

The Marauder

February 2001

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- “Enriching” News from Mr. Skeet
- Classroom News
- Club News
- Spelling Bee—Round 1 Results
- Student of the Month



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From Mr. Skeet.....

Dear Students and Parents:

One of the areas of middle school life at Williamson that I would like to report on is the vast amount of enrichment activities that are available to the students in all grade levels. Through a combination of a very ambitious coordinator, Carol McMahan, a willing staff, and with the Board of Education financial support our middle school students have available to them more enrichment activities than any middle school that I have been associated with.

This letter will highlight some of the activities that we have had in the first five months of this school year and a current listing of activities for the balance of this school year.

Enrichment Report 2000-2001

Level I – Programs for every student at a particular grade level

Civil War Surgeon Les Buell, Grade 8
(9/29/00)

Todd Beers Poetry, Grade 6 (12/7/00)
Through the act of writing poetry, students explore their inner landscapes and their surroundings. Participants learn techniques and craft (line break, metaphor, sound, word choice, transition, etc.), and are encouraged to allow the poem itself to make a discovery.

Poetry Lessons, Grade 6, Carol McMahon
(12/5/00, 1/11/01)

Revolutionary War Re-Enactors, Grade 7
(12/15/00)

Valarie Holmes, *Everything Comes from a Seed*, Grades 5-8, (1/16/01)
Storytelling that educates and heals. A Learning Standard focused program designed for elementary and middle school age children, which centers on the American historical experience.

Medieval Day with Gaudete, Grade 6
(3/15/01)

MJ Iuppa Poetry, Grade 5 (5/8/01)
This 3-5 day creative writing residency involves students in experimenting with various genres: poetry, prose, and mini-fictions. The workshops focus on actively engaging participants in the creative writing process as well as reading and discussing contemporary writing. Writing exercises are presented to promote writing skills and craft.

Poetry Lessons, Grade 5, Carol McMahon
(May TBD)

Level I (cont.)

Science Day, Grade 5 (6/1/01)

Library Field Trip, Grade 8 (10/4/00,
10/5/00)

Ganondagan Speakers, Grade 7 (10/23/00)

Mock Election, Grades 5-8 (10/31/00)

Native American Focus Week, Grade 7
(10/23-10/30/00)

Orienteering, Grade 6, Carol McMahon
(10/13/00)

Physical Education Orienteering, Grade 6,
Carol McMahon (10/23/00)

Colin Coots, Art (3/23/01)

Demonstrates a variety of styles, materials and techniques as he creates portraits, figure drawings and caricatures of students.

Traveling Lantern Theatre Troupe,
Grades 5 and 7 (4/23/01)

The story of Lewis and Clark's exploration is as an exciting adventure of discovery as one can imagine. Only recently are children being made aware of the fact there was another person quintessential to the success of their mission.

Mythmasters, Grades 6 and 8
(2/14/01)

The myths of ancient Greece come alive through a skillful and entertaining combination of theatrical techniques (masks, mime, comedy, drama, puppets, costumes, music, reverence, irreverence, and lots of audience participation).

Civil War Strategy Unit, Grade 7
(May TBD)

Genesee Country Museum Field Trip,
Grade 7 (5/22/01)

Swing Dance Lessons, Grades 5-8,
Carol McMahon (March TBD)

Level II – Teacher/Student Choice Activities

Junior Great Books, Grade 5, fall semester

Junior Great Books, Grade 6, Full year,
20 students

Project Adept Workshop; Grade 8,
20 students

Brown Bag Program: Dogs, 91 students

*Guest Presenters:

K. Chamberlain, Guiding Eyes

K. Faulkner, BOCES

B. Carr, Sheriff's Dept.

A. Smith, Pyrenees Breeder

Middle School Newspaper, Grades 5-8,
18 students

Poetry Club, Grades 5-8, 15 students

Tall Tale Tournament, Grade 6, 24 students

Coffeehouse, Grade 6 (1/18/01)

Storyteller Workshop with V. Holmes,
Grades 5-8, 10 students (1/16/01)

Ryan Ainsworth – Accapella Group “Son of
Pitches”, Chorus/Band, Evening
Concert
(2/9/01)

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Level III – Teacher recommendations or motivated students with project ideas

