

## A Word on our Budget from Dr. Pfeiffer



In a recent *Connections* publication, I cited Alfred North Whitehead who stated, **“The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.”** As a school district community, we must remain mindful of this message as we continue to advance the learning of our students.

**We entered our school year reducing our budget by almost \$2.8 million.** In November, for the first time in Neenah Joint School District history, **we did not “tax to the max,”** remaining sensitive to our community members.

We continue to be optimistic that we will reach our goal and possibly enter the 2011-2012 school year in a financially healthy position. With the assistance of our Budget Advisory Committee, comprised of community members and administrators, we felt that the **Neenah Joint School District was well-positioned** to enter into the next fiscal year financially secure.

With that said, in December of 2010, there were initial concerns expressed throughout Wisconsin school districts that allowable spending might be **reduced to zero instead of receiving the anticipated \$200/student increase.** Then in February, we were presented with a significant budget challenge as a result of the State Budget Repair Bill. In short, the fiscal implications to the Neenah Joint School District will include the following:

- 1. Reduction of the school district revenue limit** by 5.5% per pupil in 2011-2012 and frozen at that level for 2012-2013. This will amount to a reduction of approximately **\$4.6 million** in the **2011-2012** school year and an anticipated **\$1.5 million** reduction in the **2012-2013** budget.
- 2. Changes in school aid formula** by limiting the reduction in general state aid in 2011-2012 to no less than 90% of what the District received this year.
- 3. Limits collective bargaining** to the subject of base wages.
- 4. Limits base wage increases** to a percentage no greater than the percentage change in the consumer price index, unless a larger increase is authorized after local referendum.
- 5. Limits union contracts** to one year.
- 6. All District employees will pay one-half of the required retirement contributions** - currently 5.8% - as determined by the Employee Trust Funds Board.

There will be a great deal of work to do in order to meet our fiscal obligation, but we are committed to finding solutions that support advancement of student learning as well as being sensitive to our taxpayers. *(continued upper right)*


Below is a brief history that outlines how we have managed our budget while staying focused on student learning:

YEAR	NJSD Budget Reduction	Tax Rate per \$1000	Average Elementary Class Sizes (Enrollment)	Avg. ACT Score	AP Test Scores (3 or higher)
2008-09	\$900,000	\$8.06	23.1 (2,681)	24.4	72.4%
2009-10	\$1.6 million	\$8.51	23.1 (2,700)	24.9	79.2%
2010-11	\$2.8 million	\$8.81	23.5 (2,748)	TBD**	TBD**
2011-12	\$4.6 million	TBD**	22.3 (2,771)*		

*\*Projected \*\*Information forthcoming in the summer of 2011.*

We must move forward in spite of the current uncertainties relative to the passage of the Budget Repair Bill. On behalf of the administration and the Board of Education, know that we are taking steps to continue making Neenah a great place to educate our children.

Although the budget situation has consumed a significant amount of our time and energy, **it is important that we reflect on the great things that continue to happen in the Neenah Joint School District.** Our staff has remained committed and dedicated to serving our students. They continue to find creative ways to support students and families on a daily basis even in this time of uncertainty. **We are fortunate, as a District, to be amidst student-centered professionals.** Enjoy reading about all of the great things happening in our District that positively impact our community!

- Yours in Education,  
 Dr. Mary Pfeiffer 

## Spring Road Elementary Advances Student Learning by Tracking Student Data and Utilizing it to Advance Instruction



Spring Road staff members make a habit of using assessment data to guide instruction and to determine additional supports for individual students. Staff members at Spring Road graph student results to show

Spring Road students work with geometric puzzles in a math unit.

growth or identify areas for opportunity over time. *(continued on page 2)*

## Spring Road Advances Student Learning by Tracking Student Data and Utilizing it to Advance Instruction *(cont. from page 1)*

**Data as an Instructional / Curricular Development Tool** - In addition to daily instruction, Spring Road staff members meet every Wednesday in GAP (short for achievement gap) Groups. Teams of grade level teachers collaborate to determine the instructional focus and to plan lessons based on student needs. While the majority of students participate in an activity that promotes ongoing skills or current classroom learning, the classroom teacher provides additional support through small group instruction.

All available staff members, including support teachers and educational assistants, assist classroom teachers during GAP groups. Information obtained from District assessments, in conjunction with classroom-based assessments, anecdotal notes, and input from resource teachers are all used to determine additional support methods.

**Data as Informational Assessment Tools** - Staff members appreciate the opportunity to see student progress over time as measured on a single page. Mrs. Diane Luft, 1st grade teacher, shared student progress via graphs at the Parent-Teacher Conferences in February. Without providing student names, Mrs. Luft showed individual student progress including a comparison to the rest of the class. **Many parents commented that they liked the visual of how their child was performing.** She enjoyed using the graph as an additional tool for providing information to parents about student progress.

