

Dear Wilson Middle School Students, Parents and Staff,

More than half of the school year is completed. That being said, students still have 60% of their grade left to earn (3rd quarter, 4th quarter and final exams). It is imperative that students come to school every day, do quality work, turn their work in on time and be respectful.

Before we know it, the snow will be gone and students will be involved in additional activities that may not allow as much time and effort for school work. It is important that students strive to do their best consistently throughout the school year. This will avoid 'surprises' in June. If you would like to schedule a meeting with your child's grade level team, please contact Mrs. Carmer (751-9341 ext. 124) to arrange a meeting.

Mid-Winter break begins at the end of the day on Friday, 2/18. School will resume on Monday, 2/28.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at 751-9341 ext. 123. I'd be happy to speak with you.

We hope you enjoy the Winter edition of the Wilson Middle School newsletter.

Be Better Today Than Yesterday.

Take care,

Scott Benton, Principal Wilson Middle School





OCTOBER 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 October 2021!

Sixth Graders:

Addison Elia was nominated by Mrs. Forsyth for working diligently in all subjects. Addison goes above and beyond what is expected and she is a delight to teach.

Kiernan Santana was nominated by Mrs. Forsyth and Mrs. Andres. Mrs. Forsyth nominated Kiernan for her impressive work ethic. Kiernan always goes the extra mile and she is a wonderful student to teach. Mrs. Andres nominated Kiernan for taking the extra time to learn a dance and teach it to her fellow classmates in Chorus, which really enhanced their song.

Seventh Graders:

Connor Woodward was nominated by Mr. Baker for being a great kid who works very hard on all his assignments. He adds that it's always a pleasure to teach such a polite student.

Tessa Guenther was nominated by Mr. Moberg, Mr. Sippel and Mr. Baker. Mr. Moberg nominated Tessa because she is a kind, respectful, hard working student who is a pleasure to have in class. Mr. Sippel nominated Tessa because she brings a positive energy to class daily. She is a diligent student and an active participant during class. Tessa's success is due to her willingness to do her best each and every day. Mr. Baker nominated her for being one of the kindest students he has ever taught. She is always willing to help others and is very good at art.

Eighth Graders:

Kyle Cudney was nominated by Mr. Alderman, Mr. Friedrich and Mrs. Palmer. Mr. Alderman nominated Kyle because he has made great strides this year and is the nicest kid. Mr. Friedrich nominated Kyle because he has consistently gone above and beyond with his academics, to start the school year. Kyle always has his work completed in a timely manner, and will frequently participate in classroom discussions, setting the example for the rest of his classmates. Kyle has been an ideal student and has set the tone for himself to be successful, today and in the future. The best trait Kyle has shown is his ability to help his peers when they are having difficulty. He will be the first person to help, no matter the subject. Mrs. Palmer nominated Kyle for his terrific work ethic and his willingness to participate in class

Morgan Coulter was nominated by Mr. Freidrich, Mr. Baker and Mrs. Palmer. Mr. Freidrich nominated Morgan because she has continued to be a positive role model for her classmates. Morgan is consistently showing extraordinary academic ability, often going above teacher expectations, completing work well before it's due date. Morgan also is proactive in her work and studies, frequently staying after to get help with any questions she may have. Overall, Morgan is a dedicated, goal-oriented and ambitious student. Her peers may emulate her attitude and behavior if they want the formula to be successful. Mr. Baker nominated Morgan because she works extremely hard and is very creative. She is a role model for many students in her grade. Mrs. Palmer nominated Morgan for her hard work, willingness to ask for help and always being prepared in class.





NOVEMBER 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 November 2021!

Sixth Graders:

Mason Coulter was nominated by Mr. Baker and Mrs. Forsyth. Mr. Baker nominated Mason because he is a hard working student who always does his best. Mrs. Forsyth nominated Mason for always displaying a positive attitude every day. Mason is a hard worker, polite, and respectful. She adds that he is a pleasure to teach.

Brendan Gormley was nominated by Mrs. Reagan for being a diligent student who is always paying attention, getting his work done, and completing his work in a superior manner.

