



The Paw Print

BCWMS

June 2018

Students Win National Awards

By AVA BONT
Throughout first semester, Visual Art and English students created works to compete in the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Many pieces were submitted for the competition and won recognition as either Honorable Mention, Silver Key, or Gold Key winners.

There are different categories that students can enter their works at the regional level

See **AWARDS**, pg. 2



8th grade students work together to complete a water purification station during Lewis and Clark Day on May 10th. Students used a variety of materials to filter water, including fabric and charcoal.

More pictures on page 4.

Student Council Raffle Grants Hospital Wishes

By KENDALL MEAD

Every year, Student Council selects a community service project to support. This year, they selected the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital.

Student Council is made up of 7th and 8th grade students that apply to participate. Ms. Blundy is the advisor for the group; she also teaches English and Math at WMS.

Their fundraising efforts this year focused on raising monies to buy things that the hospital needed most on their wish list.

Student Council sold raffle tickets for a dollar at lunch and received an outpouring of support.

See **RAFFLE**, pg.2



AWARDS, Cont. pg.1

and are juried by professionals at Kendall College of Art and Design, which is the West Central Michigan Regional affiliate.

Any works that receive a Gold Key move onto the National Competition for another round of juried selection in New York City by professional artists and writers. Only the top 1% of entries win a National Medal.

This year WMS had two National Medalists.

8th grade student Sophia Bentley won a Silver Medal for a necklace she made using the 3D printer.

She enjoyed the experience of sharing her work. She said, "This was a fun experience and I loved getting to put my artwork out there and have people appreciate it."

7th grade student Tara Rood won a Gold Medal for a sculpture of her dog, Diesel (shown above), made from felt. She, along with other Gold Medalists from across the country, will attend the National Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall on June 7th in New York City thanks to a grant from TangerKIDS.

Tara's sculpture will be a part of a Nation-wide traveling exhibit that showcases all of the Gold Medalists' works for the next year.

You can start thinking about what you want to enter next year by going to www.artandwriting.org and talking to your teachers about your ideas.

RAFFLE, Cont. pg.1

One student bought \$20 of raffle tickets. The winning tickets from each grade received a pizza party with their friends. The recipients of the pizza party were, Megan Malek, Mary O'Mealey, MaKenna Crandell, and Abisola Collier. Another two tickets drawn from each grade won a \$10 gift card to Peachwave Frozen Yogurt. The recipients of the gift cards were, Chloe Lee, Catherine Morell, Ryen Karel, and Isaac McKinney.

The Student Council raised over \$200 dollars between 7th, and 8th grade. With those funds, Student Council purchased blankets, nail polish, chapstick, headphones, power banks, socks, and many more items that were on the wish list for the hospital.

I went to the hospital over spring break, representing the BCWMS Student Council, to deliver the items.

Laurie Allighire and Devin Pierson from the Helen Devos Children's Hospital were overjoyed with the items we donated. She looked forward to handing them out to children in the hospital that would need a little cheering up.

Thanks to all who purchased tickets, you helped make a huge difference in a child's life when they are in the hospital.



The Paw Print
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**THANK YOU
PARENTS AT WEST
(P.A.W.)
FOR SUPPORTING THE
PRINTING OF OUR
NEWSPAPER THIS
YEAR!**

If you would like to join the Newspaper and Yearbook Club for the 2018/19 School Year, contact Mrs. Campbell at jcampbell@bcpsk12.net.

We are looking for students interested in editor, reporter, and photography positions!

Teacher Feature:

Mr. Molenkamp Makes Learning Fun

By JESSICA O'NEILL

Mr. Molenkamp is a 7th grade History teacher and 7th grade girls soccer coach. Outside of school Mr. Molenkamp enjoys spending time with his wife and his three children Brayden (7 years-old), Lyla (5 years-old) and Dominic (3 years-old).

If Mr. Molenkamp was given a free vacation with his whole family he would chose to go either Florida or California because he enjoys areas with warm weather.

Mr. Molenkamp studied Social Studies and Mathematics in college, but he hasn't always wanted to be a history teacher. At first Mr. Molenkamp wanted to be a PE teacher because he enjoys coaching kids and being active.

