

# WILDCAT NEWS

DANIEL WEBSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL, WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

## St. Baldrick's Day Fundraiser

by Sara & Stephanie

St. Baldrick's Day took place at DWMS on Friday, April 14 in the gym. Students and staff contributed money and some agreed to shave their heads to help children with leukemia. Our school raised \$810.00 for the St. Baldrick's Day Foundation.

Mr. Griffin, Mr. Kreml, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Solano, Mr. McKee, Mr. Rivera, and Mr. Gaiser joined Mr. Bade and Ms. Candelaria in having their heads shaved to help children who have been diagnosed with cancer. They were joined by approximately fifteen brave students, including one female, sixth grade student, Omi Doss. As most middle school girls see their long pretty hair as something so special to them, everybody was impressed by Omi's courageous act to help the children who are sick with leukemia.

Mr. Bade started St. Baldrick's Day at Webster Middle School last year. You might ask yourself what inspired him to start this fundraiser? Mr. Bade started St. Baldrick's Day to help children who are afflicted with cancer. Mrs. Candelaria's grandson, Rey Rey, passed away due to having leukemia last year.

## Dr. Brixey makes move from Daniel Webster Middle School to Lincoln Center

Dr. Joan Brixey has been our principal at Daniel Webster Middle School since the fall of 2006. Her achievements earned her a promotion to a new position at Lincoln Center, Director of K-12 Curriculum and Instruction for Waukegan School District #60.

The staff and students surprised Dr. Brixey with a special farewell celebration, in the Webster gym on April 16, 2010.

Dr. Mary Lamping, Chief Academic Officer for Waukegan School District 60, helped with the surprise.

Dr. Brixey was told that she needed to come to Webster with Dr. Lamping to observe a classroom. When they walked in the gym, everyone stood up, cheered and held up signs saying, "Congratulations, Dr. Brixey!" and other goodwill messages.

Many people worked together to create the day's special celebration. Each advisory contributed by saying "farewell" in a unique way. Video Club recorded each class' message and prepared a video that was shown at the reception in the gym.

"Everyone worked together to provide a meaningful reception for Dr. Brixey," said Ms. Mlinar-Stephens, Technology Teacher, who served on

the committee that organized the surprise. "Mr. Gaiser and Mr. Johnson joined other teachers on the committee, including Mrs. Karabatsos, Mrs. Bukovitz, and

Mrs. Johnson." Dr. Donald Batiste, Superintendent, Dr. Mary Lamping, Chief Academic Officer, and Mrs. Judy Green, Director of School Improvement for Waukegan School District 60, were also in attendance.



**WEBSTER SHAVEES.** This picture show all of the people who volunteered to shave their heads for St. Baldrick's Day. This year we raised \$600 in an hour and a half for childhood cancer research.



**ST. BALDRICK'S DAY ORGANIZER.** Mr. Bade, Seventh Grade Social Studies teacher, claps as other shavees get their head shaved to raise money for this worthy cause.



**THE WEBSTER WILDCAT POSES.** Mrs. Candelaria and Omi D. pose as the only female shavees at Webster's St. Baldrick's Day fundraiser.

# DWMS Sports

## BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

"We are excited to be the undefeated champions for the second year in a row,"



exclaims Ms. Stalsberg. Ms. Stalsberg, 8th Grade math teacher, and Mrs. Behmke, guidance counselor, serve as Webster's volleyball coaches. At practice players learn how to serve the ball overhand, play defensive positions and how to win! The team plays five games each season plus the tournament. - Julio L.

## BOYS' FLAG FOOTBALL

Seventh and eighth graders joined together for an impressive rally at the flag football championship game held last weekend at Jack Benny. "The boys were outstanding," explained Coach Cook. This season, Webster played Jefferson, Jack Benny and Juarez. Coach Cook really appreciated the spectators who came and cheered the boys on as they played.

Webster flag football featured both a seventh and eighth grade team. The boys practiced twice each week, on Mondays and Wednesdays. Games were held each Thursday.

Coach Cook, eighth grade coach, and Coach Keith, seventh grade coach, worked on catching skill, and basic conditioning and strength training at every practice. All students are invited to come out for try-outs next year. "We want the kids to become active in extra-curricular activities," noted Coach Cook.

