



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

Bucks Bulletin: April principal's report

By Michelle Kanipes

1. Congratulations to senior, Julia Valentincic. WISD received official notice from the Herb Kohl Education Foundation that she was the 2021 recipient of the Initiative Scholarship. The \$10,000.00 award "was a result of her high level of motivation to achieve and strong promise for succeeding in college and beyond." She was nominated by the district for consideration of this prestigious award. We know she will do well at St. Norbert College next fall, as she pursues a degree in mathematics, with an emphasis in business.

Julia also received a handwritten correspondence from Representative Dr. Joel Kitchens, who is a member of the State of Wisconsin Assembly. He sent her a note of congratulations on his personal office stationery, to say how proud he was of her endeavors.

2. Congratulations to junior, Hayden Lux. She was nominated for the 2021 Senate Scholar Program in early February. She received notice from the State of Wisconsin Admission Committee who wrote that they were "impressed with [her] considerable achievements." Hayden spent two weeks, beginning March 15 (during her spring break!) - April 2, in a virtual mock legislative program that involved activities and experiences like amending and drafting bills, policy analysis, research and development of legislation, fiscal analysis, constituent communications and lobbying.

She worked alongside 32 Wisconsin high school juniors and seniors from each of the state's senate districts, as well as a variety of politicians who represent these districts, over the last 10 days. Hayden was required to present a cover letter, resume, completed application, essay, and submit letters of recommendation and a letter of sponsorship from a state senator, in order to even be considered. Hayden said she liked the experience, and that it was "really hard work."

3. Congratulations again to the kindergarten, first, and second grade students from Ms. Blatz and Ms. Wagner's classrooms for their achievements in the online learning platform, eSpark, as they diligently mastered more learning quests in reading and mathematics.

4. Congratulations to sixth-grader Julia, fifth-graders Jaylyn, Xander, Tristan, and Allison, and fourth-graders Jaida and George. These seven students wrote essays for a NASA contest for the Future Engineers Artemis Moon to Mars Program. They were invited to a special virtual event held by NASA astronaut Ricky

Arnold, and associate administrator of human exploration and operations, Kathy Lueders, on March 23. They heard first-hand what it was like to live and work aboard the International Space Station, and had questions they presented, answered by these two scientists.

Our seven WISD students' personal essays included defining attributes and skills of an astronaut in such a pod, as well what they would personally bring to such a mission if they were an astronaut. Their final essays centered on what robotics or equipment they would choose to leave on the moon to help assist future scientists-astronauts explore this area of space.

Each student will receive a certificate from NASA for their participation in the contest. Their seven essays are part of the 14,000 selected, that will be flown to circle the moon in November of 2021 on the first test run of the Orion capsule and rocket that will test launch it on the Artemis I. There will be another test launch of the Artemis 2 in 2023, and finally, the actual mission of the Artemis 3 in 2024, which will carry US astronauts to the moon again.

Thank you, Mrs. Johnson, for working with these students. Not only was this a great ELA experience, but a STEM and career exploration experience as well.

5. Congratulations to Ms. Dahlke and Ms. Welke for their completion in the Wisconsin DPI Teacher-Leader Network Series. They were selected to represent the WISD in this two-year initiative. They were a part of the first network. They received congratulations from State Superintendent Carolyn Stanford-Taylor "for their hard work and thoughtful participation." I am proud of their selection to this initiative, and proud that they represented the WISD in such a fine manner.

These two instructors collaborated virtually with other state participants in after-school work sessions that will serve to build two-way communication between DPI and teachers in Wisconsin. Each participant was identified as a proven school district teacher-leader and recommended by each district for this important state level work. The three goals for the network were:

1. Leadership of self and building individual practices,

2. Sharing and advocating in a teacher-leader capacity for DPI's vision regarding high-quality, standards aligned instructional materials in Mathematics and English-language Arts, and professional learning school improvement strategies

presently, and in the future, and

3. Providing feedback to DPI on instructional content, and its educational delivery and assessment.

Their final work session will be held on April 26 or 27, at 4 p.m., as a public listening session that can be viewed virtually, as the participants share out information and resources from this year's Teacher-leader work endeavors.

