



A Message from Dr. Pfeiffer

Spring is here, summer is upon us, and the last few weeks of school will soar past us. To suggest that it has been a busy year would be an understatement! We have made great gains in our four focus areas over the last school year!

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment – With a strong commitment to improve instructional practices, I am confident that our reading and math scores will realize targeted gains. This coordinated effort provides teachers and administrators with detailed information for **improving student learning** and providing **high impact instruction**. We are focused on creating a solid transition toward the realization of the mandated federal Common Core academic standards.

Communications - A team, consisting of staff and community members, continues to work toward creating a more efficient District communications model. The team is currently administering an informational survey that will help us better evaluate our communication needs. To take the survey, please go to www.NeenahSurvey.org. The survey will be available until June 8, 2012.

Resources – In May, the Board of Education received an initial draft of a budget framework for the 2012-13 school year. What was presented was a balanced budget. Included in that draft are the following:

1. Similar to our kindergarten class size, we will **lower class sizes** at the first grade in order to achieve a ratio of approximately **one teacher for every 20 students**.
2. A recommendation to change our **health insurance** to an option that would **save the District approximately \$1.8 million** over the next year.
3. The budget plan also proposes continued **technology improvement** via the use of **iPads and computers** across all academic levels, effectively aligned with our District Digital Conversation Plan focused on student learning.

4. A significant number of **major maintenance projects** totaling approximately **\$1.5 million** are included in the budget. The majority of the work will take place throughout the summer in preparation for the new school year.

5. An additional recommendation to decrease our **Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)** was presented to the Board of Education. This proposal would save the District approximately **\$94 million over the next 26 years**. A final recommendation concerning OPEB will be made in the fall of this year.

Evaluation - We continue to work in the area of evaluation on several fronts. We have implemented our new **faculty assessment model** this year and will add an **evaluation instrument** for our support staff later this year.

We believe that our evaluation and assessment models will more than meet the standards as outlined by the state and federal guidelines related to effective teachers and administrators.

As I have stated many times in the past, Neenah is a special place. As a beacon in our community, our District continues to shine bright in the Valley and throughout our state. Our schools are places that some districts merely dream about. **"Neenah with Pride"** continues to be reflected through our dedicated staff and supportive community. **Neenah Joint School District is a special place to be!** Have a great summer!

Yours in Education,

Dr. Mary Pfeiffer

2012-2013 School District Budget Development Moves Forward

A year ago at this time, all eyes were on Madison as significant changes to school financing were being proposed, debated, implemented, and litigated. Your local school officials were trying to determine what effect, if any, these changes might have on students, parents, employees, and taxpayers.

Today, activity in Madison has calmed down (relatively speaking) and the District is well underway with the development of their 2012-13 budget. The budget process this year does not have as many of the uncertainties that clouded and hindered last year's budget process.

Similar to this year's budget (2011-12), employee salaries and benefits will once again dominate the budget development for 2012-13. The Board of Education is spending considerable time in this area as it seeks to find a balance that will attract and retain quality staff.

The District will continue to make a financial commitment towards lower class sizes in the primary grades, professional learning opportunities for employees, and necessary equipment and general learning materials (software, textbooks, etc.) for all students.

Major maintenance projects tentatively identified for inclusion in the District's 2012-13 budget have been identified. In addition, the District will continue to seek opportunities to lower general operating costs through the use of energy conservation techniques and cost containment practices.

As part of the 2012-13 budget process, the District's food service program will be reviewed and scrutinized with the expectation that next year, students will be provided with a healthier, more diversified menu. It is anticipated that the food service program will become an efficient, self-supporting operation next year and for years to come.

Who is that Guy?

Andrew Thorson - Facilities Engineer



Who is that guy walking around our school looking at everything? What is he writing? Can he help me? The answer to the first question is Andrew Thorson, Facilities Engineer – nice to meet you! The second question – I am usually writing notes about things that need care and attention from the school district's outstanding Operations and Maintenance personnel, and finally, "YES!" I can help you.

You have probably seen me wandering (seemingly) aimlessly through the hallways of your school looking at things most people don't typically look at. Or, you may have seen me up on the roof of your school, or even disappearing into the boiler room.

In September, I was hired as the school district's new Facilities Engineer. Since it's been seven months now, I figured it is about time I officially introduce myself. Prior to coming to the Neenah Joint School District, I was an engineering consultant for a firm in the Milwaukee area. My wife Heather, our two daughters, Abigail (3) and Lydia (1), and I decided to relocate back to the area where Heather grew up, and I am very happy to have obtained this position with NJSD.

Since starting my job at NJSD, I have spent a lot of time getting to know all of the Operations and Maintenance staff, Administrative staff, and the school district's approximately 1.5 million square feet of buildings. As you can imagine, that much square footage requires a lot of attention and as a result, we have many projects planned this summer and next school year. Here are a few of the projects we are working on:

NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL	LAKEVIEW	SHATTUCK
Replace the boiler system at NHS Conant	Sealcoat the parking lots	New physical science lab
Resurface the tennis courts		Replace west wing stairwell windows
Reconstruct NHS parking lots A & B		



Your Go To Source for Neenah High School News

www.neenahrockets.blogspot.com

Sign up for email updates and catch the news as it happens at NHS!

