you live before the Island?

Mrs. Welke: Before the Island, I lived in Tomahawk, Pulaski, Oconto, and Wrightstown.

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

Mrs. Welke: I didn't always want to be a teacher. Up until eighth grade all I wanted to do was play outside. When I got to high school, I decided I wanted to go to college, but I wasn't really sure what I wanted to go for. It wasn't until I met an influential teacher that I decided on that path.

Julia: What do you do in your free time?

Mrs. Welke: I like to dance, shop for shoes, bike, and paddleboard!

Teagan: Do you have any book recommendations?

Mrs. Welke: I do not have any book recommendations. I am not the person to ask about that! (laughs)

Teagan: Are you a cat or dog person?

Mrs. Welke: I have fish and frogs because I am allergic to dogs and cats, but I like both, just dogs a little more.

Julia: Do you have any advice for us?

Mrs. Welke: Make sure you don't just have fun in school, but also focus on your goals.

Kindness: Pass it on!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

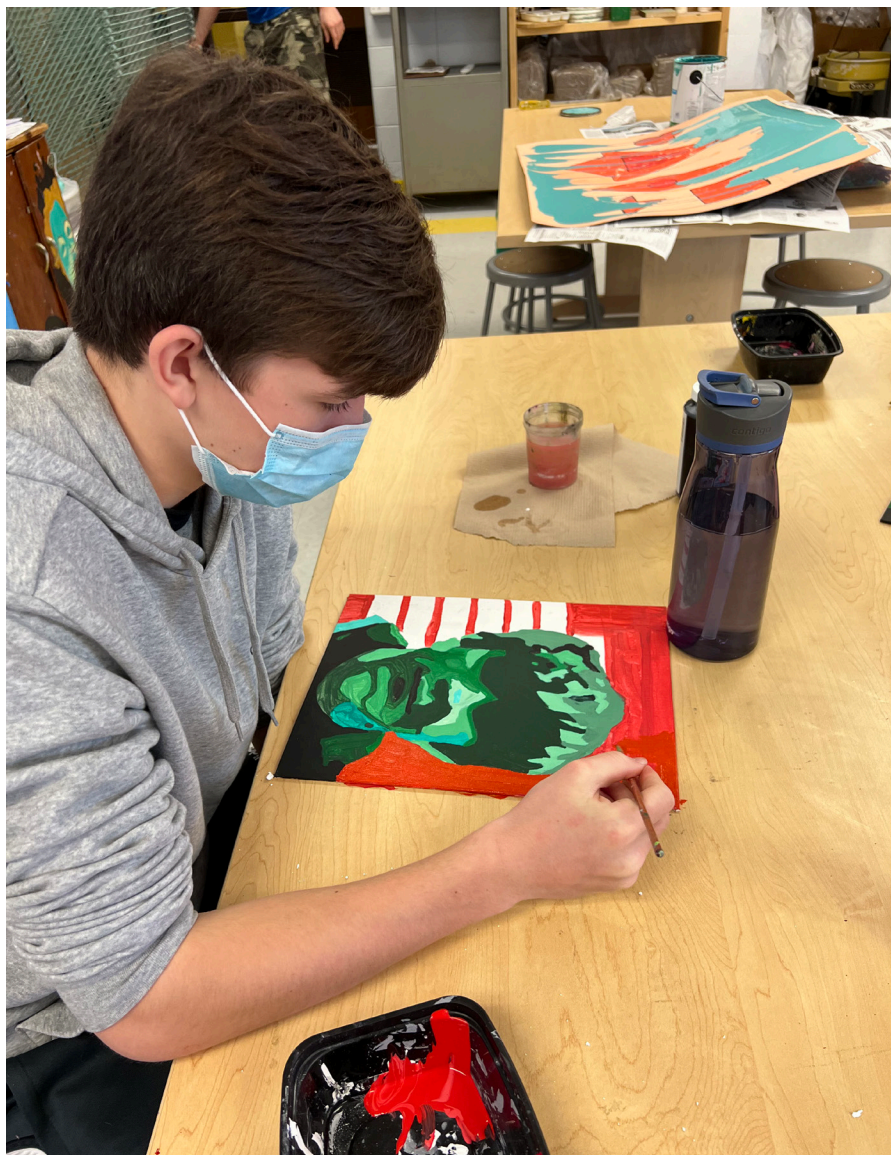
Third through fifth-grade students just added another "Kind Link" to each of their classmates' chains that hang above their desks. Each "Kind Link" has a personal kind message to a student from one of his or her classmates. Somedays, it sure helps to look up and think of all the wonderful things your classmates said about you!



