Voice of the Pines

Spring Edition 2014-2015

Newsletter for Residents of the Northland Pines School District

Dr. Mike Richie
District Administrator
mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us

Educational Trip to China

I have been involved in education for 31 years. Recently I had the opportunity of a lifetime to visit seven schools in China. This trip was sponsored and paid for by the Chengdu Educational Bureau and Madison-based M&J International Education Services LLC, which also financially sponsored the 2014 Northland Adventure Quest. I visited schools in Beijing, Chengdu and Yangzhou while I was there. Along with touring the schools, I presented to the Chinese Educational Bureau, administrators and teachers regarding education in America. There is a distinct difference between the delivery of instruction in the U.S. and China. I truly enjoyed spending time in the classrooms and talking with Chinese students and teachers. I did struggle with sleep and the time change as China is 13 hours ahead of us, so for example when it was 8:00 a.m. here it was 9:00 p.m. in Beijing.

In China, beginning in first grade and all the way through high school, English is mandatory. A big difference in the Chinese educational system is the length of the school day; most schools in China start at 7:30 a.m. and their dismissal time is anywhere between 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. depending on the school. Students also have between two to three hours of homework every night. There are no after school sports or activities. In the near future, the Northland Pines School District will be developing a sister school partnership with China. Each of our schools will adopt one of the seven schools which I visited as a sister school. Interesting to note, I observed teachers using Smart Boards in their classrooms; however, I did not see even one student using the Smart Boards or engaged in any technology use at all. In fact, I did not see one computer, other than the teacher workstation, in any class which I visited. Technology in China is highly regulated; the use of the Internet including Google, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Blogs are all blocked in China. This was extremely frustrating to me as I attempted to communicate with staff and students in the Northland Pines School District via my blog. I created my blog by texting my Executive Assistant, Susie Block, in my office and she entered the information into my blog and published it for me regularly. I was only able to send her pictures the first few days from Beijing; however, after that I was blocked from sending pictures and I could only send word texts. After I returned to the U.S., I added the rest of my photos to each of the day's activities. You may view a detailed description and see the photos of my educational adventure in China at the following blog address:
www.npsdsup.blogspot.com

In addition, I was amazed at the population and traffic congestion in China. The population of the four cities which I visited is as follows: Yangzhou, 4.5 million; Chengdu, 17 million; Beijing, 20 million; and Shanghai, 24 million. In comparison, the population in Eagle River is 1,398. Needless to say, it took us a very long time to get anywhere we went and the two lanes of traffic in China included cars, mopeds and bikes, all compacted together, trying to get to their destinations. I also met some great people including business people and city directors (which would be our equivalent to a mayor). One of the highlights of the trip was meeting with eight students and their parents who attended Northland Adventure Quest last summer here in Eagle River. It was so good to see these students again and meet their parents. It is all Chinese students' desire to come to the United States for educational purposes.

Experiencing such a different culture first hand reminded me that we take so much for granted; I now have a new, deeper appreciation for our freedoms, environment and lifestyle in the United States. In China, the smog and pollution is so heavy every day that many people need to wear masks when they go outside. One of the things the Chinese students have told us that they love the best about the Northland Pines School District and our entire area is our blue skies and clear lakes! In closing, this entire trip was unforgettable and hopefully our educational endeavor will grow as we form new partnerships around the world.

JULY 31 - AUGUST 13, 2015
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EXPLORING CULTURE, LEARNING & NATURE

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25 Chinese Students
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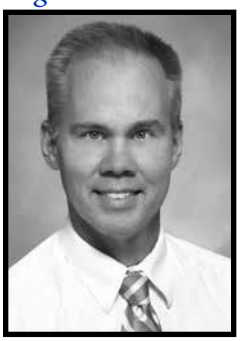
The Role of the School Board



Jim Mulleady
School Board President
jmulleady@npsd.k12.wi.us

What is the role of the school board? It is not an easy question to answer. If you ask 10 different school board members you may get 10 different answers. The Northland Pines School Board presently follows the Wisconsin Association of School Boards (WASB) model of operation. The WASB model calls for the Board to oversee the financial operation and the long term vision for the District. It also calls for the oversight of the administrative staff. The NPSD Board monitors the financial health of the district and we pay close attention to how monies are being spent. We help the administrators with personnel decisions and we also form policy for the district. We make efforts to make certain that district policy is carried out.

What the WASB model does not infer is for the Board to get involved with the day-to-day operation of the District. None of the present NPSD Board Members are professional educators. We have outstanding administrators who are highly trained and certified teachers who do a terrific job at teaching our kids!

The District has addressed many issues over the years and major decisions were made by the NPSD Board. The recent decision on the 7th/8th grade is a good example of the NPSD Board's involvement. Many of the Board members went on the field trips and all spent dozens of hours researching the subject. We fielded many emails and phone calls and tried our very best to do what was best for the District. Not all are pleased with the end result; however we all have a great deal of respect for others with a differing opinion. This sort of open debate is good for education as it shows the students that people can disagree on things and still be respectful of others. It is a lesson that both Madison and Washington could learn.

The debate process has spurred interest in the NPSD Board. Amy Decker could not complete her term and we wish to thank her for her contributions to the District. Our bylaws call for the NPSD Board to appoint a person to complete her term. We put ads out and this opening has drawn 7 great candidates. We will be interviewing the candidates in April and choosing a person shortly after the interviews.

Serving a small town or a school district can be fulfilling. It is one way to "give back" to the community.

Information on School Board Policies

Northland Pines School District policies and guidelines are accessible online at neola.com/northland-wi/. For additional information on Board policies, agendas, or other issues of consideration, please contact Susie Block, Board Secretary, at (715) 479-6487 option 1, ext. 2.

2014-2015 NPSD School Board Meetings

The Board of Education invites and encourages community members to be involved and informed about issues affecting Northland Pines students. All regular board meetings begin at **6 p.m.** and are **held in the Northland Pines High School LGI (Large Group Instruction) Room.**

School Board meetings for the rest of the 2014-2015 school year:

Monday, April 27, 2015 **Tuesday**, May 18, 2015 Monday, June 22, 2015

Board of Education

Jim Mulleady, President
John Sarama, Vice President
Holly McCormack, Clerk
Eric Neff, Deputy Clerk
Jennifer Payne, Treasurer
Mike Sealander, Member

Two Hour Delays in 2015-16

Due to the extreme cold temperatures that we have had during both the 2013-14 and 2014-15 school years, Northland Pines may be implementing the use of a "Two Hour Delay" if necessary beginning with the 2015-16 school year. **NPSD advises all parents to have a backup plan for children in the event we have a Two Hour Delay.**

Please note that the Two Hour Delay would more likely be utilized for an extreme cold temperature day versus a snow day. Following is the difference:

- **Extreme cold temperatures** - When the temperature is extremely cold, then the Two Hour Delay is helpful as it would keep the students indoors until the temperature warms up. This also makes running the busses more feasible; therefore, when extreme cold temperatures hit, a Two Hour Delay can be a great compromise rather than losing a whole day of instruction.
- **Heavy Snowfall** - Due to the accumulation during a heavy snowfall coupled with the large geographical size of our entire school district, it is not always feasible for the plows to safely clear all the roads when we get large snowstorms; therefore, it is at times necessary to cancel school due to heavy amounts of snowfall. In these cases, a Two Hour Delay may not be advisable.

We will utilize the same calling, emailing and texting format for notifying parents of either a Two Hour Delay or a school cancellation. This would also be on the NPSD website, NPSD social media accounts, as well as posted on radio stations and TV channels as usual. Again, please be aware that NPSD will implement the Two Hour Delay if needed during the 2015-16 school year, so please have a backup plan in place for your children. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mike Richie, District Administrator, at 715-479-6487, Option 1, Ext. 1 or via email at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us

Margo Smith
District Business Manager
masmith@npsd.k12.wi.us

Taking Care of Our Own... And Then Some

Few in the education domain would argue that the 2015-17 State Budget proposal unveiled by Governor Walker will prove to be one of the most controversial. If the proposed budget is enacted, School Districts will face categorical aid cuts, the private school voucher program will be expanded, and a major property insurer of Districts (the Local Government Property Insurance Fund) will dissolve. Sparsity and high cost transportation aid will increase, taxpayers will see additional amounts in the school levy tax credit, alternative teacher licensing options are included, student assessment guidelines will change, and the list goes on. The debates that will ensue on many of these very important questions are sure to be passionate before the final budget is passed.

It is only natural that we tend to "look out for our own." There will be winners on some fronts and losers on some fronts. This budget, I would argue, has provisions that from our local viewpoint are very good, and provisions that will impact us negatively. So what can we do? Weighing the needs of stakeholders in our local districts with the needs of those outside our boundaries is a balancing act, but one which we need as responsible parties to open our minds to.

Isolationism simply does not work in education. It is my hope that as the debates continue, we will look out for the good of our local educators, parents, and students, but for the greater good of our State and their children as well. Not that easy, I know. As Business Manager, I work hard to engage myself and train in a broad range of areas that may surprise some as not being within my area of responsibility as a financial manager. I would hold that a good Business Manager needs to look at the vision and mission of the District and be well educated in the many faces of education: Safety and security, emotional well-being of the children, curriculum, and financial needs are but a few of the components of a District culture. How can one only look at dollars and cents when there is so much more to consider?

Two recent experiences I had underscored my opinion as to the necessity of broadening one's education to have at least a working knowledge of differing areas of expertise. One was a tour of a French Immersion School (a Milwaukee public school) and a Milwaukee Public School Charter School, both schools being in downtown Milwaukee. There were several common visions that both local staff and MPS staff at these schools shared for their kids. The miracle of seeing first graders speaking French fluently through a dedicated staff in a supportive environment was obvious. It was an eye-opening experience, and a poignant reminder that not all kids are given the same opportunities either good or bad whatever their District.

