



The

Norsemen Pride

May 2019 | Issue 20

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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5th Grade Science - Should We Ship Our Water?

The fifth graders have been participating in a phenomenon based science experience. They were given the question, “California is in a drought and in desperate need of water. They have asked us (the State of Michigan) if we would ship them 22 billion gallons of water from the Great Lakes. The governor has turned to her team of expert scientists for the answer. Should we ship California 22 billion gallons of water?”

Students have investigated the effect of Zebra Mussels on our Great Lakes and what implications the Zebra Mussels might have on California if they were



shipped water containing Zebra Mussels, stressors on the Great Lakes and our limited water supply. Using information gained from their investigations, students continue to develop an evidence based

opinion to answer the guiding question. At the end of the unit, they will submit their research based proposal to the governor answering the guiding question in the form of a letter, research guide, pamphlet, or whatever way they choose to share their opinion and evidence.



Greetings Norse Education Family!



Wow - what a winter (once it got here!!??)! As much as my family and I enjoy the winter season, it is wonderful to be experiencing the warmer days. I hope you and your family had a great winter and are enjoying our start to spring.

The end of the school year is such an exciting and busy time. Please be sure to take in some of our students' performances, athletic events and other activities.

We are very fortunate to have so many incredibly talented young people in our community – it is a joy to watch them excel in their areas of interest. Several of those talented students will be moving to the next chapter in their lives very soon – congratulations to the Class of 2019!

The Norsemen pride is alive and well as depicted in the pages of this newest edition!

Now, get ready to enjoy your spring edition of the Norsemen Pride! 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!

It is ALWAYS a GREAT day to be a NORSEMEN!

Curt Babcock, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Social-Emotional Learning at NM!

*By Lisa Cobb, LMSW
School Social Worker/Behavior Specialist*

We live in a stressful world, and our nation's children and young adults are coping with new and prevalent emotional realities we can't ignore. Research indicates that when educators work to teach learners how to alleviate and manage stress, students become more likely to learn deeply, avoid negative behaviors and achieve successful outcomes with long-term effects. Social-emotional learning (SEL) practices are the focus of copious research studies – and it's a good thing!

So just what is social-emotional learning? And more importantly, why do we need it? According to the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), an organization that works toward integrated social-emotional learning for preschool through high school, "social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions." SEL can be seamlessly integrated into a school's culture and norms or explicitly taught outside of academic learning time.

Students spend most of their time in school, so to ignore their social-emotional learning needs for the 30+ hours a week they spend in classrooms would be a waste of precious developmental learning time. School is also the place where students encounter the bulk of their social interactions, challenges, and opportunities for personal growth. Certainly, schools and teachers have been providing much more than academic learning for decades. However, research shows that by providing consistent, purposeful, and robust SEL programs, students can benefit in multiple ways.

North Muskegon is looking deeper into how we can support students, staff, and parents! Watch for more!

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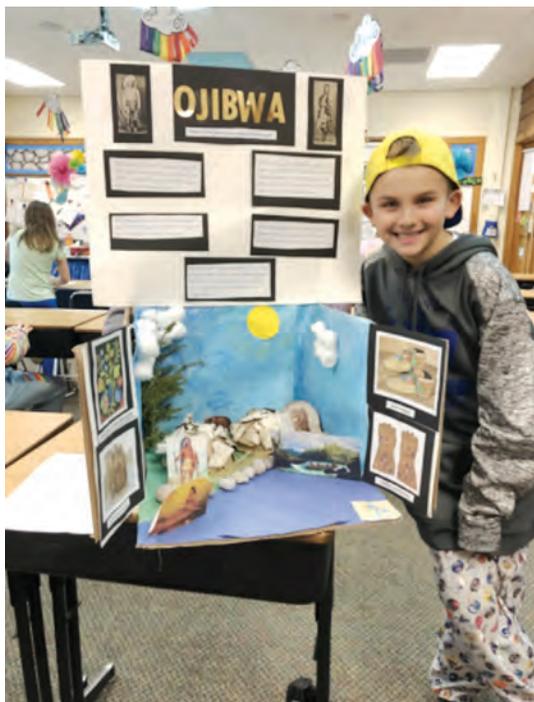


3rd Grade Michigan History!

