

# WILDCAT NEWS

DANIEL WEBSTER MIDDLE SCHOOL/DECEMBER 2009/ WAUKEGAN ILLINOIS/VOLUME 4

## Chicago Cares, Medline and Webster Volunteers Ignite School Spirit

by Yasmine D., with help from Sara R.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Chicago Cares and Medline Industries helped Webster Middle School students take care of our school. Together with parents, teachers, administrators and members of the community, we painted all the lockers on the 7<sup>th</sup>, multi team and 8<sup>th</sup> grade hallways, the boys and girls locker rooms and many classrooms. Also, teams of volunteers built wooden benches and painted them bright colors to provide a learning center in the field behind our school.

To promote our school spirit, the volunteers created two colorful and fun displays. "Go Wildcats" can be seen along the basement of the school and "WILDCATS" has been added to the stage of our school gym. A favorite among all the students is the new baseball diamond, and the staff is enjoying a freshly painted Teachers Lounge furnished with upbeat and fashionable furnishings. Ms. Strezo, 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher exclaimed, "I could not believe the lounge when I first saw it. I felt like I had just walked into Starbucks or something! It's awesome!"

When I first arrived, people from Chicago Cares took my name and directed me to where they needed help. When I arrived at my station, there were teachers giving instructions on what was to be done. Sarah R., a Webster sixth grader, joined a group of volunteers

in the front of the building to work on landscaping. They planted plants, cleaned up all the grounds and took away the dried leaves. Then, they put down new mulch. It looked pretty and smelled like pine.

I helped paint the blue benches on the field. I also painted the lockers in the Encore hallway a light grayish-blue. It was hard to get my paintbrush into the tiny areas of the locker doors.

Chicago Cares is a service organization that coordinates volunteers to help children and adults throughout the Chicago area. Medline, a company that makes health care products, provided the volunteers to complete the building, painting and landscaping projects. Medline employs many Waukegan residents.

There was a lot of planning and discussion between Chicago Cares and Dr. Brixey, Mr. Gaiser and Mr. Johnson for many weeks before the event. They determined what should be done to enhance our school. Their careful planning and the wonderful volunteers within our Webster community and Medline produced a day of sharing and teamwork that will long be remembered by all participants. We have a renewed pride in our school thanks to Chicago Cares.



MEDLINE VOLUNTEER building a bench for our learning center.



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# “Out of the Darkness” Penny drive



by **Areli C.**

On September 18th, we presented Mrs. Montemayor and Ms. Flores with 50,200 pennies to help them in their effort to help people who struggle with thoughts of suicide and their loved ones. Mrs. Montemayor and Ms. Flores had agreed to participate in the “Out of Darkness Community Walk” held at Belvidere Park on September 19th. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) holds the event each year to raise funds to be used for research to improve the understanding of factors that contribute to suicide.

Participants walk in the nighttime. The “Out of Darkness Community Walk” takes place in the darkness,

because people who are at risk feel that their lives will not improve. In this way, they live without hope, in darkness. Mrs. Candelaria and Mrs. Bustamante joined Mrs.

Montemayor and Mrs. Flores and they walked from 4:00 to 7:00 a.m. They represented “Team 25.”

“Team 25” has a special meaning. All the people who walked for “Team 25” had lost a friend or relative to suicide on the 25th of the month. Ms. Flores’ cousin died on October 25th. Another young person related to the walkers lost his life to suicide on January 25th.

The “Team 25” was very happy with the pennies we collected for them. We let them know that we care about their loved ones when we offered our support.

“With more than 33,000 lives lost each year in the U.S. and over one million worldwide, the importance of AFSP’s mission has never been greater, nor our work more urgent,” Ms. Flores wrote on the Team 25 webpage for the Lake County Walk, as shown on the AFSP website, <http://afsp.donordrive.com>.

Webster is thankful for...

Sarah, 6th grade: “my family and all the nice people that know me and my teachers.”

Stephanie, 6th grade: “my puppy”

Monserrat, 8th grade, “my family and friends”

Travaughn, 7th grade, “for being alive”

Areli, 6th grade “for my friends and family”

Nina, 7th grade “I am most thankful for having a family who loves me and a roof over my head.”

Adrian, 7th grade, “My life”

Darrell, 7th grade, “For everything”

Dimitrius, 8th grade, “For my home and clothing to wear”

Ms. Strezo, teacher, “Ten fingers and ten toes”

## Nurse News

by **SARAH R.**

Nurse Washington urges students who are sick to stay home! Students should not come to school when they have a fever with a headache, stomachache or sore throat. Parents should call Webster to let the school know when students must miss school.

When I met with Nurse Washington, she also told me about the programs we have at school for both boys and girls. The boys’ program is called MVP (Males Valuing Personal Success) and the girls’ program is called Girl-to- Girl program. These programs are for 7th grade girls and boys. The meetings are held at Webster Middle School. Another health program at Webster is called Fuel Up To Play (FUTP) and it will be for

everyone in Webster School. One benefit of FUTP is that it provides for a fitness club after school for staff and students. At the fitness club, students and staff will be doing dance, aerobics, and other fitness activities. FUTP also includes exercise equipment, such as treadmills, exercise bikes and elliptical trainers. In addition, Nurse Washington will teach nutrition classes. Healthy snacks will be provided.

## Webster Sports

by Stephanie O. and Yasmine D.

