

## CALLING ALL WORDSMITHS...

Is your child interested in expanding her word knowledge and verbal reasoning abilities? Washburne is offering a before school program to prepare students for the WordMasters Challenge, a national language arts competition that addresses higher-level word comprehension and logical abilities and helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. It requires students to solve analogies based on relationships among words they have learned.

Three times per year, students receive a vocabulary list from WordMasters, they learn the multiple meanings of these words and think about possible relationships among them. They must also be sure to understand the part of speech of a word, to pay close attention to prefixes and suffixes as clues to meaning, to apply the idea of positive and negative connotation, and to familiarize themselves with multiple forms of these words. Students will be challenged to understand, in cases where words have similar meanings, the contexts in which one might choose one word over another.

The WordMasters before school program for the first of the three challenges this year will meet in Ms. Bertacchi's room (S104) on the following dates from 7:30 – 8:15 am:

### **UPDATED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR WORDMASTERS WORKSHOP:**

#### **GRADE 8:**

**Tuesday October 19<sup>th</sup> – Intro to Analogies**

**Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Intro to Analogies**

**Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade WordMasters vocabulary work**

**Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade WordMasters vocabulary work**

**Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade WordMasters vocabulary work**

**Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade WordMasters vocabulary work**

**Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – review session**

**Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> – WordMasters Challenge**

**PLEASE E-MAIL MS. BERTACCHI DIRECTLY TO SIGN UP!**

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