

Voice of the Pines

Winter Edition 2010 - 2011

Newsletter for Residents of the Northland Pines School District

A Message from the Board President



Tim Gaffney
School Board
President

As many of you may already be aware, I have decided not to run for my seat on the school board this April. This being my last article, I would like to take this opportunity to take an overall look at our District.

First, I would like to mention that it has been an honor, a privilege and a great experience to have served on your school board. I have had the opportunity to work with many wonderful, dedicated,

hardworking board members and appreciate the great job they have done for your district.

Also, I have gained an appreciation, admiration and respect for those who run our School District. When you are involved and aware of the challenges there are to operating such a large business as a school district, you can't help but appreciate the job Dr. Richie, the building principals, other administrators and district office staff does. All across this district, each building's office staff, the maintenance staff, food service staff, teaching and support staff also do a wonderful job. We are blessed with hard working, dedicated employees who really care about the education of our children! Are there challenges? Are there some bumps in the road? Can it all be frustrating, yet rewarding? Yes, yes and yes! When the dust all settles, our children are getting an excellent education and the taxpayers are getting the best value for their tax dollars, which are being wisely managed.

(continued on page 2)

Administrative Changes Made to Better Serve Schools and Students



Dr. Mike Richie
District Administrator

As we are just over midway through the 2010-11 school year, we are gearing up for the 2011-12 school year. We are beginning the budget process, looking at school calendar recommendations, and discussing all staffing needs. Staffing and specific positions are always something that the Personnel Committee, School Board and administration have lengthy discussions about as we consider the needs of the district.

Over the past two months, we have spent many hours discussing Duane Frey's retirement, his replacement and the principal structure for the three elementary schools. Duane is the current elementary principal for Eagle River, Land O' Lakes and St. Germain Elementary Schools. Duane Frey will retire on June 30, 2011 after serving the Northland Pines School District for 15 years. We have tried numerous administrative options/structures over the

(continued on page 3)



Thank you to the members of the Eagle River Fire Department that constructed a milk jug ice castle with Eagle River Elementary School kindergarten students. Article and more photos on page 9.

Gaffney (continued from page 1)

Our District is in great shape! All four of our buildings are modern (the oldest being only 15 years) high tech and very energy efficient. We can all be proud of the way the students and staff are taking care of the buildings. This makes a very positive environment for learning and working. Hats off to Fritz Crall and Dave Bohnen for the job they and their staff are doing. Some good news is that in 2012 the Eagle River K-8 building will be paid off and the St. Germain and Land O' Lakes buildings will be paid off in 2014; that debt will come off the tax levy! Open enrollment has turned around; this could be the first year since 1998 that we have more students come in than go out of the district! Test scores continue to be above the state average. Our curriculum is varied and yet challenging to offer students opportunities to be well prepared for college or the work force.

There are several challenges that we face as a district. The one that is common to all northern school districts is the school funding formula. Property rich districts like Pines do not benefit at all from the present formula. Last year we received less than 2% state aid on a budget of over \$20,000,000. Other districts, especially the southern districts, receive about 66% (the infamous 2/3rds) funding. The funding formula is a double-edged sword; our state aid may be low but our mill rate is also

low. Those areas that have high state aid usually have almost double the mill rate we do! It is going to be tough to get the formula changed because the biggest shift of negative dollars would be to districts that have the voting power.

The good news is that the new legislature and new State Superintendent Tony Evers are taking a look at the formula; they recognize the disparity and are going to propose changes that would help districts like ours. Stay tuned!

Another challenge that we face as a district is the sheer size of it, over 480 square miles. Transportation costs are \$1.2 million just to get the students to school! Also because of the large geographic size, three elementary schools are warranted to best serve the students and parents. This means we must provide administration, teachers, kitchens, offices and maintain three buildings instead of one that a district of our student enrollment would normally have.

Declining enrollment is another challenge that faces many districts. This declining enrollment is not a reflection on the quality of the district; it is just an unfortunate demographic fact.

One of the biggest challenges we face is that we are locked into having an exceeding the revenue cap referendum every three years. Once the cycle started, basically due to the revenue caps, it is difficult, if not impos-

sible to get out of. Even with the best managed budget, the cost of providing a quality education keeps increasing with ever tighter restraints and more demands from the state and feds with little financial help. A referendum requires a huge amount of time for preparation, implementation and getting the information out to the public. Unfortunately, this is valuable time that is taken away from our administrator and staff that could be much better spent running the district and educating our kids! There are other challenges that the district has that we all face; increasing utilities, food, insurance and transportation costs.

Despite these challenges the future is bright for Northland Pines! Our children continue to receive an excellent education. We have outstanding, dedicated, hard working, staff at all levels of our District's employees. They have a "committed to the kids" attitude! Our campus' advanced technologies, modern and attractive buildings continually wow visitors. This and the reputation of a quality education continually attract new students. Our buildings are truly a community asset, public buildings open to and used by many organizations and groups. There is a very positive attitude throughout the district. Yes, the future looks very bright for Northland Pines, we are blessed! As always, thank you for your support!

VOTE April 5, 2011 School Board Election

Please remember to vote for your school board members! There are two seats up for election in April for the Northland Pines School District.

Area A (City of Eagle River, Town of Cloverland, Town of Lincoln, Town of Washington): Incumbent not running, Challengers in ballot order:

1. Mark Vander Bloomen
2. Todd Achterberg

Area B (Town of Conover): Incumbent Mike Jovanovic. There are no challengers for this school board seat.

Note: Every registered voter should vote for one person for every seat. The "areas" refer to where the candidates must reside in order to run for the particular seat.

Project Lead the Way Made Possible Through \$25,000 Grant

By: Rob Govek, NPMS Technology Education Teacher

Technology Education at Northland Pines Middle School has made some upgrades thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Kern Family Foundation. The middle school is currently in its first year of implementing the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway to Technology Program. The Gateway to Technology Program blends Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Through an engaging, hands-on curriculum, PLTW encourages the development of problem-solving skills, critical

thinking, creative and innovative reasoning and a love for learning.

The hands-on project-based program is divided into six independent units. The seventh grade curriculum focuses on defining Technology, Science, Engineering, Innovation, and Design and Modeling. Students will study topics such as measurement, board drafting and 3D computer modeling. The eighth grade curriculum covers Robotics, Mechanical Systems and Automated Systems. Students will design mechanical devices to solve real life problems with the use of Fischertechnik Kits. Fischertechnik Kits are an advanced set of Legos that come with motors, lights, switches, photocells and gears that students can wire up and put into motion. Students envision, design and test their ideas with the same advanced



modeling software used by companies like Lockheed Martin, Intel and Sprint.

The new curriculum at the middle school will help students to take Project Lead the Way courses at the high school where the PLTW Program was introduced in 2006. Students who take one of the four high school classes can earn three college credits from MSOE. This new engineering based program will provide a great opportunity to challenge and prepare students for future leadership roles.

2011-12 Changes *(continued from page 1)*

past 8 years with certain draw backs with every plan that was implemented. I met with all three elementary staffs last month to seek their input regarding the current administrative structure and what it should look like in the future. The message was loud and clear with 65 documented comments and a common theme that one person can not effectively run three buildings. We are doing a disservice to our staff, students and parents. There have also been numerous parent concerns about only having one principal for three buildings.

