



The Wilson Word

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Celebrating Our 99th Year of Excellence!

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In This Issue!

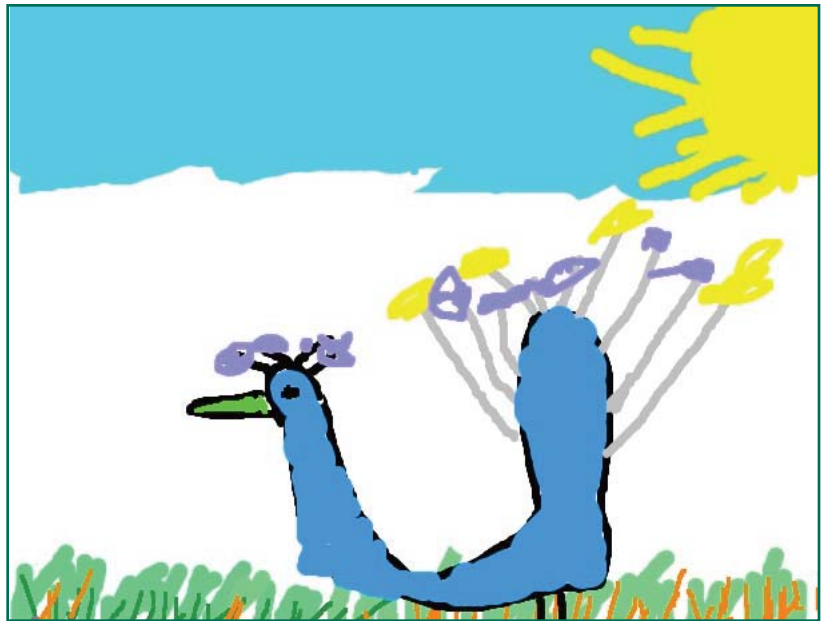
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Adventures in iPads

By Technology Teacher Melika Panneri

Technology classes are off to a great start! Please visit the lab's website to view all of the hard work the students have been doing.



Our adventures in iPads began last June. During the summer months, each teacher took home an iPad to become familiar with it, to search for apps that apply to their curriculum, and to experience the world of mobile computing for themselves. Our teachers have embraced this new technology and have impressed me with their creativity thus far. Senior Kindergarten used a time-lapse app to record their plants growing. The results are amazing! Every week, the First Grade teachers have been recording themselves doing handwriting lessons. This video is added to the iPads and students

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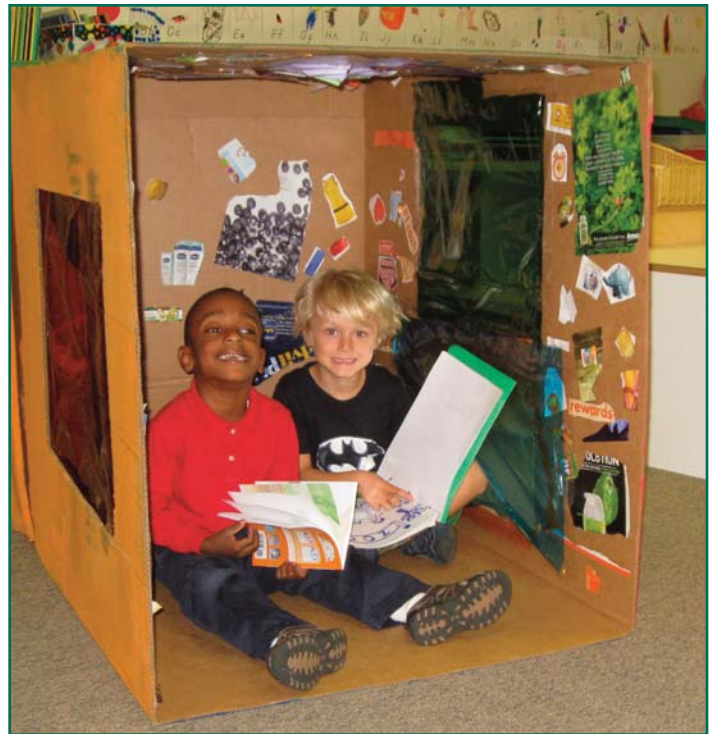
Junior Kindergarten Is A Fun Place To Be

