



SCHOOL TALK



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CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced

The Valedictorian for the class of 2012 is Alexandra Costa. Alex is the daughter of Dominic and Diane Costa. While attending North Branch High School, Alex was active in the National Honor Society (serving as Vice President), the Chair of the Youth Advisory Committee, Secretary of her Class, a member of Link Crew as well as a volunteer in various local establishments. Alex's academic achievements include top honors in her Math, English, Social Studies and Science courses at NBHS as well as earning Ferris State University's Founders Scholarship and Honors College Scholarship. Alex plans to attend Ferris State University in the fall to pursue a career in Forensics sciences while majoring in Forensic Biology and double minoring in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice. Her ultimate goal is to become a Forensic Scientist with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This year's Salutatorian is Patricia Anderson. Patty is the daughter of Todd and Alison Anderson. While attending NBHS, Patty was active in the National Honor Society, Band, Band Letter Club, Quiz Bowl, Girl Scouts and Sea Scouts. Patty's academic achievements include earning the Michigan Youth Arts Distinguished Scholar Award, the Society of Women Engineers madame Curie Award, the Presidential Excellence Scholarship, the Robert and Marjorie Fleming Memorial Scholarship and being selected to the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's Honors Band (where Patty was chosen as First Chair for the Bass Clarinet section). Upon graduation, Patty intends to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering at Michigan Technological University.



Valedictorian
Alexandra Costa



Salutatorian
Patricia Anderson

Graduation Events for the Class of 2012

The graduation events for North Branch High School's Class of 2012 are as follows:

- The *Last day* for seniors is Friday, May 18th. Senior's who need to take their final exams in order to earn needed credit will do so on Monday, May 21st and Tuesday, May 22nd.
- *Baccalaureate* is scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium.
- *Senior Exams* take place on Monday, May 21st and Tuesday, May 22nd.
- *Commencement Rehearsal* will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd at 3:00 p.m. in the HS Gymnasium and SWING OUT will follow at 5:00 p.m. This is a change from a previously posted date due to an unexpected conflict.
- *Senior Class Night* is scheduled for Thursday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.
- *Commencement Exercises* will be held on Wednesday, May 30th at 8:00 p.m. in the HS Gymnasium. *Doors will open at 7:30 pm.*
- *Project Graduation* will take place immediately following Commencement. Students should see Mrs. Finley or Mrs. Carl for more information or to pay the \$25 attendance fee.

Congratulations Class of 2012

North Branch Board Of Education



(Left to right – standing) Jerry Schlaud, Rosann Clark and Daniel Deshetsky (seated) Ginger Russell, Cathy Severance and Mike Snoblen

2012 Friend Of Youth

Dave Castle graduated from North Branch High School in 1967. He has been married for over 40 years to his wife, Duan and has three sons, Rob, Chad, and Jason.

Dave served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam era and is very active in veteran's affairs as a member of the American Legion and VFW. He donates his time once a month to help perform military honors at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. He has authored a book titled, "North Branch Veterans" and has given back to the community by donating all proceeds to benefit the veterans and youth of North Branch.

Dave served on the Board of Directors for the North Branch Summer Recreation program as well as coached little league baseball for several years. He has been a volunteer at the North Branch Days celebrated in July for over 30 years.

Currently Dave is in his second stint as the North Branch High School Boys' Track head coach. However, Dave is a veteran coach not only in track where he previously coached in Mayville and was the girls' assistant coach in North Branch, he also has 12 years experience coaching football. He also volunteers as a track coach for Special Olympics.



Last Day of School June 6, 2012

Half Day For Students

Grades 5 – 12 Released At 11:05 A.M. • Grades K – 4 Released At 12:20 P.M.

Have A Great Summer!

Superintendent's Corner —



Thank you for Supporting and Believing in our Students and Staff: Well Done Team!

What a year this has been! I respect the students and staff of this improving school district. I have worked in other districts, and I can honestly tell you that the teachers, principals, support staff, students, parents, and community members make this district very special in so many ways. The commitment of staff members to provide a quality education to every student in caring schools should be a source of pride to all stakeholders. I see it when visiting schools, talking with staff, students, and parents-we are making remarkable progress during difficult times in Michigan and the nation. Our 2012 graduates have done us proud as well; approximately 78% will continue on to post-secondary education. Just watch them become successful in real life!

Nevertheless, working in public education is particularly challenging right now with state and federal budget cuts that impact us at the local level. State budget cuts by the governor and legislature mean the district is doing more with less, but education is the solution to ensuring our prosperity and well-being in a changing global marketplace. Fortunately, we have been able to soften the impact of reductions far from student programs and services through attrition, restructuring, and some grant funding. We have also managed finances wisely to provide services to needy learners in the most efficient and responsible ways possible.

It seems to us that we have not stopped discussing budgets and possible reductions or cost-savings since last September. Although we are tremendously grateful for community support, we must remind everyone of the importance of supporting our excellent educators and learning programs that are needed to best educate North Branch children.

As we head into summer, let us now focus on our strategic plan that has worked so well after just a year. We must continue to create vibrant learning opportunities and eliminate achievement gaps in all grades and classes. Our students must be prepared well for college and careers that will allow them to reach to their full potential. To do this we must commit to a philosophy that demands excellence of everyone, including community members. We need everyone's support as the journey to educational excellence is difficult, but well worth the investment. Let's stand up for children and North Branch Area Schools. They will delight and amaze when everyone helps.

To this end we are asking parents of North Branch students to help us this summer by ensuring that their children read for at least twenty minutes a day during the summer break. Reading is the foundational skill for learning success. Parents are important partners in the educational process that should not stagnate during the summer. Together we can propel our students to the top of their dreams. Please support us in this effort.

The Board of Education and administration hope our students and staff have time this summer to recreate and refresh by continuing to enjoy more learning. We promise that an exciting new school year for students awaits and begins on Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Please enjoy a safe summer of learning fun, and congratulations to all for a great 2011-12 school year.

Thank you, again.
Sincerely,
Thomas A. English

Communication & Community Engagement Committee Updates

As part of the strategic planning process, the Communication & Community Engagement Committee has established two objectives in order to meet the goal of increasing community engagement. One of these objectives is to “provide avenues for communication”. The following actions have been taken based on suggestions received from community members at Parent/Teacher conferences.

Web Site Information:

- **MHSAA.TV** – A link has been added to NBAS district home page which currently includes videos of sporting events, NBHS news and NBE news. Parents and community members would like to see additional events taped. Building principals should contact Mr. Forster to make arrangements.
- **Community wants more Sporting Events Information** – Athletics department will add a link to the MHSAA calendar on the Athletics web page. This includes seasonal information. Youth sports information will not be added at this time as these are not managed by the school district.
- **More activities included** – Most events are now included on the individual building site calendar as well as the district calendar.
- **Pre-School page desired** – Will contact Pre-School Coordinator for information.
- **Food Service page desired** – Page has been created and is maintained by Food Service department.
- **High School store “The Branch” website desired** – Mr. Fish will speak with Mrs. Anderson, business teacher at the high school.
- **Outdated information** – Automatic monthly reminders are being sent to principals to monitor their building websites for content.
- **E-Alerts** – Edulink is a district owned software that allows the school district to place an automated phone call to guardians in the event of a school closing or other important message. Groups can be created based on a sports team, specific bus letter, classroom connection, etc. Additional training may be necessary to increase usage.
- **Good News Newsletter** – Mr. Fish will contact the paper to add sporting events.
- **Electronic Sign at NB Elementary** – All buildings have been utilizing the sign to advertise activities.
- **Web-site Demonstrations** – Will be available upon request.
- **Building Tours** – Will be available upon request.

The committee will meet again on June 14th at 4pm in the Administrative conference room. We welcome anyone interested in being a committee member to join us. Suggestions and comments from the community to improve communication are welcome at any time. Email erea@nbbrncos.net or call 810-688-3570 and ask for extension 2709.

Art News

North Branch Middle School and Ruth Fox Elementary

The North Branch Middle School will be having its’ annual Art Show on Monday, May 21, 2012. The show begins at 5:00 p.m., and shares the date with Honor’s Night, hoping to draw a large crowd. You will find great artwork from the 2011-2012 school year displayed in the gallery area, and down the hallway towards the gym. The students have done an incredible job this year. We have an impressive collection of artwork to share with you.




Many students have earned honors in the art program this year. Ten students (5th -8th grades) had artwork submitted to the Michigan Art Education Association juried show for Region 10 held at Gallery 194 in downtown Lapeer. Each art teacher is allowed to submit 5 pieces from each division that they are currently teaching. The following students had work in the show: Natalia Baca, Maeson Schlaud, Natalie Wells, Daniel Cunningham, and Julie Hagopian (all 5th graders at Ruth Fox Elementary); as well as Marie Musiel, Julia Kropp, Hannah Hodgkinson, Alexis Pettingill, and Beth Anne Shifflett, from the Middle School. This year we had a record number of artwork chosen from this exhibit to be on display at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. Marie Musiel, Julia Kropp, Hannah Hodgkinson, Natalia Baca, and Maeson Schlaud all have artwork that will be on display in Lansing during the month April.

Another group of students had artwork in the Lapeer County K-8 Art Show that was held in Gallery 194 as well. This was a non-juried show that was meant to show off the great talents of our budding artists around the county. The following students had work in that show: Ruth Fox Students; Justice Puff, Caleigh Fromwiller, Nicholas Schulz, Maeson Schlaud, Olivia Sweeney, Brenna Schlaud: from the Middle School; Ana Escalante Molina, Ansley Orr, Matt Overpack, Maria Kaluk, Samantha Gowan, Julia Kropp, Kim Brodt, Lexi Schlaud, and Beth Anne Shifflett.

The most recent honors for the art program come from VSA Michigan. The adjudication process for the VSA Michigan’s Emerging Artists’ Touring Exhibit, Celebrating Silver, is now complete. The traveling show is divided into two bodies of artwork, the Main Exhibit, with 40 pieces, and the Alternative Exhibit, with 20 pieces. Nearly 150 pieces were submitted for consideration, and within the two traveling exhibits, 16 pieces will be artwork done by students from North Branch! The following Ruth Fox students will have work in the exhibit: Porter Fielder, Emilie Hunter, Dameon Knox, Anna Richards, Jeremy Shaver, Garrett Simpson, and Whitney Whitis. The following Middle School students will have work in the exhibit: Nate Collins, Victoria Kirkwood (with 2 pieces), Brady Lawson, Shay Pollard, Robert Pollick, Logan Richmond, Tessa Schlaud, and Tristan Woodliff.

The students have created some beautiful and meaningful artwork this year. Hopefully, a sense of pride is evident when each student brings home his or her portfolio of artwork to share with his or her family. Have a wonderful summer!



