

# Western Wayne Middle School

## The Wildcat Paw Print

March Newsletter  
Volume IV, Issue VI

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



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### Upcoming Events

- ◆ March 12 - 13 - Eighth Grade Class Trip to Washington D.C.
- ◆ April 1 - School Dismisses at 1:00 for Easter Break, Classes Resume April 6.
- ◆ April 12 - May 7 - PSSA Testing

Visit us on the web at  
[www.westernwayne.org](http://www.westernwayne.org)

## Principals' Corner

We are nearing the midway point of the third marking period and will soon be getting ready to participate in the PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment). This series of assessment tests is administered annually across Pennsylvania at many grade levels. All students in grades 6-8 will be administered the math and reading tests beginning April 7, 2010. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will also be administered a writing test, as well as science testing during the PSSA testing window, which is April 7, 2010 through April 30, 2010.

We need your assistance in helping your son or daughter prepare for this important series of assessment tests. While we have achieved Adequate Yearly Progress for the past six consecutive years, we want our students to be prepared and confident when they sit down to take their math and reading tests. With that in mind, please review some of the following links which will give you an idea of the types of questions and responses seen on sample PSSA tests.

We encourage parents and students to review this PSSA information together (taken directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Education website). By doing so, we hope that you will become familiar with the types of testing that Pennsylvania public school



students experience each year in the PSSA. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your child's teachers.

### Reading PSSA samples

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_123031\\_627863\\_0\\_0\\_18/PSSA\\_Item\\_Sampler\\_Reading\\_Grade\\_6\\_2009.pdf](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_123031_627863_0_0_18/PSSA_Item_Sampler_Reading_Grade_6_2009.pdf)

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_123031\\_627864\\_0\\_0\\_18/PSSA\\_Item\\_Sampler\\_Reading\\_Grade\\_7\\_2009.pdf](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_123031_627864_0_0_18/PSSA_Item_Sampler_Reading_Grade_7_2009.pdf)

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_123031\\_627865\\_0\\_0\\_18/PSSA\\_Item\\_Sampler\\_Reading\\_Grade\\_8\\_2009.pdf](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_123031_627865_0_0_18/PSSA_Item_Sampler_Reading_Grade_8_2009.pdf)

### Math PSSA samples

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_123031\\_627857\\_0\\_0\\_18/PSSA\\_Item\\_Sampler\\_Math\\_Grade\\_6\\_2009.pdf](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_123031_627857_0_0_18/PSSA_Item_Sampler_Math_Grade_6_2009.pdf)

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_123031\\_627858\\_0\\_0\\_18/PSSA\\_Item\\_Sampler\\_Math\\_Grade\\_7\\_2009.pdf](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_123031_627858_0_0_18/PSSA_Item_Sampler_Math_Grade_7_2009.pdf)

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_123031\\_627859\\_0\\_0\\_18/PSSA\\_Item\\_Sampler\\_Math\\_Grade\\_8\\_2009.pdf](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_123031_627859_0_0_18/PSSA_Item_Sampler_Math_Grade_8_2009.pdf)

## March Madness



There's an old saying that "March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". This year at the Middle School that saying just might have the opposite result. On Friday, March 19, 2010, the eighth grade boys and girls basketball teams will be joining forces and challenging their teachers in the fourth annual "March Madness" basketball game. This event will be held at the Middle School from 6-9 pm. Pre-game events include food and music with "tip-off" at 6:30pm. During the last three years, the teachers have been victorious in dominating the student team. This year 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls are determined to add a victory to their record. The event is sponsored by C.A.T.S. Club and Student Council. Come join us for a great night of community fun, entertainment and rivalry!!!!

### Teen Tech Week March 7-13, 2010 Learn Create Share @your library



#### Compete in the Tri-Tech Tournament! Win iTunes gift cards!

- **Post your own video contest**  
(can be posted any time so others can vote for which ones they like)
- **Create a playlist contest**  
(can be posted any time so others can vote for which ones they like)
- **Find the Fake Websites contest**  
(will be posted on Facebook on March 7<sup>th</sup>)

#### For details

- fan Wayne Libraries on Facebook or MySpace
- go to [www.waynelibraries.org/teens/](http://www.waynelibraries.org/teens/)

Enter drawings for more prizes! Up to March 13<sup>th</sup> teens who apply for a Wayne County library card or teens who check out a book, DVD, or CD from a local library will be entered into drawings for local gift certificates and a SanDisk mp3 player.

## Stand Up, Speak Out, Lend a Hand Second Edition

This is a follow up to our previous article in relation to **Stand Up, Speak Out, Lend a Hand**. Just as a reminder, on January 14<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders of Western Wayne Middle School participated in a videoconference titled **Stand Up, Speak Out, Lend a Hand**. The videoconference was a presentation by Gerda Weissmann Klein. As a part of this videoconference event, the students of Western Wayne 8<sup>th</sup> grade needed to implement a Student Service Learning Project designed to combat social issues in our community.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers chose to spend time with the residents of Wayne Woodlands Manor. Our plan is to take as many as 60 students over a four week period to spend quality time at Wayne Woodlands Manor. The foundation encourages "hands-on" type projects. They want the students to become directly involved with helping their community. Our hope is that our students will understand what a great resource our elderly population is. We want our students to not only share their time, but to also learn valuable life lessons during these visits.

Our first visit was February 9<sup>th</sup>, it was a terrific time. Some of the middle school students, Jessica Ujobi, Autumn Booths, Michael Carrasquillo and Mikayla Maher stayed after school with Miss Hanna and baked about 400 cookies the day before. On Tuesday, seventeen students and teachers arrived at Wayne Woodlands Manor with our gifts. The residents also had a surprise for us, a craft project that our students could complete with them. Between the cookies and the project our students got to know the residents and vice versa. After an hour and fifteen minutes it was time to leave and hardly anyone could believe that our time was up. PJ Zaccagnino stated, "This experience was phenomenal!" We have future gifts planned for our other visits, including an appearance by Mr. Bell and a small group of his chorus students to entertain. Our hope is that other three visits will go as well as the first. I am really proud of these students.