Accelerated English - Eric Scheffinger

Volcano Project - M. Hurliman,

B. Fitzgerald, M. Smith

Oceans – A. Haskins

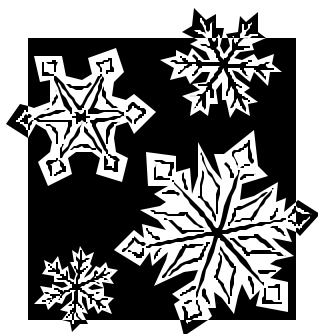
Romeo and Juliet – High School

While the above activities provide an enriching, motivational environment for the student body, they also make learning “fun” in a student’s mind. These activities take learning out of the textbook and into the world of a field trip, a stage production or a re-enactment.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas G. Skeet
Interim Principal



News from Mrs. Bianchi's Crew

By Mrs. Bianchi

Mrs. Bianchi's class has been meeting after school on Thursdays to make some crafts to sell to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. After reading a story in our reading series about how other children made a difference in their community, our class decided that we would like to do the same. We will continue to do these crafts throughout the course of the school year to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. This is a great opportunity for these young children to work together to help others and to become role models to our society.

In December we made snowflakes and candy canes as ornaments for Christmas trees. We were able to raise \$304.00 so far this school year. The children are all excited about these activities and we are able to work together cooperatively to work toward our goal. We are in the process of voting on our next activity we are going to do. We have some ideas but have yet to decide on one.

The meetings are held on Thursday afternoons, from 2:10-2:55, and are open to any child or parent that would like to come in after school to help out during our meetings and activities.

Please contact Mrs. Bianchi if you would like to participate in this classroom "club" and interrelated activities.

Mrs. Bierer's Bunch

Having finished our study of the Revolutionary War, we are reading The Cabin Faced West and working trying to understand the Constitution to an appropriate extent.

Hayley Hannan, Amanda Fox, and Heather Kingsbury challenged each other to memorize the poem "The Ride of Paul Revere". They did amazingly well, with Hayley completing the greatest length. Their young minds really stretched to do this!

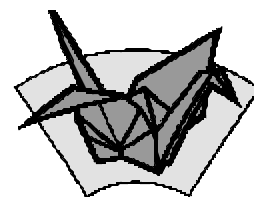


While DBQ's (document based questions) are the current bane of their existence, these children are doing their best to master the process of gleaning information from document data, meshing it in their minds, and formulating short essay answers based upon the information.

Between DBQ's and CSMP math, Fifth Grade is meeting some great transformations.

8th Grade Math News

By Mrs. Bayley



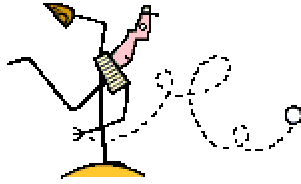
We are working with geometry which includes elements of both measurement and art. We will be working with "Patty" paper when we study symmetry. Toward the end of the chapter we will be making M. C. Eschler designs called Tessellations. Look for creative art work in the Chapter 5 math homework packet after January 20th.

We will study statistics next and include information from World War II social studies class.

Spring Sports Signups

By Mrs. Starr

Sign up for spring sports will begin March 5th. This includes baseball, softball, and track. 7th and 8th graders interested in participating may pick up forms in the Health Office. Completed forms must be returned to the Health Office by March 12th.

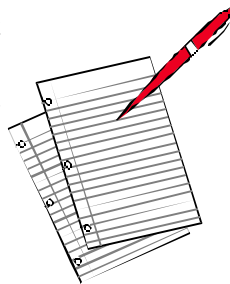


Physicals will be given on March 13th for those students requesting a school physical.

Working Papers

By Mrs. Starr

Students must have a current physical in order for working papers to be issued. The next date for physicals at the Middle School is March 13th. Please contact the Health Office if you would like to have a physical scheduled for working papers.



Learning Fair
Saturday March 10th
1:00-4:00pm
Williamson High School

Come and join the fun! There will be presentations by students and community members as well as many student and classroom projects to see!

New Hepatitis B Immunization Requirements



By Mrs. Starr

Attention Parents of 6th Graders!

