

Black Cat News

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Get to Know Mr. Wopat

by Jonathan G.

Why did you want to be a principal?

"I wanted to because I felt like I could help more people in that position and I enjoy problem solving."

Were you a principal at any other schools?

"I was the Dean of Students at Logan Middle School."

What did you do before being a principal?

"I was a coach and teacher for nine years at Logan High and was the Dean of Students at Logan Middle and a coach."

What is your favorite thing about being a principal?

"Watching students be successful and seeing our teachers work in the classroom."

Where are you from/Where did you grow up?

" Ontario, Wisconsin."

What was your favorite part of school?

"I enjoyed co-curriculars and in high school I liked history and literature."

Where do you want to go in retirement?

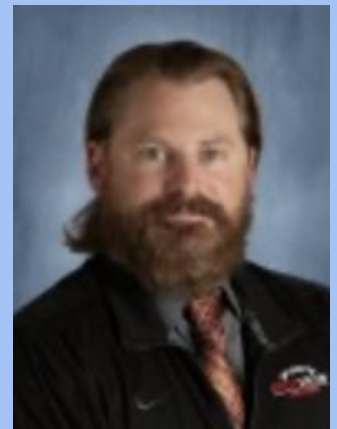
"I want to be a snow bird."

When do you plan on retiring?

"In probably like 15 years or something like that."

What are your hobbies outside of school?

"Hunting, coaching football, music, and traveling."



Talking with Mrs. Beld

By: Breeley O.



When did you know you wanted to be a principal?

In my last years I was teaching

In total, how many years have you worked at WSMS? 16 years

What subject and grades did you teach? 6th grade Social Studies for 13 years and 7th grade Social Studies for three years.

What was or still is your favorite grade? Middle school, in general.

Where did you grow up? Lodi, WI (by Madison)

Did you play sports in school? Yes, volleyball, basketball, and softball.

Have you ever coached any sports? Yes. I've coached middle school volleyball, basketball, and softball.

What is your favorite color? Badger Red

Where did you go to college and what for? UW-Madison for International Relations and International Business, UW-La Crosse for Masters in Education (Broadfield Social Studies Grades 6-12), and Viterbo for Principal and Director of Instruction License

What did you want to be when you were little? Professional Dancer

West Salem Hockey by Braydon B.



Hockey is a great sport. Ice hockey is a contact winter team sport played on ice skates, usually on a rink. It is one of the fastest team sports on ice belonging to a small group of four ice skating team sports.

In ice hockey, two opposing teams use ice hockey sticks to control and shoot a closed, rubber disc called a "puck" into the other team's goal or net. Each goal is worth one point. The team which scores the most goals is declared the winner. Therefore, hockey is a fast, teamworking, physical sport and you should really try it out in open hockey or open skate.

West Salem Hockey Association has been around since the 1970s. Kids ages 4 - 15 are allowed to play, and there are around 120 kids who participate. Kids are grouped by ages. Practices and home games are held in the Panther Den.

I play on the Bantams. We have games almost every weekend and practice about three times a week. Here's what we normally do in practice:

- We work hard to be the best we can be
- We work on skating/plays
- We work on shooting and stickhandling
- We have scrimmages and fun games at very end if there's time

West Salem Bantam Team Members: Aiden K, Aiden H, Isaac D, Wyatt B, Dalton G, Desmond W, Noah J, Coen K, Cade D, Atticus R

Sources:

<https://www.chamonix.net/english/info/more-info-about-ice-hockey>

<https://www.westsalemhockey.org>

Mark Johnson & Wisconsin Girls Hockey

by Grace J.



UW women's hockey started in 1991. Their team has won six national championships from 2006 to 2021. They are located. Their head coach is Mark Johnson, and their assistant coach is Dan Koch.

Mark Johnson has been coaching the team since 2010. He played center in 669 NHL games. He played for the Olympic gold medal winning team in 1980 and scored four goals.. He started playing with the Pittsburgh Penguins, then went to the North Stars. He has played on a lot of teams after the North Stars.



in hockey at 6'9".

The Capitals are a professional hockey team. They are called the Capitals because they are based in Washington, D.C, and that is the capital of USA. Their colors are red, white, and blue. They compete as a member of the Metropolitan Division. They have been a team since 1974. Their team captain is Alexander Ovechkin. They won one Stanley Cup in 2018, from the ladder (this is a shoot out). They also reached the Stanley Cup finals in 1988. Since 2020, they have 36 wins and 15 loses. They also won the President's Trophy for having having the most points at the end of the 2009 season. They won it again in 2015 and 2016. They are presently affiliated with two minor league teams, the Hershey Bears and the South Carolina Stingrays. They have the tallest hockey player in the world, Zdeno Chara.



