



# *The* Norsemen Pride

January 2014 | Issue 04

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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INSIDE



## North Muskegon Students... **Making a Difference!**

In November, in honor of Homeless Awareness Month, Emily Lindback, John Slocum, and Michelle Flynn, provided Heather White from Every Woman's Place with around 260 hoodies and coats collected from our school by North Muskegon Interact.

The clothing went to homeless youth in the Muskegon area.

## Greetings Norseman Education Family!



Hello! Welcome to your winter edition of the Norsemen Pride. I hope your holiday season was full of enjoyable time with family and friends. It is always exciting

for me to come back after the holiday break and get back into school mode. While this edition looks back at many amazing things that occurred last fall, we have much to look forward to in the coming months. Please take the time to be involved in your community school this winter. We are extremely fortunate here in Norsemen Country and continue to add to the Norsemen tradition of excellence – thank you for being a part of it.

Now, get ready to enjoy your newest edition of the Norsemen Pride – as you will see we have much to be proud of here at NM. As always, please contact me if you have ideas on how we may continue to make this an effective communication piece for our community. I hope to see you soon!

Enjoy the snowy weather,  
Curt Babcock, Ph.D. Superintendent of  
Schools

# Elementary Schedule

## JANUARY

Fri., January 17	1/2 day of school -dismissal at 11 :15 a.m. (AM DK attend) End of 1 st Semester
Mon., January 20	Staff Professional Development Day -NO School for students!
Tue., January 21	PTO Meeting, Elementary Library, 7 p.m.
Mon., January 27	Music Boosters Meeting, MSIHS Library, 6:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

Sat., February 8	Father/Daughter Dance
February 10-14	Principal Week
Mon., February 10	Elementary Talent Show Auditions, NM Fine Arts Center, 3:30-6:00 p.m.
Wed., February 12	2nd Student Count Day
Fri., February 14	MID-WINTER BREAK -NO School
Mon., February 17	MID-WINTER BREAK -NO School
Tue., February 18	PTO Meeting, Elementary Library, 7:00 p.m.
Wed., February 19	Elementary Talent Show Dress Rehearsal, NM Fine Arts Center, 3:30 -6:30 p.m.
Thur., February 20	Elementary Talent Show, NM Fine Arts Center, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.
Fri., February 21	1st grade field trip to Lakeshore Museum, 11 :35 a.m. -1 :55 p.m.
Mon., February 24	Music Boosters Meeting, MS/HS Library, 6:00 p.m.
Tue., February 25	5th grade field trip to GR Symphony & Ford Museum, 8:10 a.m. -2:30 p.m.
Wed., February 26	Full Day of School Evening Parent-Teacher Conferences, 5:00 -8:00 p.m.
Thur., February 27	1/2 Day of School -dismissal at 11 :15 a.m. (PM DK attend) Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:00 -3:00 & 5:00 -8:00 p.m.
Fri., February 28	NO School -Staff & Students (Conference Release)

## MARCH

Sat., March 8	Family Fun Festival, 4-7 p.m.
Mon., March 17	Music Boosters Meeting, MS/HS Library, 6:00 p.m.
Tue., March 18	PTO Meeting, Elementary Library, 7 p.m.
Fri., March 21	1/2 Day of School -dismissal at 11 :15 a.m. (AM DK attend)
Tue., March 25	5th grade Musical, NM Fine Arts Center, 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.

## APRIL

Fri., April 4	No School -Staff & Students
April 7-11	SPRING BREAK
Tue., April 15	PTO Meeting, Elementary Library, 7 p.m.
Fri., April 18	No School -Staff & Students
Mon., April 21	Music Boosters Meeting, MS/HS Library, 6:00 p.m.

## MAY

Thur., May 1	Kindergarten field trip to Country Dairy, 11 :20 a.m. -2:30 p.m.
May 5-7	Elementary Field Days
May 5-9	Teacher Appreciation Week
Wed., May 7	DKIK New Parent Meeting, NM Fine Arts Center, 5:30 p.m. 4th grade Link-Up Recorder Program, Frauenthal, 9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.
Thur., May 8	A.C.E.S. (All Children Exercise Simultaneously), Walker Park, 10:00 a.m. 2nd grade Strings Performance, NM Fine Arts Center, 6 p.m. 3rd grade Strings Performance, NM Fine Arts Center, 7 p.m.
Fri., May 9	Kindergarten Round-Up Day, No School for current DK/K students First grade field trip to John Ball Park Zoo, 8:15 a.m. - 3 p.m.