Seventh Graders:

Stella Cooper was nominated by Mrs. Harvey because she is an extremely hard working, diligent and responsible student. She always puts forth 110% and is very proactive when it comes to her education. She is eager and excited for whatever task is at hand in class. She is a leader to her peers and a major contributor to class. Her positivity and optimism always brighten Mrs. Harvey's day.

Grace Raczkiewicz Smith was also nominated by Mrs. Harvey for being a very hard working student. Her maturity and continual hard work and effort will always set her apart from her peers. Mrs. Harvey looks forward to seeing her every day in class as she consistently has a bright and positive outlook.

Eighth Graders:

David Gurski was nominated by Mrs. Aloisio, Miss Schlosser and Mr. Baker. Mrs. Aloisio nominated David for being a proactive student. He approaches his academics with hard work and discipline. He is kind, friendly and always smiling, brightening up the room. Miss Schlosser nominated David for being an exemplary student in every class she has subbed in. He is the student that teachers recommend to deliver attendance to the office or act as an example during class. When he consistently chooses to do the right thing, he reveals his strength of character. Mr. Baker nominated David because he has a great work ethic and is very creative. He is a role model for other students and is always willing to lend a hand.

Donna Clark was nominated by Mr. Alderman, Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Reagan. Mr. Alderman nominated Donna because she is a really nice girl, a hard worker and a genuinely good person. Mrs. Harvey nominated Donna because she is an extremely hard working and responsible young lady. Her work ethic will always set her apart from her peers. She is a leader among her classmates and is quick to lend a hand to anyone who needs help. Mrs. Reagan nominated Donna because she is a natural leader who does a great job with anything she does. She always chooses to do the right thing and is a great role model for her classmates.





DECEMBER 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 December 2021!

Sixth Graders:

Isabella Matias was nominated by Mrs. Wass, who notices the impressive dedication and focus she displays in the classroom. She is a diligent student who strives to do her best on a consistent basis. She is an excellent leader both in and outside of the classroom.

Madelyn Freatman was nominated by Mrs. Reagan and Mrs. Forsyth. Mrs. Reagan nominated Madelyn because she is a conscientious student who always completes her work with high quality. She is a quiet leader and a great role model for her peers. She stands out for always doing the right thing. Mrs. Forsyth nominated Madelyn because she is an extremely hard worker who puts forth 100% effort in all subjects. She is a sweet and kind young lady who is deserving of this award.

Seventh Graders:

Kylee Elia was nominated by Mr. Moberg because she is committed to doing her best while taking on a busy schedule, playing multiple sports.

Colleen Cliffe was nominated by Mr. Harvey for always having a positive attitude and coming prepared to work hard in class each day.

Eighth Graders:

Aurora Chase was nominated by Mr. Bovanizer, Mr. Freidrich and Mrs. Aloisio. Mr. Bovanizer nominated Aurora for a recent act of kindness. She walked up to a new student on her first day, introduced herself, sat near the student, and welcomed her to Wilson. This kind act truly shows how compassionate and caring Aurora is towards her peers. Mr. Freidrich nominated Aurora because she has shown tremendous growth as a student and person, both in and outside of the classroom. She has risen to the many challenges that have been presented to her this school year, and has tackled them head on. In addition to being a great student, Aurora excels in her athletics, showing great sportsmanship and dedication. Aurora is a perfect role model for her peers. Mrs. Aloisio nominated Aurora for being kind and considerate to everyone. She works very well with others and her compassion is often seen in her words and actions

Mackenzie Hardy was nominated by Mr. Baker because she works really hard and is always positive to her classmates. Kenzie is always willing to lend a hand and is a pleasure to teach.



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL FUNDRAISER

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey

The Middle School Student Council would like to thank all the students who recently participated in our New Day Coffee fundraiser prior to Christmas vacation.

