

► Connections

Community and Staff Newsletter - March 2015



The weather has been warming up the past several weeks, which means spring break must be just around the corner.

What a perfect time for our students and staff to step back and take a week off

from what has been another very busy school year for all of us. I hope each of you get a chance to put your work aside and spend some time with your families and maybe even get away from the area. I realize that's easier said than done and I'm as guilty as anyone for occasionally putting work ahead of more important things in life, but we all need to have perspective and do our best to promote that work-life balance.

This can be a stressful time of year for everyone in our schools with staff evaluations due in about a month and students facing Advanced Placement exams and deadlines for end-of-year projects. Hopefully, spring break helps us step back from that anxiety and refresh ourselves for the final two months of the school year. The end is near and this really is the most exciting time of the school year where we're able to see the progress our students have made and wish those well who are graduating or moving on to a new school next year.

Our District's emphasis on wellness certainly includes taking time to do something for yourself. Please remember that next week as we prepare for the final quarter of the school year.

I wish all of our students, staff and families a happy and relaxing spring break week!

Neenah With Pride!

Dr. Mary Pfeiffer
Superintendent of Schools



Horace Mann Middle School student council members recently made their annual visits to eight elementary schools in the District for Read Across America Week. The students brought favorite picture books from home to read to kindergarten through third grade students.

► DECA Students Excel at State

Neenah High School had a successful week at the state DECA Conference March 10-11 in Lake Geneva.



Evan Thomsen (pictured, top) and Matt Bourland (pictured, bottom) combined to win the title in Marketing Communications and Olivia Stindt placed in the top 10 in Food Service Marketing.



Chloe Roddy and Sophia Donato received medals for their test performance in Travel and Tourism, while Colin Haese and Matthew Breen received medals for their role play scores in Hospitality Services.

The top performers advance to the International Career Development Conference April 25-28 in Orlando, Fla.



Two Neenah High School students received awards at the Key Club International District Leadership Conference March 7 in Green Lake. Marissa Bredesen (left) received a Distinguished President Award and Kristen Navis (right) was selected as the District 7 Lieutenant Governor for 2015-16.

Have a safe and relaxing Spring Break - March 23-27

► Around the District



Members of the National Guard under the direction of SSG Nathan Preder took Shattuck Middle School students through an obstacle course and team building activities in their wellness education classes. Students did a National Guard warm up before starting their activities.

► Sumdog Adds Up to Big Victory for Tullar Class

Fifth grade students in Amy Buege's class at Tullar Elementary recently won the Sumdog Region 6 math contest against schools from around the region. The class amassed 891 points, which was 133 points higher than any other competing class.

In addition, students in Danielle Dercks' fifth grade class at Spring Road Elementary placed third overall.

The Sumdog contest is a free, multi-player computerized contest where students compete against other students while teachers keep control over the skills they work on. Neenah students competed in Region 6 against students from throughout East Central Wisconsin.

Fifth grade students in Chris Gardner's class at Tullar won the contest in the fall.

► Culinary Club Cooks Up Success With Korean Meal

Neenah High School's Culinary Club placed ninth of 27 teams at the ProStart state convention last week. The team of Chase Lieber, Alicia Werhand, Mindy Schmitt, Madeline Breager and Ksenya Seager made a three-course Korean meal.



The appetizer was Yachae Kimbap, which is a Kimbap roll filled with a combination of peppers, carrot and onion with a sweet and tangy Nishiki rice.

The entree was Jjin Dalg, which is a seared chicken breast seasoned with a custom sauce and served atop a bed of crisp

and flavorful vegetables and spicy rice.

For dessert, the students prepared Hoejeon Seoltang Doneos, which are three traditional-style fried doughnuts with a tart but sweet mango and five-spice sauce with a cup of hot tea.

In addition, Lieber designed and made the plates used in the competition. He used a glass kiln and two different processes to fire them.

ProStart is a nationwide, two-year program to develop high school students into tomorrow's restaurant and foodservice industry leaders.



Hoover Elementary students and staff celebrated Pi Day and helped fundraise for a walking/running trail around the playground. Students filled staff members' jars with coins and dollars during the week. The four staff members with the highest totals took a pie in the face from randomly-selected students who contributed at least five dollars. Staff members who participated were Jeff Sheptoski, Brad Brookins, Kim Frierdich and Jerry Spanbauer.

► Neenah Students Capture Awards at Glass Exhibition

Four Neenah High School students were among the eight total award winners at the 2015 Fox Valley Area High School Glass Exhibition. The event featured art by students from 11 area high schools and charter schools. It is hosted annually by the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass to celebrate Youth Art Month during March.

Senior Julia Brechlin and sophomore Abigail Helwig both won awards from the Oshkosh Fine Arts Association. Junior Felix Castro received the Wisconsin Arts Board Artistic Achievement Award for his submission and senior Catherine Hoelzel won the Bergstrom-Mahler Glass Education Award.

► School-by-School



The boys and girls powerlifting teams both placed second to Racine Horlick at the state meet. Joseph Mui was the Rockets' top place competitor with a runner-up finish in the boys 132-pound weight class. Bryce Londerville, Riley Porath and Evan Koehnke added third place finishes. Delaney Ortiz and Karley Wyngaard each placed third in their respective weight classes to lead the girls team.



