



WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wilson, New York

Winter 2022-23

Dear Wilson Middle School Students, Parents, and Staff,

As winter draws to a close and we look forward to warmer weather and returning to our outside adventures, here are a few quick reminders to help your student be successful for the rest of the 3rd and 4th quarters at Wilson Middle School.

As expectations for improved instruction and assessment are set for our teachers, the expectations for our students remain high. Quality classroom instruction and assessment are only part of the plan for increasing student learning. Students must be present, on time, focused, prepared with required assignments and materials, and participate in the teaching in the classroom so that they can perform on quizzes, tests and assessments. There are many things that students are preoccupied with when completing homework. My hope is that students have a quiet place to complete homework without being preoccupied with cell phones and other social media or activity that pulls their attention from their homework. Encourage children to focus on their learning and stress the importance of school attendance and arrival to school and class on time. These are two behaviors that relate to the world of work and they need to be mastered by our young people so that they will be successful at the next grade level and eventually the world of college or work.

Teachers assign homework that is meaningful and its purpose is to review the material that was taught in class. Every assignment must be entirely completed with quality and turned in on time in order to receive credit. Students that do not complete homework consistently will struggle academically. However, students that complete every homework assignment to the best of their ability will do very well academically, even if they do not perform well on quizzes and tests. The bottom line is this: If students believe homework is important, they will complete the homework to the best of their ability and again, perform well academically.

The overall success of this school year will continue and requires each of us to continue working together, listening to one another's concerns and doing our part to contribute to a positive, healthy and safe school experience.

The Wilson Middle School staff thanks you for your assistance and support this school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Scott Benton

Principal
Wilson Middle School



NOVEMBER WILSON WINNERS

Each month, students from grades 6-8 are nominated by their teachers as Wilson Winners. Students may be nominated for any number of reasons, and this spring, all 50+ students will attend a field trip to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to the Wilson Winners for November 2022!

Sixth Graders:

Zaira Lyn Nulla was nominated by **Mr. Baker** for being a great kid who always puts forth her best effort. She is kind and a pleasure to teach.

Keira Croisdale was nominated by **Mrs. Reagan** and **Mrs. Forsyth**. Mrs. Reagan nominated Keira because of her great work ethic. She works so hard and is always so attentive. Keira volunteers to answer questions or read to the class, so her participation is outstanding. She is a great role model for her peers and is always kind to others. Mrs. Forsyth also nominated Keira for her great work ethic. She puts forth 100% effort in all of her work, and is a pleasure to see each day.

Seventh Graders:

Addison Elia was nominated by **Mr. Baker**. He states that Addison's great personality and her fun loving spirit makes her an easy choice for a Wilson Winner. She is a pleasure to have in class.

Madelyn Freatman was nominated by **Mrs. Harvey**. Madelyn is one of the kindest and sweetest students she has had the opportunity to work with. Madelyn comes to class each day with a huge smile on her face. Her positivity radiates in class which makes her a wonderful friend, classmate and role model amongst her peers. Mrs. Harvey hopes Maddie stays genuine at heart, because the world needs more people like her!

Eighth Graders:

Gwen Letts was nominated by **Mr. Friedrich**. During the first couple months of the school year, Gwen stood out from the rest of her peers, both in and outside of the classroom. Everyday, Gwen shows up with a positive and energetic attitude. She is also quick to help a classmate in need, no matter the reason. Gwen's teachers have been incredibly impressed by her proactiveness and attention to detail. Her classmates may look to her to see what the formula for success looks like.

Symphony Lechowicz was nominated by **Mrs. Harvey** for being an extremely hard working student. She comes to class each day eager to work and she takes pride in all she accomplishes. Her fellow peers lean on her for guidance and direction as she is always independently on task and putting 110% into her assignments, projects and lab work. Mrs. Harvey looks forward to seeing her positive, smiling face each day.



DECEMBER WILSON WINNERS

Congratulations to the Wilson Winners for December 2022!

Sixth Graders:

Alonna Rumsey was nominated by **Dr. Condino** and **Mrs. Forsyth**. Dr. Condino nominated Alonna because she has an excellent work ethic and strives to do her very best on each and every assignment. Alonna is intrinsically motivated and puts forth her best effort in whatever task is put before her. She is a role model to her peers and offers others assistance both academically and socially, when she sees that it is needed. Alonna has a kind heart and is beautiful both inside and out. Mrs. Forsyth nominated Alonna for her excellent work ethic. She is a pleasure to teach, and always tries her best.

