



Northland Pines School District Voice of the Pines

Spring Edition 2017-2018

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

MIKE RICHIE'S NEXT COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coffee Klatch
at Eagle River Roasters
May 17 at 8:30 a.m.



5TH ANNUAL MOONLIGHT 5K RUN/WALK

Saturday, July 7th at 10:00 PM
Downtown Eagle River

REGISTER NOW: ACTIVE.COM

See page 21 for more information.



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

School Safety & Security

It is so unfortunate that we have to continue to see school shootings across our nation. After the Florida shooting in February where fourteen students and three staff members lost their lives, our school district has received inquiries asking what we have in place to protect our students and staff. I will highlight what I can share with you in this article. Keep in mind we do have procedures in place and staff are trained on how to react and what to do; however, we cannot release our entire plan as it would endanger our students and staff if the wrong person knew the actual plans in place.

What I can share with the public is that we have taken many steps in the past few years to increase our security measures for the safety of our students and staff.

1. Once the student day begins, the public must enter through the main front doors. Visitors cannot get into the school buildings, as they are forced to enter through the school office.
2. Entrances in all of our buildings have been renovated to keep a visitor out of the main part of the school building if needed.
3. Any visitor who enters the building must show a drivers' license. That license is run through our Raptor system (checks Sexual Predator database), and a sticker ID badge is printed for the visitor to alert staff that this person has checked into the school office and is clear to be in the building.
4. A School Resource Officer (SRO) has been employed by the district beginning with the 2016-17 school year; funding for this position was through the 2016 operational referendum. The SRO spends time in all school buildings in the district. He is armed and his gun is visible.
5. Cameras in all of the buildings have been upgraded. School officials have access from their desktop computer, iPad and mobile phones to view not only the school they are currently in, but all schools within our district, from any location, including off-site.
6. Law enforcement officers, within the police station, sheriff's department, or within their squad cars, have access to our cameras in all school buildings. The dispatcher or anyone at the 911 call center can view these cameras/videos on their screen.
7. All of our staff have been trained in ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate). We continue to run scenarios to reinforce this training with staff in the event they need to use it in an active shooter situation.
8. We continue to review procedures and protocols on a regular basis.
9. We implemented random student drug testing in grades 7-12 beginning with the 2016-17 school year.
10. We hired a school social worker to assist us with mental health issues beginning with the 2016-17 school year.
11. We have partnered with mental health providers and community organizations to help identify and support students and families in need.
12. We continue to research and utilize best practices for bullying prevention.
13. We have put a focus on culture and relationships. We strive to give every student at least one (and hopefully more than one) adult who they can feel they trust and can go to with any issues they are facing.

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School Safety and Security continued...

14. Our teachers are required to be out in the hallways during all passing times for students.
15. We have installed Bollard cement planters in front of our high school building.
16. We have installed Global Security Glazing (reinforced) glass in our entrance doors and windows.
17. Any staff member can pick up their phone and page throughout their building across the intercom system to make an announcement at any time.

These are the main areas of crisis preparedness that we continually monitor, revise and update. Northland Pines School District takes any threat and school safety very seriously. Our students are very good about reporting any suspicious behavior to our staff and administrators. This is because we have developed good relationships among students, staff and administration. We will continue to work together throughout our school district and community to help keep students and staff safe while they are in Northland Pines schools. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 715-479-6487, Option 1, Ext. 1 or by email at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us.



Holly McCormack
School Board President
hmcormack@npsd.k12.wi.us

Northland Pines School District Administrator Announces Future Retirement

It is with a touch of remorse that I write this article for the Voice of the Pines. When I was first elected to the Board of Education back in 2009, I began learning everything about being a school board member. I quickly realized that Northland Pines was strategically and systematically being put “on the map” when it

came to high flying, well respected school districts in the state, due to Dr. Mike Richie’s leadership and vision. Any exceptional leader will tell you that they surround themselves with great people, then delegate authority, and get out of the way. There is no doubt that Mike has built a solid foundation at Northland Pines and has always been involved in and supported ongoing professional development of staff. He is visible throughout the school district at academic events and at student and community activities. Mike has earned the respect of the Northland Pines community due to his collaborative management style and his encouragement and promotion of business partnerships, which greatly and dually enhanced both the district and community.

I also give credit to all of the board members who served (and continue to serve) during Mike’s tenure; the Board’s collaborative support of Mike and the ways in which board members worked (and continue to work) with him, has proven to be invaluable to the students, staff and entire community of the Northland Pines School District. During his time at Pines, Mike has accomplished (and continues to accomplish) great things which have firmly established the Northland Pines School District as a leading educational institution, not only statewide but nationwide as well. Here are just a few brief highlights:

- The passage of 4 operational referendums
- The construction of a \$28,000,000 LEED Gold Certified public high school
- Implementing all of the Act 10 policies/requirements resulting in substantial cost savings for the district
- The creation of 3 innovative charter schools
- The implementation of pre-Kindergarten
- Building community/business partnerships
- Implementing the 7-12 grade structure
- Establishing our Wisconsin International Student Program (WISP)
- Receiving 4 DPI Rural School Community Partnership Awards
- Recipient of the 2012 National District Administrator of the Year, United States

Dr. Mike Richie submitted a letter of retirement to the Northland Pines Board of Education on Monday, November 27, 2017, at the school board meeting. The retirement effective date will be at the end of his current two year contract which will be June 30, 2019. Mike submitted his letter well in advance in order to give the Northland Pines Board of Education a substantial amount of time to select and hire the new District Administrator. At the conclusion of his contract, Dr. Richie will have served the Northland Pines School District as the District Administrator for 15 years, making him the longest serving District Administrator in Northland Pines history.

The top priority and number one job of the School Board is the hiring of the District Administrator. The Northland Pines Board of Education has had considerable discussion on this topic and decided not to hire a search firm at this time, and they will conduct the search themselves in order to save the district money. Following is the timeline which the Board will follow when posting for this vacancy.

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Northland Pines School District – District Administrator Hiring Timeline

Post position:	September 1, 2018 through October 1, 2018
Initial Interviews:	Week of October 8th
Final Interviews:	Week of October 15th
October 29, 2018:	Negotiate a contract to begin July 1, 2019

On behalf of the Northland Pines Board of Education, we wish to thank Dr. Mike Richie for his ongoing contributions to students, education, staff and community.



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Holly McCormack..... President
 John Sarama.....Vice President
 David Weber.....Clerk
 Jennifer Payne.....Treasurer
 Chris Petreikis.....Deputy Clerk
 Mike Sealander.....Member
 Jim Mulleady.....Member

Northland Pines Board of Education 2017-18 Meetings

April 30	May 21	June 25
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Regular board meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and are held in the Northland Pines Middle and High School LGI.

For additional information on Board policies, agendas, or other issues of consideration, please contact Susie Block, Executive Assistant, at (715) 479-6487 opt. 1, ext. 2.

Thank you to outgoing Northland Pines School District board members

**Holly McCormack, Board President
Elected 2009, served three 3-year terms**

**John Sarama, Vice President
Elected 2009, served three 3-year terms**

Thank you for volunteering to serve on our Board over the past nine years. We know that for both of you, it was an “add on” to the many other things that you did, including your businesses, your careers, your families, other volunteer opportunities and your social lives. We appreciate that you were willing to serve and we value your time and your input. We know you were thoughtful about the ideas and recommendations you suggested. Thank you for taking the time to govern our school district. Thank you for bringing your passion, intellect, insight, experience and resources to the table. We needed you, and we appreciate that you used all of your experience, skills, knowledge and education to move the Northland Pines School District forward. Thank you for your service, your loyalty, your leadership and your guidance. Our students are the leaders they are today because of the tools you gave them. We promise to pay it forward.

~Northland Pines School District~

Perform with Missoula Children’s Theater at NPSD!

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Tuesday, April 3 - Saturday, April 7, 2018

NPSD Students in Grades 5K-8

Auditions:

Tuesday, April 3, 3:45-5:45 p.m.
NPHS Auditorium

Rehearsals:

3:45-5:45 pm, 6:00-8:00 pm Tues-Fri
(not all students are called to all rehearsals)

Performances:

Saturday, April 7th at 3:00 and 5:30 p.m.

To register or if you have any questions please contact Kate Janssen, Northland Pines Choir Director, at (715) 479-4473 x1406 or kjanssen@npsd.k12.wi.us (email preferred).



