Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome next year’s grade six parents to our newsletter. Our monthly newsletter provides parents with current and upcoming information on our instructional practices and learning activities, along with events that our students are participating in. It is an exciting time for both you and your child. Again, Welcome to the middle school.

The results are in from the April 1 school referendums. Voter turn out was high. We had a split vote. The question to build a new 4-8 intermediate/middle school was defeated and the question to upgrade the security at the elementary school was passed.

Where do we go from here? The middle school will continue its tradition of providing the best educational experience for your children. The board of education will review the results and keep the community informed as to any future plans.

The Spring sport and fine arts activities will soon be starting. If only the weather would cooperate. I refer you to page two for our Calendar of Events and encourage you to use our website for future events not yet scheduled.

On behalf of our staff, I want to thank you for your continued support and we look forward to providing your child with the necessary skills to achieve success in academics, along with social and emotional opportunities for growth.

Dean R. Buchanan
Principal
DID YOU KNOW...

◊ April’s flower is the daisy

◊ President Lincoln was shot by John Wilkes Booth on 4-14-1865

◊ The 1st Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece on 4-16-1896

Calendar of Events

7 - Softball at Sparta Meadowview 4:00
14 - Jazz Band & Show Choir Concert 7pm
15 - Track HOME - Aquinas hosting 4:15
16 - Mid-Term 3
18 - NO SCHOOL
21 - NO SCHOOL
24 - Track at Logan High - Lincoln hosting 4:15
24 - Softball at Aquinas 4:15
28 - Softball HOME vs. Viroqua 4:15
28 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
30 - FINAL DC PAYMENT DUE

Upcoming Events - May

1 - Softball at Holmen 4:00
1 - Track HOME 4:15
5 - Softball at Winona 4:15
7 - Early Release
8 - Track at Sparta High 4:15
8 - Softball vs Onalaska 4:00
12 - Softball at Westby 4:15
12 - 6th & 7th Band & Choir Concert
13 - Track at Central High - Lincoln hosting

Counselor Comments...

The theme for April in A/A will focus on environment and community service awareness. We will start off the month encouraging students to think outside the box for community service activities that might be something different than we already do. A community service tree will be "planted" that will serve as a reminder of all the good one small community (even individual) can do! We also recognized students for academics and involvement in various activities at our awards ceremony for second trimester. Congratulations to the students who earned honor roll recognitions as well as those participating in co-curricular activities!

April 22 is Earth Day

Each year, Earth Day -- April 22 -- marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. "Environment" was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Although mainstream America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson’s New York Times bestseller Silent Spring in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment for the modern environmental movement, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries and, up until that moment, more than any other person, Ms. Carson raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and public health.

“Meet Us in the Middle”
Grade Level News...

**Language Arts - Mrs. Henricks**

Sixth grade English students recently finished word processing their expository writing piece. After researching to find relevant, reliable, readable and recent information to write a biography about specific authors, they organized their notes and thoughtfully wrote three paragraph essays. Not only did they discover information about their topics, but they also learned about plagiarism and citing sources as well as a few new word processing skills. The end of the year is quickly approaching, but sixth graders still have plenty to learn in English. They will continue practicing homophone spellings and usage as well as proper sentence structure and parts of speech. The main unit of study will focus on poetry and writing final persuasive essays of their choice. This will give students the opportunity to speak their minds while supporting their ideas with evidence and examples. The students will have the chance to share their final work with an audience of peers to top off this final project.

**Reading - Mrs. Schultz**

The first few days back students will be presenting research on their global, social, human rights issue. April is Poetry Month. This next unit involves reading a novel written in prose, which is free form poetry. Students will be exploring figurative language, especially metaphors, similes, symbolism, imagery, and personification within the text. Word choice will also be a focus since the descriptive words an author uses in poetry assists in comprehension. Each class will discuss how this type of language enhances reading and creates images to deepen comprehension. Students will be using highlighter tape to identify and classify the different types of figurative language. The novel we are using for this unit is written by Karen Hesse. Her novel, *Out of the Dust* received the Newberry Medal. This is about a young girl, Billie Joe, who is living through the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. She encounters many tragedies that go beyond the economic crisis that was happening at the time. We will begin by exploring this time period, reading about her situation and discussing how she handles life during this turbulent time.

