

Western Middle School

January/February 2012

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Volume 5, Issue 1
January 2012

We have had a great start to the year. I would like to take this time to recognize many of the accomplishments we've had here at Western Middle School this year.

- Our WMS Penny War collected over \$1,000.00 to be donated to Toys for Tots.
- The Lion's club Peace Poster Contest is open to students between the ages of 11 and 13. This contest has strict requirements and a different theme each year that is related to peace. The entries are judged by Lion's club members, and each middle school has a first, second and third place winner. Then an overall winner is selected from all of the first place winners. The overall winner's poster is then sent to our district and state level. The winners will also be awarded their prizes at a luncheon in February. Congratulations to the following winners from Western Middle Schools. Third place winner is Brianna Ricker from 8th grade. She will receive a \$50.00 Savings Bond. Second place winner is Veronica VanDenBerg. She will receive a Savings Bond for \$75.00. First place winner is Roslynn Ueberroth! She will receive a \$100.00 Savings Bond. Roslynn Ueberroth is also our OVERALL winner this year. She will receive another \$100.00 Savings Bond and represent us at the district and state level competition.
- Maier and Associates Charitable Foundation Just for Kids gives out a Kids Who Care award to a middle school student who has displayed an exceptional contribution to society. This year our very own...Adrianna Geno received this award in November at the Horizons Center. Adrianna has done a number of things in and out of school with the support of her family and friends to support students with Autism. Adrianna is an active member of the LINKS program, has created a You Tube announcement for Autism Awareness, and had a very successful spaghetti dinner to raise money for students with Autism. Adrianna is currently planning a Run/Walk to support autism...we wish her the best of luck. Adrianna is a very deserving student and was presented with a certificate of outstanding citizenship as well as a laptop computer.
- Patriot's Pen: The VFW Post 6950 honored three of our students for their contributions to Patriots Pen. Jarod Holsing took 3rd place and was awarded a check and certificate of thanks; Kellen MacGregor took 2nd place and was awarded a check and certificate of thanks; and Hannah Doty won 1st place. She also received a check and certificate from the veterans.

In addition, her essay has been submitted to District competition. Those results will be announced early January. All these students, and more, proudly represented WMS in the Patriot's Pen Essay Competition's 17th year.

Patriot's Pen finalists were: Josh Cianek, Nathan Conner, Hannah Doty, Josh Holsing, Kellen MacGregor, and Morgan Wise.

- WMS had two winners of the 42nd World School Children's Art Exhibition. The students work was done in elementary school; however they were just recognized last month at the Board of Education Meeting for their great work. A bronze certificate went to Elizabeth Radonski and selected certificate was given to Roselyn Ueberroth. Way to go!

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Important dates to remember

1/27	Popcorn Day
2/6	No school
2/7	Classes Resume
2/14	Valentines Day
2/17	No School
2/20	No School
2/21	Classes Resume

- **W.M.S. 2012 GEOGRAPHY BEE MOST COMPETITIVE EVER!** For our eighth consecutive year, Western Middle School took part in the National Geographic Society's Geography Bee competition. The Geography Bee is a competition that tests students' abilities in the areas of physical and cultural geography. The bee takes place in thousands of elementary and middle schools throughout the United States each year. At Western Middle School, the Bee begins in individual classrooms where social studies teachers hold "mini-bees" in order to choose a single participant from each team / teacher. Those participants then come together at a "school-wide" bee where a single student will emerge as the W.M.S. champion. This year's participants in our W.M.S. Geography Bee were:

6th grade – Caleb Courtney, Noah VanMullekom, & Roselynn Ueberroth
 7th grade – Cailynn Aumock, Tom Bukowski, Paige Talaga, & Jacob Walraven
 8th grade – Megan Jeske, Megan Stecker, & Matt Roesner

The W.M.S. Geography Bee was held Monday, January 16th during the school day. It was moderated by Mr. Mike Rohde, a 7th Grade Social Studies teacher, and was attended by a large number of the student body. Eventually, 7th grader Tom Bukowski and 6th grader Noah VanMullekom were the only two students remaining, and for the first time ever, the championship round ended in a tie. The victory in a sudden-death format was earned by Noah VanMullekom. This was Noah's first year of participating in the Geography Bee.