Tera Fritz
Business Official
tfritz@npsd.k12.wi.us

Northland Pines Has A Lot To Be Proud Of

While working on the Northland Pines 2018-2019 budget, I was filled with pride as I examined our revenue sources in more detail. Sounds corny, doesn't it? Well, it is not. Northland Pines does indeed have a lot to be proud of. According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, in 2014-2015 public schools received \$11.13 billion dollars in funding. Of

that; 46% came from state aid, 43% from property taxes, 7% from federal aid and 4% from local revenue.

Although a vast majority of Northland Pines' funding does indeed come from our taxpayers and state aid, it is important to note the administration and staff work very hard to ensure the district receives as much grant funding as is available. In fact, about 5% of the district's revenue is derived from grants, all of which goes to improving the great education our students already receive.

Grant funds are not always easily awarded or used. Although the process varies from grant to grant, most require the completion of a detailed application which could include information regarding how the school determined there was a need for that particular grant, how the school or program intends to utilize the funds, and how the success of the program will be measured. Grant applications typically require a comprehensive budget plan as well which outlines, according to the rules of the specific grant, how much may be spent on items such as; professional development, training opportunities, supplies, equipment, software, curriculum materials, field trips, wages and benefits.

Once a grant has been approved, the district office must track every expenditure and proceed related to that grant separately, as many grant funds are only provided once a well-documented claim has been submitted.

While larger grants can be time-consuming to apply for, get and use, they are invaluable to our district, its staff and students. The Northland Pines School District has received a variety of amazing grants over the years, many of which you have read about in the pages of Voice of the Pines. The Fab Lab was created primarily by grants, much of the district's technology upgrades have been completed with grant funds, and all of our elementary schools provide

additional support to ensure all students are able to meet state academic standards with the help of grant funding.

Individual teachers are empowered to provide new and exciting learning opportunities for their students due to grant funding they receive, mainly from the district's amazingly supportive community groups whom provide local grant opportunities and funding for special events and initiatives. For example, the Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club regularly awards Northland Pines staff with grants, as does Shopko, and the Masonic Lodge. Many local organizations also help contribute matching funds, often required with grant applications. The Vilas County Economic Development Corporation is an example of an organization whose matching funds made the Fab Lab grant possible. Another source of district revenue are donations; all of which are again used to make our students' academic and personal lives better. From the Farm to School program, to the All American Kids Club, to the TLC Coffee Service and the Mission Possibles Run Club, donations help support over 30 groups and initiatives within the district. Grants and donations, although small in the grand scheme of things, make a world of difference allowing our staff and students to do and accomplish amazing things at Northland Pines.

And that should make all of us very proud.

Eagle Fab Lab

The Northland Pines Fab Lab community events that have occurred throughout the school year have been a great experience for all who have attended. Please come in and see what the Fab Lab is capable of and learn how to use the different machines and processes from trained and professional educators. We will continue to have Community Nights the remainder of the school year. Please go to the district website: npsd.k12.wi.us, hover over the district tab, then select the link for the Fab Lab under the Program & Services heading. We will also share community events via our social media sites. Please consider coming in and taking advantage of what the Northland Pines Fab Lab has to offer!



ATTENTION SCHOOL VISITORS

Individuals other than NPSD 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 drivers 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.



Emily Rhode
Director of Pupil Services
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Promoting Our 7th and 8th Grade Student’s Social and Emotional Well-Being Through the 7-12 Transition

Social and emotional well-being is a necessary foundation for students to engage in the curriculum and progress academically. Research indicates that social emotional learning not only improves achievement by an average of 11 percentile points, but it also increases pro-social behaviors (such as kindness, sharing, and empathy), improves attitudes toward school, and

reduces depression and stress among students (Durlak et al., 2011). The staff of the Northland Pines Middle and High Schools have been dedicated to promoting the social and emotional well-being of their students. In preparation for the transition of students in 7th and 8th grade to the high school building, new social emotional learning initiatives were created and implemented while current practices were revised for improvement.

Healthy Choices Lessons are developed by Sade Seeger, NPMS School Counselor and Courtney Weber, District Social Worker. Lessons promote five key skills for social and emotional development including Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision Making. They are aligned to middle school social and emotional learning standards and responsive to student survey results. Monthly lessons focus on developing personal and social skills through explicit instruction with hands-on activities delivered by the student’s homeroom teachers. They are strategically delivered throughout the school to promote overlap with Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Active Mentor Mentee Program (AMMP) initiatives. Topics that have been addressed this school year include: Diversity and Individuality, Standing Up to Bullying, Brain Research and Emotional Control, Healthy Relationships, and Gratitude.

Active Mentor Mentee Program (AMMP) The purpose of the program is to match middle school students with high school students to establish increased connectedness to the school community. Juniors and seniors from Northland Pines High School, who were recommended by staff, attended an informational session in the spring of 2017. A specialized, one-day mentor training took place on August 18, 2017. Following the training, peer mentors were assigned a partner and a 7th or 8th grade homeroom, and they have been engaging in monthly activities.

Northland Pines High School senior and AMMP mentor, Claire Reese, recognizes the importance of her role and

is enjoying the opportunity to serve as a peer mentor. Here is what she had to say about the program, “Hello, my name is Claire Reese and I am a student leader of the AMMP program at Northland Pines. The program began actively mentoring students in the fall of 2017, and now in January of 2018, I recognize the progress we’ve made with the middle school students! Just this past Wednesday, I was running down the hallways of the high school on a scavenger hunt with my mentee group. Their smiles and competitive nature were infectious, and I found myself laughing and trying my hardest to help our class win. Along with this past scavenger hunt, mentors and their classes have decorated cookies, played games, and have done many more activities that have helped build positive relationships between middle schoolers and upperclassmen. I continue to notice the progress of AMMP as I greet and am greeted daily by kids in my mentee class. Not only do I find that a quick chat or hello from me will put a smile on their face, but a small wave or a hello from a mentee will leave me encouraged and grinning as I walk to my next class.”

NPSD School Social Worker, Courtney Weber, oversees the program with the help of Sade Seeger, NPMS/NPHS School Counselor. Together they coordinated the implementation, conducted the initial and ongoing training of the mentors, provide ongoing supervision of the mentors, communicate with parents and staff, and collect outcome data.

“Through scavenger hunts, a variety of team building activities, and ongoing reflection I have witnessed the students deepen their relationships and increase their connectedness to one another and the staff. Although we didn’t see it as an opportunity in the fall, Sade Seeger, Middle School Counselor and I have recognized the opportunities to connect our AMMP activities to our monthly Healthy Choices lesson. This has been an incidental benefit for sure!” said Courtney Weber.

“**The Locker**” is officially up and running. Located just off of the Northland Pines Middle and High School Library Media Center. The Locker is stocked with food and personal care items including but not limited to snack



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St. Germain Elementary



Tony Duffek, Principal
St. Germain Elem. &
Montessori Learning Center
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Reading Heroes

One of the most important jobs of an elementary school is to get students reading and more importantly love reading. As my favorite author, Dr. Seuss states, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Giving students a solid literacy foundation is the base of all of their education. This is a monumental task for elementary teachers but it is a rewarding and exciting responsibility

that the teachers proudly take on. The great thing is that teaching and inspiring kids to read doesn't fall all on our teachers, we have great family and community support and our new Reading Heroes program is one example of this.

This school year we started a new reading program in collaboration with the Vilas County Sheriff's Department, Plum Lake Fire and Ambulance, and the St. Germain PTO called Reading Heroes. We kicked it off at the start of the year with police officers and firefighters talking to the kids about the importance of reading and giving every kid a book to get them excited about this program. Kids receive a monthly calendar in which they track the minutes that they read at home. If they reach the set goals, they get entered in a drawing to go for a ride in a squad car,

ambulance, or fire truck to Knockers, a local restaurant, to have a pizza lunch with some of our local heroes - firefighters and police officers.

The program is great for kids in many facets; students get inspired to read at home, they learn how to work towards goals, they get to develop friendships with local heroes, and they get to learn from and gain a respect for our local heroes. This program would not be possible without the volunteerism and generosity of many of our local heroes. Their lead in developing this program is one more reason why we need to be thankful for our police officers and firefighters, they do more than keep us safe, they build community and inspire our youth. Our students are lucky to have a community around them to help inspire them to read. Teaching kids to read is much more effective when there is this level of support and enthusiasm from parents and community members.



Reading Heroes winners earned a pizza lunch and fire truck ride with local heroes



All American Kids Club Honors Heroes

By Nanci Foster

The 2017-18 school year has been busy for the students and staff involved in the All American Kids Club. The club has three groups that meet at Eagle River Elementary, Land O' Lakes Elementary and St. Germain Elementary, along with the Montessori Learning Center.