Recent amendments in Public Health Law require all students entering 7th grade to have received the Hepatitis B immunization series. This is a three shot series that protects against a virus that can cause serious liver disease. The second shot in the series is given one month after the first, and the third shot that completes the series is given 4 to 6 months after the first shot. Since it take a few months to complete the series, this is a good time to contact your child's doctor and make appointments to have this started. That way it can be completed before September when your child will be entering 7th grade. Please have your child's doctor send documentation that this requirement has been met to the Middle School Health Office.

Enrichment News

By Mrs. McMahon



Grade 6 Medieval Day will be held on **Thursday, March 15th**. Be looking for more information to come home with your child soon!



FRANCE TRIP 2001

By Mrs. Osborn

Reserve Sunday, February 11 at the Williamson Fire Department Women's Auxiliary Breakfast where the France Trip 2001 participants have been invited to serve you a delicious breakfast. Cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.50 for Senior Citizens, \$3.50 for children 6-12, and children under 5 are free. French toast, pancakes, scrambled eggs, and beverage will be served.



Music Department News

By Mr. Amend

Are you a big fan of N'Sync, Backstreet Boys and 98 Degrees? Or do you just like to hear great voices in harmony? Well, on Friday February 9th at 7:00 pm in the Middle School Auditorium the Music Department will be sponsoring a concert by two incredibly talented vocal groups.

The first group "S.O.P" will be performing contemporary and original vocal styling. They bring nothing but their voices and some great music! The group includes members from the Ithaca College Music Department. They will be spending the day with our Middle School and High School music students talking about performance tips and career opportunities in vocal music. They will also be available during 10th period (after school) for a workshop and question/answer session AND at their concert in the evening. The group is working in support of their debut CD.

The second act "Our Next Quartet" is familiar to our district. They visited Williamson High School last year to help coach the Barbershop Quartet in last year's musical "The Music Man". They've also done some performance/demonstrations with our Middle School chorus students last year. This group makes their home at Harmony House in Webster, NY and performs barbershop quartet harmony throughout the Rochester area. The cost?FREE....The Experience?.....Invaluable!!



Spelling Bee - Round 1 Results

By Ms. Prill

Thirty-one Williamson Middle School students competed in the first round of the Spelling Bee on January 11, 2001.

The top eleven scorers, who will compete in Round 2 on Valentine's Day in the MS Auditorium, are:

Mike Hurlimann Gr. 5	+49/50
Audrey Wackerman Gr. 8	+46/50
Heather Wackerman Gr. 7	+45/50
Claire Herbert Gr. 5	+45/50
Bryan Fitzgerald Gr. 5	+44/50
Erin Grzybek Gr. 8	+42/50
Ariana Barbato Gr. 8	+42/50
Melissa DeVille Gr. 7	+42/50
Hayley Hannan Gr. 5	+42/50
Clayton DeFisher Gr. 6	+41/50
Dima George Gr. 8	+41/50

Reading Counts! Tally

by Ms. Prill

These Middle Schoolers have read and passed comprehension tests on the following number of READING COUNTS books. Students choose the books based on their interests and independent reading level. Extra credit for books read is given by their English or Reading teacher.

The Reading Counts! Club meets weekly according to grade level in Ms. Prill's room. Students may join the club at any time. All are welcome!

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Books Read</u>	<u># of Words Read</u>
Kyle Alward	13	32,552
Nina Barber	10	92,002
Tricia Batz	3	4,385
Lisa Beck	5	16,338
Kristine Budd	37	103,281
Andrea Blauvelt	8	20,793
Melissa Budd	4	44,311
Kyle Bull	20	147,144
Tony Campisi	5	23,497
Gary DeLyser	3	17,005
Danielle Davey	17	70,147
Joshua DeNeef	3	31,265
Samantha DiSalvo	1	11,920
Timothy Dostman	5	70,652

Amanda Gage	9	113,855
Caitlin Garofoli	1	1,468
Olivia Gimbel	3	7,826
Ashley Jenkins	17	119,371
Kayla Kulijof	2	28,830
Stephanie Kush	3	6,848
Emily Markham	2	5,453
Nicole Maylin	7	48,789
Blake Mellott	2	5,486
Ashley Michaelson	6	71,979
Stephanie Morse	3	4,878
Cynthia Otero	6	18,491
Leah Paschke	2	3,066
Nicole Raymond	11	102,174
Heather Rogers	1	505
Alicia Schaeffer	17	70,147
Brian Shaddock	17	76,439
Kristin Sippel	20	65,119
Samantha Stewart	2	1,014
Elora Supersad	1	25,034
Lindsay Stewart	12	32,538
Steven Talamas	5	21,543
Bill Wilbor	1	6,840

International Club

International Club meets at 2:15pm in Room 13 on February 9th.