## GIRLS' SOFTBALL

The Webster Girls' Softball Team included players from the sixth and seventh grades. Softball games were held every Thursday at Jack Benny. The team finished their season May 22nd.

All Webster students are encouraged to try-out for the team. Coach Gillengarten, also known as "Ms. G", is happy to teach the girls everything they need to know. At practice, players concentrate on basic skills such as throwing, catching, and hitting.



## GIRLS' SOCCER

The Webster Girls' Varsity and Junior Varsity Soccer Teams have a lot of reasons to feel proud.



The Webster Girls' Varsity Team was

seeded #3 in the tournament. The team played well, but unfortunately, Zion-Central was able to score the win, eliminating the Team in the semi-finals by a score of 2 - 0, after going to penalty kicks. The Webster Junior Varsity Team beat Benny in the quarter-finals, after going to penalty kicks.

The girls' soccer teams and coaches appreciate their enthusiastic fans who came out to cheer on the players and boost morale, even including feeding them lunch between games!

Our girls' soccer team is made up of 40 girls from the sixth, seventh, eighth and mult-grade teams. The Webster teams include some returning players who played last year here at Webster, as well as players who came to Webster this year from other schools.

## Webster Wildcat News and Video Club visit NBC5/Telemundo

The Webster News and Video Club had the rare opportunity and experience of visiting the NBC5/Telemundo television news studio in Chicago and talking with professional broadcasters. Students spoke with Zoraida Sambolin and Marion Brooks about what it takes to be a great news anchor. Zoraida Sambolin said that the most important skills that she needs to be a good anchor are reading and writing. She said that she reads and writes a lot every single day for her job.

The Video Club and News crew had a tour of the weather room, the make-up room, and the NBC5 evening, morning, and Telemundo news sets. These gave our news crew many ideas for changing our morning newscasts. One student mentioned, "We need to change our weather background," after seeing the weather room.

The group also saw news anchor Marion Brooks pre-recording a segment for the weekend news. Students observed how she and the director, camera operator, and the audio crew all worked together to make the recording run smoothly. Afterwards they asked her questions about her career and training.

Students who went on the trip learned a great deal and had a lot of fun!



Stephanie O.: Reporter, Photographer Sarah R.: Reporter, Photographer Julio L.: Reporter, Photographer

## THE WEBSTER NEWSPAPER STAFF 2010

Newspaper Advisors

Mrs. Nathan, Ms. Strezo, Ms. Mlinar-Stephens:

## Nurse News

by Julio L. & Mrs. Washington

Fuel Up to Play (FUTP) participants know that healthy lifestyles can be fun. Students participating in FUTP enjoyed exercising and eating healthy snacks. Participants exercised by playing games, walking to the park, playing soccer, basketball, kickboxing, and volleyball. Every session was a different activity, so it was always interesting. In addition to working out, students taste tested smoothies, yogurt, and veggie salsa. There was a vegetable salsa taste test for the whole school on April 29th.

Fuel Up to Play was sponsored by the National Dairy Council and the National Football League. The National Dairy Council and the National Football League joined together and provided Webster a grant of \$5000.00, to promote health among our school community. With this grant, Webster purchased exercise equipment that was used during Fuel Up to Play sessions and healthy snacks for Fuel Up to Play participants. FUTP students met Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Other programs offered this quarter included Girl 2 Girl, for 7th and 8th grade students, MVPs for 7th and 8th grade boys, Teen Health, for 8th grade girls, and finally, a Dating and Violence program for 8th grade girls. Nurse Washington would also like to remind 8th graders that physical exams are due for 9th grade. Also, please know that the H1N1 disease is still a concern. Students should stay home if they are sick with fever and cold symptoms.

**CORRECTION:** The following reporters were omitted from the March, 2010 issue of the Wildcat News: New Teacher: Ms. Gomez was written by Areli C., Yasmine D., and Stephanie O. Stephanie O also wrote articles on the NJHS and the Science Fair winners. The Wildcat News staff regrets this error.

## Cystic Fibrosis Walk

You might be wondering what Cystic Fibrosis is. It is a genetic disease. It is not contagious. Cystic Fibrosis affects approximately 30,000 children and young adults. For a person with Cystic Fibrosis, the median survival age is 31 years.

