



## Leadership Team Highlights

### **Elementary Schools:**

The Elementary Schools hosted Parent Teacher Conferences. Parent support and engagement is strong in Waconia Elementary Schools. 97% parent participation shows a true partnership between home and school.

2019-2020 Kindergarten Registration is in full swing! New Kindergarten families will attend Kindergarten Preview Night on February 11 and 12. There is great excitement in welcoming the newest members of our school community!

Integrating technology into the elementary curriculum has been fully supported by Media/Technology Integration Specialist at each of the elementary schools. Students have had the opportunity to use robots and coding to accomplish academic tasks. Waconia students have expanded learning opportunities in the areas of Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, and Critical Thinking. Students invent, discover, explore, create, and learn in a meaningful and authentic manner.

February is I Love To Read Month! All our elementary schools are celebrating reading and building our stamina for reading long and strong! From mystery readers, flashlight reading and cozy up with your stuffed animal to reading with beach attire, book trivia, and crazy socks, we have planned many fun activities throughout the month of February to motivate our students to enjoy reading!

Gratitude! We are truly grateful for the immense amount of support we receive from our Elementary PTOs. Special events, fundraising efforts, and school support provide our students with an enhanced education.

Grade 5 students expanded their learning by exploring Ice Fishing on Lake Waconia. Waconia High School Students in 30 Fish Houses guided elementary students through this fun learning experience. Wow! What an amazing invitation to learn about our local natural resources! Thank you to Waconia High School Conservation Club led by Mr. Wayne Trapp and Mr. Mike Jensen.

### **Waconia Middle School:**

WMS Student Council is hosting Waconia's Got Talent again this year! Students will have the chance to show off their talents for the chance to perform at the Wacky Olympics during Middle School week. One winner from each grade level will be chosen.

On Monday, February 11th Waconia Middle School will be kicking-off our annual school-wide Pennies for Patients campaign to raise money for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. A student led committee has been hard at work planning this years campaign: "Beating Cancer is in our BLOOD." A multitude of exciting activities for students are planned to help raise money to reach our goal of raising \$16,000 to support patients in need and fund medical research. Students will get their chance to show their support through dress up days: Hats and Hoods day to acknowledge those who lose their hair during treatment, Blankets for Buck/Comfy Day to acknowledge the patient hope for future comfort and Jersey day to acknowledge beating



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Cancer as a team. Other activities will include Flash 48 (an online fundraising effort), Delay the Day, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, and new this year-- Milk Jug Wars.

Congratulations to **January's Teacher of the Month, 7th grade math Teacher, Mr. Bullis.**

Mr. Bullis was nominated by a former student and current 8th grader, Blake Ditsch. Blake's nomination letter stated "... you're easily one of my favorite teachers I've ever had. Math has been an issue for me, but in your class I started to actually excel... I believe that without you guiding me as much as you did this (current 8th grade success) would not have happened so I thank you very much for this." Mr. Bullis and Blake each received a gift card and some sweet treats. Mr. Bullis also receives the traveling trophy, an hour of principal class coverage and the TOM parking spot near the main entrance.

On January 28th, nine finalists competed in the final round of the National Geographic Geography Bee. It was a great event that was won by Noah Strei (8th Grade). Congratulations to Noah on being the 2019 WMS Geography Bee School champion. Noah will complete and submit an online assessment to determine if he qualifies for the state championship. State qualifiers will be announced on March 4th and the State Bee is scheduled for March 29th.

January 16th marked the end of the 2nd quarter at WMS. Teachers were hard at work finishing up 2nd quarter grading and communicating student progress with families. Each quarter we recognize the amazing academic achievements of our students by posting our honor roll at school, on our website and in the Waconia Patriot.

### **Waconia High School:**

The weather has caused more than a few issues for everyone at WHS. While no one has complained about being out of school, the loss of three days has left teachers, coaches, and advisors scrambling to cover classroom material and reschedule games and events. I don't recall us ever having a full week of canceled or late start days. The ice and snow has added another layer of frustration and hazard.

Friday, February 8, was a full-day of professional development, a day devoted completely to PLC activities. The 22 PLC leaders in the building were tasked with developing and leading PLC tasks throughout the day that fit their needs and reported back to whole group on their progress at the end of the day. The activities centered around curriculum work, assessments, interventions, remediation, and Wild Time efforts.

