



The Norsemen Pride

August 2015 | Issue 09

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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North Muskegon Middle School Musicians Perform in Honors Ensembles



Ten of our North Muskegon Middle School band and orchestra members were selected to participate and perform in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's District 7 Honors Band and Orchestra program in April. Students traveled to Kent City for an evening of sectional rehearsals, followed by a full day of rehearsals at Reeths-Puffer High School before performing for an audience of 900 on Saturday, April 18th. North Muskegon participants included: Anna Pollock, Lindsey Piper, Brianna Ramsey, Piper Meldrum-Roy, Sean Lynn, Maggie Lorenz, Allie Gilles, Conner Flintoff, Saray Figueroa, and Grace Erne.

As a part of this 10th Anniversary of the Honors Program, M.S.B.O.A. District 7 commissioned composer Brian Balmages to write two new pieces for the band and orchestra. Mr. Balmages spent the day working with students and rehearsing the ensembles, followed by a performance in which the two pieces were premiered. Mr. Balmages' active schedule of commissions and premieres has incorporated groups ranging from student to professional ensembles, including the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Miami Symphony Orchestra, and the United States Marine Band. Congratulations to our North Muskegon students for this special opportunity and their musical achievement!

Hello North Muskegon School Family!



I hope this edition of the Norsemen Pride finds you and your family enjoying the last few weeks of summer! In just a couple weeks our hallways will be a buzz of activity – I can't wait! Summer is always a fun time of the year for all of us, but it is time to get students back in our classrooms, on our fields, in our gymnasiums and on our stages. I am excited for what I know is going to be another incredible year of our students

shining. I am very confident the long tradition of Norsemen excellence will be added to again this school year and am anxious to watch it unfold.

This edition of the Norsemen Pride is full of activities highlighting our amazing students and staff as they put a close on last school year. It also has much information you will need to prepare for the start of the 2015/16 school year. If you have any questions prior to the beginning of the year, please contact us.

The beginning of the school year brings such excitement – school clothes shopping, last quick vacation, getting that brand new back pack just perfect, starting fall practices and so many other fun activities. Please take the time to enjoy the last few weeks of summer and then let's work together to make 2015/16 the best year ever! This is going to be a great year!

Take care,
Dr. Curt Babcock



It's an Infodoodle!

Personal infodoodling was a class offered during the spring term by Ms. Knuth.

What is infodoodling? Infodoodling is creating meaningful visual displays for content to improve understanding, elevate thinking, connect ideas, and retain information. In this course, students will learn how to create visual records for information (notes) using a visual alphabet, basic figures and shapes, and marks that express emotions. The images are from a student's test over the visual alphabet and twelve devices that form the basis of the infodoodle.



Lumberjack Breakfast!

By Marilyn Gaston

On Friday, the twenty-seventh of March, 2015, the third grade classrooms had a Lumberjack Breakfast. At the Lumberjack Breakfast, Mrs. Fortmeyer's class dressed up as lumberjacks. They also ate breakfast and called the food what the lumberjacks called it. For example, cackleberries are eggs, sinkers are donuts, flappers are pancakes, black lead is coffee (but we had hot chocolate).

The classes had this breakfast because they were reading a book all about lumberjacks, called Journey Back to Lumberjack Camp by Janie Panagopoulos. It was for March is Reading Month. It was a fun day for the 3rd graders at North Muskegon Elementary.

Happy Retirement!

Nataly Berckmann

Nataly Berckmann has been a part of the North Muskegon Public School System for 18 years. Her motto has been "Art is all around us". This is so very true, because she always had our halls decorated with the children's beautiful art projects all year long. During the month of May each year she would put together an Art Show that could not be beat! Every child had a creative project on display in the Gym and Cafeteria Hallway. The walls came alive with vibrant colors and textures. WOW, it was a sight to be seen! Nataly's colleagues have been inspired by her endless energy, creativity, caring spirit, and her ability to inspire the children to love Art. We will surely miss Ms. Berckmann. We all wish her well on her retirement!

Glenn Burek

Glenn Burek blessed North Muskegon Public Schools with his talents for 25 years. His passion and appreciation for music started when he began playing the trumpet in 6th grade. When asked why he chose North Muskegon to settle down, he stated that as a child his family vacationed in North Muskegon. He figured why not work in a place he liked to vacation? One of Glenn's proudest teaching moments was at band festival when the MSBOA president approached him saying, "I have rarely heard a class D band play with such musicality!" The band got all 1's that particular year. Students shared some of their memories of Mr. Burek's life lessons: "If you are on time, you are late. If you are early, you are on time." "Music is a human express." and "You are rewarded for hard work." Glenn is looking forward to retirement with plans of traveling to Alaska and continuing his hobby of woodworking. Thank you Glenn for sharing your talents and words of wisdom with our students over the past 25 years! We wish you the best in your retirement!

Jim Hall

Jim Hall started at NM in 2006. He was referred by his daughter, Melissa Massey, for a PPI opening. He had experience driving the double decker bus in Ludington so how hard could it be to drive for kids.....So Jim started driving the PPI kids ages 3-4 years old to McMillan Elementary. The ride on bus #9 was an adventure. It was a rough and bumpy dirt road but every Friday Jim would reward his little ones with blue suckers. They looked forward to their treat.

Since 2011, when we purchased 2 new Mercedes engine buses, Jim has been driving bus #1. He brags, it's like driving a Cadillac. Smooth ride, power steering and a comfortable seat.