**Opportunity for All Students** - By utilizing data to drive instruction, cluster or track groups with like abilities, and differentiate learning opportunities within classrooms, Spring Road uses data to best meet the needs of all students.

## National Merit Finalists



**Aditya Karandikar**



**John Kasper**



**James Price**

**Neenah High School** has the privilege of announcing that three of our students were **finalists in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program**. The nationwide pool of semifinalists that was announced in October 2010 represents **less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors**.

To become a finalist, a semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by the high school principal, and earn SAT scores that confirm the student's earlier performance on the qualifying test. The semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application which includes the student's essay and information about the semifinalist's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

These academically talented high school seniors had an opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$36 million, that was offered in March 2011. Results will be announced at the end of April 2011.

The students at Neenah High School that have achieved this honor are: **Aditya Karandikar, John Kasper, and James Price.** **The staff of the Neenah Joint School District wishes to extend its congratulations to these students for their remarkable achievement!**

## Asbestos Report

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 Supervisor of Operations at (920)751-6800, ext. 201. Each school building principal also has a plan that is on file in the principal's office. Inquiries about a 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:

1. The required 6-month inspections have been completed.
2. Ongoing Operations and Maintenance projects were done as necessary by certified personnel.
3. Asbestos floor tile was removed in Neenah High School rooms 128, 146, and the boys' locker room office.
4. Asbestos containing thermal pipe and duct insulations was removed from the west wing tunnels at Shattuck Middle School.
5. Asbestos containing thermal pipe and duct insulations was removed in the main boiler room at Lakeview Elementary.
6. Asbestos containing thermal pipe and duct insulations was removed in the main boiler room and under two classrooms at Tullar Elementary.

## neenah

### This week at NHS, a podcast

Watch the student-produced mini newscast online each Thursday at:  
[moodle.neenah.k12.wi.us/groups/wnhs/blog](http://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](mailto:vbayer@neenah.k12.wi.us) or 751-6900

### 6th Grade Academic Awards Ceremony

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

**Tuesday, June 7th at 7:00 p.m.**

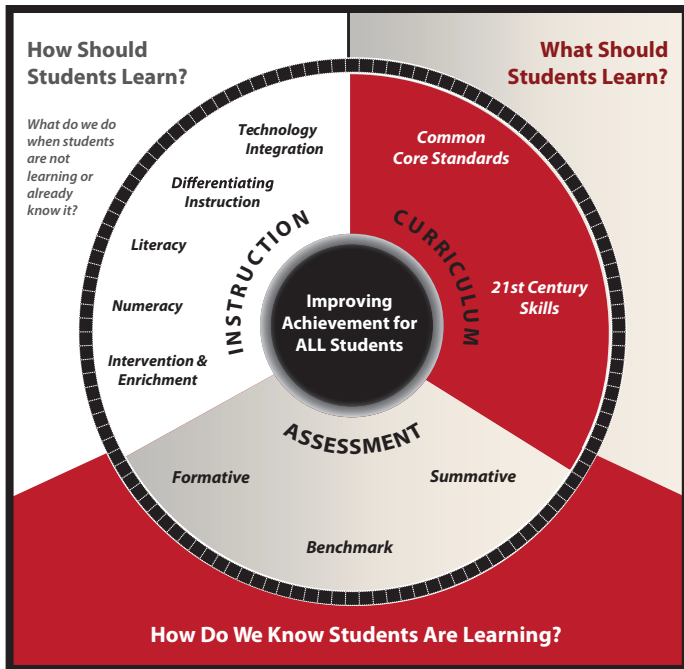
**Shattuck OJ Gym, Shattuck Middle School**

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

[sflemming@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:sflemming@neenah.k12.wi.us)

# A Passion for Excellence - Improving Student Achievement

**What Should Students Learn?** The 2010 fall edition of the Dialogue featured an article that outlined three essential questions that direct our school improvement efforts: 1) *What should students learn?*, 2) *How do we know students are learning?*, and 3) *How should students learn?* This issue's article addresses the first of these questions, **What should students learn?** Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) along with every school district in the State of Wisconsin is answering the first question with the new **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**.



## What Are Common Core Standards?

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

These standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school able to succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs.

We encourage you to visit the CCSS website for more detailed information on the new standards.