The WHS Student Council is planning their annual Blood Drive to coincide with Valentine's Day, February 14. Each year this event draws a large number of first-time donors who, hopefully, will become regular donors. Kudos to the Student Council and the American Red Cross.

Planning continues for a career fair that we hope to host later this spring. The focus of the fair will be to give students a chance to explore various careers, with a focus on our local



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businesses and enterprises. The fair will be a joint effort of the district and the Waconia Chamber of Commerce.

### **Activities:** [www.waconiaathletics.com](http://www.waconiaathletics.com)

Congratulations to our four WHS student athletes that signed NCAA National letters of intent to continue to pursue their passion for learning as part of DI or DII collegiate athletic team!

Our Wednesday, February 6th the WHS ceremony included:

Parker Althaus signing with Drake - Football

Mckenzie Ickert signing with Minnesota State University - Moorhead - Soccer

Will Koppi signing with Minnesota State University - Mankato - Football

Jace Mack signing with Southwest Minnesota State University - Football

### **Community Education:**

Community Education is starting to think about spring! On Wednesday, February 6 it was the spring soccer deadline for Pre-K through 6th-grade kids. Registration takes place in February and the first day will be Saturday, April 6. Hopefully, we won't have the April snow storm this year so kids can get out and play their games!

### **Human Resources:**

The School District's Insurance Advisory Committee has reviewed initial medical proposals from multiple health insurance carriers for the plan year beginning on July 1, 2019. Final proposals will be reviewed at our February 19 meeting, with Committee recommendations expected in February or March. Open enrollment is currently scheduled to begin in April.

We're pleased to report that our School District has received its official Notice of Pay Equity Compliance by Minnesota Management and Budget. Our district passed all tests for Pay Equity Compliance according to the state's Pay Equity Coordinator. The School District's next Pay Equity Implementation Report will be due in January 2022.

Our district's Leadership Team had the opportunity to experience an excellent educational opportunity on MLK Day. Sixteen of us attended the Race: Are We So Different? Exhibit at the Minnesota Science Museum. We spent the morning at the exhibit and then proceeded to the Midtown Global Market in the afternoon to experience the foods of different cultures and meet as a group to discuss our reactions to the exhibit and our new learning. All members of our Leadership Team took the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) last summer as an assessment of their intercultural competence. After taking the IDI, training was provided about Intercultural Leadership in Education. One-on-one feedback was also provided to each team member about their individual results. This experience was designed to assist our district leaders in moving forward on their individual intercultural development continuums.

### **Teaching & Learning:**



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During the January 23 Administrative PLC session, leadership teams took time to reflect and report on mid-year progress related to school improvement planning. It is evident that principals, directors, and site leadership teams have made great progress in toward our 2018-2019 Staff Development Goal, which states:

Build PLC Leadership capacity to support the Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum (GVC) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Model. We will move from “Initiating” to “Developing” as measured by the PLC and MTSS rubrics and move from “Developing” to “Sustaining” on the GVC rubric by the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

The focus for the remainder of the year will be to continue to develop the D110 Multi-tiered Systems of Support Model (MTSS) and build or refine intervention schedules that support these efforts.

The second Teaching and Learning Advisory Council (TLAC) meeting took place on Monday, February 4. We welcome Cathy Thom and Jackie Johnson as representatives from the D110 Board of Education, and Allison Saunders as our student representative. The council received information on Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and an overview of WILD time at WHS. Thanks to Sarah Klitzke and Tim Koschinska for their presentations.

### **Student Services:**

While our teachers are working in their professional learning communities during next Friday’s 2-hour early release, our district’s Educational Assistants will be receiving training in “Positive Behavior Support Standards” by a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. The training will focus on making decisions using data as a foundational skill in education. Assistants will learn about data sources, collections, and understanding data regarding student behavior. Also, District 110 Occupational Therapists will be presenting information about best practices for OTs in school districts to help staff understand the OTs roles and responsibilities.

### **Superintendent:**

#### **February 11-15 is School Board Appreciation Week**

We are so fortunate to have such great community members who are willing to serve on our ISD ONE10 School Board. We have a great balance of new and veteran school board members who truly have the student’s and school district’s best interest at heart in all their decision-making. We continue to provide our students and staff with wonderful learning and working experiences due to the environment that our school board establishes. Our school board has a deep passion for providing excellence. Thank YOU!!!

