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the BULLDOG BARKER

Williams Bay High School • 500 W. Geneva St. • Williams Bay, WI 53191

Get to Know Mrs. Soley-Johnson

By Zach Malisow

Q: What do you hope to achieve this year?

A: I wish for every student, teacher, and staff member at Williams Bay MS/HS to feel valued. To know that they matter, and whatever it is that they want to achieve, that they feel supported in doing so.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Williams Bay?

A: The spirit!!!!

Q: Who is your favorite celebrity?

A: Hmmmm...Olympic Runner Kara Goucher is a mother, a runner, an athlete who has overcome multiple obstacles throughout her life and still maintains gracefulness.

Q: Why did you choose to be a principal, who's your favorite student, and do you like our school so far?

A: I chose to become a principal because I felt as though I could influence more students and colleagues in shaping our education system in a positive way to support learning.

A: My favorite students are the ones who continually forgive me for forgetting their names, greet me in the hallway, and welcome me daily. The students who care about making the Bay the best it can be and continuously donate their time in making our school a better place.

A: I absolutely love our school so far!!! Williams Bay MS/HS is uniquely special. The dedication of the teachers to wear so many hats, the students' desire to make our school, make our community a better place, and the daily interactions amongst students and staff is to be admired!! I am proud to be a Bulldog!!!!

Q: What was your favorite subject when you were in school?

A: SPORTS!!!!!! Can I choose that?

Q: What are some of your short-term and long-term goals you have with your staff this year? What are some changes that you plan to implement based on your short time here so far, if any?

A: The number one goal I have this year for staff is to build collaborative relationships amongst staff and honor their expertise.

A: As a staff, we will determine what changes in our ways will be necessary to ensure both student and staff learning.

Q: What is your 5k time?

A: 19:52 but not on the hills of Lake Shore Drive!!

Q: Do you like pineapple pizza? Why did you decide to work at Williams Bay's School District?

A: I love pineapple pizza!

A: I (decided) was hopeful to work at the Williams Bay School District after my interview in June. The student interview component was so well done and of utmost importance. I was impressed by each of you on the committee & your concern in finding the right person for the job.

Q: Tell us more about yourself and what you like. How are you liking the Bay so far?

A: Many of you know that I'm a triathlete and competing with the top age groupers in the world this fall as well as this past summer. I'm passionate & dedicated about what I do; if I'm going to do something, then I'm going to do my best! My favorite part of the morning is the drive by the lake and up Geneva Street! It is calming and sets the tone for the day! I think most of you already know that I have two little girls, Hazel and Ruby, who enjoy watching all of you compete! They especially like the concession stands!

A: I am loving the Bay each day. Thank you to everyone who helps me figure things out and is patient with me!!!

Q: How does Williams Bay differ from other schools you have worked at?

A: Williams Bay MS/HS differs from other schools that I have worked at not only in size but in SPIRIT! I have never seen/felt the enthusiasm of Homecoming week like I have at the Bay . Seriously, it is so special!! We are fortunate to have students and staff going out of their way to make the activities we have happen!! The bonfire, the powder puff games, the lunch games, the tally of points ... and Socktember!!!! Yes, I just love the competitiveness of Socktember!!!!!!

Q: How is your experience here so far? What are you looking forward to this year? Were your expectations for the school fulfilled?

A: My experience thus far has been very positive and fulfilling. I cannot say enough how grateful I am for each of you who help make each day a great day!

Q: Do you enjoy being our school's principal?

A: ABSOLUTELY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

(Special thank you to all who submitted questions for this interview.)

Hope Squad

In 2022, fifteen kind and sympathetic students were nominated by their peers and asked to join Hope Squad. Hope Squad is a group of qualified students advocating for their peers who are struggling. These students' responsibility is to listen and reach out if they feel someone needs help. They are trained to identify warning signs of suicide, bullying, and depression and prevent it from happening. These students also advocate self-help, mental wellness, and strive to reduce the stigma that is associated with mental health and wellness, and show students that it's okay to ask for help.

