

# WMS NEWS

## For An Enjoyable AND Productive Summer

As “wise” and “experienced” adults, we know that middle schoolers are truly living some of the best days of their lives. (George Bernard Shaw once said, “Youth is wasted on the young.”) The carefree and happy-go-lucky days of youth will be replaced by responsibility and duty soon enough, but I believe we can outline a summer that will allow kids to enjoy their youth and create a blueprint for their future at the same time. Shapiro (<http://EzineArticles.com/43453>) identified six categories of activities that will lead to an enjoyable and productive summer:

1. **Make a Difference**—Community service is always a valuable endeavor and the summer is a wonderful time to make a difference in your community. Whether you make time to volunteer at home or across a border (at the library, Humane Society, a nursing home, or other service organization), you can make a difference, have fun, and learn something at the same time.
2. **Explore a Career**—It’s never too early to learn and plan for a career. Middle school is a great time to begin exploring possible careers for later in life. Summer careers can provide practical experience and allow students to network with future employers. Eliminating career possibilities can bring you closer to discovering one’s true joy. From movies and business to advertising and medicine, summer is a great time to get a brief exposure to a wide variety of careers and vocations.
3. **Follow a Passion**—Deep down inside, you have something you care about, so listen to your heart and find your calling. Summer provides the wonderful gift of time; use that time to dive into a favorite topic. Spend time reading, traveling, researching, teaching, exploring, etc. Channel your passion and make a difference over the summer!
4. **Try Something New**— Taking a risk and trying something new isn't always easy, but middle school is a great time to learn to take risks and by doing so, discover new interests and talents. Learn to play an instrument, start learning a foreign language, start a new sport, hobby, or activity. Grab a friend or sibling and head to the library or check out the park and rec offerings—there is something for everyone!
5. **Achieve a Goal**—Getting away from the hectic schedule of school can mean more time to do those things you always wanted to do, but never had the time to do. Finish a book, complete an art project, perfect a musical number. Of course, goals depend on the individual, and could include climbing a mountain, learning to knit, becoming more outgoing, or writing a novel.
6. **Do What You Want**—There should definitely be time for family, friends, and just for you. Do not forget to take time to do the things that make you feel happy and energized. Whether that means spending extra time with a sibling before they leave for college, swimming at the lake or pool, attending a baseball game, going out for ice cream, or anything else, you shouldn’t forget to relax and have fun.

It is hard to believe the school year is almost over, but that doesn’t mean learning has to stop! Students need to keep learning over the summer, but they can have fun while doing so (see Things to Do This Summer in this newsletter for more ideas). Encourage your child to use their summer in a fun AND productive way.

### **APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**

Viking Team: Brendan Henley & Alayna Nelson

Wolf Team: Hannah Greve & Landon Whittle

Coyote Team: Korben Larson & Cori Frost

Jackrabbit team: Anthony Carroll & Paris Lindner

## Child Find Notice

The Watertown School District has an ongoing “Child Find” system, which is designated to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing within its geographical boundaries who may have a disability and be in need of Special Education or 504 services. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education or 504 services.

The Watertown School District will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education or 504 services will be no cost to the parents of the child.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the Watertown School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education or 504 services, please contact Jennifer Heggelund, Director of Special Services, at 882-6398.

“Child Find” activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Watertown School District will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. Any information the District collects through “Child Find” is maintained confidentially.

## Notice of Non-discrimination

The Watertown School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Dr. Jeff Danielsen, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201  
605-882-6312

Darrell Stacey, Assistant Superintendent  
P.O. Box 730, Watertown, SD 57201  
605-882-6312

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, see list of Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforcement offices for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-(800)-421-3481.

## DON't MISS THESE MUSIC DATES

**Saturday, May 11:** The WMS band & orchestra solo contest at WHS. More info to be sent soon.

**Thursday, May 16:** The WMS band & orchestra concert @ 7pm in the WMS commons. The concert will feature the WMS jazz band, 7th & 8th grade bands, and 7th & 8th grade orchestras. Hope you can join us for a wonderful evening of music!