By Junior Kindergarten Teachers M. Fritz Fahrenkamp and Elizabeth Talbott

Junior Kindergarten has had a fantastic start to the school year! We have been working hard using all our senses to discover as much as possible about our world. We began the year delving into our sense of sight. We had “Ooh and Ahh” experiences as we watched our pupils dilate and contract in different levels of light. After hearing the story of Louis Braille, the students, with help from their Fifth Grade buddies, used split peas to write “I LOVE YOU” in braille. After reading *The Color Box*, we created the color box, a special spot where two children can sit to read while looking out of cellophane colored “windows.” We were able to express ourselves while painting to music. We listened to a variety of different song genres and the children used watercolor to paint. Junior Kindergarteners enjoyed being chefs and used many senses when we “cooked” frozen yogurt, rainbow cupcakes, and pizza for snack. After reading *Lucy’s Picture*, we created our own reflective collages using various materials. We took a field trip to the Botanical Garden to use all our senses in the sensory garden there. We also looked for the many sculptures at the Garden. Back at school, we have been making our own wonderful sculptures using the many recyclables parents brought in.

In October, we have been taking walks around the school in the Wilson neighborhood to observe the natural world. We are learning about conservation and how we can help take care of our planet. The students are encouraged to bring in interesting natural things they come across as they experience their world. We add these to our science table for all to examine. We also have a woodworking bench that the children can use to create wood masterpieces.

Letter Louie has visited Junior Kindergarten every Monday to introduce the new letter of the week. We take turns taking the letter bucket home and bringing back objects that begin with the letter of the week. We make a list of these objects with the children helping to



sound out the words. We also read BIG BOOKS to help the children learn the mechanics of reading. Sometimes we act the book out and make a class book. After we read each book several times, the children are able to read the smaller version on our bookshelf. The students enjoy being the “crown reader” after independent reading twice each week. The crown reader gets to wear a crown, use the microphone, and “read” the book they have chosen to the class.

In October, Junior Kindergarten is featured on the MYMAGO bulletin board for the month. We are making our mark a good one by being fair. We read the book *Rainbow Fish*, and made a bulletin board with our Fifth Grade buddies. At the MYMAGO assembly we will act out *Rainbow Fish* with our buddies. Every day, in every way, Junior Kindergarteners are learning about themselves and those around them. It is a fun place to be if you are four or five years old!





Fifth Grade's Candy Explorations

By Fifth Grade Teachers Laurie Finkenkeller and Kevin McGinnis

Just in time for Columbus Day, the Fifth Grade's study of early European explorers came to life through the help of a few packets of Skittles and a little imagination. The Fifth Grade social studies class began exploring the new world just after Columbus' voyages to the Americas.

When returning from lunch one afternoon, the class was surprised to hear Mr. McGinnis explain that they would not need their textbooks or binders for this lesson. They were delighted to learn that while at lunch, their teachers had hidden several bags with prizes around the room, and that they were "to explore" the room in an effort to discover the bags and what was inside them.

The first person to find a bag with a candy prize screamed with joy, announcing his reward to the entire class. His fellow classmates redoubled their efforts to find all the bags, until all bags, those with and those

without prizes, were found.

After returning to their seats, the students considered the historical implications of the experience. Several students, both those with and those without candy, identified that their excitement could have been exactly what early explorers felt when Columbus came back and told of a land with vast wealth and riches to be found. Others noted that even if they did not find a bag or found a bag without a prize inside, they still searched on hoping to find what had made their classmates so excited. Though on a smaller scale, the students realized that they had truly felt many of the same feelings that the early explorers who left Europe had felt.

In keeping with this year's MYMAGO theme of fairness, Mr. McGinnis made sure everyone received their fair share of Skittles during the next day's social studies lesson.

A Note From The Head

By Thad Falkner, Head of School

It is wonderful to be a part of the Wilson experience; there seems always to be energy in the air and something exciting happening. I am especially eager for this upcoming week when a team of nine visitors, representing the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS), will spend three days immersed in "The Wilson Way." A Visiting Team comes once every seven years, as a normal activity in our accreditation cycle. They will take an in-depth look at all aspects of our school, the program and climate, administrative functions, governance, the facilities, etc. The Team will be visible in the building Monday, October 25 and Tuesday, October 26. I know a highlight of their visit will be seeing our charming students at work with our exceptional teachers.



Blown Over At Cahokia

By Second Grade Teachers Miguel Figueras and Maureen Zeman

157? 142? 138? 174?

How many steps are there to reach the summit of Monk's Mound? On a gusty day in September the Second Grade class walked, counted, and then viewed the spectacular sights of St. Louis from Monk's Mound, the site of the Chief's home. Many parents joined in the fun. We viewed a movie that told us about life in the Mississippian culture, explored the museum, and learned what it was like to be a child



living in a village without television, computers, and iPads.