6. Thank you to the Door County Food Pantry Coalition for their generous donation of a gift card for the WISD to purchase healthy snacks for students who are hungry while at school.

7. Thank you to Altrusa International of Door County, WI. They provided the elementary school with classroom library books that were distributed to the teachers. It is part of their Reading First Program, which was not its typical in-person event this year. The organization offered virtual reading experiences, as well as those books we received, to promote reading among children. This organization makes many donations to Door County families and students throughout the school year. We appreciate that they always remember the Island school district with these gifts.

8. The United Way of Door County offered a Virtual Escape Room for any interested middle-high school student. Door County Medical Cen-

ter, the Door County AOD Coalition and Mental Health Focus Group combined their efforts to offer this hour-long opportunity for local students to socialize, win prizes, and play games virtually. March 26 marked the first of monthly activity nights for students. They have set up precautions to make certain the site is secure, and that only students who are registered for these events can participate. This is another part of the STRIDE grant program.

9. The ACT Aspire exam was taken on April 13 with the sophomores. This online (pre) ACT test is used as a tool to help parents and students familiarize themselves with the test and is also used as a predictor of what their full-ACT score may look like. All state ninth and tenth grades are required to take this test. Students used their ELT time leading up to the test day to practice for the test with their high school teachers.

10. Forward state testing began on April 14, for all third through eighth graders. The testing will run through April 28. A reminder letter was mailed home, so parents and families could prepare for these test dates. The DPI practice test and testing site information were sent out as well. The teachers helped students practice keyboarding and test-taking skill work to help them prepare as well.

Washington Island School 4K spring orientation/registration

PURPOSE:

Give your child an introduction to the 4K school experience. Hear about 4K program details.

REGISTRATION FOR 4K - Register your child for the 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program for the 2021-2022 school year. Bring your child's birth certificate for school registration form completion (required by state law).

WHO:

Children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2021 and entering 4 Year Old Kindergarten in the fall. Parents of such children.

WHEN:

Friday, May 14, 2021 at 2:15 - 3:15 p.m.

WHERE:

Washington Island School 4K/5K classroom (children) and School Commons (parents).

REGISTER FOR ORIENTATION:

Please call the school (847-2507) to add your name(s) to the list of attendees.

MASKS REQUIRED

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And the survey says...

