



Whisconier Wire

We at Whisconier Middle School will respect ourselves and one another, appreciate individual differences, and encourage one another to reach our potential.

Volume 6, Issue 3

**February 2015
Newsletter**

**Inside This
Issue:**

Greetings from the Principal - Mr. Deane Renda

More Than Half Way Home

The school year is more than half over. This is a perfect time to sit down with your child and talk about what he/she has been successful with during the first two marking periods and also what he/she can work to improve on for the rest of the school year. The focus of these conversations should be on developing good work habits. Homework completion, studying, writing down assignments, organization, behavior, and procrastination are some of the important habits to revisit. Please contact your child's teachers or counselor if you have questions on how you can help your child with any of these essential school habits.

As always, expectations for student learning at WMS remain at high levels as our teachers work collaboratively to continue to implement our rigorous common core curriculum. Our students are working in cooperative group activities and projects and engaged in rich learning experiences in all of their academic areas.

Lastly, please remember that if you are consistent in after school routines around homework and make school a high priority, your child is more likely to be successful now and in the future.

Counselor's Corner	2
Hot Topic	3
8th Grade Oration	4
Important Dates	4
Lost and Found	5
MATHCOUNTS and Math Team	6



Parent/Teacher Conference Dates

**Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on
Wednesday, March 11th from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m.**

*** Students will have a 1/2 day and will be dismissed at 12:00pm. Lunch will not be served and there will be no after school activities or late buses.**

Counselors' Corner

Grade 5 - Ms. Graziano

The 5th graders started out this year by creating academic goals that the students set for themselves. We talked about the transition and did activities to help everyone get to know our classmates better since students now switch classes and are not with the same group of kids all day. In October, students learned all about Red Ribbon Week and talking about positive life choices and positive role models. A group of guest speakers shared their stories with addiction and sent home the message of always having that one adult in your life you can talk to about anything. After that we learned about cyber safety and how to stay safe online and with social media. One of the big topics was geo tagging. Kids were taught how to change their privacy settings on their phones and iPods so strangers can't find them. Next up, we are learning about the 16 different career clusters. Students will be asked to get a list of all the different jobs and careers their parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, cousins, etc. had and we will figure out which cluster they belong in. Will the students follow in their parents footsteps? Or do they plan to go in a different direction?

Grade 6 - Mrs. LaChance

Each 6th grade student has completed a learning style inventory. To complete this, we used a program called Career Cruising, which is an online website that houses your child's student success plan. Students learned about what the different learning styles are (auditory, visual, and tactile) and then completed a 20 question survey that fit their responses into a learning style. A class discussion followed this and students reflected on the best ways to study based on their style. It can be a good conversation to have with your child to see what they learned about themselves.

Grade 7 - Mrs. FitzPatrick

In the beginning of the school year I introduced myself to the 7th graders with a "Who Am I" activity. This was a fun way for all of us to get to know each other better. In October, as part of Red Ribbon Week, students watched the video "Natural High" and discussed the importance of having positive role models, participate in healthy activities and developing strong positive relationships. Guest speakers shared their stories with drug and alcohol addiction. In December, students discussed respect, the importance of showing kindness to their peers and standing up for someone in need. This past month, 7th graders took the Career Matchmaker and were given suggested careers based on their interests. They learned about job descriptions, earnings, their strengths, and education needed for their career. We are excited for our annual Career Fair in March!

Grade 8 - Mr. Boainghu

Throughout the 2014-15 school year, 8th grade students continued their exploration of careers and the transition to high school. Last year, students completed the holland type inventory which helped them explore their interests and how those relate to specific fields. This year, students were introduced to the Myers-Briggs inventory which is a personality assessment used to understand the relationship between careers and the matching of personality characteristics. Finally, students explored the topic of career clusters which helps students understand groupings of careers and how to create high school plans based on a career pathway. In March, the BHS counselors will be teaching students about high school requirements and educating them on the student handbook.