The club was developed to instill a sense of pride and patriotism in our students while honoring veterans, active duty soldiers, and local heroes. This year, we continued with four mailings to 450 veterans and active duty soldiers. Receiving cards from our students is a highlight for many heroes. We are working on the 4th of July mailing right now. The students had fun celebrating 4th of July in February and the photos from the photo booth will be featured in those cards.

This year the clubs focused on local heroes by creating holiday treats for the employees at the Vilas County Sheriff's Department and thank you gifts for local volunteer fire departments. The students were treated to presentations from local EMT's and Vilas County K-9 Officers. A great big thank you to all the local heroes who helped us out in one way or another.

We were fortunate enough to secure a Traveling Trunk from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. The trunk was filled with information and artifacts from a soldier who was in the Vietnam War. This was a great hands on learning opportunity for the students. We look forward to borrowing additional travel trunks in the upcoming years.

For more information, please visit our website npsd.k12.wi.us/eres/aakc.cfm, follow us on Twitter @npsdaakc and/or Facebook @ERESAAKC.

Montessori Learning Center

By Tony Duffek, Principal

Something I hear from parents of kids in Montessori is that they love the independence their children gain from the learning environment. This is because an important component of Montessori is teaching students practical life skills and independence. From the initial view of practical life, parents see kids doing their own dishes, cleaning windows, and taking care of plants. Parents are excited that the practical life skills may transfer to home where they can contribute to cleaning up and helping around the house. While this is a good outcome, (of teaching practical life) there is so much more behind teaching students practical life.

Many think that practical life only happens in our Children's House (4k/5k classroom), but it is something that is carried out throughout their Montessori education. In the Montessori approach to learning, there are four main areas of practical life: care of self, care of the environment, control of movement, and grace and courtesy. Teaching practical life at the early age is essential because it helps children develop order, concentration, coordination, and independence. These skills they gain from practical life directly transfer to their academics because they are able to organize their work and thoughts, concentrate on academic concepts for extended periods of time and take ownership and control of their learning since they have control of themselves. It also establishes an environment in which students are peaceful, respectful, thoughtful and engaged in their learning.

The Montessori learning environment teaches practical life in many ways. It starts in 4k with simple pouring of



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foods, boxed meals, toothpaste, deodorant, and school supplies. Items have been kindly donated by local churches and are free of charge to students upon request. Teachers and other staff have encouraged students who may benefit to utilize this resource. It has been a huge success. Students simply go to the Library Media Specialist and request to "go to the locker." The District is extremely grateful for the generous donations that make this resource possible.

Options Counseling

The Northland Pines School District continues to work in conjunction with Options Treatment Program to provide quality confidential mental health services to children

water, washing windows, taking care of plants, and doing their dishes. As they get older they learn how to cook meals, take care of animals, prepare food for visitors, prepare meals for the homeless shelter, sew and more.

One day when I showed up to work with a hole in my sweater, it was no problem. I could bring it to one of

the classrooms and they were able to sew it right up for me. Even though teaching practical life leads to practical uses like sewing my sweater, the most important thing is that it helps develop independent and confident individuals. As you can see, Montessori education is much more than giving students the academic skills they need in the future, it is developing the whole child so they can be successful in any environment. I am excited to see how students, that have been through Montessori, will transfer these skills to middle school, high school and beyond. If you would like to learn more about Montessori methodology or see practical life and learning in the Montessori environment, please contact me anytime (tduffek@npsd.k12.wi.us), our students are happy to share what they are learning!



and adolescents within the school setting. The goal of providing outpatient mental health services within the school environment is to improve access to clinical mental health services to children, adolescents and their families with respect to the child and family's needs. Therapeutic intervention within the school allows children, adolescents and their families a favorable location to address and achieve the most positive outcomes.

If you have any questions regarding Healthy Choices, AMMP, Options Counseling, The Locker or Social and Emotional Learning, please contact the Pupil Services Department at 715-479-8989.

Land O' Lakes Elementary



Carie Brock, Principal
Land O' Lakes Elem. & SOAR
Charter Middle & High School
cbrock@npsd.k12.wi.us

She was unstoppable. Not because she did not have failures or doubts. But because she continued on despite them.

One of my favorite parts of every week is when the trumpets sound to mark the beginning of CBS Sunday Morning. Calling it my 'favorite' might also have something to do with the warm cup of tea I usually have in hand, snuggled up on the couch in my pajamas and blanket, sitting next to a warm fire! Ha!

The show always seems to have interesting tidbits about the beauties and struggles of life. Each segment usually leaves just enough of an impact to keep me thinking, wondering and searching for more information.

A few weeks ago they had a small segment about Kintsugi, the Japanese art form of repairing broken pottery with lacquer mixed with powdered gold, silver or platinum. As a philosophy, it treats breakage and repair as part of the history of an object, rather than something to disguise. They actually mark the cracks with gold to highlight their existence!

The idea of Kintsugi has got me thinking quite a bit about life. Many of us get trapped into portraying an organized, well-balanced, healthy, parent-of-the-year, world. All of our photos on Facebook and Instagram are of our skinniest view, a clutter-less table, with children in perfectly clean clothes, brushed teeth, and combed hair doing some project that we make look effortless. Oftentimes the reality is we feel bloated from the weekend, hate our pictures being taken while we rush through fun activities with our kids because of the next practice, chore or errand. Inside, most of us are desperately seeking five quiet minutes to ourselves to take a walk or a bath or a nap! As a society, we spend quite a bit of time trying to 'polish' our lives into perfection, just glossing over the cracks and detours along the way. Hiding our failures, every chance we get.

In thinking about Kintsugi, it reminds me that the failures in life are, many times, also the highlights. They are the cracks along the way that make us who we are, that shape our future decisions, that guide us through the

next chapters. So, maybe the really big ones should be dusted with gold. What are the cracks in your life or days that deserve a little dusting of gold? Are there moments you've taken risks that have led you to be a better professional? Parent? Person? What are the lessons you've learned along the way this year (that you would never post on Facebook or Instagram- Ha!)?

I believe that children are sometimes like the gold dust of Kintsugi. If you're ever feeling defeated with the struggles of life, I encourage you to spend some time with a four or five year old. They are typically too young to know or understand how to 'polish' their trials of learning to tie shoes, share with a partner, take turns being first, write their name or wait their turn (to name a few). Young children are often just as proud of trying as they are at succeeding! They are excited to take risks and share their ideas without fear of embarrassment or failure. The other day I was working with the kindergartners on how to 'back up' and step away from others when they're feeling angry. We watched a book online about the topic that had a catchy little 'back up' song included. Just as the song began, one of the kindergarten girls raised her hand and said, "Ms. Brock, can we please dance to this song? It sounds like a song we should dance to!" So yes, of course, we got up and danced to the song because that's what you do when you are five, before the world tries to convince you that your dancing skills would be best left at home- Ha!

Thank you for all that you do to guide and embrace the children of Land O' Lakes Elementary School. They are the gold of our community!





Giving Back to the Community - Our 100th Day Food Drive By Cathy Benecke

As a special way to celebrate the 100th Day of School, students and staff at the Land O' Lakes Elementary School held a food drive with the goal of collecting 100 boxes, cans or other packages of food for the Headwaters Food Pantry in Land O' Lakes.

As is tradition, students in Mrs. Benecke's Kindergarten class grouped the food into groups of ten and counted by tens to see how many items were donated. We are proud to announce that we once again beat our goal and collected 140 items this year!

In addition to counting the food, Kindergartners also bagged up the food, loaded it onto sleds, and worked together to pull it to the Headwaters Food Pantry, located about a block from the school. After hauling the donations into the pantry, students were treated to a snack and then headed back to school, taking turns pulling each other along the way.



Thank you to all who helped us once again exceed our goal in our 100th Day Food Drive and especially for helping us give back to our wonderful community!

On Saturday, March 3rd, the entire northwoods community was invited to the Conserve School campus for a Winter Festival. It was a day full of sunshine, sledding, cross-country skiing on freshly groomed trails, snowshoeing, roasting marshmallows by the fire, and enjoying homemade chili! The event was sponsored by Conserve School and the Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club. All proceeds and donations from the event went to the Land O' Lakes Elementary School Playground Fund. Thank you to all who attended the event. We are thankful to live in a community that goes above and beyond to support our children!