At Williams Bay High School, it's greatly encouraged that students struggling mentally reach out to members of the Hope Squad. Here is a list of the members of the Hope Squad:

Libby Anhold, Sarah Beinetti, Avery Kimmerly, Nadia Nateghi, Kacey Petrowiak, Brooke Peyer, Jesse Robison, Max Robertson, Lauren Schnobel, Abby Sennett, Lacey Silverman, Masie Smith, Ethan West, Olivia Wiley, Savanah Woods

Homecoming 2022: Dancing Through the Decades

By Sarah Beinetti

The staff and students all agree that the 2022 Williams Bay High School Homecoming was a complete success. From student participation, to fun and games, this year's Homecoming left school spirit at an all-time high. Here is a recap of the week's winners:

Girls' Powderpuff

1. Seniors
2. Sophomores
3. Juniors
4. Freshmen

Boys' Powderpuff

1. Freshmen
2. Sophomores
3. Seniors
4. Juniors



Tug of War

1. Seniors
2. Sophomores
3. Juniors
4. Freshmen

Hallway Decorating

1. Juniors
2. Sophomores
3. Freshmen
4. Seniors

The seniors and sophomores were the closest in the race to win the spirit stick. At the end of school on Friday, it was an exact tie. The winner of the spirit stick all came down to attendance of Friday's football game. In the end, the seniors won with 513 total points and the sophomores ended in second place with 499 points. Congratulations, seniors!



Seniors!



The HOCO parade made a comeback!

Sweet Treats
Complete the crossword puzzle below

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.

Across

4. A candy bar noted for its crispy peanut-buttery layers.
6. You're not you when you're hungry.
8. Collagen caniforms that taste like fruit.
9. This candy takes 364 licks to get to the center of.
10. Chocolate bowls with a delicious peanut butter filling

Down

1. Commonly eaten by highly intelligent people.
2. Small, gravel like pebbles that come in many flavors.
3. May I give you a kiss?
5. Usually comes with a left and a right.

(Answers on page 6)

Crossword Puzzle by Olivia Wiley

Homecoming Court 2022



Tug of War



Meet the Exchange Students

By Brooke Peyer

Nanao Tsuruta is a senior at Williams Bay this year. Her host family is the Peyer family: Courtney, Patrick, Nolan, Brooke, and Quinn. Back home, she is the oldest child, with one younger sister, and two cats (Tabi and Roku). The Peysers have two dogs, which are very different from her cats.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Kyoto, Japan

Q: How do you like school in America? How is it different from your country?

A: There is more freedom than in Japan. You don't get to choose which classes to take there, and there are a lot more clubs here.

Q: What is your favorite thing about America?

A: People are very friendly, and I like fast food here.

Q: What is your favorite thing you have done in America?

A: I liked going to the Wisconsin Badger football game and being on the dance team.

Q: What is your favorite American food?

A: Tacos, hot dogs, ice cream, and Nutella.

Q: What is your favorite food in your country?

A: Miso soup - It is made of tofu, miso seasoning(made of soybeans), and seaweed. Every family makes it different.

Q: What is a tradition in your culture?

A: February 3 - The division of seasons (winter to spring). We throw soybeans and wish for good fortune, eat ehomaki (like sushi).

Q: What is your favorite English word/phrase?

A: Oh, geez.

Q: What is a random word in your language?

A: Nemutai - I'm sleepy

Diloro Itzatsheova is a senior at Williams Bay this year, staying with the Rees family. She is the middle child in her family, with one older sister and a younger brother. She has a cat (Dusya) and a dog (Rex).

Q: Where are you from?

A: Khorog, Tajikistan.

Q: How do you like school in America? How is it different from your country?

A: The days are quite long, but you can wear what you want. In Tajikistan there are shorter classes.

Q: What is your favorite thing you have done/seen in America?

A: American football. It seems interesting.

Q: What is your favorite American food?

A: Fast food.

Q: What is your favorite food in your country?

A: Plov - fried rice with meat.

Q: What is a tradition in your culture?

A: Navruz holiday - people cook Tajik foods, wear national clothes, and play traditional games.

Q: What is your favorite English word/phrase?

A: Oliver (a cat's name).

Q: What is a random word in your language?

A: Qamoch - bread.

Maria Hernandez is a senior at Williams Bay. She is currently living with the Carbajals, her cousins. She and her family moved to America recently, after Maria graduated school in Mexico. After they moved, they found out that her education credits from Mexico do not count towards American colleges, so she has to take one year of high school in the United States.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Toluca, Mexico.

