

# The Paw Print

BCWMS

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## Preparing for Midterms is Important

by ALANI WALKER,  
KARLY SANDERSON, &  
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We are closing up on the first semester of the year and midterm exams are coming up. It is very important to be prepared and to get a head start, so here are some tips.

The topic of big tests and events can really stress out most. One of the most important things is to relax and to make sure that all of your needs are fulfilled before you start to prepare. Another important step is to keep an open mind and open space. You should keep a clean workspace and have easily accessible materials.

It is a great idea to talk to your teachers to get prepared for what you are going to see in the midterms.

See **EXAM**, pg. 2



*Above: National Junior Honor Society helped organize a food drive for Thanksgiving Baskets that were donated to local families in need. Thank you to all students who helped by bringing in donations!*

## Many Options for Students to Get Involved

by CAITLIN GOOGE

There are so many great opportunities in school and after school including music, art, student council, and more.

Having opportunities after school gives students great chances to make friends and be included. One after school class offered at WMS is Dolce Singers. Like many other after school classes, it is a mix of 7th and 8th grade students. This class is for students interested in singing and

challenging themselves as performers.

Right after school many students feel exhausted, but going to after school classes can get students moving, singing, playing instruments and working together to try new things and make new friends.

Natalie Grit said, "It's a great opportunity to blend in with 7th and 8th graders, I just love to see all the people who are

See **AFTER**, pg.2

  
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for your support**

**AFTER**, Cont. pg.1

passionate about singing and love to sing. It's a great chance to meet new people, travel and just do what you like to do."

Mrs. Ryskamp, the Choir teacher, said, "I love singing with a group of dedicated singers. These are our kids who love to sing. They can do some amazing things with their voices. Also Dolce has the opportunity to tackle difficult and beautiful choral music. And, they travel to places like Mackinac Island, Washington DC and other places. Dolce focuses on more challenging music and has the opportunity to learn additional things like Etiquette and Dance for when we travel."

Not just Dolce is a great after school experience but there are more if you are a musician or just like music you could do Jazz Band too. Jazz bands are a great and comfortable environment to play your favorite instrument, hang out and just have fun. Jackson Weber said, "Different perspectives and new experiences (are in Jazz Band) compared to regular band; it can give you a chance to get out and meet new people. If you're interested, you can join the Jazz orchestra in high school."

WMS also has OrchEXTRA for students interested in doing more with Orchestra or if you're not into any music, then you can think about Art after school.

For students interested in Student Council or National Junior Honor Society, there is an application process to get involved. Both groups look to help our school through different events like the Toy Drive, Food Drive, and pumping up school spirit through things like Spirit Days.

All people have different opinions about how they want to spend their time after school. With all of these options at WMS, students can choose what they like to do and just go for it.

**EXAM**, Cont. pg.1

8<sup>th</sup> grader Jenna Holwerda said, "To prepare for my midterms I have constantly been going over my work, reviews and keeping them to go over them for the midterm."

Spanish teacher, Senorita Monk said her students get days to review before testing their skills. "They will also need to read write, speak, listen, have to show all those skills but I will give them plenty of time to practice all of that," she said.

8<sup>th</sup> grade History teacher Ms. Burkhardt said, "I have encouraged you to keep your study guides. Work a little bit harder on reading questions. Trying to make people keep materials and complete all materials so you have good things to study from."

Mr. King, who teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science, said, "We will do an activity that's kind of cool, midterm mural... It'll be new for all students so they will be provided with many materials and time to prepare."

Find what works to get ready for midterms.

# Holiday Gifts from Heart are Best

by ALANI WALKER and KARLY SANDERSON

It is here, the Winter season, where many different holidays are celebrated, and one of the most popular times of the year to get together and give gifts. When picking out gifts for friends, family, and loved ones it is important to take these things into consideration.

A popular holiday tradition is to get friends gifts to celebrate and show your appreciation, so it is a great idea to make something personal and from the heart. This could include a sweet card, a craft that you do or you both can do together, a pair of handmade mittens, freshly home-made cookies, and many more things. One of the most personal things that you can get is to know what your friend's absolute favorite thing or hobby is, and then correlate the gift to that.

