

# WIS News

JANUARY, 2012



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Jan. 9—Classes Resume
- Jan. 11—Intramural Physicals Due for Spring Intramurals
- Jan. 12—Board of Edu. Committee of the Whole Mtg. at 6:30 p.m. at WMS
- Jan. 13—Smile Illinois Mobile Dentist at WIS
- Jan. 16—No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 18—WPTC Mtg. at 6:30 p.m. at WPS
- Jan. 19—Board of Edu. Mtg. at 7:00 p.m. at WMS
- Jan. 23—Board of Ed. Committee of the Whole Mtg. at 6:30 p.m. at WMS
- Jan. 24—Check Power School for Mid Trimester Progress
- Jan. 25—WPTC Popcorn Day
- Jan. 27 -Board of Ed. Mtg. State of the District at 5:00 p.m. at WMS
- Jan. 27—No School Teacher Institute Day
- Jan. 28—Board of Ed. Mtg. State of the District at 8:30 a.m. at WMS
- Jan. 31—Parent Leadership Mtg. at 6:30 p.m. at WPS

## Principal's Column

Dear WIS Families,

**Setting Goals:** "A new year - A fresh start". It is a time to set new goals and reflect on our successes. Please take a few minutes to help your child set some academic and personal goals.

**Cold Weather:** We have already experienced a number of cold and snowy days. At WIS, students wait inside the building when the weather is below 20 degrees and/or when there is precipitation. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather.

Progress notices will be available on Power School on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. Thank you for supporting your child by monitoring their assignments and grades through Power School. If you have misplaced your password, please send us a written request for password information and we will mail your password to you. For confidentiality and security purposes we are only honoring written requests. Don't forget that phone calls and conferences continue to be an important component to success. We have not abandoned the personal touch!

**MAP TESTING** is taking place during the next two weeks. Encourage your child to do their best.

**THANK YOU** for caring about your child's education. It is wonderful to work in a community where people support their schools!

**Happy New Year,**  
Mary Leidigh  
Principal

### Drop off and pick up procedures

Parents and guardians, safety is very important to all of us. Please remember to cross your child at the cross walk before and after school. By doing so, you are setting a good example for your child. Students may be dropped along Canterbury, however you must park your car. There are no u-turns permitted along Canterbury. We also need to be respectful of our WIS neighbors. Please do not use someone's driveway as a place for you to turn into and reverse directions. Help keep our WIS Students safe!

### Thank You!

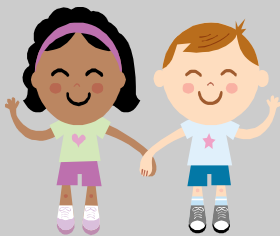
Thank You to the WPTC and all our Parent Volunteers for the Holiday Gift Shoppe and wonderful Winter Parties!

### REMINDER~

February Lunch Order Forms are due on Tuesday, January 17, 2012.

"Children are our most valuable resource."

~ Herbert Hoover



## WIS Cadet Band

On December 20th, The WIS Cadet Band performed for the residents at the Oakridge Nursing Home under the direction of Mrs. Van Horn. This was a wonderful way to give back to our community and the band students enjoyed performing. The residents and staff at the Oakridge Nursing Home were very appreciative of having the WIS Students perform for them and were quite impressed with how well they played!



## WIS Chorus

On December 7th, The WIS Chorus performed for our community, at the Westchester Park District Tree Lighting Ceremony. They did an excellent job performing holiday songs and the community really enjoyed hearing them sing so beautifully!



## ISAT Test

The ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) is the state standardized testing that measures individual student achievement relative to the Illinois Learning Standards. The results give parents, teachers, and schools **one** measure of student learning and school performance. **WIS students will be taking the ISAT test during the week of March 5, 2012. Make-up testing will be during the week of March 12th.** More detailed information will be provided to you as testing time draws closer. Third and fifth grade students are assessed in reading and math. Fourth grade students are assessed in reading, math, and science. We receive the results from this test in the early Fall. Information on the ISAT test can be found at: <http://www.isbe.net/assessment/isat.htm>. If you look at the menu bar on the right side of the page, you will find links to the specific (reading, writing, math, science) tests, as well as information on the state standards, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), other state tests, and a wide range of other information related to the Illinois State Standards and Assessment.

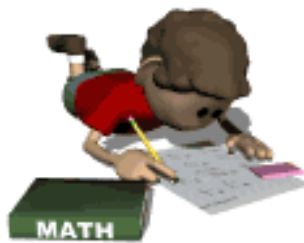
## MAP Test— (Measures of Academic Progress)

The Measures of Academic Progress Test was administered to all students in September. From January 10th-17th, all students will be taking the MAP test again to assess their progress and development in reading and/or math. In April, all WIS students will take the MAP test once again to monitor their growth. The MAP test is a computer adapted test that adapts to be appropriate for your child's level of learning. The MAP test is used to determine each student's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, as well as from year to year in the areas of reading and math. Following the testing period this spring, you will receive a report showing your child's growth. For information on resources for parents, you can download the **Parent Toolkit** at [www.nwea.org/support/article/930](http://www.nwea.org/support/article/930).

## ACCESS Test—(For English Language Learners)

The ACCESS for ELLs® is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure **English language learners'** social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with language arts, science, and social studies within the school context across the four language domains.

