

# WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL

450 North Mark St.  
West Salem, WI 54669  
Phone - (608) 786-2090  
Fax - (608) 786-1081

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**School Starts at 7:50!!**

- \* Early Release Dec. 14
- \* No School 12/23- 1/2

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2016

## From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Families,

The holiday season is upon us, and our students are continuing to learn and grow as we make our way towards winter break. The monthly newsletter is one of the ways in which we communicate the efforts in developing WSMS students both academically and emotionally through our instructional and advisory programming. As such, I would like to draw your attention to a recent focus in our building by our students and staff: The Spirit of Giving.

In December, we focus on the spirit of giving focus with an annual Christmas Baskets food drive. We hold this drive in conjunction with the West Salem Lions Club. Last year we provided 43 holiday food baskets to families and senior citizens in the West Salem area. We are hopeful that with the generosity of our students and families, we can equal or even surpass that mark this year to help local families in need.

As you may have heard or read, district residents voted in support of the two referendum questions posed on the Nov. 8th Ballot. We look forward to providing updates to you as we move forward in this process. Thank you to the West Salem School District residents and community stakeholders. We are excited about the possibilities and opportunities this will provide for our students.

In closing, we will have no school on December 23 - January 2. School resumes on January 3. Our 1st trimester ended on November 22, and we will be mailing home your child's report card shortly. If you do not receive your child's report card by December 9, please contact our office.

On behalf of our staff, we hope you have a great winter break with your children, family, and friends. We look forward to continuing to work together as a team to provide your child with the best educational experience here at West Salem Middle School. There is no greater gift than to have a positive impact on a child's life. This holiday season, I'm reminded how fortunate we all are with the opportunity to share in this gift.

At WSMS, It's a Wonderful Life!

Ben Wopat

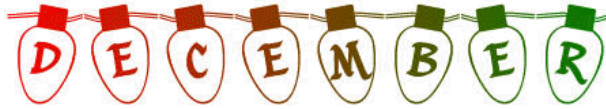
WSMS Principal



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*



# Calendar of Events



- 1 - Boys b-ball vs Westby 4:15  
MS Musical - Willy Wonka 7:30
- 2 - MS Musical - Willy Wonka 7:30
- 5 - Boys b-ball vs Aquinas 4:15
- 6 - 7th & 8th Band/Choir Concerts 6:00
- 8 - Boys b-ball at Sparta 4:00
- 9 - Wrestling at Tomah 4:30
- 10 - Wrestling at Marshfield 10:00
- 12 - Boys b-ball vs Tomah 4:15
- 13 - Wrestling at Sparta 4:30
- 14 - EARLY RELEASE - 12:20
- 15 - Boys b-ball at Onalaska 4:00
- 16 - Christmas Carol play at Weber Center

- 20 - Boys b-ball at Holmen 4:00  
Wrestling Conf Dual at Sparta 4:30
- 22 - Boys b-ball at Logan 4:00
- 23-Jan 2 - No School

## Counselor Comments

December's A/A asset is Support. This is not only the support that we receive from others in our lives, but also the support we can provide to others. Once again, in conjunction with the Lions Club, we will collect non-perishable items in order to put together holiday baskets. Last year we assembled 43 of these baskets and will aim for 45 this year. All of these baskets will remain in the West Salem area! What may seem to be a small, trivial gesture of kindness certainly goes a long way to the person(s) on the receiving end! We will collect items December 1 - 14. Members of the

local Lions Club will pick up the baskets on Friday, December 16 and they will add additional items such as fruit, ham, potatoes, and cereal. They will then deliver the baskets to area families. Please see the "Christmas Baskets" paragraph below for a list of suggested items. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

The middle school students and staff have an opportunity to listen to Alex Kal-El Chisholm Guibault. Alex's first memories of life are as an abandoned child walking the streets of Guatemala. No family. No home. No name. And no hope. After years of longing for a family, Alex was finally adopted...as an adult! Now, Alex advocates for

the "parentless" and their need for a family. He challenges the audience to reflect on the people in their lives who they look to and lean on for strength and support. (Also referenced to in the Middle Years newsletter as "the dream team.") We look forward to hearing his message of "From Hopelessness to Hopefulness" and how we can become stronger in our own lives.



## Christmas Baskets...

Helping others during the holiday season can bring cheer and warm feelings to those involved. For this reason, the West Salem Middle School students, in conjunction with the West Salem Lions Club, have decided once again to sponsor a project that will provide holiday food baskets to families and senior citizens in the West Salem area. Last year, we put together over 40 boxes. It is our hope that this year will be even more successful. We are asking each A/A to fill a box (or two!) with non perishable items including the following:

Cans of Fruit	Cans of juices	Brownie/cake mixes	Flour
Cans of vegetables	Peanut butter & jellies	Spaghetti sauce and noodles	Sugar
Cans of soup	Macaroni & Cheese	Oatmeal/Cereal	Stuffing
Meat/Tuna Helpers	Box Potatoes	Cans of Tuna or Chicken	Crackers
Kleenex/Facial Tissue	Plastic silverware	Dish Soap	Baby Food
Paper towels	Napkins	Toilet Paper	Other ?