**Monday, May 20:** WMS Chorus Concert @ WMS.  
7:00 pm - Grade 7 & Swing Choir  
8:00 pm - Grade 8 & Swing Choir

**Wednesday May 22:** Jazz Band & Swing Choir tour WIS.

## Medication Policy Notice for End of the School Year

Just a reminder to parents who have children on medications at school, this includes prescription and over-the-counter medication that was brought in throughout the year. Parents need to pick up the medication from the school. Medication will not be sent home with any students. If the medication is not picked up by May 31st, it will be disposed of by the nurse. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Shana Stone, WMS Nurse, at 882-6370.



The Watertown Area United Way is hosting Delta Dental's mobile truck:  
**June 10<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>**  
at the Watertown Intermediate School.

Care will be given to children who can't afford or access a dentist because of cost, lack of insurance, transportation, or other reasons.

Registration in advance is needed, and a patient consent and information form must be completed.

For more information or to register your child, contact:  
Watertown Area United Way  
605/886-5815

A full range of dental care is available, including exams, cleanings, preventive treatments, and cavity fillings. Services are provided at no cost to the child or family. No insurance is necessary.

Children from their 1<sup>st</sup> tooth through age 21 are eligible if they have not seen an area dentist in two years or live more than 85 miles from the nearest dentist.

The mobile dental truck's visit is a partnership between Watertown Area United Way and Delta Dental of South Dakota.

## **Jackrabbit Team Completes Mock Interviews**

On Wednesday, May 1, the Jackrabbit students were given the opportunity to interview with one of 19 volunteers from our community. Students completed a job application and a resume for their interview. This valuable learning experience would not have been possible without the volunteer efforts from the following people and/or businesses: Kraig Haase (SD Game, Fish & Parks), Ross Olson (Pizza Ranch), Jason Hutt (Hy-Vee), Cory Richardt (Army National Guard), Julie Berkey (McDonald's), Kristi Melmer (Moffatt Products, Inc.), Chastity Whitemore (Bella Hair Studio), Adam Lalim and Melissa Roe (Northeast Area Appraisals), Jerry Kastein and Brett Schutt (South Dakota Highway Patrol), Andy Magedanz and Josh Maag (Watertown Parks & Rec), Karla Dagele (Remax Partners), Martin Johnson (Farm Credit Services), Ann Scheel (Oak Tree Lodge), Jeremy McBurney (Dugan Sales and Services), Diane Peterson (Salon 2000), and Tom Krueger (United Building Center).

# Summer is Not the Time to Put Down the Books: Ideas for Parents to Keep Middle School Students Reading Over the Summer

As summer sets in, and all of the family routines change, parents might be thinking about having fun and relaxing with their kids – but they might also be wondering about how to avoid losing all of the learning their kids did during the school year. According to the National Summer Learning Association, which invests in summer learning to help close achievement gaps, all students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer months. So what can a parent do to prevent reading gaps from developing over the summer?

1. **Let your child choose what to read.** While you may cringe at his preferences, they may never touch a title if it's force-fed.
2. **Talk about what they read.** Ask what they think of a book and make connections with ideas or issues that are relevant to their life.
3. **If they're struggling or bored with a book, let them put it down.** Forcing them to stick with a difficult or dull book that's intended for pleasure will reinforce the idea that reading is a chore.
4. **Subscribe to magazines of interest.** Ask them to choose one or two titles and put the subscription in their name.
5. **Read the news together.** Whether it's for 15 minutes over breakfast or on weekends, establish a routine and discuss what you each read.
6. **Be flexible with bedtime and chores when your child is reading.** Within reason, avoid asking your child to stop reading.
7. **Play games that utilize reading.** Word- and vocabulary-building games like Scrabble or Boggle are great, but many board games provide reading opportunities (even if it's just the instructions). Crosswords provide opportunities for learning new words and spelling practice, too.
8. **Encourage your middle schooler to read to a younger sibling.** Letting them take over ritual reading at bedtime once a week will ensure they read something, and they may find their sibling's enthusiasm for stories contagious.
9. **Visit the library together.** Try to make it an event where you share some quality one-on-one time and both choose a few books.
10. **Find an outlet for your child to "publish" a book review.** When they finish a book, encourage them to write it up for a family or school newspaper, magazine, or website. They could also try posting a review at a local bookseller or an online retailer.
11. **Ensure they have a good reading space.** They should choose where it is, but you can make sure it's well lit and inviting so they stays a while.
12. **Keep up on what they're reading.** If you can, read a few pages of the book yourself so you can have a discussion later.
13. **Encourage writing.** Whether it's via snail-mail or e-mail, suggest that they keep in touch with distant friends or relatives. Keeping a journal or chronicling a family vacation will also provide reading practice.
14. **Provide a good dictionary.** They may not want to ask for your help with words anymore, so make sure you have a good reference.
15. **Suggest books from movies.** They may enjoy getting even more detail in the book.
16. **Listen to books on tape in the car.** If you're heading on vacation, or even back-and-forth to school, try listening to a novel that will appeal to everyone.
17. **Model reading.** Your pre-teen will still follow your reading habits (though they'll never let you know it!). Let them see you reading, make comments, and share interesting passages together.

