



WSPARTAN Scoop

Wyomissing Area School District

March 2, 2023

Mark Your Calendars!



Wyomissing Area's Mini-THON Committee is holding our annual event from March 3 into March 4 at the Jr./Sr. High School. Our goal is to raise over \$40,000 for Four Diamonds. Don't miss your opportunity to join in on the fun by attending **Community Hour** on March 3.

Mini-THON Community Hour!



WHEC Students Celebrate Black History Month



Our third-grade students recognized Black History Month with the help of a creative display aimed at supporting students as they learned more about some famous Black Americans. Using a wall display of *Time Magazine* covers, students completed independently guided research to learn why these awesome people are famous. Then, they took the facts they learned and inferences they made and wrote them on post-it notes to add to the display to share the information they learned with their classmates. To expand on this project, students are completing partner biographies of famous Black Americans.

High School Student Council Volunteers at Salvation Army



A student-favorite tradition continued this school year in late December as our High School Student Council members, along with advisor Mr. Krick and teacher Ms. Tierney, volunteered at the Salvation Army Holiday Gift site.

On this special and busy day, students worked alongside Salvation Army staff and other volunteers to greet families and distribute the many thoughtfully donated gifts to families in need of support during the holidays. This opportunity to give back to our community and spread holiday cheer is special to the Student Council and they are already looking forward to next year!

Junior High Drama Club Presents *Once Upon a Mattress!*



On February 24 and 25, the Junior High Drama Club presented a wonderful performance of *Once Upon a Mattress*. Student Director Jace Carwll shared that they valued the leadership opportunity and learning experience of being a student director and that they appreciated the way that participating in the Drama Club provides opportunities for students to push themselves out of their comfort zones. The Drama Club “is like a big family.”

Spartan Leah Price played Winifred in the production and shared how special it is to be part of a growing program. There was such a large cast this year and it is so neat to see so many students be involved with the production. When asked about playing Winifred, Leah shared that it was fun to play someone with such a different personality than herself.

Congratulations to the cast and crew! A special thanks to all those in our school and local community whose dedication to this program helped bring the performance to life!

Spartan Girls' Basketball Program Wins First County and District Championships



Our Girls' Basketball team left their mark on Wyomissing Area athletics this year, earning the team's first County Championship and District Championship titles in school history. Led by seniors and team captains Maddie Campbell, Lexi Loeb, and Kaitlyn Brunner, our Spartans have had a very successful season. Congratulations to our Spartan athletes and coaches for this outstanding achievement.

Photo Credit: Tim Macrina

Wyomissing Area High School Drama Club

On Sunday, February 19, members of the Wyomissing Area Drama Club joined other high school theaters throughout the county at the annual “Berks County Showcase” at the Miller Center for the Arts. Each school performed excerpts from its musical productions. Our students had an excellent showing and made some wonderful new friends along the way! We value the opportunity for our students to connect with peers across the county, sharing a common interest and supporting the musical productions county-wide.

On Thursday, February 23, members of the Drama Club visited with our younger Spartans at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center to build excitement for the upcoming production of *Seussical the Musical*. Students read various Dr. Seuss books in small groups with the elementary students. What a special way to build community!



Don't miss the Senior High Drama Club production, *Seussical the Musical*, in late April!



AP Computer Science Courses Receive College Board Recognition

Wyomissing Area Junior Senior High School has earned the College Board's AP® Computer Science Female Diversity Award for expanding young women's access to both AP Computer Science A and AP Computer Science Principles. This award acknowledges 1,105 schools for their work toward equal gender representation during the 2021-22 school year. Wyomissing Area Jr./Sr. High School is one of only 64 schools to be recognized for achieving this important result in both courses. Research shows that female students who take AP computer science are more likely to major in computer science in college compared with matched peers. Through our leadership in diversifying computer science education, we are preparing our female students for the high-paying, in-demand jobs of the future and giving them the opportunity to help solve some of society's most challenging problems. Congratulations, Spartans.



