



PANTHER TRACKS

A Publication of the Washington Mathematics Science Technology Public Charter High School
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WMST PREDICTS WINNER OF THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Students and staff had an opportunity to vote for the president in a mock election held during the Panther Period.

Ms. Gail Freeman, music teacher here at WMST, prepared the "ballots" and distributed them to each homeroom. All students, as well as staff, had an opportunity to participate.

Also on the WMST "ballot" was the question, "Should WMST accept students from all over Washington, DC?"

In a 150-10 vote, students and staff voted for President Obama to serve a second term. WMST was very much in sync with the General Election held on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. President Barack

Obama won the election in a neck-in-neck race with Republican Candidate Mitt Romney.

In response to the question of whether WMST should accept students from all across DC, students and staff voted yes, 200-50.

As a follow-up activity in Panther Period, each homeroom listened to the President's acceptance speech and were instructed to write a congratulatory letter to him that included strategies on how we as citizens



can do our part to meet some of the goals and challenges facing our country.

In his acceptance speech, President Obama said, "The role of citizens in our Democracy does not end with your vote. America's never been about what can be done for us. It's about what can be done by us together through the hard and frustrating, but necessary work of self-government. That's the principle we were founded on."

"This shared destiny," he said, "is citizens' obligations to each other that include love, charity, duty, and patriotism."

WMST Ranks High in 3 Areas on the 2012 Performance Management Framework

Based on results of the 2012 Performance Management Framework (PMF), the DC Public Charter School Board's yearly tool for assessing and monitoring charter schools' performance, WMST ranked high in 3

areas: 10th grade reading and math performance on the DC CAS, and graduation rate.

WMST was 1 of 4 charter high schools with the highest median growth percentile in DC CAS

reading. WMST also had the highest growth in individual student 10th grade math performance on the DC CAS. The school is 1 of 4 charter schools with the highest graduation rate. Congratulations WMST!



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Students Participate in International Education Week 2012

Three students - Tiffany Humphries, Naje Crawford and Tykea Starkes participated in the International Education Week event. Accompanied by Dr. Bruce Bradford, Intervention Coordinator and health teacher, WMST students discussed health issues with students from the Aldridge School (our sister school) in Walsall, UK via Skype.

The theme for this year was "The United States Celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Title IX." U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan stated that Title IX is "...the historic act which opened the doors of athletics to millions of girls and young women. He continued by saying that Title IX exemplifies the

importance of children growing both intellectually and physically in order to pursue their dreams. He also stated that "Students who play sports are more likely to achieve academic success as college graduates and less likely to use drugs, get pregnant as teenagers or become obese."

WMST students skyped from the U.S. Department of Education while Aldridge students participated from the U.S. Embassy in the UK. Students responded to the question of whether they thought there was enough physical activity at their schools.

Aldridge students said that they were

mandated to participate in two hours of physical activity per week. WMST students responded by saying that physical activity for them was limited because of a lack of facilities for sports or exercise. They added that another drawback was that the school is surrounded by fast food restaurants. Both groups of students agreed that more physical activity is needed and that proper eating extends health. They felt that obesity is controllable. Both schools agreed that they did not like mandatory exercise.

Dr. Bradford commented that the students were excited to participate. The event was sponsored by the Transcontinental School Innovation Alliance.

The Future is Here...RU?

Technology Department 4th Annual Technology Conference

"Students Embracing the Technological Future" was the theme for this year's technology conference held on November 14, 2012.

Guest presenters included James Haver from the University of the District of Columbia Community College Department of Aviation Maintenance Technology Programs. Mr. Haver, an aircraft engineer, talked to students about UDC's Aerospace Program, which offers two paths of aviation

training: the Aircraft Mechanic's Certificate and the Aviation Maintenance Technology Program. His advice to students was "Sacrifice now because the payoff is bigger than you can imagine."

Also presenting was Ms. Vivian McKnight from the U.S. Department of Transportation. She encourages employees from the USDT to talk to students about STEM education. She stressed that the federal government is

looking for young, talented people for careers that require STEM skills.

Dr. Nicole Francis, Program Manager for SDSE, LLC and NASA Research, told students they had everything to succeed. She asked the students about WMST's mission statement, which contains the words *rigorous* and *self-motivated*.

Dr. Francis talked about future jobs where there will be a 47% increase in

4th Annual Technology Conference continued...

science and engineering jobs over the next 10 years. She said students should know math and science, but that they should learn to write as well. "Employers," she said, "pay people well who can write." She also said that knowing how to speak well is also important. Dr. Francis said that young people start out with a desire for money, but she asked, "Do you have the desire to get there?"

Dr. Lucy Perez, a licensed pediatrician who now works with Dr. Francis, gave a compelling address and offered this advice: "Who you are now so much dictates who you will be in the future; you are the creator of your future."