March is Youth Art Month By Amanda Acklam

Northland Pines School District students have the opportunity to display their art work at two shows in honor of Youth Art Month. Our students are lucky to have so many supportive members of our community who go above and beyond to celebrate the work they do! We are so fortunate that Wendy Powalitz and all the co-op artists



from Land O' Lakes Arts (LOLA) Gallery in Land O' Lakes want to recognize our students each March. They give up their gallery space so that every kindergarten through

fourth grade student and our SOAR Middle School art students will have a piece of work framed and displayed in an actual art gallery. This art display begins with a beautiful opening reception that includes food, photo opportunities and lots of fun on March 10th from 1:00-4:00. The show remains open during regular gallery hours until March 24th. Through generous donations, each student is given the frame to keep at the end of the show. Five art works from the show are also printed onto note cards by the PTA and sold throughout the community to support Land O' Lakes Elementary School.

Another thank you goes to the Walter E. Olson Memorial Library and Pat Lamon for graciously hosting the art show this year in their new community room! Select students from every school in the Northland Pines School District will have work on display. An awards celebration will take place Friday, April 6th from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Thank you to the many members of our community who encourage and support the arts in our schools throughout the year!

Eagle River Elementary



Karie Jo Bornberg
Principal
kbornberg@npsd.k12.wi.us

*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
-W.B. Yeats*

Eagle River Elementary has had a busy, but rewarding 2017-2018. As a school, we continue to work hard to engage students and best support them so they can reach their full academic potential. In order to better understand our learners, we have been focusing on how to look at each student as a whole child by

considering not only their academic needs, but their social/emotional needs as well. In order to do this effectively, we have emphasized using data to help guide our decisions and universal instruction. By looking at student academic data, we can hone in on specific skills students may need assistance with to be successful. The data provides a purpose and reason to assist learners; it also helps us monitor their progress moving forward.

In order to reach this goal, staff meet consistently with their grade level teams. Grade levels meet once a month to look over assessment data and collaborate on ideas and strategies they can implement into their classroom instruction. Specialists and Special Education teachers are invited to come to this common planning time to help provide more insight and ideas for support; it gives

everyone a chance to put their heads together and develop a network of ideas and strategies that can be used to support all students. All in all, I am proud of how staff have had collaborative conversations and learned from one another. We have a talented set of teachers, and each individual has something to offer.

In addition to the common planning times, staff also meet to discuss data further at monthly “academic data digs”. The purpose of the data dig meetings are to talk more specifically about students that are receiving interventions and supports. The team looks at the data from academic interventions and makes decisions moving forward. By having everyone involved, we are able to develop strong plans for students who are identified as needing additional support. If a child is not demonstrating sufficient progress, an individualized meeting may be arranged. Additionally, we aim to ensure parents are also a part of this process as they have an important role on this team.

As any new program or initiative, monitoring the program itself and offering time to reflect on its success is important. We will continue to review our practices and discuss what will help all our students learn at a high level. Although the collaboration around data has been successful, we are still fine tuning this process and will be discussing ways we can continue to improve. I am thankful to be a part of such a dedicated staff and community that works collaboratively to raise student success!

Campus Portal Account

NPSD is proud to provide you with the Campus Portal as a means to further promote educational excellence and to enhance communication with parents/guardians. The Portal allows each parent/guardian to view their own child’s school record via the internet anywhere, anytime.

During the academic school year, parents/guardians have access to the following data:

- Attendance
- School Fees
- Family Demographic Information
- Middle and High School parents/guardians have access to class assignments, progress reports and report cards.
- Food Service Balance
- Student’s Schedule
- Elementary parents/guardians have access to report cards

If you need to setup a new portal account or need help with a forgotten username or password, please contact: Lisa Achterberg, NPSD Data Manager at (715) 479-4123 or email enroll@npsd.k12.wi.us



Moon Rocks Make a Landing in 5th Grade By Tami Davis

5th Grade students at Eagle River Elementary School had the unique opportunity to study real rocks from the moon! Ms. Davis, the science teacher, became qualified through NASA to borrow actual rock specimens from the moon to study in the classroom. Students had a chance to study the composition of the rocks, look at them under microscopes and learn more about the importance of Earth’s moon. Channel 12 even came in to do a story about it! You can find it on their website: wjfw.com. What an incredible way to learn about Space!



Don Anderson
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Student Support Options at ERES

Eagle River Elementary School has been implementing organized Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for several years. Some of these supports include our Pines Pride assemblies, access to our Reset Room, incentives that reward exceptional behavior, and of course, the teaching and practicing of expected behaviors. PBIS is a wonderful framework that helps keep the climate of our school

positive and makes appropriate or expected behaviors the norm. PBIS at Eagle River Elementary School is universal, that is all students participate in it and have access to the supports. Did you know that ERES has several other options in place to help support students with behavioral, emotional, or social obstacles? I would like to tell you about a few of the supports available to our students.

Courtney Weber, our school social worker, created our Mentor Program that began this school year. She helped train Northland Pines High School students in the Big Brothers Big Sisters model of mentoring children. These high school mentors come to ERES weekly to meet with their mentees or “buddies.” They have their own room in our building where they can play games or work on activities that were purchased through a \$500 grant awarded to this program. The buddy groups are also beginning to partner with our Farm to School instructor, Jasmyn Schmidt, to make lunches for each other. There are currently seven buddy matches in our school.

Check In Check Out (CICO) is another support program offered to students at ERES. This program is intended to help students recognize both their expected and unexpected behaviors displayed throughout their day. Students participating in CICO meet an assigned staff member with whom they have a positive relationship each

morning before school starts. There, the students are given an encouraging greeting and will set a behavior goal for the day. The greeter then provides the student with a sheet to take with them to help reach their goal and reflect upon their behavior. Feedback on their sheet from each class they attend is given by their teachers. The student meets with the greeter at the end of the day to go over the goal sheet. They celebrate the successes and collaborate on how to work on areas that need improvement. To increase home school communication, the goal sheet goes home each day for the parents to see. The CICO program allows us to teach students ways to meet our positive behavior expectations. This helps them feel more successful and ready to learn.

ERES is staffed with a school counselor and a school social worker. These two professionals are available to meet with students in groups, or as individuals, to help problem solve through issues that arise and come up with long term solutions to ongoing problems. Meeting with the school counselor or school social worker may be a one time event, or it can be ongoing. The counselor also teaches lessons as a universal support for all students at ERES. Each classroom participates in S.E.L.F. (Social Emotional Learning Fun) lessons biweekly.

Guys’ Club is a student support new to ERES. This is a group that meets once a week with the purpose of having some fun while working on important skills such as leadership, responsibility, safety, and respect. This group works on those skills through informal conversations while participating in various life-skill related activities such as building projects, athletic games, and culinary activities. We are currently working on expanding Guys’ Club and adding a Girls’ Club for the 2018-2019 school year. If you would like more information on PBIS or other student support options at ERES, please don’t hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at danderson@npsd.k12.wi.us or (715) 479-6471 ext 3113.



Eagle River Elementary 4th Grade: Ice Castle, Derby Track & Spud Mobile By Nicole Musial

Eagle River Elementary School 4th grade students enjoyed an incredibly beneficial field trip in January. First, they went to the ice castle and listened to the fire department explain the history of the castle, along with how they build it. Then, they spent some time in the Wisconsin Spud Mobile learning about potatoes. After that, they walked to the World Championship Derby Track to have hot cocoa, watch some racing, meet the 2017 World Champion and the owner of the track. They also had the opportunity to meet some drivers and tour the track! What a fun-filled day of learning!

SOAR Charter Middle School

You become like the 5 people you spend the most time with. Choose carefully.

By Carie Brock, Principal

The 7th grade students at SOAR Middle School and I have been working through a weekly seminar based on the book, "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" by Sean Covey. The premise of his book is the acknowledgment that most teenagers embark on a roller coaster ride of emotions during their middle school years. They have real problems, with real stress, many of which have to do with self-mastery and self-esteem. Our weekly conversations validate that the problems teenagers face today are real, and that they can't turn off real life. We can, however, equip students with tools that will help them deal with the turbulence of middle school.



A few weeks ago we focused our discussion on Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind. The purpose of this habit is to help students 'define their mission and goals in life.' If they don't decide to control their own destiny, someone else will. We began with a conversation about the crossroads in life. Thinking about the questions that begin to surface and linger as children grow older, such as: Do I want to go to college? Graduate school? Do I want to travel? Learn another language? Try out for a team? Skip school? Date? What will I stand up for? What types of friends do I want? As you can imagine, many of the students rolled their eyes or giggled a bit at some of the questions. Why would we be talking about graduate school when we're only in 7th grade? Why do we need to think about trying out for high

school football when we're 13? I think their favorite, of course, was the dating question. I think we could've spent days on that topic! Ha! The intention of the seminar and our conversations is to help students think about what they respect and value, BEFORE they are faced with tough decisions. It's never too early to define who you are and who you want to become.



