

WEST MILLBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Wildcat News



Happy New Year Wildcats!

WELCOME to 2017 Wildcats!

There are lots of exciting events planned for the second semester! Make sure you check out the WMMS calendar online so you don't miss a thing! (<http://www.localendar.com/public/WMMS>)

We will be hosting an internet safety seminar for parents on February 2nd (see pg. 3). Eighth grade parents are invited to a parents night to find out more about high school on January 25th- register at <http://bit.ly/WMMS-8thParents>.

Our students will be participating in competitions for cheerleading, Math Counts, Battle of the Books and more. They'll also be trying out for spring sports and auditioning for district band.

We have the school talent show, March Madness and the spring dance all in the next couple of months.

Clearly 2017 is off to a great start and we appreciate our students, parents, teachers and staff that work so hard to make WMMS a great school.



January 2017 - Issue 2

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Principal's News



Message from the Principal Kelly Aman

GO WILDCATS!

I hope your family enjoyed the Winter break (plus the extra snow days). Our students and our staff enjoyed some time away from West Millbrook to recharge, spend time with family, sleep in a little and enjoy the cold weather a bit!

First quarter ended with our first A Honor Roll breakfast of the 2016-17 school year. We had 215 students who earned all As for the first nine weeks. Helen Pasca and Jacqui Sult chair the PTA Academic Advocates Committee and their committee provided an excellent breakfast for our honorees. Under the leadership of Tara Booger, Betsy Saintsing and Scott Reston, our Character Education program continues to flourish, recognizing students each quarter who demonstrate keen character.

On Tuesday, November 22, Jo Ann Cabaniss, Karen Arnold and their committee served pie and hot cider to all teachers for the annual PTA Pie Treat. Our faculty eagerly looks forward to this special day where we can enjoy some time with one another and the excellent baking of our fabulous PTA parents! In late November, 7th grade ELA students were treated to a Writer-In-Residence experience. Michael Beadle is a poet and author who coached our 7th graders through the process of connecting visual images and words. Thanks to Michele Moody for coordinating this effort for the PTA.

I am astonished at how quickly 2016 passed. Cherish these minutes, hours, days and months with your middle schooler. Let's have a great 2017 at West Millbrook!

REMEMBER THESE MAKEUP DAYS!

Don't forget that to make up for all the fun in the snow(?), sleet and ice, the following days are now regular school days.

Friday, January 27th
Monday, February 20th
Friday, March 31st

School News

SAVE THE DATE! - *Keeping Children Safe on the Internet*

We are excited to welcome Marlo Gaddis, Senior Director for Instructional Technology and Library Media Services for WCPSS, to WMMS to talk about how to keep our children safe on the internet.

Please join us on Thursday February 2, 2017 at 6:30pm in the WMMS media center.

Marlo is an exceptionally engaging presenter and WMMS is privileged to have her come and mentor our parents and school community about the realities of what children and teens face today online. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend.

We are also going to advertise this session to all schools in our area – if you have children at an elementary or high school close by – please feel free to share this info with them / their PTA.

We want to pack the house for Marlo!

Please RSVP at: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445abae2c7-wcpss>



GET CONNECTED - *Join us on Facebook and Twitter*

Do you know about the new WMMS Parents page on Facebook? It's a great way to join the conversation. (It's also a great place to ask questions when your child forgets that important form at school or doesn't tell you about a required event. We've all been there.) It's a great place to ask questions and get answers from other parents. You can also find out all of the favorite things of our WMMS teachers as well as their birthdays!

Join us at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WMMSparents/>

Don't forget to join the official WMMS Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/West-Millbrook-Middle-School-134579809926226/>

Follow WMMS on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/WestMillbrook>

And the WMMS PTA at: <https://twitter.com/wmmspta>

PTA News



Message from the PTA President Holly Hodges

Happy New Year!

PTA has been busy the last few months – so many volunteers to be grateful for! From Character Ed and Spirit Wear to Membership, Copy Room help and special Breakfasts... Bookfair, Sunshine, Hospitality, Cultural Arts and Box Tops – it truly is an army of awesome parents and community that keeps our school running! I am so very grateful for the support and commitment that our families have for WMMS!

As we get into 2017 we are thinking now about starting to hear from folks that are interested in taking on leadership roles with our PTA next year. Some of our most dedicated volunteers are “graduating” out of middle

school this June, and we need others to step up and pitch in. The Nominations committee will be posting an interest form very soon on the PTA website (linked to from the main WMMS.net website) where you can learn more and fill out your info if you are interested. Anyone on PTA is happy to talk to you about how the board works and why it matters.