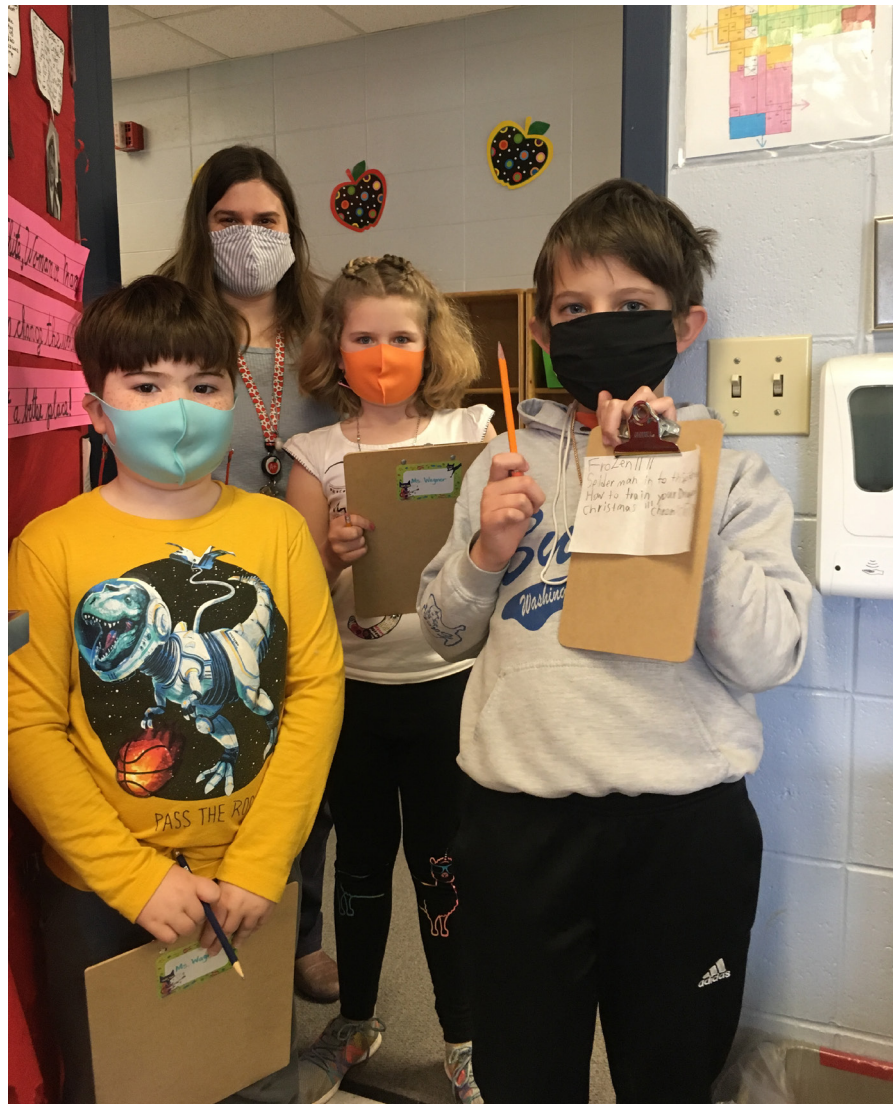


PHOTO BY MARLEEN JOHNSON

As part of their graphing math unit, second-grade students developed a survey question to ask their peers and some teachers: **What is your favorite movie?** After surveying all participants and putting their collected data into a data table, students created and transferred the data into a picture and bar graph. Finally, they studied the data and composed one-step and two-step word problems to ask their peers and have them solve. Pictured below are the second graders and Ms. Wagner when they went to survey Ms. Johnson.

SeaPerch Design



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Emily, Fisher, and Jocelyn attach motors to their novel SeaPerch Design.

Mystery science

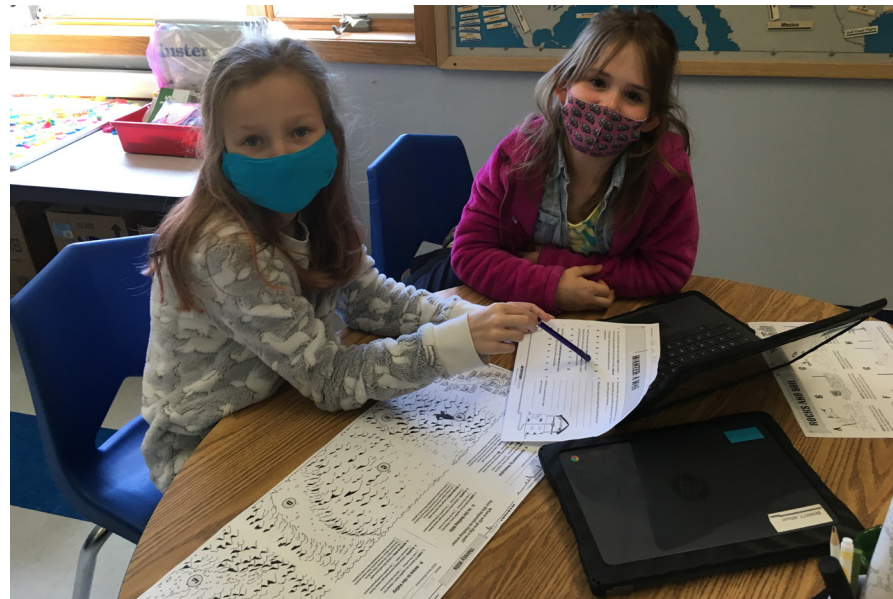


PHOTO BY MARLEEN JOHNSON

These two fifth graders are working together on a Mystery Science activity, finding clues that indicate areas with groundwater and discussing the best place to build their town, which they decided to name Bingo Town.