We've also learned that one of the critical pieces in character development during the middle school years is your choice of friends. Think about the five people your child is closest to right now. Have you noticed what a powerful influence they can have on attitude, reputation, and direction? The need to be accepted and be part of a group is powerful, especially as a young teen. Way too often, children choose friends based on whoever will accept them. I believe that building self-esteem in students equips them with the confidence to choose friends based on common values, not just where there's an 'opening.' It also assures them that sometimes being alone and sticking to your beliefs is much more admirable than joining a group that compromises them.

We believe that one of the strengths of the SOAR Middle School community is the inclusive culture that is created. Students are accepted, and often celebrated, for taking a stand, advocating for what is right, and being true to themselves. We work hard to build confident, reflective, teenagers who think with the 'end in mind.'

I continue to be incredibly proud and honored to be a part of the SOAR journey that approaches education in a new and exciting way. I believe that SOAR puts the needs of children first and continually takes action to guide students toward a better future. Thank you for all that you do to continue to make the mission and vision of SOAR Middle School alive in our school and community!



Brave superheroes jumping in the lake at Sunny Vale Park

SOAR students raised \$1732

On February 21, SOAR Middle School students traveled to Wausau to go jump in a lake... to support Special Olympics Wisconsin and Northern Access Team! Twelve students along with Ms. Brock and Mrs. Indermuehle traveled down, dressed as superheroes. They either took the plunge, or supported the team as "Too Chicken to Plunge." SOAR students raised \$1732.00, half of which goes directly to the local Special Olympics, Northern Access.



The "Too Chicken to Plunge" support group

SOAR Charter High School



Note to Self: Pay Attention.

By Carie Brock, Principal

Growing up in the Northwoods every summer, my parents always taught my siblings and me to consider our surroundings. Our summer days were filled with fishing, campfires on the beach, water skiing with friends, and exploring the great outdoors! In the woods surrounding our Forest Lake cabin, we were taught to always watch, listen, and be very aware of potential danger. The threats often included hungry bears, snapping crayfish, jumping wood spiders, or the more frequent fishing hook being cast by my sister, Jamie! Ha! At the end of each summer, when we headed back to city life, my parents didn't stop their lessons in situational awareness. They reminded us to pay attention and be aware of things, such as what neighborhoods we drove through, where the nearest exit was in the movie theaters, and to always look strangers in the eye as we walked past them in the mall.

Being aware of my surroundings is something that has stuck with me into adulthood as a parent, teacher, and principal. When I park my car at the grocery store, I try to park next to a street light, near the shopping cart return, and pay attention to the people around me. Is there a random person just standing and leaning against the building? Is someone sitting in the driver's seat of the car parked next to me? Do I have my keys? Did I lock the doors? My life has also been full of music festivals, concerts, races, food festivals and carnivals. Though there are crowds at these venues, this is also an opportune time for a purse to be snatched, a cell phone to go missing from a pocket, or a child to wander off.

Especially in light of recent tragedies, you might be spending quite a bit of time thinking about how parents and educators can help teach children and young adults to

become aware of their surroundings (without being hyper-vigilant or paranoid!). I believe the answer is to educate and empower children with awareness.

One of the many, valuable, opportunities that SOAR HS offers young adults is the opportunity to interact with the community by interviewing experts, job shadowing potential career interests, attending field work trips, and volunteering their time through service learning. I believe each of these opportunities provides our young adults with a chance to:

- Get into the habit of telling people where they're going and when to expect them back.
- Stay with a trusted partner or in a group. This might be while traveling to a new place or meeting a new person.
- Listen to their gut. Sometimes we can get into situations where we're in the wrong place at the wrong time. If something feels wrong, we can teach children to listen to their gut instinct and go to a safe place.
- Pay attention to surroundings. Where are the easy exit routes? Are there staff members or law enforcement personnel nearby? How will I remember the return route to the house, car, or friend?

Our SOAR High School students are at a critical point in their lives. They soon will be adults, grown up, and out on their own. Our students will have many, very important, choices to make in the coming years about how they will spend their time. Will they find a career path that is just right for them? Will they know how to connect with their community resources? Will they find balance between the successes and failures in life? Will they continue to believe in themselves and reach their full potential? Will they be safe? I believe teaching and modeling situational awareness is critical to their pathways as they navigate the waters of adulthood.

We are proud to share that SOAR High School has almost doubled in size this year. There are nearly 30 students enrolled and currently committed to their educational journey to success. Students at SOAR High School have the opportunity to demonstrate learning through designing integrated projects, enrolling in online courses, participating in electives offered at the Northland Pines High School, attending field work experiences, engaging in seminars, and much, much, more!

I am very honored that my leadership journey has led me to SOAR High School this year. What an amazing group of young adults and teachers! Thank you for all that you do to continue to make the mission and vision of SOAR alive in our school and community!

Northland Pines Middle School



Dan Marien
Principal
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The middle school is over half way finished with our first year in the new Middle & High School building. I cannot say enough how well our staff adjusted to the new building, being in a building with high school students and really adapting to a new way of life. The middle school staff ended last year and entered this year with a positive attitude and the best of intentions. This alone was not easy to get to, but they did it because it was the best thing for our students. And they knew that. The

middle school staff has encountered many firsts this school year and time and time again they have risen to the challenge or new situation and have done a wonderful job holding students to high expectations, while being a helping hand and guiding light for our students.

Our middle school students had many questions last year in the spring about the move. We held tours during the day, so all of our students were able to see a passing time in the high school building. We had multiple sessions within the school day, where I would meet with one grade level of students and would answer their questions. We also had the students do two surveys to make sure we were getting their input and feedback to what we were discussing with them regarding the move. We started school on Tuesday, September 5th, and by the end of the school day on Friday, September 8th, almost all of the middle school students were very comfortable with their new surroundings and their daily patterns. Our students are so flexible and want to do well. We are

very fortunate that our students as a whole have these characteristics. We have found throughout the year, our middle school students want to be involved in the activities that our high school students are involved in. Homecoming Week was the first glimpse of this, and has shown up numerous times throughout the school year. Regardless, we have decided that there needs to be separation between the two schools and student bodies. Middle school students do not attend high school dances and we hold our monthly student recognition assemblies apart as well. We also watched the 8th grade play separately.

The last group that really stands out to me as doing such a great job with this transition, is our high school students and staff. Imagine the changes they have seen this year. On the student side, sharing space with younger students who have a lot more energy and who are contributing to higher volumes of students in the hallways, forcing them to sit in different locations in the Commons during lunch, and other small issues were realized once the school year began. Our high school students have been nothing short of amazing as they have welcomed our middle school students into this building. For the most part, the high school students and the middle school students operate among their own friends and there truly isn't much crossover. The high school students like it this way.

All in all the move has been a lot of work, but our students have been exposed to a wonderful building and resources, supportive middle school and high school staff and welcoming high school students. I am grateful that we made this move. We are looking forward to taking what we learned this year and making next year even better!

Pines Solar Project

We installed a total of 331 kilowatt (kW) solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and upgraded the energy management systems at the Eagle River Elementary School and the Northland Pines Middle and High School. The solar PV energy systems are installed on the Fieldhouse roof of the Middle and High School and on the ground behind the Eagle River Elementary School.

The solar PV energy systems' 1090 solar modules will generate approximately 430,561 kWh per year or about 22% of the buildings' use. The solar PV energy systems will serve as an educational platform for students, teachers, and the community to learn about renewable energy, particularly solar energy. The energy management system improvements complement the solar energy and will significantly reduce the district's electricity costs by reducing utility peak demand charges.

We have a live kiosk link to the solar panels that monitors the energy produced. The kiosk provides four categories to compare kilowatt hours produced with houses powered, trees grown, CO2 offset, and renewable energy produced. There are different time periods to view by clicking on the bottom links of the site. Please visit our website to view the live kiosks: npsd.k12.wi.us/district/solar-project.cfm



Information above from November 2017 through March 6, 2018



Saying Good-bye to an Icon in Northland Pines Middle School History

By Evelyn Gaffney

Twenty-four years ago, in 1994, the new NP Middle School opened its doors for the first time. The three science teachers were each given a rose-haired tarantula for their classroom. Over the years, two of them had reached the end of their life span, but one tarantula, Fifi (named by students) lived on!

As teachers and circumstances changed, I acquired Fifi for my own classroom in the year 2000. Fifi “war die Deutsche Spinne”, as I was teaching German at that time. With students and staff alike, it was pretty much a “love-hate” relationship

where Fifi was concerned. Over the years, many of us marveled as we watched Fifi molt her exoskeleton. She even attended a few staff meetings so we wouldn’t miss anything! (Thanks, Mrs. Coghlan, for being such a trooper!)

