



School Talk

www.nbbroncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

December 2015



Thomas A. English would like you to join

remind 15-16 NBAS Cancellations!

To receive messages via text, text **@nb20152016** to **81010**. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @nb20152016'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting **@nb20152016** to **(248) 419-0773** instead.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email to **nb20152016@mail.remind.com**. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

WHAT IS REMIND AND WHY IS IT SAFE?

Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps teachers share important updates and reminders with students & parents. Subscribe by text, email or using the Remind app. All personal information is kept private. Teachers will never see your phone number, nor will you see theirs. Visit remind.com to learn more.



Enter this number

Text this message



Superintendent's Corner

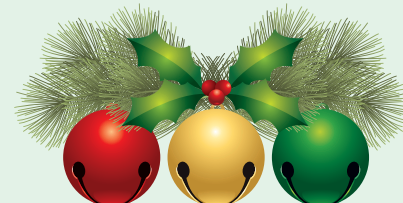


On behalf of the North Branch Area Schools Board of Education, administration and staff, I wish you a joyous holiday season and warm wishes for a prosperous

new year. Our students are fortunate to have the community's continual support. Now is a great time to pause and reflect on the accomplishments of our children and begin the goal setting process for the New Year. This edition of School Talk will showcase some of the many highlights since the beginning of the school year. Be sure to visit the district website for news and updates.

The safety of our students is a priority so remember to update your contact information in Skyward Family Access to be sure you receive school closing announcements in the event the weather causes dangerous driving conditions. School closing announcements are made as early as possible after inspecting the roads and consulting with the Road Commission. You are invited to join my "Remind" 15-16 NBAS Cancellations Class for a very efficient method of notification through text messages and/or email. Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that will allow me to share important information about school cancellations. To receive messages via text, text @nb20152016 to 81010. To receive messages via email, send an email to nb20152016@mail.remind.com.

Finally, the district will soon be on winter break. The students last day of school before the break is December 18. School resumes Monday, January 4, 2016. Be sure to get into the holiday spirit by attending one of the holiday concerts performed by the various bands, join in the fun of experiencing the Old Fashioned Family Christmas on December 11 (6 pm) at the Ruth Fox to raise money to send students to Space Camp this summer and above all else, enjoy the season with friends and family. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



North Branch Area Schools 2015-2016 Calendar

| DECEMBER 2015 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

21 - 31 Winter Break
Christmas Day

| JANUARY 2016 | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

1 Winter Break
4 School Resumes
18 No School
21 HS Parent Conferences

| FEBRUARY 2016 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | | | | | |

3 Count Day
12 No School

| MARCH 2016 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

17 ELE Parent Conferences
17 Trimester #2 ends
18 No school
21 Trimester #3 begins
25 No School (Good Friday)
27 Easter Sunday

| APRIL 2016 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

4 - 8 Spring Break

| MAY 2016 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

5 HS Parent Conferences
30 No School (Memorial Day)

| JUNE 2016 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | Th | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

17 Last Day of School
1/2 day for students

NB Elementary Schedule:

Full day=8:38 am to 3:42 pm
½ day=8:38 am to 12:15 pm

Food Service News

North Branch Area Schools continues to operate our own food service program for the 2015-16 school year and we promise to continue to deliver healthy, good, quality food and services to you and your children.

Breakfast is offered daily in all schools. Students who eat breakfast perform better in school. Research shows that students who eat a healthy breakfast show increased attention at school, visit the nurse less often and have lower rates of tardiness and absenteeism.

If a doctor has determined that your child has a special food sensitivity/allergy that would prevent the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make ANY SUBSTITUTION PRESCRIBED BY A LICENSED PHYSICIAN. The physician's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department before any special diet can be given to your child. These forms are available through the food service office and need to be filled out by a licensed physician. This provision is State mandated.

All applications for Free and Reduced Price School Meals submitted to the food service department have been processed. Those families qualifying for free or reduced meals have received their notification and code. As of October 16, 2015, if the school did not receive a new application for the 2015-2016 school year, the family has been adjusted to a paid/normal lunch (PLEASE SEE THE CHART BELOW FOR THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR.)

FEDERAL ELIGIBILITY INCOME CHART

For School Year 2015-2016

| Household Size | Annual | Monthly | Weekly |
|--|----------|---------|---------|
| 1 | \$21,775 | \$1,815 | \$419 |
| 2 | \$29,471 | \$2,456 | \$567 |
| 3 | \$37,167 | \$3,098 | \$715 |
| 4 | \$44,863 | \$3,739 | \$863 |
| 5 | \$52,559 | \$4,380 | \$1,011 |
| 6 | \$60,255 | \$5,022 | \$1,159 |
| 7 | \$67,951 | \$5,663 | \$1,307 |
| 8 | \$75,647 | \$6,304 | \$1,455 |
| *Each additional household member add: | \$7,696 | \$642 | \$148 |

Qualifying for Free and Reduced Meals

Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced price school meals if your household income falls within the limits on this chart.

If your household income changes at any time during the school year, you may submit another application. Also, if you receive food assistance, you may qualify for free or reduced meals.

School meals follow the USDA guidelines:

Menu items are offered from all 5 components seen to the right. Your child must select at least 3 of the 5 components (for all grades) for their choices to be considered a meal, which is priced as a unit. If they choose less than the minimum required, their account will be charged separately for each item.