We have some big events yet to come and are always appreciative of help. March Madness and then the end of year 8th grade activities will be kicking in here shortly... stay connected via remind and our email lists for all the information coming soon!

213 Students Recognized at 1st Quarter A Honor Roll Breakfast

Congratulations to the students who were honored at the 1st Quarter A Honor Roll Breakfast on Friday, November 18, 2016. The students heard from Ms. S. Denise Newton, a North Carolina native, activist, author of seven books, professional speaker, radio show host, Ambassador for Africa Alive Education Foundation, and Communication Specialist in the US Army.

Ms. Newton gave an inspirational speech, and, with all of her accomplishments under her belt, told the children that she was “star struck” to be in *their* presence. She emphasized the importance of overcoming obstacles to achieve your goals. She spoke of her mission trip to Zimbabwe, and that “although the children there may not have the same opportunities as the children here, they were still happy to attend school, despite walking two miles to get there!” The conditions at their school didn’t affect them because they were focused on what is to come and that education is the way out of poverty.

She spoke of the importance of helping others, influencing others, and giving back. She stressed

that the students should take on this responsibility, and they can start now, not wait until they are older to make a difference; but start now to aspire to do great things.

In closing, Ms. Newton reminded the students that they can do anything they set their minds to, and not to be afraid to do it. She recognized that it takes a lot of hard work to get straight A’s, and told the students they should be proud of their accomplishment. She stressed the need to keep their momentum, and their future is on the right track. She congratulated all the students in attendance. What a great message!!

Thanks so much to all the parents who sent food and helped serve!! We couldn’t have done it without you!! We are so proud of all of our hard working and bright WMMS students!!

2nd Quarter A Honor Roll Breakfast will be
Friday, February 17th

Helen Pasca, Co-Chair, A Honor Roll Breakfast

School News

Can you help?

Check out our Sign Up Genius

The new experiment with our “one year, one signup” seems to be going well, but please take the opportunity to check it occasionally.

There are a couple of new needs that have been added that we want to highlight:

First, we are building a new snack pantry for WMMS students that sometimes struggle with food supply. We are also starting the process to partner with the Food Bank, but until that program is up and running we are trying to support the pantry needs via voluntary donations. Please see the signup for suggested items.

Second, we still need candy donations for the Valentine Goody Bags for our teachers.

Third, we are in need of ESL Assessment Proctors – for 4 days in Feb and 2 in March.

If you can help – please sign up! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090445abae2c7-wmms7>



Tryouts:

Thursday, January 26th - 3:30 pm

Talent Show:

Friday, February 3rd - 4:00 pm

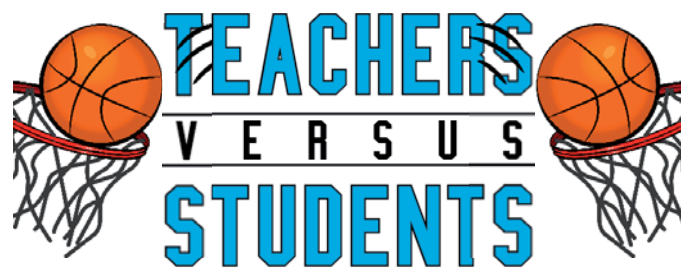


Friday, March 3rd

The night that WMMS students, faculty and parents all look forward to every year... it's MARCH MADNESS!!!

Save the date and come on out to support your favorite teachers as they dig deep to show off their sweet basketball skills in the yearly game!

This event is family-friendly and sure to be fun for all. Food, concessions, contests, prizes, music and fun – stay tuned for fliers and more info coming soon!

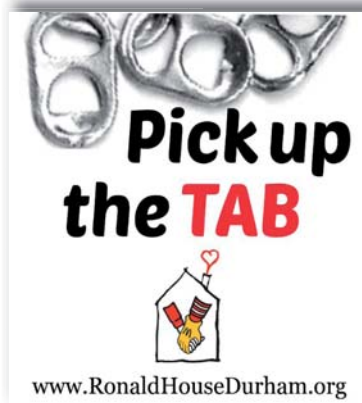


Club News

BETA Club Supports the Ronald McDonald House – *Easy & Free Ways to Help*

Little things can make a big difference, so the Beta Club has kicked off a new project to support the Ronald McDonald House of Durham and Wake. And, of course, there's a friendly competition thrown in for good measure.

