

Wykon Monthly

December 2023

Door Decorating Contest & Winners



Middle School: **Mrs. Nichols**



High School: **Mr. Barry**

The theme for this season's Door Decorating Contest between high school and middle school 4th hour classes was "Christmas Movies."

Judged by our very own **Ms. Hughes** and **Mrs. Berutti**, the winners were **Mr. Barry's** high school class and **Mrs. Nichols'** middle schoolers, earning themselves an ice cream party.



Homework Club

Homework Club started Tuesday, December 5, 2023, for middle and high school students. **Terri Sherwood** will be the instructional specialist in charge of this program.

This program will be held Mondays through Thursdays right after school from 3:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will not be a homework club on early release days, and a healthy snack will be provided.

Newsletter Shout-Outs

Rosalina Cordova
Kya Dallavalle
Elliot Gatien
Kailey Hall
Alexandra Hansen
Willow Kobriger
Haven Maki
Makenzie Matthews
Sierra Mitchell

Savannah Parker
Cheyenne Ritchie
Ammya Robertson
Alana Schuyler
Kaya Schuyler
Lauren Shamion
Anthony Sucholl
Ryan Walker

Canathon Can Drive

Taking place late November and ending early December, the elementary, middle and high schools participated in the TV-6 Canathon, competing to gather the heaviest weight in cans.

In total, West Iron collected and donated 1,402 pounds in cans.



Winners of the Canathon:

Elementary: 5th Grade
Middle: Mrs. Nichols
High School: Mr. Casari

Way to go, Wykons!

Winter Sports

Meet the Wykons

On Nov. 27th, the boys and girls varsity and JV basketball athletes filed into the gym for the first annual winter Meet the Wykons!

Open to the public, we got a chance to meet the players on both teams, the varsity cheerleaders, and heard a dedication to the late Coach Charles Greenland. The night rounded out with a friendly game of lightning with the boys varsity coach, **Coach Contreras**.

Boys Basketball

As the boys' season progresses, things might begin to look less than great. Early on, our varsity team had a 0-6 record.

Starter **Jonah Holmberg** sprained his ankle during a practice in early December. Furthermore, starter **Ryan Walker** pulled his hamstring off-court, but it's not all injuries and losses. JV still has a 3-3 record.

Varsity feels confident things will turn around.

'Tis the Season for Hockey

With cold weather and white scenery comes winter's most popular sport: hockey. Whether playing or just supporting, many people in Iron River enjoy the fast-paced sport. While not directly through West Iron, our student athletes are able to play alongside and against other schools on the youth hockey team, the Ice Hawks.

Our high school boys involved are **Dominick Brunswick**, **Aidyn Zimmerman**, **Tanner Nordstrom**, **Matthew Swenski**, and **Casey Clische**, coached by Mike Hedtke, Nathan Turpeinen, and Jay Aldrich. Come support the hockey team at their next event in Ontonagon on December 30th!

Girls Basketball

This month, the girls officially started their basketball season! They played their first game on the fifth against Iron Mountain with a win for varsity, but a loss for JV. They played against Calumet on the eighth. After the varsity drastically fell behind, one spectator notes, "They had a crazy comeback and barely lost." Unfortunately, they were stopped just two points shy of tying the game. The JV girls also lost.

Chief concerns, however, lie with an early season injury. Varsity player **Danica Shamion** sprained her ankle, saying, "I never thought I would get hurt senior year." When asked about this concern, **Coach Shamion** stated that they were "scared" about what the injury meant, but was confident that they were going to have a winning season ahead of them. Danica hopes to be able to play on the 21st in the sure-to-be challenging game against Escanaba. "I think we have a good shot at the district title, but we need to work out some kinks," states **Sidney Storti**, an 11th-grade varsity player.

Student Interviews

Freshmen

If you could tell someone any conspiracy, what would you tell them?

Donte White



"Kanye West is a clone."

Lacey Mattson



"Garden gnomes are behind the manufacturing of salads."

Sophomores

If you could live forever, what would you do?

LeRoy Olson



"I would do everything that you're not supposed to do. I would rob a bank and purposely get caught, so I could outlive a life sentence."

Elliana Dutcher



"I'd probably travel the world and commit a crime, so I can live past the death sentence."

Juniors

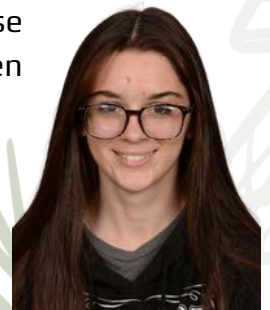
If you were a celebrity, what would you be famous for?