Q: Do you like school in America? Is it different from your country?

A: I like the program and the students. It's very different. The classes in America are very long, but we don't have high school dances and there is no free Wifi.

Q: What is your favorite thing about America?

A: The city, Milwaukee.

Q: What is your favorite thing you have done in America?

A: When I went to the lake with Citlali.

Q: What is your favorite American food?

A: The food is so bad. Nothing is good.

Q: What is your favorite food in your country?

A: Enchiladas, chilaquiles, tostadas...

Q: What is a tradition in your culture?

A: Dia de Muertos - It is a celebration of the dead for people to commemorate their loved ones. People cook food and set up an Ofrenda (an altar of sorts with photos).

Q: What is your favorite English word/phrase?

A: Just kidding.

Q: What is a random word in your language?

A: Concha - a type of bread.

Cross-Country

By Charlie Pecht

The Williams Bay High School co-ops the sport of cross-country with Bigfoot. In high school cross-country, the athletes run a 5K, which is 3.1 miles. I have participated in cross-country since I was a freshman, and it has been a lot of fun for me. I asked another fellow cross-country member, Jose Pilo, for his thoughts.

Q: Why did you join cross-country?

A: I'm too uncoordinated for anything else.

Q: How many years have you done cross-country?

A: This is my second year doing cross country.

Q: Would you recommend XC to other students, and why?

A: Yes, because it is a lot of fun and the feeling of running mile and mile is something very fun.

Q: What was your most favorite thing about the sport?

A: The team bonding. Team dinners before a meet are always a blast, and the amount of support from other runners, not just from our team but from other teams as well, makes the sport fun.

Q: What was your best time?

A: My best time was 20:05.

Q: Would you say it is a good sport for anybody?

A: Yes.

Cross-country is a great sport for a high school student to get into because anybody can do the sport since all it involves is running. When I started high school, I wasn't good at other sports, but I still wanted to do a sport, so I chose cross-country. When I started the season my freshman year, I was out of shape and did really bad at meets, but over the season and years, I started to get better. I would recommend this sport to others because you compete against other schools and people in a race, but you are always trying to make yourself better, with different goals like getting a better time or walking less in the meet.

CABCC? More Like BAD

By Dylan Hulke

As most students are aware, the schedule format has changed several times over the past few years. We went from 8-hour days every day, to a block schedule that alternates, to a block schedule with one 8-hour day at the end of the week, and finally, to the most recent schedule that involves an 8-hour day followed by two block days, followed by two more 8-hour days. This is called the CABCC schedule. A “C” day is a standard 8-hour day, and block days are either an “A” day or a “B” day. This causes a lot of confusion and unwanted complexity, which is detrimental to not only the students, but also to the teachers.

The majority of students and teachers were in favor of the ABABC schedule due to the longer periods, allowing more class time to learn. This was very beneficial to students, as it allowed for more time with the teacher, meaning you could easily get help on any homework that was assigned. The alternating days also meant that students could get a break from their homework, as there would often be an extra day from the time it was assigned, to the day it was due. This led to less stress and more time to get it done, meaning that students would turn in high-quality assignments, therefore understanding the material better. The C day at the end of the week gave teachers a chance to collect all the homework before the weekend, along with having a shorter day for plans that wouldn’t take up a full 90 minute period, including tests, quizzes, and other activities. With the inclusion of the tests, quizzes, and other activities on Fridays, there was often very little homework being assigned for the weekend, allowing students to relax and come back to school the next week feeling well rested.

Student opinion on the inclusion of the C day at the end of the week was split at first; however, most came to like the idea by the end of the year due to its utility. Most classes benefit from the longer schedule, like Tech Ed, Band/Choir, and Science because the longer periods allow for more things to get done. Classes like Tech Ed and Band/Choir are affected negatively by the extra C days in the schedule. By the time the class actually begins and things start to get done, the period ends. Science classes with labs, such as Chemistry, Biology, and Physics, also benefit from longer periods. The lengthened classes typically allow for the entire lab to get done by the end of the hour. With the C days, the labs would, more often than not, need to be split over multiple days. Other class types like math and English also benefit from an extended class period because the longer hours allow the material to be taught in a more thorough manner, and the teachers don’t have to rush to teach essential concepts. The longer class times lead to the homework often getting assigned while there is still plenty of time to get it done. Overall, the longer hours benefit everyone, including teachers and students.

