

# Hemlock Creek Elementary School Headlines

December 2016



Mrs. Kathleen Held, Principal  
Mr. Michael Kowalczyk, Associate Principal

## Principal's News

It is hard to believe that it is December! We have had such an extended fall with the weather this year. As we close out the first part of our school year, we would like to thank you for your continued support. We recognize daily that your partnership with our school district impacts student success. On behalf of the Hemlock Creek School staff, we wish all of our students and families a happy holiday season. Wishes of health and happiness for 2017!

Previously we stated that report cards would be emailed home. We are having technical difficulties with this so **report cards will now be sent home with students** on Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. Please note that our K-4 report card is a standards based report card. This is different than a traditional report card with a letter grade for one subject area. I would invite you to view this short screen cast to learn more about how to read our K-4 report cards. <https://youtu.be/TEi4cc296aA>

Search for posts on twitter using #wdphc to see all the learning that takes place at Hemlock Creek.

*Kathleen Held, Proud Principal*

## Student Fees for 2016-2017

We are still collecting student fees (4K-5) for all students whose parents have not paid or have not received an approved waiver due to free or reduced lunch status.

Checks can be written to West De Pere School District.

Please send payment to the office.

4K - \$15.00, Grades K & 1 - \$40.00, Grades 2-5 - \$45.00

## Has Phone Numbers or Emergency Contact Information Changed?

Please help us by keeping your child(ren)'s emergency information up-to-date. Remember to always let us know when you change phone numbers, cell phone numbers and work numbers. When your child gets sick or hurt at school, we need to get a hold of you as soon as possible. It is also important to have some contact people listed when we can't reach you. You may call us or stop by the office and change the information on the profile sheet. Thank you for your assistance.

## Concerts and Events for 2016-2017

This year we are trying some new ideas at different grade levels. We invite you to mark your calendar for these important upcoming dates.

### Kindergarten Holiday Get Together

- Mrs. Sands and Ms. Arndt's program Dec. 20 at 2:15 p.m.
- Mrs. Spaeth and Mrs. Raschke's program Dec. 21 at 2:15 p.m.
- Mrs. Neuens, Mrs. Herlache, and Mrs. Lynn's program Dec. 22 at 2:15 p.m.
- Grade 1 Winter Concert Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.
- Grade 2 Book Concert Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 p.m.
- Grade 3 Winter Concert Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00 p.m.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Heritage Projects Presentation Mar. 14<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Arts Night May 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.
- Grade 2 Author's Celebration May 25<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 p.m.



**NO SCHOOL: December 26<sup>th</sup> - January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
School Resumes on January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## PTO News

Thank you for all those who purchased books and/or knick knacks from the Scholastic Book Fair it was a huge success for the school. Its profits will be used to fund PTO sponsored events such as the Book Celebration. The Hemlock Creek Box Top competition gathered a total of 22,153 box tops. That's over \$2,200! The next PTO meeting will take place Tuesday, Dec 6th at 6:30-7:30 p.m. in Hemlock Creek's Library located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Free child care will be available for attendees' children. We will be raffling off prizes including family packs of four of St. Norbert Men's Hockey Tickets for all those who attend. St. Norbert Men's Hockey are 4-time National Champions. Their games are action packed. Make sure to mark your calendar. Go Phantoms!!!



### Spelling Bee

This year students in grades 3,4, and 5 will be participating in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Three representatives from each classroom will compete in their grade level competition on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Two finalists from each grade level will then compete with WW and students from grades 6-8 at the middle school on January 16<sup>th</sup> to determine one finalist to move forward.

### Guidance Groups

Your child may be asked to be a part of a guidance group throughout the school year. If that is the case there will be a group letter sent home in your child's take home folder. Topics of groups are in the areas of social skills, friendship, anger, leadership, and divorce (family change). Please contact me if you have any questions regarding guidance groups.

