

## Why You Should Join The Newspaper Club

By: Envy Pegues

The newspaper club is a great place to express our school's spirit and what's happening there. If you join the newspaper club you get to know what's going on in our school and you get to add your input on what school newspaper posts are. You can write stories about school events and even take pictures for the school to see, as well as make new friends and get to meet people with the same interests. Allison says "Newspaper club gives us opportunities to be creative." So if you want a place to be where you can express an interest in journaling or photography and have all your best work shown in the newspaper to your peers. Ezra says, "I like the people that go to the newspaper club". Yes, everyone in the newspaper is nice and the paper is good at working together on things at our meetings. The meetings are about what we will be doing and how we can help each other. Writing the paper is run mainly by the students in the newspaper. Mr. Dorn is the teacher in charge of it and wants the kids to have more of a say in what the other students get to read.



## WHAT'S STUDENT COUNCIL UP TO?

BY: ASHLEY TOPPING

"WHAT IS THE STUDENT COUNCIL UP TO THIS YEAR?" YOU MIGHT ASK. WELL, THE STUDENT COUNCIL HAD ITS FIRST MEETING ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AND EVERYONE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE OTHER SELECTED MEMBERS. WE HAVE MANY NEW MEMBERS THIS YEAR FROM 7TH AND 8TH GRADE. ALL OF THE MEMBERS AND MRS.GULLET ARE EXCITED ABOUT THIS SCHOOL YEAR. MRS.GULLET HAS INFORMED THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS THAT THIS YEAR'S STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT IS MOLLY ROUSCH. THE STUDENT COUNCIL WAS VERY HAPPY FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT AND WE WON'T BE SURPRISED IF MOLLY LEADS US TO A SUCCESSFUL YEAR. MOLLY INFORMED ME THAT HER FAVORITE EVENT FROM LAST YEAR WAS, "THE 8TH-GRADE DANCE, " AND SHE IS MOST EXCITED ABOUT "PLANNING HER EVENTS. 8TH-GRADE DANCE." MRS.GULLET ALSO INFORMED THE STUDENT COUNCIL THAT MACKENZIE KIETZMAN WILL BE OUR VICE PRESIDENT THIS YEAR, AND ISLA ALLAN WILL BE OUR SECRETARY. THEY ARE ALL VERY KIND AND TRUSTWORTHY, SO YOU CAN TALK TO ONE OF THEM OR OUR PRESIDENT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS.

WE TALKED ABOUT OUR FINALIZED EVENTS FOR THIS YEAR: CANDY CANE AND CARNATION SALES, SPIRIT/DRESS-UP DAYS, TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK, TOYS-FOR-TOTS, HOT CHOCOLATE DAY, SPRING DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT, AND 8TH-GRADE CELEBRATION. THE STUDENT COUNCIL WILL ALSO START TO TALK ABOUT CANDY CANE SALES IN UPCOMING MEETINGS. THE STUDENT COUNCIL WILL START SELLING CONCESSIONS AT SOME HOME SPORTS GAMES. REMEMBER TO BRING MONEY (NOT CREDIT CARDS) TO BUY SOMETHING. WE NORMALLY SELL CHIPS, SODA, PRETZELS, CANDY, WATER, OREOS, AND OCCASIONALLY PIZZA. THE STUDENT COUNCIL IS VERY EXCITED ABOUT THESE UPCOMING EVENTS. WE ARE EXCITED TO PLAN, DECORATE, AND PARTICIPATE IN THEM, AND WE HOPE EVERYONE ELSE IS AS EXCITED AS WE ARE. HAPPY NOVEMBER!





# String Fling Orchestra Concert

By Anh-Minh Truong

On October 17th, our orchestra performed at the Van Singel Fine Arts Center for the String Fling Concert. Students from both seventh and eighth grade participated along with groups from the high school.

As it was our first concert of the year, emotions were running high. "I was nervous but also really excited!" states Quinley Zeiler, a seventh-grade violinist. I think it's agreed that most people share these feelings.

Somehow, although anxiety was a popular feeling that night, the overall consensus is that WMS did fairly decent. Some people had their doubts, and others thought we did great. "I think everyone did great," says Quinley, "and overall, WMS did amazing!"

Our orchestra teacher, Mrs. Atkinson worked very hard to prepare the orchestra for the concert. Both grades played two pieces each; eighth grade with "Gauntlet" and "Chasing the Storm" and seventh grade with "Goblin Boogie" and "Viking." In addition, our OrchExtra group played at the concert. OrchExtra is a 7th and 8th-grade orchestra group that meets every day after school, and they beautifully played a piece called "Eclipse," which came with several wonderful solos. An interesting sight was spotted that night, a sight of several students in wacky costumes. Yes, it's true; because we are nearing October 31, our orchestra students were allowed to wear their Halloween costumes, which was very whimsical to see! If you like the sound of these concerts, feel free to drop by for the next one, for which details will likely be posted soon Merry Christmas!




