



# Wykon Monthly

January 2024



## FEEDING AMERICA FOOD DRIVE

The Feeding America food drive was held on January 10th. Feeding America is the organization that brings in food in bulk to Grace Covenant Church. There are many volunteers of all ages. During this time, tables get set up in an assembly line, and moving through the line, volunteers fill boxes with each food item.

“At the beginning of the food drive, my peers and I bagged apples. This is where we just put 8-11 apples in plastic bags and tie them. My main job after that was to just move boxes along the assembly line. This was a great act of service for the community and it felt amazing being able to help distribute this food to people! All the volunteers are so kind and I even met new people while volunteering.”- [Haiden Gill](#) (Senior)

Other students participated in helping with the food drive, including [Harlie Melstrom](#), [Seanna Stine](#), [Rachel Fanous](#), and [Danica Shamion](#). (Photographed to the right)

## NORTH WOODS ANIMAL SHELTER

The North Woods Animal Shelter held a fundraiser from January 1st-26th to help support them in order to continue to provide the best care they can.



## ROBOTICS

The robotics team held a presentation in hopes to recruit people to join their team. They had demonstrated what this year's robot is capable of and their goals to make it to states this year. Over roughly a four month period, the team competes in games and challenges.

Joining the team gives students the opportunity to learn an array of skills that include wiring, electronic related things and more importantly, how to work as a team towards a common goal.

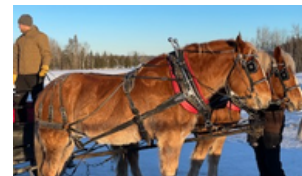
“This will be my eighth season coaching/ mentoring in first robotics. This will be my second year as head coach of the Automatons. The Automatons have had great success over the past two seasons winning three events. The Automatons are more than just building and programming robots. We do marketing, media, design (CAD) and fabrication.

I think we have put together a great team of mentors with many different backgrounds for moving our program forward.”

-[Coach Van Hill](#)

## WINTERFEST 2024

Young's Golf and Recreation held their 6th Annual Winterfest on January 20th, which began at 10 a.m. They offered kids arts and crafts, games, face painting, dog sled rides, and horse drawn sleigh rides.



## ALICE'S

Alice's has had new ownership with [Terri Storti](#) since January 1st, 2024. She had said she was excited to continue the family traditions that the restaurant holds and ready to undertake such a large project. We're all rooting for success with the new management. See page 10 for more information about the new ownership.



2024



# Sports



## Ski Brule

Ski Brule is a popular place where people who live locally, and even people who travel, come to enjoy the snow and have some fun. They offer rentals, lessons, and also have a tech shop available for waxing, tuning, bindings, and more. Wykons, stay active with this local winter time playground!



## Shamion Sinks Personal Best



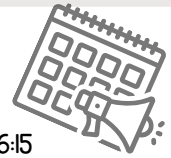
Danica Shamion hit a personal record, scoring her 1,000th point against the Norway Knights on January 23.

Before the game started, Danica did say that the potential to reach 1,000 points was on her mind. "I had to score 33 points, so it was a lot."

When the bucket went in, she said, "It was loud AND an and-ll!" With the game on the road, there weren't as many students who filled the student section, but we know her peers will continue to cheer on her and the team's victories.



## Upcoming Dates



BOYS BASKETBALL

Thurs. 2/1 Luther L. Wright H 4:45/6:15

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Fri. 2/2 L'Anse H 4:45/6:15

GREAT 8 WINTER GAMES

2/16 Iron Mountain-Kingsford Arena

## Sideline Cheer Q & A

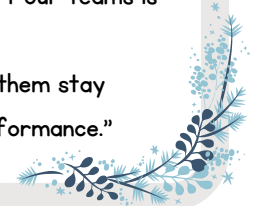
with cheerleader Hailie Autio (II)

Q: As one of the Wykons' biggest supporters, how do you get pumped and ready for a game?

A: "I like to practice the dances and cheers and just hangout with friends."

Q: Do you think being there to support our teams is important?

A: "Yes, I think it is because it helps them stay motivated and confident in their performance."





# Student Interviews



Kameron Maki:  
"It was my phone.  
It's really nice."

## SENIORS

What was your  
favorite gift and  
why?