6th Graders: *Kayla Gianquinto, Mason Coulter, Carmen Shimmel, Chacity Gray, Lucas Jowdy and Luke Howard*

7th Graders: *Bella Muck, Noah Johnson, Kairi Beck, Kaley Mahoney, Travis Mayes, Connor Woodward, Ben Meyers and Gwen Letts*

8th Graders: Cassie Ranney, Madelyn Tokarski, Will Wortkoetter, Isabella Thrush, Nathan Hurtgam, Donna Clark, Peter Kane, Mackenzie Hardy, Avery Nedelko, Morgan Coulter, Ruby Narehood, Brady Seeley and Genevieve Pittorf

Thanks to these 27 dedicated students, we had a very successful fundraiser. They helped raise just over \$700 for the Middle School Student Council fund. The money raised will be used to pay for busing to Darien Lake in June, for the Honor Roll field trip (for those students who meet the qualifying criteria). Our top seller was 7th grader **Bella Muck**, who sold 26 bags of coffee. Congratulations and thank you Bella! All students who sold 3 bags or more were invited to a pizza party in mid-January, in appreciation of their efforts. A big thank you also to those who supported the sale and purchased some coffee from us. Thanks again for all your help and support.

AIS UPDATE Mrs. Smith & Mr. Bovanizer

We continue to incorporate a new AIS program into the Middle School. Our seventh & eighth-grade AIS teachers Mr. Bovanizer and Mrs. Smith, found it important to design a new bulletin board each season with their students' help. This bulletin board has focused on the importance of ELA and math, showcasing all the skills that students have gained from learning new concepts over the years. The AIS students voted anonymously through a google form on the theme for the bulletin board. The board will be changed out each season. The winter bulletin board features marshmallows with ways the seventh & eighth-grade students are excited about ELA or math. We hope these bulletin boards can bring some joy and inspiration to all who walk past them. Keep an eye out for another creation in the Spring!





MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Wilson Middle School Musical **Madagascar Jr.** will be presented on March 17th & 18th at 7:00 pm. The musical is based on the movie **Madagascar** and will feature the amazingly talented students in our Middle School!

The **On Broadway: Searching** concert will be presented this year on Wednesday, February 16th at 7:00 pm. This concert is FREE and features all of our Choral groups in grades 6-12 as well as solo and small group performances of song, theater and dance. 'Everybody's searching for something' - love, escape, stardom, justice, safety, friendship, acceptance - so come out and let our students make you laugh, cry and sigh as they describe so many ways that people try to find what they need.





BAND

Congratulations and well done to the Middle School Band members who made All-County Ensembles.

Elementary Band

Luke Howard: Alto Saxophone Mason Coulter: Baritone Natalie Shackelford: Baritone & Violin

<u>Junior High Band</u>

**Max Harmon:* Trumpet *First chair of all 7th, 8th and 9th graders in the county! *Tyler Parker:* Percussion



CHORUS

Congratulations to the following choral students, who made All-County Chorus.

Sixth Grade: Jude Cyphert, Taylor Ernest, Natalee Fronczek, Chacity Gray, Lexus Hailey, Kiernan Santana and Maria Taravella

8th GRADERS RAISE MONEY FOR VETERANS

Eighth grade students enrolled in **Mrs. Reagan's** Home and Careers class took on a very special project, to coincide with Veterans Day. Students made red, white and blue ribbons and sold them for \$1 in mid-November. They raised \$180, and gave half to WNY Heroes and half to the American Legion of Wilson. **Donna Clark** presented the money to Legion members during their Veterans Day celebration on November 11th. Mrs. Reagan is so proud of the class, for planning and executing the whole fundraiser mostly by themselves, with small bits of guidance here and there.





Photograph courtesy of Ed Goodnight

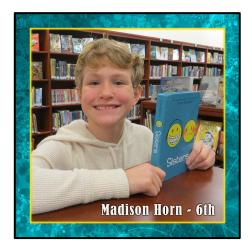
CHESS CLUB Mr. Neumann



The sixth grade has started Chess Club once again. For the first two weeks, new players attended and learned how to play the game. Currently, we are inviting students to play on Tuesdays and Thursdays, during 12th period. We learn a new move or strategy at every club meeting, and then players have a chance to put that into practice during their games. We will be having Chess Club practice for a couple more weeks and then we will be starting our first tournament. We may include the rest of the school depending on the number that sign up. We look forward to another fun year of chess playing.

