



Middle School Message

Monthly Newsletter of
Wissahickon Middle School

March 2019

Electronic Probes in 7th Grade Science Classes

Four students on the Owls team tested their scientific inquiry as they demonstrated the latest technology offered in Science class. Gabe Lassiter, Julia McGarrity, Jessica Rappaport and Olivia Seo, under the direction of their teacher, Mr. Scott Landis, attended a recent Board Meeting to do a presentation on electronic probes. The students wanted to find out which brand of antacid neutralized simulated stomach acid the best. Using the newly acquired pH probes, the students were able to collect data and have the program graph their results instantly, providing the information needed to see how fast and effective the products worked. The sensor used was a wireless pH probe that transmits data via Bluetooth to the computer. The students were able to collect 1200 data points in 60 seconds, allowing detailed experimentation to be completed in a shorter period.

Thank you to our group of scientists for providing this hands-on presentation for the Board of School Directors and the Wissahickon community.



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Schoology Use for Families

Have you checked out Schoology lately? This amazing platform allows students and parents to keep up to date with homework, classwork, projects, assessments and more. WMS teachers are in their third year of using Schoology and are on a roll! Students are turning in work digitally, completing assessments and participating in virtual discussions via Schoology.

Did you know that as a parent, you can access pretty much EVERYTHING your child does in Schoology? The work they turn in, the quizzes they take, the discussions they complete - everything! Imagine if our parents had that access!! In addition to seeing your child's work, you can also access important school-wide announcements. Be sure to download the free Schoology app from your app store for up-to-date notifications.

If you don't yet have your account set up, be sure to contact Marlene Singer (msinger@wsdweb.org) for your child's specific account code and check out this website with information and tutorials to establish your account - <https://www.wsdweb.org/departments/technology/schoology>

Watch Principal Beth Bauer's Video Blog!

Mrs. Bauer shares information about important events
this March and PSSA testing.

[VIEW BLOG](#)

Winter Sports Update

Wrestling

The WMS wrestling team had a successful season. Anthony Stagliano and Bryan Haire coached the wrestling squad. During league competition, the wrestling squad finished with 4 wins and 4 losses. Individual standouts for the year were Tylor Stubbs (11-1), Nathanel Chez (9-1), Nelson Stubbs (9-2), Haoa Bode (8-3), Ryan Lee (7-2), Max Pester (5-2) and Erwin Cordero-Prado (5-2). One other highlight was the participation and development of Charlize Adriaanse. Charlize improved every day. The coaches were not only proud of her for sticking it out all year, but how hard she competed and won several matches throughout the season.

At the MCCA end of the season tournament at Keith Valley Middle School on February 7, the WMS wrestling squad finished 3rd out of the 9 schools that had participated in the tournament. They beat out Abington and Springfield, which



were losses during the regular season. Nathanael Chex and Max Pester finished 1st in their weight divisions. Tylor Stubbs, Nelson Stubbs, Erwin Cordero-Prado, Grayson Ruffner, and Ryan Lee finished 2nd in their weight divisions. Carmen Schoppe and Charlize Adriaanse each finished 4th in their weight divisions. The coaches were pleased with how well the team did at the league tournament.

On February 8th and 9th, the WMS wrestling squad traveled to Quakertown High School for the very challenging Southeastern Pennsylvania Wrestling Tournament where many of the best wrestlers in the area are present. The Quakertown tournament had 30 teams participate. WMS had 23 wrestlers attend this tournament and 10 of them made it to the second day of the tournament. Overall, the WMS wrestlers worked hard but only one of our wrestlers received a medal and placed. Nelson Stubbs got 5th place in his weight class. The coaches were very proud of the hard work, determination, and skill of the wrestling squad this year.



Boys Basketball

Jim Kelly coached the 8th Grade team and this was his first year as the boys basketball coach. Steve Ebert coached the 7th grade team. The 8th grade boys basketball team has shown improvement daily and had won 3 close and exciting games in overtime this year. Their end of season league record was 6 wins and 2 losses. The 7th grade team continued to build continuity and work on fundamental skills for success on the basketball court. Their end of season record was 4 wins and 4 losses(league) and 7 wins and 4 losses(overall). Both teams have demonstrated a positive attitude and worked hard to get better each day.

Each team entered the MCCA end of the season tournament during the week of February 18. The 8th grade team opened as the #3 seed in their bracket. They faced the #2 seed, Keith Valley, on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Keith Valley. The 8th grade team lost a tough battle at Keith Valley to end their season. Coach Kelly was pleased with their efforts during this playoff game.