Another poignant reminder was an e-mail recently sent by one of our guidance counselors. In it, we were reminded of the many grieving children we have in our midst; grieving the death of a parent, grieving a divorce, grieving a parent who is physically close but not emotionally close, grieving an incarcerated parent, grieving the loss of a trusted friend. How easy it could be to forget that something so glaring as the emotional needs of our kids is worthy of continued support through staff training and development dollars.

As the debate over dollars and cents continues, it is my hope that we as parents, educators, and community members do our best to educate ourselves not only what is right here in front of us hitting us in the face, but what is going on elsewhere in Southern Wisconsin, Western Wisconsin, and Eastern Wisconsin. We need to protect our own, but open our minds to the needs of children everywhere to make the best decisions. I would challenge each of you to get out and broaden your experiences by whatever means you have available. Our children and grandchildren who settle elsewhere need the best Wisconsin has to offer all across the State. This is a vision worth fighting for.

Northland Pines School District Contacts

District Administrative Office
(Located in the high school)
1800 Pleasure Island Road, Eagle River, WI 54521
Phone: (715) 479-6487 Fax: (715) 479-7633
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Dr. Mike Richie, District Administrator
Susie Block, Executive Assistant
Margo Smith, Business Manager
Dave Bohnen, Supervisor Buildings & Grounds

District Centralized Enrollment Office
(Located in the high school guidance office)
Phone: (715) 479-4123 Fax: (715) 479-1995
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Lisa Achterberg, Data Manager
For all student grade levels 4K through 12

District Pupil Services Office
(Located in the ERES)
Phone: (715) 479-8989 Fax: (715) 479-0889
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Emily Rhode, Director of Pupil Services
Shari Curtis, Pupil Services Secretary
Caryn Jacob, RN, School District Nurse
Matthew Krusack, School District Psychologist

Northland Pines High School (Grades 9-12)
1800 Pleasure Island Road, Eagle River, WI 54521
Phone: (715) 479-4473 Fax: (715) 479-5808
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Student Schedule: 8:20 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Jim Brewer, High School Principal
Dan Marien, Assistant Principal
Brian Margelofsky, Activities Director
Kelly Wranosky, School Counselor

SOAR Charter High School (Grades 8-10)
(Located in the high school)
Phone: (715) 479-4473 Fax: (715) 479-5808
Scott Foster, Principal

Phoenix Center Alternative Education
(Located behind the high school)
Phone: (715) 479-3450 Fax: (715) 479-5808
Josh Tilley, Alternative Education Teacher
Linda Zimmer, Alternative Education Para

Northland Pines Middle School (Grades 6-8)
1700 Pleasure Island Road, Eagle River, WI 54521
Phone: (715) 479-6479 Fax: (715) 479-7303
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Student Schedule: 8:20 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Tony Duffek, Principal
Karie Jo Blemke, Assistant Principal
Fritz Crall, Supervisor Building & Grounds
Craig Rismon, School Counselor

SOAR Charter Middle School (Grades 5-8)
(Located in the Land O' Lakes Elem. School)
Phone: (715) 547-3619 Fax: (715) 547-3903
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Student Schedule: 8:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mon-Thurs.
Scott Foster, Principal
Don Anderson, Advisor
Kate Neville, Advisor
Robin Indermuehle, Advisor

Eagle River Elementary School (Grades 4K-5)
1700 Pleasure Island Road, Eagle River, WI 54521
Phone: (715) 479-6471 Fax: (715) 477-6263
Office Hours: 7:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Student Schedule: 8:20 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Tony Duffek, Principal
Karie Jo Blemke, Assistant Principal
Erica Lane, School Counselor

Land O' Lakes Elementary School (Grades 4K-5)
6485 Town Hall Road, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540
Phone: (715) 547-3619 Fax: (715) 547-3903
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Student Schedule: 8:20 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Scott Foster, Principal &
Director of Technology
Erica Lane, School Counselor

St. Germain Elementary School (Grades 4K-5)
8234 Hwy 70 West, St. Germain, WI 54558
Phone: (715) 542-3632 Fax: (715) 542-3660
Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Student Schedule: 8:20 a.m. - 3:25 p.m.
Gayle Daniel, Principal &
Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Erica Lane, School Counselor

Montessori Learning Center (Grades 4K-4)
(Located in the St, Germain Elementary School)
Phone: (715) 542-3632 Fax: (715) 542-3660
Tony Duffek, Principal

Pines Community Wellness Center
(Located in the NPHS - Door 16)
Phone: (715) 479-4473 ext. 3351
Becky Jefferson,
Membership & Program Director

Northland Pines Schools & Families Working Together

Emily Rhode
Director of Pupil Services
erhode@npsd.k12.wi.us

The Northland Pines School District strongly believes in the importance and recognizes the positive impacts of partnerships in education. A goal for the Special Education department over the 2014-2015 school year has been to work with families to design and implement parent engagement programs. Rather than independently creating a program assuming all parents have similar interests, needs and experiences, we feel it is important to create diverse opportunities that correspond to parents' diverse attributes. As a result, a needs assessment survey was created and distributed electronically to all parents of children with special needs in the district. Results of this survey have been used to guide improvements.

In order to further ensure that parents would create genuine ownership of parent engagement opportunities, the district held a Parent Focus Group to learn how the schools can best support them. During the focus group, parents were provided with a list of guiding questions regarding their child's special education services, their current levels of involvement in their child's education, what they perceived as going well and how they could be better supported by the district. Parents and school staff members voiced the desire for a parent group, a group that would provide support and education to parents through formal and informal activities while strengthening parent-school communication, increasing parent involvement and improving the district's current special education practices based on parent feedback. Bridges to Somewhere Parent Group was born.

Northland Pines School District Mission Statement

Northland Pines School District is dedicated to empowering all individuals to reach their potential.
We will be accountable and work together to:

- **Model what is expected**
- **Nurture a safe, healthy, and trusting environment**
- **Provide a challenging and engaging curriculum**
- **Promote life-long learning**
- **Build School, family, and community partnerships**
- **Celebrate cultural diversity, talents and strengths**
- **Thrive in a global society**
- **Foster continuous improvement**

The district parent group has since partnered with the Northwoods Childrens Museum's Special Needs night. On the second Thursday of each month, Northwoods Childrens Museum staff leads children's activities while the Northland Pines School District provides parent programming. On February 12th the district hosted guest speaker Scott Wallace, a behavioral strategist and autism consultant from CESA 9. Scott presented, "Supporting Students with Challenging Behaviors" to a group of over 60 individuals. The diverse audience included parents, social workers, Head Start teachers, paraprofessionals, teachers, administrators, church nursery volunteers, and community members. While the parents attended the presentation, Northland Pines School District staff and student volunteers alongside Northwoods Childrens Museum staff provided a pizza dinner, rock climbing, parachute and other games for over 25 children in the NPHS field house. In other months, Bridges to Somewhere parents have received information from district occupational therapists and have also had meetings set aside for networking with district employees and one another.

Our impact as educators is much more effective when we partner with our student's family and community. Community and parent partnerships create a natural support system for students while providing a vital framework for trust, communication and collaboration. It is our responsibility to continue to provide these levels of support and reflect on our progress for continuous improvement.

NPSD ANNUAL NOTICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION REFERRAL AND EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Upon request, the Northland Pines School District is required to evaluate a child for eligibility for special education services. A request for evaluation is known as a referral. When the district receives a referral, the district will appoint an Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if the child has a disability, and if the child needs special education services. The district locates, identifies, and evaluates all children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in private (including religious) schools, elementary schools and secondary schools located in the school district.

A physician, nurse, psychologist, social worker, or administrator of a social agency who reasonably believes a child brought to him or her for services is a child with a disability has a legal duty to refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides. Before referring the child, the person making the referral must inform the child's parent that the referral will be made.

Others, including parents, who reasonably believe a child is a child with a disability, may also refer the child, including a homeless child, to the school district in which the child resides.

Referrals must be in writing and include the reason why the person believes the child is a child with a disability. A referral may be made by contacting Emily Rhode, Director of Pupil Services, Northland Pines School District, at 715-479-8989, or by writing her at 1800 Pleasure Island Road, Eagle River, WI 54521.

Night School - Adult Literacy Options Expand Learning Opportunities

Are you interested in finishing high school? Want to have access to adult learning services? Northland Pines School District offers evening services through the Library Media Center at the high school. Enroll by contacting Lisa Achterberg at (715) 479-4123 or at enroll@npsd.k12.wi.us

Community... a key part to Land O' Lakes Elementary

Scott Foster, Principal
Land O' Lakes Elem. &
SOAR Charter School
NPSD Director of
Technology
sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us

Testing, common core, budget cuts and vouchers seem to dominate the news about public education. All of these items are very important and do have a significant impact on our students; there is no way to shield all of these items from Land O' Lakes Elementary or the district. One thing that does not get in the news enough is the consistent support we get from our community.

As a principal, it is very important to me to have a school that is community-based, which means we support the community and the community works to support our students. The support our students get from the community comes very easily. For example there is the tradition of LOLA (Land O' Lakes Artisans) hosting our students' art in the gallery. LOLA frames the art and holds a wonderful event. How many children or adults can say that they have had their artwork hung in a real gallery? Another example is the Forest Lake Country Store donating pizza for a reading incentive to our students. Another example is Schindelholz Dentistry who uses student artwork for their annual Christmas card and then makes a donation to our art program. They also come in to work with our students in classrooms. We have a wonderful Parks and Recreation program that you typically would not find in a community our size. Headwaters State Bank has been a long time financial supporter of our Box Top Education Program and donates matching funds for us to use for many great things for the students.