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

## Neenah Joint School District Framework for Student Success

Several key benefits of the CCSS exist for students. First, the **college and career focus** will help prepare students with the knowledge, sophistication, and skills they need to succeed in college and careers. Second, the CCSS provides **consistent expectations for all students**. Finally, the **clearer standards will help students understand what is required of them** and allow for more self-directed learning by students. Parents also benefit from the CCSS, as they provide clarity, equity, and opportunity for meaningful parent engagement.

Currently, over twenty K-12 NJSD staff members have been deeply engaged in investigating and understanding the English Language Arts (ELA) and Math standards. We have established an implementation plan that begins with understanding the Common Core and will result in the full implementation of the standards. We envision that by the 2014-2015 school year we will have fully implemented the ELA and Math Common Core State Standards. Furthermore, we are preparing for the Social Studies and Science standards to be released in the next several years.

To effectively and efficiently implement the CCSS, we will be mindful of the dynamics of change and most importantly of the purpose of the new standards to improve student achievement in all schools of our District.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERTS - PUBLIC WELCOME

- May 5 - Shattuck **Band** - 7:30 p.m. Shattuck
- May 10 - Shattuck **Choir** - 7:00 p.m. Shattuck
- May 12 - Horace Mann **Choir** - 7:00 p.m. Horace Mann
- May 24 - Horace Mann **Band** - 7:00 p.m. Horace Mann
- May 26 - Middle School **Orchestra** (grades 6-8) - 7:00 p.m. Shattuck

## 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](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us)

# Technology in Action - 21st Century Technology Tools

Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) students enjoy many ways to access resources and create projects with the help of updated computers, classroom data projectors, increased Internet speeds, and a wealth of online content. Here are just some examples of the many ways in which technology is utilized in our District:

## 1. NETWORKING AND INFORMATION SHARING

**Peer Review** - Digital video is broadcast of forensics students at Neenah High delivering their speeches. Student peers throughout Neenah High School witness the live speech and provide feedback via an online discussion forum in Moodle.

**Improved Access to Class Information** - Teachers record their lectures and demonstrations and place them online for their students to watch after school hours.

**Accessing Experts Across the Globe** - Students use Skype to talk with experts in the field. Skype allows the users to video conference from anywhere in the world.

**Social Networking through Literacy** - Students use the website Edmodo to communicate with other classrooms in their 21st century book club. All students read the same book and post different predictions, comments, and feelings about the text. Students from all over the country are able to share comments.

**Graphic Arts / Advertising** - Middle school students created posters that illustrate the District Technology Acceptable Use Policy and shared them on the District website.

## 2. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

**Quizzes & Lessons** - Students take quizzes or experience interactive lessons online.

**Hands-on Learning** - Students manipulate data, pictures, and images on interactive whiteboards.

**Assessment & Feedback** - Students use student response systems (clickers) in all subject areas. The student response system helps students and teachers see which learning concepts are mastered and which ones need more review.



Clayton Elementary Students Skype with a Field Expert from Ford Theater



TECHNICIANS support our staff and ensure our network and infrastructure run smoothly.

# neenah

**Neenah High School Graduation**

Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Ron Einerson Fieldhouse

NHS - 1275 Tullar Rd.

Families of graduates will receive information regarding tickets in the mail shortly.

**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](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us)

# Enable Innovative Approaches to Learning

## 3. CURRICULUM

**Science** - Students use document cameras connected to microscopes to capture video of microorganisms. They include a narrated video in their multimedia presentation in class.

Students research an animal and then use KidPix (an elementary drawing application) to create a picture explaining their diet, habitat, species, etc. All students' work are then compiled into a class project slideshow and burned onto a DVD for each child.

**Computer Applications** - Middle school students explore different computer applications in their 6th and 7th grade computer courses and see possibilities of how technology can be a great resource and tool for learning. For example, they learn how to create spreadsheets, then tie it to the concepts they're learning in other classes like data collection in science.

**Math** - Middle school students use different one-to-one technologies so they can review important math skills for individualized learning targets.

**Literacy** - Special education students are using iPads to improve their language articulation with various apps that allow them to see a picture, hear how to say a word, then record their voice for playback.

Kindergartners use interactive whiteboards or iPod technology for early literacy development.

**Writing** - Teachers demonstrate the editing process on paper and project the process onto their classroom screen using the document camera so all students can see and participate.

**Social Studies** - Students use a web tool called Glogster to create digital posters after they research and write a biography on a famous person. They learn how to research with books and on the Internet and how to create citations for their resources.