"I enjoyed my experience during school and also because I wanted to be able to help kids," Mr. Molenkamp said about why he decided to become a teacher.

He enjoys teaching and learning history. He especially loves to teach his students about world religions and some of the economics lessons best.

Mr. Molenkamp thinks the importance of teaching history is so that "students have a better understanding of world events, world cultures, and current events of the world they live in."

As a teacher, Mr. Molenkamp also feels that students shouldn't have to sit in their chairs all day for hours listening to him teach a lesson; he feels that students learn lessons best through hands on projects and activities.

By the end of the year the three most important things that Mr. Molenkamp wants his students to get out of the year is having good study habits, an understanding of world cultures in the eastern hemisphere and last but certainly not least is to "have fun and enjoy learning about history in my class."



Summer Activities That Can Excite All

By ADRIANA GOULD

Summer is the time of the year most students look forward to but what activities can students do to occupy the time?

There are many activities that students can enjoy both outdoors and indoors.

For example, some outdoor activities include going to the beach, festivals, outdoor sport camps, and just relaxing while spending time with friends and family.

Michigan has the five great lakes and many inland lakes as well so there are lots of places people can enjoy the beach.

There are public beaches on Lake Michigan that people can go. Some places include Holland and Grand Haven State Parks.

In Grand Haven there is also the city beach that is open to the public.

Also, there are many different sport camps to participate in.

For instance, the girls soccer camp is outdoors and operated by the Byron Center soccer team and coaches. This camp takes place June 25-28 and varies on times depending on age. There are also many other camps available for other sports throughout the summer.

Kyra Syswerda, an 8th grader said, "I like to go camping, swimming, playing volleyball, going to the beach, and eating ice cream while enjoying the sun"

There also are many other outdoor activities that are not mentioned that can still be fun.

Mr. Terupt Reminds Us to Accept Unique Differences

by PAYTON STUCK & MARY O'NEAL

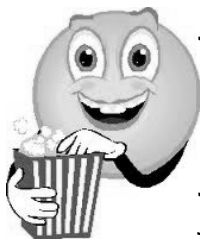
The book, *Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea, shares great story because it shows how you might have things that try and stop you, but you just have to get over them and push through hard times.

It can also show you that things might not be as awful as you think they might be and good things might happen because of it. This book is great because it tells the story through all the different characters' points of view and is the right length to keep your attention.

The cool thing is that all the characters have different personalities and it kind of makes the story seem like it is told many times even but different ways because the people think about the situation differently.

This book is different and special because of how all the students react. The story also teaches that you are perfect just the way you are and that you don't need to change anything about yourself; everyone is different in their own unique way!

Soon in Theaters...



June 15th
The Incredibles 2,
Rated G

June 22nd
Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom,
Rated PG13

July 6th
Ant Man and the Wasp,
Rated PG-13

July 13th
Hotel Transylvania 3,
Rated PG

Guest Article from Mrs. Stevenson's class:

Pirates, Fairies, & Flying in Jr.

By ABI VANDERWALL

In May of 2018, the BCWMS choir performed *Peter Pan Jr.* at the Van Singel Fine Arts Center. Some people are wondering if this musical is a good idea, and some participants and onlookers have given their opinions.

8th grade student, Lauren James plays Smee, Captain Hook's quirky sidekick. James enjoys acting, and being able to portray a character that isn't like her. She claims it makes her feel free. She truly believes the musical was a great idea.

"If I wasn't Smee, I'd want to be Captain Hook, because he sings alone, and orders people around. He's a dictator, but I'd be a nice dictator." James explains with a devious smile.

James made it very clear that she completely loves the musical. She enjoys being a pirate, because she says she gets to be crazy. She says that being a pirate makes her feel like she's able to do whatever.

Along with James, there are many others who have opinions of the musical. This includes Shelby Webster, a 7th grader who plays a Brave Girl in PPJ. She loves the idea of the musical as well. She says it is extremely fun to act.

The Lost Boys of Neverland can be considered the most memorable parts of this Musical. Most of the Lost Boys truly believe this musical was a brilliant idea. Allison Vitarelli portrays Peter Pan, the lead.

"I love the musical numbers, especially if it has choreography that I like," Vitarelli said. She thinks the musical was a wonderful idea even with the added responsibility of being the lead.