## An Apple a Day...

# West Michigan's Big Crunch USA Recaptures World Record with 19,087 Apple Crunchers!



For the third consecutive year, North Muskegon Public Schools (NMPS) participated in the "Apple Crunch" event on October 24, 2013 at 2:12pm. This means NMPS students and staff from 15 other school districts across West Michigan, along with community members from nearly 50 businesses and organizations, bit into an apple at the same time adding to a total of 19,087 bites at once! All 12 school districts in Muskegon County participated, along with schools from Shelby, South Haven and Otsego.

Michell Leigois, Food Services Supervisor at NMPS, said she looks forward to the event. "It is a great way to make healthy eating fun and to remind our community about our local agriculture and access to fresh, local produce," she said.

North Muskegon purchased the apples from Aebig farms in New Era, which included a variety of Gala and Delicious apples. Just to be sure that all students could participate, the district purchased sliced apples for the students with braces.

**The Norsemen Pride** The Norsemen Pride is published three times per year by North Muskegon Public Schools, 1600 Mills Avenue, North Muskegon, MI 49445. North Muskegon accepts advertising to defray the cost of production and distribution and appreciates the support of its advertisers. North Muskegon does not specifically endorse advertisers or their products or services.

Please contact Beth Beaman at 231.719.4110 with inquiries or by email at [beamanbe@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:beamanbe@nmps.k12.mi.us). Visit our website at [www.nmps.k12.mi.us](http://www.nmps.k12.mi.us).



# Get Involved!

There are many ways to get involved in extra activities here at North Muskegon Schools for both parents and students. On the following pages are some of the things going on around school. There are a variety of athletics for students during the year as well.

## PARENTS

### ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

Contact Fred Bleakley at [ann@bleakleylaw.com](mailto:ann@bleakleylaw.com)



### MUSIC BOOSTERS

Contact Tami Budd at [nmmbscrip@gmail.com](mailto:nmmbscrip@gmail.com)



### PTO

Elementary Parents contact Beth Soelberg at [pto@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:pto@nmps.k12.mi.us)

MS/HS is looking to start PTO. If you are interested in helping to get the organization started please contact Michele Belmonte @ 231-719-4110.



## STUDENTS

### DESTINATION IMAGINATION



A student led group that works together on coming up with solutions to problems. They achieve this by working on different projects throughout the year and have competed at local, state and national levels. For more

information contact: Dr. Nedeau at [nedeaud@mercyhealth.com](mailto:nedeaud@mercyhealth.com)

### AFTER SCHOOL STRINGS "FIDDLE CLUB"

This after-school ensemble is offered on Wednesdays from 3:15-4:00 in the Strings Room as a private class by Mrs. Corbin for highly motivated students in grades 3- 5. Students play a variety of styles of music (mostly fiddle songs) as they work on becoming proficient "note readers" and ensemble musicians. The cost to participate is \$5 per class, to be paid in advanced per 8-week session. For more info contact: Angela Corbin at [corbinan@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:corbinan@nmps.k12.mi.us)



### MATH COUNTS



A club for Middle school students to work on higher level Math questions. The official team then goes on to compete at Regionals. Contact JoAnna Berry at [berryjo@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:berryjo@nmps.k12.mi.us)

### ALPINE SKI CLUB

Contact Ryan Berends at [bumperski@gmail.com](mailto:bumperski@gmail.com) for more information



### ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB



Meets weekly to discuss what is going on or not going on environmentally at our school and in our community. The club also takes care of the schools' recycling. Contact Mike Jura at [jurami@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:jurami@nmps.k12.mi.us), or Deb Johnson at [johnsode@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:johnsode@nmps.k12.mi.us)

### STUDENT COUNCIL

NM Middle School and High School Student Council is a highly motivated group of 24-28 elected school student leaders. There are executive and class officers and representatives from each grade 9th-12th. They have meetings every Thursday during school lunch and more when needed. Student Council organizes many great Norse traditions including the Homecoming parade, kings and queens, halftime and dance, the winter/FEM dance in December, Snow-coming celebrations in mid-February. They do fundraising



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and service events throughout the year. Contacts are Ms. Deb Johnson at [johnsode@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:johnsode@nmps.k12.mi.us) and Mr. Joe Grelewicz.

