



# SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Woodside Middle School

Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students

February 2016 Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

#### Woodside Middle School

**FEBRUARY 15**

8th Grade Orientation to High School, 6 PM at Saydel High School

**FEBRUARY 18**

Grading for Growth Parent Information Meeting, 5:30 PM & 6:30 PM at Saydel High School Auditorium

**FEBRUARY 24**

Wednesday After School Program, 2:45 PM - 4:45 PM

**FEBRUARY 25**

Music Concert, 6:30 PM at Saydel High School

**FEBRUARY 25**

Saydel Youth Art Show Opening Reception, 5 PM - 7 PM at Ankeny Art Center

**MARCH 3**

Parent Teacher Conferences, 4 PM - 8 PM

**MARCH 3**

Woodside PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM in Woodside Library

**MARCH 8**

Parent Teacher Conferences, 4 PM - 8 PM

**MARCH 11**

Spring Break Begins

### School Hours

**WOODSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

7:45 AM - 2:45 PM

Wed.: 8:45 AM - 2:45 PM

*NOTE: Each Wednesday school begins one hour later for teacher in-service.*

**MISSION: Serving the Unique Learning Needs of Each & Every Student**

### Principal's Message

I always find it interesting to sit back and listen to a group of individuals whom share the same occupation "talk shop." It seems to me that it does not matter how long the individuals have known each other or if they work for the same organization, people can talk about their work to folks that share the same vocation.

In these situations, I wish I could interject into the conversation, but I often find myself confused of the odd lingo shared by the group of professionals. My wife has expressed the same feeling whenever a group of my peers gather. Topics of conversation for educators over the years include MAP, SRG, AYP, NCLB, SIAC, and MTSS to name a few. If you are confused by the educator alphabet we commonly reference, I apologize. For that reason, I would like to discuss Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) in this month's Woodside newsletter.



Principal Joshua Heyer



Figure 1: Possible Teaching Practice Model

MTSS is a term to describe a model of schooling that supports all students' academic and behavioral instructional needs. MTSS operates under the premise that every student will succeed in education. This type of thinking is a philosophical shift from older practices. Old practices had teachers plan for instruction, instruct, assign a task, grade the task, and move on to the next learning target. MTSS requires educators to think about students that may not grasp a concept the first time it is taught or is struggling with the subject and determine what to do to support the student.

MTSS can best be described as multiple layers of support to ensure every student is successful. Figure 2: MTSS Layers of Support is a model of how one can view the learning process and supports available to every student under MTSS. The first layer in the MTSS model is labeled differentiated core. This layer of instruction is delivered by the general education teacher to 100% of students. If a student is not successful in a certain content area, the school may elect to add an additional layer of support for the student.

In this situation, the student would receive differentiated core and supplemental support in hopes the student would be able to make academic gains. MTSS models suggest 20% of students may fall in this layer of support. The final layer of support, intensive support, would be added to a student that does not show academic gains after receiving the first two layers. MTSS practices indicate less than 5% of the student population could receive all three layers of MTSS support.

### Layering of Support

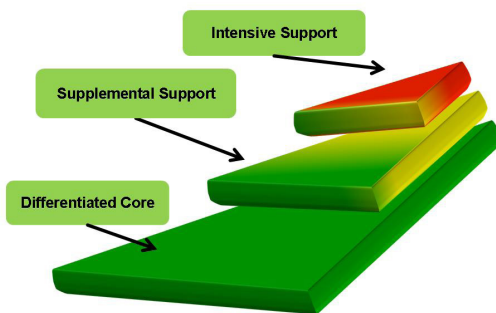


Figure 2: MTSS: Layers of Support

Continued on page 2...

# Saydel Athletic Booster Memberships

Special thanks to the following businesses and individuals who support the Saydel Athletic Boosters through membership.

