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NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS

MISSION STATEMENT

North Branch Area Schools...a learning
community dedicated to excellence.

BELIEFS

- Children come first
- Each child can learn
- Collaboration among parents, children, staff, and the community is essential to school success
- Learning is a life-long experience
- A safe and caring environment is essential to quality learning
- High expectations lead to an individual's highest achievement
- In creating educational opportunities to meet individual needs
- Successful schools continually evaluate and adapt to changing needs
- The responsibility for our children's overall success rests with the entire community

NORTH BRANCH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jack Lewis, President
Ginger Russell, Vice President
Rosann Clark, Secretary
Cathy Severance, Treasurer
Kevin McCrory, Trustee
Jerry Schlaud, Trustee

Superintendent's Corner

As the holiday season quickly approaches it is important to keep the focus on the main thing—student achievement. North Branch Area Schools is a learning community...dedicated to excellence. Students completed the first trimester of the 2010-2011 school year and will soon participate in concerts, plays, classroom parties to celebrate this time of the year and many will participate in activities to benefit the less fortunate prior to the much anticipated winter break. North Branch Area Schools is a great school district with much to be thankful for.

The first sixty days of the school year consisted of reviewing information as well as forging ahead with new content. The fall athletic season, along with the marching band, is behind us and winter sports are in full swing. I am pleased to report that student's grades reflect high levels of student achievement at all buildings. At the high school, middle school and the Ruth Fox Elementary, 92% of students enrolled in math classes earned an A, B, or C. In the area of Language Arts, 85% of high school students, 94% of middle school students and 95% of Ruth Fox students earned an A, B, or C in Language Arts.

Teachers continue to identify what students need to know and be able to do, create common assessments to measure learning and implement strategies for those students who perform below expectations. Students in grades three through nine completed the annual Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) in October. Results will be available sometime in January, 2011 and should reflect adequate growth in student achievement.

Parent involvement in the education of their children is critical to their success. Many parents attended parent teacher conferences this fall. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers with any questions. North Branch Area Schools offers Skyward Parent Web Access to stay informed of their child's grades, attendance and lunch account. Soon parents will be able to use PaySchools™ which is an online payment processing system that provides an easy and efficient method to collect fees and receive electronic payments for school lunches, field trips, registration, prom tickets, T-shirts and any other school-related fees.

On behalf of the Board of Education, faculty and staff, I wish you a very warm and relaxing Holiday Season.

Thomas A. English
Superintendent

North Branch Grads receive National Honors

The College Board recently recognized two students from the NBHS Class of 2010 who earned the AP Scholar Award based on their outstanding academic performance on last spring's Advanced Placement Exams.

Brandon Parmenter was awarded the AP Scholar award for earning scores of 3 or higher on the three Advanced Placement exams that he took.

Elliott Orr was designated with an AP Scholar with Distinction award for receiving an average score of 4.0 on all AP exams taken, AND scores of 3 or higher on the five AP exams that he took.

Congratulations Gentlemen on this excellent academic achievement!



Elliott Orr



Brandon Parmenter

DISTRICT NEWS

2009-2010 Fiscal Year End General Fund Financial Report

By Cheryl Bruff Director of Finance & Business

The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 was presented to the Board of Education at their regular meeting October 25, 2010. Yeo & Yeo, P.C. gave the district an excellent evaluation regarding the financial review conducted by their firm. In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the district had operating revenues of \$20,041,908. The district expenditures were \$20,208,839 resulting in a reduction of \$166,931 to the fund balance. The current fund balance is 11.8% of the operational expenditures for 2009-2010.

North Branch Area Schools employed 132 teachers, 118 support staff, 11 administrators and a number of substitute workers. The school district is one of the largest employers in the area and the majority of our employees live within the boundaries of our school district. Since the school district’s main resource is its personnel, this is the largest expense of the district, and approximately 87% of the total expenditures were for wages and benefits paid to district employees.

The student enrollment for the Fall count of 2009 was 2,523 pupils, which is down by only 2 students from the February 2009 count. In May of 2010, we had 186 students graduate from the high school. Approximately 85% of these students have enrolled in college or the military.

The district’s property base declined in 2009. Property values decreased from 349.2 million in 2008 to 336.1 million in 2009. This represents a 3.75% decrease over the previous year. The five-year average growth in property value is 3.8%.

Although the district is financially sound, the economic environment has caused considerable concern over future funding for schools. Our greatest concern is that the state provides over 90% of the operating revenue to the district so our resources are directly impacted by the issues affecting the state both economically and politically. This is not a unique problem for North Branch Area Schools it impacts all the public schools in Michigan.

North Branch Area Schools General Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Year Ended June 30, 2010

	General Fund
Revenues:	
Local Sources	\$1,296,699
State Sources	\$16,942,509
Federal Sources	\$1,665,986
Transfers In	\$136,714
Total Revenues	\$20,041,908
Expenses:	
Instruction	\$12,852,412
Support Services	\$6,840,548
Transfers out	\$467,182
Capital Outlay	\$48,697
Total Expenses	\$20,208,839
 Net Change in Fund Balance	 (\$166,931)
 Beginning Fund Balance	 \$2,548,911
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,381,980

School Board Recognition Month

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month—a time to salute the work of school board members and celebrate public education.

The theme, “School Boards LeadStrong,” reflects our combined commitment to leadership and accountability assuring that ALL children succeed.

The North Branch Area School District, school board members must develop policies and make tough decisions on complex educational and social issues impacting the entire community. They bear responsibility for an annual budget of \$20 million, over 2500 students, 250 employees and 5 buildings. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children—what they learn, who will teach them and what kinds of facilities house their classrooms.

Our board of education, and the hundreds like it across the state, enables us to have local control of public schools, meaning that decisions on school programming are made by local, elected representatives who understand the community’s unique problems, values, culture and circumstances.

Too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who represent us. This January I invite you to recognize and celebrate the work of your local school trustees. The staff and students of our district are asking all members of the community to take a moment and tell a school board member, “thanks for caring about our children.”

So, hats off to the dedicated men and women who make it possible for local citizens to have a say about education in our communities. We salute the public servants of North Branch Area School District whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible. We applaud them for their vision and voice to help shape a better tomorrow.



North Branch Board of Education:
Jack Lewis, President
Ginger Russell, Vice President
Cathy Severance, Treasurer
Rosann Clark, Secretary
Jerry Schlaud, Trustee
Kevin McCrory, Trustee

School Board Recognition Month, in January, is celebrated by 552 local and 57 intermediate school districts in Michigan, as 4,100 elected school board members are honored by their schools and community for untiring dedication to school governance.

CAFETERIA NEWS

Hi. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Louise Nellenbach and I am the new Food Service Supervisor for North Branch Area Schools. I would also like to introduce the new Food Service Secretary, Christina McLeod. Together we will try to improve the school lunch program and get it to run as smooth as possible. We thank everyone for their patience. We hope to bring in more healthy and nutritious meals.

I would like to explain to parents the components of a school lunch. If students are free or reduced they must take at least 3 of the components in order for their lunch to be at a reimbursable rate. If students receive reimbursable lunches they need to be aware of what it consists of and take what is offered in order for lunch to be considered reimbursable otherwise items will be charged as Ala Carte or entree.

A lunch consists of at least 3 of the following components:

- Meat/Meat Alternate
- Grains/Breads
- Juice/Fruit/Vegetable
- Fruit/Vegetable (2nd Serving)
- Milk

All 5 components make up a full meal; but 3 components may be taken and still be considered a reimbursable meal. Ala Carte items are “cash only” unless the student has money on their lunch account. If a student has 2 charges, he/she is not allowed to charge again until payment is made. If a student does not have a lunch and has 2 charges on his/her account he/she may get a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk. The student will receive peanut butter and jelly sandwich until a payment is made.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation.
Louise Nellenbach
Food Service Supervisor

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

North Branch Area Schools Transportation Department is striving to make your child’s trip to and from school a pleasant and safe one.

First and foremost we would like to take this time to thank everyone for being patient with our Transportation Department. Budget cuts resulted in reducing the number of routes for the 2010-2011 school year making the start of the school year a little rough. Since then we have added 3 routes which has helped to improve our service for students. Our goal in transportation is to be better today than we were yesterday.

As we head into the winter months inclement weather will cause delays, early releases and cancellations, please listen to your local radio and television stations for school closing information or consider signing up for e-ALERT to receive an email or text message with school closing information.

Just a few reminders to parents of students riding buses:

- Please have students at the bus stop 10 minutes before their scheduled stop time. Buses might run early or late for reasons such as: road conditions, substitute drivers or students not riding.
- Parents of children in 3rd grade and under need to be waiting at the stop 5 to 10 minutes before the scheduled drop time. For the safety of your child, the driver must be able to see an adult at the stop before they will drop. If no one is at the stop, your child will be brought back to the bus garage and you will be required to pick them up before 5:00 p.m.
- If you are picking your child up from school or if there is a change to their transportation for the day, please notify the school office 1/2 hour prior to dismissal.
- If your child misses the bus in the morning, please do not chase the bus to the next stop. You may call the transportation department and they will radio the driver and find a safe place for you to meet the bus.