Middle and high school math teacher Mrs. Michele Welke

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Art class projects



PHOTOS BY MELANIE JONES
Bennett paints a self-portrait with a complementary color scheme.



Julia and Cydney pose next to their giant sculpture inspired by pop artist Claes Oldenburg

Science!



PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE
Sixth-graders model convection, a form of heat transfer.



After learning about abstract artist Wassily Kandinsky, students Owen and Opal focus on painting concentric circles.



Seventh-graders prep and record segments of their newscast to warn the world of an impending asteroid to review their forces and motion unit concepts.

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Middle school students learn snowflake science

During our period of all virtual learning, middle school science students learned about the chemistry behind snowflake formation, and how to capture and classify them. They even learned how scientists are able to grow snowflakes in the lab. Every snowflake begins its journey as frozen water vapor that condenses into a six-sided crystal shape. After a week-long study, students answered the question: How likely is it to find two snowflakes exactly alike? Read some of their responses:

By sixth-grade student Jaylyn:

“How likely is it to find two snowflakes exactly alike? Snowflakes form when water vapor travels through the air and condenses on a particle. It is physically impossible to find two snowflakes that are exactly alike. Wilson Bentley, a scientist who studied snowflakes, found that you can’t find two snowflakes that are alike because they will hit each other, there are different temperatures, and by the time they fall they would either collide with other snowflakes or break from the impact. Bentley found that there were six major types of snowflakes. While he took thousands of pictures, he couldn’t find two snowflakes that were perfectly alike. How likely it is to find two snowflakes exactly alike is a chance of zero.”

By eighth-grade student Aidan:

“I think that finding two snowflakes that are alike is unlikely. One of my points is that there is only one recorded find of two snowflakes that looked exactly alike. This shows that finding two snowflakes that are alike is so unlikely that there is only one record of it happening. Furthermore, Snowflake Bentley photographed 5,000 snowflakes over his lifetime and did not see two that were exactly the same. Another point is that there are 121 different classifications of snowflakes. For context, snowflake formation is dependent on temperature and humidity that make it have a wide range of shapes and sizes that fall to 121 different classifications. Lastly, snowflakes are altered as

they fall to the ground. What I mean by that is, as snowflakes fall they can often collide with other snowflakes or water molecules altering their appearance thus making it unlikely that you will find two of the same snowflakes.”

By eighth-grade student Cameron:

“I believe yes, there is a chance to find two snowflakes that are alike. There are several billions of trillions of snowflakes that fall each snow. There is no way that there is a different snowflake each time it snows, it’s not possible for there to be an infinite number of different snowflakes, so there would have to be two alike. Humidity and temperature cause what types of snowflakes to fall. If the humidity and temperature cause the different types of snowflakes to fall, then that means that eventually, there will have to be the same snowflake as another snowflake that falls. There is no way that scientists have been able to photograph every single snowflake the way that it was when it first fell. Before they melt or change shape, it’s extremely hard to capture a good picture of them without a change in shape or anything like that. You would have to be outside or in a very cold place. Scientists just have to look harder and try harder to get two of the same and a good photo of them. So, I believe yes, there is a chance to find the same two snowflakes that are alike.”

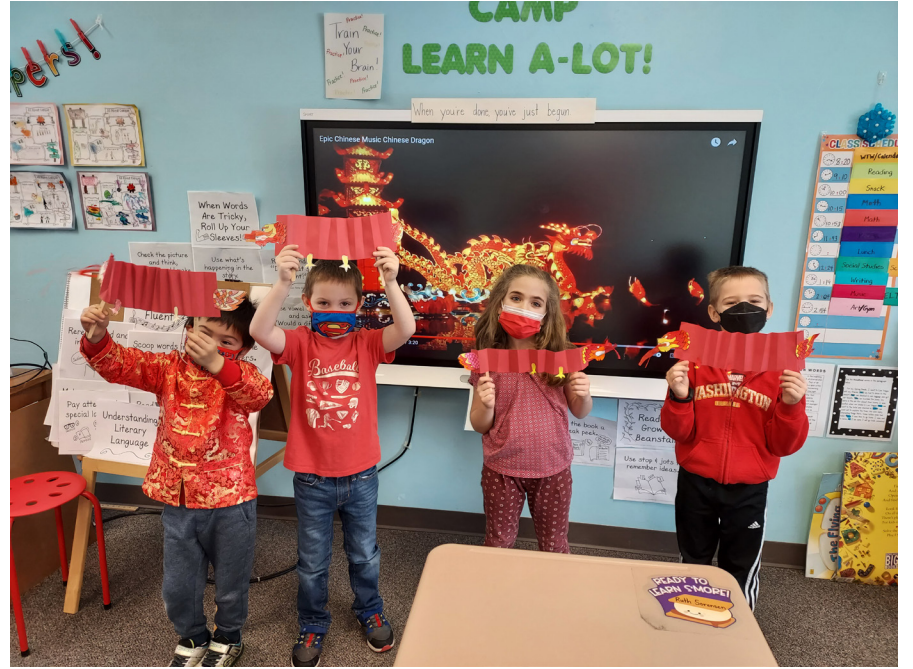
By seventh-grade student Emily:

