



# DOG TALES

WJHS NOVEMBER 2011

## Thank You Veterans!



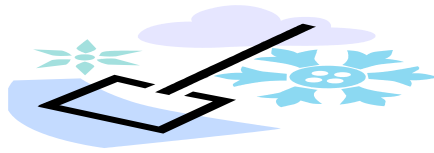
WJHS welcomed Veterans Mike Goodsell (pictured with son Lucas), Jerry Huck, and Scott Geringer on Veterans Day. The three visited classrooms and shared their experiences serving in Korea and Iraq. Students had opportunities to ask questions and learn about what it was like to be involved in war. We appreciate all the sacrifices our soldiers have made!



### A time to be thankful...

**November is a time to reflect on things for which to be thankful. At Waterloo Junior High we have many wonderful gifts. Our dedicated parents and staff members ensure that our students have every opportunity to be successful. The overwhelming majority of our students are hard-working and respectful. We are very proud of their efforts.**

**We would like to extend a special thanks to the parents who worked to make the book fair a success. We are also appreciative of the many parent volunteers who will be giving their time to help our students in the library computer lab. We are very thankful to live in such a supportive community!**



Almost every winter there are a few days when streets and highways become too treacherous for travel. This is especially true when one considers the safety of students on school buses. Immediately after a decision is made to close school, the radio and television stations are notified. This decision is usually made by 5:30 a.m. Please tune in to the following stations for information about school closings:  
KMOX - A.M. 1120 and channels 2, 4, 5, and 30.

Parents will also be notified by our automated phone system. Please call the office if your contact numbers have changed to ensure that you receive a call.

## **Students of Character**

On October 25 and 26, WJHS celebrated the success of many of its students with our 1st Quarter Student of Character Assembly. Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for exhibiting outstanding character traits:

**8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Alexzia Turini, Malorie Rice, Greysan Moehrs, Aimee Dillenberger, Austin Liebert, Angela Stratman, Nat Boyer

**7<sup>th</sup> grade:** Joseph Birrittier, Alexis Wilder, Dakota Gagliardi, Erica Schaab, Ben Elliott, Abbigail Haines, Drew Marshall, Madison Brown

**6<sup>th</sup> grade:** Alayna Miller, Pierson Courtois, James Moody, Remy Heinen, Samantha Boyer, Dylan Hoff, James Salazar, Vivian Ward

**A memo from the WJHS Healthcare Office....**

**Please remember that all prescription and over the counter medications can only be administered at school if parents have completed a medical dispensation form. Parents must bring the medicine to school in the original, unopened package.**

**Reminder to all 6<sup>th</sup> graders...if you have not turned in your dental exam, please do so as soon as possible. The state requires all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to have a dental exam. If you have not yet had your appointment, please schedule one at your earliest convenience.**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Nurse Ann in the WJHS Healthcare Office daily from 8am-2:30pm.**

## **Girls on Track**

The inaugural Girls on Track® team at WJHS successfully completed their fall season with a 5k race in Forest Park on November 12. Girls on Track® is an afterschool program combining health and wellness lessons with training for a 5k running event. We are hoping to put together a team for the spring season also. There will be more information to come after Christmas break. Way to go, girls!

## **8th Grade News**

The eighth grade students just completed an interdisciplinary unit on veterans. The activities that surround this curriculum come from honoring veterans and military men and women. The 8th grade history students formed a *Pathway to Freedom Memorial* throughout the school to honor Veterans. Students will also be learning about the events and causes of the Great War (WWI) until Thanksgiving Break. Veterans were not recognized until after WWI ended. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day.

During math class, students created circle graphs to illustrate and compare the number of American casualties in various wars. In Science, students used a P-38 to open tin cans like soldiers in combat during WW I and WW II. Students then enjoyed fruit salad, which was made in class.

Nonfiction articles about Veterans Day were read in reading class. Students also discussed Eve Bunting's The Wall and recalled their 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Hecker to view the replica that was on display. Entering essays in the local VFW contest was an element of the unit for language classes. The prompt was "Are You Proud of Your Country?" The obvious answer is "Yes, we are." We completed the unit by writing a Veterans Day poem and making cards for the local veterans of the Waterloo area and those in the Jefferson Barracks Memorial Hospital. Eighth grade teachers hope that the unit on veterans made a difference in the lives of the students.

## **7th Grade News**

The 2011-2012 school year is in full swing and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams are working hard in all of their classes on some really exciting projects. In Science, students on Team Lightning have started working on their GTT unit. In this engineering unit, students are working in the computer lab on Autodesk Inventor to design their own dragster. They will build these dragsters and race them using compressed air. The students are really enjoying this and are looking forward to the end product.

Team Thunder students have been learning about simple machines. They have been designing and building Rube Goldberg Machines. Both teams will get the opportunity to do these projects. It is apparent that we have some future engineers at WJHS.

In Math, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are working very hard with their new math series. Recently, they have been working on finishing a chapter on percent, probability, and fractions. To go along with this, many students completed surveys of their classmates and teachers. The students then had to compare their survey results to the actual number and write a response stating why people tend to estimate high or low in that particular case. This made for very interesting discussions in math class.

In Reading, students are working on "Tips to Success" or strategies that help a reader comprehend pieces of literature. Their current focus is connecting pieces of literature to society, books, movies, etc. As they continue to work on strategy skills, they will be writing extended reading responses to analyze different texts.

In Language, the students are writing, writing, writing. We have just begun brainstorming and doing prewriting activities for our first narrative essay. As always, each week brings us a new spelling list as well as daily language review.

On December 2, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking their annual field trip to the FOX theatre in St. Louis. We will be watching Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. What a great opportunity for students to get dressed up and go to a beautiful place!

## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade News**

The sixth grade teams celebrated the first quarter with the Student of Character Assembly held on Tuesday, October 25. Eight students received Student of Character Awards for being Trustworthy or Responsible. We also recognized students who had clean tickets. These students completed all their homework on time, were always on time to class with materials, and were respectful throughout the quarter. Finally, we acknowledged those students who ran in cross-country and played baseball and softball. Eighty-three of our sixth grade students earned high honors and fifty-three students earned honors for their grade point average. We are very proud of our students.

The sixth grade sponsored a community service project. We asked the WJHS students to help those in need in our community by bringing in canned food and personal care items. Our goal was to have 2500 items to donate to the local food pantries.

The students were able to earn incentive rewards the first quarter. The first incentive ran for a week. Students who were in class on time and had all their materials received a piece of candy at the end of the week. The next incentive ran for two weeks. Students who had all of their homework completed, arrived to class on time with materials, and demonstrated respect earned an ice cream sandwich.

Please visit our website [www.wcusd5.net](http://www.wcusd5.net) for a calendar of events and access to Skyward- our student information system.