



# Walt Clark Middle School Cougar News

December 2014

## Principal's Corner

Volume 1, Issue 2

### Important Dates:

#### December

Dec 1st—19th:  
Open Enrollment Period

Dec 8th:  
Spirit Gear Order Forms  
due

Dec 10th/11th  
Student Perception Survey  
in all core classes

Dec 11th:  
Choir Concert @ 6pm

Dec 15th:  
Giving Tree donations due

Dec 16th:  
Orchestra Concert @ 6pm

Dec 18th:  
Band Concert @ 6pm

Dec 19th:  
End of 1st Semester

Dec 19th—Jan 6th:  
Winter Break / No School

#### January –

Jan 7th:  
Welcome Back to  
school!  
New semester begins

Time sure flies when you're a Walt Clark Cougar. Students and staff are wrapping up the first semester of the school year and preparing for a restful, rejuvenating winter break.

As a reminder, the last day of the semester is December 19th. Students will have up until that time to turn in all work before teachers turn in grades. Final semester grades will be posted on Parent Portal on Tuesday, January 6th. Please be sure to access your parent portal for all grade reports. If you do not have a Parent Portal account, please stop by the front office for instructions and your personal ID number.

In addition to checking final semester grades, be sure to have your student print off their second semester schedule and bring it with them on January 7th. If there is a question or desire to change their schedule, please have your student come to the counseling office and request a schedule change form. Please understand that requested schedule changes will not be made to a student's schedule for the first 10 days of the semester. This allows us time to settle everyone into classes and determine appropriate class numbers and sizes. Thank you for your support with this, we hope to make the semester transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

We want to thank all our students and parents for a wonderful first semester. We look forward to see all our students back in the hallways in January 2015!

Wishing you an abundance of friends, happiness, and fun this holiday season.



## Aladdin Jr. Comes To Walt Clark

Walt Clark students and families were dazzled and amazed by the talents of the Cougar Drama Club in their production of Aladdin Jr. The drama club worked very hard memorizing lines, creating sets, learning music and dance routines before the final show.

Students were able to view a sneak peek assembly on Thursday, Nov 13th. The students did a great job supporting their classmates as they "rehearsed" before a live audience for the first time.

We want to thank Mrs. Van Haley and Miss Crumrine for dedicating their time and expertise in directing this wonderful play. For a full list of cast members, be sure to see page 5.



## 6th Grade News

Great things are happening in 6th grade! In literacy we have been working on parts of speech, literary elements and writing. Students are consistently showing great improvements with their writing in all content areas. Science is wrapping up a unit on weather. Students prepared and presented their research on alternative energy sources and how these sources could help our own city of Loveland. Social Studies wrapped up solving geographic solutions for the hurricane Katrina disaster. Next we are moving on to financial literacy where we learn about how to manage a budget, interview for jobs, and pay bills; this is a great way to learn about real world financial situations. Finally, in Math we are continuing to focus on algebraic expressions. It is a good idea for students to always practice their multiplication facts – what a great activity to do while traveling this holiday season.

We wish all our students and parents a safe and happy holiday and we will see you in 2015.



## 7th Grade News

Proportions, heredity, mysteries and Vikings are currently the focus for our 7th grade students. Literacy classes are diving into the genre of mysteries and will be starting a mini research project on the topic; be sure to ask your student what mystery they investigated today. In Social Studies we are studying the exploration, daily life and culture of the Vikings. We will read articles and our textbook to gain an understanding of this interesting time period and will complete projects to demonstrate our new learnings. Is red hair a dominant or recessive trait? We will find out as we begin to study genetics in Science. This is a great topic for dinner table conversations with your student. Finally, math classes are working on pre-algebra concepts and continuing with proportions. Making cookies for the friends and family is an excellent way to practice those proportions! (Don't forget your teachers. . . ) Happy Holidays!

## 8th Grade News

As always, 8th grade is working hard in all content areas. We have researched real world situations (cell phones in classrooms, etc.) and prepared debates to defend our position; great way to practice argumentation. We are moving into the civil war for history. We will be writing our first major essay and deconstructing writing prompts. Math has started an exciting graphing unit. Students should have graphing paper with them everyday so graph paper is an excellent Christmas present! Finally, literacy is beginning a research presentation project. Be sure to ask your student about all these wonderful learning opportunities! It is hard to believe we are at the end of the first semester. Thank you to all our parents for your support – Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!