## CHOIR COUNCIL



The Student Choir Council will tentatively meet every other Friday at 2:50 PM in the choir room, to discuss issues including (but not limited to):

Fund-Raising opportunities, HS Talent Show/Elementary Talent Show, Performance obligations and responsibilities, Rehearsal atmosphere and Ensemble goals, Student and Council responsibilities

Each Choir Council Member is responsible for duties, which he or she may appoint a committee to assist. Council Members are also required to be at numerous events throughout the school year including (but not limited to): HS Talent Show auditions, rehearsals, and performance; Elementary Talent Show auditions, rehearsals, and performance; Pops preparation days/nights; Finale set-up; clean-up after all concerts; some set-up before concerts. Contact Beth Slimko at [slimkobe@nmps.k12.mi.us](mailto:slimkobe@nmps.k12.mi.us)

## GET YOUR WINGS



North Muskegon Communication Class Project expanded into a club, whose purpose is philanthropy, Get Your Wings. In the past, beginning in 2009, we have raised several thousand dollars and given the money to individual families in need as well as DeVos Children's Hospital and Mission for Area People. The club began because of a little girl, Lucy, who had cancer here at North Muskegon. The next year we had a second student and then a third, all were K and first graders. Students have identified their mission of Health, Hope and Happiness for a better community. They have raised money and given of time and talents on behalf of leukemia, breast cancer, and other health challenges. All of the activities from speaking at The Frauenthal, Organizing a 5K, volunteering for Toys for Tots, serving at Music for Meds, Hosting a Health Hope Happiness week in 2013 with area businesses, to mention a few. All efforts are tied to core curriculum, making Get Your Wings a project based learning experience. Contact Toni Seyferth at the High School if interested.


# YOU can make a big difference to our students!

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NOTICE A WOMAN'S  
SMILE FIRST.\***


\*96% of men are men.




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# WELCOME TO NORTH MUSKEGON ELEMENTARY!



**Lindsey Bentley,**  
Special Education Teacher/  
Interventionist

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Education with a Major in Special Education – Emotional Impairment and Minors in Reading and Child Development.

**Certifications and Endorsements:**

Elementary K-5 All Subjects, (K-8 All Subjects Self Contained Class- room); Emotional Impairment (SE) K-12; Early Childhood Education Pre K-K (ZA); Reading (BT) 6-8.

**Experience (years):** West Michigan Academy of Environmental Science: Special Education Teacher (September 2012 – June 2013); Preschool Teacher (September 2011 – June 2012). Clara Bolen Elementary, Tawas City, MI: Kindergarten Teacher (September 2010 – July 2011).

**Angela Lamiman,**  
1st Grade Teacher

**Education:** Master of Arts in Reading; Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; Elementary Education (K-5; 6-8 Social Studies).

**Certifications and Endorsements:**

Elementary K-5 All Subjects, (K-8 All Subjects Self Contained Classroom); Social Studies (RX) 6-8.

**Experience (years):** Whitehall District Schools, Shoreline Elementary (June 1999 – Present) – 3rd, 1st, 2nd, and 1st/2nd Grade split experience, with most of her experience at the 1st Grade level; A wide variety of school improvement and teacher leadership experiences.



## Happy Retirement!

In June we had a few staff members retire. We want to thank them all for their service and dedication.

**Mrs. Mary Bakale** was a 1st grade teacher. She was employed by North Muskegon from September 1986- 2013.

**Mrs. Denise Smith** was a Title I and DK teacher. She was employed by North Muskegon from September 1986-2013.

**Mrs. Pam Hardie** was a Parapro. She was employed by North Muskegon from August 2000-2013

**Mrs. Marcia Wynsma** was a Parapro. She was employed by North Muskegon from February 2000-2013.

*We wish you all the best in your future adventures!  
Thank you for your service!*



## A Look at the Books!

Mrs. Bouman's 4th grade class and their book reports. The students made puppets of a character from the book they read. Great work guys!



Gabriella Gaston,  
Karli Gregg,  
Ryan Peoples,  
Cole Rust.



Megan Houseman, Hunter Koekkoek,  
Adam Batch, Trystan Guerrero



Keira Lindstrom, Ava Zubryd,  
Bo Nedea, Dylan Schultz



Greer Jensen, Quinn Kersman,  
Kate Simonson, Lilly Downs



Natalie Lorenz, Adrian Martnez, Noa  
Bowen, Ryan Lindback



Charley Klint, Whitney Byard,  
Noah Bamberg



# North Muskegon Norsemen Winter Sports Schedule Pull-Out

## North Muskegon 2013-2014 Winter Sports Schedule

### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

12/10/13	away	at Muskegon Catholic	7:00
12/13/13	home	Hart	7:00
12/17/13	away	at Ludington	7:00
12/19/13	home	Oakridge	7:00
1/7/14	away	at Mason County Central	7:30
1/10/14	away	at Shelby	7:30
1/14/14	home	Heights Academy	7:00
1/16/14	away	at Whitehall	7:00
1/17/14	home	Manistee	7:00
1/21/14	away	at Ravenna	7:00
1/24/14	away	at Montague	7:00
1/27/14	away	at Western MI Christian	7:00
1/30/14	away	at Hart	7:30
2/4/14	away	at Oakridge	7:30
2/7/14	home	Mason County Central	7:00
2/10/14	home	Montague	7:00
2/13/14	home	Shelby	7:00
2/18/14	home	Whitehall	7:00
2/21/14	home	Ravenna	7:00
2/25/14	away	at GR Covenant	7:00

### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

12/3/13	away	at Muskegon Catholic	7:00
12/6/13	home	Montague	7:00
12/9/13	away	at Western MI Christian	7:00
12/12/13	home	Hart	7:00
12/16/13	home	Heights Academy	7:00
12/17/13	home	Oakridge	7:00
12/20/13	away	at Mason County Central	7:30
1/9/14	away	at Shelby	7:30
1/10/14	away	at Holland Black River	7:00
1/14/14	away	at Whitehall	7:00
1/17/14	away	at Ravenna	7:00
1/20/14	home	Fruitport Calvary	7:00
1/23/14	away	at Montague	7:00
1/28/14	away	at Hart	7:30
1/31/14	away	at Oakridge	7:30
2/6/14	home	Mason County Central	7:00
2/11/14	home	Shelby	7:00
2/14/14	home	Whitehall	7:00
2/19/14	away	at Saugatuck	7:00
2/20/14	home	Ravenna	7:00

### BOYS JV BASKETBALL

12/10/13	away at	Muskegon Catholic	5:30
12/13/13	home	Hart	5:30
12/17/13	away	at Ludington	5:30

12/19/13	home	Oakridge	5:30
1/7/14	away	at Mason County Central	6:00
1/10/14	away	at Shelby	6:00
1/14/14	home	Heights Academy	5:30
1/16/14	away	at Whitehall	5:30
1/17/14	home	Manistee	5:30
1/21/14	away	at Ravenna	5:30
1/24/14	away	at Montague	5:30
1/27/14	away	at Western MI Christian	5:30
1/30/14	away	at Hart	6:00
2/4/14	away	at Oakridge	6:00
2/7/14	home	Mason County Central	5:30
2/10/14	home	Montague	5:30
2/13/14	home	Shelby	5:30
2/18/14	home	Whitehall	5:30
2/21/14	home	Ravenna	5:30
2/25/14	away	at GR Covenant	5:30

### GIRLS JV BASKETBALL

12/3/13	away at	Muskegon Catholic	5:30
12/6/13	home	Montague	5:30
12/9/13	away	at Western MI Christian	5:30
12/12/13	home	Hart	5:30
12/16/13	home	Heights Academy	5:30
12/17/13	home	Oakridge	5:30
12/20/13	away	at Mason County Central	6:00
1/9/14	away	at Shelby	6:00
1/10/14	away	at Holland Black River	5:30
1/14/14	away	at Whitehall	5:30
1/17/14	away	at Ravenna	5:30
1/20/14	home	Fruitport Calvary	5:30
1/23/14	away	at Montague	5:30
1/28/14	away	at Hart	6:00
1/31/14	away	at Oakridge	6:00
2/6/14	home	Mason County Central	5:30
2/11/14	home	Shelby	5:30
2/14/14	home	Whitehall	5:30
2/19/14	away	at Saugatuck	5:30
2/20/14	home	Ravenna	5:30

### BOYS FRESHMAN BASKETBALL

12/9/13	away	at Fremont	TBA
12/10/13	away	at Mona Shores	4:00
12/13/13	home	Whitehall	4:00
12/17/13	away	at Spring Lake	5:30
12/20/13	away	at Muskegon Heights	4:00
1/7/14	home	Newaygo	4:00
1/9/14	home	Saugatuck	4:30

1/10/14	home	Mona Shores	4:00
1/14/14	home	Heights Academy	4:00
1/16/14	away	at Whitehall	4:00
1/20/14	Home	Ravenna	4:00
1/27/14	away	at Western MI Christian	4:00
1/30/14	home	Fremont	4:00
2/3/14	away	at Ravenna	TBA
2/6/14	home	Spring Lake	4:00
2/10/14	away	at Saugatuck	4:30

## BOYS MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

11/20/13	away	at Whitehall	4:00
11/25/13	home	Oakridge	4:00
12/2/13	away	at Shelby	4:00
12/4/13	home	Hart	4:00
12/9/13	away	at Montague	4:00
12/11/13	home	Mason County Central	4:00
12/16/13	home	Ravenna	4:00
12/18/13	Home	Whitehall-IN HSG	4:00
1/8/14	away	at Oakridge	4:00
1/9/14	away	at Ravenna	4:00
1/13/14	away	Tournament	TBA
1/15/14	away	Tournament	TBA
1/16/14	away	Tournament	TBA