2015-2016 Meal Pricing

| | Breakfast | Lunch |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Elementary (Pre-K – 4): | \$1.45 | \$2.35 |
| Ruth Fox Elementary (5-6): | \$1.45 | \$2.35 |
| Middle & High School (7-12): | \$1.65 | \$2.75 |
| Adult Meals: | \$2.75 | \$3.75 |
| Free Meals: | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Reduced Meals: | \$0.30 | \$0.40 |

Milk is included with all meals; however, if purchased without a meal it is considered ala carte and is charged \$0.50.

Payment for meals is due at the time of purchase. No charging is allowed. Meals are deducted at the time of purchase and are on a debit system. Meals may be paid for with cash/check or on-line through PaySchools. Payments can be mailed to: North Branch Area Schools, ATTN: Food Service, PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461. If you would like more information on how to pay for school meals, please visit Family Access at www.nbbrnconet.net.

Policy Regarding Food Service Accounts

It is the school's policy that once an account is negative \$5.00, or more, the student will receive a Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich with white milk for their lunch until payment (or payment arrangements) is made.

Thank you for your participation in the breakfast and lunch program at North Branch Area Schools. Please contact our new Secretary, Billie Dhooghe or Food Service Department Supervisor, Louise Nellenbach at (810)688-2226 with any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website under departments on the District Home Page (www.nbbrnconet.net) for more information.

What Is Ala Carte?

Ala carte items are "Cash Only" unless there is money on the child's food service account. These items are not part of the breakfast or lunch reimbursable meal program. Some examples of ala carte items include – a single purchase OR extra milk or juice, cookies, chips, an additional entrée, ice cream and other non-menu items. If a parent or guardian wishes their child to only purchase a breakfast and/ or lunch, they may contact the food service office and controls may be placed on the account to block or limit ala carte purchases.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR SUBSTITUTE COOKS AND CASHIERS.
PLEASE CONTACT (810) 688-2226.**

2015 Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Once again, Mr. Harbaugh's ceramics students have created bowls for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan's "Empty Bowls Fundraiser". Tracy Fowler-Johnston, Development Manager from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan wrote the following letter:

Dear Tim and Students,

We thank you and your incredible team for creating and contributing a selection of artistically beautiful bowls for the 7th annual Empty Bowls held at the Food Bank. I know that each year becomes a bigger feat as the event continues to grow. I am extremely pleased to report that the event generated a record \$40,000 with more sponsorship and silent auction money still coming in the door. This means that over 240,000 meals will be provided to feed the hungry in our community. This would be impossible without your generous donation of bowls.

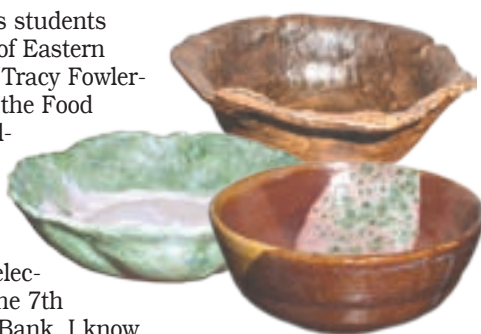
Everything from the media, clay bowls, soups & bread, tables & chairs, flowers, and the entertainment are donated for Empty Bowls, truly making it a community effort. Your donations are greatly appreciated and will be recognized on our website, Facebook and upcoming fall newsletter.

Thank you again, for helping to "change the face of hunger" one bowl at a time, supporting our mission and making Empty Bowls 2015 a huge success. With your incredible support, Empty Bowls will take place again during Hunger Action Month in September 2016. It's all about the bowls and it will be wonderful to count on your participation again!

Sincerely,

Tracy Fowler-Johnston

Development Manager, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan



Ed Tech Presentations

Just a reminder about the Ed-Tech presentation for all sophomores being held next Wednesday during 2nd hour. Students should come to 2nd hour class for attendance and then come to the auditorium when they hear the announcement. If you are available to stay in the auditorium to help with crowd control, that would be much appreciated. We'll be in the auditorium for about 20 mins and will then move to the cafeteria where our own NB Ed-tech students will be available to talk about their programs. We're planning on taking the entire 2nd hour, and dismissing them from the cafeteria when the end of 2nd hour bell rings.

The Ed-Tech tour for sophomores will be on Thursday, December 10th.

Sophomores will be leaving here at 7:30am after taking attendance in first hour and they will return at the end of 3rd hour in time for lunch and 4th hour.

AP Scholar Awards

During the first two weeks of May, students across the country who took Advanced Placement classes are able to earn college credit by earning a 3, 4 or 5 on the Advanced Placement. Students who excel on multiple AP tests are honored with the title of AP Scholar, AP Scholar with Honor or AP Scholar with Distinction.

The AP Scholar award is granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams. North Branch High School is proud to recognize the following NBHS students who earned this designation for the 2014-15 school year: Kayla Belavek; Talon Sherrieb; Brianna Walters.

The AP Scholar with Honor award is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

The AP Scholar with Distinction award is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. The following NBHS student earned this designation for the 2014-15 school year: Fox Parton.

Financial Aid Presentations

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming informational meeting about paying for college, types of funding options and completing the FAFSA:

**Thursday, February 4th
LCISD Ed-Tech Center
6:00pm**

Local area high school counselors and representatives from local colleges such as Mott CC will be conducting a FAFSA workshop. Parents and students are encouraged to bring all paperwork necessary to complete their FAFSA alongside staff who are experienced in the process.

