



Superintendent's

Message - Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year. As I reflected on my first year as District Administrator in the Neenah Joint School District, I was reminded of how special Neenah is. The students are exceptional, our staff is amazing and our community continues

to support the advancement of student learning. Neenah is a very special place.

As we engage in the new school year, we have determined that there are four areas of focus, or strategic initiatives, in our District. They include:

1. Resources – We will make the most of District resources (i.e. personnel, technology, finance, facilities) to support student learning and achievement. It is our intent to develop a rolling 5-year plan to identify and allocate funds.

2. Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment – We will create and implement a PK-12, 21st Century curriculum that is delivered through research-based instruction using benchmark, formative, and summative assessment.

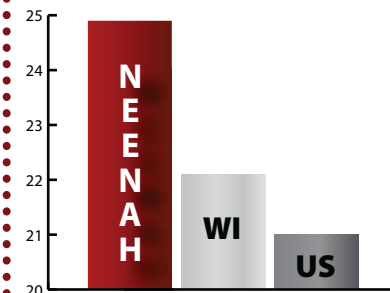
3. Supervision & Evaluation – We will create and implement a comprehensive and meaningful model for the supervision, evaluation, and professional development of all NJSD employees.

4. Communications – We will build internal and external trust by developing and implementing a defined communication process. We must continue to connect with our students, staff, and community members in order to develop an informed and engaged relationship.

Needless to say, we have a great deal of work to do. Teams have been formed to develop, implement and operationalize the four initiatives. The teams are committed to having a focus on student learning while at the same time, being sensitive to our budget limitations.

We continue to encourage the participation of our students, staff and community members. Please consider becoming involved by attending our meetings or providing suggestions and feedback to us at 920-751-6800 ext. 105.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE - ACT Test Scores Neenah Ranks #1 in Fox Valley ACT Composite



Once again, Neenah is the top-ranked school district in the Fox Valley region in each of the four subject areas including reading English, math, and science. Additionally, Neenah had the highest composite score of 24.9, a 0.8 increase from the previous year. Currently, Neenah has the 5th highest ACT score of 426 school districts in Wisconsin.

This achievement is reflective of our outstanding students, staff, and parents.

Horace Mann Implements Reading Workshop Model in All Reading Classes

The reading workshop model is perhaps the best way to differentiate reading instruction. It is a highly individualized program which meets the needs of all learners while promoting free choice and reading for enjoyment.

The 6th grade teachers at Horace Mann enthusiastically began preparing for the workshop model last spring and have worked hard during the summer, as well as the beginning of the school year, to create warm, inviting classrooms which promote literacy.

The reading workshop is comprised of four basic components: Read Aloud, Mini-Lesson, Independent Reading, and Sharing. Children learn about literature and informational text through each of these components. Teachers are able to get to know their students as readers through individual conferences which take place during the independent reading time. This is the ideal situation for teachers to work along side each student to work on individual strengths, weaknesses, and personal reading goals.

We asked some students how they felt about the new program: *"I like when we get to read our own books and we don't get assigned books. I like the small individual book talks with our teacher."* - Laura Kressin *"I like it. There are a lot more books to choose from than last year."* - Austin Belot, and *"It's a lot of fun!"* -Alexis Baumann

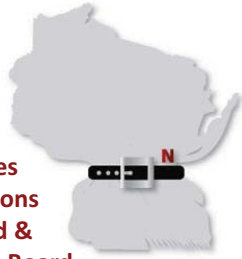


"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."
 - Walt Disney

Board of Education Adopts Budget; Sets Property Tax Levy

RESULT - Despite declining State of Wisconsin funds, the District's total tax levy increased by only 1.53%

HOW? - 10 budget committees developed; public input sessions held; Administrators checked & rechecked financials; and the Board of Education (BOE) listened to community input



The Neenah Joint School District Board of Education made final adjustments to, and then adopted, the 2010-2011 school district budget at a recent meeting. The main operating budget will increase by just 1.36% and the total expenditure budget will increase by less than one percent (.81%). This was a result of some difficult decisions made in preparation for this school year. Last spring, an amount of \$2.8 million in reductions and revenue enhancements led to a low increase in overall spending for the 2010-2011 school year.

This year, the District will again receive less revenue from the State of Wisconsin. This would have required the District to collect even more money from the local taxpayers in order to maintain the existing level of instructional programming. However, the Board of Education thought it was important to refrain from asking local property taxpayers for more tax dollars at this time. Ultimately, the Board levied a property tax that was \$500,000 less than the maximum amount allowed by the State of Wisconsin. The District's total tax levy, therefore, increased by only 1.53% from last year. The equalized tax rate will increase by a modest 3.53% (from \$8.51/thousand to \$8.81/thousand).

The 2010-2011 budget was developed with the input of District staff, community members, and the Board of Education. The Board and Administration thank all stakeholders who participated in the budget process and now look forward to the planning and development of the 2011-2012 budget.

A **NJSD Budget Advisory Committee** was formed to monitor and track results. For more on this committee, see **page 8** of this newsletter.

