Do you need recommendations for a good book to read from all the books in the Wilson Creek Elementary (WCES) library? Out of 25,000 + books, there are some books that many students like to read. For example, a series like Percy Jackson is always running out, while a book about gravity may never be read or even touched. Read on to see what the upper grades are reading.

The top five books checked out from the WCES library are the Harry Potter series, the Percy Jackson series, Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, the Amulet series, and finally, the novel, Wonder. Most of these books are filled with humor or mystery. Many of the books that the students checked out in the library are from the Battle of the Books reading competition. These books are very popular, so you better get to the media center early in the day!

If you think this list is incorrect, you can always check out your favorites from the library. Some of the books are for entertainment only; if you need a more educational book, go for it. Ms. Sturgeon, the librarian, is always happy to make a book suggestion or to show you how to use the NoveList website to find your next great book. Those are the books that you might like!
In the United States itself, nine out of ten children are not or do not know how to be safe online. Being safe online is a very important thing to remember throughout your life, especially when you are younger. You can be safe on the Internet by not posting personal information about yourself, members of your family, or other people you know like your friends. You should not trust everyone on the Internet. You never know exactly who or where they are. Lastly, you should be aware of rude or inappropriate people on the Internet. Unfortunately, many kids and adults are left in the dark about the dangers lying in the technological world.

First of all, you should always be careful about what you post on the Internet. In just minutes the whole world could find out who you are and what you have posted. Plus, you won’t even be able to get that information back! It might be important information about you or inappropriate pictures that include you in them. Whatever it is, it is best to keep it to yourself!

Secondly, you should never trust anyone on the Internet. You don’t know who they are and where they live. They could be dangerous to you and the rest of your family. Each year, thousands of children and teens are victimized by people online. Soon youngsters start to trust the strangers and they decide to meet in person: Instead of getting into that kind of trouble, it is safest to avoid suspicious people online. If you still feel uncomfortable, talk to an adult about what to do.

Lastly, cyber-bullying is very common on the internet, and young children can be influenced by what they see or hear on the World Wide Web. Children might learn what they see online and use it in their real life. They also might get bullied online by strangers who intimidate them. This might cause them to act differently with others or react violently to small situations.

In conclusion, being safe online is extremely crucial to know to be successful in the future. Without knowing how to be safe online, we could find ourselves unsafe. We should be safe by not posting personal information or inappropriate pictures, by not trusting everyone on the internet, and by avoiding people on the internet you don’t feel comfortable around. The internet is an amazing tool for what it is and it is up to people like you to make it better.
Behind the scenes .... in the life of the nurse
by Rohan Prabhuram

Have you ever wondered about the people and departments that keep a school like Wilson Creek Elementary running smoothly? The nurse’s office is a very busy place in our school. Mrs. Lisa Taylor and Mrs. Candi Alphonso, the two ladies who share the clinic position, are two of the people you should know about.

The nurses take care of children or adults who may fall sick during the day. The nurses hours are 7:00a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The office is conveniently located off the school’s front entrance.

There are some kids who, according to Mrs. Alphonso, are called “regulars.” These regulars come to the nurse frequently to take their medicines. Kids also come to the nurse for emotional support, although they really have no medical reason to go the nurse.

According to Alphonso, lots of people in school have food allergies and sometimes it is necessary to call 911 for an ambulance. She has to be ready to deal with everything from a bloody nose to a broken leg.

There are some kids who come to the nurse but for some reason don’t cooperate with her. Alphonso stated that “There are some kids who don’t ever cooperate and they always have an angry attitude.” She tries to make them comfortable and send them back to their rooms happy.

As you can imagine, the busiest times of day for the nurse are during recess and lunch.

In conclusion, the nurses at our school or at any school work very hard. There are so many things you can find out just by talking to them.

Mrs. Candi Alphonso
Wilson Creek School Nurse
A question asked, a question answered
by Christina Lee

There are so many things that we don’t know in the world. And those questions you can’t find the answer to are frustrating you, right? Well, listen up TAG students! You’re in for some good news. Professor Checkelsky, Wilson Creek’s secretary’s son, is sponsoring a program for Wilson Creek (WCES) TAG students. This program is a new chance for TAG students to ask questions to Professor Checkelsky.

Professor Joe Checkelsky is a professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Professor Checkelsky and his research group spend hours thinking of extraordinary questions. When they think of good questions, they try to find the answer to them. Professor Checkelsky’s hometown is in Fulton County, and he wants to know what TAG students in WCES are wondering about. Professor Checkelsky and his group will pick a cool question every month and try to answer it on his website.

