

Voice of the Pines

Winter Edition 2011 - 2012

Newsletter for Residents of the Northland Pines School District



School Start and End Time Changes Coming 2012-13



Dr. Mike Richie
District Administrator

Beginning the 2012-13 school year, a big change will take place in the Northland Pines School District. The start and end time of each day for students and staff will change. The student day will begin at 8:25 a.m. for students in grades PK through grade 12 throughout the district (Eagle River Elementary, Land O' Lakes Elementary, St. Germain Elementary, Northland Pines Middle School and Northland Pines High School). Morning supervision will be provided, details on that will be available by the end of this current school year. The student day will end at 3:25 p.m. for all students. Currently, the schools have different start times (ranging between 8:06 and 8:10 a.m.), and end times (ranging between 3:10 and 3:18 p.m.).

The teachers' day will also change as the teacher contracted hours will be from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (currently the teacher contracted hours are from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) This change allows for 45 minutes each morning for staff professional learning opportunities prior to

students starting classes. This time will be used for collaboration, staff development, technology training, parent contacts, staff meetings, new teacher meetings, data review, curriculum review, common core standards review, department and grade level meetings, common planning time, IEP meetings, and other structured and non-structured activities.

As we continue to move forward as a school district, it is important to have a set amount of time each day to focus on all aspects of the educational environment, student learning and school reform. It is essential that time be provided to allow our staff to be able to work with and learn from each other. In order to accomplish our district and school building level goals, and to be able to reach our benchmarks, a change needed to be made in both the student and teacher day. As the district leader, I strongly support this change and applaud the Northland Pines School Board for supporting the administrative recommendation to endorse this concept. These work hours are not uncommon in school districts across the state.

Although some of the logistics are still being worked out, they will all be in place before the current school year is over.

Heartfelt Spirit Abounds at Northland Pines



Jim Mulleady
School Board
President

those schools had anywhere near the heartfelt spirit of our performers.

I recently received an email from a parent from a visiting school. In the note, she was congratulating Northland Pines on the outstanding way the district ran a varsity basketball game they attended. She made mention of the Star Spangled Banner that was in sign language for the hearing impaired. She was very impressed with the inclusion of special needs students on the Northland Pines Cheer and Dance Team. The parent also went on to say that she has attended games at other much larger school districts where they performed technically superior halftime shows but none of



Mulleady (cont. on page 2)

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION April 3, 2012

An election is to be held in the Northland Pines School District on Tuesday, April 3, 2012. The term of office for a school board member is three years beginning on Monday, April 23, 2012.

OFFICE	INCUMBENT
School Board Member from Area C Town of Land O'Lakes	Holly McCormack
School Board Member from Area E Town of St. Germain Town of Newbold	Eric Neff
Member At-Large #1	John Sarama

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

NPSD Employee of the Month 2011 - 2012

Congratulations to the recipients of the Employee of the Month award for the 2011-2012 school year:

- **Sept. 2011 – Linda Zimmer, HS Phoenix Center, Paraprofessional**
- **Oct. 2011 - Dr. Kathryn Tulppo, MS ASPIRE Teacher**
- **Nov. 2011 - Cynthia Spiess, Land O' Lakes Elem. Third Grade Teacher**
- **Dec. 2011 - Tina Labeau, Eagle River K-8 Assistant Cook**
- **Jan. 2012 - Harold White, Technology/Computer Support**

Any person may nominate any employee for this award by writing a brief email explaining why the employee should receive the award. All nominations can be emailed for consideration to either Mike Richie, District Administrator, at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us or to Board President Jim Mulleady, at jmulleady@npsd.k12.wi.us.

2011 - 2012 Coffee Klatch Schedule

Join District Administrator Mike Richie for coffee and conversation at 8:30 a.m. at Eagle River Roasters, 339 West Pine Street in Eagle River, on the following dates:
Tuesday, March 20, 2012
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mulleady

(cont. from page 1)

According to this parent, she was not the only one in the stands who noticed it. There were other spectators who were similarly moved. They also wished to share how very impressed they were with our student performers. The note was signed by all of the "bleacher parents" of the visiting school.

The teachers in the Northland Pines School District do some outstanding things that sometimes get overlooked. I wish to congratulate Brian Margelofsky, Josh Tilley and of course Ann Perry who is the Cheer and Dance Team Coach for a job extremely well done.

This speaks volumes about not only Northland Pines Schools, but of our community. I will never cease to be amazed at the amount of heart and soul in Eagle River and Northland Pines!

2011-2012 NPSD Board Meetings

The Board of Education invites and encourages community members to be involved and informed about issues affecting Northland Pines students. **All regular board meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the Northland Pines High School Large Group Instruction Room.** The school board meeting schedule for the remaining 2011-2012 school year:

Monthly Board Meetings

- Mon. February 27, 2012
- Mon. March 26, 2012
- Mon. April 30, 2012
- Mon. May 21, 2012
- Mon. June 25, 2012

Northland Pines Board of Education

Jim Mulleady, President
Mike Sealander, Vice President
John Sarama, Clerk
Holly McCormack, Treasurer
Eric Neff, Deputy Clerk
Mike Jovanovic, Member
Mark Vander Bloomen, Member

Multi-Class NPHS Reunion Planned for August 10 - 11, 2012

By: Pete Rondello, Sr.

The best kind of "social networking" is still done face-to-face. And, that's the goal for a group of Eagle River/Northland Pines High School alumni. The power of Facebook has brought many high school friends back together, including Jim Mulleady, Jr., Susan Wilsie Govier, and Karla Siemering Bryant, all from the NPHS Class of 1978.

Realizing the many common bonds that extend beyond the year of one's graduation, the trio is hoping to create a real life "homecoming" event that will bring old friends, and new ones, together to create, celebrate, and sustain relationships. "Envision a giant class reunion for all graduates of the local high school", says Siemering Bryant. "We're seeing wonderful on-line stories being shared on Facebook by alums of all ages. How fun would it be to reunite in Eagle River and continue those memories?"

A Facebook group entitled: "You know you're from Eagle River WI if..." was started in 2011 by 1983 NPHS grad Roy Charles Nance, and has over 560 members. Stories abound on a variety of topics, with high school memories a key common ingredient.

The organizing alums have a Facebook Event page for their "Multi-Class Reunion", which currently shows 125 persons scheduled to attend.

"But the word needs to extend beyond just the on-line community. We want everyone to know about it", says Jim Mulleady.

Not only are former NPHS students and their significant others welcome to the event, but all NPHS faculty and staff-former and present-will be invited to attend as special guests. Save the dates: August 10, 11, and 12, 2011, with the main event scheduled for Saturday, August 11. Planning and organization is now in progress, with volunteers and interested people sought. An e-mail to: NPHSreunion@gmail.com will put you in contact with the committee and get you on the information/mailling list.

NPSD Community Coat Closet in Need of Jackets, Coats, Boots

ACT-Teen Suicide Prevention Awareness Council expanded the coat giveaway program. It is now called the NPSD Community Coat Closet. Coats are available for anyone (students and community members) who needs one. They may be kept or they may just be borrowed.

WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF USEABLE, UNWANTED, MACHINE WASHABLE JACKETS, COATS, AND EVEN BOOTS... Any donated items can be dropped off in the Northland Pines High School LMC (Library Media Center).



Donated items will be cleaned and placed in the Coat Closet. There will also be a box in the bottom of the closet for used coats to be dropped off.

If you are in need of a coat or jacket, the Community Coat Closet is located in the foyer of door #16 of the high school. This is the YMCA entrance behind the high school. We need your donations to help those in need. Please check your closets and bring us your coats and jackets so others can be warm.

NPSD Student Feature HS Senior, Scott Moline



O u r Student in the Spotlight for this issue is Scott Moline, an NPHS senior. Scott is an

open enrolled student from Phelps, Wisconsin, and has gained international attention with his snowboarding skills. Scott excels at balancing school (with a Personal Learning Plan), playing varsity soccer, and training and competing on a pro snowboarding circuit. His competitions have taken him across the United States, Europe and New Zealand thus far. He has been competing since he was 10 years old.

