

# WISSAHICKON SILVER LININGS

## WISS NATION'S ROUNDUP OF THE UPLIFTING & UPWORTHY



November 2021

### Reasons to Celebrate

The 2021-2022 school year has started out with so many reasons to celebrate - students and staff are back in the classroom, and have been fully engaged in the academic and extracurricular activities that make the school experience so special. In this bi-monthly issue of Silver Linings, we are happy to share some of the highlights of the past two months.

Wiss Nation was proud to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15-October 15th. Through a variety of learning activities, students in every school learned about the history, culture, contributions and influence of Hispanic and Latinx Americans. Stay tuned for highlights this November as we celebrate National Native American Heritage Month.



### Classroom Spotlight: WHS WELL

Did you see our Classroom Spotlight on the WELL program? The Wissahickon Early Learning Lab (WELL) is a great program that prepares 3-5 year old children to enter kindergarten and allows our high school students to get real hands-on experience as teachers.

[WATCH OUR WHS STUDENTS TEACH FIRE SAFETY](#)



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## Learning SPOTLIGHTS

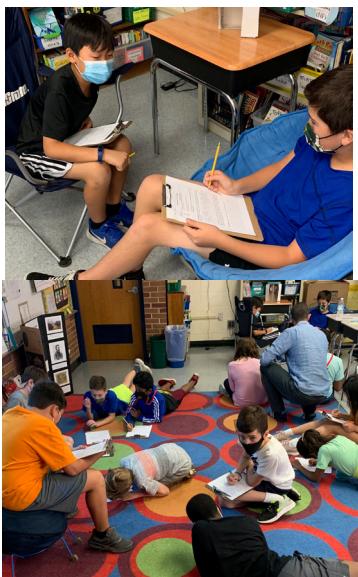
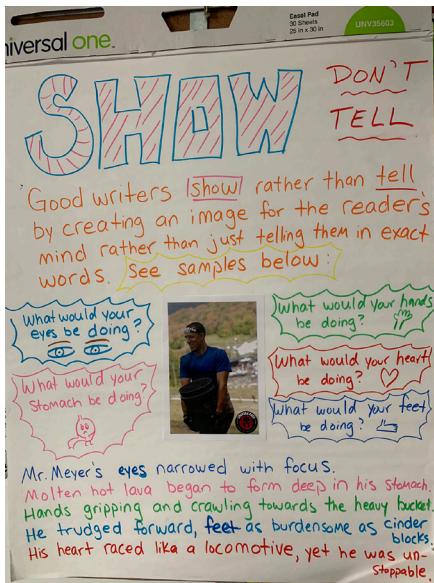
Frau Perrine-Wilson's WHS German classes observed the Day of German Unity on October 8th. Students dressed up in the colors of the German Flag, made buttons to wear, and asked people to challenge them to say a word or phrase in German. They had to teach 5 people (including 1 staff member) their word or phrase.



Mrs. Lafferty's kindergarten class at LGE joined their buddies in Mrs. Hickey's 5th grade class for a great science/math lesson. The students found leaves and items on the nature trail of various sizes and colors, then measured and compared the items and made leaf tracings.



Stony Creek students collaborated on "SHOW, don't tell" writing.



## Thank You!

Thanks to everyone in Wiss Nation who showed how much we care about our neighbors. In the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, students, staff and families participated in a variety of fundraisers to help families in Upper Dublin School District.



Stony Creek Student Council promoted breast cancer awareness month by wearing pink on Mondays. To "cap" off the month, students and teachers made a donation to Unite for Her to wear their favorite hat to school. TOGETHER, they raised almost \$2000 for a charity that makes a difference in the lives of so many people!



The Girls' XC team held a Pink Out at the William Tennent Invitational in honor of those affected by breast cancer.



Thanks to everyone for showing their #WissPride with a purchase of spirit wear in our fall store. This was one of the largest sales ever - nearly 400 orders!

## Evidence that Learning is Fun!

October is always a GREAT month for students, staff and parents to have fun together. Thanks to the Home and School Associations, the elementary schools hosted Fall/Harvest Fests and Trunk or Treat events that included truly amazing costumes and awesome trunk designs. Students also enjoyed the annual Halloween parades and teachers came up with creative ways to incorporate things associated with the season, like pumpkins, into learning activities.



WMS students in Ms. Duke and Mrs. Bauer's math classes constructed "Bone Bridges" using Q-tips, pipe cleaners and craft sticks. They needed to be at least one inch high and able support 12 pumpkins. So much creativity with their creepy creations!



