

WASHINGTON ISLAND SCHOOL

Title 1 Newsletter

Fall 2021

Schoolwide Title 1 programs are designed to generate high levels of academic achievement for all students, especially those most in need of additional support.

Family Engagement and YOU!

The Washington Island School seeks to build strong and productive partnerships with our parents and our community. Emails, newsletters, Class Apps, Bucks Bulletin (Island Observer monthly contribution section), student-parent-teacher conferences, school board meetings, phone calls, tours, special academic and sports events, community outreach activities, etc., are all part of this effort. Though we continue to face pandemic protocol challenges, we also continue to value and seek out ways to connect with our families and friends. Above all, we want everyone to feel that this school is at the heart of our community. After all, as we all are aware, our children are our future.

HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR:

Pumpkin Book Character Project (4K/5K)

School Homecoming Week Festivities and Soccer Game

Family Trivia Night (Zoom)

Student-Led Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences (Grades 6-12)

Make & Take Chemistry Demos and Website (HS):

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLAXnQBymRV3KqJpPRD_cJCEVT1jOd_DrN

<https://sites.google.com/island.k12.wi.us/atoms-and-elements/home>

Did you know that you can attend Washington Island School Board meetings virtually? All agendas and Zoom links are posted in the school website (www.island.k12.wi.us). The website is chock full of web links for parents and students. There are often pictures and videos linked there too. Please check it often!

Extended Learning Time (ELT)

The first quarter of the school year has been rolling along at a fast clip. Students have been actively engaged in their learning, getting to know new teachers and subjects, participating in school wide activities and celebrations, and generally enjoying being students in our unique and wonderful school.

It is our duty and goal to provide for the individual learning needs of each and every student in our school. By early October, most student fall assessments had been completed. With records and data in hand, the district data team met to place every student in a targeted, data-driven learning opportunity during our daily "Extended Learning Time" (ELT) hour. Parents have been notified of these placements and plans. The ELT period is now integral to our school wide intervention efforts and we are seeing increasing evidence of its importance.. The District welcomes any inquiries parents may have regarding this. Teachers and administration are happy to communicate with you about your children.

Some Resources for You

EARLY LEARNING

Social Media

“Data from the NIH study have already revealed something else: **kids who spend more than two hours a day on screens got lower scores on thinking and language tests.**” (“Landmark Study Examines Effects of Screen Time on Kids.” *60 Minutes*. CBS, New York. 9 December. 2018. Television). An organization called “**Wait Until 8th**” is asking parents to pledge not to provide their children with Smartphones until at least the age of 14. There are many significant reasons to consider this pledge, not the least of which is to preserve and protect your child’s brain and cognitive development. Though our school classes are too small to participate in the national pledge, we urge you to consider these reasons to wait:

<https://www.waituntil8th.org/why-wait>

General Information

Are you wanting more information on parenting, child growth and development, activities to enhance brain development and cognitive skills, or even age-appropriate videos (yet attending to a minimum of screen time)? Resources for Learning, from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, in partnership with the WGBH Educational Foundation, have developed this online resource:

<http://resourcesforearlylearning.org/parents/>

MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

Social Media (TikTok)

Never before have children, long before middle school in some cases, been so privy to information and content not suitable for their age and developmental level. One App troubling parents, educators, and other child-development experts, is **TikTok**. However, if parents utilize various parental controls on this App, much concern can be alleviated. We urge you to **exercise caution** in allowing your children to use TikTok, and here is how:

<https://kidmatterscounseling.com/blog/5-things-parents-need-to-know-about-tik-tok/>

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

Social Media and Sleep

For a balanced and measured understanding and recommendations regarding social media and our teens, here is a short, but important update from the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry:

https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Social-Media-and-Teens-100.aspx

Related to the questions surrounding social media and technology, consider making your teen’s bedroom tech free! As stated on the Johns Hopkins Medicine website (<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/>): “Using tech at night not only cuts into teens’ sleep time, it also exposes them to a type of light that suppresses the body’s production of the sleep-inducing hormone melatonin, making it tougher to fall asleep.” We

know that our teens need 9 - 9.5 hours of sleep per night. Social media use can be addicting, upsetting, and disruptive at any time, but especially when any of us are hoping to fall asleep easily.

Go Bucks!!