

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

# Principal's Report: March School News

By Tim Verboomen

I always appreciate this opportunity to highlight the many great things happening at our Island school, and there have been many happening in the past month! Some of our high school students have been preparing for their Forensics Speech competition; three of our middle school students have won advancement to the International competition for SeaPerch; most of our high schoolers attended a job-fair in Sturgeon Bay, a student from each grade level from elementary-middle school has been recognized for their handwriting prowess in the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting competition; many of our students are submitting original poetry for an event sponsored by Write On, Door County in May; our 7th & 8th-grade students completed an incredibly successful "Fiesta Fundraiser" dinner and trivia night; our elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school; our juniors took the ACT Exam (fingers crossed); PBS visited us for a few days to showcase Miranda Dahlke's science and STEM programming for their Wisconsin Life program; nine of our sophomores and juniors are gearing up for the baseball and softball seasons; and we're all -staff and students alike- looking forward to spring break! (March 22-April 1 this year.)

I'm here, working among dedicated educators and determined students, and still, the activity happening here in this tiny school seems incredible. We may be small, but we are mighty! We're incredibly proud that we're able to do so much with/for our students as we

prepare them for their futures. We do a great job teaching our students reading, writing, arithmetic, social studies, science, STEM, art, music, and physical education. But, I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight the significant emphasis we place on nurturing soft skills & life skills in our students here in our Washington Island Schools.

In today's world, academic excellence alone is no longer sufficient for defining student success. It is equally important for our students to develop a set of soft skills that will equip them to navigate the complexities of life beyond our classrooms. Soft skills, often referred to as interpersonal or people skills, are life skills that encompass a broad range of abilities crucial for personal (and eventually professional) growth.

Our teachers integrate various methods and strategies and provide learning activities and opportunities to cultivate these essential skills in our Island youth. For example, we work to build our students' communication skills. Effective communication is fundamental in every aspect of life. In their speaking and writing, we encourage our students to express themselves confidently and to clearly articulate their thoughts. It's equally important that we teach our students to listen actively and attentively to others.

We also very intentionally provide our students with opportunities to practice collaboration and teamwork. Through group projects and collaborative activities, we instill in our students the importance of working together

harmoniously towards common goals. Collaboration fosters creativity, compromise, innovation, and problem-solving. Problem-solving and critical thinking are skills that will enable our students to tackle challenges with resilience and resourcefulness. We promote inquiry/problem-based learning and provide opportunities for students to explore, experiment, and find solutions independently.

We also endeavor to teach our students adaptability and resilience. We teach our students to embrace change, learn from setbacks, and bounce back stronger. Our world is changing so rapidly and adaptability and resilience will be invaluable qualities in our students' futures. Other soft skills such as emotional intelligence, time management, organization, initiative, service, and leadership are all skills we strive to teach our students.

Understanding and managing emotions is essential for personal well-being, happiness, and healthy relationships. We incorporate mindfulness practices, social-emotional learning, and guidance counseling to support the emotional development of our students.

Developing effective time management and organizational skills empow-

ers our students to balance their academic responsibilities, extracurricular activities, and personal commitments efficiently.

Cultivating leadership qualities and encouraging initiative and service will empower our students to take charge of their lives and make a positive impact on their communities. Our teachers provide leadership opportunities through class projects, student council, team leadership, and community service projects.

These soft skills are integral to our students' academic success and we are laying foundations for lifelong learning and personal/professional fulfillment. As partners in our children's education, we are committed to teaching, learning, growing, and succeeding ... with every student, in every classroom, every single day.

Sometimes I know exactly what I want to write for these articles and other times I sort of ramble as I write. I'm sure it's pretty clear that this was a rambler. I think (hope) it's good to have both. :) In any case, like I said from the beginning, I always appreciate this opportunity to highlight the many great things happening at our Island school. We thank you for your support.

NEW COMMUNITY OFFERING: YOGA AT THE SCHOOL

## Yoga Classes

Offering Bi-Weekly Classes This Spring  
Tuesdays & Thursdays from April 9 - May 16

**Chair Yoga @ 4:30** | 30-minute sessions of adapted chair yoga designed for beginners, seniors, or people with limited mobility, etc.

**Mat Yoga @ 5:15** | 45-minute sessions of slow-flow yoga to build strength, flexibility, and promote relaxation. (All-levels yoga)



**Class Information**

- Pam Josifek (RYT-500) is a certified yoga instructor with 10 years of yoga teaching experience.
- Drop-in classes, no need to sign up or sign in ... just come!
- No-Fee (free will donations accepted)

**Suggested Donations per Class**

- \*Chair Yoga - \$5
- \*Mat Yoga - \$10

STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS

# Diner Dinner

APRIL 14TH

**Location**  
Washington Island School Commons  
Sunday, April 14th  
4:00pm and 6:00pm seatings  
Each person receives an entree, two sides, and a dessert.

