

The Bay Window

March 2023

Dream. Aspire. Achieve.



Williams Bay Spanish Club & Barrett Memorial Library Team Up For Bilingual Story Time

By: Rosa Jimenez

On Wednesday January 25, the Williams Bay Spanish Club teamed up with the Barrett Memorial Library in order to host our first bilingual story time. The community is invited to attend all of our upcoming story time events from 10-10:30 am on the last Wednesday of every month through April. There will be a story read by the library and a Spanish club member in both English and Spanish followed by a fun educational activity. This is a great opportunity for young children to get to know the Spanish language.

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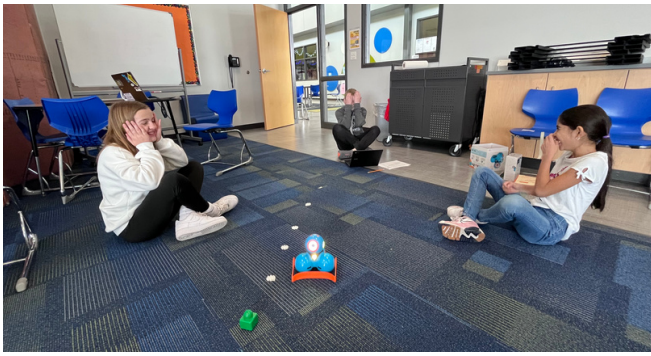
By: Jessica Blackwell, 3K Co-Teacher

Started in the Fall of 2022, Little Paws is Williams Bay School District's play-based, 4K preparation program. The curriculum is theme driven where focus is put on developing fine and gross motor skills along with sensory integration. At Little Paws, we are working to promote independence, self-awareness, cooperation, and language development.

Little Paw students start their day with a table activity and reading books. We call this a “soft start” that focuses on the students making their own choices. Then we move into a morning greeting and a song followed by structured time where we learn about the calendar, colors, shapes, body parts, feelings, weather, and the letter of the week depending on our theme. From there we read a book out loud together and then do a craft that correlates with the story.

The bulk of our day is play! We have several different centers: dramatic play, block center, puzzle center, sensory play, library, and art. Here students pick and choose where they play and for how long. During center play they work on skills like sharing, communication, and problem-solving. After center play, we have a whole group movement break, snack, and end our day with time outdoors. We pack a lot of fun, hands-on, engaging activities in a short time!

For the 2023-2024, school year we are offering full day and half day options. All children who are 3 years old (prior to September 1) are welcome to join Little Paws! Please call 262-245-5571 to schedule a visit to come see our classroom. Our door is always open!



After their robots didn't follow the path they had planned, fifth grade students Abby Tyshenko, Tripp Hayes, and Paola Ovalle re-evaluate their coding program and make adjustments for the wrong turns!

Coding at the Elementary School

Students at Williams Bay Elementary explored computer coding throughout the month of December in Library-Tech Class using Hour of Code. The Hour of Code began as a one-hour coding challenge to give students a fun first introduction to computer science and has become a global learning event. See <http://hourofcode.com/us> for details. While coding, students learn important life skills like creativity, problem solving, teamwork, communication, critical thinking, and most importantly, perseverance.

“When I first started using Hour of Code with students, any time they got stuck, their hand would go in the air. I spent most of the class helping students. What I noticed this year was that students were helping each other and they seemed more focused and willing to do things wrong to figure out the solution,” said Amy Mitchell, 4K-5 Library Tech Teacher.

Gail Bixler, Technology Coordinator, has been working with grade levels doing different coding activities. These include the kindergarten students using tiles to code a small robot called Cubetto. Second grade students place tiles in front of an iPad to code Awbie onscreen collecting points to build a virtual environment for him. Fourth and fifth grade students are using block coding to have two robots, Dot and Dash perform a variety of tasks. These activities along with the computer coding activities help our students become better thinkers, risk-takers, and team players.

Technology is all around us, and we know that whatever field our children choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works.

Fiscal Update

By: Jennifer Frederick, Business Manager

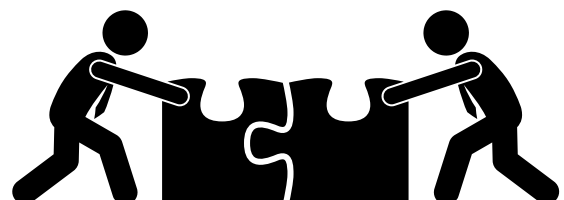
A strong partnership between the School District and its community members is based on open communication and transparency. It is in this spirit, that I wanted to provide an update on the district's fiscal status.

