

# Western Wayne Middle School THE WILDCAT PAW PRINT

November Newsletter  
Volume IV, Issue II

Mr. Peter Chapla, Principal



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# Thanksgiving

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ November 24 – Noon Dismissal for students
- ◆ November 24 – Parent Teacher Conferences 1:00 – 8:00 P.M.
- ◆ November 25 to 30 – School Closed Thanksgiving Break

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

## Principals' Corner

Dear Parents and Guardians:

It is hard to believe that the first marking period has ended and that report cards and parent conferences are just around the corner. The first marking period has been an exceptionally busy and productive period for several reasons. First, we are pleased with the manner in which our students have embraced the American Reading Company 100 Book Challenge since the start of the school year. Our teachers, students, and their families have helped emphasize the importance of reading at least 30 minutes per day outside of school. It really will go a long way to helping our students continue their steady progress in reading beyond their current grade level. Second, our science teachers have been steadily working on inquiry-based teaching strategies in the classrooms. The science teachers and students have had the chance to explore science in laboratory experiments with new science laptop carts in each grade level. Third, our technology education classes have experienced great student interest in the robotics program, rocketry, and trebuchet projects under Mr. Rupp's instruction. Fourth, our math teachers continue to challenge students with a rigorous pre-algebra and algebra program of instruction each day. Finally, the arts program here at Western Wayne Middle School helps bring

the balance of music, art, foreign language skills and singing to the lives of our students.



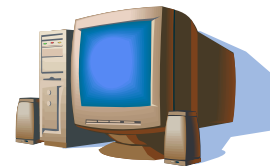
Concert preparations are well underway for next month, and we look forward to more opportunities to showcase our students' talents in the community. On behalf of the teachers and staff of the Western Wayne Middle School, thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you at parent conferences on November 24, 2009.

## Fourth Annual Middle School Computer Fair

NEIU will be hosting its Fourth Annual Regional Pennsylvania Middle School Computer Fair. This fair highlights Pennsylvania middle school students' application skills and computer knowledge. Participants can enter projects in one or more of the 6 Categories listed below:

- Desktop Publishing
- Logo Design
- Graphic Design
- Digital Movie
- Multimedia
- Web Page Design

See Mr. Lodini for details



## Guidance Notes

### Need Help?

The Wayne County Public Assistance Office provides services to eligible clients. Anyone residing in Wayne County meeting eligibility may apply for Medical Assistance, Food Stamps, Cash Assistance, and Home Energy Assistance. Call 570-253-7100. Applications can also be processed on the Internet at:

[www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)

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### Career Cruising

8th graders have just completed their introductory session to Career Cruising. Each student now has a Portfolio set up where they have saved their career assessment results, any careers that interest them and schools that may have caught their eye. Students may log onto Career Cruising anywhere they have internet access. We encourage you to have your child share their results with you, and see what this site has to offer.

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### Are you smarter than a 6th grader?

From what civilization did the idea of "an eye for an eye" come from?

Was it....

- the Babylonian empire
- the Roman empire
- the Assyrian empire

Submit your answer to Mr. Williams



## More "Feet-on Math"

Students in Miss Hanna's pre-algebra classes continued to explore math with their feet. When the Cartesian Coordinate System was studied, students first read a story about the man given credit for that system---Rene Descartes. The story has it that a fly walking across the ceiling in young Descartes' dorm room inspired the idea of dividing the ceiling into sections and identifying more precisely where the fly was.

Miss Hanna created a room-size coordinate plane for the floor of her room. The students were given a point and a capital letter to name that point. Each student stood at the origin, the intersection of the x- and y- axes, and a random ordered pair was generated by a program written by Miss Hanna's brother. Students then moved to that location and placed their point and letter. Students on the sidelines plotted each generated point on a paper plane as well. Another activity involved the placement of various school related shapes at different points on the plane. The students took a paper plane and listed the ordered pairs for each object and afterwards partnered with another student to compare those ordered pairs.

The last activity to go with the study of the coordinate plane was to play a game we named Descartes. Students were given coordinate planes which ranged from -4 to 4 in both horizontal and vertical directions and had about a dozen points already placed on each of them. They were given "discs" with which to cover those points if they came up on the random ordered pair generator. The first student to cover 5 of the original points called out "Descartes" and had his or her card checked for accuracy. A small prize was won by that student.

The students enjoyed learning how to plot and name ordered pairs using these activities. And, again "feet-on math" proved to be successful.



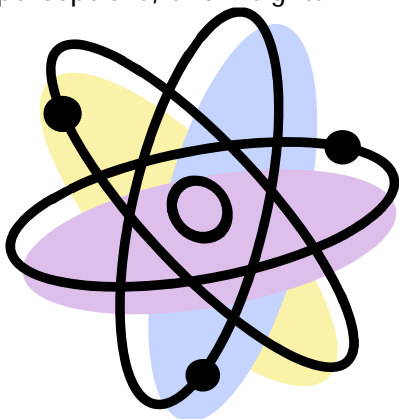
## "MATTER" matters

The 8th grade students of Mr. Hess and Mrs. Novak have been getting specific regarding what constitutes the Matter in our World. Students have been identifying both the Physical and Chemical Properties while engaged in a laboratory experience entitled "White Before Your Eyes". After describing substances as Baking Soda, Baking Powder, Sugar, and Cornstarch students added water, vinegar, and iodine to 3 independent samples of each in order to test what chemical reaction would occur.

