

Voice of the Pines

Spring Edition 2013 - 2014

Newsletter for Residents of the Northland Pines School District



Potential Grade Level Restructuring at NPSD



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

Over the next few years the NPSD will be exploring changing the current grade structures within the school district. This will be an ongoing discussion with parents and community throughout the school district, at the policy committee level, and at the school board level.

The restructuring plan would include:

- ♦ Moving the Land O' Lakes and St. Germain 5th grade students to the Eagle River campus.
- ♦ Moving the 7th and 8th grade students to the high school building.
- ♦ Opening a PK through grade 5 Montessori Charter School in St Germain if our grant application is awarded through the Department of Public Instruction.

These are a few of main reasons why this move is being considered:

1. To better meet the instructional needs of the students by allowing more flexible scheduling for grade acceleration/advanced classes, and to create more opportunities for online instruction.
2. To utilize our staff and facilities to the maximum level, and provide the best opportunities for our students.
3. Cost saving measures to our community and tax payers.

We realize that parents and community members have concerns about potential changes. As a school district, we are committed to ensuring every student receives a quality education, this transition would assist in meeting that goal. After completing our first two community meetings, many concerns were brought to our attention. We will continue to discuss this proposal and hold additional community meetings as we understand that many more questions need to be answered, and a solid plan needs to be in place.

Many of those in attendance at the first two meetings did see the academic advantages our students would receive with these proposals. A few of the main concerns that community members voiced were:

1. The interaction between the 7th and 8th grade students and the 9 through 12th grade students.
2. The developmental aspects of 7th and 8th grade with high school students and are we forcing 7th and 8th grade students to grow up too fast?
3. How do we preserve the middle school philosophy and culture with our 7th and 8th grade students?
4. There is a fear that we are attempting to close St. Germain and Land O' Lakes by removing one grade level.

This is not the case.

Change can be difficult and I ask that we all keep an open mind when looking at these ideas and focus on the following questions:

1. What is best for student learning and how do we reach each student's potential?
2. Overall, how can we continue to improve the Northland Pines School District?
3. How do we best use our space to resolve declining enrollment, State funding and budget issues?
4. How do we decrease our operational expenses and referendum dollar amounts?

Education has drastically changed over the past few years and will continue to change in the future, If we do not continue to reform or change we will be taking away educational opportunities from our students. As an example 7th and 8th grade students can now receive high school credit for classes while in 7th and 8th grade. Students can also earn college credits while in high school.

You will have an opportunity to voice your opinion and concerns as we continue to explore and examine this restructuring plan. If you have questions or concerns please contact me at 715-479-6487, option 1, ext. 1, or email mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us.

*District Office - 1800 Pleasure Island Road - Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521
(715) 479-6487 www.npsd.k12.wi.us*

A Message from your School Board

Jim Mulleady, NPSD School Board



The State of Wisconsin helped the Northland Pines School District by allowing us the ability to alter our academic calendar to better meet the needs of our students and staff. In April the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate passed a bill, which has been signed by the Governor, that eliminates the 180 day requirement. We are still bound to the same amount of instructional hours (1,137 for grades 7-12; 1,050 hours for grades K-6; 437 hours for pre-K).

The State now needs to review the mandatory September 1st start date law. The current law does not allow any school districts to begin the school year prior to September 1. This law was initially lobbied by Wisconsin Dells and intended to give families the entire summer to travel; however, the problem is that many students are involved statewide with athletics and other activities that start in the beginning of August. Games are played and other activities begin in the Northland Pines School District well before the school year starts. Illinois schools and most other states start school in mid-August. Tourism in Northern Wisconsin does slow down those last two weeks in August because of the fact that other kids are already in school.

This year, our last student day will be June 12, 2014. Most instructors I speak to agree that the students have a difficult time focusing on their academics in mid-June. We would really like to see the lawmakers and the Governor give the power to decide the proper starting date back to the local school districts; this needs to be a local decision. Our community events are just as important as the Wisconsin Dells events. If anyone would like more information on this topic, I would encourage you to contact our District Administrator Mike Richie as he has testified before the legislature on this subject.

On behalf of school board, I wish to thank Mark Vander Bloomen for his three years of service and Mike Jovanovic for his ten years of service to the Northland Pines School District. It is my belief that service to your local school district is one of the most important jobs one can do and a great way to model citizenship for our students as well. I also wish to welcome Jennifer Payne and Amy Decker to the Northland Pines School District as their three-year term begins on Monday, April 28, 2014. I look forward to working with Jennifer and Amy as we work together to enhance the Northland Pines School District for all the students, staff and communities which we serve.

NPSD Board of Education

Jim Mulleady
Mike Sealander
John Sarama
Holly McCormack
Eric Neff
Amy Decker
Jennifer Payne

Fourth Grade Classes Travel to Madison

By: Gretchen Yagow & Mark Deditz, NPSD Fourth Grade Teachers

The NPSD fourth grade students recently spent a full day learning in our State's Capital. Students boarded a coach bus at 5:15 a.m. filled with excitement and enthusiasm about what lay ahead for them. Year after year our fourth graders have the incredible privilege of taking the journey to our state capital in Madison to see first-hand where our State government operates, where laws are made, where history is recorded, and where some of our traditions originated.

In Madison, students toured the Wisconsin State Historical Museum, learning all about our state's history, industries, products, and influential people with hands-on stories, artifacts, and displays.

The Capitol Tour walked us through the Senate Chamber, Assembly Chamber, Hearing Room, and Governor's Conference Room. Thanks to former NPSD student Julie Lund, we were actually able to tour the Governor's Office. What a unique opportunity!

Finally we went on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus for a hands-on learning demonstration of the world of physics. We learned about forces, friction, motion, Sir Isaac Newton's laws, and modern physics. We were exhausted by the time we returned home at 9 p.m., but full of new knowledge and great memories.

Deep appreciation goes to our school board and administration for helping supply some of the funds for the buses as well as to the PTO organizations in our elementary schools. Without this support, our trip would not be possible.

**Congratulations 2013-2014 NPSD Retirees,
Thank You for a Combined 120 Years of Service**

Mitch Cable - 14 Years
Jackie Coghlan - 16 years
Tom Dreger - 17 years
Dave Justice - 15 years
Annette Numrich - 15 years
Dale Schacht - 24 years
Lorine Walters - 19 years

You have touched the lives of many students. On behalf of the NPSD we wish you the BEST in your retirement, well deserved!

NPSD to Form Ad Hoc Committee

By: Mike Richie, District Administrator

As per state law (118.019) all school districts that offer Human Growth & Development Curriculum must form an Advisory Committee. NPSD is in the process of establishing this committee and encourages community input on this subject. The state law requires the school board to appoint an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee whose role is to advise the school board on the design and implementation of the Human Growth & Development Curriculum and to review the curriculum. This Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will be subject to open meeting laws and their meetings will be posted and open to the public.

This law requires the following:

- that parents, teachers, school administrators, pupils, health care professionals, members of the clergy and other residents of the school district shall comprise the committee;
- no one category or member shall constitute more than 1/5 of the membership of the committee, except that parents may comprise more than 1/5 of the membership of the committee;
- and further, no more than ¼ of the members of the committee may be made up of employees of the school district or their spouses or members of the school board or their spouses.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Human Growth & Development Curriculum will be formed in June 2014, with the first meeting to take place prior to the start of the 2014-15 school year. In order for the School Board to comply with the law which describes the makeup of the committee (explained above), not every person who applies for consideration will be appointed to the committee. Committee members will need to give the District Office an email address which will be used for committee communications and posting of meetings. If you would like to be considered by the school board to be appointed to this committee, please email Mike Richie at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us

Northland Pines School District Mission Statement

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

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



Join District Administrator Mike Richie for coffee and conversation at 8:30 a.m. at Eagle River Roasters, 339 West Pine St. in Eagle River, on Thursday, May 22, 2014 for the final Coffee Klatch of the 2013-2014 school year.



NORTHWOODS EXPERIENCE

A Natural & Cultural Voyage

25 American Students &
25 Chinese Students

Learning Together

Register Now!

Ages 10 - 14



This two-week long cultural experience will engage American and Chinese students ages 10 to 14. Classes will run August 4 - 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Trees for Tomorrow in Eagle River, Monday through Friday. Teachers for the Northland Adventure Quest are Kate Neville and Don Anderson, SOAR Charter School Advisors.

- ♦ Travel back in time to learn about the Voyager way of life.
- ♦ Participate in adventurous day trips while making new friends.
- ♦ Immerse yourself in the beautiful surroundings and unique wildlife of the Northwoods.
- ♦ Experience the culture and arts of the Native Peoples of Northern Wisconsin.
- ♦ Create and program Lego Mindstorm Robotics to compete in various challenges.

The cost to attend the two-week Northland Adventure Quest is \$175 per student. The Rotary Club of Eagle River donated \$1000 to help lower student cost to this amount. To register visit www.npsd.k12.wi.us and click on "Northland Adventure Quest" or email northlandquest@npsd.k12.wi.us. For questions contact District Administrator, Mike Richie at 715.479.6487 option 1, ext. 1.





Dr. Maggie Peterson
Director of Pupil Services
mpeterson@npsd.k12.wi.us

Northland Pines Kicks off “Bigs” in Schools

Most people have heard of the Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) organization. The agency, started more than a century ago, provides a framework for 1:1 mentorship between children and their matches. During the 2013-14 school year, Northland Pines has begun to work with BBBS in a new way - connecting high school sophomores and juniors to elementary students and creating relationships embedded during the school day.

School counselors Erica Lane at the elementary level, and Kelly Wranosky and Pauline Cuelemans at the high school level have identified potential Littles and Bigs. After students apply to be a Big, they go through a background check and a brief training on the program expectations before a match is made. Brent Luebke, Northland Pines Teacher and Varsity Basketball Coach, has extensive mentoring experience and has gotten involved in recruiting high quality high school students to get involved.