**Social Studies - Ms. Beld**

Ancient China will be our focus for most of April. We will be learning about everything from the early years of China to Chinese inventions, Chinese writing and food. Not to mention the Great Wall of China, and what life in China is like today, and don’t be surprised if you’re sixth graders come home with hopes of trying out some Feng Shui design principles as well. By the end of the Unit on Ancient China your student should be able to...

* Explain how the geography and climate of this region affected the rise of the Chinese Civilization.
* Describe how the resources and geography of this region affected how people lived and worked.
* Explain how and why this civilization fell.

* Analyze their accomplishments/contributions and how they relate to our world today.
* Identify the evidence that remains of this civilization today.
Art - Ms. Beron

Sixth graders have started out the trimester with a review of the basics—the "Elements of Art." We talk about these elements as the key ingredients in a piece of artwork. There are 7 Elements of Art—quiz your student to see if he or she can remember them!

10-Minute Drawings--Ask to see them!

Please ask to see the photos of the 10-Minute Drawings we’ve been working on. I bet they’d have fun showing off their new "observation skills!" Each day when students come in the art room we have 10 minutes reserved just to quietly draw. These drawings must be from observation. The objective is for students to not only learn drawing as a skill, but also to spend the time to truly observe, slow down, and start to "see like an artist." I bet you’d be impressed by their drawings...I sure am! We talk about the fact that many people will claim they can’t draw, but I’m trying to get them to realize that drawing is a skill that can be learned and must be practiced. When we draw, we are focusing on the art element "Value." They need to be able to show on their drawings a wide range of value (lights and darks). If your child shows you their artwork and you say, "I can’t even draw a stick figure!" I hope he or she can explain to you why that is not true! Because observation skills are such an integral part of the visual arts, we will do them throughout the trimester.

Creative Lines Project

We just started a project in which students are required to use a variety of lines. We’ve looked at a variety of artwork from Aboriginal Art to van Gogh, Mondrian, and Kandinsky. These artists all use lines in a completely different way—and that is the challenge presented to the students; they must incorporate an image of themselves surrounded by a variety of line types. On the back of their artwork they are to list and combine line adjectives. This project also serves the purpose of introducing the students to the way they are graded in art. I hope they can explain to you the grading system we use. Students are given a set of requirements (usually 4-5), but it's their job to meet them in their own way. As long as they are able to show me what they’ve learned about the concept/element, it is really up to them HOW they show what they’ve learned about the concept.

As I said, we have been documenting our progress by taking pictures on our iPads. Although their projects will mostly stay at school, they should be able to show you photos of the project they are working on. Toward the end of the trimester we will use these photos in a project showcasing their artwork.

Congratulations to the students who had artwork exhibited in the K-12 District Honors Exhibit!

Drew Peterson, Emily Steele, Hannah Turnipseed, Shaena Clardy, Sam Gensch, Cole Brenstein, David Aleckson, Destiny Longworth-Quam, Lauren Gregerson, Faith Holt, Lexi Cottrell, Jon Allen, Chloe Breitung, Benjamin Black, Olivia Ulrich, Ryan Berger, Stephanie Sesvold, Olivia Haun, Ashlyn Arneson, Alyssa Herbold, Alayna Kennedy, Danica Adams
Grade Level News Continued...