Noah will now take a written exam that will be sent to the National Geographic Society, and from which the Society will choose the top 100 scores to participate in a state-wide competition, held at Central Michigan University, March 30, 2012. If Noah does well there, he could qualify for the national competition held May 22 – 24, 2012, in Washington, D.C., and compete for the top prize, a \$25,000.00 scholarship. Good luck, Noah!

- WMS received a \$5,000.00 iPad grant to increase successful nonfiction reading, with the lead of Mr. Preston, Mrs. France, Mrs. Cooley, Mr. Tacey, and Mr. Pennell
- Greydon Clark won the "write about a tradition your family celebrates" essay contest over the Winter Break. Congratulations Greydon!
- WMS had seven 8th grade band students chosen to participate in MSBOA District 5 All Star Band. Congratulations to... Autumn Arsenault, Kellen MacGregor, McKenna Packard, Marybeth Pfund, Matthew Sape, Anamika Shrestha, and David Winzeler.

PARENT CONFERENCES

To better meet parents need for a later conference we have changed our times. Our conferences are schedule for: Tuesday, February 7th 4-6 pm and Thursday February 9th 5-7pm

To help keep Parent Teacher conference to a 5 minutes per conference please...

_____ Plan ahead

_____ Ask your students how they are doing

_____ Check your students Edline before come so you have a plan

_____ Write down questions that you'd like to ask the teacher

_____ Schedule a meeting with the teacher at a later date if you need more time.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTERN

We have many events throughout the year where we will need help. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please e-mail Mrs. Wozniak at Wozniakj@bcschools.net and a form will be sent to you.

ATHLETICS

The new sports season is rapidly approaching. Below are the dates of the upcoming teams:

Boys 7th and 8th Grade Swimming: January 23rd practice starts and February 15, 2012 is first meet
At John Glenn

Gilrs 7th and 8th Grade Volleyball: Tryouts are January 23rd, 24th and 25th at Handy Middle School

CLUBS

It's not too late to participate in one or more of our after school clubs!

Ski and Snowboard club has had a huge turn out this year with over 50 students participating in this cold weather sport.

LATE BUS

Late busses are available for students needing to stay after school. The busses will connect with our feeder elementary busses and deliver students for the elementary runs. Students are not allowed to stay after school unless they have a specific reason for doing so - meeting with a teacher, club activities, detention etc. A pass from school is needed to board the bus.

STUDENT PLANNERS

I cannot stress enough how important the use of the student planner is. Daily use of planners will help students remember what homework they have, will allow for communication between parents and teachers, and will allow for students to keep track of important dates. Please review this information with your student each day and sign the planner. Your support is appreciated.

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE - WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR SCHOOL!

By: Riley Owczarzak, Adriana Geno and Anna Wierda, WMS Student Council Co-Chairperson

"What? Did you say over \$1000.00! That's a lot of money!" "Yeah, That's how much money Western Middle School presented to the Bay County Toys for Tots this winter."

How did we make this happen? It's starts with the penny war. Each grade had their own jug which they wanted to fill up with pennies for positive points, but since it's a competition for a movie day, other grades are trying to put silver coins and dollars for negative points which count against pennies. It lasts for 2 weeks and overall the 6th grade won with 8th grade in 2nd place and 7th grade in 3rd place. It was a success because we raised over \$800.00

Thank you so much Mrs. Manwell's SAM Class for taking part in raising over \$200 with their candy gram sales. It helped tremendously! Over all, we did a great job. And thanks to everyone who participated in helping those in need.

NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: Mr. Douglas Newcombe

February 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Friends of Bay City Public Schools,

Winter is in full swing and this is a nice opportunity to remind parents and families to be alert for school buses and bus stops. We truly appreciate your caution when you approach all of our school zones, including those busy school parking lots! Also, during these cold and flu months, please remember to make arrangements to keep children home when ill to help stop the spread of those bothersome bugs.