The Personnel Committee recommended the following administrative plan to the Board on January 31, 2011 and it was approved by a 5 to 0 vote and will take effect on July 1, 2011. Scott Foster has been with the district for ten years and has served as a Tech Ed Teacher, Director of Instruction, and as High School Principal/Technology Director; Scott will be transferred from the High School Principal/Technology Director position to Elementary Principal at St. Germain and Land O' Lakes and he will continue to serve as the district Technology Director. We have posted an opening for an Elementary Principal for Eagle River Elementary and an opening for a High School Principal. We have had numerous lengthy discussions about this new plan and the biggest concern we all have is money and cost; however, we all agreed that to continue to move this AWESOME district forward this needed to be done.

The Board also directed me to take a close look at the 2011-12 budget and make reductions to offset the cost of the new principal position. To begin that process (which will be ongoing until we set the final budget in September), all administrators' salaries will be frozen at their current rate for the 2011-12 school year. In late spring, I will be seeking staff and community input for our 2011-12 budget and future budget concerns. I will host three budget meetings (in Land O' Lakes, Eagle River and St. Germain) where community members will be able to voice concerns and give suggestions.

We are looking forward to working with staff, students, parents and community members as we continue to review the needs of the district and strive to make optimum use of our budget and resources. As always, we appreciate the support of all the communities which comprise the Northland Pines School District.

Community Budget Meetings

Tues. May 17, Land O' Lakes Elem. Library 6 p.m.

Tues. May 24, High School LGI 6 p.m.

Thurs. May 26, St. Germain Elem. Library 6 p.m.

Alternative School Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

Dr. Maggie Peterson, Director of Pupil Services/Instruction



The mission statement of the Northland Pines School District states, *“Northland Pines School District is dedicated to empowering all individuals to reach their potential.”*

In order to ensure that this sentiment is carried out, the District has made a commitment to the practice of Differentiated Instruction (DI). DI is the educational practice of recognizing that all students are in different stages of educational readiness. Looking at a cross section of any classroom in the district would reveal a wide variety of instructional levels, experiences, strengths and interests. DI is a move away from a one size fits all teaching method to a more individualized method that is focused on each student making educational progress.

Teachers do this by adjusting the complexity of an assignment, creating different tasks for different learners within a unit and using flexible grouping. They might also gather data on learning styles, preferences and special interests of the students in their classes, using that information to inform instruction. Many teachers utilize independent learning contracts and project-based assessments at the end of instructional units to give flexibility to their curriculum. In these options students in a class all work on the same topic, working toward the same standards, but they work at an individualized pace, level and outcome expectation. This type of individualized learning can often be the difference in the success rate and the level of academic achievement reached for students. These learning options maximize student learning at all levels – elementary, middle school and high school, creating

greater levels of academic success for all students.

One clear example of making differentiated instruction work at a high level is seen in our at-risk and alternative education programs. Northland Pines offers a wide menu of research-based alternative education options that are very successful in helping students learn, but the program with the greatest longevity is the Phoenix Center Alternative School. In the fall of 2001, the New Beginnings Alternative School (renamed in 2002 to the Phoenix Center) opened its doors at a downtown location for the first time as part of the Northland Pines High School. This site was dedicated to working to help support and educate students who were at risk of not graduating from high school via a traditional path. This year the program marks the ten year anniversary of that highly successful program, a program that has evolved over time to offer many different methods for credit recovery. The success of this program has helped over 130 students graduate over 10 years, an average of 8-10% of our graduates. It is the continued commitment of the educational staff in all of our at risk offerings that is an example of the positive impact on student achievement that happens when our instruction is designed with our students in mind.

In reflecting on the 10 years of successful programming at the Phoenix Center, Beth Lewis, DPI Consultant for Alternative Education, stated, “Nothing is more important than an educated community, it impacts every step that we take from raising children to voting in the next election. In developing alternative education programs, Northland Pines School District assures that all students enrolled will have an educational program that helps them be caring and contributing citizens.”

Congratulations, Phoenix Center for 10 years of success!

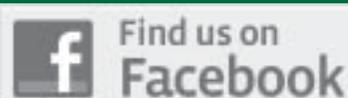
Northland Pines Explores Adding Charter School Options

The Northland Pines School District will be establishing a study committee to explore the option of implementing a Charter School within the school district. A Charter School is a tuition free public school created on the basis of a contract or **“charter”** between the school and a local school board or the authorizer. A charter school has more freedom than a traditional public school in return for a commitment to meet higher standards of accountability.

You are invited as a tax payer, community member, parent, or interested individual to attend an informational meeting to learn more about this unique learning opportunity on **Monday, April 18, 2011 at 6 p.m. at Northland Pines High School in the Large Group Instruction Room.** Barry Golden, from the Department of Public Instruction, will present on charter schools and answer any questions.

If you are interested in serving on our Charter School study committee please contact: Dr. Mike Richie, District Administrator at 715.479.6487 opt. 1, ext. 1 or email at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us.

Northland Pines School District is now on Facebook. Our district has many exciting activities and events happening on a daily basis and the best way to keep the public informed of these events is through social media. In an effort to promote our district and its many events we have created a Facebook page which can 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.

Legislation Reforms Affect Northland Pines

Margo Smith, District Business Manager



As taxpayers and consumers, many of us have already felt the effect of the 2010 Tax Relief Act. Many of us have also taken a closer look at health care options due to the Health Care Reform Act. Whatever a person's political or personal viewpoint on legislation enacted these past few months, one thing is for sure. Payroll and benefit admin-

istrators, small and large business owners, tax preparers, business consultants, and numerous others have been scrambling to educate themselves as to the impact these changes have on company costs, payroll and benefit administration, compliance factors, and other issues. On a personal level, most of us are concerned with the effect on our paycheck, tax bill, and health care needs.

The business office at the Northland Pines School District is no exception. With legislation enacted as late as December 17, 2010 (Tax Relief Act), the Business Office has been scrambling to ensure that payroll software, W-2's, 2011 tax rates, and benefits administration is in compliance and up to speed. We are busy re-educating ourselves in these areas so as to provide our employees with accurate data in all areas. Business office staff will make use of upcoming trainings to the extent possible to ensure we have a clear understanding of areas that affect our employees. When budget compilation time rolls around, new legislation in the health care area will most certainly affect cost estimates. Knowing that "it isn't over until signed on the dotted line," we will proceed with caution. As of this writing, House Republicans have passed a bill to re-

peal Obama's health care plan. If something of that nature should occur, it is necessary to evaluate any potential impact from a budget perspective.

Another important piece of legislation affecting the Northland Pines Business Office and Food Service Department is the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act signed into law on December 13, 2010. This legislation has numerous provisions which will affect the school lunch program. Some of the provisions in this lengthy legislation include:

- National nutrition standards for all food sold during the school day;
- Nutrition standards consistent with U.S Dietary Guidelines based on the Institute of Medicine's report "*School Meals: Building Blocks for Healthy Children*;"
- Required reviews of local policies on meal charges;
- "Paid" lunch charges that match the "free" reimbursement rate;
- Break-even requirement on meal foods sold that are not reimbursed by USDA;
- Funding amounts for farm-to-school programs, higher reimbursement for meals meeting new regulations, funding for organic food pilot programs;
- Program on-site reviews every three years;
- Increased school reporting on the nutrition environment to the USDA and the public, including information on food safety, wellness policies, nutritional quality, program participation, and other areas.

