

**NJSD Connection:** March 11, 2013  
A Communication for NJSD Staff Prepared by  
Mary Pfeiffer, District Administrator

**NJSD Strategic Focus**

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

**District Administrator's Message**

It's that time of year again when we can't wait to see the sun and the buds on trees and flowers. Soon we will be hearing many birds sing in the morning and speak to each other throughout the day. The first sign for me is daylight savings when we "spring forward."



With that happy thought in mind, there are many celebrations in this edition of *The Connection*. Celebrations in the areas of art, music, and academics are abundant. One recent piece of news I received over the weekend was that of **Brenda Mullard**, being selected for the top 25 of Future 15 Young Professionals awards presented by Pulse, a program of the Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and the Appleton Post-Crescent. Brenda is an art teacher in our District and she has been a significant force in making great things happen for our students and community. Brenda is most deserving and we are very proud of her. Congratulations, Brenda!

As always, have a great week in Neenah!

**Act II News**

The ACT II Showchoir under the direction of **Cheryl White** and band coach **Heather Shebesta**, competed twice in February. The first competition took place at Fort Atkinson and ACT II received a trophy for first runner up. The second competition took place at Brodhead and after tweaking from the first competition results, ACT II was awarded the top award of Grand Champion in their division. This year's theme for the show is "Life of a Teenager" with song selections: Workin' for the Weekend,

Billionaire/Lazy, Electricity, Car Wash/Bang on the Drum and Nothin' But a Good Time.



### **NHS Math Team News**

What an unbelievable year for a great group of students...

Four championships in five years, the goal has been met. The first team of [Kyle Kumbier](#), [Kirk Lancaster](#), [Nick Ralston](#), [Calvin Baumgartner](#), [Thomas Hameister](#), [Mei Maruo](#), [Greg Rudd](#), and [John Payne](#) easily captured first place and secured the championship for the season. Thomas Hameister scored a meet high 39 points (one point away from perfect) to win the junior division. John Payne took first place in the sophomore division. Mei Maruo took fifth place in the junior division, while Teddy Wiswall took fifth place in the senior division. Calvin Baumgartner took sixth place in the junior division and Kirk Lancaster took sixth place in the senior division. For the season, the following students earned individual awards: Thomas Hameister (top individual score in the league), Calvin Baumgartner, and John Payne were all named First Team All-Conference this year. Nick Ralston and Kirk Lancaster were named to the 2nd Team in the Senior Division. The team easily outdistanced Appleton North for the league title 97-87. Members of the first team throughout the season were [Jon Enz](#), [Landon Gauthier](#), [Kyle Kumbier](#), [Kirk Lancaster](#), [Eric Payne](#), [Nick Ralston](#), [Eric Zager](#), [Calvin Baumgartner](#), [Thomas Hameister](#), [Mei Maruo](#), [Josh Miller](#), [Greg Rudd](#), [Emily Terlap](#), [Ryan Thomas](#), and [John Payne](#). Advisors for the Math Team are [Richard Frost](#) and [Melanie Jackson](#).



### **NHS Students Participate in Glass Workshops**

Two separate groups of Neenah High School Art students were treated to a full day of glass workshops at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum. This year [Mrs. Brenda Mullard](#) worked with Chelisa Behm, the Education and Interpretation Director for the museum, to introduce a beginner glass workshop for students with no glass experience and a more advanced glass workshop for students who have already had glass experience.

Students were instructed by professional glass artists, Jenna Larson and Beth Wenger, to do torch work to make lamp work beads and glass pendants. They also learned various new techniques for fusing and slumping glass. All of the students represented Neenah in a very positive way. They loved the experience and the beginner students will be able to go again next year as advanced glass workers.



### **African Dance and Drum Visits Coolidge**

African Dance and Drum recently visited Coolidge School courtesy of the PTO's Cultural Arts Committee. The performers, originally from Senegal, shared a bit about their country and continent with our students to help us celebrate Black History Month. Accompaniment was by two different types of drums: a large goat-skin djembe and a large cow-skin tubano. Performers were able to entice every single Coolidge teacher to the stage where they were instructed in African dance moves which they performed much to the delight of students. It was an entertaining, educational experience.





### **Spring Road Fitness Fair**

During the evening of Parent Teacher Conferences, Spring Road School held a Fitness Fair/Music/Art Night. Families were encouraged to stop by the gym and visit a variety of wellness related speakers. They could also visit an art gallery on the stage and check out the ukuleles and other music activities in the music room. Thank you to the guest speakers: Neenah Park & Rec, Neenah/Menasha YMCA, Winnebago Health Department, Winnebago Coalition for Active Students, Align Chiropractic, and Water-Rights Clean Water Center for making this a wonderful, informative event. This night was coordinated by **Roxann Barrow**, **Latham Lindstedt**, and **Heather Shebesta**.