Jaida's book debut



PHOTO BY MARLEEN JOHNSON

Mrs. Kanipes, Tristan, Jaylyn, and Xander attended Jaida's debut reading of the final copy of her book that she wrote and partially illustrated under the direction of Mrs. Kanipes, "There Was an Old Man Who Swallowed a Gnat."

Percentages



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Seventh-grade math students play Rita's game converting between fractions, decimals, and percentages.



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Designing a security system

By Miranda Dahlke

You've probably seen either a TV episode or a movie where an actor flips and ducks through a field of security laser beams on their quest to a protected item. To put the properties of lasers to work, eighth grade students designed their very own models of security systems.

Each student used the space within a storage crate, up to nine mirrors, and various LittleBits components (sensors, buzzers, LEDs) along with one or two lasers to create their very own working security system.

Students presented on behalf of their security company to convince their classmates theirs was the best. Then each student attempted to bypass the security system and steal the valuable items without being detected. Every team did their assignments well: No one was able to steal anyone's valuable item without being "caught."

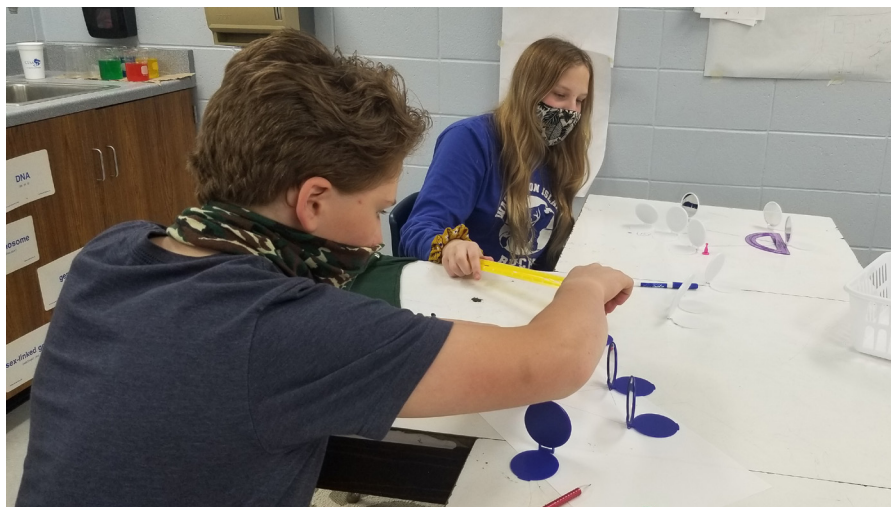


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Anthony and Jocelyn practice discovering angles of incidence and reflection to brainstorm ideas for their security systems.

Where in the world?



PHOTO BY MARLEEN JOHNSON

Where in the world is the Observer? In the Washington Island School! Finished with his work early one day, Tristan enjoyed ending his school day by reading the local newspaper.

They can't get enough poetry!

Marleen Ehrlich Johnson

In celebration of National Poetry Month, and in preparation to create our best poetry for the National Schools Project, the fourth and fifth grade students have been learning about the elements of poetry and trying their hand at writing a variety of poems.

I am so proud of them, and the greatest thing is that they want to write more! They have been requesting poetry writing time, and that is just what the educators that created the National Schools Project twenty-seven years ago had hoped.

The project is an invitation for teachers to submit their students' poetry for consideration to be published in the "Young American Poetry Digest," a collection of young writers' poems, nationwide. When it's finally printed, our school will receive a complimentary copy of the 2021 digest, and it sure would be great to see some of our Washington Island young poets' work published in it!

Flying
Jets are awesome.
They can go really fast.
Someday there will be flying cars,
I hope.

Cinquain, Written by George

I have a fat cat
He eats a lot of cat food
He's a laaaazy dude.
Haiku, Written by Jaida

Great Earth
Amazing Birth
Humongous big blue ball
Scattered spots of forest green
Enjoy.

