

The Westampton Eye

Reporters: Steve A., Charlene A., Emily C., Miranda C., Makayla H., Isabella I., Molly M., Aaron R., and Kayla S.

Mr. Leone -- Advisor

Thanksgiving: Fun Facts!

By Steve A.—Special Correspondent

Every fourth Thursday of November, we get together and stuff our faces full of turkey, stuffing, cornbread, mashed potatoes, and more. But before you loosen your belts, here are a few little-known facts about the one holiday we have devoted to food:

- The supposed first Thanksgiving, contrary to popular belief, may have been 60 years before colonists and Wampanoag Indians held an autumn feast at Plymouth in 1621. Many historians believe the Spanish had the first “Thanksgiving” in 1565.
- According to history.com, the first few Thanksgivings had little in common with the modern Thanksgivings that we have today. In 1621, they had deer, seafood, and produce from the pilgrims’ first harvest.
- Thanks to Abraham Lincoln, Thanksgiving became a nationally recognized holiday in 1863.
- Every year, the president of the United States pardons a turkey. The tradition officially started in 1989.

From everybody at *The Westampton Eye*: Enjoy your Thanksgiving!



Please Welcome our New Principal: Mrs. Holloway-Taluy

By Emily C.

This year at Westampton Middle School we welcome our new principal, Mrs. Holloway-Taluy. After talking with Mrs. Holloway-Taluy I learned that she taught English for grades 8-12 for five years at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle, NJ. She then became a vice principal at Eastern Regional High School, and worked there for five years before coming to WMS.

Mrs. Holloway-Taluy always desired to be a middle school principal, but it's even better that she gets to work so close to home and in familiar surroundings. Her favorite part of being a principal at WMS is being able to enjoy the interactions she has with the students. It's different from being a classroom teacher, which she does miss, but she still feels that she is able to get to know the students, watching them grow and have a good time.

We look forward to having an excellent year with our new principal!

Our New WMS Vice Principal: Mr. Browning

By Emily C.

You probably know it already, but Mr. Browning is Westampton Middle School's new vice principal. Here is what he had to say during our interview for *The Westampton Eye*:

Q: Have you ever worked in a school before?

A: Yes. Prior to coming to Westampton I have worked in several schools. (Beverly City, Willingboro, and Bridgeton being my most recent school.)

Q: How did you feel when you found out were going to VP?

A: I was elated and nervous at the same time. I worked very hard and made many sacrifices in my career to get to where I am today. This was also a new journey and unfamiliar territory; that's where the nerves came in.

Q: Was this your first time working with Mrs. Holloway-Taluy?

A: I did not know her prior to working here in Westampton. She has been a pleasure to work with and offers a wealth of knowledge.

Q: Was this your dream job?

A: This job is a step toward my dream job of being a Superintendent of Schools

Q: What is your favorite part of being a VP?

A: My favorite part about being a VP is the daily interactions with staff and students. Also, helping to create a positive and inviting school environment.

The History of Halloween

By Miranda C.

Halloween has already passed, and there's always so much to look forward to, from brainstorming what costumes to wear to carving jack-o'-lanterns with our families and, of course, eating way too many treats. How much do you really know about the upcoming fall holiday?

What is Halloween's origin, and what is the meaning? I'm telling you this in the hopes it'll make your celebrations even more festive. After all, this old-fashioned holiday actually dates back many, many years. As for witches, wizards, and so many more creatures that you've come to associate with the holiday, they're part of the story, too! Here's the true tale of how Halloween officially came to be:



Halloween as we know it is a twist on the Celtic festival of Samhain. Celts believed that at the end of summer, the barrier between our world and the world of ghosts and spirits got really thin. In turn, weird creatures with strange powers could wander about on Earth. This scared the Celts so they took upon themselves to scare away the ghosts and spirits. They decided to throw a big party where everyone dressed up in costumes in hopes of being able to make sure no ghost came into our world.

Therefore, Halloween used to be a big celebration where people dress up in costumes in an effort to scare away evil presences. That has transformed into a night where people dress up as anything from their favorite character in a TV show to a horrific clown to have fun. They go out with their friends and family to get candy and have massive sugar rush, yet most don't even know the origins of the holiday they are celebrating. Now, not only do you know what the origins are you can share them with your friends and see how much they truly know about it!

Rhinos: Endangered

By Isabella I.



The sad part about this is that the wounded rhinos can be mothers of calves and they are left without each other. If a mother dies then a calf dies and vice versa. People don't realize the damage they are doing to these poor innocent animals.

In conclusion the rhino population is dropping because of humans. We could do so much better. If you want to learn more and want to help, check out the World Wildlife site at: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/rhino>.

Did you know that rhinos are endangered? According to [worldwildlife.org](https://www.worldwildlife.org), Rhinos are a major target for hunters in South Africa. Hunters use rhino horns as a symbol of strength, not realizing that they are leaving the animals hurt and dead most of the time. Due to the rhino population decreasing, the prices of rhino horns are increasing. This is causing the hunters to want horns more than ever. The rhinos that are left alive without horns normally need attention by a vet or healer. Most of them don't receive care and die a few weeks to months later.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: Ms. Reilly

By Makayla H.

