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Rib Mountain

GT Coordinator Corner

Thank you for taking the time to read our GT newsletter. We are working very hard to improve communication with our families, and this newsletter has become an efficient way to share information with our stakeholders. Please feel free to share any ideas YOU may have by emailing krpeterso@wausauschools.org. If it's information important to you, chances are very good that it would be meaningful to other parents as well.

The GT Department's final program of the year, the **GT Music Experience**, was held recently on March 5 at Wausau East High School. Fourth and fifth graders from all 13 elementary schools gathered together for a day-long experience and rotated among three sessions: *Movement and Music*, *Singing-Vocal Technique and Harmony*, and *Playing African Drums, Xylophones & Rhythm Instruments*. The day culminated at 1:45 pm with a casual "informance" designed to showcase their talents in the auditorium at East.

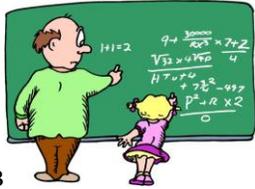
Students who participated were not only nominated by their music specialist, but they were also required to complete a self-nomination as well. Teachers rated students on a scale of 1 to 4 based upon singing proficiency, ability to work cooperatively and collaboratively with others, proficiency in core musical concepts such as rhythm, pitch and melodic direction, and enthusiasm related to a high motivation and interest in music.

This experience was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Wausau School District GT Department, the WSD Fine Arts Coordinator, Mrs. Marie Northup, and our very talented elementary music specialists: Jordan Dinjer, Kathleen Johnson, Sana Wressell, Kira Monahan, Christine Kue, Melora Cumberland, Angela Lenselink, Corey Meyer, and Lacy Gildenzoph.

There are others who deserve recognition for this wonderful program. We would like to say thank you to Wausau East for hosting this special event, and recognize Kirsten Hornby for her assistance as she was instrumental in helping with many details. Thank you, Kris Peterson, our GT secretary, for her tremendous organizational skills which made the event run so smoothly. Lastly, we'd like to thank our students and families for their interest and support of music in our schools.



Families celebrated their Art Cluster students at the Art Cluster Reception held at the Marathon County Public Library on Saturday, March 3. Art will be on display there until March 20.



Here's the Buzz From Mr. B

March 2018

As the district's middle school gifted and talented resource teacher life has been full of variety and adventure. Much of my job description has stemmed from administrative and teacher requests for support. However, parental requests for support are welcomed and at times even necessary due to the large number of students between the schools. Would I be surprising you to inform you how a number of middle schoolers are not prone to reaching out for support? (I didn't think so.) If your child is struggling, a goal for all of us is to build student self-advocacy through learning to independently seek guidance or assistance.

Up to this point, Mr. B has been working to help students reach their potential by:

- GUIDING students toward challenging electives and enrichments.
- SUPPORTING them when something at school is keeping them from reaching goals.
- TEACHING the importance of experiencing failure and overcoming challenges.
- PROMOTING perseverance so students work to stick with a challenge.
- ENCOURAGING self-advocacy in seeking help.
- ASSISTING with writing projects, Mathia, WAVE online classes, and much more.
- DEVELOPING an itsLearning course to offer:
 - insight about issues with perfectionism.
 - extension plans for students who finish classwork early.
 - information regarding study skills.
 - expertise from professionals in building self-advocacy in dealing with boredom.

Let me know your thoughts, suggestions, or questions at aboller@wausauschools.org, especially if your child is in need of a support not mentioned above. If you need me to call you, please let me know a few dates and times when it would be most convenient for you. With your child's best interest in mind,

Mr. Aaron Boller
Wausau School District
Middle School Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher

Book Bowl

On Thursday, February 15, 2018, the WSD Gifted and Talent Department sponsored the annual Elementary Book Bowl at GD Jones. Twenty-nine teams total comprising of 211 WSD students from grades 3-5 participated in the competition. There were over 40 adult volunteers and coaches for the students. Those who helped with the program included: Elementary and middle school teachers, parents, WSD paraprofessionals, WSD administration, librarians, and Wausau West students.

[Click here for photos of winning teams.](#)

Parent Resources

Summer offerings not specifically endorsed or affiliated with WSD:

[Summer 2018 SOAR Camp for gifted 7-9th graders](#)

[Northwestern University](#)

[John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth](#)

[UW Stout Steps Summer Camp for girls between 6th & 7th grade](#)

[Epsilon Math Camp \(ages 7-11\)](#)

[MathPath Camp \(ages 11-14\)](#)

[AwesomeMath Camp](#)

Ongoing – [Northwestern University online courses for Gifted Students K-12](#)

How to Find GT Website

From wausauschools.org click on **Departments & Programs>Education>Gifted Education**

At this point, you can choose to view our handbook, look at parent resources, view information about our programming, email our staff, etc.



Please watch your email in early April for a GT survey. We appreciate your time and feedback.