We will collect items in A/A from December 1 -14. We hope that all WSMS students will be able to experience the joy of giving at this time of year! ~Thank you



# November



## Grade 8



Gabriella V.



Zach H.



Betsy S.

## Grade 7



Kevin H.



Anja C.



Magei F.

## Grade 6



L- Priya O.



R - Noah M.



Elly G.



## Early Release Dates

Wednesdays - Release at 12:20  
Buses leave at 12:30

December 14

February 8

March 15

May 10

## Absences, appointments and messages

If your child will be absent from school, please call the office by 7:50 a.m. In the event you receive the voice mail, leave a message that includes your child's name, grade and reason for the absence. If your child is ill, please be specific with his/her symptoms. We are required by state law to report numbers of students with strep throat, stomach flu, colds, chicken pox etc., so it is important that we have an accurate count. We do not report student names, just numbers. If your child's absence is not called in to school in a timely manner, it is considered an unexcused absence and consequences may be assigned to the student.

You may also call ahead with any pre-planned absences, and we will document it. So you will not have to call again the day of the absence.

If your child needs to be picked up for an appointment, please send a note or call the office so that your child can be given and out pass in advance. We appreciate advance notification as it eliminates the need for us to try and find your child at the last minute when he/she is being picked up. If your child brings a note from the medical or dental appointment as verification, it is not counted toward the 10 days allowed for your child to be absent from school. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping your child's attendance up to date and informing the school absences in a timely manner.

We receive many calls daily from parents asking us to relay messages to their children. Please make every attempt to relay these messages to your child before he or she leaves for school. Messages called into the office after 1:30 may not get to your child before dismissal.



The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608) 786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call (608)786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



The Middle School would like to give a BIG welcome to Jessica Tomten (left) and Beth Clements (right)!

Beth was hired as our new District Nurse (replacing Connie Troyanek who retired) and Jessica is our new Associate Nurse (replacing Tiffany Lisk). We are happy to have Beth and Jessica on our team as we start a new chapter in nursing care for our students!

## Nursing notes.....

In the upcoming months, we will start seeing more illnesses as children spend more time indoors. Please review the following rules about children who may become ill.

1. If your child is ill with a fever over 100 degrees, please do not send your child to school until they have been without a fever for about 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen. (Many times a child will wake up without a fever, but will have one by noon.
2. If your child has been vomiting or has diarrhea, please do not send your child to school until he/she is able to tolerate solid foods without vomiting or having loose stools.
3. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat or conjunctivitis (pink eye), he/she must have been on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. If your child needs to take medication during the day (either prescribed or over the counter), a parent or guardian need to fill out a "pink medication sheet". (Prescription medication requires a doctor's signature.) Medication also needs to be sent in its properly labeled original container.

When you call the school to report your child's absence, please tell the secretary the nature of your child's illness. We are required by the state to report numbers of children ill with strep throat, stomach flu, cold and chicken pox, so it is important we have an accurate count.

**Looking ahead.....** Winter Wellness will be on Thursday, February 16

Information was handed out the end of November just after Thanksgiving break. Those forms are due back by December 9.



*"Meet Us in the Middle"*





## **6** Social Studies - Mrs. Jeranek

Throughout December we will continue to explore Ancient Greek Civilizations.

Our focus will center around geographical regions (exploring maps), economy, social status, government, religion, and achievements. Students will compare Athen and Spartan life, understand the importance of the Trojan War, and study Greek Olympians. Before winter break, all 6th grade students will participate in the 6th Grade Greek Olympics. More details to come!

## **Math - Mrs. Jehn**

In November we began Chapter 3 which includes algebraic expressions and properties. Students really had to work hard to wrap their minds around using letters in math rather than numbers. They are learning a numerical expression has numbers and operations but an algebraic expression has numbers, operations, and symbols. Terms, variables, coefficients, and constants are just a few of the new vocabulary words they have worked with to write and solve problems. This unit is a building block to future work in pre-algebra and algebra.

We will spend December in Chapter 4 learning to use the area of a parallelogram to find the areas of triangles, trapezoids, and composite figures as well as how to graph them in the coordinate plane.

## **Accelerated Math**

November was spent in Chapter 4 learning formulas to find the area of parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, and composite figures. Students also learned to work with these polygons in the coordinate plane. They did an excellent job on these and quickly picked up on how to use the area of a parallelogram to find the area of multiple other shapes.

In December students will begin working in Chapter 5 which includes ratios, ratio tables, rates, unit rates, comparing ratio and rates, percents, and converting measures. This is one of my favorite chapters because it is so applicable to their lives now and forever. Who doesn't want to find the best deal to save the most money? Ask them to help you shop. They will have learned to find unit price and compare unit prices - maybe they will be able to help you save money as you shop for Christmas. This unit will take us up to the Christmas break. Happy shopping and saving!

## **Science - Mrs. Jarosh**

Student's have been exploring the properties of water molecules. In lab, they have observed and tested how molecules move faster and further apart as heat is added. Students will continue their study of chemistry and matter by learning about the periodic table, the history of the atom model, acids and bases and exploring a fascinating mixture called Oobleck! We will also continue working on building our science specific vocabulary! Have a wonderful holiday season!

