



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

# Principal's Report: May School News

By Tim Verboomen

I'm writing this during Teacher Appreciation Week, a week in early May doubtlessly scheduled then to help bring teachers across the finish line in high spirits. And now, as another school year comes to a close, I hope you will join me in expressing gratitude for the dedication and commitment our staff has for our students and community. It's such an honor to work with good people -doing good things- for good people!

One of my favorite pieces of writing is, "To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know that even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded." -Bessie A. Stanley

I work alongside incredibly dedi-

cated professionals; I am continuously impressed by their professionalism, creativity, and compassion. We have such great people here, serving as educators, mentors, role models, and as friends doing what we can to ensure we "leave the world a bit better."

Our teachers foster fun, positive, nurturing learning environments in which our Island youth learn to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. From the creative lessons our teachers develop to the genuine care and support they provide every student, our staff inspires and motivates our Island kids. Our school staff members go above and beyond, year after year, with kindness, patience, and empathy to ensure that every student in our small school feels valued, heard, and empowered.

## The Mackinac Island Field Trip

On May 15th, our 7th and 8th-grade students set out on a unique

field trip to cap their learning of local/regional history with a visit to Fort Michillimac and Fort Mackinac, in Michigan. Our students were actually able to spend the night in Fort Michillimac before spending the next day touring Mackinac Island. We also arranged for our middle schoolers to meet the Mackinac Island middle schoolers for an art class and lunch together. Our students designed and laser-engraved tumblers with a graphic of our islands connected with a loop in the shape of a heart and text reading, "Side by side or miles apart ... Islanders are close at heart," as gifts for the Mackinac Island 7th and 8th-grade students and teachers. "

## Washington Island/Gibraltar Partnerships

The strong connection we have with the Gibraltar School District has recently offered our high school students a couple of interesting opportunities. The first is an invitation for our students to attend their prom, and on May 11th, eighteen of our nineteen high schoolers joined their students in the high school rite-of-passage.

We also have an athletic co-op with Gibraltar for baseball and softball, and this year we have nine students playing ball on the Gibraltar/Washington Island teams. On May 18th we were even fortunate enough to have home games for the boys' JV and Varsity teams right here on the Island. (I'm writing this optimistically but such games are, of course, weather-dependent).

## Island Service Day

Every year our students spend a day in service to our community. This year our Island Service Day will be on May 23 (Rain Date May 31). Our students will be spending the morning at Gathering Ground planting and prepping for the growing season, and the afternoon with an all-Island cleanup. If you pass our students and teachers on the roads around the Island that day, please give us a honk (and plenty of room as you pass). We go all over the Island in search of unsightly, stray trash to make our Island (more) beautiful for summer.

## SeaPerch International Competition

On May 30th, a group of Islanders will head to Maryland for the SeaPerch International competition that weekend. The 2024 International SeaPerch theme is Deep Sea Exploration and this year's challenge was inspired by the wealth of information that can be gathered by exploring the deep-sea hydro-thermal vents/geysers near the Galápagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador. Our team, "Fast N Furious," will be deploying the ROV they've worked so hard to build for the competition. Last year there was a link for viewing the competition live online, and if they have one again this year you'll find it on our Facebook page.