Levi Barnum was nominated by **Mrs. Andres** because he is so conscientious and committed to the many things he does outside of the regular school day. He is a very dependable young man.

Seventh Graders:

Shiann Mason was nominated by **Mr. Sippel** for being an extremely hardworking and diligent student. She

does her best every single day. Most importantly, she is kind and considerate to both students and faculty members. Shiann is a true role model in the 7th grade.

Trinity Kam was nominated by **Mr. Moberg** for quietly succeeding in school by working to the best of her ability.

Eighth Graders:

Bella Muck was nominated by **Mr. Friedrich** for consistently going above and beyond with her work and being quick to lend a helping hand to her classmates. In the classroom, Bella frequently raises her hand, providing insightful and thought provoking responses that increase the learning and understanding for all of her classmates. She is always in a happy mood, making sure to say good morning and hello to all of her teachers.

Colleen Cliffe was nominated by **Mrs. Andres**, who says that "Colleen is everybody's mom and the most dependable student I know!"



JANUARY WILSON WINNERS

Congratulations to the Wilson Winners for January 2023!

Sixth graders:

Lucy Metro was nominated by **Mrs. Forsyth, Mrs. Reagan and Miss Birkman**. Mrs. Forsyth nominated Lucy for her unwavering effort in all she does. She has a great work ethic and comes to class with a smile on her face, ready to work. Mrs. Reagan nominated Lucy because she is a good student and a kind person. She is always willing to help her peers with assignments or projects when asked to do so. Lucy stands out as a strong, quiet leader. Miss Birkman nominated her because she always tries her best in band and does not get discouraged by a challenge. Very often she can be found practicing in the band room during 12th period.

Zoey Beck was nominated by **Mrs. Wass, Mr. Baker and Mrs. Forsyth**. Mrs. Wass nominated Zoey for being an exceptional sixth grade student who is dedicated and attentive to her academics. However, her most remarkable qualities are towards her classmates. When working with her peers, she is very kind, compassionate and patient. Mr. Baker nominated Zoey for being a great artist with a lot of creativity in her work. Mrs. Forsyth nominated her because she has an impressive work ethic and shows great knowledge in

English. She is also very kind to the other students.

Aiden Berning was nominated by **Mr. Benton** because he demonstrates a passion for academics, exemplifies commitment to school, and shows a positive attitude towards his fellow classmates and staff members.

Seventh graders:

Katie Hardy was nominated by **Mr. Baker** for being a great art student who always has a smile on her face and is willing to help others.

Brendan Gormley was nominated by **Mr. Baker** for being an outstanding artist and an even better kid. Brendan has a lot of talent and never lacks creativity.

Eighth graders:

Tessa Guenther was nominated by **Mr. Alderman and Miss Birkman**. Mr. Alderman nominated Tessa for being a very nice, hard working and conscientious student. Miss Birkman nominated her because she always displays a positive attitude and works hard to sound the best she can be in band.

Petrice Schwarzmueeller was nominated by **Mrs. Aloisio** for being a consistently driven and focused student. She exemplifies mastery on all of her assignments. She is sweet, kind and displays all of the characteristics of being a role model to her peers.

BUFFALO BILLS TAILGATE

On the day before Thanksgiving break, the staff greeted students with a *Buffalo Bills Tailgate Party*, first thing in the morning. This year, **Mr. John Lang** (better known as **Bills Elvis**) was the guest of honor. Mr. Lang is the Bills' official *Fan of the Year* and he was very generous, taking pictures with everyone and signing autographs. **Mr. Baker** has painted guitars for Mr. Lang, and invited him to attend. Mr. Lang was kind enough to also film a segment of the [Anchor News](#) with Teddy Andrews, who wore his Bills Elvis Halloween costume!