## **English - Mr. Tashner**

Our 6th grade writers just finished typing and turning in their personal narratives! They have definitely been working hard and discovering that middle school writing is challenging. The next piece of writing is going to be their argument piece. Along with their formal writing, we are continuing to journal and craft 6th grade sentences. They are working very hard at taking their new knowledge, of sentence structure, and applying it to their writing pieces. We are continuing to study the parts of speech. This trimester we will focus on verbs.

## **Art - Ms. Engen**

6th graders have had a fun and busy last month in art exploring cultural masks and then creating a representation of that culture into a face mask of their own. Students had to work together to create the plaster mask on a friend. 6th graders also drew a self-portrait and created a clay version of themselves..

## **Reading - Mrs. Schultz**

OMG-N-G! Oh My Gods and Goddess, we are studying Greek Mythology! Gods, Goddesses- the immortals; men, women, and heroes- the mortals; these beings will be the focus of our next unit of study on myths. Myths are stories which teach morals or lessons and proper human behavior. In some instances, myths give explanations of nature and why things are as they are. This month we will be exploring the Ancient Greek myths and Greek Drama. Students will investigate fractured fairy tales to see how authors have given those traditional stories a modern twist with added humor. Then, in groups, the sixth graders will create and perform a skit involving one of the myths studied, giving it their special twist to "fracture" it. Before the Winter break, the Greek Drama Festival will feature the best group from each class and

their mythological creation! Parents are invited to view this performance which is held during the school day, right before our winter break. Be sure to find out your student's favorite Greek myth, god/goddess, or hero!

## **Spanish - Mrs. Lassig**

With the trimester change after Thanksgiving comes a new class! 6th graders will start the trimester by learning expectations for class, picking names, learning about where Spanish is spoken and how to study Spanish. Then we will dive into the alphabet, basic conversations, and numbers. Students can expect homework if their daily practice does not get finished in class, but a little extra studying is always a great idea. It's hard to learn a language in 84 minutes, every other day!

I'm looking forward to working with the 6th graders- I've heard they are a great group! Please do not hesitate to email me- lassig.teri@wsalem.k12.wi.us- or call school to leave a message at extension 4222.

Hasta luego,

Señora Lassig





## Reading - Mrs. Rochester

The 7th graders will be getting into their dystopian books. A dystopia is a undesirable

society that usually has a group of people making negative decisions for the rest of the society. The conditions of the society are usually grim due to overcrowding, sickness, lack of food, and misery. The Hunger Games is a perfect example of this type of book. During this unit, the students were given a choice of eight books to read. Each student picked one book to start with and will participate in meaningful book discussions with other students who are reading the same book. Some of the topics the students will discuss will be characterization, setting, conflict, rebellion, and theme. As a whole group, the students will be discussing characteristics of dystopias, finding examples in the book they are reading as well as looking at real life examples. Students will be expected to complete the assigned reading in 15 class days. The students will have more reading with this unit, therefore, they should be bringing their dystopian books home to finish reading that was not done in class. There will not be quizzes during this unit. Instead, the students will be keeping a journal. The topics the students will write about will also be the topics they discuss in their book group. 7th grade students will continue to study Greek and Latin roots.

## Regular Math - Mr. Jones

We will be working through Chapter 4: Inequalities. Common Core standards for chapter 4:

- \*solve one-step inequalities involving integers and rational numbers
- \*solve two-step inequalities

At the very end of December, we will begin Chapter 5 Ratios and Proportions. Common Core standards for chapter 5:

- \*find unit associated with ratios of fractions, areas, and other quantities in like or different units
- \*decide whether two quantities are proportional using ratio tables and graphs
- \*identify the constant of proportionality in table, graphs, equations, diagrams, and verbal descriptions
- \*explain what a point  $(x,y)$  means on a proportional graph in context, particularly  $(0,0)$  and  $(1,r)$ , where  $r$  is the unit rate.
- \*use proportionality to solve ratio problems

## Pre-Algebra

We will be covering Chapter 2: Transformations, and Chapter 3: Angles and Triangles. Common Core standard for Chapter 2:

- \*verify the properties of translations, reflections, and rotations
- \*describe a sequence that exhibits congruence or similarity between two figures

Common Core standards for Chapter 3:

- \*classify and determine the measures of angles created when parallel lines are cut by a transversal
- \*demonstrate that the sum of the interior angle measures of a triangle is 180 degrees and apply this fact to the unknown measures of angles and the sum of the angles of polygons
- \*use similar triangles to solve problems that include height and distance

## English - Mrs. Martinson

In December, the 7th graders will be reading the unabridged version of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens and discussing the theme of change. The entire school will be going to The Weber Center in La Crosse to see an old fashion radio play of this classic novel. Please see permission slip that was sent home with your child and is located on page 15 of this newsletter. We will continue working on compound sentences and verbs.

In December, we will also hold our class level and grade level spelling bees. We will find the top three spellers in each class. Those spellers will continue to the grade level bee. In the grade level spelling bee, we will find the top five spellers to advance to the all school spelling bee that will be held when we return from winter break.

