

# Dialogue

Neenah Joint School District Community Newsletter

Fall 2013



Welcome to the 2013-14 school year! We have had a great opening with a great deal of excitement in all of our buildings. This is the first edition of the Dialogue for 2013-14. This year, each issue will include one area of focus.

This issue will look at wellness in the District and all the great things happening for students and staff. I believe wellness plays a significant role in that success for both our students and our staff.

### The Good News:

We have continued to work very hard to approach our work in a student-focused manner. In every decision we make, students remain a part of our discussion. As one example, we have a very low class size average at the elementary level. District-wide, we have an average of 21.5 students in our classrooms!

### More Good News:

We are financially stable and we are projecting that residents will likely see a decrease in their taxes in those paid toward the school district portion. Although we have been careful in our approach to spending, we have also increased our fleet of computers to students and in our classrooms. We have upgraded and improved our facilities and our long-term debt is virtually paid off which is unheard of in today's climate.

### Even More Good News:

The Neenah Joint School District was rated as Exceeds Expectations on the inaugural District State Report Card released this fall. We are very proud of our staff, students, and families for being united in advancing student learning.

As you can see, we have exceptional things going on in Neenah! Welcome to the 2013-14 school year and thank you for all you do to make our schools and our District a special place to be!

Dr. Mary Pfeiffer  
Superintendent of Schools

## FOCUS ON: Wellness

### NJSD One of "America's Healthiest Companies"

The Neenah Joint School District has been recognized as one of "America's Healthiest Companies" with a prestigious Well Workplace Award from the Wellness Council of America. The Well Workplace Award recognizes an organization for its overall wellness program and commitment to wellness activities.

The Neenah Joint School District achieved the award's gold level, which is the third-highest of its four levels. The gold level is presented to "companies that have successfully built comprehensive worksite wellness initiatives and are demonstrating concrete results." The Neenah Joint School District is one of just 80 companies or organizations statewide which have received the honor.

In the past year, Neenah's wellness initiatives have included health risk assessments for all District staff, discounted YMCA membership programs, and various fitness challenges among employees. Staff members have also been challenged to watch fitness videos and provide feedback for the opportunity to win prizes. In addition, Neenah was recognized for its



*continued on page 5*



Students at Coolidge Elementary School held their annual fun run around the school playground on Sept. 28

### Schools Earn Wellness Grants and Awards

Wellness is a big part of what happens at school in the Neenah Joint School District as various schools have been recipients of grants and awards from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI).

Hoover Elementary and Wilson Elementary schools both recently received Silver Wisconsin School Health Awards.

Hoover won the school health award for the second straight year, while it was the first time Wilson received the honor. The award signifies each school's commitment to providing students with the knowledge and skills to make healthy decisions in a supportive school environment that will positively contribute to their academic success.

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# DID YOU KNOW??

- ◆ The Neenah Joint School District (NJSD) has an endowment fund with the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. Donors who establish funds under the umbrella of the District with the Community Foundation receive tax benefits and the benefit of watching their philanthropic dollars at work.
- ◆ An outright gift establishes two important tax objectives: a charitable income tax deduction for the year of the gift and a reduction in gross estate for future tax purposes.
- ◆ Nearly every type of gift, including real estate, closely-held stock, and property (such as artwork or coin collections) can be contributed to a community foundation.
- ◆ In most cases, a gift to a community foundation is made part of a permanent endowment. Gifts are frequently made through bequests and also by living donors through various types of funds and deferred giving vehicles. An endowment fund allows the District to address emerging needs long into the future. An endowment also preserves the donor's name and assets forever.
- ◆ Donors can start with an Acorn Fund, investing as little as \$500 up front and adding tax-deductible donations of \$250 each year thereafter. When the Acorn Fund reaches a balance of \$10,000 in gifts and interest, it matures into a permanent endowment with the purpose of the donor's choosing.
- ◆ During the 2012-13 school year, NJSD added five new funds with the help of some generous donors.
- ◆ At the Neenah High School Senior Awards program last May, over \$57,000 was awarded to graduating seniors from various scholarship funds.
- ◆ Community foundations can easily accept gifts of various sizes and types from private citizens, corporations, government agencies and other foundations.
- ◆ Anyone interested in starting a new fund may contact **Mr. Jon Joch** via e-mail at [jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us) or by phone at 920-751-6800 ext. 106.

