



Washington Wavelength

December '24 - January '25

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Washington Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. We've been off to a great start this year, and are proud of the hard work and progress we've noticed from our students. As we continue to stride forward with our focus on safety and student growth, I would like to take a moment to share a few reminders regarding these priorities.

Safety:

As we enter the winter months, and there is snow on the ground with snow banks near the roads, visibility becomes more difficult. Therefore, it is especially important to drive with caution during drop off and pick up times. Please be sure that you are parking only in the designated areas and at least 10 feet from crosswalks. Another thing to be aware of, when it comes to the winter weather, is that we regularly go outside for recess. We stay in for recess only when the temperature is below 0 degrees (including the wind chill). This also applies to letting students into the building before school. If the temperature is below zero, students are allowed in, but not prior to 8:05. Please consider this when dropping students off in the morning.

Learning:

One of our highest priorities is helping students develop strong reading skills for success in school and beyond. We also know that the amount of reading students engage in outside of school makes a significant difference in the progress they make. If you are looking for ways that you can help your child at home, we send home a monthly parent reading newsletter. Each newsletter offers tips/ideas that can be used to encourage reading and support reading development at home. In case you didn't get a chance to view November's newsletter, I am providing the link below. I hope you find this useful.

<https://www.parent-institute-online.com/download2.php?902438-BR1-X309500>

Thank you for your ongoing support, and your efforts to help keep students safe and progressing in their learning. It's the strong partnership between families and the school that enables all students to succeed. We hope all of our students have a happy and safe winter break!

With Regards,
Matt Peerenboom, Principal

Important Dates

December

4th - FRC Cookie Decorating 3:15 pm - 6:00 pm

10th - Scoopie Night 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

13th - **No P4J** & **4th Grade Field Trip to the Capitol**

18th - **5th Grade Field Trip to the Madison Theatre**

23rd - Winter Break - **No School**

January

2nd - School Resumes

17th - **No P4J**

20th - **No School**

24th - **No School**

Please like and follow our Facebook page [Washington Elementary School - Home](#)

Traffic and Safety Reminders

Safety Patrol

Our school safety patrol is now on duty before and after school. The students have been trained in crossing streets safely and are now wearing bright orange safety vests for easy visibility - Thank you to the Hazeltine Family for the donation! Please help all of our students stay safe by following the drop off and pick up procedures below.

- ***Please avoid parking on the corners of intersections to ease the flow of Traffic.***
- ***Please avoid parking too close to the crosswalks. This can cause congestion and make it difficult for cars to pass through these areas safely, and it can also make it difficult for crossing guards to see around the vehicles to look for oncoming traffic.***
- ***Please ALWAYS have your child use the available crosswalks rather than crossing in the middle of the street. Children are safest when crossing at patrolled crosswalks.***

Thank you for all of your help and support! We really appreciate it!

Grade Level/Special Area News

Early Childhood

Early Childhood has been working on fine motor skills, art projects, and gross motor activities. We are doing great with learning our routine, sharing toys, and engaging in sensory activities. Our favorite time of the morning has been circle time and breakfast. We have learned about owls, turkeys, squirrels, fire safety, corn, and pumpkins. As the weather gets colder please send a jacket, hat, and gloves with them to school every day.

P4J

In December and January, we will be continuing to work on our fine motor skills of cutting, holding a pencil/crayon, picking up small items, and writing our names. Families can work on these skills at home as well by: lacing beads, making beaded or cheerio/fruit loop necklaces, playing with playdough, cutting, and writing names. We will also continue working on our counting and 1 to 1 correspondence. Playing board games at home can help with these skills as well as work on taking turns. Please continue to practice Nursery Rhymes and letter recognition games at home. You can play I Spy in the car while driving to find letters on signs in the community. Talking, playing games, and pointing out letters in the community enhance your child's early

literacy skills.

Kindergarten

Please make time during this busy month of December to complete your family project of the Polar Express train. The students and staff love to see all the different trains hanging in our kindergarten hallway! Please send your child every day with proper outdoor clothing for recesses. This includes a winter coat, hat, gloves, boots and snow pants when the snow arrives. Please label these items with your child's name. Kindergarteners should be working hard to be independent by dressing themselves in their winter gear and tying shoes as they are transferring from boots to shoes many times a day at school. Warm up to a good book this winter with your child! Reading to your child is a perfect opportunity to spend time together while practicing letter names, sounds, and high frequency words!

First Grade

First grade is finishing 2024 strong! In ELA we will be learning and reading about maps, folktales, and changes over time. Science and Social Studies concepts integrate well with our essential questions in the upcoming weeks. Continue practicing high frequency words and reading decodable stories daily for fluency. In Math we will continue practicing our fact fluency, solving number stories, learning about place value, telling time, and 3D shapes. We will be taking the mid-year STAR test in January after our winter break. Please remember to send your child with proper winter gear for outside play. Don't forget to send shoes for the classroom if your child wears boots to school.



