Dear Parents,

Westglades continues to be busy, busy, busy! I would like to thank our students and staff for all the impressive work that happened in our classrooms and throughout the campus during the first half of the school year. We saw so many great achievements and I am excited to see what the second half of the school year brings.

Thank you to all the families that came out to our Band, Orchestra and Choir Winter Concerts. The musical talent here at Westglades is beyond amazing. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge our Drama Department for their performances at the 2019 Florida Junior Thespian Festival. Thank you to Mr. Gordon, Ms. Todd and Ms. Donnelly for all of your hard work and dedication to our Fine Arts Program.

We are approaching the two-year commemoration of the MSD tragedy. Students, staff, families, and the community will be participating in "A Day of Service and Love." We have made several plans to address the emotional and physical safety of the students and staff. Westglades Middle School will be open on an Early Release Day schedule. School starts at 9:15am and ends at 1:45pm.

Our theme will be Westglades L.O.V.E.S (Leadership Opportunities through Volunteerism, Education, and Service). Each grade level subject area has created lesson plans around a service/volunteer activity or a social/emotional learning lesson. Each lesson will be based on their curriculum area. Homework activities and assignments will be minimal and teachers will be flexible on whether makeup work is even assigned for February 14th. Westglades will observe a moment of silence at 10:17am. We will have additional mental health counselors available to help students who need assistance. Additional law enforcement will be on campus for the entirety of the day.

It is very important to monitor your child’s electronic devices especially leading up to the commemoration. Encourage them to bring any comments that are worrisome, destructive, or troubling to the attention of an adult. I encourage all parents to have conversations with your child. Ask them how they are feeling. Some may feel stress, anxiety or nervousness but it is important to know that there are resources available to help. Please visit www.WestgladesMiddle.com<Departments<Guidance to view those resources.

We are carefully planning this day, and we recognize that many of you may choose to keep your child home with you. If you choose to keep your child home, it will be an excused absence. However, you must call in the absence at 754-322-4802.

Matthew Bianchi, Principal
Spotlight on Guidance

Taking Online Courses – Exploring the Pros & Cons

Online learning is a great option for many students in schools across the nation, especially those who have chronic health concerns, those looking to take courses not offered at school, or students eager to take high school credit classes.

Students in elementary, middle and high schools in Broward county have the opportunity to enroll in online courses if approved by their School Counselor or Administrator. With this in mind, there are real considerations to keep in mind before deciding to enroll in online courses. In other words, parents and students need to weigh up the pros and cons. A few examples are:

Pros
~ Students have the opportunity to get ahead and earn high school credit in middle school
~ Students work at their own pace
~ Assignments can be completed and students get their grade immediately
~ Flexibility to complete assignments
~ Students are in control of their learning/completing assignments

Cons
~ Students taking online courses need the support of family, friends or tutor to assist
~ Be self-disciplined, an independent learner, and have good time management skills
~ Keep up with the pacing of the course, assignments and assessments
~ Little or no face to face contact with the instructor regarding questions and feedback
~ No reteaching, hands-on activities, remediation, tutoring sessions etc.
~ No opportunities for group work/collaborative learning, interaction with peers
~ These are only some of the pros and cons to be considered.

Ultimately, the most important factor is determining the reasons for the student’s interest in online learning. There are advantages and disadvantages to every type of learning environment, and it is always recommended to seek the advice and support of the School Counselor to make an informed decision.
At the end of November, our amazing Drama Department led by Ms. Donnelly competed at the Florida Junior Thespian District Festival. The event was held at Taravella High School and included solo musicals, duet musicals, large group musicals, monologues, ensemble acting, duet acting, pantomime, improv and costume design. Congratulations, Wolves, on winning the following awards:

Critic's Choice for Large Group Musical
(2nd Consecutive Year)
Honorable Mention for Pantomime
11 Superiors
9 Excellents
6 Goods

