

# Whitewater Middle School



Volume 9, Issue 2

## Cat Caper

January 2012

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## PTO News ...

The PTO continues to do great things for our school. The PTO, along with the support of many parents, raised over \$600 the month of November in our *Pennies for Patients* campaign. We are so proud to be supporting such a worthwhile cause!!

Also in the month of November, the PTO provided \$400 in extra school supplies to support our teachers. Printer cartridges, copy paper, and handheld scanners were provided.

### **IN THE SPOTLIGHT!!**

Students Alana Wingate and Zoe Sagon have been working with teacher representative Mrs Pittman to provide pictures of events going on through out the school. One of these pictures could be found recently in the local media. Mrs Baldwin and "Teacher of the Year" Julie Patrick were pictured in the Fayette Citizen!

## Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

The **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** for last month kicked off the Christmas Season with an Italian Feast. Several parents prepared their delicious "MAMA MIA" dishes, not to mention the mouth watering desserts.

Cas Tuck with **Prudential Georgia Realty** donated a very festive center piece that was won by Mr. Halpin. The October luncheon centerpiece was donated by **Perdue's Paint and Body Shop, Inc.**

Each month, different businesses donate a centerpiece in which all of the teachers and staff have an opportunity to win. If you know of any business that would like to participate in providing a centerpiece, please contact me, Tracey Goodman, at 678-898-0405.

**NEXT LUNCHEON: January 25<sup>th</sup>**

**THEME: TAILGATING ...to kick off the Super bowl!**

## A Note From the Administration...

Happy New Year Everyone,



I hope you all had a great holiday season. As we begin the second half of our school year, I want to say thank you for your continued support of our staff and our school. As you send us wonderful students who are eager to learn, our job is made easier and more productive. We certainly appreciate your commitment to the success of our students.

As we look forward to 2012, Dr. Bearden has shared various ideas of his vision for Fayette County. County level administrators have participated in a book study of *The Global Achievement Gap* by Tony Wagner. Wagner's book drew our attention to discerning what skills that all students should have mastered upon graduation to be successful in a global world. We are examining those skills and what we need to put into place to ensure a mastery level for all students. It is a very exciting time for education in Fayette County as we stretch and grow and seek ways to improve our system. The greatest challenge is in taking a good system to a higher level. A changing world demands that we examine our role in providing students with present day skills for working in our world, not just in our country. I am looking forward with great expectations to work through our growing changes.

Respectfully,

Connie Baldwin

*Connie Baldwin*

Principal

## WHS GERMAN CLASS

**The German Class at WMS is going strong!**

Fall Semester has been a busy one for the students in Mr. Wallace's German Class. In addition to holding an Oktoberfest at the school, students have been involved in a variety of classroom activities to strengthen their understanding of this important European language.



The class is taught entirely in German and is designed to prepare students for the transition to the high school curriculum.

**DID YOU KNOW???** Whitewater High School has a German partner school with the next exchange scheduled to take place in the Summer of 2013!



## News from the Counseling Department



Working with students individually by serving students whose last names begin with the letter:

(A-G) Mrs. Hanie [hanie.eve@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:hanie.eve@mail.fcboe.org) 770-460-3450 x228

(H-P) Mrs. LeMarr [lemarr.sherry@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:lemarr.sherry@mail.fcboe.org) x226

Mrs. McLain [mclain.jerie@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:mclain.jerie@mail.fcboe.org) x226

(Q-Z) Mrs. Grubbs [grubbs.natalie@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:grubbs.natalie@mail.fcboe.org) x227

Counselors are forming **new groups** for study and organizational skills. If you think it would be helpful for your child to participate, please contact one of the counselors for more information. Groups are formed based on need and interest. A minimum of three to four students is required to form a group. Our year-long Rainbows groups will continue through the winter and early spring for students who have experienced a significant loss.

**CAT ATTACK** is every morning from 8:00-8:20 in the media center. Many students use this time to get help with organization. Peer tutoring and help in academics is also available. If your child needs help in any of these areas, please encourage them to come to **CAT ATTACK!**

### What is the BRIDGE Act and GACollege 411??

If you haven't heard of the BRIDGE Bill or GACollege411, you may begin hearing your student mention these terms. House Bill 400 also known as the BRIDGE Act was passed in May of 2010 and is designed to create an atmosphere motivating students to learn. Implementation of the BRIDGE Act helps students see a connection between education and potential careers. It provides students with career counseling and advisement to help them choose a career area, create a four year plan, and graduate from high school prepared to enter college or the workforce.