In 2010, Scott won 1st place on the Gatorade Free Flow tour which earned him a spot on the winter Dew Pro Tour. Out of 100's competing in the super pipe at the first stop in Breckenridge, CO, only 40 moved on to the second spot in Killington, VT. From there, the next top 20 will compete in the finals this year on NBC in Snowbasin, UT. Scott placed 14th and will be competing in finals.

When he is not competing on the Dew tour he is competing internationally on the Burton Opens and on the US Grand Prix. Scott has had fun doing a reality show about snowboarding on Fuel TV (three episodes) called Flow to Pro. He has also appeared on the Daily Habit for Fuel TV. Scott represents the USA in snowboarding for the super-pipe and has hopes of competing on the Olympic team in 2014.

Reading to Build Literacy for Life

Dr. Maggie Peterson, Director of Pupil Services/Instruction



We all understand increasing the literacy level of our community is the single best way to ensure a prosperous economy and an improved quality of life for everyone. Literacy is so much more than just reading a book. It is a series of skills that are imbedded in almost everything we do as adults so it is vital that our children practice in settings other than school.

Student success must extend beyond the classroom. As a teacher, I searched for lessons that bridge the school world and the world outside of school. As a parent, I tried to make reading involved throughout the day. Using newspapers and magazines in the classroom and at home entices students to build a lifelong reading habit. Teaching students to recognize bias in journalistic-style writing will help to create informed citizens. The key to making this work with children is to use materials that appeal to them and to allow time to build reading as a lifelong habit.

What is Literacy?

For most people, literacy means reading and writing. But what about...

- using and filling out forms and documents?
- making change or balancing your check book (financial literacy)?
- talking to others so they understand?
- being able to listen and understand others?
- getting along with co-workers and people in your community (social literacy)?
- solving problems?
- using a computer, cell phone or other technology?

Ideas for Promoting Literacy at Home

- Read and discuss newspapers, online news and magazine articles
- Promote reading and writing throughout the day and in fun, stimulating ways
- Cook with children – Read recipes together
- Use time in the car to read road signs
- Talk with children about books they're reading
- Ask children what they're learning at school

Northland Pines Holds Transition Fair

The Northland Pines School District Transition Fair was held Wednesday, January 25, at the Eagle River Inn and Resort. Judge Chip Nielson gave a keynote on his career as an attorney/judge, as well as provided information on juvenile justice.

The program also included a panel discussion with former students from Northland Pines entitled "If I Knew Then What I Know Now" addressing issues of independent living and the importance of education. Afternoon activities included exploration of careers and a reality check (the financial cost of independence), an activity geared toward students understanding the costs associated with independent living.

School year transition activities for students with disabilities consist of visiting Northern Advantage Job Center, touring Nicolet Technical College, and participating in the Transition Extravaganza at Nicolet College in April. Job preparation training, job shadowing, work experience and apprenticeships are part of the transition experience at NPSD.

Kathy Jolin, Transition and Educational Consultant, has joined the transition team at Northland Pines to facilitate the Transition Fair and PROJECT SUMMER. Mrs. Jolin has been involved with the Wisconsin State-wide Transition Project (WSTI) since it began in 1998. For more information about WSTI go to www.wsti.org.

For additional information about transition activities you may contact Dr. Maggie Peterson, Director of Pupil Services/Instruction at 715.479.8989.

Northland Pines Middle School Book Fair
Week of April 23 – 27 from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Middle School LGI

Open to the public. Invest in literacy, buy a kid a book!

Safeguarding District Assets: Fraud Prevention

Margo Smith, District Business Manager



No organization is immune to fraud in its varying types, degrees, or consequences. At the Northland Pines School District, fraud awareness is alive and well. Systems are put in place as much as possible and practical to protect persons (taxpayers, students, staff, and community users) as much as possible. A key part of prevention is understanding and

recognizing red flags.

There are several types of fraud that our internal controls are directed to:

- Internal fraud, or Occupational Fraud, which is defined by the ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners) as “The use of one’s occupation for personal enrichment through the deliberate misuse or misapplication of the employing organization’s resources or assets.”

- External fraud, in which persons or organizations with whom the District deals attempt to unlawfully acquire District assets. This type of fraud may display itself in the form of contract fraud, misrepresentation of costs billed, impersonation of District staff, or other falsifications.

- Collusion, which may manifest itself in the form of an outside party working with someone within the District, several people outside of the District collaborating to defraud, or several people inside the District working together to defraud.

All of these types of frauds have certain things in common. In studying the social psychology of fraud, three common factors which comprise the “fraud triangle” are opportunity, pressure, and rationalization.

Opportunity is generally provided through weaknesses in internal controls. It is the only element over which the Northland Pines District has significant control.

Pressure is defined very broadly, and may result from unrealistic deadlines or performance expectations by superiors, personal vices such as gambling, or a perceived pressure to “keep up with the Jones’s.”

Rationalization is a method most people need to reconcile their consciences with commonly accepted definitions of decency, honesty, and trust. It is a crucial component of most frauds, as people convince themselves the fraud was necessary, justified, or warranted under the circumstances.

As mentioned above, a sub-element in the “fraud triangle” is justification. We oftentimes hear (or maybe have even felt at times) “They deserve it for what they did.” It is when these thoughts are acted upon and a

conscious decision is made in conjunction with one’s rationalization that the intent completes itself.

What does the Northland Pines Business Office do to prevent fraud? While it is next to impossible to define a totally “fraud-free” system, the Business Office has laid down many procedures that may not always prevent every fraud, but which certainly make its occurrence difficult or acts as a deterrent. A good system also recognizes that while a red flag may be present, sometimes an error is just an error. We use basic fraud prevention principles that entail separation of duties in cash receipts, accounts payable, and payroll; documentation for all charges and expenses that require supervisor approval; regular cash reconciliations and other analytical methods to identify transactions that appear to be out of normal parameters, and sampling of transactions regularly to more readily identify areas especially susceptible to fraud.

Communications can also be key in preventing fraud. The Business Office cannot prevent fraud alone. We rely on management and staff to regularly review reports, follow procedures relating to internal control, and assist us in answering questions that come up relating to transactions.

Here is some fraud trivia information from the ACFE Report to the Nation on Organizational Fraud and Abuse in 2006 of more than 1,100 occupational fraud cases:

- The average organization loses 5 percent of revenue to fraud and abuse.

- Forty-one percent of occupational fraud cases are committed by employees.

- The median loss for fraud by managers was \$218,000; almost three times greater than the losses resulting from an employee scheme.

- Sixty-one percent of frauds were committed by men, with a median loss of \$250,000, which is more than twice the median loss attributable to women.

- Most fraud perpetrators (87.9 percent) have never been convicted of a crime.

- Forty percent of all fraud cases are committed by two or more individuals. In these cases, the median loss was \$485,000, almost five times greater than the median loss in fraud cases involving one person.

- Median loss attributable to employees over the age of 60 was \$713,000. For employees 25 or younger, the median loss was \$25,000.

We hope by increased use of internal and external controls in dealing with outside parties, employee understanding and education, and open communications with staff that the Northland Pines School District has lessened the opportunity for fraud in its many shapes and forms. As a member of our District, if you ever have reason to question the legitimacy of any person representing themselves as an employee, fundraiser, or other representative, feel free to ask for suitable identification or contact the district office.



Matt Spets
Eagle River Elem.
School Principal

Working Together at Eagle River Elementary

One of the relatively recent buzzwords/phrases utilized across many levels and in many settings of education is Professional Learning Communities or PLCs. PLCs are initiated to develop teamwork, commitment, and a shared responsibility in the implementation of an initiative. At ERES, Power Hour is our initiative and our grade level teams are our PLCs. Even though we do not use the term PLC to describe the scope and purpose of our grade level teams,

they are an exact example.

Our grade level team system works because we have regularly scheduled meetings each week. Each grade has a set time and location for its meeting. As the building principal, I create a simple agenda and chair each meeting. This is a vital component as building leadership or administrative participation is one of the elements of all successful PLCs. The presence of the building administrator in the grade level team works to show grade level team members and other stakeholders that, "We are all in this together and we are all responsible for both the successes and failures." Personally, I have gained tremendous insight regarding, among other things, our district's history, instructional and curricular trends, staff members'

goals, innovative teaching strategies, student success, and student concerns.

