



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

Principal's Report

Washington Island School District Bucks Bulletin Feb. 2021

1. A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Leif Thoreson for not only his donation of duct work for the technical education makerspace, but also his time installing all of the duct-work to each machine that required the air filtration system.

2. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Fab Lab 2021 grant was submitted on Jan. 8, 2021. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Don Reiwe for his partnership with the school, and his commitment to the Tech Ed program. Thank yous also go out to Dr. Helene Meyer, Leif Thoreson, David Griggs, Don Westbrook, Hoyt Purinton, Joel Gunnlaugsson, Todd Thayse, (Fincantieri), Dannette Garcia, Jesse Hansen and Don Riewe, Phil Martini (CR Meyer), Chief McGrane, Glen Vander Velden, as well as the WISD Board of Education for their letters of support and confirmation of the need for 21st century technical education in the WISD curriculum.

3. Teaching Today WI and Manufacturing Today WI magazines featured the WISD Fab Lab grant award, as well as a lengthy article about the tech space. There is a plaque that will be mounted in the school highlighting this special award.

4. We thank Ms. Dahlke and assistant coach Mrs. Grzelak for their guidance and patience in preparing the Academic Decathlon athletes for their January regional competition. Although the team did not advance to the state competition, the students did a great job and we congratulate them on a job well done!

5. The TPAC partnered with the WISD regarding the sale of the 2020 TPAC CD featuring various local artists and friends of the Island. The district earned \$5 for the sale of each \$15 CD. We are grateful for this coupling and for this opportunity.

6. Stella Maris Parish donated \$500 to the district. We are appreciative of their thoughtfulness and support of our school.

7. Mr. Hans and Dr. Beth Lux and their family were invited on Dec. 15, 2020 for the unveiling of the Wendy Lux Memorial that was placed in the front of the school building. Ryan, Aidan, Mr. LeBrun and myself landscaped the space, set the stone, and rocks around it prior to the small ceremony. Mrs. Welke represented the Student Council, as she presented to the Lux family the details of the stone and the engraving.

8. Barb O'Connell of the WI Women's Club sent verification of Evan and Rylee Lux's scholarship award based upon their good grades the first semester of their first year of college. Evan received all A grades from NWTC, as he works to complete his firefighter program, and Rylee received As and Bs from UW Madison in her pre-med curriculum. Both represent the WISD well, by posting such impressive GPAs, giving themselves the opportunity to collect this scholarship money.

9. Ms. Wagner and Ms. Blatz were again recognized by eSpark for their continued work with their students in this online enrichment program. Congratulations to all students who achieved mastery in their eSpark quests!

10. Mrs. Dennis was awarded third place for the 2020 Grow Your Own Organics Giveaway by Garden Tower Project. Congratulations!

11. We're proud to congratulate our #SamsungSolve WISD Middle School team for being recognized as 2020-2021 honorable mention recipients. Their hard and smart work is rightly celebrated in this national contest to develop #STEM solutions that address local issues. Our middle and high school students have part-

nered with Gathering Ground and the TPAC to create Forest Pathway, establish a school forest, and ultimately an outdoor learning space.

12. Four WISD students correctly answered Challenge 1 of The Hardest Math Problem contest. They are eligible to compete in Challenge 2 for a chance to win a laptop and \$5,000 for a college savings account. Plus, three teachers of the grand prize-winning students will receive \$500 each. The WISD students who correctly answered Challenge 1 are Cameron, Cydney, Magnus, and Tommy. Congratulations!

13. The CESA 7 partners have lauded the staff for their work in their professional development sessions. They indicated that staff understand learning targets and success criteria, as well as the importance of curriculum mapping and essential learning standards. I am very proud of their achievements.

14. Jan. 25 kicked off an eight-week reading program sponsored by the Green Bay Packers. Middle school students were presented information about this during their ELT period, and were given a paper copy of the letter and the first quar-

ter reading Log. All middle school students were encouraged to participate because they are reading outside of class for ELA already, and would easily fulfill the contest requirements. Middle school students can qualify for prizes and ultimately earn a free Packers Hall of Fame pass (and a reduced adult admission pass) by completing the 720 total minutes of reading. This breaks down to about 90 minutes per week.

15. Progress monitoring was held for our winter data collection week at the end of January, as students completed their testing in the FastBridge program. This included all students 5K-12 grade. This information continues to assist our staff with lesson pacing, student intervention needs, and continual evaluation of student growth and progress. I am proud that even during these uncertain times, our staff can continue with this endeavor, as it provides direct and important data that we use to drive our instructional practices, curriculum development, learning targets and success criteria for student growth and development.