How many inches, feet, yards, centimeters, or meters? These are all answered in the many measurement activities in second grade. Our centers include Olympic Measure, Metric Zoo, Measure Yourself, and Build A Tower. They all help us learn measurement concepts in a fun and active way. We are beginning our next unit on money and will learn the value of coins, the many ways to make a dollar, and how to give change. Students will work in centers exploring these areas. In addition, (pun intended) students will be working on improving computational skills using flashcards, games, and small group instruction.

What does this book remind you of? How does it

make you feel? These are just some of the questions students answer about the books they read and share in their literature groups. Students have been writing personal responses as reactions to our literature based reading program, and sharing their viewpoints in a small group setting.. Students are able to share their feelings about the book as well as improve their writing skills. In addition students enjoy the many stories read by Mr. Figueras, Mrs. Zeman, and Miss Bush. Reading is fun in second grade!

What is your favorite snack? Favorite day of the week? Memories of Cahokia? Students in second grade are learning to use a graphic organizer to organize their thoughts. Then they are writing paragraphs, learning to edit them, and sharing them with their fellow classmates. Our Wednesday sharing time is one of the most popular days of the week. Students give feedback about their favorite parts, a strong verb or adjective that they noticed, or a creative title. Next we will begin a unit on memoirs, and students will write about a favorite childhood treasure.

Which planets are terrestrial? Jovian? Students are learning all about everything solar. They are making models of the solar system, and learning about heat absorption and reflection. Their nature walk was a way to find objects in nature that absorb or reflect heat. Students enjoy the experience of working in small groups and exploring together. Science is busy and fun.

Finally, the questions many second graders ask are about our pet Elvis. Does he live in the last locker? Did he get my note? This year's students made a creative mailbox for Elvis, and he has received many letters. Unfortunately, he has not been paying attention to our daily writing lessons, and his handwriting is hard to read. A few notes were even found on our Cahokia Field trip. When we heard a shout from Miss Bush, we all wondered why she seemed to be so happy. We found out that she received her first birthday card from Elvis in her lunch bag. Everyone was surprised. I guess second grade is full of surprises every day!

Wilson Artists Always Make A Big Impression

By Art Teachers Diane Signor (PK-1st) and Mary Beth Tipton (2nd-6th)

Our main art theme for the 2011-2012 school year is Impressionism. Students will be learning about various artists of this important art movement throughout the school year. They will explore the various techniques used and will learn about how this movement changed the course of art history. This theme directly correlates with the "Monet's Water Lilies" exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum. Most classes will be taking field trips to visit this impressive exhibit.

Other aspects of the art program include the elements of art (color, space, line, form, texture) and the principles of design (movement, balance, repetition, contrast, unity). The three facets of art (art production, art history and art aesthetics) are also emphasized. Each grade level has individual goals:

Pre-Kindergarten -- The emphasis is on exploring various materials and enjoying the creative process. Many quality picture books are used as inspiration.

Junior Kindergarten -- The main goal is to learn how to represent the world in various artistic ways. Some important units include trees, Native American



and other various multicultural projects.

Senior Kindergarten -- The main goal is focusing on detail in drawing and painting.

First Grade -- The emphasis is on more in depth drawing skills, such as perspective, and exploring three-dimensional projects. Important units are on Ancient Egypt and modern sculpture.

Second Grade -- The projects are generally based on forms, shapes and observations from nature.

Third Grade -- Drawing, painting and craft skills are emphasized. We pay special attention to using appropriate tools and including detail.

Fourth Grade -- Observing and interpreting the human face and figure are among the goals this year. We will do this through a number of projects including the creating of masks and sculptural figures.

Fifth Grade -- Learning about effective use of color through a number of painting assignments is a significant part of the Fifth Grade's art curriculum. We will also explore balance and form through creating sculptural pieces.

Sixth Grade -- The main emphasis is considering and creating personal symbols as we work our way through a number of different mediums including clay, fabric, and printing.



Cover Story ... continued

follow along during writer's workshop. Second graders have used the iPads to do research for their state projects. Fourth graders have used the iPads to read the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and for a calculator app. In music class, students have used the iPads to record themselves playing the recorder, play virtual instruments and much more. All this in only the first month of school!

