

Bucks Bulletin is a project of the students and staff of Washington Island School.

Principal's Report : January School News

By Tim Verboomen

This year's basketball season is coming to an end as I'm writing this and all I can think to write is how proud I am of our Island Youth and how grateful I am for everyone who's done so much to give them these opportunities.

To be able to play at all, our student-athletes and coaches often have to travel several hours to get to their games. To keep our students in school as much as possible, our players and coaches have to commit to playing games almost every weekend. High school athletics requires students everywhere to balance their schoolwork with practices and games, but for our players to participate, they have to leave school earlier and be away longer than students anywhere else in the state.

Our teams almost always have to stay off Island overnight and to save money, our players jam in 4 to a room.

Our coaches share a room, drive to/from, and chaperone their teams for every away game. These are some of the sacrifices necessary to make extracurriculars possible here.

Still, our students sign up to play and our coaches step up to teach our students, not only how to play, but how to play with grace and dignity - whether we are winning or losing. Our students learn that losing is an opportunity to learn and improve. Our coaches teach our players the importance of teamwork and our players learn that their effort is an investment in themselves. Our players learn to be selfless, they learn good sportsmanship, and they learn hard work and commitment pay off and are worth it!

Please join me in showing appreciation for our coaches: Sara Gibson, Marisa Kehren, Josh Mann, and Matt Grandy!

I also want to acknowledge the teams behind the scenes who step up to help make it all possible. This year we were fortunate to have many more home games. By offering teams a two game package on Friday nights and Saturday mornings; places to stay overnight; and by welcoming them to our Teen Nights at The Rec, we enticed more teams to cross Death's Door and to play here, in front of our Bucks family & fans!

Making that possible were the teams-behind-our-teams. Please join me in thanking the people of Bethel Evangelical Free, Trinity Lutheran Church, and DeJardin Cottages...the teams who sponsored the visiting players and coaches

overnight.

Please thank Katie McGrane and her team at The Rec for allowing visiting teams to attend teen nights with our Island youth. (It's been a great way for our students to meet and make new friends!)

Please join me in thanking Ray McDonald, Tatiana Sawosko, Joel Gunnlaugsson, and Ryan Jorgenson for reffing our home games.

Please join me in thanking Denise Kellerman for planning and organizing the concessions with new offerings of breakfast sandwiches, polish sausages, quesadillas, brats, burritos, and more!! She and her team of volunteers made the games delicious.

Please join me in thanking Ann Rose, Zachary Lux, and Anna Gibson ... the team that helped us with the clock/scoreboard and doing "the book."

Thank you also to Jim Rose, who takes and distributes the most amazing action photos of our players at games home and away! We also could not have pulled it all together without Zuzka Krueger and Sue Cornell helping with the planning and logistics. Thank you to Pete Nikolai who started the youth skills league this year to develop interest as well as talent.

Thank you to the teachers who work with our students to ensure they are successful students first. Thank you, also, to the parents, families, and fans. Your support for our teams is exceptional and appreciated.

Finally, thank you to anyone I failed to add to this list. We very much appreciated your support (even if I forgot to thank you by name.)

Next up for our students is the Regionals SeaPerch contest. STEM Teachers Miranda Dahlke and Matt Sullivan are taking our top three qualifying Middle School teams to Green Bay, possibly earning a "three-peat" spot for an Island team at the International Competition in Maryland again this year. SeaPerch is a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) competition in which students compete by building their own underwater robotics. This year's theme is "Deep Sea Exploration" with a missions course simulation of scientific research work being done near the hydrothermal vents near the Galápagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador.

Also, coming soon, we look forward to the start of the baseball and softball seasons, when we partner with the Gibraltar School District. I'm working with Jay Kita, Head

Coach of the Gibraltar/Washington Island Baseball Co-op team, to even have a home game here on the Island in May!

To our students, players, parents, families, teachers, coaches, and community ... all I can think to say in closure is, **Go Bucks!!!**

Buddy Reading Day



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

The high schoolers also took turns reading to the first and second graders during the buddy reading day. Dakota laid out all her books and let Magnus and Collin pick a book to read aloud to her.



