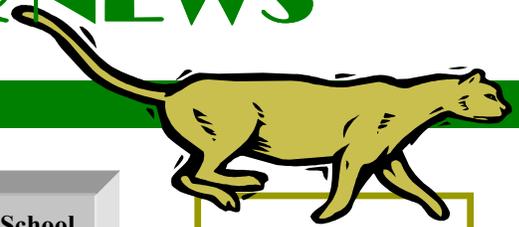




Leavenworth Middle School COUGAR NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012

Volume. 1, Issue 6



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE MONTH

December, 2011

The Wolcott Elk's Lodge sponsors the Student of the Month award and each month the Cougar Pride Building team selects one deserving student that has been nominated by a staff member. The criteria for this award are as follows: The student is a positive role model; kind and respectful of his/her peers. He/she is responsible, does not give in to negative peer pressure and the student is dedicated to being drug free.



The Student of the Month for December, is Tyler L., a 6th grade student. Tyler is an upbeat, positive individual. He is always polite & cheerful, even when challenged! Tyler is in band and according to Mrs. Fox, is a delightful musician and strong trombonist! He participates in After The Bell- where he enjoys playing catch ball! Outside of school, Tyler enjoys cooking, playing video games, fishing & is an amusement park enthusiast!!

Tyler will be invited to attend a luncheon later in the year at the Wolcott Elk's Lodge. He also received a medal and 25 Cougar Cash to redeem at the Cougar's Den! Congratulations Tyler!

Rachel's Challenge at the Middle School

On December 12th, the Middle School participated in a presentation called Rachel's Challenge. Rachel Scott was the first victim in the Columbine shootings in April, 1999. By sharing her writings, drawings & video footage of the Columbine tragedy, the mission of this campaign is to diminish school violence, bullying & teen suicide. One month before her death, Rachel wrote a "Code of Ethics" to live by, and also wrote how compassion is the greatest gift of love humans have to offer. Rachel had a theory, that if one person can go out of their way to show kindness, then it will start a chain reaction of the same, people will never know how far a little kindness can go.

After the presentation, a smaller group of students were able to attend training along with GOTTCHA CLUB members. Here are some of the things our students had to say:

- ❖ "I am different from a lot of kids and recognize it. Made me think everyone is really different and shouldn't be afraid to show and be who they want to be."
- ❖ "I want to be a better person and look inside of others instead of judging"
- ❖ "his made me want to be a better person and to be careful what I say to others"

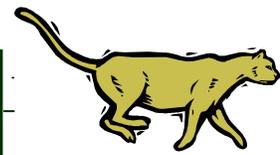
The GOTTCHAS Club (Giving Ourselves to the Community, Home and Schools) is incorporating Rachel's challenge into our club by various activities & by bringing the message to other students. Advisors for the GOTTCHAS Club are Mrs. Cole, Mrs. DeFeo, Mrs. Interlichia & Mrs. LaValley.

REMEMBER TO ALWAYS ...

- **BE RESPECTFULL**
- **BE RESPONSIBLE**
- **BE KIND**
- **BE SAFE**

IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 2/2 | Ground Hog Day |
| |  |
| 2/3 | Winter Play Day
Go Red For Women
MS DANCE
6:30-8:30 pm |
| 2/4 | Wayne County Solo
Festival |
| 2/7 &
2/8 | 8th Grade Orientation
At High School |
| 2/14 | 5th Grade to RPO
HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY |
| 2/15 | Cougar Night for
8th Grade Parents
6:30 pm @ HS |
| 2/16 | Roller Skating
@ NRWE
@ 6:30 -8:30 pm |
| 2/20— | WINTER BREAK |
| 2/24 | No School |
| 2/29 | Leap day |



From the Middle School Counseling Office

Middle School & High School Counselors are working together with Mr. Benz & Mrs. Hoyt at the High School in preparation for our 8th grade students' High School transition. We have important activities scheduled to help students & parents make informed decisions about what courses to select as we prepare to develop a four-year plan for each student.

Upcoming events for 8th grade students & parents are as follows:

January 25th: Classroom presentation about vocational programs offered for students at the Wayne Technical and Career Center at Williamson, BOCES. Presented by Kim Maxim, BOCES Counselor.

February 7th & February 8th: Cougar Day! Middle School students visit the High school for a building tour, classroom visits learn about courses at the high school to assist with their course selections. (Half of the class will attend each day.)

February 15th Cougar Night! 6:30pm in the High School, small cafeteria. High School Counselors will review high school requirements and important information. (Snow date- February 16th)

February 27th – March 3rd: Counselors visit classroom to discuss HS requirements, courses and begin working on 4 year plan with students.

