

# The Bulldog Times

News from Woodlawn Elementary

October- Issue 4

## Woodlawn Named A Reward School For 2017-2018

By John DeLeonardis

This year CMCSS had 16 schools who earned the distinction of being a Reward School at the state level. To be named a Reward School, schools must show they are serving ALL their students well in a variety of areas. The state looks at absence rates, discipline and TNReady scores including growth in traditionally underserved groups. These include students with disabilities, ELL, economically disadvantaged students and black, Hispanic and Native American students. Congratulations to Woodlawn!



## Music Spotlight; Mr. Torres

By Allison Smith and John DeLeonardis

This year, Woodlawn welcomed a new music teacher, Mr. Torres. He is from the Dallas, TX area and has 15 years of teaching experience. He said he enjoys Woodlawn because the students are so friendly. Mr. Torres's love of music inspired him to be a music teacher. He is continuing the drum team and choir classes. Choir will be singing songs in unison and in parts. Drum team will play songs that are more challenging to the students and be using different instruments.

The Christmas program will be organized the same as last year with separate performances for certain grade levels. Programs are scheduled for December 18th and 19th. Times will be announced at a later date. The talent



show will be held in the spring and as many students that audition well will be allowed to perform.

## Halloween Safety

By Jarrod Freeburg and Trevon Mercado

Halloween is just around the corner and there are some rules that kids should follow. The most important rule of trick or treating is young children should never trick or treat alone. Always walk where somebody can see you. Children are twice more likely to get hit by a car/truck on Halloween says the National Safety Council. Always bring a flashlight when trick or treating so others can see you.

Make sure that any sword or other costume part is soft and flexible. Fasten reflective tape to your costumes. Walk and don't run from house to house. Never go into a stranger's house even when with a group.

Deputy Foster, Woodlawn's SRO suggests wearing something reflective and to use crosswalks if available and to make sure to look both ways when crossing streets. Only eat sealed candy after parents have checked your bag. Trick or Treat in well lit areas and stay on the sidewalk or driveway. Don't wear full-face masks that can make it hard to see or long costumes that can make you trip. Have a plan if somebody gets lost. Don't trick or treat alone until 14-15 years of age. Check your local newspaper for dates/times of trick or treating. Clarksville has no set day and time, but traditionally trick or treating is done on October 31st no matter if it is a school night or a weekend.



## Future is Bright for Northwest Agricultural Center

By Lane Parker

If you've been on Woodlawn Road lately you may have noticed a huge clearing. This is the new agriculture center for FFA at Northwest High School. This was an idea presented by Ms. Clegg; the FFA teacher and a group of parents. This is a good, but slow going project for the members that will help the community in the long run. Some community members who have helped are Ed White, Chris Cook, Patrick Cook and the Barnett family. The center is projected to be complete by the summer of 2020.



Funding is raised through the Booster Club with sales of products, plants and other outside events. The long-term vision for the project is for the students to have a place to grow and sell crops and raise animals. For more information, to donate or volunteer, please contact Megan Clegg at [megan.clegg@cmcss.net](mailto:megan.clegg@cmcss.net). Now go show your support and donate to them.



Did you know our issues are also available online? Visit [www.cmcss.net](http://www.cmcss.net), click on Woodlawn Elementary under the Schools tab and the most recent issues are available under the NEWS heading.



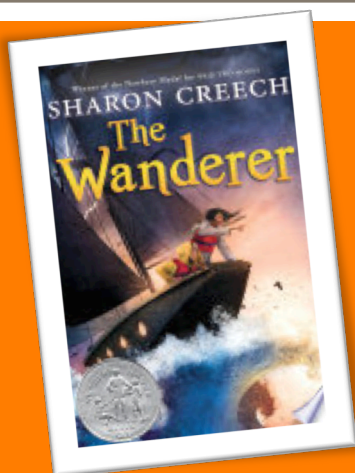
## Library News

By Eli Larson, Meadow Moon and Sarah Janssen

The bookmark contest is a school wide event coordinated through the library. The due date for the final draft is November 2nd. A rough draft must be turned in before that date to Mrs. Laws in order to receive the template for the final copy. Remember your bookmark must be your own idea, no copyrighted images are allowed.