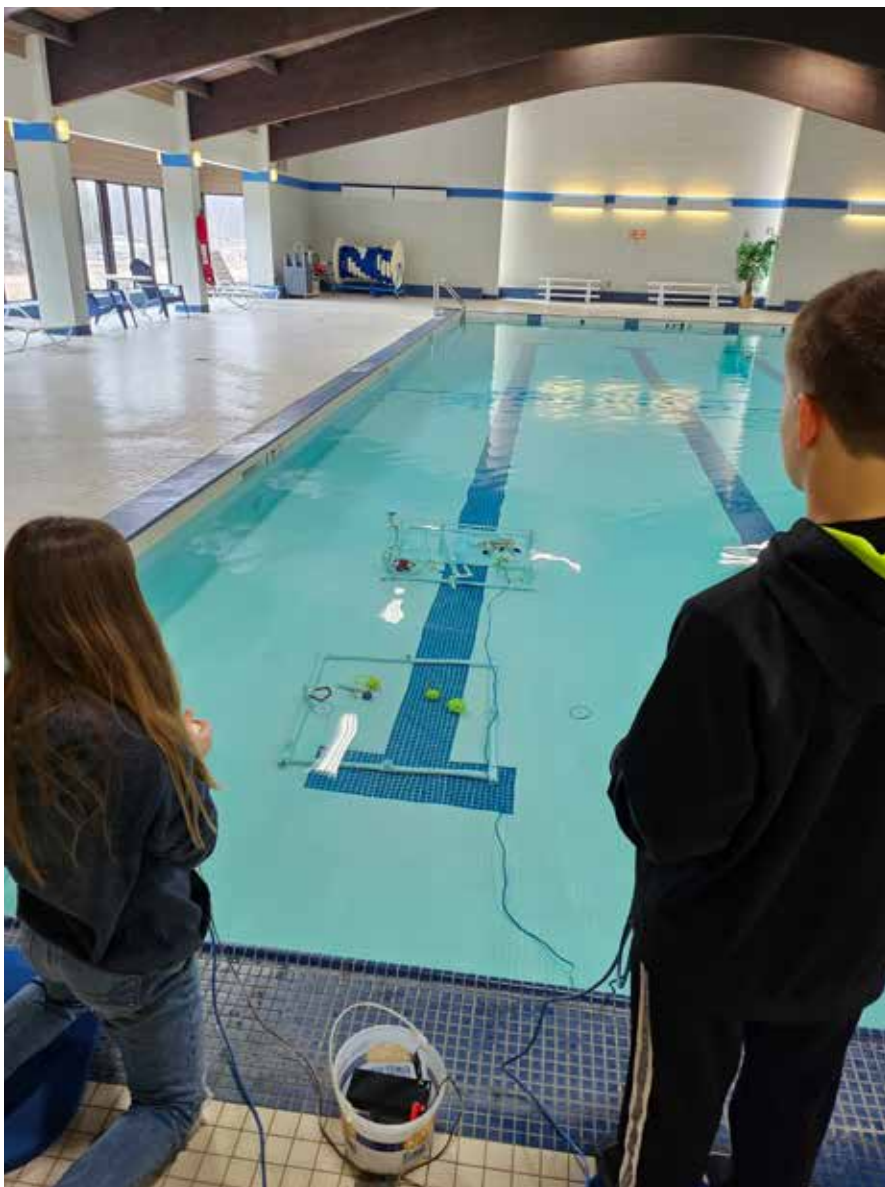
## Student Council Family Fun Night

Also on May 30th, our Student Council will be sponsoring a Family-Fun-Fair night filled with carnival-style games, food, and fun. If you have children, or are a kid-at-heart yourself, please join us between 5:30 and 8:00. This is the last of great community events sponsored by this year's student council and their advisors. Like their "Diner Dinner" and "Polar Express" events, this promises to be great fun!

## The Last Day of School

The last day of school this year is June 6th and, weather permitting, we will celebrate the year with a picnic at the Red Barn. If you have a few minutes that afternoon, please consider stopping by to congratulate our students on an outstanding year of learning, growing, achieving, and succeeding, and to thank our Washington Island School staff for another great year.

See you around this summer ... the Bucks Bulletin will be "closed for the season", but we'll be back in September!



**Kinsey, Marley, and Tug (Team Fast and Furious) prepare for the International SeaPerch (ROV) competition at the University of Maryland May 31 to June 2nd.**



PHOTO BY TIM VERBOOMEN

**Our 7th and 8th graders designed and laser-engraved "Side by side or miles apart ... Islanders are close are heart" tumblers as gifts for their Mackinac Island counterparts.**



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# The Art Corner Spring 2024 Math Update

By Pam Josifek



PHOTOS BY MELANIE JONES

Jaxin, Jocelyn, and Bennett pose with their acrylic car paintings.

This year has gone by very quickly. It has been a joy to work with all of the students and see them grow in their math skills.

Our 5th grade students are currently working on unit conversions from kilometers to meters to millimeters, inches to feet to yards and using these to determine distance, area, and volume. In 6th grade we are working with unit rate, proportions, and will cover percents before the end of the year.

The 7th and 8th grade students have been digging deep into pre-algebra and learning how to create meaningful mathematical equations to solve problems. They are now moving to a review of the geometry basics perimeter, area, and volume and we will finish the year with a short unit on statistics.

I was very excited that our two 6th grade students and 2 of our 8th grade students passed Challenge 1 of the Hardest Math Problem Student Contest and participated in Challenge 2. For both grades they were looking at the costs to update lights in a parking lot to minimize light pollution. The contest not only focused on finding the solution within budget but also on the presentation of the results in written format with explanations of how they did the calculations. The Hardest Math Problem Student Contest was a great way to learn more about how mathematics can be used in everyday life.

On March 14th the Middle School Math classes also learned about the origins of PI while practicing ratios

and proportions. They each calculated the proper ingredients needed to make their own individual pudding pie before making it.

In High School, Algebra 1 is exploring the concept of factoring and graphing polynomials, specifically quadratic equations. Algebra 2 has been digging into conditional probability including ways to analyze baseball statistics. They are also comparing theoretical probability and experimental probability.



PHOTOS BY PAM JOSIFEK

The two 6th graders were pumped to celebrate Pi Day!



Middle schoolers show off their collaborative artwork in the hallway. Students painted vector squares using tints and tones of one hue.



Elementary students are excited to take home their sewn stuffed monsters.



5th Graders enjoying their tasty pie!



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# Mr. Sullivan's Tech Ed Classroom



PHOTOS BY MATT SULLIVAN

Teams work on building a crane that can be operated using Fluid power to grab and move wooden pieces to different platforms.