While some students and teachers may dislike the new schedule, there are some pros to it. The main selling point for the new schedule is that it allows for the sharing of classes with Bigfoot, since it’s the same schedule Bigfoot has. Some of these classes include Entrepreneurship, College Accounting, various musical classes, as well as many classes that were already being offered here at WBHS. Another pro of the new schedule is that teachers get to see students almost every day, allowing them to ensure that the material taught is not lost between classes. This allows teachers to assign homework and grade it rather quickly, making sure that the students are actually learning the material.

CABCC? (continued)

A poll with students of all grade levels showed that most students either disliked the change, or were at the very least impartial, with 40% remaining impartial and a combined 50% either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing with the decision to change the schedule. Out of the options of CCCCC, ABABA/BABAB, ABABAC, and CABCC, those who were polled showed that an overwhelming majority of 66.7% prefer the ABABC schedule to any other variant, while only 3% of people actually like the new CABCC schedule most. The other formats, ABABA/BABAB and CCCCC got a combined vote of 30.3%.

But what about the joint classes with Bigfoot? Surely people must benefit from that! After 30 people, or approximately 15% of the student body, were polled via a Google form, only one person said they were actually taking a class at Bigfoot. When asked to find a benefit of the new schedule, half could not come up with anything good about it. Those who could find a benefit either referred to the split classes with Bigfoot or the fact that students are able to see their teachers more often. In a direct interview with teachers and students, they showed a large favor for the ABABC schedule. When prompted to find the benefits of the schedule, other than the sharing of classes with Bigfoot, most interviewees could only think of seeing teachers more often, or no benefits at all. Teachers such as Ms. Majercik said that, “It’s just something to get used to.” Junior Mattison Stanek used fiery language, saying that “It’s horrible, no good, very bad, terrible.”

However, not everyone is opposed to it, and some people actually like it. When prompted to find the benefits of the schedule, Sarah Beinetti said, “I don’t know. Wait, don’t write that. C days seem a lot shorter now,” and that, “I just like it cause I like it, I don’t have reasons.” However, Sarah does have a point: the C day does seem a lot shorter.

Overall, the new schedule can seem very labyrinthine, and while it does have its benefits, it seems as though it can be difficult for many students to benefit from it.

Get to Know Mrs. Pelnar!

By Marianna Garcia

Q: What college did you attend?

A: UW-Whitewater for my Master’s and Bachelor’s degree.

Q: How long have you been teaching art?

A: For seventeen years.

Q: Why did you decide to teach at Williams Bay?

A: I like that there's smaller class sizes and it’s close to my home.

Q: What is your favorite color?

A: I like oranges, torquises and limey-greens, but it depends on the mood that I’m in.

Q: What is your favorite type of visual art?

A: Drawing because you can do it anywhere.

Q: If you could teach a different class what would it be?

A: Probably Tech-Ed or a STEM class.

Q: What’s the most embarrassing thing that has happened to you?

A: Tripping on the stairs to an auditorium in front of people.

Q: What are your thoughts on hairless cats?

A: I want to wrap them up in clothes. They need fur because they’re mammals.

Get to Know Ms. Soskich

By Sofia Normington-Slay

Q: What made you want to become a teacher?

A: I enjoy the daily interactions with people and the fact that there is something new happening every day. I also hate sitting and working at a desk for long periods of time, so I like to be able to move around and do things throughout the day.

Q: What made you choose to come to Williams Bay?

A: It has always been a goal of mine to be able to teach here, especially because this is where I wanted to go to high school growing up. I grew up around here and always hoped to be able to come back to teach at this school.

Q: How many years have you been teaching?

A: I have been teaching for two years.

Q: What is your favorite class you teach?

A: My favorite class to teach is my Human Anatomy and Physiology class because I love learning about the human body and how it functions. It is so interesting to me.

Q: If you weren’t a teacher, what would you have wanted to be instead?

