



EAGLE OBSERVER

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Camp Thunderbird

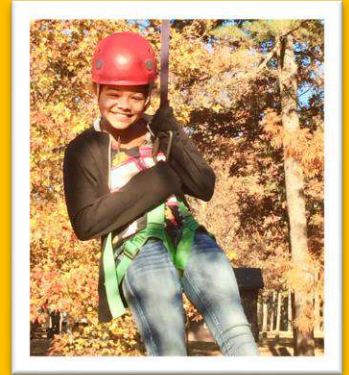
Hi! My name is Hayden Levasseur and on November 30th to December 1st our fifth graders went to represent Western Union at Camp Thunderbird. Camp Thunderbird is a place where you go to learn about working together and the ecosystem around us. I think all students enjoyed this trip the most because they got to spend the night, do fun activities, and stay in a cabin with their friends. I interviewed some people on their thoughts and how this overnight trip was. Read on about how this adventure was with western union elementary schools fifth graders.

I interviewed one of the fifth-grade teachers Mrs. Gillard and asked her what she learned while visiting and asked her what her two favorite classes were out of forest ecology, the zipline/alpine tower, wildlife ecology, journals, or a team building game. Mrs. Gillard chose forest ecology and wildlife

ecology. In forest ecology she liked learning how to use all five senses out in nature to better understand her surroundings made this her favorite class. In wildlife ecology she said, "One of the things I liked was they provided definitions and examples to help you better understand the different animals and of course getting to touch all of the animals like the snakes, mice, and turtles".

I also interviewed one of the fifth graders Riley Hill. I asked her if she liked Camp Thunderbird and what her favorite thing was about the trip. I also asked her some questions about her cabin. Let's find out some answers. Riley said she loved the trip. Her favorite class was the nature walk because the counselor was super nice and sweet. She also loved the nature. She thought the cabin was a blast, but the beds were very uncomfortable. It was super hot in her cabin because she said, "One cabin member thought it was very cold in her cabin, so her mom

Western Union Elementary School



turned on the heat and overall it was so hot".

I interviewed another fifth grader Briley Shaffer. I really enjoyed these answers. Well let's see them. I asked Briley if she loved it and would you consider going back? Briley said, "overall it was a blast and I really enjoyed it". She also said, "if I went back again I don't know it depends who would go with me if I would go back I would most definitely go back with my friends."

I hope you all enjoyed this adventure with the fifth graders. Fourth graders get to go next year and I'm for sure they'll have a blast too. I think this was one of the best years 5th grade has had. Our food waste program went great. We only discarded 10lbs of food out of the whole 5th grade including the adults and teachers. We got to earn the silver plate. Overall, I think this trip was a blast and I think the rest of 5th grade can agree with me on that.

By: Hayden Noelle Levasser

WUES Spelling Bee

This November was our 2017 WUES Spelling Bee. Our winner was 5th grader Riley Likes, and our runner-up was 5th grader Virginia Bailey.

What Is A Spelling Bee?

A Spelling Bee is a school contest where two students from every 3rd through 5th grade class compete by spelling words. The way to win is by spelling each given word correctly. Here is a list of rules:

- However, you spell the word the first time is what the judges go with, so think about what you are spelling.
- If the judges ring the bell, you have been eliminated from the Bee. They will only ring the bell if you spell the given word incorrectly.
- The winner of the Bee will move on to the Union County Spelling Bee. If he/she cannot attend for some reason, the runner-up will take their place.
- Take your time on the word you're spelling. I'm not saying take ten minutes to spell a word, just don't rush through it.
- and most importantly...
- Have fun!

A Special Interview

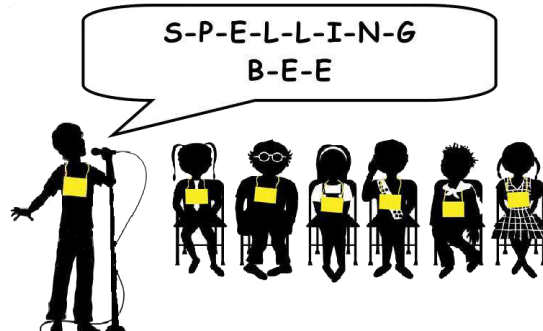
Here is an interview from our winner, Riley Likes;

Q: "How do you feel about winning?"

A: "I feel very surprised, because I didn't think about winning."

Q: "Were you nervous?"

A: "Yeah. I was sweating!"



That wraps up this Spelling Bee article, Eagles! Remember, it only allows 3rd through 5th graders, so if you're in one of those grades, you can do it. Just don't forget to study!

