



WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Wilson, New York

Fall/Winter 2024

Dear Wilson Middle School Families,

As we approach the midway point of the second quarter, I am pleased to report that our students are doing exceptionally well in their academic and extracurricular pursuits. Their dedication and effort have been evident in classrooms, on the athletic fields, and in the arts. Thank you for your continued support in encouraging our students to do their best every day.

While we celebrate these successes, it is important to remind our students of the need to remain focused and committed to meeting their academic and behavioral goals. This time of year can be busy and filled with distractions, but maintaining strong study habits and positive behavior will ensure continued success. Families, your role in reinforcing these expectations at home is invaluable, and together, we can support our students in achieving their full potential.

The Christmas recess begins on Monday, December 23, and classes will resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025. This break provides a wonderful opportunity for our students and staff to relax, recharge, and spend quality time with loved ones. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this time to rest and reflect on the achievements of the first half of the school year while preparing for the opportunities that lie ahead.

On behalf of the Wilson Middle School staff, I want to wish you a joyous and peaceful holiday season. May your celebrations be filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready to continue learning and growing together.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Scott Benton

Mr. Scott Benton, Principal
Wilson Middle School



SEPTEMBER WILSON WINNERS

Each month, two 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 54 students will attend a field trip to celebrate their achievements. Congratulations to the Wilson Winners for September 2024!

Sixth Graders:

Colbie Elia has been nominated by both Mr. Neumann and Mrs. Reagan for her outstanding citizenship. Mr. Neumann highlighted her helpful nature towards classmates and teachers, while Mrs. Reagan commended her kindness and willingness to assist others with a smile. Colbie may be quiet, but she is a strong leader, and we are grateful to have such a thoughtful student in our school!

Macaela Boyer, nominated by Mrs. Forsyth, brings joy to our halls with her friendly smile and positive demeanor. She treats everyone with respect and is dedicated to her studies, making her a pleasure to have in class. Macaela truly embodies the spirit of a Wilson Winner!

Seventh Graders:

Quinlan George is recognized by Mrs. Feeley for consistently demonstrating respect and diligence. She actively participates in class and produces high-quality work, all while maintaining an enthusiastic attitude. Quinlan sets a fantastic example for her peers, and we are proud to celebrate her achievements!

Seventh Graders Continued:

Robert Pennell has been nominated by both Mrs. Harvey and Mr. Baker. Mrs. Harvey praised Robbie for his cheerful demeanor and hard work, noting his willingness to help others and his potential for a bright future. He is one of the hardest working students she currently has. He is willing to help others around him when needed and he is truly a wonderful role model to his peers. Way to go Robbie! Keep up the phenomenal work! Mr. Baker nominated Robbie because he has had a great start to the school year. His creativity and strong work ethic made him an easy choice for Wilson Winner.

8th Graders:

Anna Henry, nominated by Mr. Harvey, is recognized for her kindness and positive attitude. She consistently puts forth her best effort in all her classwork. Congratulations, Anna—keep up the fantastic work!

Lucy Metro, nominated by Mrs. Harvey, is celebrated for her remarkable character and dedication. With her bright smile and strong work ethic, Lucy serves as a wonderful role model for her peers. We look forward to seeing all the great things she will accomplish this year!

Congratulations to all our Wilson Winners! Your hard work and positive attitudes make Wilson Central Middle School a better place for everyone.



OCTOBER WILSON WINNERS

Wilson Middle School is excited to honor our outstanding students for the month of October. These students have been recognized for their exceptional character, dedication, and positive contributions to our school community. Congratulations to the Wilson Winners for October 2024!

Sixth Graders:

Reese Reynolds has been nominated by Mrs. St. Onge, Mr. Neumann, and Mrs. Forsyth for consistently being a role model to her peers. She puts forth 100% effort in every assignment, completes her work on time, and treats others with kindness and respect. Reese's work ethic and positive attitude truly embody the qualities of a Wilson Winner.

Avery Guenther was nominated by Mr. Neumann and Mrs. Feeley. Avery is a motivated student who excels through focus, dedication, and hard work. She consistently produces high-quality work, maintains a positive attitude, and contributes to class discussions with enthusiasm. Avery's friendly and kind demeanor makes her a valuable member of the Wilson community.