As spoke about in previous articles, the Williams Bay School District (and most districts around the state) are facing a fiscal cliff beginning in 2024. While we continue to anxiously wait for the state biennial budget to be finalized, our current projections show a definite need for additional funding from our local tax base. As explained previously, the state funding formula is flawed and state legislators have confirmed their intent for local taxpayers to be responsible for deciding on the adequate funding level of local schools, rather than the state.

Currently, COVID funding, called ESSER funds, will help us finish the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years without a budget shortfall. When the funding for the ESSER program runs out and the program ends, the School District will be faced with approximately a \$1.5M shortfall for the 2024-2025 school year. This short fall will directly impact our students, which we can all agree, are our number one priority. We hope this shortfall improves with the state budget and other factors, but the need for a referendum is indisputable.

Earlier this year, the School Board for the Williams Bay School District decided to wait until Spring of 2024 to potentially put the referendum on the ballot. This gives us just over a year to firm up state biennial budget numbers, minimize and manage costs wherever possible internally, and present to the taxpayers a true need and not estimate for the funding needed. District leadership will continue to communicate with our community partners about our tax savings measures and revenue projections. At this time, we anticipate the 2023 mill rate to drop over \$1.00 (per \$1,000 property value) and a \$700,000 drop in District debt interest costs. For now, please know the Williams Bay School District is continuing to use your funds wisely to help reduce debt costs, maximize state/federal funding programs and grants, as well as fine tune our operational structure to minimize our referendum request.

As always, I am here to answer any questions that you may have. I can be reached at 262-245-1575 or JFrederick@williamsbayschool.org.



From the Desk of Dr. Bond



The Wisconsin Forward Exam

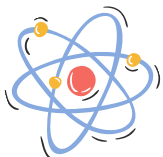
The Wisconsin Forward Exam is designed to gauge how all students are doing in relation to the Wisconsin Academic Standards.

These standards outline what students should know and be able to do in order to be college-career ready. The Forward Exam is administered online in the spring of each school year at: grades 3-8 in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics; Grades 4 and 8 in science; and Grades 4, 8, and 10 in social studies.

Williams Bay Elementary School students in grades 3-5 will participate in these assessments between March 20-24. We have been working with students to prepare for these assessments using test-taking strategies for content areas as well as strategies to help manage stress and anxiety that some students feel during testing. Teachers have also been working with students using test preparation booklets to help students become familiar with the types of vocabulary and questions they will experience when taking these assessments.

We take all assessments very seriously. Results provide information about student performance, allowing teachers to target instruction to student needs. Assessment results also enable teachers to reflect upon their own instructional practices. Students, administrators, and parents also gain valuable information that provides a better understanding of what students know and what we can do to support and assist them.

Sample or practice test questions can be found at [Forward Exam Practice Test and Sample Items | Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction](#). There is also an online tools training that will be available for students and is intended to give students the opportunity to practice with the tools available on the Forward Exam. More information regarding the Wisconsin Forward Exam will be shared with families in the near future through the weekly Bulldog Nibbles. Families who are interested in more information are welcome to contact the Office of Student Assessment at osamail@dpi.wi.gov.



Space Museum

By: Isabella DeLuca, Brynn Mansky, and Sebastian Roddy

Hi, we are going to talk about the Space Museum that the third graders created in 2023!

We liked how creative the projects were and how much thought was put into them. We liked how all the projects were different. There were so many cool projects. There were a lot of solar system projects, projects about astronauts, black holes, and projects about the moon. They did so well!

Some of the directions for the projects were that it had to be space related, each person had to have ten facts, you had to include two resources, and it had to be three-dimensional.

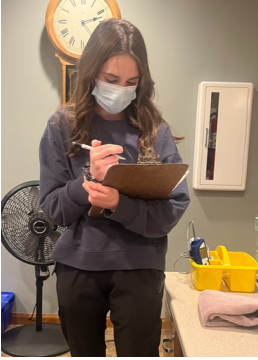
It was amazing that we had over 200 people come and we gave out over 150 stickers! We loved all the people that came! They were kind, nice, and happy to see our hard work. We loved all the elementary kids that came too. The third graders enjoyed all the smiles as they walked in. It was cool how our past teachers came to look at our projects.