Missed some news? - No worries, scroll through the archive to see past issues too. *Join us and celebrate Rocket achievements in company!*

6th Grade Academic Awards Ceremony

Please join us as we celebrate the successes of our students!

Thursday, May 31st at 7:00pm

Shattuck OJ Gym, Shattuck Middle School

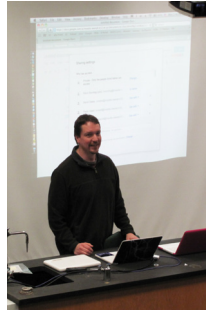
Contact: 751-6940 ext. 132 with questions or email:

sflemming@neenah.k12.wi.us

A Passion for Excellence - Professional Learning Days

Teacher to Teacher Development Initiatives Improve Student Learning The ultimate goal of professional learning for staff is improved student learning. Professional learning that is systemic, focused, authentic, and job-embedded is most effective.

How does professional learning like that happen in the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD)?



There is a commitment to professional learning at all levels in NJSD, kindergarten through grade 12, with a focus on district-level priorities such as technology, differentiated instruction, and the Common Core State Standards as well as building-based needs like school improvement planning.

A team of educators builds a learning plan for staff based upon the needs of our students. Knowing that students would be using mobile devices as learning tools, for example, the District launched a multi-year plan for teachers to become more conversant with mobile technology. And, like students, teachers are tested on technology proficiency as well. With new standards in math and English/language arts on the horizon, teachers are delving deep into the standards and determining the instructional implications that will ultimately impact student learning.

All of this learning and more happens, in part, on the District's professional learning days. Approximately nine half-day sessions are dedicated to staff professional learning throughout the school year. Students are dismissed from the classroom and the staff members become the students. The District has employed a workshop model for staff learning. There is a cycle in the workshop approach whereby staff learn, practice, reflect, and then share with others. Hallmark to the model is that teachers are teaching teachers. Our staff has a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with one another, that fits perfectly with the workshop model. Professional learning days provide the opportunity for authentic, focused, job-embedded experiences that directly impacts student learning.

Spring 2012 Asbestos Update

On October 4, 1998, the Board of Education approved an Asbestos Management Plan in accordance with the Federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). A copy of the District-wide plan is on file at the Administration Building, 410 South Commercial Street. Inquiries about the plan should be directed to the District's Facilities Coordinator at (920) 751-6800, ext. 201. Each school building also has a plan on file in the principal's office. Inquiries about a specific building's plan should be directed either to the building principal or to the school secretary. Asbestos management activities that occurred over the past twelve months include, but are not limited to the following:

Six-month and three-year inspections

Ongoing operations and maintenance projects completed by certified personnel

Asbestos-containing mastic removal from the ceiling cork in the cooler at Shattuck Middle School

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MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERTS - PUBLIC WELCOME

May 22 - Horace Mann **Band** - 7:00 p.m. Horace Mann Gym

May 24 - Middle School **Orchestra** (grades 6-8) - 7:00 p.m.
in Shattuck's OJ Gym

May 28 - Shattuck's Band will march in the **Memorial Day parade**
9:00 a.m. Along the parade route - Neenah / Menasha

Join our NJSD Board of Education Meetings

Held on the **first** and **third Tuesday** of the month, unless otherwise noted, at **6:00 p.m. beginning in July 2012.**

NJSD Administration Building, 410 S. Commercial, Neenah
Agendas, Minutes, and Information Packets are available online and accessible via:

www.neenah.k12.wi.us/district/boardofeducation.cfm

Neenah High School - Spirit of Excellence 2012

Rockets Win Prestigious State of Wisconsin Award

We Are the Rockets! - We feel pretty certain that Neenah High School ranks among the finest in Wisconsin, (if not in the Nation!) Having said that, perception isn't always reality. A state-wide competition gives an opportunity to check our perceptions. Convinced Neenah High School (NHS) is a very special place, NHS student council members **Alissa Rashid, Abbie Sliwicki, Lydia Fahrenkrug, Claire Tipton, and Erin Coenen** along with their advisor, **Mr. LaLuzerne** submitted a thirty-six page portfolio to **Wisconsin's Spirit of Excellence Program**. Their initiative, as well as the initiatives of countless Neenah High Rockets, paid off! **Neenah placed 1st in Region III** - which means **best in the Fox Valley, and best in Northeast Wisconsin!** Further, **Neenah placed 4th for the entire State of Wisconsin**. Congratulations Neenah Rockets, and thank you to our Student Council for the countless hours they have spent in trying to capture the essence of life as a Neenah High School Rocket. Neenah's portfolio consisted of three main categories: service to school and community, leadership, and sportsmanship. Letters of recommendation from a student and community members were also included.

