



LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Elementary:

2020-21 Kindergarten Enrollment: Elementary Schools registered 233 Kindergarten students. Kindergarten students and their parents previewed the Kindergarten programs at each of our Elementary Schools. We welcome the Class of 2033 for the 2020-21 school year.

Gr. 5 Skiing: Lifetime fitness is a goal at all our elementary schools, and skiing offers students a lifetime sport which can be done individually or as a group. Students received lessons by certified ski instructors and had to pass a simple skiing test on the bunny hill before they were allowed to ski on the bigger slopes. Living in MN, we give our students ample opportunities to embrace winter!

MN Bus Driver Appreciation: The State of Minnesota celebrated our annual School Bus Driver Appreciation Day to highlight the dedication and integrity of these professional drivers, our humble heroes. Elementary Student Councils showed appreciation and gratitude for our bus drivers with goody bags for both AM and PM routes.

End of Trimester 2: We brought a close to the second trimester of school. Teachers finalized trimester grades and prepared report cards that were available to parents online on Friday, March 6, 2020.

Support Staff Appreciation: This month we recognize and thank our Support Staff for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to our students and our schools. We are truly grateful for their support every day! During the week of March 30 - April 3, 2020 we celebrate and honor our Support Staff.

2020-21 Planning: In the months of March/April our Elementary Faculty puts a focus on planning for the upcoming school year. It's a busy time of year for us as we reflect on our school year thus far and plan ahead for the next school year. Our staff is very conscientious about planning a learning environment that builds student success for their future. In the months to come we will prepare class lists, set goals in the areas of learning, respect, and building school community, set the budget, and finalize our school event calendars in partnership with our PTO. Strong parent partnerships are important to us. We always appreciate parent input on planning for the upcoming school year. As the months unfold we will seek input in selected areas from our parents and PTO.

A Month of Gratitude: The first Monday of each month is an invitation to practice GRATITUDE ~ Saying Thank you and Being Thankful! In the month of March, we take the time to give a compliment and share our gratitude with each member of our classroom/team.

Middle School:

This year's Pennies for Patients fundraising campaign has been a tremendous success. We have exceeded our \$15,000 goal and we are closer to reaching \$18,000 with money still being counted from a few events. It has been a great fundraising adventure and we may still surpass our highest total in 10 years.

WMS PTO recognized Mrs. Hise as our WMS February Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Hise was nominated by 7th grader Sara Schoenfelder. The nomination letter listed extensive reasons why Mrs. Hise should be the teacher of the month including, "she made me feel welcome to a new school, she works hard to make learning fun with activities and labs, and she always is in a good mood" and "we just love our mitochondria-crazy teacher" and "she has inspired me to be like her when I grow up, someone who is kind, cheerful, and easy-going. Congratulations to Mrs. Hise on being the WMS PTO February Teacher of the month. Thank you to Sara for taking the time to recognize her with a very heartfelt letter.

National Geographic recently communicated that our school-wide Geography Bee Champion, Carter Hanson (8th), qualified for the state finals after his success with an online assessment. Carter is one of 100 students statewide that will be competing to be Minnesota's top finalist. The competition has been altered this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. National Geographic is currently designing an opportunity for students to compete electronically and will be sharing the format on or about March 20th.

Thursday evening was the WMS Jazz and Percussion ensemble concert! This featured the WMS Percussion ensemble, Gold jazz band, Purple Jazz band, and Wildcat Jazz bands. All of the groups played great and got to celebrate all of their hard work. Later in the year, we will take the jazz bands to tour the Waconia elementary schools to perform again. We are always so proud of how our band students perform, but most importantly how they represent Waconia so well.

Friday mornings faculty meeting was a productive experience for teachers to share new and IMPACTful learning. Waconia educators annually engage in personalized staff development (Impact Challenge Goals) to explore methods and resources to positively impact student learning. On Friday, half of the staff presented their new learning to their colleagues during face to face presentations. They shared the area they explored, what was discovered, what was implemented, what was successful and the next steps they plan to take. It was a great way to share all of the great new learning our staff has been involved in. A similar activity is planned for the remaining staff to present their new learning in April.

High School:

It's been a hectic week as we return back from spring break. We finalized trimester two grades and started our trimester three classes. In addition, large numbers of our students and staff were wrapped up in supporting our girls basketball team as they made their first trip to the State

Tournament in school history. We finished the week wrestling with all the issues created by COVID-19 and the impact on our students and programs. This will be an on-going issue.

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Community Ed:

Community Education's Summer brochure went out to the public the week of March 9. This brochure is full of many recreation camps, enrichment camps, theatre opportunities and many other opportunities for children and adults. Summer will be here before we know it!!

Human Resources:

Job openings for our available 2020-2021 teaching positions have been posted. It's always our goal to post teaching positions as early as possible each spring to ensure that we have the most talented pool of teaching candidates to select from for our students. Interviews have already been scheduled for some positions and will continue throughout the spring months. Our recruitment process will include our School District's presence at the Minnesota Education Job Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center, which will be held on April 1, 2020. Graduates from Minnesota colleges and universities attend the job fair each spring to meet School District representatives and learn more about individual school districts and their available teaching positions.

Benefits open enrollment is slated to begin on April 16, 2020 and extend through May 4, 2020. Our School District's employees will have multiple options to select from for medical insurance plans and a dental plan. EyeMed vision materials insurance and CIGNA supplemental life and AD&D insurance continue as popular voluntary options for our School District's employees. The new plan year for insurance plans will begin on July 1, 2020.

Superintendent:

I wanted to thank everyone for their work and professionalism this week as we all work together during these challenging times. We continue to be in close contact with state officials from the MN Department of Education and MN Department of Health about the latest developments with COVID-19 (coronavirus). Our number one goal is the safety and health of our students, staff and families. This is a rapidly developing and changing situation and we have the latest updates on our [website](#).

At this point, state health and education officials are requesting that we keep school in session. On the chance that decision changes, we do have plans in place for flex learning days. I refer you back to our [website](#) to learn more about that plan.

We continue to monitor the situation and will send updates when there are new developments. We will all get through this together because We are ONE10!!