## Neenah teachers receive continuous technology training and support

**Technology mentor teams** (photo right) are the heart and soul of Neenah's technology and a key to our successful technology program. Technology mentor teams consist of a voluntary home-based classroom teacher and the school's library/media specialist. The technology mentor team serves as **trainer and instructional technology support for the entire staff at each school.**

They meet once per month after school hours to learn about new technology applications and practices and also plan their monthly learning activities with the staff. When students are dismissed early because of professional learning days, some of the staff learning time is spent with technology mentors. Mentors work with staff on how to support their curriculum with technology as a learning tool. The teachers learn new computer applications and have time to experiment and plan how new concepts can improve learning in classrooms.

**Neenah Joint School District technicians** (see photo on page 4) are also an integral part of Neenah technology. They provide **continuous technical support to all our staff and students.** Besides making sure our network and infrastructure work smoothly, they work with staff to answer technical questions, create technology learning materials for staff, and provide technical support for classroom projects.

It is a team approach when it comes to learning powered by technology. **Our goal is to help instill the love of learning in our students by providing technological access that is immediate, engaging, inspiring, and motivating.**



Technology Mentors

## Giving to the Neenah Joint School District (NJSD)

We would like to thank the Neenah community for their generous donations to the Neenah Tomorrow Fund. Since last spring, the Neenah Tomorrow Fund has raised over \$30,000 to provide funding and support for the Neenah Joint School District.

This Fund supports both curricular and co-curricular educational opportunities for all Neenah students. It is not meant to compete with any of our fine organizations that currently exist (Parent Teacher Organizations, Booster Clubs, Educational Foundation of Neenah), but rather provide an additional avenue to help enhance the educational opportunities for our students. Below are some examples of donations received since inception last spring.

### Individual NJSD Schools

Alliance  
Roosevelt  
Spring Road  
Horace Mann  
Neenah High School

### Donations to specific NJSD Programming

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

### In Honor/Memory of an Educator

Warren Schuknecht  
Mark Duerwaechter  
Wayne Haushalter  
Bill Pokel

### Facility/Equipment Improvements

NHS diving board  
Risers for NHS Vintage  
Technology monitors at Neenah High School

The Neenah Tomorrow Fund will be partnering with the Playground Committee of the Spring Road PTO to work together to raise funds for a new playground at Spring Road Elementary. The goal is to have a new structure in place by fall of the 2011-12 school year.

To learn more about the Neenah Tomorrow Fund, please check out our website <http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/NeenahTomorrow/> or call at 920-751-6800 x. 106. Click on the Wish List tab to view the different wish lists that each school in our District has submitted. The items are separated by individual school as well as the curricular sub category. For example, there are over \$300,000 in requests for technology as well as over \$40,000 for literacy.

**Your financial support continues to make the difference in our students' educational experiences!**

## Help our Schools Earn \$ at No Extra Cost to You

**Did You Know You Can Collect Items for \$ or Spend-N-Send \$ to NJSD Schools with no extra cost even if you don't have any children attending our schools?**

Thanks to parent organizations across our District, it's as simple as collecting labels from grocery items you purchase or entering a code anytime you make a purchase at a participating retailer and that business will send a percentage of your order placed in cash to our schools. You pay for the items anyway, so why not help out our schools at the same time? Just sign up, enter codes at participating retailers when you make a purchase, OR collect any of the items listed below and drop them off at your favorite local school. We'll do the rest.

Did you know that Clayton Elementary's PTA (Parent Teacher Association) has collected thousands of dollars from the combined effort of these programs? Their website also does a fantastic job to explain exactly what and how to collect it. For example, only the milk caps that say they will donate \$ on the cap will donate. There are milk caps out there that do not participate. Please see the Clayton PTA website for more information: [www.claytonpta.org/Collecting.shtml](http://www.claytonpta.org/Collecting.shtml)

Please call our schools to confirm collection programs or check their websites frequently for changes in programs. A listing of all our schools can be found via [www.neenah.k12.wi.us/schools](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/schools). We hope to add more retailers to our friends list. If you are a retailer and would like to match a percentage of sales, please sign up today by contacting [jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us), or call 920-751-6800 x. 106.

COLLECT	Box Tops	Campbell's Soup Labels	Milk Caps	Tyson A+	Pop Tabs	Drink Pouches	Coke Rewards	Ink Cartridges	Cell Phone Recycle
Alliance	YES	YES	YES					YES	
Clayton	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Coolidge	YES					YES			
Hoover	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES	YES	YES
Lakeview	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES			
Roosevelt	YES	YES	YES					YES	YES
Spring Road	YES		YES		YES	YES		YES	
Taft	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		YES	YES	
Tullar	YES	YES	YES				YES		
Wilson	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES				
Horace Mann	YES							YES	YES
Shattuck	YES							YES	YES

### SPEND-N-SEND \$

Organizations like Target, IGIVE, Office Depot, Kohl's, or Morton Pharmacy also donate \$ from purchases as well. For Target, all you have to do is (1) apply for a Target Red Card, (2) register your favorite school, and (3) use it when you shop, for more see [www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe). A portion of your purchases will be donated, and NJSD schools have already benefited from over \$30,000 earned through this program!