"It's a lot of pressure... when it's just me on stage, it makes me nervous because I have no one to fall on if I mess up," Vitarelli admits.

But, even with the pressure, Vitarelli tells of all the good things about her character. This includes protecting the fairies, uniting tribes, leading the lost boys into battle against the pirates, and teaching young children how to fly.

Vitarelli especially loves the song "I'm Flying", in which she teaches Wendy, Michael, and John her rare and unique ability to fly.

In order for this show to be a success it was important to have student participation and parent support. It was also important to have a director like Mrs. Kristine Ryskamp, who is also the Choir teacher at BCWMS.

When asked if this musical was a good idea, parent Mi Rhee-Vanderwall said, "Absolutely. It gives [the students] a chance to be creative, and to collaborate on creating a story."

Vanderwall enjoys seeing children on stage acting, along with her own child (me). It's a good learning opportunity for the students in Vanderwall's eyes.

According to many students like McKenna Hinkle, it takes a lot of confidence to go on stage and perform.

"I think it is really awesome to watch," Hinkle said and added, "I really like watching musicals."

Being creative, sharing your talent, and working in a big group were just some of the reasons this show was a success. We can't wait to see what the musical is next spring.

One thing is for sure: this show was definitely a brilliant idea.



Photos by Larry Wood

WMS Girls Gain Goals in Soccer

by JADA O'NEILL

Soccer involves countless hours of training, effort, and sweat in order to achieve the goal at hand, which is to truly become a better player.

At WMS, soccer is a little different when it comes to sports like basketball and volleyball. Normally, we have 4 main teams: an eighth grade "A" and "B" team, as well as a seventh grade "A" and "B" team. With soccer, there is only one eighth grade team and one seventh grade team. But just because there are less teams, doesn't affect the level of pure skill and determination these amazing girls have!

Rosie Simon, who has been playing soccer since she was four, is a forward and goalie on the 7th grade team. She explains that she likes soccer because you get to work as a team and make new friends.

Catie Morell, who has been involved with soccer for five years, states that she enjoys soccer because of the exercise, how you get to work as a team, as well as how you get to

interact with others.

Morgan Danzig, who has been playing soccer for five years, is a left mid (and occasionally forward) on the 8th grade team. She states, "I like to play soccer because when I am playing, I am not focused on anything else besides the game and I have like a family with all of my team". She also explains that along with being fun, winning is the best feeling ever!

Coach Boillat, who is an English teacher at the high school as well as coaching the 8th grade team, describes how he appreciates coaching because he grew up playing soccer, and now gets a chance to share his passion with others.

Coach Molenkamp, who is a History teacher at the Middle School as well as the 7th grade girls' soccer coach, explains that he likes soccer because he enjoys coaching students he has in class, and being outdoors.

With practices every day from 2:45 to 4:30 p.m., the girls push themselves more and more each day to win each game not only for themselves, but for the school.

Stay Fit, Ready for Sports this Summer

by MCKENNA MORRIS

The summer is a time to relax and take a break from the stress that the school year creates. But, for many people athletics is an exciting part of summer. Many people do camps and club teams over the summer. Some people though, just try and stay in shape.

Staying in shape over the summer is super crucial to athletes and will help them during the school sports season.

An 8th grader Kyra Syswerda who is involved in volleyball and swim through the school thinks this is important.

"Staying fit over the summer is good for people because it keeps you conditioned for sports seasons during the school year," she said.

Staying fit may seem like a hassle, but it is really helpful in the long run. Zoe Zawacki, an 8th grade athlete gives examples of what she does to stay fit over the summer,

"I run, train for basketball by drills, and I do bulldog power in the summer," she notes.

Bulldog power is an exceptional way to be trained and pushed over the summer. Also, running can help with any sport, and to simply to stay in shape.

Avery Zeinstra is an extremely active 8th grader with further advice for staying active.

"Staying active over the summer seems like grueling task, but there are many easy and fun activities you can do to stay healthy during summer break. I've found that just getting outside is good for you as well as playing sports, swimming, going for runs, and walking around amusement parks or other places," she explains.

Overall, staying fit over the summer is a very good idea for athletes to have a strong start for the school sports in the fall when school starts up again.