SERVICE TO SCHOOL & COMMUNITY

- Caring for our "NHS" family
- Celebrating diversity
- Fostering appreciation & respect for all people
- Nurture & respect for our environment
- Creating fun & safe environments for teens
- Helping those less fortunate
- Teaching & mentoring younger students
- Sharing new technology with older generations
- Facilitating healthy & active lifestyles
- Fundraising, donations, & support for the ill
- Making other charitable contributions

LEADERSHIP & ACHIEVEMENT

- Learning the power of working together
- Making right decisions
- Building courage, confidence, and character
- Trying new things, meeting new people
- Striving to improve by learning from mistakes
- Sharing & instilling good values with younger students or peers
- Attending leadership training
- Lowering the achievement gap
- Mentoring peers
- Tutoring fellow or younger students
- Overcoming barriers & obstacles
- Exploring civic leader opportunities
- Serving on local boards & committees
- Leading young campers at summer camps

LEADERSHIP & ACHIEVEMENT

ACADEMICS - For several years, the Neenah Joint School District continues to have the highest ACT scores in the Valley. Of the graduating 2011 seniors, 84% furthered their education in post-secondary studies, 3% served in the military, and another 6% pursued either direct employment or job training. In 2011, we had three National Merit Finalists and one National Merit Scholar.

Our Debate Team shapes articulate speakers and we have had students win recognition at the state and national levels. Our Math Team competes and consistently ranks among the best in the Valley. We continue to place as national finalists in the American Chemical Society's Chemistry Olympiad.

ATHLETICS - Neenah High School consistently rises to the occasion in competitive sports environments; competing and winning at state and national levels. Many of our programs have won championships not only year after year, but for decades at division and state-wide levels.

FINE ARTS - NHS enjoys a strong culture of pursuit and support for the arts - with programs ranging from art competitions, drama, theater, voice, varying music genres, dance, string, brass, percussion, and wind instruments. NHS has earned top marks in state competition and has traveled on a national level to share their talents by performing for others.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Sportsmanship is about having the courage to compete right - through commitment, discipline, and by: generating team spirit and excitement, following rules, keeping a positive and tough attitude, serving as role models, building strong team relationships, motivating peers, having fun, and respecting both team members and opponents.

Sportsmanship doesn't only occur on the field or in extra-curricular settings. It occurs off the field through fans and every day occurrences. NHS recognizes the importance of everyone supporting each other.

We cheer on our colleagues, celebrate success, and organize around events through announcements, themed games and attire, pep band, dance, and by proudly displaying Rocket victories year after year in the hallway of our fieldhouse. We always remember the pride and tradition that Rockets carry.

Experience Rocket Power at one of our upcoming events:

www.neenah.k12.wi.us/schools/high/activities.cfmRocket

Or catch our scoreboard:

www.neenah.k12.wi.us/schools/high/activities.cfm

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Neenah High School Graduation

Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Ron Einerson Fieldhouse NHS - 1275 Tullar Rd.

Two tickets per family have been mailed to graduate homes. Parents may obtain up to six more tickets per family by stopping at the main office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. of school day. **Ph: 751-6900 ext. 113**

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS throughout NJSD!

Community Connections share pictures & news from all our schools Find them in the Community section of our website,

www.neenah.k12.wi.us/community/community_districtnews.cfm

Early Learning Opportunities in the Neenah Joint School District



Neenah Joint School District's Early Learning Center, located at Taft School, is dedicated to providing services to preschool children who have a disability or are considered at risk. Students who attend the Early Learning Center develop social, communication, and readiness skills through a wide variety of programs.

What types of preschool programs are offered in the Neenah Joint School District? The Neenah Joint School District provides a wide variety of programming for preschool students who reside within the District. All of our programs meet state standards for early childhood education and are led by certified early childhood staff members. The type of programming a child receives is determined by his/her developmental skill level. Many children participate in our Child Find Screenings, and based upon their performance, are recommended for further evaluation or considered for the Title 1 Preschool Program. Listed below are the programs offered in the Neenah Joint School District:

Community - If found to have a disability, some children receive services in their natural environment, which could include their preschool, home, childcare setting, or other community location. Our Early Learning Center staff has a collaborative relationship with community-based providers that offer a variety of options for young children in their natural environment.

Itinerant Speech & Language Services - Some students may receive speech-language therapy in either an individual or small group therapy session at Taft Early Learning Center. The duration and frequency of these sessions are determined by the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) team and are led by one of our certified Speech-Language Pathologists.

Preschool Phonology Program - Our Preschool Phonology Program offers intensive speech-language therapy to students who qualify. This instruction, led by a certified Speech-Language Pathologist, meets twice a week.

Early Childhood Special Education Program - The Early Childhood Program provides instruction to students who have been identified as having a disability. Morning and afternoon half-day programs are offered Monday - Thursday. The frequency and duration of services are determined by the child's IEP team. A certified Early Childhood Special Education Teacher leads all of our classes.

Title 1 Preschool - This early intervention program, led by our certified Pre-K teacher, assists children who are considered at risk following our child find screenings. This program is designed for students who are 4 years old by September 1. The program is offered half-days, Monday-Thursday at Taft.