2022 **AP® CSA**
Female Diversity Award



2022 **AP® CSP**
Female Diversity Award



WREC Utilizes WIN Period for Valuable Learning Experiences



Our sixth-grade Spartans participate in a daily WIN period each morning for thirty minutes. This time, targeted towards “what I need” (WIN) provides opportunities for students and teachers to explore a variety of learning activities. In January, students had the opportunity to participate in STEM challenges. One group, composed of Violet Peris, Suzy Bressler, Julia Flores, and Hazel Sensenig, completed an amazing project for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. They were tasked with creating something to amuse children who are receiving treatment and are bored but can’t leave their hospital room. The students partnered together and created a fake snow machine using torn-up cotton and a fan as well as a tube to project the “snow” into the air. They created a little box with a mini snow shovel, directions for building a snowman (including twigs), and a homemade hat. The project concluded with a presentation to the class. Shout out to our Spartans for brainstorming such a valuable and creative activity, and to our WREC teachers for facilitating this enriching time for our students. We look forward to learning more about the exciting projects students explore during WIN time.

Grade 5 Investigation: What’s in the Water?

On January 11, trout eggs arrived at the West Reading Elementary Center for the Trout in the Classroom program with Mrs. Kline and Ms. Kupiszewski. Trout in the Classroom is an environmental education program that is made possible by the PA Council of Trout Unlimited and the PA Fish and Boat Commission. It is designed to teach students about the impact, protection, and enhancement of PA watersheds.

The tank is set up to emulate a natural freshwater stream. It has a chiller, a filter with a strong water flow, and a bubbler to make sure that the water has enough air. Our Spartans created a logo for the program and had weekly “trout shout-outs” to help all students keep track of the tank’s progress. They conducted water testing a few times a week to check levels of ammonia, nitrates, nitrites, and pH. The pH level tested very high when the water was in the tank, which was the only problem with the water that they could detect.



The trout hatched about a week after they arrived, around January 17. Like other embryos in eggs, the trout had a yolk sac on their bellies to provide them with nourishment. As they grew, the yolk sac got smaller and smaller. At that point, it was time to feed the fish that would swim to the top to eat, but unfortunately, many fish died every day during this time. Our students and teachers worked hard to problem-solve what was causing the fish to die. That included water changes, adding pH lowering chemicals, and consulting with the Berks County Conservation District. By the time they had fish big enough to swim in the big tank on February 6, there were only 8 trout remaining. Since the release into the big tank, the numbers have fluctuated. At one time, they thought we had lost them all! Then they noticed two swimmers that must have been hiding in the rocks, but now believe they are down to one lone fish at this time.

Unfortunately, this also happened three years ago when WREC first participated in the Trout in the Classroom program. The students at that time affectionately named the last living fish Rocky Balboa. He was released into Wyomissing Creek in April 2020. This year's group of students decided to name our last trout Rocky II. They will soon be changing the water in the tank with spring water to try to regulate the levels before receiving new trout babies. Some students are working hard to research problems and find solutions. Part of the mystery is to figure out why the pH rises in the tank when it is not high coming from the tap. Wish our Spartans luck and stay tuned for a hopeful spring release date!

Art Students Recognized in the Yocum Institute Art Show



Congratulations to the following art students for having their work accepted into the Yocum Institute's Juried Art Exhibit this year. The opening reception took place in late January.

Terry Bresnahan
Evan Sandbakken
George Ellington
Reese Dauber
Margaux Gagnon
Sam Huckleberry
Sarah Joiner
Nova Davis

Payton Laity
Ana Huber
Unique Davis
Kai Mercado
Karina Donato
Kylie Schoedler
Ava Mauro

A special congratulations to Emma Arentz for earning an honorable mention, and to Aiden Schippers for earning 1st place in the exhibit!