9th-grade class collaborates with Teachers and Faculty to create and design a custom nameplate. The nameplate can be displayed on a door or a desk. Here Julia presents her hard work to Mrs. Josifek.



Mads displaying her Map in the middle school Hallway.



The Fabrication and Making classes embarked on a typical graphical map project. Here Rita is cutting and printing her map layers.



Tegan shows off her Bucks logo on her water bottle.



Students designed graphics in Adobe Illustrator and learned to format & send graphics to be engraved on wood.



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# Mother's Day Poems

**A Tribute to Mom**  
By Magnus Purinton

A helping hand through and through  
I really do appreciate all that you do  
At my lowest when I broke my arm  
You took me to the hospital to save me from harm  
Watching over me like a hawk since I was born  
Making sure I'm ok and never forlorn  
I've been a pain in the neck but  
I don't mean any offense  
Like the time I was little and almost fell off the porch fence  
You have put up with my skunk-like smells  
Even though it may stink like many hells  
Through all of this, you still love me unswerving  
And of all my many thanks you are deserving  
So thank you for everything I am grateful for it  
I am lucky to have you in my life through all the grit  
Courageous coach and considerate consultant  
Loving mother caring never quick to judgment

**My Mom**  
By Ashlynn DeJardin

Mom  
Not a title  
Not a given  
But something earned  
My mom  
What makes our house a home  
Vacuum lines zip across the soft gray carpeting  
Mugs filled with chilled creamer and a splash of coffee scatter the house  
Beside the coffee pot, white to-do lists sit  
The memories of four children linger on the walls decorated with framed photos  
A warm presence accompanies a beige rocking chair  
Yarn drips down the side like a colorful waterfall  
My mom  
Has a smile that could reach the darkest parts of the soul  
A presence that could comfort the most uncomfortable  
And most importantly, a heart that could love the unlovable  
Late-night talks and gentle arm stroking  
Long hugs and cheek kisses

Reminders that I am cared for and loved  
Her mind giving mine a place to rest  
Every time the dark starts to close in, She will bring me to the surface  
Let me retrieve a breath  
Fixing a problem that she never caused  
Healing a wound that she never opened  
Holding me afloat  
My mom  
I stand because of her  
I smile because of her  
Most importantly, I can breathe because of her  
My mom  
A smile that has touched the darkest parts of my soul  
Has comforted me when I felt most uncomfortable  
And a heart that loved me when I felt entirely unlovable  
Mom  
Not a title  
Not a given  
But something earned  
My mom

**Building Bonds**  
By Mason Isaacson - Krueger

Spring - the woods light up like a party each morning  
The sound of sand hills singing surrounds us  
The gun waiting to let out its roar  
Resting quietly to take the turkey  
In these loving silences, I learn the most  
His heart - a garden of love  
Where patience grows like sunflowers  
Kindness - like a tulip  
And the soil - an endless supply of dad jokes  
Summer approaches and construction calls  
Turning wrenches and hammering nails  
Learning new tools and techniques from the manual himself  
Fall creeps around the corner  
Our new garage build will come to an end  
But the memories made will last a lifetime

**WASHINGTON ISLAND STUDENT COUNCIL**  
COME & JOIN US FOR OUR  
**END OF THE YEAR CARNIVAL**  
THURSDAY SCHOOL  
MAY 30 COMMONS  
05:30PM - 08:00PM  
**\$2 ENTRY FEE**  
*Step Right Up!*

Join us for an evening packed with excitement for the whole family. Test your skills at our carnival games, gear up for our outdoor obstacle course, and don't miss out on our pie eating contest. Enter for a chance to win big with our bucket raffles.

Games and one raffle ticket will be included with your entry fee. Food and additional bucket raffle tickets will be sold separately. Get ready for an night of fun, food, and fantastic memories to kick off the summer!  
*Proceeds will go towards a new digital sign in front of school*

## The Student Council Report, May 2024

By Marleen EhrlichJohnson, Advisor with Kaitlyn Stoller

During Teacher Appreciation Week, the Student Council gave the teachers a salad bar hot lunch, and Sue Cornell made a loaded vegetable soup! It was a perfect combination that was served with fresh bread and an ice cream sundae for dessert!

The Student Council has been planning and preparing for The End of the Year Carnival, which was previously called Family Fun Night in the past Bucks Bulletins. The date of the event: Thursday, May 30th, and the time: is 5:30-8:00 P.M. See the carnival flyer in this Bucks Bulletin to see what fun and food are in store for that evening! All ages are welcome!



PHOTO BY MARLEEN JOHNSON

**The Student Council ended their Health Week, April 22nd-26th, with a walk around the block.**



PHOTO BY ALYSSA WAGNER

**The First and Second Graders just wrapped up an informational text writing unit where they chose a person who inspires them and wrote a biographical essay. Two students chose Rosa Parks and two chose Ruby Bridges.**