A: I would have either wanted to be a baker because I really like to bake or a doctor because of my interest in anatomy.

Q: What were you like in high school?

A: In high school, I was quiet and focused more on school and sports. It wasn’t until college that I became more social and outgoing.

Q: What is your favorite memory from this year so far?

A: On the first day of school, when Mrs. Rowbotham cranked her speakers to 100 in the hall while playing “September” by Earth, Wind & Fire.

Q: How do you like to spend your free time?

A: With my dog, Daisy, anything outside, or just with friends and family.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A: Definitely super strength, like She-Hulk.

Q: If you were stranded on a desert island, but all your needs were taken care of, what three things would you bring?

A: Daisy, a book (preferably the Harry Potter series), and a baseball hat.

Ten Facts About the Late Queen Elizabeth II

By Aaron Johnson

1. She was the longest-reigning monarch of England. Queen Elizabeth II became queen in 1952, making her reign over 70 years long. This surpassed her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who ruled for 63 years from 1837 to 1901. However, the longest-living member of the British royal family was Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, who lived to be almost 103 years old (1901-2004).

2. She was not given a formal education. Instead, the Queen had private tutors who taught her more relevant subjects for a monarch, such as French, law, and constitutional history. More recently, she admitted that she wished she had had a “normal” education in her youth.

3. One of the jewels on the Imperial State Crown is a 108-carat diamond from India; its estimated value is over \$160,000,000. This diamond is a controversial issue, however, as many Indian people believe that the diamond was stolen from them by British colonists in the nineteenth century.

4. She didn’t need a passport or a driver’s license. Because all passports in the United Kingdom are issued through the Queen’s name, it is not necessary for the Queen to hold her own. The same is true for a driver’s license. However, all other members of the royal family do need passports and driver’s licenses like any other citizen.

5. She volunteered as a truck driver and mechanic during World War II. It was in preparation for her service, in fact, that she learned to drive a vehicle. She was the first female member of the British royal family to serve in the military.

6. She owned one of the most expensive cars in the world. For the occasion of her Golden Jubilee in 2002, two Bentley State Limousines were manufactured and were used until her death twenty years later. They were equipped with all necessary precautions to keep the Queen safe: the bodywork and glass were armored, the cabin was able to be sealed air-tight, the exterior was blast-resistant, and the tires were reinforced with kevlar. With all of these safety features, the Queen’s cars are valued at over \$15,000,000 each.

7. She has been portrayed in over 200 movies and TV series. These works include dramas such as The Crown and Spencer to comedy series like The Simpsons and Saturday Night Live. Across these productions, she has been played by many popular actresses, including Olivia Colman, Imelda Staunton, and Emma Thompson.

8. She banned garlic from Buckingham Palace. While the Queen liked to eat a variety of foods, she despised garlic so much that the chefs were not allowed to serve it at all. Despite some conspiracy theories, she was most likely not a vampire. She also disliked rare meat or anything with too many onions, said chef Darren McGrady in an interview with RecipesPlus.

9. She was the ruler of all mute swans, dolphins, and whales within the United Kingdom. Mute swans have been claimed by the crown since the 12th century, when they were seen as a high-value delicacy at feasts. The law has still held up to this day. In addition, because of a strange legal statute dating back over 700 years in which dolphins and whales were deemed “fishes royal” (it was not discovered until the 19th century that both dolphins and whales are, in fact, mammals), the Queen had control of both species within a 3-mile radius off the coast.

10. She used to send birthday cards to anyone turning 100 years old. The Queen also sent messages to those turning 105 years old, and every year thereafter. In addition, couples celebrating their 60th-, 65th-, or 70th-year wedding anniversaries would also receive a card from the Queen. Unfortunately, she was unable to reach the milestone herself.