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Jim helps with the minor maintenance and upkeep on our fleet of 6. He replaces wiper blades, light bulbs, fuses. He letters new buses along with touch up paint when needed. In the winter he comes in early to start the buses so they are warm for his fellow drivers and students. He has always been a reliable and dedicated employee. Jim has been a wonderful, caring bus driver too. He loves the students and staff at NM. Lucky for us he has agreed to be a sub driver and still be a part of NM life.

Jim is planning on farming in his retirement. He loves to ride his tractor and plow the fields.

Sherry Marietti

Sherry Marietti retired on June 4, 2015 after 24 years of service to North Muskegon School. Sherry had the pleasure of working in Developmental Kindergarten through 5th grade and also 7th grade and middle school. Sherry has served as secretary for the North Muskegon Athletic Booster Club. She was also a founding member of the North Muskegon ESP Association.

When asked about her 24 years of service, Sherry said "I look at my position as a gift, a gift that enables me to see the uniqueness of every child."

Thank you Mrs. Marietti for your gift to all of us at NMPS, yourself! We wish you much happiness and success in your retirement.

The Way to **Wellville**  **Greater Muskegon**
five places. five metrics. five years. **Our community's journey to be a healthier place to live, learn, work, and play!**

Way to Wellville Town Hall Meeting

September 22, 2015

7:00 to 8:30 pm

North Muskegon Middle High School Cafeteria

1600 Mills Ave, North Muskegon

- **Learn about Greater Muskegon's 5-year plans, goals for the challenge, and broader resources that may be coming our way as a Way to Wellville community.**
- **Hear a special message from National Wellville Organizers.**
- **Share your ideas about health goals, barriers, challenges, and priorities.**

Greater Muskegon is on the Way to Wellville!

This national collaborative competition will help us reach our 1 in 21 Healthy Muskegon County goal to become the healthiest community in Michigan. Over the next five years, we'll work together with Wellville communities across the country to improve five health and economic metrics. To learn more, visit: 1in21.org/wellville.

Questions? Contact: Gwen Williams, Public Health – Muskegon County
231.724.1264 williamsaw@co.muskegon.mi.us

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ALPHABOP

On May 15, 2015 the Kindergarten classes performed a program called Alphabop. Mrs. Slimko worked hard with all three classes to put on a great show complete with singing and dancing. Some of the songs sung were "K" Take me Away, Start the Day With "A" and Since "U's" Been Gone to name a few.

The students decorated their T-shirts with the alphabet in class as well. Awesome job Kindergarten students!!

Photos: Left: Back Row, Audrey WIngett and Ben Cramblet. Front Row, Eli Gomez and Ricardo Lopez. Top, right: Back Row, Elijah Smith Front Row, Ben Cramblet and Isabella Sima. Bottom, right: Front Row, Isabella Sima, Brody Keur and Mason Harris.



Law Day!

The Muskegon County Bar Association had an art contest for Elementary students in honor of Law Day. This years Law Day was in celebration of the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta is 800 years old this year! It was signed in 1215 by King John of England.

The Magna Carta didn't state rights and freedoms the way we understand them today, but it was the first document that established the foundation for many of the rights and freedoms that we hold today including: the right to own property, the right to trial by jury, the right to travel. For the art contest the students were asked to choose one of the rights and design a poster that reflects the importance of that fundamental right. There were two 5th grade students that won first and second place respectively. They both designed posters that focused on the right to own property. Jasmine Duncan won first place and received a \$75.00 gift card. Selena Cisneros won second place and received a \$50.00 gift card. Mr. DeLong, their very proud teacher, received a \$100.00 gift card to spend on the classroom. The students, their parents and Mr. DeLong were treated to a special awards lunch at the Lake House as well. Congratulations to all!

Photos: Top left, Selena Cisneros, Mr. DeLong and Jasmine Duncan. Top right, Selena Cisneros shows off her poster design. Bottom right, Jasmine Duncan in front of her poster design.



Owls

Say What? Say Who!

In April, the 1st grade classes at North Muskegon were learning about birds. They had an opportunity to dissect owl pellets. Owl pellets are masses of bone, teeth, hair, feathers and exoskeletons of various animals preyed upon by owls or birds of prey. Pellets are produced and regurgitated not only by owls, but by hawks, eagles and other raptors that swallow their prey whole or in small pieces. Owls feed early in the evening and regurgitate a single pellet approximately 20 hours after eating. Unlike snakes, the protein enzymes and strong acids which occur in the digestive tract of owls do not digest the entire meal. The relatively weak stomach muscles of the bird form the undigested fur, bones, feather etc. into wet slimy pellets. In this process even the most fragile bones are usually preserved unbroken. The students were able to find some bones and other interesting things in the pellets.



Jordan Thomas and Summer Davis found some small animal bones in their pellet



Zoey LeMieux and Andrew Proksa



Gabrielle Benedict and Emerson Buikema



Second Grade TUG 'O WAR!

The second grade classes spent a few hours at the football field the last week of school. They ran the track and competed in Tug of War against the High School students. Of course the second grade students won!



Join us!



Norse Education Foundation Tailgate Party

When: Homecoming Football Game, October 2

Where: Practice Football Field (end of parade route)

Food, fun, and friends!

**Look for more information soon!*



Third Grade Pool School

On April 16, 2015, the 3rd grade classes of North Muskegon Elementary School had their first class of pool school. At 8:45 a.m. the 3rd graders climbed the big steps onto the bus. The bus ride to the YMCA is not very far, but it seemed long for the teachers with the endless noise of excited voices from the students.