Countless 7th graders will never forget the day they took the “Spider Challenge” and overcame their fear of her by actually holding her! We took lots of pictures over the years!!



This year, the 7th and 8th grades moved from the middle school building to the high school building. Many new staff members and former 7th graders were able to visit and appreciate her.

On Wednesday, December 13, 2017, we said good-bye to an icon in NPMS history. At 23 years old, Fifi reached the end of her life span (the average life span of a female rose-hair tarantula is 15-20 years). She will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the 7th grade “Feed the Turtles Fund,” per Fifi’s last request.

Passion Project Day set at Northland Pines Middle School

By Laura Weber

Northland Pines Middle School will be hosting their 2nd Annual Passion Project Day in the commons area of the middle and high school. This year’s projects may look a bit different than last year’s projects as this year the topics were generated within the seventh and eighth grade ELA classes. The seventh grade topics will revolve around historical themes while the eighth grade topics will be a social issue of student choice.

Students have been working on their projects not only in their ELA classes but in other classes as well. There will be additional components added to their projects that will be completed in different academic areas such as social studies, computers, science, etc. Students have been working on these projects/displays since December, and they promise to be interesting and informative.

The public is encouraged to attend the Passion Project Day on May 24, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. in the commons area of the middle and high school. Once there, attendees will witness the enthusiasm of our students and learn about the topics that interest and are important to middle school students at Northland Pines.



Northland Pines High School



Scott Foster
Principal
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Spring brings all kinds of feelings for our students. For some, it is looking forward to graduation, and for others it is how can they take advantage of their remaining high school years. Either way, there is both excitement and nervousness. Both graduation and continuing high school can be about opportunities and dreams to be realized.

Northland Pines High School seniors are filled with a lot of different feelings, all of which are normal.

Some students are excited about graduation, as they look forward to a field of work, college, or military. With all the ways to get post secondary education, it no longer means you have to go right to school full-time. There are endless ways to gain post secondary training or education. For some seniors, they are still worried if they will graduate and are trying to figure out how they can earn that all important high school diploma. Society assumes that all students look forward to graduation, but for some students that is not the case. High school, for many, is a positive place where they receive positive interactions from teachers, staff and their peers. Even with the recent school safety concerns, our students feel safe. After having gone to school for 12+ years, there is comfort from routine. Northland Pines High School takes these social and emotional feelings seriously and tries to support our

students in many ways. At Northland Pines High School, it is about preparing students for college, career and life.

For those students who will continue the coming years at Northland Pines High School, there are lots of options and opportunities. Students have over 60+ electives to choose from for their upcoming schedules. We have numerous opportunities outside of school for students to learn and demonstrate skills in real world settings. An education in today's high school does not mean sitting in classrooms from 8:20 am-3:25 p.m. Today students have more choices and that is for the better. Northland Pines High School really tries to find each student's dreams and passions and tie that to their schooling. We are just as excited to be planning next year for these students.

This community and Northland Pines High School provide countless opportunities. It is up to the students to take advantage of them. Our community provides the path for many of our students dreams on May 7th during our Scholarship & Awards night. On June 3rd, we then celebrate our graduates who did take advantage of their opportunities as they walk across the stage. For our returning students, they can rest assure the staff at Northland Pines High School is working hard to make next year even better than this year. Good luck to those seniors who are leaving us. We promise the continuing students and the community that supports us, that we are working hard to get better everyday!

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.



NPHS Unified Champion School Raised \$3,588 for Special Olympics of Wisconsin!

By Sophie Spiess, NPHS student

On February 23rd, NPHS students, staff and their principal made the trip down to Wausau to partake in the annual Polar Plunge. Students, Megan Scholl, Siera Eggleston, Mason Daring, and Sophie Spiess joined with staff members, Ann Perry, Jeff Janssen and Principal Scott Foster, to brave the cold weather and take the plunge. Nikki Deditz and Stephanie Grassl also joined the cause but decided not to take the plunge this year. All proceeds raised benefited Special Olympics Wisconsin and Northern Access Special

Olympics. The group of seniors who took the plunge have always been a part of Project Unify; however, this is the first year they had the courage to take the plunge in support of Special Olympics. Despite the temperatures being on the warmer side for a Wisconsin winter day, all participants truly were "freezin' for a reason!"



Josh Tilley
Dean of Students
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Words of Wisdom

By Josh Tilley

Recently we have had the pleasure in having some key people present to our student body. On February 27 our junior class was taking the ACT test that is mandated by the state. To keep a quiet and calm atmosphere, no students were allowed on the first floor during testing. The high school took this time to take advantage of having Len Larsen speak to our Freshman and Sophomores about

making good choices. He went on to say that these choices will affect opportunities in the future. Some great examples were given with students that graduated from Northland Pines in the last ten years, and how they are excelling in life now. Many of our underclassman walked away with a few key ideas as to what they can do to better themselves.

Afterwards, we had a panel of local community members speak on what is needed in the workforce. The

conversation went from what does it take to get hired, all the way to have you had to fire someone? Multiple students came up to tell me they were so glad to listen to what was said and hope they can use the skills told to them in their upcoming job searches.

Some speakers that the 7-12 student body will be having in the near future are Dignity Revolution and Kevin Hines. Dignity Revolution is a presentation on "Standing Up For The Value Of Every Person." In a nutshell, getting students to understand that we need to help each other to combat bullying. This presentation will be on April 18th. A parent presentation of Dignity Revolution will be on the same day in the auditorium at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome. The other speaker that we are fortunate to have come to Northland Pines is Kevin Hines. He will speak on bridging hope between life and death for people caught in the pain of living with serious mental illness. The hope is students will find that even though people may be struggling with mental illness, they can seek help and over time get healthy. Kevin Hines will be here on May 3.



Pictured left to right: Mike Sealander, Jim Mulleady, Dr. Mike Richie, David Weber, Alicia's mom, Alicia, Jennifer Payne, Holly McCormack, John Sarama and Chris Petreikis.

WISP Update

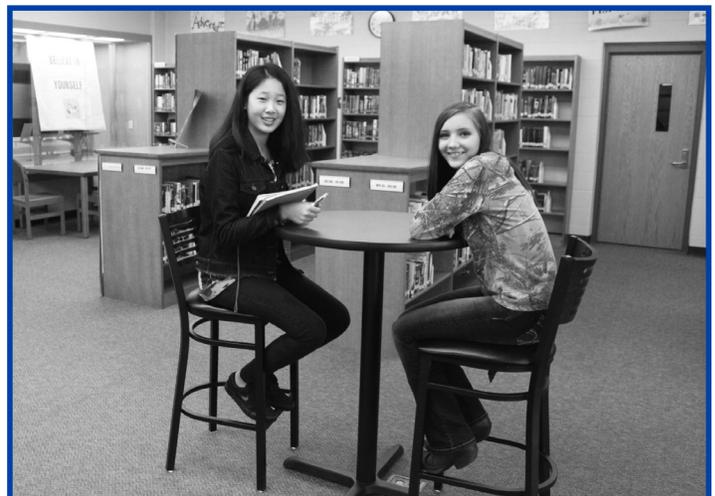
Our first Wisconsin International Student Program (WISP) student, Alicia, had a very successful year at Northland Pines High School. She is enjoying living with her host family and presented on her time here in America at a Rotary meeting, and again at the Northland Pines Board of Education meeting on February 26.

She showed a PowerPoint with photos from her time at Northland Pines High School so far and explained the differences between China and US education. Alicia has enjoyed many new activities since she has been here, such as ice fishing, snowshoeing, ice skating, attending hockey, volleyball and other sporting events, participating in the musical and solo ensemble. Alicia's mom, who is a principal

in China, was able to be here to see her participate in the musical and attended the Northland Pines Board of Education meeting. China was celebrating the Chinese New Year, so they had a month off of school during this time. This made it possible for her mom to be here.

The Northland Pines High School accepts international students from throughout the world who are seeking a high quality academic and cultural American high school experience. For more information, please visit the WISP website:

<http://www.npsd.k12.wi.us/district/wisp.cfm>





Harlan Leusink
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Sustainability in Digital Learning

Technology plays a crucial role in today's educational landscape. While nothing can replace the role of a great teacher in the classroom, many of the newest strategies and practices leverage technology to increase the impact of those great teachers. These new technologies may include streaming video, digital textbooks, virtual presence devices, and online learning management systems. In

order to support these technologies, school districts need to maintain a robust network infrastructure and provide students with the appropriate digital devices to consume these new resources. The challenge for schools is to provide these resources for students in a sustainable and fiscally responsible manner.

