



THE RIPPLE

Willow Creek Learning Center



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People of Interest in this Issue:

- John Umble
- Cooper Johnson
- Katherine Sieman
- Norah Young
- Makenzie Packo
- Bryson Cook
- Mara McCloud

Bible Fair

Bible Fair 2009 was held in pre-school and elementary the week of April 27th and it was a complete success. Thank you to everyone who donated items for Bible Fair and to all the volunteers. The children appreciate your kindness and generosity.

The Bible Fair journey took the children to the Jordan River, Cana, Nazareth, Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee. Mrs. Carroll stamped their passports at the travel center.

The sixth, seventh and eighth graders were stationed in the market place. The children made belts and bracelets, painted with fish and sand, weaved and played games. The most popular game in the market place was the camel walk. Everyone wanted to win a cake or cupcake.

There was a contest in the market place to name the books of the Old Testament and/or the New Testament. The winner for the New Testament was Lauren Ritz in one minute and twelve seconds. The snack booth was very popular in the marketplace.

There were games outside with Mrs. Haski. There were grapes to stomp and “brides” to cover in toilet paper. There was a water relay and blowing through a straw to guide a ping pong ball through a maze of blocks. The relay race with the balloon man on the mat was great fun.



Several groups created a chalk drawing of a scene on the cement under the canopy.

One of the activities in the classroom was the diorama. Small groups of children tried to create a scene for one of the five lessons about the life of Jesus.

Spring Program

Willow Creek’s Spring Program, Simon Says, will be held Friday, May 29th at 7:30 p.m. General admission tickets are three dollars for adults and one dollar for children under twelve who are not in the program.

The annual Themed Basket Auction will be held immediately before the program. Tickets for the basket auction will go on sale one week before the program. Some of the bas-

kets are: Chocolate, Gardening, Baking, Sports, Gift Cards, Bible and many more.

DVD and VHS video copies of the Spring program are available to pre-order through Silver Screen Productions. The price of a DVD is thirty dollars and a VHS video is twenty dollars. The orders will be sent to the school in July. Order forms are available in the office.

Vindicator Spelling Bee

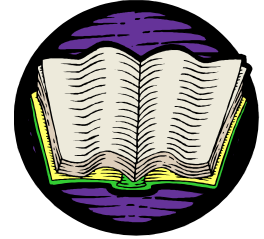
John Umble won his first Willow Creek Spelling Bee as a third grader. He won his last Willow Creek Spelling Bee in January as an eighth grader. He was also the spelling champion in fourth, sixth, and seventh grade. Alex Ritz was runner-up and provided John with excellent competition. The other participants in the WCLC Spelling Bee were: Audrey Altieri, Andre Cerneka, Mia Nannicola, Jacob Snyder, Ian Ward, Lauren Ritz, Samantha Fritz, Nicholas DiGiacomo, Jaden Karr, Bryson Cook, Paul Ugolini, Mara McCloud and Ryan Moore.

John made his fifth trip to the Vindicator Spelling Bee and won for the second time on March 16th in a spelling bee that lasted eighteen

rounds. He will make his second trip to the Scripps Howard Spelling Bee in Washington D. C. the last week of May.

John was well-respected at the Vindicator Spelling Bee because he was so supportive and encouraging to all the contestants.

For more information on the spelling bee and to begin studying for next year's bee, please take a look at www.myspellit.com to download a list of words that may be used and www.spellingbee.com for online study materials, tips, and games for spelling bee success.



YSU English Festival

In April our seven junior high students (seventh and eighth graders) attended the YSU English Festival. They began reading the seven required books in October. As required by the Festival Committee, the books had to be read outside of school in addition to regular coursework. For each book, the students wrote summaries and character studies. In February they submitted essays on the importance of family with supporting examples from the required reading. At the festival they participated in various types of writing activities – poetry, essay, journalism; met

some of the authors; and experienced the literature through the arts.

Three Willow Creek students distinguished themselves by earning awards: Katherine Sieman won third place in the prestigious Candace Gay Memorial Essay Contest, Norah Young placed first in the Renga Riot team competition, and John Umble was a finalist in the essay contest.

The first of its kind, The YSU English Festival has become a model for such festivals across the country.



Science Fair

The fourth through eighth graders started working on science fair projects in November. They worked on their research papers and their science fair booklets. The Willow Creek Science Fair was held the week of February 16th. Thank you to Dr. Thorne-Baltes and Dr. Cameron, the seventh and eighth grade judges. Thank you to Tim Ridzon, Jackie Ridzon and Miss Rabosky were judges for the fourth, fifth and sixth graders.

Mara McCloud, Bryson Cook, Norah Young,

Katherine Sieman, Nicholas Ridzon, James Haddad, Paul Ugolini and Lauren Ritz qualified to participate in the YSU Science Fair in March. They earned superior ratings on their projects. Norah and Mara won twenty-five dollar awards at YSU. Only 7th and 8th graders are considered for the State Science Fair. Mara, Bryson and Norah qualified to compete in the State Science Fair on May 9th in Columbus. Norah and Mara had superior ratings and Bryson had an excellent rating. Mara received the James T. Yong Forensic Science Award.