## Help Restore Rocket Stadium...

# “Pledge With Pride”

For years, Neenah High School's Rocket Stadium has been a source of community pride and a gathering place on Friday nights.

However, the stadium has seen few upgrades in its nearly 35-year history, so the Neenah Quarterback Club and other booster organizations have launched a “Pledge With Pride” campaign to restore Rocket Stadium to one of the premier facilities in the area.



The goal of the project is to raise \$750,000 to put in a new press box and sound system, concession stand and restroom facility, and entrance area. The existing structures are either in disrepair, too small, or out-of-date and need to be replaced.

The school board has approved the initial phase of the project and given its full support for the booster club to begin fundraising. The District's five-year facility plan does identify needs at Rocket Stadium. For instance, the 2014-15 plan tentatively includes a new track surface and additional bleachers. However, immediate school building needs could alter the plan.

In addition to football games, Rocket Stadium is used daily for wellness education classes and community walkers and joggers. The stadium is used for marching band practices and performances, lacrosse games, spring track meets, Relay for Life, and many other community events.

Individuals wishing to contribute may visit [www.pledgewithpride.com](http://www.pledgewithpride.com) for more information. A special fund has been created that is IRS 501(c)3 certified to accept tax deductible contributions and matching company donations. Donations may also be sent to **Pledge With Pride, P.O. Box 213, Neenah WI 54957.**

## Neenah Joint School District Scholarship and Education Funds

- Ann Beaster Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Raymond & Mary Brengosz Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Ann L. Dobbins Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Nick Dohr Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Ron & Delores Einerson Scholarship Fund
- Frank X. Scholarship Fund
- Albert J. & Arline M. Goerlitz Scholarship Fund
- William L. Heidke Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Frank X. Hocholzer Library Fund
- Laura Jane & Harley Loker Scholarship Fund
- Ann M. Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Norma M. Mayer Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Neenah Tennis Program Fund
- Neenah Tomorrow Fund
- NJSD Board of Education Scholarship Fund

- NJSD Community Scholarship Fund
- NJSD Rick & Carolyn Carlson Scholarship Fund
- NJSD Transitional Education Center Program Fund
- Robert Radtke Memorial Scholarship
- Albert & Mary Rhodes Museum & Charitable Foundation Fund
- Jordan Rowe Memorial Scholarship
- Warren Schuknecht Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Florence Armstrong Spanbauer Teacher Scholarship Fund
- Theda Clark Smith Foundation Scholarship
- Carol Tipler Student Enrichment Fund
- Vera Tipler Professional Development Fund
- Gus Toepel Fund
- James Tomczyk Memorial Scholarship Fund

If interested in contributing to one of these scholarship funds or starting a new fund, please contact Mr. Jon Joch via e-mail at [jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us](mailto:jjoch@neenah.k12.wi.us) or by phone at 920-751-6800 ext. 106. Contributions may be made with cash, check or credit card. To make an online donation or view the complete list of NJSD scholarship and educational funds, please follow the directions listed below.

- ▶ Log onto NJSD website at [www.neenah.k12.wi.us](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us)
- ▶ Under “Neenah Quick Links” select “Give to NJSD”
- ▶ All of the NJSD funds then appear. Select a scholarship fund for a list of criteria.
- ▶ To make a donation to this scholarship fund, select “Donate to this fund Online”.

## State Report Cards Give Neenah High Marks

✓ All 12 Neenah Joint School District schools met state expectations, while one significantly exceeded expectations, and seven exceeded expectations in the recently released 2012-13 state report card data.

✓ In addition, for the first time, a District report card was issued and Neenah exceeded expectations with a 73.3 score. All 12 Neenah schools scored at least a 70.0 on their report cards. Each public school and district is graded on a 0 to 100 scale and it is important to note that these scores are not a “percent correct” measurement.

