

Brooklyn Bridge

A monthly newsletter connecting you to Wetzel County Schools' County Office

VOL. 3, ISSUE 2



JASON Learning
Argonauts



WCS Menu
App Update



WCTEC Welding
Christmas Tree
Display



Sources of
Strength



Support Staff
in the Schools



American
Education
Week

JASON Argonauts Attend Design Thinking Expedition

Jeremy Kelch, teacher at Hundred High School, and Cole Henderson, Junior at Hundred High School, attended the JASON Learning's "Design Thinking" Argonaut Expedition in San Francisco and Silicon Valley, CA, November 5-9, 2018. Design Thinking provides a solution-based approach to solving problems. It is a way of thinking and working as well as a collection of hands-on methods. As noted on the JASON Learning website, Design Thinking "draws on logic, imagination, intuition, knowledge, and reasoning to explore, design and test possible solutions".



While in California, Mr. Kelch and Cole interacted with several companies, including Facebook, Apple, Google, Meltwater, Bloomlife, Obvious Ventures, IDEO, and iNaturalist. The group of Argonauts also had the opportunity to visit Stanford and Cal Academy. As JASON Argonauts, Mr. Kelch and Cole were engaged in design thinking projects every evening of the expedition. Mr. Toman and Mrs. Cooley had the opportunity to join the group for the first two days of the trip.

All the JASON Argonauts are planning to do presentations at all the schools in the upcoming months.



Argonauts at Apple



WCS Menu App Update

The new WCS Menu App is now available! This free app can be found by searching Menus For Schools in the App Store for your device. Once downloaded, search for All Schools - Wetzel. In addition to viewing lunch menus, nutritional information will also be available for each menu item.



Menus for Schools

MedProcure Tools

E Everyone

Contains Ads

 This app is compatible with your device.

WCTEC Welding Program to Provide Tree for Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce

WCTEC Welding has partnered with the Wetzel County Chamber of Commerce to provide a Christmas Tree, which will be displayed in front of city hall in New Martinsville throughout the holiday season. The lighting ceremony will take place on December 1, following the Christmas Parade. The tree will stand between 12 and 16 feet tall and will be able to be used year after year. A generous donation from the Chamber of Commerce helped with the purchase of a CNC Plasma Table, which allows decorative pieces to be created and cut from large pieces of metal. All are invited to attend the lighting ceremony.



Sources of Strength

The Sources of Strength Peer Leaders from New Martinsville School pose for a photo following a Peer Leader meeting held November 9th. This month the Peer Leaders are spreading hope, help, and strength through their Generosity Campaign. The Peer Leaders are planning to gather toiletries and other necessary supplies for Youth Services System.



Wetzel County Schools
website

wetzelcountyschools.com



Trainings

Don't forget to use the ERO
system to register and check for
updates!

[http://
ero5.eschoolsolutions.com](http://ero5.eschoolsolutions.com)

District ID: 26155



Support Staff in the Schools

Wetzel County Schools wishes a special thank you to our support staff in the schools. These include, but are not limited to, our school counselors, resource officers, and social workers. Our social workers help assist as a bridge between the school, families, and outside agencies when necessary, as well as helping with several other facets of the school system. Our resource officers help our schools and communities by their presence in our schools, to serve as a deterrent, to help assist with safety, and to build relationships between students and law enforcement by being visible in the schools and with classroom lessons centered around various safety topics, and bullying. Our counselors help assist our students with a multitude of academic, career, and personal-social needs for the purpose of the whole child. Thank you to all of these employees!

School counselors—Teresa Sleeth, John Holliday, Valerie Clark, Brooke Liptak, Sherry Croasmun, Beverly VanScyoc, Rebecca McClain, Robert Gomez, Chad West, and Jessica Mace

School resource officers—Donald Bordenkircher, Courtney South, Randy Adams, Mary Bordenkircher, and Adam Skinner

School social workers—Terri Beaty and Jacqueline Watkins



AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK PROCLAMATION

November 12-16, 2018

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing your people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees, be they substitute educators, cooks, custodians, teachers, bus operators, secretaries, maintenance, mechanics, aides, or librarians, work tireless to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and


WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Wetzel County Board of Education, serving as Wetzel County Schools, do hereby proclaim November 12-16, 2018 as the 97th annual observance of American Education Week.

As an expression of our gratitude, we will dismiss school staff at 12:30 on Friday, December 21, so that the holiday break can begin a half day early.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and rewarding school year.

Sincerely,



Wetzel County Board of Education
Gary J. Cooley
Jay Genger
Brian R.
Brian Jones

Leaders, Remember: Holidays Can Be Hard for Children

By Jill Berkowicz and Ann Myers

Holiday time is approaching. For most of us, it is a happy time with family and friends, with memories and fondly held traditions. Most schools engage in activities that help raise funds for families in need, offering food and other gifts. It can make a difference for the young recipients, but there are other issues that run deeper than the need for food or gifts. Those issues are highlighted at holiday time, but remain percolating in the lives of students all through the year. Those issues, as unique as every child's life story, are the same in one way. They hurt.

While charged with keeping buildings safe, making sure teaching, learning, and evaluation are taking place, and following standards and expectations, this time of year serves as a reminder that students live and come to school carrying burdens over which they have no control. They interfere with the child's well-being and their readiness to learn. Children can only learn when they can bring themselves to the learning environment ready to learn. Behaviors escalate this time of year, so let it be a reminder that students not only need understanding, they need help. We cannot ask them to ignore how they are feeling. And, we must not ignore how they are feeling.

Reaching each child is a system responsibility. Reaching each child begins with the leader of the system and his or her leadership team across the district. Some come by it naturally, the business of keeping the well-being of students first and foremost. But even those who are naturals can be pulled from that focus by the flow of administrative responsibilities that call for immediate attention. At the end of the day, responsibility and accountability for student achievement is the central responsibility of all in schools. But, that can't happen fully unless a foundational attention is paid to students' well-being. So although it seems somewhat invisible, this attention actually results in the very goal educators have for their students.

The leader's role is to lead the adults in the organization in the service not only of improving instruction and achievement, but in an awareness and sensitivity to the prerequisite to learning...the mental and emotional wellness of the students. This requires open-hearted leadership, with an understanding that this is not an initiative, nor is it another thing to do. The well-being of the students is as important as whatever issue finds itself on center stage at the moment. It means making sure each student, no matter their gender, skin color, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, no matter how they are dressed, or how they act is greeted with warmth and treated with care and respect. This must be true in the schoolyard and in the classrooms, on the school busses and in the cafeteria; it must be true in the locker room and on the field, in rehearsal and in performance, in the office and in the hallway. Let the looks on the faces of students and their behavior serve as an alert, and a reminder, that their well-being is in the hands of everyone who works in the district.

Full article can be read at:

https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/leadership/360/2015/11/leaders_remember_holidays_can_be_hard_for_children.html

