January 2017

WORTHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

Principal Notes	1
National Geography Bee	1
Scripps Spelling Bee	1
Million Word Club	1
Media Center News	2
5th Grade News	2
Bus Company Information	2
Music Corner	3
7th Grade News	3

Check out the ISD 518 website: www.isd518.net, Worthington Public Schools on Facebook, and Follow us on Twitter Worthington ISD518

Hello, WMS Families and Friends,

Welcome to 2017!
I wanted to remind you that all District 518 students get into sporting events at WHS for free. What a great opportunity for them to attend some entertaining activities that are safe and supervised.
WMS Winter sports are in full swing, make sure you get out to see your kids perform!
Please keep track of what your children are wearing to school this winter. We go out for recess virtually every day. Only rain or a wind chill below zero degrees will keep us inside. If students choose to come to school without a coat, they are also choosing to go outside for recess without a coat. If we ever need to evacuate, or a bus has a problem, we are going to have some very cold students. A hooded sweatshirt is not enough for a Minnesota winter.
Have a great 2017!
Mr. Luke

National Geographic Bee

Worthington Middle School held its annual National Geographic Bee on December 13. Thirty-five students in grades 5-8 competed in the bee: Faith Arnt, Elijah Bates, Matthew Becker, Jack Black, Erkinesh Bonnett, Quentin Burns, Gabrielle Chapulis, Ben Dykema, Dylan Dykstra, Tate Gaul, Eli Hansberger, Emma Hansen, Mariah Hennings, Jenna Hoffman, Dominic Huls, Don Huyn, Romeo Jimenez Melendez, Madison Johnson, Pay Klay, Tommy Lais, Katherine Lopez, Jeffrey Ludes, Cooper McCoy, Rosie Melgoza, Alanna Moore, Belinda Morales Perez, Mia Nixon, Isaiah Noble, Logan Powers, Alex Quintanilla, Ben Schreiber, Fidel Sorto, Ayantu Uli, Cody Vorasane, and Anaka Wede. These students qualified by scoring well on a written geography test given in their social studies classes. Nine students made the cut during the Bee to move on to the final round of the competition: Jenna Hoffman, Rosie Melgoza, Cody Vorasane, Matthew Becker, Mariah Hennings, Elijah Bates, Tate Gaul, Tommy Lais, and Gabrielle Chapulis. The final round further narrowed the competition to Elijah Bates and Tommy Lais who competed for the Championship by answering the same three questions. Elijah prevailed by answering two of the final questions correctly (he answered all but two of his questions correctly in the entire bee!) Elijah will take an online state bee qualifying test to determine whether or not he can compete in the Minnesota National Geographic State Bee on March 31. Congratulations to Elijah and all of our geography bee competitors!

Spelling Bee

The SWWC Regional Spelling Bee will be held on February 7 in Redwood Falls. Three Worthington Middle School students have qualified for this prestigious Spelling Bee which is part of the Scripps Spelling Bee. The winning Minnesota speller will go on to compete in Washington D.C. in May. Congratulations to Victoria Beltran (6th Grade), Jenna Hoffman (7th Grade), and Samara Nordby (8th Grade)!

Million Words Club News

The Million Words Club is gaining members almost every day here at WMS! As of December 19, we have almost 200 members with at least 250 thousand words! That is 21% of our students who have "joined" the club! When students reach 500 thousand words by reading books and taking AR tests, they begin to get prizes, and the real fun begins when they reach ONE MILLION words! Those students receive a t-shirt, a free lunch, compliments of a local dining establishment, and other fun things. At the end of first quarter, three students were treated to lunch at Burger King!
Currently we have 18 members who have read over 1 million words! Two of those students have read over 2 million words, and one reader has left the 3 million mark in the dust, and is well on her way to 4 million! That is amazing, considering many middle level books have an average of 20 to 50 thousand words in them.
Our students are excited about reading! Ask your student about the Million Words Club, and about the latest book that he/she is reading!

WMS Media Center

Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. It is one that as a parent you can influence the most. Raising kids as readers means getting involved while they are young. You can make a difference by offering your student opportunities to read. **Thursday, February 23** (conference night at the Middle School) **from 3:30 pm to 7:30 pm** is such a night**.** Students will be able to apply for a **free library card** from the **Nobles County Library**. Students will need to come with a parent or guardian. To receive a free library card a parent or guardian must show a form of ID with a current address. The free library card is used to check out materials that the Nobles County Library provides for free. This includes books and online texts. The library card also gives students access to Nobles County Library computers and materials from other regional libraries.