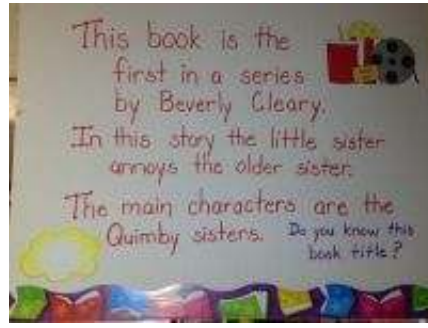
### **Cardinal Skippers Visit Hoover**

In February, the Cardinal Skippers from Fond du Lac performed at Hoover Elementary. This phenomenal jump rope group, consisting of students in second grade through high school, displayed amazing coordination and team work during their performance. The students at Hoover were entertained and even inspired to try out some of their moves at recess. Thanks to first grade teacher, **Emily Wertanen**, for bringing this group to Hoover.



### **Tullar Celebrates Dr. Suess's Birthday With Reading Week**

Reading week was a smashing success at Tullar! This year's theme was "LIGHTS, CAMERA...READ!" We began with a FABULOUSLY AMAZING MOVIE STAR visiting our school, Ivana Readalot! What a thrill to meet her! She encouraged the students to read and brought some "old Hollywood glamour" to Tullar! Students also had a reading minute race where their class Oscar statues moved down the hall. Students had many other activities such as Jammie Day and a book swap. Finally, a contest was held to detect who each staff member was as they dressed up in "Hollywood Attire". Let's hope that video NEVER goes viral, as Hollywood may recruit some staff as they looked AMAZING!!! See the video by following this link: <http://youtu.be/K9-JCrM3dyQ>. What a fantastic week of reading fun. A HUGE thank you to **Mrs. Koshalek**, **Mrs. McMahon**, and **Mrs. Feavel** for their dedication and organization of this fun reading experience, to Mrs. **McMahon** for her wonderful technical support, and to the Tullar staff for decorating and working to make this experience fun for the students.



### **Tullar First Graders Learn Flag Etiquette**

Tullar first grade students had an enlightening day with members of the local VFW. These heroes talked to our young learners about the United States flag, care of the flag, and meaning of the flag. At the end of the presentation, every first grader was given a small flag in a wooden holder of their very own. Thank you, local heroes, for sharing your knowledge with our children!



### **Hail to the Chief! U.S. Presidents Visit Tullar Elementary School!**

Culminating a unit on our U.S. Presidents, Tullar third grade students wrote an in-depth report on a selected president. After publishing their reports and learning about their selected president, the three classes held a president parade. Students

dressed as their president and shared their knowledge with all students at Tullar. To keep our president's safe, they were "guarded" by Secret Service Agents **Mrs. Mory**, **Mrs. Schoepel**, and **Mrs. Schumacher** (also known as the Tullar third grade teaching team). Thanks to our Tullar third grade teachers for bringing learning alive for our students!



### **Forces and Motion - What a Concept!**

Tullar fifth graders were excited to learn about forces and motion with some hands-on experiments recently. The students were treated to this hands-on afternoon with Mrs. Ruth Mansukhani, a volunteer who brings science concepts alive. Thank you, Mrs. Mansukhani, for sharing your knowledge with our students! It is appreciated!



### **Read Across America Week at Wilson**

Wilson School celebrated Read Across America Week with daily reading activities. Every student in the school stopped...dropped...and read for at least 10 minutes during daily DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time. Students also participated in author and Suess character contests, teachers swapped classrooms to read stories, first graders read and sampled Green Eggs and Ham, as well as read and also experimented with Oobleck, Dr. Seuss trivia was shared on morning announcements, and everyone participated in daily themed 'dress-up' days.



### **"Read Across America" Brings Horace Mann to Wilson**

Horace Mann Student Council was excited to share their love of reading with the Wilson Wildcats as a part of Read Across America. Horace Mann students selected books and activities to share with their younger counterparts. **Jodi Stanchik, Debbie Wedding, and Debbie Hasselquist** collaborated to organize this activity which strengthened the community bond between Horace Mann and Wilson.



### **Taft Celebrates Reading**

Taft Kindergarten and Title One Preschool friends had an extra fun week celebrating Reading! All week we dressed up, read Dr. Seuss books, did reading/writing activities,



listened to guest readers and performers, and read, Read, READ!!! We are bringing home a book summarizing most of the stories we covered this week. A special thank you to all our guest readers, **Mr. Tauscher, Ms. Neal, Mr. Dreger, Janet Macklin**, and the Taft PTO for the performance by Tom Pease.







### **Coolidge News**

Horace Mann student council members visited Coolidge kindergarten and first grade students to help celebrate Read Across America week.



UW-Oshkosh Art Education students visited Coolidge classrooms for an art lesson combined with a literacy focus.



Students in the first grade classrooms of **Ashley Baumler** and **Jessica Mielke** learned about Native American culture and legends and then made dream catchers of their own.