When they got to the Y, the teachers hurried the students in. Quickly they got into their bathing suits like they were asked. They noisily stood in line whispering excitedly. When they were seated on the benches quietly, they were placed into groups based on how well they could swim. When they had gotten their groups, they started class.

An hour later it was time to get out, and you could hear sad sighs from the students. They quickly walked back to the locker rooms, and the teachers hurried them along. When the students got back to school, everyone couldn't wait for next week's class.

~ by Sage Brewer

Some students believe that swimming isn't what they like, but some students know swimming is what they love, like me. I love to swim! Winter, spring, summer, and fall are great seasons to look for chances to swim. In my opinion, swimming is excellent exercise for your body and people should do it more often.

One reason I think people should swim more often is because Michigan has some of the biggest lakes in the country. For example, Lake Michigan is 22,000 square miles. It's important that all kids know how to swim or else they won't be able to enjoy some of the fun water activities that others can enjoy. So when I heard about the YMCA's program called "Pool School," I felt more secure and safer in the deep end.

Another reason I think people should swim more often is that there are so many out in the world that can't get enough exercise. Also, for injured people, swimming is a low impact form of exercise. For example, my grandmother had a hip replacement and she used a pool to exercise and help her recovery. That's why going to the YMCA helps everyone.

In conclusion, swimming can help your body and mind. Also, kids need to be safe, and the YMCA's Pool School program helps us all. I was very happy to be a part of Pool School because the program inspired me to teach kids what they love to do, like swimming. If the YMCA wasn't invented, some kids wouldn't know how to swim. Go to the YMCA today!

~ by Spencer Zizak

Pool School is something that the 3rd graders do to learn about a survival situation in the water. What they need includes towels, bathing suits, some clothes, and some goggles. The teachers help them out if they need help. Finally, the kids get into the water and swim away!

The 3rd graders of North Muskegon Elementary did this splashy event to learn what they needed to do if they were in a serious situation in the water. Pool School took place at the YMCA in downtown Muskegon. It happened every Thursday for 6 weeks on the dates of April 16, April 23, April 30, May 7, May 14, and May 21.

Pool School can be helpful and educational in many ways. So for those beginners out there, let this be a message to you. Don't give up because there are people out there who can help, and they work at the Muskegon YMCA.

~ by Ella Mallon



Dear Day News...

On Friday, March 20, 2015, the third grade rooms at North Muskegon Elementary had D.E.A.R. Day. DEAR Day means "Drop Everything and Read." We brought sleeping bags, blankets, pillows, stuffed animals, and our favorite books. Right in the middle of our work, the teachers would call out, "DEAR time," and we'd stop working and read for a while. The teachers could see that the students were stuck in their books. Everything seemed to go well. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. DEAR Day was sensational!

When the day ended, sleeping bags, pillows, stuffed animals, and books were packed up. DEAR Day was over, but we all knew that we'd keep reading books for the rest of our lives!

By Michael Proksa

North Muskegon Norsemen

2015 Fall Sports Schedule

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

September 8	@ Oakridge	4:00
September 10	@ Whitehall	4:00
September 15	Oakridge	4:00
September 17	Ravenna	4:00
September 22	@Shelby	4:00
September 24	Hart	4:00
September 29	@ Montague	4:00
October 1	Mason County Central	4:00
October 6	@ Ravenna	4:00
October 8	Whitehall	4:00
October 12	WMC Tournament	4:00
October 14-15	WMC Tournament (Away)	TBA

CROSS COUNTRY

Aug 29	@ Benzie Inv.	9:00
September 12	@ Fennville Inv.	
September 18	@ Spartan Inv. @	
September 22	at Montague	4:30
September 29	@ Whitehall	4:30
October 3	@ Allendale Inv.	
October 10	@ Portage Inv.	
October 13	@ Shelby	4:30
October 16	GMAA	TBA
October 20	@ Ravenna	4:30
October 30-31	Regionals	

BOYS VARSITY FOOTBALL

August 28	at Holton	7:00
September 3	Whitehall	7:00
September 11	Oakridge	7:00
September 18	Ravenna	7:00
September 25	@ Mason County Central	7:00
October 2	Montague (Homecoming)	7:00
October 9	@ Shelby	7:00
October 16	@ Manton	7:00
October 23	@ Hesperia	7:00

BOYS JV FOOTBALL

Aug 27	Holton	6:30
September 2	@ Whitehall	6:30
September 10	@ Oakridge	6:30
September 17	@ Ravenna	6:30
September 24	Mason County Central	6:30
October 1	@ Montague	6:30
October 8	Shelby	6:30
October 15	Hart	6:30
October 22	Hesperia	6:30

BOYS MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL

September 9	@ Montague (scrimmage)	4:00
September 16	@ Shelby	4:00
September 23	@ Mason County Central	4:00
September 30	Oakridge	4:00
October 7	Ravenna	4:00
October 14	Whitehall	4:00
October 21	@Hart	4:00

GIRLS GOLF

August 21	@ Fruitport Inv.	
August 27	@ Mona Shores Inv.	8:30
September 2	Ludington	3:30
September 3	@ Whitehall	3:30
September 8	@ Manistee	5:30
September 10	@ Fremont	3:30

GIRLS GOLF (CONTINUED)

September 15	@ Reeths Puffer	3:30
September 17	WMC	3:30
September 18	Fruitport	3:30
September 21	@ Spring Lake	TBA
September 23	GMAA @ WMC	TBA
September 25	Fremont	3:30
September 28	Whitehall	3:30
September 30	@ Hudsonville Inv.	4:00
October 7	Regionals	

