



Inside the Pack

From the Desk of Principal Lockenvitz

Inside the Pack is published monthly by the Washington School PTO to promote communication between the PTO, school, and parents. The newsletter includes PTO updates, committee news, notes from the school office and general school information. Submissions are welcome and should be sent to Rajiv Shah via email: rajiv.shah@alumni.illinois.edu or using the submission form available in the school office. The deadline is the first FRIDAY of each month.

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As we approach winter break, I want to wish the students, parents and staff of Washington School a Happy Holiday Season. This season includes many holidays for people of various cultures around the world. It is my intention to be all inclusive and to recognize that we have students and families who celebrate a variety of holidays which include Diwali, Hanukkah, Las Posadas, Kwanzaa, Christmas, etc... All of our customs and traditions are special to each of us. It is in respecting and recognizing the uniqueness of others that allows us to become closer to each other.

In the spirit of light, hope, joy, peace, love and togetherness, it is my wish that all of you get to spend some time with the people who mean the most to you and enjoy some closeness that too often we do not get to enjoy because of our hectic schedules. I wish all of you Peace and pray for Peace around the world. I am very thankful for the many blessings that my family and I enjoy and one of these blessings has been the pleasure of working at Washington School. I wish you a Wonderful New Year!

Happy Holidays,

Jeffrey T. Lockenvitz

Cold Weather Is Here: A reminder to dress your children appropriately now that cold weather is upon us. We will go outside for recess as long as it is 20 degrees with wind chill or above. As the cold & flu season is upon us please remember to call the school office (829-7034) by 9:30 a.m. if your child will miss school for the day. You can also visit the home page of the Washington School website & click on the link to email the absence to the office. As a reminder, please listen to WJBC AM 1230 or check www.District87.org for weather related closings/cancellations. Remember, we only serve the city of Bloomington and have no rural routes, so District 87 will frequently have school when other districts close.



PTO Calendar

No meeting in December.

January Meeting, Jan 9 at 6:30, will have a guest speaker, Rebecca Francois, Special Education Coordinator, from District 87 will be our speaker for the evening. She will discuss special educational services as well as testing and referrals available through our district.

Mark Your 2012 Calendars:

January 9th - PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, Guest Speaker

February 6th - PTO Meeting, General Business

March 5th - PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, General Business

April 2nd - PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM, General Business

April 25th & 26th - Spring Book Fair & Discovery Days!

It's A Halloween Tradition!

For those of you who are curious as to when Washington Elementary School began the tradition of the Halloween Parade, we have an update for you. Thanks to some friendly Washington Alumni on the Washington Elementary School's Facebook page, we have narrowed the date of the first Halloween Parade to sometime between 1959 and 1966. So that would mean the parade has been going strong for at least 45 years!!! Of course, if anyone has any information that can pinpoint the date even further, we would love to hear from you. To see the full trail on Facebook, follow this link:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/55412899246/>

Written by Eileen Backman



From the Learning Center

We would like to thank all the students, parents and teachers that made our Barnes and Noble book fair special. This book fair and activity was organized with the help of Mrs. L. Oblinger-Hammond, staff and parents. We really appreciate their hard work and dedication to the school. An extra special thank you to Mrs. H. Hoffman, Mrs. K. Hennenfent, Mrs. L. Oblinger-Hammond and Ripley Oblinger-Hammond. We would also like to thank the Normal Corn Belters for providing Corny and the Bloomington Public Library for providing us with the character costumes.

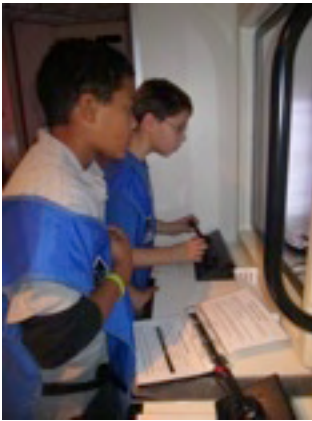
Thanks again
Mrs. Singhal



Home of the Wolves
WORKING TOGETHER...LEARNING FOR LIFE

Washington Fifth-Graders Rendezvous with a Comet!

At the mission control center, a group of young flight controllers are checking their computer screens while they communicate instructions to the team's astronauts located in the simulated space station. The astronauts are just wrapping up their first experiment as the communication from mission control comes through. The team's daring mission: Get an up-close view of a comet.



Such was the scene earlier last month at the Challenger Learning Center in Normal, Illinois, as each of Washington's fifth grade classes participated in a half-day program at this fascinating facility. The students spent many weeks preparing in advance for mission day: mastering scientific terms, graphing coordinates, and

participating in team building activities. In addition, the grade hosted a visit from one of the high school science teachers who put on an entertaining and educational session for the children --- even Mr. Lockenvitz participated by showing the children how to make a comet out of dry ice and sand (and diet coke!).



The students also learned the history of the Challenger Learning Center, which was started by the families of the 7 astronauts and high school teacher, Christa McAuliffe, who lost their lives in the

tragic Space Shuttle Challenger disaster on January 28, 1986. Currently, there are 48 Challenger Learning Centers throughout the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and South Korea. Our community is so fortunate to have one of the 48 centers located at Heartland Community College, making it convenient for our students to participate in the fantastic programs they offer.