The school also tries to give back to the community as well. We work closely with the chamber on different events that they host at our school. If you are not sure what pickle ball is, you can see community members playing in the gym on week nights. If pickle ball is not your thing, then there is also adult and youth basketball. Our students also just did a food drive for the pantry in Land O' Lakes (see article below).

When I started to write this article I thought maybe I should stay away from the topic as I know I am missing other businesses and community members. I then realized, that it is good to at least give a shout out to a few and also let the other ones know we do appreciate them and also let the community know that our local businesses do support our students and school. From Land O' Lakes Elementary and our students and staff I want to say a huge thank you to all that support our school!

Change in address, phone number or email address? Please contact school secretary:

Eagle River Elementary: (715) 479-6471
SOAR/Land O' Lakes Elementary: (715) 547-3619
St. Germain Elementary: (715) 542-3632
Northland Pines Middle School: (715) 479-6479
Northland Pines High School: (715) 479-4473

Land O' Lakes Elementary School Food Drive

It has been a tradition at the Land O' Lakes Elementary School to hold a food drive to celebrate our 100th Day of School. The goal each year is to collect 100 cans, boxes, or other packages of food that are then donated to the Headwaters Food Pantry, located in Land O' Lakes.

It has also been a tradition that Mrs. Benecke's Kindergarten class counts the donated food and then delivers it to the food pantry. Pictured here are students working to put the food into groups of ten, so it can be more easily counted.

We are happy to announce that, once again this year, we have exceeded our goal and collected more than 100 items! A special thank you to all who helped us achieve our goal!

St. Germain Elementary School

8234 Hwy 70W, St. Germain, WI 54558 npsd.k12.wi.us/sges (715) 542-3632

Gayle Daniel
St. Germain Elementary School Principal & NPSD Director of Curriculum & Instruction
gdaniel@npsd.k12.wi.us

The Implementation Path of Common Core State Standards for NPSD

In June 2010, Wisconsin joined with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) to adopt the Common Core State Standards, CCSS, a state-led initiative. Since we live in such a mobile society, the NGA with the Council of Chief State School Officers developed these high academic standards to cause states across the union to become more uniform and allow American students to better compete with students of other academically advanced countries. These standards provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

More specifically, the CCSS define the knowledge and skills students should obtain during their K-12 education so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in the entry-level workforce or credit-bearing college courses. The CCSS includes fewer and clearer standards, demanding content and application of skills using higher-order thinking, and builds upon the states' current standards. In addition, the Common Core State Standards include five different areas; college and career readiness standards for grades K-12, English Language Arts K-12, Reading Foundational Skills directed at Grades K-3, English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects directed to grades 6-12 and Mathematics for K-12.

Implementing the CCSS has required time and effort by all members of every school district. Fortunately, the National Governors Association realized this monumental chore and recommended a three phase, five year roll out. In 2010, Phase 1, NPSD educators investigated and built a knowledge foundation of the standards. During the 2011-2012 school year, Phase 2, NPSD developed local curriculum based on instructional needs of our students. Also during that phase, the team selected resources, researched high quality instructional strategies and aligned local formative assessment with the CCSS. During Phase 3, 2012-2015, NPSD planned and developed units of study using CCSS, collaborated, evaluated, and used high quality teaching resources and methods to promote these standards. This school year, the new state mandated summative assessment, Badger Exam, will be based on the CCSS. This exam will focus on math and language arts. Students in grades 3-8 will be assessed online during an eight week window.

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Thank you First National Bank of St. Germain & St. Germain Elementary PTO!

Photo: Kristin Renkes, Vice-President of the St. Germain Elementary PTO and Box Tops Coordinator & Cathy Humbaugh, Assistant Vice-President and branch manager of the First National Bank of St. Germain.

Thanks to First National Bank of St. Germain and the St. Germain Elementary PTO, our students will continue to receive support for field trips, teachers will be offered supplies for their classrooms and there's even some new playground equipment in the school's future.

Bank branch manager and assistant vice-president Cathy Humbaugh, recently presented the school with a check of $500 to match the money earned by students through the PTO's Box Tops for cash program. Students collect the box top labels throughout the year. Each box top clipped and saved is worth 10 cents. The class with the most labels collected for the year receives a special treat.

This is the second year in a row that First National Bank of St. Germain has provided matching funds of $500 for the program.

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The Northland Pines School District is very fortunate because we have been extremely proactive in developing our curriculum. All elementary schools already use CCSS aligned standards based report cards. The middle and high school department teams have reviewed current curriculum to be sure they are covering all standards. Their lessons, projects, and activities concentrate on literacy, critical thinking, problem solving, and detailed analysis. It has been advantageous for NPSD to follow the suggested three phase roll out to ensure accurate understanding, curriculum, assessment and instruction for its students. Having the freedom to select resources that match the needs and culture of our community has allowed teachers a deeper appreciation. We have more work to complete, but a great amount is already finished.

In conclusion, the CCSS will provide an important educational base for students. The new Common Core State Standards will help educators to focus instruction and create prepared learners for college and career.

First Ever Science Fair - A Success!

On March 6, the St. Germain PTO sponsored our first ever Science Fair, co-chaired by Sue Wirth and Barb Gloss. Students were encouraged to create an experiment, devise a hypothesis, conduct the experiment, and then demonstrate their findings. Several students brought their investigations to the fair and articulated their results for fair-goers. Some parents also came to assist with demonstrations.

Several community members also came to demonstrate science on this night. Special thanks to Erica Johnson of Pitlick and Wick, Jasmyn Schmidt and Nancy Junkerman of Farm to School, Todd Wilfer, Grade 8 Science Teacher of the NPMS Hive Alive!, Nancy Diepenbrock, Director of Chapter 250, Quincy of Therapy Dog International, and Margie Rychlock of Northwoods Children's Museum.

Many parents, grandparents and older siblings also came out to support their student and cheer others on. The night concluded with a Circumference Cakewalk (treats!) and an exhibitor's ceremony. Plans are already underway for next year.

Helping Hands to Warm the Heart 2015

All hands of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students at St. Germain Elementary were busy making, measuring and packaging bags of hearty vegetable soup mix for the Vilas County Food Pantry. This is the third straight year for a project called Warm the Heart. Students made donations of the dry ingredients. They were encouraged to do extra chores at home to earn the donation. Students learn how a small act of kindness can impact many people when we all work together.

The students used a station based assembly method: measure out the correct amount from the mixture, bag it up, measure and cut ribbon, secure bag, attach recipe and repeat!

Our students want to help others in their community and this is one way they can. Food pantry personnel have received many compliments on how delicious it is! We want to continue with this project year after year to support our community.

Wisconsin School Performance Report

The Wisconsin School Performance Report serves as the state's annual public school report card. The contents of the School Performance Report are organized into two broad categories: Student Performance Indicators and Opportunity-to-Learn Indicators. Student Performance Indicators give readers a look at different measures of achievement including Advanced Placement Test, American College Test (ACT), Graduation Statistics, Knowledge & Concepts Examinations (grades four, eight and ten), Post Graduation Intentions, and Wisconsin Reading Comprehension Test (formerly Third Grade Reading Test). Opportunity-to-Learn Indicators offer insight into the classes and experiences available to public school pupils.

The Northland Pines School District Performance Report is available to all members of the public online on the NPSD website or at: apps2.dpi.wi.gov/sdpr/district-report.action. **Copies of the School Performance Report can also be obtained by contacting Susie Block in the District Office at (715) 479-6487, option 1, ext. 2.**

Eagle River Elementary

1700 Pleasure Island Rd. Eagle River, WI 54521 npsd.k12.wi.us/eres (715) 479-6471

Tony Duffek,
ERES/MS Principal
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Our goal at NPSD is to empower all students to reach their greatest potential and provide an education that will prepare them for a successful future. There is a lot that teachers and staff do on a daily basis to ensure we live up to this standard. Daily tasks include planning lessons and curriculum, analyzing assessments, correcting assignments, scheduling, organizing classrooms, taking part in professional development, teaching, and much more. All of these responsibilities are important and lead to student learning but there is one that is most important, and that is creating a positive school climate. This may seem like an easy and natural task, but the truth is that it takes a lot of hard work and the Northland Pines Middle School (NPMS) and Eagle River Elementary School (ERES) staff work extremely hard to accomplish this, but it pays off dividends in student learning.

The NPMS has been using the framework of Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) to help establish this positive school climate. PBIS is a systematic approach to establishing a positive school culture. PBIS is not a packaged curriculum, scripted intervention, or manualized strategy. PBIS is based on a problem-solving model and aims to prevent inappropriate behavior through teaching and reinforcing appropriate behaviors. A major aspect of PBIS and our belief in creating a positive school is rewarding students for expected behavior. Students can earn "eagle claws" for doing kind things for others, going above and beyond expected work and for various other positive interactions. These "eagle claws" can then be used to earn a variety of prizes, which are drawn every week. Another way we reward positive behavior is by having monthly recognition assemblies in which students are rewarded for being student of the month in all subject areas. Other activities that are organized to create school spirit and promote a positive learning environment include a staff vs student basketball game, field trips as rewards for good grades and behavior, school dances, dress-up weeks, team building activities, and much more. Being an adolescent can be difficult and creating a sense of school pride and a positive place to grow maximizes their learning opportunities.

ERES has also been using PBIS for the past few years as a framework for establishing a positive learning environment. Similar to "eagle claws," elementary students earn "eagle tickets" and "eagle feathers" for being caught using positive behaviors. They use feathers and tickets to redeem prizes such as books, crafts, pencils, extra recesses, pajama days and much more. We also have a word of the month that we focus on to teach students positive virtues. We then have a Pines Pride Assembly each month to reward students of the month for exhibiting the virtue or word of the month. Other activities ERES uses to establish a positive climate include "kindness week" (to stop bullying), reading challenges, community involvement and much more. ERES is a safe, rich, and joyful learning environment that allows for students to reach their greatest potential.