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

Brother and sister Tommy and Lucia had a chance to read books together during buddy reading on a Friday afternoon. Lucia is reading one of her favorites- Steve and Wessley in the Sea Monster.

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Art Field Trip to Fish Creek

By Melanie Jones

Third, fourth, and fifth-grade students traveled to the Peninsula School of Art in Fish Creek for a day of art workshops. Students learned about how contemporary artists incorporate the physics of light into

their artwork. Students explored light and art while creating three different works of art. Artwork will be on display at the Peninsula School of Art until March 2nd.



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

Students learn how the human body is a good conductor of electricity!



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

Freya uses a flashlight, packing peanuts, and cardboard to create a shadow sculpture.



PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

Landon builds a circuit to light up LED lights in a way that will work with his plan for a fireworks painting.

Middle School STEM Prize



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Middle Schoolers unbox their Samsung top 300 Finalists prize package. The prize package included the latest Samsung Technology to integrate into the STEM program.

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Future Creature Challenge

By Miranda Dahlke

As a culminating project in fifth grade science, to wrap up our unit on ecosystems, students were able to design and submit an entry in the Future Engineers: Future Creature Challenge. The official contest rules state, "Your challenge is to pick a vertebrate animal living in a tropical rainforest and draw/illustrate/predict how it may look in the future due to the long-term effects of

climate change (think thousands of years ... or more!)" Each student chose a unique vertebrate, researched, drew, and predicted types of adaptations that might showcase in thousands of years. They were limited to 150 words in their essays. We find out mid-April if any of our students are chosen as finalists. Here are some of the entries.

The Clarus (Loud) Swamp Monkey By Owen

The howler monkey's current habitat is a lush forest filled with fig trees and walking palms. They spend most of their time in the jungle canopy. I imagine that my animals' future environment will be a large marsh filled with many animals but few plants, due to the forest being destroyed by deforestation caused by humans. This change will also be due to climate change as the few remaining plants won't survive

the higher temperatures. The future howler monkey will have spikes with flexible strings that will catch onto marsh plants for camouflage. Due to adaptations, it will be able to eat and survive the poison of a poison dart frog. The environment will change slowly, so the howler monkey will survive because it can slowly adjust to living on the land and make the adaptations it needs to survive.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

The present drawing of Owen's Future Creature Entry.

The Colossal Anaconda By Isaac

The new name for the Green Anaconda is the The Colossal Anaconda. There are lush trees and watering holes for animals to be trapped in, there's shrubs, vines, and multiple places for anaconda's to hide in. I think the habitat will change as predicted by the illustration about 1000 years in the future, is because there will be less trees in the rainforest. Since the anaconda lives near water

the savanna has not a lot of hunting places it can use. Since it will be vulnerable while constricting it will have venomous fangs, armored plates/scales, and light scales to blend in with the tall grass. An adaptation for movement would be that it could extend it's ribs to glide off of trees. Yes, the Colossal Anaconda could survive with armor, venom, camouflage, and added length.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

The future drawing of Isaac's Future Creature Entry.

Gracilis Cattus By Freya

The ocelot lives in the lush areas of the rainforest. They are nocturnal, and their dens can be made of leaves or in hollow trees. Ocelots eat birds, lizards, rabbits, snakes, and fish. They are eaten by constrictor snakes and harpy eagles. Ocelots keep the small animal population down. In 1,500 years, since people are cutting down trees, the rainforests will become muddy wetlands. The ocelot's habitat will be covered

in mud from dirt in the rainforests. Their color will change to match the mud, and the ocelot will lose its spots to blend in. The ocelot's new name will be Gracilis Cattus, which means slender cat in latin. The "Gracilis Cattus" will burrow in the mud because there are no more trees. They will eat bugs and plants, and their claws will be duller to help them dig. The ocelot will survive in 1,500 years by adapting.