If you have any questions about applying for college, financial aid (or anything!), please don't hesitate to contact the counseling office 810-688-3564.



It's A Wonderful Life

In November, the North Branch Players performed "It's A Wonderful Life." The show was a big success thanks to all the hard work and talent of the Students as well as the support from faculty, staff, administration and parents.

Next month the North Branch Players will be performing an evening of one-act plays. Senior Tayler Hughson will be directing "Nightfall" and Senior Zane Howe will direct "10 Ways To Survive The Zombie Apocalypse." Performance run Thursday Jan 28th through Saturday Jan 30th. Please support the drama department by coming to see the shows.



North Branch Robotics Team

North Branch Robotics Team is truly thankful for all of the community, parent, and mentor support. North Branch Area Schools is blessed to have such a network of dedicated parents, mentors, and community businesses support our Robotics Club. This is such a great opportunity for students to gain a real world experience about the rigors of

solving problems through Math, Science, Engineering, and Technology. The Robotics Program teaches students about perseverance and solving challenges as a team. Through teamwork, students learn that things will likely not work the first time, may need to be tweaked, or possibly completely rethought and redone.

The Robotics Program has received a substantial amount of donations, which include materials, assistance with fundraisers, and mentoring from both previous students and parents who willingly donate their time and effort



to make sure that our young engineers find success. The Robotics Program would like to thank all who helped this program out over the last three years. This program would not be an option for students in North Branch if it was not for all of the hard work from the community and sponsors. Additionally, Daimler Chrysler just approved a \$4800.00 grant for FRC (High

School Robotics) and a \$400 grant for FTC (Middle School Robotics). A special thank-you is extended to Chris Vipperman, one of our mentors, who was instrumental in securing these grants and also to Amber Leitner for organizing a fundraiser that earned a much-needed \$620.00. Finally, thank you to the many unnamed people who have assisted in other capacities both in previous years and this year to make this type of program possible for our students here at North Branch Schools. YOU ARE ALL AWESOME!



Annual High School Collegiate Breakfast

The annual NBHS Collegiate Breakfast will take place this year on Friday, December 18th starting at 7 a.m. Students who have graduated within the past two years and who are attending college or trade school or are actively serving in the military are especially encouraged to attend and participate. Alumni will be assigned to tables marked by their college, trade school, or military branch so that students considering or interested in those can join them for breakfast and ask question. After breakfast, juniors, seniors, and our guest alumni move to the auditorium where the graduates respond to questions about life after high school and offer advice on ways to make the most of the remaining time to prepare for what comes next.

Interested graduates should email the NBHS Student Council at stuco@nbb Broncos.net with their RSVP or to the NBHS Student Council Facebook Page by Monday, December 14.

North Branch Cross Country hosted a Veterans Day celebration



North Branch Cross Country hosted a Veterans Day celebration and 5K Run / 1 Mile Walk on Saturday, November 14. Over 60 people from around the county (and beyond) attended with a special Veterans Day message delivered by US Army Ranger veteran and local training guru Henry Kaye. Proceeds from the event went to support the growing running and fitness program at North Branch Area Schools and the local VFW Hall.

Cross Country is also hosting a winter community fitness program on Mondays and Wednesday (whenever school is in session) from 2:45 - 3:45 in the high school. We teach running, strength training, and basic yoga. All students and community members are welcome to attend, and the program is free.



Quest Students Travel to Baker & Mott

On Wednesday, October 21st Quest traveled to Flint to Baker College and Mott College. The trip consisted of several speakers at each college as well as a tour of the programs offered at those locations. The College Faculty guided students through various follow-up activities which resulted in a number of students setting up individual appointments with both colleges. The trip was made possible by the donations received for Quest from the North Branch Masonic Lodge.



Quest Parent Teacher Conferences Well Attended

With parent involvement being crucial to student success, Quest is happy to report a good turn-out for parent teacher conferences. Overall 80% of parents participated with half of those choosing to attend in person and the other half through phone conferences done around parent and family schedules.



Quest Students Share their Ed-Tech Success

Each year the Lapeer County Ed-Tech Center provides North Branch students with presentations about their programs to show students the variety of offerings they have. This year four Quest seniors have been recognized for their outstanding achievement and have been asked to be part of the presentation. Shaina Rowden and Jacob Jarvis have been asked to present for the Diesel program, Josh Coster for Auto Mechanics, and Angel Kendrick for Health Occupations. In addition, Senior William Morley has been participating in a paid co-op opportunity as part of his Welding and Machining Ed-Tech program.

Along with those students excelling in hands on environment, Quest High School students as a whole have experienced great success. Currently over half of Quest students are receiving a B or better in their chosen programs.

Quest Lends a Helping Hand

A foundation of Quest is both belonging to a school community and participating in the broader community in which we live. Quest would like to thank the North Branch Senior Center members that allowed us the opportunity to give back to our immediate community. In total Quest was able to lend a hand to 8 members of the senior center, raking over 100 bags of leaves and lawn debris.





ALL CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

Zach Mindelli, Honorable Mention Linebacker; Jacob Davis, 2nd Team Linebacker, Jacob Bader, 1st Team Defensive Lineman; Davin Friday, 2nd Team Offensive Lineman, Mackenzie McGough, 1st Team Defensive Back and 2nd Team Quarterback; Cameron Buike, Honorable Mention Wide Receiver; Mitchell Bonner, Honorable Mention Fullback.