Math Counts and Math Olympiad

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders are eligible to participate in Math Counts. Amanda Moore, Katherine Sieman, John Umble and Bryson Cook were Willow Creek's team for the Math Counts competition at Youngstown State University in February. They practiced during lunch/recess from September until February.

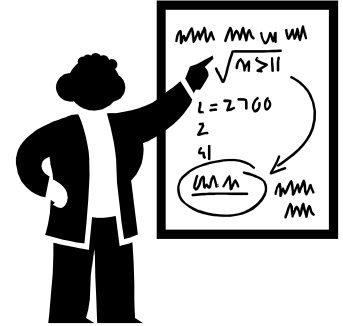
John Umble earned fourth place as an individual and qualified to compete at the state Math Counts in Columbus. John had a prior commitment, the Vindicator Spelling Bee, and was unable to compete in Columbus.

The alternates for this year's competition were

Ryan Moore, Lisandra Stebner and Kassady Murphy.

Several sixth graders and one seventh grader started practicing for next year's Math Counts competition in March.

The last Math Olympiad was completed in March and the results will soon arrive. There will be one trophy for the second through sixth grade champion and one for the seventh through eighth grade champion. There will also be patches for those who placed in the top twenty percent of the participants.



Symphony Art Contest

The Women's Committee for Children's Concert held their annual Art Contest, "Counterpoint" for children from the tri-county area who attended the Youngstown Symphony Concert in April. Analee Craig, a local artist, judged the artwork of first through eighth graders.

The students listened to music in rounds in Mr. Pasky's art class. They discussed the theme, counterpoint, and brainstormed ideas to represent the theme and the music in their artwork.

Lisandra Stebner earned Best in Show for fourth through sixth grades. Paul Ugolini received third place and an Honorable Mention went to Cassie Nannicola.

Makenzie Packo earned first place in the Primary Grades. Alanna Holden received second place and Alex Ritz received third place. Ethan Ball earned an Honorable Mention.

Thank you to all the parents who drove students and teachers to the symphony in April.



Geography Bee

Practice for the Geography Bee began in the fall with Geography Club meetings with Mrs. Carroll after school on Fridays.

The WCLC Geography Bee was held for the fourth through eighth graders in January and the winner was Cooper Johnson.

Cooper took a qualifying test to move on to the state competition. He received word in March that he had qualified to compete in the Ohio Geography Bee at the Mansfield Branch of Ohio

State University on April 3rd. Cooper enjoyed his experience at the State Geography Bee and he hopes to return there again next April.

For more information on the Geography Bee please take a look at www.nationalgeographic.com/geographybee.





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School to Home Wisdom

After some serious coaxing and a lot of enthusiasm on my part, I'd finally gotten fifteen preschoolers to work in groups of three to turn large pieces of butcher paper into five lemonade stands with the help of crayons, markers, and the liberal usage of duct tape. My favorite had the mirror image of "lemonade" written on it, in an effort to duplicate the sample I had provided. I quickly transformed myself from a teacher into a thirsty motorist as I donned clothes from the dress-up area and zoomed around the preschool on a scooter, making vrooming noises and bargaining with the kids for the cheapest glass of lemonade. Shrieks of laughter prevailed as I exchanged fake money for refreshing glasses of lemonade and made gurgling noises as I chugged it down. Then the inevitable happened. One four-year-old looked at me earnestly and said "But, Miss Rabosky, that glass doesn't even have anything in it!" I looked down at the empty glass and suddenly I was a silly woman wearing a construction hat and riding a scooter indoors. Something was wrong. I quickly thought back to my abnormal psychology class in college. Was this some sort of delusional disorder? Early onset of schizophrenia? Was there something wrong with me? Or... Was there something wrong with *him*?

I've come to peace with the belief that this incident is not a result of my *overactive* imagination, but a result of this child's *underactive* imagination. Parents have so many things to worry about. Is my child overweight, underweight, academically on-target? Is he making friends, respectful to adults, getting enough sleep? The list goes on so long that we often forget about the simple, yet important things. Like play.

Many skills that mimic "real life" are involved for a group of children to make up a game. Rules must be made and followed. They learn to compromise and get along with others. Leaders emerge. They learn to deal with disappointment when things don't go their way. Through play, children try out a variety of different roles, building creativity and confidence in a safe environment. In my adult life, I have never been told that one of my ideas was "just too creative." As young people enter their careers, bosses thrive on those who can come up with new solutions to problems. Are we handicapping our children by snuffing out what comes most naturally at an early age?

"Surely my children get enough play," thinks every reader. "How else would they spend the majority of their time during their after school/weekend/summer hours?" The question remains – what kind of play are they involved in? The kind of play I see children lacking is active, involved play, rather than passive entertainment. It is easier to remain focused on an activity for an extended period of time as more senses are involved. Take reading, for example. Only sight is involved (and a little imagination!). Watching television involves two senses, sight and sound. Video games involve sight, sound *and* touch. Video games beat television, which, in turn, beats reading. It's no wonder that an empty glass of "lemonade" isn't very interesting to these kids! As passive entertainment becomes more and more realistic, it becomes harder for our own imagination to prevail.

As we enter the summer months, we must remember— we have plenty of time to squelch the imagination out of our children. They are young yet. For now, let them play.

by Wendy Rabosky, WCLC preschool teacher