**During these testing times, it is important for students to attend school if they are not sick, arrive to school on time, eat a nutritious breakfast, and get a good night sleep so they can perform at their very best. Notification letters will be sent home prior to each testing period.**



## **Help your child to “Be Here, Be Ready”, “Be Responsible” and Develop Study Skills all at the Same Time**

Two of the Key Behaviors of our PBIS program is to “Be Here, Be Ready” and to “Be Responsible”. It is important that students learn both of these behaviors to be successful not only in school, but in life. Students should arrive at school with all of the items they need and be prepared for the activities and tests that will be occurring during that school day. I will admit that I have been quite surprised by the number of items that are dropped off for students on a daily basis. Not only does this impact the development of key life skills – the earlier a child learns these skills, the easier it is for it to be instilled in them - it also takes away from their instructional time when they have to come to the office to find out if something was dropped off for them or to retrieve their items once they have been dropped off. Developing good organizational skills is a key ingredient for success in school and in life. Although some people by nature are more organized than others, it is easy to put routines and systems in place to help a child become more organized. Here are some ideas that may help your child become more organized and develop the responsibility of being ready for school each day. In addition, these ideas can also help your child begin to develop a structure that will assist them with having successful study skills.

### **Set a Designated Study Space and Time**

so children can study in the same place every night where supplies and materials are close at hand. This should be a quiet place with few distractions. Children benefit from routines and having a specific time to do homework helps for it to become an everyday habit. Even if a child does not have specific homework each night, it is best if they complete some work during this time to help develop key school skills such as reading, math facts, writing, or working on an upcoming project/test.

### **Monitor Student Assignment Notebooks**

daily. Each student has an assignment notebook that should list the assignments that are due the next day or in the next couple of days. It is important for parents to review the assignment notebook and the completed homework with their child each night. While it is great to have parents assist children with their homework, it is important that parents inform the teacher if a child needed a lot of assistance with the homework so the appropriate support can be provided if necessary.

### **Use Checklists**

to list assignments and household chores and to remind children to bring appropriate materials to class. If a child has a long-term project, creating a checklist of the steps that need to be completed and developing a timeline is an effective way to help students develop key time management and organizational skills. Crossing completed items off the list will help children feel a sense of accomplishment.

### **Conduct a Weekly Clean-Up**

Children need assistance with basic organizational skills. While teachers have developed a variety of organizational systems for students, parents can help to ensure that students are following and reaping the benefits of the system by monitoring its contents, removing papers that should be kept at home and checking to be sure papers have been handed in on a consistent basis. Going through your child’s folders on a weekly basis and reviewing what is inside will help keep your child on track.

### **Prepare for the Next Day**

Before your child goes to bed he/she should pack all schoolwork, books, and materials in their backpack/book bag. It is also helpful to have clothes laid out with shoes, socks and accessories.



## WPTC Corner

### WPTC January 2012 Newsletter

#### • DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 18th - WPTC Member Meeting @ WPS 6:30pm-7:30pm
- Jan. 25th - Popcorn Day @ WIS
- Feb. 1st-3rd - Scholastic Book Fair @ WIS, Family Night, Feb. 2nd



-The WPTC is in need of a Financial Review Committee (needed for January) & a Nominating Committee (needed for March). Please contact Jen Cavanaugh ([jennifer.cavanaugh91@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.cavanaugh91@gmail.com)) if you are interested in the Financial Review Committee, a financial background is helpful, but not necessarily needed. Please contact Cindy Mayle ([cddm333@yahoo.com](mailto:cddm333@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in the Nominating Committee.

-Please give a BIG thank you to our current Bulletin Board Committee, Sucada Bell & Jen Kryczka, when you see them around town. They really know how to make our schools feel welcoming. The Bulletin Boards look Amazing, So Cute!!

-The 4 WPTC Officer positions will be available for the 2012-2013 school year. Please contact 1 of the current Officers if you have any questions or concerns. Volunteer forms for these 4 positions will be sent home in early January. If you are a WPTC member who has held a committee in the past, please consider volunteering for 1 of the 4 positions.

• Happy Holidays! The 2011 WIS Holiday Gift Shoppe was a success. We graciously thank all those who donated wrapping supplies, volunteered, and helped create a wonderful holiday shopping experience for our students. A special thank you goes to Mr. Holliday for lending us his classroom, the Maintenance staff, Ms. Leidigh, Ms. Stanislaw, and the Teachers for their patience and support. A SPECIAL acknowledgment goes to Laura Ryan and Meggan Wagner for utilizing their talents and creating unique personalized gifts. Enjoy the holidays and unwrapping your gifts.

Betty Jo Lumsden and Eve Gioulis WIS 2011 HGS Co-Chairs

The Fall Labels Contest was a great success bringing in the following totals (both schools combined):

Box Tops—101,155=\$1,011.55

Campbell's -6,291 pts.

Tyson-37=\$8.76

Coke Rewards-7,439 pts.

Sunny D-14 pts.

The students in the following classes were given a bookmark/pencil/eraser gift set as their reward for collecting the most points:

EC-Mrs. Hernandez (both am/pm)

K-Mrs. Sanko (both am/pm)

1st-Mr. Kang

2nd-Ms. Dugandzic

Blended-Mrs. Dowiarz

3rd-Mrs. Church

4th-Mr. Kmak

5th-Ms. Turilli

Stay tuned for the next Labels Contest Flyer-contest to start February 1st.

Thanks!~Jenny McNamara, 2011-2012 Labels Campaign Chairperson