Science - Mr. Hayes
The sixth grade science class is in the middle of our unit involving the six simple machines: lever, pulley, wheel and axle, inclined plane, screw and wedge. We will be working to find out how machines make our lives easier. During our studies we will learn to calculate the work, power, efficiency and mechanical advantages of the six simple machines. We will be doing many different laboratory experiences to demonstrate our knowledge. Here are the eight expected learning outcomes for this unit:

- When is work done on an object?
- What is power?
- How do you determine the work on an object?
- How do machines make work easier?
- What is machine’s mechanical advantage?
- How can you calculate the efficiency of a machine?
- What are the six kinds of simple machines, and how are they used?
- How do you find the mechanical advantage of each simple machine?

Math - Mrs. Jehn
We just completed Module 4 and have moved on to Module 5 Creating Things. The topics we will cover this module include comparing, adding, subtracting, and dividing fractions as well as mixed numbers. Previously we learned about the metric system of measurement and will now learn about customary units of measure. By the end of the module, students will be working with perimeter and area of rectangles, parallelograms, and triangles.

Accelerated Math
Students just finished Module 4 and are already working in Module 5 Recreation. Themes covered in this module are rates, ratios, proportions, percents, stem-and-leaf plots, and data displays. By the end of this module, students should have a grasp of how to figure out a sale price or what to leave for a tip. Feel free to let them practice when you are out shopping or eating!
Language Arts  
Mrs. Martinson  
We will be reading, discussing, and writing arguments/persuasion. Part of the discussion will include ethos, pathos, and logos, which are techniques writers use to help build their argument. Students will write a letter based on an environmental issue in which they would like to see a change.

Project & Inquiry  
Ms. Dederich  
7th graders are working on 20% projects. These projects give students an opportunity to research a topic of their own choosing. Students created their own driving questions and goals for the project. Each student will create a project based on their research that will be presented to the class at the end of the year. Ms McGuire is long-term subbing for Ms. Dederich, who will be returning the end of April.

Reading - Ms. Jones  
During the month of April, 7th grade students will be continuing with an environmental unit study. Similar to the dystopian unit, students will be given a choice to read one of six books. They will also be reading non-fiction articles to enhance their understanding of environmental issues. During this unit, students will be studying the following literary elements: tone/mood, foreshadowing, point of view, importance of setting and irony. The students will also be studying propaganda in respect to environmental issues. In addition, the students will be continuing to write in their journal in response to what they are reading. As a culminating project for this unit, students will be put into groups and create their own documentaries. The students should also be reading a book (at least 15 pages per night) of their choice at home.

Math - Mr. Jones  
We just wrapped up our unit on adding and subtracting fractions. We will now move on to Module 4 titled The Art of Motion. We will use the theme of motion to relate to mathematical topics which include:
1. Multiplication and Division Facts  
2. Metric Units of Length  
3. Decimal Multiplication and Division  
4. Rotations and Reflections  
5. Multiplication and Division of Integers  
6. Translations, Similarity, and Two-Step Equations  

Pre Algebra  
In Pre Algebra we are just beginning Module 3 titled The Mystery of Blacktail Canyon. We have already worked with this theme to learn about square roots, equations, and graphs. We will continue to use this theme to solve the mystery through our work with slope, similar figures, scientific notation, decimal equations, and logical thinking. This should be a fun and exciting unit for the students.
Grade Level News Continued...

**Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum**

In Social Studies we will finish our unit on the federal government by studying the Judicial Branch and a few Supreme Court Cases. After this unit, we will turn our attention to state and local government and focus on the role both of them play in our federal system of government.

**Science - Mr. Zwonitzer**

We have been studying invertebrates the last several weeks and will finish up with the arthropods this week. Next, we will learn about the cold blooded vertebrates, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. That means we will be dissecting frogs soon. The students have handled the dissection labs very well and most can’t wait until we dissect the frog.

**The school forest camp out is the week of May 19-23.**

Please avoid scheduling any appointments during this week. There will be a parent letter coming home the end of April with more details.

