



# *The* **Norsemen Pride**

January 2024 | Issue 34

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INSIDE



## Meet Maisy!

Our NM students love our in-house therapy dog, Maisy Allen! She comes to school each day with our Elementary Principal, Mr. Allen, and is a friend and support for all of our students. Please take a moment to watch this brief video and learn more about Maisy's impact here at NM!



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# A Message From Our Superintendent!

## Greetings Norse Nation!



Hello and welcome to your 2024 (how did that happen?!) winter edition of the Norsemen Pride! What an AMAZING fall we had! I am writing this impacted by 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 contribute to our Tradition of Excellence and for making NM AWESOME!

Huge "shout out" to our 2023 Varsity Football Team (players, coaches, and families) - what a great season! Thank you for providing our whole community with so many incredible memories!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season filled with much time spent 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!

Please keep your eyes and ears out for ongoing information relative to our May Millage Election to enhance our athletic and recreational facilities. We hope you help promote this very important effort. Much more information will be coming throughout this winter and spring.

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, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



**TEENS, EXPLORE & ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER**  
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# Moulton Playground Upgrades!

By Jon Allen

The Playground on Moulton Avenue got Upgraded! Thanks to grant money, thoughtful planning, donations, and lots of hard work the Elementary Playground for grades 2nd through 5th has gotten a needed facelift this year! Upgrades include new basketball hoops with a freshly painted court, the addition of gorgeous and irrigated grass, new soccer nets, and a massive rope pyramid structure. Our kids deserve the best environment we can provide and the district is overjoyed that we could make these improvements for our kids. Recess and after-school opportunities for climbing, playing, competing, and growing are all better than ever for our community!



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**MRS. WESTERLUND**  
K-12 DEAN OF STUDENTS



“ I LOVE NORTH MUSKEGON! NM IS FILLED WITH DEDICATED TEACHERS AND STAFF. EVERYONE HERE IS COMMITTED TO HELPING STUDENTS LEARN AND GROW AND THE SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY, WHICH FOSTERS A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT AND FAMILY-LIKE ATMOSPHERE. WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE! GO NORSE! ”

ASHLEY WESTERLUND

## HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

“ My journey in education has been marked by a deep commitment to fostering a positive and safe learning environment. I vividly recall the moment when I realized the profound impact educators have on the lives of students. My career in education started in the classroom where I was fortunate enough to connect with students from diverse backgrounds and abilities. My time in the classroom ignited a passion to create a supportive space for all learners, no matter the challenges. As the Dean of Students at NM, my commitment to education has only grown stronger. Every day, I am reminded of the impact we can have on the lives of students and it is a responsibility I take very seriously. I am honored to play a part in shaping the next generation and to continue to contribute to the success and well-being of students at NM! ”

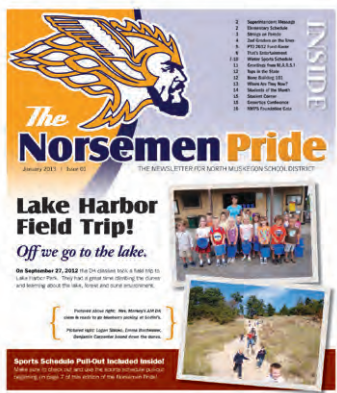


# PTO FundRacer

This year's PTO FundRacer was a huge success! Students raised approximately \$17,000 through pledges, and ran or walked countless miles in Walker Park! Students who raised more than \$200 earned the chance to throw a pie at Mr. Allen! These funds are used to support various academic needs and school projects that benefit our students and staff.

We are grateful for the generosity and support of our NM community! Go Norse!





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# VETERANS' DAY BREAKFAST

By Mr. Philip Friesner

Veterans Day is a day to honor all members of our population who served our country in one of the military branches.

On Friday, November 10th, 2023, North Muskegon students developed and executed a plan to serve breakfast to our local veterans here at North Muskegon High School. Veterans throughout the local area were invited to attend a complimentary breakfast in honor of their sacrifices to our country. Students were able to talk with veterans about their experiences in the military and their devotion to our country.

