

# The *Wildcat Word*

Wilmington CUSD #209-U

DEC. 2016 EDITION

Follow us on twitter at #wilmoproud

## WARM HOLIDAY WISHES FROM DR. SWICK



The students and staff of the Wilmington School District have enjoyed a very memorable and successful 1st semester. It has been a joy to watch our students grow & improve; learning from mistakes and being built up, sharpened by success & achievement in the classroom, in concert, on canvas and on the field of competition.

As usual, we continue to have great pride in our students and are grateful for our supportive parents and community as a whole. While everyone is looking forward to a restful and relaxing Christmas break, we will be looking forward to seeing all of the kids again in early January. Wishing everyone a very blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Yours Truly~

**Matt Swick**

Superintendent

## POSITIVE NEWS WORTH SPREADING

WHS **Student Council** held a blood drive on Thursday, December 1st with close to 40 students and staff donating. The timing of this event was no coincidence! What better time of year to give than at Christmas time?

Did you know that every two seconds someone receives a unit of blood? The need for ordinary people to perform extraordinary acts of generosity is constant. Many life-saving procedures and treatments involve blood transfusions. This would not be possible without the safe and reliable blood supply that American Red Cross Volunteers work tirelessly to generate on a daily basis.

The mission of the American Red Cross, is to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors. Another little known fact; members of student council are eligible for scholarship money each year from the Red Cross, dependent on how many total units WHS collects over the 3 blood drives they host each year.



Please mark your calendars to join the WHS Student Council at their next blood drive on February 14, 2017 in the WHS small gym between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Donating saves lives and it can help to support our students in furthering their education after high school.

# 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, would like to congratulate the following students for being *100 Book Club Members* in First Grade: **Kaden Byrne, Ceci Corlett, Ethan Howard, Hank Lindsey, Justin Mitchell, Logan Moore, Madilyn Strong, Sophia Albright, Zander Van Duyne, Sammy Cutter, Boaz Henry, Nolan Lindsey, Lailah Beck, Jadyn Sorenson**.



## SIS:

**Mrs. Hackman's students** donated items, packed boxes, and wrapped boxes for the *Operation Christmas Child* program sponsored by *Samaritan's Purse*. The class packed six boxes this year! The boxes will be sent to children living in poverty overseas. Later, they will be able to track our boxes and find out where they were sent..



## WMS:

The following students were selected by their teachers as Wildcats of the Month for November. **Olivia Hansen** – 6<sup>th</sup> grade, **Jessica Castle** – 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and **Emily Dooley** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. All three students have shown exceptional leadership and character this school year.



## WHS:

Building principal, Mr. Maupin, would like to recognize Senior, **Lexi Plese**. **Lexi** is ranked 2nd in her senior class of 129 students with a 4.511 GPA. **Lexi** is a 4-year Varsity Volleyball Player who earned several individual accolades including All-Conference and All-Area in each of the last two seasons. Recently, **Lexi** was honored at the JJC Art Fair with her outstanding portrait drawing. **Lexi** has a real passion for Art. **Lexi** will be attending college to become a nurse. She loved the experience at WHS because of the small-school atmosphere and for the many friendships that were formed during her four years of attendance. **Lexi** has two brothers, Zachary and Jacob.

# 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:

**Mrs. Weiss** is the Early Childhood teacher at Bruning. She differentiates all her lessons to meet the varying needs of the students in her classroom. **Erin** works closely with the parents, providing materials to help parent carry over learning at home.



## SIS:

**Mrs. Angie Rink** organized a canned food drive for *Kuzma Cottage*. Students and staff donated canned goods to be donated to *Kuzma*. **Mrs. Rink** unselfishly thinks of this food drive each year.



## WMS:

**Mrs. Tara Van Duyne** is a 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade S.T.E.M teacher at Wilmington Middle School. **Mrs. Van Duyne** has worked extremely hard this year to change her S.T.E.M. curriculum to a cloud based model. She also works closely with Dow Chemical and the Three Rivers Education Partnership (TREP). For the past few years, **Mrs. Van Duyne** has brought in Dow engineers to assist her students with Lego Mindstorm Robotics.



## WHS:

**Mr. Mison** is our Computer Science teacher at WHS. **Mr. Mison** has been at Wilmington High School for 15 years and really enjoys working with the staff and students. His hobbies include spending time with family/friends, basketball, baseball, and fast pitch softball.

# WHS/WMS CHORUS & SHOW CATS

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.

This year, new to our staff, is Alanna Frederiksen. "Miss Fred," as her students affectionately refer to her, is the WMS/WHS Chorus Director and WHS Show Cats Director. Over the last two weeks, many of us were able to see first-hand at the Christmas concerts, the changes and advances in these musical arenas.

Ms. Fred would like to thank the community and students of Wilmington for their warm welcome and support. Last spring she came to observe the choral classes to get a head start on creating goals for the middle and high school programs. She said that it was exciting to see large numbers in both programs, as well as students who were passionate about music. Having a new director in choir, meant that time was needed to set new norms and expectations. When school began in the fall, one of the main goals was to create a supportive environment where both beginners and experienced students felt confident working on their individual talents alongside their peers and new director.