Now that spring is here (maybe on the south slopes), its time to tackle the “to do” list. Sweep out the garage, clean out the bluebird houses, cut down the rest of the plants around the house... Hope to see you out there.
**Language Arts - Mrs. Sackett**

"Classic." A book which people praise and don’t read." ~Mark Twain

In 8th grade English, we are changing that statement; we will read and praise a classic. In April, we will begin reading Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. As we move through this classic novel, we will also be reading other pieces by Mark Twain and other authors from the same time period to compare styles and themes. Also, we will continue to read and analyze poetry in addition to practicing our sentence types. Recently we learned about the compound-complex sentence, so we will continue to practice writing those as well as distinguishing them from simple sentences, compound sentences, and complex sentences.

**Math - Mrs. Bentzen**

**Regular Math (Module 3)**

We completed the first three sections of Module 3 in March. We found square roots, graphed equations and found slopes of lines. In April, we will be recognizing and using similar triangles, writing numbers in scientific notation, and using Venn diagrams to interpret logical statements while completing a thematic unit entitled “The Mystery of Blacktail Canyon.” The remaining objectives for Module 3 are:

- Applying the properties of similar figures to solve indirect measurement problems
- Writing large numbers in decimal and scientific notation
- Solving equations involving decimals
- Organizing information in Venn diagrams while interpreting statements with “and”, “or”, “not”.

**Reading - Ms. Friell**

Students should be reading books of their choice at home on a daily basis (a minimum of 20 minutes). They are also given 20 minutes to read their choice books during every Reading class. Please ask your son/daughter to tell you about what he/she is reading.

Students are required to complete journal entries (in class) regarding specific aspects of their books (plot, character, theme, mood, tone, etc.). They are also required to keep many worksheets throughout the year for reference (these will always be three-hole punched) in their Reading binder. We organize the binders sporadically to make sure they have what they need.

In addition to “A Word A Day,” we continue to work on vocabulary in the following ways: studying Greek and Latin roots (we practice a different root every week), working with new words in the fiction and non-fiction works we read as a class (often coordinating with other 8th grade curricular areas), and by keeping an independent vocabulary list in our journals.

In addition to reading their own books, in April all 8th graders will read “The Diary of Anne Frank” (the play version) in class.

We will also be reading supplemental non-fiction material about WWII and entries from Anne Frank’s diary. This year, Holocaust Remembrance Day is April 27-28.

**Algebra - Chapter 9**

We will identify, classify, add, subtract, multiply, and factor polynomials.

The objectives for Chapter 9 are:

- use vertical and horizontal formats to find sums and differences
- use the distributive property, tables of products, and patterns to find products
- write polynomials to describe and solve real world problems
- solve polynomial equations
- factor polynomials and use factoring to solve equations, to find the zeroes of functions, and to find the roots of equations
- factor polynomials completely using a variety of techniques

We will also be reading supplemental non-fiction material about WWII and entries from Anne Frank’s diary. This year, Holocaust Remembrance Day is April 27-28.
Science - Mrs. Sawyer

We have officially made the change from studying rocks and minerals to studying weather; we are welcoming the beautiful warm sunny spring days and all the fun events that occur during this time of year. Throughout our weather unit, students will be making daily weather observations using various weather instruments and will also learn how and why specific weather phenomena occur. We will analyze weather maps, practice predicting weather, and will also identify the global wind belts and look at their effects on global weather patterns. This is a very exciting and hands-on unit. I look forward to teaching this unit each year and enjoy the new energy kids have with the changing seasons!

Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

Eighth grade students recently completed their National History Day projects. Congratulations to the students who participated in the regional NHD competition at UW-La Crosse on Monday, March 31st. Participating students were: Tayler Jones (individual documentary on the Evolution of School Lunches), Chloe Powell & Brooke Valencia (Group Exhibit on the Abolition of Slavery), Mackenzie Garrels & Cassidy Oldenburg (Group Exhibit on Animal Testing), Olivia Key (Individual Exhibit on ballerina Maria Tallchief), Tanner Koltermann (individual exhibit on Rosa Parks) Emily Steele (individual exhibit on Amelia Earhart), Alesha Furlano (Individual Exhibit on the Captain of the Titanic), Jenna Devine (Historical Paper on Women’s Suffrage), Nate Krien (Individual Website on Gandhi), Adam Helgeson (Individual Website on Jackie Robinson), Drew Peterson (Individual Website on the Hoover Dam), and Sierra Schweir (Individual Exhibit on Slavery in Colonial America).

April brings the 8th grade social studies classes to exploring the growth of the country, and the growing pains that resulted from the sudden doubling of our country. We will look at the early treaties with American Indian tribes in Wisconsin that allowed the federal government to ultimately remove the Sauk/Fox and Ojibwe from western Wisconsin. We will also investigate the movement of pioneers to lands in the west.

Spanish - Mrs. Tower

The 8th grade students have finished their review of 6th and 7th grade Spanish. We are currently working on weather, seasons, activities we do in each of the seasons, and where we go to do those activities. Students are working on expressing things they want to do versus things they have to do.

When we finish this unit, we will do more review with AR verb conjugation, and move into IR and ER conjugations. Students are on the path of being conversational in Spanish! ¡Qué emocionante!

Candids for the Yearbook

If you have taken pictures at WSMS co-curricular events and think students would enjoy having them in the yearbook, please e-mail them to friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us. I’ll try to work in as many as possible.

Thanks!
The WSMS Music Dept....

April 14
WSMS Show Choir and Jazz Ensemble Concert
7pm - Heider Center

UPCOMING REMINDERS:

6th grade: School Forest · Wednesday, June 5
Class trip to Jellystone · Thursday, June 6

7th grade: School Forest · May 20-24
P**LEAS**E do not schedule appointments during this week.

8th grade: Promotion is Thursday, May 29
Washington DC trip is June 1 - 6...final payment is due April 30

From Healthy Living...

We are currently teaching units in human growth and development, pickleball and table tennis. We are excited for upcoming units in fishing, softball, and healthy eating. The middle school healthy living classes will be participating in a 2 mile fun run/walk on May 15th for 6th and 7th grade and May 22nd for 8th grade.
April is time to Celebrate National School Library Month! Our theme this year is:

“Lives change @ your library!”

**New Fiction:**
- *Rush for Gold* by John Feinstine
- *Threatened* by Eliot Schrefer
- *P.K. Pinkerton and the Pistol-Paking Windows* by Caroline Lawrence

**New Non-Fiction:**
- *Anti-bullying Series*
- *Freedom Summer: The 1964 Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*

**What’s hot:**
- *Divergent Series* by Veronica Roth
- *Eleventh Plague* by Jeff Hirsh
- *Legend Series* by Marie Lu

April is:
- National Library Week - April 13-19
- Earth Day - April 22
- Child Abuse Awareness Month
- National Poetry Month

With spring right around the corner, please review this recently revised board policy.

**West Salem Board of Education Policy 384**

**Animals on School Grounds**

Animals are not allowed on school grounds. Exceptions include licensed service dogs for individuals with an appropriate disability and certified search dogs accompanied by law enforcement. Other exceptions may be granted for curricular reasons following approval of a written request to the building principal.

This policy does not preclude pet owners from walking their leashed animal on the public sidewalks bordering Mark Street, Hamlin Street and East Avenue. Owners must pick up and properly dispose of any and all animal waste left by such animal on District property and are subject to local laws and ordinances pertaining to animal control.

Revised: January 28, 2013
2014 STATE MATHCOUNTS NEWS!!!!!!

The State Mathcounts Competition was held in Madison on Saturday, March 1, 2014. There were 131 total students competing, representing 47 different schools from across the state of Wisconsin. There were 21 official teams competing.

West Salem’s competitors were Ben Black, Logan Harris, and Drew Peterson. Black placed 67th, Harris placed 88th, and Peterson placed 125th.