In terms of practicality in its relationship to our Power Hour initiative, we use the grade level team meetings to analyze student achievement data, place students in intervention and/or enrichment groups, select appropriate interventions, share ideas about enrichment units, and build capacity in the understanding of large topics such as Response to Intervention (RtI), Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions (PBIS), and Common Core State Standards (CCSS). District and school-wide planning for these topics, one at a time, is quite difficult and with all three hitting us in one form or another at the same time, the grade level teams are essential.

Looking ahead to 2012-2013, the grade level team/PLC concept will be utilized at a greater frequency. When taking into consideration NPSD's move to a 7:30 a.m. start time for all instructional staff, the grade level team meetings will shift from mid-day to before school. This will result in a slightly longer, more focused meeting as students will not be present. Additionally, such strategies as additional, bi-monthly grade level team meetings that will solely focus on learning and implementing PBIS or the CCSS can occur. Utilizing our time, resources, and the expertise of our staff by way of strategies such as this will be a major factor as to whether our schools continue to remain at the forefront of education across northern Wisconsin.



Scott Foster
Land O' Lakes Elem.
St. Germain Elem.
School Principal

Northland Pines Three Year Technology Plan

Every three years our district is required to submit a District Wide Technology Plan to the Department of Instruction (DPI). Our plan will expire this June and we are currently in the process of finalizing the draft that will be shared with and approved by the Northland Pines School Board. Our plan is being developed by our district's Technology Committee which is made up of teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators. The committee is using survey data from the families in the district, students, and staff to develop the plan. Research that focuses on best practices in instruction and the use of technology is also being used. The plan will also contain a budget that predicts expenditure and improvements for the next three years.

The heart of the plan focuses on the goals for the next three years. This gives us a chance to look at what we need to accomplish to improve learning in our district. One area that we are looking at is the possibility of having one device for every student, this has also been called "1 to 1". The device could be a tablet, (iPad, netbook) or a laptop. This is a big investment and takes a lot of planning. Another goal that we will be looking at is the ability of our staff. Our data shows the majority of our staff is using technology to perform their job more efficiently and

many are using technology to improve student learning. It will be our goal to define these skills and assess the staff to see that they are meeting expectations. The last goal is the continuous enhancement in student's abilities to use technology. As a district, we must continue to integrate technology to enhance learning. This could mean classes being taught in different ways, such as a new method called a Flipped Classroom or more of a blended learning class. These are just three of the goals in the plan, all of which will play a large role in the success of our students at Northland Pines.

Putting together the technology plan is a complicated job. Predicting which way we should go for the next three years with anything is difficult, but with technology it is even a greater challenge. It is hard to believe, but the last time this plan was developed the iPad was not even on the market and look at what an impact it has had on our society.

The success Northland Pines has had with technology has come from keeping focused on making sure we spend our funds wisely and impacting the classroom with technology as much as possible to keep up with the changing times. If we continue this for the next three years I truly believe we will be preparing students at Northland Pines to be successful in this 21st century!

Note: Scott Foster is also the Northland Pines Director of Technology

Responding to Middle School Student Needs

How best to differentiate instruction and individualize for the range of student needs and abilities in the classroom is an ongoing challenge. The middle school staff works to recognize differences among students and accommodate and provide choices for their students. Instruction is adapted and strategies are varied to try to find the optimal match to the context and the needs of the students. Using different teaching methods and strategies increases understanding, builds options and teaches students to respect the learning requirements of other students.

The Northland Pines School District has been in the process of implementing Response to Intervention over the past two years to help meet the needs of students. Last year the middle school staff collaborated and researched the components of RtI to become familiar with terms, practices and strategies to offer the appropriate level of challenge for each learner and to provide the necessary supports to help all students reach their learning goals. All staff are responsible for providing Tier 1 interventions which are universal strategies that all students in the classroom receive. Strategies are varied to meet the different learning styles of students. The delivery of core curriculum may need to be changed to address skill deficits if necessary.

All students are assessed three times per year using a universal screener. The screener used in the elementary and middle school is AIMSWEB. Teachers are trained to administer and score the assessments. The data is then analyzed and students are identified to receive specific research-based interventions to address the area(s) of skill deficit which is at Tier 2. Students with similar instructional needs are grouped together. Progress monitoring is done by the interventionists to measure student progress toward their individual goal of improvement. If student progress is insufficient, the student will receive more intensive interventions in a smaller group. This would be at a Tier 3 level. Our goal is to help students gain skills and become more proficient and successful in the classroom. If progress is still not sufficient after several rounds of interventions, a problem solving team gathers information and develops a plan to provide additional support or interventions for that student. Staff are working together to meet the needs of the students in a variety of ways.

We have already seen improvement with students in math and reading. Besides just gaining specific skills, students have gained confidence and feel more comfortable participating in other classes. Seeing students making progress and being more successful will hopefully lead to more rewarding learning experiences.



Jackie Coghlan
Northland Pines
Middle School Principal



Jim Brewer
Northland Pines
High School Principal

Professional Development at Northland Pines

Former United States Secretary of Education and the first woman to serve as a federal court of appeals judge, Shirley Hufstедler, stated, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." Since becoming principal of Northland Pines High School, I have had the privilege to witness a tremendous amount of forward thinking by the staff,

fellow administrators, and community members who are all helping to shape the future of education for the benefit of all students. An example of the progress that is occurring throughout the district happened recently during an in-service day where staff collaborated in professional development groups and then shared out their ideas to the rest of the staff.

I have been working intimately with a group of individuals who are attempting to achieve the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This arduous year-long endeavor forces educators to truly reflect on their practice so that they can improve the student learning that is taking place in their classrooms. The National

Board process has individuals compile a significant portfolio consisting of four entries which includes classroom videotapes of them teaching. The process also consists of a three-hour culminating written exam in the subject area that they are teaching. Over 50% of the participants who attempt this feat never achieve National Board, but for those who do, they have reached the Mt. Everest of education and are considered "Master" teachers. Currently, the district has two individuals who have reached this status, and I have no doubt that many more will follow, which will result in a higher quality of education for all of our children.

Another professional development group has been working on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is an evidence-based practice designed to address the behaviors of the entire school community by being proactive, positive, and preventative. The goal is to improve the school climate to improve student achievement. A critical element of PBIS is to create a matrix which will help define, teach, and acknowledge positive behaviors. The PBIS professional development group really helped to move the district forward by coming up with our district's mantra which will be "Pines Pride" with the emphasis on Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful.

Principal Brewer (cont. on page 8)



Josh Tilley
Northland Pines HS
Dean of Students

Student Attendance Increases

As the first semester was coming to an end, my curiosity started to grow. Did our attendance improve? I looked at this year's attendance records and compared them with the same time period as last year. What I found is that the data shows for most classes there was an improvement. Last year the entire school was present for class 93% of the time. This year we have had 94.47% of the student body present at school. Each grade also saw a slight change in the positive direction except our senior class. The seniors dropped from 93.27% to 92.39%.

I was hoping for a better jump, but I also know that many people are still unaware of the expectations that are now on students. This year our school is making a conscious effort to educate students and parents on the attendance policy. ***As the policy states, a parent can only excuse a son/daughter from school a maximum of ten days per school year.*** This includes sickness and vacations. Students with professional appointments (doctor, dentist, lawyer, etc.) do not have these included into those ten days.

One of the proactive ideas we are doing is contacting families earlier so they have knowledge of a student's attendance. A letter gets sent to families when a student begins to creep toward that number of ten days (not including medically excused absences). This letter has helped in multiple situations, and parents contacted me to make me aware of unique situations that the school was not aware. Another positive change that the school has seen is students do ask the question, "How many days have I been absent so far?" These students understand the importance of being in class and getting an education.

In closing, I do feel that a shift has started on the importance of students being in school. We may not have seen it yet in the numbers, but I do feel positive that every semester we will see an improvement. As always, if anyone would like to speak to me about this policy or about their child's attendance, please give me a call at the high school.