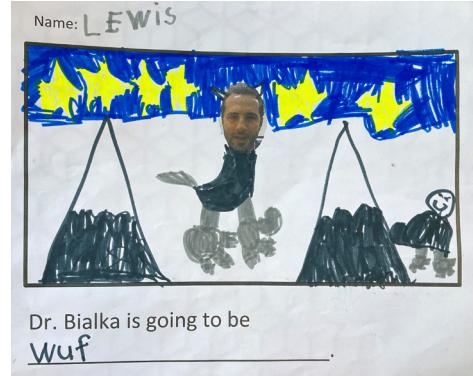
Fifth grade at Stony Creek celebrated the Great Pumpkin Caper. They predicted and then collected data about the height, weight, circumference, and number of grooves and seeds from their pumpkins. Once the data was collected, they worked in groups to create line plots to represent the data using mathematical terms.

Blue Bell students decorated more than 150 pumpkins as their favorite book characters. Congratulations to the winners of the contest!



The Lower Gwynedd 3rd grade team wrapped up their Social Studies Unit on Geography by making Pumpkin Globes. The students drew and painted the different parts of the globes on their pumpkin, including the equator, Prime Meridian, continents and oceans.

Shady Grove kindergarten students were given clues to guess and draw what Principal Bialka's costume was going to be at Harvest Fest. Great guesses and drawings included dogs, cats, wolves and unicorns, but the right answer was Batman!



## Rising Stars Homework Club: Volunteers Needed



Would you like to help our students become rising stars? Consider volunteering for the Rising Stars Homework Club, now serving 40 students from Shady Grove and Lower Gwynedd elementary schools.

Rising Stars is held at the Ambler Borough Hall Monday - Thursday, 3:30-5:30 PM. Operating under the umbrella of the Ambler Cupboard, the club is led by Patricia Fabiani, Director, and Heather Maltin, Supervisor. Adult and high school student volunteers are welcome and can help out any day or amount of time. No teaching experience or training is necessary!

All donations are welcome (snacks, crayons, markers, pencils, sanitizing and cleaning supplies, gift cards to Amazon), tickets to the Elmwood Zoo to support a future visit (or financial donation). Rising Stars is free to students and operates completely on donations.

Check out some of the exciting things happening this year:

- ★ The club has a super cool new logo (pictured above!)
- ★ A new Station Pizza incentive program starting 10/28 (Station Pizza will provide discounted pies for a "pizza party" once a month)
- ★ Rising Stars will host several fund raisers as follows:
  - Car Wash at Ambler Beverage -TBD
  - Mod Pizza - November 22nd
  - Applebee's To Go - January 12th
  - Chipotle - February 5th
  - Double Good Popcorn - TBD
- ★ T-shirts for students
- ★ Rising Stars will have a float in the Ambler Parade on December 4th



A WEOF grant and support from Team Children and the Ambler Cupboard covered the cost of 30 laptops and a computer cart.

## Reading Olympics Practice Incorporated Too!

Thanks to Tamson Zucker, WSD Special Education, a group of our 4th and 5th graders from Shady Grove and Lower Gwynedd are engaged in practice sessions for the Reading Olympics. One day a week, after homework is done, Mrs. Zucker and the students read aloud or listen to a recording and the students have practice questions so they will feel comfortable the day of the competition. If you would like to donate one of the books on the Reading Olympics list, contact [risingstarshomeworkclub@gmail.com](mailto:risingstarshomeworkclub@gmail.com).



40 students from Shady Grove & Lower Gwynedd!



As a service project, a Boy Scouts group created cubbies for each student made out of milk crates.



SGE and LGE principals and other supporters provided school supplies, new playing balls, a pencil sharpener, paper and sanitizer supplies.



In a brand new Mindfulness Room, students participate in fun and relaxing activities. Crafts are also offered daily.

**Join the Rising Stars team today!  
Contact Ms. Patti at 267-528-7257 or email at  
[risingstarshomeworkclub@gmail.com](mailto:risingstarshomeworkclub@gmail.com)**

## WHS Spirit Week Highlights

WHS enjoyed a week's worth of great activities during Spirit Week, culminating with a roaring bonfire and Homecoming game on October 8th. Theme days included Decades Day, Hawaiian Day, White-Out, PJ Day and Dress to Impress. Congratulations to this year's Homecoming Court winners: Ben Bercich and Ethan Moore and the other members of the court:

- ★ Emma Baker and Phil Dias
- ★ Devin Boatwright and Marshaya Weldon
- ★ Jennifer Griffin and Emma Kershner
- ★ Aidan DeFeo and Nate DeVincent
- ★ Alexis Iademarco and Zoey Norpel



## Staff Learning Spotlight

Christin Esposito, WSD Learning Support, shared her expertise and experience with our Elementary Special Education teachers in a two hour training on Developmental Spelling Assessment that will be used to determine students' instructional level and support instruction. The team will engage in more intensive training over the course of the year as they begin to implement the program. This evidence-based practice will allow our students to cultivate their skills as readers, writers, and learners. Thank you to Ms. Esposito for her leadership and to our entire team for their active participation!