Lapeer County Health Department

1800 Imlay City Road, Lapeer, Michigan 48446

The new Communicable Disease rules which took place beginning January 1, 2010 and remain in effect for the 2012-2013 School Reporting Year are as follows:
Required for all children entering kindergarten, all 6th grade students, and all children changing school districts:

- Two doses of varicella vaccine or history of chickenpox disease

Required for all children 11 - 18 years of age who are changing school districts or who are enrolled in 6th grade:

- One dose of meningococcal (MCV4 OR MPSV4) vaccine
- One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine

The Lapeer County Health Department will immunize children up to the age of 19 years with all required immunizations if they have one of the following:

- NO INSURANCE
- INSURANCE THAT DOESN'T COVER IMMUNIZATIONS
- MEDICAID
- AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKAN NATIVE DESCENT

Lapeer County Health Department can also immunize children up to the age of 19 years if they have the following:**

- A CO-PAY OR DEDUCTIBLE FOR INSURANCE

**Vaccines available for those who qualify with insurance include Tdap, Meningitis and Varicella, inventory is limited for those eligible with this option.
We ask a fee of \$12.00 per injection but will not deny immunizations if unable to pay the fee.

IF INSURANCE FULLY COVERS IMMUNIZATIONS: You must go to their Health Care Provider for immunizations.

Lapeer County Health Department immunization clinics are as follows:

MONDAY - WALK-INS 1:00 – 3:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY - APPOINTMENT ONLY 8:30 – 11:30 A.M.

THURSDAY - APPOINTMENT ONLY 1:00 – 3:45 P.M.

Special Adolescent and College-Bound Immunization Clinic:

All day Tuesday, July 24th by appointment

Please Call 810-667-0448 For More Info Or To Make An Appointment.

North Branch Instrumental Music Department

Year in Review 2011-2012

Continuing to Grow in Excellence and Spirit!!!

High School Band News

The High School Bands had another exciting and prosperous year.

The Marching Broncos began their season with the week-long Marching Band Camp during the first week of August. The week resounded with success with the performance for parents, friends, and alumni on Friday afternoon. The group worked intently on their festival show, Beatle Mania. The Broncos performed at all of the home football games, including their famous "LIGHTS OUT SHOW." The band received an enthusiastic standing ovation at Alma College and The Hohner Institute of Percussion-sponsored Marching Festival the first week of October. The adjudicators commented on the excellent full sound the group produced as well as their execution of their marching and maneuvering. They received received "Award of Excellence", in Marching, Music, and Percussion and second place in Class B competition. The second festival was the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Marching Festival, hosted by the Almont Band Department. Once again, the Marching Broncos wowed the crowd and the three adjudicators with their ability to perform with excellent technique, tone, and marching/maneuvering techniques. The group received straight First division ratings from the three adjudicators! Congratulations to the Marching Broncos, Drum Majors Patty Andersen and Autumn Zender, eighteen seniors, and Mr. Ehardt on their awesome season.

Symphony Band opened their season with their thrilling annual Christmas Concert in December. Their music was well-received by the audience with a standing ovation.

At the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Band and Orchestra Festival March 2nd, which was hosted by the North Branch Music Department, the band received two 1's & one 2 in concert and a 1 in sight reading for an overall First Division. The Symphony Band qualified for participation at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's State Band and Orchestra Festival in Port Huron on Thursday, May 3rd at 6:40 p.m. Good luck band!

The Symphony Band had five band members in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Honors Band, which is comprised of about twenty-five different area schools' instrumental music programs. This year's participants were Patty Andersen, Bass Clarinet; Kaitlyn Linewski, Clarinet; Carman Zender, Clarinet; Autumn Zender, Alto Saxophone; and Cody Howe, Tuba. Students are recommended by their school directors according to their Solo and Ensemble participation as well as their playing ability. A selection committee then reviews each school's recommendations and selects students based on director recommendation. This year the band had 120 members.

District Solo and Ensemble was hosted by the Music Department of North Branch on Saturday, February 12. North Branch had twenty students in twenty-two events. There were a total of twenty-nine medals awarded with nineteen first division medals and ten second division medals. Congratulations to all students who participated! The band and Mr. Ehardt would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Ehardt who helped to prepare the students for this festival.

State Solo and Ensemble was hosted by the Lapeer East High School Bands on Saturday March 24th. All events are judged/adjudicated in the following areas: Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, and Interpretation.

Ensemble Ratings:

- First Division = to a A
- Second Division = to a B
- Third Division = to a C
- Fourth Division = to a D
- Fifth Division = to a E

Proficiency Level Solo Testing:

There are three proficiency levels which begin when a soloist is in 10th grade. Each level of the proficiencies there are more requirements, such as more memorized scales and more difficult sight reading material.

- First Division = 100 – 85 points
- Second Division = 84 – 70 points

Proficiency testing is comprised of the following:

- 50 points for the solo performance
- 25 points for scales
- 25 points for sight reading

First Division Ratings:

- Clarinet Trio – Patty Andersen/Bass Clarinet, Kaitlyn Linewski/Clarinet, and Carment Zender/Clarinet
- Bass Clarinet Solo – Patty Andersen Proficiency 3 95 points
- Tuba Solo – Cody Howe Proficiency 1 92 points
- Alto Saxophone Solo – Autumn Zender Proficiency 2 87 points

Second Division Ratings:

- Alto Saxophone Duet – Cassidy Lane and Clarretta Walker
- Bassoon & Baritone Saxophone Duet – Amanda Morrison/Bassoon & Autumn Zender/Baritone Saxophone
- Flute Duet – Brittney Gray and Amber Ondrajka
- 9th Grade Alto Saxophone Solo – Jacob Huffaker
- Alto Saxophone Solo – Cassidy Lane Proficiency 1 76 points
- 9th Grade Flute Solo – Madison Morgan
- Vibraphone Solo – Jacob Wheatley Proficiency 2 79 points
- Clarinet Solo – Carmen Zender Proficiency 3 80 points

The Symphony Band culminates their exciting year with the Collage Concert on May 15, 2012 at 7:30 pm. They will also be performing Monday, June 4 at 7:00 pm at the Grand Collage Concert with grades 5-12 in the North Branch High School Gymnasium.

Middle School Band News

The Middle School Bands have had a very successful year! In addition to the concerts performed throughout the school year, they have had accomplishments at the District 3 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's Solo and Ensemble Festival. The Middle School band students earned ten first division medals and four second division medals. Thank you to Mrs. Smith, our accompanist, who helped in preparing the students for the solo and ensemble festival. The 7th Grade and 8th Grade Bands participated in the District Band and Orchestra Festival on February 25, 2012. Both bands earned an overall rating of a II, with a I in Sight Reading. (The ratings are on a scale of I-V, with I being the highest possible score, and V the lowest.) Congratulations band!

District Solo and Ensemble was hosted by the Music Department of North Branch Saturday, December 4. North Branch had thirteen students in fourteen events. There were a total of twenty-nine medals awarded with nineteen first division medals and ten second division medals. Congratulations to all students who participated!

The band had five band members in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Honors Band, which is comprised of about twenty-five different area schools' instrumental music programs. This year's participants were Erin Andersen, Trombone; Stephanie Knudsen, Trumpet; Lori Mabery, Flute; Elizabeth Moore, Flute; Darrin Ronnie, Baritone; and Kevin Zender, Bass Clainet. Students are recommended by their school directors according to their Solo and Ensemble participation as well as their playing ability. A selection committee then reviews each school's recommendations and selects students based on director recommendation. This year the band had 120 members.

The band will culminate their performance season with a Spring Concert on Monday, June 4 at 7pm in the North Branch High School Gymnasium. The bands will be performing a variety of music that is sure to please everyone's musical palate! Come out and support our bands!

Ruth Fox Band News

The Ruth Fox Bands have enjoyed a busy, performance-filled school year! Both the 5th and 6th Grade Bands have already had two concerts, with one more to come! They performed for parents and friends at the Winter Concert held in the North Branch High School Auditorium and for students and staff at the Winter Concert held during the school day in the Ruth Fox Gymnasium. All band members also participated in Band Olympics this year. Each band student was in a team of up to four with a country they chose as their team name. There were a total of four to five individual events ranging from "Tongue Twisters" to "Rhythmic Sight Reading" and three group events in which they could compete. For each event there was gold, silver, and bronze medals awarded to the individual students. Both bands have progressed rapidly over the course of the school year, and are proud to showcase their accomplishments during the Spring Concert on Monday, June 4 at 7pm in the North Branch High School Gymnasium. The 5th and 6th Grade Bands will be performing works that are popular in nature, including "Popcorn Prelude," "Star Trek," and other exciting tunes. Come out for an evening of musical fun and to share in the accomplishments of our young musicians!

Andersen Wins First Chair Bass Clarinet in the State of Michigan

At the end of October there were state wide auditions for the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association's All State Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Ensembles! Patty Anderson won 1st chair Bass Clarinet spot throughout the entire State of Michigan! The All State ensembles will be rehearsing throughout the week of January 18th. This is during the state wide Michigan Music Conference held in Grand Rapids at The Devos Place. Their performance will be on Saturday, January 21st beginning at 8:30 a.m.

If you have ever had the pleasure of working with Patty you will know that she is one of the hardest working students we have in our school district. In the classroom as well as outside of the academic day! This is truly an awesome achievement she has won. Congratulations Patty and Family.

Andersen Invited to Participate in the statewide MYA Festival

As a result of the Michigan School Band and Orchestra's State Solo and Ensemble Festival held on Saturday March 24, 2012, Patty Andersen, Bass Clarinet soloist, received a nomination to be a part of the Michigan Youth Arts Festival Honors Band. She is one of four Bass Clarinet players from across the entire State of Michigan to receive this honor! Nominations were made for students and small ensembles to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival on May 10 - 12, 2012 on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. Invitations to be a member of either the MSBOA/MYAF Honors Band or the MSBOA/MYAF Honors Orchestra are offered to the top scoring individuals in the Proficiency Exam portion of the State Solo and Ensemble Festival.

This is Patty's second time has been invited to participate in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival and she is one of three North Branch High School Band students to have earned this distinct honor since 1999. Patty is the daughter of Alison and Todd Andersen. Patty also has two siblings; Emily who is in the 10th grade and plays French Horn, and Erin who is in 8th grade and plays Trombone. Congratulations Patty on this awesome accomplishment. If you see her parents or sisters please congratulate them on this huge accomplishment.



Patty Andersen



Speech Activities Has Something for Everyone



The sixth season of forensics at NBHS finds 10 out of 11 speakers heading to State competition at Western Michigan University. Forensics is a competitive speaking program which allows students grades 6-12 to compete in events from storytelling to public address (student written speeches) with students throughout the State. The high school team saw many more team trophies this year due to individual students improving their personal bests. Moving on to State competition and placing at regionals were; Jade Topper; 2nd in Storytelling, Rayne Johnson; first in Dramatic interp., Levi Hanna; 2nd in Poetry, Kayla Hagen; 2nd in Impromptu, Lee Stevens; first in Oratory (persuasion), Marius Gdeanic; 2nd in Sales, Ashley Johnson; 2nd in Prose, Chrisitian Montes; 2nd in Extemporaneous speaking, Dani Archer 1st in Sales and Elizabeth Jones in Broadcasting. After Sates some of the team will prepare a new speech and compete at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. Students interested in competing next year should see Mr. or Mrs. Stevens before the summer.