Advani, Maya
Albert, Samantha
Azzarito, Melissa
Bango, Brianna
Baron, Sage
Bercun, Dana
Bilu, Aliyah
Bird, Grace
Bogart, Eva
Bothra, Kaashvi
Bressler, Samantha
Cohen, Natalee
Fishman, Matthew
Franklin, Sofia
Fronstin, Ava
Hayes, Carter
Jacullo, Jasmine
Jacknow, Jonathan
Kaplan, Julia
Kaufman, Ella
Kennedy, Angelina
Kislin, Bridgette
Kryshka, Ayden
Kusuma, Sophie
Litenski, Nick
LoFurno, Ashley
Lotz, Sydney
Medeiros, Deborah
Nixon, Karen
Paul, Oliver
Plambeck, Sienna
Rannazzisi, Lola
Rhodes, Celebre
Richmond, Amanda
Rosaler, Sarah
Schapiro, Maddi
Schwartzberg, Zoe
Shultz, Kyra
Smiley, Lilly
Smith, Miriam
Spiegel, Jenna
Starr, Maggie
VanMaanen, Madeline
Viet, Carter
On December 4th, our Choir students opened the Winter Concert with a number of beautiful songs about Winter, and ended their portion of the concert with Hip Hop Reindeer, including a rap performed by several members of the choir.

The Beginning Orchestra then showed off their progression of skills through 5 different song selections, including Jingle Bells, Dreidel, and Hot Cross Buns. A small ensemble of 5 members from our Advanced Orchestra, class bridged the transition between Beginning and Advanced orchestras with seasonal tunes, including Joy to the World. The Advanced Orchestra closed the concert, performing a medley of traditional Christmas tunes, Le Froid de l'Hiver, and a swing arrangement of Winter Wonderland. Overall, the concert was a huge success and set the stage for the students and the audience to enjoy a great Winter holiday season!

On December 5th, our Beginning Band performed their first full ensemble pieces, including Jingle Bells, Dreydl, and When the Saints Go Marching In. The Beginning Band has come a long way from learning their first sounds on their instruments! The Concert Band performed a spirited arrangement of the famous Sleigh Ride and The Chipmunk Song, which included a well-known instrument: the kazoo! Symphonic Band performed The Drummer Boy's Bolero, which weaves the Christmas tune The Little Drummer Boy into the famous orchestral piece Bolero, written by Maurice Ravel. The Symphonic Band ended the concert with an upbeat Deck the Halls with Chips and Salsa, featuring the famous bass drummer, Mr. Christian Gordon.
The week of December 9th, Westglades participated in the "Hour of Code." The Hour of Code is a global movement that reaches tens of millions of students in over 180 countries through a one-hour introduction to computer science and computer programming.

This year, our annual event expanded as we continue to work to expose each student to the amazing world of computer science. We are proud to say we partnered with Amazon. On December 10th, Amazon engineers were all over our campus assisting teachers in hosting their classroom's Hour of Code activities.

Amazon brought certificates and goodies for all students who participated. Some of our activities included: Compose Music with Code, Storyboarding and Programming with Sims, Code the News, and Climate, Science and Code.

A BIG thank you to our Amazon volunteers, including Piyush Bothra and Diana Zoberg who are also proud Westglades' parents!

HourofCode.Org
On December 11th, our Marching Wolves performed in the Annual City of Coral Springs Holiday Parade. Thank you to Mr. Gordon and Ms. Todd, as well as the students and parents that work so hard to make these events so special.

NJHS NEWS

The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle school students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of Leadership, Service, Citizenship and Character. During the first half of the year the Westglades NJHS members, led by Mrs. Alvarez, have been very busy! Here are only some of the projects they have fulfilled! In October, they sponsored an ice cream social and arts and crafts at SOS Children's Village.

