

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

Principal's Report: February School News

Tim Verboomen

There are so many great things happening at our school ... in these past few weeks alone, some of our students have recently been cast in the musical, Shrek Jr (coming to a TPAC near you in May); some have completed their first rounds of Forensics Speech Competition; some students have gone to the first level of competition for SeaPerch; some have been recognized for their handwriting prowess; some students have formed a Kindness Club and are searching for opportunities to do good in our community; some are gearing up for baseball and softball season ... and our students are doing

much, much more.

In the Bucks Bulletins I usually take the opportunity to highlight the many great things happening at school, but in this issue I'd like to thank you, our community, for your support of our students, teachers, and school. We are grateful for your support because none of this is possible without it.

Community Support

Attending my first Island graduation ceremony last spring, I was struck by how much it seemed to be a community celebration. It was an incredible expression of gratitude to the

community from our students - and an expression of pride & support from our community to our students.

If you've not been to one, our graduations are a really cool recognition of how this amazing community looks after, and supports, the youth of Washington Island and an affirmation of our partnership in doing good things for our kids. In a very real sense, we are only able to provide the many opportunities for our students to learn, grow, achieve, and succeed because of this support. There are, of course, many kinds of support, but in this case I'm talking about school funding.

I won't get too far into the weeds here, explaining the revenue caps and levy limits that bind Wisconsin's public schools, but I do want to be clear that many schools are not fully funded. There is a complex formula that dictates the amount of funding schools receive, and that funding formula is very much skewed away from school districts like ours. High property values on the island, and a small number of students leaves us far short on financial resources. The state does, however, give us a way to reconcile the difference when this happens, which

is why we come before you, the voters, every two years to ask you to support our students and school. We do this in the form of a "referendum".

The Referendum

This year the referendum is on Tuesday, April 4th. If you are proud of our tiny school's dominance in things like the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow and SeaPerch; if you are fan of our Bucks basketball, soccer, baseball, and/or softball teams; if you support the public education of the youth of our island; if you enjoy reading about our students and school in the Bucks Bulletin (and if you're reading this, I'm guessing you do!) be sure to vote!

We are always happy to welcome members of our community into our school. I love to talk about what our students and teachers are doing here, and I'd be very happy to meet with anyone who'd like to learn more. If you have questions or concerns about supporting our school or if you're interested in learning more about how cautiously we make decisions on using our resources, I encourage you to come in and chat with me at school. I'd love to hear from you.

Read Across America Week!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Dr. Suess's Birthday, Thursday, March 2nd, has become Read Across America Day! Well, Miss Wagner, the 1st and 2nd grade teacher, thought, "Why not celebrate Read Across America Week?" So, all week the students at Washington Island School celebrated Dr. Suess's birthday... AND READING! Each day the Elementary students read Dr. Suess books and talked about the literary techniques he used to entertain so many who read them! Then, all in school were invited to dress up like characters in Dr. Suess's books or like his titles! Monday was Fox in Socks Day. Tuesday was Red Fish, Blue Fish Day. Wednesday was Wacky Wednesday! Thursday was Cat in the Hat Day, and Friday was Dress for Success Day. On that day, students dressed up in clothes of a career that they would like to pursue in their future to represent the Dr. Suess book, Oh the Places You Will Go! Pictured here are the 3rd and 4th grade students who came to school in their crazy socks on Fox in Socks Day!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Look out world, here comes the classes of 2031 and 2032! Well, in eight and nine years, but if all goes as planned... Oh, The Places They'll Go! Dressed for the career they dream to have someday, (in back) there's a marine biologist, a veterinarian, a movie producer, a Nintendo Gaming Engineer, a YouTuber, a stressed-out businessman, (in middle) an artist, a wizard, (in front) a fireman, a construction worker, a professional hunter, and a Washington Island Ferry Captain, just like his daddy!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

If ever you need a pick-me-up, looking at this picture of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders on Wacky Wednesday just might help!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

Oh, The Places You'll Go! These first and second graders had a blast dressing up as what they want to be when they grow up. We had a ballerina, a teacher, an Alby worker, a successful businessman, and two NASA astronauts in our classroom! Anything is possible if you believe in yourself and work hard!

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A Peek into the Middle and High School Social Studies Classroom



PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK

7th Grade created hand-drawn maps of South America and focused on learning the location of individual countries.



PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK

In World Geography, Kinsey prepares to share her learning about the country of Brazil. She focused on the geography, government, economy, culture, current demographics and problems that Brazil is experiencing.



PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK

8th Grade used a map of the U.S. to look at populations of individual states. This led to a better understanding of the number of representatives in the House of Representatives, as well as the number of votes in the Electoral College for each state.

March Mammal Madness 2023 is Here!

By Miranda Dahlke

March is here, which means it is time to set up your March Mammal Madness (MMM) bracket. Inspired by the popular basketball tournament bracket, an Arizona State University professor designed a similar bracket featuring four divisions of mammals who would battle to the championship ten years ago. Now this same professor continues to host MMM, but many teachers, like myself, have integrated the experience into their classrooms. My science students in grades 7-10 researched all 65 combatants and weighed their strengths and weaknesses in order

to prepare their brackets. This year we invited the K-6 grade students to create their own classroom or individual brackets. My science students taught the younger students all about the tournament, as they've all had a chance to participate at least once so far. The battles will take place starting March 13 and can be seen, read, or viewed in a variety of ways. You can check out the Rodent Roundtable channel on Youtube, read the play-by-plays on libguides.asu.edu/MarchMammalMadness, or hear about the battles on Twitter by following the #2023MMM.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

High Schoolers worked with the 1st and 2nd grade class to set up their March Mammal Madness Brackets.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

The 8th graders introduced March Mammal Madness to the 3rd and 4th grade class.

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Middle School STEM Adventures

By Miranda Dahlke

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math are all the components of STEM education. The middle schoolers are lucky enough to have a course three times a week, team taught by our Tech Ed teacher, Mr. Sullivan, and I practicing and using the Engineering Design Process. We've taught lessons surrounding space exploration, problem-based learning, and robotics, with the intention of expanding into rockery and continuing to establish our school forest outdoor learning space.

This will be the fourth year our students are competing in the SeaPerch Underwater ROV competition. Each year the mission course changes based on a different theme. This year was based on underwater deep sea exploration in conjunction with the NOAA Ocean Exploration and the Ocean Exploration Cooperative Institute (OECI). Teams have built their ROVs and are preparing for competition at the beginning of April in Green Bay.

This was the fifth year Washington Island School has submitted a project in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest, and we were selected as a top 300 finalist. Unfortunately, we were not selected as the state finalist, but we plan to continue working on our topic of the zebra and quagga mussel infestation and growth on shipwrecks in Lake Michigan. Stay tuned for more information as we work towards prototyping an ROV to

accomplish this task.

Recently, I was awarded a STEM Research Grant from the Society for Science that included: Four Arduino Starter Kits, an open-source hardware and software platform to help students start to learn about electronics, coding and the fundamentals of programming; Four Hawktrail trail cameras with SD cards and batteries, which can be used to explore research questions about animal behavior, migration patterns and biology; Four LaMotte water monitoring kits to help students investigate water quality and contamination; Two PocketLab Voyagers, a pocket-size mobile laboratory for students to take measurements and gather and stream data. I plan to work with my students to use the trail cameras in our school forest and partner with Snapshot Wisconsin. With the LaMotte water monitoring kits we will be able to pick a place to monitor water quality and study changes over time. With the PocketLab Voyagers we will use them to gather data when we work out at Gathering Ground and with the Arduino starter kits I will be able to enhance student's learning in the coding sector.

STEM education is preparing students for their futures. If you are interested in partnering with us to utilize some of our Research kit materials, or are interested in helping us in any of the activities listed above, feel free to contact me!