## Social Studies - Mr. Mahlum

During the month of December students will start examining the rights and freedoms we have as citizens. We will focus primarily on the Bill of Rights, but we will also look at a few of the other Amendments to the Constitution. Besides looking at our rights, students will continue to focus on current events. Finally, students will be given a chance to compete in our annual geography bee. The finals for our 7th graders will be the day before our break.

## Project & Inquiry - Mrs. Ebert

As students begin their second trimester, they also begin their second Project and Inquiry experience. P&I aims to provide a hands-on environment for students to explore engineering which they may not encounter in other coursework. While last year's P&I classes focused on paper engineering, seventh graders will construct air skimmers, learn to create orthographic drawings, and experience 3D modeling.

## Science - Mr. Baker

In December, we will be finishing up the basics of cancer and moving on to genetics and heredity. Starting with the basic rules of how traits are passed from parents to offspring and moving into the complexities of why you are who you are. This is a great time to share any family history with your kids because we will be creating family trees and tracing several traits to see how they have moved through the generations. Over winter break, students will need to do a little investigating on traits shared by many of their relatives.





## Math - Mrs. Bentzen

### Regular Math (Chapter 4)

We started Chapter 3 (a geometry unit on angles and triangles) on November 28. We will finish that unit and test on December 12 (Day A) and 13 (Day B). Then we will begin Chapter 4 called "Graphing and Writing Linear Equations" on December 14.

The objectives for Chapter 3:

- \*identify the angles formed when parallel lines are cut by a transversal
- \*find the measures of the angles formed when parallel lines are cut by transversals
- \*understand that the sum of the interior angles of a triangle is 180 degrees, of a quadrilateral is 360 degrees
- \*find the measures of interior and exterior angles of triangles
- \*find the sum of the interior and exterior angle measures of polygons
- \*find the measures of interior and exterior angles of polygons
- \*understand the concept of similar triangles
- \*identify similar triangles
- \*use indirect measurement to find missing measures

The beginning objectives for Chapter 4:

- \*understand that lines represent solutions of linear equations
- \*graph linear equations
- \*find slopes of lines by using two points on the line and by using tables
- \*identify parallel and perpendicular lines using slopes

### Algebra (Chapter 4)

We started Chapter 5 on November 28. Chapter 5 is called "Writing Linear Equations." We will continue with our weekly Mathcounts sheets. Our first in-school Mathcounts competition was November 21. Our next two competitions will be December 8th, 14th and 16th. The regional team will be determined by these three competitions. The top ten students in grades 7 and 8 then continue on to compete at Regionals in La Crosse the first Friday in February. Good luck to all competitors!!!

The objectives for Chapter 5:

- \*write equations of lines in slope-intercept form given three situations: the slope and y-intercept; the slope and a point; or two points
- \*write and graph equations using slope and a point, using a graph of a line or using real world data
- \*write equations of lines in standard form and use those equations to solve real-world problems
- \*write and find equations of lines parallel or perpendicular to a given line
- \*make scatterplots of data and use a line of fit to model and interpret data
- \*perform linear regression to find the best-fitting line for data
- \*make predictions using the graph and the equation

### English - Mrs. Sackett

In 8th grade English, we are well underway with our National History Day research and have begun the initial stages of our research papers. We will spend most of December writing these papers, starting with a strong thesis to guide the rest of the paper. Part of the process of writing this paper is learning about and using proper parenthetical citations to credit the sources from our research.

In addition to writing the NHD paper, we are continuing to practice writing compound and complex sentences. Now that we've reviewed and learned more about nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs, we will continue with pronouns. Right before Thanksgiving we held the class level spelling bee and found the top three spellers in each class. In December, we will hold the grade level spelling bee to advance 5 spellers to the all-school spelling bee that will be held when we return from winter break.

### Social Studies - Ms. Morgan

Much of this month students will be investigating their selected topic for their National History Day Project. This project allows students to dig into an area of history that they might not normally get to study. Their topics must fit the theme of "Taking a Stand in History." The majority of research should be completed by the holiday break with the product due the 2nd week in January.

Students will be able to:

- \*tell the difference between primary and secondary sources

- \*locate quality on-line sources
- \*develop a strong historical argument to support a thesis statement
- \*put their findings together in a cohesive product to share with an audience

### Science - Ms. Smith-Waller

As we ended the first trimester, students have completed their Project Maps, and we shared those with each other by completing a "gallery walk." We will continue to study Earth's changing surface focusing on weathering and erosion. To end our look at Earth's surface, we will create a timeline of Earth's geologic history. In the new year we will learn about what is inside the Earth as we study about plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, and mineral and rock classifications. Keep up the hard work, students!

Unit Objectives:

1. Understand how wind, water, and erosion can change the surface of the Earth.
2. Identify sources of mechanical and chemical weathering.
3. Describe the unique geological features in Wisconsin (moraines, drumlins, driftless area, etc).
4. Describe the events in Earth's history and identify the geological time periods in Earth's history.

Future Objectives

5. Describe the processes of plate tectonics, the types of plate boundaries, sea-floor spreading, and subduction and explain the evidence of why each of these processes happen.
6. Understand how plate tectonics can cause earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountain ranges and use data to predict these events.





