



LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Elementary

Veteran's Day: On Monday, November 11 our elementary schools observed Veterans Day and held a program to educate our students and honor all military personnel who served the United States in all wars, particularly living veterans. The theme for 2019 Veterans Day is: "Service"

Veterans contribute to American society in many ways; not just during their time in active duty. Throughout our history, military service members have put on their uniforms to protect the values and liberties that this nation was built on. But that doesn't stop once the uniform comes off and their time in active duty has ended. Veterans are the most active volunteers working to improve communities across our country. Service goes beyond the uniform. We share our gratitude and appreciation on Veteran's Day.

Mackenthuns Stuff a Truck Food Drive: Since 2003, Mackenthun's have collected with support from the Community over 300,000 pounds of food! The food collected comes at a crucial time, as the food shelves are preparing for the coming Winter/Holiday season. Annually our schools have provided strong support and participation as a true act of service.

America Reads: We extend our gratitude to Waconia High School students for dedicating their time to support reading in our elementary schools. The America Reads program is a collaborative initiative between WHS students and our elementary students.

Writing Residency: Grades 3-5 students participate in a week long Writing Residency with Mr. Stephen Peters. The Writing residencies aim to foster a love of reading and writing. They inspire, energize, and encourage students to begin thinking of themselves as writers—and as readers who think like writers! At the elementary level we find this a very effective way to instill lifelong writing habits for our students.

Faculty Professional Learning: Waconia Elementary Teachers have received extensive training in a new phonics program called Wilson Foundations. K-2 students are receiving daily systematic and explicit instruction through a new phonics program called Foundations. This a multisensory, structured language program provides our students with strategies essential to comprehensive reading, spelling, and handwriting.

November 8th is a no school day for students; however, it is a professional learning day for our teachers. Elementary teachers participated in the following training:

1. Unconscious Bias Training

Unconscious (or implicit) biases are learned stereotypes that are automatic, unintentional, deeply ingrained, universal, and able to influence behavior. Unconscious bias training programs are designed to expose people to their unconscious biases, provide tools to adjust automatic

patterns of thinking, and ultimately eliminate discriminatory behaviors. Research demonstrates that we all harbor unconscious biases. The good news is that enhanced awareness and training can create an inclusive culture that identifies and helps eliminate these hidden biases.

2. Reading Record Training

A reading record is an informal tool for coding, scoring, and analyzing a child's reading behaviors. This training gives teachers an insight on what strategies a child is using well and which ones s/he is using but confusing or are absent.

Gratitude: We continue to practice and build a habit of gratitude throughout the month of November with Thanksgiving right around the corner. Sometimes, feelings of gratitude happen spontaneously. But we also can create feelings of gratitude by deliberately counting our blessings. We can build a habit of counting blessings just by paying attention each day to things we are glad to have in our life. Slowing down and noticing what's around us. For example: "Wow, the sky is beautiful today! What an incredible world we live in," or, "There's Sara! It was so nice of her to help me yesterday. Noticing the things we are grateful for is just the first step in building a gratitude habit, but we can try other things too, like taking the time to thank people or pausing to appreciate a star-filled sky. **Start now! What's good about this moment?**

Middle School:

The WMS fall play performances took place this week. *The Internet is Distracting* was a student selected comedy play about a lot of the technology that is out and in our daily world today. It included well-known internet characters like Google, Youtube, Instagram, and many many more. Close to fifty students were part of the cast and crew. Shows were performed at the WMS Auditorium November 7th, 8th and 9th.

November 11-15 WMS will be celebrating Kindness week. This celebration is being organized by student and staff members of our School Climate and Culture Committee. The celebration will include dress -up days, fun activities, positive messages to students, and educational opportunities in Connect classes. Educational opportunities will focus on how students can use the core value of kindness to encourage and uplift others.

Student Council's two-week Stuff a Truck food drive concluded this week. As a school we collected a grand total of 6,261 items. The overall winning classroom combination was Mr. Bullis and Ms. Arndt's 7th grade connect classes. Together they collected 2016 total items and will enjoy a classroom pizza party. Thank you to our student council advisors, Mrs. Johnson and Ms. Monson, our student council students, and all of the WMS families for their generosity and community support. We continue to be an amazing community that steps up to help and serve others.

Congratulations to the WMS October Teacher of the Month, 7th grade ELA teacher Ms. Heather Millikan. Ms. Millikan's nomination letter was well-crafted by 7th-grade student Ellie Lorfald. Ellie shared in her nomination letter, "Ms. Millikan is so passionate about what she does and that passion turns into enthusiasm and excitement for both her and us." "She is happy everyday which makes everybody else feel happy so class can be enjoyable." A big thanks to Ellie and all of the students that took the opportunity to show their gratitude and nominate a staff member.

November 18th is a no school day for WMS students; however, it is a planned professional learning day for our teachers. WMS teachers will engage in the following training:

Unconscious Bias Training

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Connect Advisory Implementation

Teams of teachers will evaluate the current implementation and continue to plan effective and impactful lessons and activities.