Over 800 retailers participate with IGIVE like GAP, Old Navy, JC Penny, Amazon, Land's End, Ebay, and many more. Register online via [www.igive.com/welcome/index4.cfm](http://www.igive.com/welcome/index4.cfm), select your favorite school, submit, and then shop through sites. For a list of participating retailers, see <http://www.igive.com/html/merchantlist2.cfm>.

Please check your local school's website for more information on these programs, or [www.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/neenah tomorrow/Collect\\_Send](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/organizations/neenah tomorrow/Collect_Send)

# Neenah High School is Nationally Certified!

## Project Lead the Way Certification for Engineering Program

Visit their website <http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/nhs/teched/meacademy/index.htm> for more information



### Teachers are a Critical Component

All teachers are required to complete an intensive two week professional development course during the summer before they can teach a PLTW course. Students who enroll in PLTW courses also benefit from the organization's strong university and industry relationships that allow students to begin working toward their college degree and gain valuable experience through internships and local business executives who serve as mentors.

### Moving Forward with Innovative Partnerships

Neenah High School (NHS) achieved National Certification this past December for the Project Lead the Way program it has been offering since 2009. Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the nation's leading provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education offers a rigorous curriculum that allows students to apply what they are learning in math and science class to real-life engineering and technology projects.

**"Neenah has demonstrated its commitment to the quality standards of PLTW's Pathway to Engineering program and the real winners are Neenah High School students," said John Lock, President and CEO of PLTW. "Students are benefiting from an innovative curriculum that encourages creativity and critical thinking and on top of that, they can earn college credit for some of these courses. We congratulate the entire Neenah High School community and look forward to many more years of working together to prepare Neenah High School students to become the most innovative and productive in the world."**

"We're appreciative of the interest and support we've received from local industry and secondary institutions, with about two dozen of them advising and participating with the program," added Tony White, Technology & Engineering PLTW Instructor.

Principal Colleen Doyle said NHS is enthusiastic about the opportunities it brings to students, "We've seen how the PLTW program draws more students to engineering and technology courses and gets them thinking about college and their career. We are extremely proud to be PLTW certified and ecstatic that our students can receive college credits for PLTW classes."

Below is a list of our generous partners.

If your organization would like to partner with us, please email [twhite@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:twhite@neenah.k12.wi.us)

Basset Mechanical  
Bemis Company Inc.  
CR Meyer  
Cygnus Product Development  
Great Northern Corp.

Innovative Machining  
Kimberly-Clark Corp.  
Marvel Manufacturing  
Miller Electric  
Omni Associates

Oshkosh Corp.  
Pierce  
Plexus  
United Plastic Fabricating  
Workforce Economics

ITT  
UW Platteville  
FVTC  
MSOE

**neenah**

### HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC CONCERTS - PUBLIC WELCOME

May 7 - **Show Choir Finale** - 7:30 p.m. Pickard  
May 11 - **Band Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Pickard  
May 17 - **High School & 5th grade Choir** - 7:00 p.m. Pickard

May 19 - **Orchestra Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Pickard  
May 25 - **Jazz and Gold Tassel Concert** - 7:30 p.m. Pickard  
May 30 - **Memorial Day Parade** - 9:00 a.m.  
Neenah / Menasha

## Theda Clark Medical Center, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin - Fox Valley, and Roosevelt Elementary



**The Backyard Buddy Program** began in 2008. This collaboration between Theda Clark Medical Center, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin - Fox Valley, and Roosevelt Elementary School has been going strong right in our own backyard. These physical neighbors became partners in enriching the lives of children, volunteers, and community.

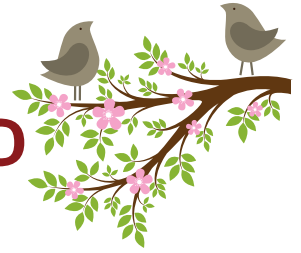
Roosevelt and both of the hospitals have staff members co-chairing the components of the partnership. They frequently meet to plan the three aspects of the partnership which include:

1. **Backyard Buddy Mentoring Program**
2. **Hospital Staff Educating Roosevelt Students**
3. **Roosevelt Students Giving Back**

The Backyard Buddy Mentoring Program consists of 30 minutes each week that makes a world of difference in the lives of the mentors and their buddies. Each week hospital mentors and students get together to play games, read books, and most importantly, spend quality time together.

