

NJSD Connection: January 18, 2013
A Communication for NJSD Staff Prepared by
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NJSD Strategic Focus

- 1) Foster a Sense of Belonging for All
- 2) Acquire 21st Century Skills
- 3) Relentlessly Pursue Improvement

District Administrator's Message

To suggest that great things are happening in Neenah would be an understatement! This Connections is filled with a wide variety of exciting happenings ranging from service-oriented projects, community involvement, and of course, learning. Special thanks to all of our staff members for making special things happen in our classrooms and community.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."
- William Butler Yeats

Special thanks to all of the staff and parents who continue lighting the fires in our students. We are truly fortunate to be in Neenah. Enjoy the weekend!

Manufacturing & Engineering Academy Open House

NJSD would like to invite parents/students to attend an informational night on **Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** in Room 128 at Neenah High School (Enter Door #6). The purpose of this open house is to inform parents/students about the Manufacturing & Engineering Academy and Engineering courses at Neenah High School and provide an opportunity for you to meet with local businesses and colleges. The open house will include local businesses/college representatives to talk to, an engineer guest speaker, tour of technology classrooms, and information on course registration. We hope to see you on Wednesday, January 30!

Positive Behaviors Review

Hoover Huskies spent a day in January reviewing their school-wide behavior expectations. Students in multiaged color groups rotated through seven stations. In these stations students reviewed sportsmanship, played a Jeopardy game related to the school's PBIS program, discussed friendship, and created projects to show kindness to others. This day reminded all students to respect themselves, others, and the environment.



Caroling at Clayton

Three groups of Clayton fifth grade band and orchestra students played holiday carols in the classrooms recently. Here is the link to the video of our Clayton caroling adventure.

<http://www.schooltube.com/video/25f5b14fc14d4a478dc0>



Students at Wilson Elementary Earn a Ride in a Limo

Wilson School families participated in a fund raiser for playground resurfacing. Students who sold 25 items (40 per family) received a stretch limo ride to Dairy Queen (on the west side). Twenty-two Wilson students received a ride in a long,

white limo and enjoyed ice cream treats provided by DQ.



BLAST Activity at Tullar and Coolidge

The Tullar and Coolidge Elementary Schools enjoyed a writing exchange with **Mrs. Lasee's** and **Ms. Lemke-Hildreth's** Shattuck BLAST students. The third graders read Amy Krouse Rosenthal's book, Cookies, in which they studied great vocabulary words regarding how to treat others with kindness. They then wrote and illustrated their own class books to share with the BLAST students. **Mrs. Finley** arranged a visit for the BLAST students to come and share the pages they added to the third grade books. Great sharing and teamwork was enjoyed by all!



Fox Valley Junior Math League Neenah Math Meet

Lakeview student **Crandon Campshure's** team placed fourth for all fifth and sixth grade teams, while **Josh Frank's** team captured second place ribbons in the same division. Wilson student **Olivia Underhill** was on the second place team and also placed fourth for all fifth graders in the individual competition. The meet included 125 students in grades 5 through 8 from Neenah, Menasha, Kimberly, Brandon, and Rosendale. Congratulations to all of our mathletes!

Professor Gizmo Visits Roosevelt/Alliance

Roosevelt and Alliance students recently had the joy of welcoming "Professor Gizmo" to their school to serve as the kick off for their combined schools Science Fair. Professor Gizmo's presentation, which helped to explain Bernoulli's Principle on air pressure, really inspired the students to love science and to have fun with it. The Professor made two presentations to the schools, one for students in grades K-3, and one for students in grades 4-5. Funding for this enriching, fun science experience was provided by a grant from Quarry Quest. Special thanks to Roosevelt third grade teacher, **Sue Ruthven**, for organizing the activity, and to PTO President, **Mary**

Thompson, for applying for and receiving the grant from Quarry Quest. (For more information on this wonderful activity, go to <http://www.professorgizmo.com/04Bernoulli.html>).