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This week at NHS, a podcast

Watch the student-produced mini newscast online each Thursday at: moodle.neenah.k12.wi.us/groups/wnhs/blog

See our next generation of newscasters reporting on high school, local, and national news. Includes excellent photos of NHS classes, athletics, and special events. Produced by the Student Assistance Program in support of drug-and-alcohol-free activities. More info: vbayer@neenah.k12.wi.us or 751-6900

Neenah Rocket Players Present *The Wizard of Oz*



Karyl Schnyder served as stage and vocal director for the five *Wizard of Oz* performances in October with record turn-outs of 2,345 in attendance! Teamwork was a key component in the musical's production with 36 cast members, 20 crew members, nearly 20 pit orchestra members and another 20 elementary and middle school students playing Jitterbugs and the Royal Army roles. While *Wizard* is familiar to young and old alike, NJSD actors were encouraged to bring their unique brand of talent to the roles.

In fact, when asked what he enjoyed most about the production, James Bernhardt, aka the Courageous Lion, replied, "...being able to spend time with all of the other talented people in the cast!" Schnyder added, "I loved working with the students. Each of them individually brought different insights and strengths (to the production)."

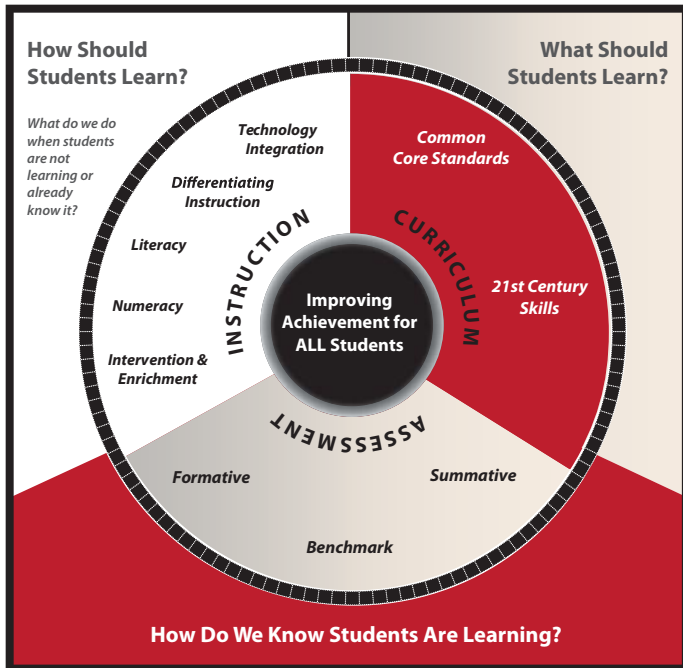
Shattuck Middle School Presents: "Shattuck Live"

Parents experience a "regular day" at Shattuck
December 1, 6 and 13

Reservations required. Contact Karen Schuman
751-6850 ext. 136 or at kschuman@neenah.k12.wi.us
www.neenah.k12.wi.us/shattuck

A Passion for Excellence - Improving Student Achievement

For over a century, Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) has served the greater Neenah area with a special conviction for student achievement. The rich academic tradition that defines our school community is the result of “a passion for excellence” we hold for continuous improvement. We are very proud of the current level of student achievement; however, the commitment to educate all students so they will attain their maximum potential and to prepare our youth to lead productive, fulfilling, and successful lives in a rapidly changing world encourages our school community to be more innovative and effective.



Neenah Joint School District Framework for Student Success

How Do You Improve Student Achievement?

Improving student achievement for all students begins by understanding, developing, and implementing strategies that are based on educational concepts. NJSD has adopted three conceptual and guiding questions: 1) *What should students learn?* This question represents the curriculum. 2) *How do we know students are learning?* This question represents assessment.

An additional question arises within this primary question, which is, *What do we do when a student has already learned the material or is not learning the material?* 3) *How should students learn?* This question represents instruction. Each of these concepts is equally important; however, they need to be understood within a cycle.

Essentially, the curriculum determines what will be learned, the assessment process evaluates a level of learning that is taking place from which instruction can be modified to reach the learning targets set forth via the curriculum. The NJSD Framework for Student Success illustrates this inter-related process.

We are excited about the action steps that are embedded in each of the three concepts. For example, in the curriculum arena, the Common Core State Standards have been recently adopted by the Department of Public Instruction and we are presently working to adopt them locally. We are very pleased that the Common Core Standards are aligned with college and career readiness expectations. In the assessment arena, NJSD is adding to the series of assessment tools for Reading and Math and have established goals to expand into Science and Social Studies. These assessment tools will inform instruction on a daily basis, diagnose and monitor a student’s level of achievement, and provide local and state comparison data. In the instructional arena, we have equipped our teachers with laptops, training in the utilization of technology, as well as in differentiated instructional strategies. The expected outcome of this investment is to increase student achievement due to a more rigorous and relevant curriculum that is delivered in a more personal and technology rich learning environment.

