



# Middle School Message

Monthly Newsletter of  
Wissahickon Middle School

January 2019

## WMS Band Busy with Performances

The WMS Band has been very busy so far this year. The Wind Ensemble performed at three Veterans Day gatherings. Every year, Wissahickon Middle School hosts a breakfast and Shady Grove Elementary School hosts a large assembly, both honoring local Veterans. The Wind Ensemble performs many patriotic medleys each year to share our musical gifts with our most honored guests. The Wind Ensemble has also been invited to perform at the Lower Gwynedd Veterans Day Ceremony for the past 5 years. This year, the guest speaker at this event was none other than our very own Superintendent, Dr. Crisfield.

On December 1, the WMS Marching Band performed in the Ambler Parade, marching down the street to a holiday favorite, Jingle Bells. The parade crowd seems to grow every year and the WMS Band loves to perform for so many fans. Their next performance will come in the spring at the annual WMS Music Day at the Phillies game.

The Black Dog Band and Blues Dog Band will be hosting their 35th annual Jazz Festival, with several local bands competing against each other for several awards and ratings. The event will be held at the high school auditorium on January 18, 2019 starting at 7:00 PM. As the school year continues, the Black Dog Band will be competing at seven more competitions at local middle schools. Come out and support the WMS Band at all of their future performances!

## Kindness Rocks (literally)!

WHS German Teacher Nicole Perrine-Wilson and her AP German students/Honor Society visited WMS Teacher Kelly Broadbent's class this December to discuss their involvement in the Kindness Rocks Project. Students at both schools will gather rocks and decorate them with a positive and motivational message written in German. The rocks will be hidden around all of our schools sometime this spring. Elementary, middle and high school students are encouraged to find the rocks and then place them in other public places to spread kindness around our school community. The goal is to make this an annual event, replenishing any rocks that are taken. We are hoping that our rocks will travel far and wide after a few years!

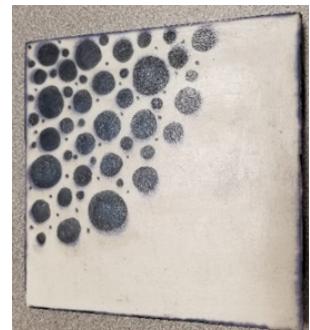


## WMS Trojan Day- Year 2

It is Day 6 in the Middle School and the 9:01 bell has just rang for Advisory. The Pledge of Allegiance and announcements are over. As you walk the halls, you hear laughter and the energy in the building has taken on a different vibe. It must be Trojan Day at the Middle School.

Advisory Periods are times built into a Middle School schedule that allow adults and students to make connections. Over the years, WMS has used their Advisory Period for a variety of activities - Team Building Activities and Olweus Lessons, to name a few. Last year, Day 6 Advisory was designated as Trojan Day. Trojan Days are specialized, interest-based advisories that allow for student choice. Teachers identified a topic they are passionate about and wanted to share with students. The students were then given a menu of options with descriptions. Students had the choice of 50+ topics including crafts, fitness, sewing and more. These specialized advisories allow students to meet other students with similar interests and spend time learning about a topic of their choice. This year, Trojan Day advisories began in mid-October. The students chose their Trojan Day using the Interactive Scheduler in Sapphire. This allowed us to assign students to Trojan Day groups more efficiently. New this year, students will be choosing a different Trojan Day for the second semester. This will allow the students to meet new people and explore new options. Our students and teachers all look forward to Trojan Days. It adds a new dimension to the school day and the students are engaged in new activities. We believe this has been a positive addition to the Middle School program and will continue to explore ways to improve upon and strengthen the program.

Below are some pictures of alcohol ink tiles! A few of the students chose to just glaze their tiles instead of dropping the ink.



One of the first projects the students of the Trojan Day Creative Crafts groups worked on was a Halloween themed projects using wooden spoons. The task was to create a monster or another representation of Halloween. Below are some of the ideas the 6th, 7th and 8th graders came up with. Students also created pine cone owls and they really let their creativity come out.



### Kemuel Ronis

**8th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Pride Team**

**Birthday?** March 25th

**Years at WMS?** This is my 18th year at WMS! I have been teaching for at least 35 years.

**Family:** I have two grown children, in their 30s. One is married, one is not.

**Favorite food?** Italian and Chinese food

**Favorite season?** Summer is my favorite, but I enjoy spring and fall as well.

**Favorite color?** Purple

**Favorite holiday?** I celebrate any holiday with food and presents.

**First job?** I delivered newspapers when I was about 10 years old. I delivered the *Washington Post* at 5 am before going to high school. I also cut grass around the neighborhood and babysat as well.

**Have you ever traveled outside of the US?** I was born in Germany and I was two when I came to the USA. I have lived in a number of foreign countries.

**Have you ever played an instrument?** From age 7-18, I was a drummer and I played the kettle drums. I also played the xylophone.