Students competed in legislative debate for the first time this year. At Notre Dame Prep High School Brenden Miller received first, Levi Hanna 3rd and Lee Stevens 5th.

Model United Nations is the third speech activity that NBHS offers. We proudly earned 4th at the TVC conference with Lee Stevens earning one of 10 All League spots out of over 250 students. The team traveled to Hope College where Mack Marceau earned first in the organization he represented of their Model United Nations. Over 500 students from through out the State competed. Speech Activities has something for every student.

TVC Academic All Conference



Each year, every school in the Tri-Valley Conference nominates three students to be named to the TVC All Academic Team. The students are nominated based upon a combination of their GPA and ACT scores.

On April 24th, the top three students, based on these scores were treated to a banquet in Curtis hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, where they were recognized for their academic accomplishments and received a TVC All Conference medal.

The students earning the right to represent NBHS at the TVC All Academic Team are Patricia Anderson, Alexandra Costa, and Mathew Haney.

SkillsUSA and State HOSA Competitions

North Branch Students competed at the State SKILLSUSA and State HOSA on April 20-22 from the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center (Ed Tech).

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions where students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. During the annual national-level Championships, more than 5,000 students compete in 92 occupational and leadership skill areas. The programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health occupations instructors and students to join and be actively involved in the HSTE-HOSA Partnership. HOSA is about providing opportunities for students to learn and achieve. One unique way of providing opportunities for students to learn and achieve is by offering a number of competitive events that are curriculum based. The goal of the program is to get students to stretch their learning potential.

Congratulations to the following North Branch Area Schools students who placed in these competitions:

Brianna McKenna	5th Place Physical Therapy	HOSA
William Palmer	Silver – Internetworking	Computer Networking
Andrew Woodman	Silver – Plumbing	HVAC
Dale Curtis	Silver – Automotive Refinishing	Collision Repair
Dale Curtis	Gold – Leadership (Perfect Score)	Collision Repair
Rachel Emmons	Silver – Photography	Digital Media Arts
Josh Gardner	Bronze – Teamwork Build	Construction Trades
Josh Gardner	Gold – Leadership	Construction Trades
Brandon Pellow	Silver – Heating	HVAC



William Palmer, Silver Medal Internetworking



Brianna McKenna (center) HOSA Competition Winner



Andrew Woodman, Christopher Herzog, Jakob Thomas, Brandon Pellow, Joe Woodruff, John Hrlic

A Red Carpet Romance, Prom 2012



More than 300 students, guests and chaperons attended A Red Carpet Romance, PROM 2012 at Cherry Creek Golf Course, Saturday, April 21. Special guest "Marilyn Monroe" helped with the Old Hollywood theme by singing several songs and posing for pictures to help give students the "red carpet treatment."

2012 Quest Merit Scholarship Awards



Quest Merit Award Winner
Caitlyn Buning

This year's 7th annual Quest Merit Scholarship winners are Brandon Pellow and Caitlyn Buning, each receiving an award of \$1,000. Brandon plans to attend Lincoln College of Technology for High Performance Engines and Caitlyn will be attending Mott Community College for Welding. The Quest Merit Scholarship is funded by Carolyn and Ron Bower. To date approximately \$20,000 has been awarded to 26 graduating Quest students.



Quest Merit Award Winner
Brandon Pellow is pictured with his Silver Medal

Quest Student Medals At State Competition

Brandon Pellow competed at the 2012 SkillsUSA competition on April 20-22nd in Lansing. Brandon followed last year's 1st place state finish and 11th place finish at the National Competition in Kansas City, MO with a 2nd place finish in the Heating and Cooling, HVAC category.

National Reading Month

In celebration of National Reading Month Quest High School students volunteered in Mrs. Walker's Elementary special education classroom, and all 4 of the Headstart program classes. In total 22 Quest students participated as readers. Quest Teacher Todd Walker said, "We are always looking for community service projects. It was an awesome experience for our students, and the kids really seemed to enjoy it as well." Headstart Teacher Lisa Farley commented, "The kids really enjoyed having the older kids read to them. They have been asking when they will be coming back!" The youngsters were just as enthusiastic, 4th grader Andrew Sutherland said, "I liked the book they chose to read to us, and it was fun having them here!"



Tyler Todahl reads to Headstart students

Senior Car Wash

As part of Quest's continued efforts in participating in community service learning projects, Quest students washed Senior Citizen's cars free of charge on May 1st during the Senior Center's hours. The Senior Center is located at the Jefferson Building which is shared by Quest High School, the Administration Building, and the Headstart program. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm.



Quest students (from left to right) Jessica Braxton, Justice Osborne-Spencer, Ashley Clark, and Mike Hanson participating in the car wash.

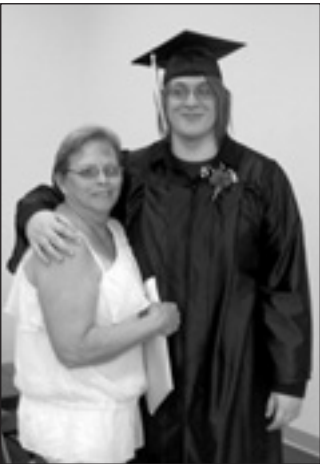
One Student's Quest For Success

Travis Barnard was a 2010 graduate of Quest High School and a recent graduate of Lincoln College of Technology, where he graduated with honors. Recently Quest staff had a chance to catch up with Travis on his recent successes.

"I first came to Quest because I just didn't fit in with the teaching methods in a traditional classroom. I was having a hard time learning, and I didn't feel like it mattered whether I passed or failed. That deterred me from even wanting to listen to what my teachers had to say. In my junior year of high school I transferred to Quest. It was there that Mr. Rosser, Mr. Walker, and Mrs. A (Aguilar) were able to reach me and help me motivate myself to try to be successful. They showed me that what I did to try to be successful, effort, mattered. They care about what happens to their students and they were there for anybody who needed help, in or out of school. With their help and my new found self motivation I was able to go on and graduate. I even graduated with more credits than I needed just to help prepare myself for college.

After Quest I went to Lincoln College of Technology in Indianapolis, Indiana to study to be an Electronics System Technician. I was very fortunate to have financial help for college from my mother and scholarship money from the Bowers (Quest Merit Scholarship Award). Lincoln Tech was a great experience for me academically and as a person. It was difficult being away from my family and friends, but I knew how important it was that I finish. I graduated from Lincoln College of Technology on the Dean's List with a 3.96 GPA, an Associate's Degree in Applied Science, and forty-seven different certifications involving electronics. I am currently back in Michigan pursuing a career in my field. Without hesitation I would say that without Quest I don't think I would have been able to achieve this level of success. They knew I had it in me and made sure that I knew, and got the most out of my abilities."

Mr. Rosser had this to say about Travis, "Travis is a great example of a student understanding that their future lies in their own hands. Once he decided that there was more in store for him, failure was removed as an option. We are very proud of him! He's a great example for our students that any single one of them can achieve great things, they just have to be willing to work hard and do what it takes to achieve success."



Travis Barnard with his grandmother Gloria Forsys at Quest's 2010 Graduation.

NBAS Summer School Offering

North Branch Area Schools will again be holding a summer school program for 7-12th grade students that need to recover lost credit. Students will use our on-line learning program, Education2020, with over 50 course offerings available. Summer school will begin June 18th and conclude August 7th. It will operate in 3 hour sessions from Monday to Thursday. For more information please contact your student's counselor, or with specific questions you may contact Summer School Coordinator Corey Rosser at crosser@nbbronscos.net or by phone at (810) 688-7581 ext. 2820.

Community Grocery Giveaway

NB Wesleyan Church, North Branch Elementary 1st and 3rd grade students, Quest High School, and the National Honor Society from North Branch High School banded together to give groceries away to the community. The event was spear headed by 1st grade teacher Adrienne Shifflett and 3rd grade teacher Lisa Bodner who worked with Pastor Peter Demaska at North Branch Wesleyan Church and the Eastern Michigan Food Bank. On Thursday, April 26th the EMFB delivered nearly 9,000 pounds of food to Quest High School to be given to those in need in our own community. Students worked hard for several hours unloading and sorting the food into boxes to be given to families with the great help of maintenance employee Ken Johnson who prepared the gym and operated the fork lift.

Community members in need lined up approximately 3 hours early to receive the food. The doors opened at 4:00pm, and all 9,000 lbs. of food was distributed by 4:35pm. In total 154 boxes of food were dispersed to 154 families. Quest student Adam Laur said, "It felt good to feel like you were doing something that really mattered." Adrienne Shifflett said her first graders response was terrific, "We made a difference in our community". NBWC Pastor Peter Demaska said, "We have been looking for ways to partner with the community. This is our church's 20th grocery giveaway; it was a blessing to be able to do that with the school." NBWC periodically (about every other month) does grocery giveaways on the church's campus. Families in need can check dates for future giveaways on the church's website www.nbwesleyan.org and is advertised two weeks prior in the LA View.



Quest students Henry Cheney and Mike Hanson help unload food for the grocery giveaway.

Quest Benefit



(From right to left) Quest students Mike Boucher, Nate Purdy, Alex Back, along with Melanie Schumaker and Tylor Washburn help recruit for this year's fundraiser



Alex Cooper enjoys a plate at Spaghetti at this year's benefit dinner.

Quest would like to thank the North Branch community, the local Masonic Lodge, and the families of our students for another successful Quest Benefit Dinner. On Thursday, May 3rd Quest held their 7th annual Quest Benefit Dinner. This year's fundraiser had an estimated attendance of over 200 people with just over \$1,000 in contributions going directly to benefit Quest's students' educational needs. Quest staff, 60 Quest students, and a dozen members of the Masonic Lodge participated in putting on this successful event! Quest has used the money from this fundraiser for items ranging from technology needs, to field trips, to helping students pay for college applications.

The fundraiser started in 2006 when the local Masonic Lodge became familiar with the new alternative education high school at North Branch Area Schools, and had a desire to support it within the community. With this year's contributions the Masons' have helped Quest near the \$10,000 mile stone in total contributions. The Masons' were awarded the Michigan Alternative Education Organization's "Outstanding Advocate of the Year" award in 2011. This was following their 2008 nomination for the same award in which they were a finalist. Last year, in addition to providing the food and volunteers to prepare it, the Mason's contributed an extra \$500 from their account.