“It’s very unlikely that you would find two snowflakes exactly alike. We know that snowflakes are formed on a speck of dust, and then start changing shape. Factors such as wind, temperature, and humidity affect the shape of the snowflake, and it always results in a different crystal. However, based on the work of Ken Libbrecht, we know that snowflakes can be created in a lab where temperatures, humidity, and wind are all controlled. If the snowflake is formed in the exact same conditions, then there is a possibility that they would form the exact same. But outside of labs it’s very unlikely.”

Three seniors to compete in poetry competition

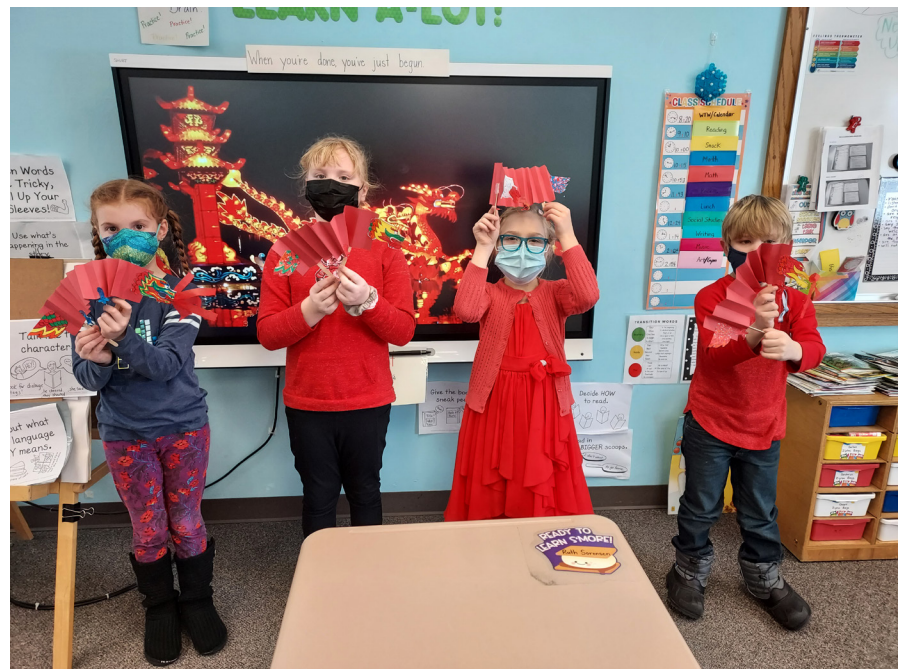
Three Washington Island School seniors will be competing virtually in a regional Poetry Out Loud competition happening in Ripon on Jan. 9 with coach Kayla Mann. Poetry Out Loud is a national program that promotes the study of poetry and recitation in high schools across the county. The program is designed to help students practice public speaking skills and grow in their knowledge of literature.

Chinese New Year



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA WAGNER

First- and second-graders learned all about and celebrated the Chinese New Year. One of the Chinese New Year traditions is a dragon dance. Each student made a dragon for the dragon dance and then paraded around our classroom with it to music.



Second graders pose with their dragons used for the dragon dance.

Three truths and a lie from ninth-grade history

Can you figure out which are which?

- America became independent on July 4, 1776
- Connecticut enacted the first Constitution in America
- Pennsylvania was created to pay off a debt to William Penn from King Charles II
- The colony of Delaware didn’t form until the Declaration of Independence was being written

Go to <https://bit.ly/34gfRoQ> to find out if you guessed correctly, and to learn more about the U.S. history our Washington Island ninth-graders have been studying.