## **BUSINESS PLATINUM EAGLE**

Chemorse  
Rasmussen Group  
Walker Construction & Painting  
Goode Greenhouses  
Power Systems  
All Iowa Products  
Rising Star Wholesale  
Jason's Lawn & Tree Care  
Karl Chevrolet  
A+ Flat Top Concrete Business  
Teddell Electric  
Wee's Tee's

## **BUSINESS GOLD EAGLE**

Iowa State Bank  
Capital City Equipment  
Affinity Credit Union

## **BUSINESS SILVER EAGLE**

Baker Group  
Casey's General Store  
Telesupport, Inc.  
Hy-Vee Ankeny Prairie Trail

## **INDIVIDUAL GOLD EAGLE**

Doug & Lisa Wheeler  
Kevin & Kelly Schulte  
Brett Hersom  
Randy & Joleen Stephenson  
Rob & Shelli Stephenson  
R.C. Madison  
Dorothy Walter  
Brian & Lori Bowman

## **INDIVIDUAL SILVER EAGLE**

Zeke & Colette Philipsen  
Judy Gustafson

## **STAFF DUAL ATHLETIC & MUSIC MEMBERS**

Penny Smith  
Dia Fenton  
Sherry Keegan-Bayeur  
Cheri Tingley  
Eric Layden  
Shawn Pavlik  
Joshua Heyer  
Linda Reid  
Melissa Sensor  
Amanda Stone  
Jerry Young  
Jenni McKee  
Dave Braman  
Adam Busch  
Michael Puffett

## *Principal's Letter continued from page 1...*

Over the last several months, the Woodside staff has spent some time diving into MTSS. The first step we took with the implementation of MTSS at Woodside was the development of a mission statement. Woodside mission statement states: Woodside is a place where all students connect, thrive, and achieve at high levels by engaging in learning opportunities that prepare students for success.

Additional MTSS implementation efforts at Woodside include 5th -8th grade iRead program, Wednesday after school program for behavior and academic needs, and weekly grade level meetings to discuss student academic and behavior needs.

While portions of the MTSS layers of support are in place, more changes need to occur. The goal of this newsletter is to provide families with a foundational understanding of changes to come. The changes are needed in order for our mission statement to become a reality.

Woodside will continue to work toward implementation of multiple layers of support this year and for years to come. For more information on MTSS in the state of Iowa, visit <http://tinyurl.com/qaw739q>.

# 5th Grade Students Honored by Women's Auxiliary VFW for Outstanding Essays



Earlier this school year the fifth grade students wrote essays for our local women's auxiliary of the VFW 9662. Essays are judged at the local, district and state levels and monetary prizes are given. We are excited to announce that we had three winning essays and one essay went all the way to winning second place at the state level. Deric Van Houten's essay took 3rd place in the local level, Madison Rogers's essay won 2nd place in the local level, and Emily Majerus's essay won 1st place local, 1st place district, and 2nd place at the state level. Congratulations!

Pictured from left, front row: Deric Van Houten, Madison Rogers and Emily Majerus. From left, back row: 5th Grade Teacher Erin Ogden, VFW Representative Elaine Podner, 5th Grade Teachers, Katie Mary, Mallory Stubbers and Marsha George.

# ELL Program at Saydel Community School District

By Mahnaz Shojaie, K-12 ELL Teacher

As a new and first full time ELL teacher at Saydel Community School District, I am thrilled to take the responsibility of this great job and service our ELL students in all three buildings; Cornell Elementary School, Woodside Middle School and Saydel High School. I am very proud that our program is thriving.

When I started this job, I truly thought that with my passion for teaching English as a second language, I could instill it into every student that I was going to teach. Currently we have 80 ELL students in our district.

Collectively, our ELL students speak over four different languages, Spanish, Karen, Tagolog and Romanian which add a linguistically diverse and multi-cultural richness to our growing district wide student population. We have both Pull-Out and Push-In program models.

The goal of the ELL program is to familiarize ELL students with the varied cultures and customs of the United States while promoting their own ethnic pride through cultural diversity and sensitivity, academic mastery of subject matter content and higher order skills including critical thinking, so as to meet appropriate grade promotion and graduation requirements.