For more information on all Northland Pines School District policies, visit www.npsd.k12.wi.us. If you would like to read the detailed NPSD policy on attendance, review policy 5200 - ATTENDANCE.

Principal Brewer

(cont. from page 7)

A final professional development group that I would like to highlight focused on instructional technology. This group certainly presented ideas that have the potential to reshape how we are currently providing education. They gave us a glimpse of the future by demonstrating various technological devices and applications that can transform the traditional classroom into a highly effective digital learning center. The sky is the limit when it comes to technological tools and their usage to enhance the instructional practices and the learning that takes place within the classroom.

These three examples of the professional development that is taking place at Pines is only a small fraction of the ideas that permeate throughout the district. Implementation of ideas and the progress that follows is certainly being made, and it is exciting to know that our children will be able to reap the rewards of our efforts.

Building Better Eagles

By: Jason Foster, High School Teacher, Coach

All Northland Pines students in grades 6 - 12 are invited to join Coach Jason Foster on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. in the field house to work on becoming better athletes. Workouts will include, plyometrics, agility, speed, quickness, core, and lateral movement training. Athletes will learn how to thoroughly warm-up and stretch before and after the workout. All athletes are welcome regardless of what sport you play and/or current ability level. There will also be emphasis on sportsmanship, leadership, and school spirit.

Students interested in weight training are welcome to join us in the fitness center on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. to begin the readiness portion of our Bigger, Faster, Stronger (BFS) Program. Students will learn how to properly and safely begin working out with free weights.

If you have any questions, please contact Coach Foster at (715) 891-5952.

Family Fun Open Climb, Open Gym

Sunday, March 25, 1 - 4 p.m.

NPHS Fieldhouse

FREE! Open to the public.

Monetary and Food Pantry donations accepted.

Climbing Wall, Volleyball,
Basketball, Batting Cages,
Snowshoeing, Cross Country Skiing

(Outdoor activities weather dependant,
childcare available for parents using climbing wall.)



Brian Margelofsky
Activities Director

Volunteers are the Engine that Drive Youth Sports

Most of the youth sports going on in our communities would not exist without the efforts of coaches and officials who voluntarily give hours of their time to provide a safe learning environment for the boys and girls they mentor. These volunteers might be parents of players on the team or they might be other members of

the community who have knowledge to share and the time to share it. Quite often those volunteers don't have extensive formal training in coaching that sport, but usually have a love for the sport so they are out there doing the best they can and improving along the way.

Volunteers are the engine that drives youth sports, and these coaches and officials are typically the ones who give young people their first impression of the sport being played. The organizations in the area, such as: E.R.R.A., Headwaters Youth Soccer, NPBA, Northwood's Baseball Association, and NP Youth Football & Cheerleading Organization (just to name a few), wouldn't exist without the countless volunteers. Many unpaid hours go into advertising, fundraising, sign-ups, ordering equipment and uniforms, tournaments, and scheduling (and we haven't even talked yet about practices and games!).

Although these youth sports are not directly tied to the Northland Pines School District monetarily and none of them receive funds to run the programs, these programs are the feeder programs for our high school sports teams. Although most coaches at the high school are paid a stipend for their time and commitment, there are additional coaches that help out voluntarily at this level as well. There is a need for volunteers to sell tickets, keep score, sell concessions, line-judge, announce, or film at each game

or tournament. Most individuals who get involved as a volunteer do so because they have a connection to someone playing or coaching (past, future, or present).

I encourage anyone at any time to contact me about being a volunteer for one of the many positions or duties mentioned above. Those that have experienced the opportunity I will confidently say enjoyed it and made a difference in the lives of our kids. Therefore, if you have some time to offer I can connect you with the level you choose from kindergarten aged kids learning the fundamentals for the first time, to the more competitive high school athlete that is participating in WIAA competition. We have a need and a spot for anyone.

I'd like to thank all of our current and past volunteers and I look forward to meeting new people eager to get involved.

2012 Spring Sports Parent-Athlete-Coaches Meeting Tuesday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. NPHS Auditorium

6:00 p.m. Registration and fees (H.S. Commons)

**6:30 p.m. Presentation by Mr. Margelofsky
(Auditorium)**

**7:15 p.m. Coaches meetings with players and
parents (Assigned Areas).**

**All parents and players must attend the
Coaches Meeting at 7:15 p.m.**

Support Eagle Athletics!

The 2011 - 2012 Northland Pines athletic season passes are available to purchase in the high school office or at events.

Prices:

Adult \$25 (up to age 62)

Family \$40

Seniors FREE! (age 62+)

All children living in the Northland Pines School District are encouraged to attend events free of charge! Senior passes are available to pick up in the District or High School Office, or at games. Passes cover all regularly scheduled home volleyball, football, boys' and girls' basketball, and hockey games. They are not honored for WIAA Tournament games. There is no admission charged for boys' and girls' soccer, cross country, baseball, softball, track or golf.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION Strings Can Strangle Children On Playground Equipment: Safety Alert

Clothing strings, loose clothing, and stringed items placed around the neck can catch on playground equipment and strangle children.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has received reports of deaths when these items became caught on playground equipment, especially slides and swings. Items included strings on clothing (such as hoods and attached mittens), loose clothing (such as scarves and ponchos), and other items (such as jump ropes) placed around the neck. These items caught on protrusions, open-ended hooks, gaps, and other parts of playground equipment.

WARNING!

Clothing strings, loose clothing, and stringed items placed around the neck can strangle a child. Never dress a child in loose or stringed clothing if they will be on playground equipment.

Participation in Hot Lunch is On the Rise

Jessi Bortolotti, Taher Food Service Director



Welcome to winter! With cold snowy days upon us, it is nice to know that students can have a hot meal provided for them daily. Our lunch program continues to grow. Daily participation is on the rise. We are happy the students like the meals provided and parents feel that we offer a healthy meal for them. We do put a lot of thought and care into the planning of our menus

and how the food is prepared. We like to offer students a variety of foods with several different options daily. All of our staff is very dedicated to our food program and offer skills and talents to help better serve our students.

Tina LaBeau, our head cook in the Eagle River PK-8 building, has been awarded December's Northland Pines Employee of the Month by our school board. Tina started in our dish room ten years ago and has succeeded in working her way up to Head Cook. She is a very reliable and friendly employee and is dedicated to providing a healthy and tasty meal to our students. Tina has said that she appreciates the daily challenges and is happy to have worked her way up to the position she has now. Interacting with the students is something she really adores and finds rewarding. In addition to being an outstanding employee to our district, Tina enjoys spending time with her husband of twenty-four years and their three daughters. Congratulations to Tina and all of our food service staff for providing excellent service, friendly faces, and warm meals to our students and staff.

As a reminder, lunch account payments can be made at each school in our district. Outside every school office we have a locked drop box with envelopes available for deposits. **Please remember to have the students first and last name written on the envelope.** If you are paying by check you only need to send one check. It is not necessary to write separate checks for each student. If you would like specific amounts split between student's accounts you may indicate that on the memo line or attach a note. Deposits normally take two business days to post to accounts. However, there may be circumstances that would possibly delay payments being posted by a day.

It is important for parents to remember to check the balances of their students' accounts. We do send out a reminder call every Thursday night to households who have students with low balances, but it is appreciated if you keep the account up-to-date. You can check your account on-line through the Infinite Campus Portal. If you do not have your Infinite Campus Portal set up, please contact Lisa Achterberg at 715-479-4123. If you have a past balance due, you can make payment arrangements with the Food Service Director to bring the account current. Families can apply for the Free and Reduced lunch program at anytime during the school year. You may apply multiple times if your circumstances change. Please contact Jessi Bortolotti, Food Service Director, at 715-479-5800 if you have any questions or are in need of an application.

NPHS to Host Solo/Ensemble Festival Saturday, March 10

Looking for Volunteers to Assist Band Boosters!

