



The Paw Print

BCWMS

April 2020

Springtime traditions celebrated

by DIANA ESPARZA

Many students at WMS look forward to Spring. Warmer weather, a break from school, and new sports seasons help remind everyone summer is just around the corner.

During this season, some students also celebrate Easter and family traditions that it includes.

Easter is a holiday that is often celebrated with baskets full of candy. It can also be a fun time to spend with your family.

7th grade student, Lexi Mulder said that she and her family enjoy spending time together.

“We go to my grandma’s house with all our family and we do an Easter egg hunt that is really fun and entertaining,” she said and added, “after that we have dinner then we do a bunch of games that I love playing with them.”

See **SPRING**, pg. 2



Brotha James performed music and lead students in thinking about impact at the last assembly. See more on pg.4.

Staycation this Spring Break

by KAYLA MEREDITH

Though many students plan vacations over Spring break, some don’t step foot out of Byron Center for the entire week.

Spring break may not be the best time to vacation anyway. Even if it is convenient that students aren’t forced to miss any school, many parents must miss work to go on a Spring Break vacation.

Besides, it can be expensive and super crowded; hotels fill their rooms months in advance and can be more than the normal price.

Taking a trip to a tropical island does sound appealing, but it doesn’t have to be the only enjoyable option. For many, taking a “Staycation” every year has become a tradition.

The purpose of a “Staycation” is to be on vacation, but in your own house.

Step one is to set the mood; make it feel like a vacation. Buy paper plates and plastic utensils so you don’t have to do the dishes or skip out on laundry for a few days, and order dinner in as if you had room service.

Ignore all but the essential communications from your phone. You cannot evade chores forever, but cropping out a space for you to just vacation will be some much-needed revitalization before the final push to summer.

A vital element of your Staycation is shaking up the routine.

See **STAY**, pg.2

SPRING, Cont. pg. 1

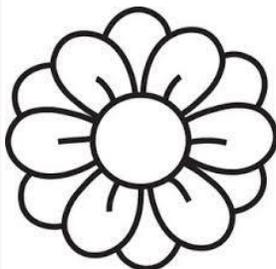
Logan Standish said, "On Easter, we go to my parent's cottage and host a party where all our relatives come over. One of the things I enjoy most is getting to play all the fun games such as having an Easter egg hunt. I also have a pleasant time eating all the food and getting to hit the piñata."

Along with Easter traditions, many families go on annual trips during this time of year. Cecilia Pell, an 8th grader heads south.

"My family always goes to Florida for Spring Break. It's something we all look forward to because it is a chance to relax before school starts again," she said.

7th grade student Leah Myhre said her family also enjoys traveling to Florida for break and tries to go every year.

Many students have special traditions that they and their family enjoy doing every year.

**STAY**, Cont. pg. 1

You ARE on a vacation, but staying in the same house can take away from the "Vacation Vibes," so change it up. It doesn't have to be a major change, but something as simple as potting a plant in the window sill or hanging a small decoration can be something fresh to look at.

There are other ways to fill the day, as well. Go roller skating at Terry Hall or the FunSpot.

8th Grader Jannine Perez said, "If some of your friends stayed back with you and they live near you then you can arrange times to hang out, with school out of mind. If you go on vacation, there is a very small chance that your friends will be going with you."

Go bowling at Woody's. Take a class at the Downtown Market or Local Rec Center. Cooking, crafting, babysitting, CPR and woodworking classes are traditionally offered.

You could also relax outdoors in a hammock or by a grill. Pick a series and binge-read it! Go to the drive-in or cheap seats. Remember to be adventurous with your movie choices: see an old classic, a rom-com or a horror film. Spend a bit on popcorn, candy and drinks.

There are many ways to have an exciting and entertaining staycation. You could switch points of view, exploring your city as if you are a tourist. Visit your city website and some tourism blogs to find free public events, concerts and picnics. Visit local parks and hike a trail or feed the ducks. See if there is a State or National park under 2 hours from you.

Plan a day trip somewhere with your family, because this will give you something to look forward to over break. Remember that the more effort you put into planning your trip, the more you will get out of it. Pack a lunch and visit a local museum, zoo, or butterfly garden. Arrange to have a "night on the town," visit specialty shops you wouldn't normally go into and look at the products just for fun. Save up and splurge at a fancy dinner restaurant. Just get everything you want like appetizers, desserts and drinks included, without even looking at the price.

Afterwards, go see a play at the Civic Theater. The idea is to have fun without leaving home. Just take some time to appreciate the place you are already in.

If you are still jealous of the vacationers, there are some ways to replicate travel. Head to an indoor pool like the Kroc Center or YMCA to swim and pretend it's the Ocean. Make tropical smoothies in your blender at home while listening to Hawaiian Ukulele music. Or, if a mock-vacation doesn't satisfy your Vacation urges, take a Mini-Vacation. Staying 1 night at a BnB or even getting away to stay with relatives can be refreshing.