ALL CONFERENCE SOCCER

L-R: Zac VanWormer, Riley Schlaud, Steve Nadolski, Chris Nadolski, Ethan Amore, Isaac Thibodeau



ALL CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL

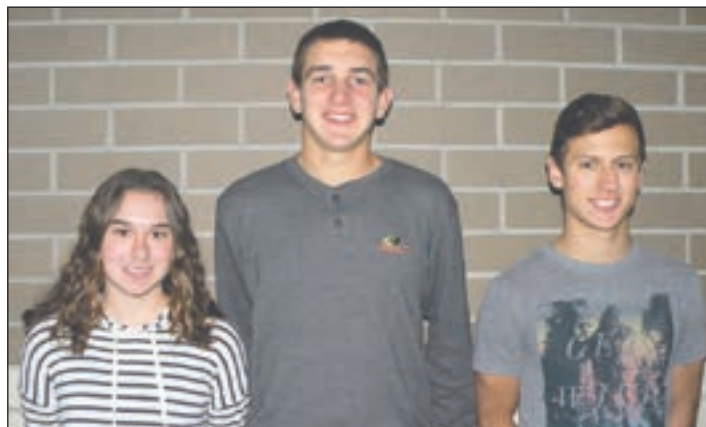
Front Row (1-r): Madee Miner, 1st Team & All Region; Stephaney Fifield, 2nd Team & All Region; Reese Ruhlman, Honorable Mention & All Region
Back Row (1-r): Alexas Hernandez, Honorable Mention & All Region, Allyson Severance, 2nd Team & All Region; Erika Ruhlman, Honorable Mention; Olivia Fike, 1st Team & All Region



VOLLEYBALL-TEAM ACADEMIC ALL-STATE WITH TEAM GPA OF 3.8125



Sam Waldorf-3.806
Soccer Individual
Academic All State



ALL CONFERENCE CROSS COUNTRY

L-R: Marybeth Gormley, Honorable Mention; Kaleb Bickel, 2nd Team; Austin Pung, 1st Team



VOLLEYBALL INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC ALL STATE

L-R: Jodee Mabery 3.837; Julia Kropp 4.037; Loree Mabery 3.991



NORTH BRANCH LADY BRONCOS - 2015 MHSAA VOLLEYBALL CLASS B DISTRICT CHAMPS, REGIONAL CHAMPS, STATE RUNNER UP



ELLIOTT ORR MEMORIAL PAVILLION

Rick Skelton and Chuck Jacobson of our Buildings and Grounds along with the assistance of the North Branch Soccer team have started constmction of the Elliott Orr Memorial Pavillion. Elliott was a former player and coach for North Branch.



The North Branch athletic programs have made a commitment to do volunteer work in the schools and the community. Boys' and Girls' Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Boys' Soccer, and Volleyball participated in various volunteer and service projects this fall. In the picture above, the varsity football team spent the better part of a day helping unload and put woodchips on the elementary playground. In addition, our student-athletes performed extremely well in the classroom with 67.9% (127 out of 187 fall student-athletes) earning a 3.2 or higher grade point average at the mid-term of the first trimester.

Community Hall of Fame

This organization was founded for the purpose of recognizing individuals or teams with significant achievement who have made outstanding contributions to North Branch Area Schools. Hall of Fame inductees could have excelled in academics, arts, athletics, or volunteerism while at North Branch Area Schools either as a student, teacher, coach, team, administrator, parent volunteer, or community member. This could also include individuals who have distinguished themselves as successful adults in their respective careers, including those who have received honors through meritorious service in selected careers and/or have served as benefactors of mankind.

Criteria for Nominations

- A. All candidates must be nominated on an official Community Hall of Fame nominating form.
- B. The candidate must be eligible in one of the following categories:
 - 1. The nominee, if a former STUDENT, ATHLETE OR TEAM, must wait at least (10) years from the time of his/her class graduated from North Branch High School.
 - 2. The nominee, if a COACH, must have departed from the North Branch High School athletic program and must have made an outstanding contribution to the athletic program during his/her tenure.
 - 3. The nominee, if a SCHOOL OFFICIAL (employee), must have departed from North Branch Area Schools and must have made an outstanding contribution to North Branch Area Schools during his/her tenure.
 - 4. The nominee, if a COMMUNITY MEMBER, will be considered if ongoing and outstanding contributions have been made to programs at North Branch Area Schools.
- C. The nominee must have demonstrated good citizenship in school and after leaving school.

North Branch Area Schools Community Hall Of Fame Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____

Address of Nominee _____

Phone number of Nominee _____

Email of Nominee _____

Name and address of closest relative (if the nominee is deceased) _____

Phone number of the relative _____

Circle the category that the person is nominated for:
ATHLETE/STUDENT/TEAM COACH SCHOOL OFFICIAL COMMUNITY MEMBER

Did the nominee graduate from North Branch High School _____

If so, year of graduation? _____

List all achievements in academics, arts, or athletics (May attached sheet of paper) _____

Honors and achievements (May include post-high school career). (May attached sheet of paper) _____

Current vocation of nominee _____

ABOUT YOU:

Name of nominator _____

Address of nominator _____

Phone number of nominator _____ Email _____

Signature of Nominator: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for your nomination! We can assure you that your Nominee will be given the utmost consideration. Inductees will be notified by the end of March.