We have some nice items to report out on students and staff:

When our Washington Elementary students returned from their winter break, they celebrated the completion of their new playground equipment project, which they dubbed "Big USA" because of the red, white and blue color scheme the students selected.

Samantha Smith, Western High School student, was selected to be one of two student delegates from Michigan (104 from across the nation) to attend the 50th Anniversary of the United States Senate Youth Program (YSSYP) in Washington, D.C. this coming March. Wow!

Two of our Central High School seniors, Jessica Buckey and Adam Kloha, were each awarded a \$1000 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Scholarship at the regional event held at SVSU last month.

Two of our district administrators, Phil Heller, Western High Principal, and Stephen Sevener, Auburn Elementary Principal, were selected to participate in the very prestigious Gerstacker Fellowship through SVSU this coming year.

Tech Awards: I am very happy to report that we recently awarded **13 technology grants** to district teachers based on proposals submitted to develop "model classrooms" in their schools. Ten out of our 13 schools are represented in these numbers. This curriculum/technology initiative is a particularly exciting one that we hope to expand upon in the coming years.

French-American Cultural Exchange Update: In its fourth year, this program is in the expansion mode. Hampton Elementary developed and implemented this wonderful initiative and has opened up participation to other schools in the district. Now, we have 16 students from five schools, including Hampton, Handy, Kolb, Mackensen and McAlear-Sawden, hosting our visiting French students.

As always, I welcome your questions and comments (671-8165 or newcombed@bcschools.net.)

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Newcombe
Superintendent

Resources available which may be of assistance to your children:

Opportunity Connection Website: offers a variety of learning opportunities for students, teachers, and businesses. You may visit their website at www.opportunityconnection.net.

Imagination Library: This is a FREE book a month program for ANY child (age birth to 5) living in Bay or Arenac Counties. Visit www.imaginationlibrary.com

HEAD TO HEAD



Parents and Participants,

The 2012 season for Head to Head is under way. The coaches have begun to announce their after school practices and the schedule of meets is in place. As we begin each new season, I would like to send a few reminders to students and parents.

First, all after school practices are **immediately** after school and bus passes will be issued to students by the coach they are practicing with, not the secretaries or Ms. Thomas. Secondly, we are a **closed campus**. Leaving school grounds and returning for practice is strictly not prohibited. There is not to be food or beverages in rooms or hallways. Items from the pop and snack machines are also prohibited. The practices are limited to a very short time before the late buses arrive at WMS so every minute of practice time is precious.

Head to Head participants, please listen carefully to practice announcements in case there is a cancellation so you will be able to catch your regular ride home that night. Remember, the secretaries are not writing passes for late buses. Also, communicate with your coaches about conflicts with practice and performances. A coach cannot suddenly replace a valuable team member for a meet happening that very day. Advance communication is the key to a smooth running meet where all students can fully enjoy the evening.

All meets begin at either 3:30 or 4PM. On meet days, you are expected to be in your coaches room or in the commons immediately after school. There is to be no wandering the halls, leaving the building, or going from room to room. It is important for you to be in your assigned area before announcements begin. If you are not in the right place or listening to the announcements, you may end up forfeiting in your event.

As a team member, whether performing that meet or not, students should wear their team shirt to school and at the event to show their support. Parents, you are welcome to attend the performance portion which kicks off with Head To Head "LIVE" under the leadership of Coach Rohde in the auditorium at 5PM.

As required by district policy, if any parent wishes to pick their student up from an away meet, there must be a 24 hour notice to thomasc@bcschools.net. If you are picking your child up from a home meet prior to the end, please have your child find his/her coach to check out with. Just a security precaution. Any questions may be directed to Ms Thomas at the same e-mail address, to your participant's coach, or via phone to 989-662-4489, ext. 6168 Ms Thomas. Thank you, in advance, for all the support and encouragement.