The mentors provide one-on-one time with their buddy and are amazing role models who express the importance of education and doing your best in school. Each year the number of mentors has increased. Currently close to one-third of Roosevelt students have a Backyard Buddy.

## TRUE BACKYARD BUDDIES!



### What do students say about their Backyard Buddies?

Alberto, a third grader, says, **"We talk to each other about what is happening at home and at school and we play lots of games. I like having a buddy because it makes me feel special."**

Nick, Roosevelt second grader, shared that **"We always do fun stuff together every Thursday like play games and do puzzles. I miss him when he doesn't come!"**

And Jasmianna, a kindergarten student in her first year with a Backyard Buddy, said **"We have fun playing Candyland together. We also draw pictures and read books from the library. I like to see my Backyard Buddy because she makes me smile and laugh."**

**Hospital and Roosevelt staff educate Roosevelt students each quarter of the school year.** Theda Clark and Children's Hospital presenters come to Roosevelt to share their knowledge and expertise with the students and staff about health and wellness topics. They emphasize exercise, overall hygiene, healthy eating choices, respect, and safety skills. The "hands on" learning activities offered during these presentations enrich each child's understanding of important life-long health concepts and skills while supplementing their overall education.

**Roosevelt students give back and show appreciation** for all the wonderful things the hospitals have done for them. The students have made meal tray art, shared artwork that is displayed throughout the hospitals, and performed instrumental and choral concerts in the cafeteria.

**The mentors see the joy they provide with each interaction.** In turn, the students learn a valuable lesson of how it feels to give to others and how much can be accomplished by working together. **The partnership teaches students the importance of working together to be a valuable part of a community and how much can be accomplished in your own backyard.**

### ENJOY OUR ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CONCERTS!

Orchestra grades 3, 4, & 5 and Band grade 5 perform at their schools. For band, this school year marks their first as an instrumentalist and this will be their first concert.

- May 5 - **ROOSEVELT/A.C.E.** - 6:00 p.m.
- May 10 - **COOLIDGE** - 6:00 p.m.
- May 18 - **SPRING ROAD** - 6:00 p.m.
- May 23 - **HOOVER** - 6:30 p.m.

### SHATTUCK MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT MEETINGS

Please join us May 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Shattuck Library to chat about Shattuck events and news.



# Travel the World and Beyond: Passports to Reading

## HORACE MANN MIDDLE SCHOOL

As you walk through the front doors of Horace Mann Middle School, it is undeniable that reading and literacy are a top priority. Visitors are greeted by an enormous world map scattered with colorful push-pins that mark and track students' adventures around the world. Labeled, **"Travel the World and Beyond."** **Passport to Reading** marks a year-long program where both students and staff are encouraged to explore the world through books.



Horace Mann's Literacy Coach, Monica Schoen, and Library Media Specialist, Polly Kelly, developed "Passport to Reading" to collectively unite Horace Mann students and staff in order to create a community of reader explorers. **Their goal is to help students make connections with the world through books, and to develop respect for different ideals, cultures, and viewpoints.** In September during the program kick-off, all students and staff were issued an official Reading Passport. Upon completing a book, students record the title, author, and the setting of the story.

Pages within the Reading Passport also provide space for students to record travel notes, which may include predictions, thoughts about characters or events, or feelings about the story. Students bring their Passport to the library, where Mrs. Kelly, library media specialist turned "customs official," validates their adventure with an official stamp. Student travels are then carefully tracked with push pins on either the wall-size world map, or the Science Fiction/Fantasy display located in the school lobby.

Navigator students Lydia Engelbreth and Rachel Terry enjoy the reading program. **"I already read a lot, but this just makes it even more fun,"** says Lydia. Rachel agrees, **"It makes me want to read more and try to get as many pins on the map as possible."**



## HORACE MANN STUDENTS' TOP READS LIST

**Where are some of the favorite places that students travel to in their reading adventures?** In the fall of 2010, students voted to select their top reads list. For a complete listing to include summary overviews of all these books with links to more information, please see our website:

<http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/mann/mannlibrary/>

39 Clues Series - Mystery/Adventure  
passport to: **World**

Diary of a Wimpy Kid Series – Humor  
passport to: **United States**

Hunger Games - Science Fiction  
passport to: **North America**

Percy Jackson Series – Fantasy  
passport to: **New York and US**

Alex Rider Series – Adventure  
passport to: **Britain & World**

Harry Potter Series – Fantasy  
passport to: **United Kingdom**

Shadow Children Series - Science Fiction  
passport to: **North America**

Bone Series - Graphic Novel  
passport to: **Boneville**

Ranger's Apprentice Series – Fantasy  
passport to: **Kingdom of Araluen**

## Candy's Books for Kids

Libraries across our District have experienced budget reductions in book expenditures by approximately 40% in the last two years, yet circulations have increased on average by 30%. We need to stock our libraries but funding is limited.

