



The Paw Print

BCWMS

October 2018

New Program Asks Us to R.I.S.E. at WMS Everyday

by HANNAH
PAULSON

At WMS, teachers and principals want all students to be successful both in and outside of the classroom with the R.I.S.E. program.

Mrs. Muller, Mr. VanDeRoer, Mrs. Stibitz, Mrs. Kanitz, Mrs. Post, and Mr. Wierzbicki are leading a R.I.S.E. committee for WMS.

WMS principal, Mr. Wierzbicki said, "Our new R.I.S.E. program is going to be great. I feel R.I.S.E. is going to be a great addition to what we had in place last year. R.I.S.E. will allow our entire school to take a proactive approach to supporting the social and emotional needs of our students."

This replaces the citizenship pillars that were once taught.

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BCPS in ArtPrize 10 Live 25



During ArtPrize 10, you could view student work at The Downtown Market on the 2nd floor. The work, "Reflecting Differences," competed against 20 other schools for the Youth Collaboration Award. Although our k-12 student work did not win, it did place in the Live25 for top votes during the first week of ArtPrize voting. Art and STEM students got to see the work at The Downtown Market on a September 28th field trip. Now the work will be on display at each school to help remember this accomplishment.

Spanish Offers Full Year Learning Language

by JADA O'NEILL

For years Byron Center West Middle School has offered semester-long Spanish to both 7th and 8th grade students.

While during the other semester, students would bring an extra pair of clothes and tennis shoes for Physical Education (PE).

But the new school year is upon us and that has sprung forth

many new changes to school life at WMS; one major modification in the schedule for students is the fact that Spanish is now a class that only 8th graders take for the entire year.

Now that Spanish is a class that is taken all year only by 8th graders, PE is now mostly

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RISE, Cont. pg.1

R.I.S.E. stands for Reach, Impact, Stand, and Empower.

Mr. Wierzbicki said, "RISE will allow our entire school to take a proactive approach to supporting the social and emotional needs of our students."

Instead of the usual kindness programs that only award you inside class and only for being polite, this is for many different areas.

Reach means that we should reach out to others in need and reach out and get involved in our community and reach out to others. In my mom's words, "have a horseshoe of friends not a circle".

Impact means "have a strong effect on someone or something." You can impact others by offering a smile to a person in the hallway say hello to people even the people you don't know.

Stand has a lot of meanings and this is my meaning of stand: support something in an argument or an effort to resist a fight or fight for something so if people are saying something that makes you mad in an argument first breath then state your case. Stand for the kid that is getting teased or bullied. We all have meaning in this world, don't just throw it away.

Empower means to "make (someone) stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights." This could be done when you say great job with everyone after the soccer game or to say great job to the kid in your group that is doing everything but nobody else is congratulating him/her.

WMS students will see R.I.S.E. activities in their classroom on certain Fridays and we will also have R.I.S.E. celebrations during assemblies. Each assembly will recognize students who show they are using R.I.S.E. ideas in their behaviors.

R.I.S.E. is going to be one of the best programs ever and hopefully last a long time here at WMS.

SPANISH, Cont. pg.1

a class for the 7th graders, who will take it for a year. If 8th graders who are enrolled in Spanish want to be involved in PE, they can take Bulldog Power before the regular school day.

8th graders have many mixed emotions and opinions about the change.

Aiden James, an 8th grader in Mrs. Monk's 1st hour class, said he believes that Spanish all year is fundamental because it not only prepares, but sets students up for high school Spanish, as well as gives us a credit that will go towards our Spanish courses in High School. He also states that he doesn't like it as much because it means that we will no longer have PE.

Jayda Kerns, an 8th grader who is also one of Mrs. Monk's students, describes how she believes a full year in Spanish is important because in High School, she will get more freedom when it comes to choosing her classes.

At the same time, she explains that one negative thing about taking Spanish all year is that it deprives most 8th grade students of the opportunity to take gym, leaving Bulldog Power before school as your only option.

