

Western Wayne Middle School

The Wildcat Paw Print

December Newsletter
Volume V, Issue VII

Mr. Peter Chapla, Principal
Mrs. Kelly Coyne, Assistant Principal



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Upcoming Events

- 6th Grade Band Concert
January 5, 2011 7pm
High School Auditorium
- High School Curriculum
Night for all 8th Grade
Students and their Parents
Tuesday, January 11, 2011
7pm HS Auditorium

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Principals' Corner

Greetings to parents, students, and family members. On behalf of the faculty and staff at Western Wayne Middle School, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about some of the great things going on here at your middle school since the start of the school year. Though it is nearly the end of December, we have been extremely busy with many academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities. Please tell everyone you know about our outstanding academic performance, particularly on the 2009-2010 PSSA reading and math scores. You will be happy to know that we have once again achieved Adequate Yearly Progress for the 6th year in a row, and we have the new keystone award hanging on the wall in the main lobby to prove it. Your students and teachers worked hard to prepare for the annual high stakes testing and it paid off for us.

There are lots of extracurricular activities we would like you to know about. First, your child can stay for after school tutoring if he or she needs a little extra help. We offer tutoring Monday through Thursday after school and even provide a snack for your child. There is no charge for tutoring, we only need you to complete the permission slip. Second, we encourage your child to consider joining one of our



afterschool activities which include: Math Counts; Memory Book; Mock Trial Team; Junior Academy of Science; and the newest one, Technology Student Association. If clubs or activities aren't their thing, try the interscholastic sports teams we have here at Western Wayne Middle School. We offer nearly every competitive sport from football to track and field to soccer and wrestling, to name a few.

We will continue to ask for your help in stressing the importance of putting academics first – it is the attitude we try to develop in all of our wonderful middle school students, that it is truly “cool to be smart” and to get good grades. We value what you do at home each night and stressing the importance of doing homework and being prepared for school each day. The number one thing you can do for us in the school is to make sure that your child attends school every day. We don't want any child to fall behind by missing valuable instruction, especially in math, science and the language arts. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's middle school experience, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of your child's teachers at 937-3010. I wish you all continued success and happiness in the coming new year.



Music brings students together at Western Wayne

The middle school music department held their annual Christmas concerts again this year. With so many problems in our world today it was great to see students working together to create beautiful music.

For the first time the entire student body gathered together to watch the sixth, seventh and eighth grade chorus members at their last rehearsal before the concert. The fast paced raps, beautiful melodies, and songs of reflection helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit. The concert that evening was wonderful and entertaining from the gorgeous music to the fun-filled skits that kept the audience laughing.

The seventh and eighth grade band members put on a concert on December 14 and played many holiday favorites including “Let It Snow” and “Up on a Housetop.” The seventh graders even played a jazz version of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” focusing on the trumpet section. The eighth grade students compared their ensemble to the workings of a Christmas tree with every instrument doing its part to create the music; just like every part of the tree from the trunk to the branches, to the many decorations work together to form a pleasing sight. Although these students vary in age, some sing, and some play instruments; they all have one thing in common: they all put aside their differences and come together to create something beautiful, something they will take with them for their entire lives, music.

Western Wayne Middle School Art Club

The students at Western Wayne Middle School have recently formed an Art Club. The club is led by the art teacher Devon Farley and meets after school every Tuesday. The students work with a variety of mediums and are encouraged to try new techniques. Mrs. Farley’s goals include giving the students individualized instruction and connecting them with the community by involving them in various projects concerning local organizations. Due to tremendous response, the Art Club will soon be expanding to include Thursday.

Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is quickly approaching and many students will enter their artwork in the competition. Mrs. Farley is currently working with students to get artwork and required materials ready for the competition. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards will take place at Marywood University in early January.

Be sure to check out the online student Art Gallery located at:

<http://www.westernwayne.org>Schools>Western Wayne Middle School>Art Gallery>



Data Activities

Gathering data has been fun in eighth grade math class. Students used Bop-It Extremes for data to review measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) and measures of variation (range) as well as constructing box-and whisker plots. The data gathered by gender which allowed a comparison of boys to girls (there was not much of a difference).

A second activity involved M&M's. Students estimated the number and color of the M&M's in a snack bag. They found the actual number and the percent of each color. Students chose a graph that would be good for displaying their data. Bar graphs and circle graphs were the two types chosen by the students. Although there was not a big difference in quantity of M&M's in a bag, there was quite the difference among colors. Students realized that the small sample size would not be a good predictor for how many of each color end up in a bag.