**Hobbies?** I like to spend my time motorcycle racing, horseback riding, doing martial arts, scuba diving, lifting weights, doing yoga and meditating.

# Winter Sports Season Update

## Girls Basketball

The 2018/2019 Winter Sports Seasons officially started the week of October 29, 2018 with the Girls 7th and 8th grade basketball teams. Jennifer Kleiman coached the 8th grade team. The 8th grade girls' basketball team had a stellar season, including six hard fought wins and two heartbreaking losses. The team had a competitive spirit and they played with tenacity. The girls worked as a unit on and off the court. Every player worked hard and gave it their all.

The 8th grade team entered the playoffs with an away game at Abington on December 19. Unfortunately, they lost a tough battle in overtime and lost 32-27. They had a great season and grew so much from the start of the season. We cannot wait to see what the girls are able to do in high school.

Ericka Leslie coaches the 7th grade team. The 7th grade girls' basketball team, made up of 13 athletes, worked together since the beginning of November. The girls demonstrated great team unity during practices and preparation for their games. While 8th grade players provided worthy role models, the 7th grade players increased their skill levels by working hard and gaining real game experience.

The 7th grade team had their first playoff game at Lower Moreland on December 19. The 7th grade team pulled off the upset vs Lower Moreland, which was their first victory of the season. They played tenacious defense for the victory.

The 7th graders played the championship game at Colonial Middle School on December 20. Unfortunately, they were defeated in a hard fought battle. Supportive parents, families and fans have helped make it a great experience for the 7th grade girls.

## Wrestling

The 2018/2019 Wrestling season had a late start but the wrestlers have been hard at work making up for lost time. They all have been practicing hard and showing great respect for the sport. Anthony Stagliano and Bryan Haire are the coaches this season. The coaches are excited for their upcoming league matches.

## Boys Basketball

The boys' basketball teams will be coached by Steve Ebert and Jim Kelly. They are both excited to start the season. Tryouts began on Monday, December 10 and ended on Friday, December 14. The 7th and 8th grade teams have returned from the Winter Break ready to begin practices and to prepare for the upcoming season. The boys will open the regular season on January 23, 2019 at 3:15 pm, versus Springfield at Springfield.

## WMS Sports Spectators

We encourage ALL students to attend our sporting events to support our student athletes during home competitions. If your child is interested, please have your child visit Mr. Burke's office or see Mr. Baldassano in guidance for the necessary parent permission form to attend these events. You may access these forms by visiting this website: <http://www.wsdweb.org/schools/wissahickon-middle-school/athletics>



## WMS 2018 Spring Sports

Spring Sports will be Boys and Girls Track, Boys and Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, Baseball and Softball. All interested students must fill out PIAA paperwork and the Wissahickon Eligibility Form in order to participate. Students who participated in a fall or winter sport or participated in tryouts for a fall or winter sport will only need to complete PIAA, Page 7 or PIAA Page 8.

Students can sign up for a sport and pick up any of these forms in Mr. Burke's office at any time. Spring Sports Practices and Tryouts are tentatively scheduled to start the week of March 18, 2019.

## 2019/2020 WMS PIAA Sports: Important Info!

If your child is interested in participating in a PIAA sport during the 2019/2020 school year, please read this important information from the WMS Athletic Department to assist with your planning.

1. The 2019/2020 PIAA and WMS Eligibility Forms will be updated on the WMS Athletic webpage in May 2019. These forms will also be available in Mr. Burke's office at the Middle School.
2. Important: Page 6 of the PIAA forms must be dated by your child's primary physician June 1, 2019 or after. This is important to note if your child has his/her annual well visit prior to June 1, 2019.
3. PIAA Forms and WMS Eligibility forms: It is important that ALL information be completed on the forms, which includes ALL Parent/Guardian and student signatures.
4. ALL PIAA forms and WMS Eligibility forms for any sport - fall, winter, and spring - during the 2019/2020 school year are due to Mr. Burke's office by Friday, August 9, 2019. It is important that this paperwork be turned in prior to this date. Any paperwork received after this date may prevent a student's participation in a sport.

If you have any questions, please contact Gus Baldassano at Gbaldassano@wsdweb.org or at 215-619-8110 ext. 7034.

## Watch Principal Beth Bauer's Video Blog!

Mrs. Bauer shares information about the upcoming spring musicals and iReady assessments!

[VIEW BLOG](#)

## Students & Athletes of the Month



This month, our two Students of the Month are Madilyn Schwartz and Joshua Yu. Madilyn and Joshua were selected based on their positive contributions to WMS, strong interest in learning, involvement in school/community programs and great character and citizenship.

Our two Student Athletes of the Month are Sage Stelzer and Adam Grossman. Sage and Adam were selected based on their displays of good sportsmanship, respect, "team before self" mentality, commitment and demonstration of outstanding character, in addition to their athletic skill levels.

Please join us in recognizing these students' positive contributions to the WMS learning community. Their photos are on display in the Atrium hallway.