GACollege411 is a tool chosen by the State to implement the BRIDGE Act.

WMS students will begin working on individual portfolios, career inventories, and four year plans. This spring, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will prepare a Four Year Plan which will be a working document reviewed/updated each year throughout high school. Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> graders should look for more information to come home this spring. Please let us know if you would like additional information on the BRIDGE Act. It's available for all parents in the counselor's office.

Our **8th Grade Career Fair** will be at Heritage Christian Church on Friday, February 3, 2011. At the career fair, students will have an opportunity to learn about many careers. Look for information regarding this event and a permission slip to come home with your child's report card. ***If you would like to present your career, please contact Mrs. Grubbs.***



**TEAM 6-A** Team 6-A would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and students for the wonderful remembrances and gifts during this holiday season. We certainly have a talented group of parents with all the handmade goodies and such.

It is hard to believe that one half of the school year is over. We all look forward to a busy and exciting 2nd semester. Watch for information on our annual trip to **Wahsega**. We will be going in May.

**Reading** will be celebrating the 940 pages and semester goals when we return in January. Start off the new semester right with more reading. We hope you had a restful and blessed holiday season.

**TEAM 6-B** It is hard to believe that we have completed half the school year. How fast it has been!!

In **Social Studies**, student are finishing the unit on Europe and will be traveling to Latin America to study to geography, history, and current issues of that region.

It has been an Earth shattering (literally speaking) experience in **Science** as we have been studying continental drift and plate tectonics. We will be studying earthquakes and volcanoes beginning next semester. Information on our upcoming overnight field trip will be given out the week we return from semester break.

**Math** students have been busy with fractions, decimals, percents, ratios, rates, and proportions this 9 weeks. We will continue to review these objectives as we move into next semester and dive a little deeper into these concepts and others. Keep up the good work.

**English** classes have been focusing on mechanics and writing this nine weeks. Students need to continue to work on their PEP nightly.

### TEAM 6-C

**Math:** In math classes, students wrapped up 1st semester learning all about solving proportions using CSI and direct variation. In January, we will start up with fraction, decimal, and percent concepts again, then jump right into probability.

**Science:** We are finishing up our unit on Plate Tectonics and Seafloor Spread in Science. When we return from the break, we will begin a unit on Earthquakes and Volcanos.

**English:** The English classes have just finished up a study on verbs and have begun working with organizing and coming up with great ideas and writing techniques.

**Reading:** All reading classes will begin the new year with Stem List #6

**World Geography:** Mrs. Carroll's social studies classes have finished a short study on the Holocaust and the dictators during WWII. We will begin a unit on the Cold War as we return.





**TEAM 7-A** The teachers of 7-A are looking forward to beginning a new semester. It's hard to believe that the first half of the school year has already come and gone! These next few months are going to be busy ones for the students on Team 7-A. During second semester, we will continue preparing our students for the CRCT tests coming up in April. CAT time will be utilized to introduce, review, and reinforce important concepts in each of our content areas.

Once again, the **Reading** goal for the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks is 900 pages. Students should be reading at least 20 minutes each night!

In **Math**, students have worked hard to understand the "Crazy Wump Family" as we learned about scale factor, perimeter ratio, and area ratio. The students in accelerated mathematics have found Pythagoras where they learned that the shortest distance between two points is the diagonal. All classes will start the new semester with constructions. Mr. Butera's mathematics students finished their study of equations as well as scale factor, area ratio, and perimeter ratio.

In **World Geography**, students have begun exploring Africa's political and geographic divisions. When we return from the holidays, students will learn about Africa's past, beginning with European colonization to the present day challenges facing this continent. In addition, congratulations needs to go out to Madison McPeters, Team 7-A's geography bee winner! Way to go, Madison!!!

In **Science**, Team 7-A did a very good job hatching Brine Shrimp in different environmental conditions. We have kept several adults alive since our investigative studies; they lead very busy lives including the process of reproduction. We will continue to review Genetics. Human inheritance and genetic disorders are always favorite topics for the students.

Mrs. Waller's **English** classes just finished up the semester writing a five paragraph essay - "The Battle of the Bars" essay. We sure had fun testing out the candy! In January the English classes are looking forward to the annual "Spelling Bee" contest, Poetry Recital, and a Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest. "Keep reading and writing!"