According to Coach Luebke, mentoring at any level is educational for both people involved. Building relationships is essential for fostering growth in personal skills and communication.

“I’ve learned over time that rewards through mentoring from childhood to adulthood are priceless. From being a peer mentor in elementary school, a reading buddy and big brother in college to a mentor, respite and foster care provider as an adult I hold unbelievable memories and experiences. Furthermore, I wasn’t the only person educating or leading by example, I’ve learned a lot from the children and peers I’ve been acquainted with,” said Luebke.

What is the commitment? Volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of one (1) year to the program and to spend an average of one (1) hour per week with a child. According to BBBS, consistency is key to the development of the relationship with children in our program and studies have shown that impact on the child is greatest after at least one year with a mentor. The focus is on positively impacting the lives of children and this occurs through a consistent, but minimal, time commitment from the mentoring Big. For more information please contact Dr. Maggie Peterson at 715-479-8989 or check out BBBS at <http://www.bbbsnw.org/>



Night School - Adult Literacy Options Expand Learning Opportunities

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

Youth Apprenticeship Opportunity

There will be opportunities for next years’ NPHS Juniors and Seniors to gain valuable work experience through the state Youth Apprenticeship Program. Youth Apprenticeship is a one- or two- year elective statewide program that combines academic and technical instruction with mentored, paid, on-the-job learning that makes a real world connection for students.

Youth Apprentices work a minimum of 450 hours at YA worksites each year of their program and take related high school or college classes to enhance their worksite experience. The areas of employment are: Finance, Manufacturing, Hospitality, Health, and Transportation-Distribution-and Logistics. If there is any business in the Northland Pines School District that would be interested in establishing a partnership with the school and our students or you wish further information, contact Ken Kluever at 715-479-4473 ext 0702 or kkluever@npsd.k12.wi.us.

Options Counseling Offers Services on the Pines Campus

Options Treatment Programs is working in conjunction with the Northland Pines School District to provide quality confidential mental health services to children 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. The heart of Option’s school based therapy service is in addressing the mental health symptoms of the child/adolescent that interfere with the quality and success in their daily life in a setting that is therapeutic and convenient for the client and the family. Interventions will address coping and management of concerns and symptoms of the individual with inclusion of the family to assist in goal-setting, treatment planning and stability for positive outcomes. Therapeutic intervention within the school allows children, adolescents and their families a therapeutically favorable location to address and achieve the most positive outcomes. For more information contact Dr. Maggie Peterson at 715-479-8989.



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

NPSD Spring Finance At a Glance

With the onset of spring, the Northland Pines Business Office begins the budget process for our new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014. We will work to achieve an overall budget reduction as compared to last year. While we have many fixed costs, there are some variable costs for which we can look at closely to see where dollars may be saved. As of this writing, we have yet to receive health insurance rates and

other service quotes needed to budget. As many of you can relate to, utility costs were unusually high this year due to the cold winter. While we cannot count on a milder winter next year, maybe we will see some improvement next winter. One can hope.

It is hoped we will be able to see minimal increase in the NPSD tax rate. This is dependent on many factors, however, we will know more as information is provided to us by the State and the budget progresses. For 2013-14, the NPSD tax rate was \$6.33/1000 of assessed value. This was a big spike over 2012-13, as we had no referendum in that year. We chose to give the taxpayers a one-year break (tax rate of \$5.10/1000) as opposed to restructuring debt to make the tax levy similar to 2011-12, which had a rate of \$6.23/1000. We were hopeful that with many taxpayers suffering through severe economic hits since the beginning of the recession, this would provide a much needed "breather" as we made our three-year referendum stretch to four years. Unfortunately, that was a one-year reprieve. We are no exception to the many Northern Wisconsin Districts who simply must go to referendum under the current funding formula.

I recently attended a Legislative Law Seminar attended by five legislators from varying parts of the State. Business managers and administrators were able to sound off and discuss pending legislation as it will affect school districts. I used this opportunity to express concerns faced by rural northern Wisconsin districts. While the mindset of some is that the funding formula works and will not change, I believe it never

hurts to encourage further improvements. I encouraged them to adapt add-ons to the formula if need be to assist rural schools with their unique challenges. It was encouraging to see acknowledgment and agreement by one representative in particular who had taken the time to visit some of our northern schools. This person witnessed the oftentimes glaring economic disparities present in some of our smaller districts.

I would venture to say that none of us in Northern Wisconsin enjoy being referendum dependent. Here at NPSD, we will continue to advocate for ourselves and our neighbors whenever possible, as part of this tremendous finance puzzle that makes up a high-stakes board game. Thanks to our many community members and area businesses who continue to provide services and support to this District on a consistent and ongoing basis.

GREAT OPPORTUNITY Starter Home or Northwoods Getaway

\$75,000

as the home sits

House to be moved by
August 15 to lot for turn-key
opportunity if not sold.

This home features:

- 1,352 square feet
- 3 BR 2 Full Bath
- Six Panel Oak Doors
- Pella Pro-line Windows
- Raised Panel Oak Cabinets and Vanities
- Great Room with Ash Hardwood Paneled Ceiling
- Oil Rubbed Bronze Fixtures
- 8" Cedar Lap Siding with Sikkens Finish
- Floor Selections can still be made
- Financing Available for Qualified Buyers
- Potential for crawl space, walkout or full basement

Call for complete list of specifications.

Unlimited possibilities.

715.479.0001



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 on this icon on the district website.



Eagle River Elementary School

1700 Pleasure Island Rd. Eagle River, WI 54521 npsd.k12.wi.us/eres 715.479.6471



Tony Duffek, Principal
tduffek@npsd.k12.wi.us

Reflecting on the 2013-2014 School Year

As the 2013-2014 school year has been coming to an end, I have been reflecting upon my first year as Principal of Eagle River Elementary School. Even though the school year has flown by and this is my first year in the Northland Pines School District, it seems as though I have been here for years. This is due to the fact that Eagle River Elementary School and the Northland Pines School District is an amazing close-knit community and I could not be more pleased

and honored to be part of it. The commitment, support, and hard work of the community, students, and staff have made my job extremely enjoyable, but more importantly brought our school many great accomplishments this school year.

The first accomplishment is improving school safety in our building. Over the past year, the ERES building went through some reconstruction to improve the safety of our students. With the new smoke walls, doors and entrance policies we have helped ensure the safety of our students. Another key ingredient to children's safety is providing a joyful and nurturing learning environment. This year we have worked hard at improving PBIS in our building and I can confidently say that PBIS is making our school a more positive and safe place for students. Our monthly Pines Pride Celebrations, Eagle ticket incentives, school store and behavior matrices have all contributed to making this a joyful learning environment for students that will foster respectful citizens.

Another accomplishment was the variety of enriching activities that took place during and after school, such as: Running Club (with over 100 students and 25 staff members), ERES Winter Olympics, spring and winter concerts, DKG contest, Madison Trip, D.E.A.R Day, family fun nights, Youth Marketplace, Mileage Club, Spelling Bee, and a variety of classroom interdisciplinary units and class trips that gave students authentic learning experiences. These activities and more are helping develop well rounded students that are not only learning, but gaining a love for learning.

Lastly, ERES students have done a multitude of activities to connect with the community throughout the year. The staff and All American Kids Club, along with the Eagle River Fire Department, raised the money to provide Honor Flight tickets for two local veterans. Students visited nursing homes, whether it was to go trick-or-treating or to sing songs and perform for them. Students were also able to raise \$1,542 for the American Heart Association through our Physical Education's Jump Rope for Heart Program. Other events that have happened this year include artwork donations to local businesses, fundraising for Relay for Life, clothing and food drives, a book drive, Fire Prevention week with trips to the ERFD, and writing thank you notes to veterans.

Reflecting on my first year at ERES makes me very happy. Happy that I'm lucky enough to be part of a school that has an extremely generous and supportive community, an amazing student body, and dedicated staff that provide students with diverse learning experiences allowing them to grow academically, socially and emotionally. It's been a wonderful year, and I look forward to planning another great school year.

Kindergarten Ice Castle



This past winter, Eagle River Area Fire Department firefighters came to Eagle River Elementary School to help construct the 4th annual Kindergarten Ice Castle! In addition to constructing a miniature version of the real ice castle out of 200 milk jugs, firefighters helped Kindergartners build ice castles out of a variety of different blocks and play math games.

The firefighters shared a PowerPoint with the kids that showed pictures of the ice castle construction process from start to finish. Thank you to the Eagle River Area Fire Department firefighters! A GREAT time was had by all!

Jump Rope For Heart a Success!

By: Trina Burr, ERES Physical Education Teacher

During the month of February, students at Eagle River Elementary jumped all over heart disease and stroke by participating in Jump Rope For Heart. The students raised \$1,542 for the American Heart Association. Donations raised for Jump Rope For Heart help fund research to fight heart disease and stroke. It also supports the American Heart Association's public and professional education programs. Heart disease is the number one killer in America, and stroke is number three.

Jump Rope For Heart is a program that promotes physical fitness and heart health through the fun activity of jumping rope. It is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

The American Heart Association rewards all students participating in the event with a sticker. In addition, students choosing to raise money receive thank-you gifts based on the amount of money the student raises. The elementary physical education department will receive a \$100 gift certificate to spend at US Games for physical education equipment.

ERES and Mission Possibles Running Club Team Up to Support American Cancer Society & Relay for Life

Mission Possibles Running Club has joined forces with the school's students, staff and parents to support the American Cancer Society through Eagle River's Annual Relay for Life of the Northwoods, Saturday, June 20, 2014.