Once a Bronco, ALWAYS a Bronco!!

PBIS REWARDS

1st Trimester - Bowling

2nd Trimester - Polar Palace

3rd Trimester - In School Dance

Year Long Reward - Cedar Point

Trimester Expectations

- Grades: A, B, & C
- No More Than 3 Absences
- No More Than 7 Tardies
- No Major Discipline Referrals
 - No Suspensions
 - Teacher Discretion

Year Long Expectations

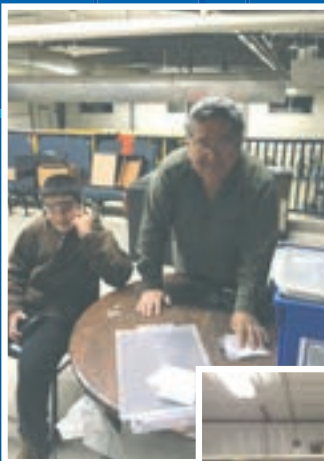
- Grades: A, B, & C
- No More Than 9 Absences
- 5 Pts Or Less All Year
 - No Suspensions
 - Teacher Discretion

North Branch Middle School and Ruth Fox Elementary to Participate in K8ART 2016

North Branch Middle School and Ruth Fox Elementary student artists will again have the opportunity to be selected for the K8ART annual show that takes place at Gallery 194. Each year, art teachers from around the county are invited to participate and submit up to 15 pieces of art chosen from the body of work completed by the students that year. Student artwork being submitted has yet to be determined, but please make note of the upcoming dates! The exhibit will run from Tuesday, February 23 thru Saturday, March 19. A "Meet the Student Artist Reception" will take place on Saturday, February 27 at 2:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public.



Middle School Robotics



Mosquito tag

The 5th grade students of the LRG team are planning some fun. No, they're not going to the pool; rather they are getting ready for their 'end of the year' TREK field trip. The noodles you see in the picture are used as stingers in a fierce game of Mosquito Tag. Team building games are played through the year to prepare them to solve group challenges. One challenge requires them to cross an area using five tire swings that are just far enough apart that they need the whole group working together for success. In another activity, they balance on a large platform with their group.



Student Led Conferences

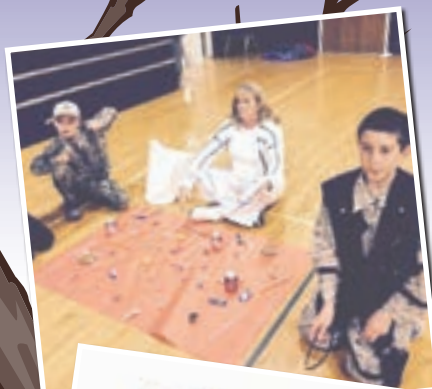
The SSMB (Sweeney, Sieh, McCarty, Bower) Team just finished a successful week of Student Led Conferences with their group of 6th graders. The conferences were held November 9th, 11th and 12th after school. The teachers met with over 80 students and their families. It was a great experience to be able to share the positive things that have been happening in the classroom and also to be able to see the student's growth over the past year. Students on this team have had the same group of teachers for the past year and will finish their Ruth Fox career with them.



Ruth Fox student Neveah Gardner (middle) with her family and teachers Ms. McCarty and Mr. Sweeney at Student Led Conferences on November 12th.

Fright Night Activity Night was a great success!

We heard lots of screams coming from the spook house, and laughter all around. Thank you to all the parents and staff who volunteered to help make this a great time for the Ruth Fox Students.



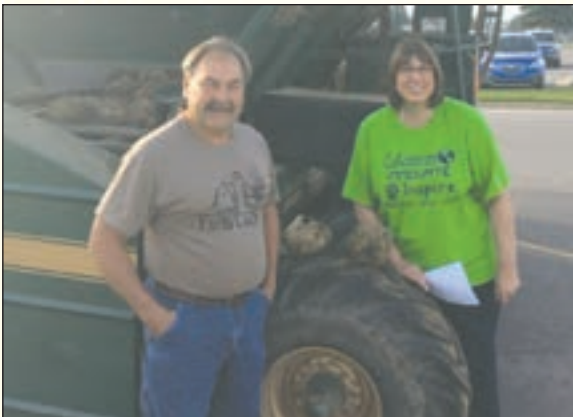
Ruth Fox Staff is always willing to dive into activities! Check out a few great costumes that were spotted on Halloween Party Thursday.



Innovation Day

Dave and Deanna Brusie took part in Ruth Fox's Innovation day by bringing in their GPS driven tractor and sugar beet digger to give Ruth Fox students a firsthand look at how state-of-the-art technology has dramatically improved productivity over the five generations of the Brusie Farm. Students enjoyed looking at innovation through the lens of these local community members.

The day culminated with several special guest presentations in the gym that highlighted their learnings about social innovation. Cindy Mitchell, Cindy Lewis, Paul Lewis, and Anne Sherrieb donned flight suits to share their experience at Space Camp with students to get them excited about their opportunity to apply for the Huntsville, Alabama Space Camp scholarship this school year. Students learned about the divergent thinking and problem solving required for participation in Destination Imagination, a fun after school program that encourages students to utilize diverse approaches in applying 21st century skills and creativity. Ben Seymour, Project Manager of the Teaching Innovation Initiative at The Henry Ford, talked about embracing risk and learning from failures in life. To conclude, Paula Gangopadhyay, a member of the National Museum and Library Services Board appointed by President Barack Obama, spoke passionately to Ruth Fox students about the importance of developing a mindset of asking "why not" and looking for multiple solutions to problems to develop innovative spirits to change the world.