Random Acts of Kindness

By: Isabella & Mac DeLuca

In the month of February we have been working on doing random acts of kindness. Not just to our friends but to everyone. Some of the acts of kindness are; writing a nice note to an adult in your life, doing a chore without being asked and writing a thank you letter. My favorite act of kindness this month has been writing a thank you card to my dad, telling him how much I appreciated him teaching me to snowboard. It made him happy, and he felt very loved. My brother's favorite acts of kindness have been holding the door open for people at the YMCA on Saturday morning. Everyone always says thank you and has a big smile on their face. He also liked helping me clean my room, even though he played with my toys while cleaning! It has been fun to have a kindness calendar to remind us of extra things we can do throughout the month. It is easy to say you are going to be kind but showing people makes everyone feel extra special. We are hoping to complete several more acts of kindness the rest of this month and beyond.

Investing In Our Students' Futures - Youth Apprenticeship



Olivia Gaylord, Senior

My youth apprenticeship has been an amazing opportunity for me to learn more about the career I'm wanting to pursue! I am planning on pursuing nursing. The time I spend at my job helps me to have an insight on nursing. I attend and care for residents, using the many skills I have learned over the year of working as a Resident Assistant. I am learning new things every time I go into work, and even outside of work! My experience with my youth apprenticeship has been very rewarding, and so amazing, and I am beyond grateful for Williams Bay High School for how flexible they have been for me to pursue my job at Golden Years of Walworth County.

I started my apprenticeship with Stebnitz Builders in June of last year. I worked full days all summer and have been working half days during the school year. The apprenticeship has given me the opportunity to have hands-on experience in the construction field and has allowed me to see what happens on job sites and how all the different trades work together to complete a building project. I also work with different lead carpenters, which is nice because everyone has so much knowledge and I can learn different things from everyone.

When I finish high school, I want to continue in the construction field so having this opportunity has been great. Stebnitz Builders has been a wonderful company to partner with; everyone was very welcoming to me when I started and has been so helpful and patient as I learn different skills on the job sites. They are a great family-oriented company and I'm really enjoying my time working for them and learning from them. I'm looking forward to continuing my apprenticeship this coming summer and next school year.



Logan Lindloff, Junior

Investing In Our Students' Futures - Industry 4.0



Williams Bay High School Tech-Ed students recently finished their first Industry 4.0 course offering in Industrial Robotics this past semester. Upon completion of the course, several students will be earning a certification through the Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA).

Industry 4.0 – also called the Fourth Industrial Revolution is the next phase in the development of the manufacturing sector. The Williams Bay School District's Technology Education Department, led by Mr. Jacob White, recently became a member of the Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA). SACA is a non-profit foundation whose mission is to develop & deploy highly accessible industry driven certifications that increase a student's knowledge and skillsets in Smart Factory/Industry 4.0 environments. This helps to ensure that companies have the highly skilled workers that they need and helps students get a jump in the Industry 4.0 world.

In addition to the initial course offering, Mr. White is developing additional courses including Introduction to Industrial Controls and Introduction to Mechatronics, courses that will align with two additional SACA certifications. Preparations have already been underway for developing these courses with careful consideration for equipment, space, and curriculum needs in time for the 2024-2025 school year.

Using the State's DWD Fast Forward Grant and new industry partners like MPM and Brunk Industries, Williams Bay School will be provided immeasurable opportunities for students interested in a future in automation. SACA certifications add direct value to a student's employment marketability and will be a significant attribute to anyone's resume regardless of the student entering the automation industry or not.



Spelling Bee 2023

By: Scarlett Wenzel and Savannah Wenzel

Grades 3rd-8th take their place in the Williams Bay Elementary School gym. Waiting for the 2023 Spelling Bee to start. The top 6 spellers from each grade were chosen to participate in the Spelling Bee competition. 3rd-8th grade came to watch on the bleachers to support their classmates and cheer them on. The judges were Ms. Johnson, Mrs. Lisenby, Ms. Landgraf and Mrs. Frederick. With Ms. Johnson organizing the Spelling Bee.

First, we begin with a practice round to ensure everyone knows the rules. Also, to get used to

everyone spelling in front of others. The 3rd graders go first. They start with number 1 and go to number 6. Next, is 4th graders. Then, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders follow.