BOYS VARSITY SOCCER

August 22	@ Kalamazoo Hackett	9:00
August 27	Whitehall	7:00
September 1	Oakridge	7:00
September 3	@ Muskegon Catholic Central	5:30
September 5	@ Reeths Puffer	2:00
September 8	Ravenna	7:00
September 12	@ T.C. Christian Inv	
September 18	@ Leland	5:00
September 22	@ Shelby	4:30
September 24	@ WMC	
September 26	Harbor Springs	1:00
September 29	@ Mason County Central	4:30
October 1	G.R. Covenant Christian	7:00
October 5	@ Hart	5:30
October 6	Oakridge	7:00
October 7	Conference	TBA
October 12	Conference	TBA
October 14	Conference	TBA
October 19-24	Districts	TBA
October 27-31	Regionals	TBA

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

August 22	@ Reeths Puffer Inv. (V)	
August 24	@ Ludington Quad (JV)	5:30
August 24	@ Ravenna Quad (V)	5:30
September 1	Shelby (V)(JV)	5:30
September 8	@ Ravenna (V)(JV)	5:30
September 10	Muskegon (V)(JV)	5:30
September 12	@ Pentwater Inv. (V)	9:00
September 15	@ Hart	5:30
September 19	@ at Hesperia (JV)	
September 22	@ Whitehall (V)(JV)	5:30
September 24	@ WMC (V)(JV)	5:30
September 26	@ Mona Shores (JV)	
September 29	Mason County Central (V) (JV)	5:30
October 6	@ Oakridge (V) (JV)	5:30
October 10	@ Shelby Inv. (V)	
October 13	Montague (V) (JV)	5:30
October 20	@ Whitehall Quad (JV)	5:30
October 20	@ Ludington Quad (V)	5:30
October 27	@ Fremont Quad (JV)	5:30
October 27	NM Quad(V)	5:30
Oct 29	WM Conf @ Mason CC (V)	3:00
November 2-6	Districts	TBA
November 10	Regionals	

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It's Salmon Time!



When we knew we were getting salmon for our classroom, we had to prepare. It was late October, the 30th, and that's when we got the tank running. We filled it with water and had the temperature set. There were pebbles at the bottom.

We were planning on going to the fish hatchery with Mr. Kartes to get the eggs on November 13th, but it was cancelled due to weather. A few days later on November 16th, Mr. Kartes drove by himself to get the eggs.

We observed the eggs as they were sitting in the tank. We had left for Christmas break and when we came back, there were little Alevins swimming around! As the days passed we didn't pay attention to them as much and they had grown a lot. Their yolk sacks were gone and that's how they will release them. We are releasing them on May 20th.

By Parker Maciejewski

We got the tank running for our salmon on October 30, 2014. To get our salmon we had to drive to Mattawan, MI on November 13, but our field trip was cancelled. So on November 16, Mr. Kartes went to get them. They were in little pink eggs. On December 15, they started hatching. They were in the alevin stage and ate from an egg sac on their chest. Then on January 6, we started feeding them this stage is called fry.

On May 20, we released them before they smelted because they get aggressive and bite the tails off each other. After they smelted they are adults and live in lakes or oceans. Then the salmon spawn or give birth and then they die.

We released our salmon at veterans memorial park. We have had seven months with our salmon and explored them a lot it was the best learning experience of my life.

By Carolyn Bennett
Mr. Kartes' 4th grade class

October 30, 2014 the tank was running for the salmon to arrive. On November 13, 2014 our field trip to pick up the fish was cancelled. We were all sad. On Monday, November 16, 2014 Mr. Kartes took the day off to get them for us.

They hatched December 15, 2014. We were so happy, we started naming them. I named mine Carrie Sue. Preston's was the first to hatch. He named him Preston Jr. When they hatched they started to look different each day. They grew and grew. Each day they learned different things. In February they finally started to swim. Some stayed low, but some swam to the top.

May 19, 2015 they looked brown mixed with gray. They are fries now and soon they will be smolts. They already ate their sac as a sac fry. The release was May 26, 2015. It was a very sad time for all of us. It was on the causeway at about 8:15. That was our salmon time.