Interim Program Coordinator Corey Rosser said, "The event was well supported by our former graduates and their families. It has been like a class reunion of sorts the past several years. It's my favorite event of the year, getting to see our current students and families work together, and getting to see our former graduates and catch up on their successes."

MSBOA State Festival Results!

All groups perform for three concert adjudicators (judges) and one adjudicator for sight reading. All adjudicators examine the competencies in the following areas of a group's musical presentation, awarding them letter grades for each. These categories are Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, and Interpretation. Out of twenty individual grades that are possible the group earned nineteen A's and one B+!

The most impressive grading was in sight reading. The sight reading portion is as follows: The groups are given a piece of music that they have not seen before with a five minute time frame to sing, count, and discuss the music and then perform. This is equivalent to a state standardized test! They received straight A's! Very impressive by our students!

Congratulations to the student musicians, parents, and Mr. & Mrs. Ehardt on their success. Keep up the standard of striving for excellence!

M.I.T.E.S. Competition

Nine students from high school teacher, Curt Junes class entered projects into the Michigan Industrial Technology Education Society Craftsmanship fair on Tuesday, May 1. Out of the nine projects three placed first in their category; Jacob Wheatley with his Marimba, Matthew Haney with his convertible coffee table and Cody Hunt with his carved bow riser. Two placed second in their category; Cody Bader with his carved bow riser and Corey Franks with a log poker table. Brad Sutter placed fifth with his bench. Zach Fish, Curtis Garza and Josh Radzwion all received Honorable mentions. Jacob Wheatley also received Best of woods. This is an award for the best project out of all the woodworking projects that were there.

High School Art 2012



Seven North Branch High School students are honored during the month of May by having their artwork submitted and included as part of a county-wide student art exhibit, HIGH SCHOOL ART 2012, at Gallery 194 in downtown Lapeer.

Sophomore Elizabeth Lovacz was excited about having her artwork displayed where hundreds of people will see it. "My parents were shocked because I'm not usually good at art," she said. Her acrylic painting is an outdoor scene with a colorful hot-air balloon. "I picked the balloon because to me it is a sign of freedom. You can go anywhere you want."

Paige Brandt, a junior who wants to go into photography, has a photograph of her dog in the show. Paige picked that particular shot because she thought it was an awesome shot. "I walked around for an

hour and a half taking pictures of my dog," she said.

Other entries included Kathryn Morley, watercolor; Haleigh Laur, photography; Allison Newbegin, photography; Melissa Elliott, acrylic and Alex Jankowske, a ceramic drum. They are the art students of Tim Harbaugh, art teacher at the high school.

High School Art 2012 is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday through May 12 at Gallery 194 and features several hundred pieces. For more information go to www.gallery194.com.



Middle School Students Test The Waters

Students in Mrs. Tumblin's environmental science class were fortunate again this year to test the waters of the Flint River due to grant money supplied by the Flint Watershed Coalition and sponsored by the national organization Earth Force. Chemical tests like nitrates, phosphates, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and pH were completed on the tributary of the Flint River next to McNees Meats. These results are compiled and sent to the Flint River Watershed Coalition as official data. Students from Tumblin's science class will be presenting their data in PowerPoint form at Kettering University on May 11th as well other student groups from Genesee and Lapeer counties. This is something the students look forward to: comparing data with other schools and comparing data of previous years.



Academic Enrichment Camps and Classes

June 18-21 & June 25-28 for students entering Grades 2-10

ART

Art Around the World

June 18-21 from 10am-11:30am
Entering grades 3-6 \$60
R. YOUNGERT – Art Rm. (East)
Each class will focus on a different country as children learn about the culture, hear music from the area, and engage in an art project inspired by the region. Materials are included. Wear clothes that can get dirty or bring your own art smock. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 15*

Birdhouse Designs

June 25-28 from 10:30am-11:30am
Entering grades 4-8 \$40
BRUMAN/PARTON -Art Rm. (East)
Future ornithologists will construct and decorate several styles of homes for our fine-feathered friends using natural and recycled materials. Supplies included. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 15*

Garden Stone Creations

June 25-28 from 12:30p-1:30p
Entering grades 6-10 \$40
S. BRUMAN - Art Rm. (East)
Students will use their creative abilities to map out a design, input glass tiles, and grout their own glass mosaic garden stones. All materials are included. Please wear clothes that can get messy! *Minimum 8 / Maximum 15*

Paper Mâché Fun

June 18-21 from 1pm-2pm
Entering grades 6-10 \$40
R. PARTON - Art Rm. (East)
Using a variety of recycled materials, students will create their own structures, whether realistic or abstract, to paper mâché coat, paint, and decorate. Due to the limited amount of time for this class, students will need to be extremely focused and self-directed. An additional day may be added for completion if needed. Wear clothes that can get messy. *Minimum 6 / Maximum 12*

DANCE

Colonial Social Dancing (Intro)

June 18-21 from 12:30pm-2pm
Entering grades 3-8 \$60
S. GARDINER - NBE Gym
An introduction to the primary means of entertainment engaged in the 1700 and 1800s including basic calls, formation of proper lines and simple circle forms, reminiscent of the dance scenes in “Pride & Prejudice” and “Sense and Sensibility.” The format is very easy to follow, great exercise, and tons of fun. Wear comfortable clothes and soft-soled shoes. No flip-flops. *Minimum 8 / No Maximum* Parents welcome to stay & DANCE!

Colonial Social Dancing (Step-Up)

June 25-28 from 12:30pm-2pm
Entering grades 3-8 \$60
S. GARDINER - NBE Gym
Using the basic moves learned in the introductory class and expanding on them, students will step up the fun with longer and more energetic reels. Students may add this class after trying the introduction without a late registration fee. No flip-flops. *Minimum 8 / No Maximum* Parents welcome to stay & DANCE!

Creative Movement

June 25-28 from 1pm-2pm
Entering grades 2-3 \$40
R. PARTON - Room J303
Using elements of direction, level, and speed students will investigate basic science and language arts concepts through movement. They will also explore ideas involving pattern, rhythm, and length to create their own dances. An impromptu ‘show’ will take place after last class. Minimum 8 / Maximum 15

HISTORY

Adventures in Michigan History

June 18-21 & 25-28 from 10-11:30
Entering grades 4-8 \$100
S. GARDINER - Room J303
Maps, artifacts and other visual aids will support energetic storytelling to provide a comprehensive overview of the cultural influences prevalent in the early development of Michigan including Native American, French, and British. Students will learn Algonquin words and phases, participate in hands-on activities (quill writing, finger weaving, map-making), experience early American survival techniques, and play games from the 1700s that inspire a new appreciation of our state’s diversely rich heritage. Minimum 8 / Maximum 25

MUSIC

Vocal Techniques Workshop

June 19 from 10am-2:30pm
Entering grades 6-10 \$40
G. STARR - Music Rm. (West)
Participants will learn proper technique for breath support, tonality, volume, alliteration, and vowel formation useful in both solo and choral performance. The first part of the day will be spent working en masse, then after a 1/2 hour lunch break the focus will be on solo performance. Each singer should bring a prepared solo, however some selections from the morning can be used for solos. An impromptu performance will take place at the end of the workshop. Please bring your own sack lunch. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 20*

Rock On! Intro Fingerpick Guitar

June 18-21, 25-28 from 10am-11am
Entering grades 4-6 \$80
D. LOCKE/J. JUDD - Music Rm (E)
For those who think they’d like to learn guitar but are not sure, this is a fabulous introduction to the instrument that does not require a huge investment. Students will learn finger positions, note reading, tuning, and basic music theory from a pair of experienced instructors that can provide the one-on-one attention needed in the early stages to play simple songs and riffs. Guitars are provided, during the class session for those students who do not have an instrument.* Students who have their own acoustic/electric guitars should bring them the first day of class. A \$10.00 non-refundable book fee is due to the instructor on the first day of class. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 16*
***Guitars can be ‘rented’ to take home for practice during the course of the class for a nominal fee. A security deposit is required: \$50.00 /acoustic - \$65.00 electric/amp. Deposit refunded when guitar/amp is returned damage free.**

World Music Drumming Camp

June 18-21, 25-28 from 11am-12pm
Entering Grades 5-8 \$80
J. JUDD/D. LOCKE – Music Rm. (E)
Students will learn correct playing techniques for djembes, shekeres, cabasas and other fun, unusual percussion instruments, experience the excitement of African and Caribbean music, and strengthen their communication, listening, and cooperation skills while endorsing respect for people and property. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 16*

SCIENCE

Gear Up! - Simple Machines

June 18-21 from 1pm-2pm
Entering grades 2-4 \$40
D. LOCKE - Room J301
Hands-on activities introduce young scientists to Isaac Newton’s 3 Laws of Motion! Using K’Nex levers, axles, wheels, gears and more, students will build and learn how simple machines work and are used in every day objects. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 16*

Hang On!

Roller Coaster Science

June 25-28 from 2pm-3pm - J301
Entering grades 5-7 \$40
D. LOCKE - Room J301
Junior physicists will learn about gravity, energy, acceleration, speed and more as they construct the K’Nex Viper roller coaster and other K’Nex amusement park rides that demonstrate how forces and motion work even when they’re having fun! *Minimum 8 / Maximum 16*

Geologists in Training

June 18-21 from 2pm-3pm
Entering grades 5-8 \$40
J. JUDD - Room J301
Young geology enthusiasts will use tools of the trade to uncover, research and analyze a variety of gems, stones, and minerals to better understand the complexities of our Earth’s foundation and the natural resources within. Students will also learn about occupations that use geological data. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 12*

Geology Rocks! Junior

June 25-28 from 1pm-2pm
Entering grades 2-4 \$40
J. JUDD - Room J301
Aspiring geologist will learn what the science is all about, how to use tools of the trade, dig up, study, and test various rocks and other substances to reveal information about our planet, what it is made of, and how it was formed. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 12*

ENGINEERING

[Can be taken separately or together.]

Techno Guts [A]

June 18-21 from 10:30am-11:30am
Entering grades 5-8 \$40
D. WAGNER - Room J301
Young techies will learn the safe and proper way to disassemble computers and other electronics, find out what the components inside are and what they do, then carefully put the equipment back together again. Static wrist guard is required and can be purchased for \$3 from the instructor on the first day of class. *Minimum 6 / Maximum 10*

Techno Guts [B]

June 25-28 from 10:30am-11:30am
Entering grades 5-8 \$40
D. WAGNER – Room J301
Students will be taken through the same processes as in Techno A with more detailed information and greater technical challenges should the student desire. Static wrist guard is required and can be purchased for \$3 from the instructor on the first day of class. *Minimum 6 / Maximum 10*

WRITING

Writing the Basic Essay

June 18-21 from 9:30a-11a
Entering grades 9-12 \$60
L. WAGNER - NBE Library
Students will learn the essentials for effective expository and persuasive essay writing using a basic five-paragraph format. Information specific to the ACT essay test will be emphasized with in-depth feedback provided on two essays enabling students to learn from their errors and improve their writing. Numeric scores, similar to ACT scoring will be given for six other assignments plus techniques for self-evaluation. Please bring paper, pencils, a thesaurus and dictionary to every class. Homework is REQUIRED every day, the first to be written BEFORE the first class, assignment will be sent by snail or email. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 20* Parents may sit in if space allows.