✓ Schools are graded on four priority areas, while district report cards also include attendance and graduation data. Schools are rated on student achievement in reading and math assessments, student growth in year-to-year improvements, gap closing between specific student groups, and on-track and postsecondary readiness.

✓ Alliance Charter School led all Neenah schools for the second straight year with an 86.7 score, which significantly exceeds expectations. Roosevelt Elementary exceeded expectations with an 81.7 score and Tullar Elementary had Neenah’s biggest gain from the previous year with an 80.1 score. Tullar met expectations in 2011-12 and then moved into the exceeds expectations category for 2012-13 by improving 11.2 points.

✓ Lakeview Elementary also made significant gains with a 78.8 score, increasing from a 74.0 mark the previous year. Clayton Elementary, Coolidge Elementary, Hoover Elementary, and Neenah High School all exceeded expectations as well. Clayton scored a 76.1, Coolidge registered a 75.5, Hoover scored a 74.7, and Neenah High School recorded a 73.7 score.

✓ Horace Mann Middle School and Shattuck Middle School both met expectations as Horace Mann totaled a 72.9 score and Shattuck registered a 71.9 mark. Spring Road Elementary had a 71.3 score and Wilson Elementary scored a 70.0 to both meet expectations. Wilson’s score was over four points higher than its score from the previous year.

“We are very proud of the accomplishments we continue to make in Neenah,” Superintendent **Mary Pfeiffer** said. “The academic growth of our students is dependent upon a dedicated, caring, and talented staff. We are fortunate to have a staff so committed to our students and their learning. We are also fortunate to have a staff that recognizes the importance of ongoing improvement as a part of their commitment to excellence.”

Students in Neenah once again performed well above the state average on ACT tests during the 2012-13 school year with a 24.1 composite score. The score was the highest of any public school in the Fox Valley.

It was the second straight year that Neenah students have averaged a 24.1, which easily surpasses the Wisconsin average of 22.1. The national average was a 20.9.

In addition, Neenah had 344 graduates take the exam, which was 55 more than the previous year and its highest total over the past five years.

Neenah students particularly excelled in reading with a 24.7 score, which was sig-

nificantly better than the state average of 22.3. Neenah’s English scores were also two points higher than the state average as Neenah students averaged a 23.5 score. In science, Neenah students averaged a 24.1 score, surpassing the state average of 22.2, and Neenah’s math score of 23.5 was above the state average of 22.0.

Neenah also had 46 percent of its students meet the ACT benchmarks for college readiness compared to the state average of 33 percent.

### ACT SCORES Well Above State Average

	Neenah	State Avg.
Composite Score	24.1	22.1
Reading	24.7	22.3
English	23.5	21.5
Science	24.1	22.2
Mathematics	23.5	22.0

## Four Neenah Seniors Named National Merit Semifinalists



Four Neenah High School seniors have been selected as semifinalists for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program.

**Calvin Baumgartner** (upper left), **Thomas Hameister** (upper right), **Laura Rafferty** (lower left) and **Emily Terlap** (lower right) all achieved the honor and are among 16,000 semifinalists nationwide.

They will be vying for 8,200 National Merit Scholarships, which total more than \$32 million. Final scholarship awards will be announced next spring.

All four students are taking a full schedule of advanced placement courses. Each student is also involved in varsity sports and other activities.

The National Merit Scholar Corporation is a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. It was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by the corporation with its own funds and by approximately 440 business organizations and higher education institutions that share its goals of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

### Neenah Athletics Ranks Among the State's Best

Nine sectional championships and seven trips to team state tournaments in 2012-13 helped Neenah finish in third place in the large schools division of the Wisconsin Sports Network Cup, which recognizes the state's top overall athletic programs.

The finish is Neenah's highest in the six-year history of the award and marks the fifth time the Rockets have placed in the top 10. It is also the fourth straight year that Neenah has been the highest-finishing Fox Valley Association (FVA) school in the standings.