Another option is fake camping. Set up a tent in your backyard, (or living room, depending on weather) cook smores on a campfire (microwave) and just relax. In fact, relaxing is what makes a great Staycation.

According to 7th Grader Addison Meredith, "I have stayed at home every year except for one and the best part of taking a 'staycation' is just relaxing."

One of the best parts of a staycation is the sense of nowhere to go and nothing to do. Normal weeks are chock-full of appointments, responsibilities and are just annoyingly busy. Sit back and enjoy the the time.

Though it is good to plan day trips ahead to look forward to, leave some free space to just see what happens. The key to having a good Staycation is YOU!

You need to TRY to make this a fun vacation, TRY to plan fun events and have a good attitude about staying home, even as you scroll through 100's of friends Instagram pics of Island sunsets and dolphins.

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Teacher Feature:

Teacher Adds Fun to Class



by LEA PRUS

Mrs. Wauben is a Math teacher at BCWMS. She grew up in a tiny town near Flint, MI called Chesaning.

She has two siblings: an older brother who was a detective in Grand Haven and a younger brother who currently builds houses.

Mrs. Wauben went to Central Michigan University for an undergraduate degree, and got her master's degree in Educational Leadership at Michigan State University.

Her first teaching job was at Corunna Middle school teaching 8th grade English and Math. Mrs. Wauben has worked at Byron Center for 20 years.

She's certified to teach English and Math but, she likes teaching math the most. She said likes the "variety of solving problems and seeing kids come up with answers to them."

She enjoys teaching percentages, because every student will have to know percentages and it will carry with them forever. Her favorite part of math to teach is Algebra.

Mrs. Wauben is married and has three children; her youngest is Alex, who is a 7th grader currently at BCWMS. Gracie, who is a senior in high school, and Alex, who goes to Western Michigan University.

Some of her hobbies are exercising, watching her children participate in activities like her daughter Gracie in dance, Alex playing football, baseball, basketball, and watching Matt play sports as well.

Her biggest inspiration is her step mom because she was her 4th grade teacher. Mrs. Wauben said, "Seeing her work is when I decided to be a teacher."



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Solo and Ensemble Musicians Strive for Success

By EMMA WHEELER

Solo and Ensemble is an opportunity for band and orchestra students are able to perform in front of a judge and get feedback. Students could either perform as a soloist or as a small ensemble, which is more than one person in a group.

Many band and orchestra students choose to perform in it, as it is not required. Beth Fredrickson, who is in 8th grade, performed in Solo and Ensemble last year, “I am excited for Solo and Ensemble because it is a chance to prove my skills on flute. Last year Solo and Ensemble were fun because I was doing it with friends and I won a blue ribbon.” She is just one of the many band students who enjoy this opportunity.

Mr. Townsend is the band director at WMS and he thinks it is an awesome opportunity for the students. “It requires students to problem-solve independently. It also can give a greater individualistic sense of accomplishment when they do well,” he said.

But Solo and Ensemble is also open to orchestra players too.

Citlali Esparza, who plays in 8th grade orchestra, said, “It was fun because I got to connect with my friends and learn different types of music. And it was fun to see what we got rates, and realizing the potential I have by getting a blue ribbon.” This year she is doing a solo and two trios!

Mrs. Langford, the orchestra teacher, is also very excited about Solo and Ensemble. “Solo and Ensemble is awesome because it gives the student time to focus on their individual strengths and weaknesses, and lets them learn in an Ensemble environment,” she said.

Overall Solo and Ensemble is a very fun opportunity, and if you’re in band or orchestra should definitely take part next year.

RISE ASSEMBLY: IMPACT



Impact encourages students to leave a positive mark on their school and their community with positive actions. You can impact someone else by helping them or saying something nice. How will you impact others?

Student Council Teaches Life Skills

By DIANA ESPARZA & MACILYNN SHAFFER

WMS Student council has been hard at work planning events and activities. So far, they arranged the dodgeball game in the winter celebration assembly and the Hand2Hand drive.

Student council consists of a team of twenty-six students, including a president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

These students meet about twice a month to discuss what they will plan for our school. Mrs. Mines leads the group.

When asked why she decided to get involved, Mrs. Mines said, "I was in student council when I was in middle school and at Grand Valley State University, and I think that it is a great way to learn life skills like being a leader and staying organized."

Mrs. Mines enjoys seeing students lead in our school through this group.

If you are interested in joining next year's student council, listen to the announcements at the beginning of the year to learn how to apply.



WMS Artists and Writers Break Record

by MIA RUSH

Every year, students in Art and Writing compete for keys in the annual Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

In the West Central Michigan region, BCWMS has won a total of 10 Gold Keys, 11 Silver Keys, and 31 honorable mentions. Combined with the awards won by Byron Center High School, students won nearly 100 awards this year to represent the district.