To maximize students' learning they have to feel safe, welcome and enjoy school. If they have a positive learning environment they will want to come to school and will be motivated to learn. That is why we work hard at utilizing PBIS and many other activities to establish a positive school culture. Establishing a positive school climate and instilling a sense of Pines Pride will allow our students to reach their greatest potential.

Markers Making a Difference

Ms. Davis' 2-3 Looping classroom is running a special recycling project. They are collecting old markers in order to recycle them and turn them into fuel! All teachers, students, and community members are being asked to recycle old markers. Any markers may be recycled in the specially marked boxes outside of the Elementary, Middle, and High School offices. Children collect and count these markers in order to send them to the Colorcycle Recycling Plant. After being put through a special process, markers become fuel for cars. For every 308 markers recycled, one gallon of fuel is created! After only six months of collecting, almost 2,000 markers have been recycled! That's almost 6 ½ gallons! Thank you to everyone who has donated so far!

Another aspect of this project is Mrs. Lewandowski's Kindergarten class collecting Elmers glue sticks and glue bottles. Elmers glue sticks and bottles may be recycled in the marker collection boxes. This collection is brand specific. As long as they are clean, they can be recycled! Through this program, money can be earned for the school recycling program and it is a great learning process for students!

Northland Pines School District's All American Kids Club

By: Sarah Simac

This year, Eagle River Elementary School's All American Kids Club (AAKC) expanded! We now have clubs at St. Germain Elementary School and Land O'Lakes Elementary School. We are so excited to have more students involved and to reach even more veterans! Thank you to the Eagle River, St. Germain and Land O'Lakes communities for your continued support of our students and programs!

Our annual field trip to the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center in Iron Mountain, Michigan also expanded. Second graders from all three elementary schools delivered valentines to the veterans at the medical center. New this year, we collaborated with Operation Gratitude, based in California, to also distribute special veteran care packages. Operation Gratitude annually sends 150,000+ care packages filled with snacks, entertainment, hygiene and hand-made items, plus personal letters of appreciation, to New Recruits, Veterans, First Responders, Wounded Warriors, Care Givers and to individually named U.S. Service Members deployed overseas. Their mission is to lift the spirits and meet the evolving needs of our Active Duty and Veteran communities, and provide volunteer opportunities for all Americans to express their appreciation to members of our Military.

Each package contains donated product valued at $75-100 and costs the organization $15 to assemble and ship. Since its inception in 2003, Operation Gratitude volunteers have shipped more than one million care packages. For some veterans, these care packages are the first time that they have been thanked. We worked closely with Operation Gratitude and the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center to determine how many packages were needed and arranged direct delivery of the packages to Iron Mountain. Our students met the packages there and delivered them to many deserving heroes. Thank you to the Oscar G. Johnson V.A. Medical Center and Operation Gratitude for allowing us the honor and privilege to present these veterans with a small token of our appreciation.

Thank you to all veterans for your service and sacrifice!

If you have any questions about the All American Kids Club, please contact Sarah Simac at ssimac@npsd.k12.wi.us.

Nationwide Kindness Challenge at Eagle River Elementary School

Eagle River Elementary School took part in the nationwide Kindness Challenge in February. Students took part in various activities to teach them about kindness and how to be kind to others. It is a proactive approach to bullying and was a great way to spread kindness to staff and students across the district. Some of the events included a performance by famous musician Tom Pease, creating thank you posters for custodial staff, writing thank you letters to staff and students, and much more.

Some of the classes even took the kindness challenge outside of the building. Mrs. Saltenberger's second grade class worked with Mrs. Lewandowski's kindergarten class to create valentine hearts for Milestone Senior Living Center residents. The two teachers combined their classes during The Great Kindness Challenge week to do something kind for some seniors in our community. The hearts were put on the residents' doors at Milestone to help brighten their lives with kindness.

Northland Pines Middle School

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"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all," -Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. It is a known fact reading is a lifelong skill and an essential part of a child's educational experience. Reading, both in and out of school, has an impact on students' lives. Although the strategies and skills taught to students in order to improve their reading comprehension as well as fluency are an imperative part of decoding how to read and understand various texts, reading also can influence high level thinking skills by providing real-life connections and experiences in an engaging demeanor. Within my first year here at Northland Pines, I have noticed the motivation in staff, parents, and students to promote reading and help every child reach their full academic potential. Additionally, as the Title I Coordinator, I have been given the opportunity to closely witness many programs, initiatives, and activities taking place in our district.

For starters, every school works hard to provide assessments to drive instruction and ensure each individual is receiving the academic support they may need to be successful. Here at Pines, assessments used include the mandatory state testing (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE) in social studies and science for grades 4 and 8 in the fall) and the Badger Exam (an online assessment of math and reading coming up this spring), as well as AIMSWeb, our district screener. AIMSWeb assess each student in reading and math three times a year. In the primary grades, students also complete a PALS assessment in the fall and spring to identify early learning levels and needs. Data collected from all assessments is then used in order to monitor student progress as well as identify skill deficits for students who may need extra support.

There are many school specific programs and curriculum opportunities for students identified at a high or low level of skills in particular strands and areas of math and reading. Title I is a district-wide federally funded program that allows intensive interventions for students who need some extra, individualized support in order to gain proficiency. Students within the Title I program work independently or in small groups with a Title I teacher in order to receive the attention they may need to advance their skills. Title I is able to provide teachers, parents, and students an updated and accurate understanding of where student skills are at; it also allows a chance for closer evaluation of growth and student progress.

I have been able to witness first-hand many of the success stories of students receiving Title I services at the K8 Building. The K8 runs Title I through their Power Hour intervention and enrichment time at the elementary level, and at the middle school, Title I is infused into students' resource time. Many students who participate in Title I demonstrate growth in skill area deficits needed to advance in academic areas.

In addition to Title I, Northland Pines also meets the needs of readers through curriculum programs and instructional standards and benchmarks. Moreover, what is seen day in and day out in the classroom also should be recognized. Staff work hard to help all students embrace reading and keep them engaged in the process. From the use of various online tools, classroom lessons, enrichments games, activities, peer collaboration, modeling, and much more….reading is an imperative and successful part everyday at NPSD.

If you have any questions about Title I services or reading opportunities for your child, please do not hesitate to ask. As far as what parents can do at home to assist their child in reading, simply reading with your children is the best way to enhance their overall engagement and general skill level. According to a research study conducted by the School Library and Media Research, the amount of free reading done outside of school has consistently been found to relate to growth in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency, and general information. Students are more apt to be connected to the reading process when having similar experiences both in and out of school. As the famous Dr. Suess states, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Eagle River Elementary & Middle School Safety Reminder

Please use extra caution to ensure the safety of our children when entering/leaving the 4K-8 parking lots. The west side of the parking lot in front of the elementary school is for parents who park and accompany their child(ren) into the building. Parents are reminded to use the angle parking spaces on the east side (closest to the bus lane) in front of the school for parent pick-up/drop-off. There are clearly identified cross-walks to ensure the safety of everyone using them. Thank you for your cooperation as the school district continues to keep your child's/children's safety in mind. **EDUCATION FIRST - SAFETY ALWAYS**

Youth Art Month

The month of March is designated as Youth Art Month throughout the United States. Youth Art Month celebrates the importance of the visual arts in the development of every student. The twenty-first century skills of critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication are skills that are used daily in art classes.

The Youth Art Month exhibit at the Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River is on display from March 1st through April 9th. Twenty-one middle school students will have outstanding art work in 2-D and 3-D media in the exhibit. An awards ceremony and artists' reception was held from 5:30 to 6:30 on Thursday, April 9th. Parents, teachers, administrators, and community members were invited to view the work and support our students.

A collaborative project created by all elementary and middle school art students is on display in the Eagle River commons. This colorful collage features self-portraits drawn by nearly 500 students. In addition, the self-portraits of twelve famous artists were also included, which created a great deal of interest from the students, as daily hints about these artists were posted each day. This project was also on display at the school board meeting at the high school on March 23rd.

For concerns regarding your child, please follow this procedure:

1. Contact the teacher - usually the worry or concern can be solved.
2. Contact the building principal for problems that are unresolved or that continue in the classroom.
3. Contact the District Administrator if you are not satisfied with the decisions at the previous levels.
4. Final appeal - write a letter to the Board of Education stating your concern and correspondence at the previous levels.

Middle School Composting is in Full Swing!

In an attempt to have children eat healthier, there is now in place for school hot lunch programs a mandate that all students eating hot lunch must take a minimum amount of fruits and vegetables. The mandate only states that they have to take it on their plates, not that they have to eat it! It is their belief, I am sure, that if they have it on their plate, they will at least taste it and maybe even like it. In some cases, however, that food gets tossed out along with the apple core, the milk carton and the used napkin.

This year the Science Club will be able to do something about the amount of waste headed to our landfill each day. The after school club has spent multiple weeks researching how composting works, finding reasons for composting, researching what materials are needed to begin a program, and creating a quick reference flip chart of items that can and cannot be composted. In addition, the students created a Google Presentation to educate the entire staff and student body in the 4K-8 Building about the rationale for beginning this program and how it will work.

Thanks to a generous grant from Cell Com, and the grant writing of Jasmyn Schmidt, the necessary money was secured to purchase our tumbler, waste cans, a scale, biodegradable garbage bags, and gloves; all necessary items for a successful program.

Each lunch period, Science Club members will be present to help students distinguish between what can and what cannot be composted. After each grade level departs the lunch room, the compostable food items will be weighed, the weight will be recorded, and then the food waste will be placed outside in our tumbler. It is the club's responsibility to keep the tumbler tumbling!