Transportation/Bus Garage hours are from 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Thank you for your cooperation.
North Branch Transportation Department

F . A . B . S . Fun After & Before School

North Branch Area Schools’ child care program is currently registering students for the 2010-11 school year. Registration packets are available at the center.

FABS is open week days 6 AM-6:30 PM

The program is funded by user fees and is licensed by the State of Michigan.

**Check us out on the NB website
or call (810)688-4634**

North Branch is represented at the Model United Nations competition!

The Model United Nations team at the high school has begun its fall season with their opening session at Wayne State University. Students prepared by researching and reading about the topic area. This year, the topic area was child labor in Asia. Our students were then placed with students from the Detroit metropolitan area and formulated resolutions that addressed the problems and made an attempt at resolving the issues. The team of Kim Eckert, Samantha Bartle, Brad Brown, Nathan Dye, Mariah Wheaton, Dillon Mathews and Jarred Lamphere attended. The Model United Nations team also competes in the Tri Valley League twice during the middle of the school year. The Tri Valley League has over a dozen NBHS students competing. In the spring, a select group of students will compete at Hope College.



Forensics Team Takes a First!

For the first forensic tournament of the season the team posted an outstanding showing. The Forensics season opener was a place for the Broncos to show that they are ready for this year’s speech activities. The North Branch Forensics Team took first place in the Silver Division team sweepstakes. Perhaps even more impressive, every member took home a trophy. Even first time performer, Janelle Manthei (6th grader) placed 7th. Placing first were Trisha Oberlee in impromptu and Jade Topper in Prose. Placing second were Lee Stevens in original oratory, Dani Archer in informative, and Troy Manthei in extemporaneous speaking. Placing third were Rayne Johnson in poetry, and Ashley Johnson in original oratory. North Branch Speakers gathered more points per person than any other school. The team continues to practice for the next tournament which will be at Henry Ford II High School in January.



Band News

The Bronco Bands are off to a great 2010-2011 school year! The Marching Broncos have already participated in the Alma Marching Invitational and the M.S.B.O.A. Marching Band Festival, at which they earned a superior rating of a I. They had many successful performances at our home football games, and were even assisted by the 7th and 8th grade middle school band students at the October 22 home football game in a performance titled ,Seniors, Last Four Steps., The middle school band students performed , Lean On Me, as the senior band members took their last four steps off of the field.

In April, the Marching Broncos will be performing at Walt Disney World in one of their parades and will also be taking part in a workshop to create a soundtrack to one of Disney,Â’s animations! These students are still working on earning their way to Florida,Â and will continue to fundraise. So, if you spot a Marching Bronco fundraising, please consider supporting them!

All bands, grades 5-12, are currently preparing for their Christmas Concerts. The Ruth Fox Elementary and Middle School Band Concert is on December 9, 2010 at 7pm in the Ruth Fox Gymnasium. The High School Band Concert is on December 16, 2010 at 7pm at the High School Auditorium. All bands will be sure to dazzle you with their holiday selections. Please come and support our young musicians! You will not be disappointed.

Conservation Officer Visits Classrooms

By Carrie Wentz, NBHS Science Teacher

Conservation officer, Ken Kovach, visited environmental science classrooms in both the middle school and the high school on September 23rd. Students got an opportunity to learn first-hand what it takes to become and remain a conservation officer in the state of Michigan. Students in both classrooms sat mesmerized for nearly an hour as officer Kovach shared stories,



Officer Kovach brings out sample animal furs for students to identify



Officer Kovach shares information about animal furs

career related aspects of his job, and provided students with a first-hand look at various Michigan animal furs, as well as, some of the equipment he has at his disposal. When asked the following day if anyone was interested in getting into that field of work, even though opportunities are often limited, several hands went up immediately. We are hoping to have Officer Kovach visit our classrooms again in the spring to share his knowledge with another group of students.

Counselor's Corner

As we begin the second of our three trimesters, Seniors are receiving acceptance letters from colleges and now have to find ways to fund their post-secondary endeavors. To that end, the counseling department has scheduled a “Financial Aid Night” for Thursday January 13th at 7:00pm in the high school computer labs. The financial aid form (FASFA) will be discussed and tips about filling it out will be covered. It is suggested that no matter your income, each college bound student fill out a FASFA form as most scholarships are linked to the FASFA information.

“College Goal Sunday” is scheduled for February 13th between 2 and 4pm at 27 different locations around the state. This event helps parents of college bound seniors to get all of their questions answered and provides help on FASFA forms as well. There will be over \$3000 worth of prize scholarships offered just for attending. Check out the website of www.micollegegoal.org for further information.

Any Senior who retook the ACT test this past fall will have another chance to retake portions of the test this February. Our Juniors will all be taking the MME/ACT test during the first week of March. Further information will be sent home so that parents at a later date.

The counseling office usually plans an informational meeting during the April Parent/Teacher Conferences for parents of juniors. The time line for what the class of 2012 should be doing to ready themselves for college will be discussed. Sophomores interested in the possibility of attending Ed-Tech during the 2011-12 school year have recently completed a tour of the facility and its programs. An open house at the Lake Pleasant facility is scheduled for January 10th. Interviews of students interested in Ed-Tech programs will be held in February and March to determine who will get the limited number of openings at the center next year.

Drama Department Developments

What a year we have had so far. The North Branch Players started the year out singing and dancing their way in their production of , Grease., They spent countless hours preparing for their opening night on November, 18th. The production was a great success and thanks goes out to all who helped make it that way. A special thank you is sent to Gary Manthei III, Sally Eilersen, Betty Smith, Sam Skouson and Wendy Miller, all who volunteered countless hours to help make our students look and sound great.

The North Branch Players also sponsored a Halloween dance. The dance was a costume dance, which made for a lot of frights and smiles, and all who attended had a ghoulishly great time. It was a great success and helped raise money for the drama department. Thanks goes out to the Drama Club presidency, for organizing the dance and all who helped volunteer for set up and clean up.

We are currently working on our next project, an evening of One-Act plays. Please keep an eye out for these comedies as they perform on January 20th, 21st, and 22nd. One of the productions will compete in the district drama festival on Saturday, January 29th, regional competition on February 12th and state final competition on February 18th and 19th. Please come support our students as they make their run to state finals.

Attention Parents of Seniors.

Honor your senior with a special senior ad of Congratulations. Cost is \$35 for a business card-sized ad and must be print ready. E-mail to your special message to rstoverlange@nbbronzos.net. Ads are only \$30 with the purchase of a yearbook for their senior year. E-mail Ms. Stover-Lange for additional sizes and prices.

High School parents: Order your student's yearbook now. Sales close January 10, 2011. Yearbooks will be sold Fridays during all lunches with a check or cash for \$50. Yearbooks can be purchased with a name plate with checks for \$55 made out to NBHS Yearbook or by credit card at www.yearbookordercenter.com with order number 12285 or just follow the prompts to North Branch High School. This is a great gift for any North Branch student!

Businesses, Churches and Community Service Organizations: Purchase your advertisement in the BRONCONIAN North Branch High School yearbook that reaches more than 900 students and parents. Ads start at just \$35 for a business card! Contact Ms. Stover-Lange (rstoverlange@nbbronzos.net) and a yearbook student will talk with you about your advertising needs.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Successful Highway Clean-Up

By Carrie Wenta, NBHS Science Teacher

After a rainy setback on the first try, we had a very successful highway clean-up this fall. On October 4th environmental science teachers Mrs. Tumblin and Mrs. Wenta, from the middle school and high school, were joined by volunteers from their classrooms, as well as high school teachers Mrs. Stover-Lange and Mr. Wickerham, to clean a three mile stretch of highway along M-90 from the Village limit to Fish Lake Road. Both sides were cleaned and 23 bags of trash were collected. Since the programs start, 2 years ago, bad weather and lack of volunteers have kept us from cleaning our entire section. It was a great accomplishment, and both students and teachers can feel proud to have been a part of keeping our community clean.



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North Branch Equestrian Team

Congratulations to the North Branch High School Equestrian Team for ranking 10th in the State for their 2010 season. The team was victorious in winning all three District shows by numerous points each time. After District competition came to a finish, the Regional competition followed and was held in Midland the weekend of October 2nd and 3rd. For the first time in North Branch's history, the team came home with the Regional Grand Champion honor, place in 50 points above the Regional Reserve Champion team. From Regional competition, the team rode their way to the State competition which was held October 14-17 at the Midland County Fairgrounds.

This year, the team had two senior riders (Colin Hile and Olivia Saliga), one Junior rider (Larissa Pettit), and three freshmen riders (Rachel Kanasis, John Utley, and Samantha White). With six riders, the team was classified as a Class B team. Most teams which they competed with during District and Regional competition consisted of much older teams which were composed of mostly senior riders. Though a young team, no one was intimidated with their competition. Every team member strived to learn a new riding discipline over the summer months or focus on their weak points. The team was determined and was not going to settle for anything less than a State Competition appearance. As their standings show, they excelled and completed their mission.