Seventh Graders:

Marley Halona was nominated by Mr. Sippel for her hardworking and conscientious nature. Marley gives her best effort every day and demonstrates kindness and respect to her peers and teachers.

Seventh Graders con't:

Brooklyn Nashwinter was nominated by Mrs. Salvatore for her strong work ethic and her willingness to help others. Brooklyn consistently shows kindness, caring, and dedication, making her a great classmate and a wonderful asset to our school.

Eighth Graders:

Jamieson Day was nominated by Mr. Friedrich for his contagious, positive energy and kindness. Jamieson greets everyone with a smile, checks in on his classmates, and creates a welcoming atmosphere wherever he goes. His thoughtfulness and upbeat attitude make him a joy to teach and work with.

Calvin Lawson was nominated by Mr. Friedrich for consistently producing exceptional work and displaying a commitment to excellence. Calvin's attention to detail, sense of humor, and willingness to help others make him a standout student and a true role model for his peers.

Congratulations to all our October 2024 Wilson Winners! Your hard work, kindness, and positive attitudes make Wilson Middle School a better place for everyone. Keep shining!

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

MUM SALE

The MSSC hit the ground running this school year as we started with our annual fall mum sale. Our mum sale shattered last year's sales record by nearly one hundred mums. Our total sales this year were a staggering 751 mums from *Treichler's Nursery* in Sanborn. Many thanks to the SIXTY middle school students AND parents who helped us sell a record number of flowers. The flower sale was a resounding success and the flowers were beautiful!

Our top sellers in the Middle School include: 6th grader *Harper Zimmerman* - 50 sales (this is an all time record... CONGRATULATIONS Harper); 7th grader *Ella Rose-Boyce* - 45 sales; 6th grader *Eian Rickgers* - 37 sales; and 8th grader *Aliah Hallatt* - 36 sales. *Wyleigh Reabold*, *Jaydyn Meyers-Cote* and *Ethan Dietz* all sold 20+ mums.

We would like to personally thank our council members *Teddy Andrews* and *Aliah Hallatt* who came back to school on the evening of Open House to sell mums. Thank you both!

The *New Day Coffee* fundraiser ran during the month of November. Students sold a variety of coffee and hot chocolate too. Orders will be ready sometime during the week before Christmas break. Larger orders will need to be picked up by parents in the Middle School office. More information on the pick-up date and times will be sent once it becomes available.

Top sellers for the coffee fundraiser include: 8th grader *Aliah Hallatt* - 24 bags; 6th grader *Harper Zimmerman* - 23 bags; 8th grader *Richard Treen* and 6th grader *Kira LeMay* with 18 bags each; and 6th grader *Dean Clark* and 8th grader *Ethan Dietz* with 13 bags each. Students who sold five or more mums or bags of coffee received a reward coupon that entitled them to a slice of pizza and a pop from T&R's corner store in Wilson.

The money raised will go towards funding grade level field trips and end of year activities for ALL middle school students. Thank you to all of our middle school students and families that helped make these two sales a huge success!

Keep an eye out for the hanging basket sale coming this spring. *We are looking forward to a fantastic and successful school year!*

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Harvey (Advisors)

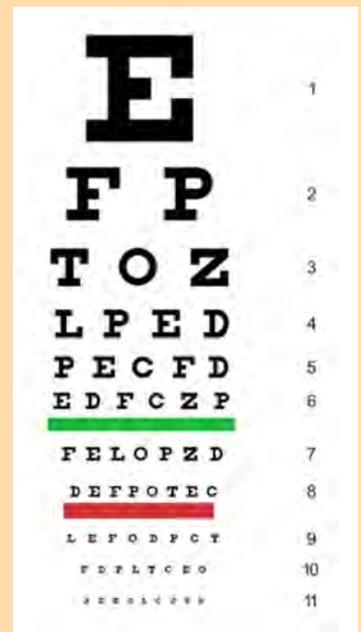
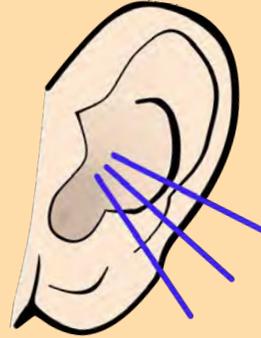


NEWS FROM THE NURSE

Attention Parents of Grade 7 students,

This is to notify you that **hearing** and **vision screening**, as mandated by NYS, will be conducted by the school nurses beginning in January 2025. You will be notified in writing of the results of the vision screening. The results of the hearing screen will only be mailed if your child does not meet the minimum requirement. Please feel free to contact the clinic if you have any questions at (716)-751-9341 ext 125/127.