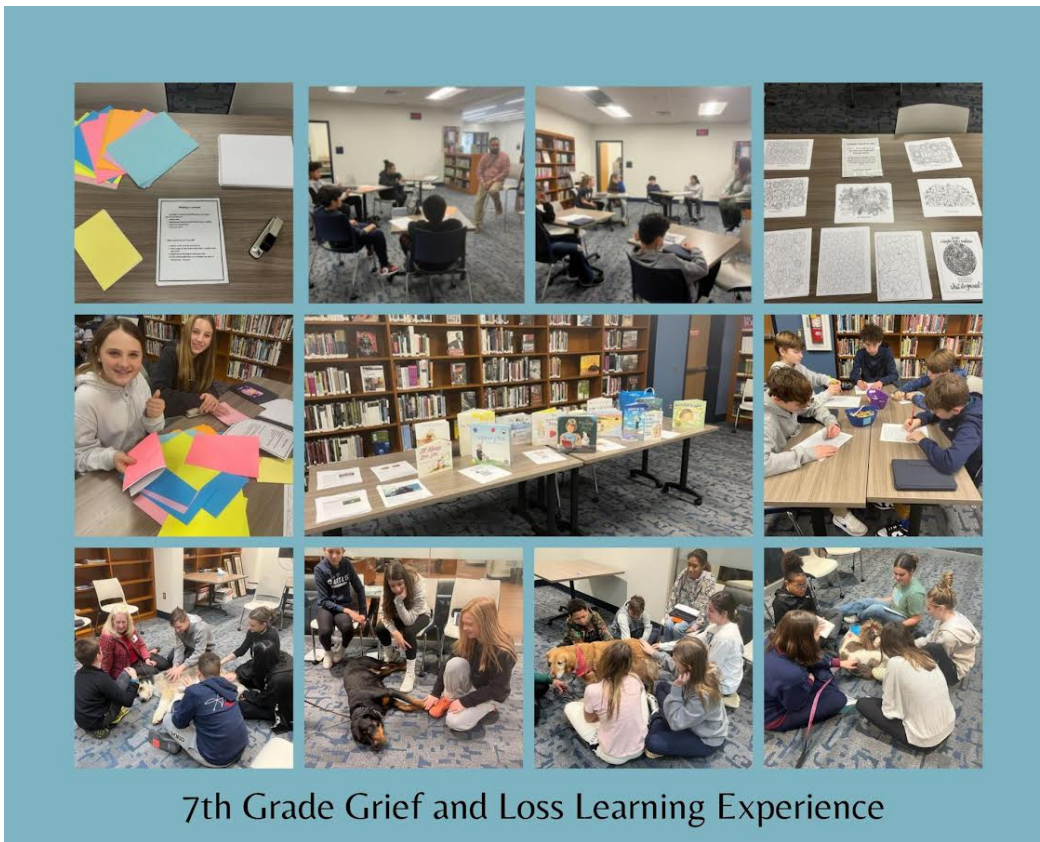
WREC Students Create Beautiful Art Display

What lifts you?



Students at WREC were asked the question "what lifts you" before creating a colorful, interactive mural based on the artwork of street artist, Kelsey Montague. The giant wings are a collection of individual feathers made by each student in fifth and sixth grade, and have had a very positive impact on the entire school community!

7th Grade Spartans Participate in Grief and Loss Day



7th Grade Grief and Loss Learning Experience

Recently, our 7th grade students read a book and a play in English class in which several characters are faced with grief. After reading, our teachers wanted to allow students the opportunity to explore what grief is, research various kinds/elements of grief, and research strategies that will help others address and cope with these difficult situations. 7th-grade Grief and Loss Day was designed to provide students with hands-on ways to cope with grief and loss. Now, students will be showcasing what they have learned by creating projects for a character from one of the literature pieces to help that character acknowledge and cope with the loss.

On Grief and Loss Day, five amazing therapy dogs visited our students. Their trainers shared so much information about the dogs and the benefits of therapy dogs in general. At the stress-relief area, students learned that coloring relaxes the amygdala while they colored printed pages or created their journals. At the discovery table, students read a variety of articles or children's books about grief and loss or listened to the audio version. Students also learned about our SAP groups, and explanations of the 5 stages of grief, and worked to connect those stages to characters in the literature. It was a great day!

Spartan Sprouts

SPARTAN SPROUTS



Choose one of three sessions:

SESSION 1

Wednesday, March 22, 2023
4:30-6:00

SESSION 2

Tuesday, June 6, 2023
1:30-3:00

SESSION 3

Wednesday, August 2, 2023
4:30-6:00

FREE PROGRAM FOR INCOMING WYOMISSING AREA KINDERGARTENERS!

Do you have a child in the Wyomissing Area School District entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2023? Then this is for you!

Join us for a FREE program at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 from 4:30pm-6pm, Tuesday, June 6, 2023 from 1:30pm-3pm or Wednesday, August 2, 2023 from 4:30pm-6pm.

Spartan Sprouts is a program designed specifically for incoming Kindergarteners to introduce strategies and activities that can easily be done at home and will help prepare the children for school in the fall. The event includes hands-on activities and a Wyomissing Area swag bag filled with all of the materials and instructions necessary to continue to practice at home.

We cannot wait to meet our future Spartans and their families at this fun-filled event!

Reserve your spot today for one of the sessions!

[Register Here](#)

Wyomissing Area Internship Program

The Wyomissing Area School District is seeking professionals in our community who would be interested in being a mentor for our expanding internship program.

