



# 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](mailto:rajiv.shah@alumni.illinois.edu) or using the submission form available in the school office. The deadline is the first FRIDAY of each month.

### PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD 2011-2012

#### PRESIDENTS

Amie Keeton 827-8871  
Courtney Turnbull 585-0298

#### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Stephanie Reed 662-3257  
Amanda Mateer 531-3873

#### TREASURER

Danny & Diane Uhls 664-0589

#### SECRETARY

Angie Baker 820-0392

**Thanksgiving Dinner** – Fall marks the time for our annual All School Thanksgiving Dinner. We celebrate this season of togetherness and appreciation by pairing classes from different grade levels for a variety of activities. The culminating event of sharing a meal has been a wonderful way for us to learn together and to reinforce our closeness as a school. On Thursday, November 17, we celebrate with our eight annual Thanksgiving Dinner for our students. Because we will use a modified lunch period on November 17, and we will be very crowded, we are asking that parents **NOT** come to lunch with their children on that day. **Please note** the changes in the lunch schedule on this date. During the lunch period, Mr. Lockenvitz will have a few comments on thankfulness and the special community at Washington School. Each class will also read a statement or two related to their thankfulness. Community, family, and relationships have always been important to the students and staff of Washington School.

**Veterans Day** - On November 11 we will say the Pledge of Allegiance together as a school on the intercom and then have a moment of silence to recognize all veterans that have served our country. Classrooms will have a variety of different activities to honor our Veterans and to highlight the sacrifices they made and continue to make so we can live in freedom. To all of the Veterans of the Washington Community, we sincerely thank you for all that you have done for our country. We honor your commitment, dedication and patriotism and appreciate the sacrifices that you endure so we can continue to live as free Americans.

**School begins** at 9:00 each day and dismisses at 3:15. Please get your students here on time. This teaches them responsibility for life!!!

**We. Fit. In Fundraiser** – Thank you to the students, parents, volunteers and sponsor for their participation in the We. Fit. In. Fundraiser. Your overwhelming support and efforts have made this our most successful fundraiser in decades.

#### TOP 3 CLASSES THAT WIN A WOLF PARTY

**Ms Weddington's** 3rd Grade \$ 1275.85

**Mrs. Waldorf's** 1st Grade \$1211.00

**Mrs. Wilson's** 2nd Grade \$1015.00

GRAND TOTAL FOR OUR SCHOOL **\$20,708.20**



## PTO Calendar

No meeting in December.

January Meeting, Jan 9 at 6:30, will have a guest speaker, Rebecca Francois, Director of Special Education for Dist. 87 on Monday.

## Eager Students and Parent Volunteers

During the cold winter days of January and February, consider a reading program over lunch! **Reading Wolves and Pawsome Readers** provide a fun way to do this! Sign up for one or both programs. Registration forms go home the week of Nov. 7th.

Sign-up Deadline: November 23, 2011

Questions? Contact Michelle Sleevar at [msleevar@ilstu.edu](mailto:msleevar@ilstu.edu) or Sharon Sipes at [skms123@comcast.net](mailto:skms123@comcast.net).

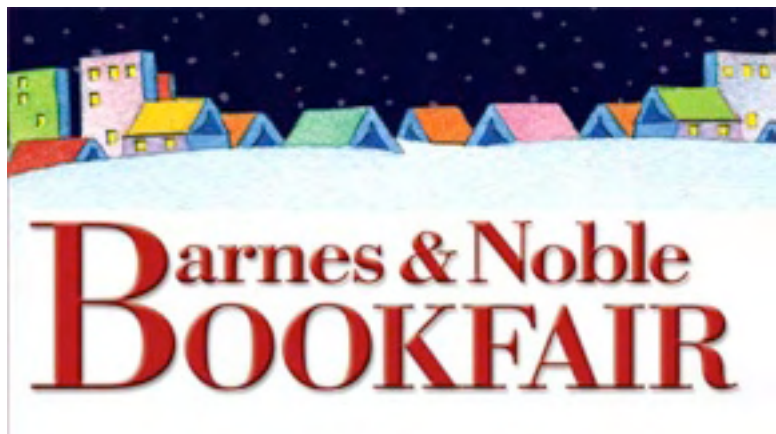
## PBIS

**PBIS** – Positive Behavior Intervention and Support – Students in each classroom have been recognized as Den Leaders for their commitment to following the Washington Way. Den Leaders have their name read over the intercom and their picture posted outside of their classroom.

