



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

January 2020 Bucks Bulletin

We have moved into the second semester of this school year. Students have adjusted to their class schedules, and things appear to be moving along well this winter season. Margaret Atwood was once quoted as saying, "What is it about winter that causes people to drive as if their hands were feet?" This seems to say it all, given our snowy weather.

December and January provided our students many educational opportunities. The district has a great teaching staff, who continually work to foster student engagement and academic growth.

The staff recently went through a day of in-service. These are non-instructional school days, some of which occur before the start of the school year, and some after the school year ends. They are built into the school calendar, as they serve as a professional development platform for teachers and administrators. These days are also a requirement of the Department of Public Instruction for all public school districts. We have eleven of these non-instructional days each school year.

This most recent in-service day was focused on several important initiatives the staff have been working on this school year. We had two guests at this event, with Dr. Marcia Waldron-Kuhn and Tina Lemmens as our keynote presenters. They tasked out staff with reviewing, revising and rebuilding the curriculum maps for each grade and/or class.

These maps contain information that is targeted to a number of audiences: parents, students, administration and the public. They reflect course-grade descriptions, core principles, learning targets and success criteria.

These documents will be worked on throughout the remainder of the school.

A team of staff presented data of the district and students from the last semester. This current information allowed for the staff to re-evaluate the extended learning time schedule. It will now assist us in being able to successfully provide enrichment or an intervention to all students, based upon the data that has been collected.

The next in-service day for staff will be on Feb. 21. This non-instructional day will serve as an opportunity to continue with the professional development work, as well as the academic and career planning initiative we started at the beginning of the school.

Thank you for your support of our WISD students and staff. We are proud of our school, and work to make it excellent each day.

Your partner in education,
Michelle Kanipes

School holds second annual GeoBee

By Mary Grzelak

The National Geographic GeoBee took place on Jan. 16. Students in grades 4-7 competed earlier to determine the class winners. Classroom finalists competing were Alli, TJ, Jaxin, Jocelyn, Cameron, Emily, Julia, and Tommy.

After several exciting rounds, the two finalists were TJ and Julia. Julia prevailed with the correct answer to this question:

"The country located between Togo and Nigeria shares its name with a bight, or very wide-mouthed, bay. Name this country."

Julia answered "Benin" correctly! We wish Julia the best of luck as she takes the state qualifying test. The top 100 scoring students in Wisconsin will compete in the State Geography Bee in spring.

Congratulations to all the classroom champions, and Julia, the school champion!



PHOTOS BY MARY GRZELAK

Introducing our 2020 GeoBee School Champion, Julia Pratt, who was able to answer a difficult question correctly in the tiebreaker round to win the competition.



These eight contestants, two students from each grade fourth through seventh, competed in the National Geographic GeoBee on Thursday, Jan. 16.



Washington Island School is proud to present our top three contestants in the annual school GeoBee, Allison, third place, Tristan, second place, and Julia, first place.

STRIDE

Strengthening trust and resilience, instilling independence, and developing empowerment

The Door County Collaborative School Mental Health Project

What are School Based Mental Health Services?

- STRIDE: The Door County Collaborative School Mental Health Project and the Washington Island School District are working together to provide students in the Washington Island School District the opportunity to receive outpatient mental health services within your school. The purpose of this collaborative partnership is to offer school-based mental health treatment to students and families who would otherwise find it difficult to access services in a traditional outpatient setting.

Why STRIDE: The Door County Collaborative School Mental Health Project?

- Addressing mental health challenges early is essential in helping our children succeed in school and in life. We understand that many families have barriers to accessing traditional mental health services in the community.
- STRIDE has partnered with licensed mental health service providers to offer quality mental health services to identified students at Washington Island School.

If you have any other questions, or would like to learn more please feel free to call Barbara Krueger at 920-847-2507 ext. 1003 or email at guidance@island.k12.wi.us



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Fifth graders prepare for ROV competition