One of our newest teachers at WMS is Ms. Reilly. I went and asked her questions for *The Westampton Eye*. Here are her answers:

Q. How long have you been teaching?

A. This is my second year.

Q. What's your favorite instrument?

A. The euphonium. (The one I play!)

Q. Were you in chorus when you were young?

A. Yes!

Q. What is your favorite song?

A. "The Times They Are a-Changin'" by Bob Dylan.

Q. Why do you like teaching music?

A. I love getting to make music all day, every day.

Q. What's your favorite band?

A. The Beatles.

Q. Did you teach something besides music?

A. I teach marching band at RV.

Ms. Reilly is a very talented musician and teacher. We are very lucky to have her as a teacher.



TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: Mrs. Giveans

By Molly M. and Charlene A.

Mrs. Giveans is a fifth grade English Language Arts teacher at Westampton Intermediate school. She is a very outstanding teacher who loves kids and is one of our favorites. We interviewed her for *The Westampton Eye* and this is what she said:

Q: How long have you've been working in this school district?

A: This year is my sixth year in the district.

Q: What's your favorite book? Favorite genre?

A: My favorite genre is realistic fiction. It's very difficult for me to choose my favorite book. There are so many books that I enjoyed reading. But if had to choose, I would say either *Maniac Magee* by Jerry Spinelli or *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio.

Q: What do you like to do as your hobby?

A: My favorite hobbies are reading and hiking.

Q: What do you like to do with your family?

A: I like to go to the park with my family or do anything else outdoors. We enjoy traveling to different places together.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

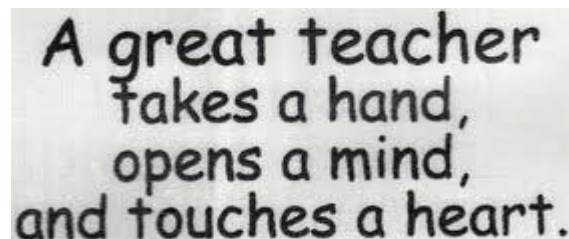
A: I don't really have a favorite movie. I actually don't really like to watch movies.

Q: What's your dream vacation?

A: My dream vacation would go to Greece. I hear it's beautiful there.

Q: What would you rather do...eat a whole thing of chocolate or a whole thing of ice cream?

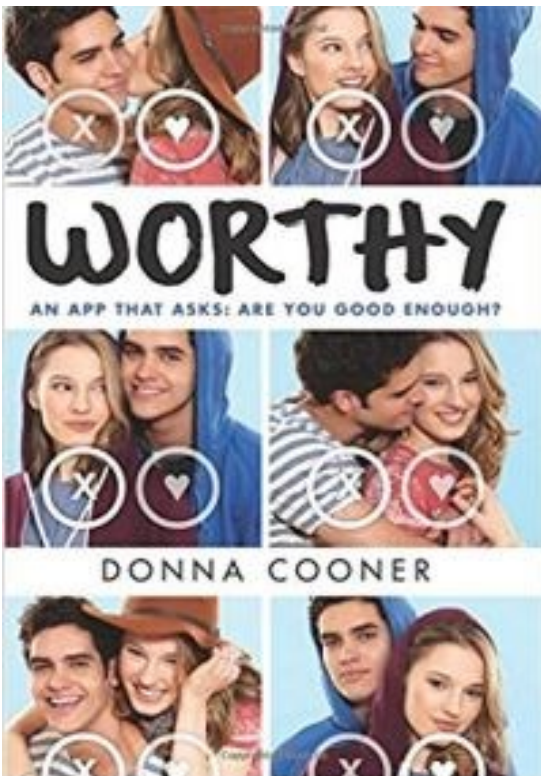
A: I would rather eat a whole thing of ice cream; ice cream is actually my favorite food!



A great teacher
takes a hand,
opens a mind,
and touches a heart.

BOOK REVIEW: *Worthy* by Donna Cooner

By Isabella I.



Most people enjoy reading; I am not one of them. However, occasionally I find a book I really like. Last week I was in the library and I pulled a random book off the shelf and started to read it. It turned out the book I grabbed was one that my friend Taylor recommended to me. The book is called *Worthy* by Donna Cooner.

Worthy is about a girl named Linden, who is struggling to find her own voice. She believes she is an average girl and feels as though she's invisible in her school. She is nothing like her best friend, Nikki. Linden wants to be an amazing writer, but she doesn't like to let anyone read her writing. To try and step out of her comfort zone, she volunteers to publicize the upcoming prom. At the same time a boy named Alex asks her out. Then, an app called Worthy hits their high school and polls students on whether girls are "worthy" of the guys they are dating. Linden and Nikki start to wonder why the girls are getting judged, not the boys.

The book *Worthy* is a very interesting and thrilling book. The text and description the author uses makes you feel like you're in high school with them.

Check out *Worthy* at the WMS media center!