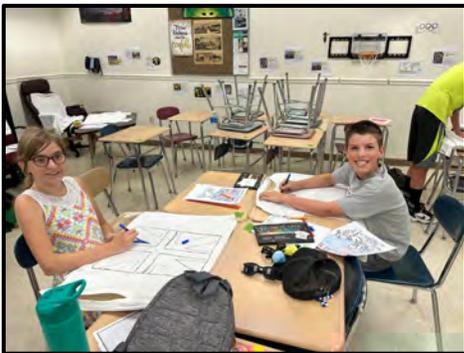
Thank you,
Liz Barnum, RN
Sandy Walch, RN
School Nurses at Wilson MS/HS



GOING FOR THE GOLD THIS SUMMER

This summer, while the 2024 Olympics were in full swing, the summer enrichment program incorporated the games into its activities. Each subject area used the theme to review and enrich skills. For example, in social studies, each student chose one country that participated in the Olympics and researched it. That was the country

they represented in our Olympics. After students researched their country, they made a shirt to represent their country which included facts, a flag, and Olympic symbols. At the end of the summer program, we held our own version of the Olympics. Students participated in an opening ceremony and then various games to earn a medal. What an incredible learning opportunity for all!!!



HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2024 was a week full of fun and friendly competition as Middle School students participated in a number of events showing off their school spirit and pride for WCS! Staff and students alike shared their enthusiasm and enjoyed working together at the Pep Rally to earn points for their grade levels. Here are some of the amazing moments we shared that week:

Food Drive – Thanks to the generous donations, we collected over 100 items to support our local food pantry. Ultimately, the 6th graders collected the most with Mrs. Wass' and Mrs. Forsyth's homerooms earning the donut and cider party as a reward for their efforts.

Annual Kickball Tournament – Grades 6 and 7 competed against each other for a chance to take on the 8th graders and ultimately the 7th graders were granted that opportunity. During the championship round, the 8th grade class annihilated the 7th graders on the turf to claim bragging rights! The turnout was incredible for both days and the cheering section was full of fans from each grade level.

Door Decorating Contest – Board Games were the theme this year. As our High School students decked the halls upstairs, our Middle School students had fun decorating a designated doorway for their grade levels downstairs. 6th grade took over Mrs. Forsyth's entryway with their rendition of the *Game of Life*. 7th grade enhanced Mrs. Salvatore's science doorway with a classic, *Guess Who*. 8th grade went to battle at Mr. Alderman's entryway with *Battleship*. Ultimately, the 6th graders took the victory earning extra points at Pep Rally!

Most Spirited Student – This year, we introduced a new individual award for students to compete for within their own grade. Based on participation in the themed dress-up days and each of the activities we had all week, teachers nominated students in each grade and classmates voted for the winners who were announced at Pep Rally....

6th Grade: ***Ella Stephens***

7th Grade: ***Quinlan George***

8th Grade: ***Tom Mondano***

Pep Rally – On Friday, we tallied up the points earned by each grade with the 6th graders taking a slight lead before the start of the spirit games. Mr. Baker lead the charge with class chants allowing the kids to do something we don't often encourage – yell! While there was no shortage of effort by the 6th and 7th graders, the 8th graders proved most boisterous. Students signed up to participate in a series of games that included Marshmallow Madness, Mummy Teacher, Sweep Potato, and Head/Shoulders/Knees/Cup. It was a fight to the finish as students and teachers alike competed for the victory while Mr. Friedrich ran the play-by-play. At the end of it all, the 8th grade class took the cake (or candy) by winning it all!

Encouraging school spirit and participation allows for a fun and engaging way for students and staff to interact with each other, bringing together our whole school community as we celebrate pride for the Wilson School District. We look forward to continuing our showcase of spirit throughout the remainder of the year... Go Wilson!