First grade is the first year Wilson students visit the lab for formal instruction. We read the book *Arthur's Computer Disaster* and discussed the proper care of all our equipment. To compliment the First Grade animal unit, the students used *KidPix* to draw the proper habitat of their animals. This information was gathered by searching online together. We found many good sites that told us everything we ever wanted to know about the animals they had chosen to study. After reading through the information together and taking a good look at animal photographs online, the students added a drawing of their animals to their habitat drawings. Their work was printed and added to the wonderful collection of information they gathered in first grade.

Second graders are very busy in technology class. Currently, they are working hard to create an interactive memory game about the solar system. Each student researched four parts of our solar system and recorded two facts about each part. They used *KidPix* to create original drawings of the solar system. The drawings and facts are included in an interactive memory game. Two players take turns to match the drawings to the facts. When a card is clicked the content is revealed. The students find it very exciting to flip the cards because the revealing tool is a FLASH function and looks very professional. To achieve this, the students used the *Mimio Notebook* software that is part of our school-wide Mimio interactive whiteboard system.

Third graders have done a lot in a short time during technology class. As third grade studied community in their classroom, we were able to incorporate this

content into lessons in the technology lab. They sorted different locations into categories. For example, they moved the image of a school into the category of PLACES TO LEARN. During this community lesson, they learned how to move an image, resize an image, search for images online, and copy and paste images. Way to go Third Grade! Currently, they are creating posters all about themselves. The information they put on the poster will be used to make movies about themselves. Be on the lookout for the finished product online.



Fourth Grade students have worked hard to figure out what goes on inside a computer. First, they brainstormed about some of the parts they thought were inside and drew pictures of what they thought

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these parts look like. Next, we did some research on what the parts actually do. Then the day came where we got to take apart two computers. The screwdrivers turned and the questions began. Why is that so small? Why is that part connected to that part? They had a lot of fun, learned a lot about how computers work, and how fast technology changes. The two computers we took apart were from the late 1990s and much has changed since then. All their curiosity came in handy when they each created a *Keynote* presentation on a specific computer part. After seeing the parts first hand they knew which one they would like to explore a little more in depth.

Fifth grade has worked hard to become proficient at touch typing. We use a program that first tests each student and then places him or her in the correct level of typing courses. Each visit to the lab builds on the

previous day's typing skills. It is hard work to type without looking down at the keys, but our fifth graders are doing a phenomenal job. Fifth graders have just begun to learn the ins and outs of Microsoft Excel and how it could help at school and at home.

Sixth graders are right in the midst of one of their favorite research projects. They are creating websites for the first time and loving it. As they study North America in their social studies class, they pay special attention to Canada in technology class. Students have been working in pairs to research the provinces of Canada. This year we are using *Diigo* for Education student accounts to keep track of their research. With these accounts students can easily highlight directly on websites, take notes, and share notes with their partner. They will use this information to publish websites using *Weebly for Education*.

Wilson Competes In Soccer Invitational



Wilson students had the opportunity to participate in the annual Rossman School invitational soccer tournament on October 1. Soccer players spent the morning and afternoon playing six other independent schools in the St. Louis area. Thanks to all the students and parents that supported this fun event! Players included: sixth graders **Alex, Christopher, Nathan, Nicholas, Nicholas, Sam** and **Taylor**; fifth graders **Andrew, Josh, Matt,** and **Max**; and fourth graders **Adam, Andrew, Kenneth** and **Wolf**.

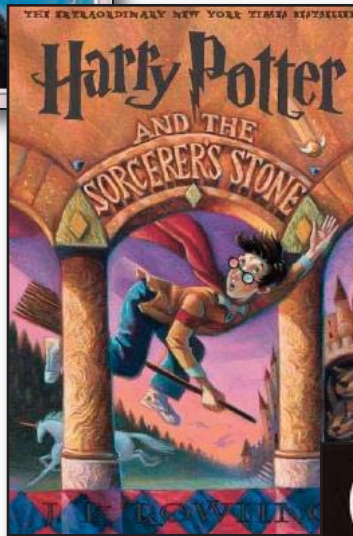
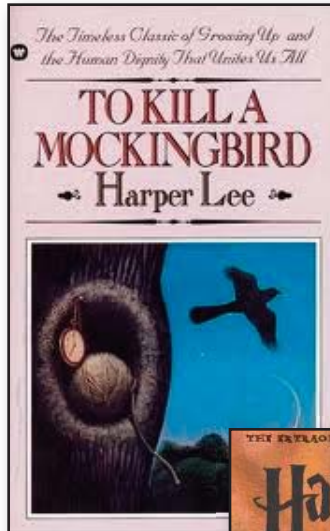
What If Your Favorite Book Was Banned?

