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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 final GT Advisory meeting of the year was held on May 7, 2018, during **Teacher Appreciation Week**. This was fitting as it provided a special opportunity to recognize and thank all teachers who not only serve on our advisory so faithfully, but who also work so hard every day to meet our students' needs.

In addition to recognizing our fabulous teachers, we also took a moment to celebrate our administration including the members of the Education Department as well as our pupil service team members, parents, and community. On the TOP of that list was our board of education who continues to view gifted education as a top priority. We also recognized and celebrated our amazing students, and we renewed our sincere mission to provide the best for each and every one.

We have a wonderfully supportive community in Wausau which includes partnerships with the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Arts Museum, Boys and Girls Club, and many area businesses. We celebrated the collaboration between these businesses and among our many departments within the Wausau School District: *Fine Arts, Education, and our Technology* to name a few.

Our celebrations continued to include the many structures we already have in place to directly support GT including: *GT Advisory Committee, GT Identification Committee, GT Department (including a coordinator, 5 GT Learning Resource teachers, and a secretary)*, identification process outlined, acceleration opportunities, universal screeners used to find students, talent pool, handbook, board policies and more.

Gifted education is important in the Wausau School District, and it's everyone's responsibility to ensure the best for all learners. We are grateful to have the support of the Wausau School District and the Wausau Community at large, and we are committed to this important work.

The following students were semi-finalists in a contest sponsored by the Library of Congress called Letters About Literature:

5th graders Myla Welle and Emma Granville from Hewitt-Texas and Abbey Olson from John Marshall.

Over 700 4th, 5th and 6th graders from Wisconsin entered the contest.

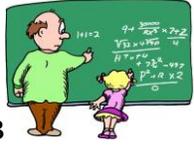
Congratulations to these students!

For your
Calendar

October 4, 9 & 17, 2018
Elem. Leadership Conference

November 1 & 2, 2018
WATG Conference

November 15-18, 2018
NAGC Conference



The Buzz from Mr. B

May 2018

Year one as middle school GT resource teacher is wrapping up. I have already been busy laying the foundation for relationships with 5th grade GT and Talent Pool students at the elementary schools. Hopefully, those I've met have mentioned our meeting. What a fun bunch! The wildest horses couldn't keep me from coming back to work with next year's 6th grade.

I'd like to communicate to you the gist of what I am discussing with the 5th graders. One of my jobs is to ensure a smooth transition for them into middle school where GT services will differ from those provided in elementary grades.

At times, I work with zero students while preparing activities for every student such as when I add enrichment opportunities to my itsLearning course. I add lots of rich information for parents, too. Other times, I may be supporting 1, 2, or 3 students working through high school math classes within the district's WAVE online math acceleration programming.

Some students gave me a slightly worried look when I told how I would be soaring over them like a hawk, monitoring them throughout the year, making sure they keep up their best efforts. Students who get to middle school and let themselves slide (check out my itsLearning summary about Seth Perler's seminar!) will be on my "Focus Student" list and will be watched extra close. This past year, I even stole several students away from their resource periods for special intervention time for academic support, encouragement, and goal setting.

Currently, the idea for next year is that I will teach math and language arts enrichments which will alternate each quarter for 6th and 7th grades. Afterschool activities for motivated learners will include Math Counts and Science Olympiad at each school.

Reach me anytime at aboller@wausauschools.org, especially if your child is in need of extra support. Speaking of support, keep an eye out for more itsLearning summaries from The Bright and Quirky Child Summit. I have been learning a TON from the featured experts not only as a teacher, but as a Dad! The seminars are geared toward those who parent or work with children who are "2E," or twice-exceptional. However, all adults who work with children will find some or all of the information useful. We're talking about "game-changing" info!

With your child's best interest in mind,

Mr. Aaron Boller

Parent Resources

Summer offerings not specifically endorsed or affiliated with WSD:

[Northwestern University](#)

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

[Summer 2018 SOAR Camp](#)

[List compiled by GDCLAN](#)

[STEM for Young Scholars \(Grades 6-9\) @ UWSP](#)

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

["State of the State" in gifted education 2018](#)

11 Tips to Get Kids to Read Good Books

Adopted from [Gifted Guru](#)

1. Learn how yourself.
2. Get the back story.
3. Develop the skills of deep reading.
 4. Read aloud.
 5. Manage expectations.
 6. Book groups are great.
7. Editions and context matter.
 8. Shorten them.
 9. The power of proximity.
 10. Feel free to abandon.
 11. Get cool reader stuff.

For more in depth discussion of this list, click on the link above to visit the Gifted Guru website. The Book Bowl 2019 books have been chosen. [Click here](#) to check out the list. Have a great time reading this summer!

5th Grade WAVE Students



Fifth grade WAVE students participated in a math collaboration day at Rib Mountain Elementary School on March 21 and May 9. The purpose of this event was to allow for deeper level thinking and a hands-on learning experience. It was amazing to see the quick friendships that formed and the excitement as they shared their love of math and learning. A special thank you to Daren Catlin, District Math Coordinator, and Amy Jaglinski, GT Learning Resource Teacher, for taking time to help plan and run this event.



Check out this online summit that our GT Resource Teachers experienced:
<https://www.positiveimpactfamily.com/bright-quirky-summit-evergreen/> (fee for registration)