



THE WILDCAT WEEKLY

A Note from Dr. G

Volume 5 Issue 17



Superintendent's Corner

This week offered several reminders of the many ways our students bring pride and joy to the Mount Pleasant community. At Westlake High School, we celebrated the induction of our newest members into the Spanish National Honor Society, recognizing students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their study of language and culture. Their accomplishments reflect not only academic achievement but also the curiosity, discipline, and global awareness we strive to foster in all learners.

We also marked the season with a series of holiday concerts. Our second graders, fifth graders, and sixth graders each took the stage, performing a mix of classic and contemporary pieces — including “Last Christmas,” “Hot Chocolate,” “Jingle All the Ways,” and the beloved “Hawthorne School Song.” These programs featured not only full-group performances but also moments for students to shine through solos and small ensembles.

A favorite tradition continued as students introduced each piece, reading descriptions that helped set the tone and offered a meaningful opportunity to practice public speaking and build confidence — skills that extend far beyond the stage.

We encourage everyone to visit our district social media channels for additional photos and videos from these joyful performances. And looking ahead, we hope you'll join us for the WHS Winter Concert next week, as our high school musicians take their turn spreading seasonal cheer.

Thank you to our teachers, advisors, music educators, and families for supporting these experiences that bring our community together.

Noticing the Good

This week, the Board of Education had the pleasure of recognizing a new group of outstanding students as part of our Wildcats to Watch program. Introduced this year, the initiative celebrates students across the district who consistently demonstrate the qualities outlined in our Mount Pleasant Portrait of a Learner — skills and dispositions essential for success in school and life, including collaboration, communication, creativity, resilience, citizenship, critical thinking, and strong character.

Each month, principals nominate students who embody these traits through their academic effort, leadership among peers, kindness toward others, and contributions to the school community. This recognition honors not only achievements, but the way students show up every day — their perseverance, their curiosity, and the positive impact they have on those around them.

This month, we proudly recognize:

- HES first grader Angelina DiFilippo for her perseverance, empathy, and role-model behavior in the classroom.
- CES fifth grader Amelia Roughan for her inclusive spirit, strong leadership, and ability to lift others up.
- WMS' Maria Maraglino for being a well-rounded leader whose involvement, positivity, and dedication strengthen the school community.
- WHS senior Brian Cappa for his outstanding character, work ethic, and the positivity he brings to everyone around him.

We look forward to continuing this new tradition in the months ahead and celebrating more students who bring our Portrait of a Learner to life each day across the district.

Our HES, CES and WMS Music Teachers



The Week Ahead

12/18 - WHS Winter Concert 8 pm



5th Grade Concert Program Artists Peyton Broderick and Giuliana Ruttenber

In Awe of the Paw - The Grinch

Hawthorne staff and families helped make our inaugural Hat & Glove Drive and Grinchmas celebration a great success. Students and staff dressed in Grinch-themed green, and every class took a photo with the Grinch (aka Ms. Mancini). In partnership with the Knights of Columbus of Thornwood, we collected more than 350 hats and gloves for local families in need — along with handmade cards from our students. Thank you to art teacher Melissa Mancini for organizing this wonderful community effort.