March 6th – March 31st: Follow up appointments with students in small groups to complete course selection/finalize the 4-yr. plan for HS. Parents invited to meet with counselor & child to take part in development of the plan.

Look for your son/daughter to bring home information about his/her four-year plan for you to review and sign, along with an invitation to come in and meet with your child's counselor. Please feel free to email or contact Mr. Bittner or

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found clothing are located in the nurse office. Encourage your children to check for missing items. Unclaimed clothing is donated to charity on a bi-weekly basis.

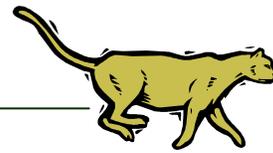


Also—there are three pairs of unclaimed eyeglasses!

Wayne Technical & Career Center Presentation

On January 25th, 8th grade students had the opportunity to learn about the programs offered at the Wayne Technical & Career Center (BOCES). A presentation by Kim Maxim, counselor for BOCES included a video that provided students with information about the 26 vocational programs at the WTCC. During February & March, Middle School Counselors will be working with 8th grader students to prepare for their transition to HS, as well as completing their 4-year High School plans. Providing students with the possibilities of programs and options for High School, will assist them in their course selection. This is also a good opportunity for our students to think ahead about their future vocational & career plans. Selection of students to participate in any vocational program at the WTCC requires good attendance, grades and behavior in High School. Encourage your child to discuss the classroom presentation and plans for High School!





AFTER THE BELL

Foosball Tournament Rewards Middle School Students for Practice and Dedication

What do you get when you put sixteen middle school students and two Tornado foosball tables together for two hours? An exciting, energetic, and, fun-filled foosball tournament! On Friday, January 6, 2012, four teams of girls and four teams of boys squared off for the first North Rose-Wolcott Middle School 'After the Bell' Foosball tournament, competing for both the girls' double and boys' double championship trophies.

Playing in teams of two each, this double elimination tournament produced some very close games, with the girls' finals match coming down to 'point game', for an exciting finish. Winning the girls' tournament was the team of Jesseka Johnson and Porschia Wilson, also known as the 'Fudge Muffins'. The undefeated Fudge Muffins faced off against the 'Birthday Crashers', Alexis Perkins and Kelsey Roberts, in what could have been the final game of the contest. However, the Birthday Crashers beat the Fudge Muffins in their first game, sending the tournament into a 'winner takes all' final match. This nail biter went down to the wire with the Fudge Muffins pulling out a 5-4 victory. On the boys' table, 'Quick Shot', made up of Devon Crum and Donovan Caves went undefeated the entire night to win their tournament and the trophy.

These students are all participants in the NRW Middle School, 'After the Bell' student enrichment program. The foosball program is taught by Mr. O'Brien, a Technology Education teacher at the NRW High School, and avid foosball player himself.

Students in the After the Bell program wish to thank Mrs. Sullivan, NRW MS Principal, Mr. Fisher, After the Bell Coordinator, and, Mr. Murphy, NRW Grant Writer, for making the After the Bell Foosball Program a reality.

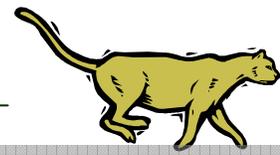
The students would also like to thank Mr. Dave Courington, of Brunswick's Tornado Table Soccer, for his enthusiastic support of their foosball program and his supplying the trophies for this first tournament.

Participants in this first foosball tournament included:

Girls: Jesseka J., Porshia Wi., Taylor M., Sierra P., Alexis P., Kelsey R., Cassie I., and, Kayla N.

Boys: Zach C., William P., Cameron A., Kevin P., Donald A., Jason R., Devon C., and, Donald C.





Texting & Your Child



How much do our youth communicate through texts?

- Texting is the #2 use of cell phones -- after checking the time.
- Teens send an average of 3,146 texts per month, and kids ages 9 to 12 send 1,146
- 75% of 12 to 17 year olds own cell phones and 88% of them use text messaging
- 64% of parents look at the contents of their child's cell phone and 62% of parents have taken away their child's phone as punishment
- 43% of teens who take their phones to school say they text in class at least once a day

Texting is becoming the #1 form of communication

Kids text because it lets them feel connected and feel as if they can have a private moment with a friend, no matter where they are or what else they're doing. Most students use messaging responsibly, others use it irresponsibly. One can't see the reaction of the person who receives the text, so actions are sometimes separated from the consequences. Young people can be cruel, and their judgment and impulse control are not yet fully developed often resulting in text exchange that becomes unpleasant. Texting can be very hurtful and possibly dangerous to your child's wellbeing.