The Northland Pines School District has always been a leader in integrating technology into the classroom. We recognize that technology has the ability to provide our students with a wide variety of opportunities that might not otherwise be available. One example, is we are now in the fifth year of our 1:1 device program. This means that every student across our district has access to a personal learning device that they can use in their classroom on a daily basis. This program was initially intended to be solely for our high school students, but strategic planning along with the support of our students and staff has allowed us to extend this program to our lower grade levels as well. While the program has expanded, we have still lived within our original project budget. This program has allowed us to remove or delay the update of many of our physical computer labs, which is a way that we have saved costs. Each student having a device also allows us to adopt digital curriculum materials, which can provide students with an enhanced learning experience and save costs at the same time. We feel that student access to technology is one of the fundamental pillars of an education at Northland Pines, and we have been able to provide that access in a way that will be sustainable for the district in the future.

With more students accessing technology and emerging technologies becoming more and more sophisticated, every school's network infrastructure needs to be more robust in order to handle the increased traffic. While providing students with devices certainly has a cost, the cost of building a network capable of handling thousands of personal devices can be even more daunting. Over the past few years at Northland Pines, we have worked to leverage federal, state, and private grant dollars to upgrade our network to support a 21st century learning environment. For example, over the past two years, federal and state grants will have paid for approximately 70% of upgrades to our wired and wireless networks. This allows us to maintain a high-performing environment, while still maintaining annual budgets focused on student learning. A strategic long-range plan also allows us to build equipment replacement into our existing annual budget, which helps to avoid unexpected equipment failures and the added costs that can come with those failures.



At Northland Pines, we are striving to provide students and staff with an environment where technology becomes just another part of what we do each day, and maintaining a high-performing network on a sustainable budget is an important part of that process.

While successful technology integration is certainly an important part of education now and going forward, we as school leaders also need to make sure we are using technology effectively and plan for sustainable use going forward. While this is certainly a challenge, we at the Northland Pines School District feel that providing our students with the best learning tools available is vital for their education now and in the future.



Wisconsin Schools Digital Library Consortium

By Jone Davis

This year, schools in Wisconsin had a very exciting opportunity to join the Wisconsin Schools Digital Library Consortium (WSDLC). This digital library is powered by Overdrive.

Overdrive is a company that offers ebooks, audio-books and videos for download with a subscription. This online library offers patrons the ability to check out materials that can be accessed online, or downloaded and accessed later on a device. The materials are automatically returned on their due date. Also, Wisconsin schools got together to pool our resources to set up the consortium for Overdrive. This provides many districts an opportunity to use this service at a more reasonable cost. [continued on page 19...](#)

Curriculum Update

By Karie Jo Bornberg,
4K-6 Curriculum Director

***“Education is not the learning of facts,
but the training of the mind to think.”
-Albert Einstein***

As we wind down the 2017-2018 school year, there is a lot to be proud of. From a curriculum and instruction standpoint, the emphasis this year has been on literacy. By having collaborative conversations in team meetings and district in-service times, we have improved our literacy practices and challenged ourselves as educators to try new strategies and ideas to help every student be successful.



At the elementary level, there has been ongoing discussion about the Literacy Essentials document that was created

in the summer of 2017. The document highlights all important components of teaching early literacy. Each month, teachers discuss a specific part of the Literacy Essentials via Google Hangout and team meetings. The 7-12 staff have focused on disciplinary literacy, the process of tying literacy into everything we do and every subject taught. Northland Pines Middle School and Northland Pines High School have also been working on common assessments, a process in which each department would use the same assessment, at the same time to determine student progress. Overall, the focus on literacy has led to

collaborative conversations that have positively impacted teaching and learning.



As a final end of the year activity, Casey Gretzinger, the Associate Director of School Improvement, from our regional Cooperation Educational Service Agency (CESA) will be coming to Northland Pines. Mrs. Gretzinger will be working on learning objectives with elementary staff in St. Germain and Eagle River. The focus of Mrs. Gretzinger's presentation will tie into many of our discussions on lesson structure; it will also give staff more resources and strategies for how to know when students have truly become proficient within a skill. Knowing objectives and learning goals for each lesson and how to tell when students have mastered them is an imperative part of strong, universal teaching.

At Northland Pines Middle and High School, Mrs. Gretzinger will discuss disciplinary literacy. Through her presentation, she will collaborate with staff on how to understand the purpose of disciplinary literacy and investigate how experts in various disciplines read authentic texts. At Pines, we value professional development opportunities and continue to promote continuous learning and collaboration for our staff and students.

For a more detailed update on curriculum and instruction topics from the 2017-18 school year, please check out the recent Curriculum Newsletter posted on our website: <http://www.npsd.k12.wi.us/curriculum/Feb2018.pdf>.

continued from page 18...

At Northland Pines, we are using the service with Middle and High School students. Additional students will be added in the coming years. The benefits of WSDL are numerous! Students are provided with more opportunities to check out books at their interest and ability levels. It provides access for all students, even those without internet access at home, as they are able to download a book at school and read it anywhere!

If you are interested in this great opportunity and would like to check out Overdrive, stop by your public library! All you need to do is download the Overdrive App and use your public library card to sign up and check out books. An additional bonus for our Northland Pines students is the ability to have two accounts! Two accounts provide a wider variety of books to choose from. Make sure to check out Overdrive!





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

Students Return Good Will Back To The Community

Some of the most visible representatives of the Northland Pines School District are the students that participate in activities, clubs, or on our sports teams. They are seen on stage, the playing fields, in the newspaper, or on TV. They are proud to represent NPHS in uniform, and equally as proud of the good work they do for others outside of school. Community service projects give students the opportunities to make contributions back to the communities that support them year around. I've highlighted below some of the specific examples, however I realize that there are many, many more.

- Boys' soccer players annually clean-up the Vilas County Fairgrounds after Cranberry Fest weekend
- Annually, the Student Council sponsors and provides snacks, drinks, and volunteers for three local blood drives.
- Classes, teams, and clubs collect and donate food for Thanksgiving dinner bags for families in need.
- Volleyball holds a "Pink Event" that raises money which is donated to the Breast Cancer Foundation.
- The National Honor Society assists registered families in the area with a toy drive each holiday season.
- Many students and teams participate in Unified Champion School Club which offers opportunities for special needs students to participate with their peers.
- In spring the entire middle and high school student body participates in an Earth Day spring yard clean-up where they rake leaves and perform other duties for elderly and other public areas.
- Many activities, clubs,



High School students cleaning up a community member's yard last spring

and teams volunteer for area events like Relay for Life and Cranberry Fest by providing assistance so these events run smoothly.

- Boys' hockey team donated their 50:50 raffle proceeds at their last game toward a Suicide Awareness Initiative.
- During the holidays, many students and clubs ring bells for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive.
- Many student activities and teams acknowledge a night where admission to the event is in the form of a non-perishable food item that is donated to the Vilas County Food Pantry.

As I composed my list of student community involvement, I'd like to note that many of the projects are repeated throughout the year by various groups. These service projects enable our students to get into communities and give back. The cause is the most important aspect of these service initiatives, but team building, pride, and leadership development come hand-in-hand with the projects. Most importantly, it's a chance for our students to give back to their communities and say thanks!

Activity & Athletic Schedules

Activity & Athletic Schedules for the Northland Pines Sports and other events can be viewed on our district website at: npsd.k12.wi.us. Athletic Sports Schedules, the Northland Pines Fine Arts Schedule, the Middle and High School Fieldhouse and Pines Community Wellness Center schedules are all available for viewing and printing.

- Access to the most current Sports Schedules and Activity Events
- Sign up to get schedules, notifications of post-poned or canceled events. Notify Me!
- App for your smart phone. Go to your app store and choose Rschool Today mobile app.

Support Eagle Athletics

Athletic season passes are available to purchase in the Northland Pines Middle & High School Activities Office or at the ticket table of HOME sporting events.

Prices:

Adult \$25 (up to age 62)

Family \$40

Seniors FREE! (ages 62+)

Senior Citizens (age 62+) and all students living in the Northland Pines School District (public & private) are invited to attend Northland Pines events, FREE OF CHARGE! Senior Citizen passes are available at the Northland Pines Middle & High School Activities office, or at HOME sporting events. Passes cover all regularly scheduled home sporting events. Passes are not honored at away events or WIAA Tournaments.