**entree**  
Hamburger  
1/4lb hamburger patty with cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and pickles

-or-

Patty Melt  
1/4lb hamburger patty topped with melted cheese and caramelized onions on rye bread

-or-

Bacon Cheese Burger  
1/4lb hamburger patty with bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and pickles

**tickets**  
Prepurchase tickets at the school office. Call (920)847-2507 with any questions. Seating is limited; remaining tickets may be available at the door.

**cost**  
\$12 for adults  
\$6 for children 7 and younger

**sides**  
Mac and Cheese, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Onion Rings, Tater Tots

**dessert**  
Banana Split, Apple Pie, Root Beer Float, Banana Pudding, Brownie Sundae



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## Kindergarten Explorers Unearth Dinosaur Discoveries!

In an adventure that transported them back millions of years, kindergarten students recently put on their explorer hats and grabbed their shovels to become paleontologists. Equipped with curiosity and enthusiasm, these young learners dug into the world of dinosaurs, uncovering fossils and igniting their imaginations in a thrilling dig.

The kindergarten class embarked on a hands-on journey to discover the secrets of the prehistoric era. With brushes in hand and magnifying glasses at the ready, these explorers transformed their classroom into a bustling excavation site, where every scoop of sand held the promise of a thrilling discovery.

With each unearthed bone fragment or fossilized footprint, the students' excitement soared to new heights. Their imaginations ran wild as they pieced together the puzzle of ancient creatures that once roamed the Earth.

The dig site not only provided a platform for hands-on learning but also fostered valuable skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and critical thinking. As they worked together to carefully excavate their findings, the students learned the importance of patience and precision, traits essential for any budding scientist. Maybe one day, these kindergarten explorers will indeed make groundbreaking discoveries in the world of paleontology.



PHOTO BY KAITLYN STOLLER

Kindergarten students dig for fossils in the dig site.

## The Student Council Report, January, 2024

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Kaitlyn Stoller

The Student Council is excited to announce their Diner Dinner for the community in the school commons on Sunday, April 14th! That's right! It's a 1950's Diner theme! You can come dressed as you are, but looking at the students' attire, you may feel like you're back in time! There will be two dinner seatings: 4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. Calling the school for Reservations is strongly encouraged so you won't miss out, but if there are any seatings left at the times of the dinners, of course, we will welcome you! See the Student Council's Diner Dinner flyer in this Bucks Bulletin for details! We hope to see you there!

Student Council led Health Week

is planned for April 22nd-26th. The Student Council has been brainstorming ideas for activities, healthy snacks, and speakers to talk with the students. In their planning, they are focused on promoting a healthy lifestyle, including the components of nutrition, exercise, and social and emotional wellness. Of course, Health Week will end with the annual all-school walk around the block!

To end the year, in May, the Student Council is planning a Family Fun Night, but you'll have to wait until the next Bucks Bulletin to hear more about this! In the meantime, the Student Council continues to offer Hot Lunches to students every other week.

## March Mammal Madness is Back!

By Miranda Dahlke

NCAA fans look forward to filling in their March Madness brackets each year and watching the outcomes. My middle schoolers, and some high schoolers, look forward to the annual March Mammal Madness (MMM) tournament. Organized by a professor out of Arizona State University, and many other experts, 65 combatants are chosen to "battle" it out to win the championship. This is the 13th annual tournament, but only the fourth year I've integrated the tournament into my science classes. This year's theme, which aids in setting up the divisional brackets, centers around the Arts. Students research the com-

batants and weigh out their choices for winners, and then we watch the battle unfold together through the month of March and beginning of April. I've expanded to share the experience with the elementary school classrooms, by organizing the middle schoolers to present how MMM works and walk the students, or classes, through setting up their brackets. If you want to follow along, you may do a google search for "March Mammal Madness" and click the ASU links to the information. So much scientific information is shared and learned by all. Stay tuned to see which student(s) claim the trophy this year!



PHOTOS BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Middle Schoolers visited elementary school classrooms to present information about MMM24, and help kids or classes set up their brackets.

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## Team Fast and Furious Prepares for Internationals

By Miranda Dahlke

On Saturday, Feb. 17 two middle school SeaPerch teams competed at the North East Wisconsin Regional competition in Ashwaubenon against 18 other teams. Team Fast and Furious and Team JAWS represented Washington Island School and were awarded second and third place overall. Team Fast and Furious: Kinsey (8th grade), Tug (6th grade), and Marlie (5th grade). Team JAWS: TJ (8th grade), Jaida (7th grade), Gabe (5th grade).