The major goal of the first year of ELL instruction is rapid language acquisition with emphasis on listening, speaking, reading and writing in English. The goal of second and third year ELL instruction is to develop that content area language that they need to be successful in schools. Research states that it can take a student six years to become totally fluent in a second language and up to eight years to develop the cognitive academic language proficiency.

Helping individual ELLs master academic language is a complex, long-term process, not an event or a program with a clear end date.

The absolute joy I feel when I connect with each student is hard to describe. I am helping these students learn to navigate their world; teaching them how to be enthusiastic learners. Their progress has been amazing, and I am in awe at how far they have come in such a short amount of time. I have no doubt that they will be able to speak English fluently one day.

Mahnaz Shojaie can be reached at: [shojaiemahnaz@saydel.net](mailto:shojaiemahnaz@saydel.net)

## 5th Grade News

By The Fifth Grade Team

Fifth grade classes are reading the novel *Thunder Rolling in the Mountains*. As we read we are collecting text evidence that we will use to write an essay describing the beliefs and values of Chief Joseph, leader of the Nez Perce tribe.

We continue to explore our new math curriculum and are happy to be starting our second module! Module 2's focus is multi-digit multiplication and division (including decimals). We will be learning mental strategies, algorithms, and order of operations.

Science classes have just finished investigating the day/night cycle and why the sun appears to move across the sky. For their assessment, students are creating a children's book explaining and illustrating these concepts.

## Grading Is Changing at Saydel Community School District



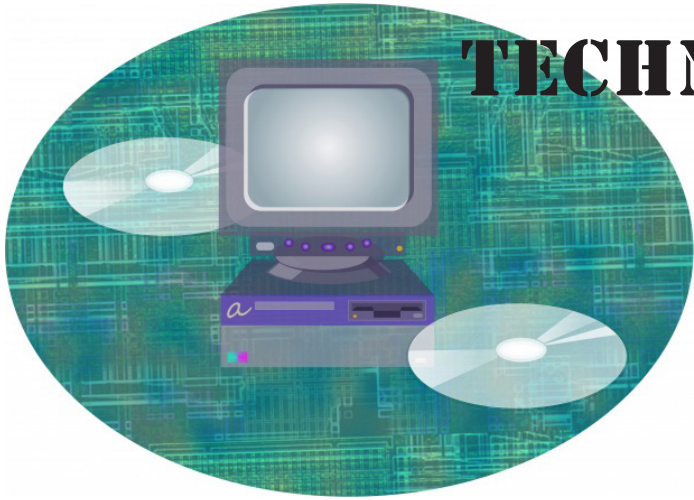
Please attend ONE of the Parent Information Sessions

February 18  
5:30 pm OR 6:30 pm  
at Saydel High School Auditorium

Saydel is striving for  
100% parent participation.

Please sign in when you arrive.

[www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us)



# TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION

*By Linda Wickham, Technology Teacher*

During technology classes this year all 5th and 6th graders will be experiencing coding. We start with Code Monkey ([www.playcodemonkey.com](http://www.playcodemonkey.com)). The games develop basic coding language by teaching students how to move the monkey to retrieve the banana. The kids enjoy the challenge. Once they have mastered Code Monkey they progress to other programs (Code: [code.org](http://code.org), Codecademy: [www.codecademy.com](http://www.codecademy.com)) Exposing students to the structure of technical language increases their understanding.

They just finished using Excel to answer questions about "The Twelve Days of Christmas." The 5th graders calculated if you purchased what the song calls for you would buy 364 items. The 6th graders calculated the approximate cost of these items \$266,000.00+.

Saydel has implemented a new program: Easy Tech. It provides keyboarding instruction and basic technology development: hardware and software fundamentals, online safety, and basic office applications. This year we have introduced the program to 3rd and 4th graders. With

the district's move to 1:1 in grades 4-12, the development of adequate keyboarding skills is a necessity.

The students daily develop their skills to locate answers on the web to posted questions. We start out doing the work in large group, then progress to partners. Occasionally I ask the students to work on their own to be able to judge their skill. I have changed their browser to duckduckgo. It is a very powerful program. Many browsers track what you search and will alter the results you get back.

