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The Norsemen Pride

January 2022 | Issue 28

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT



NME Teachers Receive Northside Lions Teacher Mini-Grants

Ms. Stephanie Cutler and Mrs. Mandy Theisen were both recipients of Northside Lions Teacher Mini-Grants this year! They are both so thankful for the generosity and support of the Northside Lions for our young Norsemen!

Ms. Cutler plans to use the funds to purchase a large variety of fiction and nonfiction text books. These books will help build her students' understanding of a variety of topics ranging from economics to geography. She says, "The students always enjoy a good book that helps make connections between their lives and what we are studying. Thank you for your generosity!"

Mrs. Theisen used the funds from her Mini-Grant to purchase two Nap Mats, so that her students can rest throughout the day. She says, "Many of our kids get tired out with the rigor of a full day, so it's nice to have a comfortable space to have some down time."

Thank you to the Northside Lions!



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Nolan Mallory
Internet, Network & Security
Technologies student

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A Message From Our Superintendent!



Greetings Norse Nation!

Hello and welcome to your 2022 winter edition of the Norsemen Pride! Well, while writing this message in late October, I am impacted with all of the amazing things that are occurring in our school community. As Norsemen, we

can't help but swell with pride when we think about all of the caring outreach in our school family. Thank you all for doing your part to make NM AWESOME - even during these continued very trying times!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season filled with memories created with family and friends. Now, it is time for all of us to jump back into our school routines. However, please take the time to enjoy some of the excitement that occurred at NMPS this past fall. I am very confident the pride for our wonderful school community will embrace you as you go through this newsletter. It is always so fun to see our wonderful students, staff and community highlighted in the Norsemen Pride! We had a great fall and we will have an amazing winter contributing to the tradition of excellence here at North Muskegon Public Schools!

As I have said in past winter editions, grab a warm drink and kick back while you enjoy your newest edition of the Norsemen Pride. We are so fortunate to be a part of this incredible school community/FAMILY!

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 a GREAT day to be NORSEMEN! It is always a GREAT day to be NORSEMEN!!

Curt Babcock
Superintendent



A Happy Halloween at North Muskegon Elementary!





North Muskegon Summer Programming Was a Success!

By Mr. Jonathan Allen

After 18+ months of COVID-related changes impacted students' growth academically, socially and, emotionally, North Muskegon was able to use one-time grant money to fund a large-scale, robust 2021 summer program for students DK through 8th grade!

The summer program was designed to be project-based and focused on appropriate grade-level standards - emphasizing relationship building and fun! Field trips and other place-based activities happened each



week and students had lots of time outside. Additionally, every student received a free breakfast and transportation was provided, including for our students who are school of

choice.

To prepare, teachers collaborated to list which standards were most pressing to be revisited during the regular school year. NM teachers then worked to create curriculum maps for the summer programming that was informed by these "high priority" standards.

The summer program occurred over 8 weeks, split into sessions for students to join for as many or few days as they like. **Approximately 250 students attended some part of summer programming DK-8!**

Creating a Barrier-Free Trail in the Norse Nature Area



By Ms. Deb Johnson

North Muskegon's Environmental Club has been working with our architect, Mr. Harry Wierenga, to develop a barrier-free ADA trail. Our students, staff, and community members have been great supporters of this effort!

Our school has a Norse Nature area on the shore of Bear Lake that is connected to one of our playgrounds. However, the Nature Area has not been accessible to those with disabilities and mobility concerns. The Environmental Club has worked with our MS/HS Librarian,

Mrs. Howard, to improve our research. Additionally, we have contacted the North Muskegon City Manager, Mr. Sam Janson, and the city Public Works department, local businesses, and contractors for more information and guidance as we planned and began improvements.

The finished path will be stone dust - the same diamond dust used on baseball fields. This will provide a firm, smooth, reliable surface. The paths will need upkeep and will need a layer of gravel to refresh them approximately every three years.



The NM Environmental Club wishes to thank our sponsors and supporters!

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. Harry Wierenga | 4 Seasons Landscaping | Accurate Excavators |
| Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative | Muskegon Community Foundation | |
| Norse Education Foundation | Mr. Timothy L. Thill | Mrs. Susan Burmeister |
| Mr. Greg and Mrs. Clara Downer | | Dr. Mary Moulton |



NM Students Catch a Win at the Youth Fishing Derby!

Copeland Schofield, Reed and Finn Cutler participated in this summer's Youth Fishing Derby. Copeland placed first in his age group (11 yr olds), and Finn placed third in his age group (9 year olds). Congratulations Norsemen!