By the end of the year, we will have added up the amount of waste we kept out of the landfill, thus extending the life of it, and best of all, we will have compost to share with our community garden friends. Hopefully composting will become habit for our students and it might just spill over into their homes and save even more landfill space. If interested in composting, please contact Laura Weber at the Northland Pines Middle School.

Northland Pines High School

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Hearing the Student Voice

Educators go into teaching because they love working with students. They want to make a difference in the lives of kids and help them become productive citizens of society. The dedicated and professional staff at Northland Pines is committed to providing the highest quality education possible for all students. Not only is rigorous and relevant curriculum emphasized, but developing relationships with students is key for academic growth. As the building principal of NPHS, I am a servant leader who is a steward of the building, working for the needs of young adults. The student voice is paramount to the success of NPHS, and I am proud to say the students have performed beautifully.

A recent example of the student voice being heard at the high school was Adventure Day. As the building principal, I continuously try to find ways to empower students. I regularly meet with the Student Council Officer Team to discuss issues, trends, and ideas impacting the high school. Back in September, we were discussing school spirit. We were trying to figure out ways to increase school spirit at the high school. An idea that arose was Adventure Day. Students discussed the desire to create a day in the doldrums of winter where the entire student body would go on an adventure. They expressed interest in collaborating with local and regional businesses to provide a cost effective opportunity for students to engage in a variety of activities.

Members of the Officer Team took the lead in pitching the concept of Adventure Day to the high school staff on multiple occasions and the School Board Policy Committee. After gaining approval, the students began to organize over a dozen adventures. Adventures such as snowshoeing in the Sylvania Wilderness, trap shooting at the Boulder Junction Shooting Range, ice fishing, skiing, bowling at Eagle Lanes, a movie at Vilas Theater, and utilization of our fantastic facility at Northland Pines High School where students engaged in a variety of activities. The students contacted businesses to establish pricing, organized the student body signup, and oversaw the logistics of each adventure. A tremendous amount of leadership skills were developed by all of the students involved in the organizational process.

The types of skills utilized to pull off such an event is precisely what we want for our students. This event was designed to increase school spirit, provide an opportunity for students to engage in activities they may not normally engage in, and to develop deeper relationships between students and teachers. There is much more to school than reading, writing, and arithmetic. The social and emotional aspect of school is vitally important, and our students at Northland Pines High School understand this important concept.

A Dam Debate

In 1906, San Francisco was struck by a tremendous earthquake. Due to several failures in the water main system supplying the city, fires burned unchecked for three days and over 3,000 people lost their lives. The city petitioned the government for permission to construct a dam over 175 miles away on the Tuolumne River and water rights were granted to the city in 1908, but the location of the proposed dam was within the boundaries of Yosemite National Park. If the dam were allowed to be built, the Hetch Hetchy Valley - a jewel of this park - would be plunged underwater and lost forever. Thus began a long debate with many interest groups claiming a stake in the proceedings.

Members of the Wisconsin Natural Resource Exploration class took on the roles of the interest groups and presented their case in a class debate. Their goal was to convince the members of the Congressional Congress (Mrs. Nickel, Mr. Brewer & Mr. Stemper) to vote either for or against the proposed dam in accordance with the wishes of the individual interest groups. Students debating against the dam represented farmers down river of the proposed site, a water company in jeopardy of losing its monopoly in providing water to San Francisco and the preservationists, led by John Muir. Those for the dam included the Army Corp of Engineers, the City of San Francisco and the conservationists, led by Chief of the US Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot.

After each group had the opportunity to present their case and was questioned by the Congressional Congress, time ran out and the Congress had to vote. The vote was unanimous for the construction of the dam. In this case, the debate mirrored the decision ultimately made in 1913, when with the signing of the Raker Act, presidential permission was given for construction of the dam which began in 1919. To this day however, a debate over the valley still exists because many would like to see the dam torn down and the Hetch Hetchy Valley returned to its original condition.

Dan Marien, NPHS
Assitant Principal
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Spring is coming quickly, believe it or not, and so are our spring sports. Change is in the air and while this is true, we still need to stay focused on the task at hand. At the end of March we have Spring Break and when we return we only have 9 weeks left in this school year. It is important at this time that we all stay focused both before Spring Break and after as we approach summer vacation.

Why does it seem like seniors in high school think that their four years went by so fast but many freshman think their 9th grade year has taken forever? Probably for the same reason that a parent of an 18 year old child that is moving out thinks that those 18 years flew by, but the parent of a new born child anxiously awaits the day when their child sleeps 8 hours a night. The point here is ENJOY EVERY DAY YOU HAVE IN HIGH SCHOOL! For that matter, enjoy every day you have period. No matter if you are 15, 25 or 75 years old. While looking ahead is important and certainly has tremendous value, so does enjoying the situation you are in right now. When you get to college the school will not ask you if you want to play football, baseball, volleyball, softball, etc; however we are doing that here at Pines. So take advantage of every day; make the most of it and truly enjoy the opportunities high school affords you while also planning the next step in your life's journey.

Enjoy the day! GO EAGLES!

Eagle Eye News-Student Journalism

Written By: Eagle Eye News

Colleges today put a great amount of emphasis on trying to help their students gain real world experience during their schooling to help prepare them for careers in the future. These opportunities are not always present for high school students, but here at Northland Pines, a group of students known as Eagle Eye News are taking their passion for sports and applying them in the communications field, gaining hands-on training.

The students involved in this project are Vanessa Niemczyk, Kate Mendham, Jon Adkins, Jocelyn Monge and Hannah Hoffmann, with contributions from Lexi Nelson, Corrinne Justice, Nick Dean and Josh Lacko. Mr. Olivotti's Independent Study Journalism class call themselves Eagle Eye News and report about events going on at the high school. We plan out our weeks at the beginning of the month, marking our calendars with the biggest games and upcoming events. Before each event we cover, we prepare by looking at the records, head to head matchups, and statistics for games, and trying to educate ourselves for other events, such as the school musical. During the games, we take game notes and watch for significant moments in the action to help us write post-game questions for the coaches and players. In addition to game notes, we film parts of the game/event to use for the video highlights from the game. We are fortunate to be able to utilize the great equipment we have here, thanks in part to the Vilas County Economic Development Corporation, to gather our video footage and edit the material on industry-standard computer programs.

The next day following these events, we take the game notes and film we worked on the night before and we write up articles. Along with writing articles, we edit the game footage and interviews in conjunction with some of Mr. Subach's video production students. These videos and articles get uploaded to WJFW's website, the Vilas County News Review, Wisconsin Prep Hockey and our YouTube channel. Along with these media outlets, we also write up specialized articles featuring game highlights from the previous week's sporting events printed in the Border Bulletin. These media outlets help give us exposure while providing us with great real world experiences.

Collaborating with Mr. Subach's class helps us to all learn new skills and expand our horizons. Students from both classes brings their own skills, which is why we are very successful when we work collaboratively. Mr. Subach's students take the video footage that we get from games and are able to edit and produce it in a very short time.

One of our students, Jocelyn Monge, was given an opportunity to intern at the 2015 Boys' State Hockey Tournament. Jocelyn was able to work with Michael Trzinski, Bill Berg and other Prep Hockey staff throughout their media coverage of the event. She had the opportunity to write post-game articles, conduct live game scoring, post live updates to twitter during games, take game pictures for the website and help cover the state awards banquets. This is yet another great example of Northland Pines students working with community based businesses to gain valuable real life experience in a profession that interests them.

By participating in "Eagle Eye News" not only are we able to gain hands on experience, we get to learn how to use state of the art equipment which would be used in this industry. Along with this, we get to develop strong communication skills, learn how to present ourselves in a professional way, and familiarize ourselves with a career that could possibly be in our futures. This class helps us to prepare for college and the real world, which is why we feel it is beneficial for us as high school students to have this opportunity.

Follow Eagle Eye News on twitter: @NpEagleEyeNews

Subscribe on youtube: Northland Pines Eagle Eye News

NPHS Project UNIFY's "Spread the Word to End the Word" Rally

On Wednesday, February 25th, Northland Pines High School, Northland Pines Middle School, and SOAR Charter Middle School students came together for NPHS Project UNIFY's "Spread the Word to End the Word" Rally, held in the NPHS Fieldhouse. "Spread the Word to End the Word" is a campaign to educate students to pledge respect for all individuals by stopping use of the words "retard" and "retarded" in everyday language. The ultimate goal is to help students learn more about each other's stories and situations to increase friendship and understanding among all students in school.

This is the third rally Project UNIFY has hosted. Project UNIFY is a student group comprised of students with and without intellectual disabilities that promotes respect and acceptance through involvement in unified sporting events and educational and leadership opportunities. This rally was planned and carried out by the Project UNIFY Executive Board, led by Co-Presidents Courtney Heller and Nikki Deditz and Co-Vice Presidents Sami Hinton and Austin Kluever.

A number of student groups and individuals participated in performances at the rally. The NPHS Pep Band performed as the crowd gathered. The NPHS and NPMS combined choir sang the National Anthem, with students Nikki Deditz and Amanda Farrow providing sign language. The NPHS Unified Cheer/Dance team performed to a medley of songs to entertain the audience. Lastly, Project UNIFY members Sam Hytry and Jonah Parsons performed Sugarland's "Stand Up".

Mr. Jim Mulleady spoke to the crowd about his experiences and how students can show respect to those with Autism, Asperger's, and other disabilities. At the conclusion of the rally, SOAR MS, NPMS, and NPHS students signed banners to pledge to stop using the R-word, committing to replace it, instead, with respect for all individuals.

Both Project UNIFY and "Spread the Word" have made a positive impact on the students and the school culture at NPHS, NPMS, and SOAR MS. Plans are currently being made to include the district elementary students from each school providing them with an opportunity to pledge their respect this coming spring.