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PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

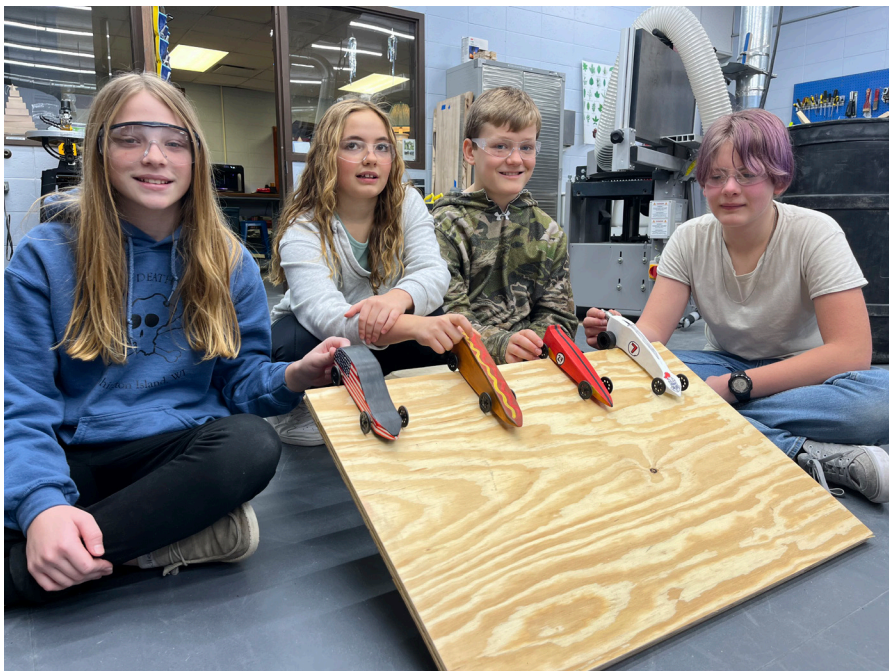
The future drawing of Freya's Future Creature Entry.

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Fall/Winter WISD Tech Ed Projects



PHOTOS BY MATT SULLIVAN



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Island SeaPerch Teams off to Regionals 2024

By Miranda Dahlke

Maneuvering an underwater robot through a series of hoops and challenges is no easy feat, but Washington Island middle school students have become well-seasoned contenders in North-east Wisconsin. Since 2019, island students have participated in the International SeaPerch program. Over the past two seasons, the school has supported three teams travels to Maryland to compete against the best in the world. Three island teams will travel to Green Bay on Saturday, February 17 to battle for one of the top two spots, and an invite to the International Competition in Maryland. In January, all five middle school teams competed within Door County to try and earn their way to Regionals. Team Fast n Furious (Kinsey, Tug, and Marlie) earned first place status, Team JAWS (Tristan, Jaida, and Gabe) earned second place, and Team Barracuda (Addison, Xander, and Freya) earned third place. The amount of teamwork and problem solving that takes place throughout their engineering journey is a pivotal reason why the program has continued to thrive in our school. Not only are kids excited, but they are in complete control of their destiny.

They learn engineering skills as well as public speaking skills throughout the process. Support from the Door County Maritime Museum, Gillespie Plumbing, and the REC Center truly have kept the program running - Thank you! Included are some of their favorite memories from this season. Stay tuned for Regionals results!

“My favorite part of doing this assignment with my team was when Jay told us not to worry about not making it to regionals because they said they would still be proud of us.” 7th grader

“Even though we all were on different teams, we still had fun and you always do.” 6th grader

“I always have fun doing SeaPerch, there are some ups and downs, but it always is fun to work with your team, to try to solve the problems.” 8th grader

“My experience with SeaPerch has been phenomenal! I enjoy every ounce of time spent on it and it’s always a blast. Getting to really be hands on with the creation of a machine like the ROV’s is truly something to be proud of and remember.” 8th grader.

