



Middle School Message

Monthly Newsletter of
Wissahickon Middle School

June 2019

Robots Rule: MakerSpace Makes Learning Fun

The Wissahickon Middle School MakerSpace has been bustling this year! Students in all three grade levels have had opportunities to use this space through their regular education classes. One of our newest resources in the MakerSpace are Ozobot robots. With the assistance of our STEM Librarian Mrs. Conger, students have been exploring programming as well as the engineering design process with these tiny robots. Spanish students taught the Ozobot commands in the target language, Math students strengthened their geometry and math skills by programming Ozobot with polygons, Science students used Ozobot to learn about speed, distance, and time and 6th graders created their own mazes and programmed Ozobot to travel through them. Through these learning activities, students learn not only programming, but work with grit, perseverance and collaboration to accomplish the tasks at hand. Robots rule!



Staff Spotlight Amy Welsh, Grade 7 Garnet Team, Classroom Assistant

Birthday? August 22nd

Years at WMS? This is my 6th year at WMS. I have been in the District for 10 years.

Family: I adore my family. My twins (one boy, one girl) graduated WHS in 2017. I have 3 brothers.

Favorite food? Sushi

Favorite movie? "16 Candles"

Favorite season? I love Spring. Everything is beautiful. My garden is blooming.

Favorite color? Yellow

Favorite holiday? I love Christmas because my twins were born Christmas eve.

First job? I worked at the YMCA Summer Camp in Abington, PA. We did Arts & Crafts all day with 4 year olds.

Have you ever traveled outside of the U.S.? Yes. I have traveled to Germany, Switzerland, France and many Caribbean Islands.

Favorite book? "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein.

Hobbies? Gardening, scrap booking, and spending time with family

2019 WMS Spring Sports Summary

Wissahickon Middle School had a very successful 2019 Spring Season. We had two teams go undefeated this season, which included 8th grade boys' lacrosse and the WMS boys' track team.

Softball: Coach Ella Tessari managed the 8th grade softball team during the 2019 Spring Season. This year the WMS 8th grade Softball team ended with 4 wins and 7 losses. The girls really came together as a team and supported each other throughout each game. Some highlights were the win against Cedarbrook, Sandy Run, Keith Valley, and the final game against Abington. During this final game the girls really pulled together to hold their 1 run lead at the bottom of the 7th inning. It was fun to watch the girls battle and succeed.

Coach Toni Reed managed the 7th grade softball team during the 2019 Spring Season. There were 16 girls on the WMS 7th Grade Softball team this season. Half of the girls were new to the game and half had experience in the game. The team won two of the 9 games played this season. At their last game, Coach Reed overheard Teagan Joyce say "win or lose, we walked out with something great – we walked out with a family!" This positive attitude is what middle school sports is all about. Another highlight of the season was spending time with the high school junior varsity team, learning from their experiences of playing middle school to advancing to the high school level.

Boys' Lacrosse: Sam Crofton coached the eighth Grade boys' lacrosse team. Eric Kaufman coached the 7th grade boys' lacrosse team. Both teams had a great season, and due to rainouts, each team ended their season with 4 games in the final 5 days of the season. This gave all of the players an opportunity to use the skills & strategies they had worked on and improved on all year. The 7th grade team was short on numbers, but the team fought through every game and ended with a record of 3-3-1. The 8th grade team lost players to injuries throughout the season, but managed to put up a perfect 9-0 record, and ended undefeated. Highlights of the year for 7th grade included earning a hard fought tie against a strong Sandy Run team in their second to last game, after dropping two previous games to the rivals. For 8th grade, the highlight was winning a challenging game against a very talented Upper Merion team in the WHS stadium tuft field.

Girls' Lacrosse: Coach Shannon Stewart managed the 8th grade girls' lacrosse team during the 2019 Spring Season. Coach Sharon Frankenfield managed the 7th grade girl's lacrosse team. Despite the cold and soggy start, the girls worked hard to improve during practice. Their hard work paid off and their skills began to progress each game. They worked every day on catching consistently and throwing accurately. In addition, the girls practiced their defensive and offensive skills, which helped them play as a team. The teams had the opportunity of playing their two, final home games at the Wissahickon High School stadium. It was a great and exciting way to end the season. Overall, it was a successful season for both teams.



Boys' Tennis: Lindsay Weiner coached the boys' tennis team during the 2019 Spring Season. The team finished with 8 wins and 2 losses. All players had victories versus the following opponents: Upper Moreland, Colonial and Springfield. Kenneth Cobbs and Viet Vo scored 6-0, 6-0 against Keith Valley and Josh Yulsman scored 6-0, 6-0 against Colonial.

The Varsity tennis squad participated in the league tournament on May 20th at Abington Junior High School. Congratulations to Viet Vo and Daniel Yun who placed 1st place in the tournament. Congratulations to Jameson Jenkins and Kevin Lobo who attended the end of season tournament as 3rd doubles varsity to fill in for their teammates. They scored 2nd place overall.

Congratulations to all the players for all their hard work and effort this season!