How to participate
To participate you have to write down questions on a sticky note and put the questions on a “Professor Checkelsky Poster,” which is in your TAG class. After you write down the question, your TAG teacher, Ms. Maness, Ms. Erb or Ms. Blazek will post the questions on his website. But TAG students cannot enter the questions on his website because it is password protected. That means you have to enter a password to be able to summit it.

Prizes
After you write your questions, Professor Checkelsky and his group will choose the best question and post the question and the answer to that question. If your question is chosen, you will get a free MIT T-shirt and puzzle for a prize! There is no limit to how many questions you can ask, but the more, the better chance!

From this program, TAG students will learn more facts about science and technology. TAG students will gain experience about science and technology and will have a good memory about this program.

For more information go to http://checkelsky.mit.edu/wces/
Don’t go home, join a program!
by Alexandra Cho

You may have heard about this school’s after school programs and experienced it, but some students may not know. There is Girls on the Run, Kids Chess Club, Chorus, YMCA Primetime, Piano/Keyboarding, and Ballet.

**Girls on the Run**
“Girls on the Run teaches the girls to be good athletes and good runners, but it also teaches life lessons. They learn to be good friends and teammates. We also do a community project every season. They really learn about themselves, not running. The girls also learn to eat right.” Ms. Collins explains. Teachers who have students participate in this program usually see a good change in the class. Girls on the Run takes place every Monday and Wednesday from 2:45 to 4:15.

**Kids Chess Club**
“Chess helps them to think, discipline, and talk to others. They THINK and SIT. When they leave they walk out of this room with experience of something they haven’t done before.” Coach Brian Meyer tells us. Kids chess is only on Monday at 2:45 to 3:45. Don’t forget patience is important in these types of programs.

**Chorus**
“In chorus I think that you learn how important you are to a team, self-discipline, doing what you don’t want to do, and singing when not feeling well. There is not enough time to explore music, but with the selected group, you can experience performances. I loved chorus more than any other thing. Friendships are important as music.” Ms. Morgan explained. Chorus is on Thursdays from 2:45 to 4:00. Chorus has a lot of singing and cooperation.

**YMCA Primetime**
“I did the program at Medlock Bridge then I came here and asked Mr. Zoll and started it here. I did this ever since the school doors opened and the most important thing is safety. We want to create an environment to get work done and we want them to have fun. I enjoy this very much!” Ms. Dale Boling exclaimed. YMCA Primetime is a program where children stay at school a little longer until their parents come to pick them up. While they wait they can play or do their homework. Primetime is every day starting from 2:30 to 6:30.

**Piano/Keyboarding**
“At James Weaver Studios, our goal is to provide a fun-filled challenging environment that will build a child’s self-esteem through goal attainment and individual success. By learning basic music theory concepts and the mind hand coordination that is necessary to play the piano, the student will gain valuable tools that will give them a head start on both academic and musical challenges in the years to come.” Mr. James Weaver stated.
Piano/keyboarding is on Tuesday from 2:45 to 3:30. Once you start, the magic is at your fingertips.

**Ballet**
“I love it! The principal has been going to school with my daughter. I have been teaching for 50 years. I love ballet and the program. This program was one of the “Original 5” which was the first five programs ever to be made in this school. Fulton County asked me to teach ballet, points, modern classical, and Jazz. I have been in this program for 20 years.” Ms. Brenda Rogers explains.

Ballet/Jazz is on Monday from 2:45 to 5:45.

All of these programs are held in the school. Which program will you join?
The “torture” day
by Derek Zhang

Don’t be bad for goodness sake, or else, you’ll get the dunce cap! All the fun began on January eighth, but most people didn’t think it was fun.

Each year on colonial day, students and teachers dress as colonial students and teachers and play fun activities. The teachers also have a dunce cap. Colonial Day is a day where fourth grade teachers want students to know what a day is like in colonial times would be like.

The reason why some people don’t like Colonial Day is because the rules are very strict. Also, it is very easy to get into trouble and the punishments are really bad. For example, you could get smacked on the hand with a ruler if you get into trouble. Another strict rule is that boys had to bring wood or sticks for the “fire.”

The activities, on the other hand, are more fun than getting smacked on the hand with a ruler. You get a lot of choices for the activities. For example, you can do butter-making, pinwheel-making, Chinese plate-painting, and much, much more.

“More choices at lunch!”
by Richard Xu

Have you ever heard students at Wilson Creek Elementary School complaining about choices at lunch? They want more of this, or less of that; they don’t get school lunches because mom didn’t make it… the excuses and complaints are endless. The bottom line is that students want the foods that they like, not necessarily the healthy choices promoted by the government. Face it; when was the last time you gobbled up a tasty taco or a plate of crispy fried chicken at the cafeteria?