How can my child access these programs?

The Neenah Joint School District conducts developmental screenings for preschool-aged children who reside within the District. A Child Find Preschool Screening can answer many questions about your child's development. The purpose of the screening is to identify children who may need access to our programs at Taft.

The screening dates for 2012-2013 are:

September 6 and 7, 2012
October 5, 2012
November 2, 2012
January 4, 2013
February 1, 2013
March 8, 2013
April 5, 2013

If you have, or know of someone who has, a child who is between the ages of two years, nine months and age five, **please contact Taft Early Learning Center at 920.751.6980 ext. 101 to schedule an appointment.** The screenings are FREE and take approximately one hour.

Early Childhood Education in Neenah is a true partnership.

Parents are an important part of the team and process of educating children. Parents become actively involved in our programs and learn a variety of ways to help their child through home activities. Educational parent meetings are also provided throughout the school year. Parents are given support and encouragement by participating in activities with parents of other children at the Early Learning Center.

For more information about the Neenah Joint School District's Early Learning Center, please visit our web page at: www.neenah.k12.wi.us/schools/taft or contact the Early Learning Center at 920.751.6980.

Board of Education Supports Staffing Plan Focused on Lower Class Sizes and Core Academics

4.8 MORE TEACHING POSITIONS

A new District Math Coordinator

A new teacher for Alliance Charter

2 new teachers for Horace Mann

K-5 projected class size is 22.1 students

6-12 projected class size is 24-28 students

The Board of Education approved an additional 4.8 teaching positions for the 2012-13 school year. The Board unanimously supported to create a District Math Coordinator position which will provide curriculum, instruction, and assessment articulation for all NJSD schools.

The District Math Coordinator will be responsible for working with teachers on the implementation of the Common Core curriculum, the analysis of data and assessment to improve instruction, and will serve as a professional resource to teachers in meeting the learning needs of their individual students.

The Board also approved an additional teacher for Alliance Charter School and two additional teachers for Horace Mann Middle School. The additional teaching positions are a result of increased interest in the charter school and an increased enrollment at Horace Mann.

The average class size for the elementary K-5 is projected at 22.1 students. The projected class size in the core academic areas at the secondary level range from 24 - 28.

Although each decision is difficult to make when balancing a budget, the Board of Education continues to provide support to maintain lower class sizes in the primary grades and core academic areas while also supporting a rigorous and challenging curriculum for all students.

Congratulations Merit Finalists

Benjamin Godlewski and Sarah Peterson



We have the privilege of announcing that two of our students are Finalists in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSC). These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth

million. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

NMSC, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC's goals of honoring the nation's scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence. The students at Neenah High School who have achieved this honor are: **Benjamin Godlewski** and **Sarah Peterson**. The staff of the Neenah Joint School District wishes to extend its congratulations to these students for this remarkable achievement.

A message from the Board of Education (BOE) *Meet our Newest Member, Steve Lenz*



Please Join our BOE Meetings

Unless otherwise noted on the District's website, BOE Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Neenah Joint School District Administrative Building located at: **410 S. Commercial Street, Neenah WI. Beginning in July 2012, meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m.**

We welcome our newest Board of Education member, Mr. Steve Lenz. Steve is a 1998 graduate of Neenah High School. After graduating from high school, Mr. Lenz received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

Recognizing the value of educational excellence, Mr. Lenz observed, "When I was a child growing up in Neenah, I was proud to tell people where I went to school. The Neenah Joint School District was known to have higher quality programs, opportunities, and curriculum. As an adult, father, and home owner, I know the value of a good education system for a community. A quality system is an important factor for bringing in and keeping quality people into an area."

Mr. Lenz is married and has four children. We are excited about hearing and learning from Mr. Lenz as we continue to make Neenah a great place to learn, live, and work.

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WIAA Boys and Girls Track and Field Regional

Monday, May 21 starting at 3:45 p.m.

Neenah High School Rocket Stadium

Tickets: \$5 adults, \$3 students

www.neenah.k12.wi.us/nhs/athletics/Schedules

Shattuck 8th Grade Academic Awards Ceremony

Please join us as we celebrate the successes of our students!

June 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Shattuck OJ Gym, Shattuck Middle School

Contact: 751-6850 ext. 136 with questions or email:

kschuman@neenah.k12.wi.us

Horace Mann Middle School

A Fuel Up to Play 60 Touchdown School

Students and staff at Horace Mann Middle School have been working hard this school year at staying active and eating right. For the second consecutive year, Horace Mann has participated in the NFL's Fuel Up to Play 60 program. In Wisconsin, the program is co-sponsored by the **Green Bay Packers** and the **Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board**. **The goal of the program is to help kids learn fun new ways to be active for 60 minutes each day. Horace Mann was recently named a Play 60 Touchdown School for successfully completing all of the program challenges.**

Students Planned & Worked Towards their Goal

At the start of the school year, **60 students were chosen to be part of a Fuel Up to Play 60 Committee** advised by Horace Mann teachers **Stephanie DeMenter, Mary Greene, and Jeff Leopold**. The students made a commitment to help the rest of their school become more active. Students on the committee have grown to be seen as positive role models and leaders for the school.

