



# Middle School Newsletter

## January, 2019



### WEST DE PERE SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### West De Pere Schools Mission Statement:

The mission of the School District of West De Pere is to create a comprehensive educational and social environment for students, and staff which will produce life-long learners with the capacity to succeed in a global community.

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Dear WDP Middle School Families,

I hope this first newsletter of 2019 finds you and your family having enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Every year we say this, but it always seems true – where did the first semester go? September seems to turn to January in a snap and we’re left to wonder how everything in between came and went so quickly. I’ll bet when spring break arrives at the end of March, we’ll be saying the same thing about the first three months of 2019.

Knowing this – and before those first couple months of 2019 come and go so quickly – I think the holiday break is a great time to emphasize to children the importance of the New Year and the ability to set goals or identify things to improve upon, both academically and in other areas of life. Something as simple as an old-fashioned New Year’s resolution may not be silly or outdated, especially for adolescent aged children. Information about a variety of other topics is listed below:

#### Spelling Bee

Grade level spelling bees were held on Friday, December 14. Four students from each grade level will go forward in the all-district spelling bee. Individual winners include:

##### 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Braelyn Brazeau  
Jacob Johnston  
Breven Laabs  
Lauren Parker

##### 7<sup>th</sup> grade

Nick Bostedt  
Avi Gupta  
Julia Shefchik  
Hayden Vieth

##### 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Jessica Bright  
Ava Conrad  
Jozef Kralovec  
Colin Gevers

The all-district spelling bee final, which includes students from Hemlock Creek and Westwood Elementary Schools, will be held on Friday, January 18. Good luck to all spelling bee finalists!

#### Lost and Found

As is typical this time of year, our lost and found is overflowing with various clothing and other items. On Friday, January 18, we will empty our lost and found containers and take all items to Goodwill or some other similar organization for donation. Should your son or daughter be missing certain items and you suspect that they might be in our lost and found, feel free to stop by school the next two weeks to look through what we have.

#### Washington D.C. Trip

This year’s annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington D.C. includes almost 125 total students, parents, and school chaperones. It will be our second largest group ever to take the trip. If the current political gridlock continues into June (hopefully not), maybe we can help break the impasse when we’re there! Anyways, for students and parents that are scheduled to go on the trip this year, please consider this a reminder that your \$350, non-refundable, payment is due by Friday, January 18.

Best wishes for the New Year,

James Finley, Ph.D.

## **Phantom Phundamentals Update**

Students at West De Pere Middle School continue to impress the teachers and staff with their acts of character at school, in extra-curricular programs, and at home. Here are a few examples of the way that our students are demonstrating strong character.

**Brianna Ecke, Grade 6:** Displayed **Compassion** when she stepped up and offered to work with a classmate in order to help the person with some in-class work. She volunteered on her own and did a great job!

**Nick Bostedt, Grade 7:** Displayed **Respect** after the spelling bee. Nick set a great example by shaking hands and congratulating winners and other participants.

**Evan Demerath, Grade 8:** Displays **Responsibility** daily. Evan always cleans up his area at lunch. He will come on his own and grab a towel to wipe up his table. Today someone spilled something on the floor, he went and got a mop and bucket on his own and wiped up the area.

## **Optional 8th Grade Year Washington, D.C. Trip**

Throughout the school year, there will be opportunities for students in all grades to fundraise to help support their 8th grade DC trip if they choose to participate. Gas cards and Seroogy candy sales are available to students in all grades.

### **Washington D.C. Information**

For more information - <https://sites.google.com/wdpsd.com/dctrip/>

### ***All Grade Levels***

#### **Gas Cards**

Shell Gas Cards are available in the middle school office. Students earn 8% on every card sold. Bring cash or check (Payable to West De Pere Middle School) to the middle school office for purchase. We carry \$50 or \$100 cards. (Please include your child's name and grade level on the check/envelope.)

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys & Girls Strength & Conditioning Program**

**Where:** West De Pere High School Weight Room

**When:** Beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:00 pm – 5:45 pm

**Focus:** Warm-up and Injury Prevention Exercises  
Strength Training Technique Instruction  
Proper Jumping and Landing Mechanics  
Speed/Agility Technique and Drill Work  
Flexibility, Mobility, & Core Strength



**Coach:** **Zack Hilbert** – West De Pere Strength & Conditioning Coach  
Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist  
Bellin Health Sports Medicine

**\*\*Parent Volunteers are Welcome to Assist (Please email Zack)**

This would be a great carry over for those students who plan on participating in athletics at the high school level, to familiarize themselves with me and my expectations in the weight room as well as learning the techniques and lifts I would incorporate in a typical off season or in season workout program. The 5:00 pm timeslot will allow these athletes to receive much more individualized attention and a less crowded, more effective training space. The goal of this program is to prepare these athletes for the mental and physical demands of a High School Strength & Conditioning Program.

