

Wassom Word

January Issue

Important Dates

- Jan 7 report cards mailed home
- Jan 11 PTO Dance
- Jan 18 Prof. Dev. No school
- Jan 21 No school
- Jan 25 progress reports
- Feb 4-12 Crush Grams
- Feb 5-7 AdvancEd Visit
- Feb 18 no school
- March 8 end of 3rd nine weeks

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Snowball Dance Crowns King & Queen

By Paulette Atkins

The Wassom Winter Snowball was held on December 14, and once again it was a great success! As in the past, using secret ballots, each grade level nominated students to be Princes and Princesses of the Snowball Court prior to the event. Those students chosen by their classmates were:

6th grade-Alec Kegler, Payten North, Victoria Hernandez, and Samantha Wegrecki.

7th grade-Christian Gaines, Lewis Shepherd, Tatiyana Slater, and Nicole Quigley
8th grade-Tatiana Lopez Flores, Teigan Brown, Stephanie Vera, Andrew Korn, Blake Calhoun and Austin Branch.

That night, amid the twinkling lights & cascading balloons, Mr. Austin Branch, and Miss Teigan Brown were crowned King and Queen of the 2012 Snowball Dance by Mrs. Butts, school principal. After many photos, the King and Queen lead the Court to the dance floor to begin the first dance of the evening before a large crowd of their classmates, teachers, and parents.

Once again, Mr. Cottone did a great job with photographs, and a special thanks to Mr. Hicks & Ms Kitson for helping make the decorations truly special. Thank yous also go to Ms. Jo, Mrs. Chinetti, the PTO and any and all parents and faculty who were so helpful in having another great event for our students.



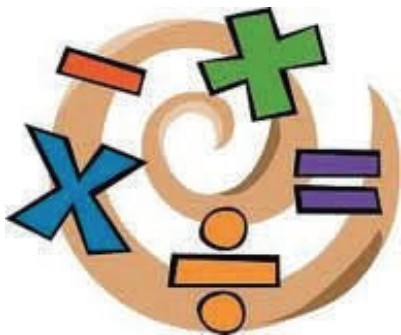
Visits

By John Straub

The AdvancED visiting team will spend three days February 5-7 observing, interviewing, and looking over our school. You may be one of the parents that will be asked to meet with the interview teams. We understand you are busy and may have the commitment of a job. If you cannot help when the time arrives, we certainly understand. Please remember we greatly appreciate your help and cooperation in the accreditation process. If you would like to volunteer to participate please contact Cindy Griffin at 270-640-1218. The goals we are working on during this process are:

Goal 1 All students will increase achievement in Math through problem solving.

Goal 2 All student will increase achievement in written communication.



By Jill Hoskins

Happy New Year! The second semester of the school year is a very busy time for all of us at school especially for the Guidance Department. This month, the counselors will be presenting guidance lessons entitled, *The Motivation Formula* in the 7th & 8th grade classes.

Also, all 8th graders will be taking the NAEP (National Assessment for Educational Progress) on February 14th, 2013.

In addition, the Terra Nova will be administered to all students on February 25-28, 2013. This is the standardized tests that we are required to give to all of our students annually. It is imperative that students be in attendance to take the test! Please be sure that you are here every day that week to take the subtest that will be administered on each of those dates!

T-Timed Test! The Terra Nova is a timed test. So, pace yourself. Don't go so fast that you make careless mistakes, but don't go so slow that you run out of time!

E-Eat! Eat a healthy breakfast each morning before the test. Include protein-brain food!

R-Read & Review! Read each question carefully & make sure you understand it before answering. Review your answers.

R-Rest! Rest well each night before each test day! Get a good night's sleep!

A-Arrive on time! Students are not admitted into the testing rooms once testing has begun!

N-Never give up! If you aren't sure of an answer, narrow down your options by eliminating answers you know are not correct and then choose the choice that seems best to you of the options that are left.

O-Optimistic Attitude! Keep a positive attitude. Tell yourself, *I can do this!* Show what you know. Stay strong!

V-Very important! The Terra Nova is very important because your scores show your parents, teachers and administrators what you have learned in the past year. Vow to give it your best effort!

A-Always check your work! If you finish a section before time has been called, go back over your answers & check your work!

Math Resource for Students and Parents

The math curriculum that we use at Wassom Middle School can be accessed at home over the internet. The program provides the complete book, study guides, examples, tutors, and chapter practices. To access the materials you can go to www.glencoe.com and when prompted log in using the international resources - student/parent and mathematics-Math Connects: Concepts, Skills, and Problem Solving-Course 1 2009 -6th grade, Course 2 2009 -7th. When you try to access some materials it will require you to put in an access code. The codes are as follows:

6th grade C85D08EE67 7th Grade D4B84EEFB2

Snowball Dance Crowns King & Queen





WASSOM'S STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



7th grade Student of the Month!