Student learning is a challenging and complicated phenomenon that is also extremely rewarding and inspiring when shared by the child, the teacher, the family, and the school community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERTS - PUBLIC WELCOME

All below concerts start at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 7 - 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert - Shattuck

Thursday, Dec. 9 - 6th Grade Band/Strings - Horace Mann

Tuesday, Dec. 14 - 6th Choir Concert - Horace Mann

Join our NJSD Board of Education Meetings

Held on the **first** and **third Tuesday** of the month, unless otherwise noted, at **7:00 p.m.** Public is welcome!

NJSD Administration Building, 410 S. Commercial, Neenah Agendas, Minutes, and Information Packets are available online and accessible via the District’s home page:

www.neenah.k12.wi.us

Neenah Implements New Technology

Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) dramatically improved access to technology for all students in 2009/2010. Due to a combination of American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds and our general technology budget, we are proud to provide our students with the tools they need to succeed in the 21st century. Here is a brief summary of technological improvements for the 2010-2011 school year:

We developed a continuous 4 year computer replacement cycle. We kept all computers age 3 or less years across the District and purchased new computers for elementary and high school computer labs. Elementary schools now have new computers capable of high resolution video, text to speech, and include other universal access features that will allow us to differentiate instruction for all types of learners. We also replaced teacher desktop computers with laptops to prepare them for teaching students who live in a mobile environment.

Data projectors were installed in all NJSD classrooms. Teachers now provide real-time visual representations of curricular content with resources at the fingertips of staff and students. They participate in video conferences with professionals in the field through Skype or quickly view news sites to garner information on real world events. Students enjoy different types of media that includes video with sights, sounds, and experiences .

We implemented subscriptions to a myriad of digitally-rich, interactive content. We subscribe to online resources including: Discovery Education, Nettekker, and BadgerLink to name a few. This allows teachers and students to incorporate small video clips, sound clips, and encyclopedia content into their assignments. Teachers also use interactive writing prompts and quizzes to engage students in a way they have not been able to previously.

We increased internet access speed tenfold and consolidated all network servers into a centralized fiber network infrastructure. NJSD now receives 100 MB of dedicated Internet access, an increase from the prior 10 MB. Students now access websites with streaming video and multimedia at faster rates throughout the District. We also installed wireless access points in all schools with public wi-fi access hotspots at Neenah High School and Shattuck Middle School.



It's an exciting time in educational technology. Neenah has made the availability of 21st century tools a priority. Technology hardware, along with the integration of engaging technology activities that help students work at higher levels of thinking, will help move NJSD students forward.

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Neenah Wrestling Dual Invitational

Sat., Dec. 11 at Ron Einerson Fieldhouse starts @ 8 a.m.
NHS - 1275 Tullar Rd. - Tickets available at the door:
\$5 for adults and \$3 for students

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

CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS throughout NJSD!

Community Connections share pictures & news from all our schools
Find them on the left-hand side of our website,

www.neenah.k12.wi.us

To Dramatically Advance Student Learning

Technology alone won't change the way we reach students and impact learning. We are training our staff on implementing differentiation and technology integration. A solid structure of teaching and learning must be the focus of our efforts with technology serving as a tool. We partner our new technology tools with focused training on technology integration as well as differentiated instruction techniques and strategies. With these two topics as our main operating system for the school year, we developed monthly professional learning opportunities that dovetail technology integration with differentiated instruction and is supported by a trained cadre of building-based technology mentors.

We created a technology assessment system to help raise the knowledge and skills of all staff in our District. When teachers are more fluent with technology, teaching and consequently, student learning, improves. All NJSD teachers participated in the WayFind Teacher Technology Assessment early this fall. The purpose of the assessment is to establish a baseline of NJSD staff's technology skills. Results help us see where our individual staff and our District strengths lie, as well as areas in which we can improve. The results assist individual teachers as they assemble their own learning plan for the future and drive our professional development offerings throughout the year in the form of after-school sessions, for-credit college courses, or District-wide professional learning topics. At the end of the year, teachers will take the post-test to identify opportunities for improvement and we can gauge the overall technological progress for the year.



Technology in Action - Teachers Speak on Technology Improvements

How has high speed internet and the use of your laptop helped improve student learning?

"I've been able to **look things up 'on the spot'** while working with students. In the past, it took a lot of time. Depending on what it was, I wouldn't bother looking something up because too much valuable time was lost. The teachable moment was lost, so I guess there have been **many more teachable moments** that have been successful because of **immediate access to information.**"

"**Being able to take my laptop anywhere and have access to the files that I need** has helped me to be more prepared for class and has allowed me to do a better job of delivering curriculum in my content area."

"**Attention getting** - we can now 'find' things on our own time to use to enhance lessons that get students' attention and helps make learning more interactive. The more we do this - the more students are engaged - and the more likely they are to achieve in our classrooms."

"**Varied instruction and assessments** - the more we have access to the internet and its vast wealth of material - the more we can vary our instruction and also the manner in which we assess student learning."