The Third grade students have been studying Michigan's early people, the Three Fires. Everyone made a project to present information on one of the three tribes: the Ojibway, Odawa, or Potawatomi. The students focused on where the tribe lived in Michigan, what

their homes were like, what they ate, what was special about them, and what they made. Many beautiful dioramas, mobiles, posters, displays and even PowerPoint presentations were created. The third graders presented their projects in Ms. Cutler's MI Studies class. They worked on

speaking skills, as well as their listening skills while they watched their classmates present. Everyone was impressed with the detail and effort these students put into their work. Way to go third graders!





be nice. At NM!



Tuesday, March 19 NM Middle School be nice. group attended a be nice. symposium at Coopersville HS with other be nice. middle school students from around west and central Michigan. be nice. group is an initiative to bring mental health awareness to ourselves and others. The North Muskegon chapter started

in March of 2017 and has both Middle and High School groups and members.

Friday, May 24th there will be a STOMP OUT STIGMA aka SOS walk at school, around the school, during Norse Time led by the MS & HS be nice. members. (The walk will take place in the MS/HS gymnasiums if there is inclement weather.)

be nice. stands for:

- notice signs of depression or other changes in someone's behavior.
- invite yourself to initiate a conversation.
- challenge stigma; communicate important resources.
- empower yourself with the knowledge that you can have an effect on how someone thinks, acts and feels - you could be someone's protective factor.

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Battle of the Fans

Go Norse!

North Muskegon's Student Section has always been something special, supporting each other, boys and girls, in volleyball, soccer, basketball, and more! This year, a group of students called the Student Section Council, recognized the special traits the North Muskegon Student Section has and decided they wanted to showcase this to the rest of the state. They entered the Battle of the Fans (BOTF) competition which is held every year by the MHSAA to award the best student section in the state.



Soon after entering the initial round of competition with a video created by junior Camryn Klint, North Muskegon's Student Section was recognized as a BOTF Semi-Finalist School along with nine other schools. In this Semi-Final round, student sections were tasked with completing ten different challenges. North Muskegon's Student Section Council and student section participants completed these challenges with pride and sportsmanship, resulting in the MHSAA naming them a Finalist school! Soon, the MHSAA visited North Muskegon on a basketball game night, where students grades



K-12 came out in their pajamas to support their fellow Norsemen. Impressed by the great amount of pride, sportsmanship, and inclusivity showcased by the Norsemen, the MHSAA named North Muskegon the 2019 Battle of the Fans Champions! Friday, March 17, the Student Section Council received their well-deserved State Championship banner at the Breslin Center at Michigan State University during halftime of the Division 2 Boys Basketball Semifinals. The Student Section Council thanks all who supported the Norse Nation in their efforts towards becoming BOTF Champions!





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North Muskegon Norsemen

2019 Spring Sports Schedule

VARSIY BASEBALL

May 16	Mason County Central	4:00pm
May 18	@ Zion Christian Inv.	TBA
May 21	Whitehall (DH)	4:00pm
May 28	Districts (28-June 1)	TBA

JV BASEBALL

May 14	Oakridge (DH)	4:00pm
May 21	@Whitehall (DH)	4:00pm

GOLF

May 15	@Hart	3:30pm
May 21	@Mason County Central	3:30pm

SOFTBALL

May 14	@Oakridge (DH)	4:00pm
May 16	Mason County Eastern (DH)	4:00pm
May 21	Whitehall (DH)	4:00pm
May 28	Districts (28th-June 1)	TBA

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER

May 15	Conf Tournament	TBA
May 17	Conf Tournament	TBA
May 18	@Mona Shores	11:45am
May 20	Conf Tournament	TBA
May 22	Districts	TBA

NM/RP JV/VARSITY LACROSSE

May 16	Regionals @ Spring Lake (V)	TBA
May 22	Regionals @ Spring Lake (V)	TBA

VARSIY TRACK

May 14	Conference Meet	TBA
May 28	Regionals	TBA

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WHO WE ARE

The Norse Education Foundation is a fund at the Community Foundation for Muskegon County sustained and advised by North Muskegon Public Schools supporters. Our advisory board is made up of school staff, parents, and community members who raise funds and make spending decisions for the Foundation.