Hot Topic - Kids Coping With Stress

Parents often contact me with questions about how to help their children cope with stress and anxiety. It is often hard for parents to see their child in distress and a typical response is to find a way to eliminate the source of the stress or anxiety. While this might help reduce levels of anxiety, it may also decrease opportunities for your child to learn how to manage stressful situations. Students who work with me because they need help managing anxiety are often relieved when I explain that our goal isn't to get rid of anxiety. For some students, anxiety levels are so high that it often seems like a monumental task to eliminate it. Instead, we talk about strategies to manage anxious feelings when they arise. I usually get a chuckle when I say that telling a person who worries not to worry is like telling a person with allergies not to sneeze. If your child expresses worry to you, be glad to know that you have created an environment where they feel comfortable to share their inner world with you. It's a great opportunity for you to have a discussion with your child about what they can do to cope. The more your child practices coping with stressful situations, the more confident they will become. When you let them handle a situation you are sending a powerful message to them that you trust their ability. Celebrating their efforts encourages skill building!

By Mrs. Sara Brown - WMS Social Worker



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**17 West Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804**



Having fun racing cars in Tech ED.!

8th Grade Oration Finals



Tuesday, February 19th was the finals for the 8th Grade Oration. The ten finalists were articulate, poised, and spoke passionately about their topic. The finalists were from L to R: Coleman P., Elizabeth R., Erin P., Sydney D., Macie C., Maya BS., Claire H., Rachel L., Claire L., and Liz C.

1st Place - Liz C.
2nd Place - Maya BS.
3rd Place - Sydney D.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3/3: 8th Grade Parent/Student Open House at BHS - 7:00 p.m. | 3/19: Science CMT - 5th and 8th Grade only |
| 3/4: Board of Ed. Meeting-BHS at 7:00 p.m. | 3/21: CT Odyssey of the Mind Tournament at Southern CT. State University |
| 3/6: WMS Talent Show-WMS at 6:30 p.m. | 3/25: Reader's Workshop Field Trip to Museum of Natural History |
| 3/10: WMS PTO Meeting-WMS at 6:30 p.m. | 3/25: WMS Spelling Bee WMS @ 6:30 p.m. |
| 3/11: Teacher Conferences-Early Dismissal at 12:00 | 3/27: WMS Unified Theater WMS @ 7:00 p.m. |
| 3/13: WMS 7th Grade Career Fair | 3/31 - 4/2: 8th grade field trip to Washington, DC |
| 3/13: WMS PLC Day - Early Dismissal at 11:30 a.m. | 4/1: End of marking period |
| 3/18: Board of Ed. Meeting BHS at 7:00 p.m. | |





**Congratulations to the
Brookfield Middle School Swim
Team for their first-place win
at the Middle School Open on
January 31st, 2015!**



**“The things that make me different are
the things that make me!”
- A. A. Milne/Winnie the Pooh**

ONE KIND WORD
can change
someone's
entire day

Lost and Found

There are many items in our Lost and Found bins at WMS! Please have your child look for their lost belongings. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity. To prevent this problem, please label your child's belongings.

WMS MATHCOUNTS - #1 Again!

On February 7th, Whisconier's MATHCOUNTS Team won a number of prizes in the CT Northwest Chapter Regional Competition. Coached by Mr. Reinhardt, the team consisted of an "A-Team" of four Mathletes: 8th graders - Rachel L., and Jennifer X. (8th), 7th grader - Kevin T., and 6th grader - Alex D. and 6 individual Mathletes: 8th graders - Daniel F. and David F. and 6th graders - Shruti D., Avery H., Andrew Y., and Adharsh K.

Our A-Team won 1st place in the team competition this year, and 5 of our Mathletes finished in the top 14 places in the individual round: Jennifer (3rd), Rachel (4th), Kevin (7th), Alex (10th), and Avery (14th)! Four of them (top 12 places) went on to the Countdown round, which Jennifer won 1st place in. The top 2 teams and next 5 individuals in the chapter round qualify for the state competition, so our A-team and Avery H. (as an individual) will go to the State MATHCOUNTS Competition at the University of Hartford on March 14th (π day!). Good luck to all of them!

Submitted by 8th grader - Jennifer Xiong



WMS Math Team

All of these Mathletes mentioned above are also part of a larger Math Team at WMS, which is also coached by Mr. Reinhardt. MATHCOUNTS is only one of the many competitions that the WMS Math Team participates in. The team also competes in many math meets with other schools in the region. Whisconier has also been dominating these math meets, winning every meet so far! There are about 20 Mathletes on the WMS Math Team, and everyone contributes to the win. In these math meets, only five minutes are given to solve each problem, making it a little more challenging to answer correctly. Even with only a short time to answer that doesn't stop Whisconier from excelling in every math competition so far!

Submitted by 8th grader - Jennifer Xiong