



## WELCOME TO OCTOBER!

The fall season is upon us, and we are excited to continue our journey of growth and learning together. This month, let's celebrate the vibrant colors of autumn and the creative spirits within our students and community.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and passion for education. Together, we make a difference!

~ Eric

### Field trips

As a reminder, this is in our Employee Handbook:

*FIELD TRIPS: Field trips are events that students attend that differ from the normal, routine location of students in their educational program. Field trips should be well-planned and organized with definite objectives and must be pre-approved by your supervisor. Notification of such trips must be turned in to the supervising coordinator/ director/ designee as far in advance as possible so that any schedule changes can be made. If transportation is required, early notification is especially important. All students attending the field trip must return a permission slip signed by their parent or legal guardian. This permission slip should include the purpose of the trip, who is supervising the trip, the destination, and the duration of the trip.*

#### Important Dates:

- **October 9 -**  
Superintendent  
Advisory Meeting
- **October 17-18 –** State  
Teacher Conferences  
(MEA Break)
- **October 23 –** Board  
Meeting, 5:00 PM,  
District Office
- **October 31 -**  
Halloween

**\*\*\*\*Please inform Eric of ALL field trips.**



## GOOGLE TRANSITION / HELP TICKETS

Where are you at with your Google Transition? By now you should have moved all of your files into your Google Drive and have at least taken a peek at some of the Google Trainings in the [Google Training Portal](#).

If you need help moving your files, please be sure to let us know!

Just as a reminder, when you submit a Help Ticket, please be on the lookout for a response from us as we may have clarifying questions that we need answered in order to complete your request.

Going forward, if we do not receive a response within 5 business days, we will assume the issue is resolved and will close the ticket.

Thank you! Erin & Rich

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### ~ WE APPRECIATE YOU ~

**Our Maintenance Staff – Josh Peterson, Holly Lillis,  
Ace Ludovissie**

**School Custodian Appreciation Day – October 2**

**Our Administration – Eric Weber, Jamie Wothe,  
Lori Murdock, Shawn McAllister**

**National Boss's Day – October 16**

**Our Occupational Therapists – Paula Peterson,  
Kim Becker, Bryan Winkels, Margaret Grondahl, Amy  
Zamzo, Monica Leslie, Kelsey Hemberger**

**World Occupational Therapy Day – October 27**



## MTSS News

### MTSS Leadership Team Meeting Update

The MnMTSS Leadership Team at Freshwater Education District held a productive meeting on September 19th focusing on advancing our efforts toward building a robust framework for equity and continuous improvement. We reviewed and applied key membership norms for our District Leadership Team, ensuring clear roles and collaborative expectations.

A major milestone was reached as we began developing the MnMTSS Handbook for Freshwater by drafting the mission, vision, and core beliefs—key elements that will guide our infrastructure for continuous improvement. Additionally, we examined how to create conditions for equity and inclusion within our schools, fostering environments where all students can thrive.

The team also explored the Professional Learning and Development Guidebook and Workbook, gaining insights into how these resources can enhance our professional growth. We familiarized ourselves with the 5-step process for planning effective professional learning and development, equipping ourselves with strategies to support continuous improvement in teaching and learning across the district.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue on the MnMTSS path.

## ***Birthdays in October !***



|                                 |                                |                               |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Cari Grenier – 10/1</b>      | <b>Rich Murdock – 10/16</b>    | <b>Vicki Rowe – 10/27</b>     |
| <b>Tracie Borders – 10/7</b>    | <b>Monica Leslie – 10/17</b>   | <b>Ruth Bowman – 10/29</b>    |
| <b>Nick Lorensen – 10/11</b>    | <b>Diane Gillespie – 10/19</b> | <b>Erin Huebner – 10/29</b>   |
| <b>Sara Truax – 10/12</b>       | <b>Kylene Lehmann – 10/21</b>  | <b>Monique Holmes – 10/31</b> |
| <b>Janet Becker – 10/15</b>     | <b>Mandy Peeters – 10/25</b>   | <b>Paula Peterson – 10/31</b> |
| <b>Kristina Macheel – 10/15</b> |                                |                               |



## Buckie was featured in the Wadena Pioneer Journal



Nicole Stracek / Wadena Pioneer Journal

Freshwater Education District in Wadena recently welcomed a new four-legged student affectionately named Buckie, a golden retriever and trained comfort dog to their school district. Pictured is Trent Becker, behavior specialist and Jena Osberg, Freshwater Academies Site Facilitator.