Boys' Track: Coach Scott Landis and Coach Marlene Singer managed the boys' track team during the 2019 Spring Season. Despite an extremely wet start to the season preventing them from getting on the track for almost 2 weeks, the boys' track team started their season on the parking lots and in the hallways of the school. As the weather improved, so did the performance of the athletes, as the team was again able to post another undefeated season.

The team traveled to Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Stadium for the MCCA end of the league track meet on May 22nd. At the League Championship competing against 8 league schools, Wissahickon Track & Field let the other teams know that they were there for business. At the conclusion of the Championship meet, the team crossed the finish line with the following performances:

- 1st and 2nd in the Hurdles
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the 100m
- 3rd in the 1600m
- 2nd in the 400m
- 1st in the 90lb, 105lb and 2nd in the 120lb 4 x 100m relay
- 1st in the 4 x 400m relay
- 3rd in the 800m
- 3rd in the Long jump

Many other athletes posted 4th and 5th places finishes; however, the greatest accomplishment was that almost every athlete posted their best performance of the season.

Girls' Track: Angela Farlow and Matt Schill coached the girls' track team during the 2019 Spring Season. The Wissahickon Middle School girls' track team had another strong season as Captains Kendall Crowley, Laila Cottom and Eryn Lucas led them. The team posted a winning record of 7-1. One of the highlights was the team of Laila Cottom, Mila Jovanovic, Eryn Lucas and Kenya Williams qualifying for the Penn Relays. The girls traveled to Franklin Field in Philadelphia on April 25th to participate in the 4 x 100 relay. The girls exceeded expectations by finishing in 3rd place and posted a remarkable time of 52.5 seconds! The team is pictured below.



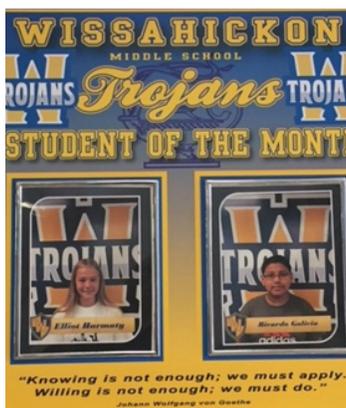
On May 4th, the girls' track team participated in the Kiwani's Relays at North Penn High School. The team did really well, earning several medals including winning the 4 x 400 relay with the team of Laila Cottom, Emma Jovanovic, Mila Jovanovic, and Julia McGarrity. The Wissahickon Middle School girls' track team had a stellar year and the future is bright! Some of the standouts on the team include Charlize Adriaanse, Gillian Blight, Jordan Burchett, Kendall Crowley, Jada Johnson, Avery Mullin, Lannah Werynski and Kenya Williams.

Baseball: Coach Keith Thompson managed the 8th grade baseball team during the 2019 Spring Season. The 2019 WMS 8th grade baseball team rode a roller coaster of weather changes this season. Thanks to an early, warm spell, for the first time in three years, March tryouts were held outdoors. Fifteen players and one part-time manager forged into a rainy April and May to endure rainouts, indoor practices, and a season shortened by cancelled games that could not be made up. While the weather finally improved, the players likewise saved their best for last. On the final game at Abington, the team entered the last inning trailing three to one. Doing some of their best hitting and smartest base running, the Trojans put six runs on the board to dramatically earn the win. The team finished the season with 5 wins and 4 losses, and played a total of 51.5 innings. All of the players participated in over 50% of those innings, and every player had at least 14 opportunities to bat at the plate. Thanks to collaboration with the Lower Gwynedd Little League, and Mr. Shawn Burdick, our players were able to have batting practice with an electronic pitching machine this year. With the talent of this year's team headed to high school, the future of WHS Baseball looks bright.

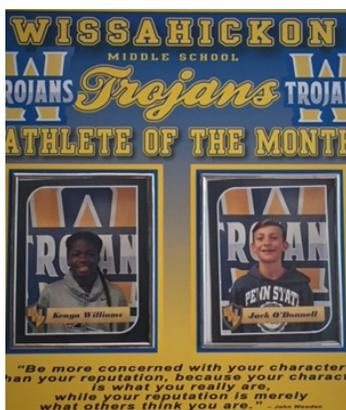


Coach John Houghton managed the 7th grade baseball team during the 2019 Spring Season. The 7th Grade baseball team finished with 4 wins and 4 losses this season. They had completed two full game shut outs against Sandy Run (4-0) and against Upper Moreland (9-0). A highlight of the season is when the team trailed Abington 9-0 and came back to win 10-9 in walk off fashion. Another highlight is when Jarret Federer stepped to the plate at WMS with a wooden bat. He then proceed to hit a bomb that went into the long jump pit on the track. It was an absolute blast!

Students & Athletes of the Month



This month, our two Students of the Month are Elliot Harmaty, Grade 7 Owls and Ricardo Galicia, Grade 6 Hawks. Elliot and Ricardo 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 Kenya Williams- Girls Track and Jack O'Donnell- 8th Grade Baseball. Kenya and Jack 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.

Watch Principal Beth Bauer's Video Blog!

Mrs. Bauer shares information about student/ family events over the summer including Summer Academy.

[VIEW BLOG](#)