



# WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY

Newsletter, Aug/Sept 2023

## Upcoming Events

### August

30th Meet and Greet 3-5PM

### September:

5th First Day of School

22nd Picture Day

PTAC Meeting ([Virtual Link](#))

### 23-24 Family Handbook

*Please review our policies and procedures.*

### Getting from place to place:

**Doors open at 8:30.**

**The bell rings at 8:45.**

**Students are dismissed at 3:30.**

**Walkers:** We are lucky to have sidewalks, safety patrol members, and a crossing guard to help get our students to school safely. Please use crosswalks, sidewalks, and paths while walking to school.

**Bike Riders:** Please walk bikes while on school property. Bike riders will use the same crosswalks as walkers and must walk bikes behind the school to the bike racks, closest to 28th St.

**Busers:** Busers arrive at school at 8:30. Busing details are found in Skyward.

**Drop Off and Pick Up:** Adults may walk student up to the drop off island or remain in the pick up line to drop off or pick up. Walk up parking is located on the north end of the parent parking area.

 **Washington Elementary, WRPS**  
**@WRPSWashingtonWolves**

[www.wrps.org/schools/washington](http://www.wrps.org/schools/washington)

# Wolf Pack Pride News



The start of the school year is a time of new beginnings. To ensure the year goes well please make sure we have multiple forms of open communication in place. All families have SeeSaw and Skyward access. Please review the checklist below.



## Communication Check List

- Class assignments are confirmed in Skyward on August 21st. Log in to see your child's teacher.
- Sign up for SeeSaw
  - Questions? Contact your child's teacher. This will be your form of direct access to the classroom.
- Log In to Skyward, Ensure online verification is complete.
  - You will also be able to enter absences, review progress reports, and schedule parent-teacher conferences using Skyward.
- Talk with the school office or your child's teacher about special circumstances
  - Custody agreements, pick-up plans, health concerns
- Never hesitate to call, we are here to help! **715-424-6788**

## HELLO

### Visitors and Volunteers

**All community members who wish to assist at a school event, in the classroom, or go on a field trip must complete a background check. Please [click here](#) to complete the application process.**

### School Safety

We regularly practice safety drills at Washington. Fire drills, code yellows, and evacuation drills are a part of what we do to ensure students and staff are prepared in case of an emergency.

Details are available in our yearly

[Parent Safety Drill Information](#)



# PTAC Updates (Parent Teacher Activity Committee)



Check out community events and activities by [clicking here.](#)



Information on **Box Tops** can be found [here.](#)

## Washington Elementary School's Therapy Dog!



Pacha is a 3 year old golden retriever and licensed therapy dog! Pacha was adopted from The Golden Retriever Rescue of Wisconsin in 2020 by our secretary. He passed his therapy dog test with Therapy Dogs International on November 12, 2022. He enjoys cuddling, relaxing on the couch, swimming, and playing with his energetic canine sister.



**CONTACT US**  
2911 Washington Street  
Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494  
715-424-6788  
715-315-9626 (Cell Phone)



Meetings are on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. They are in person in our school cafeteria or via zoom by clicking [here](#). All families are welcome and invited to attend. You make a difference!

### Officers:

President: Steph Manka  
Vice President: Jenny Wierzba  
Secretary: Jessica Russell  
Treasurer: Staci Dewitt

Our FundRun is one of two big fundraisers we have each year. This is a chance for students to get pledges for their efforts. Please watch for the FundRun form to come home in backpacks the 2nd week of school. We thank you for your support! Please turn in your forms by September 29th, the day of our event.

Another way to support our FundRun is to sponsor a class snack when they finish their run.

[Sign up here to help!](#)

## What is **Bright by Text** ?

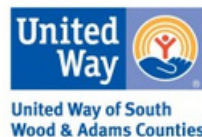
Bright by Text is a **free** program for parents & caregivers that sends tips and resources promoting child development, specific to each child's age, right to their cell phone.

92% of parents are more confident as a result of receiving Bright by Text messages.



Bright by Text families have **children** who are on average **3 months** ahead of a comparison group in language development.

Feel more prepared & informed with research-based messages about healthy child development, and local messages with resources from United Way of South Wood & Adams Counties.