"This year was a record-breaking one for us. With 50 awards earned in art and more by our ELA students, it was the most success we have ever had at WMS in the 12 years we have participated," Mrs. Campbell, the WMS art teacher said.

8th grade student, Cullen Brownell won a Gold Key and 3 Honorable Mentions. He expected to do well in the competition and had been working on art to enter since 7th grade.

7th grade student Addison Foote won a Silver Key for one of her digital art pieces. "I just entered one piece and was happy when I found out," she said.

Many other seventh graders did not get the chance to enter anything because of the age requirement, which is to be thirteen by the deadline of the competition.

8th grade student Kayla Meredith won an honorable mention for a stop motion animation film that she did with a fellow student. When asked about whether she expected the film to win anything, she said, "I didn't think it would win anything, honestly. I thought it was a really good idea in the beginning, but stop motion is meticulous and a little mistake can ruin an entire scene."

There are 27 categories that students can enter in the annual competition and notable winners include famous artists like Andy Warhol and writers like Stephen King.

"The students who won Gold Keys get to move onto the national competition in New York City where they will be juried again by a new set of professionals. If a student gets a national Gold Medal, the work is invited to be a part of a year-long nation-wide art show that travels from state to state and the student is invited to get their award at the celebration in Carnegie Hall in New York City," Mrs. Campbell said.

When asked about what her expectations were for awards this year, she stated, "I never know what to expect. We often do well because students create such unique works. If we go this year, it will be the 6th time we have done so and anyone who might win a national medal gets to join a list of 9 others in WMS history, with the first one happening in 2008."

Frozen 2: Sequel Shares New Story

by BROOKLYN SCHUTTE

The much-anticipated sequel to Disney's groundbreaking *Frozen* officially released in theaters on November 22, 2019, and later released on DVD and streaming services on February 11, 2020.

Frozen 2 featured the song "Into the Unknown," which was nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Song and is also covered by the popular band Panic! At The Disco. This, along with many new, interesting songs that explored different genres is in the animated feature.

The movie follows the characters from the previous movie, Elsa, Anna, Kristoff, Sven, and Olaf, as they travel to a land beyond Arendelle to discover the origins of Elsa's mysterious powers and secrets surrounding both Elsa and Anna's parent's obscure death.

Along the way, the group encounters cryptic

beings and makes unexpected allies which leads to perilous scenes of danger.

This movie is definitely more intense than the first, although not graphic in any way, and features heavy feelings of grief, battle scenes with weapons, and disturbing deaths.

This movie sets itself apart from others with the positive representation and role models through the confident and independent sisters Elsa and Anna, and the strong bond they form with the Northuldran people.

Frozen 2 is rated 4 out of 5 stars on Common Sense Media, and like the original *Frozen*, it is rated PG.

Although some plot points in *Frozen 2* contradict facts already determined by the first movie, it is worth watching, like any other Disney film.

Thrilling Book offers Emotional Read

by MACILYNN SHAFFER

Abandonment, disappointment, and blazing anger are all feelings Alice Monroe has felt far too many times in her life in the Young Adult novel, *We Will Never Be Apart*, by Emiko Jean.

Imprisoned to a mental ward known as Savage Isle, all that Alice can think about is the smoldering fire that took away the love of her life, for good.

Orphaned from a young age, Alice always finds herself struggling to survive her twin sister, Celie's wrath. The twins struggle through starvation, abusive foster homes, and multiple fires, set by Celie herself.

They then turn to a life of crime and order to survive. When Celie sets the fire that takes Alice's love away from her and sends Alice to a mental facility, Alice begins to plan her revenge.

Just moments before she follows through her revenge plans, young Alice realizes something devastating about her twin. Rated 4.4 stars on the "Barns&Noble" website, and 3.9 on GoodReads, *We Will Never Be Apart*, by Emiko Jean has won the hearts of unsuspecting readers all over the world.

If you are interested in a thrilling book, I would suggest this one.

Festival Results

Band:

8th grade First Division Superior Rating

Choir:

7th and 8th grade Excellent in District Choral Festival, performing at State in May

Orchestra:

8th grade First Division Superior Rating

CONGRATULATIONS!

Soon in theaters...

April 3

Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway (Rated PG)

April 10

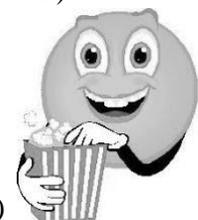
Trolls World Tour (Rated PG)

April 17

My Spy (Rated PG-13)

May 29

Artemis Fowl (Rated PG)



Is Different Better? Chromebooks at WMS

by JOLIENNE SCHUTTE

The 7th and 8th graders at BCWMS have different versions of the Chromebook. 7th graders get Chromebooks with cases while 8th graders receive Chromebooks equipped with touchscreens and styluses.

