



The

Norsemen Pride

January 2023 | Issue 31

THE NEWSLETTER FOR NORTH MUSKEGON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Welcome to Mrs. Jennifer Schultz!

Mrs. Schultz is excited to return to North Muskegon as the new MS/HS principal! She may be a familiar face to many, as she has worked in the district since 2001 as an elementary school, middle school, and high school teacher. Mrs. Schultz left NM for a bit when she was able to start her principal career and is especially grateful to come back home to NM. When not in school, Mrs. Schultz enjoys being with her family and friends. They love to travel and spend time on Lake Michigan! She has three children who have either graduated or still attend NMPS (Trevor, Dylan, and Jaley). One of the things Mrs. Schultz is most grateful for is being a part of the amazing community of North Muskegon. She loves the way students, families, and community members work together and celebrate, encourage, and support one another. If you happen to see Mrs. Schultz walking or slogging (slow jogging) in the neighborhood, be sure to wave hello! She may or may not have a couple of her favorite pups, Stella and Brady, with her too!



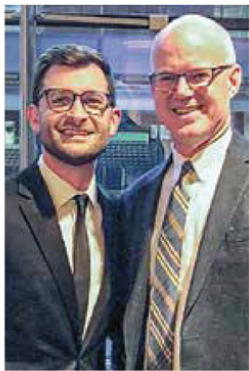


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GO NORSEMEN!



CAREER TECH CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, January 26, from 5-7 p.m.

Area 8th–11th graders, parents, and community members are invited to the annual Career Tech Center Open House. Learn how students are exploring and accelerating their careers while in high school!

For details call 231-767-3613 | 200 Harvey Street, Muskegon

A Message From Our Superintendent!



Greetings Norse Nation!

Hello and welcome to your 2023 winter edition of the Norsemen Pride! While writing this message in early November, 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 - "The Norse Tradition of Excellence Continues!" I am hopeful you have viewed many impressive posts and have been able to see the many videos we have put out so far this year depicting this theme - stay tuned for many more!

Hopefully, 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 - "The Norse Tradition of Excellence Continues" in these pages! 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 season!

As 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!

Dr. Curt Babcock
Superintendent of Schools

Norse Students Partner Up to Celebrate Reading in October

By Mrs. Howard, MS/HS Librarian

This October we celebrated Teen Read Week and National Reading Group Month by having middle and high school classes read to students in elementary classes. This has become an annual event that is enjoyed by all the participating students. This year's participating elementary classes included Mrs. Atchison, Mrs. Pek, Mrs. Schumacher, Mrs. Charles, Ms. Cutler, Mrs. Budzinskiy, Mrs. Zonnebelt, and Mrs. Bentley-Kittel. Participating classes from the middle and high schools include Ms. Knuth, Mr. Schanhals, Mrs. Risley, and Mrs. Nectott. Students from Ms. Knuth's Creative Writing class even wrote their own stories to share with their elementary partners! We love how our students demonstrated the Norse PRIDE characteristics of Positivity, Respect, and Engagement. Go Norse!





NM Musicians Are Fantastic Fiddlers!

Our Norse Fiddlers enjoyed a clinic with the Moxie Strings and were able to perform with them at the Muskegon Irish Music Festival! Many thanks to the Fine Arts Boosters for their support for this opportunity!



NM Elementary PTO - FUNdRacer 2022!

This year's FUNdRacer was a tremendous success! Our Elementary students, family, and community raised \$16,425 to support our students and staff! Thirty of our students reached "Superstar" status, which means they raised over \$200. Mrs. Fortmeyer's class raised the most money at \$1,805 and received some special donuts. Five classes met their classroom goal and enjoyed Dance Parties at recess. Our top fundraiser was fourth-grader Annabelle Huls!

Congratulations to our hardworking students, staff, and volunteers who teamed up to create this fantastic event! A special thanks to all who contributed their time and resources. We appreciate your generosity!



NM Halloween Celebration 2022!

By Mr. Jon Allen, Elementary Principal

With one more step towards COVID-19 “normalcy,” North Muskegon Schools was able to restart our Halloween Parade in 2022! For the parade, elementary students and high school seniors are able to dress up in costumes and show them off to other students and visiting parents inside the school! In addition to the parade, the entire 5th grade performed their annual Halloween Musical and each elementary classroom was able to have a small party, complete with parent volunteers. The afternoon was an exciting celebration for students, staff, and families!



