

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #2 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Winter 2023*



Happy Holidays! A Spirit Week Success

Written by: Lauren Bealla

The annual Holiday Spirit Week was held in December. During the fun week planned by the Student Council, kids were able to dress up according to specific themes set for each day of the week. Spirit Week took place from Monday, December 19th 2022 to Thursday, December 22nd 2022. All festive attire had to correlate with the dress code.

Monday, December 19th was Movie Madness Monday. Students dressed up as their favorite holiday movie character. Masks and face coverings were not permitted. Tuesday, December 20th was Timber Tuesday and it was all about wearing your favorite flannel or plaid shirt to school. Pajamas were not permitted as part of this activity. Wednesday, December 21st was Winter Sport Fan Day. Students wore their favorite winter sport team sweatshirt, t-shirt, or jersey. Winter sports can

include sports like skiing, ice skating, ice hockey, and snowboarding. Thursday, December 22nd was Tacky Holiday Gear Day where students dressed up in ugly/silly holiday sweaters, sweatshirts, socks, and anything else you could think of -- anything that the dress code permitted, of course.

Although a spirit day theme for that Friday was planned, it was not executed due to school being closed for bad weather. If school was in session, it would've been Festive Friday. Students would have worn clothing with colors that represented the three holidays celebrated in December in the United States. If you wanted to represent Hanukkah you would have worn white and blue; Christmas would have been green and red; and Kwanza would have been black, green, and red.

The 2022 Spirit Week was a success. I hope that any other Spirit Weeks in the future have the same/ or more participation. Represent the school and show your spirit. Stay tuned for more spirit weeks in the future.



BURGUNDY & GOLD

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Welcome to 7th Grade Science, Ms. Novak

Written by: Lauren Bealla

Welcome to the Wyoming Valley West Middle School, Miss Novak! For this issue, I volunteered to interview Miss Novak for our new teacher section. Although I have her as a teacher on a day to day basis, I was able to learn much about her background and how her experience has been so far at our school. Miss Novak took over Mr. Barna's classes when he retired at the beginning of the year. She teaches seventh grade physical science. Since she does not have her own room, she has been sharing rooms with other teachers.

When interviewing Miss Novak, I learned that her favorite color is teal and she has four pets in all. Two of them are dogs named Lucy and Tundra. The other two are cats named Myla and Mable. In her free time, she likes to read and crotchet. Her music tastes consist of country and eighties rock.

Being a teacher was not her dream job when she was younger. She had always wanted to be a veterinarian and even went to college for it, but she changed her major. It just wasn't working out. For some time, she considered becoming a game warden; but, she ultimately decided to become a teacher. Miss Novak attended Wilson College where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science. Along with that degree, she earned a minor in ethics. She attended college for a total of six years.

Miss Novak says that she chose to become a seventh-grade science teacher because she wanted to try something new. She also mentioned that she is fond of the age group. Seventh grade is the middle ground between elementary school and high school. When asked about how her experience at this school has been so far, she responded by saying that she "loves it more than she thought she would and that it is definitely a new experience." Her favorite thing about being a teacher is the relationships she forms with her students. As her student, I personally see this every day in class. Miss Novak also enjoys teaching something that she is passionate about.

However, like trying anything for the first time, the job comes with some difficulties. Miss Novak says that it can be hard to be respected by her students

BURGUNDY & GOLD

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due to the fact that she is a new teacher and that it can be tough to handle a class. She also said that it can be difficult to find and create class material. That said, Miss Novak reassures that the other teachers are very helpful in the process.

Miss Novak is a great science teacher. Her students really enjoy her class. Destiny Blade said, "She is a nice teacher who doesn't get mad easily." We are all excited to continue the year with her as our teacher.



Holiday Sounds

Written by: Ava Argento

On December 4, 2022, the WVW Middle School orchestra students had their annual holiday concert! This was the orchestra's first holiday concert since 2019, due to COVID restrictions.

The 6th grade students performed first. They had two pieces that were entitled, "First Christmas March" and "Hanukkah

Lights and Dreidels". The 7th grade class was next and had four pieces to perform. The music included, "Ring Christmas Bells", "A Christmas Canon", "Fantasy on Greensleeves", and "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch". The 8th grade orchestra performed four pieces as well. Their pieces were entitled, "The Chipmunk Song", "Feliz Navidad", "Do You Hear What I Hear?", and "Dance of the Reed Flutes".

The final piece of the holiday concert was "Twas the Night Before Christmas". This was performed by both the 7th and 8th grade classes. The special guest of the afternoon, Santa Claus, read the poem while the orchestra performed.

Thanks to Mrs. Hall, our amazing conductor/orchestra teacher, and also to Mr. Coates, our pianist, the orchestra experienced a successful concert. Their enthusiasm for music and their dedication to the students is an inspiration to all.



BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #2 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Winter 2023*



Winter Band Concert: Sounds of the Season

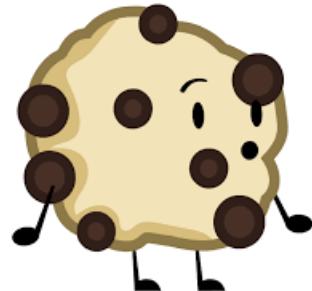
Written by: Aidan Propes

The first winter band concert in Wyoming Valley West since 2019 occurred on December 25th, 2022. The 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands participated in the concert playing an assortment of different Christmas songs. It was very festive, and all the bands played extremely well that night.