Science in Action

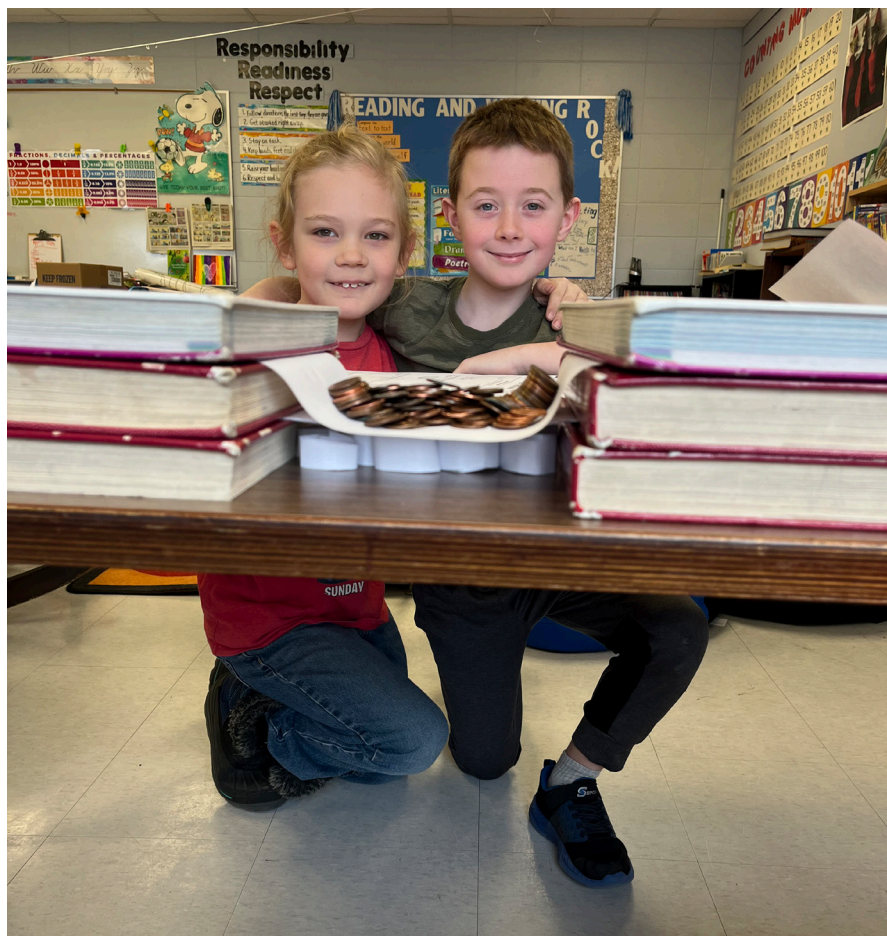


PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICHJOHNSON

The engineering challenge that these two students met: Using what you know about invisible forces and what makes bridges so strong, use only two pieces of paper to build a bridge to fit across a six-inch gap created by two stacks of books and hold the weight of many pennies. 220 Pennies = Success!



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Middle School students in grades 6-8 had the opportunity to unbox the STEM Research Grant Mrs. Dahlke won. Some of the contents of the STEM Kit include Water Testing Kits, Arduinos, trail cams, and PocketLab sensors.