North Muskegon Middle School Interact

By Mrs. Danielle Risley

This semester, over 50 middle school students are participating in Interact. During that time, the students have engaged in a wide range of self-developed, student-led service projects. They have planted trees for the Muskegon Lake Nature Preserve, helped tackle invasive oriental bittersweet vines at the Outdoor Classroom, read with 3rd and 5th graders, raised nearly \$1000 for Water Well Trust, worked on suicide awareness campaigns, raked yards for community members, helped the non-profit Howling Timbers Animal Sanctuary, raised money for Adopt-A-Family, organized and collected items for the Turkey Trot Can Drive, organized a penny drive for Pound Buddies, and are planning a Pound Buddies Adoption Sponsorship Game in December.

The students demonstrate their leadership skills daily while working on their projects. Their contagious energy has generated many ideas that reflect their compassion and love for our community and beyond. As they come to the end of the semester the students shine as they exemplify service above self!

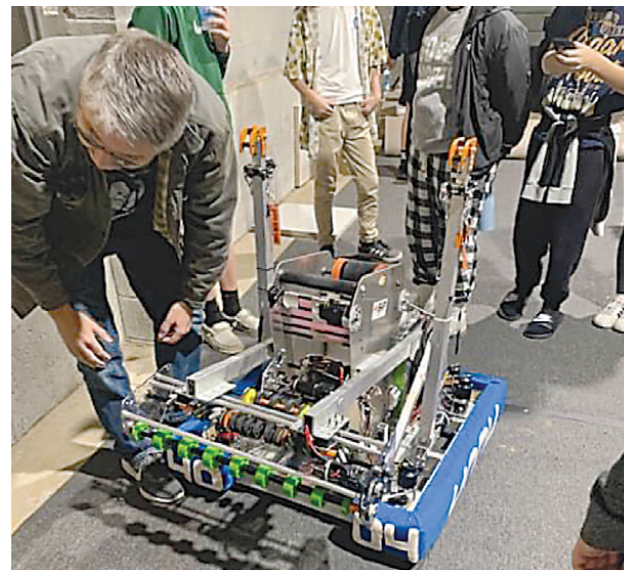




Middle School Robotics

By Mrs. Jennifer Schultz

Middle School Robotics class is a fan fave at NMMS! In this class, students love being able to engage in hands-on, math, science, and technology learning! Special thank you to Mr. Mike Gerstweiler for helping our MS Robotics program. Mr. Gerstweiler and Mrs. Kristen Carlson have been working since the beginning of the year in our MS Robotics class to bring an engaging STEAM experience to our students at North Muskegon. This class is a great way to also get students excited for the Robotics team in high school.



TURKEY TROT 2022

By Mrs. Danielle Risley

The middle school Interact classes worked hard this semester on their project management skills. They organized and ran the 5th annual Turkey Trot which brought in over 5000 food items for Muskegon Rescue Mission and additional funds for Adopt-A-Family! A huge thank you to the North Muskegon Administrative Team and North Muskegon Police and Fire Departments for their support, and thanks to our students and community for their participation and generosity! It is truly a beautiful community event!





The Norse Education Foundation has lots of good news to share. We are hoping this newsletter keeps you informed about the purpose of NEF as well as ongoing activities.

Grants Awarded Fall 2022

Congratulations to the twelve applicants that received grants in September. A total of \$3,214.45 was granted to support the following learning projects in the Middle, High and Elementary buildings:

Out of the Blue CRISPR Genetic Kits- Deb Johnson - CRISPR gene editing is revolutionizing scientific research. The Out of the Blue CRISPR Kit provides all the plasmids, bacterial strains, culture reagents and plastics to perform CRISPR gene editing in the classroom. This activity gives NM students the ability to work and understand the mechanisms of the newest genetic research.

Gone Boarding Scholarship - Tony Jarvis - The new and innovative class comes with costs to the students. This scholarship will help students with the cost of materials to build a longboard, snowboard, throwback snurfer or surfboard.