By Library/Resource Teacher Pam Comello

What if, on your recent trip to your favorite bookstore or library you had been told, "That book isn't available anymore to be checked out," or, "We don't carry that book anymore and we can't get it for you!"

During Resource class, as an introduction to "Banned Books Week," these statements were presented as possible messages third through fifth graders might hear if a book they wanted to read had been banned. Sponsored mainly by the American Library Association, Banned Books Week is celebrated during the last week of September. This is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read and the importance of the First Amendment.

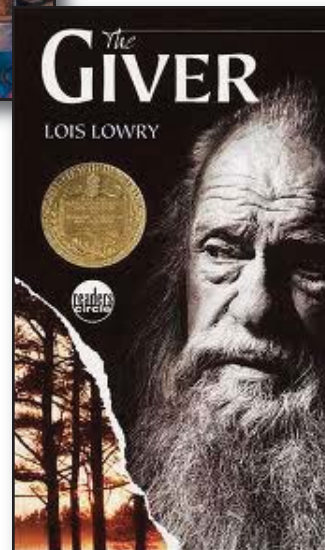
Over the course of several class sessions, students used dictionaries to look up the words "ban," "censor" and "challenge." We discussed how groups or individuals with objections challenge books in an attempt to remove or restrict material. Banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges are attempts to remove material from a school curriculum or a library, thereby restricting the access of others. Students learned this is a threat to our freedom of speech and choice. We read the picture book *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig (a challenged Caldecott award book) and predicted what objections there were about the book.



Students were surprised to learn that the Wilson Library includes some of the books that have been the most challenged over the last 20 years, including Newbery award winners: *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, *The Great Gilly Hopkins* by Katherine Paterson, *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George, *My Brother Sam is Dead* by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier, *The Wish Giver* by Bill Brittain, and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.

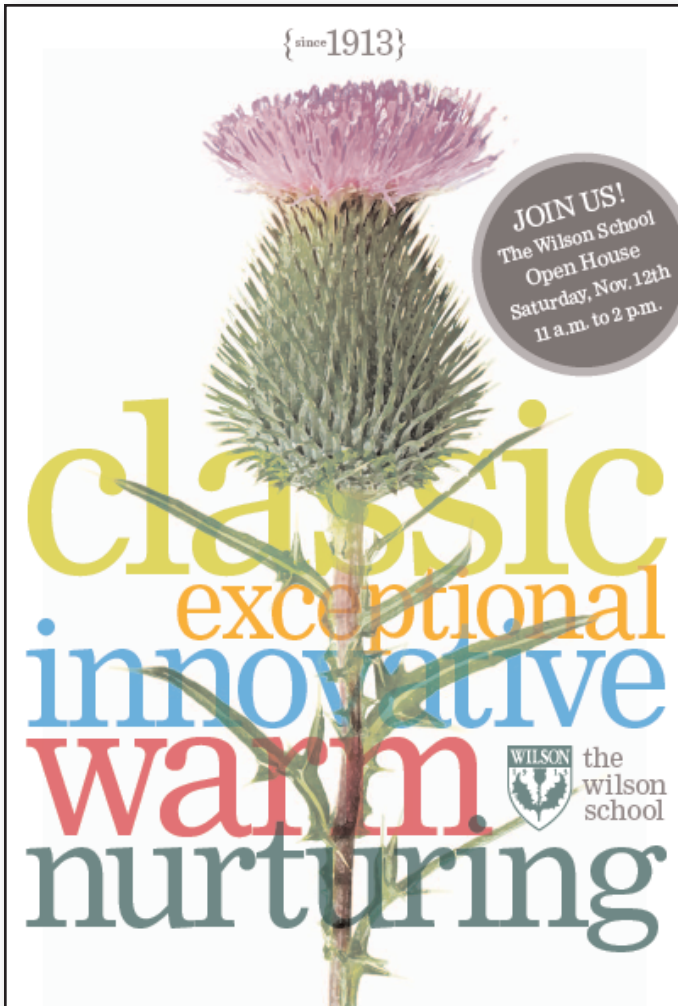
Attempts have been made to ban these well-known classics: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London, *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles. Alvin Schwartz's *Scary Stories* series and J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series have also been challenged.

Some students named book titles they predicted might be challenged. They drew covers of favorite books they wouldn't want challenged or banned.