Photo courtesy of Michael Carlo



WILSON

JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

WILSON JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

Congratulations to the members of the Wilson Junior Honor Society. This year's induction was held on November 2nd. The emcee for the evening was **Benjamin Meyers**. **Tessa Guenther** spoke on Scholarship, **Max Harmon** spoke on Service, **Stella Cooper** spoke on Leadership, **Bella Muck** spoke on Character, **Grace Raczkiewicz Smith** spoke on Citizenship and **Lilly DiPasquale** introduced present members of the Wilson Junior Honor Society. **Colleen Cliffe & Gwendolyn Letts** called new inductees to the stage. Present members included **Bryce Avery, Colleen Cliffe, Stella Cooper, Lilly DiPasquale,**

Tessa Guenther, Max Harmon, Gwendolyn Letts, Benjamin Meyers, Bella Muck, Grace Raczkiewicz Smith, Mason Schultz, & Meghan Seider. The new inductees were **Lyla DeLine, Noah Johnson, Carter Kopp, Kaley Mahoney, Brooke Urban, Mason Coulter, Taylor Ernest, Sophie Everest, Andrea Faery, Madelyn Freatman, Brendan Gormley, Katie Hardy, Madison Horn, Lucille Madan, Shiann Mason, Kiernan Santana, Natalie Shackelford, & Archer Simpson.** Thank you to advisor **Mr. Ron Moberg** for coordinating the annual induction ceremony.

TURKEY TROT



On Wednesday, November 23rd, Wilson Middle School held the annual Turkey Trot Fun Run! It was an absolutely perfect day to run the trot, with the sun out and bright blue skies. Along with 6th-8th graders, 5th graders from Wilson Elementary were also invited to take part in the day's festivities. Lasty, parents were invited to run too, and truthfully, they had as much as the kids did. (Congratulations to **Mr. Andrews** and **Deputy Zuchlewski**, for finishing strong!)



At the starting line, it was great to see the kids so energetic and ready to run, especially the many students who were dressed up in their turkey costumes. **Mrs. Smith** also brought her pony and carriage, which excited the students even more. Seeing the numerous happy (and serious) faces at the start line was great to see, especially with The Red Cross mascot cheering them on!

TURKEY TROT WINNERS



A Movember fundraiser coincided with the race and raised over \$200 to help support men's health awareness. Thank you to all who donated or took the time to raise awareness.

It was so nice to see all of the students' smiling faces as they made that final turn onto the football field. From the kindness concert earlier in the day, to seeing Mrs. Smith's horse-drawn carriage, and the great music playing in the stadium, Wilson Middle School had another memorable Turkey Trot!

8th grade winners: Gwen Letts, Max Harmon, Lyla DeLine, Ryder Wolcott, Cole Herrmann and Tessa Guenther

7th grade winners: Hayden Barlow, Hayden Fellows, Lilly Gurski, Peter Nigro, Lucy Madan and Archer Simpson

6th grade winners: Zoey Beck, Noah Sweeney, Keira Croisdale, Caleb Merchant, Julia Durkee and Colten Nashwinter

5th grade winners: Grace Faery, Anastasia Gray, Aiden Allis and Madison Mason

Costume winners: Wyatt Hilwig, Maddy Horn and Morgan Boyer



A NOTE FROM THE FOOD SERVICE DEPARTMENT

We are continuing to celebrate Kindness Day each month in the middle school. During December, January and February, we gave away chips, canned drinks and cookies. To participate, all students need to do is wear their kindness t-shirts and buy a lunch meal on Kindness Days.

The cafeteria has started a recycling program for cans and bottles. The response has been wonderful. Students can now place their recyclable items in the bin provided in the cafeteria.

We have some new items appearing on our menu, including a garlic French bread pizza with a tomato dipping sauce. We also have a Walking Taco, composed with the student's choice of Doritos, taco meat, lettuce, cheese, salsa and sour cream. Towards the end of March, we will be serving our Cheesy Taco Pasta.

The middle school breakfast cart is available daily for the convenience of our students. It is located at the middle school entrance. As always, thank you for your continued support of our meal programs!

'Twas The Night Before Christmas

On the last day before Christmas break, December 22nd, **Principal Benton** continued his tradition of reading *The Night Before Christmas* to the entire middle school. This version, written by Barbara Reid, features beautiful 3-dimensional illustrations.