**Reading - Ms. Friell**

**Independent Reading:** Every student is reading a book of his/her choice. This is required daily reading. They should be reading these books 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.

**Journal Entries:** Students are required to complete journal entries (in class) in a notebook that is kept in their binders. They will write about their own books and the class read-aloud. Journal entries ask them to address specific aspects of the books (story elements, literary devices, mood, tone, style, etc.). Journal entries are checked/graded every few weeks.

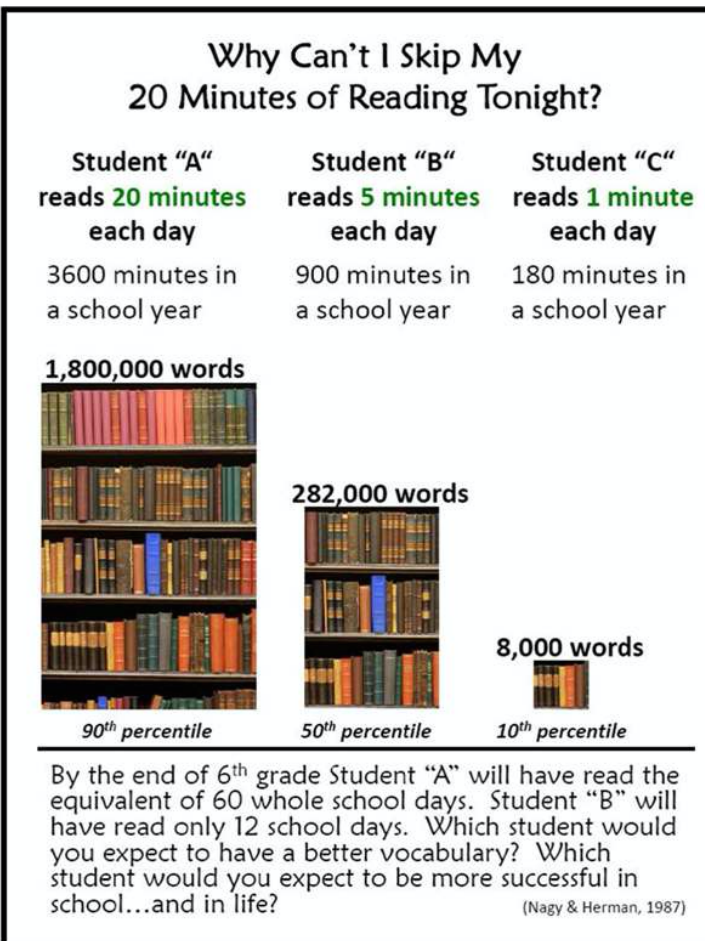
**Vocabulary:** In addition to "A Word A Day" (from the book 100 Words Every Middle Schooler Should Know and www.englishcompanion.com), we have started studying Greek and Latin roots (we practice a different root every week). We also work with new words in the fiction and non-fiction we read as a class.

Our current read aloud is Wonder by RJ Palacio. This novel addresses many themes, including the importance of kindness, perseverance, friendship, family, and non-conformity.

During December all 8th graders will read the novel Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick. This memorable novel addresses judging people for who they are and not what they look like, the meanings of family and friends, acceptance, and dealing with loss. We will also continue to work with non-fiction texts, such as reading warranties, advertisements, newspaper articles,

**Technology & Integration - Mr. Mathison**

At the start of the school year, students were working on drawing simple drafting objects. Students learned how to set up a drawing title block and use the drafting tools to create a print. Currently, students are creating a wooden box. They have hand sawed the mitered corners and used the disc sander for a true 45 degree miter. With the assistance of Mr. Mathison, all students have used the table saw to run a groove for a hardboard bottom and glued the sides together. Students are working on their tops and applying a finish to the box. They will also be adding felt to the inside. Throughout the whole process, machine safety had been emphasized.



## WSMS Choir and Band Holiday Concerts

When: Tuesday, December 6

Where: Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

7th grade - Choir & Concert Band at 6pm (5:30pm report time)

8th grade - Choir & Wind Ensemble Concert at 7:30 (7pm report time)

All Band & Choir students will wear the following:

1. their orange WSMS music polos
2. black pants
3. black socks
4. black shoes



### General Music 6 “Keyboards and More” - Mrs. Glasel

The students have been working on learning how to read music on both the treble and bass clefs and then putting them together to form the grand staff. They are still not playing two hands together at the same time, but will tackle that challenge in trimester 2. They have come a long way since the beginning of the year.

They have also begun different types of composing. They learned how to use the iPad app iWriteMusic in which they wrote in the music to Jingle Bells and then created a parody by adding Halloween/Fall lyrics to the music. This really reinforces the concept of syllables and rhyming. They are now using the GarageBand app with their project using pre-recorded loops. They will work on getting the loops to sound good together as well as choose the

correct tempo and balance of the instruments.

Our Music Alive magazine articles this month include “The Power of Parody,” “Vinyl Revival,” and “The Saxophone.”

### General Music 7 “Guitars and Musicals” - Mrs. Glasel

This trimester, the students will tackle playing some easy one-finger chords on the guitar. Since the guitar is such a portable instrument, ask your child to bring it home to play for you, especially during the holiday season when family may be visiting.