#### 2012-13 Wisconsin Sports Network Cup (Large Schools)

1. Arrowhead – 735 pts.
2. Homestead – 507.6
3. Neenah – 506
4. Middleton – 499.4
5. Eau Claire Memorial – 470.5

Points are awarded based on finishes in WIAA state tournament competition with a maximum 100 points given to the state champion school in each respective sport. The top 32 teams in each sport earn points. Neenah finished with 506 points, which was its most ever and closely behind second place Homestead's 507.6 points. Arrowhead won the cup for the sixth straight year and amassed 735 points. Appleton North was the second-highest FVA finisher at 15th place and Kimberly finished 16th.

Neenah is off to another strong start in 2013-14 with six of nine teams ranked in the top 10 of the state in their respective sport (boys and girls cross country, boys soccer, girls swimming and diving, girls tennis, and girls volleyball).



**Kyle Armstrong**, a 2012 Neenah High School graduate, designed the school's new logo as part of his senior art project. Armstrong is currently a sophomore studying graphic design at the University of Minnesota.

Homecoming at Neenah High School took on an even bigger purpose this fall as the students worked together to raise money for the family of freshman student **Zavier Sims**, who is suffering from a bacterial brain infection.

Dubbed "Comeback Week," the homecoming activities Oct. 7-11 centered around building school and community spirit and helping Zavier's recovery from the infection he suffered this past summer.

Zavier has undergone four brain surgeries since being diagnosed in July and has not returned to

## HOMECOMING

### Makes a "Comeback"

school. A collaborative effort among several Neenah High School student groups organized activities to assist Zavier's family with the financial burden, which has included weekly trips to Madison for MRI's or operations.

The week featured several events that included the entire school and Neenah community. A drive-in movie was held at the high school, an ice cream social was held downtown, a "powder puff" football game was played on Wednesday, and a tailgate party was held prior to the football game on Friday. The community was encouraged to attend any or all of the events.

Five different student organizations worked together to help make the event happen. Students from Student Council, Key Club, Heart Group, DECA and Drama Club met regularly to schedule all of the week's activities.

"This was a remarkable effort on behalf of our students who developed and organized the idea of supporting Zavier Sims and his family in conjunction with homecoming," said Neenah High School Principal **Brian Wunderlich**. "It's so inspiring to see our students rally around a great cause."

In addition to these activities, a "Miracle Minute" fundraising activity was held during the school pep assembly and Neenah staff members purchased over 400 t-shirts with all proceeds being donated to the Sims family.

Final fundraising figures will be announced in a release on the NJSD website.

### Fall Musical: "Into the Woods"



Neenah High School presents "Into the Woods" as its fall musical Oct. 17-20.

"Into the Woods" is a modern twist on the beloved Brothers Grimm fairy tales. This humorous and heartfelt musical follows the classic tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Rapunzel—all tied

together by an original story involving a baker and his wife, their wish to begin a family, and their interaction with the witch who has put a curse on them.

"Into the Woods" will have five shows taking place on Oct. 17 and 18 at 7 p.m., Oct. 19 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Oct. 20 at 1 p.m. Tickets for the general public are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at [www.seatyourself.biz/neenahrocketplayers](http://www.seatyourself.biz/neenahrocketplayers).

# FOCUS ON: *Wellness*

## Well Workplace Award

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well-organized wellness plan that included goals, objectives, detailed programs, and evaluation methods.

“This award speaks highly to the work of our District Wellness Coordinator, **Kelly Kelderman**, as well as our ‘Healthy You’ wellness team,” Neenah Joint School District Superintendent **Mary Pfeiffer** said. “It also reflects our staff’s commitment to personal wellness. They clearly recognize how it impacts their performance in the classroom and enhances the learning environment for our students.”

“The Neenah Joint School District worked hard to successfully meet the rigorous standards set by the Well Workplace process,” Wellness Council of Wisconsin’s Executive Director **Jessica Radde-mann** said. “It is our pleasure to recognize them as one of the newest Wisconsin employers to achieve Well Workplace status.”

The award provides Neenah recognition for its commitment to employee wellness for the next 36 months. The District has several new initiatives planned for the upcoming year to expand on its already successful program.