We are ready for our second “**Out of the Blue**” day here at Washington. Out of the Blue days are designed so students from each class are chosen to have lunch with the principal. It is designed to reward students who Follow the Washington Way on a consistent basis and make good choices each and every day.

We also continue to promote for our students to be “**Pawsome!**” Students caught being “Pawsome” receive a “Pawsome” slip to take home and have a Paw print placed on our secret square bulletin board for an additional reward. Ask them how they are doing with this!

This year we are partnering with **Heritage Health Nursing Home**. The week of October 17th our ticket winners went to visit the residents. They had a great time decorating pumpkins. The ticket winners will visit the residents at Heritage Health Nursing Home once a month.



Our B&N book fair is on **Nov 19th** -you can shop all day and all week online. We will have reading activities from 1-3 pm with guest readers, and meet storybook characters like Dora, Curious George and Cat in the Hat. Drink Washington Hot chocolate as you check out selected student art work in the cafe.

We hope to see you there.

## It's a Halloween Tradition!!!



Every year on October 31st, beginning around 2:00 p.m., a

commotion starts to brew at Washington School. First, parents and grandparents, alone and in groups, begin to unfold on the school parking lot, armed with cameras, strollers and an eager look. They position for the best spots for viewing what is about to come.

When the school doors finally open, the smallest ones to trickle out first: princesses, skeletons and ninjas. Some of these little ones break ranks and run to their parents, the



rest line up up behind the leader for their grade: the one holding the big "K" sign.

As more and more monsters and goblins descend upon the lot, they form lines of characters arranged from smallest to tallest. Interspersed between your classic ghosts and funny clowns you might spot a giant bottle of ketchup or even a bright yellow banana!



Then out from the crowd appears one lone (very large) wolf. He waves kindly to the children and parents, and poses for pictures. Then he leads the way as the children line up at the gate to begin the Halloween Parade! The children parade their costumes around the block of Washington School (East on Washington, South on Krietzler, West on Grove and North on State).

It's a Halloween tradition!

So how long has this tradition been going on? That is not an easy question to answer. It pre-dates our current principal, Jeff Lockenvitz, who has been serving for 18 years (and student teaching 10 years prior to that). Suffices to say, it has been going on a very long time! (We are still reaching the answer, and hope to have it for you by next month's Newsletter!)



This year we had beautiful weather for the parade, to the parents' and children's delight. As the children made their way around the block, many parents joined the line, holding their little ones' hands, or just walking beside them. And as the last children made their way out of the front gate, the parents rushed along to other side of the school on State Street to greet the parade on its return.

It is a wonderful Washington School tradition --- full of fun, laughter, surprises and mystery. And one mystery that remains unsolved is just who is inside the big grey wolf costume? Happy Halloween!

*Written by Eileen Backman*



## Dairy Queen “Spirit Day” is a Great Success!

Washington School PTO held its very first “Spirit Day” at Dairy Queen on Veterans Parkway in Bloomington last month.

Organized by Diane Uhls, the event took place on October 18, 2011. Some Washington School families came out for dinner, and some just for desert . . . but either way, everyone had a great time and helped support the PTO.