## BOYS VARSITY ICE HOCKEY

11/9/13	@ Multi Team Scrimmage / Wings Stadium (Annex)	4:00
11/30/13	Sault Area High School / Lakeshore Sports Center	4:00
12/4/13	@ East Kentwood / East Kentwood	7:00
12/6/14	Mattawan / Lakeshore Sports Center	7:00
12/7/14	@ Forest Hills Northern / The Edge	TBA
12/13/14	Stoney Creek High School / Lakeshore Sports Center	7:00
12/14/14	@ Manistee / Westshore Community Center	6:30
12/18/14	Grand Haven / Lakeshore Sports Center	7:30
12/26/13	@ St. Claire Shores Tournament	TBA
12/27/13	@ St. Claire Shores Tournament	TBA
1/3/14	@ East Grand Rapids HS / Patterson Ice Arena	TBA
1/8/14	@ Grand Haven / The Edge	6:30
1/10/14	@ Rockford Tournament / Griff's House	TBA
1/11/14	@ Rockford Tournament / Griff's House	TBA
1/15/14	East Kentwood / Lakeshore Sports Center	7:00
1/17/14	East Grand Rapids HS / Lakeshore Sports Center	6:00
1/24/14	Hartland / Lakeshore Sports Center	7:30
1/29/14	G.R. Catholic Central / Lakeshore Sports Center	7:30
2/5/14	Mona Shores / Lakeshore Sports Center	7:30
2/7/14	@ Michigan High School	
	Michigan High School Showcase Showcase	TBA
2/8/14	@ Michigan High School	
	Michigan High School Showcase Showcase	TBA
2/12/14	Rockford Lakeshore Sports Center	7:30
2/14/14	Northville High School Lakeshore Sports Center	7:00
2/15/14	Grand Rapids Christian Lakeshore Sports Center	4:00
2/19/14	@ Mona Shores L.C. Walker Arena	7:30
2/22/14	@ G.R. Catholic Central Southside Ice Arena	TBA
2/24/14	@ Regionals (Feb 24-Mar1) Regionals (Feb 24-Mar1)	TBA
3/4/14	@ MHSAA Quarterfinals	
	(Mar MHSAA Quarterfinals (Mar 4-5) 4-5)	TBA

3/6/14	@ MHSAA Semifinals (Mar 6-7)	TBA
3/8/14	@ MHSAA Finals	TBA

## BOYS VARSITY SWIMMING

12/7/13	away	Ludington	9:00AM
12/19/13	away	Ottawa Hills	6:00PM
1/9/14	away	Fremont	6:00PM
1/16/14	away	Ludington	6:00PM
1/23/14	away	Spring Lake	6:00PM
1/30/14	away	Manistee	6:00PM
2/1/14	away	Ottawa Hills	9:00AM
2/6/14	away	Fremont	6:00PM
2/13/14	away	Ludington	6:00PM
2/21/14	away	Manistee	TBA
2/22/14	away	Manistee	TBA

## GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

2/4/14	away	at Ravenna	4:00
2/6/14	home	Oakridge	4:00
2/11/14	home	Whitehall	4:00
2/13/14	home	Hart	4:00
2/18/14	away	at Montague	4:00
2/20/14	home	Shelby	4:00
2/25/14	away	at Mason County Central	4:00
2/27/14	home	Ravenna	4:00
3/4/14	away	at Oakridge	4:00
3/6/14	away	at Whitehall	4:00

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# NM Soccer Champs!

The U10 Boys soccer team took 1st place in their division.  
Great job boys! Coaches: Mr. Johnson, Mr. Jura and Mr. Erne.

*Left to right: Tyler Rop, Carter Muzzy, Gabriel Lenius, Jackson Erne, Brady, Cole Johnson, Avery Jura, Jack Injerd and Ryan Hildwein*



The U12 Girls soccer team took 1st place in their division. Great job girls!!

*Left to right: Hope Johnson, Elysia Maurer, Mason Zizak, Carina Steketee, Brianne Arnold, Emme Jensen, Sophia Strach, Audrey Wilson, Alexis Meloche, Alexis Livingston, Emilia Kowalska, Alydia Jura, Michaela Kauranen*

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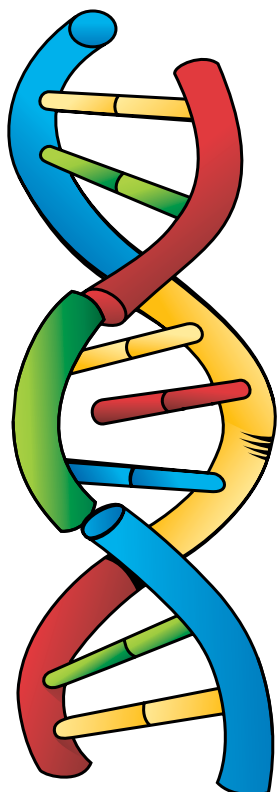
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Muskegon Lumberjacks Reading Caravan



## Mrs. Pek's 5th Grade Science Class

Mrs. Pek's class learned about inherited and acquired traits. They made models of cells and also did a project on their family trees.