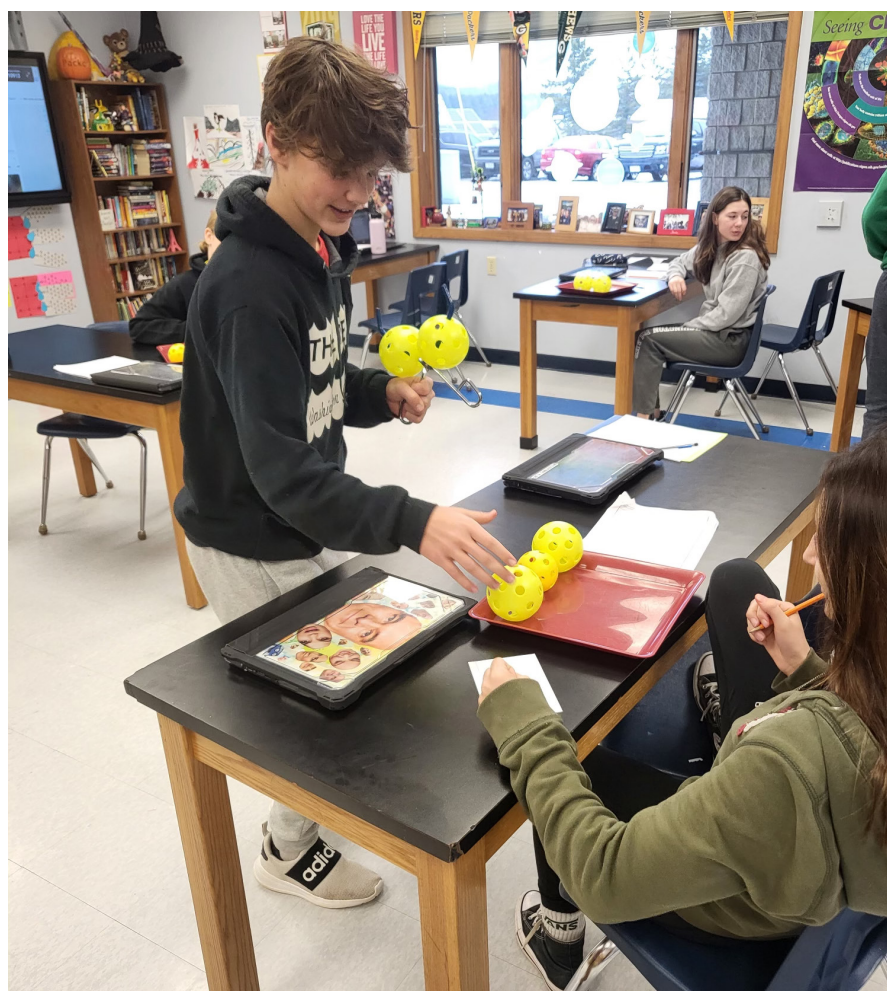


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Biology students acted out roles in a simulation of ATP creation and usage.



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Science in Action Continued



PHOTO BY KIRSTEN FOSS

The 5th and 6th-grade science students are learning about light microscopes. We held a contest where the students had to look at prepared slides with 4 layered threads under their microscopes and figure out which colored thread was layered on top and what thread was layered on the bottom. All of the students did fabulous with their new skills.

Bright Young Poets

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson

The 3rd and 4th grade students are preparing for National Poetry Month in April and the chance to get their poems published into the 2023 Young American Poetry Digest, a collection of young writers' poems, nationwide. Here are a few of the poems some students have written so far.

A poem about two characters in a favorite Nintendo game.

By Owen, 4th Grade

Mario
Brave Strong
Jumping, Capturing, Punching
Red Hat, Green Suspenders
Bouncing, Sucking, Kicking
Scared, Annoying
Luigi

By Freya, 4th Grade

Wolf
Grey, Fluffy
Howling, Prowling, Growling
Fur, Whiskers, Wool, Hooves
Baa, Walk, Run
Puffy, Colour
Sheep

By Niamh, 3rd Grade

Valentine's Day
Red, happy
Partying, dancing, singing
Mrs. J, Hearts, Candy
Grams, Teddy Bears
Hugging, Kissing, Cuddling
Silly, Soft
Holiday

By Devon, 3rd Grade

Winter
Snowy, Icy
Skating, Plowing, Slipping
Friends, Family, Cookies, Christmas
Building, Sledding, Fishing,
Fun, Cold
Season

The Student Council Report

By Spencer Johnson, President and Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Kaitlyn Stoller

In February, the Student Council held a High School Pizza, Music, and Games Social for two hours in the commons at school on a Thursday night. Mr. Verboomen rolled in his stereo to set the mood, and kids snacked and enjoyed their time together while they played cards, Monopoly, and uploaded video games! (They didn't get too much video game playing time because the uploading took so long!) With no complaints, though, another High School Social has been requested and is being planned for March!

The Members of the Student Council sold 713 Candy Grams that were delivered to students on Valentine's Day! Now that's a lot of kindness being spread around Washington Island School!

Some Student Council members were snug in the corner of the Nelsens dining room selling their homemade desserts at the Lions Club Fish Derby Luncheon. Thank you to all of the people who bought desserts and gave donations!

Recently, the Student Council planned the dates and meals of hot lunches for the rest of the school year. As soon as the planning is complete, and that document is ready, the Student Council will share it with the parents that have children in the school. On March 8th, the Student Council will have a Potato Bar hot lunch, a fruit, dessert, and chocolate milk!

The Student Council is continuing to look for an opportunity to make an impact on others by helping them.

Final Bucks Basketball Game for Seniors



PHOTO BY LEILA NEHLSSEN

Three generations in one picture. Kirsten and Hoyt Purinton, Kirsten's dad and Magnus and Aidan, enjoyed the Buck's basketball game in Green Bay, which was the last game for senior Aidan. The Bucks won!



PHOTO BY JIM ROSE

Senior Breanna was gifted by her mom with flowers and candy after her final basketball game in Green Bay.