You can get a bias view from Goggle, Bing, Yahoo. "Duck" does not track your searching and therefore does not pick articles/information to match your search history. Today's question was who wrote "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and why was it written? Did you know Robert May wrote the book in 1939 as a promotional item for the Montgomery Ward stores? Technology will continue to impact all areas of our lives. The school will expose our students to technology hoping to make them "technology literate" for their futures in the 21st century.

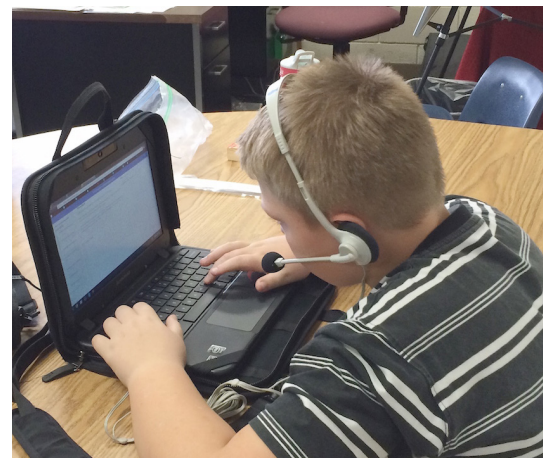


## Hour of Code at Woodside Middle School

*By Annie Gallaher, High School Math Teacher & Kelsey Coy, Special Ed Teacher*

We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly hinge on understanding how technology works. That's why the seventh grade joined the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code. More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code.

This introduction to computer programming gave our students the chance to experience how computers work. During their workshop, students were able to apply their problem solving skills by using code to draw a snowman. The sky was the limit for creativity as students began to personalize their snowman by adding arms, buttons, a hat, or color. Although it was only an hour, many students expressed interest in continuing to learn more about coding. To give students even more exposure, we will have several more experiences working with code this year. For more information, see <http://hourofcode.com/us>.



## Saydel Community School Food Services

### Brown Sugar Blondies

adapted from [Allrecipes.com](http://Allrecipes.com)

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup butter
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup to 1 1/3 cup M&M's



#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. Mix together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt and set aside.
3. Melt 1/3 cup butter. Add 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar and mix well. Cool slightly.
4. Add egg (beaten) and vanilla and blend well.
5. Add flour mixture, a little at a time, mixing well. Mix in 2/3 cup M&M's. Spread in 9 x 9 x 2 inch pan. Sprinkle 1/3 to 2/3 cup M&M's on top. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes.
6. Store in airtight container at room temperature.

## PLAY HARDER

Try lots of different fruits, veggies, and whole grains for a healthy diet. You're bound to find a few you really like!

### STRAWBERRIES



Strawberries sometimes look like hearts—which is perfect because they are so good for your heart health! People who eat berries twice a week have lower levels of a protein that can cause blood-vessel inflammation and heart attacks.

### National School Breakfast Week



wake up!  
School Breakfast



Save time on busy weekday mornings. Choose school breakfast!

March 7-11, 2016 is

### National School Breakfast Week.

Our district is celebrating the school breakfast program. Contact the cafeteria manager at your child's school to learn more about what's offered for breakfast. Visit [www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us) for more information regarding our monthly menus.

#### Foodservice Office:

Visit [www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us) for menus and more information

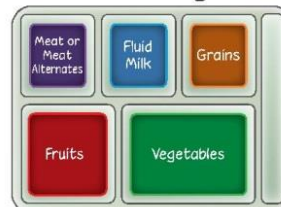
Email: [sadlerjessy@saydel.net](mailto:sadlerjessy@saydel.net)

Phone: 515.264.0866

Fax: 515.264.0869

Follow us on Twitter: @saydeldining

### Build a Healthy Lunch



♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥



# 6th Graders Conduct Scientific Investigations

By Jason Parmalee, 6th Grade Teacher

In sixth grade science, students have been investigating the impact of the sun's thermal energy on both Earth's surface and the atmosphere. Groups of students were challenged to measure and record which item, sand or water, heated up and cooled off most quickly. They were exploring each object's thermal capacity. Many groups reached the same conclusion and were able to explain the why and how of what they witnessed through their scientific investigation.