Interactive Music Literacy & Composition Centers - Angela Corbin - Using colorful manipulatives, artistic visual aids and accessible musical instruments, students will learn through musical play to read, understand, play and create their own musical patterns and songs.

Generation Genius - Amy Zonnebelt - Technology to help 4th graders improve their science and math skills using materials, lesson plans and educational activities in the classroom.

Math Intervention - Mindy Gerardi - Dry erase markers for working on multiple math skills.

Reading Workshop Library - Stephanie Marietti - Reading Workshop is where students read independently or study as partners. The plan is to purchase a library full of high-interest books in multiple genres to foster a love for reading as well as facilitate conversations around the daily comprehension lesson.

Scholastic Leveled Book Room - Terri Fortmeyer - Level X and Y. These kits will provide fiction and nonfiction resources for teachers to include enrichment activities and strategies for our advanced readers supporting them in their higher-level reading skills.

Reading Genocide Novels with Teens - Sara Bahorski & Tanya Kolkema - This grant will purchase novels to be used in the classrooms where students will engage in small group book clubs focused on genocide after reading the adapted drama of The Diary of Anne Frank.

Social Emotional Learning Library - Theresa Seaberg - Books for the Social Emotional Learning library for teachers, paraprofessionals and clinicians to use with children.

Calming Room 15 - Mitzi Chavis/Angie Jones - Purchase tools for a calming corner to help students learn self regulation of emotions.

Wish for a Book - Lori Vanderweele - this grant will provide books for students during the Scholastic Book Fair.

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

IRA Charitable Distributions

If you wish to donate your RMD to charity, you may be able to take advantage of the Qualified Charitable Distribution provision available to Traditional and Roth IRA owners (or beneficiaries after the death of the owners) who are age 72 or older. If eligible, you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution of up to \$100,000 in the aggregate per year directly from

your IRAs to an eligible organization without incurring any adverse federal income tax consequences. The distribution counts for the purposes of the RMD from IRAs, but is not included in calculating the individual taxpayer's limitation on charitable deductions in the year the donation was made. Your Wealth Advisor can provide more information.



NEF Benefactor

Our dear friend, Ms. Dorothy Wilson, has passed and left a substantial gift to the Norse Education Foundation. We are excited about the

opportunities this will bring for the students of North Muskegon Public Schools. The timing and impact are still in process. As more information becomes available, we will share with the community.

Bookmarks

NEF is proud to support readers with bookmarks this fall. Both libraries have a variety of bookmarks for the students. Check them out.

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.

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 Nedeau, Stephanie Dye, Kimberly Senkow and Kristie Hall. Advisory Member: Curt Babcock

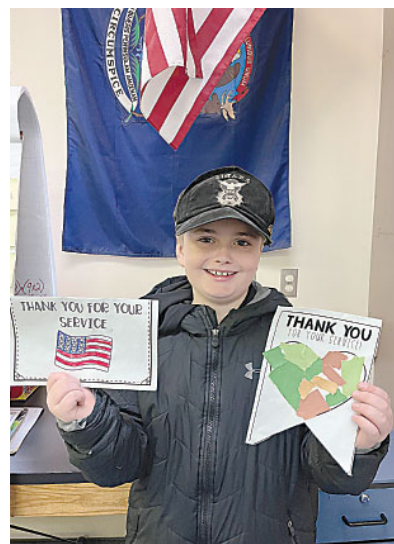
Check out our Website:
nmps.net/nef NEF webpage



**Like and Follow
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Foundation on Facebook**

Thank You Veterans!

The third graders in Ms. Cutler's class spent time letting veterans know they are appreciated! The class made banners and cards that were dropped off at the local VFW Post 8846. The gratitude the veterans showed upon the delivery was heartwarming. Several students personalized their cards and brought them to loved ones. "My Grandpa cried and gave me eighteen hugs! He put it on his refrigerator right away," said student Andrew Hanis. Aiden Campbell proudly wore his Papa's Air Force hat in class on Veterans Day. Sean Kittredge



(Navy), Greg Zimmer (Air Force), Larry Sullivan (Navy), Chuck Sweet (Air Force), Angie DeWall (Navy), and Patrick Kozal (Army), all embraced the kindness shown to them by North Muskegon Elementary at the VFW. Thank you to all who have served our country!