Baba Ras D ended the program with a fiery message to the 120 student participants. "I have high expectations of you and I know you have high expectations

tions of yourself. Armor yourself up and have determination to break through the concrete and blossom and bloom."



Dr. Nicole Francis

Senior Wins World Bank Global Photography Competition

Melanie Wynn, a WMST senior, won the global photography competition from the World Bank's "The Sustainability of Cities" program.

Ms. Brennan's AP Literature class participated in the program in which leaders from the World Bank provided students with a camera, and instructed them to take 27 pictures of their city that focused on what they liked and did not like about their city.

Leaders from the World Bank came to WMST and conducted a half day program where students discussed how they envision their city, and how they would like to see it in the next 20 years.

The results of the students' work, along with ideas from students from other countries, were included in a symposium in Barcelona, Spain.

Ms. Wynn's photo competed with over 100 entries from students in Bangkok (Thailand), Manila (Philippines), Tokyo, (Japan), and Washington, DC. The judges, who were professional photographers, urban specialists, and development workers, were very impressed by Melanie's composition and the "powerful unheard voice" that came through in the photo. Her picture depicts a young child, gazing from a car window at older kids who were hanging out in front of a southeast apartment

building.

The focus of the photo is the importance of role models and how young children learn from older children and others.



Banking and Finance Brought Into the Classroom

Volunteers from BB&T, E*TRADE, Industrial Bank, State Bank of India-CA, and Wells Fargo recently came to WMST and presented the *Banking on Our Future Program* to students in grades 9-12. Sponsored by Operation Hope, the program is designed to educate youth between the ages of 9-18 in banking, finance and investing.

The curriculum is aligned to Principles and Standards for School Mathematics as developed by the National Council of

"When you start earning a steady income for the first time, it's easy to spend too much on luxuries or to take on debt. But it's also the best time to set yourself on the path toward wealth"
U.S. News and World Reports

Teachers of Mathematics and consists of five modules: Dignity, Basics of Banking, Checking & Savings Accounts, the Power of Credit, and Invest-

ments. The training volunteers provided information that is critical for students to begin thinking about establishing a strong financial foundation, and for exposing students to a wealth of opportunities and professional paths.

Each student was provided with a workbook containing worksheets for hands-on activities in making a budget, check writing, establishing credit and stock market literacy.

AFJROTC Participates in First Year Orientation Camp

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Clyde Henderson, senior instructor for Air Force Junior ROTC (AFJROTC) at WMST, accompanied approximately 30 cadets to the First Year Orientation Camp (formerly known as Boot Camp) on November 16-18, 2012. The camp took place at Camp Schmidt in Brandywine, Maryland. The program is a 54-hour ROTC intensive course that is uninterrupted by cell phones, I-Pods, or other types of distractions. The three-day rigorous edu-

cational and physical training programs are specifically designed to orient new cadets to AFJROTC protocols,



history, fitness and academic programs. The camp is run by the senior cadets in the program and supervised by Training Officers who are JROTC instructors.

For some cadets, the first boot camp experience is very hard. To the surprise of many parents, the few days away in a strict environment generally has a positive affect on the cadet.

More Panther News.....

WMST senior, Delante Henderson, won a \$25 gift card for his winning essay entitled "This School Year Will Be More Successful Than My Last Because..." The Back 2 School essay contest was sponsored by Kappa Youth Development Inc. of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Upper Marlboro/Waldorf (MD) Alumni Chapter.



Delante Henderson and Kappa Alpha Psi Member

IB students went on a field trip to Obama Headquarters in Lorton, Virgin-

ia. Students learned how a grass roots political organization runs a campaign on the local level. Students earned community service hours by making phone calls to potential donors, assembling Obama/Biden lawn signs, and making posters for polling sites. The Virginia Democratic Headquarters treated the students to a pizza lunch.

Fifteen WMST students are participating in the *Text Alive* program sponsored by the Shakespeare Theater. With students from all over the DC metropolitan area, they will produce, direct and stage one act of the play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare. This play will take place on the actual Shakespeare Theatre stage in December 2012.

The WMST Debate Team, led by English teacher Nick Krug, made their opening debut at the first debate of the Urban Debate League. The topics were: "The Smithsonian Should Require Admission Fees," "Voting in the United States Should be Compulsory," and "Developed Countries have a Moral Obligation to Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change." WMST teams did very well, each winning at least one debate.

Seniors are vigorously working on their science fair projects. They have selected a topic and have conducted research to learn more about their topic. In the November phase of the project, seniors planned and conducted their experiment. In December they will be analyzing results and drawing their conclusions. Papers, board displays, & presentations are due in January 2013.

A big shout out to everyone who contributed news and information to the premier issue of Panther Tracks!

We'll see back in 2013 for the winter edition..