By: **Kate Janssen and Brandon Bautz, Music Teachers**

Solo/Ensemble is a festival for middle/high school musicians grades 7-12 designed to give instrumental and vocal music students an opportunity to perform in front of a music judge. Using a standardized evaluation form, students are evaluated and critiqued on how well they perform a required piece of music. The students are then rated individually and are awarded medals if they receive a I, II or III place rating. This festival is a great opportunity for students to build self-confidence in music performance, to achieve individual success and build on their musicianship.

The 2012 GNC Solo/Ensemble Festival will be hosted by Northland Pines High School on Saturday, March 10, 2012. Students from Northland Pines Middle and High Schools, Tomahawk, Phelps, and Medford will be participating. Please note that the festival is on a Saturday, instead of a weekday. Performance times run from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Parents are encouraged to attend this event.

Many volunteers are needed to help this event run smoothly. If you are able to assist the Music Boosters organization by donating a few hours of your time, please contact Kate Janssen at kjanssen@npsd.k12.wi.us or 479-4473 x 0801, or Brandon Bautz at bbautz@npsd.k12.wi.us or 479-4473 x 0802.

Winter is Here to Stay... Dressing Students Properly

Caryn Jacob, RN, NPSD School Nurse



The most important thing that you can do for your child, is to make sure that they dress appropriately for the weather conditions whether it is just waiting for the bus or going outside for recess. That would include snow pants, gloves or mittens, hats, scarf, boots and a warm jacket. When the temperature drops below freezing, uncovered body parts are prone to frostnip or frostbite which is painful and can be damaging.

Frostnip usually affects areas that are exposed to the cold, such as the cheeks, nose, ears, fingers, and toes, leaving them white and numb. Frostnip can be treated fairly easily.

- Bring the child indoors immediately.
- Remove all wet clothing. Wet clothes draw heat from the body.
- Immerse chilled body parts in warm (not hot) water until all sensation returns.
- Don't let the child control the water temperature during rewarming. Numb hands won't feel the heat and can be severely burned by water that is too hot.

Frostbite is characterized by white, waxy skin that feels numb and hard, can also have blistering. It requires immediate emergency medical attention.

- Get the child into dry clothing, then get them to a hospital emergency room. If feet are affected, carry them.
- If you cannot get them to a hospital right away or must wait for an ambulance, give them a warm drink and begin first-aid treatment:

- Immerse frozen areas in warm water (around 100 degrees Fahrenheit) or apply warm compresses for 30 minutes. If warm water is not available, wrap gently in warm blankets.
- Do **not** use direct heat such as a fire or heating pad.
- Do **not** thaw the area if it is at risk for refreezing, which may cause severe tissue damage.
- Do **not** rub frostbitten skin or rub snow on it, it causes further tissue damage.
- Rewarming will be accompanied by a burning sensation. Skin may blister and swell and may turn red, blue, or purple. When skin is pink and no longer numb, the area is thawed.
- Apply sterile dressing to the area, placing it between fingers and toes if they are affected. Try not to disturb any blisters.
- Wrap rewarmed areas to prevent refreezing, and have the child keep thawed areas as still as possible.

Children are at greater risk for frostbite than adults, both because they lose heat from their skin more rapidly than adults and because they may be reluctant to leave their winter fun to go inside and warm up. You can help prevent frostbite in cold weather by dressing your child in layers, making sure he comes indoors at regular intervals, and watching for frostnip, frostbite's early warning signal. So help us keep your child warm and safe by providing and encouraging proper winter wear.

If you have any questions, please contact Caryn Jacob, Northland Pines School District School Nurse, by calling 715.479.6471 or email cjacob@npsd.k12.wi.us

Taking Care During Cold and Flu Season

By: Caryn Jacob, RN, NPSD School Nurse

With cold and flu season (November to April) upon us, here are some things to consider:

- Flu symptoms include fever, headache, chills, body aches, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, and nasal congestion. The flu will generally persist over a longer period of time. The "stomach flu" may cause nausea and vomiting, usually this is actually gastroenteritis, and may last for a few days.
- Cold symptoms usually have a runny nose, and sneezing sometimes coughing and a sore throat. They come on suddenly.
- Flu and colds are spread when a person who has it coughs, sneezes or speaks and sends the virus into the air.
- If you get the flu or a cold: drink plenty of fluids, rest/sleep, and treat symptoms.
- Antibiotics **will not** cure the flu or a cold, the best way to prevent the flu is to get the flu shot. A cold will have to run its course.
- Over the counter meds may relieve the symptoms, like acetaminophen for children (do not give aspirin to children); aspirin or acetaminophen for adults; decongestions, cough suppressants, and use of a humidifier may help.
- Covering coughs and good handwashing are one of the best ways to prevent the spread of colds and flu.
- Any child suspected of having the flu should not attend school. They may return when symptoms are improving and have had no fever for the last 24 hours, without taking any fever-reducing medication.
- If children have a cold, are coughing, or have runny noses, they are best off at home getting better, than coming to school. They not only feel miserable, but also spread their cold to others.

So please consider this information when your child(ren) tell you that they don't feel well, please check them out. Keep them home so that they not only get better, but they don't spread the flu or cold to other students and school staff. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.

Eagle River Elementary Students Love Power Hour!

By: Brenda Saltenberger, ERES Second Grade Teacher

The second graders in Mrs. Saltenberger's Power Hour are exploring the World! They started their journey by reading a funny book titled *Elat Stanley*. In the story Stanley is flattened by a bulletin board and is able to be mailed across the country to California.

The second graders then created their own flat people and sent them to family/friends here in the U.S., Australia, and Taiwan. The "host families" then took the students' flat people on adventures in their cities and kept a journal of their experiences. When the second graders received their flat people back, they wrote about their flat person's experiences and charted on maps where they had traveled. This eight week program integrated many subject areas, challenged the students to work in cooperative groups, and most of all provided lots of fun in learning!



Power Hour at Land O' Lakes Elementary School

By: Cathy Benecke and Stacy Tomaszewski, LOLES Teachers

When our students hear that "it's time for Power Hour," cheers go up around the classroom! During this daily 30-minute segment, the Kindergarten, First and Second Grade students work in two groups Enrichment and Interventions. In the Enrichment Group students have been able to explore learning in many different ways. With activities like weighing pumpkins on a giant balance scale, following recipes to make smelly play dough or baking cookies, learning to play songs on music keyboards by following simplified sheet music, authoring their own stories, and playing many educational games.



While the Enrichment group works on their centers throughout the week, other groups of students are receiving Interventions, or targeted instruction, to help them develop in areas of weakness. This group also cheers when Power Hour rolls around, because they too do some really fun educational activities. During the Intervention, the students play games or complete researched based activities that target the skill the student needs help in. The activities are providing the students with the games/activities which allow the students to have fun while they are learning. A special time is set aside each week to allow the Intervention Group to go check out the center activities of the Enrichment Group.

The students in grades 3 – 5 have also been breaking down into the same two groups. One of the differences is that Power Hour lasts for 45 minutes. These students do the same types of Interventions, however the Enrichment group is a little more project based due to the ability of the older students. Their first round project was an awesome Science Fair.

During the next round, these students will become Travel Agents and will be researching states and countries. The students will then develop travel



brochures and itineraries to highlight the information they have learned.

Our staff is thrilled to track the gains these students are making in Math and Language Arts! As we prepare for the next eight-week round of Power Hour, which will begin in late January, our staff has been busy developing more fun activities for our students that will hopefully have the same gains in student ability as well as grow their passion for learning!

Science Fair Bonanza at Land O' Lakes

By: Amber Maile, LOLES Fourth Grade Teacher

Land O' Lakes kicked off enrichment during Power Hour with a bang! Starting in the beginning of October, students in grades 3, 4 and 5 spent time reviewing the fabulous scientific method. They were then put into groups where they worked together to choose a topic and then formulated a question that they wanted to research. Once research was complete, they developed an experiment that would help them answer their question. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 had to perform their experiments multiple times to see if they got the same results.

That's where the fun really began! Students had to collect all of their materials and then perform their experiments. One of these experiments required that they ask their classmates to taste interesting foods (can you taste colors?), another group launched potatoes, one group created colored lightning and another built several models of a hot air balloon. The creativity didn't end there. A boat with a rubber band that really worked was another experiment and finally another group compared parakeets and fish as favorite pets and even brought them in for observation! While performing these experiments, students had to challenge themselves and problem solve until their experiment worked.