Source: kids.kiddle.co/Washington_Capitals



West Salem School Basketball (boys)

By Elliott C.

<u>7th Grade</u>	<u>8th team</u>
<p>Elliott C, Isaiah L, Drew M, Josiah W, Will C, Jack T, Michael T, Luke G, Isaac D, Peyton K, Owen H, Nate S, Andrew L, Jameson S, Sammy A, Andrew M, Jacob N, Collin H, Cody L, Charlie I, Zachary N, Graham S, Liam H, Jaxen Q, Cade W</p>	<p>Makebo A, Nathan D, Aaron G, Carson G, Micah H, Jaxson H, Zeke H, Spencer K, Coen K, Tyson L, Landon M, Nathan P, Hunter R, Bennett R, Carter R, Will S, Jonathan S, Eli S, Cooper Y</p>
Coaches: Mr. Reader and Ms. Serres	Coaches: Mrs. Jehn and Mr. Davis

A Typical Practice

On a daily basis we start by stretching and two ball dribbling. After that we do layup lines, then we do sprints. Now it's about 4:00ish and we work lots of different things like shell drill and offense stuff. At the end of practice we usually do 5 on 5 and work on our plays.

Schedule

Thursday November 4th - AT Holmen
 Tuesday November 9th - AT Longfellow
 Thursday November 11th - AT Sparta
 Tuesday November 16th - VS G-E-T
 Thursday November 18th - AT Tomah
 Tuesday November 23rd - VS Lincoln
 Monday November 29th - VS Westby
 Thursday December 2nd - VS Aquinas
 Tuesday December 7th - AT Logan
 Thursday December 9th - VS Holmen



Neshonoc Lakers Girls Basketball

Bella Q

Neshonoc Lakers is a girls club basketball program. They practice on some weekdays at 5:15. Their practices mostly focus on getting into shape and shooting as well as plays like the out of bounds plays and how to run their 5 out offense. Defense-wise they focus on staying low and how to help your teammates with other teams' offense plays. The team has had one tournament -- a home tournament, and they did quite well. The girls' next tournament is this weekend in Sparta and they play the normal three games and a break in between.

Roster

Breeley O.
Jayda M.
Kylie E.
Kennedy E.
Lilly O.
Bella Q.
Elise F.
Briauna M.
Arriyiana C.
Ava S.

COACHES

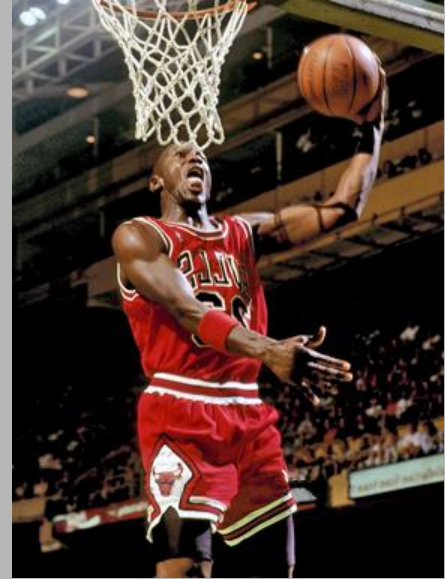
Fallon Miller
Erney Everson



Top 10 NBA Players (in my opinion)

by Jaxen Q.

1. Michael Jordan (played for 15 years and won 6 championships)
2. LeBron James (has been playing for 19 years and has won 4 championships)
3. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (played for 21 years, and won 6 championships)
4. Magic Johnson (played for 13 years, and won 5 championships)
5. Larry Bird (played for 13 years and won 3 championships)
6. Wilt Chamberlain (played for 14 years and won 3 championships)
7. Longar Longar (played for 10 years and won 5 MVPs)
8. Kobe Bryant (played for 20 years and won 5 championships)
9. Shaquille O'Neal (played for 19 years and won 4 championships)
10. Kevin Durant (has been playing for 14 years and has won 2 championships)



NBA Records

by Will C. & Michael T.