Zelda Osborne:  
"My favorite  
Christmas gift has  
to be the ASL shirts  
that Mom got us  
because I used to  
try and learn ASL  
until I got busy."



## JUNIORS

Would you rather be  
Santa or Krampus and  
why?

Jaiden Dobson:  
"Krampus, it  
would be really  
fun to scare the  
kids."



Wesley Devore:  
"Santa, you could  
have anything you  
want. I could sell  
car parts or give  
them away."



## SOPHOMORES

What was your  
favorite part of  
break?

Ashlyn Lutes:  
"Presents.  
Perfume was my  
favorite gift."



Dylan Bowser:  
"Playing Madden  
on my Xbox."



## FRESHMEN

What would the ideal  
Christmas look like to  
you?

Chloe Clements:  
"My ideal Christmas  
would be all of my  
family and friends  
that live near me and  
just having my people  
around and no  
fighting."



Noah Ketchum:  
"A white  
Christmas. It's  
because there's  
snow."





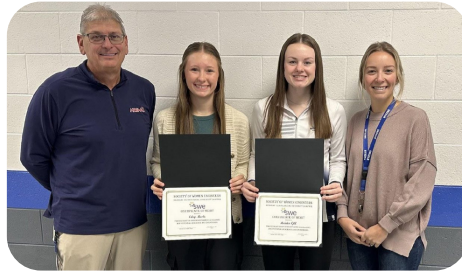


# Student Life



## Society of Women's Engineering

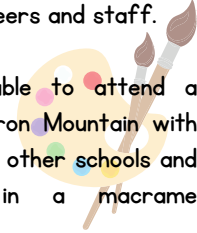
Congratulations to junior [Eiley Meske](#) and senior [Haiden Gill](#). These bright young ladies were recently awarded the Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Merit from MTU. The special award is for junior and senior female students for excelling in their math and science classes while introducing the ladies to the field of engineering.



## ASA: Alana Schuyler

The ASA winner for the month of December was [Alana Schuyler](#), winning the most votes from peers and staff.

Alana was able to attend a luncheon in Iron Mountain with winners from other schools and participate in a macrame workshop.



## What is Your New Year's Resolution?

[Harlie Melstrom](#) 12th- "To start saving money and spend it more wisely so I can actually afford things."

[Bradley Jochem](#) 11th- "I would like to try and eat healthier."

[Emma Goldbach](#) 10th- "To focus on myself more with grades and activities."

[Ryland Ketchum](#) 9th- "To be as strong as Tanner Nordy."

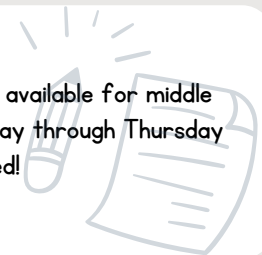


## Honors Band

Mrs. Carr nominated some of the West Iron County band students to participate in an event called Honors Band. On Friday, January 19th, [Cash Koski](#), [Lacey Mattson](#), and [Kali Flood](#) went to go play pieces they have worked hard on with band students from other schools.

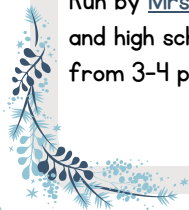
## Homework Club

Run by [Mrs. Sherwood](#), the homework club is available for middle and high school students. The club runs Monday through Thursday from 3-4 p.m. A healthy snack is also provided!



## Building Trades

Here is this month's most recent update on the building trades house.







# Student Life



## Students of the Week



### STUDENT OF THE WEEK DOMINIC MOTTES

Dominic is a phenomenal student and a joy to have in class. Dom is always staying on task and is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who may need it. Dom works very hard in his classes and leads by example to his peers.



### STUDENT OF THE WEEK DAKOTA AUTIO

Dakota has a friendly and uplifting personality which resonates with her peers. She is inquisitive and listens attentively in relation to her studies and her classmates. A diligent student, Dakota is reliable and takes pride in her accomplishments. Dakota is a strong leader in the classroom.