Excerpts taken from articles by:

Jean Fleming, July 12, 2018;

Scholastic Parents, 2019

## Coordinator's Corner

Spring is here! Everyone is excited to FINALLY put away their winter coat. However, please encourage your students to wear layers to school. Even though the temperature can be between 70-80 degrees after school, it can sometimes be only 35-40 degrees in the morning.

In March, PEEPs promoted WMS Penny Wars to raise funds for Make-A-Wish of South Dakota. The total amount raised was \$2,906.77, which WMS students should be proud of. The Viking Team took first place honors donating \$952.64 by Monday, March 25th. We were scheduled to end on Friday, March 22nd, when the Wolves were ahead of the Vikings by less than \$10. Since we did extend Penny Wars an extra day, both the Vikings and Wolves received donuts for their efforts; both also qualified to receive popcorn 8th period, and they, along with the Coyotes, qualified to have a Hat Day. Our culminating event for Penny Wars took place on Monday, April 8th during Arrow Time. Make-A-Wish recipient and WMS 7th grader, Paige Schaefer, presented the check to lo-cal Watertown volunteer Laurie Danforth. Seven members of PEEPs - Hayley Zaske, Addison Ad-ams, Alex Lam, Laini Greenfield, Zach Hampton, Makayla LeVeque, and Carter Miller - received a whip cream pie in the face, along with our SRO, Chad Stricherz. The students "giving" the pies were Student Council Co-President Riley Zebroski, along with PEEPs members Riley Clark, Taylor John-son, Nicole Haselhorst, Katelyn Hanson, Mia Franken, and Madelynne Storm. Our special surprise for Officer Stricherz was having his 7th grade son, Cooper, push the pie into his dad's face. We are grateful for all the support we received to help make wishes come true.

I also took four members of PEEPs to a peer leadership conference in March, where the students learned more about the dangers of vaping, how to action plan, and heard the drum line group, Sheltered Reality. The focus of the PEEPs May campaign is "Be The 1 'to care.'" Advisors will be referencing the [bethel1sd.com](http://bethel1sd.com) website, giving out "Be The 1" pocket cards, and working with the students in their advisories on a sticky note project to go with a poster Dr. Brist is printing.

Now is a perfect time to start a list of fun and safe activities your young people want to do this summer. It's a great time to talk more about safe driving, spending time safely outside, friends they want to be with, summertime rules and hours, and the dangers and consequences of alcohol, tobacco, vaping, and other drugs. If you need any resources, please don't hesitate to call me at 882-6370 or email me at [jo.kjetland@k12.sd.us](mailto:jo.kjetland@k12.sd.us). Our goal is to keep our kids safe and healthy.

May you make the most of every day!

Jo Kjetland, Family Resource & Project SUCCESS Coordinator

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**Yearbooks are still for sale. If you did not purchase one last fall, you may buy one for \$15.00 in the Middle School office. Yearbooks will be handed out the last day of school.**

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School is dismissed for the summer at 12:30 pm on Friday, May 24, 2019.