Please email Zack with any questions @ [zhilbert@wdpsd.com](mailto:zhilbert@wdpsd.com)

## Important Middle School Dates

January 2	Practice begins for Girls' Basketball
January 2	Practice begins for Wrestling
January 10	Athletic Grade Check
January 11	Athletic Picture Day
January 15	PACT Mtg. @ MS 6:30 p.m.
January 21	No School
January 22	Last Day of 3rd Marking Period
January 22	Last Day of 2nd Quarter
January 22	Last Day of Semester 1
January 24	Athletic Grade Check
January 24	Athletic Grade Check
February 7	Athletic Grade Check
February 12	PACT Mtg. @ MS 6:30 p.m.
March 5	Last Day of 4th Marking Period
March 7	Parent Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.
March 8	Early Release @ 11:00 a.m.
March 12	PACT Mtg. @ MS 6:30 p.m.
March 15	District Solo & Ensemble
March 16	District Solo & Ensemble
March 22	Early Release @ 11:00 a.m.
March 25—March 29	No School (Spring Vacation)
April 1	Practice begins for 7/8 Track 2:45-4:30pm

April 2	Last Day of 3rd Quarter
April 3	Practice begins for 6th Track 2:45-4:30
April 4—9	MS Book Fair
April 9	PACT Mtg. @ MS 6:30 p.m.
April 9	MS Art Show / Music Recital in Commons
April 11	Athletic Grade Check
April 12	Athletic Picture Day
April 19	No School
April 24	Last Day of 5th Marking Period
April 25	Athletic Grade Check
May 3	MS Talent Show @HS 7p.m.
May 9	Athletic Grade Check
May 10	Early Release @ 11:00 a.m.
May 13-17	Sprit Week
May 14	PACT Mtg. @ MS 6:30 p.m.
May 20	Spring Choir Concert @ HS 6th, 7th & 8th Gr. @ 7 p.m.
May 23	Spring Band Concert @ HS 6th, 7th & 8th Gr. @ 7 p.m.
May 27	No School (Memorial Day)
May 27	Memorial Day Parade—8th Gr. Band
June 4	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion 7p.m.
June 6	Last Day of School

### Open Enrollment

Wisconsin's public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. **The regular open enrollment application period is from February 4 to April 30, 2019.** For more information, please visit the open enrollment web site at: [dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment](http://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment) or call the district office at (920) 337-1393, extension 8025.

### Middle School 2019 Book Fair

Mark your calendars for the Middle School Book Fair. This year's dates will be from Thursday, April 4, 2019 through Tuesday, April 9, 2019. Students will have the opportunity to purchase books during designated school hours. It will also be open during the Art Show. Parent volunteer forms will be sent with the January newsletter. We look forward to your support of this fun event!

### Dress Sale

Attention 8th Grade Girls—the West De Pere High School Junior Class will be holding their 8th annual “gently” used dress sale. This is a great opportunity to find your 8th grade promotion dress at a reasonable price. The sale will be held at the high school on Friday, January 11, from 5-7p.m. and Saturday, January 12th, from 8:00am until 1:00pm.

### Chess Club

The Middle School chess club will be hosting our annual chess tournament! The tournament is on January 26, with registration starting at 8:00, and the first match at 9:00. This is open to students grades K-12, with two divisions. Even if you have never played in a tournament, this is a great opportunity to try it out. All levels and experience are welcome! For more information, please contact Mr. Milz at [BMilz@wdpsd.com](mailto:BMilz@wdpsd.com). For information on the tournament, please visit [www.wisconsinscholasticchess.org](http://www.wisconsinscholasticchess.org) and look for upcoming tournaments.



### French Club News

The French Club met after school on Thursday, December 13 for the French Club holiday party! The event was a success with approximately 50 students, grades 6-8, in attendance. Students enjoyed bûche de Noël (traditional French Christmas cake), sang and listened to French carols, and made Christmas cards for WDPMS staff members. January's event will be Movie Night. It will be held on Thursday, January 10 from 2:45-4:30 p.m. in the LGI. Students are invited to bring blankets and pillows to enjoy popcorn and watch the French movie *Le Petit Nicolas*.

## Grade-level Spelling Bees

The grade-level spelling bees were held Friday, December 14, at the middle school. Each grade level sent approximately 24 participants to compete for top places to move onto the District Level Spelling Bee, which will be held at the middle school in January and will consist of students from grades 3-8. Congratulations to the following qualifiers for the District Level Spelling Bee.