#### **The Winter Weather Continues**

We have had quite a run of wild winter weather. Our goal is to keep students and staff safe and warm during this brutal weather. And, we are pleased to report that we have done just that. When deciding whether to cancel or delay school, there are a lot of factors to consider. I am in constant communication with Brian of Koch Bus Service. I’m also sharing information with



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superintendents in the surrounding area...and I am also in direct contact with the National Weather Service. This is not an exact science and we always have the safety of students and staff as our number one priority. We value our time with students and wish to conduct school every day we are scheduled to do so. We also understand the inconvenience that school closures can have on families. In the end, it's about making the most informed judgment call using the information and resources provided at that moment in time. We want to thank all our students, staff and families for their support and understanding as we make these weather-related decisions.

### **ISD ONE10 Continues to communicate with State Legislators**

We feel that this legislative session is very important to Waconia Public Schools and to all schools across the state. You may have read the article in the Waconia Patriot last week where I explained the negative impact the special education funding formula is having on our general education budget. Along with our continued efforts, we will need our community to also communicate with legislators about the need to make changes in how ISD 110 special education is funded by the state. School board members have joined me in efforts to talk with legislators here locally and at the State Capital.

Here are some of the events where we are focusing on issues with special education funding:

- Forum hosted by Schools for Equity in Education (SEE)
  - State Sen. Carla Nelson (R) - Rochester
  - State Rep. Jim Davnie (D) - Minneapolis
  - [www.schoolsforequity.org](http://www.schoolsforequity.org)
- SEE Day at the Capitol - February 27
- SEE Meeting with MN Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker
- Chanhassen - Town Hall Meeting - American Legion
  - State Sen. Scott Jensen (R) - Waconia
  - State Rep. Greg Boe (R) - Chaska
- Waconia Chamber of Commerce - Legislative Breakfast - Landscape Arboretum
  - State Sen. Scott Jensen (R) - Waconia
  - State Rep. Jim Nash (R) - Waconia
  - State Rep. Greg Boe (R) - Chaska
- Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) Day at the Capitol
  - Monday, March 25
  - [www.mnmsba.org](http://www.mnmsba.org)
- Many more opportunities as they arise



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### Strategic Roadmap

We had some impactful meetings and events in the past month that continue to move our Strategic Roadmap along:

- Teaching & Learning Department Planning Retreat
  - The Teaching & Learning Team met to discuss how to complete the first year goals from our Strategic Roadmap and prepare for the second year. The ONE10 Strategic Roadmap is producing some impressive work that is having a wonderful impact on student learning. We look forward to sharing our results in a future meeting. (On a side note, Charlson Meadows Renewal Center, located just east of St. Boni, is an impressive meeting center that's available at a very reasonable cost, and sometimes free, for non-profit organizations. We would like to thank them for their wonderful hospitality!)
- Teacher Evaluation Redesign Committee Meeting
  - Five years ago, every school district in the state was required to develop a PGRE (Professional Growth, Reflection, and Evaluation) plan to follow expectations for teacher growth and evaluation as described in a new MN State Statute.
  - At that time ISD 110 choose to use McREL as the software platform to meet the state standards. Our contract with McREL will expire in 2020 and we have learned a lot about what works and what does not work with this new process. The committee is doing some great work in developing a new method to meet the state requirements.
- District Diversity Planning Continues
  - Kathy Oliphant, Sonya Sailer and myself toured the YMCA Equity Innovation Center of Excellence at the Gaviidae Center in Minneapolis. We identified many connections with the "Y" that will support our work with diversity training. We continue to move our administration team forward with training and have an action plan for next steps for staff and students. This continues to be really powerful work.

### Upcoming Events

- Kindergarten Roundups begin next week: BV 2/11, LT/SV 2/12
- All's Well Event - Harnessing the Power of Gratitude by Living Gratefully  
Waconia Middle School Auditorium  
Tuesday, March 26, 2019  
6:00pm - 7:45pm

It's been a couple wild weather weeks! Thank you for your continued support as we all work to keep our students and staff safe and warm!

WE ARE ONE10!



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