The 7th grade team opened as the #5 seed in their bracket. They faced #4 seed, Springfield, on Thursday, February 21, 2019 at Springfield for the play-in game to determine who would play the #1 seed Lower Moreland. WMS was victorious with a 37-30 win. They played the #1 seed, Lower Moreland, on Friday, February 22. Unfortunately, they had a tough loss at Lower Moreland and were not able to advance to the championship round.



Special congratulations to our Boys Basketball team for winning the League Sportsmanship Award!



Fall & Winter Cheerleading

It seems like it was just September and the girls were trying out for the season. It's hard to believe that the girls have been cheering for six months.

The season started out with 15 girls cheering for the WMS home football games. The girls had 6 practices before their first game. They cheered for all five home games, not including our night game against Abington at WHS Stadium, where we cheered for a double header.

In the fall, the cheerleaders also participated in the WMS Annual Veterans Day Breakfast, where they greeted our Veterans with cheers, as they entered the building and they also performed two cheers during the ceremony. The cheerleaders also performed an original cheer during our fall Pep Rally.

The cheerleaders started off the winter season cheering for the Trojans girls, then boys basketball teams. The cheerleaders cheered for a total of 10 home games for boys basketball.

In addition, for the first time in the history of WMS Cheerleading, as far as we know, the girls cheered for two wrestling matches. It would have been three, but we had an unexpected early dismissal on January 29th.

Two of our cheerleaders came up with original cheers, one each, and taught them to the squad. Basket and ATTACK, turned out to be real crowd favorites. In addition to these two cheers, the cheerleaders learned and executed over 20 cheers and chants through the two seasons, and even had time to learn one cool stunt.

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 in attending any sporting events this spring (boys and girls track, boys and girls lacrosse, softball, baseball, or boys tennis), 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 form by visiting this website: <http://www.wsdweb.org/schools/wissahickon-middle-school/athletics>

WMS 2019 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 P. 7 or PIAA P. 8. Students can sign up for a sport and pick up any of these forms in Mr. Burke's office. 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 Gboldassano@wsdweb.org or at 215-619-8110 ext. 7034.



Staff Spotlight

Gus Baldassano

Guidance Counselor / Athletic Director

Birthday? August 12th

Years at WMS? 17 wonderful years

Family: I have one beautiful wife, one son, one dog and one cat.

Favorite food? I love all food!

Favorite movie? Rocky

Favorite season? Spring/Summer. I love warm weather and I can spend more time on the open waters.

Favorite color? Blue

Favorite holiday? July 4th because I spend time with family and friends

First job? I was a paperboy at age 10 and worked at Genuardi's at age 14. When I went to college, I laid concrete, worked as a janitor, and was a Nittany Note taker. I also was a counselor at a correctional facility.

Have you ever traveled outside of the U.S.? I just recently traveled to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. It was winter there.

Hobbies? I like being on the beach and boating.



What is i-Ready?

i-Ready is an interactive online learning environment designed to assess students on standards-based skills and provide individualized instruction, based on each student's unique needs. The i-Ready diagnostic, which is administered at the beginning, middle and end of the school year, automatically adjusts the difficulty of the questions according to each student's ability levels. The first question a student will see is based on the student's chronological grade level. As a student proceeds through the test, items become more or less challenging, depending on how the student answers each question. The test is designed to find the level at which the student is performing in reading and math, as well as, within specific skills areas, or domains. Once students finish each diagnostic, the results are used to provide customized and differentiated online lessons. Each week students are asked to complete 45 minutes of online lessons, which targets gaps in the student's skills, skills that may not be addressed in the grade level curriculum. How can I help my child get the most out of i-Ready?

- Talk with your child about doing his/her best on the i-Ready diagnostic so that teachers know where he/she is doing well and which skills need more review. Doing his or her best on the diagnostic will ensure that your child is assigned lessons that target gaps in skills.
- Encourage your child to take the online lesson and quizzes seriously. Emphasize "thinking before clicking". Just clicking through will not give teachers an accurate report of what your child knows and is able to do.

Students & Athletes of the Month



This month, our two Students of the Month are Allison Meng, Grade 6 Hawks and Kevin Cupid, Grade 8 Pride. Allison and Kevin 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 Camryn Samuel – Cheerleading and Gabe Lassiter – Boys Basketball. Camryn and Gabe 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.