When the evening was through and the tummies were full, the event had raised **\$446 dollars** for the

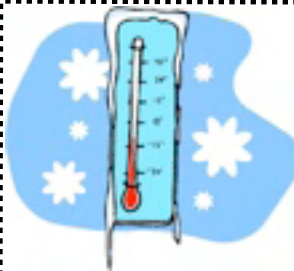


Washington PTO!!! The event was such a success that they are hoping to hold a second Spirit Day this school year! If you missed it last month (or if you did come out and had a great time) be ready to show your school spirit if the event comes around again next spring!



Washington School is very grateful to Dairy Queen for helping support our children. Thanks Dairy Queen!

*Written by Eileen Backman*



### Inside / Outside

If it is 20 degrees (with wind chill) or warmer, students will wait outside for the 8:55 a.m. bell to ring unless it is raining or

snowing. For lunch recess we use 20 degrees as a guide to see if we are going outside or not. We either call Time and Temperature on the phone or pull up the weather.com or WJBC websites to get the info. Please dress your children appropriately for the weather.

## ISAT/School Report Cards

The School Report Cards from the State of Illinois have been released and can be found soon online at <http://www.district87.org/reportcards.php> or at <http://iirc.niu.edu/>. We are very proud of our student’s scores and attribute their success to the hard work the students, their parents and their teachers do on a daily basis. **For the 4th year in a row 90% of the students in grades 3, 4, and 5 have performed at the Meets or Exceeds level on the ISAT.** This qualifies us for an **Academic Excellence Award for the 2nd year in a row!** The Academic Excellence Awards recognize sustained excellence in elementary schools where 90% of students pass the state tests in Math and Reading for at least three years.



**Have you  
seen the  
Washington  
School  
website  
lately?**

The Washington Wolves website is the best place to find out the most up to date event & schedule information. There you will find everything from lunch menus & PTO information (including the newsletter), to weather related issues, special events, staff email addresses & so much more! Please bookmark our page: [www.district87.org/washington](http://www.district87.org/washington) & check it often!

**Reminders**

- PE shoes are still needed in the winter months. If your child wears boots to school, pack their PE shoes in their backpack.
  - Always cross at the crosswalks!
  - New cell phone number?
- Please call the office at 829-7034 to update your info.

**1,000,000 Word  
Readers!**

Here are our three more 1,000,000 word readers:  
 Hanson Hao- 5th grade- Mrs. Molnar  
 Corinna Jones- 4th grade- Mrs. Mathy  
 Haley Hamblin- 5th Grade- Mr. Freeman

**Reading Counts  
Info**

Students in grades 2-5 have been participating in the Scholastic Reading Counts program. This program encourages students to read books and then complete a ten question quiz on the computer about the book.. Points are based on the difficulty of the book. To date, the students at Washington School have accumulated 13,458 points and **read 40,869,561 words in 2631 books.**

Earlier this year, I challenged the students to read **110 million words** by May 11, 2011. Based on the current progress, the students should meet their goal. Please encourage your student to read for pleasure and model this for them at home. You may want to read to them or along with them so you can engage them in meaningful conversation about the book.



**TUTOR**

• Looking for a tutor? – You can contact Anita Addicks – 309-532-4240

**LOST & FOUND**



There are TONS of coats & jackets in the lost & found

already. There is a barrel full in the cafeteria & another one in the gym as well.

Please see the office for lost eyeglasses. We have several pairs!

**After School Pick-up**

If you are picking up your child on State St after school, please use your car sign with your child's name on it. This will allow for a much quicker pick up for you and for the teacher. If you need a car sign, please let the office know.

**Weather Closings**

Weather Closings – Please listen to WJBC AM 1230 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.

## Future Scientists Meet Weekly at Washington School



If you happen to be walking through the cafeteria around 3:30 p.m. on a Tuesday afternoon, you are bound to run into them: a group of miniature scientists exploring the realms of the known and the unknown.

It's Science Club: Currently a group of thirteen fourth graders who are eager to learn and to grow – their session will last 8 weeks. Third graders will be signing up for the club after winter break for their 8 week session in the spring. Seventeen fifth graders just finished up their eight weeks stint last month.