But nowadays many gifts are very popular such as the following; gift cards for your friend's favorite store, their favorite candy, a piece of clothing that you think they would enjoy, etc. These are all amazing gifts that can really make your loved ones feel special. But getting your friends' objects isn't the only way to show appreciation. It is important to note that if you are unable to get your friends gifts, simple acts of kindness and appreciation can mean a lot.

# Pay Attention to Direction

by SIERRA KING-MUNN

Ever since this year started, people have been instructed to use staircases in a very specific way; now the big staircase is for going down only, and the inside staircases are used for going up. Some people are using the stairs the wrong way and it can be a struggle.

If people are going the wrong way, the stairs can get very crowded. When people are going the opposite direction than they are supposed to, it could cause someone to get hurt, like running into that person or tripping down the stairs, it could also cause traffic jams.

When going down or up the stairs one way, it's easier because you don't have to worry about running into anyone very much, but if it's blocked by people going the wrong way, then it could get trickier to go where you need and could take a lot of time to get down than it already is.

There's already a short amount of time to get to classes as it is, so keep using the stairs the right direction to help with that.

# Family is up to You this Holiday

by LANA SCHELL

Christmas is one of the most wonderful times of the year. With lights and decorations; snow and cheer. One of the most talked-about topics during Christmas time is what you're doing over the holiday.

I believe that the best way to spend Christmas is with family. I don't mean biological family, I mean chosen family. Your chosen family are the people who love, support, and embrace you no matter what. A chosen family can be blood, or they can be your best friends.

My favorite part of the holidays is being close to the ones I love, giving them gifts, and spending as much time with them as possible. That's why I believe that the best way to spend the holidays is with my chosen family, eating a nice meal and watching a Christmas movie such as *Elf*, *A Christmas Carol*, or *The Grinch*.



## Book Review: Dystopian Thriller Series Has it All

by JADELYNN HOOPER

As all 8th graders finish their dystopian book unit, some will start to realize that they love dystopian books. If you are one of those students, here is a good book for you: *Michael Vey*.

This novel by Richard Paul Evens, is a science fiction book that I had never heard of before until got it off the shelf, and I don't know why I hadn't heard of it before, because it is so good!

The author started his career over 20 years ago when he published his first book *The Christmas List*. He wrote other books after that like *The Christmas Box* (1993) and *The Looking Glass* (1999). Then in 2011, he published the first book in the *Michael Vey* series. This series is about a kid with Tourette's syndrome called *The prisoner of Cell 25*. A 2017 article "Reporter times" states, "He wrote the Michael Vey books for his son. Evans said of the series, 'It wasn't so much as inspired by him, but I wanted to inspire people with books about Tourette's and make it easier for him. If people understood Tourette's syndrome, then they'd be much more likely to treat him normally'" (Creel, September 20, 2017).

*Michael Vey* is about a boy that has Tourette's (a neurological disorder that makes people make unexpected or random movements, including neck jerks and sometimes vocal tics, as grunts, or words), but he doesn't just have Tourette's, he also has electricity powers that he keeps secret all his life. When he runs into a little bit of trouble with some bullies, his life pretty much changes for the worst, getting kidnapped by the Elgan (people that want to take over the world, remember when I said dystopian). But it also has some changes for the better after he meets a girl. I will leave that up to you to read about.

Richard Paul Evens wrote 7 books for the *Michael Vey* series: *Prisoner of Cell 25* 2011, *Rise of Elgan* published 2012, *Battle of the Ampere* 2013, *Hunt for Jade Dragon* 2014, *Storm of Lightning* 2015, *Fall of Hades* 2016, *The Final Spark* 2017.

*Michael Vey* is an amazing book series because it has action, adventure, science fiction, and since the books are based on teenagers there is going to be a little romance. I loved the books and I think you will, too.

## Basketball Snapshots