WHAT WE DO

We raise funds to support projects that promote educational excellence at North Muskegon Public Schools. Since 2012, NEF has funded a mentoring program, bought high-tech classroom equipment, supported new learning and teaching techniques, and many other projects unable to be supported by the school's general fund.

LEARN MORE

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SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AT NORTH MUSKEGON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Showcase Project

The Student Showcase project to give the art students at North Muskegon the opportunity to display in a professional manner at the school during community events and throughout the year in common areas. The goal of this project is to raise awareness within the learning community of the relevance and importance of the visual arts while showcasing the creative endeavors of their peers. Pictures from the holiday display.



MS/HS Library Grant

The MS/HS Library was granted funds to purchase non-fiction books for the library. 42 new non-fiction books were added to their collection, of these, 17 were new biographies for the annual biography projects. The remainder books were purchased based on student/teacher request. The students are excited to have current non-fiction books added to the library.

2018 Outdoor Classroom Deck Project

There is a new learning experience at North Muskegon Schools - and it's outside! In 2013, former middle school science teacher Rick Howard initiated the idea of creating an outdoor classroom for the students of NM. A group of middle school student leaders worked with Mr. Howard, Ms. Knuth and architect Harry Wierenga to begin a plan to make their dream a reality! Studies have shown us that physical and mental health problems increase when physical activity and exposure to nature decrease. Our new Green Space and Observation Deck provides an opportunity to enjoy unstructured play in a safe area; serves as an outlet for stress reduction; endows a secure and protected setting for studying nature; allows opportunities for self-discovery; and promotes creative inquiry and problem solving skills.



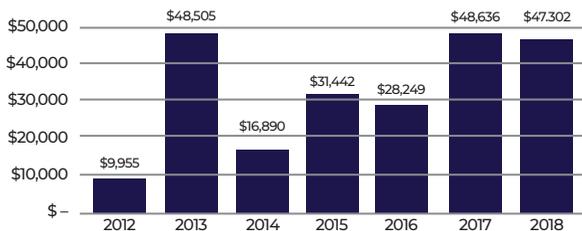
Our student group, advised by Ms. Johnson, constructed a design plan and marked out an area for the deck on the school property below the water tower. We received grants and donations to cover the entire cost, and contacted contractors who could help us build. We obtained building, DEQ and county permits, cleared out the invasive blackberry plants covering the area, and created walkways surrounding the deck area. Our next step in the plan is to add a handicap access ramp to the nature area and to continue beautifying the area with plants and flowers.



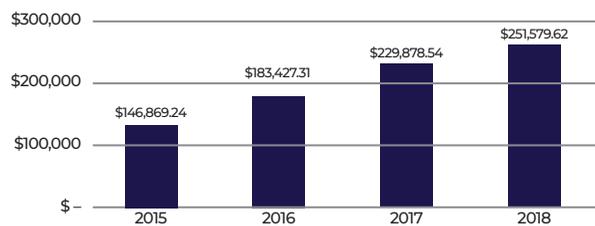


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Band Festival

Both bands played very well after a tough concert cycle! Middle School got a 1 (Superior rating) from one judge and 2's (Excellent rating) from the rest. It should be noted, however, that in all their grades, if one "B+" would have been an "A-" it would have turned their entire rating into a 1!

High School definitely had their best concert on the festival stage and received straight 2's (Excellent) from the judges. I am extremely proud of how all the kids handled so many snow days, absences, delays, and conflicts with a high level of maturity to pull off strong performances. We are now looking forward to some new music for our Spring Concert on Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30 pm in the FLEX center!