Wyomissing Area
Internship Program

Internships are designed to provide interested WASD 11th and 12th-grade students with professional experience in their future career choice. Internships can be paid or unpaid, usually consisting of 1-3 hours per day for one semester or the full school year. Our students are expected to participate in activities that will allow them to gain knowledge and skills to equip them for a professional career while assisting their mentor with duties common to your profession.

If you or a colleague are interested in becoming a mentor for our internship program, please contact Dr. Brian Liskey at bliskey@wyoarea.org or call 610-374-0739 ext. 2305.

Wyomissing Area Education Foundation



WAEF

WYOMISSING AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Enriching Education in the Wyomissing Area School District

WAEF supports students and teachers in the school district in many ways, most recently by directly supporting teachers in their classrooms through our **Classroom Wishes Fund**. We need your support to continue to fulfill our teachers' classroom wishes, so if you'd like to contribute, please email Molly McCullough Robbins at mrobbins@wyoarea.org or visit WAEF's website: www.wyoarea-foundation.org.

WAEF funds supported the following projects since the last issue of Scoop:

WAEF's Anne McCullough Endowment Fund supported students who wanted to attend leadership opportunities including Model UN and Harvard and MIT's organization, Take the World Forward.

WAEF's Customer Bank Trade and Technology Fund has supported Wyomissing students who study at BCTC and need help with fees and books.

WAEF's EITC funds supported the purchase of 3D Scanning-Modeling-Printing in the classroom which allows students to create digital file formats of 3D objects. Those models can be stored, manipulated, scaled, and replicated using various mediums of 3D printing and also integrated with virtual/augmented reality applications.

WAEF's Anne Seltzer Fund provided funding for a Mindful Middle Schoolers grant. Sixth graders who have suffered trauma or struggle with other mental health issues have the opportunity to begin their morning with a certified yoga instructor to learn strategies to cope with challenges in their life.

WAEF's Grants Committee approved a request from Dr. Brian Liskey for solar equipment to use in his engineering classes and to participate in the Governor's STEM Competition.

WAEF's Grants Committee also approved a request from Dr. Liskey for Structural Vernier Testing equipment to analyze the strength of various materials.

Other grant ideas are being reviewed, and WASD faculty and staff are encouraged to apply for support from **WAEF's Grants** budget. Our committee meets monthly. The application is available

on our website - please email mrobbins@wyoarea.org with questions about applying for a grant or supporting WAEF's grants budget with a donation.

To provide all of these educational enhancements, **WAEF needs community support!** Our biggest fundraiser each year, the **Blue & White Party**, will be held on **Friday, April 21, 2023** at the Reading Public Museum. For information about sponsorship opportunities, donations, or purchasing tickets, please visit <https://www.wyoarea-foundation.org/2023bluewhite>. If you'd like to help plan the event or volunteer the night of the event, please contact Molly McCullough Robbins by emailing mrobbins@wyoarea.org.

Parent Teacher Association

upcoming event calendar



- 3/7 PTA Meeting** Held at WHEC in the cafeteria at 9am
- 3/17 WREC Book Fair** information to come - kids will be able to shop during the day
- 3/24 WREC Glow Dance** 5th & 6th Grade 7-9pm
- 4/13 PTA Meeting** Held at WHEC in the cafeteria at 6:30 pm
- 4/20 Steam & Art Night**
- 5/1 Staff Appreciation Week** 5/1-5/5 at all district buildings
- 5/12 Walk with Wyo** WHEC
- 5/16 PTA Meeting** Held at WHEC in the cafeteria at 9am
- tbd '23/'24 planning PTA Meeting**

Join us!

Our goal is to bring parents, teachers, and children together to raise funds for educational programs and strengthen the school community. For as little as \$8.00, you can help support these educational programs and family activities sponsored by the Wyomissing Area PTA.

[Join Here!](#)

Please note that joining the PTA does not obligate you to participate in, or volunteer for, PTA Committees and Events. However, we are always looking for new volunteers for our committees and would love to see new faces join us at events! For more information, please visit wyopta.org, and follow us on social media!



Volunteer needs:

We are excited to be back in the schools! We are looking for volunteers to chair committees and help at events. We are in need of high school students to help, too! We are currently looking for:

A **nominating committee**. The nominating committee finds chairs and Board Members for each position. We are currently looking for 3 people to fill this role.