Second Grade

The second graders have been working so hard on finding text evidence and comprehending our second grade texts. We are very proud of how they are growing as readers. At the end of the month of December we will be taking part in a gingerbread man unit. We will be comparing and contrasting different versions of the story, as well as working on other English language arts skills. Your child will be bringing home a gingerbread person that as a family you will want to disguise so it won't get eaten. Be as creative as you wish. We have had many clever disguises over the years.

We will be working on our expository writing. The children will choose an animal they are interested in and outline their life cycle. They have done a great job learning about finding relevant details when researching, and are very excited about their writing.

As second graders are beginning to do double digit addition and subtraction, it is essential that they have mastered and are fluent with their basic addition and subtraction facts through the sum of 20. Just reviewing a few minutes each night at home can help your child's success.

Are you ready for some cool weather? The winter season is here and it is important that our students have proper winter attire. You may want to use a second bag to bring their winter gear to and from school. It can be difficult to put snow pants as well as home folders in the backpacks.

Third Grade

It's hard to believe that we are finished with the first trimester! In math we are working on our 3-digit addition, subtraction, and rounding unit. Please continue to complete the math and reading homework sheets. In addition, please continue to have your child read each night. It's a great way for your child to practice skills and show you the new strategies we are learning or practice previously learned skills. In reading we are continuing to read stories from our Wonders reading series. Upcoming genres include expository text and folktale. This next trimester we will be focusing on many reading skills such as summarizing, personification, visualizing, theme, and character perspective, just to name a few. In writing we will be focusing on opinion writing. In social studies we will be learning about economics and America's early history. In science we will be learning about simple machines and magnets. Be sure to send your child with a hat and gloves each day as the weather gets colder. Also, remember to check take home folders each night.



Fourth Grade

Fourth grade worked hard during trimester one and is off to a great start in trimester two! In math we have been working on building equivalent fractions and are now moving on to decimals. In reading we finished up our poetry unit that focused on key elements such as imagery, figurative language, and rhyme. We are now moving onto unit 3 which focuses on character perspective and author's purpose. In writing, students have been practicing writing argumentative essays. We have also been



working on properly combining sentences and writing plural and singular nouns correctly. In social studies, students have been learning about our state government to prepare them for our field trip to the capitol on Friday, December 13th! We are looking forward to our trip! Lastly, in science students have been learning about animal behavioral and physical adaptations.

Fifth Grade

Hello 5th grade families! It's crazy to think we are already onto Trimester 2! We have recently been introduced to finding the theme of a text and we will continue to do that throughout November and December. We also will practice finding the author's claim and problem/solution of texts. In Math, we are finishing up on unit on place value and decimals, and then will be moving towards multiplying and dividing whole numbers, decimals, and fractions! In science we will be starting a new unit exploring changes in matter, specifically exploring the phenomena of the science behind liquid batter turning into a golden fluffy solid pancake. In social studies we will continue with American History leading towards the westward expansion of the United States. This year has been going so quickly and all the fun is just getting started!

Learning Commons

Library related events:

P4J & Kindergarten students have done a fantastic job in training to be great library patrons and are putting those library cards to use.

1st & 2nd graders are broadening their selections by exploring a new early readers collection and new early chapter book series. 1st graders also had a special visit from Hedberg Library and learned all about their services and offerings.

3rd-5th graders are enjoying their first chapter previews of all our favorite fiction novels and non-fiction finds and have just started a rousing game of library bingo to encourage them to make selections from new genres or nonfiction classifications they maybe would not give a try.

STEM related learning:

- P4J students had the chance to examine life size skeleton bones after reading "Skeleton with the Hiccups" paired with the super fun sounds from our Novel Effect app.
- KG students spent some time really digging into bugs and studying shapes during stem centers.
- 1st Graders were fully immersed in building and materials related books the month of October and had a great time rotating through 3 special hands on building stations testing out their knowledge of foundations, structures, and the occasional collapse.
- 2nd graders have been very busy! They participated in a demonstration of fast and slow changes of the earth's surface through erosion, altering existing and creating new landforms with water and sand in a simulation table. They also had the opportunity to examine science specimens while discussing parents,

offspring and the lifecycle and conducted an experiment in cross pollination after examining the complete lifecycle of the "Apis Mellifera" with pom-pom and pipe cleaner bees.

Other:

All of our Washington students have done a great job adapting to new technology in our classrooms with our new Chromebooks and Chrome Tablets and have shown great responsibility and patience. Keep up the good work.