6th Grade: Jacob Johnston, Breven Laabs, Braelyn Brazeau, Lauren Parker

7th Grade: Hayden Vieth, Julia Shefchik, Nick Bostedt, Avi Gupta

8th Grade: Ava Conrad, Jozef Kralovec, Jessica Bright, Colin Gevers



## Art Corner

Art Club made large snowflakes and they are hanging up by Mr. Bunker/Ms. Karlan's offices. We've heard great comments about them! We've also reused paper and made holiday signs for every door in the school. Art Club cut out snowflakes and are excited for the holiday break! See you in January and happy holidays.

Mrs. Schlatter will be on an after school committee that will meet every other Monday. These meetings will impact Art Club times. Starting mid-January, Art Club will be every other Monday for the rest of the year. Thank you for being flexible with this new adjustment.

Watch for art contests in the new year. There is usually a contest to design the yearbook cover, 6th graders have an opportunity to design a water conservation poster in late January, and there will be a Fallen Timbers Logo contest in late January.

The De Pere Women's Club hosts an Art Contest each spring called the Helen Mears Contest. Students can turn in artwork that was created in art class or clubs, such as, 4-H, Girl Scouts or Cub Scouts. The Helen Mears Art Contest will be held at the beginning of March, so if you would like to submit any artwork that you have created at home, please give your piece(s) to Mrs. Schlatter by the end of January. Middle School students compete with other De Pere Schools for a money prize and/or a ribbon.

*"Tell your own story, and you will be interesting." -Louise Bourgeois*

## WDPMS WHO CARE SCHOLARSHIP

PACT (Parents and Community Together) group is excited to announce a scholarship opportunity for West De Pere Middle School students. Does your child love to volunteer and help others? We want to recognize and reward those students that give of their time and talents to positively impact our community. Available to middle school students this year, your active parent club, PACT is taking this opportunity to recognize students who have engaged in volunteer activities and demonstrated exceptional community service by sponsoring scholarships.

Individual scholarships will be rewarded in 2018/2019 school year. Winners will receive Phantom dollars that can be used while the student attends West De Pere Middle School. Phantom Dollars can be used toward any school fees such as: class fees, school supplies, field or class trips, lunch fees, dances, apparel or any activity fee during the school year.

Application forms and further information regarding the scholarship can be found on the West De Pere Middle School website under the PACT tab. Copies of the applications will also be available in the Commons. The student application deadline is **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019**. Students are eligible for one scholarship per year. GOOD LUCK!

## **West De Pere Middle School PACT Meeting Minutes – December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Attendees:** Christina Syring, Natasha Simpson, Mandi Janquart, Christina Hendricks, Michelle Wagner, Theresa Jahnke, Trisha VanDeHei, Tom & Amanda Shefehik, Joe Johnson, Dr. Jim Finley

Approval for Treasurer's Report – approved by Michelle W., and Christina H.

*\*Officers approved a funds request for the Musical luncheon & shirt because it was under \$300.*

Approval for Secretary's Report – approved by Natasha S., and Michelle W.

**Juuling/E-Cigarettes Presentation** - Liason Officer, Joe Johnson, said that Juuling/E-Cigarettes are on the rise in our district. Here are some highlights from the presentation: The devices are Vape – a flavored substance; Juul – USB drive look alike, flavored pod (mint or mango), each pod is 200 puffs - amounts to a pack of cigarettes; E-Cigarettes resemble a pen known as e-cigs, e-hookahs, mods, vape pens or tank systems. ENDS (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) e-cigar, vapor pen, hookah pen, glassomizer, e-pipe and e-cigarette. All these devices contain nicotine, flavoring and other additives. Nicotine is highly addictive and harmful to the developing brain, which continues to develop to age 25. A study has found that 1 in 4 youth Juul users don't refer to Juul use as e-cigarettes or vaping but rather as Juuling. Happens in groups and in the High School if two students go to the bathroom together they are checked on. Students are using code words/sounds to connect with other students. If caught first time suspension and citation, if caught again expelled. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Joe Johnson at jjohnson3@wdpsd.com.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Chair** – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion is on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Trisha V., offered to chair.

**March Teacher Conferences Luncheon** – March 7<sup>th</sup> 4-8pm. Looking to serve pizza or subs. Discuss at January's meeting.

### **Fundraiser Updates:**

Spring – Discussed whether to have a Hansen's sale or Apparel sale. Leaning towards Apparel sale. The 3on3 Basketball Tournament weekend is the main fundraiser that would replace smaller fundraisers.

### **Open Floor:**

- Natasha S., said there is leftover candy and popcorn from the 3on3 and was wondering to use it for concessions at girl's school ball games. No concessions after school ball games at this time. It was suggested to donate the items to the Student Council.
- Dr. Jim Finley is reaching out to the Schneider National contact asking about a donation for the PACT Scholarship. If it falls through, he will donate from the Activity Account. May want to reach out to other companies in the future.

Motion adjourn, Theresa J., seconded by Natasha S.

***\*CHANGED JANUARY DATE MEETING to the third Tuesday.***

Next PACT meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Middle School Library.