Advanced Essay Techniques

June 25-28 from 9:30a-11a
Entering grades 9-12 \$60
L. WAGNER - NBE Library
Continues from the basic class to cover revision techniques used in composing engaging and meaningful essays such as strengthening the introduction and conclusion, addressing counter-arguments, evaluating the implications of the issue, and choosing vivid words. Students will practice self-evaluation and additional skills will be targeted to each individual as needed. Quality in-depth feedback will be provided on two essays to help students learn from their errors and improve their writing. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 20* Parents may sit in if space allows.

Young Writers Camp

June 19-21,25-28 from 11am-12pm
Entering grades 5-10 \$80
L. WAGNER - NBE Library
Budding authors will explore a variety of styles in poetry, narratives, short stories, and plays while developing their own unique tools for self-expression and increased self-confidence as writers. Participants will be guided though all steps of the creative process, from drafting to writing, revising to editing, and finally publishing. Campers are invited to electronically submit one or more compositions for a printable anthology that will be e-published after camp is complete. Homework is not required, but may be necessary to polish pieces for publication in the anthology. Please bring paper, pencils, a thesaurus and dictionary to every class. *Minimum 8 / Maximum 20*

Campers Name: _____		Grade Entering _____		Email: _____	
Address: _____				Phone: _____	
Class Name _____ \$ _____		Class Name _____ \$ _____			
Class Name _____ \$ _____		Class Name _____ \$ _____		Total Due: _____	

Send Form & Payment to: Academic Enrichment Company, PO Box 300, North Branch, MI 48461 For extra registration forms please email: learning.plus.fun@gmail.com

As an Academic Enrichment Company (AEC) program participant, applicants and parent/guardian agree that AEC, North Branch Area Schools and program instructors will not be held responsible for any accidents, injuries, or loss of personal property, however caused, and agrees to release the organizers from all claims or damages that may rise as a result of such accidents or loss. It is further agreed that the students and parents/guardian assume all risks attendant to watching and participating in the classes and camps provided by Academic Enrichment Company and this assumption is acknowledged and approved by their signature hereto. Academic Enrichment Company and North Branch Area Schools staff reserves the right to use any pictures taken during classes and camps for advertising and/or instructional purposes.

Parent Signature _____	Print Name _____	Date _____
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North Branch Broncos Sports News

Bronco Spring Sports: Our spring athletic teams will be involved in state tournaments soon. Please go to mhsaa.com to follow the progress of the spring tournaments. As of press time, we have the following information about the tournaments:

- North Branch High School will host the varsity baseball and softball Div. II Districts. One pre-district game will be played on Tuesday, May 29 at 4:00 p.m. with the semi-finals and finals on Saturday, June 2 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Teams in the district are Croswell-Lexington, Imlay City, Lapeer East, North Branch, and Yale. Admission to all district games will be \$5.00. Regionals will be held at Bay City John Glenn High School on Saturday, June 9 with the North Branch District winner vs. the Mt. Morris District winner.

- In girls' soccer, Flint Kearsley High School will host the Division II Soccer Districts. Teams in the district include Clio, Flint Northern, Flint Northwestern, Flint-Kearsley, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, and North Branch. As of press time, the draw had not been held but all District Quarterfinal matches will be played on Tuesday, May 29 at a time decided by the host school. Admission to all games will be \$5.00. The winner of this District will play at a Regional Semi-Final game at Ortonville-Brandon High School vs. the Bloomfield Hills-Andover District winner with the date and time to be determined.

- The varsity boys' and girls' track teams will participate in the Division II Regional at East China Stadium hosted by Marine City High School on Friday, May 18 or Saturday, May 19. Teams participating are Algonac, Armada, Caro, Croswell-Lexington, Imlay City, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, Marine City, Marysville, North Branch, Lakeville, Richmond, St. Clair, and Yale. Both the boys' and girls' teams are hopeful of qualifying multiple athletes for the state meet which will be held on Saturday, June 2 at Houseman Track in Grand Rapids. Also, the TVC East Division Meet will be held at Birch Run High School on Wednesday, May 23. The prestigious "Thumb Meet of Champs" will be held at Caro High School on Tuesday, May 29. Dave Castle will be recognized as North Branch Area Schools "Friend of Youth" during the meet.

- The boys' golf team will participate in the Div. II Districts hosted by Flint Kearsley at the Flint Elks Club on Thursday, May 31. Teams in the tournament include Corunna, Croswell-Lexington, Flint Northern, Flint Northwestern, Flint-Kearsley, Goodrich, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, Linden, North Branch, Ortonville-Brandon, Owosso, and Yale. The Regionals are scheduled for Thursday, June 7 at The Pohlcat Golf Course in Mt. Pleasant.

SENIORS HONORS NIGHT: The Senior Honors Night will be held on Thursday, May 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The athletic department will be presenting many awards including the following:

- Five or more varsity letters
- MHSAA Scholar Athlete Qualifiers
- MIAAA Academic Achievement Award
- United States Marine Corp. Distinguished Athlete Award
- United States Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award
- Detroit Free Press Scholar Athlete Award
- Recognition of Athletic Scholarships
- Female and Male Athlete of the Year

The most prestigious award is the Female and Male Athlete of the Year. Head Coaches nominate seniors for this award and vote on the most deserving recipients utilizing the following criteria:

- Athlete must have demonstrated athletic excellence in at least one sport with preference given to athletes who have excelled in more than one sport. However, state or national recognition in one sport may be a determining factor vs. an athlete (with no state/national recognition) who has league recognition in two or more sports.
- Athlete should have demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom and have an above average grade point average.
- Athlete should have demonstrated a commitment to North Branch High School and/or the community of North Branch in a leadership or volunteer capacity.

NOTES OF INTEREST:

- The spring sports' banquet will be held on Tuesday, June 5 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The banquet will honor all of our athletes from baseball, boys' golf, softball, girls' soccer, boys' track, and girls' track. In addition, we will present scholar-athlete awards to all spring athletes with a grade point average of 3.2 or higher at the mid-term of the third trimester.
- The MHSAA has mandated that schools designate 7 consecutive calen-



Competitive Cheer - All Conference

Front Row (l-r): Kaela Meier, Honorable Mention; Ellie Balzer, 2nd Team; Victoria Seaman, 1st Team; Ashlynn Law, 2nd Team. **Back Row (l-r)** Lynne Hickey, 2nd Team; Brianna McKenna, Honorable Mention; Jessica Laur, 1st Team; Taylor Atkins, 2nd Team.

dar days during the summer when school is not in session when open gyms, camps, and conditioning programs are not permitted to be conducted on school premises or sponsored by the school at other facilities. North Branch will observe the "dead period" from July 1-July 8, 2012.

- All students in grades 7-12 next school year who plan on participating in athletics for the 2012-2013 school year will need an athletic physical. Dr. Starbird's office will once again be offering physicals for \$10.00 per athlete. Half of the fee will be donated back to the athletic department. Athletes can get physicals done on the following Tuesdays this summer: June 19, July 17, and August 14 from 9-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. No appointments are necessary and physical cards may be picked up in the athletic office at any time this spring. Also, Physical Forms are available on our website at www.nbbronzos.net or the MHSAA website. Thank you Dr. Starbird!

SUMMER CAMPS FOR NORTH BRANCH AREA STUDENTS

FOOTBALL: June 11-14

Pat Forster, varsity football coach, has finalized the dates of the football program's annual youth camp to be held at North Branch High School. The camp will be held June 11-14 for grades 2-7 from 8:30 a.m. -11 p.m. with fundamental instruction at all positions. The plan is to partner with the boys' basketball program and provide four days of football/basketball instruction as well as meals at a reduced cost. Specific information on the camps will be sent home, but parents may contact the athletic office at 688-2518 if more information is needed. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- 8:00 a.m.: Free breakfast at Ruth Fox Cafeteria
- 8:30 a.m.: Football Camp
- 11:00 a.m.: Free Lunch at Ruth Fox Cafeteria
- 12:30-2:30 p.m.: Basketball Camp
- 2:30 p.m.: Parent pick-up

BOYS' BASKETBALL: June 11-14

June 11-14: Grades 9-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Intensive Skill Development. Coach Marshall and his staff will direct the camp. Information on this camp will be sent home before the end of the school year.

June 11-14: See above time schedule under FOOTBALL. Grades 3-8 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Registration forms will be sent home with students for early registration though athletes may register the first day of the camp. Coach Marshall and his staff will direct the camp.



Boys' Basketball- All Conference

Corey Franks, Honorable Mention; Trevor Marceau, 2nd Team; Ethan Huffaker, Honorable Mention



Girls' Basketball- All Conference

Jacqueline Kent, Honorable Mention; Justine Vauter, Honorable Mention

North Branch Broncos Sports News



Boys' Bowling- All Conference
(l-r) Mike Berlin, 2nd Team; Brandon Berlin, 1st Team; Travis Fike, Honorable Mention.



Girls' Bowling- All Conference
Candice Sutter, 1st Team; Jessica Powell, Honorable Mention; Jillian Dufort, 2nd Team.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: June 7, 11, 12, 14: (More dates will be announced before the end of school)
North Branch Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach Willie Deshestky (810-441-0712) has announced the following dates for girls' basketball players:
• Grades 3-8 next fall will practice from 5-6:30 p.m. in the high school gym. Players will receive fundamental instruction and participate in some scrimmage games. Cost is \$10.00 and includes a t-shirt. Players may register the first day on June 7.
• Grades 9-12 will compete in scrimmages against other schools from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the high school on the above dates.

BOYS' SOCCER:
Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach, Rick Skelton, will conduct a camp this summer. Dates of the camp have not been finalized as of yet. Information will be sent home with students before the end of the school year.

GIRLS' SOCCER:
June 25-29: Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach, Rick Skelton, will be hosting a team camp this summer for all girls in grades 8-12. The camp will be from 5-7 p.m. at the high school soccer varsity field. Cost of the camp is \$30.00. Forms will be sent home with students before the end of school. Please contact Rick Skelton at 688-4009 for more information.
August 6-10: The North Branch Soccer Club with Varsity Girls' Coach Rick Skelton will be hosting a youth camp for all boys and girls from Pre-K through 8th grade. The camp will be held at the Elementary fields and information will be sent home with students before the end of school. Please contact Rick Skelton at 688-4009 for more information.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL:
June 11-13: Grades 3-6 (next year) at North Branch Middle School Gym from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Camp cost is \$40.00 per person and includes a camp t-shirt. If more than one child from the same family attends the camp, each additional sibling will be \$25.00. Registration forms have been sent home with students for early registration though athletes may register the first day of camp. There is no guarantee of t-shirts for those not registering early. Checks may be made out to North Branch Area Schools and mailed to the athletic department. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend. North Branch volleyball coaches will direct the camp with college players from the 2009 Class B State Championship team helping with instruction. Free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and free lunch at 11:00 a.m. will be available for all North Branch volleyball youth campers at the Ruth Fox Cafeteria.