After collecting data for several weeks and writing a conclusion, grades 3-5 students began to prepare for their first ever Science Fair. Students made poster boards that outlined their entire scientific process, showed their data and conclusions. PowerPoint slideshows were created and were playing while the school and community came to view their work from the past 8 weeks. These presentations were wonderfully done. Great job Land O' Lakes students!



St. Germain Elementary Students Travel Around the World

By: Joyce Jeschke, Fifth Grade Teacher, & Nancy Nagel, Paraprofessional



The enrichment group for Power Hour at St. Germain Elementary School took their creativity around the world. Students in grades 3 through 5 researched U.S. states and countries around the world and took on the role of a travel agent. The students worked individually and in small groups to create a passport, itinerary, and brochure of their favorite destination. Classes focused on research, use of technology, time scheduling, and included celebrations with food and trivia games.

Power Hour is part of the initiative called Response to Intervention (RTI) that is designed to help meet the needs of our diverse population of students. Students are placed in enrichment or intervention groups based upon their need in reading and math.

The student projects are displayed in the St. Germain School cafeteria and we invite you to come see their wonderful projects and choose your next getaway.

YMCA Offers Spring Classes and Programs

YMCA Spring 1 Session Begins
Week of February 19

Classes Offered:

- Toddler and youth swim lessons
- Adult water aerobics, Best Western pool, Eagle River
- Total Body Senior
- Power Beats (3 classes – two for adults only, one to participate with child of any age)

Special Events:

- Ski Brule Trip Mon. Feb. 20 (no school). Bus leaves at 8 a.m. \$35
- Father-Daughter Dance, March 22, 6 p.m. at Eagle Waters Resort

Visit www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org
or call 715-479-9500 for
more information on these
classes and programs.

Community Supports the Arts at Land O' Lakes Elementary

By: Amanda Acklam, Elementary Art Teacher

Thank you to Dr. Pete Schindelholz for the generous donation to the art department at Land O' Lakes Elementary School! This year Dr. Schindelholz asked if our art students would like to participate in an art contest to design his Christmas cards. The winner, Taylor Hoffmann, was awarded an art supply gift bag, and the school was given \$300. Thank you Dr. Schindelholz, our students will be able to do amazing things because of your generosity!

Mark your calendars for the Third Annual Little Artist Exhibition! The show is being hosted by the Land O'Lakes Area Artists at the LOLA Arts Center in down town Land O' Lakes. This is a unique opportunity for our students to have their work framed and exhibited in an actual gallery space. The community is invited to the show's opening reception on Saturday, March 10 from 1 – 4 p.m. The show will run through Saturday, March 24. The gallery hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturdays. Hope to see you there!

The Olsen Memorial Library will also be hosting their annual Youth Art Month Show and Celebration. The theme of this year's show is "Dream Big, and Own the Night." Students from throughout the Northland Pines School district will have work selected for the exhibition. The show will run from March 5 until the closing reception on Thursday, April 12, 2012 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded, participants will be acknowledged, photos will be taken for the Vilas County News Review. Family, friends, teachers and other supporters are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.



The Memory Project

By: Beverly Niehaus, Middle School Art Teacher

Art students from Northland Pines will again participate in the worldwide service learning project called "The Memory Project". This project was started by former St. Germain resident Ben Schumacher in 2004, to create portraits for children in orphanages around the world. His goal is to create a special memory for these children who have few possessions and no photographs of their youth. Since its beginning, more than 30,000 portraits have been created and delivered to children in 33 countries around the world.

Our students will create art portraits for ten children in orphanages in Afghanistan. This will be a collaborative effort between middle school art teacher Bev Niehaus, with five of her students, and high school art teacher Joe Grittner, with three high school students. "Last year was our first year as part of this project, and it was an amazing experience. We received photographs of our recipients in Peru, holding their portraits, and the pure joy in their eyes is something I will never forget. The student who created the portraits, Caitlyn Hook, was truly touched by the entire process. I know our students will be just as excited this year" stated Mrs. Niehaus.

Ben shared with us that this is the first year his organization is able to work with the country of Afghanistan. "I am personally thrilled that we have an opportunity to make portraits for kids in Afghanistan's orphanages. Afghanistan is one of the most difficult places in the world to be a child or a teen, so it's a true privilege that we can contribute some color and joy to their lives. Needless to say, fostering good will between youth in our two countries is an important part of peace" stated Mr. Schumacher.

Mr. Schumacher continued by stating, "The woman who runs these orphanages, Andeisha Farid, is a remarkable individual. She herself is a refugee, and she founded the Afghan Child Education and Care Organization (AFCECO) to provide a home for kids who have experienced tragedy in many forms." Brian Williams did a short story about her for the NBC news, and I highly recommend watching it: <http://youtu.be/CSuOiRznHVE>. To learn more about The Memory Project, visit www.memoryproject.org.

Land O' Lakes Dental Hygiene Program

By: Joe Mendham, Fifth Grade Class Pres. & Donevin Doppke, Fifth Grade Class Secretary

Land O' Lakes Elementary School has begun its second year of a voluntary Dental Hygiene Program. This program will hopefully help prevent cavities for kids. Every day after lunch we brush our teeth. If we have something going on after lunch, we brush as soon as we can.

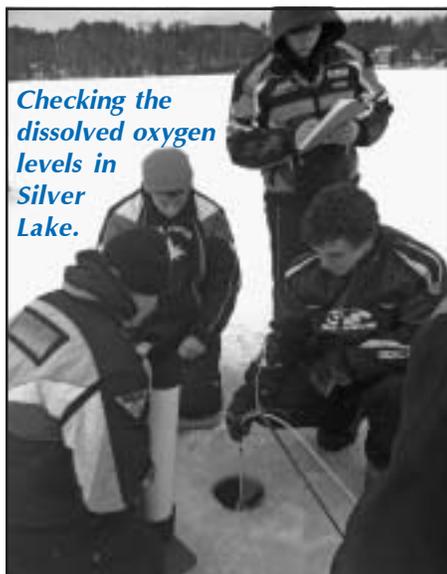
We get our own toothbrush, cup to spit in, and a dab of toothpaste on our cup. We brush our teeth with no water. It helps us because it keeps the fluoride on our teeth. The teachers are brushing their teeth with us. 99% of the students at Land O'Lakes Elementary are participating. As one student said, "I like it and it is fun." Another one added "if I forget to brush my teeth before school I know I will be brushing them after lunch. Also, my mom is glad she doesn't have to nag us to brush our teeth after lunch."

When we are done brushing, we feel cavity free and are happy with our clean mouth. We hope to remain cavity free into our adult lives.

Pines WNRE Class Collaborates with Trees For Tomorrow

By: Robin Indermuehle, NPHS Science Teacher

Northland Pines is fortunate to have a great resource just down the road. Trees For Tomorrow (TFT) has been a great asset to the Wisconsin Natural Resource Exploration (WNRE) class. WNRE focuses on careers in natural resources, and teaming up with TFT only makes sense, since teaching about natural resources is their business. WNRE has been on three field trips with the experts from TFT.



Checking the dissolved oxygen levels in Silver Lake.

Pines students were able to experience what a wildlife biologist might do by using radio telemetry equipment in the field. A “wolf” was collared and hidden in the forest by TFT staff and our students broke into three groups to track this “wolf” using the telemetry equipment (a receiver and antenna). Skills employed in tracking

included determining where the signal from the collar was the strongest, ascertaining the direction the signal was coming from using a compass, and then plotting the information on a map. They went to another location, repeated the process, then triangulated the position of the collared “wolf”. Using their compasses they walked in and found the “wolf”. TFT staff wrapped up the session by discussing the positive and negative aspects of collaring wild animals and what information can be gained from a collared animal.