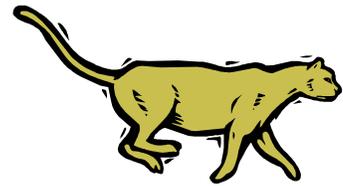
Sexting is more common with pre-teens and teens than parents realize, with 1 in 5 children involved in sexting. What is sexting? It's when sexual messages and/or nude pictures of themselves or others are sent via text or on-line. While many teens openly admit that they know it's wrong to share sexual photos, they feel the odds of getting caught are so low that they are willing to run the risk.

Advice for parents

- **Owning or using a cell phone is a privilege not a right!** Remind your child that and continued use depends entirely on their being able to demonstrate responsible behavior.
- **Carefully evaluate whether or not your child needs texting on their cell phones.** Just because other kids in their class have it doesn't mean your child needs it.
- **Set parental controls on your child's cell phone-** with some service providers, parents can control the number of text messages, calls, block certain numbers or restrict outgoing calls to a pre-approved list. Some even allow parents to disable the phone during certain times of day, like school hours or after 9 pm.
- **Make rules around when and where.** No texting during meals, during class, on family outings. Oh, and turn the phone OFF at night!
- **No texting while they should be concentrating on something else.** This includes walking and having a conversation with someone else. Firm rules about this will ensure their safety as well as good social skills.
- **Check your child's cell phone/texts.** Let your child know ahead of time that on occasion, you'll be checking the text message outbox / or the monthly bill. Stating this upfront that you'll be monitoring their cell phone use, won't seem like an invasion of privacy. Your job, as a parent, is to help them be safe & responsible with technology.
- **Establish consequences for misuse.** Cheating, inappropriate messages, sexual communication. These are all improper use of their cell phone. Want to make your point? Take your kid's phone away for a week.
- **Watch your own behavior.** Parents are still models for their kids. If you text your child during school hours, then turn around and tell that child that he or she can't do that, you're sending mixed signals.

Above all, don't feel uncomfortable with any of these suggestions. Our first job as parents is to ensure that our children are safe. Teaching them to use cell phones safely and responsibly is important to their health & welfare, if you don't do it, who will?

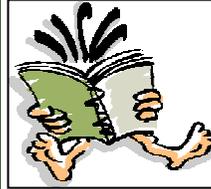
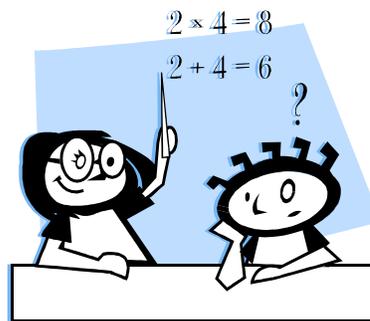




SES TUTORING

The Leavenworth S.E.S tutoring program is currently working with 5th-8th grade students in the areas of ELA and Math. Small, focused, skills based groups have been implemented and students receive the extra assistance that they need in a focused 50 minute period. Students are working on improving their overall reading score, vocabulary skills, comprehension skills, and writing abilities. In Math student skill work is based not only on the student's individual needs (such as need for daily Math fact review), but also on reinforcing the core content that is being taught.

There are still slots available if you are interested in having your child join us.



Students in Mrs. Cole's reading classes have been working very hard! Mrs. Cole is doing mid-year reading testing and many students have shown tremendous growth since the beginning of the year! The next book report project, "Message in a Bottle" is due on February 17th. This project will provide students with a unique opportunity to "become" the main character in the book they are reading, and write a letter from their point of view. A pink packet of directions was given to each student, detailing what the requirements of the project are. Happy reading!!

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Jr. High All County Vocal Festival took place on Saturday, Jan. 28 at Clyde-Savannah. Vocal Music participants from the Middle School include: Devon B., Ryan F., Alexandria R., Anahbelle G., Breanne D., Tess R., Faith M., Rachel E. and Jessica G. The Elementary All County Festival will take place on March 3 in Newark. Fifth Grade All County Choir members include Abigail L., Emily M., Cassidy R., Taylor L., Katherine F., Chynna P. and Taylor M. Sixth Grade All County Choir includes Kathleen N., Brianna B.e, Kristen P., Payton L. and Joshanna C.

Elementary All-County Band participants included the following: Flute - Rylee C., Bass Clarinet - Sarah W. and Dylan M., Trumpet -Kelsie F., Percussion - Cole D.

Students passed an audition as a criteria for them making All County this year.

Congratulations to these students!