Choir Festival

All 5 choirs received 1 ratings! Junior Norse Singers also received a 1. Both the Junior Norse Singers and the Harmonics received PERFECT sight-reading scores! The Harmonics received a score of 119/120 overall with two perfect performance scores! CONGRATULATIONS to our outstanding Norse Choirs!



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Orchestra Festival



On Wednesday, February 27th, the Norse Orchestras performed at Grand Haven High School for the MSBOA District 7 Orchestra Festival. With eleven rehearsals lost during January and

February's winter blizzards, the musicians were under more pressure than ever to make quick progress! A few student leaders asked to schedule an extra rehearsal on a day off, and over thirty students showed up to work hard (even though there was no school). Retired NM Orchestra teacher, Diane Lewis donated countless hours to help coach students in both the Middle School and High School Orchestras. The students performed Mozart's Symphony No. 15 in G, Soon Hee Newbold's Perseus, Hoffeldt's Lullaby, Themes from Vivaldi's Gloria, Dvorak's Largo from the New World Symphony, and Celtic Fiddle Tune by Del Borgo. Both ensembles performed well, earning "Excellent" and "Superior" ratings. And for the second year in a row, the High School Orchestra received "straight 1's", "Superior" first division ratings from all four judges! We are so proud of our skilled and dedicated student musicians!



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Where ARE THEY now?



Melanie Schneeberger Robbins (Class of 1986) Voted “Most Likely to be Remembered” and “Most Likely to Succeed” by her classmates, Melanie has indeed been a success in her life after graduation. Melanie attended Dartmouth College and Boston College Law School, and has worked as a criminal defense attorney and a commentator on several television networks, including A&E, Fox, and CNN. Mel is an author of two books, *Stop Saying You’re Fine* and *The 5 Second Rule*. She received the Gracie Award for her work as an Outstanding Host. Mel presented at TEDx San Francisco in 2011. Learn more about Mel and her life and work at her website: www.melrobbins.com. Mel is married to her husband, Christopher, and has three children, Sawyer, Kendall, and Oakley.



Ben Ambrose (Class of 1999) Ben joined the Marine Corps immediately following graduation and served for 16 years. During his time in the Marines, he was deployed three times, serving in Afghanistan, Haiti, and Kuwait. He is now completing his bachelor’s degree and will graduate with honors from Georgetown this May. Ben is a nationally certified paramedic/EMT and recently had the opportunity to help a 12 year old boy while on an airplane. The boy stopped breathing and had no pulse. Ben provided life-saving CPR for 13 minutes until the plane could make an emergency landing. Ben’s family lives here in North Muskegon. Thank you for your service to our country!



efforts on international law and human rights law. Recently, Betsy was named the Executive Director of the World Justice Project. The World Justice Project (WJP)

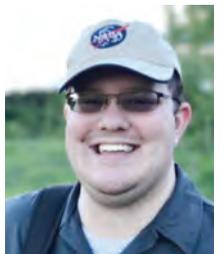
Elizabeth (Betsy) Andersen (Class of 1983) Betsy was voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by her classmates and was involved in many different sports, academic clubs, and musical ensembles as part of her high school career. She just kept growing and serving as she moved on to Williams College, Princeton University, and Yale Law School following high school graduation. Betsy has served in many organizations in her professional life, focusing her

is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from injustices large and small. It is the foundation for communities of equity, opportunity, and peace—underpinning development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights. Learn more at www.worldjusticeproject.org. Betsy currently resides in Washington, D.C. with her family.



John Hutson (Class of 1965) John had a distinguished high school career, including serving as Student Council President and receiving the honor of having “Done Most for the School” in his class’ senior Mock Elections. His time here at NM helped to prepare him for future success. John graduated from Michigan State University in 1969 and then joined the Navy. He earned his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School and his master of laws degree from Georgetown University Law Center. John was promoted to the rank of rear admiral in 1996 and in 1997, became the judge advocate general, the highest-ranking lawyer in the Navy. He served as dean and president of the University of New Hampshire School of Law, and spoke at the Democratic National Convention in 2008. One of John’s special interests is fair treatment of military prisoners. He currently lives in Florida with his wife and daughters. Thank you for your service to our nation!