HOMECOMING



7th GRADE FORT NIAGARA FIELD TRIP

Thursday, October 3rd, was a great day to be a seventh grader at WCS. Students spent the (beautiful) day outside in Youngstown, taking part in the Fall Frontier Days at Old Fort Niagara, and then practicing science observations using water from Lake Ontario, as organized by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation .

“A Day in the Life” field trip allowed students to work with environmental scientists from the DEC and park staff to conduct water sampling activities at the Lake Ontario shoreline at Fort Niagara State Park.

Students tested the water to determine water clarity, presence of nitrogen, pH, the amount of dissolved oxygen, and discussed weather conditions and land features that could affect our local watershed. The data we collected will be used as part of the Lake Ontario Lakewide Action and Management Plan Annual Report.

Thank you to *Mrs. Salvatore* and *Mr. Sippel* for coordinating the hands-on activities!





DID YOU KNOW?

LIBRARY INFO!

Slideshow of **New Books** featured on the library website

Our **Library Media Center** continues to be one of the best around!

The library collection consists of over 14,000 items, including both print and online resources. The space itself is inviting, organized and efficient. **Miss Mahar** and **Mrs. Perry** are quick to help patrons with whatever they need. **Visit us today!**

Over 225 new fiction and non-fiction **Print Books** were added to the collection this year

Teacher resources

Our collection of **eBooks** has grown exponentially over the past few years! Login to the card catalog to explore the collection.

Several links to support research for **Class Projects**

Access to **World Book Online Encyclopedia**. Also includes an atlas and dictionary. ID and password: **wilsonwbo**

Our **Bibliography Guide** (both online and print) illustrates how to write proper MLA citations

Seasonal and genre-specific **displays**

Our **Online Card Catalog** means that students may renew their own books, write reviews and curate their own reading collections.

Visit the LMC website at:
wilsoncsd.org/librarymedia

We offer a variety of both print and digital **Magazines**

Our **Book Nook** provides a dedicated spot just for reading



CAN YOU DIG IT?????

During our study of early humans, the 6th graders learned how archaeologists found artifacts to piece together how people lived during this time period.

We did our own dig! As part of a stem project for social studies, students worked in groups to plan, design, and make their own tools to use to dig in the dirt. Students had limited materials to design these tools so it was challenging. They learned that an archaeologist's job is hard work. Students used their tools to find artifacts that were previously buried in the soil. The groups evaluated how their tools upheld during the dig and what went right and what could have been done better. In the dig, students found small objects such as a penny, paperclip, toothpick, rubber band, bottle cap, mint, pushpin, eraser, quarter, and a nickel.

It was so much fun to complete this project and the students were really "digging it"!



HALLOWEEN DANCE

Wow! The Halloween dance was a ton of fun! Approximately 150 students attended the dance. Thank you to the **WES PTA** for sponsoring the dance. Thank you to **Terri Carlo, Courtney Brown, and Tyler Stevenson** for supervising the dance.

Costume winners:

1st Place: Minion Crew
Peyton LaBelle
Lilanna Woodward
Lilly McClellan
(not pictured)

2nd Place: Terrifier Clown
Aiden Berning

3rd Place: Flamingo
Rylee Faucett



NEW THIS QUARTER...

SHOUT OUTS!

The Middle School Kindness Program has introduced another way to acknowledge acts of kindness: *Shout Outs!* A polka dot box has been placed outside the Middle School Office. If you would like to recognize someone in the middle school for being kind, you're welcome to complete a Shout Out card and drop it in the box. Shout Outs can be signed or anonymous. All cards will be displayed on a bulletin board, and some will be read on the announcements.

Shout outs can be dedicated to anyone in school... students, staff, teachers, coaches, administrators, and volunteers. If you have any questions or would like more information about Shout Outs, please see Kindness Club advisors *Mrs. Reagan* or *Mrs. Danner*.



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Tiger salamanders are 1 of about 500 different species of salamanders. They have very silky and smooth skin, that can help them absorb moisture. They can also breathe through their skin. Tiger salamanders have a poisonous tail gland the produces a toxic milky substance.



LIONS, TIGERS AND BEARS...OH MY!