In the Book Club, Mrs. Laws picks certain books for you and your friends to read. Then when you finish a book, she videos students talking about the book. Students in the grade level can see the videos and learn more about the book read by the club members. Mrs. Laws is using the videos to encourage more reading.

To join the Principal's Reading Club, Mrs. Laws will pick out three books every 9 weeks for each grade. At the end of those nine weeks students will take a test with 5 questions on each book to test comprehension. Students who pass the test will receive a free book!



## The Wanderer

By Sarah Janssen

The Wanderer is written by Sharon Creech and is a Newberry Medal winner. The Wanderer focuses on the life of a 13 year old girl named Sophie. Sophie decides to board the ship of the Wanderer with her 3 uncles and 2 cousins. Sophie feels like the sea is calling her so she goes on a trip across the Atlantic ocean to see her grandfather. She starts her brave journey in Kentucky and wishes to sail to England. There are 2 points of view in the story, one is Sophie and the other is Cody. Cody is one of Sophie's cousins. It has a total of 305 pages. Along the way the Wanderer docks at several places such as Seal Cove and Grand Manan.



# The Rules on the Bus “Go Round and Round”

By Mario Sottosanti and Logan Newman

On average the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration reports about 134 people die in school-vehicle-related crashes each year. Of those, 8% are riding on a bus. While riding a bus to school is safer than riding in the family vehicle or walking, the National Safety Council supports the addition of lap and shoulder belts in school buses to ensure the safest ride for children. Even if the bus is very safe, you still must behave on your bus. Accidents can happen at any moment of time. Be safe by listening to your driver and talking quietly. Always be thoughtful to others when you ride. It may not seem like it, but it can cause a distraction and accident.

In our interview with Mrs. Irwin, most bus write-ups are for hitting, loud talking, and hanging out in the aisle. Don't do these things if you want to avoid trouble. There are around 5-10 write-ups per week.

Our school system has a good safety record. Our buses are very safe in general and schools work with students on safety drills. Woodlawn performed bus evacuation drills the week of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Boosterthon Raises Money for the Playground

By Sofia Fuentes

Within the past two years our playgrounds have been remodeled twice. For both playgrounds we raised close to \$40,000 with last year's total at \$20,297.88 for our kindergarten playground. We raised that money using the Boosterthon. The Boosterthon is a fundraiser where students run 35 laps and family or friends are able pledge money per lap. Funds raised in the last two Boosterthons have been used for our playgrounds. The original playgrounds were at this school for forty-five years. The next time we add to the playgrounds, Mrs. Slivers wants to purchase more equipment for our kindergarten playground to fill space. Money from the next Boosterthon will be used for school resources and technology. Exact dates for the Fun Run will be announced in the early spring.



Newspaper staff enjoying the new playground equipment.