World Languages: Preparing for Your Future

When you start to plan for your future, you should consider the importance of learning a world language. While many colleges and universities do not require you to take a world language in high school for admission into their school, nearly all of the universities in Wisconsin require credits in world language courses in order to graduate from their program.

For example, UW-Madison requires two years of a high school world language for admission to the university. Depending on your area of study you may be required to take even more years of a world language. Unlike UW-Madison, UW-Stevens Point does not have an admission requirement for world languages but does require completion of a world language in order to graduate with a Bachelor's Degree. UW-Parkside even goes so far as to examine your high school transcript for the grade you earned in your high school world language courses for credits earned toward graduation requirement.

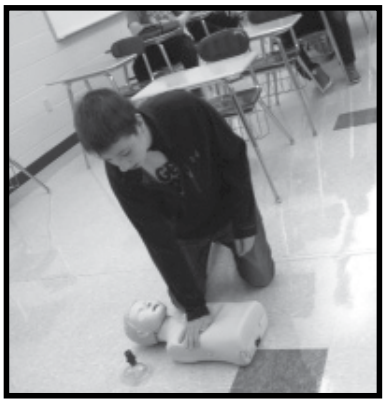
Preparing for your future needs to begin now with the courses you select during your high school career. For information on Wisconsin college and university world language requirements, click here. You may also contact a World Language teacher for further discussion.

Northland Pines High School LMC (Library Media Center)

Open to Students and Community Monday through Thursday Evenings

The Northland Pines High School Library Media Center is once again open to students and the public Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. when school is in session. The LMC, Library Media Center, offers computer scanner and printer use, current magazines and newspapers, reference materials and an awesome environment. The panoramic view is extremely inviting and makes for the perfect surrounding to do whatever it is you need to do in the library setting. Our shelves are filled with books that may be used in the LMC but may only be checked out by our students, as our collection has been designed for their needs. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Davis, Library Media Director, at (715) 479-4473, ext. 3314.

CPR Training for All NPHS Students



Sudden Cardiac Arrest is a leading cause of death in the U.S.—but according to the American Heart Association, when ordinary people, not just doctors and EMTs, are equipped with the skills to perform CPR, the survival rate can double, or even triple. This statistic has driven the American Heart Association to pass state laws that assure that all students are trained in life-saving CPR before they graduate from high school.

Under the direction of AHA certified trainers, Mrs. Jacob, Northland Pines School District School Nurse and Tammy Schroeder, Northland Pines High School Physical Education teacher, students are provided with CPR training in their required high school health course. Students learn the core skills of CPR, AED skills and choking relief.

In addition to instruction in health class, the district offers scheduled evening trainings for staff and students. Classes are led by NPSD staff members and AHA certified trainers Mrs. Burr, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Renk and Ms. Volkman. The Northland Pines School District is dedicated to teaching the next generation of lifesavers. For more information regarding CPR training in our schools, please contact Tammy Schroeder or Caryn Jacob.

Host Families Needed for Rotary Youth Exchange Students

The Eagle River Rotary Club is looking for up to three happy families who would like to bring a bright, inquisitive foreign student into their lives and into their homes for a two- to four-month period in the next school year (2015-16). Host families can be of any size or age. Families with elementary age students work great, as do families with high school students ... or families whose own children are grown and moved out.

Our student will arrive in mid-August, and be here in Eagle River for the entire school year. Rotary prefers to have up to three host families (each hosting for 2-4 months) to allow the student to experience American culture from several points of view. Rotary Exchange Students are between the ages of 15-18, speak English (at least somewhat), have full medical insurance and are provided with a monthly allowance for spending money. All you have to do is provide meals, a loving home, and your friendship.

Local support is provided by volunteers from the Eagle River Rotary Club. The goal of the Rotary Youth Exchange program is to increase cultural and global awareness in American communities, schools and families by allowing foreign students to interact and become involved in our everyday activities. For more information about this unique opportunity please contact Mike Richie at the high school mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us or email Youth Exchange Officer Val Dreger at val.dreger@bankpeoples.com.

Wow! Three students and their instructor, Mr. Tilley, helped bring up over 400 bags of books for the Olson Library February book sale! Thank you, Billie Jo, Tyler and Nicolas. The Walter E. Olson Memorial Library Friends appreciated all your help in making this a successful Mid-Winter Book Sale. With your help, over $520 of items were sold. Funds are used to help the public library with programming and special projects. **Thank you!**

Free High Speed Wireless Access is available to the community in the High School Commons after school hours. Contact the high school office at 715.479.4473 with any questions.

Montessori Learning Center

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During the summer of 2014 the Northland Pines School District (NPSD) received notification that the Department of Public Instruction approved our grant to begin an elementary charter school in the NPSD. A committee comprised of community members, teachers and administrators developed a plan for the charter school and the grant and it is exciting to see it become a reality. The charter school, named Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center (NPMLC), will be opening its doors in the fall of 2015 to students 4K - 3rd grade and will eventually expand to 4th grade, and potentially 5th grade as well. The Montessori school will be located in the St. Germain Elementary School building so that facility will be serving two elementary schools.

The mission statement for the NPMLC is that children have an innate curiosity and ability to learn through inquiry and exploration. By providing a comprehensive Montessori education, we facilitate and guide students' educational journey. At Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center children gain confidence and develop the social, emotional, critical thinking, physical and academic skills that will prepare them for the world in which they live.

The Montessori model is a research-based model that has proven to be effective for all students. Children in Montessori classes learn at their own, individual pace and according to their own choice of activities with hundreds of possibilities available. Learning is a process of discovery, leading to concentration, motivation, self-discipline and a love of learning. Montessori classes place children in multi-age groups forming communities in which the older children spontaneously share their knowledge with the younger ones, rather than the same grade whole-group instruction offered in the traditional classroom. Every child learns differently, and the NPMLC is just another option that the NPSD is providing for students and families.

We recently hired three teachers for the Montessori teaching positions: Nanci Foster, Megan Hoffman, and Pat Rickman. All three are currently teachers in ERES and they have been working hard at becoming Montessori trained, developing curriculum and much more. They are extremely excited to begin this new journey.

The NPMLC is currently at capacity for its enrollment, serving 48 students, but we do have an established waiting list and are still accepting applications so children can be placed on the waiting list. If you have any questions about the school or applications, you can contact Tony Duffek at 715-479-6471 or at tduffek@npsd.k12.wi.us.

Hi, I'm Nanci Foster and I am going to be teaching in the Children's House with the 4 and 5 year olds. I am so excited to watch the children discover and learn with the amazing Montessori materials. I have been teaching for 21 years and am looking forward to the challenges and triumphs we will experience as we go through our first year at NPMLC. I can't wait to meet you and your child!

Hi, I'm Megan Hoffman and I'll be teaching in the E1 house with students in grades 1-3. I am so excited to participate in this journey both as a staff member and parent of a Montessori student. I have worked at ERES for the past 6 years and I am excited to continue my career in the Montessori environment. I look forward to meeting and learning more about you and your unique student!

Hi, I'm Mrs. Pat Rickman and I will be teaching in the E2 house as we expand in the 2016-17 year. I have been teaching for 18 years, the last four have been at the Eagle River Elementary School. It's so exciting to be part of an amazing team at the Northland Pines School District and to be bringing a Montessori Learning Center to our community, I can't wait to open our doors next fall!

SOAR Charter Middle School

6485 Town Hall Rd. Land O' Lakes, WI 54540 npsd.k12.wi.us/soar (715) 547-3619
Scott Foster, Principal sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us

NORTHLAND PINES CHARTER

SOAR

School of Options & Applied Research

- Project Based Learning
- 21st Century Learning Skills
- Student Centered
- Multi-age Groupings
- Technology Driven
- Learning Outside the Walls
- Environmental Conservation
- Community Connections
- Grades 5-8

It is all in the Name

By Scott Foster, Principal

There are certain words that cause instant reaction in people, like Chicago Bears in Wisconsin. Another set of words seems to have the same effect, charter school. As someone who has been around and involved in charter schools for over 4 years now it still amazes me how misunderstood charter schools are in Wisconsin.

The term charter really is not understood by many. Charter comes from the term that recognizes how a school is started, its principles and the agreement between a school and an authorizing district or institution. Another misunderstanding comes from the idea that charter schools are private schools. In some cases this is true, but most charter schools outside of Milwaukee are public. Even though charter schools are public schools, the State of Wisconsin allows charter schools to be exempt from most state laws to allow for innovation in the areas of teaching methodology, structure and curriculum. Charter schools are still required and held to the same rigorous assessment requirements as all other Wisconsin schools.

The last misunderstanding about charter schools is that they are not locally controlled. Wisconsin is known for high quality charter schools and a lot of this comes from local communities and school boards having oversight of their charter schools. Many charter schools come from local parents and community members wanting to have options other than "traditional" school that their district provides. For a charter school to start, a local school board needs to agree to authorize that charter and then the agreement is reviewed no less than every 5 years... ***Continued on page 18***

Interested in attending SOAR for the 2015-2016 school year? Contact the school for more information: (715) 547-3619

SOAR Middle School Student Presents to Land O' Lakes Town Board

On March 11, SOAR Middle School 8th grade student Matthew Molter presented his Community Walking Trail Project to a full house at the Land O' Lakes Town Board Meeting. The end product of this project is going to be a 1.2 mile walking trail located in Land O' Lakes that loops around the Town Hall, Historical Society LOL/ SOAR School, and the Land O' Lakes Town Park. The trail will include flora and fauna viewing areas, exercise stations, and informational signs. Matthew has been working closely with the Land O' Lakes Beautification Committee and several local engineers and architects to help make this project happen.

ATTENTION SCHOOL VISITORS

Individuals other than the Northland Pines School District pupils, staff or Board of Education members are regarded as visitors. Visitors are asked to please report to the school office to sign in. Visitors need to bring their driver's license in as they will be scanned by our Raptor system to ensure student safety. A photo ID badge will be printed for visitors to wear while they are in the building.

