



## *Middle School News 2018*



### ***From the Principal's Desk Mr. George Villar***

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our students are now well into the second marking period and are firmly acquainted with the expectations of grade level subjects. Students often find course work more challenging compared to the first marking period, as new material is introduced in ways that are more complex. When students encounter difficulty, they are strongly encouraged to seek out their teachers during the Guide period for assistance. Parents seeking support are always welcome to contact the subject teachers for their perspectives and assistance. Communication between school and home are the best way to ensure the best use of time and resources. Each grade level team also maintains a team webpage, accessible through the school website, for updates on tests, quizzes and major assignments.

This month presents special experiences in preparation for the end of the year holidays. WMS Winter Orchestra and Winter Band Choral Concerts will be held in the coming weeks. In addition, our PTO will host a Holiday Boutique for students as a fundraiser, December 4 to 6 in the All Purpose Room during all lunches. Tuesday, December 11 will be our next PTO meeting at 9 AM in the library.

Finally, as we learned from the recent snow storm, it is good for all WMS families to have plans for inclement weather. Consider discussing what to do when students arrive home in advance of parents. On early closing, all students are sent home on buses so that the building can be closed. No students are

permitted to remain at school. We ask that you have a plan for your student(s) to either enter their home or go to a neighbor's house as it fits your circumstances.

I wish all a Happy Holiday.

### ***From the Assistant Principal's Office Ms. Maria Mensinger***

The first marking period has flown by and the holiday season is upon us! I have so much to be thankful for, including the opportunity to come work each day to an amazing group of teachers, staff and students.

Character Education is fully underway and we have continued our theme of making good choices through our Character Ed lessons. Following our Marc Mero assembly, students continued conversations focused on stereotypes and being kind.

In the next couple of weeks, we will be meeting with students to take a look back at the first marking period and offer a few reminders for success at WMS. Our overall focus will be on office procedures for forgotten lunch, general hallway and APR behavior, safety drill reminders and the all important treatment of the Chromebooks. As always, we appreciate your support from home.

I have been thoroughly enjoying getting to know your students and wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.



6th Grade Counselor	Mrs. M. Johnson
7th Grade Counselor	Mrs. L. Regal
8th Grade Counselor	Mrs. H. Scully
Student Assistant Counselor	Mrs. C. Brown

## ***Congratulations***

### ***Student of the Month for October!***

6th Grade – Bethany Giegerich and Isaac Seubert

7th Grade – Victoria Dziasek and Jackson Scala

8th Grade – Sebastian Cunha and Faron Martin

Unified Arts – Brianna Ramirez and Noah Paradise



### ***The E2 Connection***

***Keeping you connected to the exciting events  
of WMS Enrichment Education Programs***

***Mrs. Cooper***

### **Continental Math**

The first Continental Math competition took place on November 2nd. As always, many students excelled in this national contest during this meet. Students may come see Mrs. Cooper or email her to ask for their scores. Congratulations to all participants who are taking the initiative to partake in this self selection activity this year. It's a challenge! Listen to announcements for December's meet.

### **Peer Leaders**

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade peer leaders prepared an 8th grade Freedom Feast to help their 8th grade peers recognize the importance of our freedoms in the United States. This event took place on November 21st. Additionally, a sincere thank you goes out to the Warren Lions Club for again providing the Peer Leaders with their new t-shirts and a special thank you is extended to the United Way of North Jersey who presented a workshop called ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) where our students learned valuable lessons about the growing number of individuals and families who are working, but are unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation.

### **Academic Tournaments**

Our Academic Tournament teams participated in several challenging quiz bowls already this year including the Quiz Net and 3-2-1. In January 2019, the ATOMS (Academic Tournament of Middle

Schools) quiz bowl begins which will be held on Thursdays at the Bridgewater Middle School from January 17th to mid-March. The Thinking Cap computerized, team quiz bowl will take place at the end of January, too. Student participants have to meet eligibility requirements to participate in these rigorous tournaments. Watch for the American Scholastic Open, an individualized computer quiz bowl, which takes place in February.

### **Private School/Special Program Recommendation Requests**

Mrs. Cooper is always happy to help students complete their private school/special program recommendation forms. This is a big honor for the E2 teacher to represent our students. However, please provide stamped envelopes with the forms as well as give adequate time to complete them. Usually they are turned around quickly, but it is best to plan ahead just in case of a delay.

### **6, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade E2 Happenings**

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade E2 students have been working on many electives in E2. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade mock trial classes are preparing their trials to present at the Warren Court House, which is tentatively scheduled for the last week of December prior to winter break. Vehicles, Quiz Bowl, Chess, Photographic Art, speaker presentations and other challenging opportunities are being offered to E2 students regularly. All current electives will continue through the end of December. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade E2 evaluation process will begin in December. Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> graders are urged to log onto Mrs. Cooper's website for a more detailed description of the E2 process. Overall, it's a busy and exciting time of the year for enrichment and we have so much to do! Students are urged to check the E2 schedule and the E2 Room door for updates.