### STUDENT OF THE WEEK SEAN BATTYE

Sean works to his full potential in the classroom by showing good effort and willingness to participate. He is very welcoming and encouraged his peers to do their best. In addition, Sean is well-mannered, shows empathy and respect for peers and teachers, and is always willing to help others. You will catch him reading his favorite book series in his spare time. His determined attitude and a good sense of humor will give him a future of much success. Sean's self-directedness and optimistic and happy outlook help to improve the overall atmosphere at the West Iron County Middle School.



### STUDENT OF THE WEEK DESTINY LEMERY

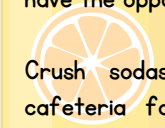
Destiny was chosen as student of the week because of certain attributes she has exhibited as a member of the Geometry in Construction class here at WICHS. Destiny has shown a determination to learn, understand, and apply new concepts and knowledge both academically and then in a construction project setting. She has worked well in both a team and individual setting.



## Crush Grams!

Are you interested in sending something fizzy and refreshing to a friend or someone special for Valentine's Day? Well, now you have the opportunity to do so!

Crush sodas are sold by the cafeteria for a dollar January 30th and February 1st, 5th, and 9th. The bubbly treat will be delivered on Valentine's Day.



## Senior Portraits

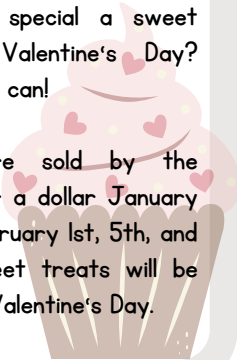
SENIORS! Get your senior photos and senior quotes in to Mr. Casari by March 22nd.



## Cupcake Grams!

Do you want to send a friend or someone special a sweet treat for Valentine's Day? Well, now you can!

Cupcakes are sold by the cafeteria for a dollar January 30th and February 1st, 5th, and 9th. The sweet treats will be delivered on Valentine's Day.



ALL STUDENTS:  
Don't forget to buy your yearbook before the price rises!

Pre-Order  
Your Yearbook



Go to [www.westiron.org](http://www.westiron.org) & click order yearbook



# News-worthy Notes



## Change for a Change

Fun Fridays are back! Our elementary students are raising money to support positive impacts on the school and community needs. Typically, students could dress fun on specific days if they brought \$1-\$5. However, teachers realized some kids didn't always have those five extra dollars.

Now, every Friday kids can dress according to a theme with any amount of money. That penny you dropped on the sidewalk and left there? Well, now a kid can be included in the enjoyment and the cause.



## Student Teacher

This year, Ms. Sartorelli gained a new helper in her room. Ms. Dye is required to fulfill observation hours for her schooling. "She asked if she could come into my room and I said yes. After talking, she asked if I could be her mentor for student teaching."

Ms. Dye is learning and doing typical tasks an everyday teacher would do. "Right now, she's making lesson plans and getting to know the students."

As she assists and observes more, she'll begin working independently. "During February, she'll be teaching my 7th grade classes and in March and April she'll be full time teaching in my class."



## Middle School Student Council

Being Mrs. Porier's first year as the middle school adviser, she's doing what she can to give the students more opportunities. She holds a meeting every Wednesday to discuss a variety of topics. These students have been working hard organizing dances, fundraisers, holiday events, etc.

In previous years, middle schoolers didn't have chances to participate at functions, such as homecoming or spirit week. This year, however, they are arranging their own pep rally and spirit week for the Great 8 Games.

Mrs. Porier is also putting together a fundraiser for the Foster Closet of Iron County and the food pantry. She and her students will be holding a bake sale and having Penny Wars between the 6th through 8th graders.





# News-worthy Notes



## Teacher Feature



Mr. Jim Kralovec is the Stambaugh Elementary School physical education teacher for grades kindergarten through 5th. Mr. K. is currently in his 31st year of teaching. He has taught all 31 years here at West Iron County. Below is an inside scoop from Mr. K.



### What made you want to be a teacher?

"It's just something that I always knew I wanted to do. My dad was a teacher and my mother was a coach, so I guess it was kind of ingrained in me. I wanted to be a coach also and at the time, most all coaches were teachers."

### What are some difficulties?

"For me, it is seeing students not do their best. It is also when students do not follow directions because they are not paying attention or have chosen to have a bad attitude. It is very challenging sometimes telling students what they do not want to hear but need to hear. That is part of our job. You want your words and emotions to come across in a way that will connect with the student. That's why we are here. Sometimes students don't get it, that we are trying to help them because we really care. When we really think about it, it's ok to make mistakes. It's ok to mess up. That's how we learn. Luckily for me, I don't see much of this. Overall, the students have been outstanding! They try very hard and they follow directions. This has made my job really, really fun."