Burbotine's Day

By Jessica Dennis

In honor of Burbotine's Day, the 10th grade students and Mrs. Dennis watched a recording of Dr. Titus Seilheimer from Wisconsin Sea Grant with the Door County Maritime Museum performing a virtual dissection of a female burbot fish. Burbot are commonly known as lawyers to many on Washington Island but they also go by lota lota or eelpout. Students learned about the anatomy of the burbot and some interesting facts about this freshwater cod family member.

The Burbotine's Day is in honor of the spawning season for burbot which occurs during the second half of February and early part of March. During their spawning season, female burbot lay up to 800,000 eggs with the potential for only one percent of those eggs surviving! If anyone is interested in watching the recording of Dr. Titus Seilheimer, feel free to do a YouTube search for "Love in the water...The mysteries and love life of the Burbot fish for students."



Washington Island School  
2021-23 Operating Referendum - A Defining Choice  
April 6, 2021

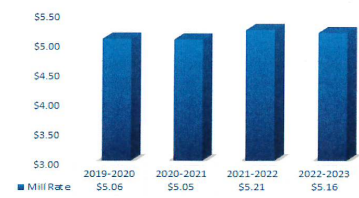


So Why Do We Need to Go to Referendum?

- School Funding Formula accounts for ZERO additional annual increases. Essentially, we still receive the same amount of funds from 1993 per pupil, though costs have continued to increase every year.
- The Wisconsin state legislature provides our school district the tool of referenda, a local solution to our local school funding challenge. All operating referendum dollars stay here on the Island and benefit our community.
- The referendum will support ongoing educational programs and services in order to provide quality opportunities for each student to achieve his or her academic and personal potential

MILL RATE

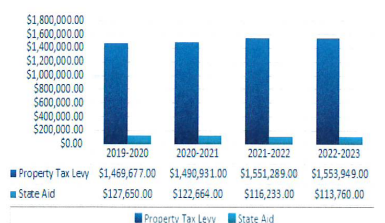
The mill rate is the amount of tax payable per dollar of the assessed property. The mill rate is based on "mills". It is a figure that represents the amount per \$1,000 of the assessed value of property, which is used to calculate the amount of property tax.



COST ON \$200,000 WASHINGTON ISLAND HOME

Last Referendum Tax Levy Per \$1000  
2020-2021 200 x 5.05 = \$1010  
This Referendum Tax Levy Impact (Estimates):  
2021-2022 \$5.21 = \$1042 (increase of \$32)  
2022-2023 \$5.16 = \$1032 (decrease of \$10)

REVENUE BY STATE AID & PROPERTY TAX LEVY



Only 8% of the district budget was funded by State Aid in 2019-20 and 2020-21, with local taxes funding 92% of the tax levy. Looking at the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, projected State Aid falls to 7%, with local taxes funding 93% of the tax levy.

REFERENDUM HISTORY

2019-20.....\$595,900  
2020-21.....\$635,000  
2021-22.....\$675,000  
2022-23.....\$775,000

In looking at the school's financial history, we have been going to referenda since 2000. This has been in large part to supplement the shortfall caused by the State Funding Formula in supporting and running the Washington Island School. Over the years, the gap of what it costs to run a public school and what districts can levy from local taxpayers, as determined by the State School Funding Formula, has dramatically widened.

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# Students enter Future Creatures Challenge

By Miranda Dahlke

To wrap up our unit studying adaptations and natural selection, eighth grade students entered the Future Engineers Future Creature Challenge. Students had to “pick a vertebrate animal living in a tropi-

cal rainforest and draw/illustrate/predict how it may look in the future due to long term effects of climate change.”

After researching each of their animals, students brainstormed

what adaptations would arise. Each entry needed to include a present and future drawing along with an essay of no more than 150 words. Judging ends on April 10, with one grand prize winner (\$75 Amazon gift

card and a sponsored WWF species adoption) and four semifinalists. You may see our student’s entries posted here: <https://www.futureengineers.org/futurecreatures2020-21/gallery>.

