



Leadership Team Highlights

Elementary Schools:

The elementary schools are beginning to plan for next year. Plans include schedules, events, goal writing, student placement and hiring. All three elementary schools will be involved in the hiring process. Twenty-eight candidates applied for the music position and one hundred and seven for the elementary classroom teacher openings. The quality of applicants is impressive.

Spring testing season will start on April 15th in the elementary buildings. The Reading and Math Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment will be administered to the third, fourth and fifth graders.

The Science portion will be administered to the fifth graders.

Waconia Middle School:

Last week, Waconia Middle School celebrated our first ever Kindness Week with great success. The celebration included fun activities, positive messages to students, and educational opportunities developed by our staff Kindness Committee. Educational opportunities focused on how students can use our WMS core value of kindness to encourage and uplift others. One highlight of the week was the creation of kindness locker signs placed randomly on lockers throughout the building. Throughout the week students and staff were also encouraged to take part in dress up days:

Monday: Mismatch Day -- "Everyone is unique!"

Tuesday: Blue Day -- "Color of kindness"

Wednesday: Pajama Day -- "Be comfortable in who you and others are"

Thursday: Throwback/Decade Day -- "Kindness lasts through time"

Friday: Twin Day -- "Everyone has a friend"

Minnesota author and Young Authors Conference speaker **William Durbin** came to visit Waconia Middle School to share what inspired him to become a writer, get students excited about reading, and engage students in writing projects of their own. Mr. Durbin gave a presentation to 6th graders sharing how he conducts his research for writing historical fiction books which correlate to 6th grade Social Studies/MN History topics such as the fur trade, logging history, immigration, labor history, and homesteading. All sixth graders recently finished reading one of his books entitled Broken Blade in their ELA classes, and books were available for purchase and autographs.

Last weekend, six WMS students took their FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) projects to the FCCLA State Conference in Bloomington.



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- **Maddie Schachenmeyer (6th)** completed an Illustrated Talk project about service dogs. Maddie researched issues surrounding service dogs, wrote a speech, and presented her project for her classmates. Maddie did great at State and received a silver medal!
- **Sera Varble (8th) and Ella Kester (7th)** researched and presented an Illustrated Talk project all about teen drug use and e-cigarette use. They found current information in efforts to help parents understand what teens are going through and how to prevent these dangerous habits. Their hard work resulted in a silver medal at State Conference!
- **Eija Kumpula (6th) and Alyssa Dammann (6th)** chose to do an advocacy project all about student stress and mental health. They researched the causes of stress, long term effects, and what other schools are doing to combat this growing problem. Eija and Alyssa presented their research to Mr. Baune and Ms. Deren. At the State Conference the girls earned a gold medal and qualified for the National Competition! They will be competing again in Anaheim, California this summer.
- **McKayla Jensen (7th)** researched and wrote a 64 page business plan for her future business, The Quilting Bee. McKayla had to make sure she had a marketing plan, adhered to local and state business laws, and developed a human resources plan. All of her hard work resulted in a gold medal and qualifying for Nationals! McKayla will be competing in Anaheim, California this summer as well.

All six of these girls put in a tremendous amount of work with their projects and we couldn't be more proud of the results!

Congratulations to 7th and 8th Grade Spanish Teacher, **Mrs. Oconitrillo for being recognized as the WMS March Teacher of the Month.** Mrs. Oconitrillo was nominated by 7th grade student Ivy Fortman. Comments included, "... you always take the extra time to answer our questions." and "... you make me laugh...you make Spanish fun."

Waconia High School:

Activities: www.waconiaathletics.com

Community Education:

Community Education staff and recreation teams are patiently waiting to be able to get outdoors and start practicing! Some of our baseball, softball and soccer teams have started to practice outdoors. It's looking like this week more and more of our fields will be open to be able to use. Hopefully this warmer weather continues. On Saturday, April 6, we held opening day for our recreation soccer teams. Teams get their pictures taken and weather permitting they will be able to have their first game outdoors as well.

Human Resources:

Job openings for our available 2019-2020 teaching positions have been posted and the school district is receiving applications from an impressive number of teachers excited to join our team! It's always our goal to post teaching positions as early as possible each spring to ensure that we have the most talented pool of teaching candidates to select from for our students. Interviews have already been scheduled and will continue throughout the spring months. Our recruitment process will include our school district's presence at the Minnesota Education Job Fair at the



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Minneapolis Convention Center, which will be held on April 10, 2019. Graduates from Minnesota colleges and universities attend the job fair each spring to meet district representatives and learn more about individual school districts and their available teaching positions.

Benefits open enrollment is slated to begin on April 23, 2019 and extend through early May. Our school district's employees will have multiple options to select from including medical insurance plans and a Delta Dental plan. EyeMed vision materials insurance and CIGNA supplemental life and AD&D insurance continue as popular voluntary options for our school district's employees. The new plan year for our district's insurance plans will begin on July 1, 2019.