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5. Twix
3. Hershey's Kisses
2. Nerds
1. Smarties

Down -

10. Reeses cups
9. Tootie pop
8. Gummy bears
6. Snickers
4. Butterfinger

Across -

Crossword Puzzle Answers

Trials and Tribulations of Being an Aerialist

By Gabby Klein

When I was younger, one of my favorite movies was *The Princess and the Frog*. When I think of it, I mostly remember the part where Tiana is wishing upon a star and her father tells her that the star can only get her so far. I think this applies to a lot of great legends—or at least athletes when they had this speck of luck that’s what brought them to trying whatever they are incredible at today—but the rest was completely up to them and their level of grit, to work their way up to the top. I’d like to think that my speck of luck was trying out aerial silks with Mrs. Kelsey Hartland when she started teaching her classes. It was completely new and abstract to me at the time, and I had no one and nothing to compare what I was doing other than she. I had never seen a Cirque Du Soleil show or had any memory of really seeing aerial arts before. I think this is the luck that brought me through the first stages of learning silks. I also think I had some luck when I met one of my fellow aerialists that I've grown with over the years in both age and level. When I first met Sasha, it was slightly surprising, but not discouraging, meeting someone younger, but at my level, who caught on to tricks as fast as I. I’m very grateful to continue training with her today because she pushes me to keep learning skills and improving myself as an aerialist at a faster pace than if I hadn’t met her. After being introduced to the sport, it was up to me to launch myself outside of the elementary gym that had once held my daily lessons, and strive to become more professional like the incredible lady who taught me my first silks class.

A common question that I used to ask when I was younger, and I’ve often gotten asked myself is “Have you ever fallen?”

Quite frankly, I often think of knocking on wood right after this question pops in my head, or the next time someone were to ask me. One who might not be superstitious would find this silly, and so would I usually. But when you're twenty-five feet in the air about to let go for a “drop,” it would be preferred if my thoughts weren’t filled with superstition. Referring back to the question, it can refer to three feet off the ground, or legitimately dangerous heights and free-falling. Fortunately, so far, my brief touches with falls have been minor. However, I have a decent history of managing to get myself stuck. The first time, back in 2019, I was up in the air at the elementary gym weaving a hitch in the silk while hanging upside down from crossed legs. My thoughts drifted, and I ended up weaving my shirt in with the silks.

Aerialist (continued)

Due to my inexperience, I continued to follow through with the trick because it seemed like an easy fix. Little did I know that when I would do that drop, it would tighten the silk around my shirt. How did I get down? Well, my coach Kelsey climbed up the silks beside mine. I can't remember who else was there, but several of the Bay’s other teachers who were also attending that class pulled the bottom end (tail) of that silk towards the one I was on. This left Mrs. Spsychala perched on hers with just her feet as she attempted to free my shirt. Eventually I had to ditch the shirt in order to safely get down. It certainly wasn’t an ideal situation considering I was still at the top of the elementary gym surrounded by several of my teachers. Looking back, though, while I do laugh at the memory, Kelsey does not. I got stuck about one more time like that, and another time I had a little mishap during a rehearsal where my hair got stuck in the silks. Fortunately we were rehearsing on Kelsey’s outdoor rig, which is a 4-1 pulley system, and I was able to be lowered down without having to part with my hair. (I pulled a literal chunk of hair from the silks).

When gaining new skills and tricks overtime, I’ve come across many types of obstacles, both mentally and physically. Sometimes it’s pain conditioning, and I’ve learned that if I push myself through certain levels of pain consistently, eventually one day it does go away. I have realized that if I am good and consistent, eventually one day the pain and bruising goes away. This being said, there are some tricks that get the best of me. With one particular silks drop, I weave my ankles and let go, letting the weave catch me from only my ankles. When I put this trick in a routine, I most usually “walk it down,” lowering myself into the bat hanging position because when I practice it consistently, it beats up my ankles too much. Last year I went to the school’s PT because my lower calf and ankle were swelling due to this trick. I knew from past experience it would heal faster with a compression wrap. She stared at my leg for a few seconds, trying to figure out how one would get their leg damaged in that way, but fortunately no questions were asked.

Sometimes what’s holding me back is only in my head. There’s the classic overthinking that holds me back occasionally. But another thing I struggle with can be described as imposter syndrome. It’s hard for me to tell when I’ve actually done a good job because there’s always room for improvement. This past summer I created a solo act on an apparatus called aerial straps. I was part of a group of twelve other kids who were creating these acts; however, unlike the other twelve, I was choosing a skill that wasn’t my main discipline. While the other aerialists were cranking out these improved routines that were bringing tears to everyone’s eyes, I was there struggling throughout the entire process because I was most certain it would at most be “mid” (mediocre).

