

WMS Paw Print 2023.11.22

Bringing you the middle school scoop...

CLICK HERE: 2023 Proposed Instructional Bond VOTE 12/12/23

DON'T FORGET THE UPCOMING VOTE ON THE INSTRUCTIONAL BOND ON DECEMBER 12th!

Principal's Message

November 22, 2023

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to get to know so many families and all of the groups that are active in our school and community. Watching students smile and grow each day, and work hard to reach their potential, is remarkable.



Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!

The Paw Print is growing. [Check out the Guidance Corner below.](#) Ms. Greco and Mr. Keogh will be highlighting the great work they are doing with students in all grades. Thank you to Ms. Greco and her student leaders for creating this interactive bulletin board.

KEEP THE PAW PRINT BOOKMARKED!

Once you have access to the newsletter the link will update automatically, so go back at any time to see the latest version.

CLICK HERE: Older Versions Of The Paw Print Are Archived On Our Webpage

A glance at the upcoming week...

Week of 11/27 - 12/1

Monday - Day A (Modified Sports Begin)

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (Math)
- 2:45-4:00 pm: Science Olympiad
- 2:30-3:30 pm: Musical Elf Jr. (Select Group)
- 3:30-5:00 pm: Musical Elf Jr Acting (Select Group)

Weekly
Bulletin

Tuesday - Day B

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (Chess)
- 2:30-3:15 pm: Meistersingers
- 2:30-3:30 pm: Crew Meeting Elf Jr.
- 3:15-5:00 pm: Musical Elf Jr Acting (Select Group)
- 2:45-4:00 pm: Science Olympiad

Wednesday - Day C (Picture Retake Day)

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (ELA)
- 2:20-3:20 pm: Environmental Club
- 2:30-3:30 pm: Jazz Band
- 2:30-3:30 pm: Elf Jr. Dance Rehearsal (Select Group)
- 2:45-3:15 pm: Student Council
- 2:45-4:00 pm: Science Olympiad

Thursday - Day D

- 2:15-3:15 pm: Peer Tutoring (Social Studies)
- 2:30-3:15 pm: Yearbook Meeting
- 2:30-3:30 pm: Musical Elf Jr. (Select Group)
- 2:30-3:30 pm: Crew Meeting Elf Jr.

Friday - Day E

Upcoming Dates:

- December 7th - 7th/8th Grade Winter Concert
- December 12th - 6th Grade Winter Concert

Important New Information, Upcoming Events, and Reminders

WMS PTA Standard Membership Raffle

Win a \$50 gift card to Wood & Fire in Pleasantville. To be entered to win all you need to do is sign up to be a member of the WMS PTA Standard level or make an open donation amount of \$25 minimum. All you need to do is join the WMS PTA (if you haven't already) for a chance to win the gift card.



All WMS PTA standard memberships or open donation amount of \$25 minimum collected by December 31, 2023 qualify for the raffle drawing. Please follow this link to become a member or to make a donation: <https://wmspta18-19.memberhub.com/store>

The winner will be announced January 5th, 2024!

Joining the WMS PTA helps us offer educational and cultural programs to students. Membership dues support programs such as cultural arts, field days and ice cream socials, grants for Wellness Day, teacher and staff appreciation, additional supplies and resources for the classrooms, class trips/scholarships, and Woo Hoo Welcome, to name a few.

DON'T MISS OUT on the WMS PTA Membership Raffle! Join Today!

November 27th - Winter Modified Sports Begin

The start of new season is here! We ask all of our athletes to be leaders and role models. Please be on the lookout for times, locations, and expectations from our Athletic Director, Shawn Baumann.



As a reminder, teachers are available for extra help from dismissal until 2:45 p.m. This is an ideal time for our student-athletes to go to a classroom and work with their teachers. All students participating in sports who are not attending extra help are to report to the WMS Cafeteria at the end of the day.