Mathcounts is a national program designed to promote excellence in math and science in grades 6 through 8. West Salem’s Mathcounts program is coached by Tammy Bentzen and Jon Jones. The National Competition will be held in May in Orlando, FL. The top four individuals from the State competition will represent Wisconsin at the National Competition.
On Saturday, March 22, WSMS sent 5 teams to the Odyssey of the Mind State Competition in Madison. We came home with a 3rd, a 2nd, and a 1st place finish! Congratulations Participants!

Above: Mr. Kneppers’ team placed 3rd in their division and problem.

Above: Mr. Andres’ group placed 7th in Division II with a humorous and creative solution to a challenging problem.

Above: Ms. Vesperman’s team placed 1st in their division and problem.

Above: Mr. Andres’ team placed 2nd in their division and problem.
The West Salem School District is excited to announce the launch of a new service that will enhance communication by allowing us to deliver important information to you via SMS text messaging. This service is not intended to replace our existing means of communication—rather it will enhance them.

The service is provided by SchoolMessenger. Information can be found at www.SchoolMessenger.com/tm

The district will only use the service to provide information that is timely and relevant.

In order to participate in the new service you must indicate your willingness to receive text messages to your phone.

The process is simple and only takes a few seconds to complete.

Simply text YES to the number 68453.

You’ll know you were successful if you receive the following reply message:

You now registered with the SchoolMessenger notification service. Reply STOP to cancel, HELP for help, Msg & data rates may apply. 3 Msgs/mo.

You’ll want to repeat the opt-in process for any wireless numbers that you wish to include.

In addition to performing the opt-in process above you’ll want to insure that the district has your wireless number(s) in our student information database. If you haven’t already provided that information to your school please contact the building secretary to update your information. Call the Elementary School at (608)786-1662, the Middle School at (608)786-2090 or the High School at (608)786-1220.

Please note, although the district does not charge you for this service, it does not pay for text message charges that may be incurred by you for sending or receiving text messages. Check with your wireless carrier for possible charges.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at (608)786-0700.
West Salem School District—2014 Summer School Program

It’s that time of year again to start thinking of Summer School!

Grades K-8    July 21 – August 8    8:30-12:00

Schedule:
8:30    Student Drop Off
8:45 - 9:35    Class 1
9:35 - 10:05    Break/Snack
10:10-11:00    Class 2
11:05-11:55    Class 3
12:05    Buses Dismissed

❖ Classes will be held in the elementary school and middle school.
❖ Students will choose THREE classes to attend; however, some classes may be scheduled for all three periods.
❖ Class choices will include both enrichment and intervention. Parents will be notified if students are invited to attend a reading, math or writing intervention class.
❖ Incoming kindergartners will attend ONE of the three weeks.
❖ Busing will be available on main roads only.
❖ Swimming lessons will not be held during this summer school session. They will ONLY be offered during the following dates: June 9 - 20 ~ June 23 - July 3 ~ July 7 - 18
    ~ NEW this year during the June 9 - 20 session there will be two night time slots offered for lessons for the lower swim levels.
❖ Skippers Program will be offered during July 21 - 25 you can register directly at the pool after June 9

Students can take only one session of swimming lessons. Schedules to be announced later.

Summer school booklets with class choices were sent home with students mid March.

If you have any questions please contact:

Lisa Gerke
Summer School Administrator
786-1662
gerke.lisa@wsalem.k12.wi.us
MISSOULA CHILDREN’S THEATRE
AUDITIONS FOR
“Beauty Lou and the Country Beast”

The Audition for the Missoula Children's Theatre production of BEAUTY LOU AND THE COUNTRY BEAST will be held on Monday, April 28th at 4:00 pm at The Heider Center in West Salem. There are roles for students Kindergarten through 12th grade. Approximately 50-60 area students will be cast to appear in the show with the MCT Tour Actor/Director. **There is no guarantee that everyone who auditions will be cast in the play.** Students wishing to audition must arrive by the scheduled starting time and stay for the entire two-hour session. The first rehearsal begins approximately 15-30 minutes after the audition. Parents or Guardian MUST be present at the start of auditions to sign students permission slip.