By Miranda Dahlke

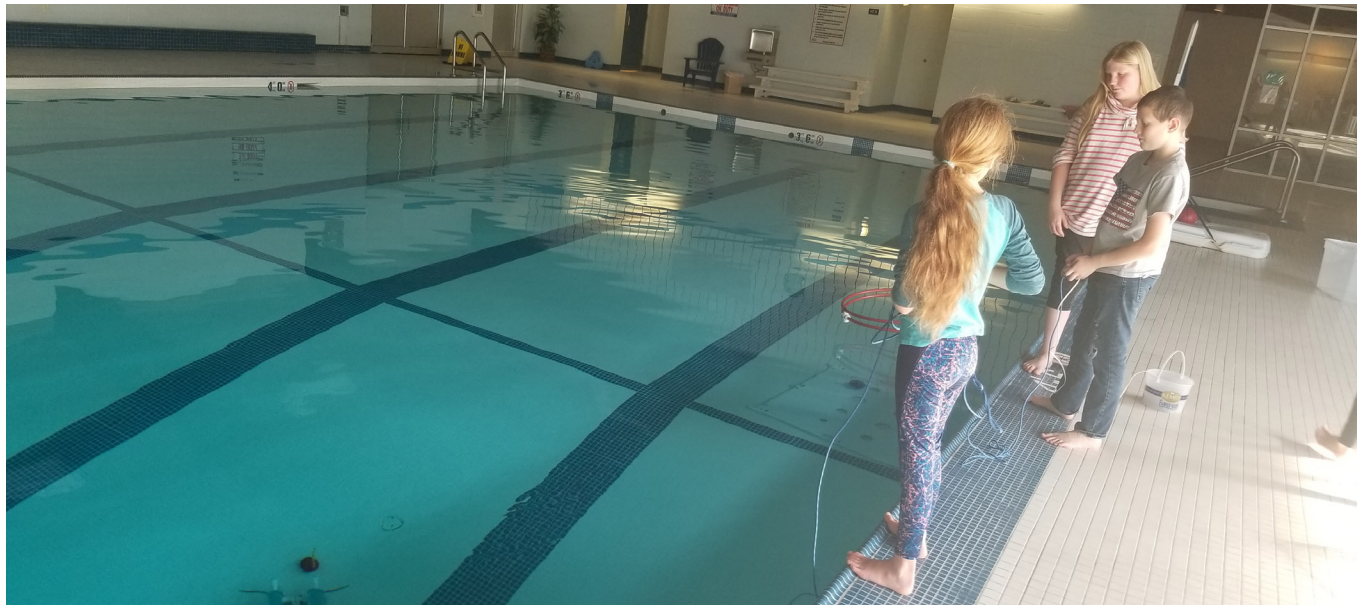
Practice, practice, practice and more practice is the key to becoming better at a task.

Fifth grade students have been doing just that, spending time in the pool with “Ramona” their Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) taking her through a series of obstacles in preparation for the SeaPerch Local Competition at the Y in Sturgeon Bay on Friday, Feb. 7.

Students will use their ROV to complete a five-hoop obstacle course and then use their ROV in a simulated “Waterway Cleanup” course.

Recently the team found out they were invited to compete in the Green Bay competition Saturday, Feb. 22 to see if they can qualify for the National Competition.

The students have designed, built, and trained with their own ROV applying all aspects of STEM learning.



Corbin practices picking up and moving sunken trash with their ROV.

Gingerbread house decorating spectacular

By Alyssa Wagner

First and second grade students worked alongside their parents to create their very own holiday gingerbread houses, just prior to the holiday break.

Using handmade, wooden house bases with graham crackers as the siding, the students had nice and sturdy slates to build their masterpieces on. Big candy canes, small candy canes, marshmallows, gummy bears, gumdrops of different shapes, hard candy and Smarties were just some of the candies the children chose from to decorate their houses.

Each student, with their own special plan in mind, had a blast squirting on frosting trims and sticking on an assortment of goodies. Many giggles and smiles were heard and seen around the classroom as the families enjoyed spending time together at school, while holiday music played in the background. The completed gingerbread houses looked fantastic and were taken home to display during the Christmas season.



Tilly was full of happiness and smiles the entire time she worked on her gingerbread house with mom.

PHOTOS BY ALYSSA WAGNER



First grader, Freya, and her mom proudly pose by their completed gingerbread house.



Santa Claus, I mean Tug, had a blast decorating his gingerbread house, making sure he ate enough sweets to fill his tummy along the way!



Owen was busy the whole time working with his mom, dad, and younger brother to decorate every last bit of his house.



Isaac and his dad get excited to start decorating the gingerbread house together.