A wonderful Veterans' Day speech was given by North Muskegon senior Allie Friesner. In her speech, she described what it meant to be a veteran and the gratitude students here at school have for those who served. The speech was followed by an amazing performance from Beth Slimko and the North Muskegon Harmonics group. They sang with great joy the songs of every branch in our military, which ended with resounding cheer from all who attended! If you see a Veteran, please thank them for their selfless commitment to our nation.

A special thanks to all who made this possible: Chief Viverette, Beth Slimko, Madelyn Gleason, Tracy Schofield, Harmonics, Student Council, National Honor Society, Interact Club, and Veterans Committee here at school.





# Middle School Students Meet Michigan Author!

Rebecca Mix, a Michigan author of young adult fantasy books, visited Mrs. Bahorski's seventh grade classroom in October. She shared with students various aspects of the writing process, including finding inspiration, the importance of setting, and strategies to make a story "come to life." The students also brainstormed a story using these strategies. Ms. Mix is a New York Times bestselling author of a variety of novels, including *The Mossheart's Promise*.



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# NM READING BUDDIES!

*By Mrs. Howard, MS/HS Librarian*

This October we celebrated Teen 'Tober in middle and high school by partnering with elementary classes for buddy reading.

We are so fortunate that our small school community can foster positive interactions between students of all ages!

Our older students read with students in elementary classrooms to promote reading for enjoyment, and to model Norse Pride behavior. Elementary classes that participated included: Mrs. Atchison (DK), Ms. Caauwe (K), Mrs. Pek (3rd), Ms. Cutler (3rd), Mrs. Fortmeyer (4th), Mrs. Zonnebelt (4th), and Ms. Marietti (5th). MS/HS classes that participated included: Mrs. Schofield, Ms. Gleason, Mrs. Risley, Mr. Grelewicz, Mrs. Peterson, and Mrs. Netcott. **Go Norse!**









**NORSE  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION**

# Happy 35th Birthday Norse Education Foundation!

**NEF's Mission is to enhance the educational experience of our students by funding excellence in teaching and learning beyond what is provided through operating funds.**

**Congratulations to the 13 applicants that received grants in March 2023! A total of \$5000 was granted to support the following Enhancing Education learning projects for our students:**

Lori Vanderweele - Wish for a Book; Amanda Theisen - News 2 You; Stephanie Cutler - Bringing History to Life; Julie Johnson - DK Classroom puzzles; Terri Fortmeyer - Beginning Bolt Robotics; Theresa Seaberg - Elementary Social Emotional Library; Angela Lamiman, Charlie Vanderwall & Elizabeth Lenkiewicz - Mentor Texts for Reading and Writing; Heidi Houseman - Cooking class & kitchen safety for middle school students with cognitive impairments; Kristen Carlson - Robotic Sensors; Danielle Risley - #Beheretomorrow; Al Karaba - AP Exam Review Packets; Chip VanderWier - Project Runway; Lisa Cobb - HeartMath emWave

**Website:  
NMPS.NET/NEF**

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Foundation on Facebook**

**Congratulations to the 21 applicants that received grants in September. A total of \$26,133.50 was granted to support the following Enhancing Education learning projects for our students:**

Amanda Charles - Digging Deeper with Decodables; Amy Zonnebelt - Vertical Math; Angela Lamiman, Charlie Vanderwall & Elizabeth Lenkiewicz - STEM bins; Beth Slimko - Sight reading books; Brett Howard - March book madness; Brett Howard - Nonfiction refresh in the MS/HS Library; Chip VanderWier - Raku Firing kiln; Christine Livingston - Cool Stools for Elementary Art Room; Colleen Christophersen - Doing History; JoAnna Berry - Just bead it: game it or play it; Lindsey Bentley-Kittel - Teacher Mobility During Instruction; Lori Vanderweele - Books for Kids; Lori Vanderweele - Inchy's Book Vending machine and books; Maddy Gleason - "The Hate You Give" books; Mindy Gerardi - Marking up the Table; Tanya Kolkema - Jason Reynolds and Andy Andres novels; Terri Fortmeyer - Leveled Book Room - Level Z; Jonathan Allen - Norse United

## 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

# A DAY AT THE BEACH!



Ms. Cutler's Third Grade class enjoyed a day at Pioneer Park in September!