## 2024-2025 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert



By: Ashley Topping

The 7th & 8th-grade fall choir concert was performed on November 18. The choir performed at The Van Singel Fine Arts Center and was directed by Aaron Goodyke. The accompanist was Gary LaCroix who did a fabulous job. 7th grade sang Sing to Me by Andrea Ramsey and Aiken Drum by Blake Richter. As a 7th grader in the choir, I loved these songs and thought we did a great job. Sing to Me was a very slow calm song that set a lovely mood. Aiken Drum was more upbeat and had a violinist, Molly Hull, and Landon Ewers who played the Cajon. We also had some soloists Noah Clophus, Joe Neuman, Riley Williams, Corinne Anys, Alexa Barr, and Joss Philips. They sounded delightful and worked together in harmony. Vocal Expressions (High school vocal group) also performed All I Know of Love, and were stunning. They sang together in harmony and you could hear all the parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Great job to the 8th grade with their songs, There Has to Be a Song by Andrea Ramsey and Proverbs by Tom Shelton. There Has to Be a Song was spectacular! I personally loved this one with the beautiful harmony and the parts sounded beautiful. Proverbs included some soloists as well. Brea VanEe, Esperanza Cortez, Drew Barbrick, Rebecca Guppy, Emma Tilma, Swayedon Ireus, Paige Bitson, Joshua Corey, Angela He, Emery Manozak, and Isabella Porto. There were also some percussionists, Caleb Busman, Adam Roskiewicz, and Allison Moore. They all did a great job and I hope you feel proud.

Dolce also performed their concert. Stand in the Light by Roger Emerson. I loved this performance for this song and I especially loved Sophia Wierenga and her jaw-dropping solo. Dolce also performed Bring Me Little Water Silvy by Moria Smiley. The movements to this song were very cool and looked really good. Great job Gillian Groenleer and Josie Steed for their great solo when leading the motions for the song. In the end, all the choirs combined and sang Kuwa Furaha by Jim Papoulis and The Storm is Passing Over by Barbara Baker. The choirs together helped project our sound and helped us hear all the different parts of the songs. Kuwa Furaha had some fun movements built-in along with the different voice parts. The Storm is Passing Over had a great overall message and sounded awesome. Both songs had a percussionist, Landon Ewers. He helped us hear the music and was an amazing drummer. Mr. Goodyke told me his favorite song we sang and his feedback, "There were so many great songs it was hard to choose, but I would probably have to say "Kuwa Furaha" by Jim Papoulis. This song means "Be Joy" and I believe it was our job to convince our audience of its meaning. Our students performed with a high level of focus & poise, which makes our singing even better! I am especially proud of these students for sharing their gifts despite only knowing me since the beginning of the school year. Congratulations to all of our West Middle School singers! Great job to everyone and congratulations on your hard work."



# Spirit Week at WMS

# Be

By Lauren Green

According to a recent survey by newspaper members, the most liked Spirit Day currently at WMS is PJ Day, and the most commonly said recommendation for an upcoming Spirit Day was Anything But a Backpack Day. Unfortunately, 23% of students here said they participate in Spirit Week less than half the time or never. However, 77% of students said they participate in Spirit Week half or more than half of the time. 98% of students are happy that we have Spirit Week! Many students said that they have fun memories from past Spirit Weeks, and to those who don't, get ready to make some, because this year, we're going ALL OUT!

# School Spirit

## Impossible Creatures Book Review

Book by Katherine Rundell.

Review by Ari Hayden



The book *Impossible Creatures* by Katherine Rundell is amazing. As a #1 New York Times Best Seller, and over 100 copies on hold within the Kent District Library System, this book is not to be missed. With action, adventure, mystery, and suspense, this is an amazing read that even if you are not a fan of fantasy books, you will love it as much as I do. Two kids named Christopher and Mal are on an adventure in a magical land called the Archipelago, where all creatures from fantasy exist. The magic that keeps everything in the Archipelago alive is fading and many magical creatures are dying. Mal and Christopher are on a mission to save the Archipelago where they will encounter many challenges, and secrets are revealed. It is up to them to save the Archipelago and all that lives there. Can they do it? Dive into the world of the Archipelago and find out!



# Cinnamon Swirl Bread

By: Ashley Topping

Prep Time: 10 mins  
Cook Time: 45 mins  
Additional Time: 10 mins  
Total Time: 1hr 5 mins  
Servings: 12  
Yield: 1 9x5-inch loaf

## Ingredients

1 1/3 cups white sugar, divided  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tablespoon baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 large egg, beaten  
1 cup milk  
1/3 cup vegetable oil

### Directions

Step 1: Gather all ingredients.

Step 2: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan.

Step 3: Mix 1/3 cup sugar and 2 teaspoons cinnamon in a small bowl; set aside.

Step 4: Combine flour, remaining 1 cup sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Combine egg, milk, and oil in a separate bowl; add to flour mixture. Stir until just moistened.

Step 5: Pour 1/2 of the batter into the prepared pan. Sprinkle with 1/2 of the reserved cinnamon sugar mixture. Draw a knife through the batter to marble.

Step 6: Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes.

Step 7: Let cool in a pan for 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely. Wrap in foil and let sit overnight before slicing.

Step 8: Serve and enjoy!



## 2024-2025 WMS Newspaper Staff

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## Thank You For Reading!!!