

THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 5 Issue 16



Superintendent's Corner

December is off to a lively start across the district, with students experiencing the season through community, the arts, and future-focused learning.

At WMS, Peer Leadership kicked things off by welcoming "Jingles the Elf" from the North Pole. 6th graders will spend the coming weeks hunting for Jingles' daily hiding spot and submitting guesses for a chance at a festive prize. This builds camaraderie and encourages collaboration among students between now and the Holiday Recess. That same sense of joy and togetherness filled the Whearty Theater for the first WMS Winter Concert. A standing-room-only evening showcasing 288 student performers across chorus and band ensembles; under the direction of Ben Appel and Erin Sica, students delivered a wide-ranging program of winter selections with impressive focus, strong musicality, and visible pride, while families and staff created an atmosphere that truly was a community celebration of the arts.

At WHS, juniors and their families began the college planning season at College Night and will continue the process through upcoming individual conferences and guidance events. Also this week, students explored future pathways through the first Career Café of the year. Focused on health professions, they met with a panel of local experts, asked thoughtful questions, and gained a clearer picture of the many routes into meaningful careers.

And if it's December, there's a good chance I can be found with Lauren Morris's students for our festive holiday photo shoot. This year's shoot took place in her new classroom, now equipped with more sophisticated technology, including real-time editing capabilities.

Be sure to check out our social media for more photos of all these activities.

Noticing the Good

The STEM Lab at Hawthorne was full of energy and purposeful problem-solving this week. Under the guidance of STEM teacher Christin Aboulenein, students transformed their science learning into hands-on investigations and engineering challenges. In kindergarten, children tackled force and motion by sending race cars down ramps and across tracks, tweaking how they pushed to see what changed a car's speed or path, then shifted to "pull power" by inventing balloon poppers and comparing materials to figure out what triggered the best results. First graders dove into sound and light, rotating through vibration explorations with string phones, tuning forks in water, and rubber-band instruments, before using their Makerspace cart to engineer their own communication tools that relied on sound and light signals to solve a challenge. Second graders brought Earth science to life by constructing sandy mountain models and simulating both gradual erosion and sudden land shifts, and they've now launched into a multi-day Sturdy Structures challenge where teams follow the Engineering Design Process to create buildings designed to survive an earthquake.

The Week Ahead

12/6 Elem PTA Holiday Lights Craft Fair

12/9 - WMS 6th Grade Winter Concert 6 pm

12/10 - Spanish Honor Society Induction, Lib; BOE Meeting 7:30 pm

12/11 - CES 5th Grade Winter Concert 6:30 and 7:45 pm

12/12 - HES 2nd Grade Vocal Performance 8:45 am, 9:30 am, 10:15 am

Our Arts in Mount Pleasant Booster Club (AMP) will be at every winter concert, cheering on students and selling limited-edition ornaments/magnets and car magnets — great gifts that support our arts programs.



In Awe of the Paw - Winter Concert Tech Heros

Every year, we're lucky to have talented, hard-working students behind the scenes making sure our performers can truly shine on stage.

Please join me in giving a big thank-you to seniors Lucas Finkel and Owen Samoyedny for their dedication throughout all of this year's holiday concerts. And if you see them as you come in or head out of the theater, feel free to thank them in person!