Another data gathering activity was Wii bowling where strikes and spares were counted, again by gender. Students constructed double bar graphs and stacked bar graphs to compare the bowling of the boys and girls. Again, results varied with no advantage for either gender. The last gathering of data was Paddle Balls. Students timed and counted the number of paddles they could do before a miss. This data was put into a scatter plot. The data showed a very strong positive correlation, around .95.

Seventh Grade

The seventh grade students in Mr. Weinberger's and Mr. Lodini's Pre-Algebra classes have completed between 38-45 objectives in Renaissance Math. Renaissance Math is a self-paced enrichment in addition to the regular Pre-Algebra curriculum. Those students who are doing well exhibit self-motivation in order to complete as many objectives as possible. Some students are engaged in a friendly competition among themselves to see who can complete the most work by the end of the school term. Keep up the good work!

Problem of the Month

Test your skills on the concepts we have covered in 6th grade by solving the problem of the month.

Sort these fractions into two families

$\frac{3}{9}$ $\frac{5}{15}$ $\frac{1}{2}$
 $\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{4}{12}$
 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{2}{6}$
 $\frac{5}{10}$ $\frac{3}{6}$ $\frac{4}{8}$

*The first two 6th grade students (1 per team) to hand in their answer and work to Mrs. Bianchi or Mr. Pauler will receive a small prize.



8th Grade Students Travel to Washington, D.C.

On November 4-5, 2010, 164 8th grade students and 18 faculty chaperones traveled to Washington, D.C. for the annual Washington, D.C. overnight field trip.

Students and teachers traveled via 4 coach buses to the nation's capitol where they toured the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, Korean War Memorial, as well as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial and the nearby World War II Memorial.



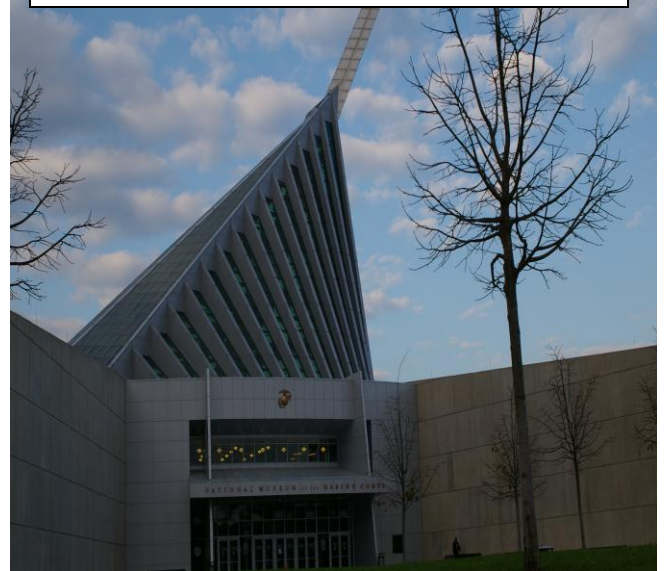
After lunch, our students toured the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and saw many primary sources from their unit of study on the Holocaust. Following a stop at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum and the IMAX theater, the group went to dinner and then an overnight stay at the Tysons Corner Marriott in Vienna, VA.

Students were treated to a dance at the hotel, and a delicious buffet breakfast the next morning. The first stop on Day Two was the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, VA which students really enjoyed. Following a box lunch on the bus ride back to Washington, students and teachers visited the Jefferson Memorial. The last stop for the day was the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery where Western Wayne Middle School students participated in a wreath-laying ceremony.

On the way home, students stopped for dinner in Harrisburg, PA and arrived home around 10:00 p.m. Next year's trip to Washington, D.C. is tentatively scheduled for November 2011.