“I think we should have more choices at lunch,” said Melvin Xu, a Wilson Creek kindergarten student. He’s not the only one. Many students have mentioned they want a wider variety of foods in the café. In their defense, the people who run the school lunch program try to mix things up and provide nutritious versions of the foods kids like to eat. It’s not always possible, however, given the strict guidelines they have to follow. For example, some people like their fish sticks or chicken nuggets fried to a golden, crispy crust. Unfortunately, they must be baked to eliminate all that bad fat and calories from frying!

If you are unhappy with the food in the cafeteria, you can always bring lunch from home. The student council had tried to make their position known, but to little avail. “There’s only so much we can do,” defended a representative. As long as people keep offering suggestions, there is hope that things can and will change. If not, we have middle school and high school to look forward to, where they serve more of the foods we like to eat.
Kid’s candy crunching
by Sonal Churiwal

Did you know that an average person spends about $80 on candy per year! I surveyed 50 kids and asked which candy they liked best; Hershey’s, Twizzlers, Trident (gum), Skittles, KitKat, Ice Breakers and Crunch, all of which are considered America’s favorites. I also surveyed students and asked whether they liked sour (Sour Patch), sweet (chocolate) or spicy (Fireballs) candy the best.

Even though Twizzlers and Trident are our nation’s favorites, they certainly aren’t our school’s favorites. Only two percent of the kids like Trident and Twizzlers. Hershey’s won because 42 percent of the kids surveyed liked Hershey’s the best. Skittles had 20 percent, KitKat had 14 percent, Ice Breakers had 16 percent, while Crunch had four percent. For flavors, sour won for the taste and spicy lost.

Sour had 44 percent; sweet had 36 percent and hot/spicy lost with 20 percent. For the type of candy most liked, chewy won with 60 percent and hard lost with 40 percent.

Think before you munch and crunch your favorite candy. Some candies really are unhealthy. One King Size Nestlé’s Crunch bar has 380 calories! A bag of Skittles has 231, Twizzlers have 140, KitKat and Hershey have 210. Wow! That’s a lot of calories! You can certainly see why moms hate candy so much. Some candies are said to be “healthy.”

For example, Trident has only five calories and an Ice Breaker has absolutely NO calories. Even though candies are tasty, candies can be unhealthy too. Try a stick of celery instead; it’s a healthy alternative.
B.Y.O.T.
by Tanvi Vedula

Have you heard of the awesome new way to learn in school called B.Y.O.T (bring your own technology) or B.Y.O.D. (bring your own device)? Currently, Ms. Senne’s 4th grade class is the only BYOT class at Wilson Creek.

Students bring digital devices to school and take them back home at night. BYOT gives students different learning experiences. Students can talk online, take quizzes, and write on their device instead of using whiteboards. BYOT has many rules so students can stay safe.

Here are a few important rules. Do not touch other people’s devices. Everybody must bring their device fully charged. Students may not bring chargers to school and students may not share headphones.

Remember to never give out personal information online. The two most important rules are always be trustworthy and honest even if you are caught doing the wrong thing. The last rule is be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn. These rules will help keep you safe while using your device.

In summary, BYOT is awesome, fun and gives everyone different learning experiences and experience using technology.

Do you think we should have more BYOT classes at Wilson Creek?
Harry Potter vs. Percy Jackson
by Tina Dong

You’ve probably heard your classmates talk about two series of books, Harry Potter, written by JK Rowling, and Percy Jackson, written by Rick Riordan. These are two of the most popular book series ever written. Have you ever wondered which one is more popular?

Percy Jackson
“Percy Jackson is more dramatic, and it’s not all about magic,” Dan from Ms. Price’s class remarked.

Percy Jackson is the main character in two series of books, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* and *The Heroes of Olympus*. Both series contain five books and are written by Rick Riordan. “It contains the great mythology, and it captures readers’ attention!” Sunny Park exclaimed.

Percy Jackson books are about gods and goddesses. When Percy found out that he was a half-blood (one side of parent is a god or goddess), he realized that his life was in danger. He lived in Camp Half Blood, learning skills that would keep him safe from monsters and other gods. When he realized that he was the son of Poseidon/Neptune, his life got even more complicated.

“I like Percy Jackson better because the books make me feel like I’m there in the story,” a student from Mrs. Davis’s class explained.

Anish Rajeev stated, “I like Percy Jackson’s storyline. Harry Potter drags.”

Harry Potter
“The Harry Potter series makes me excited as I read it. It makes me want to keep reading it,” Savnee Puranik explained.