The focus math has taken has been on using number lines to compare integers and rational numbers. Utilizing such a simple tool has helped many students gain a deeper understanding of what a number truly is and represents. Students have most recently been challenged by graphing order pairs on coordinate planes in order to show numeric relationships.

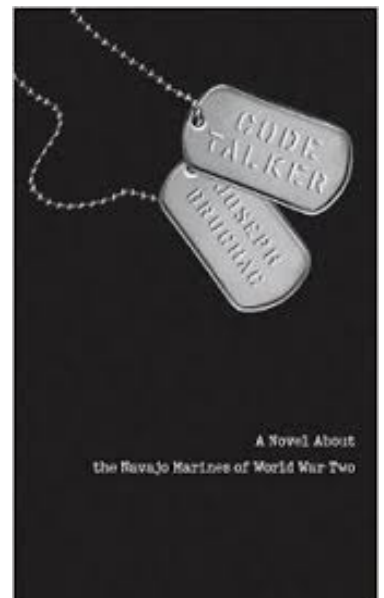
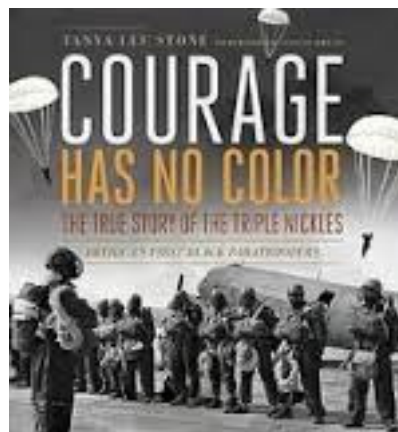


# 7th Graders Study "Americans All"

By Hillary Parsons, 7th Grade Teacher

The 7th grade language literacy students started a new unit after winter break called Americans All. This unit is about the racial injustice many ethnic groups experienced in the United States during WWII and how they handled facing the injustice. Students will read about and examine topics such as the Japanese Americans who were sent to internment camps, Native Americans who helped decode messages written in Navajo during the war, and African Americans whose courage helped to create a more integrated military.

Along with reading many different nonfiction articles about the different ethnic groups and their experiences, students will read the novel called Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac, which is about a young Navajo boy who enlists in the Marine Corps to decode crucial messages to aid in the conflict against Japan. They will also read the book called *Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles* by Tanya Lee Stone, which is about America's first black paratroopers.



# Woodside Middle School STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



**Congratulations to the November Students of the Month. Pictured from left: Superintendent Mr. Doug Wheeler, Alyssa Needermyer, Camden Lo, Jeremiah Miller, Stormie Michael, Charles Sutton, Jordyn Dykstra, Eckoe Dornbusch and Limousine Driver Doug Sassman. Not pictured: Casey Campbell.**

Principal Joshua Heyer recently congratulated the many students nominated for the honor of Student of the Month.

Students were nominated as recognition for displaying behavior that is reflective of the “Eagle Way” and following the SOAR expectations.

The Students of the Month were treated to a limousine ride, courtesy of community member Doug Sassman. The limousine took them to lunch, courtesy of Montana Mike’s Steakhouse.

Doug Sassman also received a Certificate of Appreciation for providing the limousine service for the honored students.

At a recent Saydel School Board meeting, Dave and Julie Lilly, owners of Montana Mike’s Steakhouse, were also recognized for their support of the Students of the Month program. They are pictured below receiving their Certificate of Appreciation.



**Congratulations to the December Students of the Month. Pictured back row (left to right): Morgan Uhl, David Hernandez, Kaitlyn Spicer. Front row (left to right): Kaitlyn Signs, Emily Lowe, Rachelle Farnsworth, Andre Valdez, and Shaylon Brady.**

Pictured from left are Superintendent Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Julie and Dave Lilly of Montana Mike’s Steakhouse, Woodside Principal Joshua Heyer and School Board President Brian Bowman.