The Northland Pines Business Office will continue to work closely with our state and local agencies responsible for producing guidance on the many legislative changes in effect or taking effect in the near future.

Northland Pines School District Employee of the Month

The Northland Pines School Board gives a recognition award to the Employee of the Month and it is presented each month (September through June) at the regular board meeting. 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 Tim Gaffney, Board President at tgaffney@npsd.k12.wi.us or to Mike Richie, District Administrator at mrichie@npsd.k12.wi.us

Recipients of the Employee of the Month award for the 2010-2011 school year are as follows:

- **September, 2010 – Dave Strong, High School English teacher**
- **October, 2010 – Theresa Berkelman, High School Custodian**
- **November, 2010 – Jackie Coghlan, Middle School Principal**
- **December, 2010 – Sherry Renk, Land O' Lakes Paraprofessional**
- **January, 2011 – Julie Lorch, 4K-8 Building Paraprofessional**

The School Board and Administration implemented this award to publicly acknowledge and recognize exemplary work ethics among Northland Pines employees.



Duane Frey
Elementary School
Principal

What Teachers Do for Your Children

Have you ever heard the terms “standards-based instruction” or “differentiated instruction”? Standards-based instruction is where all students, regardless of abilities, background, and interests, are expected to learn a common set of standards. At Northland Pines our curriculum is derived from the Wisconsin State Standards. One way in which many teachers attempt to teach the standards and also meet the needs of students is through differentiated instruction.

Curriculum (standards) tells us what to teach. Differentiation tells us how.

Within our standards-based curriculum, differentiation simply suggests ways in which we can make that curriculum work best for varied learners. This is not simply assigning some students more or less work. Differentiated instruction requires planning for and managing a range of activities, with instruction provided through a combination of whole-class, small group, and single student approaches. Students may be given the opportunity to demonstrate learning in a variety of ways.

Certainly teachers may feel overwhelmed as they begin or increase efforts to differentiate instruction. It is not an easy task. Usually, teachers begin this process by first building on their own strengths and talents. What we try to do is give teachers the opportunity to meet with their peers at grade levels or building levels, share their strategies with other teachers, and discuss which learners responded to which types of strategies best, or which were more difficult to manage.

Differentiated instruction is an on-going process, and by intentionally planning for and using a variety of instructional strategies and models, teachers can increase students’ opportunity for success. They are working hard for your children.

March is Middle Level Education Month

Early adolescence...the in-between years...the wonder years...the middle school years. Young adolescents seem almost grown up one minute then behave like children the next. Youth between the ages of ten and fifteen especially benefit from educational experiences that match their varied rates and levels of development. Middle schools were created to help this diverse, active group of young people learn and move successfully through this important stage of life.

Information from the National Middle School Association indicates that the middle school provides students with many opportunities to develop academic skills, acquire fundamental knowledge, determine their interests and special talents and experience a sense of belonging. Often, subjects or courses are linked to integrate learning experiences, thus reflecting life in the actual world. Helping students see how subjects relate to and support each other is important. Students achieve best when activities are related to their out-of-school lives and when they can use skills learned in seeking solutions to real problems. Middle school classrooms are exciting, active places where students ask questions and pursue solutions to problems they have helped to identify. Middle school teachers use many different teaching strategies such as individual and group projects, problem-solving activities, cooperative learning groups, lectures, demonstrations and utilization of community resources.

Children who are successful in school have a strong sense of connectedness. Connectedness is a primary factor in enabling children to move through their adolescent years without engaging in behaviors that can compromise academic or personal success. Middle level schools use a variety of structures such as advisory programs, homebase groups and team-based planning times to help advocate for students. Parents should seek many opportunities for students to meaningfully connect with others through participation in community projects, events which include extended family and friends, as well as school or religious organizations.

The community needs to celebrate the accomplishments of our middle school students and share the successes of our educators. Middle level schools know the importance of meaningful participation of parents, families, and community and business leaders in all aspects of the education of the young adolescent. This celebration is one way we can share with parents and community members the importance of middle level education and the abundant contributions these young adolescents offer our community.



Jackie Coghlan
Northland Pines
Middle School Principal



Scott Foster
Northland Pines
High School Principal

Pines Strives to Develop Life-Long Learners

One of the key points of the Northland Pines Mission statement is to *Promote life-long learning*. In society today, this no longer can be just a thought; it must be a way of life. As a principal, this is something that I must get students to believe, because much of the time students feel like the goal of high school is to solely obtain a diploma. Many of our students have goals and dreams beyond that, but few are convinced of the idea of life-long learning.

A diploma from Northland Pines High School is a great honor that is rewarded with hard work and dedication; however it is only one part of life's journey. How many of us really thought about being a life-long student while in school and looking forward to our first job? Probably not many. With the ability to look back on where we are at in life, most would agree that not a day goes by that we do not learn something new. It is overwhelming at times how

much all of our jobs have changed, but for many of us it is also what makes these jobs exciting.

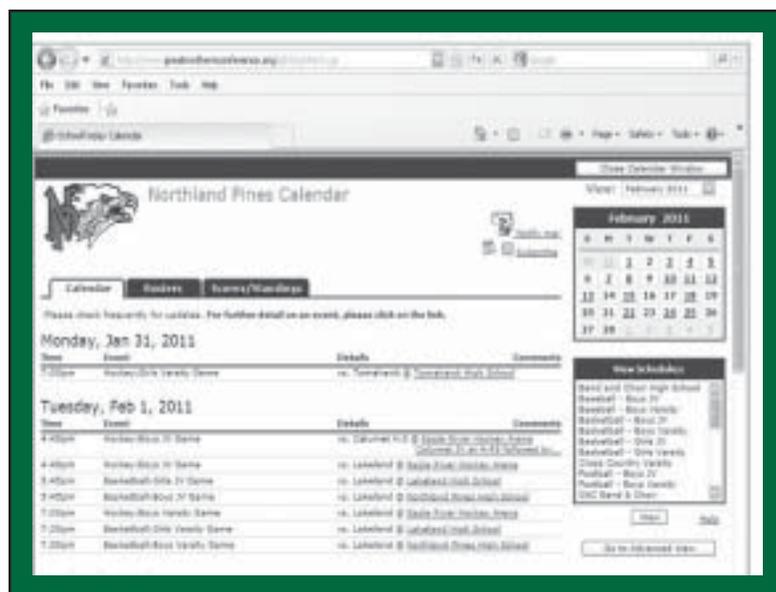
So how is it that we can prepare our students for a life of continuous learning? First, is to model what is expected. We are continuously improving and learning. I see this happening in our high school community daily. Community members visit our library after school and take Nicolet and YMCA classes. Second, create expectations for students to get them to passionately want to continue to learn. Third, use the class selection process as a way to have students challenge themselves and try new things to realize that there are many options, and it is acceptable to have multiple career choices. Finally, we use technology as a tool to teach them how to become efficient. Technology is going to be key with these changes, as these skills will have changed by the time they graduate from high school. Students are learning how to think and use technology to solve problems.