"The greatest way it has improved student learning is by my ability to **prepare, present, and assess lessons easier.** Being able to access my documents and the school-approved applications at home is the biggest improvement. I'm also having more fun with the technology. **The students get a better-prepared teacher, a happier teacher, and lessons which are more current and relevant to their learning.** I can also use the technology to **differentiate instruction** in my classroom. For example, I can open the math cd and project the answers to the homework while I work with another group.... Now ask me about the combined technology of laptop, document camera, and data projector. Priceless!"

Giving to the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD)

We are beginning the second year of the Neenah Tomorrow Fund. This specific fund is a funding tool where **YOU select where to put your donation.** When you make your donation, you will have the opportunity to direct your contribution. The fantastic deal about the Neenah Tomorrow Fund is that it is a dollar for dollar match on your donation. Please consider supporting one of the categories listed below.

UNRESTRICTED DONATION – Donations can be both direct to a specific cause or unrestricted to the school district.

SCHOOL – Donate to any of our schools or towards a school wish list item on our Neenah Tomorrow website.

PASSION/PROGRAMMING – Donate to your passion, be it a specific program or curricular item:

- Academics
- Co-curricular Athletic & Activities
- Fine Arts
- Technology
- Culture & Character

IN HONOR OF AN EDUCATOR – We do not accept donations to fund individual teacher salaries; however, we do accept donations in honor of an educator. Educators include all staff members. In this path, one may donate toward any area to celebrate the contributions of a great educator.

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS – Improvements to facilities throughout our District are vital. In this path, one is able to support energy-saving or enhancement projects.

OTHER- In addition to the Neenah Tomorrow Fund, there are other avenues to give to the Neenah Joint School District. We have several organized booster clubs including but not limited to: Athletic booster clubs, Neenah Music Parents, and Parent/Teacher Organizations (PTOs or PTA) at our schools. Another opportunity is the Educational Foundation of Neenah (EFN). Have something in mind that we haven't mentioned? Please call us; we'd like to hear from you.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope for contributions to the Neenah Tomorrow Fund. A gift of any amount is appreciated and is a means to make a statement about your faith in the future of our students. Your support and donations are not only an investment in the future of our students, but also in our community. Please call Jon Joch at **751-6800 x106** with any questions or visit our website: **www.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/neahtomorrow.**

Thank you for considering an investment in the NJSD!

Neenah Family Honors Warren Schuknecht with Gift to Neenah Tomorrow Fund (NTF)

Early this past summer, NTF received a letter from **Richard and Amy Jo Aylward** with a donation in the amount of \$10,000. In and of itself, this gift is very special and worthy of celebration. What is even more touching, is that the **gift is in memory of Mr. Warren N. Schuknecht.** Although teachers and staff do not hear this nearly enough, you do make a significant difference in the lives of others. For the greater community, it's never too late to thank a teacher. Here are excerpts from the Aylwards' letter:

...Amy and I met and started our life together at Neenah High School. The memories of our time at the Armstrong Campus 1978-1979 will always be close to our hearts. Additionally, I can count on one hand the number of people - beyond Amy and my parents - that have had a crucial positive impact on my life. Two of them were NHS teachers.

Of those two teachers there was one in particular that ultimately helped me turn the corner. And I most assuredly needed to turn that corner. He did it by helping me to understand that I had much greater potential and intelligence than that for which I gave myself credit. At the time, I thought this level of care was directed specifically at me. I would grow to understand that, over the course of his career, he had brought this level of care to countless students.

I regret two missed opportunities regarding this teacher. First, he had once invited Amy and I to join him for a meal and conversation at some rural establishment. We never joined him for that meal and possibly missed out on one of the more memorable conversations of our lives. Second, I recently found a thank you letter to him tucked in a drawer. It was completed and addressed yet never sent.

*I would like to thank both Amy and the Neenah Tomorrow Fund for allowing me to find some closure on those missed opportunities by making the following memorial gift to Neenah High School. *Richard and Amy Jo Aylward wish to make a \$10,000 memorial gift to Neenah Tomorrow Fund.*

The gift is to be divided equally between the Arts and Technology programs at Neenah High School. The gift is in honored memory of Warren N. Schuknecht. Mr. Schuknecht began his 32 year teaching career at NHS in 1953. He died in November 2008. During his career, Mr. Schuknecht was honored as Wisconsin's Teacher of the Year. He was truly dedicated to his students. The Aylwards would simply like to say "Thank You, Shooty."



NEENAH HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR CONCERT

December 21st, 2010

Featuring all NHS Choirs!

FREE and open to the public; begins at **7:30 p.m.**

Pickard Auditorium, Neenah High School

1275 Tullar Road, Neenah

For more info: call NHS at **751-6900.**

Rocket Homecoming - 2010

School Spirit was on Full Display



Visit our website for full size photos and a Homecoming slideshow: www.neenah.k12.wi.us

Homecoming Week October 4-8, 2010

Students participated in school spirit days throughout the week with Pajama Day, Tie Dye Day, Animal Print Day, Sports Jersey Day, and Red and White Day. Students also took part in float building activities throughout the week with their respective classes and various clubs.