Committee members worked with their advisors to plan monthly wellness activities throughout the school year. Each month there's a noon dismissal day at Horace Mann and that morning is used for getting active. The noon dismissal day allows for all students at Horace Mann to be engaged in moving for an extended period of time and allows them to find an activity they can enjoy. The days are also a chance for staff to "play" with students in a different environment.

Some of the activities students participated in during the Fuel Up Days included **walking, running, dancing, volleyball, basketball, football, soccer, jumping rope, hula hooping, using the school cardio room and playing at local parks**. The final Fuel Up activity day in May will be an all school **10k Walk-A-Thon**.

Neenah High School Athletes Helped

Horace Mann was fortunate to have Neenah High School student athletes come and help lead activities during these Fuel Up mornings. The **NHS football team** helped kick off our Fuel Up program in September by leading students through football drills, including the diving catch. Later in the year, students participated in basketball drills with the **NHS boys and girls basketball teams**.

HM Students Captured the Experience in Movies

Students on the committee recently competed in a contest to create a movie showcasing how their school has been staying active during the year. Students worked in small groups to create videos using iPads. Students were lucky enough to have **one video win first place and a trip to the Don Hutson center for 20 group members in May**. They received a tour of **Lambeau Field** and worked out with **Packer alumni players**. See the award winning video: www.schooltube.com/video/52048bea9e4e4213a15a



Committee members ran through a football drill with retired Packer Ahman Green as part of the Green Bay Packers Back to Football event at the Resch Center last September.



Thanks to the hard work of the students on the Fuel Up to Play 60 Committee, Horace Mann is a school where students and staff have fun together and work to stay healthy and active. Everyone looks forward to the fun they will have each Fuel Up day.

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Get Your News from the Satellite at NHS
www.moodle.neenah.k12.wi.us/satellite/

What's the buzz at NHS? NHS Students report on news, events, entertainment, extracurriculars, and more. Includes excellent NHS commentary and photos.

Maddie Lading, Editor-in-Chief and Beth Plankey, Advisor

WIAA Girls Soccer Sectional Final
Saturday, June 9 starting at 1 p.m.

Neenah High School Rocket Memorial Soccer Stadium
Tickets: \$4 adults, \$4 students

Neenah Tomorrow Fund Partners with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation

The **Neenah Tomorrow Fund** was pleased to partner with the **Oshkosh Area Community Foundation (OACF)** under its umbrella of education funds earlier this year and OACF was also thrilled with the news that the District's scholarship funds would follow.

"We are very pleased to be working with Neenah to provide them with our expertise to maximize their investments and build their endowment," said Eileen Connolly-Keesler, president and CEO of the Community Foundation.

The Community Foundation's administration of the Neenah funds also **provides an important means for donors to make online gifts 365 days a year, 24-hours a day, via a secure website.**

Online gifts to the Neenah Tomorrow Fund can be made via the NJSD website homepage at www.neenah.k12.wi.us. On the right side of the page under Quick Links click **"Give to NJSD."** That link will take you directly to the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation homepage at **www.OshkoshAreaCF.org**. Next, **click on the Neenah Tomorrow Fund** under Quick Links.

On the Neenah Tomorrow Fund webpage, donors will find a **PDF of the District's Wish List** and a **link to the online donation form**. The direct link to the donation form is **www.oshkoshareacf.org/donor_faf.cfm?f=640**. The form allows items from the Wish List to be entered as well as information about whether the gift is in honor or memory of someone, or simply for a special occasion. **Credit card transactions are processed through Authorize.net, a highly trusted and secure processor used by thousands of businesses and nonprofits around the world.**

In the near future, the Community Foundation's website will include an **interactive Wish List** as well as other efficient and engaging tools to support the Neenah Tomorrow Fund and the District's individual scholarship funds.

Gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds, life insurance, and real estate are also accepted. Please contact the Community Foundation (**920-426-3993**) for details.

The Oshkosh Area Community Foundation is a nonprofit charitable organization created by and for the people of Winnebago County, Waushara County, Green Lake County, and Ripon. Through charitable giving, the Community Foundation strives to make our communities thrive.

Rockets Banking Lifts Off



As we announced in our last newsletter, our new Rockets Banking program has been launched in partnership with **Associated Bank**. Now, Neenah Joint School District supporters can open a Rockets Banking account at Associated Bank's Neenah branches and **the District receives a \$50 contribution from Associated Bank for each checking account opened and a quarterly donation based upon the combined deposit balances of all Rockets Banking members.**

The District also receives **additional contributions** for **other new deposit accounts such as savings, money market and certificates of deposit**. The only requirement for participation is that you need to have an Associated Bank checking account (or a savings account for minors). If you are already an Associated Bank customer, just let the branch know that you want to participate in Rockets Banking and your accounts will be enrolled in the program.