Charlie James



"I would be famous for being the most good looking."

Dasha MacIntire



"Barrel racing because it's something I've been interested in for years."

Student Interviews

Seniors

If you were the Grinch, how would you steal Christmas?

Johnathan Swenski



"I would steal every Christmas tree and steal their dogs too, because nobody likes having their dogs and trees stolen. Also, I would send a large boulder down my hill to eliminate the town on Christmas day. Then I can be happy with myself for ruining Christmas."

Brenna Tulppo



"I would go to everybody's house and steal all of their presents."

Teachers

If you could live in any decade, which year would you choose and why?

Mr. Taff



"1950s because, minus the fear of the nuclear fallout, the 50s historically seem like a simpler time to live in."

Mrs. Fales



"Well, I grew up in the 80s and 90s, so I'd have to say one of those. Probably the 90s because there wasn't much technology and there was more freedom. We had bicycle gangs and we didn't have to be home 'till 11 p.m. I'd say."

Teachers

If you could live in any decade, which year would you choose and why?

Mr. Barry



"The decade is the 70's. Why? Rock Music: Pink Floyd/Boston, Video Game: Pong, Movie: Jaws/God Father, TV Shows: Saturday Night Live/ Mash, Food: TV Dinner, Don't forget the Pet Rock and Mr. Barry graduated in 1979."

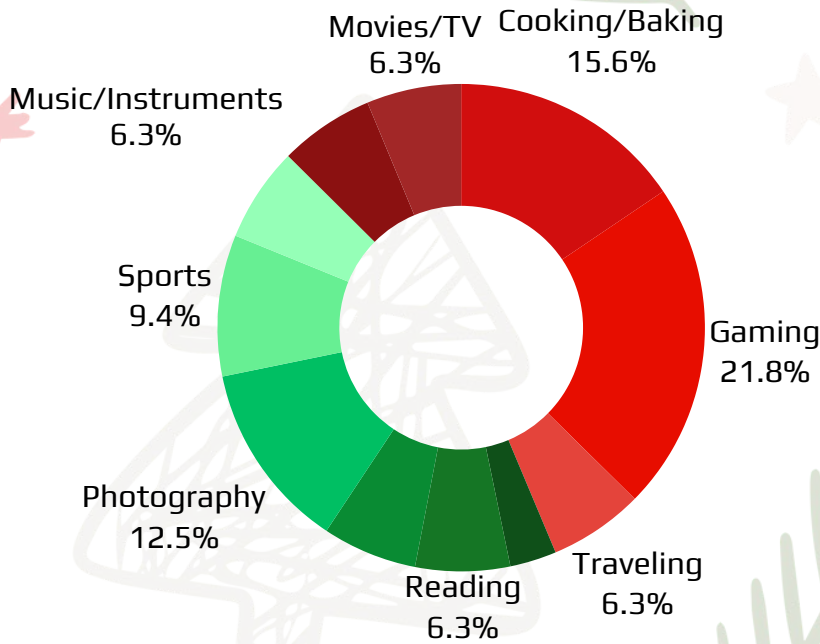
Mrs. Berutti



"I would choose the roaring 20s because they had swing music, gangsters, and it seems fun."

Student Life

Students' Hobbies



Students' Plans over Break

Chelsea Mcpherson (9th)

"We're going to go to Milwaukee and go shopping and snowboarding."

Destiny Lemery (10th)

"I'm going to go to Milwaukee to see the lights and stay with family."

Rowyn Fizzer (11th)

"I'm visiting my family and hoping to see some of my distant family at Christmas."

Students of the Week

STUDENT OF THE WEEK CAMI ALEXA

Cami is a positive person to be around. She is kind, helpful to classmates, and an active participant in classes. She strives to do her best in each subject and the activities she participates in, and takes pride in her accomplishments.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK SETH OBERLIN

Seth is a kind and respectful young man that always brings enthusiasm to everything he does. Seth always goes out of his way to help his fellow students and brings a positive energy and attitude to the classroom.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK ELLA SWANSON

Ella arrives to class daily fully prepared and ready to learn. She works well independently but is also more than willing to lend a hand to her classmates. Ella participates in class discussions and takes great pride in her work. She exhibits a great amount of responsibility, along with her organizational skills, will serve her well in the coming years.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK ANASTASIIA DUDIAK

Anastasiia is SOTW because of her positive attitude and strong work ethic. Each day she comes to class prepared and ready to learn. She uses her time well and approaches each challenge with high standards, she continues to develop. Anastasiia is a joy to teach.