Homecoming day opened with the morning pep assembly and a performance from the Neenah High School marching band. Each of the fall sports teams and activities were recognized and the classes participated in a cheering contest and a relay race with the seniors taking both titles. The DECA Club held a fashion show to exhibit its newest Rocket merchandise, the spirit squad performed a dance routine, and Detective Pat Pedersen entertained the students by performing two songs. The king and queen of the homecoming court were also revealed.

Nearly 30 units participated in the annual homecoming parade, which began at Rec Park and traveled in front of the Neenah community on Wisconsin Avenue. Marching bands and spirit squads from both Neenah High School and Shattuck Middle School participated along with numerous other school groups.

A crowd of over 2,500 people witnessed an exciting homecoming football game at Rocket Stadium that saw Appleton West score a late touchdown to prevail 17-10 over Neenah. The Rockets trailed 10-0 in the fourth quarter and got a touchdown and a field goal to tie the game before Appleton West escaped with the win. The marching band delivered an outstanding halftime performance and the homecoming court was introduced to the crowd.

The homecoming dance was held the following night in the school cafeteria with nearly 1,300 students attending. Congratulations to the students and staff at Neenah High School on another memorable homecoming week!

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Academic Community Forums

Free, open to the public, and brought to you by:
Neenah's Academic Booster Club (ABC)
All are in the Shattuck Middle School Library

Dec. 6 - 6:30 p.m. Reading / Literacy Night K-12:

Best reads lists provided

Jan. 24 - 6:30 p.m. Math and the K-12 Curricular Path

Dates subject to cancellation, FOR MORE INFO please see:

<http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/abc/upcomings>

HORACE MANN Intramural WRESTLING

Began Nov 29th at Horace Mann
Runs Monday through Wednesday for three
weeks ending on Dec. 15th.

NHS Announces Semifinalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program

Neenah High School has the privilege of announcing that three students: **Aditya Karandikar**, **John Kasper**, and **James Price** are Semifinalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among 16,000 Semifinalists in the 56th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 8,200 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$36 million that will be offered next spring. The staff of the Neenah Joint School District wishes to extend its congratulations to these students for this remarkable achievement!

AP Scholar Awards

In Spring of 2010, 35 students at Neenah High School earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams. The College Board's Advance Placement Program (AP) provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

At Neenah High School, ten students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of 3.5 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Nine students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Sixteen students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars and current seniors include: **Nicholas Bezier**, **Monica Chou**, **Peter Suechting**, **Katherine Svitavsky**, **Matthew Weklar**, **Tasia Williams**, and **Benjamin Wolf**.

Congratulations to all of our AP Scholars!

NJSD Budget Advisory Committee Formed

- \$2.8 million target**
- \$2.7 million identified**
- 11 community members**
- District administrators**
- February update to BOE**



In the 2009-2010 school year, several teams were established to assist in determining areas of reduction or revenue enhancement in preparation for the 2010-2011 school year. The target was \$2.8 million and through the budget process, \$2.7 million was identified.

At the end of the budget process, one of our parents, also a community member, suggested that we consider developing an advisory group to provide a checks and balance system for the Neenah Joint School District. Encouraged by the desire for people to be involved, we established the Budget Advisory Committee. The group is comprised of eleven community members and several administrators.

The purpose of the group will be to monitor the list of items and the amounts identified in each area. Additionally, the group will provide feedback and assistance in areas where a shortfall may occur. We envision that this will be an opportunity to educate our community about school funding. Ultimately, it is our ambition to realize our target of \$2.7 million by June of 2011.

In February, the committee members will present an update to the Board of Education concerning the progress made. It is our hope this approach will inspire learning, transparency, and trust between the District and our community.

NJSD WINTER WEATHER CLOSING PROCEDURES

The Neenah Joint School District provides transportation for approximately 3,000 of its 6,400 students. Under normal circumstances, a decision to close or delay school is predicated on the safe transportation of our children to and from school and **will generally be made no later than 6:00 a.m.** This will provide time for local radio and television stations to broadcast school closings, allow time for the bus contractor to notify drivers not to report, and allow time for parents to make day care arrangements for children who will be staying home. Safety for children, employees, and parents is the overriding factor in making the decision to close school.

Generally when school is closed, all after-school activities will also be canceled. When a decision is made to close the Neenah Public Schools, it has been agreed that all private schools being served with transportation in the District will also be closed. It should be noted that in the past there has been some confusion when the announcements have referenced the "Lena Schools" rather than the Neenah Schools. The following radio and television stations will be contacted to broadcast any school closing announcements:

Radio Stations: WNAM/WOSH/WWWX/WVBO/WPKR; WEMI/WEMY; KFIZ; WTAQ/WNFL/WOZZ/WROE/WZBY/ WNCY /WIXX; WHBY/WAPL/WECB/WZOR/WSCO/KISS FM **Television Stations:** WBAY-TV 2; WLUK-TV FOX 11; WRFV-TV 5; WGBA-NBC 26 You may also obtain messages about school closings via the NJSD Website: neenah.k12.wi.us or at **Twitter.com: NeenahSchools**

ENJOY OUR ELEMENTARY MUSIC CONCERTS! - Free and open to the public!