**PINES COMMUNITY
WELLNESS CENTER**



1800 Pleasure Island Rd. Eagle River, WI 54521 npsd.k12.wi.us/wellnesscenter (715) 479-4473 ext. 3350

The Pines Community Wellness Center (PCWC) proudly serves our community and visitors with a top-notch exercise facility, programs and trainers.

Current classes include; Cardio Core, Circuit Breaker, Yoga, Total Body Senior, Basic Training, The Right Fit, Friday Fitness Challenge, Not Quite Yoga and Chair Yoga. The next Strong Women Strong Bones session will begin on April 10th and runs for 10 weeks, 2 times a week at \$50.00. A description of classes and when they're offered can be found on the Northland Pines School District web site under the Wellness Center tab. Your first trial class is free. Classes range from 1-2 days a week at \$20/\$40 for members and \$30/\$60 for non-members. Classes are scheduled in 8 week sessions. Spring I session is March 5th – May 5th. Joining mid-session is allowed.

The Pines Community Wellness Center prides itself on our high level of quality equipment and staff at competitive membership rates. We are your local gym for Silver Sneakers® and Silver and Fit® participants.

Rates:

62 years and older membership rate is \$20/month.

Single membership is \$30/month.

Family membership is \$50/month.

Senior couples rate is \$35/month.

Guests pay \$5/day or \$15/week.

College students \$15/month.

Active military \$20/month.

There is no joiner fee, no contract, and no penalties.

Members can enjoy great discounts for paying an annual membership up-front.

Single individuals pay \$300/year which gives them 1 month free and one 8 week class session free. Families pay \$450/year and includes 1 month free and two 8 week classes for free. Senior citizens over age 62 (for family) pay \$400/year with 1 month free and two 8 week classes for free and \$240/year (single) with 1 month free and one 8 week class for free.

Considering a membership? Stop in and see our knowledgeable staff who will assist with your needs and questions. We are located on the 2nd floor in the rear of the Northland Pines High School by the field house. Enter at door 16. People with needs for the elevator may enter through the main entrance at the front of the building, door #1. For more information, please contact us at 715-479-4473 ext. 3350

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. daily, and from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on evenings there are not events in the fieldhouse. Please log on to the district website npsd.k12.wi.us for evening availability for using the indoor track.



5th Annual Moonlight 5K

The 5th Annual Moonlight 5K run will be held on Saturday, July 7th.

Activities begin at 6:00 p.m. with a youth carnival, music and fun for the entire family. There will be a 1K Fun Run for kids ages 10 and under starting at 9:00 p.m. The 5K run/walk begins at 10:00 p.m. The money raised supports the maintenance and operation of the Pines Community Wellness Center which allows us to keep our membership rates affordable. You can register on Active.com or visit the Northland Pines School District Website, click on Wellness Center and then Moonlight Run to print a registration form. Or you may stop by the Wellness Center to pick one up.

Enrollment in the Northland Pines School District

Is your child registered? Students new to the Northland Pines School District should register by contacting Lisa Achterberg in the Centralized Enrollment Office at (715) 479-4123 or email enroll@npsd.k12.wi.us. Enrollment office is located in the Eagle River Elementary School, 1700 Pleasure Island Road, Eagle River, WI 54521. Fax number is (715) 479-6263.

Student Address Change and Tuition Waiver Due to Move: It is imperative that we have correct address information for students and parents/guardians. A change of address should be reported to the child's school secretary.

Under certain circumstances, state law permits a student to continue attending a school district even after they move out of the district. Please contact Mary Mulleady, Open Enrollment Coordinator at (715) 479-4473 ext. 0113 for more information or dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications if you plan to move or have already moved outside of the Northland Pines School District boundaries during the school year. "Tuition Waiver Due to Move" application form(s) must be completed by a parent/guardian of the student and returned to the district office as soon as possible after the move. Information on Tuition Waivers can be found at: dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/funding/tuition-waivers#moves_tw. An "Open Enrollment" application form must then be completed during the following February-April application period for consideration for future attendance according to the rules for open enrollment.

Open Enrollment: Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live.

The next window to apply for open enrollment will be from February 5, 2018 - April 30, 2018. Parents may apply online at dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications.

Although online application is recommended, applications may be obtained from any school district after January 1, 2018, and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district during the application period. The deadline to accept applications is April 30, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., no exceptions. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Mulleady, Open Enrollment Coordinator at (715) 479-4473 ext. 0113.

Northland Pines Farm to School Continues to Widen Horizons, Using Food

By Jasmyn Schmidt, Nutrition Educator

Over the winter months, you may think that a school farm and garden program, such as Farm to School would be relatively quiet, waiting for the snow to melt. However for Northland Pines Farm to School program, the winter months are an ideal time to bring in visiting Farmers, and to really get hands on with nutrition and cooking skills.

One especially fun and educational activity Northland Pines Student have participated in this winter was the visit of the Spudmobile.

All three of our elementary schools, as well as SOAR middle-school, and our Montessori learners, boarded the special mobile classroom, known as the Spudmobile, sponsored by the Wisconsin Vegetable and Potato Growers Association. While on the Spudmobile, students learned about how potatoes are grown in Wisconsin, how they benefit and support our economy, and meet local potato farmers in person! They also learned about pests that damage crops, and which kinds of potatoes are good to make into which favorite foods, like chips or fries. They even learned about potatoes being grown in space!



up some excess energy on a nasty week of indoor recesses by making healthy smoothies on our Blender Bike!

In addition to the Spudmobile's visit, students have been cooking up a storm all winter. Second graders were hands-on with the states of matter, by observing how to turn liquid cream, into a delicious solid ice cream. All of the 5th graders got to play with their food in science, learning how to use red cabbage as a pH indicator. Our kindergarteners have been cooking up banana bread, as part of a friendship and team building activity. The 3rd graders at Land O' Lakes learned to make cheese as part of their ongoing study of Wisconsin. The 3rd graders at Eagle River even burned



A'viands Food & Services Management

By Maggie Bishop



Connections CAFE is located at the Middle and High School and is made up of four different areas:



Classic ZONE features a unique offering every day of the week as listed on the menu!



HOT SPOT features one to three hot sandwich options every day, i.e. Cheeseburger, Breaded Chicken Patty, Grilled Chicken Breast. These sandwiches are individually wrapped in an insulated wrap to keep them warm and fresh!



Bravo features two types of pizzeria pizza each day with one always being a vegetarian option. These pizzas are made on-site and baked fresh every morning, so they are fresh, hot and ready for lunch!



eDELI features cold options such as egg salad, tuna salad, peanut butter & jelly, ham & cheese sandwiches or wraps, and yogurt parfaits. These are all made on-site each morning, kept in our eDELI cooler to keep cold and fresh for our students and teachers!

Each of the above offerings is considered an entrée. Students can choose any one of these entrees as part of their meal in addition to selecting from a variety of fruits and vegetables. The middle and high school offers a daily salad bar that provides a variety of vegetables to choose from!

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.



Student Accounts

Parents whose students have negative food account balances will receive an email and/or a phone call every Thursday until the balance is rectified. Negative balance letters are sent out every other month. Please contact Maggie Bishop at npsd@aviands.com or 715.479.5800, if you have any questions regarding your student's account balance or to update your email.

Making Payments to Student Accounts

When sending in a check for a student's account, please use black or blue ink ONLY! Thank you!

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

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

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

2018 Calendar of Events

March 26 - March 30		No School - Spring Break
Fri., April 20	1:30 PM	St. Germain & Montessori Spring Fling
Sat., April 21	7:30 PM	HCPA "Glenn Miller Orchestra"
Thurs., April 26	1:30 PM	Land O' Lakes/SOAR MS Spring Fling
Mon., April 30	7:00 PM	NPHS Band Awards Concert
Sat., May 5	1:30 PM & 6 PM	NW School of Dance Recital
Thurs., May 10	7:00 PM	Grades 6-8 Spring Choir Concert
Fri., May 11	7:30 PM	HCPA "I Write the Songs"
Mon., May 14	5:00 - 7:00 PM	NPHS Art Show
Mon., May 14	7:00 PM	NPHS Choir Awards Concert
Thurs., May 17	7:00 PM	Grades 6-8 Spring Band Concert
Fri., May 18	1:45 PM	5th Grade DARE Graduation
Wed., May 23	6:00 PM	NP Music Boosters Cabaret Concert
Sat., May 26	7:00 PM	HCPA Radio Play
Mon., May 28		No School - Memorial Day
Sun., June 3	11:00 AM	Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Sun., June 3	1:00 PM	Class of 2018 Graduation
Wed., June 6		Last Day of School for all students
Thurs., June 7		Last Day of School for teachers
Sat., July 7	10:00 PM	Moonlight 5K Run/Walk

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.