Our Wolf Pack works hard to be **Respectful, Responsible, and Safe**. Each month we will be practicing skills that will teach our pack how to regulate their emotions, be kind, and be Wolf Pack Proud.

Watch for more details to come from our Student Services Team on ways you can support this work.

# School Nursing Updates



## Medications:

If your child needs over the counter medications please make sure they are labeled with the child's name and are in the original packaging.

We must administer the recommended dosage and will inform you if it is given.

## Contact Information:

Please keep contact information up to date in Skyward. In an emergency we want to be able to reach you!

## Questions for the nurse?

Call 715-424-6788 for Nurse Michelle Forcier. She is here to help!



**"Hooked on Scouting"  
Where Adventure Begins!**

Youth Success Coalition partner Samoset Council, Boy Scouts of America serves families & youth with programs that support the coalition's goal by providing youth with mentors, role models, and enrichments that enhance growth and development. Scouting has programs for all youth!

Cub Scouts is a year-round program for both boys and girls (K-5th grade) in which fun and challenging activities promote character development. Cub Scouts teaches youth to embrace opportunity and overcome obstacles, while giving parents new opportunities to make an impact.

Scouts BSA is a year-round program for older boys and girls (ages 11-18) that teaches leadership, service to others, and life skills through youth-led outdoor adventure. No Scouting experience is required to join Scouts BSA.

Find Scouting units near you at [www.beascout.org](http://www.beascout.org)! You can request information from local Scout leaders, or apply right online. For more information, please contact Samoset Council by phone at 715-355-1450 or online at [www.Samoset.org/Join!](http://www.Samoset.org/Join!)

# District Information



WRPS has changed content filtering programs over the summer. We are no longer using Securly and have now transitioned to Blocks. This program will keep students safe at school and home when using their school-issued devices and accounts. As a partner in your child's education, we feel it is of value to give you access to the Blocks manager. In the parent dashboard, you'll have a real-time view of your child's activity on their school device or account. In addition to these features, you will be able to block specific categories such as social media and gaming on your child's school device or account when they are logged in at home. Blocks also has the capability to pause the internet at home. You will also be notified of any flagged activities pointing to self-harm or bullying related to your child.

You will receive an email invitation to Blocks to set up your parent dashboard. You can also access the dashboard via an app available for Android and iOS devices. You can access the web-based version by navigating to <https://blocks.net/bmee-parent.php>.

If you receive an email or error indicating your email address is not found, verify in your Skyward account that you are using the correct email address. If you are unable to verify your email address, please reach out to your child's school secretary to make sure you have a valid email address on file. Other questions can be directed to Phil Bickelhaupt, Director of Technology, at [phillip.bickelhaupt@wrps.net](mailto:phillip.bickelhaupt@wrps.net).

You can access the Blocks Parent Hub [here](#) with resources for using the Blocks Parent Dashboard and helping you manage your child's Chromebook.



**WISCONSIN RAPIDS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Pupil Non-Discrimination Statement:** The School District of Wisconsin Rapids is committed to equal educational opportunity for all District students. The District will not deny any person admission to, participation in, or the benefits of any curricular, extra-curricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of a person's gender, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, transgender status, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected under State or Federal civil rights laws. Please review Board Policy 411 for additional information. Incidents of discrimination or harassment should be reported to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee to be addressed or forwarded to District Compliance Officer Brian Oswall.

**Special Statement Regarding Sex Discrimination Under Title IX:** In compliance with the federal Title IX statutes and regulations set forth in Chapter 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that the District operates. Title IX's requirement not to discriminate in any education program or activity extends to cover, but is not limited to, District students, certain admissions processes, and District employment. Inquiries regarding how Title IX and the federal Title IX regulations apply to the District may be referred to the District's Title IX Coordinator (as designated below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, or to both. Please refer to Board Policy 411.11 for additional information.

WRPS Title IX Coordinators

Brian Oswall, Director of Human Resources  
510 Peach Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
P: 715-424-6710  
E: [brian.oswall@wrps.net](mailto:brian.oswall@wrps.net)

Steven Hepp, Director of Pupil Services  
510 Peach Street  
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494  
P: 715-424-6724  
E: [steven.hepp@wrps.net](mailto:steven.hepp@wrps.net)