

THE COMPASS

WORLD OF INQUIRY SCHOOL/ PARENT TEACHER CREW NEWSLETTER/ VOLUME 1

Winter Workshop Wonderland

by Kristine Resch

The Secondary Fundraising Committee sponsored a school wide **Winter Workshop** December 15 & 16. This workshop is a fundraiser for the secondary class trips but more importantly is a community service to all students K-9 students who would like the opportunity to buy gifts for their families. Students had the opportunity to preview items at the gift shop and come back to have a shopping experience. We had **amazing** parent volunteers, students from St. John Fisher College and our own WOIS secondary students who supported this event. Elementary shoppers had a personal shopper who helped them make selections, count their money and make sure they received the correct change. At the end of their shopping experience students were escorted to the gift wrap room where they had the presents wrapped for their family. The students loved the workshop and all the volunteers enjoyed the excited faces of the students who bought a special gift for a family member. Many items were donated by families, staff and the community.

The Winter Workshop raised over \$2,100. The 7th, 8th and 9th grade trips will each receive \$700 towards their trip. The Winter Workshop would not have been a success without all of our wonderful volunteers and the Secondary Fundraising Committee would like to again thank anyone who was able to come out or offer support.



Fundraising Update: Silent Auction Planned!

The WOIS 9th grade students are working on a year-long expedition entitled *The American Dream: Through Immigrants' Eyes*. In June, the students will go to New York City on a three day tour focused on immigration. In order to raise funds to provide such an amazing opportunity, a silent auction is being held at the **Tap & Mallet on February 12, 2012 from 2-4 p.m.** Tickets for the event are \$10. Contact 9th Grade Social Studies Teacher, Gabe Chodak or visit <https://sites.google.com/site/worldofinquirysilentauction/>

WOIS Teacher Feature

by Mahreen George

Teaches: K - 9 In School Support

How long have you been at WOIS: 23 years!

Something about me that isn't widely known: I love getting my "moon tans".

Grew up: Harlem, USA!

Childhood role model: My maternal grandfather because he was a great "Daddy".

Favorite childhood book: I liked books of poetry.

What were you like as a teenager? I was fun-loving.

Favorite music: Classic R&B, smooth jazz, the old gospels, caribbean.

What do you do for fun outside of teaching? Dance, and play cards.

What led me to teaching: My love of children.

The best part of my job: Seeing a child realize they can, and try to do better.

The hardest part of my job: To see and hear students disrespect anyone, and know that sometimes there is a deep-seeded reason.

What have your students taught you? Listen to them carefully.

The best advice I'd pass along to parents of kids in school: Make/take time to have fun with your kids!

Ms. Small-Bess



Mrs. Sookram

Teaches: 1st Grade/2nd Grade Loop

How long have you been at WOIS: 12 years.

Something you are known for: I get the job done.

Something about me that isn't widely known: I'm a Boston Celtic Fan!

Where I grew up: Gates, NY

Childhood role model: My mom. She is a super-hero, the real wonder woman.

Favorite childhood book: The Chocolate Touch.

What were you like as a teenager? Quiet, did what mom and dad wanted me to do.

Favorite music: Christian Contemporary.

What do you do for fun outside of teaching? Hang out with friends, go out to dinner or coffee.

What led me to teaching: My mom.

What do you enjoy most about teaching at WOIS? It is the **BEST** school ever!!!

What have your students taught you? That I can be silly and still be respected as their teacher.

Best advice for parents: Work together with your child's teacher, don't work against him/her.



CALENDAR

Thursday, 1/5

Parent Teacher Crew Meeting, 5:30pm

Saturday, 1/7

School Choice Expo @ the Convention Center, 9 - 3pm

Monday, 1/16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed - no school

Saturday, 1/21

Recruiting: Grade 7
Group Information Session
Time: 10:00-11:30 am
Letters A-M (first letter of student's last name);
12:30-2:00 pm for Letters
N-Z (first letter of student's last name)

Wednesday - Friday 1/25 - 1/27

Secondary Intensives

Saturday, 1/28

Snow Party for Gr. K - 9
@ Tay Lodge,
Cobb's Hill Park, 12 - 4pm

Look for The Compass monthly and also online on our School #58 website
www.rcsdk12.org/WOIS

Our Box Tops Fundraiser

made School #58 over \$200 last fall. Keep those Box Tops coming in. Ask extended family and neighbors for their Box Tops too!

