



# The Paw Print

BCWMS

October 2017

## Less Chaos With Lunch Change

by MARY O'NEAL & PAYTON STUCK

Students were not the only thing to move up from Nickels Intermediate this year to West Middle. Their lunch set-up was also introduced to WMS to help students easily move through the hot lunch line.

Each month a group of students goes to the lunchroom first to get their lunch, while another group of students waits around three minutes in the gym for

See **LUNCH**, pg. 2



*7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had a chance to get a hands-on experience with history when the mastodon bones discovered at a recent Byron Center building site made their way to WMS. Students compared the size of the mastodon bones to that of a cow to show scale and weight.*

## B.E.S.T. Helps Students Better Their Skills

by MCKENNA MORRIS

Students are working toward better skills and grades in the new WMS B.E.S.T. program. B.E.S.T. stands for Bulldog Enhancement & Support Time and has taken the place of homework lunch this year.

It is designed for students who need extra help with homework or students who just

need a quiet place to work. The program takes place on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 7:20-7:50 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:50-3:20 p.m. in the library/media center.

Students do not need to sign up to get help and are

See **BEST**, pg. 2

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## News

**LUNCH**, cont. pg. 1 the line to shorten before going to the into the lunch room. The groups are determined by last name. If you bring a cold lunch, you would go straight into the lunchroom and never go to the gym.

The lunch routine at WMS changed because having all of the students trying to get in line at the same time made for a chaotic lunch line. The principals took the lunch idea from NIS, where they split students in half so it wasn't so busy.

WMS doesn't have recess like NIS does. Instead, the gym is used to help divide the traffic for lunch and make it not as busy or as long of a wait for those who eat hot lunch.

Assistant Principal, Mrs. Abby Kanitz said one of the main reasons for the change was to help with amount of students who needed to wait in line.

"We didn't want the to kids feel like they were standing in line forever," she said. She also said that the change has made it easier for the lunch staff and the teachers who help monitor the lunch room.

The feedback has been positive for the change; most students like it because they think it is easier and less crowded than before.

8th grade student Logan Kleibusch said she notices a difference in organization of the lunchroom.

"I like it because it is not as chaotic and makes it cleaner," she said, adding that the amount of other items like lunch trays and silverware are being treated with more respect now that there are not as many people trying to rush through the line at the same time.

Braeden Hinkle, also an 8th grade student, agrees. He likes the change because the lines are not as long to start, so the wait does not seem as long.

8th grade student Isaac Carlson said he thinks the change is better than last year's system of everyone going to lunch at the same time. Even if your group waits in the gym first, Carlson said that you will still get the same spot and it is easier than before.

**BEST**, cont. pg. 1 welcome to come at anytime. Teachers can also request for students to attend if they think it will help them. At B.E.S.T. there are teachers, like 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish teacher Ms. Erin Monk, who will help students with any subject and work with them individually or in small groups.

For the afternoon times, students do need to have their own transportation home. Ms. Monk said they have had a few students coming each week, and they are finding it very helpful and continue to come back. WMS counselor Mrs. Brenna Stibitz is also involved with organizing the B.E.S.T. program. She likes that it offers students a chance to get help when they need it.

"The B.E.S.T. program offers students a time to get some extra help with their homework or simply a quiet place to work. This is a great opportunity for anyone who needs to catch up on missing assignments or for anyone who needs extra support to understand class content. We have teachers who can work with students 1:1 or in small groups. I like the accessibility of the BEST program as it is offered on two mornings and two afternoons each week. When students arrive to school by car or bus on Mondays/Wednesdays, they can simply head to the LMC for the BEST program. On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, students are able to attend BEST until 3:20 p.m., but will need to arrange for a ride home," she said.

Mrs. Stibitz included that she likes the fact that the B.E.S.T. program gives students a distraction free environment to get extra help on school assignments and homework help.

The B.E.S.T. program is most likely to be more appealing to students than homework lunch because they can choose morning or afternoons, and not have to give up lunchtime. It also shows students they can take responsibility of their learning, allowing them to decide if they need help or not with their schoolwork.

## Student Life

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Share your opinion  
with us! Send it to  
our editor and you  
might see it in the  
next issue!



### Teacher Feature: Former WMS Student Becomes Teacher

by JADA O'NEILL  
Science is a fun and exhilarating subject especially thanks to having great teachers like Mr. Brett VanDeRoer who teach it.