Cinquain written by Tristan

Schoolhouse
Rocky, clear water
Swimming with friends is fun.
Finding fossils under the raft.
Pleasing

Cinquain written by Jillian

There once was a witch
That fell in a ditch
To catch the snitch.

Couplet written by Jillian

I have done some things,
In which I did not intend.
I must reap what I sow.
Haiku written by Xander

We are all locked in.
Outside, "Corona" roams free,
Free as the wind blows.
Haiku written by Jaylyn

Tiktok
I like to dance
Every place I go to
Once I start, I can't stop dancing
Douyin

Cinquain written by Allison

Change of address?

If you're returning to or leaving the Island for an extended period, please let the Observer know. Email office@washingtonislandobserver.com or call 920-847-2661. We'll make sure your Observer makes the move with you.

Washington Island
Observer

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What happens when pathogens attack?

By Miranda Dahlke

On Friday, April 16 the sixth-grade science class invited the twelfth-grade anatomy and physiology class to join them to play the game Pathogen Attacks!

As part of their study of levels of organization in living things (from cell, to tissue, to organ, to organ system) they've explored what happens when a cell is hijacked by a virus or bacteria. Prior to splitting into teams, the sixth graders reviewed their concepts with the twelfth graders and then got to play "Pathogens Attack!" A sixth grader was paired with a high schooler and they played to earn the most points.

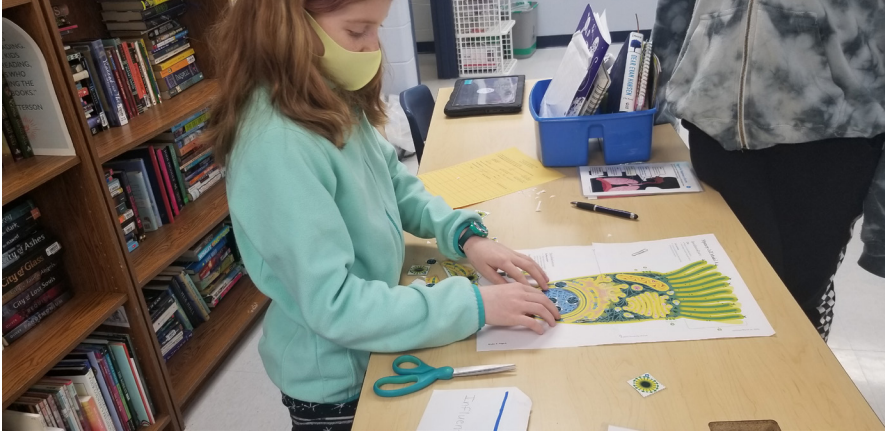


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Julia models how influenza infects a cell in the respiratory system.

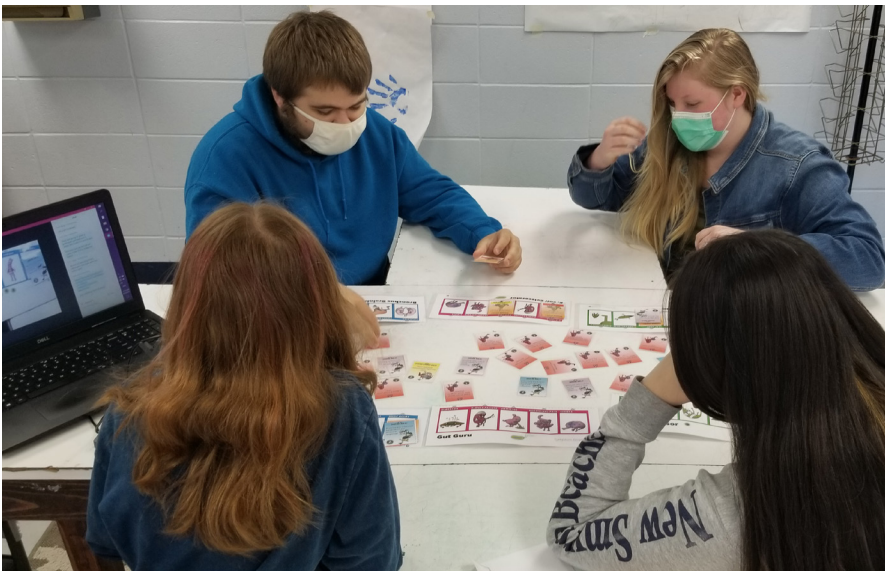


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Sixth grader Julia and Emily team up with seniors Julia and Max to test their science knowledge in "Pathogen Attacks!"