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**GO SAILORS!**



# NM VARSITY FOOTBALL 2023!

*By Coach Larry Witham*

The 91st rendition of North Muskegon football enjoyed one of its finest seasons in school history, ending its run to a state championship in the semifinals of the MHSAA HS football tournament. Along the way, many milestones were achieved, and even more memories were made by this special group of North Muskegon student-athletes. The 2023 team won its second straight WMC-Rivers Conference championship, a District Championship, and a Regional Championship, finishing with a 12-1 overall record and a school record 12 wins in a season. Led by a strong senior class that will be remembered fondly for their efforts and leadership, their legacy has been established with a group of underclassmen that have already begun the process of preparing for the 2024 campaign.

Thank you, Team 91, for such a great season! We're all proud of you! GO NORSE!!



**The North Muskegon  
Athletics Calendar  
is available online at  
[www.nmps.net/athletics](http://www.nmps.net/athletics)**

Schedules are regularly updated to reflect necessary changes



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# ★ Students of the Month ★

## September Student of the Month



Sage Brewer is the daughter of Heather and Chad Brewer. She is President of both Environmental Club and National Art Honor Society, Secretary of NHS, Vice President of Orchestra Council, and Executive Treasurer of Student Council. She enjoys playing on the varsity girls tennis team, and playing her violin in orchestra. In her free time, she enjoys hanging out with friends, painting, hiking, and spending time with her family. After graduation, she plans to study Marketing and Graphic Design.

Marilyn Gaston is the daughter of Heather and Bill Gaston. She is the executive president of Student Council, president of the Choir Council, co-president of the French Club, Treasurer of the National Honor Society, and a member of the Environmental Club, Interact Club, Harmonics, and Norse United. She is on the varsity swim, basketball, and tennis teams. She loves to lead the student section at various sporting events, and values her time with her family and friends. Next fall, she plans to attend a university to pursue a degree in biological sciences.



## October Student of the Month



Ben Meyers is the son of Dan Meyers and Katie Brewer. He is also the brother of Charlie Meyers. He is a member of the National Honor Society. Ben also has been a dual-enrolled student for two years. He plays football and baseball. He enjoys hanging out with friends, working out, and being able to play sports with his best friends. After high school, he is heading to Davenport University to study business and play baseball.

Leighton Hunt is the son of Greg Hunt and Kelly Perry. He is a member of National Honor Society and Environmental Club. Leighton also plays soccer and basketball. In his free time, he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing sports, working out, and playing video games. After graduation, Leighton plans to attend a university to major in psychology, with hopes to become a clinical psychologist.



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# NM Students Abroad!

Some of our French and Spanish language students traveled to France and Spain over the summer with their instructors, Bernadette Billock and Tracy Schofield.

We are thrilled that our students could enjoy this unique opportunity to see the world and practice their language skills!





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**GRATEFUL FOR A GREAT CHAIN CREW!**

*By Jeff Cooke*



The typical chain crew consists of at least three individuals: a down marker indicator operator and two individuals to hold the rods. Unless otherwise possible by use of a fourth crew member, the down marker indicator operator will attach a clip as specified. Members of the crew wear distinctive vests or jackets. They are there to assist officials, not fans. North Muskegon is so fortunate to have this crew volunteer each fall football season! Thank you to our committed, competent chain crew members, who have given so many years to support our program!

**Steve Compeau** - 35 years volunteer service  
**Mark Scott** - 27 years volunteer service  
**Craig Compeau** - 25 years volunteer service  
**John Pitcher** - 25 years volunteer service  
**Jeep Osborn** - 20 years volunteer service

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