We are preparing students to prepare for jobs that may not even exist yet and compete in a fast moving world economy. I am confident that Northland Pines High School is up to the challenge; we want to be the solid beginning to a life full of learning!

Visit Northland Pines Website for Up to Date Activity Information

Information for all Athletic and Activity Events can be viewed on the NPHS Activity Website. This site can be accessed through the district website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us by clicking **Activity/Athletics** on the left side of the page. The site provides you with the following information:

- Schedules
- Scores and Standings
- Travel directions to away events
- Bus Departure Times



Brian Margelofsky
Northland Pines
Activities Director

Another feature of this site includes a **“NOTIFY ME”** option (located in the upper-right corner adjacent to the calendar). Anyone requesting to become notified about game cancellations, time changes, or if you simply would like a reminder of an event you can make this request. To receive automatic email notifications click on the “notify me” mailbox icon and follow a series of prompts. This four step process allows you to select what activity events or athletic schedules you'd like to be notified about.

The Activity Bus for High School and Middle School students involved in afterschool activities continues to be available on **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday**. Pick-up at the Middle School is at 6:05 p.m. and pick-up at the High School is at 6:15 p.m. Drop-off

points in route to St. Germain, Land O' Lakes, and Conover are available.

Public use of the indoor track for walking and running is daily (Monday – Friday) from 5:30 - 8:15 a.m., 1 - 3 p.m. and 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on evenings there are not events in the fieldhouse.

New NPHS Breakfast Cafe' Named "Early Bird Cafe"

Jessi Bortolotti, Taher Food Service Director



The Food Service Department is keeping busy as usual. We have started a new Breakfast Café in the Northland Pines High School. The name of the new cafe' was voted on by the NPHS students, with the winner being the "Early Bird Cafe'". The Breakfast Café offers breakfast sandwiches, hash browns, yogurt, muffins, bagels, fruit, cappuccino, coffee, hot chocolate and many more delicious items.

Students, staff, and YMCA members can purchase items from 7:15 a.m. until 8:15 a.m. Students may charge breakfast items to their lunch account only if a Student Lunch Profile form has been signed by a parent. Parents can request a Student Profile Lunch Form from the Food Service Director.

The high school has also placed a new vending machine in the cafeteria. The new vending machine has sandwiches, salads, yogurt, and other items. This is for students and visitors who stay after school for practice and other activities.

We have had several questions brought to the Food Service Department about the new, Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act (HHFKA) that was signed into law December 13, 2010. As Margo Smith, District Business Manager stated in her article, this legislation has numerous provisions and as the information becomes available to Taher from DPI we will begin to prepare for the changes for the 2011-2012 school year.

All schools who participate in the National School Lunch Program must follow DPI guidelines. The rules and regulations that come from DPI affect what we put on our menus, what we can sell on ala carte, and Food Service Administration. We do know that with the new law there will be some big changes in serving size, items allowed in the cafeteria and also on what is sold on school grounds from other organizations. If you have any questions regarding the new HHFKA law please contact the Food Service Director.



Taher will continue to work hard to make the Northland Pines Lunch program a good balance between nutritious items and students favorites. We hope parents take the opportunity to have lunch with students to see what is happening in their lunch room. Please contact Jessi Bortolotti, Food Service Director with any questions. 715-479-5800.

Students Decorate for Volunteer Hours



Eighth grade art students Sydney Kamentz and Shannon Lange decorated the middle school gym for the Lion's Club Hallogras Party last fall as part of their community volunteer hours.

Public use of the NPHS indoor track for walking and running is 5:30 - 8:15 a.m. and 1 - 3 p.m. Monday – Friday and from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on evenings there are not events in the fieldhouse. Visit the district website at www.npsd.k12.wi.us for up to date schedules and information.



Spring 2011 Sports

Parent-Athlete-Coaches Meeting

Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the H.S. Auditorium

6:00 p.m. Registration & Fees (H.S. Commons)

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

7:15 p.m. Coaches Meetings with Players & Parents (Assigned Areas)

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

Fire Department Volunteers Help Kindergarten Build “Ice Castle”

By: Sarah Simac, ERES Kindergarten Teacher

On January 27, members of the Eagle River Area Fire Department came to Eagle River Elementary School Kindergarten to help construct the first Kindergarten Ice Castle.

Firefighter Jack Thomas demonstrated how he designs the ice castle each year with Legos. The firefighters also talked with students about the ice castle building process and answered questions.

Kindergartners worked hand in hand with firemen to glue milk jugs together and construct 3 walls and a tower. When students were not in the construction zone, they were constructing their own castles out of blocks, unifix cubes, paper, and Legos. Firefighter Jack Thomas put the finishing touches on the castle with an amazing color changing light.

We finished the AWESOME afternoon of teamwork and community building with a DELICIOUS snack – a “Jell-O Ice Castle”. Thanks to all of the Eagle River Area Fire Department firefighters for all that you do!



Coffee Klatch Dates

Join District Administrator Mike Richie for coffee and conversation at 8:30 a.m. Eagle River Roasters, 339 West Pine St. Eagle River

Wednesday, March 23
Wednesday, May 25



ACT SCORES Five Year Comparison

	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Northland Pines	22.4	22.3	21.7	22.7	22.2
State	22.1	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.2
Nation	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.2	20.9

Source: Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Implementation of Common Core State Standards for NPSD

By: Gayle Daniel, ERES Grade 3/4 Multi-Age Teacher

In June, 2010, the state of Wisconsin became one of the 37 states and territories to join with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA) to adopt the Common Core State Standards, CCSS, a state-led initiative. Because we have become such a mobile society, the NGA with the Council of Chief State School Officers developed these high academic standards with extreme rigor that would cause states across the union to become more uniform and allow American students to better compete with students of other academically advanced countries. These standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

More specifically, the CCSS define the knowledge and skills students should obtain during their K-12 education so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in the entry-level workforce or credit-bearing college courses. The CCSS includes fewer and clearer standards, rigorous content and application of skills using higher-order thinking, build upon the states' current standards, and are evidence and research based. In addition, the Common Core State Standards include five different areas. The first includes college and career readiness standards for grades K-12. The second area is English Language Arts K-12 standards, which is broken down further into Reading for Literature, Reading for Informational Text, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language, and Language Progressive Skills. Reading Foundational Skills is the third area and is directed at Grades K-3. The fourth area, focusing on Grades 6-12, is English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. The last area is Mathematics for K-12.

The CCSS go on to divide the standards into grade bands, Kindergarten,

Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and 9-10 and 11-12. These standards are more specific than the current WI State Standards which are broken into three grade bands, K-4, 5-8 and 9-12. The WI Standards, developed in the 1990's, address each content area, but are very broad in their descriptions. The CCSS however, allows teachers to determine how they will teach each standard, but defines the expected outcome more clearly.