The Wilson School Public Open House

Saturday, November 12 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Wilson parents, Trustees, current sixth grade students, and alumni are needed as volunteer tour guides and greeters for the November public open house. This is a wonderful chance for current and former students to share their Wilson experience and to gain public service experience. The open house is also one of the most important days for presenting our school to prospective Wilson families. It is an invaluable opportunity to share the Wilson experience firsthand and to attract new families.

Because word of mouth is the most powerful messaging, please spread the word by telling your friends, neighbors and family members and invite them to attend. Your efforts have a direct impact on the success of the open house and to the continued strong enrollment of the school.

Printed postcard invitations will be available in the library, and an electronic version of the invitation will be forwarded to all Wilson households. Please pass them along. Also, remind your friends to visit www.wilsonschooll.com and Wilson's Facebook account. There is a lot of great information on both, but nothing beats a personal visit.

Visitors need not RSVP. Just come as you are and bring your children! Volunteers are asked to email lhartung@wilsonschooll.com or stop by the Admission Office to indicate your availability. Light refreshments will be available for visitors.

Building Community, Benefiting Wilson

By PA President Megan Philip

Several opportunities are coming up to have fun with your fellow Wilsonites and simultaneously benefit the work of the Parents' Association! Make sure the following dates are on your calendar:

Barnes & Noble Book Fair, November 10-12: Get a jump on your holiday shopping at the Ladue Crossing store. Special events include: *Story Time* with Mr. Falkner on Thursday at 7:00 pm and with Mr. Hinkebein on Friday at 5:00 p.m., as well as *Game Time with Your Buddy* on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. You (and/or your friends and relatives) may also make purchases online with the Wilson voucher number through November 14. Thanks to **Elaine Moss** and **Cristi King** for chairing!

Moms' Night Out at Ivy Hill Boutique, December 1, 4:00-7:00 p.m. What could be better at this busy time of year than to take an hour (or two or three!) with some friends to sip some wine, nibble some cheese, and shop at this Central West End hotspot? Bonus #1: You receive 10% off your purchase and Wilson receives 10% of the proceeds. Bonus #2: Make a wish-list for the store to keep on file, so that your significant other has some helpful hints for gift-buying. Thanks to **Scott Gill** for arranging this!

Wilson Night at the Blues, December 8: Round up the kids and head over to watch the St. Louis Blues take on the Anaheim Ducks at Scottrade Center for this Wilson family favorite! It may be a Thursday, but there's no school the next day, so even the little ones can enjoy the game from the first puck drop to the last Zamboni appearance. See the Wilson website for ticket details.

Taking Time Out For Fire Prevention

October 10-14 was Fire Prevention Week, and some firefighters from the Clayton Fire Department stopped by to give some of our students a presentation on Fire Safety. PK, JK, and first and second grades enjoyed learning about the different tools the firefighters use, exploring the fire truck and checking out the protective gear the firefighters wear. Many thanks to the Clayton Fire Department for coming to Wilson!





October, November, December Events

Oct. 22	Trivia Night
Oct. 23-26	ISACS Accreditation Team Visit
Oct. 26	Assembly – BBC
Oct. 28	No School – Faculty Professional Day
Oct. 31	Morning Coffee for Parents
Oct. 31	Halloween Assembly & Parade
Nov. 3-4	Visiting Author Georgia Heard
Nov. 9	Assembly - BBC
Nov. 10-12	Barnes & Noble Book Fair at Ladue Crossing
Nov. 10-14	Online Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Nov. 15	Board Meeting
Nov. 16	5th and 6th Grade Musical
Nov 18	Fall Festival
Nov. 23	Grandparents' & Special Friends Day
Nov. 23	Noon Dismissal. Childcare until 3pm. Bring sack lunch.
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving
Nov. 25	No School – No Childcare
Nov. 30	Used Book Sale Drop
Dec. 1	Mom's Night Out at Ivy Hill
Dec. 7	Morning Coffee for Parents
Dec. 7	Assembly – BBC (Repeat performance by 2nd – 6th Grade from Nov. 23)
Dec. 8	Latin Feast
Dec. 9	No School – Progress Report Writing Day – No Childcare
Dec. 13	Board Meeting
Dec. 14	Dads' & Special Dudes Day
Dec. 16	Noon Dismissal. Childcare until 3pm. Bring sack lunch.
Dec. 17-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 3	School Resumes

Check the Wilson School website for more dates and details:

www.wilsonschooll.com