*Drew Mallon and Greta Goszkowicz with their cell projects.*

*Emma Houseman (top right) and Kennedy Hoppa (bottom right) with their family tree.*



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# Norseman Cool Jazz 5

The next time you are in the Flex Learning Center Lobby, look up! Your eyes will be treated to a wonderfully-delightful hanging sculpture by artist Faisal Martin Meerzo. A 1951 graduate of North Muskegon, Mr. Meerzo, created the artwork titled "Norsemen Cool Jazz 5" specifically for the school and donated it on behalf of his graduating class.

Mr. Meerzo was born in Grand Haven Michigan in 1932. He has always had an interest in creating new and different things and has built a wide range of items over the past 60+ years, including race cars, kites, bikes, lanterns and sculptures.

His interest in creating things began at the age of 12 when he built a gas-powered go cart; he built his first motorbike at 15. At 18 he was building V8 pickup powered Hot Rods and a few years later he was doing various engine conversions. At 24 he built a Chrysler Hemi powered 54 Corvette. In 1957 he formed the Saginaw Valley Sports Car Club and in 1967 helped it change to Region 100 SCCA. By 1960 he was designing, building, and racing his own sports cars. In 1962 after 10 years of racing, he started building welded art and Muttzo Motor Bikes.



*North Muskegon Middle School students from the Strings Class gather with Artist Faisal Martin Meerzo and his creation, Norseman Cool Jazz 5, which is installed in the Flex Center Performing Arts lobby.*

He said that he was not a talented musician, but that he has "great memories of bands of the past: Dixieland and the Pep bands." He shared that his older brother was a talented musician, "Apparently, the musical genes did not flow down as my older brother Al had a dance band at NMHS five years before I was in high school."

His self-proclaimed lack of talent did not stop him from taking part in the band. "I was a band member-not good enough to play-but I filled in during marching formations,"

he said, "and I raised of the flag with my good friend, Jerry Upman."

His inspiration for the sculpture was the result of the music from his past. "When I constructed the art piece I thought of the pep bands and the hot and cool jazz groups that I heard in my school years. The horns look like they could have played at the summer dances, the horns and their patina mimic the Class of 1951 and their life experiences"

He now divides his time between Indiana and Florida. The North Muskegon Music Boosters has donated a plaque to hang in the lobby to honor the work and the artist and wish to thank Mr. Meerzo for his creation.



## Coach Brenneman Honored as Assistant Coach of the Year

Dr. Wayne Brenneman, or "Coach B" as the girls call him, will be honored as the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association's Assistant Coach of the Year on February 7th at the annual Hall of Fame Banquet in Troy, MI.

Coach B has served as the North Muskegon Girls' varsity tennis assistant since 2002. During this time, he has helped the team achieve four city titles, three Regional titles, and four top-ten finishes in the state, including a 2nd place state finish in 2004.

Coach B is a lifelong, accomplished tennis player and is among the top players in the area. The players benefit immensely as he shares his experience and knowledge in practices and matches.

As a varsity tennis assistant, he arranges his work schedule in order to attend every practice and every match. He loves coaching and has filled this position strictly on a voluntary basis. Coach B goes above and beyond by hitting with team members in the off-season and helping with court maintenance each spring.

Head Coach Joe Gentle says of Coach Brenneman, "We are very fortunate to have Dr. Brenneman helping our girls' tennis program. It would be difficult to find someone that is more dedicated and knowledgeable. We are a much better tennis team because of his involvement. He is very deserving of this tremendous honor."

# LEGO Team Takes the Lead at NM!

Students in our First Lego team work on real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

The LEGO team, comprised of middle school-age students, completed their regional competition at East Zeeland High School on Saturday, November 23, 2013. Twenty-six teams competed from West Michigan and 14 awards were presented. The M.A.R.S. Mini Rovers received the Team Spirit Award and the Gracious Professionalism Award. The team spirit award goes to the team that shows the most enthusiasm and team cohesiveness throughout the day. The Gracious professionalism Award goes to the team who goes out of their way to help others in becoming better competitors and provides assistance to teams who need it. Overall the team came in 5th place and earned a spot at the State competition on December 14th in Flint.