Shattuck's Sign Language Club will be attending a performance of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" in May at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in Delavan. The entire show is performed in American Sign Language. Students earned money to fund the trip by selling 48 dozen homemade cookies during a recent fundraising event.



The Horace Mann lobby has been filled with music every morning during March as part of Music in Our Schools Month. Students from throughout the District have shared their musical talents with the Horace Mann students and staff. The performances run through March 20.



Over 300 Alliance and Roosevelt students and family members took part in a pancake dinner on March 12. The event featured a used book sale and math games for the families to play. The meal was prepared by the "Pancake Man" and included pancakes and syrup, sausages, applesauce, milk and juice.



Clayton held a Celebration of the Arts event on March 14. Students showed off their talents, that included artwork, dancing, musical performances and cooking. The event was held in the evening and families came to see the artwork and performances while sampling some of the food.



Coolidge students recently read to residents of the Bridgewood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. They not only strengthened their own skills in reading aloud, but also made some wonderful adult friends. Students also invited family members to come in before school and read with them.



Hoover fourth graders took a field trip to Ledgeview Nature Center in Chilton on March 10 and learned about making maple syrup. Third grade students took a field trip to the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass on March 11.



Lakeview students recently participated in a Battle of the Books competition with students from other area schools. Each team read a group of 20 book titles and answered questions focused on the books. The squads will find out their ranking with the other schools later this month.



Roosevelt and Alliance students are learning more about the virtue of helpfulness during the month of March. They are discussing ways to be helpful in the school, at home and in the community.



Spring Road is holding its annual Career and Hobby Day on March 20. Staff members, parents and community members will come to school to share information with the students about their careers or favorite hobbies. Each student is able to attend three different presentations.



Taft is holding a "Spread the Word to End the Word" event on March 20. The whole school rally includes peer sensitivity training by the Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, a basketball clinic by the Special Olympics team and a pledge-signing opportunity for students and staff.



Tullar fourth graders walked to Neenah High School on March 12 to meet with an engineering class. The high school students recently built marble sorters and shared their designs with the Tullar students, helping them learn about the creative projects in science, technology, math and engineering.



Washington parents took part in a workshop on March 13 with District physical and occupational therapists to learn which household toys and items can be used to develop large and small muscle skills. The event included fun activities for parents to do with their children to strengthen motor skills.



The Wilson Gardening Club recently listened to a story about school gardens and watched some videos about watering correctly, maintaining a vegetable garden and starting seeds. The students will be planting seeds at their next meeting.

► *What's Happening*



About 80 third through fifth grade students from throughout the District participated in a second annual Graphic Novel event at Lakeview Elementary. The workshops were conducted in Comic Life, Writing, Pop-Up Books, Reading Graphic Novels and Artist and Her Tools. All workshops were led by District teachers or assistants. Students also had a chance to win prizes and pick up handouts.

► **Neenah Library Poetry Contest Begins April 1**

Students in Neenah schools are encouraged to submit their best poetry from the school year in the Neenah Public Library's annual poetry contest.

Students in all grades may submit their pieces in their respective school office between April 1-30. Entries should include the author's name, address, grade level and school attended.

Winners will be notified by mail the week of June 22. Every student who enters the contest will receive a bookmark and winners will receive a certificate and a book of their choice. The winning entries will also be on display at the Neenah Public Library.



Students in Neenah's Chinese program recently celebrated the Chinese New Year with an event at Shattuck Middle School. The night featured dances, plays, Chinese kung fu, Chinese songs and a Chinese dress fashion show.

Upcoming Events

- Mar. 20..... Early Dismissal - Grades K-8 (End of Quarter)
- 23-27 No School - Spring Break
- Apr. 2 Early Dismissal - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 3..... No School
- 7..... Rocket City Jazz Festival (Shattuck Auditorium), 7:30 p.m.
- 9..... Classy Fiddles Concert (Shattuck Auditorium), 7 p.m.
- 11..... NJSD Percussion Panorama (NHS Cafeteria), 6 p.m.
- 16-18 Spring Drama (Pickard Auditorium), 7 p.m.
- 18..... Spring Drama (Pickard Auditorium), 2 p.m.



Roosevelt and Alliance students showed off their hobbies and other interests as part of the school's first-ever Interest Fair. Students created presentations about a particular topic or activity that was of interest to them and showed it off to classmates, teachers, parents and a panel of judges. The topics and creativity ranged far and wide as students in all grade levels at both schools participated.

► **Opera For the Young Comes to Four Neenah Schools**

Students at Coolidge, Lakeview, Roosevelt/Alliance and Taft Elementary Schools had the opportunity to take in a performance of "Beauty and the Beast" by the touring Opera For the Young troupe from Madison.

The troupe performed the main parts of the show, while some fifth graders played a role in the chorus. The opera also had a role for one teacher. After the performance, students were able to ask questions of the troupe.

The show lasted 45 minutes and music teachers were provided the music weeks in advance in order to prepare the students for their parts in the chorus.