

# Wilkins Monthly

Wilkins Junior High  
School

Volume I Issue I  
September—2016

## Principal's Corner

Welcome to all our new and returning students! The community of Wilkins Junior High, the parents, staff and students make this an outstanding place to learn and grow.

As we begin the school year I want to encourage all parents to get to know their child's teachers, course schedule, activities which they can be involved in and ask questions. For those who have their first child going to middle school, please be comforted to know that the staff members at Wilkins are the best! We are very proud to have highly qualified staff teaching in every content area and work very hard for every student.

Parents are partners in their child's education. We ask that you talk to your child each day about what happened in school that day. Ask them to tell you about particular subjects, activities and friends. Ask them to see their assignment notebooks and show you their homework. Read with them and to them. Take opportunities to have your child practice math in real world situations such as at the store.

Our goal is to make our students exceptional academically, socially and physically. As your child starts the year, have him/her set goals and develop a plan to monitor those goals throughout the year.

I look forward to a great school year. I appreciate everyone supporting our children and encouraging them to be the best they can be. Welcome back and as always thank you for all you do for to support the school and your child's education.

*Mr. Porrey*  
*Principal*

## From the District Office

### Calling All Substitutes!

Indian Springs School District #109 is looking to add to its list of available substitute teachers and paraprofessionals. If you are interested in being a substitute in our School District, please contact Mary Ann Hotzfield, School District Receptionist, at

(708)496-8700. The eligibility requirement to be a substitute teacher is to possess a teaching license or substitute teacher license (the substitute teacher license requires a Bachelor's Degree). The eligibility requirement to be a substitute paraprofessional is to possess a paraprofessional license. Feel free to contact Mary Ann Hotzfield for further details.

## From the Attendance Office:

If your student does not come to school, please call the attendance office to report the absence and excuse your student for the day or days.

No matter what the reason is, absences **must** be reported to the attendance office.

Absences can be reported any time of the night or day. The Wilkins Junior High number is (708) 496-8710.

When the computer answers, dial extension 213 to leave your voice message.

| Date               | Event / Activity                             | Time                       |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|
| September 6, 2016  | Open House                                   | 6:30 pm                    |
| September 7, 2016  | Volleyball Wilkins vs Finley                 | Girls 3:30pm—Boys 4:30 pm  |
| September 8, 2016  | Volleyball Wilkins vs Independence           | Boys 3:30 pm—Girls 4:30 pm |
| September 12, 2016 | 7th Grade Picture Day                        | 8:30 am                    |
| September 12, 2016 | Volleyball Wilkins vs Kolmar                 | Girls 3:30pm—Boys 4:30 pm  |
| September 13, 2016 | Band and Orchestra—Open House<br>Recruitment |                            |
| September 14, 2016 | Progress Report Issued                       |                            |
| September 14, 2016 | Volleyball Wilkins vs Worth                  | Boys 3:30 pm—Girls 4:30 pm |
| September 15, 2017 | Honor Society Nominations                    |                            |
| September 15, 2016 | Volleyball Wilkins vs Prairie                | Girls 3:30pm—Boys 4:30 pm  |
| September 19, 2016 | Volleyball Prairie vs Wilkins                | Boys 3:30 pm—Girls 4:30 pm |
| September 20, 2016 | Artworks Meeting                             | 2:35 pm                    |
| September 20, 2016 | Volleyball Wilkins vs Hille                  | Girls 3:30pm—Boys 4:30 pm  |
| September 22, 2016 | Volleyball Tournament                        | 3:30 pm                    |
| September 26, 2016 | Volleyball Tournament                        | 3:30 pm                    |
| September 27, 2016 | Artworks Meeting                             | 2:35 pm                    |
| September 28, 2016 | Volleyball Tournament                        | 3:30pm                     |
| September 29, 2016 | Volleyball Tournament                        | 3:30pm                     |

## Spanish

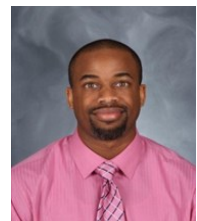
Welcome back to school! My name is Ms. Jacobs and I am the Spanish teacher at Wilkins Junior High. This is my 15<sup>th</sup> year teaching at WJH. Students placed in Spanish will either take Spanish 1 or Spanish 2. Spanish 1 is for any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader who has never taken a Spanish class before. Spanish 2 is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade class for students who have successfully completed Spanish 1 last year at Wilkins. The goal of the Spanish program is to teach students a level 1 high school curriculum over the course of two years. In January, Spanish 2 students will be taking the Spanish Argo placement test. This test is used to see if they can test out of level one Spanish at Argo. If students pass this exam, they will also receive an elective credit for taking Spanish the last two years. If you have any questions throughout the year, please feel free to email me at [rjacobs@isd109.org](mailto:rjacobs@isd109.org).

## ART

Hello there! I am Mrs. Farnesi, your child's art teacher! This is my 12<sup>th</sup> year teaching at WJH. I am an active member of the National Art Education Association (NAEA), the Illinois Art Education Association (IAEA), and a working artist.

I believe that art is an important part of the core curriculum, as it ties into all subjects. Through the course of my class students not only create works of art but also learn reading comprehension skills while looking at and talking about art. The students also learn the following skills while creating art: collaboration, cooperation, communication, creativity, organization, problem-solving, to be able to self-direct, be socially responsible, and be fluent with technology.

All the skills they learn in art are lifelong skills that they can use no matter where they go in life. I enjoy teaching art and watching what each student has accomplished through hard work! It is amazing to see how they grow with each new piece! Don't forget to check out our online school gallery on Artsonia and you can follow us this year on Instagram and Twitter! If you have any questions throughout the year, please contact me at [efarnesi@isd109.org](mailto:efarnesi@isd109.org).