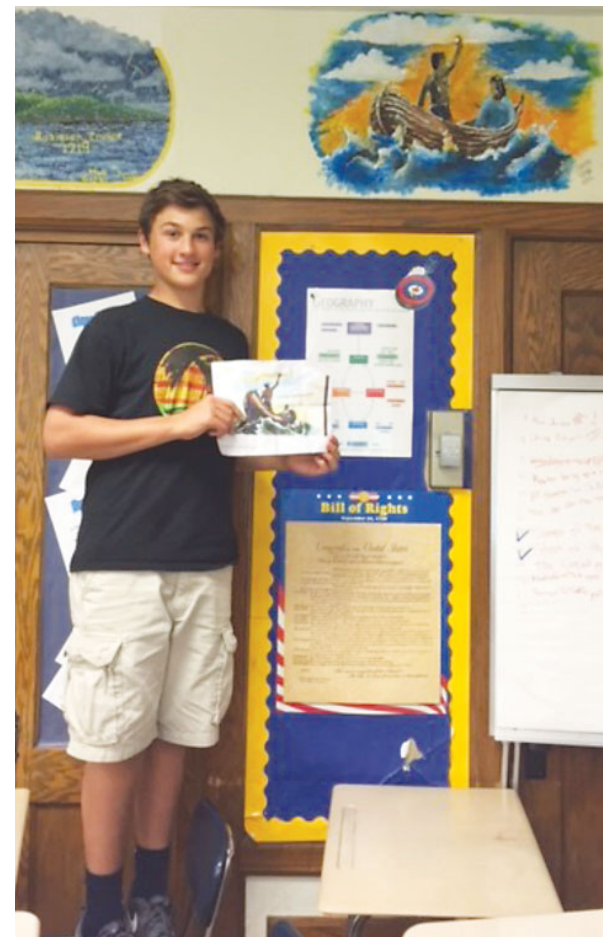
By Alyvia Ackenberg

We started our tank on Oct. 30. I was so happy because I knew we were going to get the salmon soon. On Nov. 13, we were going to get the fish, but it was cancelled due to the weather. I was sad that we did not go. Mr. Kartes went to get the salmon from the Mattawan Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery.

They hatched Dec. 15 2015. I was happy. My class started naming them, I named mine "Gill" because of lines when he is a fry. I love the fish and I hope the kids next year love them. We release them on May 26 2015.

By Emma St. Germain 4th Grade Mr. Kartes

Telling History through Art



Jimmy Cobb adding to the art work, telling the history of literature on the freshman classroom wall.

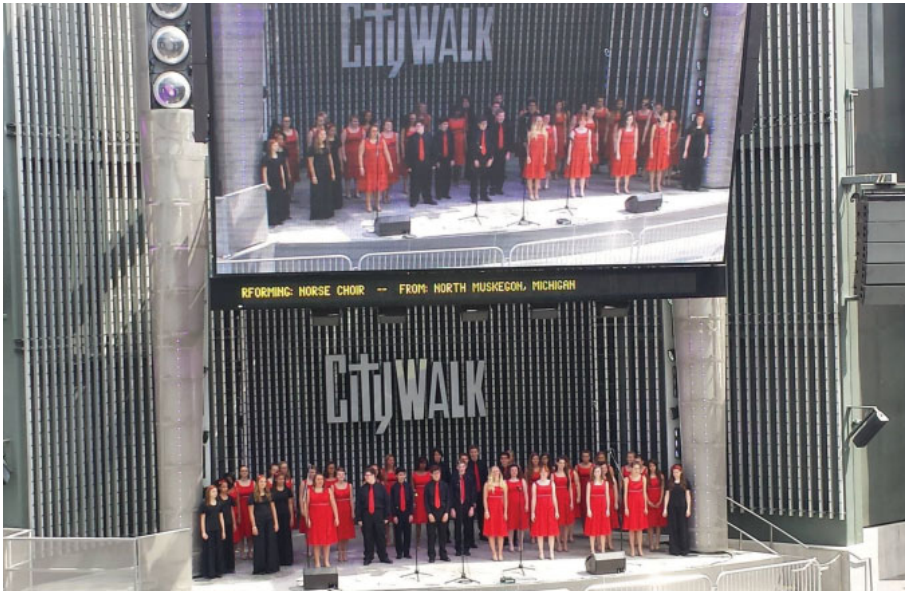
A philanthropist in true form, donating his time of 13 lunch hours and his artistic talents!!!

Thank You Jimmy!

~ From Mrs. Seyferth

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Choir trip to California

By Beth Slimko

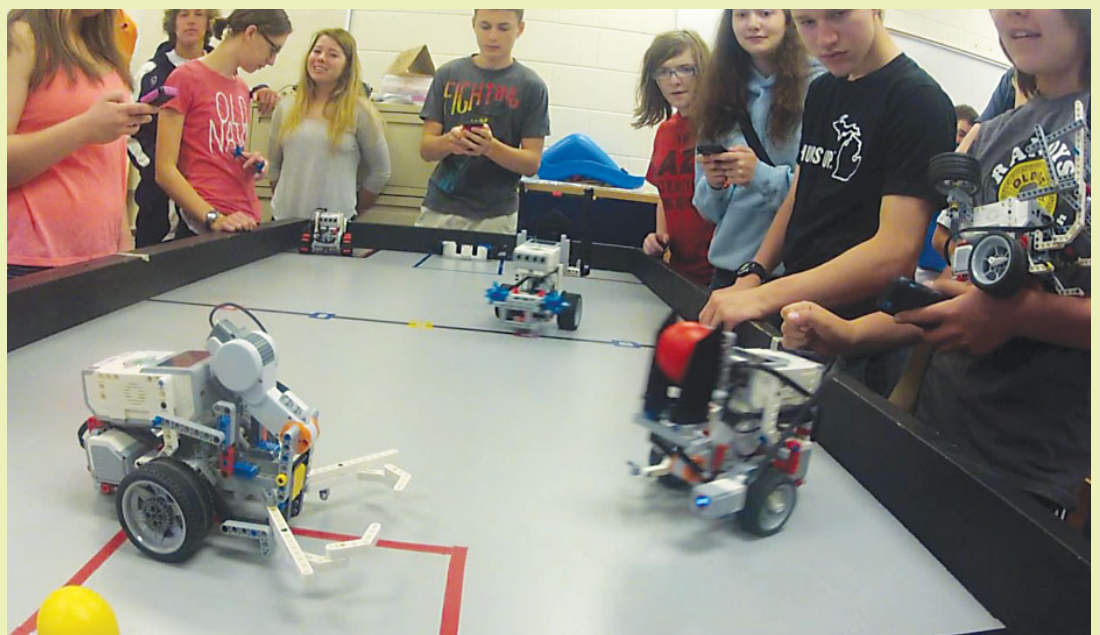
Fifty-nine North Muskegon choir students and choir parents traveled to Los Angeles, California on May 6-10 2015. The choir recorded vocals for a Disney film backstage at Disney Land, went on tours, did some sight-seeing and shopping and performed at Universal City Walk. It was an amazing trip with some wonderful students and parents. Thank you NM School Board and Administration for supporting wonderful educational trips for our students!