Most Points Scored In A Career

1. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 38,387 points
2. Karl Malone 36,928 points
3. LeBron James 36,001 points

Most Championships For A Pro

1. Bill Russell 11 championships
2. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Michael Jordan 6 Championships
3. Magic Johnson 5 championships

Most MVPs For A Pro

1. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 6 MVPs
2. Bill Russell and Michael Jordan 5 MVPs
3. LeBron James and Wilt Chamberlain 4 MVPs



Kareem Abdul Jabbar



Bill Russell

The Boston Celtics

by Cody L. & Ryan S.

The Boston Celtics Best Players of All Time

(in our opinion)

1. Larry Bird
2. Bill Russell
3. Kevin Garnett
4. Paul Pierce
5. John Havlicek



Jayson Tatum: Best current player for the Celtics because he's the best offensive player on the team and also one of the best defenders.

Interesting facts

1. One of their players (Bill Russell) won 11 championship rings.
2. The Celtics have won 17 championships.
3. The Celtics have been to the playoffs 57 times.
4. They have 40 Hall of Famers.
5. Their mascot is Lucky the Leprechaun.
6. The Celtics' biggest rivals are the Miami Heat and the Los Angeles Lakers.
7. The Celtics have never moved the franchise.
8. The Celtics have won 8 straight championships in a row.
9. The Celtics drafted the first African American player (Chuck Cooper).
10. The Celtics had the same general manager, Red Auerbach, for 33 years.



Larry Bird

team mascot



Best Athlete Nicknames

By Cody L.

Nickname: a familiar or funny name given to a person or thing instead of or as well as the real name. That's the definition of a nickname according to google dictionary. And, in sports, athletes tend to have a lot of nicknames. So, I will be ranking, in my opinion, the best nicknames in sports' history.

1. Deion Sanders "PrimeTime"- Football
2. Eldrick Woods "Tiger"- Golf
3. Ervin Johnson "Magic"- Basketball
4. Muhammad Ali "The Greatest"- Boxing
5. Walter Payton "Sweetness"- Football
6. Calvin Johnson "Megatron"- Football
7. Pete Maravich "Pistol"- Basketball
8. Hakeem Olajuwon "The Dream"- Basketball
9. Ray Robinson "Sugar"- Boxing
10. Allen Iverson "The Answer"- Basketball
11. Ken Griffey Jr. "The Kid"- Baseball
12. Anfernee Hardaway "Penny"- Basketball
13. Michael Jordan "His Airness"- Basketball
14. Clyde Drexler "The Glide"- Basketball
15. Dick Lane "Night Train"- Football
16. Earl Monroe "Pearl"- Basketball
17. Gary Payton "The Glove"- Basketball
18. Mike Tyson "Iron"- Boxer
19. David Ortiz "Big Papi"
20. Glen Davis "Big Baby"- Basketball
21. Eric Esch "Butterbean"- Boxer
22. Tuanigamanuolepola Tagovailoa "Tua"- Football



"Prime Time" Deion Sanders.

The Ways of Water

by Lily T.

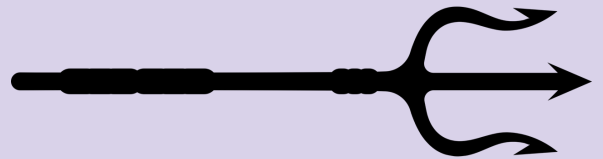
Drinking water is very important for your body. You need to drink water for many reasons but here are a few. It helps your digestive system, it helps to maintain your blood pressure, it regulates your body temperature, and it flushes body waste. Drinking water is crucial to your body to stay alive and is a great source of energy.

If you don't drink water you may wonder why you are still alive. Even when you don't know it, you are consuming water through foods. Many foods including cucumbers, watermelon, peaches, and apples have lots of water in them. As you can see, these foods are fruit. There is not much water in anything that is cooked or baked because it evaporates.

Sources:

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/290814> and

<https://www.healthline.com/health/food-nutrition/why-is-water-important#saliva>



I conducted a survey that was sent to students in 7th grade. The survey consisted of 4 multiple choice questions that included do you drink water on a daily basis, how much water do you typically drink in a day, do you carry a water bottle with you, and do you think drinking water is important. (The results are on the next page.)

Water Survey Results

Out of 88 students 73 say that they drink water on a daily basis.

Out of 88 students 5 said they don't drink water on a daily basis.

Out of 87 students 32 said they typically drink 32oz of water a day.