The students began watching the musical Hello, Dolly, in which they are learning the complexity of storylines and character development.

### General Music 8 “Keyboards and Guitars” - Mrs. Glasel

The students had a choice of switching to the other instrument or continuing on their original instrument for Trimester 2. At the end of the first trimester, they had a written test and a mini recital in which they prepared a song that they played for the rest of the class.

In trimester 2, keyboard players are playing using easier songs with two hands together, and guitarists are playing on three strings, strumming two simple chords, and even learning how to accompany a singer.



### Choir - Ms. Nimm

6th Grade Choir - 6th grade students have been learning how to read choir music. They have received seven different songs to work on in preparation for our concert in January. The choir has also been working on reading music using Do, Re, and Mi.

7th and 8th Grade Choirs -The choirs will be presenting their concerts on Tuesday, December 6 at the Heider Center! The 7th grade students should report to the high school by 5:30 pm, and the concert starts at 6 pm. Their concert music features spirituals, gospel music, and holiday songs. 8th grade students should report to the high school by 7pm, and the concert starts at 7:30 pm. Their concert music features several popular tunes, including one with three-part harmony. The choir will also be performing “Feliz Navidad” with members of the 8th grade band!

Soundscapes - Throughout the next months the class will be creating their own music magazines. The class has spent several weeks looking at articles in [Music Alive Magazine](#) to gather inspiration for their own writings.

African Drumming - Students have been working on creating group video performances of Ensemble 3 that they will be critiquing during class. After finishing Ensemble 3, the class will begin working on several projects based on the performance group “Stomp.”

### What's Going on in Band?

6th Grade: Students are learning new key signatures and developing their range by stretching into some new low and high notes. Consistent practice at home will help develop the endurance and flexibility needed for a larger range of notes. All students should be practicing a minimum of 60 minutes each week at home. It is suggested that students practice for 20-30 minutes a week, at least 3 times per week. We are also having success with four new concert band songs. The students are learning at a fast rate. Trimester I Progress Reports will be coming home during the month of December so that you know your child's progress. Hopefully you are experiencing that progress at home!

7th Grade: Our everyday band students completed a recording project on an app called "Acapella." It was a great exercise in understanding the importance of pitch/rhythm accuracy, steady tempo, and listening skills. Our band is working furiously to prepare for the Holiday Concert on December 6th. The students recently completed a music check of their concert music at a lesson. Please continue to encourage consistent practice habits at home. Lesson performance and video recordings make up the largest portion of the grade. After the concert, we will begin to work on solo & ensemble literature to encourage small group performance.

8th Grade: If you read the 7th Grade description, you will get a clear picture of what 8th graders have been doing in band. In addition our students were a "runner-up" for the NBA-WC Convention in Appleton in January. While disappointed to not be selected, it is encouraging to know that our 8th Grade Band was strongly considered and one of the finer middle school ensembles in Wisconsin. Our 8th Graders will be stretched in the upcoming months with advanced rhythms and an enhanced stretch of their range. Our goal is to have students who are ready and capable to be a part of one the best high school band programs in the state. I am excited to hear what these young musicians accomplish in their last 6 months of middle school.





## Student Council

Student Council has been going EXTREMELY well! We are working on getting our t-shirts here by the holidays. We are also busy prepping and planning for this year's talent show. We are going to do lip-sync battles this year. Make sure to put December 22nd on your calendar, so you can come check out the talent at the middle school!

We will also be helping ring bells for the Salvation Army at IGA on December 10th. Go Panthers!



## Soles 4 Souls

Elle Slotted, 8th grader here at West Salem Middle School, is collecting new and gently used shoes for Soles 4 Souls. They are a non-profit global institution dedicated to fighting poverty. Your donation helps people in the U.S. and around the world. She is also fundraising to collect for shipping costs. The shoe drive runs through December 8. Donation boxes are located at Altra Federal Credit Union in West Salem, Pizza Oven, West Salem Elementary, and West Salem Middle School as well as Our Savior's Lutheran Church in West Salem. Your old shoes could change a life!

## 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](mailto:friell.nicole@wsalem.k12.wi.us). I'll try to work in as many as possible. Thanks! Ms. Friell



## SUCCESS CENTER

The Success Center is a resource room for students before and after school to receive help from staff who attend various classes in the building and are equipped to walk students through information they may have missed or just do not understand. It is also the place students make up tests and quizzes. It is open from 7am until 7:45am and again from 3:10pm until 4pm. If students attend the Success Center, parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

## HOMEWORK

Students should expect to have homework in math and reading on a regular basis. Math homework will be an extension of what is learned during class. Students will be given class time to work but most will have to take the homework home to complete it. In reading, students are expected to read an independent reading book nightly for a minimum of 20 min. Most other classes will have homework on an intermittent basis. You should not expect more than an hour of homework nightly. When absent, students should be getting the information missed off of Edmodo.

