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**Northland Pines School District**

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**ADMINISTRATION**

Dr. Mike Richie, District Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2017

**Master Gardeners Donate \$750 to Northland Pines Programs**

The Vilas County Master Gardeners donated \$750.00 from their Garden Walk this summer to the Hive Alive! Sweet Science Program, the Northland Pines Farm to School Program, and Northland Pines Community Garden; three local organizations that support pollinators, nutrition, and gardening. The presentation took place on October 3, 2017 during the 'Honey Extraction Process' for the Hive Alive! Sweet Science Program at Northland Pines Middle and High School which was open to the community. This program furthers the education of the importance of bees to our food and plant pollination. Students uncapped the frames of honey, placed them in the extractor, spun the honey, drained it into a screened honey bin, and then bottled it. Community members who attended were able to taste the honey and also received a small jar of honey. For more information on the Hive Alive! Sweet Science Program at Northland Pines Middle School, please contact Todd Wilfer at (715) 479-4473 ext. 2106.

The Northland Pines Farm to School Program serves students at all Northland Pines Elementary Schools including Land O' Lakes Elementary School, Eagle River Elementary School and St. Germain Elementary School. The Farm to School Program also serves the Northland Pines Montessori Learning Center and the Northland Pines SOAR Charter Schools. All schools have a garden on site, to grow, taste, and learn about how food grows in Wisconsin. There are also Teaching Plots at the Northland Pines Community Garden, used by Northland Pines students and 4H jointly. For more information, or to volunteer to help with the School Gardens, please contact Jasmyn Schmidt at (715) 617-7903.

The Northland Pines Community Garden is located on the north side of Northland Pines Middle and High School grounds in Eagle River. Ground breaking began in fall of 2010 as a joint effort between Northland Pines, UW-Extension, Vilas County Health Dept., Seed to Seed Edible Garden Project, and the Vilas County Master Gardeners. Our mission was to provide opportunities to the Northland Pines School District students and surrounding community in sustainable organic gardening which promotes holistic health and supports local needs. The garden is a 50 by 100 square foot fenced garden with water and 22 rental plots for individuals, a teaching plot used for Farm to School Program and 4H Club, and a hoop house used for donations to the Vilas Food Pantry. Any one interested in renting a plot or volunteering to help with the Teaching Plot or Food Pantry produce, contact Mary Ann Lambrecht at (715) 479-1652.

**Photo Caption:**

Jacob Aiello, eighth-grade student; Hailey Kubsch, eighth-grade student; Todd Wilfer, Hive Alive! Sweet Science Program Director and Science Teacher at Northland Pines Middle School; Nancy Schuller, Vilas County Master Gardener Treasurer; Mary Ann Lambrecht, Vilas County Master Gardener President; Karen Hahn, Northland Pines Community Garden Board; Jasmyn Schmidt, Nutrition Educator for the Northland Pines Farm to School Program