Each team presented to a panel of judges, raced through an underwater obstacle course, and maneuvered through the mission course to try and earn the most points. The top two scoring teams earn an invitation to the international competition in Maryland. This will be Washington Island's third consecutive appearance at Internationals on June 1. In preparation for the competition, Fast and Furious will continue practicing on the underwater courses, edit

their Engineering Design report, and prepare a team showcase video. A big thank you to the Door County Maritime Museum, Gillespie Plumbing, Steve Hopkins, Andy Kehren, and the REC Center for supporting

the SeaPerch program. If you'd like to support the team's journey to Internationals you may make a donation by check written out to the school, with a note of SeaPerch in the memo line.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team Fast and Furious competing in the Mission Course challenge at the Ashwaubenon Community pool.

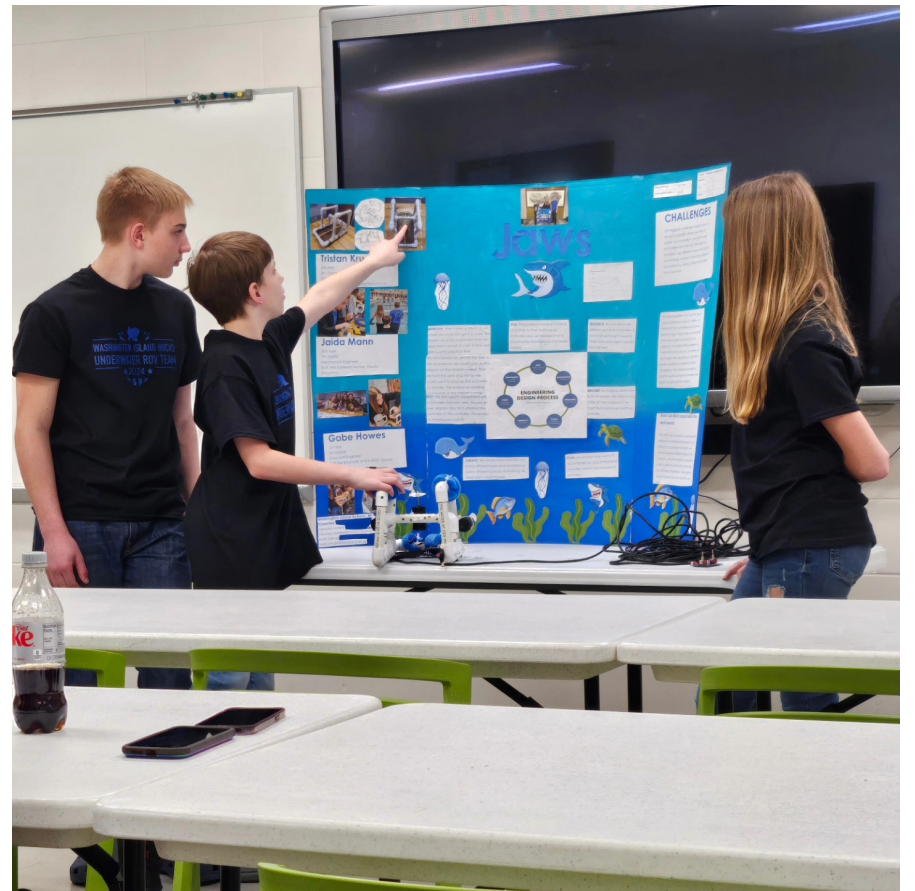


PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team JAWS presents their ROV design process to the two judges at Regionals.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team JAWS came away with 3rd place at the Regional SeaPerch Competition. L to R: Gabe, Jaida, TJ.



PHOTO BY MIRANDA DAHLKE

Team Fast and Furious wins 2nd place at the Regional competition and will travel to Maryland representing the state of Wisconsin. L to R: Marlie, Kinsey, Tug.

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## Successful Fundraiser Stumps Community

Recently, 130 guests enjoyed an evening out at the Community Center. The festivities began with a dinner buffet featuring Tex-Mex entrees. Beef, pork, or chicken were combined with tasty fajita vegetables, chips, and pico de gallo. Everyone enjoyed the delicious, homemade food while the 7th and 8th Grade students waited on us.

Immediately following the feast, Jake and Miranda Dahlke took over the evening by explaining the format and rules of the trivia contest. This pair had worked for a considerable

amount of time creating interesting, challenging questions to stump the best of us. After choosing team names, the first round commenced. Ten questions were read as teams huddled together furiously trying to deduce the correct answers.