As the rounds go on the spelling becomes more intense. With more students joining the crowd after every round, there becomes less people. Soon, we are down to the final 4. Molly Crowley 6th grade, Savannah Wenzel 6th grade, Scarlett Wenzel 4th grade and Liam Yeager 3rd grade. They went back and forth until Molly Crowley dropped out. It was down to the final 3. Scarlett Wenzel and Savannah Wenzel were very excited because they knew one of them would be in the final 2. Next, Liam Yeager joined the crowd.

It was the battle of the sisters. Both of them lined up at the microphone to spell their final words. It all came down to this. Scarlett Wenzel was first, her word was "counterfeit" "C-O-U-N-T-E-R-F-E-I-T." This was her winning word. Scarlett Wenzel became the Champion of the Spelling Bee! After spelling 2 words right in a row. Savannah was not far behind as she came in second of the Williams Bay Spelling Bee 2023!

"This experience made me feel amazing and really proud. I was hesitant at first to be part of the Spelling Bee, but if I never did the Spelling Bee I would have a lot of regrets. This was probably one of the best experiences of my life and one of the happiest. I will never forget the moment all my friends started hugging me, jumping around and screaming. And I will absolutely never forget my final word "counterfeit" and of course the Spelling Bee itself. I am glad I got to share it all with my sister." -Scarlett Wenzel

"I absolutely loved the experience that I had during the Spelling Bee. When my teacher first asked me if I wanted to do it I didn't even think twice, of course I would do it! Being part of the final two spellers is one of those moments I will never forget and I love that. I will always remember when my friends congratulated me. I felt so special when I went back to my class everyone clapped for me. This was an AMAZING moment in my life. There is no other person I would rather come in 2nd to than my sister." -Savannah Wenzel



Pictured are team members Devin Deakins, Liam Smith, James Fry and Avery Scott

The Elementary Math meet was fun and challenging. We had to do problems with a calculator and without a calculator. We also did mental math problems and teamwork problems. Our team placed fourth out of seven teams. We all had a good time with this challenging experience.

HOPE SQUAD®

The Hope Squads are a peer-to-peer suicide prevention group that we have at the middle school and high school. Hope Squad members were asked, **“What does it mean to you to be a Hope Squad member?”**

“Being a Hope Squad member to me means being a support system for those who need it.”
- *Olivia Wiley, Junior Hope Squad Member*

“To me it means being someone others can count on to be there for them, and to give hope to those that are on their journey to recovery.”
- *Kacey Pietrowiak, Senior Hope Squad Member*

“Being a Hope Squad member to me means being a reminder that it is OK to be vulnerable and ask for help, and being a member in the community who lets someone do just that.”
- *Ethan West, Senior Hope Squad Member*

“What being a Hope Squad member means to me is being a kind and caring person. I am the person people can come to if they are having a rough time and need someone to talk to. I will always be there to help someone when needed, and get the person help if they need it.”
- *Lauryn Sikes, 8th Grade Hope Squad Member*

“Being a Hope Squad member means to me is to bring hope and life to other students. Mental Health Issues have been on the rise and I want to help lower that percentage. I also want to be a trusted student that other students can come to me for. I simply just want to spread hope and happiness to other people and keep some people happy and alive.”
- *Jude Dahlstrom, 6th Grade Hope Squad Member*

Orders due by April 1!!

year
book



Local History, Community & Adventure = WBHS History Club

By: **Deb Soplanda, History Club Advisor**

Local history, community and adventure all combine to form the crux of this, the 23rd year of the WBHS History Club. Selected as one of the Top 5 History Clubs in the country last spring by the National History Club of America out of over 500+ History Clubs, the WBHS History Club has much to be proud of.

Student- led and student driven, for grades 9-12, the largest extra-curricular organization at Williams Bay High School with 112 members, the History Club is a 12 month a year adventure! Students chose what area of History Club they wish to participate in, from sleeping overnight on a World War II submarine, participating in a remembrance ceremony of the forced removal of local Indigenous people, fundraising, or learning of other cultures through their cuisines.

For students interested in both historical trivia and competition, the History Club has three History Bowl teams that compete locally, state-wise and if they win state, nationally. 4- time Wisconsin State Champions, History Bowl teams have several times ranked nationally in the Top 10 Small Schools Divisions.