This is a group audition - **no advance preparation is necessary**, but a smile 😊 never hurts. Students should just be ready to come and have a good time!

Rehearsals will be conducted every day from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Heider Center Auditorium. Although not all cast members will be needed at every session, those auditioning must have a clear schedule for the entire week of April 28 – May 3 and if selected, be able to attend all rehearsals required for their role. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be distributed at the conclusion of the audition. Cast members scheduled for the full 4½ hours of rehearsal will be asked to bring a sack lunch, dinner or snack.

The 60-70 minute Performances will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm and will be presented at The Heider Center Auditorium. The students in the cast will be called for dress rehearsal before the first performance that day. All those cast **must be** available for all scheduled performances.

The Missoula Children's Theatre is a non-profit organization based in Missoula, Montana. This coming year more than 65,000 cast members across the globe will take to the stage to the delight and applause of their families, friends, community, neighbors and teachers! The residency in West Salem is made possible by The Heider Center Arts Board with help from WE Energies, West Salem Area Community Foundation, Allen Dental and La Crosse Radio Group.

For additional information:
Heider Center Box Office: (608)786-2550
405 E. Hamlin St. West Salem, WI
www.heidercenter.org

*This event is not sponsored or endorsed by the School District*
9th Annual Mayfair Arts Fair,
Sunday, May 4, 2014
West Salem High School
Announcing the 2014-2015 Heider Center Season

The 9th Annual Mayfair Arts Fair, one of the major Heider Center Arts Board fundraisers, will take place on Sunday, May 4, 2014 at the West Salem High School Commons, West Salem, WI.

Activities will include:
- Art Fair from 10:00 – 3:00 pm with artwork for sale
- Free Kids Art activities from 10:00 – 2:00 pm
- Silent Auction items to be bid on from 10:00 – 2:00 pm
- Door prizes from the Heider Center
- Entertainment by local youth (instrumental, vocal and dance)
- Pulled pork sandwich dinner by Big Boar Catering from 11:00 – 1:00 pm. Please get your tickets from any Heider Center Arts Board Member or call the Heider Center Box Office, 786-2550
- Other concessions available also.
- Plant and flowers sold by the high school FFA

Come and join us for great family fun - Sunday, May 4th. The perfect place to shop for that special Mother’s Day gift. All events will take place in the high school gym & commons area.
2014 Relay for Life  
April 4  
West Salem High School 6:00 p.m.  
Get your team together and get registered.  
We are looking for Cancer survivors to participate in our Opening Ceremony.  
Please contact Jane Macdonald at the elementary school or macdonal@gmail.com  

Taco Nacho Night!  
**Saturday, April 5**  
4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.  
W.S.H.S. Commons  
Adults—$6.00  
5-10 years $3.00  
4 & Under Free  
Donations welcome!  
*Door Prizes  *Silent Auction  
*Chinese Raffle  *Children’s Corner  
Please join the West Salem Village People in supporting the **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
West Salem Area  

Postal Food Drive  
Opportunity for service—Come Join the Fun!  
The Postal Food Drive is May 10, 2014.  
The food pantry board is looking for volunteers to help mark and sort the large quantity of food that arrives. Last year we were able to process all of the food with an amazing group of volunteers. In 2013 the community donated 5200 pounds of food! Any amount of time between 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. would be appreciated. We will be working in the basement of Our Saviors Lutheran Church at 359 N. Leonard St. All ages welcome. Please call Lynette Ender 786-0723 to sign up or just stop by on May 10. Please check expiration dates, they will dispose of expired items.
New ways to study

Trying different study techniques can keep your child motivated and help her learn more effectively. Here are ideas for adding variety—and a touch of fun—to her routine.