## Schools Earn Grants

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Hoover and Wilson were among just 26 schools statewide that were honored at either the platinum, gold, silver, or bronze level. There were 16 public elementary schools in the state that received the award.

The schools were commended for having the policies, procedures, and infrastructure to support and promote healthy eating, physical activity, alcohol, tobacco, and drug free lifestyles, and parental and community involvement.

Both Hoover and Wilson were also among five Neenah schools to receive \$250 Movin’ and Munchin’ grants from the DPI earlier this year. Spring Road, Taft, and Tullar also earned the grants. The Movin’ and Munchin’ program encourages schools to develop creative strategies to promote healthy eating and increased physical activity among students and their families.

## Half Days Twice as Fun at Horace Mann

For the past several years, students at Horace Mann Middle School have spent their Wednesday half days each month learning about living an active lifestyle as part of the NFL Play 60 program. Under the guidance of teachers **Stephanie De-Menter**, **Mary Greene**, and **Jeff Leopold**, the program has expanded every year.

The first event this fall featured dance, cardio, soccer, football, parachute games, and basketball as well as healthy snacks. Varsity athletes from Neenah High School have assisted with the various activities and Green Bay Packers’ wide receiver **Jordy Nelson** even paid a visit last year.

“Each time students are active, they become more engaged in the lesson being taught in the classroom,” Horace Mann Principal **Michael Tauscher** said. “Our commitment to the Fuel Up to Play 60 program goes beyond the half day event each month. We are dedicated to providing students with opportunities to move and be active during the school day and after the school bell.”



*Clayton Elementary currently has four raised garden beds on school grounds that teacher **Lee Rabas** and parent volunteers help students maintain. The raised garden bed soil mix was donated by Schmalz Custom Landscaping & Gardening Center, Inc. and the raised beds, along with a custom rain barrel and other miscellaneous gardening supplies were donated by Miron Construction Co., Inc.*

## Spring Road Off and Running

Students at Spring Road are nicknamed the “Roadrunners” and for good reason. Over 30 students and about 20 staff and parents participated in the Fox Cities Marathon 5K and kids’ runs as part of the Spring Road Running Club, directed by **Rox-Ann Barrow** and **Diane Luft**.

Also, Clayton Principal **Jackie Munoz-Ellmann** placed fourth among female participants in the recent Fox Cities Marathon and won her age group with a time of 3:15:44.

Overall, four NJSD employees ran the full marathon and 18 completed the half marathon. High school science teacher **Mike Heidke** placed 10th in the full marathon with a time of 2:44:57.

## Hertting Nominated for Top Honor



Neenah High School science teacher **Scott Hertting** has been selected as one of four Wisconsin finalists for the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in teaching Mathematics and Science.

Hertting is the lone Wisconsin science teacher nominated for the national honor with the other three nominees being math teachers. This past school year, Hertting was named the Neenah High School Teacher of the Year.

Hertting, who is beginning his 23rd year of teaching and 21st in the Neenah Joint School District, primarily teaches advanced and general physics

courses and is also certified in chemistry and broadfield science.

Nominations for the award can be made by principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public and alternate each year between kindergarten through sixth-grade and seventh through 12th-grade teachers.

A committee organized by the National Science Foundation will judge applications for Wisconsin's four finalists at the national level.

# WELCOME

## *Our New Principals*

The Neenah Joint School District has two first-year principals for the 2013-14 school year who both came from NJSD classrooms.



A Coolidge alum begins her first year as the principal at her former school as **April Keepers** was recently named to the position.

Keepers previously taught nine years at Spring Road, teaching fourth grade since 2007 and kindergarten the three previous years. She also taught one half year of elementary school in Oshkosh.

Keepers earned a Bachelor's Degree from UW-Oshkosh and a Master's Degree from UW-Madison.

A Neenah teacher since 2004, **Debbie Wedding** is in her first year as principal at Hoover and Taft.

Wedding taught at Wilson since 2007 after three years at Alliance. She previously taught 11 years in Oklahoma.