During one dinner, I had a conversation with one of the acro coaches who is known for his brutal honesty. “I don't like straps as much,” he said. “They’re too predictable”, he said in his Zambian accent. “Every act it’s spinning, then up and into an armbreaker, but I’m sure yours will be good. What's in it?”

Sure enough, the very first few tricks in my routine were spinning and into an armbreaker. I went to the camp director/head coach after training one day because I was so nervous that I was going to be presenting something so under par. The audience that was expected to be attending was very skilled and experienced, I greatly feared they would be bored. When the performance came along, I managed to pull it off. Looking back, I’m content with the act I created, but it sure had me questioning myself.

Aerialist (continued)

Another challenge I face is the danger factor. It’s fairly easy to forget that I am participating in a dangerous sport. Since I practice so much and train with many other people who do the same tricks, it’s easy to forget how easily I could get hurt. When I was younger, it was my goal to make people's hearts stop when they watched me. Anytime someone would mention I had that effect on them, it brought me satisfaction. By now, height isn’t something I fear, but twenty feet up was a shaky experience when I began. Being too confident while doing a trick brings the most danger, as that’s when most slips happen. That’s when listening to my body becomes most important. The line between pushing myself mentally and physically can become blurred, thanks to the earlier mentioned pain conditioning. As well as pushing myself too far, fatigue means my muscles and hands become stiff. When I’m out of breath trying to do my last inversion for my final trick at the top of the silk, it is not ideal to have a lack of control in my hands and muscles. Now that I’ve been training more with several other circus artists and aerialists, I’ve witnessed a fair amount of falls; fortunately, none have been fatal. These instances remind me that this is still a dangerous activity in which even professionals fall. I’ve learned that if I have the power to create fear in an audience, I also have the power to bring joy, which is something the world needs more of. Anytime someone says that I made his/her heart stop, it produces a chuckle from me, but my inner child is satisfied.

There’s a certain program I’ve been trying to get into for the past three years; unfortunately, what’s holding me back is the lack of skills not in the air, but on the ground. The program is titled “Circus Smirkus’s Big Top Tour.” It’s a youth traveling circus group that tours New England over the summer. Troupers help set up and tear down the tent after each location, sell concessions during intermission, and partake in chores such as dishes. There are about 250 auditionees each year, vying for five to ten spots each year. Over the past three years, I’ve tried to make Tour unsuccessfully; however, last year I finally broke through to the second round of auditions. Often this group is visited by Cirque Du Soleil scouts, and many continue to pursue some sort of performance or artistic career. Many come from generational circus artists or have broken world records. My mom's favorite example is what she refers to as her ‘claim to fame,’ that being my friendship with trouper Ilse Baryshnikov, Mikhail Baryshnikov’s granddaughter. (This connection, for the vast majority of the high school student body, probably doesn’t mean anything.) Her aunt is a co-star to Hailee Steinfield in the show *Dickinson*.

I remain most determined to make the tour this year. There is a completely new creative director and ringmaster, which could be good or bad considering the past ring master has been doing the job since the 2000s. I have come this far in the process and as an aerialist while trying to make a tour, I refuse to let a change in directors leave me phased. A lot of the other auditionees tend to come from the bigger circus training facilities in the U.S., some arguably are let in by an unfair advantage. One of the tour’s coaches works with five of the troupers outside of the tour. If I make the tour, it will be a huge accomplishment, knowing that I am standing on the same stage as other talented performers. It’s stories like Donovan Carillo who give me the confidence and determination to keep going; with grit, the implausible can be possible. This winter I will be more resilient to prove myself worthy of being on the tour.

I feel a lot of peace when I’m in the air, mostly because I’m working too hard to be worried about anything else. That’s why I love being an aerialist; it’s my coping mechanism. As soon as my feet are back on the ground, it’s this overwhelming wave of brutal reality. But as soon as I’m in the air, I have immediate clarity. While I do have adrenaline while I’m performing, in the air it’s my friend, bringing me strength.

Junior Keegan Johansson



Freshmen!