Mr. VanDeRoer attended Western Michigan University for two years then later graduated from Calvin College.

Sometimes when people think of teachers, they don't really think about the jobs they had before becoming a teacher.

In Mr. VanDeRoer's case, he had multiple jobs before he became the Science teacher that he is today. For example, he delivered pizzas in high school which to him, had positives and negatives.

"My car always smelled like pizza!" he exclaimed.

Another job he had was working for a plumbing company in college. And unlike his job delivering pizza, this is something that he still continues to do during the summer.

His favorite part about teaching is that 7th graders are a lot of fun and that there is never a dull moment.

Being a good teacher isn't always easy, but in Mr. VanDeRoer's opinion, being a good teacher comes down to someone who can develop relationships with students and someone who can have fun with them. It is also important to have a teacher who truly wants to see students do well and succeed.

If given the choice of sticking with Science or teaching another subject, Mr. VanDeRoer would stick with Science because of the experiments you get to participate in and that is not available in other classes.

As some students continue to get to know Mr. VanDeRoer better, they start to learn that he is a very interesting person.

For example, did you know that he went to this very middle school and graduated from Byron Center Public Schools?

In fact, he was in the first 7th grade class to come through this middle school building when it was built. It's really fascinating to know that someone who is teaching us went through the same experiences as us at this same school. So if Mr. VanDeRoer survived, we can too!



Photo by Jada O'Neill

## Student Life

# Spirit Week Showcases Bulldog Pride



by ADRIANA GOULD

Stars and stripes, raincoats, Hawaiian shirts, legwarmers, leather jackets, and school spirit filled the halls during homecoming week for Byron Center October 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

As a part of tradition, this week offers students to get in the homecoming mood with a spirit day everyday. This gets students excited and involved.

Kyra Syswerda, an 8th grader said, "I like dressing up for spirit days because it is just a fun way to express school spirit, and it is fun to see what other people look like when they walk into the school doors."

The spirit days this year were 'Merica Monday, Touristy Tuesday, Wacky Weather Wednesday, Throwback Thursday, and BC Pride Friday.

For 'Merica Monday, students and teachers dressed up in red, white, and blue. Touristy Tuesday was a chance to dress up as a tourist. For Wacky Weather Wednesday, students used the rainy weather as a cue to wear their raincoats and galoshes. Throwback Thursday had different decades represented. And last but definitely not least was BC Pride Friday, which gave everyone a chance to wear his or her BC gear.

Even though this is only a week out of the whole year, it is very important to many and a fun way to get students involved in an important school event.

Mackenzie Doyle, an 8th grader said, "I enjoy it because it's fun when you can wear something fun to school and everyone else looks just as fun as you."

## Have A Safe, Fun Halloween

by OLIVIA PITSCH

You are walking around the neighborhood on a late fall night. You ring the doorbell of the house covered in shadows. A wild-eyed lady comes to the door and hands you candy.

What night is this and what are you going to wear?

Everyone should be talking about Halloween at this time of year. Parents are talking about kids being safe as they

spend the evening running around the neighborhood.

Students in our very own school are talking about costumes.

Do you plan yours ahead of time or last minute?

Jessica O'Neill, a 7th grade student, said that she is going to be a scarecrow. She will probably wear a plaid shirt, straw hair, and a hat.

Chole Feather, also 7th grader, is going to be an angel. She is wearing a white leotard, with big-feathered

wings, and a halo.

The great thing about Halloween is you can be anything you want to be.

Everyone has great ideas for having a safe and fun Halloween night, especially parents! You can stay safe by holding a flashlight, following road rules for crossing, and wear costumes that fit so you do not trip.

Remember to eat only wrapped treats and do not enter homes for a happy and safe Halloween!!!

## Arts and Entertainment

### Video Game Review:

# New Game Races In *Xtreme*

by KENDALL  
MEAD

*Gameloft* is back with something new. It has been around for more than a decade.

The *Asphalt* series is back with something more than a racing game on a regular track. Now if you like racing but also like the thrill of off-roading *Asphalt Xtreme* is the game for you.

With new car categories such as Pickups, Buggies (UTVs), Heavy Trucks, Muscle Cars, SUVs, and Rally Cars, with the wide selection of new choices you can have fun no matter your interest.