### A Note from the Literacy Coach

Last month I wrote about the importance of finding books our kids can both read and enjoy! As this continues to be a goal it leads me to another question, when our readers have a book they are interested and can read, what can I do to support my child at home **as** they read?

As a teacher and a parent myself, I have sat alongside many readers and listened. As I have listened I hear readers making mistakes and I've wondered, should I be correcting them? Should I stop them? If I stop them, what do I say? How do I support them in a meaningful way?

All of us want to help our readers build their reading capabilities and we can help promote that by responding in supportive ways. Here are a couple helpful hints when responding to your kids at home when they are reading aloud to you.

- If your child makes a mistake give them a chance to fix it. Try not to jump in right away and fix it for them (this is really hard, I know!). The more we fix their errors for them, the fewer opportunities they have to learn to fix them on their own. Give them a chance to monitor themselves.
- If they make a mistake and don't fix it up you can say, "Were you right on that page?" This makes them responsible for knowing. If they don't notice, this could be a sign they aren't listening to themselves and you can ask them to read it again and listen to make sure reading makes sense and sounds right.
- Most of us grew up learning to read with the old phrase "sound it out." While this works for some instances, we are trying to get kids to use other strategies too like "reread and think about what would make sense" or "is there a part of that word you know?" Because reading is a meaning making experience our suggestions can help focus on the meaning to solve problems just as well as the print.
- Don't be afraid to give your child some positive feedback on anything they do as a reader. Giving praise can reinforce strong reading behaviors. Simple things like, "I liked the way you solved your problem" or "You made your voice sound like the characters" can give readers the feedback they need to reinforce developing practices.

In conclusion, supporting our kids as they read helps them understand what readers do and become more strategic. Ultimately, we want strategic confident readers that solve their own problems and extend their processing system!

Erin Cutler, Literacy Coach at Hemlock Creek  
[ecutler@wdpsd.com](mailto:ecutler@wdpsd.com) (920)-425-1900 ext: 3240

## Literacy Night

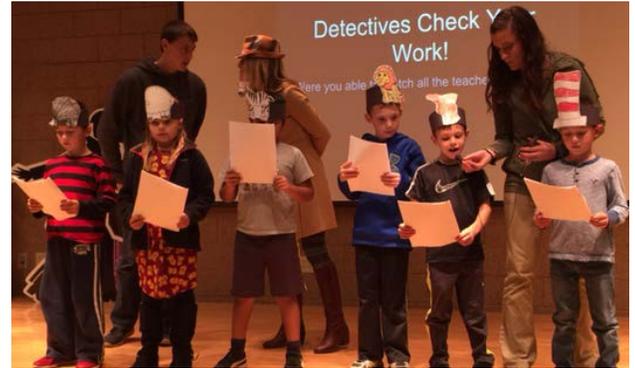
Literacy Night was a great success this year as we unlocked the secrets of strategic readers. Our event kicked off with a mystery reader, Scott McCurley, a parent in our building and a Green Bay Packer assistant linebacker coach. Parents then went to two sessions of their own choosing to help their readers become more strategic and develop a love of reading. Meanwhile, kindergarteners through second graders practiced and performed reader's theater for their families.

We ended the night with a book raffle for all, sponsored by the Hemlock Creek PTO, to carry on our excitement of reading into our homes. It was a great night!

Thanks to all who volunteered and attended!



Our mystery reader proved to be a big hit! Thank you Scott McCurley!



Second Graders performing mystery reader's theater for their families!



Everyone got in on the fun and channeled their inner detective!

## Be Safe! Parking Reminders

The front circle area must remain moving before and after school. IT IS AN EMERGENCY LANE and there is NO PARKING OR WAITING. It provides access to the building in case of an emergency and must remain clear for everyone's safety. If you are waiting for your child at the end of the day, please park in the designated parking areas. To the north of the building, there is a bus lane. There is no parking in this lane as well. Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.