Mission Possibles, in its third year of operation, introduces elementary school students to the fun of running at a young age as an exciting way to help develop healthy habits for life. Students and volunteer staff work together to develop the strength and courage needed to not only successfully participate in Eagle River's Journey's Marathon 5K event, but to enhance existing positive character traits, conflict resolution skills, healthy living choices, and community service involvement.

As members of Mission Possibles Running Club, third, fourth and fifth grade students will have the opportunity to participate, encourage their family, classmates and peers to join them, collect pledges and run/walk a one-mile relay event in support of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life of the Northwoods.

A mission of the club is every child should embrace who they are and rise to life's challenges. One of the challenges impacting our community today is cancer. Supporting the American Cancer Society through Relay for Life is one way kids can make a difference in the fight against cancer in their own community.

Participating in the Relay for Life activities not only supports the American Cancer Society, but cancer survivor and Eagle River Elementary School Teacher, Gretchen Yagow, as she walks with other survivors in the emotional and inspiring Survivors' Lap. Yagow, diagnosed with Stage 4 B-Cell Lymphoma in October of 2013 was last year's Honorary Survivor for the 2013 Northwoods Relay for Life. Yagow has been cancer-free since February of 2013 and is helping sponsor the Eagle River Elementary School Mission Possibles Relay for Life Team.

Eagle River Elementary School, grades 4K - 3, began fundraising and planning efforts in March with daffodil sales and decoration of bags for luminaries headed up by kindergarten teacher, Kim Lewandowski.

The funds raised from the Relay for Life event will help the American Cancer Society save lives and create a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Visit cancer.org to learn about some of the programs and services the American Cancer society offers in our area. If you are interested in supporting the Eagle River Elementary School Mission Possibles Relay for Life Team, please contact Sara Adamovich at sadamovich@npsd.k12.wi.us or Gretchen Yagow at gyagow@npsd.k12.wi.us.

All American Kids Club Teaches Patriotism, Honors Veterans

By: Sarah Simac & Nanci Foster, ERES Kindergarten Teachers & AAKC Advisors

The All American Kids Club has had another amazing and exciting year! Our second year started with our Eagle River Area Fire Department Firefighters paying us a visit to thank the kids for all of their hard work. They set up hose and gear games, fire truck rides, and even brought ice cream!

The kids worked hard this year sending letters to over 450 veterans to thank them for their service and sacrifice. Our second grade members also got to go on a field trip to the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center to hand deliver Valentines to over 40 veterans. It was a heartfelt and extraordinary experience the kids and adults will never forget.

The All American Kids Club was honored to organize and present two veterans with their tickets on the Never Forgotten Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. One ticket was sponsored by the Eagle River Area Fire Department, and a second ticket was sponsored by the staff of Eagle River Elementary School. The veterans, Mr. Mert Jensen and Mr. Art Collien, were surprised with their tickets at ERES's monthly Pines Pride Celebration. ERES students were joined by the veterans' families and friends, members of the Eagle River Area Fire Department, and co-founders of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Jim Campbell and Mike Thompson, to honor and thank the veterans for their service and sacrifice.

The All American Kids Club was started in the fall of 2012 to instill a sense of pride and patriotism in kindergarten through fifth grade students, while thanking veterans for their service. If you would like more information about the AAKC, please contact Sarah Simac at ssimac@npsd.k12.wi.us or Nanci Foster at nfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us, at Eagle River Elementary School.

The All American Kids Club would like to thank all of those that support our club and efforts, and thank you to all veterans for your service and sacrifice!



Honor Flight
Presentation

Land O' Lakes Elementary School

6485 Town Hall Rd. Land O' Lakes, WI 54540 npsd.k12.wi.us/lles 715.547.3619



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

What a Year it Has Been!

Even though we are just over three quarters of the way through the year, it is a good time to reflect. Reflection is very important. So many times organizations make changes without reflecting on and evaluating past successes and failures. Reflection will help us to see if we should continue to move forward with what we are doing and how our changes will have even more impact on students.

The first of two big changes I would like to reflect on is the changes in technology in the district. We have made the switch over to Google. This has been a huge success. It has had a positive

impact on staff and more importantly students. We have seen more collaboration across the board, it is user friendly, and allows for many different types of learning. We also upgraded our wired and wireless network across the district. As with any big projects, we had a rough couple of days, but since then it has been smooth sailing. This is so important as it gives staff, students, and the community unlimited options for connecting to resources for learning around the world. Finally, the addi-

tional machines added to the district, including giving all high school students a Chromebook, has been successful. The 1:1 change has had its bumps and does need some improvements for next year, but overall it has improved student learning and continues to help prepare our students to be able to thrive in a global society.

The second big change in my role as Principal has been the first year of our district's charter school called SOAR. When you start a school from scratch, you need to set goals and then reflect on them. Our first goal was to attract great kids and families and we have succeeded in that. Second, hire a great staff and allow them to maximize their talents and we have succeeded in that. Third, have an instructional style and curriculum that is challenging for students, but have students wanting to come to school each and every day. We have succeeded for the most part in that third goal as well. I will say with all the successes we have had, we are going to have a very busy summer. We do need to improve how we support students. We have heard from students on ways to improve school, like better feedback for them and we are going to work hard on that as well. Listening to staff, students, and families are very important reflection pieces for SOAR.

What a year we have had! One of the best parts of working at Northland Pines is that we continue to look for and find ways to help our students and community grow. That is why I am excited!

Students Donate to the Headwaters Food Pantry

In celebration of the 100th Day of School, students and staff at the Land O' Lakes Elementary school held their annual 100th Day Food Drive in hopes of collecting 100 boxes/cans/packages of food for the local food pantry.

Students in Mrs. Benecke's kindergarten class worked together to count the 159 items of donated food. The kindergarten class then loaded up their sleds with the food and pulled them down the road to the Headwaters Food Pantry; eighteen kindergartners made the trip with nine sleds. While they were in the Headwaters Food Pantry, the ladies there made sure they each got a cup of hot chocolate and a cookie! They also signed their names on a chalkboard so the people who come to get food know who to thank. On the way back to school the kids took turns pulling each other in the sleds.



ATTENTION SCHOOL VISITORS...

Individuals other than Northland Pines School District pupils, staff or Board of Education members are regarded as visitors. Visitors are asked to please report to the office to sign in and find out about ways that you can help us to ensure student success. Visitors must wear a visitor's pass during school hours.

Community Support Helps to Expand the Arts

By: Amanda Acklam, NPSD Elementary Art Teacher

Land O' Lakes Elementary

For the past three years the students at Land O' Lakes Elementary School have been creating art that is used by Dr. Pete Schindelholz's dental office as their annual Christmas card. In return, Dr. Pete makes a generous donation to the art department. This year, because of Dr. Pete's generosity, the 3 - 5 grade students at Land O' Lakes Elementary had the unique opportunity to visit the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. The students saw and talked about Brian Selznick's paintings, graphic posters from the great magicians such as Houdini and Blackstone, and saw a "Magician-in-Residence" while at the museum. This was the first visit to an art museum for many of our students. We are grateful to Dr. Pete for supporting the arts and providing this unique opportunity to our students!



We are also thankful for the support and collaboration provided by Land O' Lakes Artisans. In March they helped us celebrate Youth Art Month by featuring student artists in their gallery, framing student work and hosting a field trip to the gallery where a visiting artist helped students talk about their art. The artist also worked with students from SOAR and the elementary school on a special art project at the Land O' Lakes Library.



St. Germain Elementary

In late October, we were surprised with a unique community outreach opportunity. Dave Weber of St. Germain Sentry Grocery Store came up with an idea to have the students from St. Germain decorate pumpkins to be sold in the store. The week before Halloween 120 pumpkins were delivered to the St. Germain Elementary School art room. Each child in kindergarten through fifth grade selected a pumpkin to decorate using acrylic paint, pipe cleaners, and decoupage. These pumpkins were picked up the following afternoon to be displayed and then sold at Sentry Grocery Store. Many members of the community purchased these adorable pumpkins, with the proceeds from the sale

being donated to the elementary school's art department. When one little boy said that he couldn't find his pumpkin at the store, it was neat to hear another child's perspective when she said, "Good job! That means yours was so good that somebody already bought it!" Thank you to St. Germain Sentry for their continued interest and support of the arts in our school and community!

Eagle River Elementary

The Olson Memorial library once again was the host to the district wide Youth Art Month celebration featuring the work of over 80 students! Thank you to the library for putting this on, and to the families and community members who visited the library and viewed the student work. In addition, student art work has been enhancing the décor at the Friendship House throughout the school year! We appreciate these opportunities to display student work in our community.



Land O' Lakes Students Get Creative During Youth Art Month

In celebration of Youth Art Month, students from the Land O' Lakes Elementary were invited to the Land O' Lakes Public Library for a special Artist in Residence presentation featuring local artist and Land O' Lakes Area Artisans (LOLA) Program Director, Wendy Powalisz.

The kindergarten through fifth grade program began with a presentation by staff from Trees for Tomorrow, who helped students think about things they may see in the different seasons and got their creative juices flowing by having them play Season-themed Pictionary.

Next, the students joined the artist presenter, Wendy Powalisz, who showed them how to make a seasonal bookmark. Students drew seasonal pictures on clear sheets which were then attached to mirrored cardstock with a fabric ribbon.

The students had a great time and couldn't wait to use their new bookmarks. A special thanks to Trees for Tomorrow, LOLA, and to the Land O' Lakes Public Library for hosting this amazing experience

St. Germain Elementary School

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A Long, Busy Winter at St. Germain Elementary



Gayle Daniel, Principal
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What a ride we have had through a winter that just does not want to end. To help us manage, we have kept very busy at St. Germain Elementary School. Some of our activities have included DEAR Day, emergency color code practices, practicing our PBIS, and multiple PTO sponsored events.