Ms. Monk is the Spanish teacher at WMS who helps make sure that these students retain all of the important language skills learned in class. She explains that the biggest thing benefits about having Spanish all year is that the time helps students get ready for High School.

"It creates a cohesive transition for taking Spanish as a freshman," she said.

It has also allowed her to get more time to better connect with her students, which also helps her to reach goals for their learning. Yet, she also clarifies that one disadvantage of having Spanish all year for only 8th graders are that 7th graders will have to wait to start experiencing the learning of a new language.

A full year of Spanish will definitely be something for 8th graders to get used to. The students at West are very lucky to have the opportunity to take this class, earn a credit for High School, which can lead to a very successful and fantastic year and start to the next level of learning.

The Paw Print
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Teacher Feature:

Mr. Townsend Brings Music to Life



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

by EMMA WHEELER

Band is an amazing class, and so much fun, thanks to the new WMS Band Director, Mr. Townsend!

Mr. Townsend is the new band teacher here at Byron Center West middle school, but he has taught for years at other schools before coming here.

His favorite instruments are the saxophone and piano and his favorite bands are Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra and Muse.

His favorite song right now is "Better Get It In Your Soul," by Charles Mingus and favorite book is the Bible.

His favorite class in middle school was gym and band, because he loved making music and being athletic. When he was a little kid he wanted to be a gym teacher, but when he got to middle school he decided he wanted to be a band director.

He doesn't tell most people, but when he was a kid he was a really fast runner! His most embarrassing moment in the classroom happened when he was teaching.

"When I was a first-year band director I fell off my podium," he said. Luckily, even with that fall, he has never broken a bone!

Not everyone at WMS has Band, so here are some things that will help you get to know Mr. Townsend better:

He has many interests and likes to travel. The farthest place he has travelled to was Italy. He also likes Michigan State.

When asked what he would bring if he was on a deserted island and could only bring three items and a person he said he would bring a saxophone, a knife, a water can, and his wife.

We are lucky to have Mr. Townsend as the new Band director at WMS and he feels just as lucky to be here teaching 7th and 8th grade students music in the band.

"I'm really excited to be here at West Middle School," he said.

Top Halloween Costume Ideas for WMS Students

by KYLAH SWEERIS &
EMMA WHEELER

Are you stuck on a Halloween costume you want to wear? Here are ten top picks that could be done even in the last minute before trick-or-treating:

1. Character from "Stranger Things"
2. Favorite Snap Chat Filter
3. Athlete
4. Grandma/Grandpa
5. Fortnite Character
6. Season(s) or Weather
7. Meme
8. Favorite Food
9. Animal
10. Lumberjack

**Byron Center
Fine Arts Boosters
Annual Craft Fair
November 10th
@ Byron Center High School
www.bcfineartsboosters.org**

**Thank you
Parents At West
(PAW)
For Supporting Our Paper!**

New WMS Cheskers Club



Don't Wait to View *Day After*

by EMMA BOUCHER

Stay inside, or you will be ice.

That is the warning from the movie "The Day After Tomorrow," a 2004 science fiction/thriller movie rated PG-13.

It is an older movie, but it is just as good as any made this year!

There was once an ice age many years ago. In this movie, people knew another one was coming, but thought it would be a long time away.

Instead of sometime in the future, this movie shows what the world is becoming in a new ice age as the climate makes a dramatic change.

Crazy weather and crazy temperatures way below freezing are taking over the Earth. As people try to get to a safe place, plans fail, and no matter what people say, some people just will not listen.

I love this movie because it is not just one thing happening. Instead, more things happen, one after another, which builds a lot of action.

It is very interesting and suspenseful all the way through the movie. One of the interesting parts is when a school group of students get caught in the storm and have to survive in the New York City Public Library.