- Please drop children off at curbside only in the semi circle drive.
- Do not park OR WAIT in the semi circle drive area - it is a FIRE LANE.
- Always pull as far forward as you can and drive slowly and cautiously at all times.
- **For safety reasons, please cross at crosswalks.**



Please be patient and extend courtesy to other drivers. Your cooperation is appreciated for the safety of all children.

## The Art Spot

The Art Department welcomes Mrs. Halvorsen to the department until mid-January. Mrs. Halvorsen will be working with Ms. Schofield as her student teacher. She comes to us from the University of Wisconsin- Green Bay and is excited to work with our students here at Hemlock Creek. Please e-mail with any further questions - Ms. Schofield [kschofield@wdpsd.com](mailto:kschofield@wdpsd.com)



## 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

The School District of West De Pere has scheduled 4-Year-Old Kindergarten registration dates for children who would be 4 years of age before September 1, 2017 and are planning to attend 4-Year Old Kindergarten in the fall of 2017. Registration will take place on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:30 p.m. **The registration will be held at the Phantom Knight School of Opportunity. The address is 400 Reid St. and it is located on the second floor of the building. For registration you need to bring your child's birth certificate, their immunization record, and proof of residency such as a utility bill or lease agreement.** If you have any questions concerning registration, please call Westwood Elementary at 337-1087 ext. 1322; Hemlock Creek Elementary at 425-1900 ext. 3320, or Scott Marsden, 4K Director at 337-1087 ext. 1323.

Our 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program is half days, five days a week. Depending on space availability at each site, children may be served at a location (either school or partnering child care facility) outside of their home school attendance area. If this occurs, transportation will be provided. Four-Year-Old Kindergarten is a voluntary program and no child will be required to attend. The 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program is developmentally appropriate and may include but is not limited to: readiness skills, language development, social development, emotional development, physical development, and self-help skills.

If you are not enrolled in our 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program, parents with children of kindergarten age (5 years old) will be contacted via our school census report. If you are new to the area and have not completed a census form, please contact the district office at 337-1393 ext. 8010 to have your child counted on the school census. If you know a neighbor with small children, please share this information with them.

## 5 Year Old Kindergarten Registration Information

If you know of any students who are not enrolled in our 4K program but will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2017, please attend registration on Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The registration will be held at the Phantom Knight School of Opportunity. The address is 400 Reid St. and it is located on the second floor of the building.

**For registration you need to bring your child's birth certificate, their immunization record, and proof of residency such as a utility bill or lease agreement.**

### Cold Weather Reminders

With the winter months quickly approaching, please make sure your child comes to school with appropriate outdoor wear. Remind your child to wear boots, hat, gloves, warm clothing, etc. when the weather calls for this type of apparel. Dress for the weather! .... It is our Phantom Style.



### Inclement Weather

Please remember to listen to local radio or television stations for school delays, early closing, and cancellations. Please do not call the school unless it is an emergency. Calling the schools hinder our efforts to communicate the news effectively. Parents are asked to have alternate plans for their children's supervision and care in the event school is closed early due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Remember that buses will probably run a little late when the roads are in poor condition.

## District Resident Request for School Transfer (Policy # 5007)

District residents who request to transfer schools within the School District of West De Pere for the 2016-2017 school year are due **January 31, 2017**. Guidelines to the West De Pere policy #5007 are:

- Only written requests will be considered.
- Requests by district residents for school transfer shall be made in writing during the month of January. Requests received after January 31<sup>st</sup> may be considered if space is available. Applicants should submit their written request by completing the "District Residents Request for School Transfer" form. Written requests should be submitted to the school office. Final decisions will be made by the building principals. Parents/guardians have the right to appeal decisions to the district office.

The complete policy #5007 and request form can be found on the West De Pere School District web site [www.wdpsd.com](http://www.wdpsd.com)

## Library News

The Hemlock Creek library has added new technology for our staff and students!