SOAR Charter High School

1800 Pleasure Island Road, Eagle River, WI 54521 npsd.k12.wi.us/soar/hs (715) 479-4473
Scott Foster, Principal sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us

Continued from page 17...

The Northland Pines School District and community felt the need to have options. We are blessed as a community to have outstanding schools, however there is no one size fits all, especially in education. With that mindset, a group made up of community members, parents, and district staff set out to create options for students in our district. As we sit today, we have SOAR Middle School in year two, SOAR High School accepting applications and opening in the Fall of 2015, and the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center accepting applications and opening in the Fall of 2015. All three of these schools have been authorized and have a charter with the Northland Pines School District's School Board.

It is my hope that when you hear the words charter school going forward, you have different thoughts. I hope you think of local control, innovation and options for students and families. This is not to say that some charter schools have failed and some do not fit the information that I have shared. The large majority of the 244 current charter schools in Wisconsin are giving families options to meet their child's need and still being held accountable at the local level! If you have any questions about charter schools, please feel free to contact Scott Foster or Tony Duffek who are both principals in the Northland Pines School District.

SOAR High School Enrollment is OPEN for Grades 8, 9 & 10

The application is available on our website, npsd.k12.wi.us and also at each school's front office. The enrollment window will remain open through the summer, however in the best interest of the students, their families and the district, the sooner a family knows and applies, the more time we will have for planning.

SOAR even has a 3D printer for the students to use!

New Team Member at SOAR High School

SOAR High School is excited to have its first teacher join the team. Ann Perry will become the first full time advisor at SOAR High School. Ann Perry is a familiar name and face to many of you as she has been a Science teacher at Northland Pines High School since 2003. Besides teaching Science, Ann has been an advisor and coach for many extra-curricular activities. We are very excited to have Ann on board as she has been part of the charter school and project based learning methodology movement for many years in the district. Ann will complete her year teaching at Northland Pines High School and then take on her new official role this summer.

A Note From The NPSD Activities Director

Brian Margelofsky
NPSD Activities Director
bmargelofsky@npsd.k12.wi.us

The last two months of high school for a senior includes final preparation for scholarships, applying for colleges, and of course graduation. Many scholarships and applications require a certain GPA or letters of recommendation. As I was asked to nominate several student-athletes for various awards and scholarships, I reviewed the participation records and GPA's of the graduating seniors. As I quickly scanned the names of the first 50 students on this list, I noticed some things that made me make a couple of notes. First, I observed that the GPA of everyone on the list was 3.30 and higher. Second, was that 48 of the 50 students on that list, had played at least one sport or was involved in one activity or club during his/her high school career. Next, was that 29 of these individuals were either multi-sport athletes or participants in more than two activities. Finally, 8 individuals were 3 sport athletes over their 4 years and each were also in 2 or more activities as well. It's well documented that students who participate in school-sponsored activities and athletic teams have higher grade-point averages, better attendance records and have fewer discipline problems. Participation in high school athletics and activities increases a student's positive perception and the respect of their school. Involvement instills a positive educational and social confidence in students and for the roles they may pursue in the future. Teens learn a lot about decision-making, values and responsibility through their experience in activities and sports.

Activity programs provide valuable lessons for many practical situations including rewards for hard work, teaching self-discipline and building self-confidence. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in their students so they become responsible adults and productive citizens. When students graduate from high school or college and approach the work force, they will be expected to juggle a career, a family and many other things that require successful time management skills. The participation in sports or club activities forces students to become skilled at time management, develop regular routines for school and home in order to get everything done within a given time constraint. Through participation in club activities or sports, students learn cooperation, sportsmanship and responsibility while developing the required skills to handle competitive situations and constructive criticism. Student-athletes follow healthier eating habits and exhibit lower rates of tobacco, drug and alcohol use and foster higher levels of self-esteem, motivation and better self-image. These students are also more likely to disapprove of their peers' destructive behaviors. School activities provide enjoyable, supervised events for youth in a safe environment, while preparing teenagers to grow socially, emotionally and physically as they transition into adult life.

I would like to challenge the graduating seniors to remain involved after leaving NPHS. Continue to challenge yourself and stay active with peer groups after high school. Become involved in local, state, or international organizations in your town, city or the community that you live in. Join at least one of the clubs or intramural teams at your college or university campus. Continue to participate and make a positive difference and share the leadership with others that you've exhibited over the last four years. Congratulations to the Class of 2015 as all of you venture into the next step of your lives. Enjoy, have fun and keep active.

Spring Sports

Visit our website for up-to-date information on spring sports including:

- Baseball
- Girls Soccer
- Golf
- Softball
- Track & Field

Summer Events

Keep an eye on our district website and social media accounts for information on summer camps and sports contact days.

Evening Student Activity Bus

The Activity Bus for High School and Middle School students will be available three evenings a week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday for students participating in their school activities. The buses depart at 6:05 p.m. from the parking lot behind the high school.

PINES COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTER

1800 Pleasure Island Rd. Eagle River, WI 54521 npsd.k12.wi.us/pineswellness (715) 479-4473 ext. 3351

Wellness Center Update

By: Becky Jefferson, Membership/Program Coordinator

The Northland Pines School District has operated the Pines Community Wellness Center since March 1, 2014. In order to continue to provide a quality fitness center, the fee schedule has been changed as follows:

Single Yearly: $300.00
Annual Savings of $60.00 & includes one FREE 8 week program per year (two PCWC offered classes/week), a $40 value! To be used during membership year.
Family Yearly: $450.00
Annual savings of $150.00 & includes two FREE 8 week programs per year (two PCWC offered classes/week), an $80 value! To be used during membership year.
Single Monthly: $30.00
Family Monthly: $50.00
Active Military Monthly: $20.00
College Students: $15.00 per month
Must provide College/University I.D.
Daily Pass: $5.00 per person

The goal of the Wellness Center is to remain a community oriented fitness center and to provide a quality environment for individuals of all ages to come together and workout. Our wellness center offers a wide variety of exercise equipment and classes to enhance your workout experience.

Current classes offered by the Wellness Center are Cardio/Core, Total Body Senior, Yoga, Chair Yoga, Zumba® and Strong Women/Strong Bones. A new class schedule began on April 6th and will run for 8 weeks through May 30, 2015. The Strong Women/Strong Bones class is a 10-week class session that began on April 7 and runs through June 11, 2015. A full class description of each class can be found at www.npsd.k12.wi.us/wellnesscenter along with the class fees.

The Silver Sneakers program has been up and running at the PCWC since May 1, 2014. This program allows members of participating Medicare health plans to get a free membership. To qualify, you must be a Medicare-eligible member of a health plan that offers the Silver Sneakers Fitness Program. For questions concerning the Silver Sneaker program, contact your healthcare provider or call the Wellness Center at 715-479-4473, Ext. 3351 or Ext. 3350.

As always, all students living in the Northland Pines School District in grades 6-12 may attend the Pines Community Wellness Center for free.

NPHS Fieldhouse Public Walking

Citizens may come and utilize the indoor track for walking and running from 5:30 - 8:15 a.m. & 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday & 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on evenings when there are not events in the Fieldhouse. Please log on to the district website www.npsd.k12.wi.us for evening availability for using the indoor track. You do not need to be a member of the Pines Community Wellness Center to use the track. It is free.

Cardio/Core & Total Body Senior Classes

By: Julia John, Instructor

Classes are available for all residents during school hours. Cardio/Core (CC) is a class that splits the hour of exercise between raising the heart rate (cardio) and strengthening the muscles surrounding the spine (core). This class complements its sister class, Total Body Senior. TBS concentrates on strengthening the peripheral muscles (arms and legs, chest and back) while adding challenges to heighten the ability to balance, coordinate and stretch.

Together, CC and TBS are complete fitness for any age or ability at any stage of life. The only requirement is to bring a sense of humor and a willingness to learn and challenge your beliefs of fitness norms. It is not uncommon to hear testimonials of, “Now I can keep up on hikes.” or, “Now I can lift a bag of feed more easily.” or, “I don’t mind much to work out but I come here to laugh.”

Cardio/Core is Mondays and Wednesdays 8-9 a.m. Total Body Senior has two classes, Tuesdays and Thursdays 8-9 a.m. and 9:15-10:15 a.m. All are taught by certified personal trainers who are life-long fitness professionals.

Pines to Hold 2nd Annual Moonlight 5K Run/Walk - July 11

The Pines Community Wellness Center will be conducting its second annual Moonlight Run/Walk Fundraiser on Saturday, July 11, 2015, in downtown Eagle River near the Depot. This is a family friendly event for all ages! The event officially kicks off at 6 p.m. with music, a kid's carnival including a large inflatable obstacle course and games for kids. At 9 p.m. the Kids' Sunset Run will begin. The Sunset Run is a 1K run for kids ages 10 and under. Then at 10 p.m. the Moonlight 5K Run/Walk will begin. The proceeds from the Moonlight 5K Run/Walk will be used for the operation of the Pines Community Wellness Center.

COURSES: Both runs will begin and end at 101 East Wall Street, Eagle River, WI 54521 (intersection of East Wall Street and South Railroad Street). Volunteers and lit mile markers will help direct you as you wind your way past the scenic Eagle River, and continue through the peaceful streets past beautiful Yellow Birch and Silver Lakes. The course offers slight changes of elevation and some hills.

PRE-REGISTER on or before June 11, 2015. Individuals registered by June 11, 2015 will be guaranteed a very nice moisture wicking t-shirt in the size they request as well as a goodie bag.