What Electronics Do You Love?

By Makayla H.

Electronics are so popular these days, especially phones. Everyone loves them, and everyone has some kind of gadget. I sent out a poll to WMS asking what electronics people have. These are the results:

- 25 people have an iPhone
- 5 people have a Samsung phone
- 18 people have an Xbox
- 8 people have a Nintendo Switch
- 13 people have a PlayStation
- 20 people have an iPad

Those are a lot of electronics! But remember even though they're fun, it is better to talk to a person in real life. And that doesn't mean FaceTime!



PlayStation 5

By Aaron R.

The PlayStation 4, owned by Sony Interactive Entertainment, was one of the most successful gaming consoles of all time. The PS4 was released on November 15, 2013 in the United States and Canada. Surpassing the Xbox One, Xbox 360, and Wii, the PlayStation 4 has a total of 102.8 million sales worldwide. Sony will try to get even better with the PlayStation 5. According to TechRadar, the PlayStation 5 will officially be released somewhere between October and December 2020. The PlayStation 5 is predicted to cost \$499, but according to [ps5Playstation5.com](https://www.playstation.com/en-us/newsroom/2020/05/ps5-price/), Sony is considering releasing it at \$599. The PS4 only had a few cross platform games like "Fortnite" and "Rocket League." Hopefully, the PlayStation 5 will be cross platform in general. Will you be buying the PlayStation 5?

Bullying: What Should You Do?

By Molly M. and Charlene A.

Have you ever bullied before? We all know what it is, and it's not fun. It can hurt your feelings and make you really depressed. So let's take a stand and do what is right. If you are being bullied, tell a teacher, principal, or any adult you trust. Do what is right, but do not say mean things back. If you see someone getting bullied, don't just stand by. Be an up-stander. You wouldn't want people to just stand there and do nothing when you are getting bullied, would you? You won't get in trouble for telling an adult and sticking up for yourself. If the bully does not stop after that, then try standing up for yourself. They think that they are bigger than you and you won't do anything to stop them. They just want to put you down because they have been put down before. Don't get physical. If they still don't stop after you ask them, go find the nearest adult that you trust. That is what you should do if you are getting bullied.



Editor's Note: Mr. Doyle is a wonderful resource for students! Please consult him with any questions.

CHEF'S CORNER: Chicken Tacos

By Makayla H.

Here's a really cool recipe you could try.
It's called chicken tacos.



Ingredients:

- 2 uncooked chicken breasts
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 7 oz cream cheese cubes
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup shredded cheddar cheese
- taco-size flour tortillas

Instructions:

1. Place chicken breast in 2-3 quart slow cooker, crock-pot. Sprinkle with taco seasoning, add cream cheese cubes and water.
 2. Cover and cook for 6-8 hours on low, or for 4-6 hours on high.
 3. Unplug crock-pot. With 2 forks, shred the chicken in the crock-pot, add cheddar cheese, and stir to evenly coat the chicken.
 4. Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit .
 5. Then spoon the shredded chicken into the center of the flour tortillas
 6. Roll tightly, and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
 7. Spray generously with olive oil spray.
 8. Cook in preheated oven for 8-12 minutes, or until tortillas are crisp.
- Enjoy!

NBA Free Agency 2019

By Aaron R.

The 2019 NBA free agency was one of the craziest free agency years in NBA history. It was also one of the most hyped up and anticipated free agencies of all time. Some of the best players in the league were all on the market in one year. You had names like Kyrie Irving, Klay Thompson, Kawhi Leonard, Al Horford, Jimmy Butler, Kemba Walker, and D'Angelo Russell, as well as arguably the best player in the league, Kevin Durant.

Free Agency took off on June 30th. Even though free agency didn't start until late June, people were already almost positive on where Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant would end up. During the beginning of the year, NBA analysts and fans were almost 100% positive that Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant would end up in New York Knicks Jerseys by next year. Then After All Star break, NBA Analysts started spreading rumors about Kyrie Irving and Kevin Durant teaming up in Brooklyn. As expected, they signed with the Nets. Klay Thompson resigned with the Warriors, no one expected him to go anywhere else. Kemba Walker signed with the Boston Celtics as a replacement for Kyrie Irving. Jimmy Butler signed with the Miami Heat as their player to build around. D'Angelo Russell signed

with the Golden State Warriors swapping out with Kevin Durant. Al Horford made a choice to leave Boston and join Joel Embiid and the Philadelphia 76ers. Al Horford was known as the Joel Embiid stopper. Now the question is: Is there anyone who can stop Joel Embiid?

Finally, 2019 NBA Champion, 2019 NBA finals MVP Kawhi Leonard signed with the Los Angeles Clippers. NBA analysts say Kawhi was seriously considering resigning with the Toronto Raptors, or signing a max deal with the Los Angeles Lakers. Kawhi really wanted to play on a LA team so that he could be closer to home. However, when he heard that the Clippers traded for All Star Forward Paul George, he signed with the Clippers immediately!

Now, we finally have an even league with no super teams, a league where it's anyone's game.