Share in the joys of the season as our students in grades K-5 perform holiday music of hope and joy from around the world.



- Monday, Dec. 6 **Lakeview Elementary** - 6:30 p.m./Pickard
- Tuesday, Dec. 7 **Wilson Elementary** - 6:00 p.m./Pickard
- Thursday, Dec. 9 **Clayton Elementary** - 6:00 p.m./Pickard
- Monday, Dec. 13 **Tullar Elementary** - 6:00 p.m./Pickard
- Tuesday, Dec. 14 **Coolidge Elementary** - 6:00 p.m./Pickard
- Tuesday, Dec. 21 **ACE/Roosevelt Elementary** - 6:30 p.m./Roosevelt

Bullying in the 21st Century: Creating a Safe School Climate

Bullying has quickly become a growing concern for school children and adults around the world. The adage “kids will be kids” is no longer an acceptable response to incidents where ‘deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions intended to cause fear, intimidation, or harm’ is occurring. Bullying today is very different from the bullying even a generation ago. Many factors contribute to this, but ultimately we, as a school district, must address the issue of bullying through policy, prevention education, and intervention.

On May 12, 2010, Governor Doyle signed Senate Bill 154 that requires all school districts to have a bullying policy in place. In anticipation of the passage of this bill, Neenah Joint School District not only went to work on the development of a policy, but also took a stronger look at what we can do to make our schools safe for all students.

To create a safe school climate, each school must eliminate circumstances that allow for certain individuals or groups to be seen as ‘better than’ the others. Any time someone is made to feel less than another, they become an easy target for bullying. Neenah High School’s Challenge Day is one example of how schools can begin to address the underlying problems that aide in creating a breeding ground for bullying.

Other District schools are using Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS), a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students. This year the District’s School Climate Committee is supporting several events that will help educate staff, students, parents and the entire Fox Valley community on the effects of bullying, how to address bullying behaviors, and how to create a climate that keeps all of our children safe.

PLEASE CONSIDER ATTENDING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING EVENTS: (www.neenah.k12.wi.us/sap for more info)

DECEMBER 2010: Students, staff, and parents will learn more about the Board of Education Bullying Policy. LAUNCH Leaders will teach lessons to high school and middle school students, BLAST Leaders will teach lessons to middle school and elementary school students.

JANUARY 2011: Students, staff, parents, and community members will be asked to participate in one of two book studies about bullying. Jodee Blanco’s book, *Please Stop Laughing at Me*, will be the subject of one of the studies. Blanco’s book is her own personal story of being bullied at a young age and how it affected her life. Barbara Coloroso’s book, *The Bully, The Bullied, and The Bystander* will be the subject of the other study. This book looks at why people bully and what we can do to prevent it.

FEBRUARY 2011: Thanks to grants and support from the John J. and Ethel D. Keller Fund within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley, the Educational Foundation of Neenah (EFN), and the NJSD Student Assistance Program, Neenah Joint School District will host a Fox Valley anti-bullying workshop. This February 21, 2011 workshop entitled “Teaching With Wit & Wisdom,” will feature national speaker and best-selling author, Barbara Coloroso. The daytime presentation will be attended by all NJSD staff and will be open to all Fox Valley school districts. The evening presentation will be open to all Fox Valley parents and community members.

NJSD is very proud of the programs we have in place for this school year. We are proud to open our doors to our neighbors and to be a leader in the anti-bullying movement in an effort to continue to make the Fox Valley safe for all students.

HOOVER RECEIVES ACTIVE SCHOOLS GRANT

Hoover Elementary School received a \$20,000 Active Schools Grant. The grant allows Hoover to have one full time physical education instructor who will implement many new programs to get kids moving. Recess at Hoover is an “active recess time.” All students are required to go outside during their recess time and participate in one of several select different activities. Supervisors circulate the playground to ensure all students are moving and active. Throughout the year, students and staff will be taught different games during the extra physical education time. Students and staff are encouraged to take a “Fit in Fifteen” break once each week; moving to music, doing active brain breaks, and getting their heart rates up to focus in on the task at hand. “An active recess has allowed our students to learn how to play games at recess time and has greatly reduced our office referrals. The Active Schools Grant allows our students to be active during each recess and the staff encourages students and families to be active outside of school as well,” states Michael Tauscher, principal of Hoover Elementary School.



Active recess time at Hoover Elementary

A Tribute to Bill Pokel



No more than a week before the start of the 2010-2011 school year, all of us in the Neenah Joint School District lost a dear, respected friend and colleague in Wilson Elementary School Principal, Mr. Bill Pokel.

Mr. Pokel's impact on the Neenah Joint School District and the community of Neenah was vast and far reaching. For more than 20 years he served as a role model for administrators and colleagues by always demonstrating professionalism, dedication, and "the Neenah Way" of doing things.

When Wilson School was nominated as a Blue Ribbon School, you could see the sheer pride that Mr. Pokel felt in his school community. He had a passion for the staff, students, and families with whom he worked.

The staff and families recalled that he was a tireless and enthusiastic supporter for each and every one of them. He knew each and every student by name, and he was a man who took the time to really get to know others.