**Swivl** - Teachers are able to use Swivl to record themselves teaching. It can be set up in the room and swivels to follow their voice. Microphones help to better pick up the sound. This allows teachers to videotape their teaching without needing to have another person in the room videotaping and without it being a distraction for their students. Teachers and student teachers can then analyze their instruction to gain valuable insights into their teaching.



**Osmo** - Osmo is a hands-on iPad gaming accessory that fosters creativity and problem-solving skills. We recently added the new Osmo Coding game, which introduces coding to students and teaches logic and problem solving. Soon we also will be getting the newest Osmo game, Pizza Co! This game teaches math and money skills by having kids run their own pizza shop.

**Google Expeditions** - Google Expeditions uses virtual reality to allow teachers to bring their class on a virtual field trip! Students look into a viewmaster with a smartphone inside, while teachers take the kids on a guided tour. At this time there are 291 expeditions available, such as the moon, 9/11 Memorial, Yellowstone National Park, volcanoes, UW-Madison, the ocean, and the respiratory system.



## Hour of Code

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning computer science, and fewer students are studying it than a decade ago. Wisconsin has 7,699 open computing jobs and in 2014 there were only 890 computer science graduates, with only 15% of those being female. The average salary for a computing occupation in Wisconsin is \$74,282, significantly higher than the average salary in the state (\$43,930).

That's why Hemlock Creek participates in the largest education event in history: The Hour of Code. During Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 5 -11), many of our students will be amongst over 2 million worldwide spending one hour learning the basics of coding.

The excitement of our students when they are coding is awesome to see! For those that are interested in continuing to learn about coding at home here are some resources. The Hour of Code [website](#) has many resources for learning how to code. [Click here](#) to see all the coding games that are available on their website. In addition to websites, there are several coding apps (Kodable, Tynker, Scratch, Daisy the Dinosaur) and coding toys such as [BeeBots](#), [Sphero](#), [Ozobot](#), and Fisher Price's Code-a-pillar.

[Wisconsin Fact Sheet](#)

### Wisconsin

**7,699** open computing jobs  
(3.1x the state average demand rate)

**890** computer science graduates

- ✘ No dedicated state funding for CS PD
- ✘ Does not require all high schools to offer CS
- ✘ No K-12 CS curriculum standards

▶ AP Stats

[View Wisconsin fact-sheet](#)

**Take action**

Sources: The Conference Board, National Center for Education Statistics, and the College Board. [More info.](#)

## School Social Worker

West De Pere is very fortunate to have its first school social worker! Maureen Mommaerts has been hired to serve in this capacity. Since this position is new to the district, we would like you to become familiar with the role of a school social worker. School social workers support students, staff and families in ways that ensure students are physically and mentally ready to learn. They address barriers within the child, school, home and community that interfere with student achievement. Services provided can include assessment, crisis intervention, home visits, counseling (individual, group and/or family), staff development and coordination of school and community resources.

A little bit about Maureen Mommaerts: I am Maureen Mommaerts, School Social Worker for the West De Pere School District. This is my twelfth year as a school social worker and my first year with West De Pere! I'm so excited to be a part of the West De Pere School District. I'm very impressed with the enthusiasm and student-centered focus of the teachers and administrators here! I attended St. Norbert College for my undergraduate degree, studying Sociology and Human Services. I attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for my Master's degree in Social Work with emphasis on School Social Work and Clinical Social Work. I hold a current license with the State of Wisconsin as a school social worker and clinical social worker (LCSW). This is the first time the West De Pere School District has employed a school social worker so I am very excited for the challenge to build the program and help the students of West De Pere. My office is located at the high school and I do travel to all of the schools in the district to provide services to students. I am looking forward to a great school year and I wish the same for you and your children.

### Lost and Found

Many items have accumulated in our Lost and Found area over the past couple months. Parents, always mark your child's items/clothes so that when they lose something, it will be easier to find the rightful owner. We also ask that you remind your child that if they lose something, to check out our Lost & Found area in the main hallway.