Steven Donley (Class of 2010) Steven graduated from North Muskegon in 2010. Following graduation, Steven received his Bachelor’s degree in Business Management and Masters in Business Administration from Northern Michigan University. Steven works as a Front End Supervisor at a Best Buy in Marquette Township, Michigan, and decided to work through the weekend so that his coworkers could have the opportunity to attend their graduation service - which meant that Steven would have to miss it. NMU’s President, Fritz Erickson, found out about Steven’s plans and made some arrangements of his own. President Erickson, Dean Carol Johnson and Doctor Brunswick surprised Steven at work, giving him his own brief but special commencement ceremony right at Best Buy! Steven plans to continue his career at Best Buy and is grateful to North Muskegon and Northern Michigan University for the educational opportunities they have given him. Steven’s family resides here in Muskegon.



North Muskegon Alumni make an impact! Do you know of a Norse graduate that could be featured in an upcoming edition of the Norsemen Pride? Contact Beth Soelberg at bsoelberg@nmps.net or 231-719-4206!

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Service Learning Project



The Middle School Student Leadership Council hosted a service learning project for Kids' Food Basket on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in honor of the holiday's purpose as a "day on, not a day off." The project focused on building King's vision of the "Beloved Community." All middle school students participated in collecting supplies and making trail mix for supper packs to be distributed to local students who are experiencing childhood hunger. In addition to the trail mix students also decorated bags with positive messages and images. All together we made 500 bags of trail mix.

In addition to the Kids' Food Basket service learning project, the Leadership Council hosted two events, the Snow Ball Dance and Norton Pines Family Fun Night, to help raise funds for community building both within our local community and



our larger global community. The council is hard at work planning our March Madness festivities and hoping to pull off one more community event before the school year ends. We appreciate the support of the North Muskegon community in helping us achieve our goal of creating an inclusive community focused on lifting each other up and working together for good.



Walker Library Parking

A special message from our friends at the Walker Library:

We ask that school visitors please do NOT park in the library parking lot or along the road where library parking is designated. We have many patrons who have mobility issues who must park near the building for safety reasons. This parking area is enforced. Thank you for supporting our community library!

NM Celebrates Unity Day!



North Muskegon MS/HS experienced our 3rd annual UNITY DAY. Our Unity Day Team and overall staff worked together to accomplish these learning targets:

- I can acknowledge that I am a powerful contributor to the North Muskegon community.
- I can be mindful of my words and actions so that I treat all people with respect and kindness.
- We can remember that Norsemen are united only when every individual is accepted, appreciated, and treated with kindness.

This year we centered our work around the first two of Dr. King's Principles of Nonviolence:

1. PRINCIPLE ONE: Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people. It is active nonviolent resistance to evil. It is aggressive spiritually, mentally and emotionally.

2. PRINCIPLE TWO: Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding. The end result of nonviolence is redemption and reconciliation. The purpose of nonviolence is the creation of the Beloved Community.

Part of our day included a door decorating competition (one winner for MS and one for HS). Our NM students created many beautiful displays highlighting Dr. King's teachings and our own Norse Pride and commitment to respect and community. Congratulations to Mrs. Knuth and Mrs. Kolkema's students who were our competition winners!



National Geography Bee

January 11, 2019 North Muskegon Middle School students took part in the first time ever National Geographic GeoBee at North Muskegon. A preliminary round of 244 students held on December 7th, 2018 took place which led the Social Studies team to the top 9 students who then participated in a final round, open to public attendance, held in the FLEX Center. Parker Maciejewski, 8th grade North Muskegon student won the final school round. This qualified Parker for the state level competition which he took on February 1st. Parker recently was informed that he has qualified to be a representative of Michigan on March 29th in Kalamazoo for the national competition level.

We are super proud and wish Parker well.

Congratulations Parker Maciejewski!