Seventh graders recently wrapped up another research project, their third of the school year so far. Students in Mrs. Salvatore's science classes were each assigned an animal. They spent four days in the library conducting research using online encyclopedias, eBooks, print books and websites. They used a graphic organizer to collect their research, and then spent three additional days in Mrs. Salvatore's classroom, creating a presentation using Google Slides. Students were asked to find information about their animals' habitats, life cycles, behavior and physical appearance. After their slides were finished, Mrs. Salvatore asked students to present to the class. The Animal Project is always a favorite, and students really enjoyed it!

Polar bears walk and swim while traveling in either families or solo. This process may take awhile depending on how long they intend to travel or how far they want to go.

They primarily communicate through close range sight, touch, and smell like licks or bumps. They can also roar, as well especially in danger. Males are the ones to travel solo, then get a mate and start a family and travel together. When traveling their capability can be up to 19 miles or more per day for several days. Now that is a lot of walking and swimming.

Polar bears are known to be great swimmers for their travels.



These polar bears can walk far for awhile.



These two images can be examples of how polar bears communicate with each other.



Physical Appearance

Red Bellied piranhas are very unique creatures. These fish may look innocent, but they are very aggressive. They have large, razor-like teeth, and firm, strong jaws. This feature is used to jolt furious snaps through flesh and bone of their food.

They have slim, narrow bodies and characteristic bright red or orange bellies.



Piranha Scales Up Close



Close-Up of Teeth



Side Profile



Front Profile



Inside of Mouth

THOMSON'S GAZELLE; PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

LIGHT-BROWN COATS WITH DARK STRIPES RUNNING DOWN THEIR SIDES, A WHITE PATCH ON THEIR RUMPS EXTENDING UNDERNEATH THE TAIL, AND RIDGED HORNS THAT CURVE BACKWARD. FEMALES MAY HAVE SHORTER, SMOOTHER, AND SLIMMER HORNS THAN MALES OR NONE AT ALL.



HORNS



EYE



RUMP



PELT

Welcome Our New Teachers & Staff at Wilson Middle School

We are excited to introduce the newest members of the Wilson Middle School family! Each of these talented educators and staff members brings unique skills, experiences, and energy to our school community. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome as they settle into their roles and begin making a difference in the lives of our students.

Name of Teacher/Staff Member: Ms. Kuriscak

Role: Teacher Aide

Background: Ms. Kuriscak comes back to Wilson, her alma mater, with over 15 years of experience working with children. She holds an Associate's Degree in Elementary Education from SUNY Niagara.

Fun Fact: In her free time, Ms. Kuriscak enjoys reading and drinking coffee at local coffee shops. She also enjoys being a mother to two little girls who also attend Wilson.



Name of Teacher/Staff Member: Mrs. Held

Role: Cafeteria Monitor

Background: Mrs. Held has an associates degree in applied science for a medical assistant. Mrs. Held has worked in primary care as a medical assistant for five years and then became a stay-at-home Mom to raise her three children.

Fun Fact: In her free time, Mrs. Held enjoys baking watching her children play baseball, soccer, cheer, and football. Mrs. Held and her family enjoy taking a trip every summer to make new memories and have new experiences.



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Name of Teacher/Staff Member: Mrs. Simpson

Role: Guidance Clerical

Background: Mrs. Simpson is happy to be part of Wilson's Counseling Center team. The faculty, staff and students have been so welcoming. Most recently, Mrs. Simpson has been managing short term rentals. She has also co-owned a party decor company and been the director at a youth summer camp near Seneca Lake. At the beginning of her career, she taught Health and Physical Education for the Niagara Wheatfield School District. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education at Brigham Young University and a Master of Science in Health Education at Canisius University.

Fun Fact: Mrs. Simpson enjoys spending time with her family and is grateful to see two of her three kids at school everyday. Some of Mrs. Simpson's hobbies include volunteering for local organizations, being outside and working in the garden, reading, playing pickleball, and doing yoga.

Name of Teacher: Mr. Stevenson

Role: Special Education Teacher

Background: Mr. Stevenson recently graduated from Niagara University. He studied Social Studies and Special Education (7th - 12th). This is his first year working as a teacher. Mr. Stevenson is working on his Masters in Special Education for all grade levels.