Winter lake ecology was the second trip for WNRE. TFT started with an indoor portion to introduce the students to properties of water, why water is important to this area and to introduce the equipment that would be used. Students and TFT staff then went out to Silver Lake to see what they could find. The students were able to measure the depth of the ice, take a plankton sample, use an underwater camera to look for fish and weeds, find the oxygen level of the lake by using a dissolved oxygen meter, and take the temperature of the water. This data was recorded and an assessment of the quality of Silver Lake was made.

The final field trip for the WNRE class went to Sylvania Wilderness in Watersmeet, Michigan. Students learned about

managing forest for Wilderness and why congress and others deem wilderness important. They also looked at tracks and the story told in the snow just as a wildlife biologist might. Students learned to identify trees in winter, skills a forester needs, and finally they looked at how and why the US Forest Service manages property for recreation. Many students experienced snowshoeing for the first time. One group saw a live porcupine in its den tree! The peace and tranquility of the wilderness was a nice change of pace for many in the class including the instructor!

Trees For Tomorrow was able to provide partial funding for the class through the Eagle River Dairy Queen which sponsors local schools at TFT. A huge thank you from the WNRE class goes out to Dairy Queen for making these field trips possible. Thanks also to Trees For Tomorrow whose instructors are so willing to share their wealth of knowledge and have a great rapport with students.



Snowshoeing in the Sylvania Wilderness.

NPSD Receives Public Relations Awards

The Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) awarded the Northland Pines School District (NPSD) with two Spectrum Awards at their annual conference in November, 2011. **The school district's website was awarded with the highest Award of Excellence and WSPRA also awarded the Voice of the Pines District Newsletter with an Award of Excellence.**

Entries were judged by a panel of public relations and graphic design professionals that used a 40 point scale for judging. An Award of Excellence was given to the entries with combined scores of 36-40 points.

“It was a rewarding experience to receive feedback from other professionals in the public relations, web development, and graphic design field,” stated Karen Margelofsky, NPSD Public Relations Coordinator and Webmaster. “It is extremely important that we keep the public informed of what is happening with our public schools and I am excited to learn about and develop new ways to increase that communication,” she added.

Visit the Northland Pines School District website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us for all school information.

Special Skaters Take the Ice at Pines Hockey Game



On Thursday, January 12, between the first and second periods of the boys' high school hockey game against Rhinelander, some special skaters took to the ice to demonstrate new skills!

Through Project UNIFY, students at Northland Pines High School have the opportunity to participate in Unified Sports, inclusive sport opportunities (teams consisting of Special Olympic athletes and peer partners) that provide training and friendly competition. Project UNIFY is a unique Special Olympics Wisconsin sponsored, school based program that teams students with and without cognitive disabilities, through training and sports competition, social and recreational opportunities. The club provides opportunities to build student character, increase acceptance of disabilities, and develop leadership and other skills in an inclusive setting. In addition, service-learning can be an integral component of Project UNIFY.

Northland Pines High School Project UNIFY would like to offer a sincere thank you to 'Mac' McDonald and the ERRR Board for their generous donation of ice time. We would also like to thank Coach DePuydt and Mr. Rhode for collecting the necessary equipment to make this a success!



Elementary Principals Foster and Spets will Take the Polar Plunge February 24 to Benefit Special Olympics



While many locals bundle up in cozy scarves and woolly mittens before stepping outside to take on the blustery winter air, hundreds of others across the state are leaping into frigid waters as part of the 2012 Special Olympics Polar Plunge!

The Northland Pines School District Community is again invited to celebrate the Polar Plunge in a special way, for a special cause. Staff, students, community

members and community partners can contribute pledges to Mr. Scott Foster and/or Mr. Matt Spets, Elementary School Principals for the Northland Pines School District. They will be participating in the annual Toss the Boss Event and will be taking the plunge on Friday, February 24, 2012 at Sunny Vale Man Made Lake in Wausau.

Last year, Northland Pines Superintendent Dr. Mike Richie raised nearly \$2800 in the Toss the Boss event. The Northland Pines School District continues its supportive role in our local agency through the participation in the Toss the Boss Polar Plunge. Statewide, money raised through the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Wisconsin continues to support sports for 10,000 athletes in Wisconsin!

While Foster and Spets are raising money as a team, they are also monitoring their funds separately and participating in a friendly competition with each other and within their respective schools.

In addition, Northland Pines High School: Project UNIFY will also be participating in this crazy event to support Special Olympics called the Plunge-a-Palooza. Middle and High School students across the state collect funds toward their team's pledges. NPHS: Project UNIFY Team includes captain, Kylie Rhode, Terrance Satran and Zach Tucker.

To make an online donation to Northland Pines -Toss the Boss or Northland Pines High School: Project UNIFY visit www.northernaccess.org. Cash donations for Foster or Spets can be sent to their respective elementary schools and cash donations for Project UNIFY can be sent to Rhode at 2803 Pickeral Point Lane, Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521.

All checks must be made payable to Special Olympics Wisconsin. 25% of the total amount raised by all team members will directly support our local agency, Northern Access Special Olympics.

Pictured are Toss the Boss Polar Plunge participants (back L to R) Matt Spets and Scott Foster, with Special Olympic athletes (front L to R) Nikki Deditz and Amanda Farrow.



Cat's Pajamas Vocal Band Performing February 22

The Cat's Pajamas, a national touring all-male vocal group, will hold a performance at Northland Pines High School on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the NPHS Auditorium. This performance is part of their multi-state "Music in Schools" Tour, helping support local music programs.

Considered the fastest rising vocal band on the planet, The Cat's Pajamas pride themselves on their singing talents and their ability to engage each audience member during their dynamic, interactive performances. Their blend of classic songs with a modern a cappella twist showcases their unique style which commands every audience's attention. The group is based out of Branson, Missouri and performs 200 shows per year. They have been a Top 15 finisher on NBC's "The Sing-Off", Top 30 finisher on "Next Great American Band", and have also been seen on "America's Got Talent" and "Oprah." Two of the five members were born and raised in Wisconsin.

Their stay at Northland Pines will include clinics with the choirs and an all-school performance, along with the evening show. "We are very lucky to have The Cat's Pajamas visit our school", says Kate Janssen, NPHS Choir Director. "Our students are excited for their high-energy performance, fantastic a cappella harmonies, and excellent vocal percussionist. The evening performance is a great way for the community to see this nationally recognized a cappella group while supporting the music department at Northland Pines."

The Cat's Pajamas have organized a high school tour each year since 2007. Through the Music in Schools Tour, the group performs choral clinics and work with high school music students to emphasize the importance of staying involved with choir and band. Partial proceeds from each show get donated back to the music department at the school they are working with. Over the years, the Cat's Pajamas have raised over \$35,000 for high school

music programs in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts. For more information on the group, visit their website at www.vocalmeow.com.

Tickets for the February 22 show will be available in the NPHS Office beginning February 13. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$5 for NPSD students. For more information, contact Kate Janssen at (715) 479-4473 x 0801 or kjanssen@npsd.k12.wi.us.

COMING SOON!



7:30PM WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22
NORTHLAND PINES HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

**AS SEEN ON OPRAH
 AND THE SING-OFF!**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT 715-479-4473

"YOU GUYS ARE AMAZING!" - RANDY JACKSON
PARTIAL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL MUSIC PROGRAM

Eagle River Students Enjoy Guest Musician

By: Jim Skubal, ERES Fifth Grade Teacher

Eagle River fifth graders had a guest musician play for them on December 15, at Eagle River Elementary School. Mr. Greg Everett, grandfather of Langdon and Bryce Langhoff, played guitar and sang popular old songs and several of his own compositions.

Mr. Everett began playing French horn in middle school and picked up the guitar at age 15. He worked as a musician in California for many years and played with many bands and performed as a solo act. His favorite style of music is light jazz, he also likes to perform country and blues. He is currently writing and recording original music, including commercial jingles. Mr. Everett resides in the Eagle River area. Thank you for sharing your talents with our students!