## Substitutes Needed

For the 2016-2017 School Year  
In the following areas:

Secretarial  
Food Service  
Bus Drivers

Paraprofessionals  
Custodians  
Teachers

If interested, please stop at the District Office at  
405 East Hamlin St, West Salem OR call  
608-786-0700 OR go to [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us)  
for a substitute application





November 28, 2016

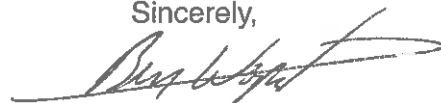
Dear Parents,

The West Salem Middle School students have the opportunity to attend an old fashioned radio play performed by The La Crosse Community Theater at The Weber Center for Performing Arts on December 16 during the school day. Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* comes to life as a live 1940s radio broadcast, complete with vintage commercials, sound effects and music.

The sixth graders will read an abridged version of the novel before attending. The 7th and 8th graders have read the unabridged work by Dickens. Before attending the performance, all students will learn more about 1940s radio plays. Therefore, students get the experience of attending a live performance that is not only in a beautiful venue, but is also directly related to the curriculum.

The cost of the performance is \$7.00. If this cost is a hardship, email Mr. Lang for assistance. Please sign the permission slip below and return it with \$7.00 with your son/daughter by December 9.

Sincerely,



Ben Wopat

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to attend the *A Christmas Carol* radio broadcast at The Weber Center on December 16. Enclosed please find \$7.00.

# December 2016

## West Salem Middle School Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mini Corn Dogs</li> <li>• Meatballs &amp; Gravy</li> <li>• Mashed Potatoes</li> <li>• Craisin</li> <li>• Whole Grain Dinner Roll</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich</li> <li>• Fish Sandwich</li> <li>• Coleslaw</li> <li>• Fresh Sliced Apples</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baked Ziti</li> <li>• Turkey BLT on White Wheat Sandwich Bread</li> <li>• Roasted Brussel Sprouts</li> <li>• Peaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken Fajitas</li> <li>• Pork Taco Meat</li> <li>• Soft Shell Tortilla</li> <li>• Tortila Chips, round</li> <li>• Black Bean Corn Salsa</li> <li>• Strawberry Cups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBQ Teriyaki Chicken</li> <li>• Popcorn Chicken</li> <li>• Brown Rice</li> <li>• Stir Fry Vegetable Blend</li> <li>• Pears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pasta with Alfredo Sauce</li> <li>• Pasta with Chicken Cajun Alfredo</li> <li>• Garlic Breadstick</li> <li>• Corn</li> <li>• Mixed Berry Blend</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three Cheese Calzone</li> <li>• Mozzarella Stuffed Breadstick</li> <li>• Marinara Dipping Cup</li> <li>• Potato Smiles</li> <li>• Applesauce</li> </ul>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheesy Mac Bake</li> <li>• BBQ Pork Rib Sandwich</li> <li>• Steamed Broccoli</li> <li>• Pineapple Tidbits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chicken Nuggets</li> <li>• Chef Salad w/ham &amp; cheese</li> <li>• Cheez-It Crackers</li> <li>• Harvest Moon Blend Vegetables</li> <li>• Orange Halves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diced Chicken &amp; Gravy</li> <li>• Corn Dog</li> <li>• Mashed Potatoes</li> <li>• Pears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cinnamon French Toast</li> <li>• Sausage Links</li> <li>• Turkey Sub</li> <li>• Warm Cinnamon Apples</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheeseburger</li> <li>• Hamburger</li> <li>• Chicken Breast Sandwich</li> <li>• Oven Baked French Fries</li> <li>• Applesauce</li> </ul>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saucy Orange Popcorn Chicken</li> <li>• Popcorn Chicken</li> <li>• Vegetable "Not Fried" Rice</li> <li>• Garlic Roasted Green Beans</li> <li>• Mandarin Oranges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classic Lasagna</li> <li>• Chicken Tenders</li> <li>• Garlic Toast</li> <li>• Asparagus</li> <li>• Strawberry Cups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheese Pizza - Personal Pan</li> <li>• Cheeseburger</li> <li>• Hamburger</li> <li>• Capri Vegetable Blend</li> <li>• Pears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday Nuggets</li> <li>• Panther Pack</li> <li>• Honey-Glazed Carrots</li> <li>• Grapes</li> </ul>	No School - Winter Break!
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
No School - Winter Break!	No School - Winter Break!	No School - Winter Break!	No School - Winter Break!	No School - Winter Break!

More Details: <http://wsalem.nutrislice.com/menu/west-salem-middle-school/lunch/>  
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# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Year in review

As a family, take time to appreciate each other by looking back at the past year. What were your favorite moments together? Were there situations that brought you closer? Spend an evening or two discussing those experiences—and talk about what you're looking forward to as a family in 2017.

### Dream team

Encourage your tween to list the people in his life he could turn to if he needed help. His list might include you, teachers, coaches, relatives, or neighbors. Then, when he needs someone to talk to about a problem with a friend or why he didn't make the honors chorus, he can pick from among his "dream team."

### Study hangout

Studying with friends can be motivating for middle schoolers. Suggest that your child and her study mates hang out at your house and divide their work into pieces, then explain the parts to each other. They might have each person read a section in a textbook or review separate topics in their notes.