During the fall season, Webster students participated in boys' and girls' track, girls' volleyball, and boys' soccer. Track and Field were awesome this fall. 7th Graders placed first and 8th graders placed second in Track and Field.

The coaches for the fall sports include Mrs. Payne, for the 6th and 7th grade boys' and girls' track teams, and Mr. Hogan, for the girls' and boys' 8th grade track teams. Ms. Stalsberg and Ms. Behmke coach the girls' volleyball team and Mr. Z and Mr. Stone coach boys' soccer.

All seasons are 8 weeks long, including tryouts, practice, competitions with all other middle schools, and an end of season tournament. After the tournaments, all athletes are recognized at a Sports Banquet, where the athletes and their families come together to celebrate one another's accomplishments.

Now that we have begun winter sports, students are wrestling and girls are playing basketball. Approximately two weeks after winter break, boys' basketball and cheerleading will begin.

## NEW TEACHERS

Mrs. Medina: "The body is a divine temple." Wise words from Mrs. Aurora Medina, a new math teacher here at Webster. We interviewed Mrs. Medina and here is what she told us.

Mrs. Medina has an interesting life. She grew up in Columbia with 8 older brothers and 3 older sisters. Sadly, her mother passed away when she only 9 years and she later she lost her father. It was her big brother who showed her that math was awesome. She said, "when I was with my brother he led me to love math." He showed her how to understand math in a different way.

She also has two wonderful children. Her oldest child is 25. He has his own business. Her daughter is 22 years old and she's a star in psychology.

Mrs. Medina has a lot of experience being a student herself. She got her Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Illinois. She has received 2 masters degrees and also, has done advanced work at the University of Chicago and IIT. She is now working on a Ph.D. in Administration.

Not all of Mrs. Medina's time is dedicated to teaching and learning. During her free time she loves to read, swim, play chess, do taekwon do, and travel. She has visited London, Japan, Korea, and other places. All her travels have helped her progress in learning foreign languages. Mrs. Medina speaks Spanish, Japanese, Korean, and a little bit of French.



**Mrs. Medina**



**Mrs. Babicke**

Mrs. Babicke is the new sixth grade Math teacher at Webster. Her mother was a teacher and this made her want to be a teacher too. She likes motivating her students to do their best. She has high expectations for her students, which are to try as hard as they can, get good grades, and to correct their mistakes.

Mrs. Babicke moved to Waukegan from Cincinnati, Ohio. Her favorite subjects in school were math, music and history and her least favorite subject was science.

## BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE BY STEPHANIE O.

Have you ever seen a teacher dancing? Mr. Griffin, eighth grade Social Studies teacher, was dancing in the gym at the Back to School dance on September 25. I interviewed Areli C., a sixth grade student about what went on at the dance.

Areli said there was music by Rihanna, Akon, and Soulja Boy, among other artists, playing at the dance. There weren't very many people dancing, most people were standing around in groups talking. Areli stated she wasn't dancing because she was taking pictures. Snacks such as popcorn, chips, candy, and soda were being sold. The money earned at the dance goes to the end of the year activities for the eighth graders, who organized the dance.

Areli thought the dance was overall good, but next time more people should dance! Also, she thought the next dance should have a theme. Areli's dream came true! The second dance featured a Halloween theme.



**BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE: Sixth and seventh grade students having fun at the first Webster dance of the year.**

# Webster Rocks!

by Sarah R.

# LOL!



What is band? What is orchestra? You may have heard these words before but do you really know what they're all about?

Band and orchestra are made up of Webster students who play instruments. The students perform all types of music, such as classical, popular, rock, jazz, and world music.

In band, there are three families of instruments: woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Orchestra features only strings, such as the violin, viola, and cello.

You may be saying, I like music, how can I get involved? Band and orchestra are open to anyone who likes music and wants to perform in front of others. Band and orchestra rehearse during school hours



like a regular class. Students without any musical experience may "absolutely" join, says Ms. Batty, Webster's wonderful band and orchestra teacher.

The major concert is held during *Fine Arts Night* but the band and orchestra also perform at other events at Webster and at the High School.

Still interested? It's not too late to join! Ms. Batty recommends students talk to her to choose an instrument and register for band or orchestra.

Q. What do you call a cute volcano?

A. Lava-ble!

Q. What did the tree say to the twig during the dance?

A. Let's get twiggy with it!

Q. Why did the nose refuse to go to school?

A. He was tired of being picked on!

Q. Why did the toilet paper roll down the hill?

A. To get to the BOTTOM!

**Like what you see in the newspaper? Have new ideas to share? We want to hear what you have to say! Join us Monday afternoons from 2:30-3:30 in room 112 and help us create the next issue of the Webster News!**

## Sounds Sweet!

by Jonathan C. & Areli C.

"Tra la la," is the sound of Webster's choir, in which approximately sixty sixth, seventh and eighth grade students sing every day. Ms. Novak is the choir teacher.

The chorus plans to perform in two different concerts this year. Also,

they hope to sing at some elementary schools and nursing homes.

The Webster concerts are held in the gym, on the stage. It is both fun and scary to perform in chorus, but the students work together to put on a great concert.

Ms. Novak said everyone should join the choir. The sixth grade chorus is

full for this year, but more students can sign up to join next year.

Ms. Novak was in choir since she was in second grade through college and now works as a professional singer. Ms. Novak is due for twin boys at the end of February.