Not only did each member learn a new discipline, but they advanced in their placing past most other riders with which they competed. The hard work and dedication granted them their state debut. Concluding the seasons, the team together received numerous first place finishes during Districts, over 20 first places at Regionals, and one first place along with any other top ten placing at the state competition. Congratulations on your success, and good luck next year Equestrian Team!

It's a Zoo in that Classroom

By Carrie Wenta, NBHS Science Teacher



Whispering Pines speaker, Christina Elya with Burmese Python



Whispering Pines speaker, Christina Elya, holding Fennec Fox while students Travis Olson and Tommy Hoebeke look on in the background

On November 4th, Whispering Pines Animal Kingdom, Zoo and Rescue Center, visited with Mrs. Wenta's macro biology students. Students had just completed a study of ecology, thus providing them with a chance to learn more about the habitats, niches, and adaptations of eleven different animals brought from the zoo. Animals included a marine toad, an invasive species and another concept students have been studying, an American alligator, African pygmy hedgehog, rainbow boa, Burmese python, alligator snapper, coati, fennec fox, a two-toed sloth, and a macaque monkey with a mind all her own. The hour was packed with great information, and a lot of excited students. Our guest speaker even put the students on the spot, asking them questions about some of the organisms. It was a great opportunity for these high school students and we thank Whispering Pines and our speaker, Christina Elya, for the visit. We hope to be bringing her back to share again in both the 2nd and 3rd trimesters of this year.



Whispering Pines speaker, Christina Elya, holding African pygmy hedgehog for students to touch. Students: Elsie Raymond touching hedgehog and Maria Gribowskas in background



Whispering Pines speaker, Christina Elya, takes out Ozzy the two-toed sloth for closer inspection by students.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Digital Book Reports

Students in 8th grade computers class recently created Digital Book Reports. Students worked in groups to create a digital book report using digital cameras, PowerPoint, recordable microphones and Camtasia software. Students were responsible for writing, directing and producing their digital book reports. The groups did a fantastic job!

Two of the projects were submitted to The Book Jam Digital Book Report Contest, sponsored by Recorded Books K-12. These two entries are currently being considered for finalist selection. If either entry is selected to be a finalist, it will be available for public voting on November 15, 2010. Good Luck Students!



Shane Skalski

Spelling Bee Coming to NBMS in February

Once again, North Branch Middle School will host a local Spelling Bee contest in early February to determine the champion and the next two top finishers. These three students will go onto the Countywide Spelling Bee in March. Starting in January, the students will have the option of participating in the local Bee. They will have to have parental permission and then will receive a list of study words. Over the past years, we have had students that have gone on to win the County Spelling Bee and then have represented NBMS well by traveling to Washington, DC and competing nationally. Will one of our students be the next champion to travel to DC...Time and practice will tell, but you can only win if you are persistent with the practice and willing to step up to the challenge. Check out our webpage for the details of the local contest.

Student Council Helps out at Holiday Time

Students at North Branch Middle School will again assist families during the holiday season by giving to a set number of families. Last year we were able to assist three families in providing clothing, toys, and other gifts to make the holidays a little brighter. The Student Council organizes this activity and helps with the wrapping for all of the donated items. The Student Council members also worked with the North Branch Emergency Aide to provide basic needs to local families. The students deliver the goods to the North Branch Thrift Shop and then help in dividing the products so they can be easily distributed to the people in need.

Students of the Month for October and November

The North Branch Middle School staff has chosen the October and November Students of the Month. Each month the selected students will be featured in one of

the building showcases and on our school webpage throughout the month. These students are selected based on the following criteria: citizenship, work ethic, leadership, and academic achievement. Each student has also received Stephen Covey's book

"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens." Congratulations to the October students: Austin Abbey, Mariah Calvert, Lance Chapman, Calla McNulty, and Ashley Orebaugh and to the November students: Emma Brandt, Trevor Burhans, Tyler Burhans, Daniel Hagopian, and Samantha Schlaud.



Book Fair- A Huge Success

North Branch Middle School Media Center held a Book Fair through Scholastic Books from October 26th - November 3rd. Students were able to visit the Fair through their social studies classes during the week of Oct. 26-29 and parents were able to stop in at the Book Fair during Parent Teacher Conferences on October 28th and November 2nd. When all sales were complete, the NBMS Media Center was able to receive \$1100 worth of books due to the amount of total sales. These books will be added onto our shelves and students will be offered a larger selection of books to choose from when getting their Accelerated Reading (AR) points based on their personal goals. Special thanks go to Mrs. Lori Shaver, the Media Center paraprofessional at NBMS, who organized and put the Book Fair together and to the parent volunteers that ran the Book Fair during the Parent Teacher Conference evenings. These volunteers were: Linda Berlin, Sheila Burgess, Brenda Coster, Melanie Evans, Anne Gowan, Linda Kaiser, Becky Kleinknecht, Kelly Lewis, Holly Mabery, Tara Neff, Sherry Orebaugh, Debbie Ruhlman, Judy Scinta, Tina Sutter, and Linda Thibadeau, and Becky Volz. Thank you to all that support our media center.



Environmental Science Class is Involved

Mrs. Tumblin is involved with a community grant project called Earth Force in which she works directly with James Emmerling at Lapeer ISD and Mrs. Carrie Wenta from North Branch High School. The grant was started last spring when students from the high school and middle school collected water samples and analyzed these samples. This fall they have worked toward a couple of environmental projects as a group. One of which was the M-90 Highway Clean-up between Whistle Stop and Fish Lake Road. The three-mile clean-up has been the charge of the Environmental Science Club for the past two and a half years. The middle school environmental class also traveled to the Formar Nature Center this fall. The students in this class are working toward recycling in the two buildings and are working on getting more trash receptacles outside the buildings along with plastic receptacles inside to help with recycling. Thank you for helping clean up our world.



Choir Club Started

Mrs. Robyn Parton has volunteered to start a choir club this fall at North Branch Middle School. She has 12 - 15 students who are interested in music and will learn about singing and reading music. She would like to continue to bring more students into the club each week. The students have had the opportunity to express what kind of music they are interested in and choose what they would like to belt out for a choir concert that will be presented in the future. Mrs. Parton has also developed a choir at the elementary schools. She is hoping to present a couple of concerts throughout the year and has one already planned for December 20th at the elementary gym starting at 5:30pm. All three choral groups will present holiday songs.

Counseling News

By Mrs. Strump, Counselor

Each school year, NBMS focuses on three career pathways.→† This year we are highlighting the following:

Trimester 1 - HUMAN SERVICES

- Military and Civil Service • Law and Law Enforcement
- Government and Politics • Education and Child Care
- Counseling, Social Services, Religion

Trimester 2 - NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRISCIENCE

- Natural Resources and Environment • Agriculture
- Earth Science and Agriscience • Fisheries, Horticulture, Wildlife

Trimester 3 - HEALTH SCIENCES

- Dentistry, Dental Hygiene • Medicine, Nursing
- Therapy and/or Rehabilitation • Diet and Nutrition • Physical Fitness

During the month of November, our focus is on career exploration. I will be assisting Mr. Barkowska and Ms. Woodruff with the students in the computer lab. Students will be working on their Educational Development Plan (EDP). EDP documents the ongoing process in which a learner identifies both career goals and a plan of action to achieve them. The purpose of the EDP is to provide every student with an ongoing record of career planning that will help guide them in selecting→†careers that align with their aptitude, interests and strengths.

If you or someone you know would like to be a guest speaker (expertise in any of the career pathways listed) at our Career Fair, please contact Shelly Cranick (scanick@nbbronocs.net) or Sue Strump (sstrump@nbbrncos.net), or call (810) 688-4431.

MS Yearbooks Go On Sale

The Middle School Yearbook is now being sold. For many years, the yearbook class has not had to make any increases in price, but the economy has caught up with yearbook sales. In order to be able to make the program self-sufficient a very difficult decision of raising the price to \$28 and late orders to \$30 was made. This will help in replacing the old cameras the class uses, along with purchasing and updating the photo programs. We are offering a certificate program this year with Birthday, Christmas, and Valentine,→†s gift certificates. These certificates would be purchased and used as a gift. The student would then redeem the certificate for their yearbook in the spring.

For the first time, we are also offering Sponsor Certificates. This is for someone who would just like to make sure that a child (no specific child in mind) gets a yearbook and would like to make a tax deductible donation. If you are interested in any of these certificates, please contact Chris McNulty, the Yearbook Sponsor at cmcnulty@nbbrncos.net or 810-688-4431, ext. 2222.

Toys for Tots Drop Box Located at NBMS

North Branch Middle School will be once again hosting a drop box for the county collection of Toys for Tots. We will start collecting toys, games, and cash the week before Thanksgiving. If you would like to drop off a new toy for a child of any age, please feel free to drop the toy or game during our school hours 7:00am ,→† 4:00pm Monday ,→† Friday. Last year, we collected over 150 toys and games and \$275 in cash to assist local families with holiday help. We are hoping to match or better these figures for the 2010 Holiday Season. The Cranick Christmas Cash Train will once again be offered to collect charitable monetary donations toward toys. You may donate money and have your name placed on a boxcar that will be displayed around the middle school office. If you are in need of a receipt for a charitable donation, please request this.