### Report Cards

REMINDER: Report cards will be coming home on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We sincerely appreciate your support and efforts to help make this first trimester a success! Please know that our staff is always available to meet with you to discuss your child's work and progress.

### Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family Giving Tree Program

The Salvation Army Adopt-A-Family program gifts are due by December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Salvation Army has requested that gifts are NOT wrapped but have the tag that was on the tree tacked to the outside. Thank you for your support of this project!

City of De Pere Parks and Recreation Department

# Hey Kids!

## Youth Rec Nights are HERE!

Grades 3-7  
Wednesday Nights, 6-8pm  
Dec. 7-March 22 (no 12/28) at  
Westwood Elementary School

\$3.75/night for Residents &  
WDP School District Students  
\$5.75/night for Non-Residents.  
Season Passes can be purchased  
on-site or at the  
Community Center, 600 Grant St.  
For additional information call:  
339-4097

[www.de-pere.org](http://www.de-pere.org)

## Phantastic Phantom News

Did you know... that during the months of September, October, and November the following classrooms received the Phantastic Phantom traveling trophy. Keep up the Phantastic Phantom work. We are proud of them and all the students at Hemlock Creek.

<b>Sept. 9</b>	Keeping hands, feet, and objects to themselves while lining up.	K - Ms. Arndt 1- Mrs. Bain 2- Mrs. Clarke 3- Mrs. Erdmann 4- Mrs. Dernbach 5- Mrs. Van Boxel	<b>Sept. 23</b>	Being respectful towards adults.	K - Mrs. Neuens 1- Mrs. Hopkins 2- Mrs. Clarke 3- Mrs. Erdmann 4- Mr. Janquart 5- Mrs. May
<b>Sept. 16</b>	Classrooms that followed teacher's directions while lining up and moving through the halls.	K - Mrs. Sands 1- Mrs. LaPierre 2- Mrs. Schoenwalder 3- Mrs. Wisneski 4- Ms. Schwanke 5- Mrs. Melichar	<b>Sept. 30</b>	Using the playground equipment appropriately.	K - Mrs. Raschke 1- Mrs. Lambrecht 2- Mrs. Catlin 3- Mrs. Hebl 4- Mrs. Brossard 5- Ms. Suring
<b>Oct. 5</b>	Treating new and old equipment with respect.	K - Mrs. Herlache 1- Mrs. Ruechel 2- Ms. Weber 3- Mrs. Brandt 4- Mrs. Madala 5- Ms. Heim	<b>Oct. 24</b>	Following the ga-ga pit expectation.	K - Mrs. Lynn 1- Mrs. LaPierre 2- Mrs. Bildings 3- Mrs. Bixby 4- Mrs. Dernbach 5- Ms. Smith
<b>Oct. 12</b>	Responsible and respectful in the bathroom.	K - Mrs. Spaeth 1- Mrs. Lambrecht 2- Mrs. Toellner 3- Mrs. Lang 4- Mrs. Schwanke 5- Ms. Smith	<b>Oct. 31</b>	Showing they can be at a level 0 and keep their hands to themselves, and follow the adults rules when lining up.	K - Mrs. Lynn 1- No recipient 2- Ms. Weber 3- Mrs. Bixby 4- Mrs. Madala 5- Ms. Smith
<b>Nov. 7</b>	Keeping the cafeteria clean, level 0 when asked, and listening to adults.	K - Mrs. Herlache 1- Mrs. LaPierre 2- Mrs. Clarke 3- Mrs. Brandt 4- Mr. Janquart 5- Ms. Heim	<b>Nov. 22</b>	Dressing for the weather.	K-Mrs. Raschke 1-Mrs. Bain 2-Mrs. Toellner 3-Mrs. Wisneski 4-Mrs. Brossard 5-Mrs. Melichar