

The Bay Window

December 2022

Dream. Aspire. Achieve.



Outdoor Ed at Camp Timber-lee

By: Andrew Ades, 6th Grade

On October 10, the 6th grade students of Williams Bay Middle School went to Camp Timber-Lee located in East Troy, WI for Outdoor Education. Along with some school staff and volunteer students from the high school, the 6th graders spent three days doing cool outdoor activities and learning about the constellations and how the human body works.

When the students arrived they were broken up into bunk groups of 3-4 students and activity groups of 10-15. The students were then taken to their bunks to unpack all of their belongings. Our boys cabin had five rooms with two bathrooms on the bottom floor and four rooms with one bathroom on the top floor.

The activities that we did were things like scavenger hunts, survival games, rock climbing, archery, fishing, and working with leather to make things like bracelets, bookmarks, and keychains.

The students and staff were also provided with food. Breakfast was at 7:45 AM, lunch was at 12:15 PM, and dinner was at 5:15 PM. The meals were buffet style where the students and staff would form two lines with their trays and silverware, and wait for their turn to get food. We ate foods such as pancakes, eggs, cereal, pizza, chicken, and subs.

On Tuesday night it was rainy so we had a mini dance party inside in the girls cabin Ponderosa and then made s'mores in the fireplace.... The s'mores were so delicious! After we made s'mores we played this game where an Alpha wolf would hide on campgrounds and the students would split up into groups to look for him.

On Wednesday we all had a surprise weather change, where the tornado warning alarm went off. My group was lucky enough to be in the safest room down stairs already so we were fine. But the other groups all had to come to the downstairs where we were to take shelter. The tornado warning made lunch get held back for about 15 minutes. Fortunately, we were alright. So once the tornadoes were all done we were all able to head to lunch safely.

After lunch we all went to play games like gaga ball, nine square, and tether ball a little bit before we left. A couple minutes later we then hopped on the bus to head back to the school.

I had a great time at Camp Timber-Lee. Some of my favorite activities were when we searched for the Alpha wolf, went fishing, and when we got to touch the different types of animals. Out of those three my favorite activity was definitely the Alpha wolf hunt. This was fun because it was pitch black outside and we were not allowed to use any types of flashlight. Which made the game challenging but fun. I had lots of fun at the mini dance party and during the bonfire. It was also lots of fun to be with all of my friends for 3 days.

I think Outdoor Education is a great experience for all students, and would encourage anybody to go. I think this because it teaches kids about the outdoors and how to be very responsible and independent without their parents being there. Outdoor Ed is also very good because it helps kids stay away from their tablets, cellphones, and video games because there are no devices allowed. In conclusion, I would definitely recommend Outdoor Ed.



Battle of the Books - Broncos Country
By: Luke Enright, Devin Deakins, James Fry, Jacob Jarosz and Ashton Frankel

Hello, we are Broncos Country! We decided to join Battle of the Books because we are hard workers. We work together to establish a team. We will work together to read books and will have fun. We are a great team because we love to have fun and we are very funny. Here are some reasons why we joined Battle of the Books.

Luke Enright, I like battle of the books because we will split our books and have fun!

Devin Deakins, I like battle of the books because we are going to have so much fun!

Ashton Frankel I like battle of the books because it is awesome and a time to hang out with your friends.

Jacob Jarosz I like battle of the books because I like reading books and having fun with my friends.

James Fry I like battle of the books because it is a time to learn about books.



Battle of the Books is a quiz based reading activity. The participants are assigned 20 books of various levels and genres to read. The students are divided into teams of 4-5 students and work together to make sure all the books have been read. There are monthly practices where students track their progress and practice questions. The season culminates in a quiz show style competition, where the teams face off to see who can answer the most correct questions.

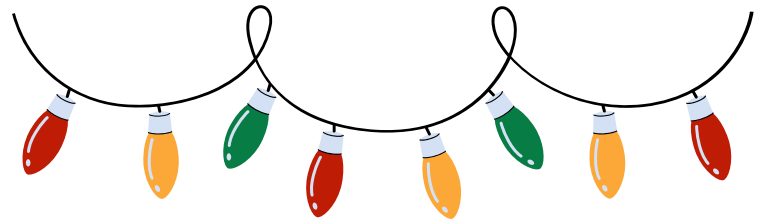
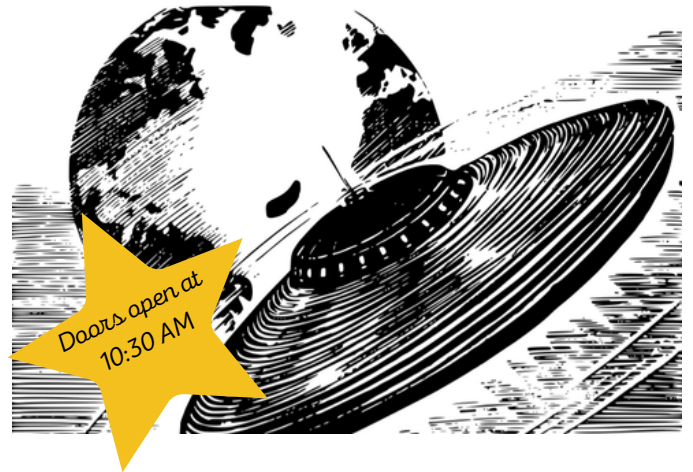
Williams Bay High School Drama Club
 Presents

WAR OF THE WORLDS

By Howard E. Koch
 Based on the novel by H.G. Wells
 Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

December 17, 2022

Starts at 11 AM – doors open at 10:30 AM. Join us for brunch!