Photo at top left, Jumbotron live broadcast above the stage.



LEGO Robots Compete

Mr. Allen, with the help of Mike Gerstweiler the High School Robotics Coach, worked with High School students to learn the basics of working collaboratively to design, program, and compete with table-top LEGO robots. Concepts such as gear ratios, the geometry of wheel rotations and turn radius and logic as applied to programming were all practiced and applied by students. Working in groups of three, students created functional robots to navigate changing mazes autonomously, perform specific, multi-step tasks autonomously, and compete as remote-controlled "soccer-bots". A number of students from the class are now seriously considering joining the High School MARS Robotics team because of their experience with the fun, challenging, and dynamic experience they had in class.



Deep Learning, Community Connections

Earth Force Teams are approaching the last summer where there will be grants available to support the institutionalized place-based education and service-learning experiences. Training is ending this August. Team leader teachers have been engaged in summer as well as evening training through the last three years in order to successfully qualify as Earth Force Educators.

Participation has provided extended curricular funding benefiting the school district and students directly. This experience provides deep learning and community connections to real environmental concerns. Students connect with city, government, county, EPA, NOAA, many local organizations, and individual community members.



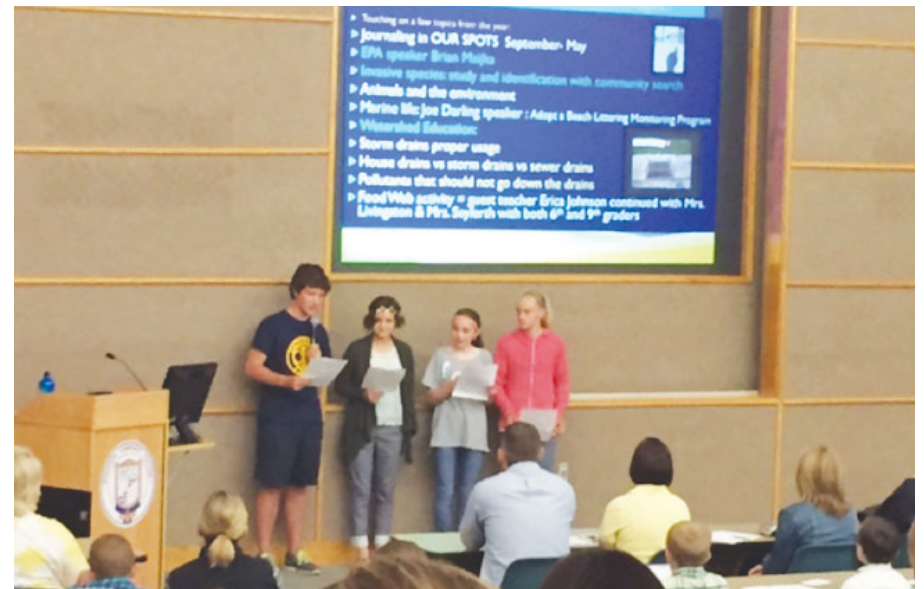
Amanda Williams and Haley Klanke presented at MCC for GLSI Earth Force

The Norse Earth Force team who participated in the full training are Deb Johnson, Joe Grelewicz, Chris Livingston, and Toni Seyferth. They were supported by additional active members Bernadette Billock, Chuck Rypstra, Glenn Burek and John Slocum.

The beauty of this program is it embraces and encourages cross-curricular and cross grade level learning. It also teaches students to become civic minded citizens. Almost every student in our MS/HS has benefited from this placed based learning at least once in the past two years. Most have extended experiences.

Many thanks to The Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative for their guidance and support. Also, thanks to Sarah Coleman, Alyssa Merten and Erica Johnson for their gentle pushes and leadership, moving the North Muskegon Earth Force toward completion of real concrete goals.

Thank you also to High School Principal Heidi Sunderhaft-Christiansen for



supporting all the activities, assemblies, and irregular schedule situations which may have occurred in order to successfully implement these valued service learning experiences. Also, thank you to Sam Jansen and Randy Phillips, DPW Director and North Muskegon City manager for always greeting us with a positive can do attitude!

Students have planted herb gardens, installed rain barrels, planted a Native Prairie Garden, identified and removed invasive species, participated in Adopt a Beach Littering Monitoring program, planted trees after helping to up-date a North Muskegon city ordinance, created a swale at Bear Lake Beach, journaled monthly observations of the environment, placed educational stickers on storm drains, created educational flyers, funded benches for garden areas, presented annually at the GLSI/ Earth Force Symposium and so much more. Be watching as art emerges around storm drains to remind community members only storm water belongs in storm drains!!

The Earth Force Staff

Congratulations to the following Seniors that are graduating with honors!