Implementing the CCSS will require time and effort by all members of every school district. Fortunately, the National Governors Association realizes this monumental chore and is recommending a three phase, five year roll out. This year, Phase 1, it is suggested that a team of educators investigate and build a knowledge foundation of the standards. During the 2011-2012 school year, Phase 2, it is recommended that the team develop local curriculum based on an instructional focus to implement the CCSS. Also during this year the team should start to align and select resources, research high quality instructional strategies and align local formative assessment with the CCSS. During Phase 3, 2012-2015, it is suggested that the team and district plan and develop units of study and lesson plans using CCSS, collaborate, evaluate, and use high quality teaching resources and methods to promote these standards. During the 2014-2015 school year, the new state mandated summative assessment will be based on the Common Core State Standards and will not use the WI Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) any longer.

The Northland Pines School District is very fortunate because it has been extremely proactive in developing their curriculum. All elementary schools already use standards based reporting which will make the conversion to CCSS much easier. The middle and high school have strong grade level and department teams

that will need to review their current curriculum to be sure they are completely covering each standard and then eliminate any lessons, projects, activities that the CCSS does not advise. Already a small team of educators is investigating the CCSS and this team will grow in size as the full implementation date nears. It is advantageous for the NPSD to follow through with the suggested three phase roll out to ensure complete and accurate understanding, curriculum, assessment and instruction for all of its students.

In conclusion, the CCSS will provide a great educational base for students. Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue summed up these standards best by saying, "American competitiveness relies on an education system that can adequately prepare our youth for college and the workforce. When American students have the skills and knowledge needed in today's jobs, our communities will be positioned to compete successfully in a global economy." The new Common Core State Standards will help educators to focus instruction and create better prepared learners.

**Change in address,
phone, cell number
or email address?**

**Please contact
Lisa Achterberg,
Centralized
Enrollment at
(715) 479-4123
or email**

eachterberg@npsd.k12.wi.us

Spread the Word to End the Word

Community Invited to Attend Rally on March 3rd

By: Emily Rhode, NPSD Special Education Teacher



Spread the Word to End the Word is an ongoing effort by Special Olympics to raise awareness of society about the hurtful effects of the word "retard(ed)" and

encourage people to pledge to stop using the R-word. The campaign, created by youth, is intended to engage schools, organizations and communities to rally and pledge their support in order to promote inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities.

In collaboration with Northland Pines National Honor Society, Northern Access Special Olympics Agency will hold a Spread the Word Rally in the Northland Pines High School field house at 8:30 a.m. on March 3, 2011. The Northland Pines Middle School and High School students and staff will be in attendance. Community members are invited to attend.

The goals of our Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign will be:

1. To raise awareness about the hurtful consequences of the R-word.
2. To create positive social change in Northland Pines High School and Middle Schools.
3. To promote unification between students with and without intellectual disabilities.

4. To engage young people in the movement of Special Olympics.

5. To encourage the students and community members to take the pledge to stop using the R-word

If you have any questions regarding the Spread the Word to End the Word Campaign or Northern Access Special Olympics Agency, please contact Emily Rhode at (715) 479-6479 ext. 4210.

Take the pledge at www.r-word.org and help youth around the world encourage others to think before they speak.



National Honor Society Students (L to R) Cody McNeil, Rachel Hess, and Brett Hughes are working to coordinate the Rally on March 3.

Young Athletes Program Held at Eagle River 4K-8

The Northland Pines K-8 gym is filled with joy, energy and exercising children each Wednesday from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. with the first Young Athletes Program (YAP). This is a collaborative effort of the Northwoods Children's Museum and Northern Access Special Olympics Agency. This eight week program began January 26 with the culminating event to be held on Wednesday, March 23.



YAP is a free, innovative sports play program for children, ages 2-7 years, with and without cognitive disabilities, designed to introduce them to the world of sports. This outreach program is co-coordinated by Class A volunteers and has over 30 children registered. Program goals are to:

- **Engage children** with cognitive disabilities through developmentally appropriate play activities designed to foster physical, cognitive and social development;
- **Welcome family members** of children with cognitive disabilities to the Special Olympics network of support;
- **Raise awareness** about the abilities of children with cognitive disabilities through inclusive peer participation, demonstrations and other events.

Dental Sealant Program Saves Smiles!

By: Caryn Jacob, RN, NPSD Nurse

A **FREE** Dental Sealant Program was offered to the second and sixth grade students in the Northland Pines School District. The programs took place at the Land O' Lakes and St. Germain Elementary Schools in early December, and in Eagle River Elementary and Middle School, January 27 and 28. This program is provided by the Northwoods Dental Project of the Vilas County Health Department.

Dental Sealants are a thin plastic coating that is painted onto the chewing surfaces or grooved areas of the back teeth or molars. Sealants protect these grooves by "sealing out" plaque and food. It is safe, simple and painless. With proper care like tooth brushing and dental visits, sealants are 100% effective in preventing cavities on these surfaces and can last up to 10 years!

Prior to the sealant program taking place, the dental staff from the Northwoods Dental Project do a Power Point presentation which covers nutrition, tobacco use and oral health. It also includes an activity with disclosing tablets which gives the students an idea of how well they are brushing their teeth. This year these presentations were done as part of Mrs. Walter's 6th grade Science classes.

Along with the Sealant program, toothprints and fluoride varnish are offered. Toothprints is a child safety tool that uses your child's bite for identification. It is a wafer-like wax material that the child bites on, and is also of-

fered **FREE** through Seal-A-Smile and donated by Orthodontist, Dr. Darrell Schmidt. The bite impression takes place the same day as the sealant program and is sent home with your child for safe keeping.

Fluoride varnish is simple, painless and only takes a couple of minutes to apply. After the teeth are checked, a thin layer of fluoride varnish is painted on the teeth that dries almost immediately. The varnish leaves a coating of fluoride that remains on the teeth until brushed or wiped off after six hours. Little to no fluoride is ingested and is perfect for children with home well water systems. For best results, it will be applied two to three times throughout the school year.



We can help our child to have a healthy mouth by getting sealants... **Sealants Save Smiles!**

Four Northland Pines Students Advance to Regional Spelling Bee

Three NPMS students and one alternate advanced to the CESA Regional Spelling Bee on February 8, hosted by Northland Pines School District. The three champions and one alternate pictured here include: (left to right) Colton Raymond, grade 7; Hunter Foster, grade 8, Ryan Ozelie, alternate, grade 8; and Kevin Gauthier, grade 7. Forty fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade spellers from the district competed at the district spelling bee held on January 26.

The Northland Pines School District hosted the CESA #9 Region 2 Spelling Bee at Northland Pines Middle School on Tuesday, February 8. Fifteen participants qualified for this advanced bee. Spelling champions were the top spellers from Christ Lutheran School in Eagle River, Elcho School District, Phelps School District, Three Lakes School District and Northland Pines School District.



Judges for the bee included Mr. Jed Lechleitner, Mrs. Brenda McNutt and Mr. Bill Weber. Pronouncer for the bee was Mrs. Kate Goodmann. The district's co-directors were Mrs. Laura Weber and Ms. Dar Kadulski.

Advancing to the Badger State Spelling Bee at Edgewood College's Anderson Auditorium in Madison on Saturday, March 26, is Alyssa LaRiviere, a seventh grader from Christ Lutheran School in Eagle River. The alternate is Brianna Sanderfoot, an eighth grader from the Three Lakes School District.