Interviewing Avery Lee, a saxophone player in the band, he stated that he thought that the concert went very well, and was it one of his favorite concerts. He also stated, "Almost everyone in the band is very skilled with their instruments and plays very well. I am very excited for future concerts and the field trip to Hershey Park. Playing the saxophone is very fun, and I hope that I become a professional saxophone player in the future."

Keep your eyes open for future Wyoming Valley West Middle School Band concerts in the future so that you

can experience the excitement first-hand.



Student Council Cookie Dough Fundraiser! Rewards Party/Skyzone

Written by: Janet Wormenor

In October, the Middle School Student Council held their annual cookie dough fundraiser. Students sold cookie dough to benefit our school and Student Council. Several students qualified to attend a pizza party where they played various games and received rewards for their participation. In addition, a trip to Sky Zone was awarded to those students who sold 20 or more items and were able to invite a friend if 30 or more were sold. Students had the opportunity to jump for an hour and were also treated to pizza for lunch. It was a great day for all students who attended! Thank you to everyone who participated in the fundraiser.

BURGUNDY & GOLD

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MATHCOUNTS®

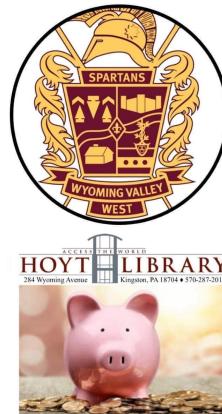
MATHCOUNTS: The Art of Problem Solving

Written by: Aleni Kaupp

MATHCOUNTS is a math competition for grades 6-8. MATHCOUNTS was founded in 1983 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and CNA Insurance. This competition series consists of three levels: school, chapter, state, and national. Students in this club meet a few times a week to prepare during lunch for the MATHCOUNTS competition. Students learn advanced math skills above their grade level and they learn how to solve problems faster. This year's competition is February 11th at the Wyoming Valley West Middle School. Schools from around the area will compete against WVW. There are more than 500 MATHCOUNTS competitions in America. Last year, after the competition my friend and I surveyed our classmates about their favorite ice cream flavor. We used this data to make our own world problem and then entered it onto the MATHCOUNTS website.

There are different levels to the competition. The sprint round consists of 30 questions with a time limit of 40 minutes where students can use a calculator. Target round is 4 pairs of problems each with 6 minutes each. Team round is when 4 students from each school work together to solve 10 math problems in 20 minutes with a calculator. Lastly, the countdown round is optional for some levels. Students have 45 seconds per problem without a calculator. MATHCOUNTS is an amazing club and organization.

During the recent MATHCOUNTS competition held at Wyoming Valley West Middle School, our own WWWMS contestants earned a second place in the team portion of the competition. 8th Grade student Rhiley Castro earned a fourth place overall in the individual part of the competition. Great job, Spartans!



Thank you to the Wyoming Valley West School District's administration team, teachers, students and parents for partnering with us in raising One Million Pennies in honor of the Hoyt Library's 95th Anniversary! Remember every penny counts!

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #2 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Winter 2023*



National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day

Written by: Nora Keating

January 15th was a special day for the Wyoming Valley West Middle School as we recognized Officer John Sosnoski, our SRO. Officer Sos, as he is known, has to be commended for his commitment to the students and faculty of the Middle School. In his first year as our SRO, he has made a noticeable difference in the safety of our school. Our school is a safer place because of Officer Sosnoski.

Officer Sosnoski has been a member of the Kingston Police Department for more than 10 years. He says the most enjoyable part of being the SRO in our building is the student relationships. He loves to see the kids. His goal is to serve all students equally. He takes great pride in our safety and loves to see students smile. He likes this job

because it's a "nice change from being on the street and the opportunities to help people are endless." He says, "The best thing about his job is problem solving and helping students with their struggles."

Thank you, Officer John Sosnoski for being our friend and a great SRO. Here are some other questions that I asked during the interview:

Q: What is the hardest part of your job?

A: Trying to control 1,200 kids and trying to keep everybody happy.

Q: Around how many students come to your office a day?

A: Usually 4 students a period (20+ a day)

Q: How long have you been a police officer?

A: Since January 2011 (12 years)

Q: What do you do before and after school?

A: Before- morning routine After- go to the gym and make dinner

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a school resource officer?

A: Building student relationships and seeing the kids

BURGUNDY & GOLD

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Q: What was the best/worst thing you experienced during this job so far?

A: Best: seeing the change from being a bad/ kid in frequent trouble to a good kid/ no trouble Worst: breaking up a fight or making an arrest.

Q: What are the ups and downs of this job?

A: Ups: the hours and downtimes
Downs: very busy atmosphere (moving from place to place)

Q: Would you recommend this job for other people?

A: Yes (nice change from being on the street)



Guess the Hearts in a Jar 8th Grade Contest Winner! Addam Forward



**If you are interested in possibly being chosen for the Burgundy and Gold Student Spotlight and included in future editions, you can pick up a Student Spotlight form in Room 106 or 204, fill it out, and return it to Mr. Munzing or Ms. Derwin.*

BURGUNDY & GOLD

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