This is a great movie to curl up on the couch and watch with some hot chocolate, especially since the weather is getting colder the closer we get to winter.

All the Way Down is Worth the Read

by JOLIENNE SCHUTTE

The book "Turtles All the Way Down" is written by John Green, the #1 bestselling author of the award-winning novel, "The Fault in Our Stars."

"Turtles All the Way Down" follows the story of sixteen-year-old Aza. She a shy girl, held prisoner by her own thoughts.

She and her fearless friend, Daisy, pursue the mystery of the fugitive millionaire, Russell Pickett, to earn the hundred-thousand-dollar reward.

This thoughtful and fun story explores the meaning of happiness, the trials of friendship, what love truly is, the meaning of pretty much everything, and how coming of age is hard when everything feels like it's coming undone.

John Green explores mental illness, and dealing with personal demons, like anxiety and worry.

This novel is a must-read, wise, emotional novel for teenage boys and girls alike. You can find this in your local bookstore or library.

Soon in Theaters...



November 2nd

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms,
Rated PG

November 16th

Fantastic Beasts: Crimes of Grindelwald,
Rated PG-13

November 21st

Ralph Breaks the Internet,
Rated PG

December 19th

Mary Poppins Returns,
Rated PG

Dress Code Dilemma

by LEA PRUS & EMMA BOUCHER

The dress code dilemma at WMS. It is too strict and we think it impacts girls more.

A tank top strap showing or athletic shorts that are “too short” can get students reported to the office, which may result in a phone call home or finding something else to wear.

We’re just going out on a limb here, but we think almost every girl at WMS has an issue with the dress code.

There has to be a solution to this dress code dilemma. We know that we can’t change the dress code, but there are some solutions to consider.

What if Student Council or National Junior Honor Society held a clothes donation for slightly used clothes? Then the donated clothes could be given to anybody who gets “dress coded.” This would provide something to change into for students who need to change without the hassle of calling parents to bring them different clothes.

Another idea is for the teachers to create a document about kids who got dress coded and then consequences were given to those students based on how many times they violated the dress code.

Let’s say it’s your first-time getting dress coded, you could get a warning. By the second or third time, you would be sent to the office to call your parents or get a change of clothes from the office.

These solutions do not completely fix that some students are going to wear things that may not go exactly with what the dress code says. However, we think that a clothes donation and a dress code document could really improve the dress code complications.

Is Halloween Overrated for Middle School?

by JESSICA O’NEILL

Halloween is a very exciting time to dress up in your favorite tv show characters, internet icons, celebrities, and even animals and creepy figures, to express yourself.

But is Halloween too overrated for middle schoolers?



“No because you get candy for free, it’s not really disrespectful to the little kids because as long as you dress up anyone can get candy for free,” says 8th grader Reilly Kitchen.



8th grader Brady Ahearne agrees with this.

“Well you kind of have to dress up, you have to be at least kind of trying to be in a costume even if it’s homemade,” he said and added, “It’s not disrespectful to other little kids because, all middle schoolers are still kids!”



On the other hand, Jack Crittenden said, “It’s ok to trick or treat without a costume because the holiday is for everyone, It’s free candy!”

Do you think Halloween is overrated for middle schoolers?

Volleyball is Dedication and Teamwork

by KAYLA MEREDITH

Dedication and hard work is what can be witnessed when watching the 7th grade B Volleyball team practice and play.

Volleyball might not be a sport where you think there is a lot of running and pushing, but during practice they run sprint after sprint without complaint.

The powerful setter on the team, seventh grader Madison Leifer says that she thinks the team is doing great this year and that there are some things they can get even better at in the future. One area is making sure to work together and communicate with each other about placement and play.

“We need to work on communicating for the ball,” she said.

The team is so bright and cheery; they don’t complain about practice because they have a good time.

Their team atmosphere is amazing, many of the girls were or have become good friends. They even laughed while doing sprints.

Volleyball is a precision sport, where learning one thing could take weeks of practice.