Science Club is lead by a certified science teacher (and current stay-at-home mom) Marsha Veninga. She is assisted by many parents and family member of the students currently enrolled in Science Club. With these volunteer assistants, Marsha is able to lead the students through weekly hands-on and materially-intensive activities.

So what do they do in Science Club? The students' favorite activities usually involve the chemistry experiments, where they get to mix substances together and see what happens (so far there have been no explosions, thank goodness!). Marsha prefers the more open ended activities, "that allow the students to really use their imagination, like Investigation Thrill Ride where they design a crazy roller coaster ride for a marble and Pinball Wizard

in which they make a pinball machine that shoots a marble and sends it zigzagging down an obstacle course." Those sound like lots of fun!

Marsha comments that "Science Club has given me the opportunity to share my love of Science with students." As she is grateful for her opportunity to share, we are even more grateful to her for being so generous with her time, her knowledge and her skills --- and for being able to inspire a love of science in our children.

Science Club meets weekly on Tuesdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the school cafeteria. All students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades are eligible to join during their designated session of Science Club. If you want to learn more about Science Club, please contact Marsha at [marsha\\_doug@yahoo.com](mailto:marsha_doug@yahoo.com) .

*Written by Eileen Backman*



We are proud to announce the Washington School United Way totals; The Washington School students raised \$1,604.42, while the staff raised \$859.00. Great job!



Locks for Love 2013 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!



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!

- Mon 11/21-K(this is also the pie sales month)**
- Thur 1/5 -Special Educ.**
- Mon 1/30-2nd**
- Mon 2/27-1st**
- Fri 4/6-3rd**
- Mon 5/14-Specialists**



## 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 October:

Grant in Mrs. Fehr's Class

Lane in Mrs. Lartz's class

**SAVE THE DATE**

# Supporting Washington Barnes & Noble Bookfair

Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Barnes & Noble

1701 E. Empire St.

*Shop all day for the holidays and support our school!*

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?

Visit [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) to support us online from 11/19/11 to 11/23/11 by entering Bookfair ID 10559979 at checkout.

A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit Washington School!

Diary of a Wimpy Kid



## Barnes & Noble Bookfair supporting Washington Elementary School

Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Barnes & Noble

1701 E. Empire Street

Bookfair ID 10559979

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.

This offer is available only at participating Barnes & Noble stores. Some restrictions apply. See [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) for more details and to register.

## Barnes & Noble Bookfair supporting Washington Elementary

Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Barnes & Noble

1701 E. Empire Street

Bookfair ID 10559979

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.

This offer is available only at participating Barnes & Noble stores. Some restrictions apply. See [BN.COM/bookfairs](http://BN.COM/bookfairs) for more details and to register.

# Thanks to our WE.FIT.IN Sponsors

GREEN SPONSORS



**Laura C. Randolph MD**  
2502 E. Empire, Suite C 309-664-6222

**THE THAI HOUSE**  
OF BLOOMINGTON  
805 Morrissey Dr.

**Women for Women**  
Susan Svientek, M.D., FACOG  
Sherri Thornton, M.D., FACOG

GRAY SPONSORS



State Representative  
**Dan Brady & Family**

**PRAIRIE OAK**  
VETERINARY CENTER

Matt Fraker, D.V.M. Meredith Pieper, D.V.M.  
Kimberly Burks, D.V.M. Christine Tysiak, D.V.M.

**ALL ABOUT AUTO**

RAY ROLON  
NORMAL, IL



**STEVE & STACEY BARGER**  
**TOM & CAROLE BARGER**

**KUMON**

MATH. READING. SUCCESS.  
716 E EMPIRE SUITE A BLOOMINGTON IL 61701  
309.829.5053 www.kumon.com

**WASHINGTON**  
**STAFF**



**FRIENDS IN KIND**

**KELLY'S BAKERY**  
**FIT BODIES CROSS FIT**  
**TOM & JANELLE RAGUSA**  
**ANGIE MOORE - STATE FARM**  
**JILL LYNCH**

## Volunteers Wanted

**PEX Email Coordinator** – This person will be responsible for maintaining and updating the PTO's email database. This position can be worked from home.