In November, the students filled care packages that were delivered to children admitted at Joe DiMaggio Children’s Hospital. The boxes included items such as: playing cards; travel-size board games; books/word searches; small puzzles; small coloring books/notebooks; crayons/colored pencils; seasonal lip balm/hand sanitizer; small stuffed animals and more. In December, members hosted Bingo Games and Ice Cream at Aston Gardens senior citizen facility. We can't wait to see what NJHS has planned for 2020! Great job, Wolves!
DEBATE TEAM

Also on December 11th, our Debate students competed at Stoneman Douglas. Approximately thirty Broward County middle schools attended. Our winners are left to right:

Photo 1: Liam Tangney and Yousuf Sajil (Policy Debate), Elijah Llompart (Lincoln-Douglas Debate), and Vikram Renganathan and Siddharta Ojha (Public Forum Debate).

Photo 2: Alexander Kaan (Humorous Interpretation), Analyse Armstrong (Poetry), and Griffin Ivy (Poetry).

Photos 3 and 4: Jake Lopatin (Impromptu Speaking), Manpreet Chhabra (Congressional Debate), and Colin Crippen (Congressional Debate).

Thank you!

Recently, eighteen of our Math students attended the American Mathematics Competition (AMC). From this group, six were awarded honor roll; of those six, one student (a 6th grader) earned a perfect score, and he is one of 2000 students who earned a perfect score in the entire country! We are looking forward to another amazing performance on February 8, when our students will participate in the Math Counts Competition.
At the beginning of January, students in Mrs. Deck's 6th Grade Science classes created 3D Earth Models. Students represented the interior earth's spheres (inner core, outer core, mantle and crust) and the exterior spheres (biosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, atmosphere, geosphere) by making models out of styrofoam, soap, t-shirts, beads, globes, pom poms, candles, cakes, glass jars...etc. Our students are so creative!

Wave Properties

During a Lab in Mrs. Gagne's class, students used slinkys to investigate properties of waves such as frequency, amplitude, and wavelength. Thank you to Sebastian Noel, Gabriella Riskin, Anthony Martin for demonstrating wave properties during class.

Convection Currents

Mr. Tinsey's students created a solar oven using an old black shoe box. They strategically placed foil on the inside and created a see-thru window on top to trap the radiation from the sun. Once the heat was trapped, the S'mores were cooked by convection currents! ~ YUM!
The 8th Grade Finance students are preparing for the upcoming VE Business Pitch Competition and Trade Show event. VE (Virtual Enterprise) is a program that provides educational resources and tools for middle school students to learn about business ownership. With guidance from their teacher and VEJv tools and resources, students are tasked with a semester long project to create their very own virtual business. The VE Business Pitch Competition and Trade Show offers students the opportunity to showcase their hard work among other Florida VE students. Good Luck to everyone competing! #WeAreWestglades

This year, Westglades participated in a nationwide Winter Reading Challenge hosted by Beanstack and Penguin Random House. The challenge began January 1st and concluded January 31st. The goal was for students to read and log as many books as they could during the month. PRH will donate up to $50,000 to the top participating schools! As of January 31st, our students logged 3,382 books! Great job Wolves!
Congratulations to our Chess Club for their victory as co-champions in the 2019 National Scholastic K-6 Chess Championship in Orlando. Sixth graders Jayden Lang, Aniket Shukla, and Darsh Patel pulled off the win at one of the nation's most prestigious tournaments. We are very excited to see how this team does at the Mayor's Chess Challenge on February 29th at the Parkland Recreational Cener.

Thank you to all the students and staff that contributed and participated!

Playoff season for middle school volleyball is well underway! The Westglades Grls Volleyball Team had an incredible year, winning their division championship for the sixth straight season! "The girls are now one of eight teams remaining in Broward County," shared Coach Golzbein.

The Westglades Boys are also in the playoffs. They captured 2nd place in their division! Coach Haneski is so proud of this team, often times being behind and having the determination and drive to pull out amazing wins! Outstanding effort from all the 8th graders including captains Ben Rothenberg and Henry Leon and all the team members cheering from the bench. GREAT JOB WOLVES!
LITERACY WEEK

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida is an annual event during which students, staff, parents, and volunteers celebrate literacy throughout the State of Florida. During the week of January 27th, the Westglades staff helped students strengthen their literacy skills and exhibited positive examples of literacy. This year’s theme was Book Your Trip: Adventure Awaits. Students enjoyed activities such as daily dress up days, guest readers, bookmark contest, slam poetry, and a spelling bee.

The week concluded with special VIP Readers! Thank you to Parkland Vice Mayor Bob Mayersohn, Parkland Commissioner Rich Walker, Parkland BSO Captain Chris Mulligan, Sgt. Hinton, and Deputy Courtney Colon for joining us!

SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to the winners and all the students that participated.
On Thursday, December 12th, the Westglades PTO hosted our first ever Wolf Wars! Wolf Wars was created to give everyone an opportunity to really show their school spirit! The students, led by their grade level Administrator, teamed up to compete in friendly Minute to Win It games.

The afternoon was filled with music, friends, food and fun! The PTO definitely kicked up the fun by distributing spirit gear and raffle prizes to the crowd! Fun was had by all (especially Administration!)

WHO WON?

The grade levels battled it out with 6th grade taking an early lead! But in the end the winning grade level was 8th!! Congratulations to Mr. O'Neal and the 8th Grade for their victory, the amazing trophy, and (of course) bragging rights! #WEAREWESTGLADES
SAFETY
Security Reminders!
Students MUST wear their WMS lanyard and ID to school everyday. When a student forgets, the cost is $7 to replace. Additionally, items are not permitted to be dropped off in the Security Office for student delivery or pickup. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our campus safe.

REGISTRAR REMINDER
Annual Proof of Residency for ALL 6th and 7th graders- Broward County Policy requires families at an overcrowded school to submit current proofs of residency. Your child will receive this letter from their Math teacher. Please return with the proper proofs of residency by Monday, February 10th.

MSD CURRICULUM NIGHT FOR INCOMING 9TH GRADERS: February 6th in the Auditorium Tour the School, Meet Club Advisors, Athletic Coaches, and Department Heads. Events beginning at 5:30

MSD College Fair: February 20th 6-8pm in the Cafeteria. Very informative night! All WMS Families are invited to attend!
Stay in the Know!
Website: www.WestgladesMiddle.com
Instagram: @Westglades_Wolves
Twitter: @WestgladesWolves

Supported by the Broward Sherrifs Office, the FortifyFL mobile device app allows individuals in Broward County the ability to communicate with law enforcement seamlessly and report potential threats and suspicious activity. Visit getfortifyfl.com.

A mobile device app allows individuals in Broward County the ability to instantly report suspicious activity to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. Visit saferwatchapp.com.

Anonymous tip line for reporting potential school threats or other school related safety and concerns. Parents and students can report tips by phone at 754-321-0911, text tips to SBBC at 274637 (CRIMES), email a concern to schools911@browardschools.com or submit online via www.BrowardSchools.com/Anonymous-Tips.

Have you been to Eagles' Haven? Eagles’ Haven is a community wellness center created solely and mindfully for the MSD community giving current, future and former students, parents, family members and faculty one responsive and nurturing place to call or drop in for any supportive service or wellness needs 7 days a week, free of charge. To make it easier to receive information about their services, download their new mobile device app!

Follow These 5 Easy Steps to Download the App: Using your device, click the link or search for Eagles’ Haven in the Apple Store or on Google Play.

Download the free app from the app store and follow instructions. Please note that if you already use the MINDBODY App for another studio, you will be directed to enter your existing username and password.

The Eagles’ Haven icon will display on your home screen making it super easy and convenient for you to sign up for our free wellness classes any time.

Any questions, please visit or call Victoria at Eagles’ Haven at 954.618.0350 and she will gladly walk you through downloading the app.

WWW.EAGLESHAVEN.ORG