



Superintendent's Message

News from the Superintendent to help inform parents, staff, and community of current school district news, events and issues.

"Working together as a school community, we must put children first . . . we all have an obligation to touch children's lives and make a difference."

Superintendent
Kurt Wachholz

December 2011

Time of Year for Not Only Receiving but Also for Giving *There are Plenty of Opportunities to Help Others*

This is the time of year for most of us to spend time with family and friends while enjoying the holiday season. It is also the time of year for us to begin thinking of those who are less fortunate in our communities. The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District offers plenty of opportunities for us to give to those in need. One opportunity to help our community is with the "Angel Tree" located in the lobby on the first floor at the Administration, Recreation and Community Services Offices at 1205 South 70th Street. This Angel Tree is a Christmas tree from which people can take an angel and donate money by Friday, December 16, to purchase food gift cards which will go to children and families in need in our school district.

In addition, each School in our District has their own program that is held for those in need. To get more information regarding school projects or to help, you can contact the schools directly.

For over the past seven years, the WAWM Recreation Department has been holding their annual "West Allis-West Milwaukee School District Holiday Christmas Gift Experience" at the Target department store located at the corner of Hwy 100 and Cleveland. This program is entirely funded by one generous anonymous donor who happens to be a WAWM School District Alumnus. This year's "West Allis-West Milwaukee School District Holiday Christmas Gift Experience" was held on Saturday, December 10th and approximately 500 students benefited with special gifts to help make their holiday a little brighter. Those students identified in our intermediate schools received winter jackets while those identified at the high schools received letter jackets.

The WAWM School District Education Foundation Provides Grants *44 Grants Awarded to District Classrooms*

For the fourth year in a row the West Allis-West Milwaukee School District Education Foundation has awarded grants for valuable programs within our school district. A total of \$18,400 was distributed to fund 44 programs. The grants funded fell into one of the following categories: General Education and Enrichment, Technology, or Field Trips. This year, the WAWM School District Education Foundation increased the amount available for grants by \$7,000 due to expanded fundraising efforts. All of these grants will go directly back to our children, our schools, and our district. This funding is invaluable in helping make a difference in educating our children. A list of grants can be obtained on the Education Foundation website which is part of the District website.

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District Education Foundation has kicked off its third year of the **WAWM 100** fundraising effort. This is a campaign which is seeking 100 people to donate \$100 in support of the WAWM School District Education Foundation. One hundred percent of the funds collected are returned to the schools through our previously mentioned grant awards. For your donation you will receive a certificate indicating you are part of the **WAWM 100** and you can be confident you will have an impact on the education of students in our community.

For more information on the WAWM School District Education Foundation or to donate to the **WAWM 100** please go to the WAWM School District Education Foundation website at: www.wawm.k12.wi.us/education_foundation/index.htm or call Susan Stuckert at (414) 604-4927.

Calendar Survey for Parents and Staff Available *This is an Opportunity to Provide Your Opinions*

The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District is conducting a survey seeking your input on the School District calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. Currently State law states that public schools which operate on a normal calendar year are not allowed to begin fall classes until September 1st of each year. As our District's calendar is no longer a negotiated agreement, due to the State law, we are asking that parents and staff members provide their input for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond. The survey seeks input on: spring break, winter break, length of breaks, professional development days, length of school year, etc.

This survey will be available via Survey Monkey beginning Wednesday, December 14, 2011, through Friday, January 13, 2012, on the District's web site at: <http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us/>. Please take the opportunity to provide your input on these items.

Holiday Break Activities

WAWM Schools Recreation Department will Have Plenty to Do over Break

During the holiday break there will be plenty of opportunities for both youth and adults alike. A Non School Day Camp called **Holiday Camp 2011** will be offered for students in 4K through 5th grades on Wednesday, December 28, and Thursday, December 29 from 7:30am to 5:30pm. There is a \$25 cost per child per day for this camp which includes lunch and a field trip. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and will take place at the Administration, Recreation and Community Services Building on the 4th Floor at 1205 South 70th Street. The two field trips will be at Incredi-Roll and open swimming at Central High School on December 28 and Chuck E Cheese and open swim at Central High School on December 29.

