



Waterville-Elysian-Morristown

ISD #2143

Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Middle School:

- **Better Together:** This past month reminded me once again why WEM Middle School is such a special place. Our teachers continue to provide fun, collaborative learning opportunities, and our students shine in the way they work with one another. Whether they're baking cookies in FACS, teaming up on classroom projects, or even burying their friends in the snow at recess. Their teamwork and creativity bring so much joy to our building. Every day as I walk the halls, I see smiling faces, hear laughter, and watch students support and connect with one another. Those moments of friendship and collaboration create an atmosphere that makes our school a welcoming place to learn.
- **Winter Concerts:** Mr. Larson has a tough task managing both Middle School Band and Choir... Along with his duties as the High School Band Director. He has done a wonderful job this year preparing our Middle School Students for their first performance of the year. The Band and Choir students put on quite the performances the first two Mondays of December. I loved watching them on stage in front of a packed auditorium. Way to go Mr. Larson and the Middle School Band and Choir.
- **Partners In Education:** Our PIE group has stepped up in a big way this year and we are so appreciative of all they do for our students and staff. This year they have offered to partner with us to help fund a 7th and 8th grade ski trip as well as the Skate Time experience we provide our K-6 students. Most recently they are providing a concession stand at our middle school basketball games this winter. All proceeds will go back to PIE so they can keep on helping us out in so many ways!

Thank you,
Myles Knutson



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Greetings School Board Members,

Here are a few updates from the Elementary School:

- **Holiday Performances:** Mr. Benz put on his first concerts since being hired at WEM and we were all blown away! The 3rd and 4th graders performed this past Monday and the enthusiasm and talent on display brought joy to everyone in attendance. It doesn't stop there either. Mr. Benz has brought back a Kindergarten through 2nd grade Holiday program. So many parents have already reached out about how excited they are to see our youngest students provided with an opportunity to perform for them. Thank you Mr. Benz and our students for some great shows in the month of December.
- **Diving into Science:** Our classroom teachers have been putting an extra emphasis on science instruction to begin the year. Both teachers and students have loved the lessons and experiences this has provided. Our amazing Student Success Coordinator and 3rd grade teacher Mrs. Hebl dove into the MN science standards and our science curriculum and developed an easy scope and sequence for teachers to access lessons and materials easily. Everyone is loving having more science throughout the year than in the past!
- **Recess Helpers:** Recess is one of the most important parts of our day. Luckily at WEM we have dedicated and talented paraprofessionals who support our students out at recess. Together we came up with the idea to ask some responsible High School students to come out to recess during their lunch to model positive behavior, engage in play with students, and help monitor our recess areas. It has been such a huge help and the students love seeing the "big kids" out there to play with them! Thank you High School students!

Thank you,
Myles Knutson