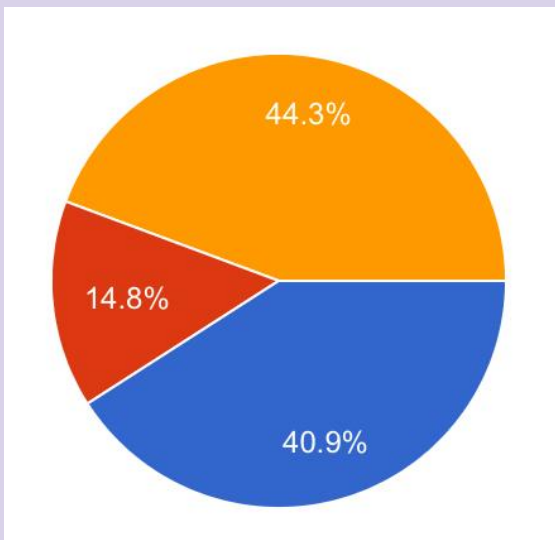
Out of 87 students 11 said they typically drink less than 16oz a day.

Out of 88 students 36 said they carry a water bottle with them everyday.

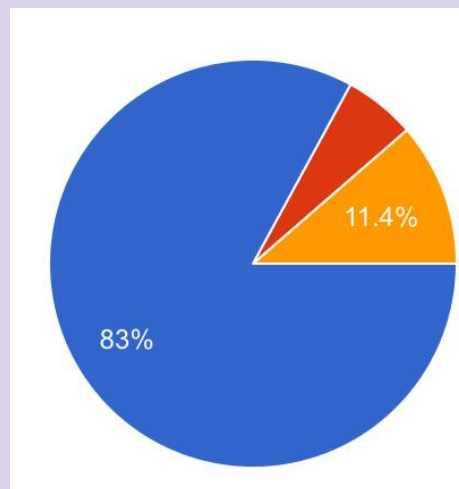
Out of 88 students 76 said they think drinking water is important.

Out of 88 students 1 said that they think drinking water is not important.

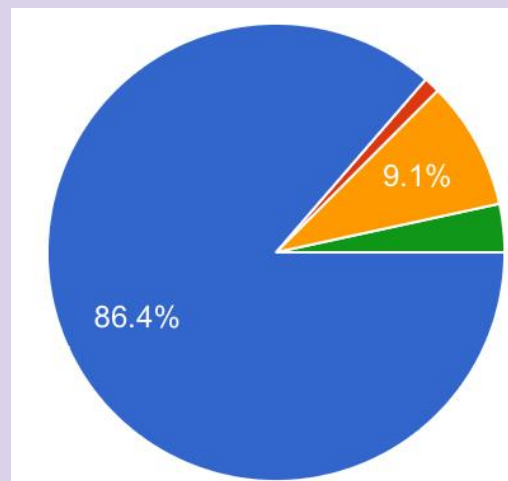
Do you carry a water bottle with you? ●=no
●=sometimes ●=yes



Do you drink water on a daily basis? ●=no
●=sometimes ●=yes



Do you think drinking water is important? ●=no
●=kinda ●=yes ●=I don't know



Marble League Making a Smashing Hit

by Joshua L.

Marblelympics is a marble competition on youtube created by Jelle and Dion Bakker. They set up an event (like a track under water), and different marble teams duke it out in the different events/tracks. So far, it's been a smashing hit. Jelle makes it seem like a 3DBotMaker and creates the illusion that we are watching this like an actual sport. It shows the marbles as athletes training for the event.

The Marblelympics of last year got 136 million views! In 2015, Jelle's marble run created the following teams: Momary, Team Primary, Bumblebees, Limers, Shining Swarm, Minty Maniacs, Hobalts, and Gliding Glaciers. Snowballers is a team that was made at the beginning of Marblelympics.

In 2015, Snowballers landed 14 overall and did poorly in the Marblelympics. The officials discovered that there was a defect in the Snowballer's lane, and thus they got a "consolation bronze" and got an extra five points.

Minty Maniacs were the cream of the crop for 2016 and 2018. After a brief period of retirement, they appeared for the Marble League Showdown of 2019 and qualified for Marble League 2020. They killed it at the first three events, but they lost it after the triathlon and fell back to fourth. They tried to get up higher on the podium, but they settled for 3rd.

The O'rangers were the best of the best, winning five gold, six silver, and three bronze. They continued on this streak until a shocking fail at 10th.

