

The Wildcat World

Wilmington CUSD #209U

MAY 2016 EDITION

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POSITIVE NEWS WORTH SPREADING

PAYING IT FORWARD

Not only did our students from Wilmington High School clean up well for this year's prom on April 30th, they came together to make a big impression. Amid the beautiful gowns and tuxedos, Great Gatsby decorations, delicious food and all-around fun, **Bailey Boswell**, a Senior student made **Joy Cahill's** night more memorable than he could have imagined. Here is the story, as witnessed from, **Dennis Mann**, the prom DJ:

*"DJing the Wilmington High School Prom in Joliet was great as usual. I was playing a song (I think it was a 5 Seconds of Summer song) and there was this beautiful girl with Down Syndrome dancing (she was so cute, hair in curls, makeup done up, wonderful dress). She was jumping up and down... hopping in place. Everyone else around her started hopping, too. At the end of the song, everyone was screaming and cheering. One young man asked for the mic, I gave him the mic, silenced the music, and he made an announcement that they just did a dance-off and *name of young lady* won... everyone was screaming, jumping, cheering... like, louder than any group of high schoolers have screamed. That moment for that young lady had to be amazing. No phones, no one was recording it to be cool... the whole class came together for her and it brought a tear to my eye. A little faith in teenagers has been restored and I tip my hat to the students of Wilmington High!"*



Student Joy Cahill dancing the night away with a friend

It is not often that people take time out of their day to pass along a kind word, let alone an entire story. We would like to thank **Mr. Mann** for "Paying It Forward", so that our community can be proud of the type of students that we have been fortunate enough to have roam our hallowed halls!

DID YOU KNOW?

AWARDS NIGHT

There are many benefits of living in a small town, and nights like May 4, 2016 are an excellent example of why! Once a year, graduating Seniors gather in the WHS gymnasium with their parents, family members and friends to reap the benefits that are graciously outpoured from the generosity of local and out-of-town businesses, endowment funds, organizations and clubs through scholarships. This year, 42 of some of our finest students were the deserving recipients of over \$108,000 worth of scholarships!

Students that fit into specific parameters were chosen by donors in numerous categories. Some of these categories include; academic and athletic excellence, volunteer work, club participation, military, agriculture, engineering, nursing, teaching and dozens more. While it is hard to state what the requirements are to become recipients, the most common answer is: Students must be well-rounded.

To learn more about how to help guide your student towards the road to success, or if you are interested in setting up a scholarship fund, please contact **Jody Vollmer** in the **WHS Guidance Department** at **(815)926-1747**.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Often times, we take for granted how busy the lives of students are. This is our opportunity to let them know that they are valued for their dedication and that they truly make a difference.



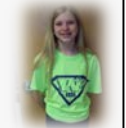
BRUNING: Mrs. Norman, Bruning principal, is recognizing students that received a free Great America ticket through the *Read to Succeed Program*. The following students in K and 1st grade read 6 hours in order to receive the free pass to Six Flags Great America:

Kindergarten: Amara Bown, Annabelle Lawson, Ryder McGee, Logan Moore, Trey Weitendorf, Taylor Morales, Mollie Bohac, David Tirado, Cole Boersma, Sammy Cutter, Aubrey Hammett, Boaz Henry, Madisyn Rossow, Cruz Hincerick, Shyloh Lemons, Jacob Riggs, Kai Schumacher, Ali Stallings

1st Grade: Eve Bedolla, Brayden Hicks, Brayden Wandless, Aiden McCallister, Larkyn Thompson, Kalyn Falcon, Mayah Sanchez, Angelina Viera, Julianna Matheny, Carter Nunley, Jimmy Lewsader, Gabby Kluk, Megan Hesser, Alexis Decker, Brysen Meents, Keeley Walsh, Preston Pet, Ryan Schraeger, Nash Rink, Lucy Duering, Ethan Winker, Addison Billingsley, Oakley Rivera, Taryn Talley, Mick Smith, Keller Favero, Bly Bianchetta, Henry Hoffman, Declan Moran, Cooper Holman



SIS: Mrs. Dennis, SIS principal, would like to recognize the **5th grade band**. This group of young musicians began in September of 2015 by picking an instrument to learn and play. The band gives up a portion of their lunch twice a week to have lessons with Mrs. Smith. On Wednesdays, the full band gathered to practice during lunch time. These dedicated students worked hard to learn an instrument, practice the instrument and perform for the school on May 2nd.



WMS: Mr. Spicer, WMS principal, congratulates 8th grade student, **Rebecca Cahill**. Rebecca had an outstanding 230 community service hours for Beta Club this year. She was the recipient of the *Brian Coleman Community Service Award*. This award goes to an 8th grade Beta Club member, in good standing, to be recognized for his/her accomplishments in service to the community and academic achievement in the classroom.



WHS: Mr. Feeney, WHS principal, congratulates **Alex Rink** and **Sam Higgins** for being the Wilmington High School student representatives on Senator Sue Rezin's 1st Youth Advisory Council. On May 3rd, **Alex** and **Sam** spent the day in Springfield learning about the legislative process. They also had the pleasure of meeting Governor Bruce Rauner. The Youth Advisory Council consists of the most outstanding high school students throughout the 38th Senate district. As members of this Council, **Alex** and **Sam** were able to meet with Senator Rezin and government and business leaders.



EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Faculty and staff devote much more of their time than most of us realize. Their jobs don't exist solely between the bells. We would like to say, "Thank You" for going above and beyond to enrich the lives that surround you.