Volunteer Corner!

by Melissa M. Parrish
Volunteer Coordinator

We are beginning a new year and 2011 was chock-full with exciting activities at the World of Inquiry School. Some December highlights were WOIS "The Buzz" A Capella group performing with the YellowJackets at Eastman Theatre, our Secondary level field studies, our Recruitment Night, our Step Team's performances (Crystals and Gems and the Queens of Inquiry) at Elementary Exhibition Night and the Winter Workshop—just to name a few. We couldn't have done any of these wonderful activities without our outstanding parent volunteers. The parent volunteers carpool, transport students, support field studies, donate gifts, wrap presents, clean and decorate rooms, escort students, sell crew wear and enthusiastically cheer on our students wherever they may be.

If you haven't yet had an opportunity to volunteer at WOIS, it's 2012... and there is still time. Just remember, it's just **"One and Done"** and you have fulfilled your minimum volunteer commitment to the school community. Giving your time is the best way to demonstrate your commitment to our school motto **"Art of Possibility...we are crew, not passengers."** Thanks to everyone for their continued support to our school community.

Morning Meeting: W-G-Y-B

We've - got - your - back! by Meghan Delehanty

I will never forget my first School Wide Morning Meeting at School #58 4 years ago. Touring the RCSD as a parent considering schools for my soon to be kindergartener, I was deeply moved by the power of the assembly that first day I visited WOIS. Never had I been in a school with such spirit. I was in awe. It was magic. The joy that captured me that day was exactly how I wanted my kids to feel about school and learning. Morning Meetings still bring a smile to my face and usually at least a few tears to my eyes. I am so grateful for the continued emphasis teachers put on music and movement, on greeting and praising fellow students and on giving us all at WOIS an opportunity to come together once a week to reflect on how lucky we are to be part of something bigger than ourselves and celebrate our successes.

So I encourage you, if you haven't already, to attend at least one morning meeting this school year. Talk to your child about a week that may be special to him/her for you to come or make arrangements to come when their grade level is in charge of presenting. It will be the highlight of your week (and there may be some free coffee in it for you too!)



PTC Shout Outs To:

Liz Yohe and Mrs. Resch for the MANY hours and days they spent organizing the Winter Workshop!

Mrs. Maio, Mrs. Miller, Mr. Zwahlen, Mr. Reddington and Mrs. Garrett for attending a PTC meeting this year!

PTC photographer Mahreen George for taking beautiful photos of our Secondary Crews!

Kristen Schmidt for selling Crew Wear at our December Exhibition night!

Kyle Markham, for helping as one of Santa's little elves for 2 days!

Jiselle Anderson and Charles Fuller for carpooling and transporting members of the BUZZ and Step teams to performances!

Anne Davis for her tireless work behind the scenes to make Winter Workshop a success!

Marsha Wilson, new friend of WOIS and stunning jewelry maker!

All of the **WOIS secondary students** who supported the Winter Workshop operations, Exhibition Night and the performances at Eastman Theatre & Blue Cross Arena!

Supporters of our WOIS athletes!
Thank you for your attendance and cheers at the games!

Kids! Parents! Teachers!

Join in on the fun!

Saturday, January 28

12 - 4PM

@ Tay House Lodge

Annual Snow Party **Sledding, food & fun!**

All K - 9 students, staff and their families are invited!

Bring a dish to pass!

The Tay House Lodge at [Cobb's Hill Park](#) is located at 85 Hillside Avenue, near School #1 and Monroe County Water Authority.

Top 10 Things you should know about the WOIS PTC.

10. **Every** parent and teacher is a member.
9. There is **no** fee to join.
8. Meetings are held on the **first** Thursday of each month at 5:30pm in the library. **Babysitting** is provided.
7. We are **supportive** and **supported**.
6. We strive to help improve home school **communication**.
5. We work to **raise money** to help fund student expeditions.
4. We organize free events to bring our school community together to have fun!
3. There **is** a place for you on the PTC. We are moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, neighbors, teachers, alumni and more.
2. We **love** WOIS.
1. **We are crew, not passengers.**