Studies consistently prove that **strong readers are strong students.** **Candy's Books for Kids** is a memorial fund for Candy Adams who was a former Board of Education member and a strong literacy advocate. The fund is devoted to promoting the cause of literacy among children.

This year, the Educational Foundation of Neenah (EFN) and Neenah Tomorrow Fund (NTF) have joined forces to help promote literacy and continue Candy's legacy by expanding it to all grades, K-12, in our District. For more information on how you can help, please see their websites:

[www.neenah.k12.wi.us/neenah tomorrow](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/neenah tomorrow) or  
[www.efneenah.org](http://www.efneenah.org)

## Shattuck Middle School Hosts Hunger Banquet



Early in their second term, 8th grade students of “Homecourt House” took part in Shattuck’s annual Hunger Banquet. The Banquet’s goal was to expose children to global diversity and give them a better understanding about how the problem of hunger permeates the world.

In Social Studies class, participating students randomly selected a country to represent during the banquet. Students then partook in classroom discussions relating to hunger, poverty, and the disparate distribution of our world’s resources. They were given an opportunity to further research their particular country, and to also learn firsthand about how hunger and poverty impacts even our own Fox Valley, thanks to presentations from Salvation Army representatives.

At the banquet, “ambassadors” were served meals comparable in calories to what the average person from their country would consume in a day. Students were divided into three groups: high (approximately 15% of the house), middle (30%), and low income (55%). The high-income group was served a multi-course meal, and the middle-income group was given a simple sandwich and soft drink. The low-income group received only a bowl of rice and a cup of water.

As you might imagine, the visual impact alone of walking past the low-income table holding a small bowl of rice, was quite powerful.

## Students React to the Hunger Banquet



It was quite the revelation for Kayla Prue, **“It made me open my eyes to poverty and realize that it’s not just on the other side of the world. It’s right here in our own community, even in our own school district. And that was very life-changing for me. I went the rest of the day without food and I was starving! I was way more thankful for my meals the next day.”**

Brady Stolzman thought the lesson was a success, **“I thought that the Hunger Banquet was a very good way to teach everybody about what people in other countries go through every day. Although it was a tough day, we are fortunate enough that we live where we do.”**

Katie Kiel counted her blessings, **“...You get to experience what hunger actually feels like. It made me realize how lucky I am to have three meals a day and shelter.”**

Ryan Lawler gained a greater perception of the injustice, **“The hunger banquet was a rewarding experience. It’s not something you get to feel every day. I personally was in the lower class. Seeing the high class eating a full course meal while I ate rice with a piece of foam - I felt anger towards them. It seemed unfair. Overall, it gave me a better feeling of what it’s like to not be so fortunate.”**

## neenah

### Neenah Baseball vs. Appleton East

May 18th - 4:00 p.m.

Fox Cities Stadium (following a Timber Rattlers game).

Tickets available through the Timber Rattlers

[www.neenah.k12.wi.us/nhs/athletics/Schedules](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us/nhs/athletics/Schedules)

### Shattuck Academic Awards Ceremony

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

**Monday, June 6 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](mailto:kschuman@neenah.k12.wi.us)

# Spotlight on Teachers

*\*Due to the historic number of retiring teachers this year, we are devoting this issue's spotlight to them.*

**Twenty-eight educators with 695 combined years of service** to our District will retire this year, an **unprecedented moment in Neenah history**. Glancing through the names, the years of experience, and the many ways that these educators have taught and guided students across our District can't help but force a person to pause and reflect about the roles of teachers and society.

Because we are talking about teachers, let's begin with a little mathematical exercise, (They love it when we do this!). Let's take their total combined years, 695, and divide that by the number of teachers, 28. This amount rounds to an average of 25 years of service per teacher. Now, let's assume that in a least case scenario, each of these teachers touched the lives of 30 students per year. **This means that these teachers on average impacted the lives of 21,000 Neenah students over the years (28\*25\*30 = 21,000)**. Think about that number. In fact, take the prolonged pause...to really let this...sink in.

Now, let's think about them. Why do we call them teachers? They are really life coaches. **They are molding and shaping the future of our society**. While they do this, they're opening up their desk drawers to pull out reserved supplies that students forgot or lost. They're reaching into their wallets to pull out cash for students that forgot their field trip money, or pulling books from their special occasion shelf because a parent forgot to send a book along. They're pulling out items from their lunch box and passing it on to students who forgot their snack or lunch that day. You've heard this to the point of cliché, but we kid you not, these things happen on a daily basis!