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North Muskegon Restarts “Norse Future Teachers” Program!

By Mr. Jonathan Allen



Last spring North Muskegon was awarded a “Proud Future Michigan Educators” grant to help kick-start a new and enhanced Norse Future Teacher program. Hosted at our High School, the program involves students first taking the class “Introduction to Teaching” with Mr. Tony Jarvis, which involves practicing self-reflection, mastering a variety of skills teachers will use, visiting college campuses, and attending lectures from guest speakers. After having “Introduction to Teaching” as a prerequisite, our students will become Future Teachers during one of their class periods during the second half of the year - and beyond! As Future Teachers, they will collaborate and be mentored by our own NM teaching staff, work directly with younger NM students, participate in lesson planning, perform direct instruction, and administer assessments. It is our hope that in a few years some of these Future Teachers can return to NM to help form the next generation of educators - and we are off to a great start!



DK/K Pumpkin Study - A Growing Success!

By Mrs. Stephanie Atchison

Our pumpkin study of the pumpkin plants grown in our raised garden beds was a success!. Each DK and Kindergarten classroom had a pumpkin available to use for studying the parts of a pumpkin, the life cycle of a pumpkin and all about pumpkins. We counted the seeds and put them into groups of 10 and discovered there were 166 seeds in our pumpkin!



Adventures in Fourth Grade!



Our Fourth Grade students were able to visit the Muskegon Luge Adventure Sports Park at the Muskegon State Park this September. They participated in Luge, Archery, Yard Games, and Hiking to Lake Michigan! Everyone learned new skills, enjoyed some physical activity, and had fun with their friends and teachers.





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FOUNDATION**

NEF MISSION

The mission of NEF is to enhance the educational experiences of our students by funding excellence in teaching and learning beyond what is provided through operating funds.

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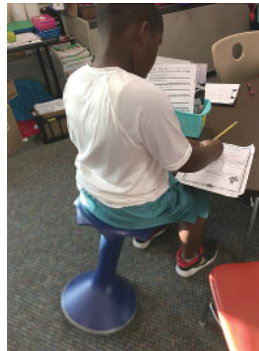
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NEF BOARD

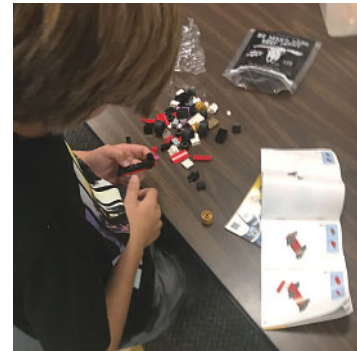
If you have more questions, reach out to your fellow community members who serve as the NEF Board: Dorsey Sherman, Mary Moulton, Sheli Vanderlinde, Kerry Stewart, Carolyn Nedea, Stephanie Dye Kimberly Senkow and Kristie Hall. Advisory Member: Curt Babcock



NMP.NET/NEF



Hokki Stool



Legos



Magna Tiles

Grants Awarded Fall 2021

Congratulations to the 10 applicants that received grants in September. A total of \$8200 was granted to support the following learning projects in the Middle, High and Elementary buildings:

Let's Play Cribbage - JoAnna Berry - Middle school math teachers will incorporate middle school math strategies while learning to play Cribbage.

Elementary Tools for Success- Amanda Theisen - items to allow students to sit comfortably and be able to quietly complete their independent reading.

NMPS Our Heart Safe School - Susan Burmeister - 4 Automatic External Defibrillator Trainers to assist in CPR training.

Sensory/Chill Out Room - Lisa Cobb - The "Chill Out" room is a therapeutic space with calming sensory tools, furniture, walls and floors that provides students with personalized sensory input which helps students calm and focus themselves so they can be better prepared for learning and interacting with others.

Norse United - Tina Gallo - a mentorship program focused on high school students working with elementary students.

Community Film Night & Creative Writing Workshop - Caleb Parnin

Norse Nature Preserve ADA Ramp - Tony Jarvis - this will help enable access to the Outdoor Classroom for all learners.



Norse Nature Preserve ADA ramp prepping.

Wordwork Technology Vocab A-Z - Amy Zonnebelt, Jennifer Bouman, and Terry Fortmeyer - digital activities for students to learn "Wordwork" strategies by hearing words and their spelling/definitions while using interactive games.

