

# PAW PRESS

WARM SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL WILDCATS

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear WSMS Families,

WSMS as well as all the other middles schools in the valley are continuing to experience increasing numbers of students being exposed to vaping and using it. Currently the trend seems to be most popular with the girls right now and they tend to use the restroom to use their vapes. Research is still new in this area, but we all know nicotine in a young developing brain is not good. Since students returned to in-person learning, kids have more opportunities to use vapes. Parents and teachers need to watch for warning signs like increased mood swings, anxiety, and even taking a lot of bathroom breaks. The tobacco industry goal is to hook kids on vaping by using fun flavors that spark curiosity and make tobacco taste good. That puts teens at risk for a lifetime of nicotine addiction, health problems, and permanent brain changes.

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**Go Big Blue!**

*Mr. Picchiottino "Mr. P"*

### **Current research:**

Here's what we know: In the last 2 years, vaping increased by 218% among middle schoolers and 135% among high schoolers 96% of high school kids in CA who vape use flavors Teens are nearly 7x more likely to vape nicotine than adults Marijuana vaping among youth increased by 58% in a single year Teens who vape are 3x more likely than non-vapers to become daily cigarette smokers The average age of youth and young adults who try smokeless tobacco, like chew or snus, for the first time is 16 Use this guide to help you keep your kids safe from flavored tobacco and vaping. Share it with parents, school leaders, and other decision-makers. You'll find resources for helping teens quit, a list of telltale signs of vaping, and a visual guide to vape products. Get advice for talking to kids about vaping, find out how schools are combating the problem, and learn how to help your community fight back against the powerful tobacco industry.

### **Know the signs of Vaping:**

Are there sweet, fruity, or menthol smells coming from behind closed doors? Are there flash drives or other school supplies you don't recognize in your kid's backpack or room? How about small vials or eye dropper bottles? Have you come across unfamiliar chargers, coils, or batteries? Is your teen spending more money than usual or making unexplained purchases? Have there been changes in your kid's behavior such as increased mood swings, irritability, anxiety, impulsivity, or learning difficulties? Is your teen suffering from more frequent headaches or nausea?

### **LISTEN:**

Whether or not your kids have tried vaping, they'll benefit from a good talk. And a good talk starts with listening. Let the kids tell you what it's like to be surrounded by teens who vape.

These starter questions are a simple way in:

- Do you have friends who vape?
  - Are you curious about it?
- Have you been offered a vape?
  - Have you tried it?
- If so, what made you say yes?
- If not, what made you say no?

As kids move through middle and high school, they'll face new challenges. Support them every step of the way by keeping the conversation going. An open dialogue is far more effective than one big lecture. WSMS wants to foster the safest place for kids to learn and grow and we need your support to make this happen.

**Sincerely, Mr. "P"**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 3/1 MMHS visits
  - 3/2 Performing Arts
    - MMHS Field Trip
  - "R" Word Kick Off
    - Week of 3/7
  - 3/3 BB Intramural Sign Up
  - 3/8 VMHS Band Festival
  - 3/9 8th Grade Vision & Hearing Screening
  - 3/9 WEB Chipotle Night
  - 3/13 DAYLIGHT SAVING
  - 3/16 OPEN HOUSE
  - 3/18 Special Olympics MMHS
  - 3/21 Monolog Winner Announced
  - 3/23 Springs Band Concert
  - 3/23 Pride Rally
  - 3/24 5th Grade Visits WS
  - 3/24 AVID 5th Grade Parent Night
  - 3/25 AVID Visits Colleges
  - 3/25 PRIDE Lunch
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- **SPRING BREAK**
    - **Week of 3/28**
    - **4/4/2022 Return**

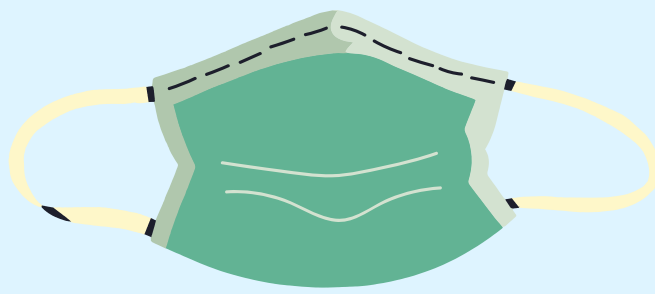
# March



**Ice Cream proceeds sold at lunch benefit student activities on campus!**

### **State Assessments:**

**Math, Science, and Language Arts Testing:**  
**Last week in April & first 3 weeks in May**



The State of California updated its K-12 COVID-19 school guidance.