Marble Roller Coasters at Hoover

The fourth grade students in **Amy McDonald's** class at Hoover had the opportunity to do a hands-on engineering activity as an extension of their simple machines unit in science and their geometry unit in math. The students experimented with marble roller coasters to test Newton's Laws of Motion. They set up their own track creations to discover how energy is transferred between marbles when a collision occurs and solved several challenges including a complete loop! As a culminating event, the groups of students cooperated as a whole class to create a massive roller coaster that snaked around the entire classroom. Students learned math, science, and teamwork all while having tons of fun! Many thanks to **Maripat Franke**, educational assistant, for organizing this activity.



Water Cycle Explained to Tullar Tigers

Tullar third graders went on a field trip to the Apple Creek YMCA to learn about the water cycle. Students did exciting experiments and hands on activities to learn about

this concept. Thank you to the Apple Creek YMCA for offering such a meaningful learning day for our students and to teachers **Andra Mory**, **April Schoepel**, and **Amy Schumacher** for finding this curricular based offering!



Tullar Students and Staff Square Off

To culminate the end of the grade five volleyball unit, Tullar students in grade five took on the available Tullar staff during their gym time. Students were able to show their abilities and staff showed that we can still compete! What a great way to culminate the learning that took place this quarter!



Lions Club Helps Tullar Tigers Spell Well

The Lion's Club came to Tullar to give their annual dictionary delivery to third grade students. Every year, the Lion's Club buys dictionaries for every third grader in the District, allowing them to have their own personal book. The third graders are very excited to receive this educational gift! Thank you, Neenah-Menasha Lions, for helping our students spell well!



Therapy Dog Visits Tullar

To assist our students to better understand disabilities, students in [Mrs. Schoepel's](#) third grade class were visited by a furry friend. Lily, a therapy dog owned by Bob and Kim Karrmann of Neenah, came to meet our students. Mr. Karrmann did an excellent job with explaining how therapy dogs visit hospitals, nursing homes, and people in need to bring joy into their lives. Mr. Karrmann shared what Lily had to do to become a certified therapy dog as well. Mr. Karrmann is the uncle to Tullar Tiger [Delaney Russell](#). Thank you, Karrmann family, for sharing your well mannered furry friend with our Tigers!



Tullar Works Toward Halfway Point on YPP Test

Fifth grade classrooms at Tullar celebrated surpassing the halfway point of the Yearly Progress Pro (YPP) green dot goal last week. YPP is a curriculum-based measurement that the NJSD is utilizing this year District-wide. This test shows each student's understanding and growth on math concepts in their grade level. By the end of the year, students at grade level should have green dots in all areas, meaning they have mastered the skill. To get to this goal of 50% green dots by semester, each week students are assigned individually guided YPP exercises which are done in class on

their iPads. Students also have whole group and small group instruction on these skills. During math intervention time, students work individually or in small groups with the teachers on discreet skills they are lacking based on this independent test. Each week, teachers do a whole class test to measure whole class progress. For reaching 87 green dots, which is 50% of the dots needed for fifth grade mastery, students had a 1/2 glass of green juice and green jello as a healthy snack. The students are excited to monitor their own individual progress and are now are working toward the 3/4 class goal. Thank you fifth grade teachers **Amy Buege, Chris Gardner, and Tim Hopfensperger** for making data tracking exciting for your classes!



Spring Road Spirit Days

Spring Road School held a school spirit activity for January. The third grades, lead by **Mrs. Karin Chaney, Mrs. Cheri Jensen, and Mrs. Barrie Nowaczyk**, encouraged students and staff to "Dress up like what you want to be when you grow up." Fortunately, many staff members still dressed up like teachers! Neenah should not have to worry about not having enough doctors, nurses, firemen, waitresses, chefs, construction workers, teachers, veterinarians, along with many professional sports players to help meet the needs of our community in the future!!