**Meanwhile, they're prying out the dreams and goals of their students and nurturing them. They're giving them the "good stuff" that they need to realize their dreams and preparing them for life's hard lessons.** They realize that to just teach straight facts and memorization to kids is a worthless exercise. They've got to do more. **They get to know their students, and coach to both their strengths and their weaknesses, and along the way – they throw in numerous lessons of life, character, diligence, faith, and perseverance.**

**Sitting in a meeting one day, a powerful moment transpired.**

Across the room, **was a teacher who had been in our District molding and shaping students for decades.** The graying middle-aged gentleman had never met her. But, when he heard her name, his eyes lit up and he sat up alert – and said across the room, **"Are you really \_\_\_\_\_? You were my sister's absolute favorite teacher, EVER!!!!"**

**We carry these teachers with us for life.** Then, when we have kids or become employers – the desperation for the **"really good stuff"** that we want from them becomes even more absurd, because these are our kids or future employees, **and we want nothing but the absolute best from teachers again. Take the time to give these teachers a salute, a hug, let them know that you love them, and tell them what they mean to you.** And then, turn to the ones that remain, and give them all you've got.



First row: Anna Mae Prem, 19 years; Thomas Marzahl, 21 years; second row: Mary Ann Powers, 9 years; Teresa Walotka, 32 years; Dave Sebor, 30 years; Ginny Miller, 13 years; Ann Cattau, 43 years; Patty Ormston, 21 years; Jim Zipple, 22 years



First row: Didi Karisny, 17 years; Bruce Nufer, 26 years; Sandra Smith, 21 years; second row: Mary Resch, 19 years; Sarah Woerfel, 32 years; Linda Nemschoff, 19 years; Jan DeMenter, 25 years; Robin Snell, 34 years



Jim Piepenbrink, 29 years



First row: Lynn Dyer, 26 years; Marilyn Pheil, 17 years; second row: Debra Scott, 20 years; Brian Beiser, 33 years; Sue Westphal, 33 years; Jeffrey Lucas, 31 years; Sue Peterson, 24 years

NOT PICTURED: LaVonne Pockat, 21 years; Marie Rippl, 34 years; Susan Van Hoof, 16 years

Because, as you follow life's journey, when you realize your greatest passions come to fruition, or you face your darkest fears,...turn around, and over your shoulder, you'll see them standing. They are the teachers that made a difference in your life, and in our world.

## Sports Highlights & The Cotton Club

### OVERALL SPORTS STANDING AT A GLANCE:

It was another solid winter sports season at Neenah High School with a Fox Valley Association (FVA) championship in boys swimming and diving and numerous high individual state finishes. Here's a look at some of the highlights from this past winter:

The **boys swimming and diving team** won its **16th FVA championship** and captured the **WIAA Sectional Title**, sending 10 individuals to the state meet. Two relays each placed third overall with **Matt Hollub, Aaron Sears,** and **Matt Lagieski** swimming on both foursomes. **Noah White** was part of the 200-yard medley relay and **Nick Kehler** was on the 400-yard freestyle relay. **Hollub** added a third place finish in the 100-yard freestyle and a fourth place performance in the 100-yard backstroke. **Sears** was fourth in the 200-yard freestyle and eighth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

**Ryan Bonikowske** finished **State runner-up in wrestling** at 160 pounds, winning three matches at the state tournament, including two in overtime.

The **boys and girls bowling teams** both won the **Fox Valley Bowling League Championships** with the boys posting a 10-0 record and the girls finishing 8-2.

The **powerlifting team** qualified 22 athletes for the **state powerlifting championships**.

### An Evening at *THE COTTON CLUB*

One might wonder what a legendary New York City night club and the cafeteria at Neenah High school have in common. The answer...nothing...unless it's Saturday, January 22, 2011 where the cafeteria was once again transformed into a likeness of the hip and ultra-chic jazz entertainment venue that has boasted such entertainers as the Duke Ellington Orchestra and singers Cab Calloway and Lena Horne.

An Evening at the Cotton Club has become an annual event at which students, parents, and community members enjoy an elegant catered dinner and dance to the sounds of Neenah High School's jazz students. The smaller chamber jazz groups (called combos) play during dinner. Later, the Intermediate and Advanced Jazz Ensembles perform while attendees, many dressed in period costumes, dance to the sounds of big band standards.



"Music, of course, is what I hear and something that I more or less live by. It's not an occupation or profession, it's a compulsion." - Duke Ellington