Instead of starting concert music right away, they spent time on music literacy skills and the reinforcement of good vocal technique. They also spent time on ensemble skills such as developing an ear for intonation, balance, blend and using those skills to make adjustments not only to their singing, but to offer constructive feedback to others in the group. The goal for this year's Holiday Concert, was to perform their music at a high level of quality, with a focus on the aforementioned concepts of balance, blend, intonation, and good vocal technique. They chose to do a little less music than usual in order to make the performance of each song to be of the highest caliber possible.

Ms. Fred is very proud of the work of both the middle school and high school choirs and Show Cats at the holiday concerts. Their future focus will be on many different concepts – they will continue with the goals that were set at the beginning of the year, but will also begin exploring ways to expand opportunities for the students. Since the band and choir perform their concerts together, Mrs. Georgeff and Ms. Fred hope to have the band and choir collaborate on concert music in the future. She also hopes to create a mentor program between the middle school and high school choir students. All choirs will expand their current repertoire to include more styles of music that is of a more advanced level.

Finally, a new class will begin Spring 2018 that will address the student desire for more theatre opportunities. The *Technical Musical Theatre* class will allow students to learn basic theatre skills, theatre history, as well as set design and set construction.



## FINANCIAL UPDATES AS OF NOVEMBER 31, 2016

As of the end of October, we are 42% of the way through the year, have received 37% of our revenue and have made 41% of our expenditures.



# STEVENS INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS PUT AUDIENCES IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

It really started to feel like Christmas, as the Steven's Intermediate students took front and center for their 19th annual Christmas program held at WMS on December 8th. Mrs. Smith, SIS Music Teacher, says, "After 19 years of putting on these performances, it just feels like second nature." She is extremely grateful for all of the people that help her along the way to make each year memorable; from the classroom teachers assisting in assigning students their lines, and helping them memorize them, to Principal, Mrs. Dennis for her unending support and participation, school secretaries, Sue and Stacy, Mrs. Tommie Dyer and Mrs. Robin Tkach's class for decorations, the custodial staff and, of course, Mr. Smith, who always is gracious enough to run sound for the program!



With over 5 weeks of preparation, the 2nd and 3rd grade classes nailed it! Their hard work and dedication showed, as they sang and danced their way into the hearts of all those who attended the shows.

The 2nd grade program was named, "An Old Fashioned Christmas", a musical revue by Paul and Teresa Jennings. The audience joined in on a couple of tunes to create a sing along with the students and bell ringers! Apparently, word had gotten out about how hard these children had been working, so Santa himself even showed up!

The 3rd grade class dazzled attendants with their performance of, "Winter Fun". Their entire show was centered around that white stuff that falls from the sky this time of year. Some of the featured songs were: Let It Snow, Jingle Bells (complete with bell ringers) and Winter Wonderland. These kids surely made it feel warm and cozy, seeing them all wrapped up in their scarves, hats and mittens.

After a performance like that, it looks like the students at Stevens will all be on Santa's Nice List!



## 2016 WILDCAT CHEERLEADING

This year, Wilmington Cheer has some big shoes to fill, and they promise not to disappoint. The bar has been set very high for Wilmington High School competitive cheer this season, and it is already off to a fantastic start! The team received *1<sup>st</sup> place* at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual **Wilmington Spiritline Invitational** on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. They also received *1<sup>st</sup> place* at the **Reed Custer Comet Invitational** on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The team would like to thank all of their loyal fans in the cheering section. The louder you are, the more energy they perform with!

The team motto for this year is "Stronger Together" and team mates continue to push each other to reach their goals and enhance individual skills. Team members consist of Freshman through Seniors including: **Kassidy Andrews, Alec Beasley, Madison Brimer, Becca Cahill, Brianna Franzen, Anna Gabriel, Mya Gougis, Madilyn Horn, Jessica Hale, Cassie Kubitz, Kaitlyn McKim, Kendall Peatross, Paige Persic, Claire Springer, Carly VanDuyne, Caitlyn Wollenzien**. They are coached by **Jeannine Bejlovec**.



We can't forget to mention the up-and-coming Wilmington Middle School cheer team, who is also off to a brilliant start! This squad of very talented 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders also competed at the **Wilmington Spiritline Invitational**, and placed *3<sup>rd</sup>* at this competition. At the **Reed Custer Comet Invitational**, they received an outstanding *1<sup>st</sup> place*! Team members include: **Nolan Burgos, Amelia Freis, Madi Gabriel, Natalie Gabriel, Caleigh Guertin, Ashlee Kelly, Gabriel Mathus, Taylor Persic, Abby Pitts, Casey VanDuyne, and Courtney VanDuyne**. They are coached by **Megan Bohac**.

Please refer to the District website to find the dates, times and locations for all upcoming competitions, and plan to be a spectator. You just might get to see another State Championship in the making!