Also on **Thursday, February 23,** the **Scholastic Bookfair** will be held in the Middle School Media Center. The Bookfair will be open throughout the school day and during conferences, starting at 3:00 pm and closing at 7:30 pm. Students will also have time Wednesday, February 22 and Friday, February 24, from 7:30 am to 3 pm to browse and make purchases.

We hope to see you there!

Middle School Media Center Staff

Student handbook is located on school website and also on your student's iPad! Take a moment to read.

5th Grade News

Happy New Year! Can you believe it is already 2017?!

We hope you had a nice, long, relaxing break and that you were able to spend some quality, fun time with your children! The weather outside is still frightful, and we want your child to be delightful, so make sure they come to school all bundled up with: coats, hats, mittens, scarves, boots, and/or anything else to keep them warm! In the Middle School, we go out for recess during the winter. It's important that students have the appropriate outdoor clothing to stay warm while outside.

It is also that time of year when pencils and paper are dwindling so if you could supply your child with a pack of pencils and paper we would greatly appreciate it!

In Science, students will be bringing home an energy kit (if they haven't already)--much of the work will be done at school, but there is a portion for the parent/guardian to fill out with students as well!

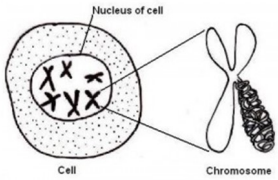
In Math, we ask that students practice their basic math facts (adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing) so that other concepts in math are easier to understanding.

In Reading, students are working toward 100% of their AR goal by January 20th (end of the quarter). In Social Studies, they are learning about explorers. We love to continuously teach and learn with your child, here's to a wonderful 2017!

Bus Company

Please direct any questions you may have to Bud's Bus Service. You may contact them at 507-372-5552.

Student handbook is located on school website and also on your student's iPad! Take a moment to read.



WMS Music Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE WMS MUSIC STAFF:
Mrs. Anderson, director of 6-8 grade choirs, Mr. Paulsen, director of 5-8th grade orchestras, Mr. Andersen, director of 6-8th grade bands, and Mrs. Jenson, director of 5th grade band

Thank you parents and administration for your support of the arts in our schools! The WMS "Festival of Music" Holiday Concert went well. Thank you to our December concert chaperones!! Mrs. Mammen, Ben Ahlquist, Jenny Kaddee, Scott and Jane Barber, Mrs. Jill and Ben Speigelhoff, Ms. Moon, Ms. Darling, Mr. Duffy, Mrs. Craun, Mrs. Laffrenzen, Mrs. Scheck, Mrs. Wolyniec, Pam Immens, Pat Arnt, Mr. Luke and Mr. Perish. The concert ran smoothly because of you! We appreciate you very much!

WMS MUSIC FUTURE EVENTS:

March 1, 2017- Brandon Choir and Band Festival, Brandon, South Dakota
March 7, 2017- Fifth grade Band and Orchestra Solo/Ensemble Festival at WMS
March 24, 2017- WHS and WMS Jazz Night at WMS- 6:30 PM
April 25, 2017- 5-8 grade Band Concert at Memorial Auditorium
May 4 & 5, 2017- WMS Choirs at Memorial Auditorium
May 15, 2017- All-School Orchestra Concert at WHS Gym- 7 PM

BECOME A MEMBER OF WAMBO: Worthington Area Music Booster Association.
This organization's board wants everyone to know this is just not for high school parents but open to ANY and ALL parents/grandparents. WAMBO strives to support music at all levels of the district.
New color guard uniforms.
One-day residency with The Copper Street Brass Quintet from Minneapolis, MN. This brass quintet worked with the band students and presented a free concert to the public.
String bass for the 5th grade orchestra.
New sousaphone for marching and practice.
We are always actively seeking new membership. Presently the yearly membership dues are $20, which is similar to the athletic booster's organization. Monthly meetings are generally the 4th Monday of the month. We are also looking for members to serve in various board positions or to volunteer a few hours at musical events. For more information on how to become a member of WAMBO, see the facebook page or speak with a music teacher.

7th Grade News

Seventh grade life science students are nearing completion of the first unit of this year, cells and heredity. The next life science concept we will by studying is the immune system followed by viruses, bacteria, protists, and fungi. Ask your child what she or he has learned about cells and heredity and what they know about the immune system.