### **Enrichment Opportunities for ALL**

The E2 department offers many enrichment opportunities for all WMS students such as poster contests, theater trips, chess tournaments, enrichment trips, and Continental Math. Coming up in December is the school wide Geography Bee and Continental Math. In 2019, E2 will include the National History Bee and the Junior Solar Sprints Solar Car after school club (8<sup>th</sup> grade). Watch for updated information on Mrs. Cooper's website. Parents and students are encouraged to reach out to

Mrs. Cooper when they are in search of opportunities. Independent projects and weekend trips are often available to interested students – just ask!



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT

*Mrs. D. McCloskey, Mrs. A. Jensen, Mr. J. Seremula, Mr. J. Van Tine, Mr. Bruce Gant*

The Music Department has announced our Winter Concerts for this School Year.

The first Winter Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. This concert will feature the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestras.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> concert will be held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. This concert will feature the 6<sup>th</sup> grade band, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band and the Jazz band.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> concert will be held Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 7 p.m. at the WHRHS PAC. This concert will feature the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Choruses.

Parent help at the concerts is always appreciated. Parents watch for an email from SignUpGenius for access to the to find out how you can help this year for the winter concerts.

Congratulations to the following students for their acceptance in the 4 District Honor Band – Jenny Xu, Evelyn Logan, Dennis Lei, Alexander Geppert, Adithi Yellamelli, Annie Liu, Daniel Shen, Ava Maloney, Advait Patel, Alexander Huang, Aneira Kalahasti, Annie Dong, Daniel Li, Dylan Aiello, Noah Paradise, Paul Quense and Brianna Ramirez

Honor Band rehearsals begin on January 9, with a performance at the High School Auditorium on Feb. 7 with a tour of the four participating Middle Schools on Feb 8.

Auditions for the highly anticipated Middle School Musical, *Mary Poppins*, will start the week of December 3<sup>th</sup>. All auditions will go until 4 p.m. Be prepared to have a ride home each day you need to

be at auditions. There will be separate auditions for singers, dancers and script reading for parts. Students will need to check the schedule for their audition time and for any other call back audition or Dance audition times. Rehearsals will start right away in the New Year on Tuesday, Jan 2 after school until late buses.

Instrumental music students auditioning for the District 2 Regional Auditions need to have their application forms submitted to both the CJMEA and their School Music Teacher by Dec. 7. They also need \$15 cash to accompany their form to their music teacher. The regional auditions will be held Jan. 26 in West Windsor, NJ.



*The Nurse's Corner*

## The Flu



Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. The flu is different from a cold, and usually comes on suddenly. The flu can be very dangerous for children and it is important for you to take steps to prevent the flu from affecting you and your family.

- The best way to protect against the flu is to get a yearly flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age or older.
- Stay away from people who are sick as much as possible to keep you from getting sick.
- Remember to cover your coughs and sneezes!
- Eat well, get plenty of rest and exercise daily!
- Wash your hands often! National Handwashing week is the week of December 2nd - stay tuned for more information about the importance of clean hands!!

Is it the flu or is it a cold? Flu symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, feeling tired and sometimes vomiting and diarrhea. The common cold typically

does not cause a fever, body aches or the severe headaches typically seen with the flu.

This holiday season as we are all in crowded places shopping and gathering with family and friends, be mindful of the things you can do to keep you and your family healthy and happy!



4-6	Holiday Boutique (Lunch/Guide)
11	PTO Meeting
12	Orchestra Concert
21	1/2 Day - Winter Recess
24-31	Schools Closed - Winter Recess
1/1/19	School Closed - New Year's Day

### ***Superintendent's Corner***

The Board of Education approved the 2019-2020 school calendar at its November 5, 2018 meeting. The calendar is available under "News" at [www.warrentboe.org](http://www.warrentboe.org). The first day of school for students will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019 and the last day of school (if all snow days are used) will be Friday, June 19, 2020.

While we are thinking ahead, I am pleased to share that the Board of Education will be engaging the entire Warren Township community in a strategic planning process which will culminate in the adoption of Warren Township Schools Strategic Plan 2020. School districts undergo this process periodically to ensure that the direction of the district matches the educational values and desires of the community. Warren Township last completed this process during the 2012-2013 school year. Stay tuned for details about how you can get involved in this important work.

Next month, I will provide a detailed overview of the zero long-term debt referendum that will be going before the voters on January 22, 2019.

Information about the critical capital improvements that will be made through this process - with no impact on the local taxpayer - can be found by visiting <https://www.warrentboe.org/referendum/>.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.