Hartley Outdoor Education Trip



What do you get when you combine warm weather, great food, outdoor education, and a whole bunch of awesome sixth graders? The perfect field trip to Hartley Outdoor Education Center in St. Charles, Michigan.

Ruth Fox sixth graders and teachers spent 3 days and 2 nights and had a plethora of opportunities to explore, collaborate, and learn. A few of these included the confidence course where students practiced teamwork, built confidence, and challenged themselves. They also toured the coal mine and investigated alternative energy sources. The Pioneer Heritage class allowed students to make funnel cakes, dip candles and explore an actual pioneer cabin. Although everyone was tired by the last day, it was a once in a life time experience.

★★ Constitution Day ★★



Constitution Day at Ruth Fox Elementary School! Students gathered on the lawn in front of RFE on Constitution Day and had an opportunity to hear from community members about the Constitution in a variety of ways.

Elementary Runners Shine at Caro Race

Students in the North Branch Elementary Run Club had the opportunity to participate in the Elementary Open K-6 race October 24th in Caro, Michigan following the Championships for the High School and Middle School Cross Country Races. The twenty-five broncos participating did an outstanding job running the 2 mile course representing our school community well. Several bronco runners brought home individual medals placing them in the top 30 overall. Those runners who medaled included: 6th grader Gabe Hutchins who was 4th overall, 5th grader Gage Schram 14th overall, 4th grader Leyton Hutchins who was 25th, 6th grader Haileigh Bissett 27th, 6th grader Kyle Petty 28th, and 5th grader Ethan Hunt who was 30th overall.

Out of fifteen elementary schools participating, our North Branch girls placed 7th overall and the North Branch boys placed 1st place overall in Caro. Great work Broncos!!!

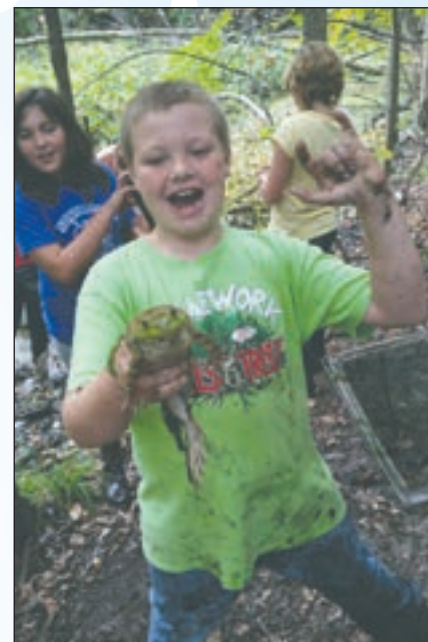


4th Graders Visit Camp Lael

In September, all fourth graders attended an outdoor ecology camp in Lapeer for 3 days. This camp has 250 acres of beautiful, rolling hills, swamps, and woods located five miles west of Lapeer on Skinner Lake. Camp Lael provides a fun, safe, nurturing learning environment for children. The program is designed and implemented by Peter McCreedy, an outdoor naturalist. For several years, our fourth graders have been able to visit the camp and engage in a program which takes place during the regular school day.

This program is part of a unit of study in 4th grade science and is designed to build students' awareness of ecology by engaging them in fun, experiential, hands-on activities. The curriculum during this three-day program included several classes. In the plants and animals class students learned about wild edible plants, hiking, pond study, and beaver adaptation and habitat. The lake ecology class had students canoeing, testing water quality, and performing a pond study. Students learned about food webs in a predator/prey activity that also had them exploring acres and acres of camp. Finally, students were able to work together in team-building activities.

All fourth grade students represented North Branch Area Schools by being respectful, responsible, and safe! Students and teachers would like to thank community members who purchased items from the 4th grade candle fundraiser to help students pay for the trip as well as the school board and Mr. Matheson who worked hard to get bus-ing costs covered so student cost could stay low.



Still Impacting the Lives of North Branch Children

In the 1950's, Mrs. Hazel Moore was a first grade teacher at North Branch Schools. Upon her passing \$1,800 was donated to North Branch Schools for books for the elementary students. Thanks to her generosity, 270 books were purchased for our leveled library. Hazel Moore continues to impact children at NBE through this thoughtful donation!



North Branch Winter Sports Schedule

VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| Dec. 03 | vs. Lapeer (scrimmage) | 7:30 |
| Dec. 08 | at Yale | 7:30 |
| Dec. 11 | vs. Imlay City | 7:30 |
| Dec. 15 | vs. Frankenmuth | 7:30 |
| Dec. 17 | at Birch Run | 7:30 |
| Dec. 29 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 7:30 |
| Dec. 30 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 6/7:30 |
| Jan. 05 | vs. Caro | 7:30 |
| Jan. 07 | vs. Lakeville | 7:00 |
| Jan. 12 | at Millington | 7:30 |
| Jan. 14 | at Bridgeport | 7:30 |
| Jan. 22 | vs. Garber (Snowcoming) | 7:30 |
| Jan. 25 | at TVC West Xover | 7:30 |
| Jan. 28 | vs. TVC Central Xover | 7:30 |
| Feb. 05 | at Frankenmuth | 7:30 |
| Feb. 10 | vs. Birch Run | 7:30 |
| Feb. 12 | at Caro | 7:30 |
| Feb. 19 | at Lakeville | 7:00 |
| Feb. 24 | vs. Millington | 7:30 |
| Feb. 26 | vs. Bridgeport | 7:30 |
| Mar. 03 | at Garber | 7:30 |