*The North Muskegon Mini-Rovers, mentored by Senior Anthony Uriarte, are Christopher Erndteman (5th grade), Georden Cordle (5th Grade), Nick Gerstweiler (7th Grade), and Nick Williams (7th Grade).*

Anthony Uriarte and Josh Greiner, Seniors at North Muskegon and members of the Muskegon Area Robotics Society, collaborated with Customized Mobility to create a one-of-a-kind wheelchair for a child who loves Dr. Seuss. The students rose to the challenge and came up with three lighting systems: wheel lights to light the custom wheel cover plates, under-glow lighting, made from color changing LED lights to provide a glow under the wheelchair, and head lights for when the child needs to see or be seen in a dark environment. All lights were powered from an on-board rechargeable battery pack that also had USB plugs for hand-held devices such as iPod, games etc.

The student was thrilled with the chair and the M.A.R.S students were excited to be able stretch their imaginations and skills by working on this project. The group was sponsored by Parmenter O'Toole, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, Muskegon Inventors Network, and e-merge West Michigan. More information on Customized Mobility can be found on their website: [http://www.customizedmobility.com/Customized\\_Childrens\\_Wheelchair\\_Just\\_for\\_Kids.html](http://www.customizedmobility.com/Customized_Childrens_Wheelchair_Just_for_Kids.html)

## Students Seussifiy Child's Wheelchair





# NM Graduate Wins the America's Cup

From the relatively calm waters of Muskegon Lake to the wide-open sea, Pete Balash has made his mark in the sailing world. Last September Balash, a 1991 North Muskegon graduate, was on the winning team of the 2013 America's Cup Finals in San Francisco, California. The American defender rallied from being down 8-1, to win eight consecutive matches over a very tough Emirates Team New Zealand.

Balash, along with fellow classmate and Oracle Team USA teammate, John Holstrom, started his love of sailing at the Muskegon Yacht Club when he was a junior at North Muskegon. His passion for sailing led him to become a boat builder, which is how he became connected with the Oracle team back in 2001. He also

sailed the boat before managing the on-water safety for the team.

In a 2012 interview, Balash talked about his job. "The first thing is everyone's safety," Balash said. "The first priority is getting everyone out of the water." He and his team did just that on October 6, 2012 when the Oracle capsized during the Fleet Race 5 in the America's Cup World Series in San Francisco.

After securing everyone's personal safety, the rescue team quickly righted the boat and the team ultimately sailed to the win.

Skipper James Spithall was quick to praise Balash and his crew, "Just a fantastic job by Pete and the boys in the chase boat; they got us up and ready for the next race." Of the quick recovery, Spithall said, "I'm very impressed with the team."



Eric Riseberg/AP



*The Oracle is a catamaran: a scrim of netting stretched between two, 72-foot-long hulls, which are connected to each other by crossbeams. Instead of a sail, the racing yacht has a 13-story rigid wing that acts as the boat's engine.*

During a practice run later in October 2012, the team capsized again. This time Balash and his teammates spent hours trying to retrieve the \$10 million

vessel as it was swept 10 miles out to sea under the Golden Gate Bridge. The main hull and pieces were collected and the ship was rebuilt in time to race in the 34th Annual America's Cup this year.

Balash acknowledged that racing boats of this size and speed is dangerous. In May 2013, Balash lost a good friend, Olympian Andrew "Bart" Simpson, who died when the boat he was on, the Artemis, broke apart and capsized. Rescue teams from other teams helped in the rescue attempts, including Balash's.

"It was one of the hardest things I've ever had to witness," he said.

As a result of the accident, Balash was part of a small committee working with the US Coast Guard that developed new safety crisis plans and formulated on-water rules for the large ships.

His advice to students: "Get out and travel the world. Never say no to any opportunity. Don't be afraid to leave home." Balash continues his travels around the world and has recently moved to Florida where he will be captain for Team Hooligan, a sailing team based out of Newport, Rhode Island.



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## World Language Educator of the Year: **Madame Billock**



Madame Bernadette Billock received 2013 World Language Educator of the Year Award and was honored at the Michigan World Language Association Conference luncheon held on November 8, 2013 in Lansing. Billock is a foreign language teacher at North Muskegon Public Schools, teaching her native French, as well as Spanish, to middle and high school students. A 13-year North Muskegon veteran, Billock is widely recognized as a dedicated teacher who goes 'above and beyond' what is expected. Principal Heidi Sunderhaft Christiansen complimented her commitment to her students. "She cares about her students, she is professional, she creates global experiences, and she continues to amaze me with the opportunities that she provides for all students as she pushes and challenges them to speak fluently." Sunderhaft Christiansen continued, "Her dedication and love for teaching and learning is effortless. I am proud to have her on staff and I am proud to be her principal."