NBMS IS GOING GREEN!!

With the help of Michigan Green Schools, a non-profit agency, we are on our way to becoming officially recognized as one of many GREEN public and private schools by the state governor. To obtain a GREEN school status, students must participate, construct, and lead educational environmental activities. These environmental goals are to promote awareness, stewardship, and practice. Students enrolled in first trimester,→†s Environmental Science class are in the developing stages of completing a total of ten environmental activities that promote the protection of the land, water, air, and animals of our state. Some of the activities include: implementation of a school wide recycling program for paper, plastic, and tin, adopting an endangered animal, constructing a bluebird habitat, recycling print cartridges, batteries, and magazines, local water testing, managing a Michigan native garden and more.



Students in the third trimester class will continue to implement these activities while we submit our data and application in the spring. The pursuit for a GREEN status is also in conjunction with an Earth Force national grant received last year to implement community service learning projects. Please support and help the environmental science students reach this level of becoming a GREEN school here at North Branch Middle School.

Gotcha Good Winners

Students do great things every day at North Branch Middle School and when caught, they are given a Gotcha Good coupon. Students enter this coupon into a drawing and at the end of each month four winners are drawn out of all of these fantastic students. The winners for Gotcha Good for the months of September and October were: Tyler Burhans, Lance Chapman, Chris Hodges, Reece Joliceour, Maria Lovasz, Mikey Spain, Jared Swadling, and Jenna Youngert. Each student received a gift card from Subway or Sunrise. Congratulations!



Drama, Drama, Drama!

Most people would say that there is entirely too much drama involved with young adolescents! We are learning however, that some kids can, get enough drama! A new elective this year at the Middle School is Introduction to Drama. Dramatic concepts are being explored by a group of young Thespians. They have researched the history of theater and created presentations to their class on a specific period ranging from the Greeks to modern times. Students have also practiced with enthusiasm the proper use of their voices, studied character development, and learned simple stage directions. Their culminating project is producing a number of simple scenes or one-act plays. The plays vary in genre with the drama “A Christmas Truce” set during WWI, to the humorous Irish tall tale ,→†The Giant’s Wife.” Other featured plays are a folktale “Count Alaric’s Lady” and dramas “Fourteen” and “A Matter of Husbands” Included is also a scene from the play “You CanTake it with You” ,→†The challenge,” said Mrs. Parsons, “was finding enough short plays which would allow everyone to show off their talent! I anticipate seeing several of these students performing in productions in their high school careers!” Break a leg young actors!

Middle School Storytellers



Approximately 30 seventh and eighth grade students have been learning different ways of telling stories. They are learning how to tell stories using sign language, action and sound, folding and drawing, paper cutting, story puzzles, magnetic and felt boards.

The students are working on posture, eye contact and usage of voice. Students are working on speaking in front of their peers and then will be performing the story they have chosen in front of an elementary classroom.

Three students have shared their Halloween themed stories with Mrs. Barrow’s second grade class and they also recited a poem for the middle school students.

MS Student Council Continues to Work with NB Emergency Aide

The Student Council has monthly collections for the North Branch Emergency Aide. October was peanut butter and jelly; November is canned green beans, corn, peaches, pears, pineapple; December will have students bringing in hats, mittens, scarves; January is boxed macaroni and cheese, and canned soups; February is personal hygiene products (deodorant, hair products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.); March is cereal; April is baby products (food, formula, diapers, wipes, bottles, pacifiers, etc.); and May is toilet paper and Kleenex. Items will be collected in FOCUS Hour. We would like to continue to encourage our students to help out with this endeavor and help those within our community.

North Branch Broncos Sports News

By the time this School Talk edition goes out to the public, North Branch will have completed its fall sports' season and will just be starting contests in boys' and girls' basketball, competitive cheer, and wrestling. Before we preview the winter season, we would like to congratulate the varsity volleyball team on winning its 7th consecutive TVC East Championship and 6th consecutive District Championship. As of the deadline for this publication, the team was just beginning Regional play. Also, congratulations to Morgan Sawgle on qualifying for the Div. II State Cross Country Meet as a freshman and finishing 87th with a time of 19.48.2 which is good for second best in school history. Equally impressive is that 119 of 210 student-athletes earned a 3.2 or higher grade point average through the first trimester mid-term for an impressive 56.67% of our athletes. In addition, the varsity volleyball team earned Academic All-State recognition with a team grade point average of 3.62. Finally, Catherine Brusie with a 3.906, Danika Racknor with a 3.749, and Hailey Smillie with a 4.004 will be honored later this year as Individual Academic All-State as all 3 have grade point averages above 3.7 which was the minimum to qualify for the award. When it comes to high school sports, it has always been our philosophy that educational athletics is much more than wins and losses as the vast majority of our student-athletes become successful leaders in their post-high school years.

Winter Sports Preview

Boys' Basketball: Jim Marshall enters his sixth season as the varsity basketball coach with an overall record of 52-59 after guiding the team to a 14-9 record last year for its second consecutive winning season and the most wins since the 2001-2002 season. North Branch finished 7-5 good for a tie in the TVC East Division and advanced to the District Finals after winning two District games. The Broncos also won the Harry C. Moore Christmas Tournament for the first time in school history. The Broncos will only return 3 letter winners from last year's team but will have an influx of talent from the JV squad. Highlights on the schedule include playing Yale at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m. and hosting the Harry C. Moore Christmas Tournament on December 29 and 30.

Girls' Basketball: Willie Deshetsky begins his third season as the varsity basketball coach with an overall record of 25-22 after guiding the team to an outstanding 15-9 record last year for its best season since the 2002-2003 campaign. The Lady Broncos also finished 9-3 in the TVC East Division good for second place. Most noteworthy, the team won its first District Championship since the 1988 season (a span of 22 years). The team will return two starters for their third varsity season and two other letter winners as well as a slew of talent from the JV squad. Highlights on the schedule include playing Yale at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, December 11 at 8:30 a.m. Also, league rival Frankenmuth will visit North Branch on February 18.

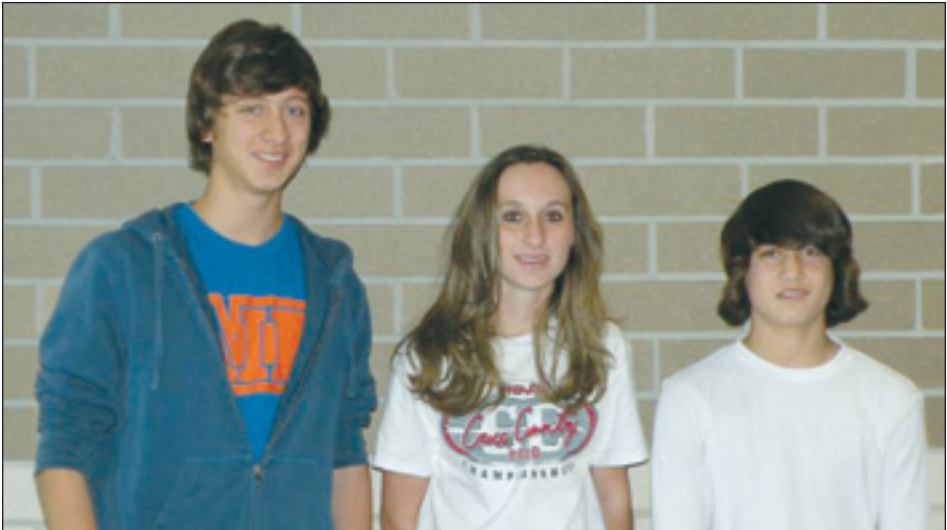
Boys' and Girls' Bowling: Bill Barkowska enters his second season as the bowling coach and is optimistic about improving on last year's performances. The boys' team will return 8 letter winners and will be looking to complete for a league title while the girls' team is still recruiting to get enough players to have a full team. North Branch will host its first ever bowling meet on Saturday, February 5th at the Mayville Lanes.

Competitive Cheerleading: The competitive cheer program continues to grow and improve under the direction of Krystal Gyomory. Last year, the team scored its highest point total ever in tournaments and finished in third place in the TVC West Division. This year North Branch could have up to 18 returning letter winners. With that much experience, the Lady Broncos are looking to improve on its 11th place Regional finish. Also, North Branch will host its first ever meet on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Wrestling: Dan Ranger has done an excellent job taking over the wrestling program at North Branch. The team improved to 16-21 last year with 14 freshmen in the line-up most of the season. Also, the team went from last place in the TVC East to a 3-3 record good for 4th place overall. The Broncos will have a whopping 17 letter winners returning this season and the whole program is extremely optimistic about how it will do in the TVC and in the State Tournament. Highlights on the schedule include the North Branch Invitational on Saturday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m. and an overnight trip to the Montague Tournament on January 29.