July 9-12: Grades 9-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Coach Fish and Coach June will direct this camp with the possibility of guest coaches. Cost is \$60.00 per player and includes a camp t-shirt. Players may pre-register or sign up the day of the camp if spots are available. Information will be sent home with athletes in late May. The camp will be limited to 36 players. All camp participants will receive a free breakfast at 8:15 a.m. and a free lunch at 11:00 a.m. at the Ruth Fox Cafeteria.

July 9-12: Grades 7-8 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 2-4 p.m. Coach Fish and Coach June will direct this camp with the possibility of guest coaches. Cost is \$30.00 per player and includes a camp t-shirt. Players may pre-register or sign up the day of the camp if spots are available. Enrollment is limited to 36 players. Forms will be sent home before the end of school.



Wrestling- All Conference
Cody Stevens, Honorable Mention; Zeke Shifflett, 2nd Team; Ben Fowler, 1st Team



Anna Skelton-Soccer Academic All-State



Sam Garza signs with NYACK



Stuart Fielder signs with Sienna Heights and Trevor Marceau signs with Ferris State to play football

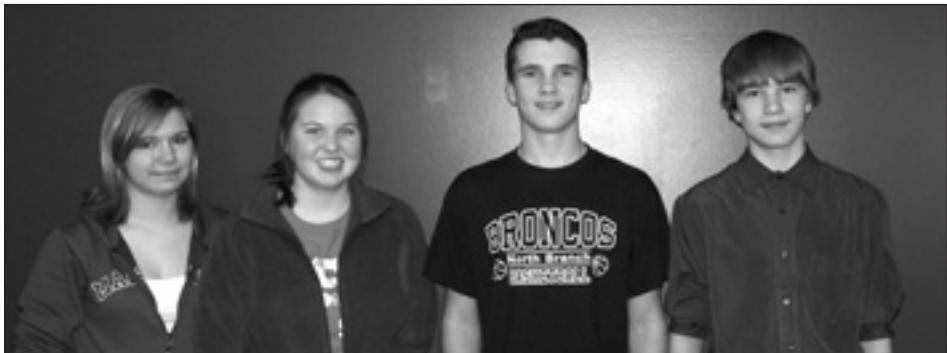
MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

NBMS Students of the Month



January – Jordin Karpovich (Front), Alexis Schlaud, Stephanie Knudsen, Tara Ash (Back L to R)

Each month the teachers of North Branch Middle School nominate four students based on citizenship, leadership, work ethic and academic achievement to represent the school as students of the month. Teachers write up a brief statement explaining how they came to choose the particular student. Each student is recognized at an end of the month assembly to celebrate this achievement. A copy of the book “The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens” is presented to each student at the assembly and their pictures are on display in a case near the gymnasium. We are proud to share the following NBMS students of the month with the community. Congratulations!



February – Sam Galpin, Mary Ankley, MacKenzie McGough and Cody Chapin (Left to Right)



March – (Standing) Zane Howe and Nicholas MacKenzie, (Sitting) Ashley Fielding and Lauren Scott



April – Aleah Britt, Hayden Wolf, Loree Mabery and Cole Martin

Explore Test Results

This year our NBMS 8th grade students participated in the state funded EXPLORE test on March 20th. The EXPLORE test, for 8th and 9th graders, was designed as the beginning point of a long-term assessment system following in subsequent years with the PLAN test and the ACT. All three assessments are built around English, Mathematics, Reading and Science; Material becomes progressively more difficult through the assessment cycle.

The EXPLORE test results folder contain a significant amount of information. Before the end of the school year, each 8th grade student should bring home their original test booklet, a results folder, and a guide on interpreting and using the results. Just like any other test, the results provide a snapshot of strengths and weaknesses in English, Reading, Mathematics, and Science along with information regarding college and career readiness. For more information check out the website at www.explorestudent.org.

S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G B-E-E

The North Branch Middle School 2012 spelling bee took place on February 22nd with the following fourteen students participating: Allison Hofert, Jessica Sherman, Cambria Gillespie, Nathan Scott, Frank Newsome, Sammi Schlaud, Stephanie Knudsen, Lee St. Onge, Abbie Preston, Kallan Hohman, Jacob, Perlata, Josh Cooper, James Eckert, and Dustin McCaslin. After thirty-five minutes of intense spelling, NBMS crowned its 2012 winner Nathan Scott. Nathan correctly spelled the word “chromosome” in the 6th round to win. Second and third places went to Jacob Peralta and Stephanie Knudsen. Frank Newsome came in fourth.



The top three spellers from the NBMS spelling bee moved on to represent the district and community in the March 28th county wide spelling bee. Nathan, Jacob, Stephanie took the stage at North Branch High School along with other fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students from across the county. Congratulations on their efforts and representing us very well!

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest

Bailey Chambers and Marie Musiel represented North Branch Middle School through three rounds of the Knights of Columbus sponsored free throw contest. The first round, the local competition, took place in North Branch. Bailey made 13/15 free throws and Marie sunk 14/15 free throws to move on the next level in Sandusky. During this round, Marie shot 80% (20/25) from the free throw line, while Baily made 23/25 free throws for an outstanding 92%. With these percentages both North Branch Middle School students moved on to the third round which was held at Clarkston High School. Both Marie and Bailey represented the North Branch Area Schools very well at this even making 20/25 and 23/25 free throws respectively; However, this is where their run came to an end against very stiff competition. Congratulations, Bailey and Marie for your outstanding success and efforts in this year’s Knights of Columbus sponsored free throw contest!



Save the Date . . . May 21, 2012

The annual North Branch Middle School honors night celebration will be held on Monday May 21, 2012 beginning at 6:30 pm in the middle school gymnasium. All are invited to celebrate in our student success, but those students being honored and their parents will receive an invitation in the mail. Seventh and Eighth grade students will be recognized, honored and celebrated for accomplishments such as: honors (GPA 3.0 and above), academic excellence (average GPA of 3.75), spelling bee winners, students of the month, art awards, student council members, winners of the America and Me essay contest, as well as the 2011-2012 school year principal’s award.

Friends of Rachel Club

After the Rachel’s Challenge Assembly in January, Approximately 36 middle school students received training as part of the Friends of Rachel’s Club. The club members are working on activities such as Simon Says. Simon Says is an anonymous way for students to ask questions, advice, and get help in solving problems. Any student can submit to the Simon Says bucket in the office. Submissions will be answered on a weekly basis by the Friends of Rachel Club during their after school Friday meetings. Answers will be shared via announcements so that all students may benefit from the work of the Friend of Rachel Club.



Special Olympics

This May seven athletes from North Branch Area Schools will be competing alongside more than 2,500 athletes from across the state at Central Michigan University. Daniel Linder, Hannah Pulliam, Mary Bartel, Angela Thompson , Mitchell Horen and Drew Callahan will participate in various events such as walks, runs, dashes, softball throws and running long jumps.

Athletes compete in State Summer Games after qualifying at local competitions throughout the year. The State Summer Games is one of eight annual statewide competitions for the athletes of Special Olympics Michigan. The Special Olympics motto states, “Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.” Good luck athletes!



Ruth Fox Spelling Bee Winners

Gerrid Rutledge, Dylan Friday, and Austin Pung were the winners of the Ruth Fox Spelling Bee! All three students advanced to the County Spelling Bee which was sponsored by the Lapeer County Press. Ruth Fox Students competed against approximately 40 other students from around the county! A special congratulations to Gerrid Rutledge who won fifth place in the contest!!!



Ruth Fox Elementary Nominates the MSU Tech-Literacy Team for an Agency Award

Just over two years ago, Ruth Fox Elementary entered a collaborative learning partnership with three talented individuals from Michigan State University. This literacy collaboration was spear-headed by Doug Hartman, Co-Director of the Literacy Achievement Research Center and Professor of Teacher Education and Educational Technology at MSU, and two of his doctoral students, Paul Morsink and Michelle Schira-Hagerman.



The emphasis of this continued partnership is to grow Ruth Fox teacher expertise and confidence with digital literacies through sustained professional development over time. As a way to thank and recognize the MSU Tech-Literacy Team for their long-term guidance, sustained support, and expertise, Ruth Fox staff nominated this group for the Michigan Reading Association's Agency Award.

In early March, building staff was ecstatic to hear our MSU friends were the recipients of the 2012 MRA Agency Award. As Anne Wood stated, "Their continued support has fundamentally changed the way that we teach and have raised the level of expectation for everyone in our building."

RFE Guest Readers

As leaders and positive role models within our district and community, Ruth Fox Elementary would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the following people for donating their valuable time to read to Ruth Fox students during March Reading Awareness month:

- Deanna Brusie, Ruth Fox Elementary Secretary
- Meredith Collins, North Branch Middle School Principal
- Thomas English, North Branch Area Schools Superintendent
- Silinia Horne, Ruth Fox Elementary Secretary
- Gretchen Orr, Retired North Branch Teacher
- Vicki Rogers, Retired North Branch Teacher
- Jeanie Stevenson, Retired North Branch Teacher
- Anne Wood, Ruth Fox Elementary Principal



Ruth Fox Writers Successfully Convey Ideas!



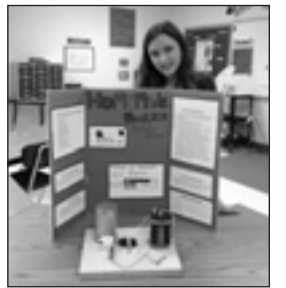
Students at Ruth Fox Elementary have the opportunity to write and publish a book each year! A lot of work and effort is put into teaching students the writing process. The ideas, voice, organization, etc., are reviewed and edited until students have a copy that is ready for publication. A variety of tools are used in the writing process which also assists students in their competence with technology. Many students write their story on a Google Doc and then are able to have partner collaboration in the editing process. Students also use computers and netbooks for research for their writing just like a "real" writer would.

Students in fifth grade worked on a persuasive story while sixth graders worked on a fantasy. The book project culminated in a

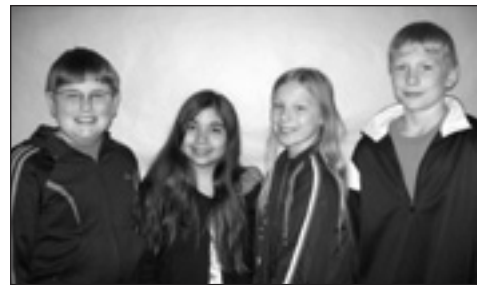
special writing festival in which students were able to share their books, hear an author, and receive awards for their work!