-Maranda Earley :)

Spelling Bee Participants

Kaylan Phillbeck	Nicholas Flowe	Josslyn Wheat	Jabien Linares	Sophia Hockenberry
Allie Norton	Yeily Arreola-Ruiz	Elli Lynch	Bryon Bailey	Keenan Weston
Jareli Ayala Cortez	Samora Elam	Liam Cavalier	Selah Wheat	Miles Stephens
Alyssa Seacrest	Maia Psocik	Timmy Lehan	Ali Abbas Rizvi	Colton Weston
Riley Likes	Elijah Larsen	Sophie Wojtkowiak	Maranda Earley	Joshua Pollock
		Virginia Bailey	Hannah Jones	Hayden Levasseur



Winter Holidays Around the World –

By Molly Mayes

Did you think everyone celebrates Christmas? Some people celebrate Kwanzaa, or Hanukkah. Let's learn some facts about holidays people celebrate!

Hanukkah

Hanukkah lasts for eight days in December. Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah. When you celebrate Hanukkah, you light something called a Menorah. This is a candle holder that holds eight candles to represent eight days. The candle in the middle, used to light all the other candles is called the shamash. At Hanukkah, kids play a game with a dreidel. The symbols on each side of the dreidel are: Nun, Gimel, Hei, and Shin. This comes together to mean "A Great Miracle Happened There". During this dreidel game you can win gelt, which is chocolate coins. Children get a small gift every day of Hanukkah.



Kwanzaa

The name Kwanzaa comes from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means first fruits in Swahili. On this African-American holiday, families celebrate in all different ways, but celebrations usually include African drums, storytelling, poetry, songs and dancing, and a large traditional feast. Kwanzaa lasts for seven days, and on these seven days, the family gathers and light one candle for each day on the Kinara, which is the candle holder. Then one of the principles is discussed. All the principles are the Nguzo Saba, meaning the seven principles in Swahili. There is a African feast on December 31st, called a Karamu. The seven principles in Kwanza are: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, purpose, creativity, faith, and cooperative economics.



Winter Solstice

Winter Solstice is a celebration of the longest night. It is also known as midwinter, Yule, and the Longest Night. You celebrate by spending time with family, feasting, singing, dancing, and bonfires. It is celebrated on December 21st in the Northern hemisphere, and June 21st in the southern hemisphere.



Christmas

By: Bode Mcwhorter

Many students at Western Union celebrate Christmas with their families. Therefore, to include a more personal account we have decided to showcase an opinion piece displaying Bode Mcwhorter's family traditions and beliefs.

"Christmas to me is spending time with family, sitting around the Christmas tree and learning about Jesus's birth. What I like about Christmas is family reunions, Christmas dinners with family and staying home from school for so many days. I spend Christmas with family, friends, and my pets."

On Christmas day, I wake up with my brother at 3:30 with my family. The movies we watch are The Polar Express, Elf, Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer, Home Alone and How The Grinch Stole Christmas.

"On a typical day of Christmas break, I wake up at 6:30 a.m. with my brother. We watch tv with our dogs. We eat breakfast and then do a daily chore. I love it!"

Summer Camp

by Caroline Bidwell



Have you ever been in a Musical before? Well WUES has a fantastic play coming up! There's lots of action, singing and more, and this article will tell you all about the amazing Musical, Summer Camp!

About the play

The play is about a group of kids who go to summer camp and experience many wild and crazy things.

Parts of the play

There are 60 kids in the play, and Mrs. Reese tried to fit as many people as she can in the play so no one was left out.

Time and place

The play is meeting in the Auditorium of WUES and they are performing March 8th and 9th.

Interview - Mrs. Reese

Q: What songs are they singing?

A: Summer Camp, It's a bear, Crazy Camp Capers.



Battle of The Books

By: Riley Likes

Battle of the Books is a club for elementary, middle and high school. The point of the club is to read 15 books and represent your school at a district competition. So, you can tell it's a pretty big commitment to join. Not only do you have to be an avid reader, but you also have to remember every little detail about the book. From the setting and characters to remembering the authors name. It's CRAZY! I interviewed one of the club's administrators Mrs. Stinchcomb and these are her answers:

1. What made you decide to put the school in the BOB competition?

As an elementary school student, I participated in a similar club and it was really enjoyable. Ms. Barnes and I really hope that WUES students have fun participating in BOB and get to try new books outside what they might have chosen for themselves.

2. Do you feel confident with the group of students you have?

Just from the few meetings we've had so far, it really has been exciting to see how voracious our WUES team members are. Student really are chipping away at the book list and I think the enthusiasm will help us a great deal.

3. Has the school ever participated in a school competition before?

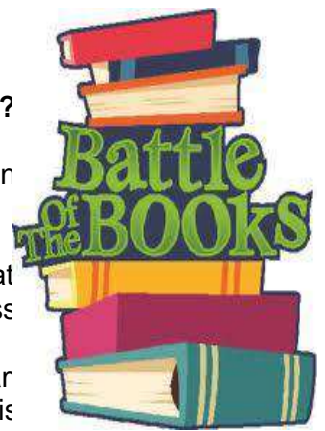
This is the first WUES BOB team. Parkwood Middle school has a team, so it will be great to send students on to a middle school who can compete at that level.