News:

Washington Students brought home a Winter Gift Wonderland catalog flier and handout announcing our Online book/toy fair fundraiser through Literati. Shop online for fun, inspiring, educator-approved, imaginative kids books and toys delivered straight to your door and Washington Library earns 10-20% on all purchases to purchase library books and materials for our students.

Use this link to shop> [Shop here to support your school](#)

Counselor Connections

Hello families!

We have begun learning in our Second Step curriculum. Go online to SecondStep.org and log in with the activation key **CPUK FAMI LYGK** to get more information about what your child is learning in the Second Step program. Thank you for helping us make our school a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn!

If you have any questions about what we will be learning, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Morgan Casey-Schmidt - Washington School Counselor

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Office: (608) 743-7225

Cell & Text: (608) 561-1424

Notes from the Music Room

Kindergarten and 1st Graders will continue to work on reading and playing pitches G and E on the Music Staff using various melody instruments such as Boomwhackers and Xylophones, Metallophones, and Glockenspiels. We will be adding Pitch A as well. They will also continue to work on reading and playing rhythms and Ostinatos, which are music patterns that keep repeating over and over. They will use Tubano drums and other percussion instruments to play these rhythmic ostinatos. The students will also get to try their hands at composing or writing their very own melodies which they will perform for the class. It's all very exciting!

2nd, 3rd and 4th Graders will be beginning, or building on, their ukulele playing skills, moving from getting to know, and playing simple melodies on the 4 strings to learning

and playing chords to accompany some really fun songs, including some songs we hear on the radio! While we learn these ukulele skills we are continuing to develop our rhythm and pitch reading skills on the Treble Clef Staff, as well as learn more about harmony and Ostinatos and further developing our singing skills. It's going to be Uke-a-riffic!!

5th Grade continues to work on completing their packet for middle school music choice selection, where they are learning about instruments from band and orchestra, as well as singing and working on vocal skills. The students will be choosing which music class they will be taking in middle school by the middle of January, so watch for the official form for scheduling your child's middle school classes. The students are reviewing and developing their recorder skills, focusing on B, A, and G pitches, and building a repertoire of songs they can play using those pitches. The recorder is a beginning Woodwind instrument similar to the clarinet, so this is helpful for students who are considering playing a woodwind instrument in band in 6th grade. They are also working on their sight reading skills using Solfege, or Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, and high DO.

A Few Lines from Washington's Art Studio

Dear Families,

Students will begin creating their art projects that you may purchase on unique gifts and keepsakes for the **Square 1 Art Fundraiser**, in January. The money raised goes back to your child in the form of purchased art supplies for Washington students.

Order catalogs will be sent home at the end of February. Free shipping will be offered again this year.

Our Washington community looks forward to seeing what masterpieces our artists will create for the Square 1 Art fundraiser!

Artfully Yours,

Lynn Hopfauf
Washington Art Educator

PE News

Hello Washington friends and families,

In the gym we will be getting into gymnastics and tumbling for most of December and also getting into our obstacle course, which most students look forward to as soon as the first day they get into the gym. In January we will come back and start off with a bowling unit, which as always, we will be having a glow in the dark day of bowling and I will be sending out some more information about that when we are closer to it. We will also be having a fitness unit to help teach the students about fitness and why it is important.

Also as it is starting to get colder and we get chances of snow we will have the opportunity to use the snowshoes outside, so make sure your students have coats and snow pants in case we have a good day to go out and use those. The snowshoes are only for 3rd-5th grade because they are a little too big and complicated for the younger grades to use.

If you have any questions or need to contact us for any reason:

Mr. Hutson zachary.hutson@janesville.k12.wi.us 608-743-7248

Mr. Rand gannon.rand@janesville.k12.wi.us

Schoolwide Title I Program Notice

Schools with an elevated low-income rate receive federal Title I funds to support the learning of all students through a Schoolwide Title I Program. Schoolwide programs serve all children in a school. All staff, resources, and classes are part of the overall schoolwide program. The purpose is to ensure all students, including those most in need, are positioned to meet the state's challenging academic standards. Schoolwide Title I schools annually complete a needs assessment to identify the school's strengths and areas for improvement in student achievement, develop strategies and action steps to address how the goals identified will be achieved, and evaluate and update the plan as needed.

Schoolwide Title I schools are required to engage parents and families in the Title I planning and evaluation process as well as provide opportunities for parents and families to engage in supporting their child's education.

Parents of children enrolled in Title I schools have the right to

- Timely information about services provided;
- Access to a description of the curriculum, the forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of challenging state standards;
- Opportunities or meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children upon their request;

- Response to their suggestions in a timely manner.

Copies of the Schoolwide Title I Plan and the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy are available upon request. Please contact the school secretary at (608-743-7206) or (kristi.filter@janesville.k12.wi.us) to request a copy.