Community Service takes place as History Club members continue to maintain and embellish the village of Williams Bay’s Frost Park. Since 2011, the History Club has renovated this once forgotten park into a thing of beauty. Students fundraise through the year to be able to purchase plants and flowers for the park. They water, weed and plant all summer long.

This year, a new Community Service project is scheduled. “National Clean a Historical Monument Day” in April will find History Club Volunteers cleaning the many historical markers in Williams Bay.

Working with the Forest County Potawatomi People, the History Club is near completion of a 3-year research project of the Ancient Native Burial Ground in Williams Bay to hopefully provide information so one day, the burial ground will be recognized as an Indigenous People Historical Landmark.

Every week, something is happening in the History Club. For more information, contact History Club Advisor, Deb Soplanda at dsoplanda@williamsbayschool.org.



WILLIAMS BAY PRESERVE SOCIETY
WILLIAMS BAY
HISTORY CLUB



Williams Bay PTO News

By: Lynette Vyhnanek, PTO President

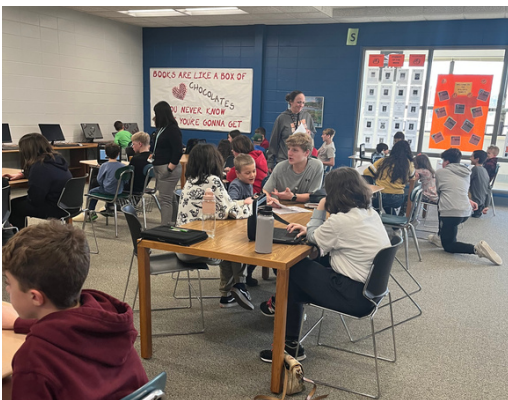


The Williams Bay PTO has had a busy, fun, and successful start to the school year. They kicked off the school year with Donuts with Grown-Ups. Dunkin Donuts in Delavan was very generous to sponsor this event by donating donuts and coffee for this event. It was great to welcome parents back into the building again! Boo-Grams were a fun way to celebrate Halloween. Many families come out to bowl during Winter break and enjoy a night of skating at Traxside. In late January, the PTO held PNO (Parents Night Out). This was a chance for the adults to get out and have fun. Due to ticket sales, donations, and online auctions the PTO received more money than ever before. At our February meeting, the PTO discussed ideas of how to put this money to use. We have a few ideas and are excited to announce this next month. It has been so rewarding to help many clubs and classes this year. The 4K students were able to take a trip to WCGC this year, we funded the Senior Trip play, helped cover a conference for the History Club, supplied food for the teachers during conferences, and so much more because of the WB PTO! Our Fun Fair will be back this year! On April 14th we plan to open the doors again for a night of games, prizes, food, and more!

We are so proud of our school and community! The WB PTO would like to see more volunteers attend the meetings and get involved. Meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 6:30PM in the Elementary School Library.

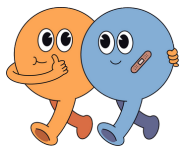
February Buddly Event a HUGE Hit!

By: Lauren Hudson, Middle School Literacy Teacher



On Monday, February 13, the eighth grade students met with their first grade buddies for a fun afternoon of activities and bonding. The eighth grade students were particularly excited for this event, as they had the opportunity to share a special project with their buddies. During the month of December, the middle school students worked hard to create a personalized picture book tailored to the interests of their first grade friends. The eighth graders interviewed their first graders, drafted stories, peer edited, created images for each page, and ultimately published their final work on a program called Book Creator. After all that hard work, they were thrilled to be able to share the final products with the first graders.

Here's what some students had to say about the event:



"Everyone had a lot of fun. It was so fun to read the kids our stories, we all had fun playing bingo. The kids were so kind and funny. It was a great way to start the week." -*Matilda Snyder*

"I really enjoyed the buddy activity. I read my buddy the book I made and she really enjoyed it. My buddy liked playing bingo and was really excited. Near the end, my buddy liked to color with all of her friends!" -*Gracie Pils*

"My favorite moment was when everyone was laughing while playing bingo. It is always great to hang out with the kids and have fun. Another moment was reading my book to my kid." -*John Beilman*

"I liked playing the bingo game with him. I liked his reaction to the book. He really enjoyed it and I think that he will love to read it again." -*Ethan Welsh*

"I think it went great! [My buddy] loved her book and thought it was so fun. She kept asking me how I knew all these things about her. I told her that she told me. She still thought it was funny." -*Teagan McClellan*