The National Museum of the Marine Corps



Tomb of the Unknowns Arlington Cemetary



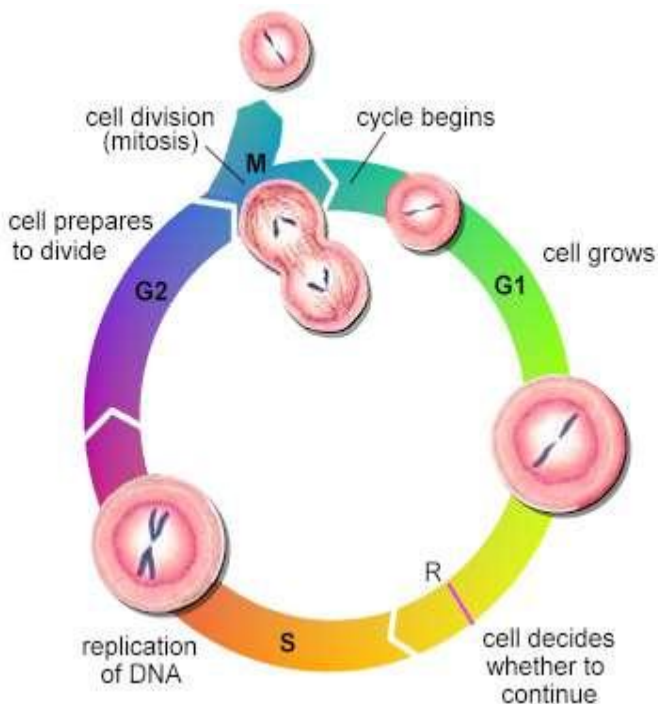
7th Grade Studies Heredity & Genetics

Seventh grade students of Mrs. Novak & Mr. Tomassoni have been intensely studying the depths of the cell, mitosis and meiosis. Student have become acquainted with the anatomy & physiology of the cell, as well as the intricacies of the nucleus which in eukaryotes houses the DNA, specifics of DNA Replication, binary fission, budding in yeasts and differences in sexual & asexual reproduction contribute a heightened awarness of themselves as living beings.



TROUT in The Classroom

Western Wayne Middle School is currently participating in the PA Fish Commission's TROUT in The Classroom Program. Teachers Jan Novak (7th grade Biology) and Tim Hess (8th grade Physical Science) both have 100 gallon tanks in their classrooms where students are observing the development of Brook Trout from eggs to "fry" and later to small fish. Fish are raised in the classroom and will reach several inches by May of 2011, whereupon they will be released into the Van Auken Creek as part of the PA Commission stocking of native streams, lakes and rivers in Wayne County. Fish must be kept at a constant 52 Degrees Fahrenheit because they are cold blooded vertebrates requiring cool waters. Students come to recognize and associate the life cycle of aquatic life forms and show a keen interest as they observe the daily movement and feed habits of the fish.



C.A.T.S. Club and Student Council

If you spotted Johnny Depp, Lady Gaga or a bunch of crazy hippies roaming around the Middle School the week of December 6th to the 10th your eyes weren't deceiving you! C.A.T.S. Club and Student Council joined forces to spread a little cheer in both the Middle School and the community this December. The clubs organized *Spirit Week* which held the theme "Tis the Season." Students in the Middle School took part in a number of competitions throughout the week which included hallway decorating, a canned food/hat, scarf and glove drive, spirit games as well as daily themed dress. Students brought in over 200 canned goods and about 100 clothing items which are being distributed to Middle School families. The week concluded on Friday with teacher vs. student spirit games. On Wednesday, December 15th, the clubs hosted a "wrap-a-thon" as a culminating event for the week. Community members were invited to the Middle School for free gift wrapping. While waiting for gifts to be wrapped, people could visit the decorated hallways, partake in games and even visit Santa.



Physical Education Department

Twice a year, the Physical Education department conducts The Presidential Fitness Test. A five-item test designed to measure the overall fitness of our students is given in the Fall and then again in the Spring. The test includes five events that measure muscular strength/endurance, cardiorespiratory endurance, speed, agility, and flexibility. In order to qualify for an award, participants must achieve at least the 85th percentile in all 5 events. The following students have achieved this goal during the Fall testing.

6th grade - Katelyn Beck
 7th grade - Makenna Enslin, Jessica McCormick
 8th grade - Josh Brown, Madeline Carey, Rachel Carmody, Rebecca Carmody, Sabrina Ditucci.

Congratulations to those students who have achieved The Presidential Fitness Award so far this year.

Remember that in the Spring we will be testing again so keep moving, stay strong, have fun, and earn your award!!

Language Arts



Sixth grade language arts students have been studying *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. We have had three visits from Mr. Kurt Reed with one remaining. He has shared his enthusiasm for history and reading as he described various sections of the story. Mr. Reed has brought artifacts for the 6th grade viewing pleasure. In the photo on the left, he and Mrs. Petrosky are dressed as was proper during the Victorian Era.

Mrs. Petrosky portrays the Ghost of Christmas Past.