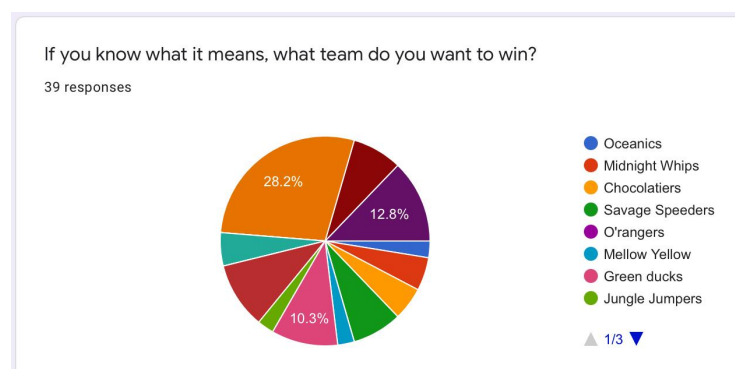
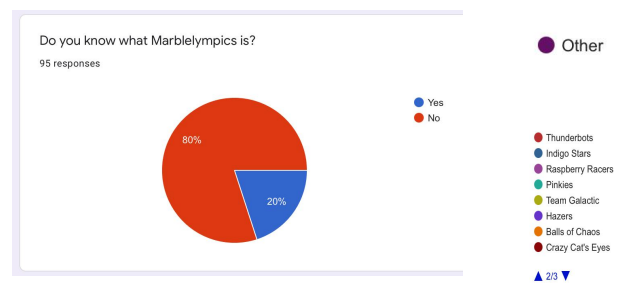
The Savage Speeders finished in at least 5th place every year. In 2021, they fell to 12th in the marble league.

Crazy Cat's Eyes had several lower end finishes and are now confirmed to be the hosts of Marble league and Marbula One after a show stopping victory at Marbula One.

Team Momo, in 2017, had an injury from Momomomo. Now the team is infamous for having injuries, with a total of three in Marble League 2017 and Marble League 2018. After Momomomo's injury, the Marblelympics banned fidget spinners. Momomomo is back and they're part of team Momary -- the first merged team in Marblelympics.



Here are the current teams still running in the Marblelympics



The Best Brand Of Headphones

By Cash L



Wondering about the best brand of headphones? It's kinda complicated. For starters, there are two types of headphones -- in-ear headphones and on/over ear headphones. When checking out headphones, look for a number and then Ohms or "Ω." The more Ohms means they are harder to power. This means you need a big, expensive amp to experience the full potential of the headphones. Therefore, if you are in school, and need to use a iPad or Chromebook, I would recommend

the **Sony ZX Series On-Ear Headphones**. They sound OK for the roughly \$12.00 you would pay for them. They fold up for easy storage. The music sounds OK on them, but vocals are superb. If in-ears are your jam, the **Sony MDR-EX-15**. They are very high quality for being in-ears. Music, alongside vocals, also sound extremely good. Wanna go with Bluetooth? The top-pick for wireless headphones are the **JBL TUNE 500BT**. They have a very long playtime, as well as great sound although they aren't very comfortable for long term use. If you have a bit more money, and want great audio as well as a premium build, I would recommend the **AKG K92s**. They are very comfortable, sound great, and are easy to power. But the metal frame is prone to scratching. For you audiophiles out there, I would recommend the **Beyerdynamic DT-770 Pro 80 Ohm**. They also have a 32 Ohm version that is easy to power out of a phone.



Sony MDR-EX-15

FINAL VERDICT

In-Ear: Sony MDR-EX-15

On Ear: Sony ZX Series



Sony ZX Series

Ms.Fink Interview

By Kylie E.

Important information about Ms. Fink

If you didn't get to teach math what would you teach?

answer: P.E.

Out of all the grades why do you teach 5th?
What do you like about 5th grade?

answer: Because the students are young enough to think I'm cool and old enough to work independently



What you do in your free time? What are some of your hobbies?

answer: I like to hang out with my puppy and play softball and volleyball with friends

What is your favorite color?

answer: blue

While growing up, what did you want to be?

answer: lawyer or traffic designer

When you were younger what was your favorite subject in school?

answer: math

What is your first name?

Answer: Katie

What is one of your greatest memories?

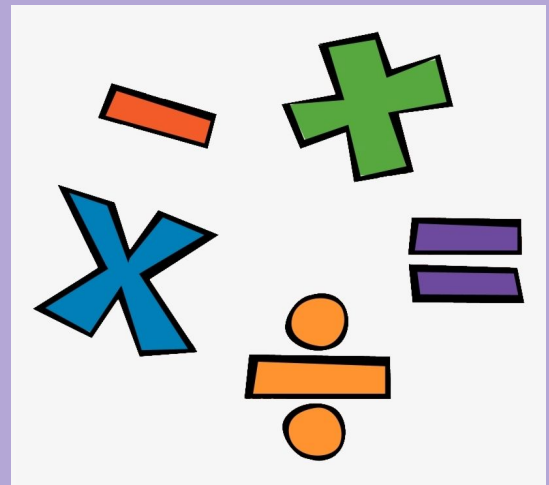
answer: winning state for softball

What is your favorite holiday?

answer: Christmas

What is your favorite book?