STUDENT OF THE WEEK CAYDEN HOLM

Cayden is a very well-rounded student succeeding both academically and within his extracurricular activities. He is a multi-sport athlete and a leader within the classroom. He is always looking for ways to make others smile! In his spare time, Cayden enjoys building things in Woodshop class and outside of school he loves to hunt.



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Newsworthy Notes

Elementary Christmas Plans

For December, we chose three classes and talked to the teachers about their plans before Christmas break. There are the obvious activities of making gifts for whomever you want and having a food party amongst the students.

From talking with first, third, and fourth grade teachers, there have been similarities as far as what's occurring within the individual classrooms.

Teachers' Ideas

First grade: Mrs. Reid

Callie wants to be as inclusive as possible, and this is her perfect opportunity. A student in her class does not celebrate Christmas, and she wants said student to feel as cherished and heard as possible. So, instead of holding a traditional Christmas party, she has decided to hold a special celebration to make sure this student feels included.

Third grade: Mrs. Grubbs

The third graders made ornaments for their families out of logs, and they're having a party on Tuesday the 19th.

Fourth grade: Mrs. Thunander

The fourth graders made Christmas trees for the galleria and ornaments. They also plan to have a Christmas party as a class, on Friday, the 15th.



Junior High Basketball

The junior high basketball team is up and running. **Mr. Dallavalle** coaches both 7th and 8th grade.

Q: How do you feel about this season compared to others?

A: "I think 8th grade has improved a lot, and 7th grade has a good foundation."

Q: Do you like coaching the boys?

A: "I've been coaching the 8th grade boys since they were in 3rd grade. I have loved every year of it, watching them grow into intelligent young men."

Christmas Concert

Mrs. Carr is in charge of the Christmas concerts. The elementary Christmas concert was held on November 30th at the Windsor Center.

Q: What kind of songs did the elementary sing?

A: We performed songs about the holiday season. We did some traditional songs along with some new ones.

Q: What out of these songs was your favorite?

A: My favorite is "Merry Christmas to You, From the Red, White, and Blue."

Q: Did the concert go well?

A: Our concert went well! The students were excited to perform for their families.

Q: Was it a good turnout?

A: Yes, each concert had a great turnout.

Q: Are you looking forward to next year's program?

A: Yes, I am excited to perform with these students!

TURN TO THE BACK OF THE NEWSLETTER TO READ NOVEMBER'S PATRIOT'S PEN WINNING ESSAYS FROM OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS!



Senior feature

Michigan Trade/Tech Schools

- Empire Beauty Schools (Cosmetology, barbering, and beauty school)
- Paul Mitchell Schools (Cosmetology, barbering, and beauty school)
- Dorsey Schools (Variety of degrees in the medical, dental, culinary arts, electrical, and HVAC fields)
- Northwestern Technological Institute (Heating and Cooling program)
- Ross Medical Education Center (Nursing, Medical Assisting, and Dental Assisting)
- Hennepin Technical College

Online Schools

- Post University
- Miller-Motte College
- South College
- Daymar College
- West Kentucky Community and Technical College

Housing

Crystal View Apartments[\$730-865 for 1-2 bedroom apartments]
400 Superior Ave., Crystal Falls, MI 49920
Contact 906-767-9274 for more information!

Hillside Apartments [\$548-568 for 1-2 bedroom apartments]
1601 Stambaugh Avenue, Iron River, MI, 49935
Contact 906-265-9901 if you are interested and are looking for more affordable options.

House for rent, 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, and \$751 monthly.
313 Mine St, Norway, MI 49870
Contact (844)-882-2221


Dorm To-Do's

Laundry hamper: If you want a cheap and easily portable space to keep your clothes, consider the BlissTotes Laundry Basket. You can buy it through Amazon for \$12.49.

Shower caddy: Keeping your supplies organized and compactable will be a lot easier with a portable shower caddy. You can buy one on Amazon for \$9.99.

Storage bins: There will be more limited storage in a dorm, and storage bins will allow you to carefully organize your limited space. You can purchase stylish yet affordable storage bins on Amazon, Dollar General, and WalMart.

Lastly, we have a mini fridge. You're going to want a place to store your food and drinks, and this can easily be bought on Amazon for \$139.99. You'll want to make sure it fits your dorm requirements, so find one that works for you.