A Letter from Special Education Teacher, Mrs. Mandy Theisen, regarding Grant Received

These tools have made such a difference in my room. We were gifted with 5 Hokki Stools, 5 pairs of headphones, MagnaTiles, Legos, and Hot Wheels cars (see above). The students use these items daily. It's incredible to watch them learn on a Hokki Stool that allows them to make small movements to keep their bodies regulated. The students also use the MagnaTiles, Legos, and Hot Wheels cars daily to help stay calm and take a break. We use the headphones daily with our online reading instruction. Students enjoy being able to listen to their own story distraction free. Being gifted these items from the Norse Education Foundation has made it possible for students to work on their goals in a safe and calming environment. Thank you again for supporting our learners.

2017 Special Projects

With the help of generous memorial contributions and countless hours of volunteer time from her family, friends, and GVSU colleagues, the Norse Education Foundation is proud to present the **Denise P. Meier Sensory Room**. The space and equipment has allowed us to better meet a variety of sensory, fine and gross motor needs of NMPS students. In addition to working with students during occupational therapy sessions, trained staff members are able to bring students to the room daily for scheduled break to help students meet their individual sensory and motor needs.

Thank You NM Elementary Guest Readers!



Mrs. Lori Doriot,
Elementary
Literacy Coach,
reading to Mrs.
Atchison's DK
class



**Mrs. B (Susan
Burmeister)**
from our North
Muskegon School
Board, guest
reading to Mrs.
Atchison's DK
class



Sixth Grade Library Visit

By Brett Howard

In September, 6th grade classes visited the MS/HS library. On their first visit with their Norse Time classes, they received a library orientation and learned about how to search for books on the library's computer system. They later returned during Language Arts class to talk with Mrs. Kolkema and Mrs. Howard about books, and the wide variety of books available to us to read. We talked about some of our old favorites and the importance of trying out new titles and authors. We also talked about the power of books to create empathy and help us imagine the experiences of other people. Students learned about choosing books, and that it is ok to return a book they don't like. Not every book is for every person and part of growing as a reader is developing our likes and dislikes. Students did a great job participating in the discussion and had some insightful questions and comments. They have been regular visitors to the library, and are doing a great job using library resources to search for books that interest them. We are so excited to work with this awesome group of young people this year!

Second Graders “Fall” into Fun at Lewis Farms!



NM Staff Gets SCARY for HALLOWEEN!



Left: Our 2nd Grade Teaching Team: Amanda Charles, Jan Schumacher, and Ronda Pek

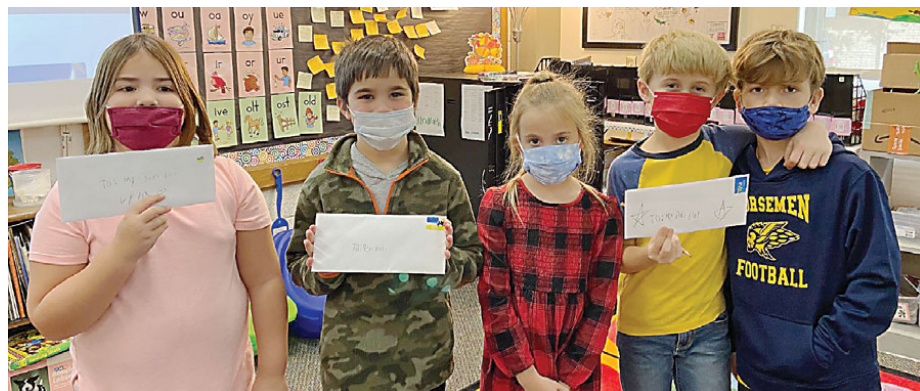
Right: Our MS/HS staff!



Connecting Communities in Second Grade!

By Mrs. Amanda Charles

In second grade, we are learning all about communities. We learn about the community we live in, but also the idea of community in a broader sense. We discuss characteristics within the community and learn about all different types, including rural, suburban, and urban. As a class we have partnered with second graders in the rural community of Bethel, Alaska. It is a small town similar in size to North Muskegon, but off of the road system, and while we have some similarities, it is very exciting to learn about life in such a different part of our country! The students are able to share packages, videos and letters with each other. What an authentic, exciting way to practice our writing skills, teach others about our local community and also spend time learning from peers. We will continue to correspond with them throughout the year, and while the time change makes live videos difficult to schedule during the school day, we are hopeful we can make it happen!



NM Choir Shines at Solo and Ensemble!

Congratulations to our NM Choir on their success at the recent MSVMA Musical Theater Solo & Ensemble! The Choir received four 1st Division ratings and three PERFECT scores! GO NORSE!