2010 TVC East All Conference Football
(L-R): Trevor Marceau, Honorable Mention Wide Receiver; Taylor Sullivan, 1st Team Punter; Anthony Mindelli, 2nd Team Linebacker; Ethan Deshetsky, 1st Team Defensive Line; Brandon Urchick, Honorable Mention Running Back; Tanner Frisch, Honorable Mention Defensive Back.
Not Pictured: Michael Seeley, Honorable Mention Receiver, Joe Raymond, 1st Team Running Back



2010 TVC East All Conference Cross Country
(L-R): Leonard Juengling, 2nd Team; Morgan Sawgle, 1st Team TVC East, 2nd Team All TVC, State Qualifier; Ryan Ormiston, 2nd Team



2010 TVC East All Conference Soccer
(L-R): Cody Schwartz, 2nd Team, All District; Garret Washington, Honorable Mention, All District; Dylan Johnson, Honorable Mention
Not Pictured: Phillip Ankley, 2nd Team, All District; Austin Kipp, Honorable Mention; Ben Ankley, Honorable Mention



North Branch Athletic Department hosts College Recruiting Seminar



Morgan Swagle-Cross Country State Qualifier

NORTH BRANCH WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2010

Varsity Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 07	at Imlay City	7:30
Dec. 11	at Palace vs. Yale	3:00
Dec. 14	at Caro	7:30
Dec. 17	vs. Bridgeport	7:30
Dec. 29	vs. HC Moore vs. Lap West	7:30
Dec. 30	vs. HC Moore	6:00
Jan. 07	at Frankenmuth	7:30
Jan. 11	vs. Cros-Lex	7:30
Jan. 14	vs. Birch Run	7:30
Jan. 21	vs. Garber	7:30
Jan. 25	at Millington	7:30
Jan. 28	at TVC Central Xover	7:30
Feb. 01	vs. TVC West Xover	7:00
Feb. 04	vs. Caro (Snowcoming)	7:30
Feb. 08	at Bridgeport	7:30
Feb. 15	at Lakeville	7:00
Feb. 18	vs. Frankenmuth	7:30
Feb. 22	at Birch Run	7:30
Feb. 25	at Garber	7:30
Mar. 03	vs. Millington (Senior Night)	7:30
Mar 7 through 11 DISTRICTS @ CARO		TBD

JV Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 07	at Imlay City	6:00
Dec. 09	vs. Yale	6:00
Dec. 13	vs. Caro	7:00
Dec. 16	at Bridgeport	7:00
Jan. 06	vs. Frankenmuth	7:00
Jan. 11	vs. Cros-Lex	6:00
Jan. 13	at Birch Run	7:00
Jan. 18	at Brown City	6:30
Jan. 20	at Garber	7:00
Jan. 24	vs. Millington	7:00
Jan. 28	at TVC Central Xover	6:00
Jan. 31	at Lapeer West	7:00
Feb. 01	TVC West Xover	5:30
Feb. 03	at Caro	7:00
Feb. 07	vs. Bridgeport	7:00
Feb. 15	at Lakeville	5:30
Feb. 17	at Frankenmuth	7:00
Feb. 21	vs. Birch Run	7:00
Feb. 24	vs. Garber	7:00
Mar. 03	vs. Millington	7:00

Freshman Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 07	at Imlay City	4:30
Dec. 09	vs. Yale	4:30
Dec. 13	vs. Caro	5:30
Dec. 16	at Bridgeport	5:30
Jan. 06	vs. Frankenmuth	5:30
Jan. 11	vs. Cros-Lex	4:30
Jan. 13	at Birch Run	5:30
Jan. 18	at Brown City	5:00
Jan. 20	at Garber	5:30
Jan. 24	vs. Millington	5:30
Jan. 31	at Lapeer West (scrimmage)	5:30
Feb. 03	at Caro	5:30
Feb. 07	vs. Bridgeport	5:30
Feb. 15	at Lakeville	4:00
Feb. 17	at Frankenmuth	5:30
Feb. 21	vs. Birch Run	5:30
Feb. 24	vs. Garber	5:30
Mar. 03	vs. Millington	4:30

Varsity Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 30	vs. Imlay City	7:30
Dec. 03	vs. Cros-Lex	
Dec. 11	at Palace vs. Yale	7:30
Dec. 14	at Caro	8:30
Dec. 17	vs. Bridgeport	6:00
Dec. 28	at Brown City vs. Lap W	6:00
Dec. 30	at Brown City vs. TBD	6:00
Jan. 07	at Frankenmuth	12:00
Jan. 10	vs. Millington	6:00
Jan. 14	vs. Birch Run	7:30
Jan. 18	at Lakeville	6:00
Jan. 21	vs. Garber	7:00
Jan. 25	at Millington	6:00
Jan. 27	at TVC Central Xover	6:00
Jan. 31	vs. TVC West Xover (Senior Night)	7:30
Feb. 04	vs. Caro (Snowcoming)	7:00
Feb. 08	at Bridgeport	6:00
Feb. 18	vs. Frankenmuth	6:00
Feb. 22	at Birch Run	6:00
Feb. 25	at Garber	6:00
Feb. 28 thru Mar 4	Host Districts	TBD

JV Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
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Nov. 30	vs. Imlay City	6:00
Dec. 03	vs. Cros-Lex	6:00
Dec. 09	at Yale	6:00
Dec. 13	at Caro	7:00
Dec. 16	vs. Bridgeport	7:00
Dec. 21	vs. Brown City	6:00
Jan. 06	at Frankenmuth	7:00
Jan. 10	vs. Millington	6:00
Jan. 13	vs. Birch Run	7:00
Jan. 18	at Lakeville	5:30
Jan. 20	vs. Garber	7:00
Jan. 24	at Millington	7:00
Jan. 27	at TVC Central Xover	6:00
Jan. 31	vs. TVC West Xover	5:30
Feb. 03	vs. Caro	7:00
Feb. 07	at Bridgeport	7:00
Feb. 15	at Lapeer West	7:00
Feb. 17	vs. Frankenmuth	7:00
Feb. 21	at Birch Run	7:00
Feb. 24	at Garber	7:00

Freshman Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 30	vs. Imlay City	4:30
Dec. 03	vs. Cros-Lex	4:30
Dec. 09	at Yale	4:30
Dec. 13	at Caro	5:30
Dec. 16	vs. Bridgeport	5:30
Dec. 21	vs. Capac	4:30
Jan. 06	at Frankenmuth	5:30
Jan. 10	vs. Millington	4:30
Jan. 13	vs. Birch Run	5:30
Jan. 20	vs. Garber	5:30
Jan. 24	at Millington	5:30
Feb. 03	vs. Caro	5:30
Feb. 07	at Bridgeport	5:30
Feb. 15	at Lapeer West	5:30
Feb. 17	vs. Frankenmuth	5:30
Feb. 21	at Birch Run	5:30
Feb. 24	at Garber	5:30

Varsity Wrestling

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 01	at Almont w / Armada	5:00
Dec. 04	at Capac Invitational	9:00
Dec. 08	at Yale w / Cros-Lex and Memphis (JV, also)	5:00
	at Marlette Invite	8:00
Dec. 11		6:00
Dec. 15	at Frankenmuth Quad	6:00
Dec. 28	at Mayville Invite(JV only)	8:30
Dec. 29	at Mayville Invite	8:30
Jan. 05	vs. Millington, Birch Run, and Richmond	6:00
Jan. 08	host NB Invite	9:00
Jan. 12	at Birch Run vs. Caro and Frankenmuth	6:00
Jan. 14	at Durand Tournament (JV only)	4:30
Jan. 15	at Durand Tournament	TBD
Jan. 19	at Bridgeport vs. Birch Run & Garber	6:00
Jan. 22	at Mayville Invitational	8:30
Jan. 26	at Carrollton Quad	6:00
Jan. 29	at Montague Invite	9:00
Feb. 02	at Algonac Quad	5:30
Feb. 05	TVC Meet at Birch Run	9:00
Feb 9 and 10	Team Dist at Brandon	TBD
Feb. 12	Ind. Dist at Linden	TBD

Varsity Bowling

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 18	at Birch Run/Candlelight	1:00
Jan. 08	at Swan Valley /Crooked Crk	1:00
Jan. 22	at Caro/Brentwood	3:00
Jan. 29	at Bridgeport/Candlelight	1:00
Feb. 05	at North Branch/Mayville	11:00
Feb. 12	at Caro/Brentwood	1:00
Feb. 19	TVC/Hemlock/Crooked Crk	9:00
Feb. 25 & 26	Regionals - TBD	TBD

Competitive Cheer

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 15	host NB Invite	6:00
Jan. 05	at St. Charles	6:00
Jan. 19	at Chesaning	6:00
Feb. 02	at TVC Meet /Sw n Vly	6:00
Jan. 31	vs. Bridgeport A" Teams"	5:30