Teaching & Learning:

Technology:

Student Services:

Superintendent:

School Board Meetings:

Two weeks in a row we have had some very in depth conversations about how and when we would build a new outdoor sports area that would include tennis courts, outdoor ice rinks, outdoor basketball courts and pickleball courts. There are a lot of questions to be answered but the biggest one is around... *is this the right time to build when we have operating funding issues?* Throughout the building bond referendum and the operating levy referendum conversations and communications we have been very clear that 'Bonds are for Building' and 'Levies are for Learning'. The two budgets are separate. We would utilize the same funding source that we have used to build the Waconia Learning Center, fund the partnership with the baseball stadium project, lease the St. Boni early childhood space and rent hockey arena ice time. The state gives lease levy capacity to each school district...giving the school board authority to rent or build spaces for student learning and activity programs. Currently Waconia Public Schools only utilizes 40% of this authority, where many districts are using much higher percentages. This project will serve a wide range of the community, including: students, athletes; community members of all ages. Bids for the project have been submitted and the school board will be making their final decision about the new outdoor sports area on April 15 at the 8:00 PM meeting at Waconia High School.



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Eduardo Navidad named Laketown principal, replacing Nancy Wittman who is retiring



Waconia Public Schools has named Eduardo Navidad the new principal of Laketown Elementary. The selection follows an extensive search and interview process. Navidad will take over from current Laketown principal Nancy Wittman who is retiring at the end of the school year.

“I am excited to join the Laketown family because it’s part of a community that works to nurture each student’s success,” Navidad explained. “Watching students come into the school with such an excitement and passion for learning is contagious and, for me, it’s the essence of why I became an educator.”

“We are very excited to have Eduardo join the team,” Superintendent Pat Devine, said. “It was very clear through the interview process that he is very passionate about education at the elementary grade level and we look forward to introducing him to the Laketown family.”

Navidad was an assistant principal at Centennial Elementary in Greeley, Colorado before returning to Minnesota to be around family. He comes to Laketown from Mankato Area Public Schools where he is currently the assistant high school principal. Before that he was the director of continuous improvement and accountability in Eden Prairie Schools. He started his career in education as a middle school bilingual social studies teacher in Fitchburg, Wisconsin and then a middle school math and science teacher in Loveland, Colorado.

Navidad received his bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He acquired his master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Northern Colorado and received his principal licensure from St. Cloud State University.

Navidad added, “In my years as an educator and administrator, I have learned the importance of building trusting relationships with students and staff. As principal, getting to know every member of the Laketown family is important to me. Welcoming students to school in the morning, learning with them in the classroom, supporting and collaborating with staff is how I will begin to build this trust.”

Navidad also has extensive experience working with the PBIS framework which is an integral part of the Laketown culture. “I strive to support a culture that embraces diversity, empowers staff collaboration, supports community involvement, and challenges students to succeed. I am extremely honored to work and live in Waconia with my wife Laura and my children, Alina who is in kindergarten in our school district, Jonathan who is almost 4 years old and Maya who just turned 6 months old and started crawling. My mission this year will be to work harmoniously with our students, staff, families and the community as we continue to create and write our Laketown legacy,” Navidad concluded.



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All's Well: Harnessing the Power of Gratitude Event



If you are looking for a way to live a healthier life...try gratitude! That was the message at the All's Well event on March 26. A really good crowd showed up at the Middle School to see the creations of 4th and 5th graders. They were tasked with making products that people can use to show gratitude and live more grateful lives. Among the award winners: the gratitude frisbee and the gratitude game. Students and the community then heard from guest speaker Dr. Christy Secor. She talked about how research proves how the power of positive thinking and being grateful has real health benefits.





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Continue to communicate, visit and watch what's happening at the Capitol

I continue to make visits to the state capitol and have been there six times this session. I have been able to testify for two of the SPED cross subsidy bills at the House of Representatives. Right now there are bills that are being talked about that will help our school district but it will take the House, the Senate and the Governor to agree on what will happen going forward. It is still a good idea to communicate to those at the Capitol. Lawmaker contacts are on our website. It is vital that funding for SPED cross subsidies stay in the legislation that actually gets passed. We are constantly updating our website with new information on this important issue.

<https://www.isd110.org/about-us/district-news/lack-special-education-funding-state-has-significant-impact-budget>

Also, following my most recent testimony on the subject at the Capitol, I was approached by a MINNPOST reporter for an interview. We link to the article on our website but here's a direct link to Taryn Phaneuf's article. It is rather comprehensive and lays out the issues.

<https://www.minnpost.com/education/2019/03/we-cant-sustain-this-special-ed-shortfalls-strain-minnesota-districts-as-lawmakers-struggle-to-find-long-term-solution/>

ISD ONE10 is exploring a partnership with The Y

Dr. Hedy Wells from the Minneapolis YMCA came to visit with members of our district diversity team to discuss how the Equity Leadership Institute might help us reach our goals. The school district has been developing strategies and creating plans on how to bring more equity and diversity training to ONE10. The leadership team visited the RACE exhibit at the Science Museum and discovered that 'The Y' is doing some fascinating work with equity and diversity training. We will continue to have conversations with 'The Y' to see how we might partner with them moving forward.

Meeting with the Sheriff and the Waconia City Administrator

I was able to meet with Sheriff Jason Kamerud and Susan Arntz this week to discuss how we can work together to protect and serve our schools in the absence of our School Resource Officer. The discussion provided a lot of insight, vital information and training opportunities that will help us provide the safest environment we can in the absence of an SRO. We feel we now have a solid plan to keep our students and staff safe. We would like to thank the City of Waconia and the Carver County Sheriff's Department for their willingness to help us as we move forward.

**Have a Great Weekend!!
WE ARE ONE10!**



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