Hailey Watson Wins Second Place at Science Fair

Ruth Fox student Hailey Watson received a Research Fellow Ribbon, which is the highest award given to students who are not finalists, at the Flint Regional Science Fair. She competed against other students in grades 6 – 8 from Lapeer, Tuscola, Shiawassee, St. Clair and Genesee Counties. Her winning entry was titled, Homemade Buzzer, in which she used several items found around any home to create a buzzer. Congratulations Hailey!



Ruth Fox Space Camp Crew #10 Selected



After an intensive interview process, the Ruth Fox Space Camp Committee has selected their 10th crew. These students won an all-expense paid scholarship to attend Space Camp at the U.S. Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. This year's winners are Michael Gormley, Julia Hagopian, Stephanie Howard, and Adam Barrows. The 6 day trip will be at the end of June. The camp time will be filled with group activities, simulations, problem solving, missions, and conclude with a graduation ceremony.

Ruth Fox Writing Club is Publishing Writing

Writer's block. Most of us have experienced it. Many of us get frustrated and walk away from the project. The Ruth Fox Writing Club is an exception to that trend. This small, but growing, group of students has been working diligently to publish some writing. They meet Mondays after school, about 2:40pm, until 3:30pm during the school year and once a week during the summer in the computer lab at Ruth Fox Elementary School.

Please check out the writing that has been taking place during our meetings. You can find the writing at our website, which is linked to the Ruth Fox Elementary Home Page. If you start at the North Branch School District home page www.nbbrncos.net and click on schools, then Ruth Fox Elementary School, you will find our tab, Ruth Fox Writing Club, on the left side of the Ruth Fox home page. Currently the website features writing from Elaine Youngert, Erin Andersen, Emily Andersen, Jenna Youngert, Brielle Mears, Sara Ronne, Olivia Sweeney, Leah Floyd, Alyssa Johnson, Jacob O'Rourke, Caleigh Fromwiller, and Ashlynn Smith. Look for the following students to add writing to the website soon: Tharon Klutts, Sammy Jo Fromwiller, and Hannah Robinette. If you are interested in joining the club, contact Mrs. Sherrieb at 688-3284 or asherrieb@nbbrncos.net.



Ruth Fox Teachers Selected to Present at MACUL Conference!!!

Anne Sherrieb, Beth Stradinger, and Paul Morsink (MSU Doctoral Student), presented at Macul 2012 on March 8. The presentation was titled "Cloud Literacies" and focused on using cloud tools, such as Google Docs, Goodreads, etc. in the classroom (Please see link below to view the presentation in full.) The 60 minute presentation was quite a hit!

<http://www.slideshare.net/paulmorsink/cloud-literacies-opportunities-and-challenges-of-teaching-in-the-cloud>



2012 Special Olympics Basketball



Ruth Fox Elementary hosted Area 13 March Madness Basketball on March 14th. We had a very successful competition. All of the athletes did a great job participating with lots of enthusiasm. We had 16 High School Basketball players volunteer to run each station. Special guest included Mr. Basketball – Matt Costello and his twin brother John from Bay City Western High School. A special THANK YOU to all of the Sponsors who donated to this event. Pictured are Tammy Siegler (event coordinator) and student Shelby Warner who recited the Special Olympic Oath before the games began.

Basketball Provides Fun and Exercise for Ruth Fox Students

The opportunities that are provided for students in the area of athletics are very important to the students at Ruth Fox Elementary! Not only do they provide students with necessary exercise, they also teach students how to be a part of a team which is a lifelong skill. As students become members of society, they are required to get along with others at their place of employment, etc. The skills that students learn while they are involved in sports help them in their future endeavors. We are very proud of all of our student athletes whether they are involved in basketball, volleyball, soccer, archery, etc!!!! Pictures are fifth graders from the Ruth Fox Elementary Basketball Team!



Sixth Graders Attend Hartley!

Sixth Grade students had the opportunity to attend Hartley Outdoor Education Center again this year! Students from the sixth grade classes have been attending Hartley for many, many years. The trip is one of the highlights of sixth grade and it is a great experience for students! Pictured is Sam Winn, a sixth grader, enjoying a photo opportunity!

Band Students Earn Medals!

The students in fifth and sixth grade band always look forward to Band Olympics each year! Students earn medals through the Band Olympics competition and are always very excited when the awards are given out! Pictured is Band Instructor, Mr. Jeff Ehardt, distributing the medals. The medals are sponsored by the Band Boosters.



Delta College Middle School Mathematics Competition

Fourteen sixth grade students were selected to attend the Delta College Middle School Mathematics Competition in March at Delta College in Saginaw! The students were selected from a group of about 45 students who were given a trial test at Ruth Fox Elementary. The students selected to attend were Adam Barrows, Leigh Dotson, Cole Fike, Dylan Friday, Caleigh Fromwiller, Brady Good, Parker Jenuwine, Lucca Kaldahl, Gavin Mohr, Austin Pung, Janel Ruhlman, Luke Rutledge, Olivia Sweeney, and Mikenzi Vauter. Congratulations to all of these students on doing an excellent job in mathematics.



Pictured are Dylan Friday, Brady Good, Parker Jenuwine, Gavin Mohr, and Austin Pung having a little fun before the test begins!



Adam Barrows Wins 2nd Place in the “Kroger I Can Make History Contest!”

Sixth grade student, Adam Barrows, won 2nd Place in the “Kroger I Can Make History” contest that was held during the month of February to celebrate Black History month. Adam and his family were invited to a special awards ceremony and luncheon where Adam received his award, a gift card, and a free trip to a museum! We are very proud Adam for winning this special honor!

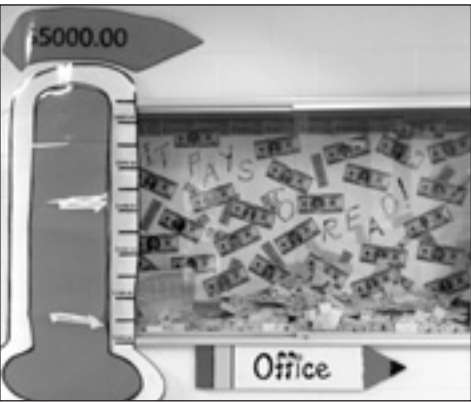


Ruth Fox Elementary: Creating Readers Beyond the School Day

There’s a new endangered species...beyond the school day readers. Research shows there are a growing number of students who can read but choose not to. This reluctance to read when one has the ability is known as aliteracy. Interest and choice play a significant role in combating this problem.

As a way to inspire our students to become voracious readers, Ruth Fox staff has continued to implement an afternoon reading enrichment time. Every Monday and Thursday from 1:50-2:20pm, Ruth Fox students head out to their self-selected reading choice time. Students are immersed in engaging mediums, interesting genres, amazing authors, and high interest reading, like The 39 Clues. Our goal: to help students find something they enjoy reading because this increases the likelihood they will continue to pick up a book beyond the school day.

During March is Reading Month, Ruth Fox students used a special March Reading Log to record their beyond the school day reading habits. For every hour read, students earned 1 fake Ruth Fox dollar toward the building-wide goal of earning \$5,000. Students read enough to earn \$5,197 dollars, exceeding the challenge! As a culminating celebration, students were invited to a building-wide Reading Celebration in the gym where they participated in an interactive gameshow and viewed teacher created commercials and live entertainment.



With summer quickly approaching, we encourage all students in the district to engage in some summer reading. Research suggests that the single summer activity that is most strongly and consistently related to learning and the prevention of the summer slide is reading. If we truly want to prepare students for the world they are going to inherit, reading is one of the best tools we can arm them with.



Destination Imagination



Ruth Fox Elementary school sponsored two Destination Imagination teams that participated at the Michigan Regional Competition on Saturday, March 10th. Destination Imagination is a national, educational program that allows students to learn by, experiencing creativity, and engaging in problem-solving. The students were selected among volunteers to participate in a specific challenge that would exercise the skills of teamwork and divergent thinking.

Team 1 (Michael Gormley, Britany Peralta, Austin Pung, and Faith Russell) chose the Hold it! Structural Challenge, designing and building a structure of balsa wood and glue to be as light as possible yet hold the most weight. In conjunction with their structure, they produced a play that followed the theme presented by the challenge. These 5th and 6th graders worked very hard during Choice Time as well as after school each week. They can be commended for a job well done on their performance and props, while their structure was retested to hold 255 pounds!

Team 2 (Carolyn Delong, Samantha Fromwiller, Julie Hagopian, Carly Jones, Marc Moraniec, and Mikaela Page) competed in Coming Attractions, creating a multicultural movie trailer. The setting was an international summer camp, where telling scary stories left the audience wondering if “chainsaw man” would reappear. Students wrote a script, they designed props/ background, and performed the solution to the challenge. On their first performance, the team placed 4th out of 16 teams!

We are very proud of the excellent performances of these students.



Dental Health



North Branch Registered Dental Hygienist, Melissa Swoish presented oral health information to an eager group of North Branch Elementary Kindergarten and Begin-a-garten students on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. Swoish, in October of 2011, applied for and received a grant from the American Dental Association enabling her to provide the oral education services along with providing each child with a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental health information for parents. She led students in a discussion of the importance of making healthy food choices along with the necessity of brushing regularly to insure good overall health. The kindergarten students shared delightful stories of their positive experiences visiting the dentist. The students said they liked the stickers and toys they get from the dentist when they learn they don't have any cavities. Swoish works as a hygienist for Dr. Spillane at Dental Health Care of North Branch.

A Hunting We Will Go ...

Did you see all those bucks crossing Elm Creek Rd. Friday night? There must have been over 300 in that herd! I even saw a couple of 10 pts. On Feb. 10th, North Branch Elementary hosted a hunting themed Father-Son Night. More than 300 young and older bucks came decked out in their camouflage gear to track dinner, treats and set their sights on the movie, "Open Season". Other events included camouflage face painting, duck calling, photos in the woods, design a flashlight and a favorite, road kill candy! All tracks showed evidence of a fun-filled night!



Elementary Service Learning

North Branch Elementary students participated in a meaningful service learning opportunity with Jump Rope for Heart. Students who participate in Jump Rope for Heart are helping children affected by heart conditions, and learning about their own hearts and how to stay healthy by getting physically active! Dollars raised through Jump Rope for Heart go to help children, schools and communities through initiatives such as:

- Cutting-edge research.
- Keeping PE in schools.
- Better nutrition in schools.
- Fighting childhood obesity.
- Teaching CPR in schools.

This year's donation total is \$2491.00. Jorga Beaver in Mrs. Well's 1st Grade classroom raised \$250.00 and Ty Goodwin from Mrs. Barrow's 2nd Grade classroom raised \$125.00. Thanks to everyone for your generous support of this life-saving work.



