

THE CHARGER NEWS

The News of West Noble Elementary School

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Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

West Noble Elementary School art teacher, Tammy Bieberich, stands in front of the mural she painted for the Town of Rome City that was unveiled recently.

Not just an art teacher, but a muralist

By Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Rome City – Not just an art teacher with paint, markers or crayons, but an artist who can create a gorgeous mural for everyone to see.

That is who Tammy Bieberich is. She teaches art to students at West Noble Elementary school, but she can do more than that. She recently painted a mural to be displayed

in the Town of Rome City. On Thursday, September 22, her mural was unveiled in town. The mural was part of a project of Advance Rome City (ARC).

ARC Vice President Diann Scott said that in 2019 representatives from Rome City and other towns got together to present locations for a Regional Mural Project. She said the north wall of

Shooky's Shack was one of three locations presented to the Regional Committee. "This location was not selected for the Regional Mural Project," said Scott. "ARC believed it was a good location for a mural and therefore in early 2021 we found an artist, Bieberich, and we approved her design." Bieberich said the mural is about her community painted in

a Van Gogh style sky. "I painted local flowers including cone flowers, peonies, morning glories, tiger lilies and waterlilies," said Bieberich. "I also painted a Luna moth that glows in the dark in the center." In appreciation of Bieberich's efforts, who has been a teacher at WNE for 25 years, ARC presented her a \$1,000 check to be used for Art Enrichment at West Noble Elementary School.

New mural to represent WNE's mission statement

By Ava Bloss, Ashley Flores, and Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Ligonier - It's big. It's huge. No, it's gigantic. It's West Noble Elementary School's mascot and mission statement.

As you walk in the doors of the school you are greeted by a 10 by 16 foot mural that shows a charger - a knight on a horse - and it displays the school's new mission statement.

West Noble Elementary School Principal Mark Yoder said the school has a new mission statement this year and they wanted a new mascot to go along with the statement.

"We wanted the school to have its own identity, to be unique," said Yoder. "When people see it - the charger and

statement - we want them to know that it is West Noble Elementary." Yoder said a graphic designer from Indianapolis, Elise Myers, created three designs to choose from. Myers is a West Noble graduate.

"I asked the students in summer school which one they liked the best," said Yoder. "This design was the winner."

Yoder said the mural, which is a sticker, is made up of four giant pieces.

He said when he first saw it on the wall it was better than he ever imagined.

"It was great to see kids smile as they also saw the mural for the first time", said Yoder.

'Building Relationships, Knowledge, and Character. Every Charger. Every Day.'



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Fourth grade students are next to the wall that displays the new West Noble Elementary School's mission statement and mascot.

Teacher Spotlight:

Mrs. Grotemat

By Zahira Macias, Kyly Chiddister, and Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Ligonier - She wants to be a positive influence for her students, just like her parents and teachers were for her.

Sonja Grotemat, a fourth grade teacher at West Noble Elementary School, said that just like the people who influenced her, she wants to do the same for other kids.

“I want kids to know more than anything, that they are loved and important,” said Grotemat. “I feel blessed every day to be with children. Being a teacher is my passion.”

Grotemat has been a fourth grade teacher at West Noble for 27 years. Before she was at West Noble, she was a middle school special education and a kindergarten teacher in Fort Wayne. She has taught for a total of 30 years.

When Grotemat thinks of teachers who have had a positive influence on her she remembers Mrs. Stover, Mr. Wilder and Mrs. Fox.

Mrs. Stover, her elementary

teacher, believed in her and showed how much she cared for her.

“It wasn’t what she taught that I remember, but how she loved each student in her classroom,” said Grotemat.

Mr. Wilder, her high school teacher, reached out to her to show how much he cared.

“He would spend time after school helping me understand that foreign concept of algebra,” said Grotemat. “He was so patient and caring with his time and effort.”

