



GT Staff

Tammy Steckbauer – GT Coordinator/Rib Mountain Principal

tsteckba@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0220

Matt Adams - GT Learning Resource Teacher

madams@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0957

Franklin, Hawthorn Hills, GD Jones and Riverview

Aaron Boller – GT Learning Resource Teacher

aboller@wausauschools.org

Horace Mann and John Muir Middle Schools

Cheryl Borta – GT Learning Resource Teacher

cborta@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0955

Thomas Jefferson, Maine, Rib Mountain Leadership and Book Bowl Coordinator

Heidi Hahner – GT Learning Resource Teacher

hhahner@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0956

John Marshall, Hewitt-Texas

Amy Jaglinski – GT Learning Resource Teacher

ajaglins@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0958

South Mountain, Lincoln, Grant, Stettin

Kris Peterson – GT Department Secretary

krpeterso@wausauschools.org

(715) 261-0952

Rib Mountain

Thank you for taking the time to read our GT newsletter. We are working very hard to improve communication with our families, and this newsletter has become an efficient way to share information with our stakeholders. Please feel free to share any ideas YOU may have by emailing krpeterso@wausauschools.org. If it's information important to you, chances are very good that it would be meaningful to other parents as well.

GT Coordinator Corner – by Tammy Steckbauer

Gifted and Talented Staff Meet with Parents

Communication is important to the WSD GT Department. We strive to serve students and families throughout elementary school, and into the middle and high schools as well. While services look different once kids leave the elementary school setting, the need for communication with families continues.

Aaron Boller- Middle School GT Learning Resource Teacher, and Angela Pliska- Elementary School Counselor & GT Counselor Representative, have teamed up this year again to provide two opportunities for middle school parents to meet. Earlier this year, a face to face meeting opportunity was held in the evening at John Muir and a virtual Friday morning meeting opportunity was also offered recently. Both meetings were designed to honor parent requests for information.

Mr. Boller outlined the many offerings available to middle school students on both sides of the river. He shared how decisions are made and how there are many similarities but also some uniquenesses about services at Muir and Mann. He shared his role, his goals, and a multitude of resources available for parents to check out and borrow.

Mrs. Pliska's presentation responded to parent requests to learn more about organizational skills and what to do when your child says s/he's bored in school. She outlined a process to explain:

Events+Feelings+Thoughts+Actions=Consequences

In a nutshell, she shared how events in our lives (some big and some small) trigger feelings. These feelings are natural reactions and we don't even have to think about them. These feelings then (whether mild or more intense) generate thoughts. Good feelings usually create positive thoughts and bad feelings usually generate negative thoughts. These thoughts then lead to our actions and then these actions will have a consequence. (cont'd)

For your
Calendar

GT Parent Survey
April 7, 2021

GT Music Experience
May 10, 2021
Virtual – Gr. 5

WATG State Conference
Oct 4 & 5, 2021
At WI Dells

GT Coordinator Corner (cont'd)

A simple example might sound like this: A child is in math class and takes a test. It's easy for him. He might feel bored. Then he might think I don't want to be here; this is too easy for me and a waste of time. As a result, he responds poorly when addressed by the teacher or perhaps slouches in his seat and stares out of the window. A consequence could be that he misses the next directions or is perceived as having an attitude problem.

Another way to look at the same situation could be that the child is in math class and takes a test. It's easy for him and he gets 100%. He tells himself that the reason it was easy is that he studied and did his homework as well as tutored someone over the weekend and it really solidified the learning. Then he might think that if he keeps this up, he could take the next leveled class over summer and accelerate. His actions are that he's excited and wants to speak to his teacher when there's a break because he really loves learning math.

The information that Mrs. Pliska shared could be applied equally well to any student or any adult. The information could easily be applied to the issue of organization and the way our attitudes and thoughts influence our actions in that regard.

Every parent night event is organized based upon the feedback received from our parents. Essentially, the events are customized to better serve and meet the needs of our current families.

Book Bowl 2021

Book Bowl 2021 was held February 11. We had 34 participants in grades 3, 4 and 5 from across the district complete a 60 question virtual quiz. The quiz asked questions about characters, settings and plots of 20 books. Participants had 2 hours to complete and submit the multiple choice quiz.

Congratulations to all participants! Here is a list of students who have placed:

1st (with perfect score) - Liza C. - Riverview - 5th grade
Anabel S. - South Mountain/Homeschool -
4th grade

2nd - J.T. M. - John Marshall - 5th grade
Madisen J. - Thomas Jefferson - 5th grade
Rosalie L. - South Mountain - 3rd grade

3rd - Rowan A. - WAVE - 4th grade
Jimmy P. - Maine - 5th grade

4th - Thomas U. - Marshall - 3rd grade
Maria P. - Riverview - 5th grade

5th - Andrew R. - Rib Mountain - 4th grade

Thank you to all who have continued to support Book Bowl, including coaches, parents, teachers, staff and librarians.

Summer Enrichments

Summer offerings not specifically endorsed or affiliated with WSD:

[WSD Summer Learning Programs](#) All Grades

[UW Stevens Point Camps](#)
Grades K-12

[SOAR Summer Camp at Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI](#)
Grades 4-9

[WI Center for Academically Talented Youth at UW Madison](#) Grades 2-12

[Summer Youth Programs at UW LaCrosse](#) Grades 4-10

[John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth](#)
Grades 2-12

[Youth Programs at UW Stout](#)
Grades 9-12

[Red Oak Writing Middle and High School Creative Writing Camp in West Allis, WI](#)

[Engineering Leadership Academies at Marquette University](#)

[Summer Explore! At Marquette University High School](#)
Grades 3-12

[Concordia Language Villages](#)

[Northwestern Summer Camps](#)
Grades PreK-12



Wisconsin Association for Talented & Gifted

WATG

APPLICATIONS OPEN

APPLY NOW!

Due by April 15, 2021

K-12 Student

Summer

Scholarships

Available

Each year, WATG awards scholarships to students across the state of Wisconsin to attend summer enrichment opportunities. Awards are based on MERIT and strength of applications & scholarship funds raised.

www.watg.org/awards--scholarships.html

Elementary Leadership Conference

Community partners were recognized for their continued support of this program with a Friends of Education award. To read more [click here](#).