JV BOYS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|-------------------------|--------|
| Dec. 03 | vs. Lapeer (scrimmage) | 6:00 |
| Dec. 08 | at Yale | 6:00 |
| Dec. 11 | vs. Imlay City | 6:00 |
| Dec. 15 | vs. Frankenmuth | 6:00 |
| Dec. 17 | at Birch Run | 6:00 |
| Dec. 29 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 2:30 |
| Dec. 30 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 1/2:30 |
| Jan. 05 | vs. Caro | 6:00 |
| Jan. 07 | vs. Lakeville | 5:30 |
| Jan. 12 | at Millington | 6:00 |
| Jan. 14 | at Bridgeport | 6:00 |
| Jan. 22 | vs. Garber (Snowcoming) | 6:00 |
| Jan. 25 | at TVC West Xover | 6:00 |
| Jan. 28 | vs. TVC Central Xover | 6:00 |
| Feb. 05 | at Frankenmuth | 6:00 |
| Feb. 10 | vs. Birch Run | 6:00 |
| Feb. 12 | at Caro | 6:00 |
| Feb. 19 | at Lakeville | 5:30 |
| Feb. 24 | vs. Millington | 6:00 |
| Feb. 26 | vs. Bridgeport | 6:00 |
| Mar. 03 | at Garber | 6:00 |

FRESHMAN BOYS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|------------------------|------|
| Dec. 03 | vs. Lapeer (scrimmage) | 4:30 |
| Dec. 08 | at Yale | 4:30 |
| Dec. 11 | vs. Imlay City | 4:30 |
| Dec. 15 | vs. Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Dec. 17 | at Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Jan. 05 | vs. Caro | 4:30 |
| Jan. 07 | vs. Lakeville | 4:00 |
| Jan. 12 | at Millington | 4:30 |
| Jan. 14 | at Bridgeport | 4:30 |
| Jan. 19 | at Brandon | 5:30 |

FRESHMAN BOYS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|------------------------|------|
| Jan. 22 | vs. Garber | 4:30 |
| Jan. 28 | vs. TVC Central | 4:30 |
| Feb. 05 | at Frankenmuth (at MS) | 4:30 |
| Feb. 10 | vs. Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Feb. 12 | at Caro | 4:30 |
| Feb. 19 | at Lakeville | 4:00 |
| Feb. 24 | vs. Millington | 4:30 |
| Feb. 26 | vs. Bridgeport | 4:30 |
| Mar. 03 | at Garber | 4:30 |

VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|-----------------------|--------|
| Dec. 01 | vs. Yale | 7:30 |
| Dec. 04 | at Imlay City | 7:30 |
| Dec. 10 | vs. Garber | 7:30 |
| Dec. 16 | at Frankenmuth | 7:30 |
| Dec. 18 | vs. Birch Run | 7:30 |
| Dec. 29 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 1:30 |
| Dec. 30 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 1/2:30 |
| Jan. 06 | at Caro | 7:30 |
| Jan. 08 | at Lakeville | 7:00 |
| Jan. 13 | vs. Millington | 7:30 |
| Jan. 15 | vs. Bridgeport | 7:30 |
| Jan. 21 | at Garber | 7:30 |
| Jan. 26 | at TVC West Xover | 7:30 |
| Jan. 29 | vs. TVC Central Xover | 7:30 |
| Feb. 04 | vs. Frankenmuth | 7:30 |
| Feb. 09 | at Birch Run | 7:30 |
| Feb. 11 | vs. Caro | 7:30 |
| Feb. 18 | vs. Lakeville | 7:00 |
| Feb. 23 | at Millington | 7:30 |
| Feb. 25 | at Bridgeport | 7:30 |

JV GIRLS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| Dec. 01 | vs. Yale | 6:00 |
| Dec. 04 | at Imlay City | 6:00 |
| Dec. 10 | vs. Garber | 6:00 |
| Dec. 16 | at Frankenmuth | 6:00 |
| Dec. 18 | vs. Birch Run | 6:00 |
| Dec. 29 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 11:30 |
| Dec. 30 | Moore Tourn at Capac | 10/11:30 |
| Jan. 06 | at Caro | 6:00 |
| Jan. 08 | at Lakeville | 5:30 |
| Jan. 13 | vs. Millington | 6:00 |
| Jan. 15 | vs. Bridgeport | 6:00 |
| Jan. 21 | at Garber | 6:00 |
| Jan. 26 | at TVC West Xover | 6:00 |
| Jan. 29 | vs. TVC Central Xover | 6:00 |
| Feb. 04 | vs. Frankenmuth | 6:00 |
| Feb. 09 | at Birch Run | 6:00 |
| Feb. 11 | vs. Caro | 6:00 |
| Feb. 18 | vs. Lakeville | 5:30 |
| Feb. 23 | at Millington | 6:00 |
| Feb. 25 | at Bridgeport | 6:00 |