# Freshwater Education District welcomes new comfort dog

BY NICOLE STRACEK  
Wadena Pioneer Journal

### WADENA

Students and staff at Freshwater Education District in Wadena recently welcomed a new four-legged student this year — a golden retriever affectionately named Buckie by students.

Buckie is a certified and trained comfort dog and will assist the district with a wide range of

needs including helping students who are struggling with behavioral issues or experiencing stressful circumstances during the school day.

This past May, Jena Osberg, who serves as the Freshwater Academies site facilitator, set out to raise funds to purchase a comfort dog after a chance encounter with a lost puppy in the school's parking lot left a lasting impression on both students and staff. Osberg

said the reaction to the puppy by students was very positive and inspired her to learn more about the benefits of a comfort dog in a school setting.

Osberg said students were aware the district was raising funds to purchase a comfort dog that would be arriving in the fall and the dog would need a name.

"Our mascot here at school is the Bucks and so one of the students said the dog's name

should be Buck for sure," Osberg said. However, the dog was a female and the next best thing was to name her Buckie to make it more feminine, she said.

"We do a thing here where every new student puts their hand print on the wall and it shows that they are part of our school now. The same student that named her also said that Buckie needs to

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be included by adding a paw print to the wall," Osberg said.

In addition to individual contributions made through the district's online donation form, Osberg sent out letters to

local organizations and clubs and attended area meetings with Lions, Elks, and Rotary clubs throughout the region. With the donations and grants the district received from the community, they were able to purchase a comfort dog from the Texas-based company Interquest

Cares.

"It was really fun to see that generosity come out," Osberg said. "We tend to be in our own little bubble here and you reach out when you have to, but this just created such a nice feeling of community and support," said Osberg. "Numerous people reached out to

learn how they could help and made donations."

In addition to donations Osberg wrote and received grants to help fund the purchase and care of Buckie from Sourcewell, Astera Health Foundation and the Corey Borg-Masanari Foundation.

Trent Becker, the

school district's behavioral specialist, is Buckie's handler and Osberg said the addition of a comfort dog will allow Becker to better serve students.

"Trent, who is Buckie's handler, unfortunately has to come in when kids are in a difficult place, so they are not always happy to see him but

when he comes in with Buckie, it has already had an impact and that is exactly what we wanted," said Osberg.

NICOLE STRACEK is a reporter for the Wadena Pioneer Journal. She can be reached at 218-631-2561 or at [nstracek@wadenapij.com](mailto:nstracek@wadenapij.com).



### **It's time to clean out those closets!**

Coats for Kids are collecting clean, gently used winter gear. Everything is needed: coats, snow pants, hats, and mittens. There are lots of collection bins located throughout the county. The closest one could be right in your own town.

#### **Perham Henning**

- Perham Health Good Shepherd
- Shearers St. Paul's
- KLN, Tuffy's, Kenny's Candy St. Edward's
- Arvig

#### **Wadena New York Mills**

- Astera Health Farmers & Merchant State Bank
- Chamber of Commerce Lund | Crestliner | Brunswick
- Maslowski Center, Wadena