## Communications

Hi! I am Mr. Greer. This year will be my first year on the Encore team as a Communication teacher. I attended Eastern Illinois University, where I earned my Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies. In addition, I hold a Master's degree in Teaching and a Master's in Educational Leadership. This is my sixth year teaching at Wilkins Jr. High. My wife and I have two children, ages 6 and 5. I enjoy cooking, reading, sports, and music. I look forward to getting to know all of my new students and parents/guardians this year.



### Writing

My name is Mrs. Ann Soltis, I teach 7th and 8th Grade writing. I have been a District 109 teacher for 12 years. I have taught 5th and 6th grades for 10 years and have been the School Improvement Assistant for 2 years at Lyle Elementary. I am very excited to start a new chapter in my teaching career as a junior high teacher. Currently in our writing class, the students are reading and responding to current events centered around teen violence. Students have been researching and writing about the problems affecting teens ranging from bullying to gun violence on the streets of Chicago. Students are not only asked to identify different problems affecting teens, but also to provide solutions in order to better our society.

Phone: 708-496-8708 Ext. 239

Email: [asoltis@isd109.org](mailto:asoltis@isd109.org) (best/ quickest method)

IT'S THAT TIME = 7TH GRADERS - **PICTURE DAY** - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2016 — BRING THOSE BIG BEAUTIFUL SMILES!

### **Box Tops for Education/Labels for Education**

Wilkins Junior High will once again be collecting Box Tops for Education. Please send any box tops you have at home to school with your child. Box tops can be given to your child's homeroom teacher. For a list of participating products visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products>. This will be the last year WJH will be collecting Campbell's Labels for Education. This is due to a change in the program. If you have any Labels for Education, please send them with your student to school. This will be the last year WJH will be participating in the labels for education program.

Welcome to all of our returning teachers and our New Teachers for 2016-2017 School Year to Wilkins Junior High:

#### **New Teachers**

Mr. Jeff Smiley

Mr. Brad London

Mr. Jonathan Steele

Ms. Nicole Vaughn

Mrs. Ann Daoud-Soltis

Mr. John Houk

Ms. Kelly Tregler

Ms. Janeen Kateeb

Mr. Wojciech Palar

Ms. Sarah Rzeszutko

Ms. Theresa Poulsen

New This Year—The Wilkins Junior High Choir is starting on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. They will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings before school and perform at three concerts throughout the year. If students are interested in joining, Interest Forms are due to the Office by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Ms. Loeffler for more information ([kloeffler@isd109.org](mailto:kloeffler@isd109.org)).

### **7th Grade Social Studies**

Students are learning about the importance and differences between Primary and Secondary Sources. They are also focusing on the culture, geography and economy of Sudan before they begin reading The Long Walk to Water in Language Arts.

### **8th Grade Social Studies**

Students are learning about the importance and differences between Primary and Secondary Sources. They are analyzing the causes, events and people of the Civil War. In terms of current events they enjoy keeping up with the news through Flocabulary activities.



Alicja & Oliva



trying to “Save Sammy” using only paper clips during our team building



Matt and Anthony



Greg, Berenika, and John learning about cells while using microscopes.



### 7th Grade Math

Welcome to 7th grade Math! Students began the school year participating in cooperative learning groups. They worked together as a team to finish tasks. These tasks taught them the importance of working together and that all participants in a group are leaders; not one student is a leader. These activities prepared students for the new math series that we are implementing this year. In math, we will be using the Carnegie Learning Series. Carnegie incorporates cooperative learning along with mastering the Common Core Standards for Math. Students in 7th grade have begun the Number Systems Unit. They are learning how to add and subtract rational numbers using the rules, numberline and math manipulatives.

We look forward to an exciting school year!







### **7th Grade Accelerated**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Accelerated students began the year focusing on building on their ability to work with one another. In the first week students were working on different team building activities. During these activities students learned how to effectively be a team player when working with others and how to effectively communicate in a group setting, which can be difficult.

The students also broke open their books and began our new Carnegie math series! In the 7<sup>th</sup> grade accelerated course, students will go through all of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math standards, as well as about half of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade material. We began in Chapter 4, which focuses on addition and subtraction of rational numbers. Students have furthered their understandings of addition and subtraction by using different representations like a number line and pictorial representations. Soon, students will be looking into Chapter 5 of the Carnegie Series which will discuss multiplying and dividing rational numbers.

We are looking forward to a great and successful school year!

### **8th Grade Math**

Our 8th graders are off to a great start!. We've been getting acquainted and practicing our classroom expectations and norms. Through many team activities, we've learned what it takes to work effectively as a group and how to communicate our math ideas. We are also very excited about our new math series, Carnegie Learning. Our first unit is about the Real Number System. This unit will allow students to build a deep understanding of quantity, ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers, and number systems. Students learn that numbers are governed by properties, and understanding these properties leads to fluency with operations.

Please ensure your student is developing good school habits by writing down all assignments, completing all assignments, and reviewing class notes daily. Please ask your students about what they've learned in the classroom about brain research and the growth mindset.

We look forward to an exciting and productive school year!

### **8th Grade Accelerated**

The 8th Grade Accelerated students started the year with the threat of each day being a Monday from here on out. They worked together to discover and decipher clues, some which even involved a black light flashlight. After 45 minutes the students were unable to escape the curse but they learned a lot about communication and collaborative work throughout the activity. We look forward to trying to Breakout again this year. For more information on the activity please go to [www.breakoutedu.com](http://www.breakoutedu.com).

The accelerated students will be studying  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the 8th grade standards as well as the Algebra 1 standards. We will be working at a quick pace as we discover and discuss our way through math. We started with a chapter on the Pythagorean Theorem where students used this equation to solve a variety of real world problems.