### What will you miss most when you retire?

"Well, I don't know when I will retire. I would have to say it will be having fun with the kids and their enthusiasm. I love to see kids giving their best effort and being excited."

### Do you have any regrets?

"Lots of them! But they stem from me making mistakes. I do not regret one bit becoming a teacher, and I would do it all over again if I was in college again. I feel like I have been improving every year. Teaching is like all jobs; there are some things that are not fun and are difficult. But overall, I really enjoy teaching."

### Are you still doing the Mileage Club?

"We have been every spring, and I think we will probably do it again this year. We just started keeping records a few years ago. I really wish we would have kept records when we started Mileage Club years ago because some of the students who are in high school now did really, really well!"

Throughout elementary school, springtime brought tons of joy to the students. One prime reason is Mileage Club. Students are given a yellow, foot-shaped paper with circles to be filled in. These circles get filled in each time a student runs/walks a lap. Once all circles are filled in, they get holes punched with the same process. When a student punches all of their circles, they are rewarded with a foot-shaped charm of their choice.





# Senior Feature

## Top Liberal Arts Colleges in Michigan

- Kendall College of Art and Design- Grand Rapids
- College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters- Dearborn
- Hillsdale College- Hillsdale
- Kalamazoo College- Kalamazoo
- Albion College- Albion
- Hope College- Holland
- Alma College- Alma
- Ferris State University- Grand Rapids
- Siena Heights University- Adrian
- Cranbrook Academy of Art- Bloomfield Hills
- College for Creative Studies- Detroit
- Grand Valley State University- Allendale



Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids

## Scholarship Information

This January, [Mrs. Bjorkman](#) informed our seniors of the scholarship opportunities available to apply for at West Iron. Seniors, please take note of these requirements:

- All scholarships are due March 15th by 9:00 A.M.
- Two letters of recommendation are needed (ask teachers, private instructors, etc.)
- A written essay explaining the prompt “Why should I be the recipient of a [insert relevant scholarship category title]?”
- High school transcripts are needed. These can be found on your Parchment account.
- Be sure that you are completely eligible for each scholarship you apply to. Do not apply to all of them in mass, as they most likely will not be accepted this way.

## Outside Scholarships

- [Optimist International Essay Contest](#)- deadline: 2/28
- [Create-A-Greeting Card Scholarship Contest](#)- deadline: 3/1
- [Frame My Future Scholarship](#)- deadline: 4/1
- [RealtyHop Scholarship](#)- deadline: 4/30, 8/31
- [The Paradigm Challenge](#)- deadline: 5/1
- [Trotter Project Scholarships](#)- deadline: 5/15
- [We the Future Contest](#)- deadline: 5/31
- [Novus Biologicals Scholarship Program](#)- deadline: 6/15, 12/8
- [GeneTex Scholarship Program](#)- deadline: 7/16, 12/17
- [Spirit of Giving Scholarship](#)- deadline: 7/31
- [Clubs of America Scholarship Award](#)- deadline: 8/31
- [Perseverance Is Key Scholarship](#)- deadline: 12/15

## FAFSA Meeting Information

On January 22nd, [Jeffery Gagnon](#), a Financial Aid Counselor from Northern Michigan University, came to West Iron to speak with our seniors about the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The following were some of the topics discussed:

- College costs of attendance
- The FAFSA application process
- Federal updates and changes regarding the FAFSA
- Types of financial aid
- Various types of scholarships

For any questions, feel free to contact [jgagnon@nmu.edu](mailto:jgagnon@nmu.edu)



# Pick-Me-Up Page



## Study Body Interviews

What are some fun winter activities you do to keep you busy/active?

9th Luella Lutes- "I enjoy going outside and throwing snowballs at my little brother."

10th Jacob Goriesky- "Some fun winter activities I like are ice fishing, snowmobiling, and snowboarding."

11th Gracy Melstrom- "I continue to work with my animals throughout the winter, and sometimes I enjoy sitting in my hot tub."