The White Team nominates Trey Newton for student of the month! Trey is very respectful when interacting with adults and is polite and courteous to his peers. He is an outstanding student who is self motivated and focused. Trey is a hard worker and always gives 100% effort. Great job Trey! By Jasmin Probst

6th grade Student of the Month!

Kellyne Skillin is a delightful hard working young lady. Kellyn always comes to class ready and willing to learn. She is very precise and conscientious of her work. She is very willing to help other students, participate in the lesson, and work cooperatively within the groups.

Hunter Ford is a delightful young man. He comes to class ready and willing to work. He works well in all situations: alone, pairs, or groups. He takes leadership roles within the group setting and is always willing to help another student. He comes to class excited and ready to learn. Hunter takes an active role in his learning by participating in questioning, seeking answers, and utilizing many problem solving skills.

Emilia Gossett is a delightful young lady. She comes to class with a smile on her face and is eager to learn. She adapts well in any situation and is more than willing to assist another student. She is very quiet but makes a big impact on her peers and teachers with her willingness. By Debbie Iturrian

Enrichment Student of the Month!

Jonathon Dailey is presently a 7th grade library assistant, and does a really great job. He works very hard to keep materials shelved and neat, is courteous to our patrons and even helps other students by suggesting book titles that he has found interesting. Jonathan is always looking for ways to help in the library, even volunteering to help when his class comes in, and I am shorthanded. Having worked with him last year I know Jonathon is dependable, has a great work ethic and will be successful in whatever area he decides to pursue as he get older. By Paulette Atkins

8th grade Student of the Month!

Gabriela Perez Acosta is the 8th grade student of the month. Gaby, as she has allowed friends to call her is an outstanding student. She works diligently and looks for details to allow a positive outcome. A friendly and thoughtful young lady who makes her parents and teachers proud of her. By Mrs. Arroyo

MUSIC DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

Here's what's coming up for Band students!

After school Honor Band rehearsal-January 23, 30 (These are on Wednesdays)

After school sectional rehearsal:

Th-January 24- Percussion

M- January 28- Percussion

M- February 11- Woodwinds

Th-February 21- Brass

M- February 25- Percussion

Honor Band auditions Saturday, February 2

Honor Band Weekend February 15-16



By Penny Goulart

Hello parents – It’s never too early to think about immunizations, especially since our school system requires current immunizations to remain enrolled! Please make sure your student gets those 11-year-old shots and both Hepatitis A shots, which are 6 months apart. The chicken pox shot is also a 2-shot series that is 1 month apart. These are the most commonly forgotten immunizations.



3 Ways to Help with Box Tops!

1. Clip the Box Tops from hundreds of participating products and send them to school.
2. Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® boxtops4education.com/marketplace
3. Sign up to support our school at boxtops4education.com



Envisioning Tomorrows Educational Technology Needs Today

By Ted Sharp – Educational Technologist

A joint survey by Speak Up, a National Research Project, in collaboration with Blackboard, Inc.; asked students, educators and parents to envision the ultimate school for today’s 21st century learners. While students in all grades continued to voice strong support for personal laptops that they can use both in school and at home as a key part of their ultimate school, student interest in online learning, and specifically the use of online tools, continues to grow. Middle school students in grades 6-8 are primarily interested in online extra help to support a traditional class where they are struggling to grasp the content. Over 46% of students in grades 6-12 include online tools to help them with organization of class work and assignments in their ultimate school, and 41% would like tools to better communicate with their teachers. Additionally, educational leaders, at both school and district offices, indicated they appreciate the value of technology within a 21st century education. Over 88% say that the effective implementation of instructional technology is core to their mission, and 84% believe that technology use does indeed enhance student achievement.

In many ways, today’s 6th graders are much more technology savvy and fluent with the emerging technologies than even their older siblings in high school. 47 percent are tapping into the transformative power of educational games within learning, both in school and out of school. Only 29 percent of their high school peers are doing the same. But what will 6th grade look like in 2015? Will today’s emerging technologies such as mobile learning, online classes or e-textbooks be commonplace in our classrooms? What new, yet to be invented technology tools and services will those 6th grade students be adapting to meet their learning needs, far ahead of the inclusion of those tools by their teachers in the classroom? What will be the expectations of today’s 6th graders for using these new technologies within learning in 2015 when they are in 9th grade? What unforeseen demands will they have in 2015 for their high school (and ultimately college and/or workplace) to ensure personal productivity and 24/7 learning?

For the past eight years, the Speak Up National Research Project has endeavored to stimulate new discussions around these kinds of questions and to provide a context to help education, parent, policy and business leaders think beyond today and envision tomorrow. As first described by Project Tomorrow (2010) in the report “*Creating our Future: Students Speak Up about their Vision for 21st Century Learning*,” today’s students have their own vision for how technology should be used effectively within learning. The findings are quite eye-opening! I encourage you to see for yourself by visiting their web site at

www.tomorrow.org !