4. What are some of your personal favorite books on the list?

I just finished Wish, by Barbara O'Connor and it was a great story. She is one of my favorite authors so I was glad to see her on the list.

5. What are your thoughts about the competition, nervous, excited, etc?

I think that anytime you are doing something for the first time there is an element of nervousness. It will be a new experience for our school and we'll be competing against teams that have done it before. Any nervousness I do feel is outweighed by the excitement I feel every day when team members check out books from the list. I know the team will make our school proud.



You can clearly see that being in the club is a big commitment and honor. So, if your skills fit the club's purpose I suggest you give it a shot.

Waxhaw Athletic Association

by: James Carpenter

In the past season the Waxhaw Athletic Association has been very important in Waxhaw baseball, and that's what you are going to be informed on everything from what they do to how they do it.

What?

The association always makes sure every player is comfortable. They also make sure the coaches also have the abilities and great quality equipment. They try to help the coaches' kids in any way. But when you meet them, you will tell them what you want, and they will try their very best and they also don't give up you.

Who?

They help with the fundraisers such as the fundraiser this past season which benefited all the children that enjoy the playing of baseball and the coaches got the joy of getting to see all the kids faces when they got all their new gear!!!!

Now that you know how much they appreciate the kids of the youth baseball league I hope you will too!!!



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WUES 3rd Grade Winter Performance

By: Bethany Fisher

About the performance

Our WUES third graders did a great job at their Winter Performance! The performance was about different holidays from around the world such as, Christmas, Hanukkah, and more!

Interview with Ms. Reese

Ms. Reese, our amazing music teacher, did a wonderful job conducting and guiding the students during the show! She said that the students worked very hard each week in music class, learning the songs and motions. Also, she learned that it is very important to start rehearsing many weeks before a performance so that students are well prepared. Also, some of the song lyrics were in Spanish and Russian so the students as well as herself were challenged.

Interview with Jesse Fisher

Third Grader Jesse Fisher participated in the performance. He says that one of his favorite songs was "Hanukkah, oh Hanukkah." The song is about different traditions people like to participate in during the special holiday! He likes it because in the beginning, the song is very slow, but as the song continues, it gets faster. Overall, the favorite thing he learned was that people who celebrate Hanukkah play a cool game called dreidel!

WINTER CRAFTS

Welcome students again to another creative corner! I hope everyone had a happy winter break, I know I did! This month I decided to show y'all some fun Christmas DIY crafts. Such as a polar bear craft and some fun in the snow mason jars and some q-tip snowflakes!

POLAR BEAR CRAFT

What you will need is...

1. White cardstock
2. Cotton balls
3. Glue stick or a hot glue gun
4. Googly eyes
5. Pom-pom
6. Markers
7. A trusted adult or guardian.

This is how you make it...

1. Trace a BIG circle on a piece of card stock
2. Trace 2 smaller circles on top for ears
3. Cut out shape (ask an adult for help you if needed).
- the cotton balls



4. Put glue all over your cardstock shape
5. Put cotton balls all over the sticky shape
6. Put glue on 2 googly eyes and 1 pink pom pom for the nose and glue that down on the cotton ball shape
7. Take a black marker and draw a big smile on

Happy Crafting! By Morgan Green

Physics of the Hyperloop

What is the hyperloop?

The hyperloop is a transportation method similar to an above ground subway invented by Elon Musk in November 2013 to reduce traffic problems.

How does it work?

Hyperloops use levitation [2 magnetic poles that are the same hovering on each other] so there is no drag caused by friction [slowness caused by moving or rubbing on the ground] to reach phenomenal speeds such as 760 mph [1,223 km/h].

Where is the hyperloop?

The hyperloop tubes are in many countries such as India, but the U.S has the most hyperloop tubes. The hyperloop can go to San Francisco to Los Angeles in 30 minutes.



The WUES Holiday Gift Shop

By: Sophie Wojtkowiak

We all know that the WUES Holiday Gift Shop was a blast! It was really exciting to see all the gifts, the holiday decorations, and the PTO moms dressed as elves. But what's also really cool is that the elves wrapped the presents if you wanted them to. It was okay if you didn't buy anything from the gift shop, it's okay because you can still see the magical Christmas decorations. The gift shop has a lot of gifts and there's at least one gift that suits you. Some gifts they have were mugs, jewelry, bouncy balls, and lip-gloss, there was many more but too many to count!

Leader of the Shop

If you don't know already the person who was in charge of the holiday shop is from the PTO, Mrs. Smith. I asked her some questions about running the holiday gift shop. I asked her if it was hard running the whole thing? She replied, "Running the whole place was very time consuming." Mrs. Smith (PTO) ran the whole shop and said, "It was very time consuming." She said the money goes to "the PTO, and money for books, technology, classrooms, and school supplies."

(cont.)

Why is the hyperloop important?

The hyperloop matters because the hyperloop is the future of transportation because it goes faster than other vehicles due to having no friction. Also learning about the hyperloop would help i

By Ali Abbas Rizvi