DEAR Day was held on April 11. DEAR is an acronym for "Drop Everything And Read." and read we did indeed. All staff and students read self-selected materials for 30 minutes. Students were allowed to scatter about hallways,

classrooms and the library while adults mingled among them. Several parents joined in and read with or to students.

Another activity we worked on was practicing the various emergency color codes. Just like a fire drill rehearsed monthly, other emergencies also need to be reviewed to ensure proper performance. These emergencies include physical, verbal, extreme, health and medical. Our goal is to keep everyone safe, so practicing for these emergencies is just as important as practicing fire drills.

Students have also been learning about, reviewing videos on, and showing their knowledge of PBIS, Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. Across NPSD, each school believes in "Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Safe." Last year several of our STG students created videos demonstrating their understanding of these three char-

acteristics in different locations (bus, cafeteria, computer lab, etc.). These videos have now been shared with our entire student body, expectations for each area were reviewed, and practicing these expectations has been completed. Students are doing an amazing job proving they can be safe, responsible and respectful.

This year, our STG PTO has provided much for our students and staff. They donated money for the purchase of snow sleds. The students love having them to pull each other and slide down the snow banks. They also donated funds for the purchase of a die cut machine. This machine will allow adults to cut out letters and different characters for creating bulletin boards, class books, and other items. The PTO has also sponsored several events over the winter such as Family Fun Night in February, Bingo Night in March and Poetry Night in April. All of these events have been such fun! In order to provide such stellar programs, fund raising is a must. Several volunteers sold shirts at the St. Germain Radar Run. The PTO also hosted a successful greenery sale. Additionally, in anticipation for spring, a flower bulb sale was held.

The newest happening at STG is the advent of Sneakers Running Club. Currently there are 45 students, staff and parents actively involved. All runners/walkers meet twice a week after school to prepare for the 5K run in the Journey's Marathon in Eagle River on May 10. Having students active and healthy, setting goals, and using teamwork are all definite goals of this club. Two parent volunteers, Jennifer Cox and Shelley Hodkiewicz, have been instrumental with the success for this club.

Soon this school year will be at a close and we will wonder how it moved along so quickly. Our school year has advanced smoothly, safely, and positively because of the wonderful children, families, and community of which we reside.



DEAR Day

Teacher Chosen to Serve on State's Read to Lead Development Council

Donna Hejtmanek, Title I Reading Teacher at St. Germain Elementary, has been appointed to Governor Scott Walker's *Read to Lead Development Council* for a two-year tenure. The Education Reform Legislation Act 166 of 2011 made several changes to improving education effectiveness and student performance. Those changes included the creation of *The Read to Lead Development Council* to provide grants in support of literacy and early childhood development programs. Donna is honored and excited to be a part of improving reading for Wisconsin's children.

To learn more about the development council visit <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lab/reports/13-14full.pdf>. To read more about the Read to Lead Task Force recommendations go to <http://read.wi.gov/Documents/Read.pdf>.



Soup's On for Warm the Heart

By: Holly Geiger, St. Germain Third Grade Teacher

The third, fourth, and fifth grade students of St. Germain Elementary School prepared dry soup-mix bags to give to the Vilas County Food Pantry. This is the second year for this special charity activity. Students gathered and donated all of the ingredients needed to make a special recipe for hearty vegetable soup!

Teachers measured the ingredients and combined them in large plastic bins to save on time. Then, each and every student is involved in preparing a bag of soup. The preparation includes measuring out the dry soup mixture for one bag, securing the bag with twine or ribbon, attaching a recipe for hearty vegetable soup to a paper heart, and finishing off with an inspirational quote.

Students learn how a small act of kindness can result in helping many people. Our students want to give back to their great community and this is one way they can. What better way than a warm bowl of soup. We hope this tradition carries on year after year, and will eventually expand to other schools in the Northland Pines School District!



Pennies for Patients

Recently, students at St. Germain Elementary raised \$737 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by participating in Pennies for Patients. The money raised went towards research and patient aid for blood cancer patients. To raise as much money as possible, we held a week-long friendly competition where students put change into their classroom jars each morning. Students put in nickels, dimes, quarters, and even bills! Mrs. Geiger and Mrs. Brewer's class won pizza parties for their final classroom totals, but all the classes were winners, and most importantly the students helped make a positive impact on the lives of blood cancer patients.

The students found out that supporting a worthy cause is not only an important part of being a caring citizen, but it can be a lot of fun as well. By smashing the school-wide goal of \$500, Mr. Healy (an avid Chicago Bear's fan) agreed to dress up as a Packer fan and put on a fashion show during lunch. All of us are so proud of the way the St. Germain students reached down into their hearts to make this fundraiser a success.



Sneakers Running Club

Sneakers Running Club is in its first year at St. Germain Elementary School. The goals of the club, which is open to all students in Grades 3-5, are to promote healthy lifestyles, exercise, set and work toward goals, and to build confidence. We currently have 45 students, staff and parents training together in preparation to participate in Eagle River's Journeys Marathon 5K on May 10, 2014.

The team members have been meeting twice a week for 75 minutes each training day and most of the team is already running for 20 minutes straight or longer. We are so proud of our team for their commitment.



Thank you to our sponsors*:

Cox Family	St. Germain Lions Club
Daniel's Distinctive Designs	St. Germain PTO
Fibber's Restaurant	St. Germain Sentry
Eagle Waste and Recycling	St. Germain Sports Marine
Elbert's Resort	St. Germain Women's Service Club
Eliason Realty of the North	Trollan Refrigeration and Heating
Knocker's Pizza Company	Ed and Kathleen Wick
Jewel's Northern Graphix	Wolf Pack Cafe'
Marquardt Family	Woodland Beach Resort
St. Germain Lionesses	Kari Ziegler

Donations can be sent directly to the school. Please record "Sneakers" on the memo of your check. Thank you in advance for supporting our children.

**sponsors as of 4/28/14*

SOAR Charter School

6485 Town Hall Road, Land O' Lakes, WI 54540 npsd.k12.wi.us/soar 715.547.3619
Scott Foster, Principal sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us



School of Options & Applied Research

First School Year a Huge Success

We are fortunate to live in a community that supports its schools. This support allows the district to give students and families choices in their learning. One new choice this year is SOAR Charter School. SOAR was created to meet the needs of families and students who learn better in a non-traditional school setting.

SOAR is in its first year and has had an enrollment of at least 41 students throughout the year. SOAR has tried a lot of new ideas to meet the needs of its students. The project based learning format has worked very well for students. Students enjoy having a say in what they learn and more options. Our field studies are hands-on learning for kids and help them to be more active learners. Our partnerships with local schools, community members and other local organizations has had a real positive impact on the lives of our students. Our community outreach program has provided over 1000 hours of community service donated by our students. This community service time has had as much positive impact on our students as it has on our communities.

SOAR will look to improve as we head into year two. We will be adding another teacher and have over 20 more students enrolled. We are going to look at increasing the number of community partnerships we have. We are looking at and listening to our students about how we can better support them during the school day and on Fridays when they are not at school. We are looking forward to continuing to build our student's leadership skills as they will help us mentor our new students and look to complete an eighth grade capstone project.

Overall we have had a great first year. I am constantly asked about SOAR or how things are going? The best way to answer that question is to come and see it for yourself or to ask a SOAR student. We have had many visitors and volunteers, and look forward to having even more join us over the rest of this year and next year. If you have any questions or would like to visit SOAR, please call 715-547-3619 or email sfoster@npsd.k12.wi.us.

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

**Interested in
Attending SOAR
for the 2014-2015
School Year?
Apply Now!
Contact the School
at 715.547.3619**

A Little Dirt Never Hurt - Not Your Average Field Trip

By: Kate Neville & Don Anderson, SOAR Charter School Advisors

SOAR is still enigmatic to many people, but if you were to ask our students about the things that are most important to them about their charter school education, field studies would be at the top of the list.

"I'm dirty, sweaty, tired, and happy", are all words that students use to describe the outcomes of our field studies. Similar to our SOAR classrooms they enjoy fewer lectures and more hands on learning. These opportunities are demonstrated by students wading through waterfalls to identify macro invertebrates, hand churning ice cream, and races to see who can build the strongest fire.



Outside of a classroom setting, our field studies provide students with meaningful learning experiences while enjoying themselves at the same time. Life skills, independence, interpersonal skills, reflection, and student driven learning are all practiced. Local experts volunteer to teach about their area of expertise. Students make use of their time and technology by using their Kindles for book studies on the bus and completing their mathematics requirements on their laptops. Field studies will continue to enhance our focus on outdoor learning, making connections with the community, and inspiring our students to think critically about the world around them.

Pictured above, local Photographer Kitty Sookochoff teaches the students about various photography techniques while on a field study at the Apostle Island Ice Caves. Pictured to the left students work on poems as part of their creative writing unit while on a field study at Bond Falls.

Proposed 4K-5 Montessori Charter School on the Horizon

By: Tony Duffek, ERES Principal & Elementary Charter School Committee Chairperson

Since SOAR has proven to be effective and popular within its first year, the Northland Pines School District has explored expanding it to the high school level and writing a grant to DPI to start a second charter school which would serve students 4K through fifth grade. This school year a committee of 24 members have begun researching and exploring the best option for an elementary charter school education in our community. The committee was comprised of community members, SOAR board members, teachers and administrators. After much research and exploration, the committee concluded that Montessori is a proven effective philosophy that would be the best route for writing the charter school grant.

The proposed 4K through fifth grade Montessori Charter School, called the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center, will provide another option for families and an alternative form of education that may fit some students better than the traditional approach. NPSD's goal is to meet all students' needs, and receiving the funds to start this charter school would help us reach this vision. The mission statement for the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center is: We believe that children have an innate curiosity and ability to learn through inquiry and exploration. By providing a comprehensive Montessori education, we facilitate and guide students' educational journey. At Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center children gain confidence and develop the social, emotional, critical thinking, physical and academic skills that will prepare them for the world in which they live.