## Gaboon viper

By Fisher

Currently, the Gaboon viper lives in western Africa in tropical rainforests, savannas, and wetlands. I believe over the next century, wetlands will get dried up due to warmer temperatures, and trees in the rainforest will be chopped down for agricultural purposes. That leaves all the Gaboon Vipers adapting to the savannah. I think when the Vipers are forced to move, they will take over other animals’ dens in order to survive. Their body structure will change because they will need to go forage for food, instead of waiting for small rodents and birds to come to them. Another adaptation will be they lose weight and become smaller because they lose more calories due to foraging for their food. Even though the viper will experience adaptations, one trait that won’t change is their scale pattern. Their current scale pattern provides camouflage in rainforests as well as savannas, their future home.

## Red panda

By Jaxin

My animal is the red panda. It lives in the Himalaya mountains in China. They live in the trees. I think they will have to end up leaving their homes in about ten years, because it is getting too hot due to climate change. An adaptation my animal needs is temperature regulation. The Red Panda is warm blooded, so they need their fur to stay warm. I think they would end up having to lose a lot of their hair. So then their tails, which they use like a pillow and blanket, would not be as important to stay warm. In the future they will have to leave their tree they live in. They might have to live with other red pandas which they do not like. If they don’t live with any other red pandas, they might become extinct, because they are already endangered.



Jaxin’s current and future drawing of the red panda.

## The yellow-spotted turtle

By Jocelyn

I chose the yellow-spotted turtle. They live in the Amazon by the water. They are both land and water animals; they spend most of their time on the land though. They eat algae, soft aquatic plants, and animals. Due to climate change I think they will be mostly water animals, because of rising sea levels. They will adapt by losing their shells as time goes on due to their skin becoming thicker. They will also become more dependent on swimming as the water level rises. Their feet will get flatter and look more like modern sea turtles. I think this will all happen through natural selection. They may have all these adaptations, but their yellow spots will stay, so we can still call it the yellow-spotted turtle.



Jocelyn draws what she believes will happen to the yellow spotted turtle due to climate change in the future.

## Black vs. brown fur

By Anthony

The mountain gorilla lives in mountainous areas in Africa. There are only about 880 left. They’ve been forced into the mountains because of humans taking up all the land the gorillas used to live in. But their weakness is their fur color. When there is a predator nearby, the baby gorillas can’t fight back. So, if their fur was a different color, like a brownish color, then the babies would blend in more. If the color of their fur changes, then if the climate gets hotter, since black absorbs heat, brown colored fur wouldn’t absorb as much. So, I think that in a couple hundred to thousand years, the color of the gorilla will change to adapt so that then they will be more camouflaged. This would most likely result in the population of the mountain gorilla to go up and, just maybe, climb out of almost extinction.

## Battle of the Books

Washington Island School will be hosting a Battle of the Books competition this spring! Students will read a wide variety of books spanning over multiple genres to put their comprehension skills to the test. Battle of the Books will be open

to students in third to eighth grade. Island students who do not attend Washington Island School are also welcome to participate. Please call the school if your non-enrolled student would like to be included in the program.

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# Mike Gallagher talks to students

By Hayden

Representative Mike Gallagher, our 8th district U.S. Congressman, had a zoom meeting with the government class to talk about his job. All the high school students were invited. He told us he was in the Marines for seven years and he felt it was important to serve his country and being a Congressman was an extension of that duty.

He was very interactive with the class, answering our questions and asking us questions about what we knew about the government.

He explained that it is hard to balance both his campaign and his job. As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Gallagher has to work for three weeks in D.C. and then 7-10 days in his district. He is in favor of limiting terms for representatives because he said the Founding Fathers never intended these jobs to be careers.

He talked to us about his experi-

ence on Jan. 6 when an angry mob broke into the Capitol. He told us the protester's actions were wrong and that he was scared. He even had to barricade his office. He told us there was a bomb in an alleyway behind his house in Washington, D.C.

He told us that he has been to Washington Island and was a judge in the Death's Door BBQ before. I found that very surprising because that kind of news gets to everyone and yet I never knew.

He talked about meeting Hoyt Purinton and how he is a fan of the boats and the Island. We talked about the issues we have to deal with on the Island like poor internet connections. He said he is trying to get better internet for the Island, so we can start more businesses in the future.

We appreciate Rep. Mike Gallagher for taking his time and giving us the opportunity to learn about his job and our government.