Sophomores Jose Pilo and Lacey Silverman



Mr. Dowden and Mrs. Soley-Johnson



Freshman Henry Edwards



Spanish Club

The Spanish Club gives people the opportunity to learn about the different Hispanic cultures in Spanish speaking countries. This club is led by President Rosa Jimenez and Vice-President Citlali Carbajal, along with the high school Spanish teacher, Mrs. Kavanagh. Every year during Homecoming Week, the Spanish Club holds a sock drive which gives high school students a chance to donate pairs of socks. The grade with the most amount of socks earn spirit points for the Homecoming Spirit Stick.

This year the Spanish Club was able to donate 2,545 pairs of socks to the Circle of Friends in Elkhorn. This club also holds other fun activities such as watching movies in Spanish and going on field trips.

Contact Mrs. Kavanagh if you are interested in joining!

Dance Team

If you've ever been to a home football or basketball game, you have seen the Williams Bay dance team. Our team meets Monday through Thursday from 3:15-4:30, and we practice at former 7th grade math teacher, Mrs. Sychala's studio (N2460 County Road O, Delavan WI). We choreograph, clean, and perform a routine just about every week during basketball season, so it is no easy sport. However, with hard work and dedication, it does become easier. The team is open to any and all high school students, as well as any interested 8th grade students that would like to join for our basketball season. If you would like to go to a practice or two to try it out before you commit, feel free!

If you have any questions or if you would like more information, please feel free to email Kelsey (kelsey.hartland@gmail.com) or Brooke Peyer (bpeyer@williamsbayschool.org).

History Club

Come join the largest extra-curricular organization at WBHS, one of the Top Five History Clubs in the United States and the #2 State Champion History Bowl teams in the Williams Bay High School History Club.

Field trips, friends, and fun! Join students grades 9-12 as we experience various cultures. We dine on their cuisine, explore historical landmarks, geocache and maintain our very own park.

Work with the Forest County Potawatomi People researching the local Native Burial Ground, sleep on a World War II submarine and adventure in ways you never thought possible! Join today! We see the world!

See Mrs. Soplanda for more information.



WBHS History Club
Research-Preserve-Educate

Forensics

According to the Wisconsin High School Forensics Association, a primary goal of Forensics is to provide a significant training ground for the development of students' abilities in public speaking and in the oral interpretation of literature. Another goal is to provide multiple opportunities for students to practice and to share their skill development.

There are various categories students can compete in which include Demonstration, Extemporaneous, Farrago, Group Interpretive Reading, Impromptu, Informative, Moments in History, Oratory, Play Acting, Poetry, Prose, Public Address, Radio News Reporting, Solo Acting Serious, Solo Acting Humorous, Special Occasion, and Storytelling. Students are able to choose whether they compete as an individual, or they can choose to work with a group for certain speech categories. At each tournament, students recite their speech in three different rounds, earning a score of 0-25 in each round. There are typically 5-10 students (and one judge) in each room per round, so students are presenting in front of small groups of people. At the conclusion of every tournament, participants are given their scoring sheets so they can look over the comments from the three judges (one judge per round) and work to improve their speech before the next tournament.

We are looking forward to the 2023 season. Please consider joining us!

Contact Mrs. Terrill with any questions. (Look for an announcement in the near future regarding our first meeting of the year.)



WHEN: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS DURING LUNCH

WHERE: MS. ANDERSON'S ROOM (W104)

WHY: To enhance your critical thinking skills and widen your understanding of the game of chess! Upon joining the club, you can quickly learn to play the game, practice your skills, and compete in tournaments.

The first meeting will be held on October 18th during lunch in Ms. Anderson's room.

ESports

The ESports team is seeing some big improvements—more members, more victories, and even better facilities. New members have been flocking in and joining Junior Varsity Smash, and they have also been prepping for future seasons with other games. In the current season, both Varsity and JV Smash have won all games so far, and the Smite team had a smashing victory in their first match before being down a player and battling to a valiant loss in the second match.

Finally, the fabled ESports room is undergoing remodeling, spearheaded by Isaac Lensmith-the Valorant captain-and Alex Reynolds-the Smite captain-assisting, with a fundraiser occurring with the ESports team selling two kinds of laser carved wall decorations. If you'd like to know more, stop by Mr. White's room and talk to him or pop in during one of our after school practices!