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Students of the Month

December Students of the Month



Andrea Lindback is the daughter of Shoane and Tom Lindback. She is President of North Muskegon Rotary Interact and National Honors Society. Andrea is also a member of the Environmental Stewardship Club. She participates in Civic Theatre, Harmonics, Choir, and Cheerleading. Andrea enjoys singing, playing the guitar, acting, spending time with her friends and family, and hiking with her three dogs. Andrea plans on attending college in pursuit of her love for Vocal Performance, and a Musical Therapy Degree.

Ariana Sherrod-Cavanaugh is the daughter of Jacqui and Deon Ervin. She is a two-year member of the National Honor Society and three-year member of the Varsity swim team, holding three team records and earning MVP and all-conference awards her freshman, sophomore, and junior year. She enjoys reading, hanging out with friends and family, and rowing. She plans on going to either Michigan State University or Grand Valley State University next fall to pursue a degree in either Psychology or Neuroscience.



January Students of the Month



Tyler Budd is the son of Shawn and Tami Budd. He is a member of National Honors Society, M.A.R.S. Robotics, and is currently the president of Choir Council. This past summer, Tyler became an Eagle Scout from Troop 1008. Tyler enjoys many outdoor activities such as hammocking, cycling, and snowboarding. He likes to spend much of his free time with friends, whether that's watching a movie or enjoying a bonfire late at night. Next year, Tyler will attend Michigan Tech to start his degree in Mechanical Engineering, focusing in either prosthetics or aircraft design.

Anneka Lindsay is the daughter of Zabrina Santiago and Robert Lindsay. She is a member of Student Council, Interact, National Honors Society, and the chair of the Progressive Youth Caucus. She also runs cross country and plays on the varsity tennis team. Anneka has spent this school year hosting voters' registration drives at nearby high schools and working on a campaign for a candidate for State Representative. Anneka plans to pursue a career in law by studying political science and economics at the University of Michigan next fall.



February Students of the Month



Lindsay Bliss is the daughter of Steve and Sara Bliss. She is the editor of the North Muskegon yearbook, an active member of National Honor Society and the co-captain of both the varsity girls tennis and golf teams. She has participated in varsity golf and varsity tennis all four years of her high school career, and hopes to continue playing in college. Lindsay will be continuing her education at Western Michigan University to study Flight Science and Aviation Management. Being Student of the Month has meant so much for Lindsay and she is glad to have spent her last 13 years at North Muskegon Public Schools.

Kendal is the daughter of Joel Hoppa and Joanna Young. She is a 4 year starter on the varsity soccer team, and has played volleyball throughout her 4 years as a student athlete at NM. She is also an active member of National Honor Society. She has been awarded the Muskegon Promise Scholarship to Muskegon Community College where she will earn an Associates Degree in Science and Arts. She will also extend her soccer career to the collegiate level at MCC. Kendal hopes that all people reading this understand that your past does not define you, and at any moment you can decide to make the best of your life, whatever that may look like.



March Students of the Month



Sean Lynn is the son of Marilou and Rodney Lynn. He has been a member of the tennis team for four years and #1 doubles his senior year. Sean is also an active clarinet player. He was the Concertmaster for the Blue Lake Wind Ensemble for two consecutive years, and has played with the U.S. Navy band. He has also received several honors at Solo and Ensemble for clarinet performances, two of them from State competitions. Sean is an active member of the National Honors Society. He has been a member of Band Council for two years, serving as Band Council President for one. Sean has been a member of the Alpine Club for five years. He likes to spend his free time reading, practicing, and hanging out with friends. In the fall, he will attend a four year university to further his education.

Abbey Canfield is the daughter of Luisa Molitor. She has been in Spanish class for 5 years and has traveled to Spain with the school spanish club and to Peru with her family. This year Abbey is one of the yearbook editors, and has helped open the yearbook fundraiser, Norse Cafe. Abbey has participated in 3 years of varsity tennis and is a member of the National Honor Society for her second year. She is also a working student, and enjoys her employment at Hobo's Tavern. Abbey plans on continuing to work as she attends Muskegon Community College on the Promise program before transferring to a University.





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