Edmodo in the Middle School

By: Justin Cowen, Business Education/Computer Teacher

Within the business world, people have been discussing if email has become a thing of the past. It may have been put best by Jeff Teper, vice president of Microsoft Corp.'s SharePoint division, when he said, "People were very dependent on email. They overused it... now, people can use the right tool for the right task."



Email may not be disappearing anytime soon, but there are many more forms of communication out there now that work better. With that in mind, the Middle School has gone about a few changes in the way teachers can communicate with students. Tested by a few teachers at first and now branching into more classrooms is the free social-learning platform called Edmodo. Edmodo is used by over 10,000 schools and recently just reached its 1,000,000th user! Edmodo allows 1:1 communication between students and teachers. Edmodo has allowed teachers to share files, links, video, and much more with students in a fashion similar to the likes of other social networking sites. The best part is students can use Edmodo anywhere! They can check assignments online through the website or using the free Edmodo app for the iPhone, iTouch, iPad, or Android and Blackberry smartphones.

Using Edmodo has allowed some teachers to almost go paperless! In Mr. Cowen's and Mr. Gerlach's Computers classes, almost all assignments are given and turned in via Edmodo. This allows for students to receive almost immediate feedback on assignments and it

also allows for communication between the students and teacher about what could be improved upon. When polled about the usefulness of Edmodo and technology similar to it, a group of seventh graders responded that 70% thought it was more useful than regular classroom material and 23% said it was helpful.

Packer Fever Hits Northland Pines!



NPMS students gear up for Superbowl XLV.



Mrs. Foster's kindergarten class made cheeseheads and "Go Pack Go" signs.



Northland Pines students and staff showed support of the Green Bay Packers by dressing in their best Packer Gear on Friday, February 4.



Fawn Added to the Wildlife Display at High School

The fourteenth addition has been completed for the Northland Pines Wildlife display case located in the lobby of the high school. A fawn, recovered by DNR warden Tim Price, is the newest mount to be donated to the exhibit. It will join the educational display which now consists of a skunk, owl, otter, beaver, bobcat, duck, pine marten, and six fish. Rick Lax and his daughter Mariah placed the fawn in its new location on January 27, 2011.

This educational wildlife display is made possible with the time and talent of many volunteers. Stephanie Daniel, a 2008 NPHS graduate and Junior at the Art Institute in Schaumburg, IL, painted the background for the case. Rick Lax donated his time in designing the display and also creating all of the fish. Ron Lax, Rick's father, donated his time in mounting most of the other animals. The animals are donated from members of the community or recovered from the DNR.

The goal is to obtain more animal mounts and song birds. We continue to look for unique smaller mounts for the case and are also seeking any donations of larger animals. Lax Taxidermy is currently working on an albino buck which they hope to have ready by the fall of 2011.

Even with the generosity of the above individuals, there are still costs that need to be covered to make these exhibits possible. The Northland Pines School District not only makes requests for animals for the exhibit but also seeks any kind of monetary donations. The district has set up an account to allow for improvements to the display and creation of any additional displays. If you would like to make a

donation or have further questions, contact Dr. Mike Richie, District Administrator at 715-479-6487 option 1, ext. 1; Rick Lax, Lax Taxidermy at 715-547-3710; or Tim Price, Conservation Warden at 715-892-0054.



Pictured is NPHS 9th grade student Mariah Lax holding the new fawn recently added to the wildlife display in the high school.

Northland Pines School District Joins Rural School Alliance

By: Mike Richie, District Administrator

At the January 31 school board meeting the Northland Pines School District officially joined the Wisconsin Rural School Alliance (WiRSA). The WiRSA was formed to help rural school districts like Northland Pines address the unique issues that affect rural schools as they seek to achieve the highest quality education for every student. Other members not only include over 50 Wisconsin School Districts but also include a cross section of educators, school board members, rural community members, business leaders and other concerned individuals from across the state who want a strong voice for rural schools.

Rural Wisconsin is more than our state's heritage; it's home to almost 44 percent of the state's 860,000 public school students. Rural schools share the same responsibility to the community as their suburban counterparts—to prepare all students for successful futures in a globally competitive marketplace.

The three main purposes of WiRSA are to:

1. Work collaboratively to solve issues pertinent to rural schools and communities;
2. To build a clearinghouse of research and educational best practices for rural schools;

3. To advocate for rural schools and communities at the local, state and federal level.

What makes WiRSA unique is that it is the only state group to solely represent rural education interest, to have all public stakeholders working together to make decisions and is also the only group with the singular focus of what is best for children in rural Wisconsin.

WiRSA will be governed by a board of directors consisting of equal numbers of school board members, teachers and administrators from across the state. Board membership will have broad geographic representation. A standing legislative action committee will be established along with network initiatives with rural associations in other states.

It is becoming more difficult for small rural school districts to survive financially. Hopefully the efforts of the WiRSA will benefit all rural school districts and through this organization, by working together, many small rural school districts will have a stronger voice.

Building Trades Program Offers Hands-On Learning

The Northland Pines High School Building Trades class is in the process of constructing a three bedroom, two bath ranch style home made possible by the partnership with Custom Components and CornerStone Custom Builders of Eagle River. This partnership, which is in its third successful year, has been a monumental learning experience for these students.

The house, labeled Pinestone III in CornerStone's line of homes, has been designed to be placed on a full basement and offers 1,320 square feet of living space featuring vaulted ceilings in the living room/dining room area and a walk-in closet in the master bedroom. You can contact Ryan Kawski, Northland Pines Building Trades' Teacher, at 715-479-4473 ext. 0602 or by email at rkawski@npsd.k12.wi.us to set up an appointment to view the house.

Nathan Gebhardt, one of the 18 students building the home, states, "Building trades is great because we are able to learn basic skills used in building a house. We will use these skills for the rest of our lives as future home owners, or possibly in a career".

Mr. Kawski added, "Our building trades' class is a great way for students to gain real world work experience. Building a home offers students the opportunity to use what they learn in math and science and apply it in a real world situation."

The class has just finished all of the rough framing and passed their structural inspection. All of the electrical rough-ins and plumbing rough-ins have also been completed. Mr. Kawski stated that the house will be insulated very soon and then they will begin to hang the drywall.

They are scheduled to have the home completed around June 1, 2011. "The partnership we have with CornerStone Custom Builders couldn't be better. It takes a lot of stress off my shoulders and allows me to focus an equal amount of time on other classes;" stated Mr. Kawski. This project is made possible with the help of many other businesses and individuals too, including; Schneider Electric, Muskyland Plumbing, A&B Drywall, Alpine Insulation, Richo Structures, Eagle Lighting, Custom Components of Eagle River, Inc. , C u s t o m Millworking, Inc. and Hintz House Movers.

If you are interested in learning more about purchasing this year's home or being part of next year's project, please contact Dave Cox at CornerStone Custom Builders at 715-479-0001.



Turpin Awarded WRHN Teacher of the Month in November, 2010



Congratulations to Ms. Joy Turpin, a fourth grade teacher in Eagle River Elementary School. She was nominated and received the WRHN Star 100 Teacher of the Month for the month of November, 2010 by a former student, Lainey VandenBoom.