WISHES FOR DAMAR

On January 2nd, we all were shocked when Buffalo Bills player **Damar Hamlin** collapsed during the first quarter of the game with the Cincinnati Bengals. Emotions and worry for Damar were high for everyone at WCS the next morning and we felt a need to do something positive, so "Wishes for Damar" was created.

Students and staff together wrote wishes, prayers and notes of support on a Bills' logo. These were displayed outside the cafeteria until Mrs. Perry dropped them off for delivery to Damar. Our small contribution helped to raise all of our spirits and promote positivity to counteract the upsetting situation.



Coordinator **Mrs. Shaffer** would like to thank everyone for their help including **Mr. Benton, Mr. Galgovich, Ms. Mahar, Mrs. Perry, Ms. Zeller, Mrs. Aloisio and Mr. Stack.** #HAMLINSTRONG #GO BILLS!



KINDNESS RESOLUTIONS

For December's Kindness Day, students were asked to think about one small weekly change (resolution) they could make in 2023 to support a kinder environment. They wrote their resolutions on strips of paper and made them into individual links. All the links were then chained together. The resulting chain symbolizes the power of shared goals. While one link may not have a big impact, 200 links chained together will. Please feel free to ask your child what her/his resolutions is for 2023. Together, we all can make a huge difference!



KINDNESS RESOLUTIONS FOR 2023

How will you make the world a kinder place this year?

- Be more helpful to other people
- Do my chores without being asked
- Compliment people outside my friend group
- Have more patience with others
- Don't sit down until dishes are done
- Try to make more time for myself, while still helping around the house
- Help my parents around the house when they have had a long day at work
- Get off my phone more often
- Try to include/talk to people outside my friend circle
- Open the door for someone
- Put my own laundry away
- Say 'good morning' to everyone I love
- Appreciate the people I love more
- Be nicer to my parents and my siblings
- Be smarter about my decisions
- Say hello to someone who needs to be cheered up
- Simply smile more
- Help a friend with homework
- Apologize, even when it's difficult
- Make people happy
- Spend more time with my family
- Ask someone if s/he is okay
- Make ten people laugh
- Help friends who are having a hard time
- Avoid talking about others behind their backs
- Devote an hour of each week to helping someone else
- Say 'please' and 'thank you' more often
- Tell someone 'I care'
- Help others with math and reading
- Make a new friend
- Share a smile with others more often
- Send a positive text or letter
- Check in with friends more often
- Volunteer at a food pantry or animal shelter
- Say hello to more people
- Pay someone a compliment
- Perform community service
- Enjoy my friends more

UGLY SWEATER DAY



WRITING LIKE THE SUMERIANS

February 10th was not your typical day in 6th grade Social Studies. Students learned about the earliest known system of writing called cuneiform. This system of writing was very different than the way we write today. Around 3000 B.C., this system of writing was being developed. At first, this writing was mostly made up of pictographs, yet over time it transformed to symbols that represented sounds. The scribes or professional writers, went to school for over 10 years to master over 800 symbols used in cuneiform. The symbols were written on a wet clay tablet with a tool called a stylus. Then the clay was left to dry. Most likely the first writings were of business transactions to keep records for the kings and priests. Eventually stories, poems and letters were written in cuneiform for others to enjoy.

Although the 6th graders had fun writing in cuneiform, they realized how difficult it was to write on clay and to make the different symbols using a stylus. Even the thought of carrying around the clay tablets brought on a discussion about how heavy they must have been and cumbersome to carry from place to place. In the end, students decided that they like our traditional alphabet and how we are able to write on paper or even type on a computer instead of writing like a Sumerian!



CHAIRity FUNDRAISER

On January 31st, Mr. Baker and his art students hosted a CHAIRity Silent Auction in the Library Media Center. Over forty one-of-a-kind, hand painted chairs were available for bidding. Each chair followed a theme that was developed by the students. The process began with rough sketches which became fully realized designs, painted with acrylic paint. Students spent approximately ten full weeks creating these masterpieces. Pictures of all the artists and their chairs may be viewed online at: <https://www.wilsoncsd.org/Page/1857> . The night raised \$2,000 and after the money was collected, students discussed possible recipients for donations. They decided to make a \$500 donation to [Open Arms Rescue of WNY](#) and also give \$500 to the Whitmore Family, as they recover from a traumatic house fire. Students are still researching possible recipient(s) for the remaining \$1000. Special thanks to **Mr. Baker** for spearheading such a wonderful community service project!