**TEAM 7-B** Team 7-B has had an exciting first semester, and we are eagerly looking forward to continuing our paths of study in the second semester! Teachers would like to express sincere thanks to both students and parents for their continued efforts and support.

Mrs. Pitman is excited that the students in **Geography** have completed their study of the Middle East, and they completed a comic strip project on the types of government practiced in the region. Africa is the next destination; the students will go on a safari through the Serengeti National Park. She extends an open invitation to all who want to experience this exciting endeavor!

Mrs. Porter's **Science** students completed their unit of study on the body systems with the students being the class experts and teaching their peers. In early January, we will be sending out info for Jekyll Island, as well as requesting the first payment for this fieldtrip.

Mrs. Wright reports that during the second nine week period, the **Math** students worked on writing and evaluating expressions, as well as writing, evaluating, and solving equations. They applied most of the skills taught in sixth grade as they worked with stretching and shrinking figures and determining the scale factor of similar figures. The Wump Family displayed their knowledge of scale factor and how it relates to perimeter and area ratio. After the Winter Break, math students will begin working with constructions and transformations.

Last, but not least, Mrs. Henson's **English** classes ended their course of study on the eight parts of speech with an introduction into the world of verbs! Students will learn more about conjugations, as well as verbals in the new semester. Students did an excellent job in Writing Workshops, and will continue to showcase their writing skills when school resumes next semester.

All **Reading** classes will continue to study literary elements, stems, authors' crafts, and how to respond to literature. Novel studies will continue, and as always, we encourage students to continue to read independently. Remember to log the pages you read over the holidays; you can count them as pages toward your 3<sup>rd</sup> nine week goal!

**TEAM 7-C** It's hard to believe we are almost half way through the school year! The teachers on Team 7-C have enjoyed watching our students as they grow and learn-we really have a great group of kids! We hope everyone had a safe and fun break and we look forward to beginning again now in January!



**TEAM 8-A**

In **Georgia History**, we have been studying the westward expansion of the United States. Included in our study was the removal of the Creeks and Cherokees from Georgia. Starting in January, we will discuss the causes of the Civil War and how the outcome of the war changed our state.

In **Math** throughout the 2nd nine weeks, we have been investigating linear relationships. During 3rd nine weeks, we will be working with inequalities and operations with expressions involving exponents.

In Accelerated Math, we have just finished up a unit on simplifying different types of expressions and investigated geometric theorems and proofs. During the 3rd nine weeks, we will begin a statistics and probability unit, as well as digging deeper into quadratic functions.

**English**- we have been reviewing basic grammar skills and identification within context of daily language. Preparation for the semester exam and the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Assessment in January has been emphasized. Expository and Persuasive writing with emphasis on organization, ideas, mechanics, and style are continually analyzed and compared to the current Georgia State Writing Assessment Rubric. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine-weeks, student work will focus primarily on the Writing Assessment, research skills, and preparation for the upcoming CRCT in April.

**Gifted**– We will follow the same grammar and writing objectives as regular English. Also, literature will be continued to be assessed and analyzed with multi-cultural Cinderella unit, a Comic Love Stories unit, and a research-based Debate Unit.

**TEAM 8-B** Team 8B had a great first semester!

**Reading** students finished the semester with *A Christmas Carol*, and **English** students have been good sports about the days of practice writing we've been doing for the state writing test in January.

**Math** students have been busy this semester learning about radicals, equations, probability, slope, and graphing. We are looking forward to a new semester full of exponents, geometry, and systems of equations. Please encourage students to review concepts learned this semester as well as their basic facts.

In **Georgia History**, our studies have now taken us into the early 1800s. Students have learned about the establishment of Georgia and its early colonization. We read a story "Samuel's Memory," which was told by the great-grandson of a nine-year-old boy who experienced the Trail of Tears. Students also participated in a land lottery activity.

**2011-2012 Science Fair winners** from 8B are Kirsten Reynolds, Lauren Wilson, Alison Rudzinski, Carson Lamberth, Andrew Aycock, and Quinn Knapper ... ***Congratulations to these winners!***

The County Science Fair will take place in January.