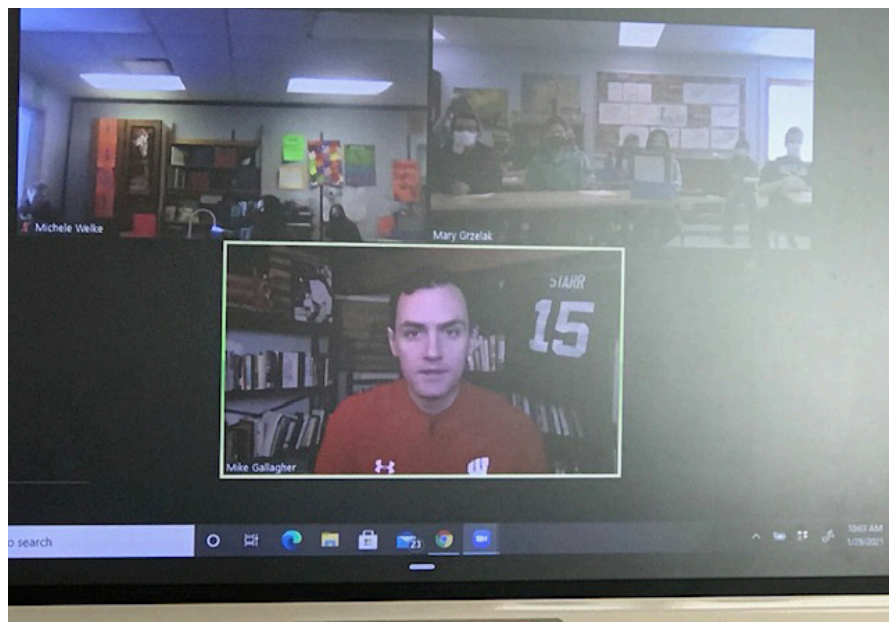


PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK

**Mike Gallagher speaking to the WISD high school students on Zoom.**



PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK

**Thank you Rep. Mike Gallagher for taking the time to talk to our high school students. The presentation and conversation were excellent!**

# Title 1 mid-year report

By Margaret Foss

The Washington Island School District is identified as a Schoolwide Title 1 school, after a year-long application process (2019-2020). Since being granted this designation, the WISD must fulfill all grant requirements under this designation, in relation to all students at all grade levels. As we state on our monthly newsletter, Schoolwide Title 1 programs are designed to generate high levels of academic achievement for all students, especially those most in need of additional support.

In order to meet the intentions and requirements of Title 1 funding, districts must look closely at student achievement and academic needs, consider family engagement and outreach to enhance student learning and mutual understanding, develop professional development plans to address local needs, and maintain highly trained and certified teachers and paraprofessionals.

In order to address local needs and achievement, the WISD now conducts schoolwide student assessment testing and analysis of the resulting data three times per year. Our mid-year assessment and data reviews have recently been completed for 2020-2021. Because we have implemented daily Extended Learning Time, we have a class period set aside to address intervention needs for our students.

Any student who shows evidence of struggle or need in reading or math is provided a targeted intervention at that time. The data review also provides all classroom teachers important information and guidance for in-class instruction and interventions.

Family engagement endeavors continue, though generally these are offered virtually currently. We are proud of our efforts, nonetheless. These have included:

- Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mid-quarter and Quarterly Report Cards
- Parent Focus Group Meetings
- Special Events/Activities: Sea Perch Competition (underwater robotics), Spelling Bee, GeoBee, Handwriting Contest, Samsung Technology Contest, Math Contest, Veteran's Day Program and Letters to Veterans
- Student Support Programs: STRIDE, Mighty Teens
- Phone Calls, Emails, Newsletters, Bucks Bulletin

Our Professional Development Plan this year focuses primarily on writing and finalizing class curriculum maps for all grades and subjects. With the support and guidance of the Cooperative Education Services Agency (#7), we have had a team of specialists, along with in-district specialists, leading this work. Teachers are working collaboratively to develop cohesive, rigorous, and effective learning targets and success criteria to meet Wisconsin State Standards in all subjects.

To say that this work has been arduous barely describes the effort our teachers are putting into this. Our goal is to have all curriculum maps completed by June 4, 2021, and we are well on our way. Teachers are now ready and willing to take the lead and will carry this project forward to fruition. Once completed, these curriculum maps will be available on the WISD website so that anyone interested may read them.

Several WISD teachers are working on advancing their degrees and/or certifications while teaching and participating in the above professional development activities. Imagine teaching full-time, writing curriculum, tending to special class activities and student needs, and all the while, working on graduate classes. This is no small feat, and we are very grateful to and proud of Michele Welke, Miranda Dahlke, Jessica Dennis, and Matt LeBrun for their extra efforts which will undoubtedly have far-reaching impacts on our students.