SOCTOBER SUCCESS!!



The Spanish Club collected 2,545 pairs of socks during their Socktember drive. The socks were donated to Circle of Friends in Elkhorn to be distributed to families in need.

From the Desk of Dr. White



The number of operational referenda on the fall 2022 set a record for Wisconsin this year. 92 school districts statewide are asking voters to exceed the revenue cap for operational expenses. After a biennial budget that included no increase in per-pupil spending, school districts across the state are turning to taxpayers for funding in what has become an ongoing trend statewide. Districts in our area sought operational funding on the November ballot including Woods and Whitewater. Based on conversations with district leaders in our area, other districts in our area will be turning to an operational referendum on the Spring 2023 ballot or the Spring of 2024.

School referendums ask taxpayers to fund new facilities or exceed the revenue cap for several reasons. Capital referendums seek funds for projects such as new school construction, adding onto or remodeling existing building. But operational referendums ask voters to fund additional operating costs associated with new facilities or maintaining existing programs.

The number of operational referendum questions reflects a significant shift in the state's commitment to funding schools. Over the years, more of the responsibility of funding schools has moved from the state level to local property taxpayers, via referendums. In a conversation with one legislative leader, the legislature would like to see districts turn to their local taxpayers for more funding, rather than increase school funding at the state level.

The Wisconsin School Policy Forum analysis of per-pupil spending data in Wisconsin found that Wisconsin spent \$12,740 per pupil, which is 56% below the national average. School spending in Wisconsin ranked 25th highest in the nation in 2020, as compared to 11th in 2002 according to the same study.

High inflation rates and challenges recruiting and retaining educators is further escalating the financial issues as Wisconsin school districts enter the second year of \$0 increases to per pupil funding from the state. Based on budget projections, the Williams Bay School District is being pushed towards a referendum.

The district has worked to remain fiscally responsible and push off the need to ask our taxpayers for additional taxing authority. We have reduced teaching positions and we did not utilize federal ESSER funds to add programming. We have not used any ESSER III funds at this point, and plan to utilize these funds to offset budget shortfalls in the 2023-2024 fiscal budget. Facing increased operational expenses due to inflation, compensating employees in a manner that attracts and retains them, and facing decrease revenues will force the district to ask our voters to exceed the revenue cap for operation expenses. Moving forward, the Williams Bay School District will be faced with the choice of cutting staff, increasing class size, eliminating programs, or asking the voters to approve an operational referendum.

Elementary Students Honor Veterans

The elementary school honored our family and community veterans this year with an invitation to enjoy lunch with students and an opportunity to stay and read or tell stories to students after lunch. 34 veterans joined us for lunch and 19 of those stayed to join the classrooms after lunch. There was a display of hands cut out of red, white, and blue paper to create the American Flag flanked by stars that represent veterans in our families and in the Williams Bay Community.

Kindergarten classrooms also made Veterans Day crafts for the local Sherwood Lodge Assisted Living Home in Williams Bay for the 20 Veterans that live there to help honor them and show our gratitude. 3rd grade collected information from Veterans to create a "Thank You" honor display.





What is Makerspace?

By: Delilah Cook and Olivia Beth

Good question! We were wondering the same thing but now we know so we are going to tell you.

A makerspace is a place in which people with shared interests can gather to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge.

In our makerspace our theme is Rube Goldberg Machine. For example, the game Mouse Trap is a Rube Goldberg Machine. For our Rube Goldberg Machine our plan is to have scissors cut paper. We are trying to use materials that we just find from the school and the art room.

At our second week of makerspace we were experimenting in small groups and each group made a build and we are going to decide which one we will use and which one worked the best. We were using different things in the art room to come up with ideas for how scissors are going to cut paper.

We enjoy seeing how they are going to end up working and looking.

We will have our machine on display during the Art Auction in May.



Volunteers Are Back In Action

The Williams Bay Elementary School is excited to have volunteers back in the building. It's fun to see parents and community members back in the building and working with students one-on-one and small groups on reading and math skills. We also have parents that work behind the scenes making copies and preparing instructional materials for our teachers. In addition, parents took advantage of the opportunity to participate in holiday party activities with their students. If you are interested in volunteering at any of our schools, call 262-245-1575.



**Congratulations to the cast & crew
of *Seussical the Musical* presented in November.
It was an awesome show!**

Apline Valley Ski Club

Mike & Kate Anagnos are the contacts/sponsors for the Alpine Valley Ski Club.

All children 7 and up are able to buy a ski club card for \$25, and rent equipment for \$25! Card holders have access to the hill after 3 excluding Saturdays.

Cards are available for purchase from the high school and elementary offices, the rec center and also on location at ski club dates.



Mike: 262-374-3627 / Kate: 262-374-3626