

WMS NEWS

From the Principal's Desk:

Good Afternoon WMS Families,

It is hard to believe we're just a couple of school days away from Thanksgiving Break. Thanksgiving Break starts November 22nd and students will return to school on November 27th. Students will be starting their second-trimester electives on Monday, November 20th. Students can access their new classes in PowerSchool.

There will be a 7th and 8th grade school dance on December 8th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. The dance theme is "A Starry Winter's Night", and its casual dress. Students are welcome to dress up as they would on the day of an athletic contest or wear Christmas sweaters or other holiday clothing, but jeans or any school-appropriate attire is okay. Thank you for attending last night's parent-teacher conferences. It was wonderful to see so many families throughout the buildings.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Craig Thompson
WMS Principal



WMS Believes...

1. Students must feel safe, cared for, and valued for learning to take place.
2. It's our job to spark student curiosity and help students identify/pursue their interests.
3. Students thrive on intentional structure.
4. School decisions should reflect the distinctive nature of middle school students.

6th Grade News:

Conferences- If you have not spoken with your student's advisory teacher, we would like to discuss your student's progress before the end of November. In math, we have started a new unit on Unit Rates and Percentages. In English, we are at the end of our first unit in *The Lightning Thief* with a part of our assessment based on an academic conversation. We will be working on identifying themes conveyed in texts and writing summaries of connected myths. Please continue to ask your child about their independent reading book and their book reviews. In geography, sixth graders are discovering the important contributions of Early American Civilizations to the geography of North America. Finally, in science cell projects were introduced this week and will be due December 13th.

7th Grade News:

Mr. Huizenga's Science classes wrapped up their Motion and Forces Unit last week. We will be diving into different States and Forms of Energy for a few days before our Thanksgiving Break.

The English classes are continuing work on their comparative essays. We are looking at ways the author of *A Long Walk to Water* has used or altered history when compared to our nonfiction article, "The Lost Girls of Sudan."

In math classes, we have been working through the first few lessons of Unit 3, Measuring Circles. We will be finishing up with section 1 that covers "Circumference of a Circle." We will then proceed with "Areas of a Circle." The week after Thanksgiving we will be done with all the Unit 3 concepts and be ready for our next assessment. To know exactly what we are doing each day, ask your child to show you their Google Classroom.

Elective's News:**Band program and 8th grade General Music Spotlight!**

Our band students have been hard at work preparing for our winter concert. 6-12 bands will be performing in the high school auditorium on **December 20th at 6:30pm**. Here's a little bit about what we've been up to:

6th grade band is currently learning notes 1-5 of the Bb scale. We have gone over the care, assembly, and maintenance of our instruments and have been working on songs like Mary had a little lamb. Another part of our focus is rhythm- we know how to clap and count rhythms containing whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes! In 7th grade band, we are preparing 3 songs for the concert representing some fall/winter holidays - Creepy Crawlies (Halloween), At the Feast of Stephen (Thanksgiving), and Bells Bells Bells (Christmas). We are focusing on articulation, dynamics, and new roadmaps! 7th grade band is the largest group by far- with 55 students!

8th grade General Music is finishing a unit about instrument classifications. Students made their own instruments out of household materials, to fit into one of the 4 major instrument classifications: aerophones, chordophones, idiophones, and membranophones. 8th graders also performed on their instruments for the class!

Last but not least: 8th grade band is also preparing for the concert! We learned the fight song earlier in the semester, and are now playing 3 songs: Falcon Fanfare, December Sky, and a new spy-themed Christmas song: The Name's Claus... Santa Claus. Be sure to catch us at the concert on December 20th to see the bands show off what they've learned!

8th Grade News:

ELA:

We are finishing Unit 2 of our Summer of the Mariposas module. Students have conducted research on Latin American folk/mythological characters and have created their own research-based character.

Students are writing their characters into a narrative that matches the rest of the novel in style, setting, characters, and plot.

Students have very little homework for ELA, but they should be reading every night for 20 minutes from their independent reading book.

Math:

We are in the middle of Unit 3 (Proportional and Linear Relationships). The quiz in Unit 3 will not occur until after Thanksgiving.

U.S. History:

This week we will start a new unit on Westward Expansion.

Congratulations to our 3 Patriot's Pen Essay winners: Delainey Shepherd, Ava Bates & Alaina Douthwaite!!

Science:

Learning about Plate Tectonics and grasping the idea that the ground beneath us is always moving.

Finished our earthquake presentations where all students researched and taught science class about their historical earthquake while their classmates took notes.

Moving into other natural phenomena: Tsunamis, Volcanos, Hurricanes, Tornadoes and how each develops

Clubs:**Science Olympiad Applications Are Open!**

Is your 6th-8th grader looking for an extracurricular activity this winter that will engage their brain and let them explore their interests in science and engineering? If so, they should apply to join the WMS Science Olympiad team. Founded in 1984, Science Olympiad is a STEM competition in which a team of 15 students prepares in advance and then competes at a regional tournament in 23 different events covering all areas of science. Event examples include Fossils, Disease Detectives, Crime Busters, Flight, Wheeled Vehicle, and Code busters. Each year, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved. Practices will take place after school 2 days per week during January – March, and our regional tournament will take place at Grand Valley State University on Saturday, March 23rd. Applications can be picked up in the middle school office or from Coach Susan Tate. Applications are due by Tuesday, December 5th. For more information about all 23 events, visit:

<https://www.soinc.org/events/2024-division-b-events>

Athletics:**Boys' Basketball:**

November 20, Montague, H, 4:00 PM

November 21, Ravenna, A, 4:00 PM

November 27, Fremont, H, 4:00 PM

November 29, Holton, A, 4:00 PM

Clubs:**Plant Club News**

Now in its 3rd year, WMS Plant Club had their most recent meeting on Wednesday, November 15th in the STEM room. Students in attendance learned about growing and propagating avocados, and enjoyed eating guacamole that they made themselves. They then soaked and prepped the resulting 10 avocado pits and set them up with toothpicks in water with hopes of watching them germinate in the next month or two. The purpose of Plant Club is to bring together students who enjoy tending to and learning more about plants, and the team has plans to grow fresh herbs for our school lunch program on two new grow carts that were purchased through a grant. Other plans include visiting the new Shoreline hoop house, and having a plant sale in the spring to help raise money for a small greenhouse at the middle school. Students can still sign up to join Plant Club by filling out the Google Form at:

<http://tinyurl.com/WMSPlantClub>. We meet twice per month from 2:55–4:15, and our next meeting will be Thursday, December 7th. If you or your student have questions, please email advisor Susan Tate at susantate@whitehallschools.net.

Robotics Club:

After months of hard work and engaging with the community, the Whitehall Middle School RoboVikings are headed to their first competition this season! They will be competing amongst 35 other teams from across Michigan at Fruitport High School on Saturday, November 18. The team is eager to put their robot to the test! If you are at all interested in checking out the competition, it is open to the public and matches will take place from 11:00am-3:00pm. Hope to see you there!