PHOTO BY JESSICA DENNIS

Emily explains to the seniors, both in-person and hybrid, and Mrs. Dennis, how E.coli attacks the body and the consequences of such bacteria.

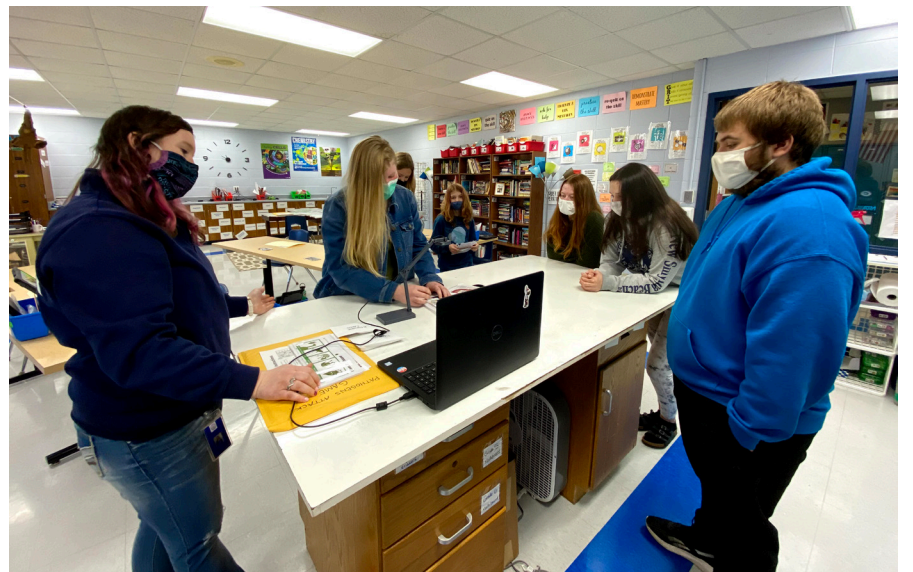


PHOTO BY JESSICA DENNIS

Mrs. Dahlke's sixth grade students welcomed Mrs. Dennis' twelfth-grade students to play a "Pathogen Attacks!" game.

First and second grade students attend two virtual science experiences

By Alyssa Wagner

This year, due to COVID-19, the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center partnered with area businesses to sponsor free virtual performances for schools and classrooms. Washington Island's first and second grade students were very fortunate to take part in one of those events, Bill Blagg's Magic Science Lab.

In this show, science fanatic and magician Bill Blagg taught the students all about the scientific method, walking the students through each step of the method with an experi-

ment: How to make a person levitate.

The students were thrilled to view this virtual science opportunity and were extremely engaged throughout its entirety. There were stopping points built in during the videos for discussion and questions, brainstorming and research, forming hypotheses, and drawing final conclusions.

Bill Blagg also taught them how to make their pencil appear to float in mid-air, which they were able to perfect in the classroom and then perform in front of their families at

home. The students were also able to ask questions.

Not only was it mind boggling to watch him perform and conduct his experiment, but it also made the scientific method very clear and understandable in a fun and interactive way.

On Earth Day, April 22, the first and second graders also got to participate in Scholastic's Earth Day Live Virtual Celebration! Students heard from entomologist, Dr. Samuel Ramsey, and learned about the important function insects have in our

ecosystems. One of the things they learned about was the significant role honeybees play in the pollination of plants, fruits, vegetables, and crops, and how we depend on honeybees for food security, biodiversity, and environmental sustainability.

This was a great opportunity for the students to learn more about science and how they can take care of the earth, but also introduced them to another possible career they might be interested in exploring further in the future.