Fun Fact: Stevenson Elementary school was named after Mr. Stevenson's great grandfather. His family also owns Stevenson Hardware store in Ransomville. Mr. Stevenson likes to watch and play ice hockey.



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Name of Teacher/Staff Member: Miss Brown

Role: 8th Grade Science Teacher

Background: Miss Brown comes to us holding a Bachelor's of Science in Biology Education (5 - 12) from Niagara University and is graduating with her Master's of Education in Curriculum and Instruction this month from Empire State University. She currently holds a certification in Biology and is pursuing a certification in Chemistry as well.

Fun Fact: In her free time, Miss Brown enjoys taking care of her extensive houseplant collection and spending time with her family, friends, and puppy, Millie.



We are thrilled to have such passionate and dedicated individuals joining our team. Please feel free to introduce yourself to them and make them feel at home in our Wilson family. Let's work together to make this a fantastic year for everyone at Wilson Middle School!



Photo courtesy of Robert Carlo

WILSON JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to the members of the Wilson Junior Honor Society. This year's induction was held on November 6, 2024. Our master of ceremonies for the evening was *Grace Wills*. *Brynn Lepsch* spoke on scholarship, *Aliah Hallatt* spoke on service, *Lucy Metro* spoke on leadership, *Caspian Gustafson* spoke on character, *Kiera Croisdale* spoke on citizenship, *Trinity Kaminski* introduced present members of the Wilson Junior Honor Society, and *Zoey Beck* called new inductees to the stage. *Madilynne Wolfe* played the Alma Mater on the piano for the procession of members at the beginning and end of the ceremony.

Present members are *Zoey Beck*, *Kiera Croisdale*, *Bryson Frerichs*, *Jamison Geier*, *Jameson Guenther*, *Caspian Gustafson*, *Aliah Hallatt*, *Trinity Kaminski*, *Brynn Lepsch*, *Lucy Metro*, *Alonna Rumsey*, and *Grace Wills*.

The eighth grade inductees are *Theodore Andrews*, *Cora Everest*, *Hailey Hendricks*, *Peyton LaBelle*, *Rachim Montes*, *Colten Nashwinter*, *Molly Pennel*, *Kayden Pollow*, *Madilynne Wolfe*, *Elliot Woolson*, and *Lynsee Yoder*.

The seventh grade inductees are *Kennedy Andrews*, *Logan Cruz*, *Logan Danner*, *Grace Faery*, *Avie Franczyk*, *Marley Halona*, *Madison Mason*, *Brooklyn Nashwinter*, *Robert Pennell II*, *Kara Pippard*, *Adison Rafferty*, and *Jack Schimpf*.



KINDNESS ROCKS!

The new Kindness Clubs, led by **Mrs. Reagan** (6th) and **Mrs. Danner** (7/8th) hosted a rock painting activity on December 10th, to refill the 'Kindness Rocks' gardens outside the middle/high school building. Over 40 students used paint and markers to create the rocks, which featured artwork or short quotes like 'you matter', 'believe in yourself' and 'be kind always'. The finished rocks were super colorful and eye-catching. Before being placed in the gardens, they will be coated with a clear coat to make them more durable and weather-resistant. Special thanks to **Mr. and Mrs. Harvey**, who collected a box full of lake rocks over the summer, specifically to use for this activity.



MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

A huge thank you to the *Wilson Elementary PTA* and *Roseanne Criswell*, Book Fair Chair, for hosting the *Scholastic Book Fair* for the Middle School Students! The book fair was well attended by students and staff, alike. To ensure future events like this continue in the Middle School, parent/guardian participation is needed! Please reach out to *Jamie Andrews*, PTA president, at jandrews@wilsoncsd.org if you'd like to help. Keep an eye out for upcoming events posted on the *Wilson Middle School - Wilson, NY* and *Sos Wilson* Facebook pages.



6th GRADE SCIENCE IS FUN!

Our 6th grade students were tasked with a stem challenge of building a bridge using only 15 straws, one meter of masking tape, and a cup. The cup was used to place pennies in, to test how much mass the bridge could hold. The toughest part was completing the challenge in 20 minutes. They also gave their bridges names like Fireball, Beefy Boyz, and Twinkle Toes. All in all, it was a fun day!!



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