Watch for next month’s newsletter to see who the Students of the Month are for January.



# Pop Wright Speaks at Woodside



Former Drake University basketball star Rodney "Pop" Wright recently spoke to the Woodside student body about living a substance-free life. He shared a great message that made a big impact! During his presentation he asked every adult at the assembly to share some words of encouragement with the students. They spoke from the heart about why living substance-free is so important.



## Congratulations iRead Raffle Winners!

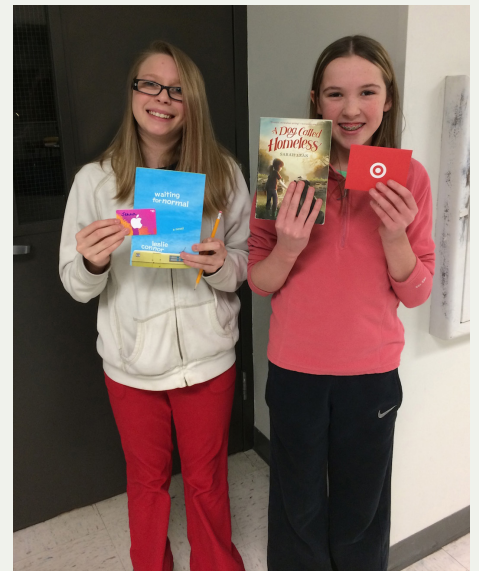
Thanks to a generous donation of gift cards from a local church small group, students in the 7th and 8th grade iRead class had a new incentive to read in the last month before winter break.

Students earned raffle tickets by setting and meeting reading goals according to a reading log. 7th graders Jenna Taylor (right) and Mallory Van Der Sluis (left) were the drawing winners!



Jenna read the book *Waiting for Normal* written by Leslie Connor and won an iTunes gift card, and Mallory read the books *Shiloh* and *A Dog Called Homeless* to win her Target gift card.

Congratulations to all the readers to worked for the raffle tickets!





# XTREME TEAM PERFORMS

The Xtreme Team is an acrobatic basketball squad comprised of some of the most ingenious athletic men and women. Armed with their trampoline, the squad performs amazing feats of gravity-defying highflying super-dunks. The Xtreme Team tours the world thrilling audiences of all sizes and ages with their high-flying acrobatic slam-dunk feats.



They visited Woodside Middle School to perform as a reward for this year's Woodside PTO Fundraiser. Many students had VIP tickets. The students pictured here with the Xtreme Team had the highest sales and received autographed posters and basketballs.

Pictured with the Xtreme Team players are: Brooklyn Leydens, Cara Vitiritto, Haley Salazar, Dylan Hill, Philip Booth, Jake Jennings and Maci Lowe.



## *Achieve 3000 Supports Student Learning*

*By Melinda Aeschliman, Special Education Teacher*

Woodside Middle School students are being offered an online opportunity to improve their reading and writing skills. Achieve 3000 is a research based intervention for providing differentiated instruction that actively engages learners at their individual reading levels. Students are continually assessed, and the content is adapted accordingly to challenge students to increase their literacy skills. Vocabulary and nonfiction comprehension are the focus. Achieve 3000 is another way for Woodside to support student growth.

# Exhibits & Voting

## Just Another Day in 8th Grade Civics

By Doug Cline, 8th Grade Teacher

The year 2016 has been very eventful for the 8th grade in civics. Returning to school, we hit the ground running as we learned how to create a process paper to accompany our annotated bibliographies. These writings are a segment of our annual participation in a program called National History Day. We have been creating exhibits with themes ranging from Socrates and his influence on the youth of Athens to the freedom march from Selma to Montgomery, AL. Students shared their exhibits with the public on February 11 at Woodside Middle School.

If you hadn't noticed, we are in the midst of a fever pitched political season and Woodside is not beyond the boundaries of this event. Our 8th grade has been exploring the various party platforms and learning how to evaluate candidates by following five basic steps:

1. What do you think about things?
2. What are the candidates' positions on the issues?
3. Learn about the candidates.
4. Find out what other people think.
5. Grade the candidates and decide.