Ski Club

By Mrs. Osborn and Mrs. Wilkinson

Our six trips as a club to Brantling are finished. The trip to Greek Peak is planned for Tuesday, February 20th. We will leave from the High School at 7:00am for Greek Peak. Payments are due by February 9th. We will take 2 busses and the first 80 people who sign up will be accepted for the bus trip.

5/6 Student Association

By Miss Finkelstein and Miss Webster

During the week of December 11-15, the 5/6 Student Association organized a food drive. It was a very successful week! Students brought in food to their homerooms. At the end of the week they collected and counted all the food that was brought in. The total amount of food collected was 1,717 items. The top homerooms with an impressive amount of food were Mr. Bruinix with 712, Mr. TenEyck with 313, Mrs. Osborn with 234, and Miss Ludwig with 102. All of the food was brought to the Come-Unity Center in Williamson, who were very grateful for our donation. Two of our members, Jeff Sherwin and David Allman, came with us to help deliver the food. We also want to say thank you to Mr. Skeet, Mrs. Osborn, and Mr. Bruinix for helping to deliver the food.

The 5/6 Student Association is now in the process of organizing this year's Valentine's Day Dance. Our members have divided up into committees and we are well on our way. We still need parent and teacher chaperones. The dance will be held on February 16th in the gym. Tickets for the dance go on sale the week of the 12th. There will be more details to follow as the event draws closer. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 6th.



7/8 Student Association

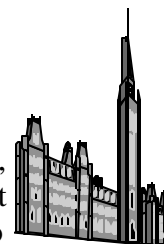
By Mrs. Osborn

Student Association meets at 2:15pm in Room 13 on February 6th. We will continue to count Campbell's soup labels and plan for the March 15th dance.

Travel Club

By Mrs. Osborn

Travel Club will leave at 6:00am, February 2nd from the west parking lot of the Middle School for their trip to Ottawa. Return time is estimated at 7:30pm on Sunday February 4th.



Yorkers

By Mrs. Bierer

In another space, you will read an article written by two Student Assistants for Yorkers, Stephanie Gowan and Ami Kush, covering the trip to the Winter Workshops in Cooperstown in December. Because of the timing for deadlines, etc., it is the first opportunity for that report to appear.

The first Friday in January was programmed for reviewing a few movies both from and about the 1940's. Jacob Have I Loved and Truce showed personal lives affected by WWII. Songs of the South ("Zip-I-Dee-Do-Dah") was written in the 40's, we saw Black Beauty and Mickey Mouse at the theaters. Melody Time by Walt Disney was created in the 40's, as well.

Mr. Stohr and son, Zach, will present a program on airplanes of the times for the 19th meeting. It is really nice to have guest presenters!

Yorkers Trip to Cooperstown

By Stephanie Gowan and Ami Kush, Junior Assistants

We started at 7:55am because of manual head count and seating arrangements. The trip took approximately 13 hours. We drove for 4 ½ hours and had lunch on the way. People brought CD players, string, books from the appropriate time period, and also, their mouths for talking and singing. We arrived at Cooperstown at 12:00 noon and went with our groups, group leaders, and tour guides. We took tours of the museum itself and the houses in the village. Then we went to our assigned workshops. There were 5 groups: Farmhouse, A Stitch in Time, Paper Staining, Blacksmith Shop, and In the Tavern.

In the Farmhouse we split up, and five people out of the nine stayed inside and cooked pork gravy over potatoes, and four out of nine worked with the animals and came in to have the meal! This was chaperoned by Mrs. Hannon.

Next was a Stitch in Time, which was chaperoned by Mr. Verbridge. They made marble bags, which were handcrafted by the kids in the Stitch in Time group. There were ten people all together in this group. Zach Stohr told me that they used them for holding marbles and trinkets. He learned this in his group!

In the Paper Staining group chaperoned by Mrs. Fox, there were ten participants. They created wonderful works of art using 1800's techniques. Ashley McCaslin says they made wallpaper prints with huge stamps and pressing them down on the paper. They would originally be made of horse hair and rabbit glue. They made wonderful pieces of paper.