As a result of Mr. Pokel's nomination, Wilson Elementary School was named a Blue Ribbon School for the 2010-2011 school year. This honor reflects the outstanding commitment to student learning by students, staff, our community, and of course, Mr. Pokel!



There is no doubt Mr. Pokel left his mark on the entire Neenah community. He was proud to be Principal of Wilson Elementary School, he was proud of his wife Ann and children Libby, Molly, and Andy, and he always did what was best for children.

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Neenah Boys Swimming Invitational

Saturday, January 15th - 9:00 a.m. Start
Neenah High School Aquatic Center, NHS - 1275 Tullar Rd.

Tickets available at the door:
\$5 for adults and \$3 for students

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

Shattuck 8th Grade Scientists Explore Kettle Moraine

Every year Shattuck 8th grade students start the year learning about where and how glaciers form, how glaciers move and change the landscape, and the causes of the different glacial times. Through the classroom curriculum, students experience multiple labs to simulate glacier movement and the creation of glacial features.

However, to really understand the impact glaciers have had on Wisconsin, students should experience their footprints. Students visit Kettle Moraine State Park which has all the evidence people need to make glacial times come to life. Experts all around the world come to Wisconsin to study and see the effects glaciers had on the land and the features they left behind. Our students get visual, hands-on activities that incorporate all core subject areas: science, math, social studies, and writing.

In science, students experience firsthand all the evidence mentioned and demonstrated in class which enables them to appreciate the size and formation of the features. Students also learn how to orienteer through the woods using topographic maps and compasses. In math, students walk the ridge counting steps to figure out the height of the moraine, while later determining the height of Parnell Tower by combining the two math scenarios. The social studies focus is on the settlement of the area, why geographical names were given, and understanding the history of the area at the Ice Age Center. Finally, students use all their sensory skills and information obtained from the trip to write reflections and/or poems for language arts classes.

Parent chaperones walk away amazed with a greater appreciation of Wisconsin's unique historical landscape and cannot believe everything that is in our own backyard.



If we want to protect our state, then let's educate our youth about what it has to offer.

A special thank you to photographers in this issue:

Dean and Diane Doersch, Cheri Duchrow, Bobbi Little, Roxi Breden, and Brian Wunderlich.

Neenah Boys Hockey Holiday Tournament

Dec. 28 at 4 and 6 p.m. and on Dec. 29 at Noon and 2 p.m.
Tri-County Ice Arena; 700 East Shady Lane, Appleton WI.

Tri-County Phone: (920) 731-9731

Tickets available at the door:

\$5 for adults and \$3 for students

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

Spotlight on Schools

SHATTUCK MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL ACTIVITIES

Almost 300 students participated in **Football, Cross Country, and Volleyball** at Shattuck Middle School during the first quarter and almost 100 Shattuck students continue to participate in such activities as **Chess Club, Art Club, Newspaper, and Student Council**. Information about upcoming Shattuck co-curricular activities is available on the Shattuck website at www.neenah.k12.wi.us/shattuck/.

The NHS MATH TEAM tied with Appleton North for first place in the first Fox Valley Math League competition at Appleton West. Members of the first team were Aditya Karandikar, Jordan Miller, Matt Weklar, J.J. Yeh, Blake Nigh, Nick Ralston, Calvin Baumgartner, and Thomas Hameister. Individual awards were earned by J.J. Yeh - first place - senior division and high score for the competition, Jordan Miller - fifth place- senior division, Blake Nigh - sixth place - junior division, Nick Ralston- fifth place-sophomore and freshman division and Calvin Baumgartner - sixth place - sophomore and freshman division. Congratulations to these students and to everyone else who competed. Advisors are Richard Frost, Melanie Jackson, and Andy Dobbins.

CHEF LARRY VISITS ROOSEVELT Chef Larry from Theda Clark came to talk to **Roosevelt students** about the importance of healthy eating. He told the students that they should think foods that they eat are like a traffic light. Green foods (fruits and vegetables) are like a green light-you can go ahead and eat knowing they are good for you. Yellow foods (with a bit of processing) need to be eaten with caution. When eating red foods (with lots of sugar and processing), you need to stop and think and eat only a few times a week. The children were also able to make their own individual fruit salad and then enjoy eating it. A big thank you goes to Theda Clark and Children's Hospital for being Roosevelt Backyard Buddies and helping to teach our students about good eating habits. It was a fun and tasty learning experience for all!

Clayton Elementary's Improvement Teams and its PTA held the first of three **FAMILY NIGHTS** in October, and two additional ones will take place in **January**, and **March**. The purpose is to provide families with opportunities for learning, fun, and camaraderie as we work to build parent involvement that is key to student academic success. Parents rotated between four break out sessions: reading, math, behavior, and wellness, to learn about ways they can help their children with learning at home. Students were engaged in many different activities including things like arts and crafts, storytime, movies, games, and rhythm and movement. The evening also included a free dinner for all in attendance in addition to many door prizes.