12th Ethan Isaacson- "Well, some activities that I do in the wintertime to keep me active and busy are ice fishing, snowmobiling, plowing snow, and sometimes ice skating."

## Strawberry Banana Smoothie Bowl

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 ripe banana
- 1 cup frozen strawberries
- ¼ cup almond milk
- 1 tbsp. honey
- ¼ cup granola
- ½ cup of plain Greek yogurt
- Sliced fresh strawberries, chia seeds, sliced almonds for toppings



### INSTRUCTIONS

- In a blender, blend the banana, frozen strawberries, Greek yogurt, almond milk, and honey until smooth
- Pour the smoothie into a bowl
- Sprinkle granola, sliced almonds, chia seeds, and sliced strawberries on top of the smoothie
- Serve immediately



"A worthy New Year's resolution, perhaps, is to take no hatred into the new year without requiring it to restate its purpose." -Robert Brault





# Community Spotlight

## Graduates Give Back

Payton Hill, Class of 2023: "I do carpentry, concrete, landscaping, window and door installation, stuff like that."

Hailee Bradshaw, Class of 2022: "I've pretty much just been working and taking classes towards my degree. I'll get a bachelors in sports science and a masters in athletic training."



## Upcoming Events

- Auditions for "Into The Woods" on February 6th at 6:30 at the Windsor Center
- Ski Brule BSA Winter Badge day on January 27th.

## Still Alice's...

Alice's is proud to announce a new owner, Terri Storti. "We're honored that they trusted us with this. I want everyone to know Alice's is still Alice's."

"The time is right. We're leaving on a good note," shared Jill Sabotta, Alice's previous owner.

"We want people to be able to walk through the door and feel like nothing has changed," said Storti.

## Rose Quartz Cottage

Tricia Buck and her daughter had the passion to have a fun, bright, energetic, and positive place for people to come in and be able to express themselves. "We wanted to give Iron River a splash of color and a whole flood of fun." Rose Quartz has a variety of locally made items. Rose Quartz is always looking for more unique items that will attract interest.

In the following years, they welcome Natalie into the fold. Natalie has brought "a whole new world" of online shopping. Soon Rose Quartz hopes to move to a bigger location.

The  
Rose Quartz  
Cottage







# Trending Media



## Student Interviews

"Who is your favorite author and why? What is your favorite book by him/her?"



### Rachel Fanous (Senior)

"I would have to say Jane Austen because she projects her society in a sarcastic way, showing the flaws. My favorite Jane Austen book is probably Emma."



### Hannah Bunes (Junior)

"Merlin Sheldrake. He connects my two favorite subjects in his books: philosophy and studies of mushrooms. He also does marine biology, which is also interesting to me. My favorite book by him is Entangled Life."



### Caden Lewis (Sophomore)

"Stephen King because I like horror stories. The Outsider."



### Noah Perlongo (Freshman)

"Dav Pilkey, because I just really like Captain Underpants."

## Popular/Upcoming Books

- Table for Two by Amor Towles
  - Literary Fiction, historical fiction
- A Fate Inked in Blood by Danielle L. Jensen
  - Fantasy romance
- Infectious Generosity by Chris Anderson
  - Self-help book
- The Trading Game by Gary Stevenson
  - Biography, Autobiography, True crime
- One of Our Kind by Nicola Yoon
  - Psychological thriller, Gothic fiction, Contemporary Literature
- Come and Get It by Kiley Reid
  - Coming-of-age

## Top Streamed Songs

(Most streamed songs on Spotify)



"Sunflower - Into the Spider-Verse"  
Post Malone, Swae Lee



"Riding in the Rain"  
kayge



"She Calls Me Back"  
Noah Kahan



## Winter Fashion Staples



Savannah Parker

Mom/Baggy Jeans



Abel Lundin

Carhartt Vests



Sidney Storti

Uggs

## Staff Music Match-Up!

Can you match the staff members with their favorite song?

- 1) "Blood Bought Church" by Rhema Praise
- 2) "Forever Young" by Rod Stewart
- 3) "Gimme Shelter" by The Rolling Stones
- 4) "Take It Easy" by the Eagles



Mr. Papineau



Mrs. Kinner



Mr. Vanlanen



Mrs. Sue