**Staff Appreciation Volunteers are needed** - Want to help us appreciate the amazing staff at Washington School? The Staff Appreciation Committee (part of the PTO) plans and provides a lunch every month to thank all the staff for their dedication to our kids. We could use more people willing to donate food items or help for Staff Appreciation meals. These meals occur once a month, but you can indicate how often you'd like to help and your availability will be confirmed each month. Donations can vary from desserts to main/side dishes...you get to choose. Please contact Maryann Mellor if you would like to contribute.

## Sponsors for We. Fit. It

We thank our sponsors for their very generous donations and encourage the Washington School community to acknowledge their appreciation by patronizing their businesses.

- Kelly's Bakery - Cookies
- Angie Moore - \$500 State Farm hours and Matching gift
- Tom and Janelle Ragusa – Fit Bodies Cross Fit- taught one entire day Cross Fit lessons to PE classes
- Jill Lynch – is teaching 5 Nutrition game classes

### \$500.00 "Green" Sponsors

Thrivent Financial – Chris Ayers  
Women for Women – Dr. Susan Thornton  
Align Life – Center for Natural Health – Olinger  
The Thai House of Bloomington –  
McLean County Orthopedics – Dr. Joe Novotny  
Frontier Communications  
Dr. Laura Randolph

### \$250.00 "Gray" Sponsors

Prairie Oak Veterinary Center – Dr. Matt Fraker  
Kumon – Math Reading Success –  
All About Auto – Ray Rolon  
Washington School Staff  
Tom and Carole Barger  
Steve and Stacey Barger  
Commercial Packaging  
State Representative Dan Brady

# November 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 3:15 Science Club 3:15 Volleyball 5:30 Volleyball 6:00 Cub Scouts	<i>2</i> 11:00 Challenger 5M 3:15 Chess Club	<i>3</i> 9:00 Field Trip Kindergarten 9:15 Field Trip 1st Grade 11:00 Challenger 5J 3:15 Volleyball 5:30 Volleyball 6:30 Cub Scouts	<i>4</i> 11:00 Challenger 5F	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i> 3:20 Spanish Club 6:00 Daisy Scouts 6:30 PTO Meeting	<i>8</i> 3:15 Science Club 5:30 Volleyball 6:00 Cub Scouts 8:00 Cub Scouts Committee Meeting	<i>9</i> 3:15 Chess Club 6:00 Cub Scouts	<i>10</i> 5:00 Daisy Scouts 5:30 Volleyball 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30 Cubs Scouts	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 3:15 Girl Scouts/Brownie 3:20 Spanish Club	<i>15</i> 3:15 Science Club 5:30 Volleyball 7:00 Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	<i>16</i> 3:15 Chess Club	<i>17</i> Thanksgiving dinner 5:00 Daisy Scouts 5:30 Volleyball	<i>18</i> Dome Theater Assembly	<i>19</i> 1:00 Barnes and Noble Book Fair
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> 3:20 Spanish Club 3:45 Market Day Pickup 6:00 Daisy Scouts	<i>22</i> 3:15 Science Club 5:30 Volleyball 6:00 Cub Scouts	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> Thanksgiving No School 	<i>25</i> Thanksgiving No School	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 3:15 Girl Scouts/Brownie 3:20 Spanish Club	<i>29</i> 3:15 Science Club 5:30 Volleyball	<i>30</i> 3:15 Chess Club			

# 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 Winter Break
25	26 Winter Break	27 Winter Break	28 Winter Break	29 Winter Break	30 Winter Break	31 Winter Break