Besides helping to provide a source of ongoing funding for the Neenah Joint School District, **Rockets Banking customers also receive a one-of-a-kind Rockets Banking debit card**. With our school logo set against a Rockets red background, you'll make a Rockets pride statement every time you take it out of your wallet.

Becoming a member of Rockets Banking is easy. Simply visit one of the Associated Bank branches here in Neenah at 100 W. Wisconsin Avenue or at their Pick 'n Save branch at 828 Fox Point Plaza. For more information, call Associated Bank's Branch Manager Lanette Van Cuijk at 920-727-5242.

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CELEBRATE NEENAH - Future Neenah Gallery Walk

Celebrate the artistic work of our very own Neenah High School students by taking a stroll through downtown Neenah. Twenty-two students' watercolor paintings are on display through Memorial Day courtesy of **our NHS students, Future Neenah, Brenda Mullard, Lisa Dorschner, and Tammi Erickson.**

Stay Up to Date w/NJSD News & Events

Follow us on Facebook or Twitter

www.facebook.com/pages/Neenah-Joint-School-District/286455414703701

www.twitter.com/#!/NeenahSchools

Shattuck in the Springtime



Some photo highlights from left to right include: The Music Man Jr. Production, the Annual Dinner Theater, the Goodwill Drive, and Mayor Scherck presenting at Shattuck Reads Week.

While many look to wind down the school year as we enter into May, Shattuck Middle School has truly come alive this spring!

In March, students from the **Horace Mann** and **Shattuck Middle School Drama Program** hosted the annual Neenah Joint School District **Dinner Theater** for members of our community prior to their presentation of **The Music Man Jr.** directed by **Mr. Jason Fridley**, **Ms. Trisha Benbo**, and **Ms. Karyl Schnyder**. Community members dined while enjoying the sounds of the **Shattuck Middle School Middle Fiddles ensemble** under the direction of **Ms. Jilaine Jarvis** and **Touch of Class** under the direction of **Mrs. Kristina Stingle**. Then the talented Middle School Drama cast and crew presented five nearly flawless performances of **The Music Man Jr.** on March 22-25 to the patrons who filled the Shattuck Auditorium for each performance.

In April, Shattuck renewed its commitment to teaching reading as a lifelong skill. During **Shattuck Reads Week**, students were treated to daily “read-ins” and trivia contests that put the joy of reading as a lifelong activity on display as students answered questions about their teachers’ favorite books, both as children and adults. The highlight of the week was the day in which Shattuck invited guest readers in from our community. These **special dignitaries** shared their passion for reading as adults as they read their favorite selections to students throughout the building. **Neenah Joint School District Board of Education** member **Mrs. Christine Grunwald** provided kids with lessons in growing up from the original **Frankenstein** written by Mary Shelley. She was joined by fellow Board of Education members, **Mr. Kirk Leeser**, **Mr. John Lehman**, and **Mr. Jeff Spoehr**, who shared their reading inspirations with the students. Members of the **Neenah Fire and Police Departments** as well as **Mayor George Scherck** read to students and discussed the ways in which reading impacted their lives. **Executive Directors Jan Smith** and **Jane Lang** of the **Bergstrom-Mahler Art Museum** and the **Neenah Historical Society**, respectively, shared the impact that literacy has had on our community as a whole. The students and staff were extremely thankful for this community-wide learning experience.

While our literacy initiatives kept us busy, Shattuck students continued to reach out to the community through the **Strive 2B initiative**. Partnering with the **Neenah Rotary**, students and staff from Shattuck participated in the **building of a shed which will be donated to a Neenah family through Habitat for Humanity**. This event was the culminating event for the Strive 2B group’s activities for the year. On April 26, this **group of young leaders was recognized at the Neenah Rotary luncheon** held at the **Holiday Inn in Neenah**.

The vibrant spring at Shattuck didn’t end there. **Shattuck Middle School’s BLAST** team participated in “**Cooperation Day**” at **Hoover Elementary School** and **discussed with the young students at Hoover the importance of cooperating with one another and adults**. The BLAST team continued to communicate these messages to their peers at Shattuck during extended homeroom time.

Of course the **Shattuck orchestra, band**, and **choir students** have and will continue to perform throughout the springtime at concerts to be held at various times from now through June, and the **Shattuck track and field** teams will continue to excel on the track.

Finally, the **Shattuck faculty and staff** have begun a drive to create an **outdoor classroom at Shattuck**. While this initiative will not end this spring, it is yet another example of our vibrant community coming to life in the springtime. **Should you care to assist with this worthwhile project, please contact Shattuck Middle School at 920-751-6850 to donate time or resources**. It is our hope and vision to include all members of our community in our continued growth, even as our year draws to a close.

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Looking for Extra-curricular opportunities for your kids?

Neenah’s Academic Booster Club (ABC) has a listing of opportunities in our schools and has just published a list of opportunities in the Fox Valley and beyond. Check them out on our website:

www2.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/abc/Enrichment

PARENTS - DO YOU HAVE AN iPhone?