In fact, the girls practiced serving far a majority of the time that I was there.

Volleyball is a sport the thirteen girls on our 7th grade B team value because they care about both working with their teammates and getting better at their skills in the sport.

Fun and Friends Can be Found in Football at WMS

by CITLALI ESPARZA

Football is an amazing sport that many kids participate in all across Michigan, including some of the boys at WMS.

As a fan, Football gets you energized and is fun to watch. As a player, it is so much more.

Football takes not only concentration, aggression, knowledge, being active and athletic, but it also takes teamwork.

Luckily our Football teams at WMS all have that. And that's what makes them all a great team.

Let’s not forget about their coach Mr. Dennett, who helps make the players better every day both mentally and physically.

Our football teams practice daily after school at Nickels. They work hard to get better at this difficult, but fun sport.

Players say that Football makes them a better person and develop new friendships. It is also a sport that allows players to let out some aggression through play on the field.

One 7th grade football player, Julian Cruz enjoys the physical aspect of the sport.

“I guess it is fun hitting people,” he said.

Some people might think aggression is bad, but not in this case.

One of his teammates, 7th grader Keegan Weir agrees.

Another 7th grade football player, Owen LaTour said he enjoys the “Sumo Drills” the most about practice.

Sumo drills are when two people go head to head against each other trying to push each other past a line.

Football is a fun sport that students at WMS love to play and they think it's fun to push themselves to get better with each practice and game.

Crossing Tough Terrain is Certain in BCXC



by MIA RUSH

Cross country is running; a lot of running. But it's not just that, it's also working as a team, working towards a goal, and trying to get better.

Cross country is not like track. In track, you run on pavement and in short sprints; in Cross Country, you run in mud, dirt, grass, gravel, and you have to run longer distances.

In Cross Country, (our team is BCXC) you have to be able to work as a team. Although the main goal is to win, even at meets, we all have the expectation to say something encouraging to others as you pass them.

The girls run last this year at meets, so they always cheer on the boys as they start and end their race, and the boys do the same for the girls once they begin their race.

BCXC also has something called "Sisters and Brothers" where you have either a sister (girl), or a brother (boy) you then cheer for them on at meets, and bring them a small gift, decorate their locker, or just write them a note of encouragement.

The purpose of this is to learn how to encourage others, and help other teammates reach their goal.

7th grade student Katelyn Syswerda and BCXC runner, says that one of her favorite things about cross country is that everybody supports each other. This shows how great of a team BCXC is.

Cross Country runners run on trails designed outside and through all kinds of weather conditions. Some trails are in the woods.

There is a new Cross Country trail at WMS. It is filled with sticks, tree stumps, soft dirt, and hills.

A big part of Cross Country is being able to run in rough terrain, so the team often practices running the trail, or going up and down the numerous hills.

Although Cross Country trails are typically more "cleaned up" than your average park trails, they still pack a punch. No trail is complete without some sharp, pinched turns, which are the best place to gain or lose speed.

7th grade runner Monica Diaz said, "They [the hills] are tough to run, but they are easy once you get to know[the training]."

The normal amount of running during a meet is two miles, but some may only be 1.5 miles. During meets, there are shoots, which is our school's section of the starting line. The fastest people on the team go in the front of the shoot, and the slowest people go in the back.

Before running, both girls and boys make sure they do warm-ups to help prepare for the conditions of the trail.

The point system in Cross Country is a lot like the point system in golf.

When you pass someone, you are adding a point to their team. The team with the least amount of points wins.

Coach Gerber explained, "The top five girls and boys get their points counted and the team with the least amount of points wins. If one girl is in 1st place, and another girl is in 5th place, and all of our other top runners are in 10th-3rd place; then we add up their place numbers and then we get our score."

7th grade BCXC runner Sharley Bilot said, "It's [Cross Country] really fun, but it's hard and that's a good challenge."