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Our September Norse Stars of the Month:

Adrienne Sruba
 Sosie Hyrns
 Asher Ibrahim
 Tegan Hill
 Anya Flahive
 Margaret Dobry
 Sam Gocke
 Myla Cunningham
 Penelope Peterson
 Avery James
 Aiden Binns
 Nelleka DeBoode
 Charlie Gocke
 Elsie Oliveira
 Brezlynn Lilly
 Ashlyn Stewart
 Ellery Bogue
 Izzy Patrick
 Mya Brant

September Staff Norse Star:

Mrs. Elizabeth Lenkiewicz

Our October Norse Stars of the Month:

Evelyn Sruba
 Leo Kirksey
 Zander Wiles
 Meredith McClain
 Carter Booth
 Jourden Smith
 Noah Rop
 Graham Peterson

Congratulations to our NM Elementary Students for being exemplary Norse Stars!

North Muskegon Elementary students have been working hard at becoming “Norse Stars” by using Safe, Respectful, and Responsible behaviors during their school days! Students who show these positive behaviors can receive Norse Star tickets from their teachers and school staff. The tickets are placed in our beautiful Norsemen ship, and students are

then rewarded with prizes and recognition for their efforts each day and at regular school assemblies. Teachers are also asked to share the names of their students who have been especially safe, respectful, and responsible Norse Stars each month. These students are given a special certificate of recognition! Mr. Allen also honors a staff member each month as our “Staff Norse Star!” The teamwork of our students and staff helps to create the excellent school community we enjoy, and supports the academic success of our kids!

Abri Anderson-Martin
 Finn Cutler
 Gair Rojas-Medrano
 Willem DeBoode
 Janelle Newton
 Park Cutler
 Ali Herbert
 Myles Helms
 Cy Aerts
 Zoe Miller
 Maverik Hasty

October Staff Norse Star:

Mrs. Christine Livingston

Highest Ticket Earners by grade, September 2022:

Harper Petersen
 Oliver Kowalski
 Adelyn Mayberry
 Alice Simerick
 Aiden Campbell
 Kylie Riedl
 Finn Cutler

Highest Ticket Earners by grade, October 2022:

Reed Neuman
 Meilan Bennett
 Rylee Falkowski
 Sam Glamzi
 Asher Ibrahim
 Henry Buit





NMHS 39th Annual Academic Awards

November 16, 2022

Many of our Norse scholars were honored at our 39th annual Academic Awards program! A letter is awarded to those students who have maintained a 3.5 GPA or better for their Freshman, Sophomore, or Junior year. A pin is awarded to those who maintained a 3.5 GPA or better for their Freshmen, Sophomore, or Junior year on two separate occasions. A plaque is awarded to those Seniors who have maintained a 3.5 GPA or better their Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior years. Congratulations to our Norsemen on their continued academic success!

Letter recipients:

Ace Anderson
 Jack Bahorski
 Ruby Belmonte
 Christopher Bennett
 Cole Blastic
 Thomas Byard
 Ella Caradonna
 August Carefelle
 Landon Christensen
 Alaina Cordle

Paige Erndteman
 Noelia Figueroa
 Jackson Fuller
 Landen Grimm
 Kendall Hibbard
 Thomas Hogan
 Samantha Johnson
 Gabrielle Jones
 Chase Kiel
 Katelyn Kinahan
 Emily Kraley

Micah Leffring
 Thanakorn Lertrattanakan
 Tyler Lindell
 Addison Lopez
 Zachary Mallon
 Cooper Mallory
 Kaylee Martin
 Jordan Metz
 Charles Meyers
 Carter Mieler
 Kelby Miller

Landon Miller
 Carter Muzzy
 Mackenna Mylenek
 Tate Pannucci
 Mia Perez
 Emma Persicke
 Logan Pike
 Donovan Porter
 Leah Poulin
 Josephine Smith
 Kaitlin Smith
 Chase Stockman
 Sebastian Tanner
 Tristan Thomas
 Sam Topping
 Mila VanTol
 Jaden Villalpando
 Jordan Washington
 Lainey Weatherbee
 Aidan Wehner
 Keyenna West
 George West Jr.
 Brandon Winter
 James Young
 Chase Zizak





NM Environmental Club Updates the Norse Nature Area!