#### **Fergus Falls**

- Gate City Bank
- Otter Tail Power
- Salvation Army
- United Way office



### **Distribution Night**

**4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**Come in and try on winter gear for your kids and family**

**Tue. Oct. 21 Maslowski Center, Wadena**  
**Thurs. Oct. 24 Calvary Lutheran Church,**  
**Perham**



## Music and Art events happenings across MN in October

1. **Duluth Oktoberfest 2024**
  - o **Dates:** October 4-5
  - o **Location:** Bayfront Festival Park, Duluth
  - o **More Info:** [Duluth Oktoberfest](#)
2. **Minnesota Orchestra: Beethoven's 9th Symphony**
  - o **Dates:** October 4-6
  - o **Location:** Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis
  - o **More Info:** [Minnesota Orchestra](#)
3. **Northfield Arts Guild: October Show**
  - o **Dates:** October 4-27
  - o **Location:** Northfield Arts Guild, Northfield
  - o **More Info:** [Northfield Arts Guild](#)
4. **Weisman Art Museum: Special Exhibition Opening**
  - o **Date:** October 4
  - o **Location:** Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis
  - o **More Info:** Weisman Art Museum
5. **Lakeville Art Festival**
  - o **Dates:** October 5-6
  - o **Location:** Lakeville Area Arts Center, Lakeville
  - o **More Info:** [Lakeville Art Festival](#)
6. **Art in the Park - Fall Edition**
  - o **Date:** October 12
  - o **Location:** Munsinger Gardens, St. Cloud
  - o **More Info:** [Munsinger Gardens](#)
7. **Twin Cities Book Festival**
  - o **Date:** October 12
  - o **Location:** Minnesota State Fairgrounds, Saint Paul
  - o **More Info:** Twin Cities Book Festival
8. **Franconia Sculpture Park Art and Music Festival**
  - o **Date:** October 13
  - o **Location:** Franconia Sculpture Park, Shafer
  - o **More Info:** [Franconia Sculpture Park](#)
9. **Rochester Art Center: Fall Exhibit Opening**
  - o **Date:** October 10
  - o **Location:** Rochester Art Center, Rochester
  - o **More Info:** [Rochester Art Center](#)
10. **St. Paul Chamber Orchestra: Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 27**
  - o **Dates:** October 11-13
  - o **Location:** Ordway Concert Hall, Saint Paul
  - o **More Info:** [SPCO](#)
11. **Fergus Falls Concert Association: Loston Harris Trio (Jazz)**
  - o **Date:** October 14
  - o **Location:** A Center for the Arts, Fergus Falls
  - o **More Info:** [A Center for the Arts](#)
12. **Saint Paul Art Crawl**
  - o **Dates:** October 18-20
  - o **Location:** Various locations in Saint Paul
  - o **More Info:** [Saint Paul Art Crawl](#)

13. **Big Turn Music Fest**
  - o **Dates:** October 18-19
  - o **Location:** Red Wing, Minnesota
  - o **More Info:** [Big Turn Music Fest](#)
14. **Walker Art Center: Avant Garden**
  - o **Date:** October 19
  - o **Location:** Walker Art Center, Minneapolis
  - o **More Info:** [Walker Art Center](#)
15. **Edina Fall into the Arts Festival**
  - o **Dates:** October 19-20
  - o **Location:** Centennial Lakes Park, Edina
  - o **More Info:** [Edina Art Festival](#)
16. **Mankato Symphony Orchestra: Classical Series - Brahms Symphony No. 2**
  - o **Date:** October 20
  - o **Location:** Mankato West High School Auditorium, Mankato
  - o **More Info:** [Mankato Symphony Orchestra](#)
17. **Detroit Lakes Community Concert Association: Seraph Brass**
  - o **Date:** October 20
  - o **Location:** Historic Holmes Theatre, Detroit Lakes
  - o **More Info:** Holmes Theatre
18. **Duluth Art Institute Annual Member Show**
  - o **Dates:** October 15-31
  - o **Location:** Duluth Art Institute, Duluth
  - o **More Info:** [Duluth Art Institute](#)
19. **Minneapolis College of Art and Design: 2024 MCAD Art Sale**
  - o **Dates:** October 24-26
  - o **Location:** Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Minneapolis
  - o **More Info:** MCAD Art Sale
20. **Minnesota Ballet: "Dracula"**
  - o **Dates:** October 25-27
  - o **Location:** DECC Symphony Hall, Duluth
  - o **More Info:** [Minnesota Ballet](#)
21. **Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra: Movie Magic**
  - o **Date:** October 26
  - o **Location:** Duluth Symphony Hall, Duluth
  - o **More Info:** [DSSO](#)
22. **Minnesota Opera: Don Giovanni**
  - o **Dates:** October 26-29
  - o **Location:** Minnesota Opera, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Saint Paul
  - o **More Info:** [Minnesota Opera](#)
23. **Staples Area Men's Chorus: Annual Fall Concert**
  - o **Date:** October 26
  - o **Location:** Centennial Auditorium, Staples
  - o **More Info:** [Staples Area Men's Chorus](#)