Summa Cum Laude (3.895+ GPA)

Ashley Babcock
Madison Bluhm
Kennedy Davis
Riley Draper
Margaret Karaba
Avery Lowe
Kelli Maynard
Allie Mcclary
Kelsey Ocharzak
Elizabeth Pitcher
Kiernan Pitts
Calvin Preston
Abigail Vermeulen
Eleanor Wilson

Magna Cum Laude (3.745-3.894 GPA)

Alexis Bailey
Vincent Black
Wesley Collins
Jaylah Davis
Lilly Persicke
Nicole Smith

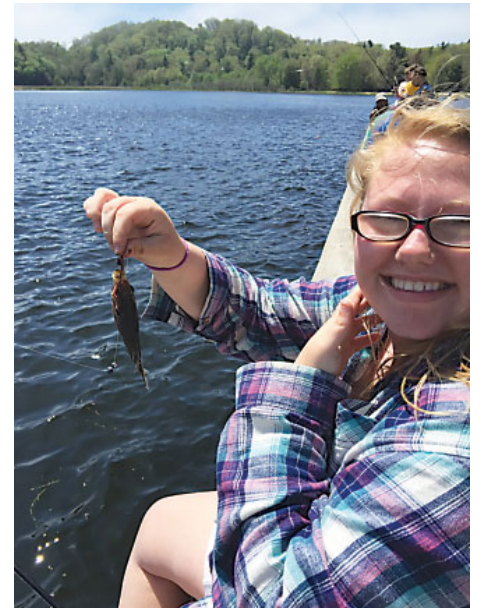
Cum Laude (3.495-3.744 GPA)

Victoria Bungart
Drew Fleming
Joel Hardy
Megan Romkema
Mikayla Stone
Deziray Taylor

Muskegon River Watershed



We had an excellent experience outside in the fresh air, learning about the history of the Muskegon River Watershed, painting wildlife on rainy days, and pondering the interplay between economic development and industry and the wildlife the watershed supports. There were fifty students that were able to take part in the course.



Interact! We're Changing Lives

Rotary International is the largest service organization on the planet. There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians involved in 34,000 clubs all around the world. The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Interact is the high school branch of Rotary. Three years ago

North Muskegon Interact was formally recognized as a high school club and has been serving others and making the world a better place. North Muskegon Interact students strive to change lives. This year Interact also involved middle school students in an all-year-round class dedicated to leadership and service above self.



Boxes of school supplies donated by NM students ready to be delivered to Tanzania.

High school club members meet every Friday at lunch. This year their largest project was called Project Darasani. The word Darasani means Classroom in Swahili. Their mission is to provide educational supplies directly to the school children in the rural villages of Tanzania to promote education for a long term solution to poverty. North Muskegon Interact students from both middle school and high school classes and club collected pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, and other school supplies that filled a total of 13 boxes, and donated over \$300 dollars to Darasani. They will be sent to Georgia, from where a group of adults and students will hand deliver them to students in Tanzania. The money donated by NM was used for postage to ship the supplies, and leftover money will be used to help sponsor a child's education in Tanzania.

Other accomplishments this year include:

- Donating \$577 to Kid's Food Basket
- Teaming up with elementary and middle school students to donate over 1,000 winter items for Mission for Area People
- Three of our high school club members traveled to El Salvador over spring break to build houses for homeless families
- North Muskegon hosted this year's Leadership Conference- total of 60 individuals from 8 different Interact Clubs present
- Three of our Interact club members hosted Japanese exchange students for a week from our "sister city" in Omuta, Japan.
- Two North Muskegon students participated in the Rotary Youth Exchange program and spent this year in Peru (Natalie Witham) and Brazil (Christian Berends)
- Donated cans and money to the Salvation Army for Thanksgiving
- Volunteered at Mission for Area People's "Taste of Music"

Approximately 30 high school students dedicate their lunch break every Friday to organize and commit to events to help others in need. These students are passionate, energetic and at the ready to help whenever and wherever they are needed. They are a dedicated group of people who believe "service above self" is the way to make the world a better place.

The Interact Club makes a visit to Rotary



The Interact Club speaking about their achievements to the Rotary Club. The presentation was at the Lake House in Muskegon.

Elysia Maurer, Mickayla Greiner, Greta Goskowitz, Emily Lindback, Paige Twining and teacher John Slocum

On the road... Interact field trip!



6 week class Interact Students along with President Emily Lindback & VP Paige Twining prepare for a field trip.

Teachers: John Slocum and Toni Seyferth



Students of the Month



September Students of the Month



Abbey Vermeulen, daughter of Dave and Mary Vermeulen, is a member of National Honor Society and North Muskegon French Club, and participated in a two month trip to France. She most enjoys writing, philosophy, French, and playing music in venues such as her hometown coffee shop. Her awards include AllState Honors in cross country in 2011, and Showcase 1st prize literary award recipient in 2013 and 2014. She is currently undecided on a college, but plans on pursuing a double major involving language and the humanities.

Cal Preston, is the son of Dr. Monica Lakatos and Steve Preston. He is the executive vice president of the student council, National Honor Society treasurer, and environmental club secretary. Cal participates in varsity tennis and basketball. In the future, he hopes to attend The University of Michigan to study engineering. Cal's spare time is spent on Lake Michigan either at the beach with friends or kiteboarding in the surf.



October Students of the Month



Maggie Karaba, is the daughter of Al Karaba and Debbie Gannon. Maggie is Executive Student Council President, President of the Muskegon Youth Advisory Council and a member of National Honor Society. She is captain of the varsity volleyball team, and also plays basketball and runs track. Maggie plans on attending Michigan State University next year in hopes to become an orthodontist.