Here's how you can help support the Ronald McDonald House of Durham and Wake. Through the end of the school year students are asked to save their pop tabs - the little tabs you pull to open soda, soup or other aluminum cans.



The funds generated from recycling these aluminum gems help offset the House's expenses. Collecting tabs is an easy and fun project.

At the end of the year, the winning grade will get a special treat but better yet, WMMS Wildcats will be supporting the families at the Ronald McDonald House.

Start collecting and make a difference!

Fundraising News

Link Those Grocery Cards!

Have you linked (or relinked) your grocery cards?

I know we seem to say this over and over – but linking cards is an amazing way to give free money to WMMS PTA. We have a google form for each grocery store to collect the data, and we can do the linkups for you. Currently we have very few (i.e. less than 10) cards linked to our school for Harris Teeter. You can link to multiple schools – if you are unsure about your link status, please fill out the form and we'll make sure you are in! And tell your friends and family. You don't have to have a student at the school to link your card!

Here are the links to the Google docs:

Lowe's Foods: <http://bit.ly/WMMS-Lowe'sFoods>

Harris Teeter: <http://bit.ly/WMMS-HarrisTeeter>

Kroger: <http://bit.ly/WMMS-Kroger>

Thank you for taking the time to link your cards. It really does make a difference!



Way to Go Wildcats!

WMMS Wildcat students and staff earned **\$392.10** from our BoxTops collection drive in October.



Sports News

Spring Sports Tryouts

Tryouts for WMMS Spring sports will be the week of February 13-16. See the coaching staff for specific days and times and to get the required information.

Baseball: Coach Jackson

Softball: Coach Navin

Boys Soccer: Coach Miller

Girls/Boys Track: Meghan McCoy, Danielle Tucker, Bruce Bean



Cultural Arts

The Arts at WMMS

For a week in December, WMMS seventh graders were given the opportunity to learn from writer in residence Michael Beadle.

Michael is a poet, author and writer-in-residence and enjoys many different styles of writing ranging from poetry and history to fiction and journalism. With 15 years of experience as a journalist and freelance writer, he's published more than 1,500 articles for newspapers and magazines throughout North Carolina and won several awards from the N.C. Press Association.

As an author of local history, I've written or co-written four books on Haywood County in western North Carolina. My most recent book is a collection of historic photographs of Canton, NC (Arcadia Publishing).

On January 20th, the Number Drummer was at WMMS giving performances for all grades. Number Drummer Live is a one-of-a-kind interactive production where the entire audience "drums" up mathematics to create an awesome

musical performance.

Each audience member receives a musical instrument when they enter and begins the mission to learn and perform the music and math skills needed to play in the show's final performance.

Math skills include addition, multiplication, division, fractions, money, algebra and more. Music skills include beat, rhythm, pitch, timbre, dynamics, tempo, and form. Throughout the production, participants perform multiple math skills simultaneously. Skills such as addition and fractions are performed at the same time, yet produce the same musical result.

Number Drummer Live is energizing, engaging, entertaining, and highly educational, and reveals the power of music within math and math within music. It's an amazing demonstration of music and math skills producing a spectacular "surround sound" audience performance. Number Drummer Live is the ultimate interactive math and music experience.

Wildcat CALENDAR:

1/258th Grade Parent Night
1/27.....Cheer Competition
1/27-28.....District Band Auditions
1/31.....Latino Parent Night
2/3.....Talent Show
2/17.....A Honor Roll Breakfast
2/17.....Spring Dance

There are many more upcoming school events,
make sure you visit the school calendar at:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/WMMS>

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT
[WWW.WMMS.NET!](http://WWW.WMMS.NET)

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER:



REMIND 101:

<http://www.wmms.net/remindcom-sign-up.html>



Do you have information to share in the
Wildcat News?

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Important Links for Wildcats...

WMMS Staff Directory: <http://www.wmms.net/directory.html>

PTA: <http://wmmspta.weebly.com/index.html>

Clubs: <http://www.wmms.net/clubs.html>

Athletics: <http://wmmsathletics.weebly.com/>

Athletic Boosters: <http://westmillbrookmsboosters.weebly.com/>

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Athletics: 919-870-4072

International Families: 919-431-7404