*Harry Potter* is a series of books that was written by JK Rowling. Harry Potter lived with muggles (people who do not contain magic) throughout his childhood. Harry discovers his magic and leaves his “family” to attend Hogwarts, a school of witchcraft. The series is all about Harry’s adventures in this magical world, aided by his friends Ron and Hermione. They face death and mayhem while fighting evil forces.

“Harry Potter contains lots of mystery, you never know what’s going to happen next, and it’s good vs. evil,” a student from Mrs. Anderson’s class stated.

After collecting votes from students in 3rd-5th grade, I came to a final consensus:

Percy has 174 votes and Harry has 173 votes. Percy wins by one vote!
Terraria vs Minecraft
by Randy Bai and Dhruv Singh

Randy Bai and Dhruv Singh have teamed up to debate the merits of two popular games: Minecraft and Terraria. A controversy over which game is better has existed since the early 2000s. Who will be the victor?

Minecraft (MC) A WHOLE LOTTA BLOCKS
by Dhruv Singh

Minecraft is a free roam game in an endless, randomly made world of blocks. MC is a game of adventure, magic, monsters, battles, and mining. The goal of the game is to... Just have fun!

Now you can guess the mine part, but what about craft? Crafting is the action of making resources to make more resources to make more resources! Minecraft also has the hazards of ZOMBIES and SKELETONS and lastly CREEPERS! Creepers, a type of monster, are the main symbol of MC. When any player is close they give warning by making a hissing noise. The normal MC world, the “Over World” is where you will find sheep, pigs, chickens, and cows.

There is also the earlier mentioned monsters, which come out only at night. Of course, you need something to fight them with! You can make swords, pickaxes, axes, shovels, hoes, and bows and arrows. You can also make armor. But there are also ranks of the worth of these tools! You mine for leather, which is made from cows. Then, gold and chainmail and also iron and diamond.

Terraria an EPIC game
by Randy Bai

Terraria is a sandbox game that can be played on tablets, computers, and game consoles. It was created by a video game company named Engine Software in 1995. The point of this wonderful sandbox game is to find priceless ores, collect coins, defeat the many bosses in store for you, upgrade your tools, and discover the massive world!

There are 16 bosses to fight and over 200 mobs to make nights in your world much harder than you think. Some examples of the many bosses are the Eater of Worlds, Skeleton, the Dungeon Guardian, Ocrum, and Golem.

Terraria also includes 24 biomes such as the Underground Jungle, Ice Biome, and the Hallowed Biome. Lastly it has over 106 different weapons available to the player.

Randy: Terraria is way better than Minecraft because Terraria has over 200 mobs, 16 bosses, and other powerful enemies while Minecraft only has 16 mobs. Mobs are just computer programmed creatures. They are here to make your nights as fun as can be.

Dhruv: Well, at least MC doesn’t have mobs (creatures) that don’t have any consequence in dying from, because in Terraria you lose nothing and there no challenge.

Randy: Terraria is challenging because in Hardmode you’re not even safe in your house that’s why players keep their items and also the 200 mobs are ALL hostile.

Dhruv: Well, MC adds 2 extra dimensions, The Nether and The End, both of which add more challenge and more fun to the game.

Randy: Sorry but in Terraria there are also 2 extra dimensions AND mobs can travel between them. You will find remote mobs from one dimension near the entrance to the new dimension. For example as The Underworld and the Sky Islands.
Terraria vs. Minecraft (continued)

Dhruv: In MC there are many products in stores for the game. There are hundreds of YouTube channels dedicated to the game, and many more that aren’t ENTIRELY dedicated.

Randy: Well, there are an even amount of MC and Terraria YouTube channels on the Internet. Another reason Terraria is better is because it has 16 bosses, over 200 mobs, many tools, and 106 weapons. Terraria is more imaginative because of the fictional weapons and items players and do whatever they what without having to go into Creative Mode in MC!

Dhruv: Terraria may have more computer designed nonliving things, but barely any REAL PEOPLE play it compared to the amount of people who love, want, and play MC. Plus, if you want items, there are only a few mentioned in my article, but you can customize Minecraft like crazy, and it has many players.

Randy: Actually, MC is losing a ton of players every day and switching to Terraria just like the sand on Jekyll Island when the sand travels from the North (MC) down the to South and building it up. (Terraria)

Dhruv: Okay… rant on about some exaggerated statistics, but! THERE ARE EVEN books on MC! There are handbooks, E-books, chapter books, blueprints! There ARE Facebook pages, apps for customization; there is even an education version of MC.