Each fifth grade class took their field trip on a different day. While at the center, the students are divided into teams and then embark on what appears at first to be a rather routine mission (plot a successful course to rendezvous with the comet, build and launch a probe to collect scientific data and keep the astronauts safe), but they faced many unexpected challenges and emergencies along the way. Each obstacle required the teams of students to work together to problem solve and implement a solution . . . before anything else went awry! As one student on the probe team commented "It was both fun and nerve-wracking!"

Luckily, each of the fifth grade class missions was a success! Mr. Freeman's class located a comet they named "Comet Freeman", Mr. Jones class "had a blast" (pun intended!) discovering "Comet Piggy," and Ms. Molnar's class found the "Comet Molnar".

The goal of this Challenger Program is to instill in these young science students the belief that when they work together, they can achieve anything. We feel quite certain that mission was accomplished!

Written by Eileen Backman





Locks for Love 2012 is tentatively set for the 3rd Sunday in May. Complimentary hair cuts provided by Fox & Hounds. Locks for Love is looking for 10 inches of any kind of hair, even dyed. No bleach products, but perms and the like are acceptable. Start growing your hair out now for a great cause!



Market Day
A fundraiser like no other.

Thanks to everyone at Washington School who helps our organization by ordering your Market Day each month!!

Here is a list of which grade profits each month from Market Day. Please help volunteer!

- Thur 1/5 -Special Educ.**
- Mon 1/30-2nd**
- Mon 2/27-1st**
- Fri 4/6-3rd**
- Mon 5/14-Specialists**

Because of the holidays, the next pickup will not be until Jan. 5, 2012. It is on a Thursday instead of the usual Monday.



BOX TOPS

Please cut the Box Tops for Education from the General Mills products you use and bring them in to school. Ask your family to save them for you as well!

We earned \$184.50 for October from Box Tops for Education!

Box Top Winners for November:

Kovis Cross In Mrs. Rowsey's Class

Leilani Newbill in Mrs. Van's Class.

Love your Library

THE SECRET SCIENCE ALLIANCE AND THE COPYCAT CROOK By Eleanor Davis donation from Aidan Peterson

FABLEHAVEN KEYS TO THE DEMON PRISON By Brandon Mull donated by Haley Hamblin

WAR HORSE By Michael Morpurgo donated by Jane Romack

DIARY OF A WIMPY KID CABIN FEVER By Jeff Kinney donated by Jake Tucker

THEODORE BOONE KID LAWYER By John Grisham donated Jenette Hoffman

Around the Bend

December 8th- Assembly with Toby Tire

December 19th – December 20th – All the grades will be having class Holiday Parties

December 22nd – Winter Break Begins, Have a safe and Happy holiday. We will return on January 5th.

1,000,000 Word Readers!

Here are our four more 1,000,000 word readers:

Lauren Sellmyer- 4th Mathy

Anna Blair- 4th Mathy

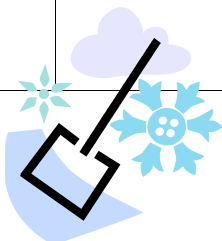
Mason Ryan- 4th- Babb

Aidan Medlock- 5th- Molnar

December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:00 Daisy Scouts 5:30 Volleyball 6:30 Cub Scouts	2 5:00 Chess Tournament	3 8:00 Chess Tournament
4	5 3:20 Spanish Club	6 3:15 Science Club 5:30 Volleyball 6:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Cub Scouts Committee Meeting	7 3:15 Chess Club	8 Assembly with Toby Tire 5:30 Volleyball 6:00 Girl Scouts	9	10
11	12 3:15 Girl Scout/Brownie 3:20 Spanish Club 6:00 Daisy Scouts	13 3:15 Science Club 6:00 Cub Scouts 7:00 Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	14 3:15 Chess Club 6:00 Cub Scouts	15 5:00 Daisy Scouts 5:30 Volleyball 6:30 Cub Scouts	16	17
18	19 1:30 Holiday Parties 3:20 Spanish Club	20 1:30 Holiday Parties	21 End of Grading Period	22 Winter Break Begins	23 Winter Break	24
25	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break



January 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2 <i>Winter Break</i>	3 <i>Winter Break</i>	4 <i>Winter Break ends</i>	5 <i>Return from winter break</i> <i>Market Day pickup 3:45</i>	6	7
8	9 3:15 Brownies 3:20 Spanish Club 6:30 PTO Meeting	10 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Volleyball 8:00 Cub Scout Committee meeting	11 3:15 Chess club 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Daisy scouts	12 5:00 Daisy Scouts 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Volleyball 6:30 Cub Scouts	13	14
15	16 <i>Martin Luther King Jr Bday</i> NO SCHOOL	17 <i>School Improvement day</i> NO SCHOOL	18 3:15 Chess club	19 6:00 Volleyball	20 5:00 Cub Scout Pack meeting	21
22	23 3:15 Basketball 3:15 Girl Scouts 3:20 Spanish Club 6:00 Daisy Scouts	24 3:15 Science Club 3:15 Basketball 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:00 Volleyball	25 3:15 Chess Club 3:15 Basketball 6:00 Cub Scouts	26 3:15 Basketball 5:00 Daisy Scouts 6:00 Volleyball	27	28
29	30 3:15 Basketball 3:20 Spanish Club 3:45 Market Day Pickup	31 3:15 Science Club 3:15 Basketball 6:00 Volleyball				