The indoor masking in all K-12 school settings will sunset at the end of the day on Friday March 11. Beginning Saturday, March 12 students and staff will not be required to wear a face mask/covering while indoors.

This issue has brought out strong emotions and opinions on both sides of the masking debate. We know people respond differently to change; hence, we are asking for community support and respect. We understand each family has unique circumstances that drive their decision to mask or unmask.

As we unpack the details of the updated guidance, please know the following best practices in mitigation will continue to be provided:

- Availability of N95 masks for all students and staff (by request)
- Group contact tracing and notifications for confirmed positive cases on school sites
- No-cost optional PCR testing for school community on designated days
  - No-cost take home antigen testing for all students
- Handwashing and sanitizing stations throughout all schools
  - HVAC airflow and ventilation maximization
  - COVID-19 hotline
  - COVID-19 Dashboard

To review the updated K-12 guidance published by the CDPH, please click this [linked text](#). Thank you in advance for your support and patience during these challenging circumstances and for the flexibility you've demonstrated over the past two years in supporting our students and school community.



**MVUSD Administration**





**INCOMING**

**6TH GRADE**

**PARENTS**

THE BEST ADVENTURE OF YOUR LIVES  
**STARTS HERE!**



**WELCOME**

**WSMS ANNUAL  
OPEN HOUSE  
5TH GRADE PARENTS  
ARE INVITED**

**MARCH 16, 2022  
5:30PM**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**P.R.I.D.E. PURPOSE, RIGOR, INTEGRITY, DETERMINATION, EMPOWERMENT**

WE'RE EXCITED TO HAVE OUR NEW WILDCATS WITH US



# WSMS Annual Open House/Showcase

Welcome to Warm Springs Middle School's Annual Open House/Showcase,  
**Wednesday March 16, 2022 – 5:30 pm to 7:30 p.m.**

Welcome, all existing and future Wildcat parents...we are so excited to have you!!!

Please join us for performances, informational meetings, and club and academic department exhibits. This night is geared towards getting our incoming 5th-grade parents and students up to speed on what WSMS is all about...we look forward to seeing you...please call the WSMS front office: (951) 696-3503 with any questions.

## Schedule for 5th Grade Parents

- 5:30-5:50 Parent Welcome Ceremony in the Quad "PRIDE Rally Area"
- 6:00-6:40-Rotation #1 (A-M start in Library) (N-Z start in Gym)
- 6:50-7:30-Rotation #2 (A-M rotate to Gym) (N-Z rotate to Library)

***5th-grade families, please start at the location below according to your last name:***

### A-M to Library

Orientation/Schedules  
Course Offerings



### N-Z TO GYM

School Performances

The following clubs and academic departments will be set up in the quad for families to visit.

#### ACADEMIC

Math  
ELA  
Science  
Social Studies  
PE  
Special Education  
AVID  
WEB  
ASB  
Inclusive PEER Mentoring  
EL Support  
Unified Wildcat PE  
Band  
Choir

#### ACADEMIC

Art  
Pridevision  
Drama  
Dance  
Computer Science  
Robotics  
Graphic Design  
Photography  
Home Economics/Life Skills