Randy: Although it is so popular overall Terraria is better because it has ... MORE EVERYTHING!!! And better crafting, won’t damage your eyes as much as Minecraft does, and adds an unbelievable amount of fun because it is so challenging.

Dhruv: To summarize it up, MC is a fun 3D sandbox world which is unlimited, whereas Terraria is a 2D fun sandbox game, which definitely is a fun game, but is limited world wise.

Both: You decide which is the better game.
A changing school

by Cal Walrath

Since last year, many of the games that fifth grade students do at recess have changed. Some popular activities have been brought into the fifth grade recess period by other grades, and the change is also influenced by outside activity, as well the new playground equipment that was installed before the beginning of the year.

Tag is a huge hit at this point of the year. While some games may have been more popular before fourth grade students became fifth grade, new students have moved in, therefore changing the popularity. Parker, a student in Ms. James’s class who plays girls chase boys at recess, says “Girls chase boys is [a game] from second grade.” So, some games are even brought through all of the elementary school experience.

Although many games are popular because everybody already liked them before the school year even began, some changes are due to the new playground equipment. Before the 2014 school year even began, a completely new area of playground equipment was installed in the back part of the playground. Yet again, this would have made tag more fun, as it is harder to tag people when they are hiding in different places. It also could have encouraged people to simply have fun climbing around. Every recess, there are usually many people crowded around the new moving pieces of equipment. This might be a major cause of a change of what most people like to do at recess.

So, the popularity of different activities at recess could have easily been changed by games passed on throughout the grades, the newly installed playground equipment, and outside-of-school actions. Don’t be surprised when a younger sibling tells you later about something totally different than what you did at recess!

Although many games are popular because everybody outside of Wilson Creek, like playing games at a summer camp. Many children participate in summer camps after the school year. So, if many people participated in a soccer summer camp, then many people during the school year could easily have a preference to play soccer at recess. So, some of the reasons students like what they do are not related to the school at all.

Finally, some things aren’t controlled by how the school functions. During summer vacation or the weekends, all of your free time is spent outside of school. So, what you like the most can easily be changed by whatever you do

This is a spinning ride similar to the new one installed this year.

There are many kinds of playground equipment, big, small, complex or simple!
The most enjoyable and popular math puzzle at WCES
by Kelly Jeong

Rubik’s cubes
Have you ever tried to solve a Rubik’s cube? A Rubik’s cube is a very difficult, multicolored puzzle, which is in a cube format that you twist and turn to get all of the same color on one face. Students usually smacked them on the ground far before they even really tried to solve the puzzle, because it was so difficult. Rubik’s cube seemed to be impossible and hopeless until October 2014. Students from 5th grade gradually started to bring Rubik’s cubes to school to solve them after they saw that it was becoming popular. These students were enjoying themselves and at the same time were trying to figure out a way to solve a Rubik’s cube. They thought it was fun and got excited when they fixed one side or the other, and they liked the fact that they could do it anywhere and anytime.

Positive improvement in your brain
Indeed, it also makes your brain smarter. According to www.google.com, one scientist said, “I used to solve Rubik’s cubes all the time, and what I did notice were faster reflexes and a more open mind.” Another scientist announced, “Increase your IQ…” Many people noticed some improvement in their school work.

Suggested Tutorials
Many people wonder how in the world cubers solve Rubik’s cubes. How can you do that? You can simply go to www.youtube.com and click on “Tutorials for Rubik’s cubes.” One example of a famous tutorial site is TheSergsB. Nothing is impossible now!
The Evils of Technology

A bad thing about too much technology is it prevents you from being social. You can’t play or use technology at the same time as socializing with others. At the dinner table people often watch television or use their phones instead of having family discussions.

Technology can also have a harmful effect on your health because it makes you less active. People tend to become couch potatoes if they become addicted to technology. This can impact your physical and mental health.

Due to the modern use of shortcuts and auto-corrects in technology, the writing and spelling skills are on a decline. People rely more and more on texting language rather than proper use of grammar.

In conclusion, technology is like a double-edged sword. Like everything else in life, it is best used in moderation.

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The Advantages of Technology

When you play games, you actually have to think and/or strategize to finish the level or round. It helps you to become a better thinker, which can help you solve real life problems.

Another thing that is good about technology is that you can learn anything with a few clicks of your finger. The Internet has a world of information and educational material. You can learn new languages, new skills and new tricks without ever leaving the comfort of your home.

Technology makes everything automated and more efficient. If you can’t solve a hard math problem, click a few buttons and get a fast answer. If you have a hard social studies project and don’t have enough information just look it up on the almighty Internet. Don’t forget to cite your sources, though!

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