SENIOR CITIZEN BREAKFAST

The 38th Annual Senior Citizen Breakfast returned to the Middle/High School on December 7th. Many thanks to Breakfast Coordinator, **Mrs. Shank**, for her efforts to plan and organize the event. Many middle school students and their teachers made gifts and goodies for the nearly 90 guests who attended. **Mrs. Meyers, Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Danner's** classes made bird seed ornaments while **Mr. Baker's** art classes painted miniature canvas prints that can be hung from colorful ribbons. The Interact Club, under the direction of advisors **Mrs. Aloisio and Mrs. McCarthy** made bookmarks and Mrs. McCarthy's French classes whipped up some delicious chocolate truffles. A rotating group of students also checked coats when guests arrived, including **Andrea Faery, Teddy Andrews, Fiona Srock, Gwen Letts, Connor Woodward and Jamison Geier.**

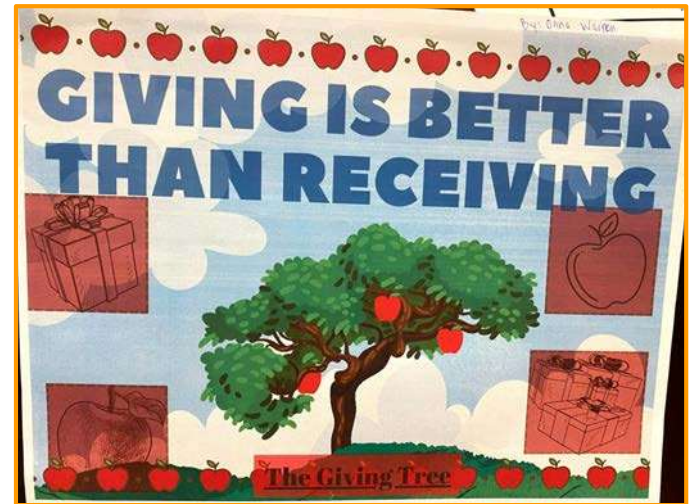
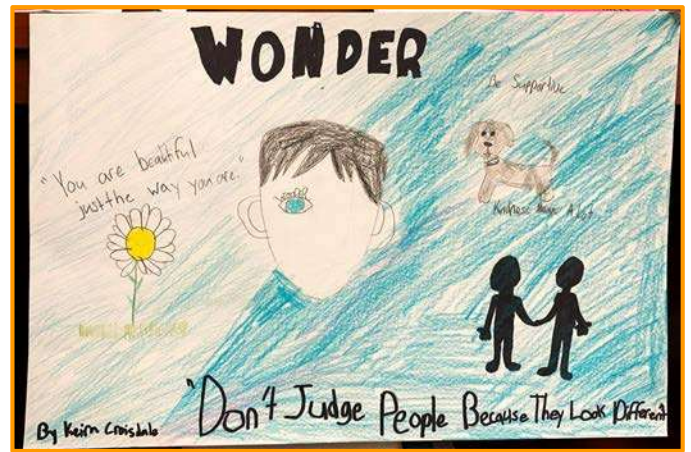


During the holiday season, the middle school **Math and ELA AIS students** shared various ways to spread kindness. They created ornaments with the many ways to be kind written on them. We took these inspiring ornaments and created a "kindness tree" with them. From top to bottom, those walking the halls could stop and read the numerous ways that our students can be kind to their family members, friends, and each other.

It was amazing to read just how little effort it takes to be kind to someone else. A helping hand, a compliment, or doing something without being asked are just a few of the ways our middle schoolers share kindness with others. The important thing is to make kindness part of our everyday lives and something that we don't even have to think about doing. **A little kindness goes a long way!**

6TH GRADE KINDNESS PROJECTS

In early December, sixth graders in **Mrs. Lepsch's** Health class came to the Library Media Center to browse a collection of 20 reading passages that **Miss Mahar** put together. The collection included short stories, picture books, first person narratives and poems, all following a theme of kindness. After reading a few, students were asked to select one reading that was their favorite and choose a project to complete, based on the reading. Project choices included: making a kindness calendar; creating a coupon booklet; designing a flyer using the computer; composing an original piece of writing or music; making a sculpture and more. The students did a fantastic job with their final projects, that were on display in the library throughout the month of December and January.