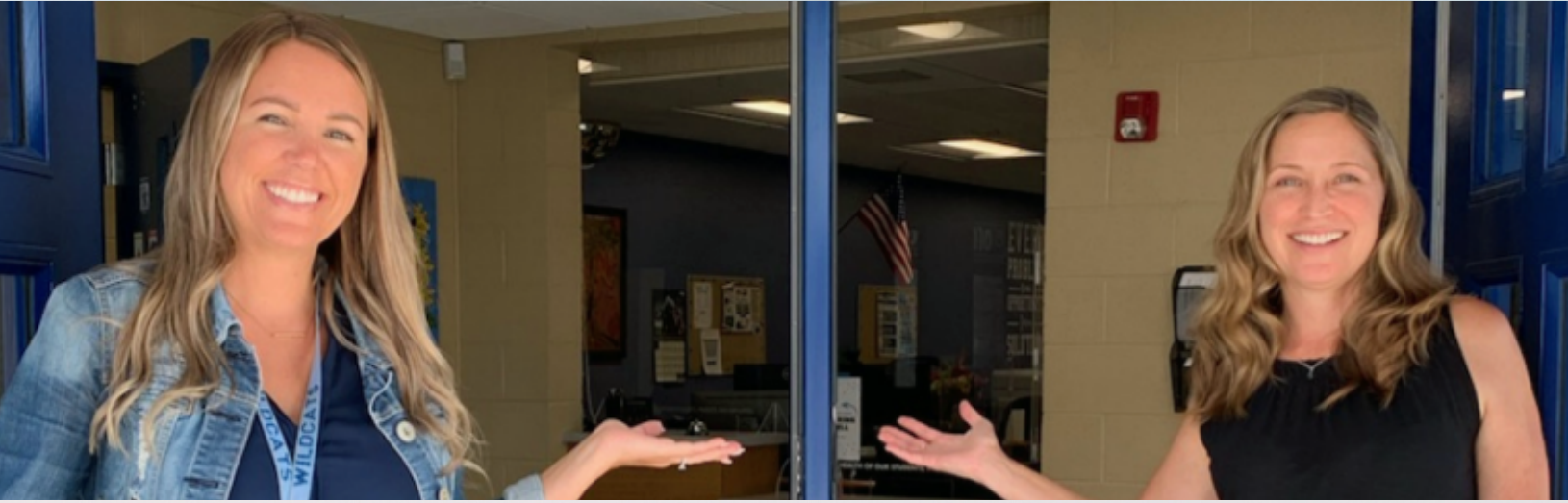
#### CLUBS

MTB Club  
GSA Club  
Garden Club  
Ballet Folklorico Club  
Diamond's  
Authors in the Making  
Anime Art Club  
Cheer  
Drumline  
Colorguard  
Skate Club  
Tutoring  
Yearbook  
Interact Club  
Student Venture (Bible)





# Counseling Corner



**Cari Young**

Alpha I-Z

cyoung@murrieta.k12.ca.us

(951) 696-3503 ext. 3155



**Christine Wood**

Alpha A - K /AVID

cjwood@murrieta.k12.ca.us

(951) 696-3503 ext. 3191

## HELLO WILDCAT FAMILIES:

WSMS Counselors are currently working with students and counselors, at both the elementary and high school levels, to prepare students for their upcoming grade level transition. We have updated our website with the most up to date grade level information here:

<https://www.murrieta.k12.ca.us/domain/1332>

*If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.*

### **Grief and Loss Support**

Currently available in our area from the Elizabeth Hospice

<https://elizabethhospice.org>

If your student is struggling with feelings of grief and loss the Elizabeth Hospice is available to help. They offer a variety of bereavement services for children and teens which includes:

- Peer Grief Support Groups, held in the evenings throughout the school year via Zoom
- Camp Spero, a weekend summer bereavement camp
- Individual and family grief counseling

Visit their website for more information.

# COURSE SELECTION

## 5TH GRADERS

- Parent Night @ WS:  
**March 16th**
- 5th grade rally @ WS:  
**March 24th**

05

06

## 6TH GRADERS

- Classroom Guidance:  
Feb 28 - March 1
- 1:1 Course Planning:  
April 18-19

## 7TH GRADERS

- Classroom Guidance:  
**March 7-8**
- 1:1 Course Planning:  
**April 25-26**

07

08

## 8TH GRADERS

The most up to date information for each high school can be found on our website.

[www.gowsms.com](http://www.gowsms.com)



# LEADERSHIP



## 2022/2023 Leadership Application

T = E = A = M

Together Everyone Achieves More

### ASB/WEB Leadership

Application is on the WSMS WEB site:

[apply here](#)

**Application is Due: March 18, 2022**

**Late applications will not be accepted**

- Log into your Microsoft 365 account
- Students need 2 teacher recommendations
- All communication will be through student's school email







# AVID Schoolwide Practices



## Tutoring at the Wildcat Den

Before School: 8:00-9:00

Lunch

After School: 3:15-4:00

2:00-3:30 (Wed)

AVID College Tutors and teachers are available to help ALL WSMS students in room 615.

*Note: Students must come prepared with assignments. They need to arrive and sign in within 10 minutes (after school).*