Reading Buddies

Mrs. Bailey's kindergarten class and Mrs. Mitchell's fourth grade class celebrated March is Reading month together. Throughout the month, students were able to share stories that they had written with their buddies.



Third Graders' Night in the Spotlight

Miss Berridge's third grade class celebrated March's Reading Month with an Author's Night celebration on March 29th, 2012. The classroom reserved a special night to have their published books read aloud on stage. Families were invited to hear their children share their published writing. The students have been taking the journey as authors all year. During writer's workshop, students have been working hard learning the importance of taking a piece of writing through the writing process, studying various genres and publishing pieces to share with others. Each student selected their personal favorites to share on the evening of their special "Author's Night."

The audience enjoyed listening to each author's book. Everyone was proud of how well each child spoke clearly to the audience as he/she read aloud their writing into the microphone. These third graders definitely shined in the "spotlight" when they shared their published work. What a wonderful group of fine authors we have!



North Branch Elementary Link PALS

What is Link PALS?

Link PALS is a peer to peer mentoring program that is designed to link together students with special needs and their peers. The goal of Link PALS is to empower students to act as mentors in helping their peers become more independent and social individuals. PALS are trained to advocate for and assist their peers in both academic and social environments.

Since April of 2011, North Branch Elementary has created a program called Link PALS. PALS stands for Peers Advocating for Learning & Socialization. Since beginning the program we have recruited and trained up to 70 link general education students who are currently working with 8 students with Autism. Both students, general education and students with ASD, receive benefits from participating in this program. General education students learn organization, responsibility, acceptance, and problem solving skills to handle a variety of situations such as bullying. The two main goals for students with Autism are to learn independence and socialization which they learn from their peers.

If you would like more information about Link PALS please feel free to contact North Branch Elementary.



The Grocery Give Away:
a vision turned into action.

By Adrienne Shifflett

What started as one voice hoping to make a small difference turned into 8,300 pounds of food for our community. On April 26, 2012 students from North Branch Elementary with the help of Quest and High School students volunteers were able to host our first Grocery Give Away.

After studying the differences between needs and wants in our social studies curriculum, our class learned how food is a necessity. Earlier in the year while studying community, our class decided to do something in North Branch to help others. Both of these ideas were brought together when we were offered a semi trailer load of food from North Branch Wesleyan Church and the Eastern Michigan Food Bank.

Although our young students thought they could do this project on their own, we knew we had to call in some stronger helpers. Quest and National Honor Society students along with student's parents were eager to help us and stepped up to the plate.

Our day started with the semi truck arriving at 9:30 in the morning. We unloaded 16 pallets of food off the truck with help from Ken Johnson driving the forklift. Once the pallets were off the truck, the students and volunteers carried the food into the Quest gym. After lunch the students then sorted and counted each food item to figure out how many items should go into each box. We then made 154 boxes of food to be given away at 4:00.

Although it was a long day and hard work for the first and third graders, they were able to persistently work throughout the day until the job was completed. By 3:30 we had the 154 boxes filled and were heading back to our classrooms.

During the Free Grocery Give Away we were able to give boxes of food to 154 families. We were out of food by 4:35 and unfortunately had to turn people away. This is an experience that Mrs. Bodnar's third grade class and Mrs. Shifflett's first grade class will never forget. Some of the students are already talking about what they will do next to make an even bigger difference in our community.

We would like to thank the volunteers and the North Branch Wesleyan Church that helped us make a difference. There are truly too many volunteers to name and I fear I may forget one if I try to list them all. Our volunteers helped teach our students that being a part of a community matters and that each one of us has a role to play in being a resident of North Branch.

As said by a first grade student, "We may be little kids, but we sure made a big difference."

Thank you to all of you who helped us, help our community!



Disability Awareness Day

Disability Awareness Day is a dedicated day of activities to help students become more aware of the challenges people with disabilities face every day. Autism Awareness was also highlighted for Autism Awareness Month. Fourth grade students participated in hands-on activity based workshops, and all students had a day of disability awareness activities, including books and lessons about different abilities, Leader Dog Video, 4 Therapy Dogs, and Therapy Miniature Horses! Students learned about how the animals help others, and have different abilities themselves!



Title I / PTO Parent Night

When: Tuesday, May 15 - 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Where: North Branch Elementary Gym

This is a parent-only meeting and we will cover the following topics:

- Present/Interpret Student Assessment Results
- 3rd/4th Grade M.E.A.P. (Michigan Education Assessment Program)

Results

- K through 4th Grade D.I.B.E.L.S. (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) Results

- Review / Seek Parent Input - Title I Parent Compact
- Plan for Reorganization of North Branch Elementary Parent/Teacher Organization for 2012-13

The topics listed above are intended to keep parents informed of their child's progress as well as involve them with all the enrichment activities/events we will be involved with. We hope to see you there!

Mrs. Bodnar's Class
Their Eyes Are Popping Out!

Do you remember how you would get so lost in your book that you couldn't put it down? Have you ever wanted to read the next book in a series and it isn't available? Mrs. Bodnar's terrific, third graders love to read. The students in this class get lost in their books for forty-five minutes a day, take AR computer quizzes about the books and love to talk and share what they have read. Her daily reminder to her students is that if they keep reading "their eyes will pop out!"

But her classroom library is limited and they can always use more AR books, so she looked into Donorschoose.org. This is a website that teachers across the country may register to help with funding for classroom projects. And thanks to families and friends of the class and other individuals who logged on to this website they were fully funded for \$507 in less than two weeks! The class voted from a list of books and they were able to choose 58 books. Some of the books included were non-fiction books by Steve Jenkins and books from the Franny K. Stein and Catwings series.

Thank you to all the North Branch community for their support and donations and if you would like to, check out Donorschoose.org!



2012 Water Quality Report for the Village of North Branch

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Village of North Branch for the 2011 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2011. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from three groundwater wells, each over 200 feet deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

There are no Significant sources of contamination in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by doing annual testing.

If you would like to know more about the report, please contact Ron Seaman, Department of Public Works Supervisor at Village of North Branch, Post Office Box 704, North Branch, MI 48461 Phone 810-688-3410.

• **Contaminants and their presence in water:** Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.

• **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

• **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

- Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
 - **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
 - **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
 - **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
 - **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2011 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2011. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** This means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** This means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A:** Not applicable ND: not detectable at testing limit ppb: parts per billion or micrograms per liter ppm: parts per million or milligrams per liter pCi/l: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	6	6	2008	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.12	0.1-0.12	2006	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	nd		2006	no	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.74	0.74	2011	no	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
TTHM – Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	6	4.4-6.0	2011	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	nd		2011	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL 4	MRDLG 4	1.2	.8 – 1.2	2011	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Beta emitters (pCi/L)	50 *	0	1.70	1.70	2003	no	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	<3	<3	2003	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	2.34	.9-1.44	2010	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Special Monitoring and Unregulated Contaminant **			Average Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Sodium (ppm)						Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	MCLG	90% of Samples ≤ This Level		Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0		2009	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.15		2009	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

** Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

Information about lead: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Village of North Branch is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Microbial Contaminants	MCL	MCLG	Number Detected	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Total Coliform Bacteria	>1 positive monthly sample (>5.0% of monthly samples positive)	0	0	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Fecal Coliform and <i>E. coli</i>	Routine and repeat sample total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or <i>E. coli</i> positive	0	0	NO	Human and animal fecal waste

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2011.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at the village office at 4018 Huron Street. This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The monthly council meetings are the first Thursday of the month at the village hall, meetings start at 7:00 pm. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Ronald Seaman (810-688-3410). For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

New Kindergarten and Pre-School Registration 2012-13

If you missed the April 24th Registration Day for new kindergarten or pre-school students, it's not too late.

For Kindergarten/Begin-A-Garten, children need to be five years old on or before December 1, 2012 to enroll. There will be many new and exciting changes regarding full day kindergarten next year and we need families to complete the registration process as soon as possible.

North Branch Area Schools will again be offering pre-school programs for three and four year olds. Children need to be three by September 1 or four by December 1, 2012. Our programs are half day sessions for two or three days per week.

For more information, please contact the North Branch Elementary School at 810-688-3041

Thank You North Branch Lions



A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to the North Branch Lions Club for their recent donation of funds to purchase an iPad for a high school student with a low incidence, high needs disability. Although they do not do it for the recognition, if you see a member, please thank them for everything they do for students and the community.

North Branch Days Lions Club Events

The North Branch Lions will be hosting three events during North Branch Days throughout the week of the 4th of July celebration. The first event will take place on Saturday, June 30 at 7:00 p.m. with the Auto Cross Bump and Run. The second event will be the Truck & Tractor pull on Wednesday, July 4th at 5:00 p.m. The Lawn Mower Race will be in the final event held on Saturday, July 7th at 4:00 p.m. and will cover 7 classes with mowers that will range from stock to 60 HP V-Twins with speeds ranging from 15 to 60 mph. Admission to the Bump and Run and the Truck & Tractor pull is \$5.00 for children 6-12 years and \$10.00 for adults. Admission to the Lawn Mower Races is \$5.00 per person; children 5 and under are free for all of the above events. If you want some extra fun, pit passes are available for all events for \$5.00 each. All proceeds from the Lawn Mower Race will be divided between the House of Hope, Thrift Shop, Food Bank and the Fireworks Fund. Bring out all your family, friends, and neighbors for some fun and help support our community! We are in need of volunteers for all events and would appreciate any help. If you are able to volunteer, please contact the North Branch Lions Club.

Certified Driver Training

Companies are not affiliated with North Branch Area Schools



Call 810-356-5744

Or visit www.DriveWithCertified.com



Call 810-376-4876

Or visit driversedmi.com

North Branch Days 2012 Schedule of Events

Saturday, June 30

7:00 A.M.- 7:30 A.M.
8:00 A.M.
9:45a.M. -10:45 A.M.
11:00 A.M.
After Parade
7:00 P.M.

Sunday, July 1

6:00 P.M.

Tuesday, July 3

6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, July 4

8:00 A.M. – Noon
9:00 A.M. - ?????
11:00 A.M.
1:00 P.M
2:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.
5:00 P.M.
Dusk

Saturday, July 7

4:00 P.M.

Registration 5k Walk/Run (Dr. Starbird)
5k Walk/Run Start
Children's Parade Registration
Children's Parade (Theme: Down On The Farm)
Children's Tractor Pull (Memorial Park)
Bump & Run (Lion's Field)
During Intermission - BMX Bike Race 5 – 15 Years

Bump & Run (Rain Date)

North/South Games (Saginaw/Huron)

Masonic Breakfast (Masonic Temple)
NB Firemen Chinese Auction (American Legion)
Grand Parade (Theme: Down On The Farm)
Horseshoe Tournament (Memorial Park)
Beef/Pork Dinner (NB Middle School, Brush St.)
Tractor Pull (Lion's Field)
Fireworks (NB High School)

Lawnmower Races (Lion's Field)