Phone a friend

Suggest that your middle grader list 10 questions about the chapter or notes she is studying and have a friend do the same. Then, they can quiz each other over the phone. Coming up with questions is an effective study method, and answering her friend’s questions is good practice for taking a test. Tip: Encourage them to decide ahead of time when to call—it will give them a deadline for studying.

Talk to yourself

Reciting information out loud will help your child learn and remember it. Every few minutes, she should look away from her notes or textbook and state a fact she just read or define a vocabulary word. Or she could tape herself studying aloud and play back the recording—speaking and listening will help cement the information in her mind.

Play games

Together, play a word game like Scrabble or Boggle with spelling words from the foreign language your tween is taking. Or use her study material for charades. She can write historical events or science terms on index cards for players to act out.

You’re invited

Show your middle grader you think his school is important by attending events there. Try these tips:

- Check papers your child brings home for information about a school musical, a baseball game, or a math fair. Ask him which ones he plans to attend, and offer to go along. If he wants to go with friends, mention that you’ll be there, too (alone, with your spouse, or with a friend).
- Consider going with your tween to a school event he’s not part of, such as an art show or a poetry reading. You can meet other parents, and your youngster may discover a new activity or interest.

Idea: Carpool with other families. It’s fun to have company, and sharing transportation helps those who might not have a ride.
Inspired to write

Keeping a journal can improve your tween’s writing skills and stretch his creativity. But many kids don’t know what to write about. Share these questions to help him along.

Where am I? It’s amazing the ideas your youngster might come up with if he carries a journal in his hip pocket. He could pull out his notebook on the train and imagine the life of another passenger. Or when he reaches a peak during a hike, he can rest and write a description of the mountain.

What are my favorites? Encourage your child to list favorites (bands, foods, sports teams) in his journal. Then, he might pretend he is nominating something from his list for an award and explain why it deserves to win.

What if? Together, think of fun, thoughtful, or crazy questions that he could use as jumping-off points. He can write each one at the top of a blank page. Examples: “If only I lived in the 24th century, then I would…”; “One day that I’d really like to forget is when…”; or “I woke up to find that everyone had turned into an animal except for me…”

Chances are...

The whole family can enjoy this probability challenge—and it only seems simple.

Problem: Maria has 10 pens and 10 pencils in a cup. She pulls out a pen. Without looking, she reaches into the cup again. What is the probability that she will pull out a second pen? Is it 50 percent, more than 50 percent, or less than 50? (Most people will say 50 percent.)

Solution: Before Maria pulled out the first pen, 10 of the items—or 50 percent—were pens. But when she pulled out the second item, there were only 9 pens and 10 pencils. Since there were more pencils, her chance of getting a second pen was less than 50 percent.

Encourage your child to try this with her own pens and pencils. Then, take turns making up more probability challenges for each other to solve, and act them out to check the results!

Q & A

“I give up!”

If something doesn’t come easily to my daughter, she stops trying. The other day when she was struggling to finish a workout video, she said, “I’m just not an exercise person.” How can I encourage her?

A With many things in life, effort makes all the difference. You can explain that there’s no such thing as an “exercise person,” but there is such a thing as a “stick-to-it” person. If she keeps trying to do the workout video, she’ll eventually be able to do the whole thing.

You can also tell her about a time you struggled with something, like learning to use specialized software for your job, but worked hard and figured it out.

Suggest that your daughter use this advice in school, too. Some subjects will be harder for her than others, but if she keeps at it, she will increase her chances of success in every class.

Begin to volunteer

Owen has been reading aloud to children there for a few months now, and sometimes he plays games with them. He feels great about what he’s doing, and I think he looks forward to the visits as much as the children do!

Plus, we’re both happy that he’s getting volunteer experience—and a taste of responsibility—before he’s old enough to have a full-time job.

Our Purpose

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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