Riley Draper, son of Marc and Melinda Draper, is the Student Council Class Secretary and a member of Norse United and National Honor Society. Riley plays the alto saxophone in the band, and he is the student representative on the Norse Education Foundation and the School Board. Riley is on the varsity hockey team, from which he was awarded All State honorable mention and All Conference, and he plays on the varsity baseball team. He is unsure of his plans for next year but hopes to attend either the University of Notre Dame or Hope College to major in pre medicine.



November Students of the Month



Avery Lowe, is the daughter of Clayton and Tracey Lowe. Avery is a member of National Honor Society, Interact Club, and Norse United. She is cocaptain of the girls cross country team where she was awarded all state honors in 2012 and 2014. She also participates in track with all state honors in 2012. Avery is still undecided on where she plans to attend in the fall but hopes to either attend Hillsdale College or Hope College to study history and continue her running career.

Vincent Black, is the son of Ying and Raymond Woellhaf. Vincent is a member of the Environmental Club's Green School Committee, Interact Club, National Honor Society, and Choir. Vincent is also in his second year of online Chinese which he hopes to minor in college next year. During his free time, he enjoys watching Netflix, drinking tea, and being with friends and family. Next year Vincent hopes to attend either the University of Michigan or Michigan State University to major in Automobile marketing.



4 OUT OF 5 DENTISTS PREFER PATIENTS TO BRUSH BEFORE VISITS.*

*1 out of 5 is just being polite.



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December Students of the Month



Elizabeth Pitcher, is the daughter of Karen and John Pitcher. She is the president of National Honor Society and a member of the Environmental and Interact Clubs. Elizabeth participates in varsity volleyball and runs track. She enjoys reading, playing her ukulele, and spending time with her friends and family. She is currently undecided on a college, but plans on becoming a surgeon.

Nicole Smith, is the daughter of John and Amy Smith. Nicole is Vice President of the National Honor Society, a student intern for the Norse Education Foundation, and Secretary of Norse United. She is captain of the varsity basketball team and was also a member of the to attend either Northern Michigan University or Saginaw Valley State University where she will major in Sports Science.



January Students of the Month



Eleanor Marie Wilson, is the daughter of Ann and Chris Wilson. She is a member of Norse United and National Honors Society. Ellie is captain of the varsity crosscountry team and participates in orchestra. She enjoys snowboarding, reading and spending time with her family and friends. Ellie is currently undecided on her major but will be attending The University of Michigan next fall.

Joel Hardy, is the son of Mary and Dennis Hardy. He was a captain of the varsity soccer team, where he was awarded All Conference and Academic All State. He is also on the basketball and baseball teams. He is the Class Vice President for Student Council, a member of National Honor Society and Norse United. He enjoys music. He sings, plays guitar, and bass for his church worship band. He loves spending time with friends and family. Joel plans to attend Muskegon Community College next fall, then to Michigan State where he will pursue a degree in engineering.



February Students of the Month

Allie McCleary, is the daughter of Brett McCleary and Michelle Barnes. Allie is the current Secretary of National Honor Society, as well as a participant of the Interact Club and North Muskegon Choir. In the past, she has enjoyed golf, karate, youth group, and being a member of the Varsity Cheer team. Allie is unsure of where she will attend college next year, but she plans to major in Electrical Engineering at either Western Michigan University or Grand Valley State University.



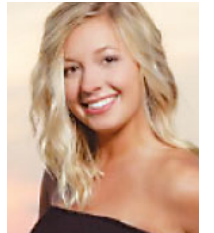
Wesley Collins, the son of Dan and Kellie Collins, is an active member of the National Honors Society. Wesley is also an allstate Cross country and Track runner, an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, section leader in our high school choir, and a seven year member of the North Muskegon Alpine Club. Next fall, Wesley will attend the University of Michigan's department of Engineering and will be pursuing a degree in aerospace and aeronautical engineering.

March Students of the Month



Deziray Taylor, is the daughter of Charise Chavers and Ronnie Taylor. She is a member of National Honor Society and a Section Leader in her high school choir. She enjoys singing, dancing, acting, and spending time with her friends and family. Deziray will be attending Eastern Michigan University to double major in Music Performance and Psychology.

Madison Bluhm, daughter of Larry and Lisa Bluhm, is president of her senior class. She is a member of Student Council, National Honor Society, and Norse United. Madison has been a part of the choir for seven years, plays piano and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Her favorite companion is her dog Maizy. She is also a member of the cross country team and track team. Madison will be attending Michigan State University in the fall to study Veterinary Medicine.



April Students of the Month



Bethany Lawson, is the daughter of Maria and Steve Lawson. She is president of the Drama Club and was nominated into the Mona friends. Bethany plans to attend Shores Optimist Club. She enjoys reading, writing, acting, and spending time with family and Oakland University where she will major in Journalism.

Kelsey Ocharzak, is the daughter of Dave and Kelley Ocharzak. She is a member of National Honor Society, Environmental Club, and Norse United. Kelsey participates in volleyball and has been a captain of the varsity soccer team since her sophomore year. In the fall of 2015, she is attending Ferris State University to study pharmacy.



May Students of the Month



Kennedy Davis, is the daughter of Shawn and Lori Davis. Kennedy is the Executive Student Council Secretary and a member of the Environmental Club and National Honors Society. She participates in both volleyball and Alpine Club. Kennedy is attending the University of ColoradoBoulder this fall to study environmental engineering.

Jaylah Davis, is the daughter of Torrie Williams and Wardell Davis. Jaylah is a member of the French Club, National Honor Society, Norse United, and Student Council. During her free time, Jaylah enjoys spending time with friends and family. Next year, she plans to attend the University of Michigan where she will major in Economics and continue to study French.





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