### Worth quoting

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of another."  
*Charles Dickens*

### Just for fun

**Q:** What's the best thing to put into a pie?

**A:** Your teeth!



## Show grit

Twins Tanner and Taylor had a lot of the same subjects, but each handled schoolwork differently. Tanner took his time, studied, and got good grades. Taylor wasn't as driven and got only passing grades.

The difference between them? Tanner's grit and his passion about school kept him determined to do well so he could achieve his goal of attending college. Try these three tips to foster grit in your middle grader.



### 1. Encourage effort

Share a situation that required you to confront a challenge. If your tween knows how you overcame a struggle, it will help him build confidence to do the same. Then, acknowledge his efforts when he shows grit. Be specific: Instead of just saying "Good job!" try, "Your daily practice at the pool paid off when you nailed the dive at the swim meet."

### 2. Jump the bumps

Help your middle grader learn to handle setbacks by making "stretch" goals for himself. For example, if he got a poor English grade, he might work toward

better grades on essays. His "stretches" could be to improve his thesis statements, to include more evidence to support his points, and to spend 15 minutes each night writing in a journal. Achieving tougher goals will give him grit to keep going further.

### 3. Stay excited

Perhaps your child was enthusiastic about learning Spanish when school started, but now he's lost interest. He can find ways to get excited again by looking for opportunities to use Spanish in everyday life, like talking to neighbors in their native language or translating signs on store windows for you. 👍

## Ways with words

No matter what classes your middle schooler is in, she'll need to learn new vocabulary. These ideas will help her pick up new words.

**Make up crosswords.** Suggest that your child use her science, math, or history vocabulary words to make up a crossword puzzle for you. She'll have to study and understand the words' meanings to give clues that make sense.

**Record the meanings.** Speaking definitions out loud can make them easier to remember. Your tween could record herself saying what new terms mean and using them in sentences. Playing back the recordings will give her another way to review. 👍



# Prevent bullying

Did you know that bullying often peaks in middle school? Help your tween be part of the solution with these strategies.

**Know the forms.** Point out that bullying is more than physical. Your child might recognize bullying when she sees a classmate give someone a mean shove during recess. But it's also bullying when kids spread rumors, exclude people, or text hurtful comments.

**Take action.** Bystanders are the first line of defense in overcoming bullying. Maybe your tween overhears a bully say he's going to steal someone's backpack. Or she might see a bullying victim hurting herself in the restroom. If that happens, she



should immediately tell a teacher or another adult. Encourage her to be kind to kids who don't have many friends, inviting them to sit with her on the bus, for example.

**Get on the same page.**

If your middle schooler is bullying, discuss why her

actions are harmful and wrong. Also, set consequences. If she posts mean social media messages, for instance, you might take away her cell phone.

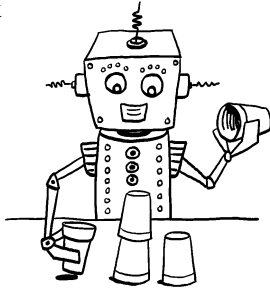
*Note:* If you think your child is bullying or is a victim of bullying, take it seriously. Ask a pediatrician or mental health professional for help. 👍



## That's code for...

Computer coding is an in-demand skill that will help your child in future careers. Here's a fun offline way to introduce him to it.

Suggest your middle grader write a "code" to instruct someone on how to move paper cups around. He could first devise symbols like these:



- ↑ pick up cup
- ↓ put down cup
- move cup forward 6 inches
- ← move cup backward 3 inches
- △ turn cup on its side
- ⇅ turn cup upside down

Then, your child and a friend could use his code to write "programs" for each other, such as →←↑⇅↓△.

*Tip:* Many websites offer free coding activities that teach tweens programming basics. Help your youngsters look online for ones to try. 👍

**OUR PURPOSE**

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

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## De-stress the holidays

**Q** I always try to create the perfect holidays, but I get so stressed that I can't enjoy the season—and then my family can't enjoy it either. What would make things easier?

**A** If you're less stressed, then you'll have a happier holiday home that everyone enjoys.

- **First, try to have a sense of humor.** If you run out of gift wrap at the last minute, use the newspaper or leftover birthday paper. Add a note saying, "Wrapped with love and yesterday's news!"
- **Look at your to-do list, and think about what has to be done** vs. what you would like to get done. If you're hosting a gathering and are pressed for time, shut the door to the spare room, and your company won't see the clutter.
- **Find ways to streamline,** and involve your child. For instance, combine your errands to cut down on trips, and bring along your middle grader as a helper. 👍



## Parent to Parent

### Talking with my tween

When my daughter, Susie, started middle school, I got nervous about discussing "big" topics. I'd heard neighbors talk about their kids having boyfriends or even drinking alcohol. The whole thing made me want to say, "Call me when it's over!"

Luckily, I have a good friend who's been down this road. She said it's important to start conversations with Susie sooner rather than later.

If Susie mentions a friend having a crush, for example, I could

open the door to a discussion by saying, "I remember having the biggest crush on a boy named Mark. Have you felt that way about anyone yet?" Or if the local news has a story about a drunk driver, I might ask her what she's learning in school about substance abuse.

Finally, my friend said tweens may shut down if they think they're being lectured. She said I should focus more on listening. That's hard for me, but I'm practicing by saying, "Would you like to hear what I think?" 👍