On Monday, January 25, we took part in a state-wide event called the 2016 Iowa Mock Straw Poll. Students from across the state practiced their civic duty and voted for the person they wanted to be president of the United States. The voting process was voluntary and not everyone chose to take part. With 71 total votes The Republican nod went to Donald Trump by one vote. The Democrat selected was Bernie Sanders. Here is how the numbers looked.

REPUBLICAN		DEMOCRAT			
Donald Trump	11	Bernie Sanders	30		
Ben Carson	10	Hillary Clinton	9		
Marco Rubio	4	Martin O'Malley	2		
Chris Christie	1				
Jeb Bush	1				
John Kasich	1				
Mike Huckabee	1				
Ted Cruz	1				
Total Votes	30	Total Votes	41	Over All Votes	71

We will now be turning our focus toward citizenship. What does it mean to be a U.S. citizen? How do you become a citizen? Students will be comparing and contrasting personal and political rights with social responsibilities and personal duties.

Students will explore global citizenship and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in other countries. There is also a possibility they will learn about community engagement by selecting a problem of their own and creating a plan to solve it.

February and March are going to be exciting!

## Bus Challenge Winner

Woodside students on bus #19 were the recent winners of the December Bus Challenge. Each bus driver monitored student behavior during the month of December utilizing our "Eagle Way" expectations. Students that demonstrated a Safe, Open-minded, Accountable and Respectful (SOAR) on a continual basis earned points for the bus. Thank you to Chick-fil-A for providing free meals to our winning bus.



# Staff Spotlight:

*Highlighting staff members at Woodside Middle School*

**Name:** Missy Brown

**Position at Woodside:** Custodian

**Family:** Married to Marvin and daughters Autumn (2013 Saydel graduate) and Lacey (2017 Saydel graduate)

**Previous work/College experience:** "I have worked for Saydel for 12 years. I started my career at Norwoodville Elementary in 2004. I have worked at Cornell and also Woodside."

**One thing you have enjoyed about working at Woodside:** "I absolutely love the students and staff! Students are very eager to lend a helping hand when needed around the building."

**One thing you did not realize about Saydel before starting this position:** "Actually, I know a lot of things about Saydel because I am a Saydel graduate and been a part of the community for a long time."

**One thing you want others in the community to know about Woodside:** "The Woodside staff continues to work toward a common vision each day. The vision ensures our school is a place where all students thrive and have access to the supports, services, and opportunities they need to succeed. Woodside is a great place to work!"



## Sign Up to Receive All of Saydel's Newsletters

Thank you for reading the Woodside e-newsletter! Would you also like to receive the e-newsletters that feature what is happening at Cornell Elementary School and Saydel High School? You can subscribe to get these e-newsletter by emailing [newsletter@saydel.net](mailto:newsletter@saydel.net). Community members and grandparents are welcome to sign up too!

## Box Tops Reminder

*Remember to clip your Box Tops for Education and send them to school with your students. The Box Tops help raise funds for Woodside PTO! Students can turn the Box Tops into the Woodside Office. THANKS!*

## SAYDEL BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Brian Bowman**, Board President  
**Jenn Van Houten**, Vice-President  
**Melissa Sassman**, Board of Director  
**Henry Wood**, Board of Director  
**Chad Vitiritto**, Board of Director  
**Doug Kayser**, Board of Director  
**Roland Kouski, Jr.**, Board of Director

Superintendent: Mr. Douglas Wheeler  
Board Secretary: Beth Vitiritto



School Board meetings are held at the Saydel District Office on the second Monday of each month at 6PM

**EDUCATION FOR LEADERSHIP;  
LEARNING FOR LIFE**

**Woodside Middle School**  
5810 NE 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
515-265-3451

We're on the Web:  
[www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us)

It is the policy of the Saydel Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination.

If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's **Equity Coordinator, Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services**, 5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313; [mckibbenjulie@saydel.net](mailto:mckibbenjulie@saydel.net). Office for Civil Rights, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.