COACHES

Coach (Mrs.) Rohde- history

Coach Jacqumain- science

Coach (Mr) Rohde-Head to Head LIVE

Coach Schlosser- instrumental music

Western Middle School, 8th grade ELA

Coach Arsenault- ELA

Coach Chipman- Real World/ Sports and Fitness

Coach Cooley- Drama

Coach Keenan- vocal Music

Coach Ueberroth- math

Coach Muler- art

Invitational for qualifying members, Thursday, March 22 @ Midland Central

Start time for all meets is between 3:30 and 4PM and are done by 7:30. Parents be at the east parking lot, middle school side, between 7:45 and 8PM on the 15th when bus returns to WMS. Students must be picked up from grounds as soon as bus returns to school.

MEET DATES AND TIMES

Tuesday, March 6, 2012 - Home meet vs Jefferson

Thursday, March 8th - Home meet vs Handy

Thursday, March 15th - Away meet @ Midland Central



You are invited to attend
Western High School's
8th Grade Student/Parent
Scheduling Night

Monday, February 27, 2012

Time:

4:30-6 (last names that start with A-L) in the auditorium.

5:30-6:30 all students/parents can speak with staff members from each department and look at class opportunities.

This is held in the commons.

6:30-8 (last names that start with M-Z) in the auditorium.

***** *A MAKE-UP SESSION WILL BE HELD ON 2/28/12 FROM 12:45-2:30 FOR ALL INTERESTED PARTIES. COUNSELING STAFF WILL BE THE ONLY SCHOOL PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS SESSION*****

Information will be provided on course requirements for graduation .

Students will select classes for their Freshman year!

If you have any questions, please call Michelle Murray- Dean of Students at (989) 662-4481 ext. 6420



New this year!!!

8th grade

Send Off Celebration

(Formally known as "Step-Up Dance")



Great Hall in Midland; Midland Rd.

Thursday, May 17, 2012

Dinner w/ family 5:00 PM

Award Ceremony 5:45 PM

Dance 7:00 PM


\$15.00 per student; \$15.00 each family member (2 per student)

**** Dinner is optional for parents*

Parents may attend award ceremony and NOT attend dinner

Permission Slips will be coming home in early April

We're on the Web.
 Visit us at
www.bcschools.net
 Follow the "Our
 Schools" link.



500 W. Midland Road
 Auburn, Michigan 48611
 Phone: 989-662-4489
 Fax: 989-662-0185
 Attendance: 989-662-0184



JAN./FEB. 2012 NEWSLETTER

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS/
PHONE/EMERGENCY FORMS**

It is very important that parents notify the school office of any changes in address, home, and work phone numbers, etc. When we have emergencies, it is important that we have the correct information to reach a parent as soon as possible.

If you have had any changes on your emergency/profile sheet, please call our Records Department at 662-0416 to make the necessary changes.

**SCHOOL CLOSING
INFORMATION**

With the weather changing, schools closing are possible. On days when it appears school may be closed, please listen to TV or radio stations for announcements, or check our webpage at www.bcschools.net. The safety of our students is our major concern.

**ATTENDANCE
POLICY**

Our goal is to have all of our students in class, learning every day. When it is necessary for a child to miss school for any reason, it is the parent's responsibility to call the attendance office at **662-0184** to excuse the absence.

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Jan. 25 Girls Volleyball Try-Outs (Last Day)
- Jan. 27 Popcorn Day!
- Feb. 6 Non School Day
Professional Development Day
- Feb. 7 Classes Resume – All Grades
Parent / Teacher Conference (4-6 pm)
- Feb. 9 Parent / Teacher Conference (5-7 pm)
- Feb. 14 Valentines Day
Spirit Board – Red/White Day
- Feb. 17 Non School Day
- Feb. 20 Non School Day
- Feb. 21 Classes Resume All Grades

**HOMEWORK
POLICY**

If your child is absent for a very short term, they can contact their teachers upon returning to school. For absences more than one day, parents may call the school and request assignments that may be worked on prior to the student returning. Please request your student's homework at least 24 hours in advance **only if they will be out for more than one day.**