The **38th Annual Alumni Tournament** will be held from December 28th to 29th. The Men's Basketball Tournament will be at Central High School and the Women's Volleyball Tournament will be at Frank Lloyd Wright Intermediate School. The entry fee is \$45 per team. For more information on the Basketball Tournament, please contact Dustin Smith at 414-604-4938, and for the Volleyball Tournament, please contact Linda Gritzmacher at 414-604-4911. Entry deadline is Friday, December 16, 2011, at 5pm.

The WAWM Recreation Department is hosting a **Lunch With Santa** on Sunday, December 18, 2011, at Nathan Hale High School cafeteria from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Advanced tickets are \$5.00 per child or \$7.00 day of the event per child. Parent tickets can be purchased for \$3.00 per person.

There is also Open Swim and Gym for children and adults at Central High School on December 28th and 29th from Noon until 3:00pm. Cost is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for senior citizens and children.

A reminder to all citizens of the WAWM School District that registration is currently open for all Recreation Department winter and spring classes. **The Winter & Spring 2012 Activities Guide** is currently available and can be picked up at the Administration, Recreation and Community Services Building located at 1205 South 70th Street.

Please log on to www.wawmrec.com/ for more information on any of these items.

State Education Update

Committee Work Changes Education Landscape

This November, a committee made up of representatives from the State Teachers Association, the Governor's Office, the Department of Public Instruction, Colleges, School Boards and School Administrators released their preliminary report entitled *Framework for Educator Effectiveness, a First Step in Evaluation System*. In their report they outlined that educators will be evaluated on their professional practice and student achievement in an educator evaluation system report. Last December the Wisconsin Educator Effectiveness Design Team was formed by State Superintendent Tony Evers of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

As described in the *Wisconsin Framework for Educator Effectiveness* preliminary report, student outcomes and educator practice will be weighted equally to create an educator effectiveness performance rating. Outcomes for students will come from multiple measures. Those include value-added data from state assessments, district assessment data, student learning objectives, school-wide reading at the elementary level, graduation rates at the high school level, and district choice data based on improvement strategies.

Educator practice, which also will account for 50 percent of the evaluation rating, will be based on standards such as instructional strategies, classroom organization, content knowledge, school culture, and collaboration with faculty and the community. The standards are to come from the nationally recognized 2011 Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium (InTASC) Model Core Teaching Standards and the 2008 Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Education Leadership Policy Standards. State Superintendent Tony Evers said this new performance-based evaluation system will support teachers and principals in their job of educating students and help our educators improve throughout their careers.

In this framework, an effective educator is defined as consistently using educational practices that foster the intellectual, social, and emotional growth of children. The evaluation system will include multiple forms of evidence and will serve both formative and summative evaluation needs. Evaluations will include observations, a review of documents, surveys, data, and discussions with the educator. Evaluations will result in a performance rating at one of three levels: developing, effective, and exemplary. For all ratings, the evaluation will identify areas of strength and areas for improvement to be addressed through professional development.

Work will continue on developing this State model evaluation system through the 2013-14 school year and will involve piloting the model, evaluator and educator training, evaluating and revising the model, as well as identifying a statewide implementation strategy. Full implementation of the model in the 2014-15 school year depends on funding.

For the next step, the State Superintendent has stated that he will convene a state coordinating committee, representing diverse stakeholders who will provide guidance and feedback to the Department of Public Instruction throughout the development, pilot, and initial implementation phases. That committee will work through 2014-15 when the evaluation system will be implemented statewide.

Our School District currently uses the Charlotte Danielson Framework of Professional Development Model (which is the model the Department of Public Instruction appears to embrace) along with our District development rubrics. We will monitor this process closely and update you on new developments.

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