Volunteers for Walk with Wyo. This is our primary fundraising event so the more help, the better! We are in specific need of a person to take on Sponsorship. Other roles include coordinating with teachers to get classroom parents involved on the day of the walk. If you're interested in helping, contact Carolyn Handy at WALKWITHWYO@GMAIL.COM

Staff Appreciation Week – This week-long event celebrates the entire staff at WASD! The committee plans and coordinates food, decorating, food drop-offs during the week. Please reach

out to Amanda Bailey at abenfer@gmail.com. We will develop a SignUp Genius for week-of volunteering closer to the event.

Jr./Sr. High School students – We would love a student presence at PTA meetings! We want to hear your ideas about how we can enrich the lives of students in the Jr./Sr. High School. We would love student participation in events like Staff Appreciation Week and Walk with Wyo.

Interested in getting involved? Please email ptawyo@gmail.com. The best way to show your support is to attend meetings and get involved. We love ideas, but we NEED volunteers to execute the great ideas.

About the Authors



As the Wyomissing Area School District continues to develop the Internship Program, we are fortunate to have talented students work with our Communications team to develop the articles you read in each edition of The Spartan Scoop. Our students are driven and predominantly self-guided and have the opportunity to attend district events, visit classrooms and teachers, and share positive experiences and stories about the great work in our district. Passionate students like these are a great addition to our Communications team and developing our social media posts and newsletter stories is a great experience for them.

Jenna Abousaab is a senior at Wyomissing Area and is a dedicated member of the environmental club, service club, Mini-THON, student peer tutoring, peer mediation, table tennis

club and NHS. Jenna loves getting involved within the community and making a difference, so the Communications internship will be a great opportunity for her to experience activities taking place in all three Wyomissing Area school buildings and to make connections with both youth Spartans and staff. In the classroom, Jenna maintains a hard work ethic and strives for excellence and outside of school, Jenna plays competitive soccer and is the Ambassador to the Commissioner of the Girls Academy, working to implement DEI policy within the league. She is eager to work in communications to strengthen her professional public speaking skills and to build stronger relationships with people throughout the community.

Maya Abousaab is a senior who is actively involved in our community. Although Maya does not play for any of the high school sports teams, she loves spending her time playing competitive soccer as she looks to play collegiately in the future. Maya is part of the High School Student Council, student peer tutoring, National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, Mini-THON Committee, and peer mediation while also serving as a Class Officer for the Class of 2023. She plans to attend college to major in biology, business, or psychology on the pre-med track with hopes of becoming a surgeon. Maya chose this internship to explore the field of communications as she looks forward to the benefits of constant exposure to interviewing and reporting skills. As much as Maya loves to excel in the classroom, she enjoys time with her loved ones even more.

Vanesa Aguay is a junior at Wyomissing Area High School and is actively involved in her school community. Vanesa is the junior class president as well as Spanish Honorary Society and Spanish Club president. She enjoys being a member of student council, peer mediation, peer tutoring, Model UN, environmental club, WAEF Committee, ski club, Mini-THON chairperson, member of the service club executive committee, and secretary of the Wyomissing Area math club. Athletically, Vanesa is a member of the cross country team, plays soccer, and participates in indoor and outdoor varsity track. Vanesa loves to meet new people and volunteer her time to advocacy groups. She is excited for the opportunity to involve herself in the activities throughout the district and to develop her skills within community outreach with this internship.

Kaitlyn Brunner is a senior at Wyomissing Area. She is involved in various clubs including Big Spartan Little Spartan, Wyo5Live, Mini-THON, WAEF, latin club and Best Buddies. Kaitlyn participates on the field hockey and basketball teams as well. Kaitlyn loves the close-knit community Wyomissing Area has and is excited for this school year working with the other interns as well as faculty and students for the internship!

Bianca Flowers is a senior at Wyomissing Area. She plays on the volleyball team and is also the manager for the girls basketball team. She is a member of the student council, secretary of mini-THON, in art club, service club, environmental club, and more. The communications internship is an opportunity for her to learn important life skills and develop the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people.

Communications Coordinator, Ms. Meghan Tierney

Ms. Meghan Tierney is the mathematics Department Chair at the Jr./Sr. High School in her ninth year in the Wyomissing Area School District. She received her bachelor's degree from Albright College, earned a master's degree in Teacher Leadership through the University of Delaware, and a master's degree and supervisory certification in Educational Administration with a focus on Curriculum and Instruction Supervision at Gwynedd Mercy University.



In addition to her role as a classroom teacher, she advises the National Honor Society, and serves as the Communications Coordinator for the school district. Meghan really enjoys the opportunities she has to work with students both in and out of the classroom and loves being a Spartan. Outside of school, Meghan enjoys spending time at the beach and being with family and friends.