December 7th at 7:00 p.m. - 7th and 8th Grade Concert

Arrival Times/Locations:

- 8th Grade Chorus - 6:15PM, HS Far Cafeteria
- 7th and 8th Grade Band - 6:15PM, HS Band Room
- 7th Grade Chorus -7:15PM, HS Far Cafeteria




**Please note, Jazz Band and Meistersingers will only be performing at the 6th grade concert on Tuesday, December 12th.*

December 12th at 7:00 p.m. - 6th Grade Concert with Jazz Band and Meistersingers

Arrival Times/Locations:

- Meistersingers - 6:30PM, HS Choir Room
- Jazz Band - 6:30PM, HS Band Room
- 6th Grade Band - 7:15PM, HS Band Room
- 6th Grade Chorus - 7:15PM, HS Far Cafeteria



It's Concert Time!

Dear Parents of Students of Band and Chorus Students,

Season's Greetings!! The Westlake Middle School Winter Concerts are quickly approaching. Our ensembles are hard at work and looking forward to stellar performances!! Below are the concert dates and important information regarding our performances.

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**7th and 8th Grade Concert**  
Thursday, December 7th ~ 7 PM ~ John S. Whearty Theater  
*\*Please note, Jazz Band and Meistersingers will only be performing at the 6th grade concert on Tuesday, December 12th.*

**Arrival Times/Locations:**

- 8th Grade Chorus - 6:15PM, HS Far Cafeteria
- 7th and 8th Grade Band - 6:15PM, HS Band Room
- 7th Grade Chorus - 7:15PM, HS Far Cafeteria

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6th Grade Concert with Jazz Band and Meistersingers
Tuesday, December 12th ~ 7 PM ~ John S. Whearty Theater

Arrival Times/Locations:

- Meistersingers - 6:30PM, HS Choir Room
- Jazz Band - 6:30PM, HS Band Room
- 6th Grade Band - 7:15PM, HS Band Room
- 7th Grade Chorus - 7:15PM, HS Far Cafeteria

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**Concert dress:** All performers are asked to wear white on the top and black on the bottom. A white collared dress shirt, white short-sleeved polo shirt OR any white dressy blouse-type shirt is perfect on top. All outfits must meet the school dress code.

**Parent Waiting Area:** Upon arrival, parents will be directed to sit in the auditorium or the major cafeteria until your child's portion of the concert. While waiting, please do not gather in the lobby, as the sound makes its way into the theater and is highly disruptive to the students' performance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Appel or Mrs. Sica. We have a great program in store and look forward to performing for you!

Musically Yours,

Benjamin Appel and Erin Sica  
WMS Music Teachers

## December 13th at 6:00 p.m. - PTA Book Study

We had our first PTA Book Study session this week and will be sharing our takeaways with you and encouraging you to join the next session.



Our goal is to provide some concrete strategies for approaching the middle school issues that we all face as parents. It is also very powerful to hear the challenges that others face and build partnerships to meet the challenges and get to all the good stuff that comes with having kids.

## American Sign Language Club

We are excited to offer this opportunity to students through the Town of Mount Pleasant.







### American Sign Language Club



Want to learn a new language and meet friends who share your interests? Join our brand new American Sign Language Club!

We'll start by learning the ASL alphabet, common signs for colors, animals, and other very basic signs. This club is an introduction, so we'll just touch on the basics as we also explore Deaf culture/history. We'll have tons of fun playing games, signing songs, and communicating through this visual language. All skill levels welcome - no experience required.

Bring your curiosity, hands, and smiles as we take our first steps into the world of ASL together!

|                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Nov. 30th<br>Dec. 14th<br>Jan. 4th & 18th       |  2:30 - 3:30                              |  \$140 total                 |
|  Room<br>Westlake Middle School<br>Mrs. Caterino |  Grades 6, 7, 8<br>Maximum of 25 students |  Activity Number<br>912220 A |

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## Principal's Leadership Group - Snapshots of What's Happening

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Our Principal's Leadership Group met for the second time this week. The group is interested in and leading a project to transform their hallway environment so that information is more visible and available to them. Their goal is to empower all students and provide tools for students to manage their day. They have a few extra fun ideas planned as well. Stay tuned.