The Montessori model is a research-based model that has proven to be effective for all students. Children in Montessori classes learn at their own, individual pace and according to their own choice of activities with hundreds of possibilities available. Learning is a process of discovery, leading to concentration, motivation, self-discipline, and a love of learning.

Montessori classes place children in multi-age groups forming communities in which the older children spontaneously share their knowledge with the younger ones, rather than the same grade whole-group instruction offered in the traditional classroom.

NPSD recently submitted the grant to DPI to begin planning and open the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center. If NPSD receives the grant, next year would be a planning year and the school would open in the fall of the 2015-

2016 school year, with the capabilities to serve 4K through fifth grade students arranged in multi-age classrooms (4K-K, 1st-2nd, 3rd-5th). NPSD is dedicated to providing the best education for all students and reaching all students' needs. Adding a Montessori Charter School would help us meet more students' needs and provide more options and choices for families. We look forward to hearing from DPI about whether we are awarded the grant by early next fall.

Top Ten NPSD Accomplishments during the 2013-2014 School Year

1. Northland Pines School District received a "District" state report card score of 76.4 (Exceeds Expectations) which was the top K-12 score in the CESA 9 region (encompasses 22 school districts). In addition, Northland Pines High School received a "High School" state report card score of 80.8 (Exceeds Expectations) which is one of the top High School scores in the state of Wisconsin.
2. 85 Students Opened Enrolled **into** the Northland Pines School District from surrounding school districts.
3. Northland Pines High School Academic Decathlon team qualified for state for the third consecutive year.
4. Implemented the SOAR Charter School for grades 5-7 in 2013-2014 and completed a very successful first year. Expanding SOAR to grades 5-8 and enrollment full with a waiting list established for the 2014-2015 school year.
5. Northland Pines School District received its third Department of Public Instruction (DPI) **Rural School Community Library Partnership Award** for Science teacher Robin Indermuehle's class titled "Grow Your Own Food in the 21st Century".
6. Teacher John Hayes was one of the four finalists for the **2013 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**, one of the nation's highest honors for mathematics and science teachers! Four more teachers earned the prestigious National Board Certification. Currently we have nine staff members who have earned this honor.
7. Northland Pines High School Custodians awarded Wisconsin Athletic Directors Association Service Award.
8. Received over \$150,000 in grant funding.
9. Implemented one of the first Pay for Performance Pay models for certified staff in the state.
10. Implemented 1:1 technology at Northland Pines High School and will implement 1:1 at the Middle School for the 2014-2015 school year.

Northland Pines Middle School

1700 Pleasure Island Rd. Eagle River, WI 54521 npsd.k12.wi.us/middle 715.479.6479



Jackie Coghlan, Principal
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Where Has the Time Gone?

I have spent the past sixteen years as the principal at Northland Pines Middle School. During this time there have been many changes at the middle school and in the district. Staff has changed over time, but the mission at the middle school has always been to provide a safe, caring, learning environment for our students, which helps to build relationships. One example that has helped our students is the orientation activities that we do with fifth graders to help them transition into the middle school. The staff has been involved in most of the activities and what we have seen is that the sixth graders come in knowing some of their teachers and feel pretty comfortable.

As a whole, the 5300+ students I have worked with have had challenges and opportunities to grow and gain from their experiences at the middle school. The students at Northland Pines have had very good educational opportunities available to them. The District works to improve curriculum, upgrade facilities, keep current with technology and have some of the most dedicated teachers in the classroom.

Middle school students have been part of my day for the past thirty-seven years. I have experienced almost anything you can imagine. These students are unique, ever-changing, emotional, moody, dramatic, bright, challenging and enjoyable. As I write these words I can picture a list of individuals who fit each of these descriptions. I have watched them grow into young adults who hopefully will continue to achieve and some day be the leaders in our community. So, if I have worked with middle school students all this time, I have also worked with middle school parents. There may have been some trying times, but I would also say there have been many helpful, supportive parents who have worked to help provide their children with a successful school experience.

As the Northland Pines Middle School Principal, I have also been fortunate to work in a community that cares about education and supports the activities in the school district. It has been a pleasure to have worked with numerous organizations, businesses and individuals who have always stepped up to help out a cause.

Life Skills Class Focuses on Community

By: DeAnna Kaehler, NPMS Special Education Teacher

The students in the life skills program at the middle school participate in a very unique and individualized curriculum. The focus is to teach them functional math, reading, job and life skills. They work very hard every day to learn basic skills in order to prepare for life beyond the classroom. Part of the program is developed around community outings. These outings include visits to local business establishments where they learn about products and services and have the opportunity to interact with a variety of people.

The students learned about recycling at Eagle Waste and Fire Safety at the fire station. They enjoyed bowling at Eagle Lanes, dipping apples at the Country Store, and dancing at Danceworks Unlimited. Students create grocery lists, count money, and shop with a spending budget at Pick'n Save, Trig's and Dollar General.

The students also contributed to the community by visiting the residents at Milestone Senior Living Center. They played bingo and board games, and made crafts with the residents. The students sang Christmas Carols at Ace Hardware, Shopko, BMO Harris Bank, Eagle River Memorial Hospital, and Milestone. They also made and sold crafts at the Farmers' Market during the summer month of July.



Although the students consider these outings fun and exciting, they are learning valuable skills. Teaching them about money, shopping, safety, and goods and services becomes much more meaningful when it has real world application. In addition, they are encouraged to interact with members of the community, ask questions, and practice interpersonal social skills. This can be somewhat intimidating for these students. Providing them with these opportunities and support gives much needed practice.

As an educator, my goal is to prepare them for life beyond the classroom. These students face many challenges and struggle with things most would consider simple or easy; however, they rise to the occasion and take pride in their accomplishments. They look forward to our weekly outings and learn skills that will help them to become valuable members of this community. Thanks for being a part of this learning experience.

Art Students Connect to the Community

By: Beverly Niehaus, NPMS Art Instructor

The Olson Memorial Library in Eagle River sponsored the Youth Art Month exhibition the month of March. The show culminated with an awards ceremony and artist reception on April 10, featuring two and three-dimensional artwork from students at every grade level.

We are fortunate to live in a community that understands the importance of the arts in the life of every student. The library continues to encourage our young artists by hosting the exhibition every year during March, which is nationally celebrated as Youth Art Month in every state.

Another opportunity for our students is the Junior Duck Stamp Competition, which is a national event that encourages students to learn about the importance of conservation of our natural resources. The Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club has been a financial supporter of the middle school art program for several years. Their assistance has provided students with quality art supplies for the competition. Students use a variety of references as they select a species of waterfowl to draw including actual taxidermy mounts of ducks and geese, duck decoys, slides and photographs, books, and wildlife prints. During the art process, students also learn about the conservation efforts in our area and the local wildlife organizations that work to protect our natural resources. Students enjoy the process of connecting with nature as they create outstanding artwork with great pride.

The Wisconsin state level of the Junior Duck Stamp selects 25 winning entries in each age category. Our middle school students enter in two categories. The first group is composed of students in grades 4 through 6. Northland Pines sixth graders received 16 of the 25 state awards in this age group. Students in grades 7 and 8 compete in the 7 through 9 grade category, and they received 12 of the 25 state awards in this age division. Top award winning entries become part of a traveling show that will be on display throughout Wisconsin for the remainder of 2014.



Hive Alive! Sweet Science

By: Todd Wilfer, NPMS Science Teacher

The eighth grade students have been busy throughout the school year working on many components of the Hive Alive! Sweet Science honeybee project. Students built two complete beehives in their Technology Education classes with the help of local beekeeper, Tim Bogeman. Student-generated designs were then painted onto the hives by students in their Art classes.

Students learned about honeybees in the classroom through curriculum implemented by the school district's Farm to School program. Students learned about the dynamics of a working honeybee hive and the important role honeybees play as pollinators. They learned about Colony Collapse Disorder and how it has impacted honeybee populations around the world. Students also sampled several different types of honey and learned the benefits of eating local raw honey and the importance of honey to the colony.



A component to this project is the Adopt-a-Bee program. The Adopt-a-Bee program paired students with 126 bee sponsors from eight states and Puerto Rico. Students wrote several letters throughout the year to bee sponsors informing them on the progress of the project.

The bees are scheduled to arrive in mid-May. Students will put on bee suits to place them in their new home. Regular visits are planned throughout the month of May to ensure the queen and other bees are healthy and productive. There are several student activities planned for these visits. Community support has been wonderful. Stay tuned for future Hive Alive! Sweet Science community events.

Family, Career, and Education Club

By: Kamie Kolb, NPMS Family and Consumer Ed. & Job Skills Teacher

A new opportunity for Northland Pines Middle School students began second semester. The club is F/CE which stands for Family, Career, and Education, and is open to all students. Our mission is to promote life skills through activities that develop character, enhance creative and critical thinking, and promote community involvement.

In March, as a promotion for healthy living through eating right and being active, the club organized and served samples of healthy snacks to middle school students the week of March 10-14. As a second project, we planned a social for the residents at Milestone in Eagle River. Students planned a variety of activities to do with the residents as well as serving refreshments.

We continue to look for ideas of ways in which we can help out the communities in the Northland Pines School District. If you have suggestions or would like our F/CE club to help your organization please contact Ms. Kolb at 715-479-6479 or e-mail kkolb@npsd.k12.wi.us.