Pick-Me-Up Page

Peppermint Cookies

Cookies:

- $\frac{3}{4}$ softened butter
- $\frac{3}{4}$ sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp baking powder
- 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ c flour

Bake for 10-11 mins



Frosting:

- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ powdered sugar
- 1 tsp peppermint extract
- 3 tbsp softened butter
- 4-5 tbsp milk or water
- Crushed candy canes

Cozy Room Ideas

As winter progresses, many begin to feel “down in the dumps.” Here are a few items to make your room cozy and comforting.

- Festive candles
- Funky rugs
- Small plants
- Cozy bed sets
- Mood lighting
- A vanity
- Fun slippers
- Relaxing music
- Wall decor



How Do You Bring The Christmas Spirit?

Rocky Farley (11th): “I shovel endless snow. I carry the Christmas tree upstairs for my mom. That’s how I start the Christmas spirit.”

Evalyn Gatien (12th): “I go Christmas shopping and decorate.”

Mr. Dallavalle: “By having my daughter set up our Christmas tree early November.”

Simple Gifts



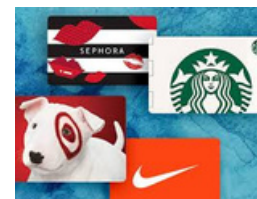
Carhartt hat

Stanley cups



Fuzzy socks

Gift cards



Community Spotlight



Caspian-Gaastra Volunteer Fire Dept.

The local volunteer fire department of Caspian- Gaastra rode with Santa on December 9th.

The firefighters, along with Santa, gave out fun goodie bags and collected the children's Christmas lists.



Upcoming Dates



Dec. 31: New Year's at Ski Brule

Dec. 31: American Legion Reino Post 21 - Live music with Easy Money and Change

Dec. 31: VFW Ottawa Post- New Year's Eve Steak Feed

Jan. 20: Young's 6th Annual Winterfest



"Seussical Jr."

The production of "Seussical Jr." was beautifully directed and performed by the West End Players, their directors, and the amazing crew. They did an outstanding job with props and costumes, but most importantly bringing their characters to life.

The production mainly focused on the stories "Horton Hears a Who!" and "The Cat in the Hat." The West End Players showed the magic Dr. Seuss could do with his stories and brought them to the stage.



Open Skate

- Open Skate is available to the public at the Ice Arena in Caspian
- Fridays 6:30 PM-8:30 PM, \$5 per skater
- Signed waiver required for minors & must have your own skates
- Skate sharpening available (dates & times vary)
- Visit the Iron Amateur Hockey Association-IAHA Facebook page for more information
- Waivers are available at the door or can be printed from their website



Community Spotlight

Christmas in Lights



On Saturday, December 2nd, the community of Iron River had its 17th Annual Christmas in Lights event. The event included a craft show, parade, tree lighting, and fireworks. This year's theme was "Old-Fashioned Christmas." Thanks to the West Iron Fire Department, there was an excellent fireworks show following the parade. The Christmas in Lights parade features most of Iron River's small businesses along with some of the large ones.



Business Highlight

North Woods Animal Shelter

The North Woods Animal Shelter has a wide variety of cats and dogs all needing a good home. The shelter does its very best to make sure every animal adopted goes to a great "fur-ever" home.

The volunteers and employees there work very hard to give the shelter and the animals their very best. Take a look at their website @ northwoodsanimalshelter.com for more information.



Ski Brule

Iron River has its very own ski resort! Ski Brule is a great resort for families to visit. They have a wide variety of activities up at the hill. Activities include skiing and snowboarding, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, fat tire biking, tubing, ski and snowboard lessons, and daycare for the kiddos.

There are numerous lodging places around the hills along with some dining options for the perfect family vacation. Visit their website @ skibrule.com for more information.



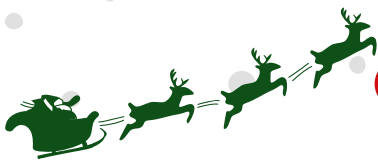
Trending Media

Movies to Catch Next Year

- Deadpool 3
- Mean Girls
- Gladiator 2
- Kung Fu Panda 4
- Beetlejuice 2

Songs To Add To Your Christmas Playlist

1. "Last Christmas" by Wham!
2. "All I Want For Christmas Is You" by Mariah Carey
3. "Santa Tell Me" by Ariana Grande
4. "It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas" by Michael Buble
5. "Snowman" by Sia



Christmas Movie Match

What do you think these students are watching on Christmas Eve?