High School:

Waconia High School host a Career Expo on Wednesday, November 6. Over 50 businesses and professional groups had tables set up in the gym and all of our students had an opportunity to move through the gym, ask questions about their businesses, and have some fun. This was a great opportunity for our students to make the connection between the coursework and classes at WHS and the world beyond high school. Feedback from both students and the business people was largely positive. Many thanks to Christine Fenner, Kellie Sites, Kelly Jo Raether, Jenny Sebor, and high school counselors Lynette Alger, James Bettcher, and Dana Henn and, of course, to all the businesses and professionals who volunteered to come in and spend the morning with our students.

The ABC Club (Accepting, Belonging, Community) took the lead in our efforts to collect items for the community-wide Stuff A Truck program. Boxes were located throughout the building and all of the collected items were donated to this worthy cause. The SADD group (Students Against Destructive Decisions) sponsored a Red Ribbon Week at the high school as a way to highlight our efforts to curb underage drinking and drug use.

On Friday, November 8, the high school faculty participated in a day of professional development. We heard a Drug Awareness presentation from a University of Minnesota group. The presentation highlighted the work that's being done to create a teacher education program that started as an Impact Challenge/Stretch Goal of the Guidance and Health Services offices.

November 15 marks the end of the first trimester. Both students and teachers are bustling about to complete the curriculum and finish the trimester strong.

Activites: www.waconiaathletics.com

Congratulations to the **Wildcat Girls Soccer team** on their 2019 Section 2A Championship and State Tournament appearance! Also, Congrats to WHS Sophomore, **Adorisa Kaeding** on her

9th place finish in the Section 2AA Cross Country Championships and advancement to the State meet where she finished with an impressive time of 19:38!! Well Done Wildcats!

Community Ed:

Community Education is hosting our 7th Annual Mother-Son SuperHero Dance on Friday, November 15 in the Bayview Cafeteria. This night will include dancing to your favorite songs, cake, pizza and games. It is great to see all of the kids dressed up in their superhero costumes. Some of the adults even dress up! There are already 170 participants signed up. That's about 30 more than last years event.

Human Resources: "Preparing for Retirement" seminars are being held this month for all employees interested in learning more about their defined-benefit state pension plans. Employees at all stages of their careers are encouraged to attend and learn more about this important benefit. Patrick Daly from the Public Employment Retirement Association (PERA) presented to all interested members on November 6 and Jane Suhr of the Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) will present on November 12, 2019. We had a wonderful response to this year's invitations with more than fifty employees and significant others registering to attend.

Superintendent:

Discovering Academic Ideas through School Visits

Spring Lake Park Visit. Kathy Oliphant, Christine Fenner and I were able to visit a great example of authentic learning at Spring Lake Park High School. SLP has been running a medical pathway educational program in their high school since the 1970's. OEC, Opportunities In Emergency Care, allows for students to earn multiple state and national certifications in the medical and emergency responder fields. With the great medical resources in our community this type of program is definitely worth exploring for ONE10. [Link to program overview](#)

Farmington School Visit. Shane Clausen, Sarah Klitzke, Tim Koschinska, LeAnn Millender and I visited the Farmington High School and Middle School this week to learn about how they are implementing student voice and choice into their school district. It was very eye opening to see how they have developed a school that has provided students with such control of their academic pacing. The teachers have a lot of autonomy and the students have a lot of freedoms within their academic structure allowing students to thrive in an environment that they take ownership of. It was really refreshing to see how students were in control of the how, when and where they demonstrated their knowledge of the academic standards expectations.

We will continue to explore other academic models to give us future ideas for improving our already great school.

Career Fair

The Career Exploration Fair is an awesome example of how we find ways for students to explore their passions and create their success. Fifty local businesses and organizations came together for an entire morning of talking to students, answer questions and hopefully inspire



them to check out some career paths that they found interesting. Every high school student was given the opportunity to walk around and have conversations with business professionals from a wide range of businesses and organizations. What a fantastic WEareONE10 morning!!! A BIG Thanks goes out to those who came and shared their stories with students. This event was very organized and we are very appreciative of the help from; Christine Fenner, Kellie Sites, Lynette Alger, James Bettcher,

Mark Fredericksen, Dana Henn, Kelly Jo Raether, and Jenni Sebor.

State of the School District Presentations

At least once every year I go around to the five city councils from the communities that make up ONE10 giving the "State of the District". Those presentations have begun and, so far, I have presented to the school board, City of Waconia and City of St. Bonifacius. You can watch my school board presentation on the main page of our website at: www.isd110.org.

We will be sharing the "State of the District" in many different forms in the coming weeks. Look for an article to come out in the Waconia Patriot next week.

Scoreboard Sponsorship

We continue to have local businesses willing to show support to our activities program and we are very pleased to announce that we have only one spot remaining on our stadium scoreboard for sponsorship. We are very thankful for all those that have agreed to sponsor our programs through this partnership. If you are interested in the final spot, please contact me soon.

WE ARE ONE10!!!