In January, students in **Mrs. Reagan's class** took on the 'One Word Challenge'. They were asked to reflect and choose a specific word to guide them throughout the year as they make decisions, pursue goals, and try to become the human beings they want to be. The project served as part compass, part motivator, and part mirror. Students took some time to think about a word that would be their mantra for the rest of the school year. Students defined their words and wrote about why they chose them and how their words might affect their behavior in all aspects of their lives.

So why were they asked to choose one word and not many words? The answer is simple: one word sticks. One word will provide clarity, focus, power, encouragement and passion to students' daily lives. Parents, please ask about your children's one word and how that word will empower them to live their best lives.

INTERACT CLUB 'LASAGNA LOVE'

The Interact Club at WCS is affiliated with the Central Niagara Rotary Club. Their motto is "service above self" and the students in the club are consistently looking for ways to help others. One of the ways that they found they could help is by pairing up with the Pathways Program, led by **Mrs. Rebecca Meyers**, to join the **Lasagna Love** program. Funded through the Rotary, Mrs. Meyers shopped for the supplies while **Mrs. Aloisio**, one of the Interact advisors, made her authentic sauce from scratch. The students, **LeeAnn Gajewski, Abby Freatman, Emma Dirig, Emma Tower, Ozzy Brewer, Lillie Wilson, Emily Shackelford, Elizabeth Wasik and Sam Dack**, under the leadership of Mrs. Aloisio, assembled the lasagnas and prepared them for cooking. The Wilson Food Pantry donated loaves of bread, salad and dessert. Volunteers from



the district dropped off the cooked lasagna dinners to six different families. This was a meaningful and gratifying experience for the students. They all agreed that this was something they would like to do again in the future. The Interact Club and Pathways are looking into a future date to once again help others.



ANCHOR NEWS

Sixth grader **Teddy Andrews** has been very busy posting content on the Anchor News. He has a brand new set and format for 2023, and has covered subjects including the Red Cross Blood Drive, Turkey Trot, Scholastic Bowl and the new Book Vending Machine at WES. His classmate and friend **Jamison Geier** has recently come on board and is now editing the segments. Junior **Peyton McInnis** writes the sporting news each week. To access The Anchor News, please visit the [district's YouTube page](#).



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FAMILY RESOURCE NIGHT AND SPAGHETTI DINNER

FEATURING WOLCOTTSVILLE WILDLIFE (FOR THE KIDS)
AND TOM CODY (FOR THE PARENTS)



MEET A EURASIAN EAGLE OWL
AND A RED TAIL HAWK!



Scan me to register



Thursday, March 16, 2023
5:30 - 8:00 PM

Wilson Middle/High School
Auditorium & Room 18 (next to library)

During this **Family Resource Night**, parents will attend a presentation by **Tom Cody** in the auditorium, while their children enjoy a hands-on wildlife demonstration by **Wolcottsville Wildlife**. There will also be a free Spaghetti Dinner and Resource Fair after the presentations. Tom Cody has 40 years of classroom experience in math and social emotional learning. He now devotes his time and energy to **Top 20 Training** and its mission to revolutionize American education. His one-of-a-kind trainings are engaging, humorous and thought-provoking.

5:30-6:30 PM: Tom Cody presentation for parents
"Guiding Our Children Through Life's Challenges"

5:30-6:30 PM: Animal Wildlife Presentation/Activity
Supervised group activities for students, K-5

6:30-8:00 PM: Dinner & Family Resource Fair
Free spaghetti dinner for families, along with an opportunity to meet with various community organizations and services.

PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE FOR
THIS EVENT BY MARCH 3, 2023

WILSONCSD.ORG/FAMILYNIGHT

TOM CODY: TOP20TRAINING.COM

HOLIDAY DOG BONES

Mrs. Meyers and her students were happy to sell home-made dog treats again this year, to the staff and faculty before Christmas. They filled over 100 orders (600 bones) for their canine friends! The project is great for her class because it involves shopping, following a

recipe, counting, packaging and personalizing the tags for the pets. The Pathways class is so appreciative of the support everyone gives and the students hope all the doggies loved their goodies!



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