

# Dec 4, 2017 A Day

*For Students (read in the morning over our PA system)*



Are you a developing artist looking for an opportunity to get your work published? Enter the Yearbook Cover Art Contest! The winner will have their art on the cover of the yearbook, win a free yearbook, and be part of Whatcom Middle School History. For more information pick up a submission form in the front office

The book fair is here! Starting today, the book fair will be open before school, during lunches and after school all week. A ticket will be given out for every purchase for prize drawings of books, sweets and trinkets. You can find more information on our website along with a link to order online.

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## For Parents:

We are now accepting referrals for currently enrolled Bellingham Public Schools students to be assessed for eligibility to receive [highly capable](#) services. Students eligible for highly capable services are those who perform or show the potential for performing at significantly advanced academic levels when compared to others of their age, experiences or environments.

Teachers, parents or community members may refer any student in grades K-1 and grades 3 through 12 for assessment; secondary students may self-refer. All second grade students will automatically be screened in January.

**To refer a student for assessment, please complete the Highly Capable [referral form](#)** available on the Highly Capable webpage and submit the completed, signed form to the District Office, Highly Capable, 1306 Dupont St., Bellingham, WA 98225. Please note we cannot accept permission forms that are scanned or contain an electronic signature.

Referral forms must be received **on or before Dec. 13, 2017** for eligibility in the 2017-18 school year. If you need more information about Highly Capable, you can visit our [website](#) or contact our office by phone 676-6427 or [email](#).



**Blue Skies for Children's Winter Warm Up Program**  
address: 2505 Cedarwood Ave, Ste. 5, Bellingham, WA 98225

Blue Skies for Children's Winter Warm Up program is now distributing new and gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves & blankets for children ages 6 to 18, who are homeless, low-income or in foster care. Blue Skies may provide items for up to five children per family.

This program will be available through Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>, and is by appointment ONLY. If your child is eligible for free or reduced lunch, please call to schedule an appointment at 360.756.6710.

## Lost and Found

There are numerous lunchboxes, food containers and a completely full bin of lost coats, jackets, shoes, etc. Please stop and take a look! If your student is missing a lunchbox, there is a good chance it's in the lost and found just inside the cafeteria doors. Everything that has not been claimed by winter break will be donated to charity.

**The Whatcom Middle School Jingle Bell Run team** is forming. [Follow This Link](#) to visit our team web page and sign up now. Your registration supports the Arthritis Foundation and is greatly appreciated.

## Food Education Volunteer Opportunities

By now, your WMS student has hopefully told you about Garden Day each week! WMS is incredibly lucky to host and maintain a garden in connection with Common Threads Farms, a local non-profit dedicated to teaching kids where food comes from, how to grow it, and how to become a healthy eater. Each week, your middle schooler gets a hands-experience with the science and ecology of our food system.

Common Threads would love to have parents engaged in Food Education at Whatcom Middle School. For available volunteer opportunities, please complete the [attached volunteer form](#) and return it to the office or e-mail it to [robyn@commonthreadsfarm.org](mailto:robyn@commonthreadsfarm.org). To keep up to date with happenings and events, please follow Common Threads Farm on Facebook, Twitter ([@ctfgrown](#)) and Instagram.

Additionally, all volunteers must complete [online registration through the Bellingham School District website](#) at least one week prior to service.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Laura Plaut, Executive Director

Common Threads Farm

[www.commonthreadsfarm.org](http://www.commonthreadsfarm.org)

(360) 927-1590

[Be sure to check out our newsletter on the WMS Website for more information!](#)

## Students are expected to turn their cell phones off and not use them during the school day.

Please call the office if you need to contact your student. We will have your student return your call as soon as possible. Phones will be confiscated if a student is seen using it during school hours. A parent or guardian will then need to come in and sign for the phone. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Please remember to not drive in front of the school in the morning.** Because there are many students walking back and forth across the road, the road is closed to all traffic except school buses.

**Do you think you might volunteer at WMS this year?** Volunteers need to register at a least one week prior to service and this year there is a new online registration system (No more paper packets!). Go to the Bellingham School District website/Jobs to register or click on this link:

<https://bellingshamschoolsvolunteers.hrplus.net/>

## I HAVE TO PULL MY STUDENT OUT OF SCHOOL EARLY – WHAT DO I DO?

When students need to leave school early – please send a signed note with them the day they need to leave early. Students take the note to the attendance window first thing in the morning in exchange for a “permission to leave” slip. This slip is shown to the teacher and your student leaves the premises at your specified time to meet you outside at your prearranged location. You do not need to come in.

**Bus Passes:**

Requests for bus passes must be submitted in the morning. Any requests after school will be denied.

Students must bring a signed note from parent/guardian to the attendance window before school starts. Mrs. Erickson will write out a bus pass which can be picked up later in the day.