Northland Pines High School

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Leading the Pace Change in Education

The pace of change taking place in education is unprecedented. Educators have been inundated with local, state, and federal initiatives such as Educator Effectiveness, Common Core, Smarter Balance, Modification to the Salary Structure, Positive Behavior Intervention and Support, Response to Intervention, and many other reforms designed to improve student outcomes. I am very proud to say that educators

at Northland Pines are embracing these reforms and continuing to ensure that our students are provided with a world class education. Two local decision changes that have taken place this year at NPHS was the transition to the Modified Block and the implementation to 1:1 Chromebooks. Infusing each of these changes on their own would be an undertaking, but to do both in the same year has been a daunting task.

The traditional block schedule had been in place for over a decade at Northland Pines. Most of the teaching staff at NPHS had never taught in an eight period day and to alter and create curriculum designed to fit in a 44 minute class period along with the complexity of even/odd block days created a sense of uncertainty early on in the school year. Compound the newness of a schedule with the multitude of inclement weather days and natural alterations to the schedule for activities such as Homecoming, Snowcoming, Math Week, School Musical, and Student of the Month Assemblies created a sense of uneasiness regarding the scope and pacing of curriculum. The staff is continuously tweaking their curriculum to maximize student engagement and provide the optimal learning environment. The students have transitioned into the new schedule with confidence and have outperformed expectations. We have seen a reduction in classroom tardiness, less absenteeism, reduced behavioral referrals, and the failure rate has decreased by 9.6% since the adoption of the Modified Block.

Positive classroom results are also apparent with the 1:1 initiative. There has been a remarkable increase in communication between student and teacher, student to student, and teacher to teacher with the infusion of this powerful technology. Students have at their fingertips the ability to research topics without waiting to get into a computer lab and are able to share documents with their instructors without having to print off the material. Homework is less apt to be lost nor is there the ability to make excuses such as my dog ate it. The quality of work produced has increased and the skill deficiencies of students have become clearer. It is easier to identify weaknesses and focus in on those areas of need to improve the skill set of each student. Implementing a 1:1 environment took a great deal of professional development and patience. The

initial rollout was nerve-racking for many professionals as they wondered if their technological skill set was above those of the students who are growing up in the Digital Age. Going 1:1 provided a forum for learning to be a reciprocal effort between student and teacher. Putting a device in everyone's hands has created an equal playing field for all students and optimized the opportunity for the instructor to be a facilitator of learning.

These two local reforms designed to improve instruction and student learning outcomes would not have been possible without the tremendous community support that exists in the Northland Pines School District. We as a community are not afraid to take on new challenges if we believe it will increase learning and maximize student potential. Continuous improvements and reflection will take place as we proceed with all initiatives. Your support is vital for the continued academic, social, and emotional growth of our students and I thank you for your involvement in providing a top quality education for the students in the Northland Pines School District.

Reflecting on the Year

Reflecting back on this school year for Northland Pines reminds me of how we have great kids in our schools. Behavior and attendance have gotten better even from the good numbers in previous years. Students are respectful, and know that they are safe in our building. Our community is raising children to be proud of. I am excited to see what they become in the future.

As I reflect back, we do continue to look for improvements. One of the possible ways we ask parents to help is with the attire students wear to school.

What our staff tends to find is the spring brings out short shorts or skirts, tank tops, low cut shirts, cut off shirts, and clothes with holes scattered in them. When I talk to students, I try to get them to understand that clothing that is worn on weekends is not always appropriate in a public building. Many do understand and appreciate me talking to them. I ask that parents keep this in mind when their son or daughter leaves the house to prompt them to change if necessary. I also realize that many times they may leave the house with one outfit on but change when they get to school. Our staff will do the best to remind students on our end of what is appropriate.

Finally, when students are shopping for clothes for next school year, please remind them of these expectations. As parents, your help in what is purchased can minimize a possible problem in the future. It is always a shame when money is spent on something that can't be used.



Josh Tilley
Dean of Students
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Students Tour Europe over Spring Break

By: Christina Stuber, NPHS German Teacher

This Spring Break fifteen of our juniors and seniors embarked on a journey to Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Once we landed in Frankfurt, we met our tour leader and headed over to Heidelberg, where we toured the first of many castles on our trip. The students fell in love with Germany right away! Our journey then took us to Munich, where we toured the city, a palace and a few cathedrals. We then prepared ourselves for the emotional and educational experience of the Dachau Concentration Camp. We toured the museum, the barracks, the grounds and the crematorium. It was difficult for each of us, but we all came back with new insights on humanity.

The next day brought other Bavarian sites Neuschwanstein Castle, picturesque Oberammergau village, and the Wieskirche a cathedral in the middle of a meadow! We then headed down to Innsbruck, Austria into the heart of Tyrol. Over mountains and through them by way of long tunnels we traveled. Our Innsbruck tour brought to life the history of the Habsburg Empire. We learned of Emperor Maximilian and visited his empty tomb in the Hofkirche. We departed Innsbruck for Switzerland via Lichtenstein, and after picnicking in the Tyrolean Alps for lunch, we very much looked forward to ascending Mount Pilatus the next day! That we did. 7,000 feet high we went by gondola, then cable car, then on foot. It was magnificent and majestic!

In Switzerland, we stayed in the city of Luzern. There we visited the Lion Monument, a memorial to the Swiss Guard who fell defending King Louis XVI of France. We walked the Chapel Bridge and enjoyed the numerous swans! We departed Luzern, but before we left Switzerland we stopped at the Rhine Falls, Europe's largest waterfall. We then headed to our last city on the tour Rothenburg ob der Tauber. Our students fell in love with Rothenburg! It is one of the best preserved medieval towns in Europe. Students enjoyed the Night Watchman tour before getting ready for the journey home. And what a journey!

Our weather in Europe averaged 65°-70° with only sunshine! We all made it home safely with more travel experience, global perspective and cultural understanding than when we left. I am so proud of our students and how they conducted themselves while in Europe and how well they spoke German! They were ever curious about the culture, history and language. They made every effort to use their language skills whenever they could. Our students were true ambassadors of Northland Pines and of the United States of America. Thank you, students!



March Madness Isn't Just for Basketball

By: Jone Davis, Library Media Specialist Director

The Northland Pines libraries are buzzing (quietly of course!) with the sound of students. This year, all of the Northland Pines libraries have undergone many changes. Throughout all of these new and exciting things, one of our main goals has always been to increase student use. The more students, the better! The libraries are still the place to check out books and do research using our abundant resources. In addition, they are now also places for students to come and relax, read a book, get some work done, visit with friends, or just take a minute to gather their thoughts!



In the high school for the month of March, students and staff participated in "March Madness for Books!" Not only did they participate, they helped us create 16 finalists based on a survey of their favorite book picks. Students and staff then came into the library to complete their brackets and engage in thought provoking discussion about the books, which ones they should vote for and why. Not only was the March Madness for Books FUN, we saw students and staff who don't usually talk about books, sharing their thoughts and encouraging others to read the book or vote for it.

In addition to encouraging library usage, we are continually reflecting and improving our spaces. We most recently created "Maker Spaces" in the high school library. These spaces are for students to create and innovate. Our newest addition is a Duct Tape station, where the possibilities are endless! These Maker Spaces serve as brain breaks for students and promotes tapping into the creative side of the brain, which in turn helps students focus on their work. Stop in and check out what our students are creating or just say hello!

Pictured to the left is the [March Madness Book Bracket](#), with *The Hunger Games* taking it all!



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

Late Spring Forces Use of Fieldhouse and PCWC

As a result of this year's snow amount and a late spring most of the northern Wisconsin schools' spring sports schedules saw many cancellations. However, at NP we didn't let Mother Nature ruin the first part of the season and with some creativity we made the best out of the situation. As a result of NP having a six-lane 200 meter indoor track encompassing four full courts in the

field house, our athletes were able to "stay on track" with their spring season.

In Northern Wisconsin, only a handful of schools have a facility which draws this amount of use and attention. With creative scheduling, we were able to utilize the fieldhouse for six indoor track meets, a softball scrimmage, and a soccer game. While other activities like baseball, golf, community sports and walkers utilized the facility to conduct practices or exercise while winter hung around.

This year the track coaches put a twist on a few meets and hosted three unique events: All-Comers Meet, The Elite NW Invite, and a Relay Meet. **All-Comers Meet** - The Northland Pines High School track teams put on their 1st annual indoor All-comers track meet on Friday, March 14. Forty-five athletes participated in the meet ranging from ages four to adult. The fieldhouse was filled with activities ranging from the four to six year old 55 meter dash to the 4 X 200 meter relay to the high jump for all ages. This will be an annual event so look for information next spring. **Elite Meet** - On Saturday, April 12, Northland Pines hosted its first Northern Wisconsin Elite Meet. The Elite meet was designed to give athletes from Northern Wisconsin a chance to compete against the best of the best, with more

than twelve teams participating. Elite Meet entries have verified indoor performances of which only the top twelve athletes entered are selected to participate. This event will only get bigger and should evolve into something that generates visitors to Eagle River. If you haven't been to a track meet before this will be an exciting one to watch in the future as it profiles the best high school athletes that the North has to offer. **Relay Meet** - Northland Pines hosted our first indoor relay meet on April 15th. Relay meets are exciting for our athletes because each event is a relay. Even in the field events, 3 athletes will have their distances added together to get their relay teams' overall distance. The order of events are not like your typical track meet and there are some unique events like the 800 Sprint Medley Relay where all four athletes run a different distance as a part of this race. A relay meet offers a chance for athletes to try events they wouldn't normally compete in.

Pines Community Wellness Center - While all of the above mentioned was happening in the fieldhouse, another event was occurring upstairs in the fitness center, the transition of the YMCA fitness center to the newly named Pines Community Wellness Center (PCWC). As of March 1, NPSD assumed financial and staffing responsibility of the fitness center and retained community access with paid memberships to the facility and exercise classes. With several months of planning and in-sight from many individuals passionate about the PCWC, it has been a very positive start.