Essentially, the Title 1 Grant program is intended to ensure that schools continuously improve in their efforts to provide an equitable, responsive, and rigorous education to all learners enrolled. Via the efforts described here, this is exactly what the Washington Island School District is aiming to achieve. To that end, we are always open for suggestions, feedback, and inquiries. While we cannot invite you in right now, we hope you feel welcome to communicate with us via phone and/or email.

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## Community cards



PHOTO BY ZUZKA KRUEGER

Students in grades 4K-eighth grade made special Valentine cards that were distributed to many Island community members before Valentine's Day. All students worked hard to create a homemade card to show others just how much they care and to let them know they are thinking about them.

## Author's virtual visit

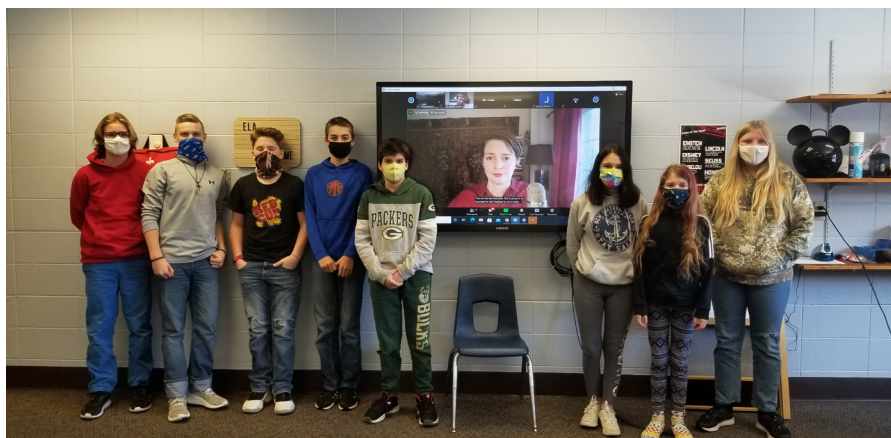


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Middle school students attended a virtual visit with the 2021 Door County Reads author of "Station Eleven," Emily St. John Mandel on Thursday, Feb. 11.

## Middle Ages



PHOTOS BY MARY GRZELAK

The tenth grade worked together to write news stories that could have taken place during the Middle Ages. All segments of society were reported on. Their reports were then filmed and edited by Jake into a news broadcast. They enjoyed sharing their learning about the Middle Ages in a creative way.

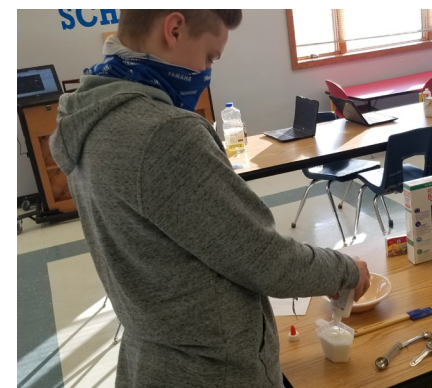
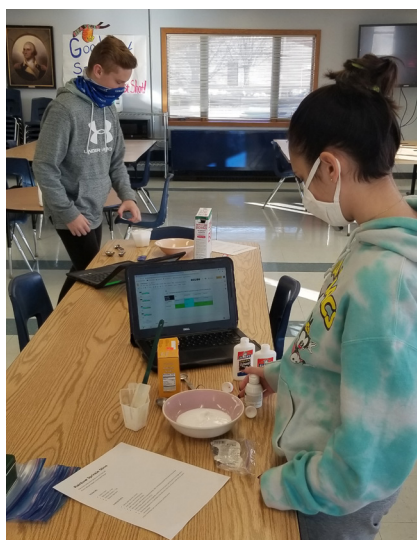
## 100 days



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

The 100th Day of School was celebrated on Feb. 8 at school. Students and teachers in grades 4K-fifth grade were invited to dress up as if they were 100 years old. Lots of other "100" themed activities took place throughout the day and much fun was had by all! Pictured are the students in grades one and two who all participated in dressing up.

## Proportions



Cameron measures out the glue based on his proportional slime recipe.

PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

To practice calculating proportions during math class, seventh grade students determined the measurements of ingredients needed to make slime.

## Exploring path space



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Middle School students meet with Tom Pratt to explore the space around the Trueblood Performing Arts Center that will be added to the Forest Pathway they are currently designing.