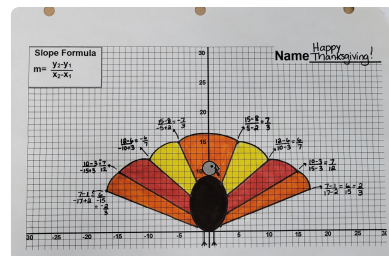
## 7th Grade Math Turkey Hats

This week the 7th grade math students wrapped up their simplifying expressions topic by creating “Turkey Combos”. They completed problems with varied level of difficulties and then matched those answers to the appropriate turkey. After they completed the work they could color them, give their turkey a name, and even make them into a festive headband to wear at Thanksgiving dinner! They are sure to be a conversation starter!! Everyone had a little turkey fun before break! Mrs. Dwyer and Mrs. Catucci want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!!



## Algebra Turkey Graphing

In honor of Thanksgiving, students plotted points and graphed lines to create turkey feathers. Then, they used their math knowledge to calculate the slope of each feather.



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## Guidance Corner - November Updates

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### Guidance Corner

Thank you Mr. Keogh and Ms. Greco for providing some great updates in the new *Guidance Corner*. We look forward to monthly updates from around the school.



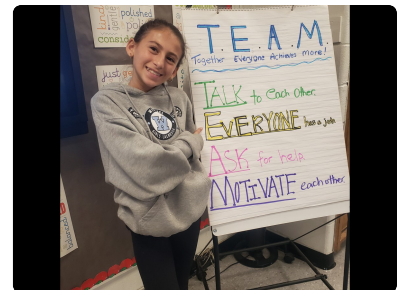


## 6th Grade Westlake Foundations

The 6th graders in this semester's Westlake Foundations course are busy working with Mrs. Greco and Mr. Keogh, the 6th grade School Counselors, and learning to build a strong mind. The Counselors visit Mrs. Garson and Mrs. Caterino's classes once a cycle for a Guidance lesson focusing on topics such as self-management, social awareness, team building, strategies to cope with stress, and building a strong mind to become more Resilient, one of the qualities on our Portrait of a Mount Pleasant Learner.

## 8th Grade Community Leadership

One of this month's lessons included guest speaker and 8th grade CLP Student, who co-taught a lesson focusing on the value of Teamwork and having a "team mentality." She drew from her own experiences as a member of the Varsity Cheer Team, competing in local and national tournaments. Students worked together to achieve a complicated task that required them to think and act as a team. For her Community Leader Project, she is training to serve as a Peer Mentor, while researching and learning about the careers in the "Education and Training" cluster for her year-long project. Amazing work!



## Naviance

The Counselors also helped host a Naviance workshop for 8th grade CLP students to assist them in completing an online career assessment, matching them up with four top career clusters. Students are encouraged to research the careers in their top clusters, as the CLP supervisors help facilitate opportunities for students to use and build many job skills as they engage in service projects related to their career interests.

## Westlake Wildcat Sports

Please check the Westlake Wildcats Sports Calendar for ANY updates or changes.

**CALENDAR:** <http://www.westlakewildcats.org/calendar>

### Athletic Office contacts:

Shawn Baumann, Athletic Director at [sbaumann@mtplcsd.org](mailto:sbaumann@mtplcsd.org)



## Save The Dates

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**April 13th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Save the date for the Multicultural Celebration Scavenger Hunt at Columbus Elementary!

Sign Up for A Cultural Display Booth. Make a fun booth with your kids to share their culture and heritage.



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**Westlake Middle School Website**

**Mount Pleasant Central School District Website**

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# MOUNT PLEASANT

Central School District

## PORTRAIT OF A MOUNT PLEASANT LEARNER



EDUCATING EACH STUDENT TODAY FOR ENDLESS  
POSSIBILITIES TOMORROW



**Anthony Mungoli**

Anthony is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters