



Tiger Trails

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District to conduct survey

Beginning this month, phones will be ringing across the Waynesville R-VI School District, as a comprehensive survey of patron opinion will begin.

Waynesville school district officials said the survey of 354 households will provide insight into what residents think about the district's strengths, challenges and priorities.

"This survey will give us an outstanding opportunity to hear from a cross-section of our patrons, their opinions about our performance, and what our priorities should be for the future," said Dr. Brian Henry, superintendent. "We'll hear from all geographic parts of the district, people of all different ages, and everyone from newcomers to long-term residents."

The 10- to 15-minute survey will touch on a wide variety of topics, and will include "pick one" type questions, along with opportunities for residents to share their comments.

The survey was designed by Patron Insight, Inc., a Kansas City-based market research organization that has worked with school districts across the Midwest on similar research since 1992.

The calling will be done by professional researchers at Market Research Associates. Participants will be selected totally at random and responses will be kept confidential.

In general, calls will be placed between 7 and 9 p.m. on weekdays, and noon to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. While there may be some variation on those times, no calls will take place during the traditional dinner hour. The caller ID may show "Market Research Associates" or it may simply show an 816 or 913 area code, because the company uses calling facilities in both Missouri and Kansas.

For those who are not contacted at random on the phone, an online version of the survey will be available on the district's website following the phone survey completion.

The survey process will take about two weeks to complete, and the Waynesville school district is asking patrons to listen for their phones to ring.

"We really want to hear from you," Henry said. "So, if you get a phone call on this survey, please participate, and please let us know what you think."



Jacob Meza sings with the choir.

Meza wins state championship

Jacob Meza, a Waynesville High School senior, won the State Championship in sight-reading at the annual Missouri Music Educators Conference during the last weekend.

The competition started with more than 2,000 vocal students from across the state auditioning for All-State Choir. As part of the All-State Choir audition, students were presented with a short selection of music they had never seen and had to sing it without any accompaniment. The top sight-reading score from each district in the state was eligible to compete at the competition this past weekend. Several of the districts in the state had students who received the same top score, which resulted in 36 students in the first round of the competition. The competition went five rounds with the music selected to sight-read getting increasingly harder each round. Only two students remained in the fifth round. Meza was able to win this round and the State Championship by one point. His instructor is Nathan Schaefferkoetter, WHS choir director.



Courtwarding 2016 candidates are left to right: Freshman Lyra Devane, Senior Sarah Snyder, Senior D'Anna Hasik, Senior Nya Dorsey, Senior Emily Lucitt, Junior Lindzie King, and Sophomore Andrea Ramos.



The outside of the Ninth Grade Center at Waynesville High School.

8th graders invited to WHS for Feb. 23 curriculum fair

Eighth graders – members of the Class of 2020 – and their parents are invited to Waynesville High School to learn more about freshman courses and the scheduling process on Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the WHS Auditorium. A general presentation will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and then at 7:30 p.m., students and their parents may attend the curriculum fair.

“We feel it is very important that students make quality course selections as freshmen to obtain a strong foundation for the rest of their high school careers,” says Theresa McNutt, WHS counselor.

The event helps prepare families to make decisions about the courses their student will take during the upcoming freshman enrollment. In late February and early March, the freshman counselor will visit Waynesville Middle School, present the WHS curriculum and ask families to return the course preference sheets the next day.

“This is a pressure-free environment that allows families to ask questions, explore the many options available and to choose the path that best suits the student’s long-term goals,” McNutt says.

For further information, please call Theresa McNutt at 573-842-2400 ext. 2448 or email: tmcnutt@waynesville.k12.mo.us

Students design mittens to protect from cold and wet

Students in Jennifer Brown’s class at East Elementary recently participated in a STEM Day activity revolving around the book, “The Mitten,” by Jan Brett.

The students rotated between different stations to practice reading and writing skills and to learn about the engineering process. Students were challenged to design their own hand wear, using only the materials provided, and to test their designs in a tub of ice. To be successful, the hand wear had to keep the hand warm as well as dry.

When asked what they learned about engineering, students reported that they learned never to give up. Engineers always try again and again to get it right.



Parents, students, staff, Fort Leonard Wood and community leaders, school board members and administrators participated in the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Waynesville High School.

Shultz completes Board member certification training

Paul Shultz, a member of the Waynesville R-VI Board of Education, participated in Essential Board Member Certification training sponsored by the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA). The 16 hours of training combined online independent study with onsite interactive sessions and was held in Columbia on Jan. 22.

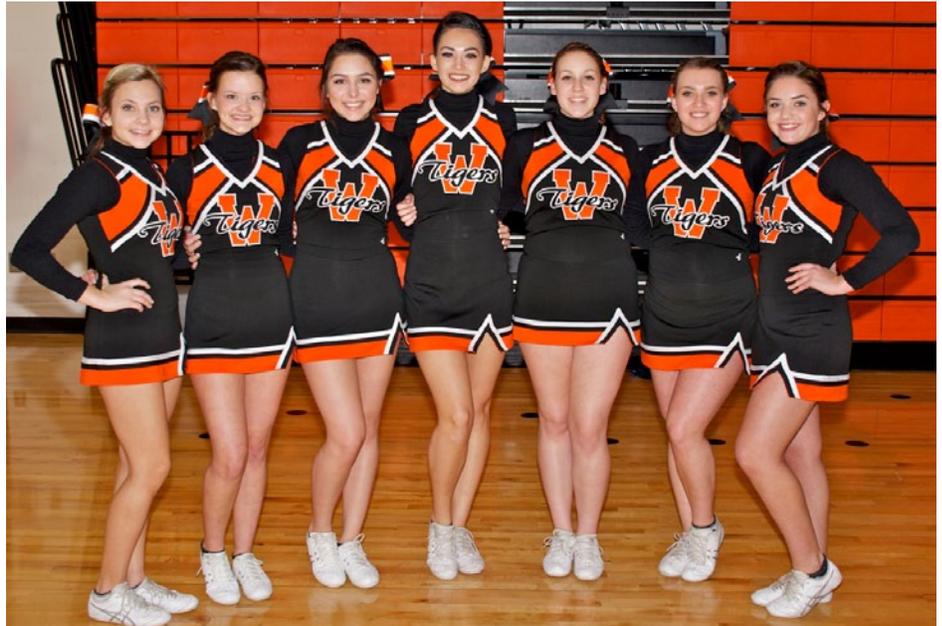


This new board member certification training places a strong emphasis on improving student achievement by providing guidance to board members on appropriate ways to evaluate and influence student performance in their local districts. Other topics addressed effective board operations including information on the role of the school board in providing oversight of a school district, an overview of legal issues, techniques for establishing school district policy, fundamentals of school finance and the important role the school board plays in establishing school district goals.

The training curriculum was developed by MSBA in collaboration with local school board members and is updated annually.

Participation in the Essential Board Member training fulfills Missouri's requirement for 16 hours of certification training for all newly elected or appointed school board members. The workshops are part of MSBA's Certified Board Member Program and are designed to equip local school board members with the skills and knowledge necessary to function as effective education leaders in their communities. The training is provided at no charge to board members.

MSBA is a private, not-for-profit organization that exists to help school boards succeed.



The senior wrestling cheerleaders were honored on Feb. 2 during the dual meet. The seniors are Mary Gail DuBose, Aubrie Patrick, Tyler Simental, Hailey Clifton, Candra Johnson, Rachel Sweeney and Madalene Hashagen.



Above, the Waynesville High School senior wrestlers were recognized on Feb. 2. They are Julian Burnham, David Hawk, and Nathaniel Perez; back row: Brandon Fancher, Todd Angel, Neil Albrecht, and Jason Duncan. At left, Hawk takes down his opponent.



Kevin Pritchard presents the first place chili trophy to Amy McSwain.

McSwain wins district chili contest

The judges named Amy McSwain’s the best chili of the eight entries in the district chili cook-off this year. It was a tough decision for the judges but the winners are as follows:

- 1st Place** – Amy McSwain – 6th Grade Center
- 2nd Place** – Mackenzie Atterberry – East Elementary
- 3rd Place** – Angel Allen – Administration Building

The judges were Jason Davis, Ivan Freeman, Mark Thiltgen, Ron Amass and Bobby Love.

East has one case of chickenpox

East Elementary has had one confirmed case of chickenpox, making this a good time to remind everyone of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendation and guidelines:

The best way to prevent chickenpox is to get the chickenpox vaccine. Children, adolescents, and adults should have two doses of the chickenpox vaccine.

Chickenpox vaccine is very safe and effective at preventing the disease. Most people who get the vaccine will not get chickenpox. If a vaccinated person does get chickenpox, it is usually mild—with fewer blisters and mild or no fever.

For more information, [click here](#).

Moberly librarian and author encourages students to persevere



Photo of Brian Katcher by WHS students Carlie Wheeler and Savannah Harrold.

By Paige Kelley, WHS student

For some people, becoming a published author is a long haul full of rejection.

Author Brian Katcher spoke to Waynesville High School classes on Jan. 29 about his late-blooming career. Katcher, a jack of many trades, published his first novel, “Playing with Matches,” in 2008 after returning to the states from Mexico where he resided for three years, working five varying jobs before deciding to write as a profession.

When Katcher first began his writing career, many editors read through his drafts only to continuously turn them down. After finally finding an editor who would work with him, Katcher confides that “[He] was ecstatic” for his first publication.

Born in St. Louis in 1975, he attended the University of Missouri only to soon after move to Mexico for a few years. He then lived off a military base near Cuba for roughly a year. Now residing in Moberly, Mo., with his wife and daughter, Katcher works as a librarian for their local school, writing what he can in his spare time. He’s also part of a writer’s group and comments that “[He] never would have been published without them.”

If he hadn’t been published, Katcher says he’d still be trying to become a rock star.

Starting out as an author and finding someone to publish what you’ve written is “very, very difficult,” Katcher says.

As a young adult, he found a series of books that aided him in choosing

a career in writing. “Sweet Valley High” by Francine Pascal, a series of books about twin girls going through high school together, was one that Katcher says made him want to write just a little more. He laughs as he tells his audience, “I would like a piece of that,” when speaking of the income received off that young adult series.

Although he started his writing career late in his life, one of his books has won the Stonewall Award, the best LGBT novel of the year. This book, “Almost Perfect,” tells the story of a young boy Logan Witherspoon and a beautiful girl Sage Hendricks becoming friends after Logan distrusts those around him. Soon strong feelings appear and he tries to rekindle their friendship after lashing out on Sage when she reveals to him her previous gender.

As a word to young writers, Katcher talks of his struggles and disappointment following many failures and reminds students to “be prepared for rejection.”

When asked if he’d ever take anyone’s good ideas into consideration he happily replies, “If you have a good idea, then you should write it.”

Katcher said that publishing early, late, really any time in one’s life, can be hard. Having a book become a movie is even harder, yet it’s a dream most writers have. “I would love for my books to become a movie,” he says.

“The Improbable Theory of Ana and Zak,” his newest book, was published this past year. By next January, Katcher hopes to publish again.