Teen 'Tober in the MS/HS Library

This October we celebrated Teen 'Tober in the MS/HS Library. Students voted for their favorite YA book to movie adaptation and voted for the Harry Potter series as their favorite adaptation, closely followed by the Hunger Games movie adaptations. We also celebrated Star Wars Reads week with an interactive whiteboard display and daily trivia questions. Students were also invited to participate in a fan art contest depicting characters or scenes from their favorite books. Our participants really showed their skills! After our staff voted, Nova Rundquist and Braden Dalm were declared the winners! Check out the amazing artwork from our participants!

From L to R: Nova Rundquist, Katie Simonson, Braden Dalm, Ella Potts



The North Muskegon
Athletics Calendar
is available online at
www.nmps.net/athletics

These schedules are regularly updated
to reflect any necessary changes

North Muskegon High School Interact Club



By Alexandra Lindsay

The North Muskegon High School Interact Club is alive and well. We currently have around 20 dedicated members, and two High school and Middle school classes who contribute to our projects. Officers include President Gabriella Wingard, Vice President Gabriella Gaston, Treasurer Madeleine Wright, Secretary Allison Friesner, and Public Relations and Communications Director Alexandra Lindsay.



Our current project is the Turkey Trot Can Drive, where we are donating non-perishable food items to the Mission for Area People organization. We have collected over 5,000 cans between our club and both classes. We will be delivering the food items to the Mission for

Area People on November 23rd.

Additionally, we have been collaborating with Rotarians. We have had a few can returns, where members from our club went to local stores to return donated cans and glass and plastic bottles. We have raised approximately \$500 for our club's future endeavors.



We are continuing to support Midan, a 10 year old boy from the Dominican Republic. We sponsor him through Compassion International. Senior Interact members Onna Heikkila and Adrian Martinez have taken on the role of organizing and fundraising so our club is able to continue to support Midan.



One of our upcoming events is the Winter Clothing Drive, where we will be collecting hats, gloves, scarves and coats



to donate to the Mission for Area People. Another upcoming event is our Christmas gift-giving project. In this project, we collaborate with North Muskegon High School's Social Worker, Theresa Seaberg, and other Muskegon County social workers to purchase local families' Christmas presents.



We are starting up our Early-Act program for elementary school students. Ali Friesner, Maddie Wright, and Megan Houseman have taken on the role of resuming this program.

CHOIR



POPS CONCERT

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POPS is Back!!!

This year's two evening event at the Frauenthal Theatre is scheduled for Thursday and Friday April 21 and 22, 2022.

In order to make the return to the big stage possible, we are in need of sponsors and advertisers. Please consider helping to make this dream a reality!

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Advertising in concert program \$25-\$120

Contact Lisa Potts for more information about sponsorship opportunities or advertising in the concert program

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National Honor Society Welcomes New Inductees!

Congratulations to our newest members of the National Honor Society:

Kelsey Adamczak
Abigail Bayne
Anna Beetham
Dennis Belmonte
Carolyn Bennett
Joslyne Bogner
Grace Buchmiller
August Carefelle
Jack Casey
Noah Cobb
Christopher Corbett
Iliza Crawford
Jasmine Duncan
Jackson Erne
Lucy Fricke
Kelsey Fuller
Samuel Gallo
Karli Gregg
Gavin Grimm

Katherine Hedges
Madeline Hibbard
Benjamin Hoffer
Kyle Huff
Emily Judd
Quinn Kersman
Alexandra Lowczyk
Bradley Lowe
Parker Maciejewski
Pierce Marczak
Riley McEvoy
Troy McManus
Jude Meldrum-Roy
Natalie Pannucci
Ryan Peoples
Luc Peterson
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Brandon Rypstra

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Georgia Skujins
Lillian Smith
Brenna Staley
Ava Steketee
Ella Tarrant
Anna Toebe
Mia Valderrama Garcia
Francine Vinson
Jackson Wiles



HAPPY HOMECOMING 2021!



Homecoming King and Queen 2021, Kelty Blastic and Olivia Moulton



Senior Class Rep. Adrian Martinez and Taylor (Champ) Young



Senior Rep. Samuel (Bo) Nedeau and Olivia Moulton



Junior Class Representatives Isabella Picard and Spencer Kreigh



Sophomore Class Representatives Emily Crawford and August Gerardi



Senior Class Representatives Josee Cooke and Dylan Schultz



Senior Representatives Gabriella Wingard and Kelty Blastic



Freshman Class Representatives Josephine Smith and Cooper Mallory



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Congratulations to Jude Meldrum-Roy, Gabriella Wingard and Carolyn Bennett, who recently qualified to compete at the state level in Cross Country! GO NORSE!



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