Take advantage of our iPhone app from Parent Portal. Simply sign up, and **get automatic alerts EVERY TIME your child’s grades are entered / updated!**

Spotlight on Schools

NEENAH STOCK MARKET WHIZ KIDS DO IT AGAIN! - Tullar students had fun learning about the **Stock Market** by competing in a challenge open to **1,400 teams** throughout the state of Wisconsin. The competition was open to **grades 5-12**, so Tullar students were among the youngest entrants. Tullar teams took **1st, 2nd, 4th, and 6th** in the entire state competition! Tullar also had **seven out of the top eight teams** in the elementary division of the game. All of the winning Tullar teams were recognized and given certificates and medals for their achievements at a banquet at **Ridgeway Country Club in Neenah** on February 1, 2012. **The top finishers among all teams in the state** were Tullar students **Emma Kroll, Olivia Millay, and Madelynn Hendriks**. the **first place winners**, along with team advisor **Tim Hopfensperger**, went on an **all-expense paid trip to New York City** where they visited the **New York Stock Exchange, Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero**, went to a **Broadway show**, stayed at a **5-star hotel**, and ate at **world class restaurants**, all compliments of **Economics Wisconsin**.

SPRING ROAD CELEBRATES NEW MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES - Congratulations to **Mrs. Shebesta** for receiving a grant for a **classroom set (30) of ukeleles!** As a result of Mrs. Shebesta's efforts, **students in grades 3-5 will have ukeleles** integrated **into their general music** classes during the 2012-2013 school year. Special thanks to the funding sources of this grant: **Neenah Music Parents for their \$250 donation**, **Educational Foundation of Neenah for their \$500 donation**, and **The Neenah Tomorrow Fund for their \$750 donation**. Additional funding needed was supplied by **NJSD**. Now that is teamwork at its finest!!!

LAKEVIEW SPIRIT WEEK A SUCCESS! - **Lakeview Student Council** and advisors, **Alisia Myers** and **Jerry Spanbauer**, organized a successful **Spirit Week** and **Penny War**, March 26-30! Each day, students and staff participated in dressing up: **Crazy Hair Day, 100 Year Old Day, Grade Color War Day, Pajama Day, and Neenah Gear Day**. In addition to dressing up, all classrooms competed in a **Penny War** to raise money for Student Council. The Student Council plans to use the **\$1,317.41** raised this year for purchasing classroom/school supplies and enhancing the outdoor learning area!

SHATTUCK ART STUDENTS CREATING MURAL - **Shattuck Middle School art teacher, Mrs. Amy Michaels**, and the **Shattuck Middle School Art Club** have spent countless hours after school infusing their artistic gifts throughout the building. Currently, Mrs. Michaels and her students are **creating a mural embracing a theme of diversity and acceptance** along a prominent hallway on the first floor of Shattuck. Mrs. Michaels and her students spend each Friday after school continuing to make this mural come to life!

PROFESSOR GIZMO VISITS CLAYTON - **Clayton students** had an exciting **morning of science with Professor Gizmo (Mr. Krueger)** on Tuesday, February 28, 2012. Professor Gizmo has taught hundreds of thousands of students and adults throughout the country about the wonders of science. As a teacher, **Mr. Krueger has received numerous teacher and educator of the year awards** and served as **President of the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers**. Mr. Krueger loves performing as Professor Gizmo and especially enjoys the interaction with the students. We all enjoyed his presentations on force and sound!

TAFT CELEBRATES READING - **The Taft kindergarten and Title One preschool students had a great week celebrating reading and Dr. Seuss**. They had **Spirit Week, Pajama Day, Backward/Crazy Hair day, Favorite Color, and Hat Day**. They invited special readers all week including, **Dr. Pfeiffer who shares the same title as "Dr." Seuss**, yet we learned neither works in a hospital; **Ms. Macklin from Horace Mann who reminded us to take care of our Earth** with her felt board story of **"The Lorax"**; **Mr. Tauscher and Mrs. Pfankuch** who read as **Thing One and Thing Two, blue hair and all**; **Mr. Dreger who wore his lucky fishing hat in honor of "One Fish, Two Fish"**; and **Ms. Weiss**, our Literacy Coordinator, **who could probably "Read With Her Eyes Shut."** Thank you to all our guest readers for making the week so fun!