25 BOOK CLUB

Congratulations to sixth grader **Madison Horn**, for reading 25 books this year and becoming the first member of this year's 25 Book Club!



HOLIDAY ACTIVITY BOOKS

Students in **Mr. Brian Baker's** Art classes continued their long-standing tradition of creating Activity Packets for hospitalized children to enjoy over the holidays. Girls on the varsity basketball team wrapped them. Mr. Baker dropped off 75 packets and a few homemade bracelets, split between three hospitals: O'shei Children's Hospital, Buffalo General Medical Center and Eastern Niagara Hospital.







CANINE DEMONSTRATION <u>7TH GRADE</u>

On November 23rd, students in **Mr. Sippel's** 7th grade Social Studies classes met two dogs from the K9 Units of the North Tonawanda Police Department and the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. **K9 Stella** is trained to track and alert on drugs, while **K9 Atom** is a bomb-sniffing dog. Students learned the steps necessary to become a police officer; the special training involved in the K9 Unit; some of the steps involved in making arrests and conducting an investigation; and how dogs are taught to identify certain smells and alert their handlers. Special thanks to **K9 Officer Kam**, **Officer Whitehead**, and **K9 Deputy Walters** for visiting the school and bringing their police dogs with them.





WILSON JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Photograph courtesy of Michael Carlo

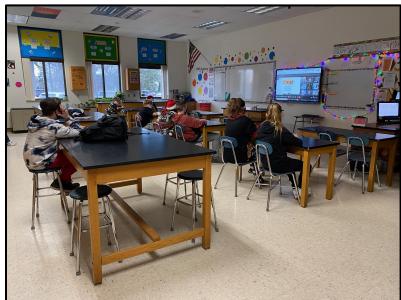
WILSON JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

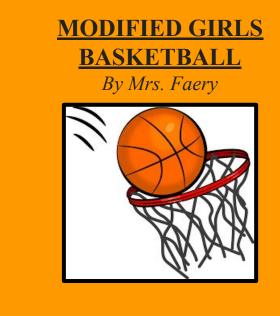
Congratulations to the members of the Wilson Junior Honor Society. This year's induction was held on October 13, 2021. Our emcee for the evening was Brady Seeley. James Madan spoke on Scholarship, David Gurski spoke on Service, Peter Kane spoke on Leadership, Avery Nedelko spoke on Character, Shamus George spoke on Citizenship and Ruby Narehood introduced present members of the Wilson Junior Honor Society. Present members are Lyla Adamczyk, Skyler Aydelotte, Abbie Faery, Shamus George, David Gurski, Mackenzie Hardy, Nathan Hurtgam, Peter Kane, Brock Lepsch, James Madan, Ruby Narehood, Avery Nedelko, Isabel Nugent, Cassandra Ranney, Braden Seeley, Rowan Simpson, Ryan Thompson, Madelyn Tokarski and William Wortkoetter. The new inductees are Morgan Coulter, Bailey Fournier, Pearce Hendricks, Ryan Hough, Lauren Vanderlinden, Bryce Avery, Colleen Cliffe, Stella Cooper, Lilly DiPasquale, Tessa Guenther, Max Harmon, Gwendolyn Letts, Benjamin Meyers, Bella Muck, Grace Raczkiewicz Smith, Mason Schultz and Meghan Seider.



Principal Benton treated the entire Middle School to a special reading of *The Night Before Christmas* on the last day before December break. Students loved seeing the 3-dimensional illustrations by Barbara Reid, featuring a family of mice as the main characters. After the reading, Mr. Benton surprised everyone by playing some JibJab videos that he created. Students and staff were laughing out loud. It was a great way to put everyone in the holiday spirit!