PRE-RACE REGISTRATION & PACKET PICK UP will be held on Friday, July 10th at the Northland Pines High School Commons from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

RACE DAY REGISTRATION & PACKET PICK UP will be on Saturday, July 11th at the Start/Finish line-intersection of East Wall Street & South Railroad Street from 7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

KIDS EVENTS & PRIZES: Awards will be presented to all children who complete the Kids' Fun Run! Each child will also receive a T-shirt. Strollers and wagons are welcome. No pets, please.

AWARDS: An award ceremony will follow the 5K. Awards will include top three Male and Female Overall. Medals will also be awarded to the top 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finisher in each age group, male and female, as listed: 10 & under, 11-14, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

OTHER DETAILS: A water station will be located at the intersection of E. Sheridan Street and Silver Lake Road. Portable Restrooms will be available at the start/finish line. iTiming will chip time the race. Snacks and water will be provided to participants at the finish line. Entry fees are non-refundable.

More information regarding the Moonlight Run can be found at npsd.k12.wi.us/wellnesscenter

If you have any questions, please contact any of the following individuals:
Mike Richie, District Administrator at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us or phone 715.479.6487 Opt. 1, Ext. 1
Brian Margelofsky, Activities Director at bmargelofsky@npsd.k12.wi.us or phone 715.479.6286.
Josh Rhode, Physical Education Teacher at jrhode@npsd.k12.wi.us or phone 715.479.4473 Ext. 0902

FOLLOW US ON facebook

For Updates and more information, follow the Pines Community Wellness Center on Facebook!

A'viands
FOOD & SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Breakfast for the K-5 students has been a big hit at all Northland Pines Schools averaging 189 students served daily. One of the favorites for all students is the cinnamon rolls that we are able to serve warm. Another favorite is the oatmeal breakfast bar that is baked fresh in the morning and served warm. Several adults have also commented that they enjoy the oatmeal breakfast bar.

In addition to a breakfast entrée, students are also offered a juice cup, fresh fruit and milk. We look forward to growing the breakfast program as we try new products and meet the needs of the students.

High school students have also expressed the need for a later breakfast due to first hour being physical education. The staff created a "Grab n Go" breakfast bag to meet these students needs consisting of two cereal bars, fruit and milk. This allows the students to eat as time allows.

At the high school, we started offering smoothies that have been well received. They are made from V8 Fusion Mixes providing vitamins/minerals and fulfilling daily requirements of fruits and vegetables. New Smart Snack requirements have reduced the offerings we were able to provide in previous years. The smoothies are a welcome replacement, and the students seem to enjoy all four flavors we have to offer: strawberry/banana, peach/mango, watermelon/raspberry, and tropical fruit.

For students with peanut allergies, an area in each school's cafeteria will be designated a "Peanut-Free Zone". Although there are many allergies to foods, peanut allergies can be severe and caused by the mere smell of peanuts. We ask all students to please respect these areas and know what is in their sack lunch.

Northland Pines School District benefits from generous donation from Roundy's

Roundy's Supermarket, Inc., a leading grocer in the Midwest, and proponent of healthy school meals is giving back to the community with a donation of salad bars to Northland Pines School District. Through its contributions, Milwaukee-based Roundy's has helped provide salad bars for forty schools in Illinois and Wisconsin in support of the United Fresh Start Foundation's Let's Move Salad Bars to Schools campaign.

"Programs that encourage children to eat more fresh fruits and vegetables benefit our produce departments, and we're excited to get more involved with schools in the communities we serve," says Steve Jarzombek, Vice President of Produce Procurement and Merchandising for Roundy's.

"Everyone eats with their eyes," said Maggie Bishop, food service director for the Northland Pines School District. "These salad bars are not only useful, but they are beautiful. They will keep fresh fruits and vegetables crisp and garden-fresh, enticing students to try them. We are grateful to Roundy's for their support in helping us provide healthy, fresh produce to our students."

Salad bars empower students to make their own healthy choices and create excitement about trying new fruits and vegetables, ultimately increasing children's daily consumption.

How to Make Your Family Lunch Payment Online

The Northland Pines School District now provides parents an easy way to pay school-related fees. We have established a secure web store powered by RevTrak. Our new web store offers parents a convenient payment option when adding money to food service accounts or paying school related fees.

Online payments can be made using a Discover, Visa, or MasterCard credit or debit card. Click the icon on the district website to access the store.

ONLINE PAYMENTS
Powered by RevTrak

Northland Pines Farm to School Program

Northland Pines AmeriCorps Farm to School Program is in its second year of operation in the school district and is supported by a partnership grant with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The grant provides two half-time AmeriCorps members – a community outreach member and a nutrition education member. Through the collaborative efforts of the AmeriCorps members, school district administration and staff, food service, students and community volunteers, this program introduces students to healthy fresh local foods.

Nutrition Education is an integral aspect of the Northland Pines Farm to School program, which is in the middle of its second year. Since September 2014, 588 students have participated in classroom nutrition lessons such as cooking, growing sprouts and even making cheese or ice cream. "Students are much more willing to try new and unfamiliar foods if they have a hands-on involvement in growing and preparing them," according to Jasmyn Schmidt, the district's AmeriCorps Nutrition Educator. The experiential learning includes trips to the greenhouse and teaching chemistry and social studies using food and has fostered great enthusiasm among students and teachers. Some of the most popular lessons have included, Green Monster Smoothies (a healthy vanilla shake which is bright green from the inclusion of fresh spinach), Making Farmer Cheese, hand cranked ice cream, sprouts and microgreens grown in classrooms and the kindergarten for Chinese New Year.

"Students benefit from lessons that teach them basic cooking and life skills and how to eat and cook with whole local ingredients, such as pumpkins. A child who loves to cook will care what goes into their food and make healthier food choices as an adult," according to Schmidt.

Spring is in the air, so Farm to School will move outside to the school gardens, where students get the opportunity to experience the food growing process from the beginning, learning science and botany through seeds and plants. School gardens have been shown to cause significant gains in overall grade point average, specifically in science and math. (Rutgers University Fact Sheet FS1211).

Nancy Junkermann, the outreach member, works with food service director Maggie Bishop and builds relationships with local farmers to bring local food into the menu. She also offers local foods to the students at monthly tastings which are offered to all of the students in the district. The Harvest of the Month features these foods and is distributed to local merchants to help encourage parents and community members to try them at home. "The students are very excited by the idea that the food is grown in Wisconsin, and they enjoy looking at the display that shows information about the farm that provided the food and about the food being served. "Even the reluctant student is then willing to try a new food," according to Nancy.

The Farm to School team is working with Maggie Bishop to start a pilot program growing vegetables in the high school greenhouse to use on the salad bar. This will provide students with fresh vegetables and cut waste in the cafeteria.

Nancy is introducing the community to the benefits of the Farm to School program through a volunteer program. These volunteers are integral in making the program a success, helping with tastings, nutrition education and the committee. Plans are being made for spring gardens, and students' and families participation is welcome. The gardens are used for the nutrition education and the lunch menu. Volunteers for any Farm to School activity ranging from garden maintenance and tastings to fundraising are welcome. If interested in volunteering please contact: Jasmyn (jaschmidt@npsd.k12.wi.us) or Nancy (njunkermann@npsd.k12.wi.us)

Northland Pines Farm to School Program relies on community donations and grants in order to continue its programs. Supporters have included Vilas County Health Department. Un-popped popcorn, which is being sold as a fundraiser, can be purchased at the Eagle River Farmers' Market. Donation jars are at local businesses and individual donations are appreciated. Greens and Grass Fest, our annual fundraiser, will be held May 16th.

Northland Pines School District
1800 Pleasure Island Road
Eagle River, WI 54521

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ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

April - June 2015

Friday, April 17	Tour K-8 Building w/ Mike Richie, 10:00 a.m.
Friday, April 17	Tour High School & Phoenix Center w/ Mike Richie, 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 22	Large Group Festival, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., NPHS
Friday, April 24	Tour St. Germain Elem. w/ Mike Richie, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 25	Danceworks Shows, 1:30 p.m. & 6 p.m., NPHS Auditorium
Thursday, April 30	Tour Land O' Lakes Elem. & SOAR MS w/Mike Richie, 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 2	State Solo/Ensemble, 8:00 am-4:00 p.m., UWSP
Thursday, May 7	NPMS Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m., NPHS Auditorium
Monday, May 11	NPHS Concert, 7:00 p.m., NPHS Auditorium
Thursday, May 14	NPMS Band Concert, 7:00 p.m., NPHS Auditorium
Friday, May 15	St. Germain Spring Fling, 1:30 p.m., St. Germain Elementary
Saturday, May 16	HCPA: StepCrew, 7:30 p.m., NPHS Auditorium
Thursday, May 21	Coffee Klatch with Mike Richie, 8:30 a.m., Eagle River Roasters
Thursday, May 21	Land O' Lakes Spring Fling, 1:30 p.m., Land O' Lakes Elementary
Monday, May 25	No School - Memorial Day
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day Choir Event, 11:00 a.m., Courthouse
Friday, May 29	Cabaret, 6:00 p.m., NPHS Commons
Sunday, June 7	Graduation, 1:00 p.m., NPHS Fieldhouse
Wednesday, June 10	Last Day of School & End of 4th Quarter
Thursday, June 11	Teacher In-Service
Tuesday, August 18-20	New Staff In-Serivce
Monday, August 24-27	Teacher In-Service
Tuesday, September 1	First Day of School

Social Media:

Log on to npsd.k12.wi.us for more information on all of the schools, events, athletic schedules, lunch menus and much more!

Attention Non-Residents of the Northland Pines School District

This newsletter is provided to all residents of the Northland Pines School District. The most affordable process used to circulate this newsletter through the district is to use saturation mailing. It is costly to avoid a few non-residents from receiving our newsletter. We apologize for any inconvenience but wish to provide information to all residents. Thank you for understanding.