Something new with this game is that instead of buying a car and upgrading it, you need to get blueprints for a car.



Blueprints, can be collected in prize boxes, daily login bonus, achievements, and race rewards, once you have the required amount of blueprints you can build a car.

Any additional prints you might get can be used to upgrade that car.

Another thing available is mastery, where you can race with a certain class of cars such as a Pickup.

It is available on Windows, iOS, and Android. With all of these new updates to the game, it makes it more exciting, thrilling, and is worth the play.

# *Giver* Is Great As Book, Movie

by ISAAC MCKINNEY

The author Lois Lowery gave us a great book which was made into great movie.

I just read “The Giver” for the second time and it was great. The movie is just as good.

The movie (rated PG13) has everything and more action, thrills, mystery, love, and emotion.

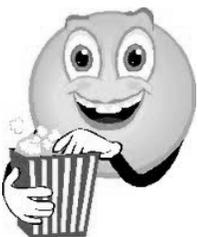
In the world Lowery creates, there is a group of people called the elders who take away emotion, color, religion, and differences and then created “Sameness.” It is a world with no color, joy, love, memories, and emotion.

People don’t get to choose their lives. Their spouses are picked; they are assigned children, and jobs. They don’t have birthdays; they have a certain day where everyone advances one year.

At the ceremonies of Twelves, the children become adults and are assigned jobs. As the main character, Jonas, is being turned to a Twelve, he is not assigned and he is chosen to become the next Receiver of Memory.

There is a very big twist you would have never seen coming unless you read the book. I would definitely recommend this to anyone who has read the book and people who haven’t as well.

### Soon in Theaters...



**November 3:**  
*Thor: Ragnarok*,  
rated PG13

**November 17:**  
*Wonder*, rated PG

**November 24:**  
*Coco*, rated PG

**December 15:**  
*Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, rated PG13

## Opinion

# Success At WMS Is Up To You

by McKENNA MORRIS

Middle school can be a very busy and stressful time, but there are many ways to be successful. It all depends on how you live you're middle school life.

One way to have good middle school years is to not get caught up in drama. A lot of adults remember that middle school was filled with drama, which in many cases is true. Just remember that it's your choice to be involved in drama. Sure, in the moment the drama may be over something important, but in the future does it really matter?

Another way to be successful in middle school is to study a week or two in advance for a test. Many people study for hours the day before the test. A helpful hint is to study a week or two before the test for between 15-30 minutes a night. I am definitely going to try this for tests, quizzes, midterms, and exams. It helps you feel ready for the test, and less stressed out the night before. It also will help you get more sleep the night before the big test,

instead of staying up until the next morning trying to remember and understand all the knowledge you need to know.

Next is to create a routine schedule if you practice an instrument. Depending on how much you want to or need to practice, set certain days that you don't have a lot going on to do this. A schedule helps you get into a rhythm, and not stress you out so much about when you're going to practice your instrument. For example, I set Tuesdays, Thursdays, and a day on the weekend to practice my cello.

Lastly, in middle school you might feel like you get judged a lot. Something that everyone needs to learn and can always work on (including myself) is to not care what others think. That is definitely a big one.

We all need to live our lives the way we want to and they way our parents want us to, not live them the way other people want us to.

Those are some ways to be successful in middle school, just work hard, and keep pushing through!

## No Age Limit For Treats

by MICHAEL DUQUET

Many middle school students still go out and Trick Or Treat, but should they?

First off, look at all of the high school students who trick or treat. In my neighborhood, there are many high school students that still do go out in costumes and ask for candy.

That makes it perfectly fine for middle school students to trick or treat, too.

Next, age doesn't matter. Age isn't a worry while trick or treating. We're still well within being an age that we can trick or

treat. Age only becomes a worry once you become an adult, then it's a little weird, unless you're trick or treating with your kid, of course.

Finally, it's a technically a holiday, and holidays are supposed to be fun.

What fun is Halloween if you can't go out and trick or treat? It just wouldn't be fair.

Trick or treating in middle school is perfectly fine, and you have nothing to worry about when going out during Halloween.

## The Prize Of Enjoying Art



*7<sup>th</sup> grade student Hannah Reda shows off a work from ArtPrize she won by putting a quarter into the "Egg Prize" piece by David Kale. She was one of a few lucky people who received a decorated wooden egg from the machine during the art competition.*

**Sports**

# Teamwork Is In The Heart Of Players

by AVA JONES

Whether they started in a club or in school, WMS volleyball players competed this season as a team.