Wedding earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma.



Former Hoover and Taft principal **Michael Tauscher** is now the principal at Horace Mann, replacing **Brian Wunderlich**, who moved to Neenah High School.

## NJSD Receives Autism Mini-Grant



Students with autism and their educators in the Neenah Joint School District will benefit from a recent mini-grant from the Department of Public Instruction to implement evidence-based practices in the classroom.

The \$8,000 mini-grant for the upcoming year will allow a com-

mittee of parents and regular and special education teachers to learn the best ways to incorporate these practices and improve the academic, social and emotional skills of students on the autism spectrum. Autism Resource Specialist **Sara Kokko** (pictured at left) wrote the mini-grant and will lead the project.

The program will be based at Tullar Elementary School with the intention of eventually replicating its structure throughout the District. Kokko hopes the project will create a continuum of care for children from age 3 through high school. The project aims to create

common visuals, language, and strategies by teachers, parents, and other community members working with students with this unique neurology. It will incorporate step-by-step instructions and implementation checklists developed by the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders.

The grant will support additional staff resources and research to determine the best evidence-based practices. Kokko hopes the benefits of the grant will extend beyond students with autism and impact all students.

## NJSD Asbestos Removal Report

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 Director of Facilities at (920) 751-6800, ext 201. Each school building also has a plan, which 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 which occurred over the past 12 months include, but are not limited to the following: 1) the required 6-month inspections; 2) ongoing operations and maintenance projects were done as necessary by certified personnel; 3) abatement of the boiler room at Horace Mann Middle School; and 4) abatement of the tile floor in the cafeteria and parts of the kitchen at Shattuck Middle School.



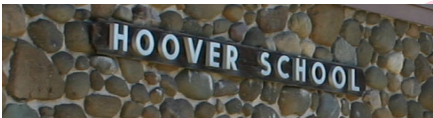
Each year Alliance does something in recognition of the International Day of Peace, which was Sept. 21. This year students documented one example of peace as well as one wish for peace on brilliant cups. The cups were then used to write the word PEACE on the fence, providing a great way to promote peace to school and community members who pass by.

The Clayton PTA held a Coin-a-Day challenge every day during the week of Sept. 30-Oct. 4. Each classroom collected pennies on Monday, nickels on Tuesday, dimes on Wednesday, quarters on Thursday, and a variety of coins on Friday. All the money collected was used to buy books for the Clayton classrooms and library.



Coolidge held its annual fun run on Sept. 28 (pictured, page 1). Students raised money through pledges and then ran one-tenth of a mile laps around the school playground. A back-to-school picnic was held in conjunction with the event and raffle prizes were awarded. In addition, entertainer Tom Pease came to Coolidge on Oct. 1 to teach students about kindness and respect for others.

Challenge Day returned to Neenah High School for the fifth time on Sept. 23-25. The Challenge Day program includes students, teachers, parents, community leaders, and members of the community in an effort to reduce teasing and bullying, teach tools for peaceful conflict resolution, and inspire teens and adults to work together as forces for positive change in the world.



Hoover staff and students participated in a school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) beginning of the year kick-off activity. The students learned how to "Respect Self, Respect Others, and Respect Environment" in various areas of the school. Students began their learning during the first week with reading stories, creative writing, and positive behavior rotations.

Thanks to a generous donation from Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Horace Mann was able to furnish two classrooms with tables, bookcases, bulletin boards, and chairs. The company donated 30 tables and 15 bookcases, in addition to 25 tables and 10 bookcases in previous years. Horace Mann teacher **Cathy Johnson** helped coordinate the donations.



Students in **Tricia Retzlaff's** fourth and fifth grade magnet class had the opportunity to hit the open water with a sailing activity funded through a grant by Plexus. Dr. Ian House, an Ocean Engineer, and Steve Eliassen spoke with the class several times before helping them build their own sails and then taking them to Menominee Park in Oshkosh on Sept. 16 and 17 to get out on Lake Winnebago.