Letter sent by student:

"Ms. Turpin is one of the best teachers I have ever had. She is nice, fun, and has just the right amount of strictness to keep her class in order. I was so lucky to get her, when I moved here I was going into 3rd grade. It was so fun being in her class for two years! But it is also hard to let go of a teacher that awesome."

Northland Pines Idol February 25

The Big news out of Northland Pines Middle School is the upcoming 7th Annual Talent Show and "Stuff a Truck" food drive sponsored by Trigs. Come see the middle school's talent as they perform for the "judges" in NPMS Idol.

Treat yourself to riveting singing, dancing, comedy skits, musical pieces, while contributing to a great cause. Parents and community members are invited to an evening performance on February 25th at 7:00 P.M. in the Northland Pines High School Auditorium. So bring in your non perishable food drive donations and be prepared to be entertained by our talented middle school students and teachers! Hope to see you there!

Connecting Youth with Positive Alternatives A Conference for Sixth Grade Vilas County Youth

In fall of 2010, the Vilas County Youth Coalition hosted over 240 sixth graders from Vilas County including students from Phelps, North Lakeland, Arbor Vitae-Woodruff, Lac du Flambeau and Northland Pines Middle School at the St. Germain Community Center/Park at the fifth *Connecting Youth with Positive Alternatives Conference*. The goal of the Vilas County Youth Coalition is to strengthen and support youth by providing intergenerational partnerships, positive opportunities, various community activities, and by encouraging respect, individuality, and active healthy citizenship.

Students of today are constantly faced with pressures and inappropriate messages about drug and alcohol use. The purpose of this conference is to present students with many different types of positive activities and alternatives to youth risk behaviors. Students attended six different breakout sessions, viewed exhibits, and received information about youth activities available in Vilas County.

When asked about their experiences for this sixth grade event, the responses were very positive. Mariah Miller and Zach Bloom had these comments about their sixth grade conference. Mariah Miller stated, "I loved our St. Germain field trip. I found that *"Happy Hour"* was very fun. We played team games, got to know new people and had loads of fun! I learned that you should say "no" to drugs and cigarettes even if your friends ask you. It is better not to take drugs than to lose your friends. I think it was the best trip ever. I will remember it forever. I learned a lot of new things!"

Zach Bloom commented, "It was a great day. It was so much fun with the activities we did, and we learned so much with all of the good people that pitched in and helped us have fun."

The Vilas County Youth Coalition (VCYC) is under the leadership of Nancy Anne Miller, Youth Development Agent, Vilas County UW-Extension. The VCYC committee and a

large number of volunteers provided a variety of exhibits, breakout sessions and prepared lunch for the conference attendees. Evaluations done by the students and their teachers will



be used to plan and enhance future youth conferences.

Funding and in-kind sources for this conference were provided by: Wisconsin Public Service Resources Foundation, Pamida Foundation, Safe and Stable Families, Youth Futures, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, St. Germain Fire Department, St. Germain Community Center and Trig's.

NPHS Musical a Great Success! 7 Brides for 7 Brothers

By: Kate Janssen, NPMS/NPHS Vocal Director

Northland Pines High School presented three performances of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" February 11 – 13. Directed by NPHS Choral Director Kate Janssen with assistance from student director Zac Tienhaara, this is the second annual musical play at NPHS in recent years.

The two-act musical involved a cast and crew of 55 students and a live 14-piece pit orchestra. The production included 16 musical numbers, including "Bless Your Beautiful Hide", "Goin' Courting", "Love Never Goes Away", and the high-flying dance number, "Social Dance".

"The students have really enjoyed learning about this show, and discussing history as it relates to the musical to make their characters more believable. We enjoy producing shows that are not often performed in this area, but are relatable and enjoyed by all ages", says Janssen.



"Our cast, crew, and pit orchestra has been working extremely hard. The cast has rehearsed each day for two and a half hours since November. The students have given up weekend time, completing four Saturday rehearsals. Our pit orchestra has rehearsed twice a week since December, and have donated hours of extra time for practicing and rehearsing with the cast. We are lucky to have staff members, parents, and community members donate their time to build sets and sew costumes. Producing this musical has taken countless hours from many groups of people, and I am thankful to each contributor."

Pictured here are the brides, brothers, and suitors performing in the "Social Dance." The NPHS students in the middle are Caleb Grosskopf (Adam) and Victoria Schwenn (Milly).

YMCA of the Northwoods - Eagle River Branch Programs for all Ages, Building Strong Families



Nancy Ellis, Eagle River Branch Executive Director



What is more fun, lasts longer and costs about the same as a movie? Membership at the Y in Eagle River! Our monthly rates compare favorably to the price

of a movie for two. Our rates are surprisingly affordable and our members are able to work out every day of the week! If you are not yet a member, why not stop in for a tour? Visitors touring our center will receive a pass for a week's free Family Membership. So, what's going on at the Y?

The 2nd Annual Father-Daughter Dance

The YMCA of the Northwoods—Eagle River Branch hosted its second annual father-daughter dance, "A Night to Remember" on Thursday, February 10, at Eagle Waters Resort.

The annual dance is open to fathers and their daughters (grades K-7); Girls may also bring their favorite adult role model if their father is unavailable. This special evening included dinner, a corsage for each daughter, music and dancing, with the dress code semi formal. All money raised benefits the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign, which ensures no one is turned away from the YMCA due to lack of ability to pay.

Sponsors for the event include Horant's Garden Center, Kitty Sookochoff Photography and Eagle Waters Resort.

2nd Annual Ski Brule Trip

The YMCA of the Northwoods—Eagle River Branch took students on their second annual ski trip to Ski Brule on Monday, February 21, 2011.

Free Hearing Screenings

The YMCA of the Northwoods—Eagle River Center is partnering with Hearing Advantage to offer free Hearing Screenings to the public from

noon to 4 p.m. on Monday March 1, in the Y classroom. Hearing Advantage has offices in Eagle River, Rhinelander, Minocqua, and Tomahawk and offers free screenings as a way to give back to their communities.

Pre-registration is not required, but can be arranged if desired. Call Jamie at 715-550-0707 to request an appointment time if needed.

To enter the Eagle River Branch Y, use door 16, off the parking lot behind the Northland Pines High School.

Plans are Underway for Camp Adventure!

As parents look for opportunities to keep their kids active and busy this summer, the YMCA of the Northwoods—Eagle River Branch reminds caregivers that summer day camp is among the best options for engaging kids in activities that will help develop their spirit, mind and body, while getting them outdoors in a safe environment.

"Camping is synonymous with personal development. It provides kids with the opportunity to practice social and decision-making skills through new experiences," says Nancy Ellis, Executive Director of the Y in Eagle River. "Kids come to camp to develop friendships, learn skills in a new environment, and make memories that will last a lifetime."