"Seeing is believing, but sometimes  
the most real things in the world are  
the things we can't see."

--The Polar Express

### Stocking Stuffer Ideas

- ◇ Pencils/Pens
- ◇ Colored Pencils
- ◇ Notebook Paper
- ◇ New Binder
- ◇ Spiral Notebooks
- ◇ Backpack
- ◇ Ruler

"Every time you hear a bell ring, it means  
an angel just got his wings."

--It's a Wonderful Life

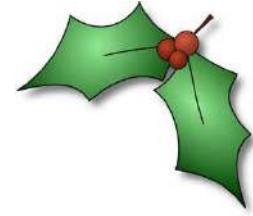
## Walt Clark Student Council

Members of the WCMS Student Council have kicked off the year with a lot of enthusiasm. Each grade level has elected representatives to be the voice for their class and these representatives have planned many exciting activities.

Student council kicked off the school dance season by hosting our Fall Fling dance on November 7th. There was a huge turn out and our students demonstrated great dancing skills the whole night long!

For the holiday season, student council is working with Loveland Philo to collect non-perishable food items to distribute to families in need during the winter season. Each 6th hour class is competing to collect the most food and receive a reward for their efforts. The food drive ends Dec. 3rd and winning classes will be announced the following week.

The student council would like to wish everyone a happy and relaxing winter break. May your holiday season bring you joy and laughter with friends and loved ones.



Student Council Vice President Mackenzie Armstrong meets with WCMS PTSO to discuss upcoming activities and how StuCo and PTSO can work together.

## WCMS Broadcast Class

The Walt Clark video production program introduces students to the art of news production. As the only middle school in Thompson School District that offers this program, Ms. Bailey, the Media Specialist, has produced the Walt Clark News for the past 14 years. Students develop the skills of planning, producing, editing and airing a segment on the WCMS News, which is shown to the whole school in the cafeteria every other week. Through pre-production, students discover the importance of creating a story board, writing scripts and testing shots for their segment.

In the production phase, students learn the basics of using a digital and video camera, demonstrate their understanding of correct camera angles, shots and techniques, and correct microphone usage in the development of their news stories. Once footage for a story has been gathered, students edit and prepare the segment to be aired using iMovie, and other photo editing programs. They also incorporate music into the finished product by learning to lay down multiple tracks of sound.

A recent project sponsored by the news team was an all school trivia contest based on the Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins. Those entering the "reaping" or drawing had read all 3 books in the series. This promotion coincided with the new release of the movie "Mocking Jay, Part 1". A PSA produced by Ryan Babjak advertised the contest and as the event coordinator, he carefully attended to all the details including getting prizes for the winners. The winners of the contest were 1st place Sebastian Lawton and Claire Workman, 2nd place Brayden Hough and Madilenn Baca and 3rd place Keelin Brown and Ethan Basch.



News crew members facilitate Hunger Games competition in the library.

Winners of the competition show their winnings .





# Walt Clark PTSO

Need Christmas present ideas?  
PTSO may have the answer for you . . .

PTSO has WCMS spirit wear available for purchase. Please see the attached spirit gear order form for different spirit wear ideas. Print your order form & send it to the office with your payment no later than **December 8th**.

If you do not want your order to be sent home with your student, please be sure to mark the "gift" box and we will hold it in the office for you to pick up.

## King Soopers and Safeway Fundraising Cards



Don't forget to purchase your Safeway or King Soopers Grocery Card as well for your grocery shopping. Your card comes preloaded with \$10 & you can reload right at the register before the cashier starts to ring up your order.

This is a very simple way to support our school. For every \$5000 our school spends using their grocery cards, the school earns 5% (\$250). It doesn't cost you anything extra. For your convenience, these cards can be ordered along with your spirit gear.

Proceeds from the sale of the gear and fundraising cards will go towards supporting school activities, athletics, Health and Wellness and PTSO.