Roosevelt students will learn about table manners and conversation while dining at "The Buddy Bistro" in the gym. Each student dines at the bistro three times. The first two times students eat from their lunch boxes or the lunch program and will transfer food to real plates and glasses while using real silverware. The final time, the students will enjoy food and beverages provided free by local restaurants.



Shattuck students read 1,236 books between Sept. 10-27 as part of the back-to-school book battle. Students were each expected to read books at their reading level and books with over 300 pages count as two books. Thermometers outside each homeroom kept students updated on the competition and the homeroom of teacher **Rebecca Puuri** won the traveling trophy by reading 144 books.

Spring Road held its annual book fair/reading challenge Oct. 7-10. Students were encouraged to participate and received a paper brick to record their weekly reading minutes before recommending a must-read book at the fair. A paper pyramid was constructed from all of the paper bricks on the wall in the front hallway of the school.



The school board approved a fifth kindergarten class at Taft for the 2013-14 school year as well as the hire of an additional teacher. The added class gives Taft five kindergarten classes and keeps Neenah's elementary class sizes at an average of 21.5 students per class. All of Neenah's kindergarten classes for 2013-14 have 20 or fewer students.

Tullar PTO held the first of several family fun nights on Sept. 17. Families were invited back to school to meet other families, socialize, and enjoy frozen yogurt and pretzels compliments of the PTO. Tullar PTO is working this year to build an improved sense of community through nights that will allow families to interact in a structured setting.



Wilson students picked from the school's garden and served the food at the open house on Sept. 19. The garden was planted last spring by Wilson staff and students and maintained throughout the summer. Also, during mid-October, Wilson is holding a shoe drive. Gently used tennis shoes are being collected for children who need shoes for Physical Education/Wellness classes.

## Upcoming Events



410 South Commercial St.  
Neenah, WI 54956  
(920) 751-6800  
Website: [www.neenah.k12.wi.us](http://www.neenah.k12.wi.us)

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## POSTAL PATRON

### Upcoming Events

#### October

- 16.....Early Dismissal - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 17-20 .....NHS Fall Musical "Into the Woods"
- 18.....NHS Football vs. Menasha, 7 p.m.
- 29.....NHS Choir Concert (Pickard), 7:30 p.m.
- 31.....WIAA Girls Volleyball Sectional (NHS Fieldhouse), 6 p.m.

#### November

- 1.....End of 1st Quarter - Early Dismissal Grades K-8
- 2.....Helping Hands Craft Fair (NHS Fieldhouse), 9 a.m.
- 5.....Horace Mann Choir Concert (Pickard), 7 p.m.
- 7.....NHS Orchestra Concert (Pickard), 7:30 p.m.
- 9.....WIAA Girls Swimming Sectional, Noon
- 14.....NHS Band Concert (Pickard), 7:30 p.m.
- 21.....Shattuck Orchestra Concert, 7 p.m.
- 26.....Vintage Opener/Touch of Class/Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m.

- 27.....Early Dismissal - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 28-29 .....No School - Thanksgiving Break

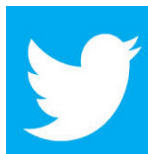
#### December

- 2.....Tullar Holiday Concert (Pickard), 6 p.m.
- 3.....Hoover/Taft Holiday Concert (Pickard), 6 p.m.
- 3.....Shattuck Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 5.....Shattuck Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 7.....Madrigal Dinner (NHS Cafeteria), 1 and 6:30 p.m.
- 10.....Lakeview Holiday Concert (Pickard), 6:30 p.m.
- 10.....Roosevelt Holiday Concert (Roosevelt), 6:30 p.m.
- 11.....Early Dismissal - All Levels (Professional Learning Day)
- 12.....Wilson Holiday Concert (Pickard), 6 p.m.
- 17.....NHS Holiday Concert (Pickard), 7:30 p.m.
- 18.....Coolidge Holiday Concert (Pickard), 6:30 p.m.
- 23-Jan. 1.....No School - Winter Break



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

**Board of Education meetings are typically held the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 6 p.m. at the District Administrative Building at 410 S. Commercial St. (Check the NJSD website for complete schedule)**