Answer: Night and Gale by Daniel Carrier



What is your favorite vacation you've taken? Why?

answer: Mexico because it was my first time out of the country. The weather was nice and it was free

Mrs. McKinney

by Mara M.

1. "What did you want to be when you were growing up?"

When I was young, I wanted to be a waitress or a librarian. When I got older, I wanted to be a pediatrician or teacher.

2. Who/what inspired you to be a teacher

My dad was a teacher, so he inspired me! I also had a couple great teachers who inspired me as well.

3. What inspires you to be a good teacher

My high expectations, my family, and my students/families.

4. What's your favorite part of being a teacher?

I love it when students are happy to come to my classroom each day, and I love it when they see success and learn!

5. Is there anything that you wish you'd known as a first year teacher?

I wish I had known that I would feel new each year of teaching (new class, new year, new curriculum), and that no year would ever be the same. I wish I had had more confidence and believed in myself.

6. Favorite color

Red and hot pink :)

7. Hidden talent

I can juggle a little, and I love to rollerblade!

8. Dream vacation

I would love to go to Italy!

9. What is your favorite part of being a teacher at West Salem?

I love the kiddos, the campus setting, and the close-knit community!

10. All time favorite song

That's tough! I have many... I love Ed Sheeran's "Perfect" (also "Shallow" and "You are the Reason")



Get to Know Mrs. Rochester

By Bella Q.

Q: Why did you become a teacher?

A: "Because I have been playing school since I was 5."

Q: Did you always want to be a teacher?

A: "Yes, I always wanted to teach."

Q: When you were a little kid what did you want to do?

A: "I wanted to be a teacher or do something with money."

Q: Did you do anything before you were a teacher?

A: "Yeah, I worked at the LaCrosse Center."

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: "Math because I liked always having a straightforward answer. Algebra was my favorite."

Q: If you could travel anywhere in the world where would you go and why?

A: "Somewhere where the temp. is 75 degrees but a place I won't sweat."

Q: What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

A: "I don't like Ice Cream."

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: "Sandwiches"

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: "Blue and Hunter Green."

Q: What is your greatest memory?

A: "When I went on a family trip to NY."

Q: Would you ever want to jump out of a plane?

A: NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Absolutely not!!!!

Q: What is your birthday?

A: January 11



Teacher Feature - Mrs. Bentzen

By Lauren B & Alicia Z

Why did you decide to teach math?

“I was always strong at math throughout school.”

Do you like teaching advanced math and regular math?

“Yes, I love it.”

Do you like Mathcounts?

“It’s awesome and great for teaching kids to problems solve.”

How long have you been teaching?

“36 years.”

What is your favorite hobby?

“Probably watching TV and boating. I also love shopping.”

What did you want to be when you were in middle school?

“Wanting to work in the fashion industry.”

What’s your favorite color?

“Raspberry.”

What’s your favorite food?

“Mexican.”

What’s your favorite animal?

“Cat.”

Do you have any pets?

“No. I do not have any pets. My daughter has a cat named Astro.”

Do you have any siblings?

“I’m the third oldest.”

What is your favorite book genre?






“Historical fiction.”

Who was your childhood best friend?

“Cyndy.”



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1. Freedom Day	2. Crepe Day	3. Carrot Cake Day 	4. Thank a Mailman Day	5. Bubble Gum Day	6. Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day
7. Super Bowl Sunday	8. Kite Flying Day 	9. Toothache Day	10. Umbrella Day	11. Make a Friend Day	12. Darwin Day	13. Whale Day 
14. Ferris Wheel Day	15. Gumdrop Day	16. Almond Day	17. Random Act of Kindness Day	18. Battery Day	19. Chocolate Mint Day	20. Love Your Pet Day
21. Sticky Bun Day	22. Walking the Dog Day :)	23. Tennis Day 	24. Tortilla Chip Day	25. Chili Day	26. Tell a Fairy Tale Day	27. Polar Bear Day
 28. Floral Design Day	29. Leap Day					

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