

WBSD IN-DEPTH

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WEST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT
JANUARY 2018

Volunteers Help Make Special Events Happen at WBSD

Two January 2018 events are examples of the amazing support the West Bend School District is lucky to have from many businesses and individuals in the communities it serves.

Language Immersion Fairs

The libraries at Silverbrook Intermediate School and Badger Middle School were full of activity recently as students "celebrated a birthday" in either German, French, or Spanish.

With assistance from about 45 volunteers from the community who fluently speak one of the three world languages taught at each school, the Language Immersion Fair, a simulation activity, required students to complete six different stations, each manned by a fluent community member. The goal is to immerse themselves in the world language they are studying in school and use vocabulary, expression, and grammar phrases practiced in class. The students take the fair seriously, knowing that they cannot speak English at all.

The unifying theme for the event was "Birthday Party." Volunteers followed scripts and interacted with students by serving "cake," handling an "emergency," giving students "gifts" to open, holding conversations, playing games, and guiding them to decorate a "birthday card."



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According to Janet Jackson, a language teacher at Badger Middle School, this is the third year Badger and Silverbrook have held the event. It is held twice a year, with planning already underway for the spring event that will feature the "World Cup" theme. While the Immersion Fair is a collaboration between the entire middle school and intermediate school world language department, they could not hold the events without the support from community members fluent in one or more of the three languages. These individuals give up hours of their time to assist the students in their "immersion" experience.

Junior Achievement Jump Into Your Future Event

Nearly 20 members of the community spent their day at Decorah Elementary recently describing to the students their career and the skills they learned while they were in school that apply to their career today.

This Junior Achievement Jump into Your Future event, which will also be held at the other West Bend School District elementary schools, empowers students to make a connection between what they learn in school and how it can be applied to the real world. It enhances the relevance of their classroom learning and increases their understanding of the value of staying in school and studying hard.

Students moved from room to room to meet with different volunteers based on the careers that interested them the most. During each presentation, the community member described not only what they do, but also the subjects in school that they mastered to get there. All the community members included hands-on activities in their presentation, from stretching like a dance teacher, preparing flowers into an arrangement like a florist, to making "sweet" milk for calves to drink like a farmer.