Since the opening of the new high school in 2006, the facility has been labeled as a community use facility. The district wants to continue offering and providing a fitness facility for youth and older-active adults to utilize. Many people deserve credit for a great start to the PCWC and it will only get better. For more information about the membership fees, classes offered, and hours of operation please visit the PCWC website at npsd/k12.wi.us/wellnesscenter.

NPSD Learning with Technology

By: Dave Strong, NPSD Technology Coach

Technology affects us all. In education it's easy to look around and see kids involved with technologies in their classrooms, in the hallways and at lunch, and when they're out in the community. I've been privileged to be a part of our iPad and Chromebook community training opportunities. Several times a year and during the summer we offer free training to any community member who wants to come in and get training. We have staff and students who volunteer their time to help. Every time I leave a training I feel great!

We've always maintained the focus that technology is a tool and at Northland Pines we find the best ways the technology affects our students' learning. In the early elementary, students are using iPads for practice and projects. Our kindergarteners understand how the iPad minis work and are comfortable taking one off the cart and applying it to their learning. First through third grade have sets of iPads in the classrooms and access the Internet, share documents and even

practice typing. Fourth graders have a mixture of iPads, mini-Laptops and Chromebooks available and every fifth grade classroom in the district has three Chromebooks for students to use.

Over the past two years we have had several different pilot programs in our district dedicated to providing staff and students with technology that can significantly impact student achievement. Our staff has provided outstanding feedback about the programs. All of this hard work and patience has led to a 1:1 environment at the high school and in two elementary classes at St. Germain. I look back at the progress we've made and ask myself what the impact has been.

Student learning... every step we make, every device we place in the hand of our students is specifically scrutinized for the impact it has on student learning. We're constantly monitoring both our teachers and our students and providing them with training and support to ensure the technology is used appropriately and effectively.

Spanish Students Visit Costa Rica

By: Jennifer Weber, NPHS Spanish Teacher

Over spring break, six junior and senior Spanish Club students along with Sra. and Sr. Weber embarked on the trip of their lifetime, having the opportunity to visit Costa Rica. Beginning our journey into the rainforest, we spent two days and nights investigating the jungle floor. This included a boat trip down the Sarapiquí River observing howler monkeys, a sloth and her baby, and many iguanas, while during our night excursion we witnessed bullet ants, click beetles, and cicadas hatching.

The students participated in making organic chocolate, visited a pineapple plantation and also learned about the cultivation of the coffee bean. While at their homestay they spoke Spanish, learned four Costa Rican dances, how to prepare homemade tortillas and a filling called picadillo. We visited Asociación Obras del Espíritu Santo in San José where we helped prepare a lunch for children, women and elderly who are homeless or cannot afford a meal. It was quite an eye-opening experience for all of us. The last day the students enjoyed snorkeling, sun, and sand, on Isla Tortuga.



Phoenix Center Community Programs

By: Robin Indermuehle, NPSD Life Science/Alternative Ed. Teacher

The Phoenix Center is more than an alternative way to get your education. Students go out into the community to help their neighbors. Some of the things that they have done are helping out at the Kalmar Center to load and unload the trucks for the food pantry, and stock and arrange shelves. They have also gone to various parks in the area to pick up garbage and have gone to the homes of elderly people and completed small yard projects.

A unique opportunity the Phoenix Center offers is the SWEET (students with educational and employment talents) program. Students that are enrolled in the six-week summer program work with community partners learning job skills required at different places of employment. The employers have a weekly meeting with the SWEET coordinator to discuss the strengths and weaknesses demonstrated by the students. Weak areas are discussed with students in order to help them become model employees. This program benefits all involved. The employers have the SWEET coordinator to help students understand what is expected in the job. Because the students receive high school credit for being a good employee, there is an extra incentive for them to perform their job duties as expected.

Any local businesses interested in participating in these programs, please contact Linda Zimmer or Robin Indermuehle at 715-479-3450.

Academic Decathlon Team Places Third at State

By: Alan Tulppo, NPHS Social Studies Teacher/ACADEC Coach

The Northland Pines Academic Decathlon Team competed at the state competition for the third year in a row and placed third in their division.

Academic Decathlon is a statewide scholastic competition which advocates greater respect for knowledge and promotes academic excellence among students, schools and communities. The program is based on an annual theme. The 2014 theme was World War I. Through the process of competitive elimination in the November Local Competition (115 Teams) and January Regional Competition (60 teams), 20 schools and 180 team members are advanced to the State Competition held in Wisconsin Dells at the Wilderness Resort.

The study guide, determined by United States Academic Decathlon® sets forth the material covered in preparation for the events and includes the following: art, economics, language and literature, math, science, social studies, music, prepared and impromptu speeches and interviews.

Students in grades 9 through 12 in public and private high schools compete as individuals and team members in a series of ten academic tests and demonstrations. The Decathlon's unique format includes students with A, B and C grade-point averages. The competition is an all-around academic event, not for the "elite" students only. Participation in Academic Decathlon provides students with opportunities to become clear and effective communicators, life-long learners, creative problems solvers, and integrative and informed thinkers.

Wisconsin Academic Decathlon is the best example of the educational community, the State, concerned parents and student scholars working together to improve academic performance and achievement. The Academic Decathlon team is always in need of interested community members to be involved in helping them prepare for the competition. If you would like know more about the Academic Decathlon Program at Northland Pines, please contact the high school office at 715-479-4473.



PINES COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTER



1800 Pleasure Island Rd. Eagle River, WI 54521 npsd.k12.wi.us/pineswellness 715.479.4473 ext. 3351

NPSD Opens Community Wellness Center

Effective March 1, 2014, the Northland Pines School District assumed operational management of the YMCA Eagle River Branch Fitness Center. The Pines Community Wellness Center is no longer affiliated with the YMCA. For the past nine years, the partnership between the YMCA and the Northland Pines School District has greatly benefited our community.

The Pines Community Wellness Center will build off of the successful foundation which has been established. The Northland Pines School District will continue to operate this wellness center for the benefit of the entire community. Our goal is to balance our wellness center budget by individual membership base, corporate memberships, programs, and donations. We will conduct one annual fundraiser organized and run by volunteers who are Northland Pines staff members, students, and/or community members.

Please refer to npsd.k12.wi.us/wellnesscenter for more information or call 715-479-4473 ext. 3351.

Fitness Class Schedule

One six-week session class, held one time per week:

- \$10 for members (includes corporate membership)
- \$20 for non-members

One six-week session class, held two times per week:

- \$20 for members (includes corporate membership)
- \$40 for non-members

One six-week session class, held three times per week:

- \$30 for members (includes corporate membership)
- \$60 for non-members

Drop-in Class Fee: \$5 per class based on space availability

Spring 2 Session

April 14, 2014 to May 25, 2014

Summer 1 Session

May 26, 2014 to July 6, 2014

Summer 2 Session

July 7, 2014 to August 17, 2014

CURRENT CLASSES: Boot Camp, Fit for Life, Gentle Yoga Stretch, Studio Cycling, Total Body Senior, Yoga Basics and Yoga Flow. A full description of each class can be found at www.npsd.k12.wi.us/wellnesscenter or visit the Pines Community Wellness Center, located in the high school.

The Wellness Center is located at:

Northland Pines High School
1800 Pleasure Island Road
Eagle River, WI 54521
715-479-4473 ext. 3351
Please enter through Door 16.

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday: 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
and 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday through Friday: 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Membership Fees

Fee structure is for the general public.

- Daily Single: \$5
- Monthly Single: \$25
- Yearly Single: \$275
- Monthly Family: \$40
- Yearly Family: \$440

Annual Corporate Memberships for Businesses

All Corporate Memberships include a single memberships for each employee.

Businesses that employ 10 or less employees: \$1000

Businesses that employ 11 - 20 employees: \$1500

Businesses that employ 21-50 employees: \$2000

Businesses that employ 51+ employees: \$3000

Annual Hotel/Resort Memberships: \$1000

Allows hotel/resort guests a daily pass to Pines Wellness Center.

Pines to Hold Inaugural Moonlight Run on July 12

The Pines Community Wellness Center's one main fundraiser will be the "Moonlight Run" (formerly known as the Moonshine Run). This will be an annual event held on the second Saturday of July. This year's Moonlight Run will be held at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 12, 2014, in downtown Eagle River near the Depot. The event will be a 5K run/walk along with a kids race. It will be a family event which will benefit the Eagle River area. Activities will begin early evening with food, games, music and fun for the entire family. We anticipate over 400 runners for this event.

The proceeds from the Moonlight 5K will be used for the operation of the Pines Community Wellness Center.

STARTING TIMES: Kids' 1K 9:00 p.m., Moonlight 5K 10:00 p.m.

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

REGISTRATION: Pre-register on or before June 12, 2014 by visiting the Wellness Center or by registering online. Individuals registered by June 12, 2014 will be guaranteed a moisture wicking t-shirt in the size indicated as well as a goodie bag.

PRE-RACE REGISTRATION & PACKET PICK UP: July 11 Northland Pines High School Commons 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

RACE DAY REGISTRATION & PACKET PICK UP: July 12 Start/Finish line 7:00 pm - 8:45 p.m.

KIDS' EVENTS AND PRIZES: Awards will be presented to all children who complete the Kids' Fun Run. Strollers and wagons welcome. No pets, please.

REGISTRATION COST: 5K Early Bird (by June 12) \$25 (guaranteed goodie bag and size of shirt), 5K Pre-Race (by July 11) \$30, 5K Day of Race (July 12) \$35, Kids 1K Sunset Run (ages 10 and under) \$5, Pines Running Club Member \$15 (savings of \$10), Northland Pines Running Club Member and one parent/guardian: by June 12 \$35 (savings of \$15), by July 11 \$40, on July 12 \$45

AWARDS: An award ceremony will follow the 5K. Awards will include top three male and female overall.