The YMCA of the Northwoods Day Camp "Camp Adventure" provides exciting and educational summer camp options for both school-age children and teens. The YMCA's licensed camp "Grow With Us at Camp Adventure" offers themed activities focused around the Northland Pines Community Garden. YMCA staff and founders of the Northland Pines Community Garden will provide learning activities and hands-on gardening experience for the children at the YMCA Summer Day Camp Pro-

gram. These activities will span the summer. The children will have hands-on experience with sustainable gardening, organic gardening, healthy eating and food preservation. Activities will take place daily at Camp Adventure and the community garden. Seed to Seed Edible Gardening Project, Vilas County Master Gardeners, Vilas County Public Health, and the University of Wisconsin Extension will provide teachers and/or materials for the summer camp.

Weekly field trips are incorporated into camp as well as beach days, games and arts & crafts. More details will be provided as planning progresses. Contact the YMCA of the Northwoods—Eagle River Branch at (715) 479-9500 for more information on any of these programs, visit us at www.ymcaofthenorthwoods.org.

Adventure Alley FREE for Y Members

Ages 6 months-9 years

Parents want to work out, but need someone to watch the kids? We have a solution for you; members and guests are welcome to bring their kids to our Adventure Alley morning drop-in baby-sitting service. A NPHS School to Work student volunteer will keep the kids active and engaged with free play and group activities. Parents must remain on site.

NPHS-Health Classroom
School Days Only

*9:30 - 11 a.m.

FREE for members

\$3 per hour general public

*Time subject to change

Middle School Students Go High Tech to Recreate Board Games

By: Justin Cowen, Business Education/Computer Teacher

"B7" announces a student, while in a sad tone a fellow student replies, "You sunk my battleship." That is just one of a few conversations coming from the seventh grade computers class. In the month of December, students were given the task of recreating a favorite board game in Microsoft Excel. Students had the difficult task of creating not only the game, but they had to put in writing the steps for someone else to recreate it.

The seventh graders investigated several of the classic board games before setting off on their assignment. They looked at the history of games like Chutes and Ladders, Chess, Checkers, Sorry, and Trouble. It was interesting to find out that many of these games had a history dating back to the 1600s and in the case of Checkers, 3000 BC! After their investigation the students went through the arduous task of writing and often rewriting their instructions. These instructions were tested by fellow students and sometimes scrutinized by 'picky' Mr. Cowen.

Once all the elements were completed, students took their information and created a Glog about their game. A Glog, or digital poster, is a Web 2.0 tool that allows students to easily create interactive websites. Using these Glogs students were able to create websites that could be shared on the internet. A wiki was established to house the links to the Glogs and can be found at <http://npsboardgames.pbworks.com>. Please browse the many games like Candyland or Sorry, and for the adventurous check the Miscellaneous category and see the now famous Hockey board game.



Show Your School Spirit! Northland Pines Apparel for Sale



The Northland Pines High School Athletic Department has spirit clothing for sale! There is a display case full of gear in the high school, located outside of the Activity Director's office. Pines Spirit Clothing is also being sold at home games and weekend events at the High School, in the concession stand. Stop by and see the new selections or see Mr. Margelofsky to order a custom design.

Middle School High Ropes Challenge Course

Brad Dodge, NPMS Physical Education Teacher



Northland Pines Middle School PE students are just finishing up their second year of “climbing the walls.” Actually they are climbing the brand new high ropes challenge course purchased through the PEP Grant two years ago.

There are four events, the Giant’s Ladder, the Firecracker Rope, the Lumberjack Rope and the Cargo Net. All of the events are individual climbs except for the Giants Ladder where students climb with a partner. This event requires teamwork and strategy to get to the top of the ladder some 25 feet off the ground.

All events are belayed through a team belay system called an “Australian Belay Team.” The climber’s rope is supported by four classmates that are attached by two carabineers each making each event very safe. All students wear helmets and are taught many safety techniques before anyone starts to climb. Climbing permission slips are given out the first day of the unit and students need to hand these in before they are allowed to climb.

The climbing unit challenges students both mentally and physically. It allows students to choose their own limits and conquer some of their fears. It has become a very popular unit that students start asking about at the beginning of the school year. It is one of many incredible opportunities the PEP Grant has allowed us to bring to our students.



March/April Open Climbing Northland Pines Middle School Gym

Adult Open Climbing

Thurs. March 10, 5 - 7 p.m.

Thurs. April 7, 5 - 7 p.m.

Student Open Climbing

Tues. March 15, 3:30 - 5:45 p.m.

Tues. April 12, 3:30 - 5:45 p.m.

Family Open Climbing

Thurs. March 24, 4 - 6 p.m.

Thurs. April 14, 4 - 6 p.m.

SAFETY REMINDER/UNLOADING:

To all parents, students, community members, and vendors... **ABSOLUTELY NO PARKING** allowed in the bus/fire lanes, at any school, any time of the day. Loading and unloading of equipment and parking is restricted to designated areas.

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

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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.

February - June Calendar

Fri. Feb. 25	Middle School Talent Show, HS Aud. 7 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 28	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 p.m.
Tues. March 15	Parent-Athlete-Coach Meeting, HS Aud. 6 p.m.
Wed. March 16	MS 8 th Grade Play HS Aud. 9:30 am & 1pm
Thurs. March 17	MS 8 th Grade Play HS Aud. 7 pm
Fri. March 18	ERES Spring Concert, 1:30 pm, HS Aud.
Sat. March 19	MS 8 th Grade Play HS Aud. 7 pm
Mon. March 21	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 pm
Wed. March 23	Coffee Klatch with Dr. Richie, ER Roasters 8:30 am
Fri. March 25	End of 3 rd Quarter
Mon. Mar. 28 - April 1	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
Mon. April 4	School Resumes
Thurs. April 14	GNC Large Group Festival HS Aud. 9 am
Sat. April 16	Danceworks Unlimited Recital HS Aud. 1:30 & 6 pm
Mon. April 18	Community Charter School Presentation HS LGI 6 pm
Fri. April 22 - Fri. 25	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
Tues. April 26	School Resumes
Tues. April 26	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 pm
Fri. April 29	HCPA "Romanza" HS Aud. 7:30 pm
Thurs. May 12	MS 6 th Grade Music & Choir Concert, HS Aud. 7 pm
Mon. May 16	HS Band & Choir Awards Concert HS Aud. 7 pm
Tues. May 17	Community Budget Meeting, LOL library, 6 p.m.
Thurs. May 19	MS Band Concert HS Aud. 7 pm
Fri. May 20	LOLES Spring Concert, LOL gym, 1:30 pm
Sat. May 21	HCPA "New Odyssey Show Band" HS Aud. 7:30 pm
Mon. May 23	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 pm
Tues. May 24	Community Budget Meeting NPHS LGI 6 p.m.
Wed. May 25	Coffee Klatch with Dr. Richie, ER Roasters 8:30 am
Wed. May 25	HS Cabaret Concert, HS Commons 6 pm
Thurs. May 26	SGES Spring Concert, STG gym, 1:30 pm
Thurs. May 26	Community Budget Meeting, STG library, 6 p.m.
Mon. May 30	No School - Memorial Day
Sat. June 3	Alumni Hall of Fame Induction, HS Aud. 6 p.m.
Sun. June 5	Class of 2011 Graduation – 1 p.m.
Wed. June 8	End of 4 th Quarter
Wed. June 8	Last Day for Students
Thurs. June 9	Last Day for Teachers
Mon. June 27	School Board Meeting, HS LGI, 6 pm