1. Christmas Vacation

2. Jim Carrey's The Grinch

3. "I don't know"

4. A Christmas Story



1. April Clark, 2. Makenzie Matthews, 3. Matthew Swenski, 4. Nick Turner



Patriot's Pen Essays

How Am I Inspired by America? by **Anastasiia Dudiak**



I didn't grow up in America, but I am impressed with the kindness of people, the freedom of your own opinion and religion. America wouldn't be free without brave, generous, and benevolent people.

I am greatly appreciative of the people of this country. When my family and I were planning to go to America we were lost in the airport and couldn't find the right plane; we didn't speak any English. We couldn't think straight; we were so scared to miss our plane. We asked for help from other people in the airport, but they couldn't understand us. A stranger came forward to help. He took a translator from his pocket and asked us for ticket information, and he helped us search for our plane. He even made sure we got on the plane safely. After his help we were in a rush, but we thanked him for his kindness using a translator. I asked what country he was from; he told me, "I am from America."

I have a little different religion, different churches that I'm used to, but to my surprise people didn't judge me about that or my color, my clothes, or my nation. Somehow they could understand me without knowing the language; they helped me every step I was going through. That's how I learned English. The teachers are patient and understanding of my circumstances. I am truly thankful for brave soldiers, medics and all militaries that are alive or died, but they died for our freedom.

Some people probably have a question in his/her head, why is America a kind nation? I would say it's because of the brave people who are not afraid of revolution. America didn't save just Americans, they saved all people around the world, including me.

I will always stand up for the U.S.A even in tough times. I will never be scared to stand up for America and I will never be embarrassed to tell people how much America inspires me. I want to show how thankful I am. I'm inspired by the amazing brave citizens, and generous people, who value freedom. America is a place of opportunities and dreams coming true. This country always was and is with unique people and its own traditions.

How I Am Inspired by America by **Seth Oberlin**



"Democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people" -Abraham Lincoln. I think this is a very well spoken quote because it can be interpreted in many different ways. The way I expound this quote is that our government is customized to help people have a say in their country. I am quite inspired because America is a democracy, I am afforded many rights, and I have a say in what happens in this country.

One way I am inspired by this country is that since I live in a democracy I have a distinguished amount of rights due to the fact that my fellow countrymen have made it possible. This helps me follow my dreams and gives me freedom to pursue them. For example, religious freedoms help me to follow my dream of becoming a missionary around my country.

Another way I am inspired by America is that since I am an American citizen I am allowed to have my own opinion on subjects and my words are meaningful and powerful. This inspires me to speak the truth, my opinion, and not have to fear that the government will harm my family and I.

The final way I am inspired by my country is I have a say in what happens in my country including voting and I can also contact an official when I want to support or change a law. This inspires me to want to have some type of control in my everyday life. Like voting for representatives and presidents.

America inspires me because of the type of government, being able to speak my mind without punishment, and having a voice in my life. I love that I can enjoy my everyday life because of the freedoms I was granted. The main message for the reader is that I'm inspired by America because I have rights and freedoms that allow me to pursue my dreams and goals.

Patriot's Pen by **Kelilah Myers**



"The most important journey of our lives doesn't necessarily involve climbing the highest peak or trekking around the world. The biggest adventure you can ever take is to live your life of your dreams," this is a quote by Oprah Winfrey. Living life to your fullest potential is what being an American is all about. America is a country that offers true personal freedoms to pursue every ambition, this spirit that America offers inspires me to pursue my own.

I am inspired by the tenacity that many Americans before me have shown to pursue their heartfelt ambitions to compel me to follow my dreams. Our government, mainly our founding fathers, made goals for our country, and without those goals we would not be what we are today. Everybody should follow their dreams because having a dream is the beginning of reaching a goal. America has a history of hard working people who were willing to even sacrifice their own lives to see the fulfillment of their dreams. My dream is to be a police officer. I want to be a police officer so I can defend my country. I have seen a police officer in action and then I automatically knew what I wanted to be. Police officers are willing to risk their lives just like veterans to save their country and that is exactly what I want to do. I want to protect and care for those in my community.

In conclusion, America is a great place to live. America inspires me by giving me the example and ability to follow my dreams. I am grateful for all America has to offer. I am inspired by those that will go the extra mile, and I hope my reader is willing to go the extra mile to pursue their goals no matter what those goals may be. They must always have the hope that all things are possible.