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A look into the school day

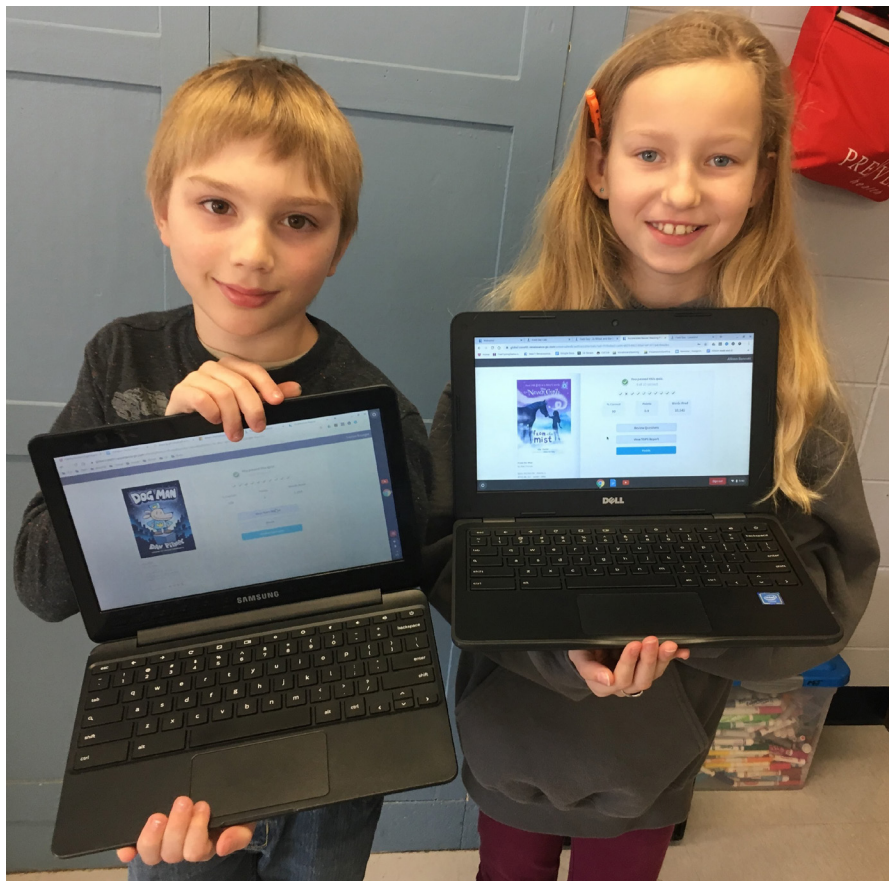


PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Tristan Krueger and Allison Bennett are proud of their Accelerated Reader Quizzes they took on the "Renaissance, Accelerating Learning for All" website. They each read different novels at different levels and could check their comprehension, vocabulary, and literacy skills by taking quizzes pertaining to each of their different books. (In case you can't see their comprehension scores in the picture that they were so excited to show off, Tristan got a 100% on "Dog Man," by Dav Pilkey, and Allison got a 90% on "From the Mist," by Kiki Thorpe.) For over 15 years, Washington Island School has renewed its subscription to Renaissance for Accelerated Reader, and it has been within the last six years that Accelerated Math was added. For many of those years, Steve and Margie Tobey helped the school financially support the Accelerated Reader program. What a gift they gave to so many students... and teachers! Both the Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math programs accommodate students of all ages and all reading and math levels to keep track of their own learning progress through immediate feedback on their understanding. This, then "opens the floodgates" for teachers and students to individually conference together and talk of successes, mistakes, and reading strategies to use when they pick out and read their next book; and finally, what better time would there be to set new reading goals to reach?



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Sprawled out across two desks, sixth-grade student, Ashlynn DeJardin has done all the reading, highlighting, note-taking, and planning on her outline to begin writing her essay proving that the Panama Canal, a water highway, is a phenomenon.



PHOTO BY MARLEEN EHRLICH-JOHNSON

Long underwear, snow pants, a winter coat, boots, hats, and gloves-- the third- and fourth-grade students are all bundled up, ready, and waiting to head out to Percy Johnson Park for their hour and a half Forest Education Program. Every other month the students go to the same site to spend time in nature and recognize all the changes around them in different seasons of the year.



It's an English language arts teacher's dream to walk up to two students, first thing in the morning, "out of the blue," having a conversation about a story one of them wrote! The story, "Troll Mountain," was once just Kinsey DeJardin's masterpiece, but now it has a co-author, Addison Lindgren.

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Academic Decathlon team competes at regionals

By Miranda Dahlke

This is the second year Washington Island has had an Academic Decathlon team. A team is made up of nine high school students from three different grade point average ranges that compete individually in a variety of subject areas about a specific topic.

This year eight students decided to participate and spend some time learning about Health and Wellness through the ages.

Aidan Purinton, Breanna McGrane, Spencer Johnson, Hayden Lux, Andrea Valentincic, Zachary Lux, Isaac Mohn, and Alissa Mohn all competed in the local competition tests in November and qualified for regionals as one of the top 50 teams in Wisconsin.

To prepare for the regional competition held on Jan. 10, decathletes had to prepare a speech, prepare for a shorter, impromptu speech, practice for an interview, and continue studying all the material they were tested on at the local competition.

Days before and after school were spent preparing for the competition. Our team ended up placing 44 out of all 50 teams.

This did not qualify us as one of the top 20 teams in Wisconsin to make it to state competition, but I do think the decathletes had an experience that will motivate them for next year's competition.

Thanks for a great season!

Rotary Club of Sturgeon Bay scholarship update

Deadline for application for the Muckian Technical Education Scholarship is March 15, 2020. This applies to any graduating senior who plans to take further training in a Technical Education program even if it is not at NWTC. The application form link can be found on the DC Scholarship Network website.

DOOR COUNTY-COMMUNITY WIDE

Parent Cafe

Thursday, February 6, 2020

Washington Island School Cafeteria

All cafes meet from 5:30 - 7:30 pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Parent Cafes give parents a chance to come together to listen, talk, build friendships & support each other around the five protective factors for strong families.

Free Family Meal from 5:30 - 6 p.m.
FREE On-Site Childcare!

Please RSVP

your name and number attending to Chad by **Feb. 3rd**

by calling/texting to 920.421.3146 or email at partnershipfel@gmail.com

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PARTNERSHIP
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Washington Island
Observer

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