Anyone wanting to follow along with our progress or the progress of any of the other schools involved can just follow this link: <http://standupspeakout.pbworks.com/Participating-Schools>. This link will take you to page that lists the participating schools. To get the up-to-date information on our project, just click on our school and you should be directed to our wiki page.

## Inhalent Risks

One in five students in America has used an inhalant to get high by the time he or she reaches the eighth grade. Many of these products are easily accessible in our own homes -- products we use for cooking, cleaning, maintaining and repairing our homes and our vehicles. We purchase them in grocery and hardware stores and they are usually inexpensive, accessible to children, and easily used to get high. While most children do not abuse inhalable products, those who do are usually between the ages of 11 and 14. Among middle school students, inhalants have become as popular as marijuana.

Abuse of these products involves intentional breathing of their vapors with the purpose of reaching a high. The effect is similar to an anesthetic, which slows down the body's ability to function. The user can experience a variety of effects, from slight stimulation, feeling of less inhibition or loss of consciousness. The user can also suffer from **Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome**. *This means the user can die the 1st, 10th or 100th time he or she uses an inhalant.* Other effects include damage to the heart, kidney, brain, liver, bone marrow and other organs. Inhalants can be physically and psychologically addicting and users suffer withdrawal symptoms.

Inhalants are not drugs. They are poisons and toxins. So what do you tell your children?

1) Talk with your children about **never** sniffing or inhaling any substance that is not intended for that purpose.

2) Tell them that oxygen is vital to body functioning, and when a substance is inhaled, chemicals are introduced into the bloodstream. This prevents an adequate supply of oxygen from getting to the brain which can cause serious damage to brain cells and impaired functioning.

3) Talk to them about refusing invitations by peers to try inhaling any substance.

For more information, you can contact the Wayne County Drug and Alcohol Commission at 253-6022 and ask to speak to a Prevention Specialist. All calls remain confidential. You can also go to [ParentingTips@TheAntiDrug.com](mailto:ParentingTips@TheAntiDrug.com), a valuable website for any parent wanting to help their child stay healthy and drug-free.

## Problem of the Month

Test your skills on the concepts we have covered in 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade students (1 per team) to hand in their answer and work to Mrs. Bianchi or Mr. Pauler will receive a small prize.

## Career Planning

During PSSA testing, all 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be going back onto the Career Cruising website to refresh their skills, explore career options and colleges. The **Learning Styles** Inventory will help students understand which method of learning works best for them and provides strategies and tips for each learning style. This is great information for students to have both for their formal education and their everyday lives. From a career planning perspective, it is important for students to be aware of their preferred learning styles as they explore post-secondary education and training options, and as they try to identify work settings in which they will thrive.

## It's All Uphill

The 8th grade students in Mr. Hess' and Mrs. Novak's Physical Science Classes discovered that it was "all uphill" as they performed their Inquiry-Based Laboratory Experiments. They were attempting to determine how the Length of an Inclined Plane affects the Force necessary to move an object up the incline. They were given risers and various sizes of boards (designed and created by Mr. Rupp, Industrial Arts teacher), spring scales, model cars, and a meter sticks. The students then designed an experiment to prove or disprove the chosen hypothesis of each group. Laboratory Procedures and writing Laboratory Reports brought students to enlightening conclusions based on observable and calculated data.



Western Wayne Middle  
School

1970B Easton Turnpike  
Lake Ariel,  
Pennsylvania 18436

Phone:  
(570) 937-3010

Fax:  
(570) 937-3440

E-mail:  
wwms@westernwayne.org

“Excellence  
Starts with  
You!”

## SIMPLE MACHINES - NOT AS SIMPLE AS THEY APPEAR!

Eighth Grade Students are learning that their Worlds are not as Simple as they might appear. Everything comes down to Levers, Pulleys, Wheels and Axles, Inclined Planes, Screws, and the Wedge, and that work can be made easier when learning the principles and the mechanics of these machines. Did you know that the Screw is really an Inclined Plane that revolves around a Cylinder? Students made models to prove this point by drawing an inclined plane, highlighting the slope with a colored marker, and wrapping it around a pencil. Students have studied the intricacies of everyday items as the Can Opener, Scissors, the Bottle Opener, and the Egg Beater to observe the workings of these objects.

Students have been given the opportunity to earn Extra Credit by doing one or both of the following projects for the Third Quarter:

- 1) Making a Creative Poster using all of the Math Formulas studied this year in Physical Science
- 2) Building a Machine or Making a Model of a Machine of their own Creative Design and Invention

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## Student Council Dances to Help Haiti

The middle school student council recently held a Dance-A-Thon in the gym in order to raise funds for the relief efforts in Haiti. Students danced the night away as Mr. Thorpe and Mr. Rupp, also known as the WW Sound Machine, played the some golden oldies and today’s greatest hits. Students had been asked to find sponsors who would donate money per half hour. Seventh grader Michael Roses won the \$100.00 Visa gift card for bringing in the most donations. It was a fun night and the student council thanks everyone for their support!



## Pennies for Patients



The middle school student council will begin the Pennies for Patients campaign Monday, March 08 until Friday, March 26. All of the money raised during this campaign will go toward the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. During these three weeks all students are encouraged to bring in money and place it in the donation box located in their homerooms. This is a competition among all grades. There will only be one winning homeroom. The homeroom that brings in the most money will win a pizza party!