**Team 8-C** We were very busy last 9-weeks.

**English**—We have continued writing and preparing for the State Writing Assessment in January! We are still working on grammar and have just tackled noun, adjective, and adverb clauses. Grammar help sessions are every Wednesday after school until 4:15.

**Reading**—We have been learning about the bizarre life and writings of Edgar Allan Poe in reading this 9-weeks.. Students also completed a short unit centered around *A Christmas Carol*. We have continued with stem words and independent reading as well. We will have our semester page party when we return from Christmas break. Keep reading on your own! 940 pages is the goal for 3rd 9-weeks and 930 pages is the goal for 4th 9-weeks.

**Georgia History**—We have finished our study of Westward Expansion and the removal of the Native Americans. We will be starting the new semester with the events and causes of the Civil War and the fighting of the Civil War. Please talk with your children about the information they are learning and share with them your family history. Help history come alive for them.

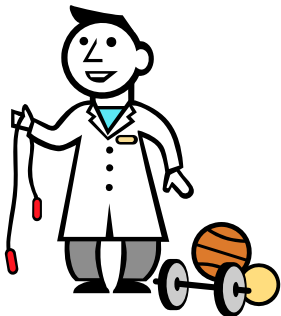


# SPORTS AT WMS



## Track & Field News

The Whitewater Middle School track season for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls is right around the corner, so put on those running shoes and get ready!!!



**IMPORTANT:** In order to be eligible to participate, a student must have a current physical exam from a Georgia physician and must have passed all five academic classes for the 2011-2012 Fall semester.

The track season will begin February 28th. So, if you need to get a physical, please make plans NOW to get an appointment with your doctor.

Please feel free to contact Coach Roth for more information concerning this year's track season at [roth.denise@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:roth.denise@mail.fcboe.org).



Sponsor: Toby Spencer [spencer.toby@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:spencer.toby@mail.fcboe.org)

The Whitewater Middle School Drama Club has enjoyed a fun and exciting first semester! We began the year with a successful talent show and we just finished with our original production of *Candle in the Window*. The Students performed wonderfully and we got numerous positive reviews. In December the Drama Club also received a visit from Ziah Colon, who starred among other things, in the remake of *Footloose* as Rusty. Mrs. Colon gave students important tips on improving their acting skills and preparing for auditions. We we're very fortunate to have an actress share her firsthand experiences with the students!

The Drama Club Dance Team, also known as DCD has performed well and have performed for most of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball games during half time. We will continue to work on DCD projects into the second semester, and we are in the final stages of preparing our first ever dance show!

Our most exciting and ambitious project will begin as soon as students return in January! We will be embarking on uncharted territory as we begin filming *Project M*. This project will be a full length film production. Our production will be in the thriller/horror genre. We will be creating a gore-free movie that will interest both our young performers and the student body. We will announce our premier date later during the second semester.

You can keep up with what's going on in the Drama Club by visiting our website:

<http://www.classjump.com/W/WMSDrama/>

Whitewater Middle School  
Front Office Attendance Reminders



**Absences:** it is important whenever your child is absent from school that a parent and or doctor note be turned in explaining the reason for the absence. This must be received **no later than the Third Day** following the students return to school. Please see the Student Handbook, page 2, for what is considered to be an Excused Absence.

If your student accumulates five unexcused absences per semester, a letter will be sent home.

**Tardies:** The school hours this year are 8:15-3:30. A student is considered late and must sign in the front office and be given a pass to class if entering WMS after 8:15. A parent/guardian does not need to accompany a student when signing in. Be sure to **CODE the reason for the late arrival** as this determines whether it is excused or unexcused.

To be counted Present for the day, students must remain in school until 11:50 am.

**Early Dismissal:** If you are checking out your child during the school day please send a note in the morning stating the check out time and a pass will be given to the student to be dismissed from class and he/she can be waiting for you in the front office upon your arrival. A parent/guardian must always come into the school to check out a student.

Also be sure to **CODE the reason for the check out** as that again determines whether it is an excused or unexcused check out.

**Transportation Changes:** all transportation changes and or messages for a student **MUST BE IN WRITING**. Please fax your request to the front office at # 770 460-0362 and then call to make sure it has been received.

If your child will be riding a different bus home or going home with a friend, you must also send in a note giving that permission on the day of that change.

**Bring your ID:** any adult checking a student out of school must present their ID and also must be authorized (given permission on the students yellow card) to check out that student.