DNR Visits Spring Road Second Graders - Mr. Mike Young, a DNR warden, came to Spring Road to present to the second grade classrooms. He brought along hides and skulls from many different animals that live in Wisconsin. He shared with students the responsibilities of his job and helped the children discover which animals were meat eaters by the type of teeth they had. The second grade students have been studying animals during their science time.

LAKEVIEW FIRE SAFETY - Students in grades 1-3 participated in a fire safety presentation on October 6, from the Neenah/Menasha Fire Departments. Students were engaged in learning and practicing what to do in the event of a fire at their home and were reminded of how important it is to practice safety procedures and to be sure that smoke detectors work by replacing batteries.

TECHNOLOGY AT WORK IN Tullar Elementary

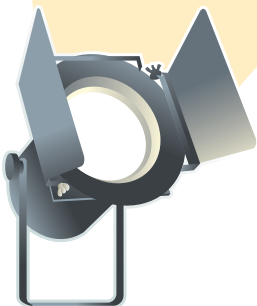
Mrs. Debbie Burmeister's fourth grade class had a wonderful dialog with students in another school about *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. The other school is quite a hike away.... it is in **ONTARIO, CANADA!** The class is using todaysmeet.com to chat with their new friends as part of Global Read Aloud. Kudos to Mrs. Burmeister and her fourth graders for this exceptional experience to learn and confer with students from afar!

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY READING NIGHT was held October 19 at **Horace Mann Middle School**. Doggone good reading occurred at Neenah Middle Schools Family Reading Night at Horace Mann. The event was planned in conjunction with Teen Read Week, a celebration of reading initiated by the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and libraries nationwide. Students and staff from both Horace Mann and Shattuck, families, and friends came together to celebrate books with a little help from some furry companions. Therapy dogs from **Compassionate Canines** and dogs of several middle school staff members joined in the fun. Pooches modeled scarves declaring, **READ SNEED** to promote author, Sneed Collard's book, *Dog Sense*, this year's Neenah Middle Schools Read title. The pooches may be invited back again next year; **after all, they helped put the wow, if not the bow-bow, into reading.**

COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER (CLC) PARTNERS

Since the start of the school year, the **Fox Cities Multicultural Center** has been presenting bi-monthly at the Community Learning Center. Topics focus on diversity, learning about countries, and different cultures. Some of the presentations so far this year have included Egypt, Russia, Diversity, and Blindness. Presenters are interactive and bring artifacts to share with the students. The Community Learning Center also welcomed Kirk Moore-Nokes from the **Neenah Public Library** on October 7 to share new and popular books available at the library.

On October 13, **Community Learning Center** students took a field trip to the **BERGSTROM-MAHLER MUSEUM** for the Arts of Fire live glass blowing demonstration. This event featured **Neusole Glassworks from Cincinnati**. The students were able to watch the artisans as they created works of art from molten glass. Students were excited to watch the demonstration and ask questions. One student asked, "Have you ever made a sailboat out of glass?" The artisans said that they hadn't made one before, but were happy to make one for the first time for the CLC students. The final artwork was met with a round of applause.



410 South Commercial Street

Neenah, WI 54956

(920) 751-6800

Website: www.neenah.k12.wi.us

Email: dialogue@neenah.k12.wi.us

Spotlight on Schools (cont.)

OVERALL SPORTS STANDING AT A GLANCE:

A hearty congratulations to all of our great Neenah High School (NHS) Rocket athletes! We had a great fall with many sports achievements spanning from Sectionals to Conference Championships!

Neenah High School led the Fox Valley Association with five conference championships this fall and had five sports qualify teams or individuals for state tournament competition. Our FVA Conference includes the following High Schools: Appleton East, Appleton North, Appleton West, Fond du Lac, Kimberly, Kaukauna, Menasha, Neenah, Oshkosh North, and Oshkosh West. Sectionals vary based on participating schools.

Boys Cross Country

FVA Champions

WIAA Sectional Champions

WIAA State Fifth Place

Boys Soccer

FVA Champions

WIAA Regional Champions

Girls Tennis

WIAA Sectional Third Place

Girls Volleyball

WIAA Regional Champions

Girls Cross Country

FVA Champions

WIAA Sectional Champions

WIAA State Runner-up

Girls Golf

FVA Champions

WIAA Regional Champions

WIAA Sectional Third Place

Girls Swimming & Diving

FVA Champions

WIAA Sectional Champions

NHS BAND STORMS LAMBEAU!

On Sunday, October 17, for the Packers/Dolphins game, NHS Vanguard Marching Band members joined forces with band students from Menasha, Fond du Lac, Oshkosh West, and Oshkosh North High Schools to form the largest half-time performance group in the storied history of Lambeau Field.

After morning rehearsals at Rocket Stadium in Neenah and then at the Don Hutson Center in Green Bay, the over 600-member ensemble took the celebrated walk through the tunnel and out onto Lambeau - on game day no less! After a less-than-impressive first half by the Packers, the band "stormed" the field and entertained the 70,000 plus Packer faithful with energetic performances of "Sweet Caroline", "Hot, Hot, Hot!" "On Wisconsin" and the traditional "Packer Fight Song".