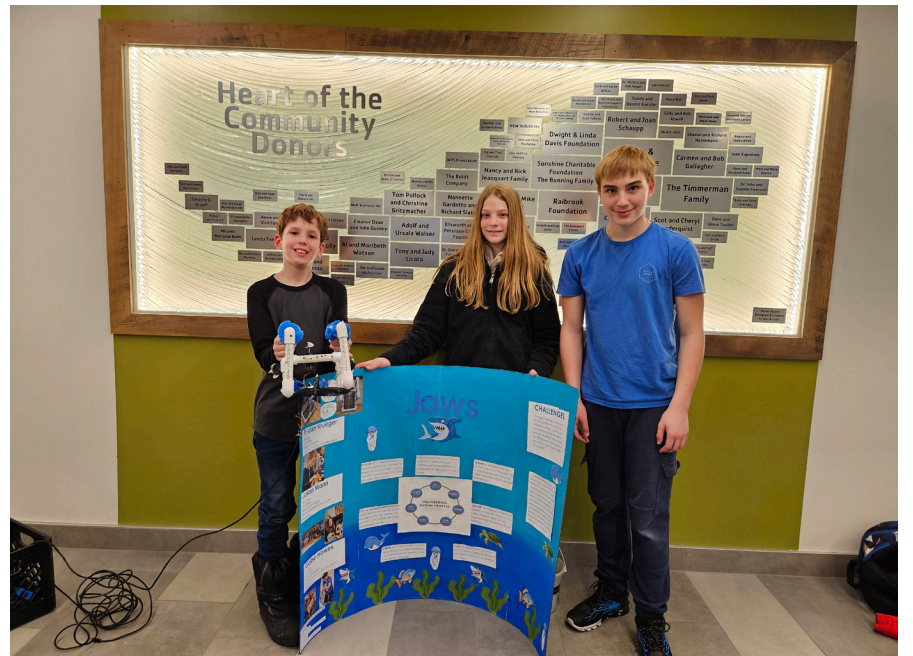


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team JAWS earned second place at our Local Scrimmage and will compete at Regionals. Middle School ROV teams compete in the Sturgeon Bay Y pool to try and earn a spot to compete at Regionals.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team Barracuda qualified as the third place team and will represent WISD at Regionals.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Middle School ROV teams compete in the Sturgeon Bay YMCA pool to try and earn a spot to compete at Regionals.

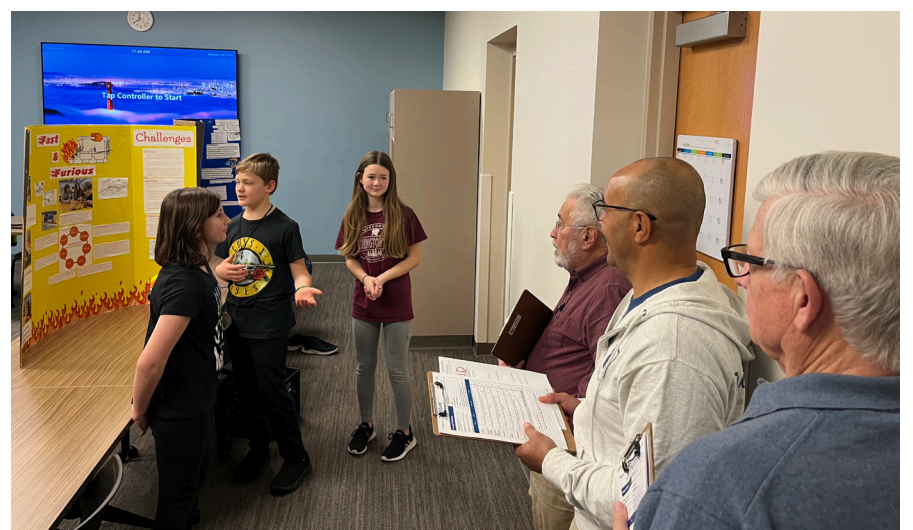


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team Fast n Furious took first place at the local competition and will represent WISD at Regionals.



Washington Island
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