Which Chromebook is better? To most, the option with a touchscreen, 360 bending of screen, and a stylus is clearly ideal to get certain class projects complete. This may not be so, though, to others. The Chromebook with the case may be better for those who are more prone to dropping or damaging their computer.

The differences may just be the reason that different grades are

given different computers. Since 7th graders are new to the building and the process of middle school as a whole, they are most likely going to drop their computers more. From experience, it helps to have a protective cover over your computer when you're first learning to bring it everywhere.

In 8th grade, projects and assignments get more advanced and the majority of them are digital which would excuse the fancier computers. 8th graders have more experience in the school, and have more responsibility and are trusted not to damage their computer as often.

Deciding which style of Chromebook is superior is hard to do and depends on the person. One may prefer the bulkier style, while another may find a liking to the sleeker design.

Even so, giving students different computers still seems unnecessary. It would seem that giving everyone the same model of Chromebook would be much easier and convenient.

If everyone were to receive the same computers, it would make getting a loner easier decrease the amount of times computers are broken if everyone were to get cases on their computers. For the most part, it seems unfair to equip students differently.

New Filters Prove Frustrating

by CAITLYN MATHIESEN

The new filters on BCWMS computers are a complication.

They are both a help, and a problem. The favorable thing about them is they block problematic things to school work. But the bad thing is that some sites, like the language translator in history, that are helpful to learning are blocked. Sites that are completely harmless like spotify, are blocked, preventing us from listening to music while we work.

It also makes it difficult to complete assignments with how much they block. It's difficult to find an unblocked photo for school work.

Of the pictures that are not blocked upfront, when you go into them to copy them, you can no longer see them, which can make it take five or ten minutes to find a picture of what you need, and it's a waste of class time.

The filters can also make it more difficult for teachers, because if the sites they normally use are blocked, they have to spend their time finding new ones, and that's a waste of time if they already found a good dependable one.

And if students are doing a project, you may need different websites, and so many are blocked. It can make a project more difficult, and overall, I think the filters are making school harder, not easier.

Spring Break

Relax	Play A Game	Go for a Walk
Learn a Skill	Read a Book	Make Art
Play Music	Watch a Movie	Write a Story

Swimmers Dive for Successful Season

by CITLALI ESPARZA

Swimming is one of the hardest sports, as it requires full-body strength and endurance. Even so, swimmers still have a good time through often long and arduous meets and practices.

Paige Meyers, an 8th grade swimmer said, "I like cheering people on during meets. I also like having fun with friends at swim practice, like splashing people or just being weird."

This team supports each other through every win and loss, and encourages all their teammates along the way.

Natalie Holmes, an 8th grader on the team said, "I like the friends and the events... The meets are really fun, although they're also like super long. I also love hanging out with friends at practice."

Sarahi Huerta, also an 8th grader, said, "I love to swim, it's one of my favorite sports. I like the relationship I have with my teammates and I love the meets because we get to encourage people. The practice is fun because we get to hang out with friends and strive to become better athletes."

Clearly, these swimmers can have a good time through lengthy meets while working very hard.



Friendship Brings Team Together

by CITLALI ESPARZA

WMS Basketball teams work extremely hard after school doing drills, scrimmages, sprints, and plays. There are four teams; two for each grade.

Madelyn Vandam is on the 8th grade team. She is new this year and said, "It has been very welcoming. I have been playing basketball since 6th grade. The team works great together. And I haven't gotten injured so far which is good."

8th grader Sarahi Huerta said, "Basketball is fun because when we are serious, we can also have fun. When we mess up, we don't get mad at each other, we laugh it off. For example, we sometimes are about to score for the other team and we don't notice until we see everyone stop and look so confused. We don't get mad at each other for making mistakes, we laugh it off and learn from the mistakes. Basketball takes my mind off things and makes me happy. During basketball practice, we do some pretty interesting things. We give each other family roles in the team and we make sure the 7th graders have fun too and get included in the family."

Kenzie Hoff plays on the 8th grade team and she said, "My basketball experiences this year have been amazing. We always have so much fun and we are so nice to each other. We love encouraging the 7th graders and having fun during games."

The 8th grade coach is Ted Lang who also teaches Math at the high school. He enjoys coaching and said this team is a fun one to lead.

"They are extremely hardworking. During practice I try to teach them ball control and how to work better as a team. They are extraordinary athletes with a lot of potential. The team has worked hard to overcome multiple obstacles. These athletes have a strive for the game and I cannot wait to see what comes next," he said.

All the girls on the four teams seem to have a lot of fun in basketball as they encourage their teammates through the games.

These athletes work extremely hard to be game ready. And all together, they work as a team to succeed.