8th Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 03	vs. Millington	5:00
Nov. 04	at Frankenmuth A" Teams"	5:30
Nov. 08	vs. Caro	4:30
Nov. 09	at Birch Run	4:30
Nov. 15	vs. Bridgeport A" Teams"	5:30
Nov. 17	vs. Garber A" Teams"	5:30
Nov. 23	at Millington	4:30
Nov. 29	vs. Frankenmuth A" Teams"	6:00
Dec. 01	at Caro	4:30
Dec. 06	vs. Birch Run	4:30
Dec. 08	at Bridgeport A" Teams"	5:30
Dec. 13	at Garber A" Teams"	5:30
Feb. 22	at Birch Run	4:30

7th Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 03	at Millington	4:30
Nov. 04	at Frankenmuth A&B"Teams"	3:00
Nov. 08	at Caro	4:30
Nov. 09	vs. Birch Run	4:30
Nov. 15	vs. Bridgeport A" Teams"	4:30
Nov. 17	vs. Garber A" Teams"	4:30
Nov. 23	vs. Millington	
Nov. 29	vs. Frankenmuth A&B" Teams"	5:00
Dec. 01	vs. Caro	4:00
Dec. 06	at Birch Run	4:30
Dec. 08	at Bridgeport A" Teams"	4:30
Dec. 13	at Garber A" Teams"	4:30

Middle School-Wrestling

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 06	host NB Invite	9:00
Nov. 09	at Caro Tri	4:30
Nov. 11	Quad at Millington	4:30
Nov. 16	host Quad at NB	4:30
Nov. 23	Quad at Swan Valley	4:30
Nov. 30	host Tri at NB	4:30
Dec. 07	Quad at Hemlock	4:30
Dec. 11	TVC Meet at Caro	9:00
Dec. 14	Quad at Bridgeport	4:30

8th Grade Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 17	vs. Millington	5:00
Jan. 19	at Frankenmuth	4:30
Jan. 24	vs. Caro	4:30
Jan. 26	at Birch Run	4:30
Feb. 02	at Garber A" Teams"	5:30
Feb. 09	at Millington	4:30
Feb. 14	vs. Frankenmuth	4:30
Feb. 16	at Caro	4:30
Feb. 22	vs. Birch Run	4:30
Feb. 23	at Bridgeport A" Teams"	5:30
Feb. 28	vs. Garber A" Teams"	5:30

7th Grade Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 17	at Millington	4:30
Jan. 19	vs. Frankenmuth	4:30
Jan. 24	at Caro	4:30
Jan. 26	vs. Birch Run	4:30
Jan. 31	vs. Bridgeport A" Teams"	4:30
Feb. 02	at Garber A" Teams"	4:30
Feb. 09	vs. Millington	5:00
Feb. 14	at Frankenmuth	4:30
Feb. 16	vs. Caro	4:30
Feb. 22	at Birch Run	4:30
Feb. 23	at Bridgeport A" Teams"	4:30
Feb. 28	vs. Garber A" Teams"	4:30



All schedules subject to change



North Branch Broncos Sports News

Notes of Interest:

• The Booster club will be holding its 11th annual Reverse Raffle on Saturday, February 26 at the K of C Hall in Imlay City with dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50.00 per person which includes dinner and a chance to win over \$4,500.00 in prizes including the grand prize of \$2,000.00. Tickets may be purchased in the athletic office, from any booster member, or head coach at North Branch. Please call 688-2518 for more information.

• The fall sports’ banquet will be held on Tuesday, November 23 in the high school cafeteria beginning at 6:00 p.m.

• Individuals or families are encouraged to sign up for the Meijer Rewards Program. This can be done on-line at Meijer.com/rewards and our athletic code is #303694. Over \$2,500.00 has been raised to support athletics by those participating in this free program.

• A special thanks to Mr. Richard VanHaaften for continuing to organize the Mike Patrick Memorial Golf Outing which raised \$1,320 for the athletic department this year. Thank you to all the area men and women who participate in this tournament as your generosity is greatly appreciated.

• Thank you to Dr. Starbird for continuing to offer physicals for our youth at a greatly reduced rate. Dr. Starbird donates half of the proceeds back to the athletic department and this year presented Athletic Director Jim Fish with a check for \$1,430. Again, we greatly appreciate all Dr. Starbird does for the athletic department.

• Community members are encouraged to visit Highschoolsports.net for the most up-to-date athletic schedules.

• Tickets for the boys’ and girls’ basketball games at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Saturday, December 11 are on sale now at the athletic office. All tickets are in the lower bowl of the Palace. All tickets are \$60.00 each and include admission to the following games:

- 8:30 a.m.: North Branch vs. Yale (Girls’ Game)
- 12:30 p.m.: Michigan State (ranked #2) vs. Oakland (Men’s Game)
- 3:00 p.m.: North Branch vs. Yale (Boys’ Game)
- 7:30 p.m.: Detroit vs. Toronto



North Branch Equestrian Team (article on page 4)



Physical Therapist Dave Thibodeau, Dr. Dan Tackabury, and Dr. William Starbird

Ticket Information:

Passes are now on sale at the high school athletic office for all winter athletic events. Individual game tickets are \$5.00 for all varsity events and \$4.00 for all FR/JV games. Middle School games are \$3.00. An all-sports pass is good for all home athletic contests excluding MHSAA tournaments. An individual or family may purchase a pass at a great savings over the price of an individual ticket. Family passes are good for everyone in the immediate family up through high school. Passes are priced as follows:

- **Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball:** Individual \$40.00 and Family \$75.00 (good for all home games from middle school to varsity). These passes are good for boys’ and girls’ basketball games even if played on separate nights. It does not include the MHSAA Girls’ District Tournament at North Branch.
- **Wrestling:** Individual \$7.00 and Family \$20.00 which will include the home tournament.
- **All-Sports Pass:** Individual \$65.00 and family \$125.00 which is good for admittance into all winter events excluding MHSAA tournaments.



North Branch Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Volley Ball Teams



North Branch Middle School 8th Grade Football

Soil Conservation Winners!!!

Ruth Fox Elementary has always had strong participation in the Lapeer County Soil Conservation Program annual poster contest and this year proved to be no exception! Under the direction of Mr. Withey and Mrs. Mitchell, students' entries were better than ever! The county had nearly 500 entries in the 4th - 6th grade category and we had a both the first and second place winners in our building. Joshua Gray (WALY Team) placed first while Kevin Zender (MMS Team) placed second! We also had a larger number of honorable mentions! We are very proud of our students' work!



Pictured are: Mr. Withey, Joshua Gray (1st Place winner), and Pat Wright (Lapeer Soil Conservation District)



Pictured are: (Front Row) Olivia Hurley, Syndey Fifield, (Back Row) Robert Pollick, Carson Kempa, Meghan, DuRussel, Haylee Turton, Emily Ruhlman, and Shaylynn Green. Missing from the photo is Janel Manthei.



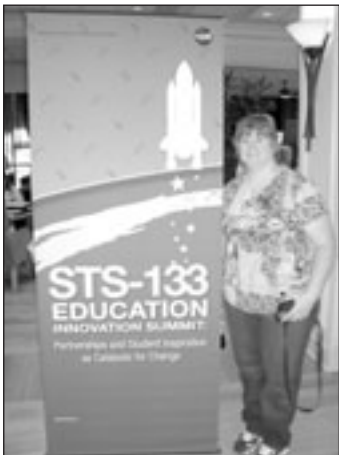
Pictured are: Syndee English, Kevin Zender, Hannah Hodgkinson, and Sevanah Grossbauer from the Mitchell, Murphy, and Stradinger Team

Annual “We’re Thankful for Veterans” Celebration at Ruth Fox!

Ruth Fox students take special pride in remembering local Veterans! Each year, students write letters and cards to Veterans for special events and invite them to an annual celebration just before Thanksgiving. What better thing to be thankful for? We should all be thankful for the freedom that we have as Americans and the students and staff show their appreciation each year by remembering and thanking those who have served the United States. During the celebration, students honor the Veterans by reading essays and poems that they have written. Following the assembly, selected students escort the Veterans to our cafeteria for conversation, coffee, and cookies! The annual celebration will be held on November 23rd. If you have any questions or you are a Veteran and would like to be added to the list, please call the Ruth Fox office at (810)688-3284.

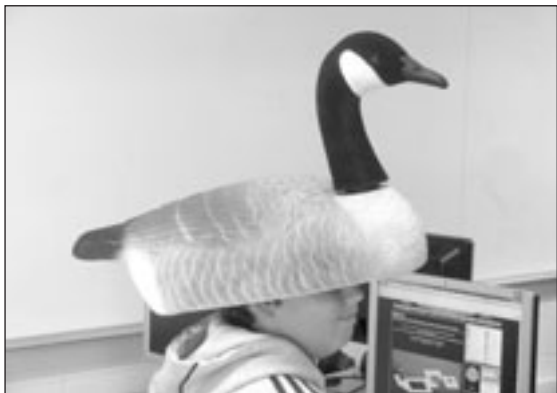
STS -133 Education Innovation Summit Attended by teacher, Cindy Mitchell

NASA invited Cindy Mitchell to the STS-133 Education Innovation Summit that was held in Orlando, Florida. The purpose of the summit was to strengthen partnerships, to identify national educational issues and to utilize efforts to motivate students to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Speakers included Mae Jemison and Ellen Baker (astronauts), Nichelle Nichols (Uhura on Star Trek), and Charles Bolden (NASA Administrator). Cindy and her fellow NASA NEAT teachers met with Leland Melvin (NASA Associate Administrator for Education, astronaut, pro football player) to discuss NASA’s role in education at the local level. The summit included a trip to the Kennedy Space Center and an invitation to the launch of the STS-133 (the final voyage of the Discovery shuttle).