**Right: Fifth Grade students help others practice a bus evacuation drill.**



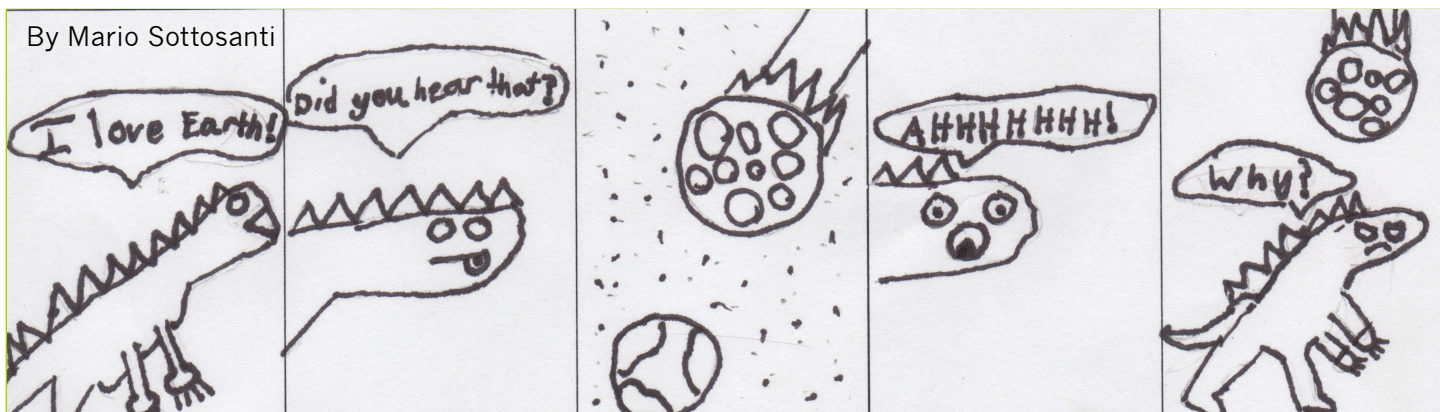
## Woodlawn 4-H

By Theresa McCoy and Morgan McWhorter



4-H is a group at Woodlawn organized by the guidance counselor, Mrs. Randall. We spoke to Mrs. Randall and asked her different questions about 4-H. She said that the main point of 4-H is to encourage diverse groups of youth to develop their unique skills and talents to the fullest potential. Also, 4-H encourages leadership in our community. She also said that it was her idea to restart 4-H when she came to work at Woodlawn. Mrs. Randall has worked here for ten years. All ten years she has sponsored this club and it has gone amazing. The last question that we asked Mrs. Randall was what projects 4-H will do this year. She said that we will do the poster contest, public speaking, photograph contest, and the piggy bank contest. 4-H's main project is to collect the recycling at our school. 4-H is a club that has lot of fun things for kids.

By Mario Sottosanti



## Fortnite and Screen Addiction: What Parents Should Know

By Olivia Rudling, Savannah Rose, Sterling Dunaway and Trevor Lill

Fortnite is one of the most popular video games to hit the screens. It is a warfare type game that includes fighting, survival and exploration of its island location. Players can work alone or in teams of 2-4. Players can build teams from a friend list or play with strangers on the online platform. Team members spread out on the map, searching for weapons and tools to help them survive while taking down opponents. The last player (or team) standing is the winner(s).

Fortnite is free to download and play, but players can make in-app purchases for costumes and equipment. These purchases require "V-bucks" which are only sold in \$10-\$100 increments. Parents can block purchases on some devices but they cannot be blocked on a PC or Mac computer once a card is linked to the account without deleting the card information.

The game is rated T for Teen which is equivalent to a PG-13 movie. Fortnite does include some violence, but there is no blood and players who fail just disappear and go back to the starting point. Positive things about the game include creativity and teamwork in building barricades, towers and booby traps. Players must also fight a storm that pushes players closer together and takes away their strength. The American Academy of Pediatrics, however, says that war based games can lead to aggressive behavior and thoughts and the APA suggests parents limit access to these types of games. One reviewer suggested parents play with their children to fully experience the action and make their own judgement. Another said playing the game had given her a chance to talk to her child about gun safety.

One concern is players being able to talk to strangers while playing. Parents can turn off chat or simply tell their children to take off headsets when an adult is on their team. Volume can also be muted.

Experts also warn of children and teens showing signs of addiction to screen time. Lower grades, missing sleep and not spending time with friends are examples of screen addiction. Parents can help by setting time limits on play or only letting kids play on the weekends.

## Good Grades Lead to Jr. Beta

By Morgan McWhorter

Jr. Beta is a great organization to be a part of. Students must be in fifth grade and have an average grade point of 90% and meet behavior expectations. Students must be invited to participate. The students will begin meeting after the first nine week grading period.

Jr. Beta meets every month in the library to discuss and work on service projects with our counselor, Mrs. Randall. One of these projects is to collect pull tabs off of aluminum cans to donate to the Ronald McDonald House. Jr. Beta is a wonderful program that promotes leadership.

## Sock Hop- October 19, 2018 6-8pm

By Orion Duckwiller, Lane Parker and Theresa McCoy

At Woodlawn Elementary there is a tradition that every year we do a sock hop and the fall festival. We spoke to Krystal McClure, one of the P.T.O. members to find out our information. We also spoke with the P.E teachers at our school. They said that the estimated amount of people who will be attending the sock hop is about five hundred. The current activities for this years sock hop and fall festival are the football throw, bowling, ring toss, corn hole, bean bag toss, pumpkin golf, tattoo booth and poke a pumpkin.