MEDALS: to be awarded to the top 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finisher in each age group, male and female; 19 & under, 20 - 29, 30 - 39, 40 - 49, 50 - 59, 60+.

WATER STATION: located at the intersection of E. Sheridan Street and Silver Lake Road.

OTHER: Snacks and water will be provided to participants at the finish line, and portable restrooms will be available at the start/finish line.

More information regarding the Moonlight Run can be found at www.npsd.k12.wi.us/pineswellness. You can also find that tab on the district website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us.

If you have any questions please contact any of the following individuals:

Mike Richie, District Administrator at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us or phone 715.479.6487 Opt. 1, Ext. 1

Brian Margelofsky, Activities Director at bmargelofsky@npsd.k12.wi.us or phone 715.479.6286

Josh Rhode, Physical Education Teacher at jrhode@npsd.k12.wi.us or phone 715.479.4473 Ext. 0902

Ashley Krusick-Martin, Public Relations & Webmaster at amartin@npsd.k12.wi.us or phone 715.479.6487 Opt. 1, Ext. 3

**For updates and information,
follow the Pines Community
Wellness Center
on Facebook!**



FREE Equipment Orientation for Members

Mondays, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Tuesdays, 6 - 7 p.m.



Farm to School Program Growing

By: Amanda McAtee, Farm to School Community Outreach Coordinator

On April 8, Peter David with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) of Odanah, WI presented to the Northland Pines K-8 about wild rice. The presentation included a PowerPoint on the growth, traditions and harvest of wild rice in our northern waters. The students enjoyed the presentation and asked great questions and sampled Wisconsin harvested wild rice.

Peter David stated, "I'm a Wildlife Biologist with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, where my emphasis is on waterfowl, wetlands, wolves and wild rice. The joke is that I am the 'W' biologist. I consider my education gained from the University of Wisconsin Madison-BS and MS in Wildlife Ecology-and from the tribal members and elders for whom I have worked my entire professional career."

On April 2, the Farm to School Students attended the Eagle River Farmer's Market Children's Day event. They helped patrons plan their gardens as well as offered micro-greens and vegetable seeds. If families are thinking about starting their own vegetable gardens, the Garden Club students, Seed to Seed Garden Project and Vilas County Master Gardeners are great resources. Seed starting help as well as garden advice is available.

The Northland Pines Farm to School Garden Club has been hard at work all winter learning about composting, integrated pest management, seed saving and other organic gardening techniques. Their hard work is showing with a greenhouse full of plants! The Garden Club has been awarded the Katie's Krops grant for kids growing food for their community. They are very excited to be growing food for local families and the local food pantry. They would love to invite other students to join and participate in the Garden Club that meets Tuesdays after school. There is no membership fee; to join or volunteer contact Jasmyn Schmidt at jaschmidt@npsd.k12.wi.us or 715-617-7903.

At the beginning of the school year goals were established through the AmeriCorps portion of the program and the Northland Pines Farm to School Advisory Committee added to the list:

- ♦ A garden at every school building.
- ♦ 350 students will receive five 30 minute lessons on nutrition education.
- ♦ 40 separate individuals contributing 200 hours of volunteer time.
- ♦ Five procurements of local food to be served through lunches and tastings.
- ♦ Monthly Harvest of the Month with tastings at one of the schools.
- ♦ Have an established fundraiser to use on an annual basis.

By the end of the school year, almost 500 students will have received five 30 minute nutrition education lessons, nine procurements of local food used for Harvest of the Month tastings or served through school lunches will reach over 900 students, and gardens will be established at Eagle River Elementary/Middle School, St. Germain Elementary and Land O' Lakes/SOAR this spring. Right now we have 30 wonderful volunteers that have donated 170 hours of their time and gardening season is just beginning.

Northland Pines Farm to School's sustainability is dependent on community involvement, and we cannot do all that we do without our many wonderful volunteers and potential volunteers. Spring brings seed starting days, garden planning and adding school gardens to St. Germain, Eagle River Elementary and Land O' Lakes/SOAR as well as community events

Saturday, May 17 will be our first annual Greens and Grass Festival. Follow on Facebook (Northland Pines Farm to School) for detailed information as it becomes available or contact Amanda at 715-490-2125, or Jasmyn at 715-617-7903 for more information.

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 throughout the district is to use saturation mailing. It is costly to avoid a few non-residents from receiving our newsletter. We apologize for your inconvenience but wish to provide important information to all residents. Thank you.

Student Wins Art Contest "My Feelings Matter"

Congratulations to NPHS sophomore Karly Kolehouse for her first place entry in the "My Feelings Matter" poster contest sponsored by the Wisconsin Children's Mental Health Matters Coalition. The contest is held to promote a connection with children about their feelings and emotions, supporting mental health and well being.



Northland Pines High School LMC (Library Media Center) Open to Students & Community

The Northland Pines High School Library Media Center is open to students and the public Monday through Thursday evenings from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. when school is in session. The LMC offers computer, scanner and printer use, current magazines and newspapers, and reference materials. If you have any questions, please call Ms. Davis, Library Media Director, at 715-479-4473, ext. 3314.

2014
NORTHLAND PINES MUSIC BOOSTERS

Cabaret

<p>Pricing</p> <p>\$12 Adults \$8 Students & Seniors \$35 Immediate Family Max</p> <hr/> <p>Friday, May 30, 2014</p> <hr/> <p>Refreshments Dinner Desserts</p>	<p>NPHS Commons</p> <p>Doors Open: 5:30pm Start Time: 6:00pm</p> <hr/> <p>Featuring High School Jazz Ensemble Choir Jazz Combo Vocal Jazz</p> <hr/> <p><i>Dancing</i></p>
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Fabulous Basket Raffles
Raffle Tickets \$1
(Must be present to win)

ERCOLA Donates to Pines Pride

Thank you to ERCOLA, Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, for their generous donation to Pines Pride! Pines Pride is a program that supports positive behaviors and character development. This is not the first time ERCOLA has shown their support for our students, and we are very grateful for their continued support. The total amount donated is \$900.

Pictured here with NPHS Counselor Pauline Ceulemans is Paul Hennes, Vice-President of ERCOLA. ERCOLA works with other lake associations to protect lake quality and to educate property owners on important waterway issues, like invasive species in our lakes. For more information about ERCOLA, visit www.eagleriverchain.org.



Trying out Google Glass

By: Dave Strong, NPSD Technology Coach

In early March I received an unusual invitation in my email, it was to become an explorer. A year ago Google started a program to provide certain people with an opportunity to experience the newest in wearable technology: Google Glass.

Google Glass is a computer you wear on a frame as a pair of glasses. This gives the wearer a heads up display and access to email, the internet, phone calls, pictures, video and music. The invitation I received gave me the opportunity to purchase a pair of Google Glass and participate in a program that sends feedback to Google in an attempt to prepare the product for release to the public.

I quickly saw this as a professional development opportunity, communicated with the school for approval and ordered Google Glass. I want to know if and how this new device will impact our students, our teachers and education. It's slated to be released for public sale some time later this year.

So far, students and teachers are definitely interested in what it is and how it works. Countless numbers of students have tried it on, been amazed at the heads-up-display and possibilities it offers for them. Educationally, this little device has the potential to provide easy, convenient access to the internet, video and audio recording and communication amongst staff and students.

The verdict is still out about its value in a school, but as the development phase comes to a close I think the true determiner is going to be in the apps that are developed. As a teaching tool, this will enable staff to easily create instructional materials for students, move us forward with our online and blended learning environments and provide a great resource for professional reflection and growth. To follow my journey, go to npsdglass.blogspot.com.

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

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

May - September 2014

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Thurs. May 15	M.S. Band Concert H.S. Auditorium 7:00 PM
Fri. May 16	SOAR Board Meeting, 9:00 AM
Fri. May 16	St. Germain Spring Fling Concert SG Gymnasium 1:30 PM
Sat. May 17	HCPA "Beach Party Boys - Tribute to Beach Boys" H.S. Auditorium 7:30 PM
Fri. June 20	Relay for Life
Thurs. May 22	Coffee Klatch with Dr. Mike Richie - Eagle River Roasters, 8:30 AM
Thurs. May 22	Land O' Lakes Spring Fling Concert - LOL Gymnasium 1:30 PM
Mon. May 26	No School - Memorial Day
Mon. May 26	H.S. Choir & Band at Courthouse, 11:00 AM
Tues. May 27	NPSD School Board Meeting - HS LGI, 6:00 PM
Fri. May 30	H.S. Cabaret Concert H.S. Commons 6:00 PM
Fri. June 6	H.S. Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony - H.S. Auditorium, 6:00 PM
Sun. June 8	Class of 2014 Graduation Ceremony - H.S. Fieldhouse, 1:00 PM
Thurs. June 12	Last day of School
Fri. June 13	Teacher Inservice Day
Fri. June 20	SOAR Board Meeting 9:00 AM
Mon. June 30	NPSD School Board Meeting - HS LGI, 6:00 PM

BACK TO SCHOOL 2014 - 2015

Mon. Aug. 4	Parent-Athlete-Coaches Fall Sports Meeting – NPHS Auditorium, 6:00 PM
Tues. - Th. Aug. 19-21	New Staff Inservice
Fri. Aug. 22	Athletic Hall of Fame, 5:00 PM
Mon. - Th. Aug. 25-28	Teacher Inservice
Tues. Sept. 2	School Year Begins, First Day of School for Students

Have a Safe and Happy Summer!

Follow us all summer! Visit the district website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us for information. Northland Pines School District can also be found at www.facebook.com/npsd1. "Like" us to get feeds from the district and to have access to photos, links and much more.