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY continues as students conducted experiments to establish "What affects the period (one total swing) of a Pendulum?". Students were given string, various weights, and a ring stand and were asked to create an experiment in order to answer the question. Various hypotheses were created and tested by student groups in order to reach a conclusion. Incorporated into the assignment were the documentation of data gathering, testing of the variable, and the making of charts and graphs to represent the acquired data.

Students further studied Density by understanding that volume of items could be attained by water displacement when objects with non-linear shapes were placed in a graduated cylinder holding a certain amount of water. The amount of water raised in the graduated cylinder is equal to the volume of the object that displaced the water.

The Physical Sciences takes the Everyday Occurrences and delves into the underlying meaning of the how and why of things we taken for granted and often do not notice. Heightened Ates of Awareness and Observations and "Seeing" is the first step on the road to the elevation of ones thoughts, perceptions, and insights.



## 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.

Two fathers and two sons go into a cafe to buy drinks. The bill came to \$5.71.



They shared the bill equally. How much did they each pay?



\*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.

## Sixth Grade LifeSkills

This month we will be completing our LifeSkills training in sixth grade. LifeSkills is a five week program promoting health and personal development. This program takes place three days a week in our sixth grade science classes. Each student has set a goal for themselves which was possible for them to accomplish within a reasonable amount time. Students have measureable goals that have been broken down to small steps or sub-goals, which is the best way to change a behavior. They chose goals that were meaningful to them, as a positive step to self-improvement and self image.

In our science classes we will continue to study the solar system and begin our Vernier LabQuest experiments for collecting, displaying, graphing, and analyzing data.

## Fire Prevention Week

On Thursday October 15<sup>th</sup> Ms. Taylor's class went to visit Mrs. James' classroom at the High School to see Steve Petrosky a fireman for the Wayne County Dept. conduct a presentation for Fire Prevention Week.





### 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!”**

### Student Council Food Drive



The Student Council will be hosting a middle school food drive beginning Monday, November 02-19. Our goal is to collect 2,000 non-perishable items as a school. All items collected will be donated to the local food banks. Student council representatives will begin collecting items Monday afternoon. There will be a worthy reward if we are able to attain our goal. Please encourage your students to bring in any non-perishable items.

### Battle of the Box Tops



C.A.T.S. Club has begun their wild and crazy annual fundraising efforts by declaring a “Battle of the Box Tops” on the Middle School. Each student is being asked to bring in as many Box Tops as possible between now and February 21, 2010. C.A.T.S. Club members will visit homerooms weekly to collect Box Tops and chart grade level progress. The grade that collects the most Box Tops will be awarded a grand-prize in March! Money raised from the “battle” will be used to benefit the Middle School and the community. There are many ways to earn additional Box Top points!! For special offers and more ideas on how to earn Box Top \$\$\$\$\$\$ go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) Be sure that your efforts are supporting the Middle School and let the battle begin!

### Alicia Rios-Festa Football Fiesta!



One of our most fierce and feisty Wildcats needs your help!! Eighth grade student, Alicia Rios-Festa, needs you to come out and support her. C.A.T.S. Club is sponsoring a powder-puff football game on Friday, November 20, 2009 to support Alicia and her family. A team of “sassy” seventh grade girls will take on the “almighty” eighth grade girls in an action packed powder-puff football game. However, this is no ordinary powder-puff football game. C.A.T.S. Club is turning it into a fiesta by adding lots of music, fun, food, dancing and raffles! Come to the Middle School Gym on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm to show your community spirit. Remember...“Community is Unity!”

### More Sports News

Cross Country has been very busy this year. With the addition of a new assistant coach, Middle School Science teacher Mr. Smith, the season went by quickly. Currently on our JH team we have 20 students, including boys and girls. ON the boys side, Morgan Fuller has been the top finisher all year. Following Morgan was Adam Curtis, even though Adam was a late addition to the squad, he really showed us some talent. All the boys on the team work hard each and every day. The boys team must continue to work hard throughout the rest of the school year and next summer to become more of a competitive team. On the girls side, Abigail Hemmler led the way this year. She managed to get herself a 17th place finish at the District meet. Our girls team finished 6th in the district out of 16 teams. Also, putting in great efforts this year was Rachel Carmody, Leanna O'Hora, Rebecca Carmody, Maddie Carey, Sabrina DiTucci, Carly Grownowski, Bethany Giombetti, Ashlyn Anderson, Kasey Kosciuk, Dominique Rios-Festa, and Kylea Clark. All girls on this team worked so hard, we hope to see them all back next year!