Hat Day at Ruth Fox!

David Carter, a fifth grader at Ruth Fox, wins the award for the most creative hat! We have held hat days for many years here at Ruth Fox, but never have we seen a hat like this one! Students have fun with hat day and the money generated usually goes to help families who need assistance or for another good cause!



Bronco Pride

We might be little, but we have a lot of school pride! Students at Ruth Fox Elementary participated in Spirit Week (which was organized by a group of sixth graders)!



Pictured are fifth grade students Grace Pfromm, Elaine Youngert, Olivia Sweeney, and Sydney Turner who are enjoying the Homecoming Parade!

Constitution Day at Ruth Fox

Mrs. Stevenson may have retired from teaching at Ruth Fox Elementary, but she certainly has not been forgotten! As the “self-proclaimed” building historian, Mrs. Stevenson has always thought that students should understand the history of the United States and have a love for the Constitution. Even though she is teased affectionately by her colleagues about being at the land bridge - which she, of course, was not, - Mrs. Stevenson definitely has wide knowledge of the history of the United States! Therefore, when Constitution Day was coming up, it was only natural that Mrs. Stevenson should be the guest speaker for the Ruth Fox students! She willingly put on her favorite dress and came to do a presentation for students called, “Shhhhhhhh..We’re Writing the Constitution!” Thank you, Mrs. Stevenson, we sure miss you!!!!



Ruth Fox Staff Throws a Hat’s Off Party!

The staff at Ruth Fox threw a “Hat’s Off” Party to celebrate the end of the MEAP test! Students were invited to the playground in the afternoon to hear several different speakers share some thoughts on testing. Staff also complimented students on what a great job they did during the long hours of testing! The MEAP test is a difficult test for students and they really stayed focused and did their best! The attendance during MEAP testing was also very good and we appreciate students being here for testing! At the end of the celebration, students got to toss their hats in the air and sing “Celebration” which was led by Mrs. Lewis!!!



Mrs. Yens, Mr. Withey, Mrs. Lewis



Mrs. Stradinger, Ms. Murphy, Mrs. Mitchell, and Mrs. Woodruff

Sixth Grader Isabella Kee takes over the Band!!!

Students can certainly do amazing things! Earlier this year, when the sixth grade band had a substitute teacher who didn’t have any background in music, Isabella stepped up the plate and helped out by directing the band for the teacher! Surprisingly, even though she is just in the sixth grade and has only been in band for one full year, she did a phenomenal job!!! It looks like she might have a bright future in music!!!



Ruth Fox Students Learning Through Art and Technology with Google!

The theme at Ruth Fox Elementary this year is “Learning Thought Art and Technology!” The staff just recently rolled out Google Apps for Education with their students. In joining Google, students have the opportunity to have a g-mail account, access to several freeware options, and the use of PowerPoint, word processing, and Excel. This opens up a whole new world for students who have busily been working with new presentation software, Google docs, and their g-mail accounts, of course!



Carly Warda and Olivia Sweeney are working with g-mail.

Students have been very excited about the new technology and have been eagerly learning how to use it with the help of their teachers who have spent over a year working with Michigan State University’s Educational Technology Department. The system has been carefully set up so that students cannot receive email or send email outside of the “domain” of rfb Broncos. This option was selected so that the administrators of the program could control who was sending email to students. If specific programs require that students need an email account, administrators can “white-list” a specific site to allow students to utilize it.

Google Apps for Education is a fabulous solution that allows students to access their accounts from any computer-even at home! The controls on the system follow them anywhere and keep them from accessing people outside of the “domain” of rfb Broncos. This allows students to work on PowerPoint, Excel and Google Docs from anywhere! The use of the program allows them access to a lot of Microsoft features without having to purchase them and install the software on each computer or on a home computer. As you know, it is expensive to buy programs to load on computers. This option allows students to have a lot of resources available to them even at home at no cost. Google Apps for Education is a free service provided by Google to schools!

Pizza Fun At Ruth Fox

Students at Ruth Fox have been receiving a lot of information and training in the appropriate use of technology through their classroom teachers and the computer staff. We are very excited about the world that this opens up to our teachers and students. Integrating technology into the curriculum is a very effective way to make learning fun and individualized for students!!!



Nataly Hernandez and Syndey Turner using the chat feature



Scary Faces!

Ruth Fox students celebrated Halloween in style with parties in the afternoon followed by Activity Night after school! Students had the chance to join in many fun activities during both events which included the ever-popular Haunted Kitchen! Mr. Withey and Mr. Lewis spend a lot of their after school hours decorating the kitchen to make it a fun event for kids and we appreciate all of the extra work and their time!!!



Two students enjoying Halloween!

Silinia Horne Joins the Ruth Fox Staff!

When you enter the Ruth Fox Office in the afternoon, you will be greeted by a smiling new face! Silinia Horne has joined Mrs. Brusie in the office during the afternoon as a part-time secretary! We are very excited to have her in the building and we would like to welcome her to our staff!



Mrs. Brusie and Mrs. Horne in their hats for Hat Day

WE LOVE TECHNOLOGY!

In Mrs. Eaton’s 4th grade class students are learning in new and exciting ways. We are using technology in ways we have never used before here at North Branch Elementary. Mrs. Eaton and her students use classroom “clickers” to take tests, respond to daily questions, play interactive games that review concepts and to check in each day. Students love to use these remote control looking devices to respond in the classroom. Students become even more actively engaged in their learning and are excited about the possibilities that each day brings. Mrs. Eaton loves them because she gets immediate feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of a specific lesson or concept. “Having such quick feedback changes what I know about the students immediately and I can use this information to impact my teaching, and address areas of concern right away.”



The class also uses a MOBI which is an interactive wireless tablet that students can write on. Online worksheets and PowerPoint presentations become interactive so the students and teacher can write on them to learn or instruct. Online magnetic boards and other online learning activities become usable in a classroom setting, not just on an individual computer because the image is projected onto the classroom projector screen and then can be manipulated using the MOBI.

Teaching and learning using technology is so important for our students and Mrs. Eaton’s class is very excited to be able to use these kinds of technologies each day.

Book Buddies

When walking into the North Branch Elementary School Library on Monday afternoons, you will find students from Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Fitzpatrick team, in groups of two, quietly reading around the library. In an effort to get students reading, interacting with text and enjoying reading, Mrs. Mitchell and Ms. Fitzpatrick have begun a book buddies program every Monday afternoon. Students from the Bronco Stars team, gather in the library where they have been put in pairs which are called their book buddies. The students get with their book buddy, gather their book worm which they decorated together and find a picture book that they would both like to read. Once they have found a book, they move to a quiet corner around the library where they spend the next half an hour taking turns reading and then discussing the book that they have just read. This program has helped students with their fluency, their enjoyment of reading and has also helped those students that may struggle with reading. The students enjoy every moment of this special time and look forward to it each week. A big thank you goes out to Home Depot in Lapeer for donating the paint sticks that serve as book worms for the students to use.



Ecology at Skinner Lake

Students from Mrs. Smith's class were up to their knees in Skinner Lake during a three-day Camp Lael field trip in Lapeer. With nets in hand, students dipped into the lake and found many interesting insects, including water boatmen, backswimmers, dragonfly larvae, and damselfly larvae. Students learned that dragonfly larvae have a special adaptation of hinged jaws in two different places in order to help capture prey such as other insects, mollusks, worms, and crustaceans. Many students got a chance to see the larvae through a microscope before returning the larvae to their home.



Edible Education



The students in Mrs. Bader’s 3rd grade classroom are learning about major cities in Michigan and their importance to the state. Each student was given a Michigan shaped cookie with frosting and they had to use cardinal and intermediate directions to identify the location of each city. After our activity was successfully completed, the students were able to enjoy their edible treat.

Gear Up For Kindergarten

North Branch Elementary School staff would like to invite families of Kindergarten age students for the 2011-12 school year to come to the elementary building during a normal school day to experience the school setting, gather information and have some fun.

Coming to kindergarten can be an anxious time for students and families. We have found that by getting students and parents acclimated to the school building, the teachers, and the elementary routines the transition can be more successful. North Branch Elementary School will be offering a series of sessions for parents and students of upcoming kindergarten students called "Gear Up For Kindergarten."



Mark your calendars

Session 1: February 4, 2011 (9:00-10:30a.m.)