Billock was honored to receive this award and appreciates the support of her colleagues and school administration. "Teaching is much more than a job; it has been my passion since my early childhood," she said. She is enthusiastic about teaching, has high expectations for her students and said she owes her strength and vision to her faith in God.

Billock coordinates the annual Cabaret student talent show to raise money for three-week student trips to France. She also organizes three foreign exchange programs and has started a new program that has older students giving second-graders 15-minute French lessons each school day.

"I go to school every day joyfully and prepared to face new challenges. My main focus is to instill in my students the desire for knowledge acquisition, not just getting good grades. My motto is 'Don't study for the grade but for knowledge,'" Billock said.

This is not the first honor bestowed on Madame Billock this year. Earlier in 2013, the Michigan Education Association selected her to receive an EPICS award, which stands for exceptional people in community schools.

Superintendent, Dr. Curt Babcock, shared his high praise of Billock. "We are extremely fortunate to have a teacher like Madame Billock," Babcock said. "She is an asset to North Muskegon and the students she serves. We are very proud of her getting this much-deserved recognition!"

### Reading Shakespeare Act in Mrs Seyferth's 9th Grade 5th Hour Class

*Left to right: Hannah Landstrom, Mary Hoopes, Frank Lee, Hunter Schotts, Brad Hildlwein, Ryan George, Jacob Bean, Dylan Metzdorf*





# ***Steel Magnolias*** **Hits the Stage at NM**



Seven talented actors took the stage in November with their performance of "Steel Magnolias". The play, as well as the 1989 film version, was based on author Robert Harling's experience with his sister's death.

The action is set in Truvy's beauty salon in Chinquapin, Louisiana, where all the ladies who are anybody come to have their hair done. Helped by her eager new assistant, Annelle (who is not sure if she's still married), the outspoken, wisecracking Truvy dispenses shampoos and free advice to the town's rich curmudgeon, Ouiser; and eccentric millionaire, Miss Clairee, who has a raging sweet tooth, M'Lynn and her daughter, Shelby, who, at the start of the play is getting married. Filled with humor and heartache, these "Steel Magnolias" make us laugh and cry.

Directed by Jeff Reeths and Toni Seyferth, the play featured actors Gaby Saenz (Shelby), Kaitlin Hendrickson (Truvy), Ana Sanes (Annelle), Katie Wright (Clairee), Bethany Lawson (M'Lynn), Kaitlyn Talbot (Ousier), and Madeline Huisingsh (Janice VanMeter).



## **Bonjour!**

The North Muskegon High School French Club is proud to present their 11th Cabaret Show on February 28 and March 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

This year's cabaret theme is "Cabaret Travels to France" or, in French, "Cabaret Voyage en France". Skits and popular songs accompanied with dances will be performed by the French students. English translation will be provided for the non-French speaking audience. A group of second, third, and fourth-graders who are learning French will also take part in the show.

The show is produced the community with an opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of a French cabaret. Those who attend will enjoy the beautifully decorated hallways and cafeteria. They will also have their taste buds awakened with a delicious French meal including appetizers: cheeses and baguette, soup, quiche, a mixed salad, and crêpes with a choice of filling.

A silent auction will also take place during the festivities. Guests may browse the items before dinner and show and at intermission.

The Cabaret Show is the largest fund-raising activity which supports a three-week trip to France. The next trip will take place in June 2015. We hope many of you can come to this fun evening to support our highly dedicated, hard-working and enthusiastic students. For additional information, contact Bernadette Billock at 231-719-4170.



## **\$100 Winners!**

September – Marc and Mindy Draper  
October – Nick Marietti  
November – Bill Dahlquist

## **Congratulations!**

(If you're interested in a chance to win \$100 too, join the Norse Victory Club! It's not too late to sign up. See the High School Office for more information.)



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## Student Art Calendars Now Available

Proceeds benefit Helen DeVos  
Children's Hospital

Our Annual Student Art Calendars are now for sale for only \$5. Students chose the 14 scratch art pieces and the charity that will benefit. This year's proceeds will go to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Foundation. Calendars can be purchased in the High School art room, office, Elementary teachers lounge, Muskegon Women's Club, or the Nuveen Art Center in Montague.

Featured Artists: Courtney Hippchen, Tess Wilson, Jacob Blais, Kelly Torz, Jesse Dunn, Avery Lowe, Lauren Bliss, Olivia Rudicil, Justice Sikkema, Timara Tisch, Kaylee Herbert, Melani Gosselin, Kaitlin Hendrickson, and Alex Slocum.



Artwork – Top: Tess Wilson, Right: Courtney Hippchen

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