The people in the Blacksmith Shop were chaperoned by Mr. Webber. There were five people who did this activity. They made hooks out of iron melted with hot coals and bent with special tools.

In the Tavern, chaperoned by Mrs. Ast, there were eight people who chose this particular group. Leah Paschke says they created a thaumatrope. They created a picture on paper then transferred it to wood pieces. They then tied two pieces of string on the ends of the wood, and you would wind it up and watch, as your picture became an illusion picture from the past.

On the way there were 42 people and 7 adults including Mrs. Bierer. The driver, Mr. Ameele, who was so kind to drive us, spent the day with the group. We thank you, Mr. Ameele. After those workshops we left at 4:05. Thanks to all the adults: Mrs. Hannon, Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Ast, Mr. Webber, Mr. Verbridge, and Mr. Ameele! Also, thank you, Mrs. Bierer, for taking us and for the wonderful time we spent learning about the 1800's. We had a great time.



Student of the Month

Student	Grade	Teacher	Reason
Bloss, Martin	5	Miss Brownell	Class Participation
Brothers, Lindsey	5	Mrs. Bierer	Concern for Others
Campisi, Ben	5	Mr. Marshall	Exceptional Effort
Gage, Jacob	5	Ms. Luke	Always Doing His Very Best
Hodge, Bryan	5	Ms. Luke	Continues to Improve on His Essay Writing Skills
Horton, Diana	5	Mrs. Bianchi	Cooperative
Huff, Tim	5	Miss Brownell	Improved Effort in All Areas
Huff, Tim	5	Ms. Luke	Consistently Completes All His Homework and Works on Being More Attentive in Class
Lewis, Johnathan	5	Mrs. Greco Mrs. Gebhard	Positive Attitude, Relationships With Others
Pellett, William	5	Mrs. Bianchi	Excellent Attitude, Hardworker
Slater, Kristen	5	Mrs. Bianchi	Hardworker, Courteous, Exceptional Effort
Smith, Matthew	5	Mrs. Bierer	Responsibility
Winter, Jawni	5	Mr. Marshall	Exceptional Effort
Bonke, John	6	6th Grade Team	Outstanding Effort in 6th Grade
Conger, Brittani	6	Miss Nellany	Conscientious Worker and Classroom Helper
DeNeef, Seth	6	6th Grade Team	Outstanding Effort in 6th Grade
Haskins, Vanessa	6	6th Grade Team	Outstanding Effort in 6th Grade
Johns, Paige	6	Mrs. Wilkinson	Dependable and Consistent Effort
Marino, Casey	6	Miss Nellany	Conscientious Worker and Classroom Helper
McCaslin, Ashley	6	6th Grade Team	Outstanding Effort in 6th Grade
Miller, Brian	6	6th Grade Team	Outstanding Effort in 6th Grade
Beck, Lisa	7	7th Grade Team	Attitude, Effort, Interest
Dobson, Ryan	7	7th Grade Team	Motivation, Interest, Attitude
East, Jessica	7	7th Grade Team	Interest, Effort, Motivation
Montondo, Marie	7	Mrs. Wilkinson	Dependable and Consistent Effort
Parmele, Lindsay	7	Mrs. Osborn	Excellent Participation, Positive Attitude
Pike, David	7	Mrs. Perez	Exceptional Effort, Constructive Attitude
Smith, Allison	7	7th Grade Team	Interest, Attitude, Effort
Turner, Curtis	7	7th Grade Team	Effort, Attitude, Interest
Ameele, Jake	8	8th Grade Team	Attitude
Batz, Tricia	8	Mr. Brown	Constructive Attitude
Campbell, Brandy	8	8th Grade Team	Effort
DeLyser, Gary	8	Mr. Brown	Constructive Attitude
Horn, Treasure	8	8th Grade Team	Improvement in Math
Hyman, Mike	8	Mrs. Osborn	Conscientious, Excellent Participation
Lehman, Matt	8	8th Grade Team	Behavior
Malchoff, Michelle	8	Mrs. Perez	Constructive Attitude, Class Participation
Reiber, Rachel	8	Mrs. Wilkinson	Positive Attitude, and Exceptional Effort
Sackett, Megan	8	8th Grade Team	Citizenship
Watson, Ron	8	8th Grade Team	Citizenship