Future students and their family will meet the kindergarten staff and school principals. During this session students will get to enjoy the experience of school breakfast, get a tour of the building, and participate in stories and songs while families gather information about the school and our programs. Staff will be on hand to address questions and concerns that may arise.

Session 2: March 3, 2011 (9:00-10:30a.m.)

During the second session students and their family will get to experience a short bus ride to learn about bus riding rules, as well as parent information about student drop-off and pick-up procedures. The school staff will be geared up to teach students how to follow some of the school routines, and allow the students to see that school is a fun and safe place to be. Parents will receive important information and forms for Kindergarten Round-Up on April 28, 2011.

Our goal is to make them comfortable here before that all important "First Day." If you have questions please feel free to call the school office at 810-688-3042 or 810-688-3041.

How does your garden grow

By: Mrs. Bower's Bunch

Our Second Graders have been busy watching our garden grow, and learning about the life cycle of a plant.

However, this is no ordinary garden! Each student became a botanist and planted a seed in soil, but each seed was included in a very unusual experiment. The control plant was fed water under normal growing conditions, while the other seeds were under an investigation that included using very unusual sources for food, such as: coke, baby oil, cider, mustard, spices, tea, Gatorade, soap, and pickle juice. Several other seeds were placed in the refrigerator, and in a dark cupboard.



Of course this experiment and observation required many days of logging data in our science journals, drawing pictures of our plants, facilitating inquiring questions in groups, writing about our plants, and learning about the germination process. Guess what? We learned all seeds do not germinate the same way (if they germinate at all.) Seeds do not sprout and grow at the same time/rate, they do not look the same when they sprout, and we learned that living things grow and change every day!

Kindergarten Scientists Explore Their World

During their first science unit, My Five Senses, kindergarteners learned to make observations about the world around them through the use of engaging, hands-on activities. Here the students are using hand lenses to explore the gardens in front of the elementary school.



Leaf Classification

Mrs. Bader's class has been studying and classifying different types of leaves. Students went on a leaf collection walk to gather various types of leaves. Small groups examined the different leaves to determine how they helped the plant survive.



LEGENDS

Look out Davy Crockett and Paul Bunyan...here comes North Branch Elementary! Fourth grade students from Elm Creek Elementary learned about the parts of retelling a story such as: characters, setting, conflict, events, and resolution. Students participated in an oral retelling of a tale about one of their favorite American legendary characters. Students who are pictured told tales about Mike Fink, Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind Crockett, and Annie Christmas. Pictured from left to right are: Alyssa Pettingill, Carlie Jones, Mikaela Page, and Tim Forsys.



MAC Pizza

The students in the MAC (multi-age class) room are becoming active readers. They became aware that readers are thinkers by making reading pizzas. Reading is similar to making a pizza. The crust is like the text of the story and the toppings represent our thinking. Real readers make reading pizzas in their brains by reading AND thinking about the words. Our students really enjoyed this hands-on approach to learning.



Sentence Chefs

To reinforce the concepts of subject, predicate and sentence structure, Mrs. Gormley and Mrs. Eaton's classes became "Sentence Chefs". The students used food to demonstrate what they know about the parts of a sentence and sentence types. They used various snack items like marshmallows, raisins, crackers, etc. to construct and model sentences. The students were making analogies between the snacks and the parts of a sentence. Each group of students had to explain their models and then they enjoyed consuming their sentence snack. The students are now wonderful "Sentence Chefs".



Story Skeletons

Mrs. Gormley and Mrs. Eaton's 4th grade students have been very busy readers this trimester. The students have taken part in their first 6 week book project. Periodically throughout the year, the students will be asked to read a book at home from a different genre and then complete a project based on the story elements and comprehension strategies that have been taught at school. This trimester the students worked on story skeletons. The students will also present their book projects to their class. The first book project was a huge success and the students proved to live up to the challenge. They were creative, interesting, and the projects sparked many students to try new books. The story skeleton project was displayed in our library. Keep watching for the next book project to come from these talented and hardworking students.



Turkeys in Disguise



The Jefferson Trails fourth graders were putting their creative hats on for a fun and interesting take home activity. The students were given a blank paper turkey to take home and with their parents help, our students helped the turkey make it safely past Thanksgiving by disguising him. Turkeys that have made it through were dressed like ballerinas, football players, farmers, hula dancers, Elvis, etc. The families thought of some very unique and creative disguises for their turkeys. The students were also asked to write a descriptive paragraph that described their turkeys. Those descriptive paragraphs were then read to the class and the other students had to guess which turkey matched the paragraph. The students practiced showing details in their writing so that the reader can visualize what the turkey looked like. They were very creative and exciting for the students to share.





DISTRICT NEWS

SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

For the most detailed information, tune in to the following radio and television stations.

WMPC 1230 AM WQUS 103.1 WCRZ 107.9
WNEM (Channel 5) WJRT (Channel 12) WDIV (Channel 4)

Other radio and television stations may pick up the announcements through the Michigan State Police Lien Network.

Or visit: www.cancellations.com

Sign-up for e-Alert and receive a text message or e-mail every time school will be closed or delayed. Forms are available in "e-Alerts" on the district website at www.nbbronzcos.net.

- The decision to cancel the regular school day program is usually made about 5:30 am/no later than 6:00 a.m. if possible. Only in unusually severe weather conditions is a decision made the night before.
- Occasionally school is dismissed early because of weather or afternoon kindergarten classes may be cancelled. These announcements will be made on the same stations indicated above.
- It is very important that all parents talk with their children about the procedure to be followed in the event of early release. The school must be notified in advance of any special arrangements or transportation.
- Planning in advance reduces stress and anxiety for your children and saves many last minute phone calls to the school.
- In the event of a tornado or severe thunderstorm watches/warnings it may be necessary to extend the school day rather than send children home in threatening weather.
- Generally, decisions or information about athletic events and other extracurricular activities on days when school is cancelled will be made after 10:30 a.m.
- Elementary students are returned to the school if the bus driver determines they cannot be left at home.
- Parents and students are also asked to avoid calling the bus garage on snowy mornings to inquire about school closings.
- Decisions about school cancellation or early dismissal are made in the best interest of student safety.

BEFORE THE INCLEMENT WEATHER HITS, SIGN UP FOR NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS' e-ALERT . . .

North Branch Area Schools, in cooperation with the Tuscola County Advertiser, Mix 92.1 and TuscolaToday.com, is once again offering a free method for contacting parents and staff in the event of a school closing - the North Branch Area Schools e-Alert. This system will be used to announce delayed openings and school closings in addition to TV2, TV4, TV5, TV7, TV 12, TV 25, KCQ 98.1, WKYO 1360, Mix 92.1, WNGS 103.1, WCRZ 107.9, WMPC 1230, WBGV 92.5, and WJR 760.

How does the system work?

Log on to <http://www.tuscolatoday.com> and create a free membership. After registering, click "Profile" at the top of the page, and then click "Subscribe to or manage e-mail and cell phone alerts" on the page that opens. Scroll down to North Branch Area Schools to select that alert. You can also "unsubscribe" at this location.

If you registered for this service in prior years, there is no need to sign up again. If you need to change your phone number or e-mail, use the above instructions to unsubscribe from the list, and then subscribe again using your new information.

When school is cancelled or delayed, registered members will receive an e-mail, text message, or both with closing information according to your selections.

THIS IS A FREE SERVICE.

The system is Internet based, allowing family members to maintain a secure, password protected online profile. You can log into your profile at any time to update your contact information. Maintaining the accuracy of your profile will increase the ability of the school to keep you informed.

The protection of your personal information is very important to us. Our alert system will not be used by any organization other than North Branch Area Schools for the purpose of sending instant delayed school openings or school closings.

Your online profile will enable you to:

- Input your personal contact information (cell phone number and e-mail address where you would like to receive alerts)
- Select North Branch Area Schools e-alert
- Take advantage of all other features offered on <http://www.tuscolatoday.com>

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS? NEED HELP SOLVING A PROBLEM?

You are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals to assist you in answering your school-related questions, or to assist you in resolving problems. We are always open to your suggestions and ideas for improving North Branch Area Schools.

Thomas A. English, Superintendent810-688-3570
Marianne Fleet, Special Education Coordinator810-688-3570
Cheryl Bruff, Director of Finance & Business810-688-3570
Mike Cranick, Transportation.....810-688-3660
Louise Nellenbach, Food Services810-688-2226
Leann Gwinn, FABS Child Care.....810-688-4634
District Website www.nbbronzcos.net

HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, Principal810-688-3001
John Sherman, Asst. Principal810-688-3001
Jim Fish, Asst.Principal / Athletic Director810-688-2518
Richard Stevens, Counselor810-688-3564
Deanna Surrence, Counselor810-688-3564
Georgette Aguilar, Quest High School810-688-7581

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Shelly Cranick, Principal810-688-4431
Susan Strump, Counselor810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, Principal810-688-3284
Tammy Siegler, Counselor810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

Merry Hosner, Principal810-688-3041
Wendy Spivy, Principal810-688-3042
Brenda Jefferey, Counselor810-688-3041