Mrs. Turner and the NJHS organized the Cystic Fibrosis walk. Students who turned in a permission slip and donated \$5.00 walked to the Waukegan Marina Friday, May 21. When the walkers returned to Webster, they were provided with a grilled lunch of hot dogs and chips. A total of \$364 was raised from student and staff donations. The funds will be contributed to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, to help children afflicted with Cystic Fibrosis. Great job Webster Wildcats!



## NEW TEACHERS



**Ms. Koukal, Seventh Grade Teacher**

## Interview with Ms. Koukal

by Julio L.

Recently, eighth grader Julio L. sat down with new teacher Ms. Koukal to ask her a few questions. This is what he learned.

So far Ms. Koukal's first year teaching has been "fabulous," she says. The best parts of her job are "being able to work with Mrs. Gleason everyday and her students, who always make her laugh." Ms. Koukal became a teacher because she loves working with middle school students. In fact, she is so content with her job, she "couldn't imagine doing anything but teaching!"

When Ms. Koukal isn't teaching, she enjoys hanging out with her friends, baking (and eating!) chocolate, shopping and running. Her favorite movie is "My Best Friend's Wedding." She has a wonderful family that includes two brothers, and a dog named Sparky. ..

## Interview with Ms. Sierra

by Julio L.

Ms. Sierra teaches eighth grade at Webster. She teaches math, science, social studies, language arts, and reading. This is her first year at Webster, but it is not her first year teaching in Waukegan. Last year Ms. Sierra taught at Jefferson. She has been teaching for 34 years. Ms. Sierra said that what she likes best about her job are her students.

Ms. Sierra comes from a big family. She has nine brothers and two sisters. They live in Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana. Her favorite foods are hot dogs and she loves action movies.



**Ms. Sierra, Eighth Grade Teacher**

(Ms. Sierra is currently recovering from a long-awaited kidney transplant at the time this story goes to press. Webster students and staff wish her a speedy recovery.)

## PBIS carnival a hit!

by Wildcat News Staff

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The PBIS Carnival offered awesome activities for Webster students on Friday, May 14, when everyone celebrated the positive behavior that had been demonstrated throughout the year. Mr. Colin awed all the students as he performed



**Seventh grade boys in balancing act as part of Mr. Colin's magic show.**

a magic show complete with juggling machetes and flaming pins.

The other headliner attraction was a Dunk Tank. Students had three chances to test their aim, attempting to hit a target to dunk the good-natured teacher sitting on the perch atop the water, waiting anxiously and hoping for a miss. Students moved on to play bocce ball, to toss whipped cream pies



**Ms. G taunting students as they tried to dunk her**

at a second group of fun-loving teacher volunteers, and to participate in a Dizzy Dizzy Relay Race. Winners of the Relay Race won monstrous Care Bears. Inside the school, Temporary Tattoos and Bozo Buckets entertained students as they tried for prizes. Inside and outside, students enjoyed the magic, the cotton candy and the carnival atmosphere of easygoing and entertaining fun and games.



**Pie in the face!**

## Theatre at DWMS

by Stephanie O. and Sara R.

*Myth Adventures*, the first play performed at Daniel Webster Middle School in many, many years, was staged on Friday, May 7, and Saturday, May 8, 2010. The play presented five Greek myths for an entertaining one and one half hours. Nearly twenty eighth grade students performed in *Myth Adventures* or helped backstage. The audience enjoyed performances of "King Midas," "Orpheus," "Echo & Narcissus," "Daedalus & Icarus," and "Theseus & The Minotaur." Ms. Kapheim, eighth grade communications teacher, directed the play.

Many students played multiple characters. The performers were very excited and a bit

nervous about performing on stage, but they did an outstanding job.

Costumes made from donations of fabric were designed and created by Ms. Kapheim's mom. Also created were a multitude of props, including wings, golden sticks, and rocks.

Ms. Kaphiem was inspired to direct a play at Webster, because she loves theater and she wanted her students to experience the thrill of a stage production. She found the play online. *Myth Adventures* is known as educational



theater, in that those who are in the play and those who watch the play learn something from the performance. experience. Ms. Kapheim hopes to put on another play next year.