I asked some of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball players such as Ryen Karel, Lauren James, Ava Bont, and Marlee Bile , Maddy Abuelhawa, Trinity Perez-Ferner, and Ashlynn Wisner about how they got involved on the team.

They all replied strongly why they love this sport .

Karel, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade player said, “It is my favorite sport and I have played for Far Out volleyball club so I thought I would try out for school.”

Another 8<sup>th</sup> grade player said she loves to play because of the competition.

“Because I’m competitive and I love the feeling of winning, I like to challenge myself to become a better athlete. I’m aggressive and I like working with a team and and the improvement that comes over the course of the season,” James said.

7<sup>th</sup> grade student, Trinity Perez-Ferner shared



how her love of volleyball began because of her family.

“I grew up with it. My Grandma was a volleyball coach to my mom at her school. Then my mom became a volleyball coach and it is also really fun and active,” she said.

For some it is all about having fun.

Bont, who plays on the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team, said, “ I thought it was super fun and really wanted to get better at it and I love being on a team sport.”

Like Bont, 7<sup>th</sup> grader Abuelhawa enjoys the teamwork.

“I like how everyone

*Photo by Ava Jones*

works as a team to get the ball over the net,” she said.

Some students, like Wisner, tried out for volleyball to even out the other seasonal sports they participate in during the year.

“(Volleyball) is only a fall sport so I wanted to try out for it and I have other sports I play in winter and spring,” she said.

All of the athletes mentioned how they all love to play as a team.

**Fall Season Records**

Volleyball	Cross Country	Soccer	Football
7 <sup>th</sup> grade A: 12-4-1 7 <sup>th</sup> grade B: 13-1 8 <sup>th</sup> grade A: 9-1 8 <sup>th</sup> grade B: 9-1	Girls won 1 <sup>st</sup> place in 8 meets Boys won 1 <sup>st</sup> place in 7 and 2 <sup>nd</sup> in 1 meets	7 <sup>th</sup> grade: 9-0-1 8 <sup>th</sup> grade 6-4-2	7 <sup>th</sup> grade: 5-1 8 <sup>th</sup> Orange: 1-5 8 <sup>th</sup> Black: 3-3

## Sports

### Run To Fun In Cross Country

by ISAAC McKINNEY

Cross Country is a very different running style. Instead of the usual running around a track, you have the challenge of natural terrain.

This season started strong with the BCWMS team's first couple meets ending with all first place finishes for both girls and boys.

When asked why they decided to join, 7th grader Levi Huesby stated, "It looked fun and I love running so I wanted to give it a shot."

8th grader Grace Helmus said, "I joined cross country because I love running and sports."

When asked what her favorite thing about the team was, Coach Kelli Day said, "I love winning races and performing well, but I really love to see my runners get better and fall in love with running."

Coach Day is also the



Nickels Intermediate 5th grade Resource Room teacher and also the Freshman Girls Basketball Coach. There are two Cross Country Coaches. The other coach is Coach Travis Huesby.

When asked what her favorite part about being in this sport, Helmus answered, "I love how it shows me that I am way stronger than I think and I have a lot to give."

Cross Country is a

great sport and it is challenging because it makes you keep in shape and it is a great start if you want to play on other sports such as soccer, track and field, football, or many others.

The team has tons of fun and on Fridays they play running games like capture the flag and tag.

The team did really well in their meets this year and if you like to run, make new friends, and see yourself grow as an athlete, consider joining this sport next fall.

### 7<sup>th</sup> grade Football Season Ends With Much Success

by ALLISON VANDERSLOOT  
"Ready. Set. HUT!"  
the set of commands put your mindset to football!

The 7th grade football team has escaped the season with only 1 loss! The

team was very happy with their offensive line.

7<sup>th</sup> grade Quarterback Noah VanNest even said earlier in the season, "Our offensive line is good, We could

probably win the three remaining games."

He was correct and they won in the last three games.

The team worked hard and wears their black and orange with pride.

7<sup>th</sup> grade

player, Austin Krauss said, "Wearing it makes me feel like I'm part of a team."

The team was very strong this year and has a good chance of being even stronger when they advance to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2018.