ROCKET POWER ABOUNDED AT NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL - with too many victories to list in this issue's spotlight! Please see our **NHS Rocket News Blog**, www.neenahrockets.blogspot.com/ or **Community Connections**, www.neenah.k12.wi.us/community/community_districtnews.cfm, archives of which are listed by date on the right-hand sidebar, to learn about some of our recent achievements and more. Some recent accomplishments include:

- Neenah's **chess team** captured the **Northeastern Wisconsin Chess Association championship** and placed **15th** at the **national tournament**. The **JV chess team** also **defended its state title**.
- A **first place win** for the **Math Team** in the **Fox Valley Math League** with several student victories.
- NHS students participated in their **first ever culinary competition** in Milwaukee.
- **Four of the eight Fox Valley Area Art Show awards** were won by **Neenah High School students** at the **Bergstrom-Mahler Museum!**
- We had several overall champions in their categories at the **DECA State Career Development Conference**. NHS had **36 Small Business Enterprises** achieve gold, **101 achieve gold re-certification**, **17 silver**, and **5 bronze**. Neenah was **one of only nine Wisconsin schools** who achieved the **gold level!**
- **Lydia Fahrenkrug** received the **2012 Kohl Excellence Scholarship** award.
- **Ten Neenah High School chemistry students** participated in the local **Chemistry Olympiad** with **Chase Bruggeman qualifying for his third consecutive year to participate in the National Chemistry Olympiad** and several other student victories.
- **Russell Burton**, a senior at Neenah High School, was selected as **one of two students representing Wisconsin** at the **2012 National Youth Science Camp**. Established in 1963 as a part of West Virginia's Centennial Celebration, the National Youth Science Camp is an annual summer forum where two delegates representing each state exchange ideas with leading scientists and other professionals from academic and corporate worlds.
- **Several students** advanced to the **State Finance Bowl**. Once again **Neenah High School occupied two out of the top three spots** in the finals!

UW OSHKOSH STUDENTS AT WILSON AND HOOVER ELEMENTARY **Twenty teams of students majoring in elementary education acted as guest readers in Wilson classrooms and Hoover Elementary School's Community Learning Center (CLC) after school program during Read Across America Week**. The elementary education majors developed integrated art and literacy lessons in their art education methods courses and taught the lessons. **Dr. Mary Hoefflerle, a UW art education faculty member** who is very interested in building mutually beneficial partnerships between the university and local schools, advises all the student groups.

COOLIDGE SPELLING BEES - **Congratulations to the fifth grade students in Mrs. Bayer's, Mr. Karrmann's, and Mr. Sollitto's classes** who won their classroom spelling bees and participated in the Coolidge School bee on March 30. Spellers competing in our school bee were **Amanda Argall, Faith Arwood, Ava Asbury, Liam Beran, Danyel Bernstein, Anna Beyer, Mackenzie Beyer, Jasmine Hernandez, Matt Meinke, Maddie Nail, Ethan Parker, Kenny Schultz, and Jameson Walczak**. We're proud of all our spellers. **Congratulations to Mackenzie Naquin who won the fifth grade Coolidge spelling bee. Abbie Freundt was the runner-up**. Mackenzie participated in the area spelling bee on Friday, April 13.

ROOSEVELT AND ALLIANCE FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS TOUR MADISON On Monday April 23, the **Alliance and Roosevelt fourth and fifth graders** spent a beautiful day in **Madison**. Our first stop was at the **capitol building** for a guided tour filled with Wisconsin history and exciting facts. From there we headed to the **UW Madison campus** where we enjoyed a **Bascom Hill historic tour**, including a roll down the famous hill and a chance to visit the **Physics Museum** with hands-on exhibits. Overall it was a great day!

Spotlight on Schools (cont.)

OVERALL SPORTS STANDINGS AT A GLANCE

Several Neenah High School sports and activities recently wrapped up a successful winter season with state and national tournament titles and appearances.

Senior wrestler Ryan Bonikowske made his **third trip** to the **state tournament** and placed **fourth overall**, finishing the season with a **41-2 overall record**. Bonikowske was state-runner up in 2011 as a junior.

Senior powerlifter Charles McDonald won his **third straight 181-pound state championship** and also won the **top lifter award** at the **national championship** meet. **Neenah's boys and girls programs captured the combined state title for the 16th time in program history** and **placed second at the national competition**, finishing just six points out of the top spot.

Neenah sent **several boys swimmers and divers to the WIAA state meet** this year. **Sophomore diver Draven Feustel** placed **12th overall**. **Junior Ryan Emenecker** was **17th in diving**, **sophomore Michael Bourland** was **18th in the 50-yard freestyle**, and **sophomore Nick Kehler** was **23rd in the 100-yard freestyle**. The **200-yard freestyle relay** placed **18th** and the **400-yard freestyle relay** finished **21st**.

Both the **Neenah boys' and girls' bowling teams** qualified for **state competition**. The **girls team placed 12th** and the **boys were 14th**. The girls averaged **176.9 over their 15 games** and had the **highest single game of any team with a 257** in their opening game. The **boys averaged 201.2** for the day.

NEW MURAL FOR NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Lisa Dorschner, art teacher wishes to thank all of the **students, staff, parents, community members**, and the **Art Booster Club** who helped with our new mural. A special thanks goes out to **Neenah Rotary** and the **Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region** that provided grants for the artist in-residency and the necessary supplies. We thoroughly enjoyed working with the **artist, Connie Greany, of Legacy Mural workshops**.

The words that shine the most on the mural are **Neenah High School - Be Good To Each Other**. We hope that the components of the mural reveal the message about the **good things that happen at NHS**.