After 10 rounds which boasted categories such as Geography, Pop Culture, and Arts & Literature, the scores were added up. While many of us knew we were out of the running, it was fun to hear where we had placed and who the top two teams were. The winners came up

with an impressive score of 71 out of 100 questions and second place was close behind.

This fun event would not have been possible without all of the sponsors who sent a large variety of items for the silent auction as well as gift cards for the winning teams. Parents of 7th and 8th Grade students worked tirelessly to canvas sponsors, plan and cook the food,

purchase necessary supplies, and set up the gym. Mostly, without the many contestants who came out and supported us, this would not have taken place. The 7th and 8th Grade students thank you for supporting their fund-raising efforts to visit two historic sites in Michigan and the Soo Locks. It really takes a village - Washington Island "village" to be exact!



The 1st place Triva Team! Congrats!

PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK



The 2nd place Trivia Team! Way to go!

PHOTO BY MARY GRZELAK

# Art Accomplishments



Clara and Jossy cheers! Hot cocoa tastes best out of a handmade mug. Elementary students celebrated their ceramic mugs coming out of the kiln with a hot cocoa party.

PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES



Jaxin's reduction print is matted and ready to submit to the 50th Annual Salon of High School Art Show.

PHOTO BY MELANIE JONES

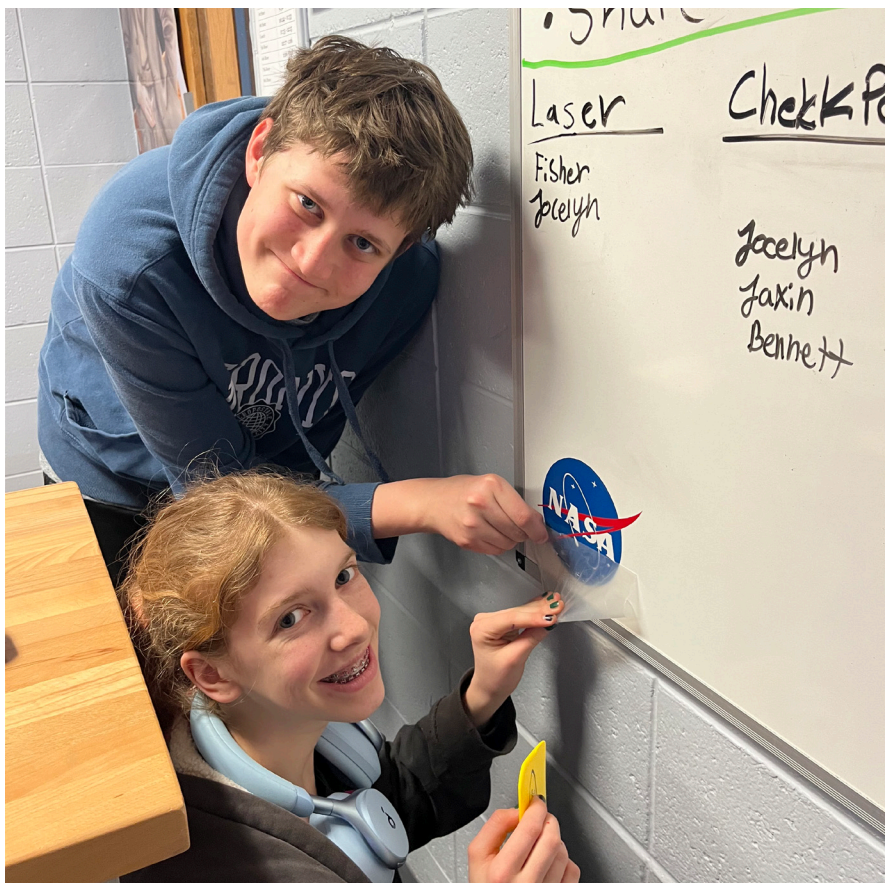
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# A Peek into the Tech Ed. Classroom



PHOTO BY MATT SULLIVAN

6th and 7th Graders learn how to use Adobe Illustrator to make custom Valentine's Day cards.



PHOTOS BY MATT SULLIVAN

9th Graders working with the vinyl cutter to create stickers/decals.



PHOTO BY MATT SULLIVAN

STEM students work on fluid power cranes. They build their team's crane to pick up and place items within a course.

## See What's New in



PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN FOSS

Students in Mrs. Foss's 2nd and 3rd grade classes spent some time creating Valentine's Day gifts for friends and loved ones. Bouquets and magnets in the shape of a heart were given to new friends during the day.

## Mrs. Foss's Room



Fun with Fractions: Mrs. Foss's 3rd-grade class is having fun with fractions! They measured out ingredients to make chocolate chip bars and another day they played a fraction game.