Mrs. Fox, her supervising teacher while student teaching, taught her that building rapport with students should be most important in teaching.

Not only did teachers influence Grotemat, but also her parents. She said her mother and father were influential in her life and inspired her to be a teacher.

Her mom influenced her as she demonstrated the qualities of generosity, kindness, and strong work ethic. She said her mom was always willing to help others in need.



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

West Noble Elementary fourth grade teacher Sonya Grotemat works on math with a small group of students.

“She always gave willingly to help others, even when we didn’t have enough for ourselves,” said Grotemat.

Grotemat said her mom also worked very hard to provide for her family, sometimes working several jobs. She said this is where she learned about having strong work ethics.

Not only did she learn about a strong work ethic from her mom, but also from her dad. She said her dad worked very hard to send himself through college.

“Knowing the importance of an education, he worked hard to find money to send me to college,” said Grotemat.

As for her passion for teaching, she said she learned that from her dad.

“His passion for teaching became my passion as well”,

said Grotemat. “He had an immense sense of humor, showing us how to have fun in life.”

Having fun is what Ms. Grotemat tries to do every day in her classroom.

“I love my students with all my heart and I try to have fun with them by incorporating fun activities in my class,” said Grotemat.

Grotemat not only wants to be fun and be an influence for her students. She wants kids to reach their highest potential, become lifelong learners who value their education and each other, to be kind individuals, to be generous towards others with their time, talents and treasures without expecting anything in return, and especially to respect themselves and others.



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Lauren Stabler, a fourth grade student, makes bubbles during West Noble Elementary’s picnic.

Picnic Time!

By Maria Murillo and Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Ligonier- A picnic with music, a dance competition, food, bubbles, a cheerleading performance and much more was part of the first school wide event of the year at West Noble Elementary School.

On Thursday, September 15, all West Noble Elementary students gathered together to have some fun.

Mrs Blosser, a fourth grade teacher, who is a member of the staff team who planned the event, said they wanted to have a picnic so kids could have fun together as a whole school.

“We just wanted the whole, entire school together having fun and relaxing,” said Blosser. “School is supposed to be a fun place”.

The picnic was the first activity of the year planned by the student staff team. The team plans to have a school wide event once a month.

By Aileen Hernandez, Kenia Flores, and Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

Ligonier - Candle making, militia training, log home building, and blacksmithing were part of the lives of those living in the pioneer days.

These are some of the things that West Noble Elementary School fourth grade students learned as they took a field trip back in time to Pioneer Days at Stones Trace in Ligonier.

On September 9, students were able to visit various stations and learn about the different ways that men and women lived during these frontier days.

Ed Stanley, of Wawaka, who was representing a longhunter, explained that pioneers were peasants who were from England.

“Their lives were difficult in England and they heard stories about the Americas,” said Stanley. “They moved to the Americas for a free living.”

“When they arrived in America they learned a new way of life from the Indians,” said Stanley.



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker



Juliana Casillas-Riegsecker

West Noble Elementary fourth grader students learn about pioneer life during Pioneer Days at Stone Trace in Ligonier. Left, students learn how to make candles. Right, students learn how wood was cut to use for building cabins.

“They learned how to hunt and make their own clothes, among other things.”

Pioneers also had to learn how to make other things on their own such as yarn, their houses, rifles, and knives.

Blacksmith Iggy Oswald, of Mentone, showed the students how a blacksmith during the pioneer days would use steel and iron to make and repair things.

Oswald explained that one important thing of the pioneer days was that people would trade for good and services.

“If people wanted a

blacksmith to make them or repair something they would not pay them with money,” said Oswald. “Pioneers would trade something with a blacksmith.”

One of the things that could be traded was wood, which was used for building cabins.

Dave Alfano, of Ligonier, showed the students the job of a cabin builder during the pioneer days. He showed the students the importance of pioneer tools for daily use.

Alfano said pioneers needed many tools, but of the most important tools was a knife.