The Girls Modified Basketball team had a fun and challenging season, finishing with a record of 9-3. After a year of intramurals, these girls were excited to play and work hard. Opening up with 5 games in 7 days was extremely difficult, physically and mentally. I was very proud of the team's efforts and response to the physicality of the season. The girls had to work very hard to defend and hustle, as opponents always bring their best game. We found many ways to win when tested and never backed down. This group of girls worked hard and wanted to learn and get better. They improved tremendously, providing quiet leadership and lots of fun. When needed, they were able to score a bucket, grab a rebound or make a steal by playing tenacious defense. All the members of our team, both players and manager, contributed to our success.

> Modified Girls Basketball: Katie Brown - manager Morgan Coulter Emma DiPasquale Lilly DiPasquale Tessa Guenther Mackenzie Hardy Avery Nedelko Skylar O'Connor April Paul-Redding Shelby Robinson Paige Thrush Brooke Urban Jocelyn Ziemendorf

PAPER

INTRODUCING PAPER: FREE 24/7 TUTORING!

Although outside tutoring is a great resource during any school year, it's especially important during times of remote instruction, when students cannot be on campus for various reasons. The Middle and High Schools have added an online tutoring resource to help support our students during these extraordinary times, and we're excited for students to start using it.

Paper is a secure, online tutoring service that provides students with unlimited, 24/7 academic support. Whether they're stuck on homework, studying for a test, or need someone to read their essays, experts will be available online to assist students in over 200 subjects and more than 4 languages.

Paper tutors have been specially trained to conduct expert, academic support in a secure, chat-based platform. With a commitment to helping students learn, they won't give students answers, but rather interact with them in an encouraging tone to lead them forward.

This is a free service that we're providing, so students are encouraged to use it as much as they need, whenever they need. Wilson teachers may also review student activity to see what they're working on and provide more targeted instruction if needed. (All online interaction will be governed by Wilson's Acceptable Use Policy, just as it is during the school day.)

Great for:

- quarantined students who need immediate help
- homework help outside of school hours
- feedback on writing assignments
- reviewing concepts before an exam
- getting 'unstuck' if students become confused while completing an assignment

Wilson students will sign in to **Paper** using their Clever account. There is a page on the LMC website (wilsoncsd.org/librarymedia) devoted to **Paper**, and a link is also included on the district's Resource page (wilsoncsd.org/Page/943). *Mrs. Seeley*, our Curriculum Facilitator, hopes to provide demonstrations about the product in math classes this month. If you have any questions about Paper, please feel free to reach out to her at: aseeley@wilsoncsd.org or 751-9341 x245.

We're very excited to offer our students unlimited, 24/7 support through the **Paper** platform and we welcome your feedback. Please check it out soon and let us know about your experience!

PAPE

Chat with a tutor 24/7

Writing review



There for you when your nerves aren't

Anytime • Anywhere • Unlimited



FREE 24/7 Tutoring

What Paper Offers



2

Homework help

- → Chat with a tutor 24/7
- → Unlimited sessions
- → Every academic subject

Writing feedback

- → Grammar, structure & style review
- → Submit any written work
- → Unlimited submissions



- → Understand tough concepts
- → Prepare for exams
- → Get study tips and skills





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About Paper's Tutors

From elementary English to AP physics, Paper's tutors help every student in exactly the way they need. Tutors speak English, Spanish, Mandarin and French. Each exceptional specialist is a carefully selected, rigorously trained employee — not a contractor. Tutor managers are trained in SafeTalk and can identify at-risk students.

Log in at: app.paper.co

MOCK ELECTION

Each year, **Mr. Sippel** offers his 7th graders a lesson about the electoral college. He holds a mock-election, to illustrate the difference between the popular vote and electoral votes. Two presidential