## Giving Tree

As part of our annual holiday traditions, we would like to invite you to participate in our Giving Tree. We have ornaments on our tree for you to choose with gift giving ideas. If you can help a family in need, please take an ornament(s), purchase the item listed on it, and return your wrapped gift with the ornament attached by Dec. 15th. There will be a box set up for collection of items. We will take cash donations for Christmas Dinners in the office. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to help our Cougar families during the holiday season.



# Parenting with Love and Logic

Positive Parenting Solutions & Educational Resources Since 1977

Love and Logic® provides simple solutions, tips, and practical techniques to help adults with kids of all ages:

- Raise responsible kids
- Have more fun in their role
- Strengthen the relationship with the kids in their life
- Tips, advice and real solutions trusted for over 35 years

**Trusted for over 35 years**, Love and Logic is a philosophy founded in 1977 by Jim Fay and Foster W. Cline, M.D. It is the approach of choice among leading educators, parents, and other professionals worldwide for advice, guidance, parenting tips and techniques.

This Month's Parent and Teacher Tip From "Love and Logic's Insiders Club"

There was a problem on the playground during recess today. Even though it involved only some of the classmates, the entire class was punished with loss of recess for two days. Patty and Wanda were incensed.

"Most of us were being good! It's just not fair for all of us to miss recess," they told their mothers. "You need to call the teacher and make her change her mind," they insisted.

Wanda's mother went to the phone, and when the teacher answered said, "Punishing all the kids for what a few of them did just doesn't make sense. You just need to handle this in a better way. Both Wanda and I think that this is totally unfair!"

Patty's mother called the teacher and said, "I'd like to share what the girls have told me about the recess problem and get your thoughts on it."

I bet you know which mother's concerns the teacher was more receptive to hearing and accepting.

I visited with this teacher. She told me that Wanda's mother called first and that she immediately found herself being defensive about the situation. The call didn't go well. The conversation she had with Patty's mom went better.

She went on to say, "I didn't feel defensive at all when Patty's mom called. I liked her opening statement so well that I'm going to be using it in the future when I have to call parents about a problem."

What was that opening statement? "I'd like to share what I've been hearing and get your thoughts." It's a surefire way to keep the other person from feeling attacked.

**Helpful Hint:** If a parent has a concern about a class or teacher, it is important to contact that teacher to express concerns. It is at this time that a plan can be put in place to help the student become successful. If the concern continues, then the school administration/counseling can join the team and assist in a problem solving conference. It is the hope of staff and administration that a student's needs are being met. The support and collaboration with parents/guardians is essential.

For further information about Love and Logic, please visit their website at: [www.loveandlogic.com](http://www.loveandlogic.com)



Cast of Aladdin Jr. perform a Sneak Peek of the show for the students and staff of Walt Clark on November 13th.





### Cast of Aladdin Jr.

Clayton Gibbens, Chase Robison, Kalysa Christopher, Elizabeth Texeira, Savannah Lawson, Toni Varney, Ian Levin,  
 Anthony Pierro, Zoe Hutchinson, Addison Clause, Cameron Borse, Grace Maggio, Skylar Wilkerson, Glo Aste, Kaitlyn Wood,  
 Alexa Boerger, Bella Browne, Heidi Jensen, Caitlin Skees,  
 Brooke Carlson, Mackenzie Armstrong, Izzi Bryson,  
 Isabel Fernandez, Haley Jensen, Bailey Davis, Madilynn Juarez, Haley Lawton, Mallory Cole, Jadyn Lara, Mattie Kissam, Regan Kecic, Kendall Hafelfinger  
 Directors: Christina Van Haley and Ashleigh Crumrine

# December 2014



**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1	2	3 BBall vs Erwin	4 BBall @ Windsor	5	6 BBall JV Tournament
7	8 BBall vs TBD	9	10 BBall vs TBD	11 Choir Concert 6pm	12 TVHS Music Tour	13 BBall Varsity Tournament
14	15 GBBall / Wrestling Begins	16 Orchestra Concert 6pm	17	18 Band Concert 6pm	19 End of 2nd quarter/ Semester	20
21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas 	26	27
28	29	30	31			
	Winter Break					
	Winter Break					