NOTE

THE DIFFERENCE

Source: Janice Szabos
Challenge Magazine

A Bright Child:	A Gifted Learner:
Knows the answers	Asks the questions
Is interested	Is highly curious
Is attentive	Is mentally and physically involved
Has good ideas	Has wild, silly ideas
Works hard	Plays around, yet tests well
Answers the questions	Discusses in detail, elaborates
Top group	Beyond the group
Listens with interest	Shows strong feeling and opinions
Learns with ease	Already knows
6-8 repetitions for mastery	1-2 repetitions for mastery
Understands ideas	Constructs abstractions
Enjoys peers	Prefers adults
Grasps the meaning	Draws inferences
Completes assignments	Initiates projects
Is receptive	Is intense
Copies accurately	Creates a new design
Enjoys school	Enjoys learning
Absorbs information	Manipulates information
Technician	Inventor
Good memorizer	Good guesser
Enjoys straight forward sequential presentation	Thrives on complexity
Is alert	Is keenly observant
Is pleased with own learning	Is highly self-critical

PENNY WAR!

By: Destiny Medina

Wassom Middle School Student Council will be sponsoring a *Penny War* during the month of February to benefit the victims of Hurricane Sandy. We would like for students and parents to know about the devastation that occurred from this event. Most people would say that Hurricane Sandy started in New York or New Jersey. The truth of the matter is that it started in Jamaica on October 22nd. Hurricane Sandy began as a huge tropical wave near the Caribbean coast. Due to the storm, three of the top airports were closed down and over 12,000 flights were cancelled. New York City was shut down for two whole days.

One of the worst affected areas was the Irish Enclave in Breezy Point, Queens. Over 100 homes were destroyed over night. As a result of this massive hurricane, trading ceased on Wall Street for two days. Recovery, for these areas alone, cost 50 million dollars. After the previous storm, the amount due for recovery was 55 million dollars. Gov. Chris Christie called it, "Incalculable". In New Jersey, Hurricane Sandy hit around 8 PM. The storm caused a lot of terrible damage. It was a tragedy for a lot of people, especially for those with loved ones in the area.

Yes, there was a lot of damage done, but with your participation in our *Penny War* competition, you are helping lots of people get the help for recovery they need! There will be jars in the front of the building for each grade level. The only way to get your grade levels' amount of money to go up is to put pennies in the jars. You can bring the other grade levels down by putting dollar bills in their jar, as paper money is subtracted, rather than added, to the score. Please enjoy and have fun with the WMS Penny War!



In February, the
READ 180 classes are
sponsoring CRUSH

GRAMS! Buy a
CRUSH for that
special someone!





**Concert Review:
Montrelle Morton**

What overall grade would you give our performance and why?

I give us an A because we worked really hard to prepare.

When you are prepared for something, it helps you do a better job. Not only did we practice during class, we also

mistake.

In your opinion, which piece was performed the best and which piece needed improvement? Use musical terms and justify your answer.

I think we did an amazing job on all the pieces, but “Hanukkah Holiday” was slightly better. I think having the 8th graders play with us helped a lot. They have more experience and we were able to learn from them during rehearsal time. I also liked how the piece switched from fast to slow and then back to fast. It was the most interesting piece. I don’t think we did our best job with “Variations on a

French Carol.” It was a little challenging for the trumpets. I think we could have made more of a difference with our dynamics.



**Concert Review:
Jared Faircloth**

What overall grade would you give our performance and why?

I give us an A because we tried our hardest and our behavior was good. We practiced a lot so that we would be ready for the concert. We listened to each other and the percussion section so that we would stay together.

In your opinion, which piece was performed the best and which piece needed improvement? Use musical terms and justify your answer.

I chose “Siberian Sleighride” as our best piece because it was the easiest to play. We didn’t have to

learn any new notes or rhythms and it was easy to stay together. The tempo was fast, but not that challenging.

From my perspective, I believe “Coventry Carol” was the worst played. I think it was the hardest piece. It had lots of new notes and dynamic markings to learn. Some people had trouble counting correctly and they played on the rests.





**Concert Review:
Autumn Gonzalez**

What overall grade would you give our performance and why?

I would give us an A- because we had good sound quality and played the dynamics well. However, I did hear a few mistakes. Some people came in too early. I made a rhythm mistake on one of the pieces.

In your opinion, which piece was performed the best and which piece needed improvement? Use musical terms and justify your answer.

I think “Coventry Carol” was the best piece because we played all the dynamics well, kept the beat, and did a very good forte piano. We started off and ended nicely, as well.

I picked “Siberian Sleighride” as my least favorite, because it was the least musical. We did not play the dynamics as well as the other pieces. It was also hard for me to continuously play the beginning rhythm, as I was unable to hold my breath that long!