NPHS Band to Perform at Disney's Epcot, April 4

By: Brandon Bautz, Northland Pines Director of Bands



For the first time, the Northland Pines Band will be taking a trip to Orlando, Florida. The group trip is Saturday, March 31, through Friday, April 6 during spring break. In June, 2011, the band was accepted by Disney based on a DVD audition of the Spring, 2011 Band Concert. They will perform on Wednesday, April 4 in the Melody Gardens stage at Epcot. Selections may include The Trombone King, 1812 Overture, El Capitan, Fantasia 2000, and Morceau Symphonique featuring senior Trombonist, Dakota Wagner. This performance will be broadcasted live over the internet!

The students have been hard at work to raise funds since 2008 with the annual fruit sale in the winter and Joe Corbi sale in the spring. The band students keep the profits in their own band account which is cumulative since 2008.

The band will visit a variety of theme parks including Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, and Universal Studios. The first stop will be Cocoa Beach to enjoy the afternoon by the ocean and relax after a twenty-eight hour bus ride. The band will participate in a professional recording workshop with a highly qualified

Disney clinician on how to improve the bands' overall sound. This workshop will touch on many MENC Music Education Standards that will benefit the students. The students will also get to see *Blue Man Group* and enjoy two group dinners at *Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.* and *Buca di Beppo*.

The Northland Pines Band will be performing a send-off concert at the NPHS Auditorium on Friday, March 30 at 2:30 pm. All parents and community members are welcome to attend.

This concert will be broadcasted live over the internet as a test before the performance at Epcot. If you would like to watch the send-off concert at Northland Pines and the performance in Orlando at Epcot, go to <http://ustre.am/GE4B>. For the performance time on Wednesday, April 4 at Epcot, please visit the Northland Pines webpage or Facebook account for the update. The NPHS Band performance time will not be disclosed by Disney until the beginning of March. It is advised that you log on ten minutes before the performance time. If you have any questions regarding the trip, contact Director of Bands, Brandon Bautz at bbautz@npsd.k12.wi.us or call at 715-479-4473 x0802.

Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club Funds "Lumber From the Land"

By: Todd Wilfer, NPMS Eighth Grade Science Teacher

Earlier this school year a team of eighth grade teachers applied for a grant that was offered by the Land O' Lakes Fish and Game Club. The teachers were recently awarded funding for this project. The project is entitled "Lumber From the Land" and is a collaborative interdisciplinary project that joins technology education, history and science classes. This project

centers around educating students on the processes involved with lumber production and forest management. The school forest will be assessed and trees will be marked. Guidance Counselor Mr. Rismon will then fell the trees and cut them into workable lengths. A mill will be on-site and horses will be skidding logs to the mill. The logs will then be milled into workable material to allow for a variety of products to be built by the students in the future.

In Mr. Beyer's history classes, students will be learning about the history of logging and the impact logging has had on the Great Lakes Region. In Mr. Wilfer's science classes, students will learn about the eco-

logical impact that past logging practices have had on local ecosystems. They will also learn about past and current forest management practices and techniques. Students will learn primary manufacturing processes by witnessing the logging and milling of trees in Mr. Govek's technology education classes. These students will then actively participate in the secondary manufacturing process by creating wood projects from that lumber. Any additional materials that are not turned into lumber will be used as a medium in Mrs. Neihaus's art classes.

Stay tuned as this project unfolds throughout the remaining school year. There will be a follow-up article in the spring issue of *Voice Of The Pines*.

Pictured to the left is WDNR For-ester Jill Nemeč showing students how to use an increment borer to determine tree age and assess growth rate.



ERES Second Grade Class Welcomes Winter!

By: Jessica Jung and Emily Brown, ERES Second Grade Teachers

Eagle River Elementary second grade students in Mrs. Jung's and Mrs. Brown's classroom spent the last week of school in December welcoming the winter season. The students learned how bears get ready for winter hibernation by doing a variety of activities. One activity was to forage for food as a bear would before entering the den for a long winter nap. Hidden in the classroom was a bag of nuts and berries with the students' names. They had to act as a bear and "forage" around the classroom for the bag with their name on it. Once they found the bag, they sorted the nuts and berries, counted them and compared the amounts with the other students at their table. A large class graph was made to show how many nuts and berries each table had when they added their individual totals together.

The week was ended with a special hibernation party in which students wore their pajamas to school to get ready for a long winter break and spent time with their reading buddies from Mrs. Daniel's class.



Rotary Student Shares Experience Abroad in Thailand

By: Melissa Vepel, Northland Pines Rotary Outbound Student



My year as a Rotary Youth Exchange Student in Thailand has been amazing. It all started as a big rush of culture shock. There was new food, a strange language, different cultural beliefs... essentially, a whole new world. I had been "prepared" by Rotary but nothing was able to prepare me for this life altering experience.

Just a few of the amazing things I have done are visit multiple temples, peruse markets, float down a river on a bamboo raft, ride elephants, see tons of museums and national monuments, go to zoos, see waterfalls, and explore the mountains in the north. Also, though not as extraordinary sounding but just as wonderful, I have learned to navigate a colossal city on my own, lived in a tropical climate, I attend a school in a language I barely understand, made many new friends, found that I can indeed have more than one family, and I have discovered so much about myself.

This year abroad has done so much for me. I know more about the world and the people that inhabit it than I

had ever thought I would learn. I know this exchange is important to me, but I also have discovered that it is important to everyone. It is exciting to wake up every day and think that I am an ambassador working towards a better future. The friendships and discoveries that I make now are ones that will do more than just make me happy, they will make it easier for everyone to find a way to be happy. Being here has made me see my place among the bigger picture. It's nice to be a part of something as global as exchange. I can't believe I am already half way through my year. This has been the time of my life.

Pictured to the left is Rotary Exchange Outbound Student, Melissa Vepel wearing a traditional Thai dress on her school's Sports Day, similar to American Homecoming.

Fieldhouse Track Open for Public Use

The public is welcome to utilize the indoor track for walking and running from 5:30 - 8:15 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m. daily, and from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on evenings when there are not events in the fieldhouse. Please log on to www.npsd.k12.wi.us for evening availability for using the indoor track.

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.

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

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

February - June 2012

Monday, February 20	NO SCHOOL
Wednesday, February 22	Cat's Pajamas Vocal Band, HS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 23	HS Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4 - 6:30 p.m.
Monday, February 27	Stoughton Norwegian Dancers, 8:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Monday, February 27	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 10	GNC Solo/Ensemble, HS Auditorium, Commons, Fieldhouse, 8 a.m.
Tuesday, March 20	Coffee Klatch, Dr. Richie, 8:30 a.m. Eagle River Roasters
Wednesday, March 21	8 th Grade Play, HS Auditorium, 9:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 22	8 th Grade Play, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 23	Eagle River Elem. Spring Fling Concert, HS Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.
Friday, March 23	End of 3 rd Quarter
Saturday, March 24	8 th Grade Play, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Monday, March 26	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 29	HCPA "Riders in the Sky", HS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Mon. April 2 - Mon. April 9	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Tuesday, April 10	School Resumes
Saturday, April 14	High School Prom - HS Commons 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 19	GNC Large Group Festival, HS Auditorium, 9 a.m.
Saturday, April 21	Danceworks Unlimited Recital, HS Auditorium, 1:30 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Monday, April 30	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 p.m.
Monday, May 7	Scholarship & Awards Night, HS Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 10	MS Spring Concert, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Monday, May 14	HS Band & Choir Awards Concert, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Thursday, May 17	MS Band Commission Concert, HS Auditorium, 7 p.m.
Friday, May 18	Land O' Lakes Elementary Spring Fling Concert, LOL gym, 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 19	HCPA "A Tribute to John Denver", HS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 21	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, May 22	Coffee Klatch, Dr. Richie, 8:30 a.m., Eagle River Roasters
Thursday, May 24	St. Germain Elementary Spring Fling Concert, STG gym, 1:30 p.m.
Monday, May 28	NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day
Wednesday, May 30	HS Cabaret Concert, HS Commons, 6 p.m.
Friday, June 1	Alumni Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony, HS Auditorium, 6 p.m.
Sunday, June 3	Class of 2012 Graduation, HS Fieldhouse, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, June 6	End of 4 th Quarter
Wednesday, June 6	Last Day for Students
Thursday, June 7	Last Day for Teachers
Monday, June 25	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 p.m.

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