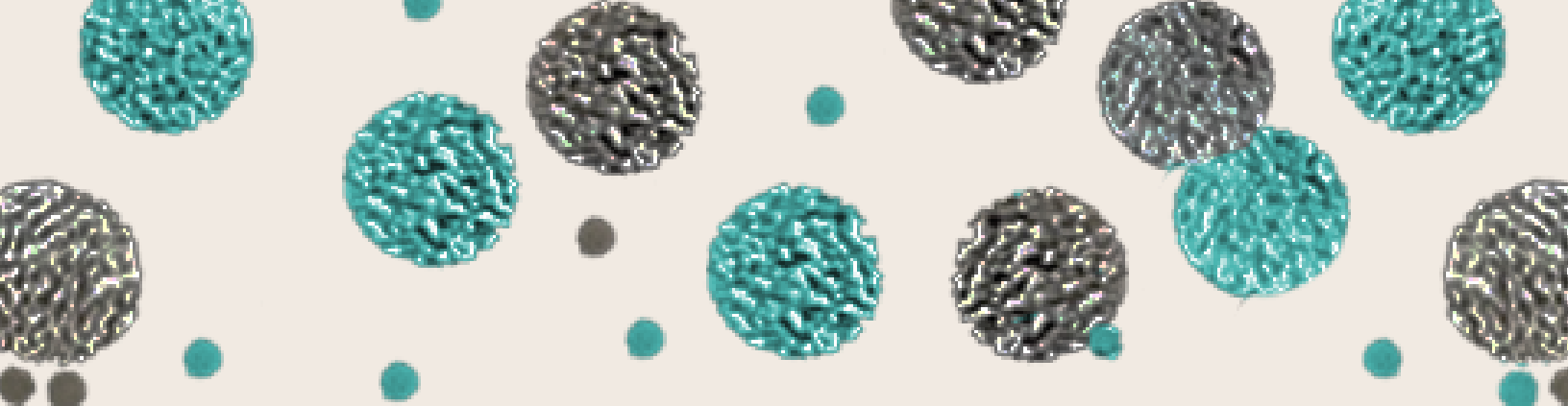


## PRIDE Minutes (Wednesdays)

EVERY WEDNESDAY, ALL STUDENTS have the opportunity to organize their binders in period 1 by following the schoolwide binder expectations:

- Subject dividers must be in this order:
  - Language Arts
  - Social Studies
  - Math
  - Science
  - Elective
  - P.E.
- Pencils pouches must have pencils, pens, highlighters, and 1 expo marker
- Empty out pockets in the binder
- Hole punch any loose papers
- Must have sheet protectors
- Must have notebook paper
- Students must use their student planners on a daily basis in all classes (these were provided at registration)
- Students are encouraged to clean out their backpacks





# MVUSD MIDDLE SCHOOL MONOLOGUE VIRTUAL COMPETITION DMMS, SMS, TMS, WSMS

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The Monologue Competition is a virtual competition.

The date for email submissions is March 10, 2022.

Four categories: Classical Drama, Classical Comedy, Contemporary Drama, and Contemporary Comedy

Monologue needs to be 1 - 3 minutes long.

**Monologue needs to be filmed and sent to Mrs. Hernandez by March 10.**

**No props, no costumes, no music, no singing**

The monologues will be judged, and we will have the results on March 21.

Students do not need to be in drama class to participate.

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**Carol Hernandez  
MVUSD**

Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator  
Teacher, WSMS

Drama, Choir, PRIDE Vision  
(951) 696-3503 Ext. 3117

**Entries to**

**[chernandez@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:chernandez@murrieta.k12.ca.us)**



# UNIFIED SHOWCASE

MARCH 18TH 2022

ALL DAY EVENT

HOSTED AT MURRIETA MESA HIGH SCHOOL

**TOGETHER WE GO FAR**

AN INCLUSIVE EVENT FOR WILDCATS TO SHOWCASE THEIR ATHLETIC ABILITIES  
THIS IS AN INVITE ONLY EVENT AND STUDENTS WILL NEED A PERMISSION SLIP TO  
ATTEND



Questions contact Ashlee Moon [amoon@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:amoon@murrieta.k12.ca.us)  
or Erin Perez [eperez@murrieta.k12.ca.us](mailto:eperez@murrieta.k12.ca.us)

*Questions, please contact:*

*Ms. Moon, Mrs. Boggess, Mrs. Perez, Mr. Panagiotis  
Team Wildcat*



# **SPREAD THE WORD TO END THE WORD**

**IT'S TIME TO END THE USE OF THE R-WORD AROUND OUR CAMPUS**

**FROM MARCH 7-11 WE WILL BE HOSTING A CAMPAIGN TO END THE USE OF THE R-WORD**

**MON: PINKY PROMISE**

**TUES: CHALK ART**

**WED: ART GALLERY/JENGA**

**THURS: BEACH BALL VOLLEYBALL**

**FRI: UNIFIED DEMONSTRATION AND CONCESSION SALES (\$1-\$2 PER ITEM)**

**THE ONLY R-WORD WE SHOULD USE IS RESPECT!**