candidates present their platforms to each class of voters, who are split up into states. This year, Mr. Sippel and **Miss Mahar** were the candidates. Each candidate presents a platform of opposing issues, followed by a question and answer session. Platform issues are geared to be schoolspecific, and this year's issues included: a cell phone policy; dress code; legal driving age; school lunch menu; homework; length of school day and length of school year. Candidates hold opposing views on each issue, so students use a chart to weigh the pros and cons, before casting their vote. Since there are very few times when a student agrees with 100% of a candidate's platform, s/he must make an informed decision, based on what issues s/he believes to be most important. After votes are cast, Mr. Sippel displays a chart and records both the popular vote and the electoral vote. He uses a modified list of states (less than 50), with each classroom having states that range in the number of electoral college votes they have. Since states like New York and Florida have more Electoral College votes (29 each) than states like Vermont and Alaska (3 each), students are able to see how certain states influence the outcome of an election more than others. In the week leading up to the election, signs are put up in the hallways and each candidate filmed campaign commercials for students to view. Mr. Sippel and Miss Mahar have been teaching the lesson for a long time and this year's race was one of the closest ones yet. The popular vote was tied going into the last class period of the day! Mr. Sippel and Miss Mahar

believe it is a fun, informative way for students to learn about elections and the electoral college.





HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT

Students performed in front of a live audience for the first time in two years during the Christmas concert. Participants were grateful to be in front of a live audience again! Choral director, **Mrs. Andres**, helped students prepare to celebrate the holiday season with the Wilson Central School Community.





READ-A-THON

Mrs. Aloisio

Wilson Middle School's **Read 25 Book Club** conducted their 2021-2022 **READ-A-THON** on Wednesday, November 17th, 2021 from 2:30-4:30 pm in the Library Media Center. Students spent two hours reading in an effort to raise money for the Read 25 Book Club.

Many students participated in this event, collecting donations and raising over \$700. Prizes were awarded to the top 5 students that raised the most money.

All proceeds will be used to provide special incentives for students who are achieving the goal of reading 25 books each year.

















TROT

Thank you to Mr. Friedrich for organizing the Middle School Turkey Trot. Many hands make light work and the entire staff pitched in to support the Turkey Trot, allowing for an enjoyable, safe experience for our students. It was a great send-off for the students and staff, before leaving for Thanksgiving break. Special thanks and appreciation to the Village of Wilson, NYS **Troopers, Niagara County** Sheriff's Department, Wilson **Fire Company, South Wilson** Fire Company and Ransomville Fire Company for providing escorts and making sure our students remained safe. Thanks also to Champion Graphics for printing the tee shirts that were used as prizes for the top runners.





































































UGLY SWEATER DAY

There were a lot enthusiastic participants in this year's Ugly Sweater Contest. Thank you to **Mrs. Jaime Lepsch** for organizing the annual event. Congratulations to this year's winners!

6th grade: Kiernan Santana and Archer Simpson 7th grade: Benton Moshier and Fiona Srock 8th grade: Aurora Chase and Shamus George



















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UPCOMING EVENTS

2/16, 8:00 - 1:30: Music Photo Shoot

2/16, 7:00: On Broadway: Searching

2/19 - 2/27: Mid-Winter Recess

2/22: WCSD Fire Inspection

2/28: School Resumes

3/4: Progress reports mailed

3/4 & 3/5: All County Festival III

3/8: 5:00: PTSA Meeting (LMC) - TENTATIVE

3/11: 6:30 - 9:00: MS March Madness Event - TENTATIVE

3/17: 7:00: MS Musical - Madagascar

3/18: Superintendent Conference Day (No school for students)

3/18: 7:00: Madagascar

3/29 & 3/30: NYS ELA Assessments



HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOPER PRESENTATION

We are lucky to have such an active Historical Society, that brings interesting exhibits and presenters to town. Since there is a strong emphasis on Local History throughout the grade levels in the Social Studies department, students are encouraged to attend presentations on historical subjects. On November 16th, many students learned what it was like to be a 'cooper', or barrel maker. **Tim Roberts,** a farmer from Appleton, gave a hands-on presentation on how barrels have been made for centuries.



RED RIBBON TAILGATE

Teachers surprised students on October 29th by dressing up as Buffalo Bills superfans, and hosting a tailgate party in the morning. They donned the group costume in recognition of Red Ribbon Week, and Halloween.











Sailboat image, courtesy of Ed Goodnight