The NM Environmental Club has been working with the City of North Muskegon and the Public Works department, along with many local businesses and school and community volunteers, to update the Nature Area by Bear Lake with an ADA Nature Trail. The finished path will be stone dust - a firm, reliable surface that will provide stability and ease of use for our community. The Environmental Club is currently working on planting dune grass and native seeds which are beneficial to the natural habitat and water quality. Also, they plan to install handrails and some retaining boulders soon to help stabilize the trail and its use. This project has been many years in the making, and it is exciting to see it change and improve!



The Environmental Club is currently working on planting dune grass and native seeds which are beneficial to the natural habitat and water quality. Also, they plan to install handrails and some retaining boulders soon to help stabilize the trail and its use. This project has been many years in the making, and it is exciting to see it change and improve!



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

Schedules are regularly updated to reflect necessary changes



NMMS Student Council Halloween Bash!

By Rowynn Staley

North Muskegon Middle School Student Council put on a Halloween Bash this October. There were fun activities, an awesome DJ, and spooky treats. We had a mummy wrap contest, Thriller dance off, photo booth, marshmallow eating contest, creepy cauldron, witch hat toss, and so many fun prizes! Our student council is always working behind the scenes making sure everyone has a great time together. Thank you to everyone who participated and a special thanks to all of our chaperones!



Norse Pride students mix it up!

Mr. Rypstra's Norse Pride class learned how to make smoothies from start to finish with our new Food Services Director, Mr. Dan Gorman!



NM AUTHORS CREATE UNIQUE BOOKS FOR STUDENTS!

The creative writers in Ms. Sarah Knuth's high school creative writing class wrote and illustrated their own children's books for their reading buddies in Mrs. Atchison's DK class. Important lessons were shared through their amazing books. And it was fun!



★ Students of the Month ★

September Student of the Month



Troy McManus is the son of Kevin and Tracey McManus. He is a member of Norse United and National Honor Society, and is Vice President of the Environmental Club. He plays basketball and baseball, and plans to play one of these at college. He enjoys hiking, spending time with family and friends, hanging out at the beach, and playing travel baseball. Next fall he plans to go to an engineering school to become an environmental engineer.



going to the beach. After graduation, she plans to study biology on the pre-med track at a university.

Lillian Smith is the daughter of Dorsey Sherman and Joel Smith. She is an active member of Norse United, Secretary of the Environmental Club, and President of both National Art Honor Society and National Honor Society. She enjoys playing on the varsity girls soccer team, and is excited to lead as a captain in this upcoming season. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, reading, spending time with her family, and

October Student of the Month



graduation, Jack plans to study a field in Biotechnology with minors in French and Music at a university.

Jack Erne is the son of Rich Erne and Heidi Stansell. He is a leader in the Interact Club, the Environmental Club, and Orchestra Council, a mentor with Norse United, and a member of the French Club and the National Honor Society. He is also a part of North Muskegon's Soccer, Football, Cross Country, and Track teams, and the Grand Rapids Youth Symphony. In his spare time he enjoys sports, music, and spending time with his friends and family. After



After graduation, Carolyn plans to pursue degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Secondary Education while continuing her running career.

Carolyn Bennett is the daughter of Kevin and Amy Bennett. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Harmonics, and Track team and has been a captain of the Cross Country team for the past two years. In her free time, she enjoys running, singing, baking, and spending time with friends.



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NM Students Share Their Song!

By Analea Wingard



On October 15, 2022, Kohl Roggero, Riley Huff, Destinee Cotner, Jaslin Walker, and Lux Peterson represented North Muskegon at MSVMA MS Regional Honors Choir. They represented North Muskegon very well, and four of them have been invited to further their involvement in the program at the state level. When I reached out to the students to hear about their participation, each of them described it as “an amazing experience.” Destinee Cotner even went so far as to say that “It was one of the best!” For their auditions, each student spent time working independently outside of class with the choir accompanist, Laura Ogren, to prepare two pieces which they sang in front of a judge. Then they worked with an MSVMA director on the pieces. Lux Peterson said, “It was a lot. But it was so much fun!” Overall, it was a wonderful experience for these choir students, and the Norse Nation should be proud of such wonderful students representing the Norsemen.

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