BRUNING: **Brenda Begler** is completing her 40th year as the secretary at Bruning. She is a very kind, compassionate person who always has a smile on her face and is willing to help anyone that needs her assistance. She definitely helps to ensure that the day to day operations run smoothly at Bruning.



SIS: **Mrs. Smith** fosters the love of music education by dedicating her time and self to teaching the 5th grade band students. **Mrs. Smith** offers incentives to students to encourage participation and practice. **Mrs. Smith** spent extra time each Monday with students that earned "Mrs. Smith time", pizza for the section of instruments that earned it, and a movie time for the section of instruments that earned it. **Mrs. Smith** is dedicated to the teaching of music and band.



WMS: **Mrs. Ward**, the 8th grade Language Arts teacher, spends numerous hours before and after school helping the students of WMS. She is a key member in organizing all 8th grade class activities, and is in charge of putting together the yearbook.



WHS: Congratulations to **Mr. Wilson** for being selected as the staff member of the month. **Mr. Wilson** continues to go above and beyond as the voice of the Wildcats for football and basketball games and as the master of ceremonies for the senior awards night.

CLUB CORNER

WMS THEATER

Each month, a new student club will be highlighted in *The Wildcat Word*, detailing some of the activities and benefits of joining. Participating in school clubs allows our students and faculty the chance to grow a special bond and become more well-rounded citizens.



The Wilmington Middle School cast and crew, truly outdid themselves when entertaining the audience in their adaptation of **Alice In Wonderland!**

It took dozens of students and their co-directors, **Connie Papineau** and **Jeannine Bejlovec**, over 3 months to pull off a stellar performance. These dedicated theater members got together 4 days a week before and after school to practice their lines, design and build sets, learn how to work the light and sound board, choreograph their movements and pull together costumes.

Not one audience member left disappointed. The play flowed right along, and the actors and actresses seemed as though they were born to be on stage! For more information on how to get your middle-schooler involved, please contact cpapineau@wilmington.will.k12.il.us

MOVING ON UP! 1st Grade Step Up Day

It's hard to believe that another school year has come and gone! It's even harder to imagine for some families, that their little ones are preparing to move out of Bruning and onto new adventures at their new school, L.J.Stevens Intermediate School. Although it is with heavy hearts that the First Grade teachers have to say goodbye to the sweet faces of their current students, they can feel good knowing that they have done everything they can to prepare them for their big move.

Bruning teachers have worked very hard all year to help prepare their students for this big transition. They practice daily routines, in hopes of fostering more independence; they discuss how many of the school rules will remain the same, but how their drop-off and pick-up procedures will change. They have also been able to comfort some of the students that are nervous about this change, by telling them that they will still be seeing some familiar faces around Stevens, like Mrs. Quigley(Librarian), Nurse Jodi, Mrs. Czemske (RTI aide) and Mrs. Cooper(P.E.).

On Friday, May 13, the First Grade students loaded up onto busses and visited their future 2nd grade classrooms. They were happily greeted by Mrs. Dennis who directed each First Grade class to a different 2nd Grade classroom. After meeting the teachers, the students were given a tour of their new school, learned about the rules and were able to spend some time playing outside with the current 2nd Graders and enjoy some popsicles.



Judging by the smiles on their faces, we can say that Step Up Day was a huge success! Best of luck to our little buddies as they move on up to bigger and better things, and congratulations to the teachers at Bruning who have dedicated so much of their time to setting these students up for a very successful future!

FINANCIAL UPDATES AS OF MARCH 31, 2016

We are 83% of the way through the fiscal year. We have received 63% of our revenue and made 80% of our expenditures. The State of Illinois currently owes the District \$192,770.33 for the month of May.

BIDDING A FOND FAREWELL TO TOM BURNES AND ALICE ZILLER UPON THEIR RETIREMENT

With 60 years of combined experience, the Wilmington 209-U School District wishes nothing but the best for Librarian, *Alice Ziller* and *Tom Burnes*, in custodial maintenance.



Not many people can claim that they have stayed at one job for 46 years. Not many, but, **Alice Ziller**, Stevens Intermediate School Librarian, can! **Steve Brummel**, WHS Librarian, shared his fond memories of **Alice**: "I have known **Alice** for the final two years of her time here in Wilmington. In that time, I have known her to work for the students. She is quick to help out with anything I may need, and offers advice to me whenever I may need it. She is one of the most dedicated and loyal employees of the district as evidenced by her years of service. **Alice** is known throughout the community, and has fostered reading in the parents and students of this district. The experience she brings to the library will be missed, but we wish her well as she moves on to a new adventure."

Where would we be without **Tom Burnes** constantly coming to the rescue? **Tom** has worked with our Custodial/Maintenance Department for 14 years. He has always been quick to respond to any of our needs and continues to be one of the hardest working people on staff, even with his official retirement only days away!

Congratulations to both **Alice** and **Tom**! The students, families, faculty and staff of the Wilmington 209-U School District appreciate everything you have accomplished over the years!

FINAL WORD FROM DR. PLESE

Dear community:

Please know how much I have enjoyed being your Superintendent. Over the past 12 years we have accomplished so much to make Wilmington Schools a better school system for our children. We have built a new school, updated every other school building in the district, created a better K-12 curriculum, and put our district in a very strong financial position.

If you look around us daily, there are districts with serious financial problems; some on the brink of closing their doors. In Wilmington, we can be thankful we are not one of those districts. The Board, the community and I, have built a great school system we can all be proud of. Thank you for your support over the past 12 years. It has truly been an honor for me to serve all of you.

Now, I leave my educational career to serve God. He has been at the forefront of every decision I have made. He has been my cornerstone.

God Bless,

Dr. Jay Plese