VARSITY WRESTLING

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|----------------------------|------|
| Dec. 09 | at Lakeville Quad | 6:00 |
| Dec. 12 | at Marlette Invitational | 8:00 |
| Dec. 16 | at Cros Lex Quad | 5:30 |
| Dec. 19 | at Caro Tournament | 8:30 |
| Dec. 29 | at Mayville Invite | 8:00 |
| Jan. 06 | North Branch Quad | 6:00 |
| Jan. 09 | North Branch Invite | 9:00 |
| Jan. 13 | at Frankenmuth | 6:00 |
| Jan. 16 | at Durand Invitational | 9:00 |
| Jan. 20 | at Lakeville | 6:00 |
| Jan. 23 | at Mt. Morris Invitational | 8:00 |
| Jan. 27 | vs. Bridgeport | 6:00 |
| Jan. 30 | at Yale Invitational | 9:30 |
| Feb. 06 | TVC @ B'Run Expo Center | TBD |

VARSITY BOWLING

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Dec. 12 | at Frankenmuth (Candlelite) | 12N/2 |
| Dec. 19 | at North Branch (Gerlachs) | 12:30 |
| Jan. 09 | at Birch Run (Candlelite) | 12N/2 |
| Jan. 16 | at Lakeville (B's Bowling) | 11:30/2 |
| Jan. 23 | at Bridgeport (Candlelite) | 12N/2 |
| Jan. 30 | at Caro (Brentwood) | 11/1pm |
| Feb. 13 | at Garber (Bay Lanes) | TBA |
| Feb. 20 | at TVC (State Lanes) | 9/11 am |

COMPETITIVE CHEER

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|---------------------------------|------|
| Dec. 10 | at Ovid Elsie | 6:00 |
| Dec. 12 | at Chesaning | 9:00 |
| Jan. 06 | TVC #1 @ Birch Run | 6:00 |
| Jan. 09 | at Oxford Invitational | TBA |
| Jan. 16 | at Stoney Creek Invitational | TBA |
| Jan. 20 | TVC #2 @ Swan Valley | 6:00 |
| Jan. 30 | at Grand Blanc Invitational | TBA |
| Feb. 03 | TVC #3 @ Carrollton | 6:00 |
| Feb. 06 | TVC Conference Meet @ St. Louis | 6:00 |
| Feb. 10 | at Freeland | 6:00 |

HOCKEY

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|------------------------------------|------|
| Nov. 18 | vs. Flushing Swartz Creek | 7:15 |
| Nov. 20 | at Mid MI Storm-Gladwin | 7:00 |
| Nov. 21 | vs. FNV Griffins - Polar Palace | 5:45 |
| Nov. 28 | at DeWitt St. John's-Suburban Ice | 6:30 |
| Dec. 02 | vs. Lapeer - Polar Palace | 7:15 |
| Dec. 04 | at Gaylord-Otesego Sportplex | 7:00 |
| Dec. 05 | at Gaylord-Otesego Sportplex | 1:00 |
| Dec. 12 | vs. DeWitt St. John's-Polar Palace | 5:15 |
| Dec. 16 | at Flushing Swartz Creek-Iceland | 6:00 |
| Dec. 21 | at Avondale -DSC | 5:45 |
| Jan. 02 | vs. Mid-MI Storm Polar Palace | 3:30 |
| Jan. 13 | vs. Avondale-Polar Palace | 7:15 |
| Jan. 16 | at Lapeer - Polar Palace | 5:45 |
| Jan. 22 | at KBH - Perani Arena | TBD |
| Jan. 23 | vs. Fraser | 5:00 |
| Jan. 29 | at Grand Rapids-Griff's Ice House | 6:00 |
| Jan. 30 | at Hudsonville-Geo Twon Ice Arena | 3:00 |
| Feb. 03 | at Fenton - Hartland Ice Arena | 6:00 |
| Feb. 06 | at FNV Griffins-Saginaw Ice Arena | 7:00 |
| Feb. 10 | at Airport Hockey-Southgate Civic | 6:50 |
| Feb. 13 | at Mid MI Storm (Gladwin) | 6:00 |
| Feb. 17 | at Fenton - Hartland Ice Arena | 5:30 |
| Feb. 24 | vs. Fenton - Polar Palace | 7:15 |
| Feb. 26 | at Fraser | 7:55 |
| Feb. 27 | vs. KBH - Polar Palace | 5:45 |

7TH & 8TH GIRLS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---|-----------------|------|
| Nov. 09 | vs. Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Nov. 11 | at Lakeville | 4:30 |
| Nov. 16 | at Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Nov. 18 | vs. Millington | 4:30 |
| Nov. 23 | vs. Caro | 4:30 |
| Nov. 24 | vs. Garber | 4:30 |
| Nov. 30 | at Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Dec. 02 | vs. Lakeville | 4:30 |
| Dec. 07 | vs. Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Dec. 09 | at Millington | 4:30 |
| Dec. 14 | at Caro | 4:30 |
| Dec. 16 | vs. Bridgeport | 4:30 |
| 7th Grade will play at 4:30 followed by | | |
| 8th Grade at approximately 5:30. | | |

MIDDLE SCHOOL COMP CHEER

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|---------------------------------|------|
| Dec. 12 | at Chesaning | 9:00 |
| Jan. 09 | at Oxford Invitational | TBA |
| Jan. 16 | at Stoney Creek Invitational | TBA |
| Jan. 30 | at Grand Blanc Invitational | TBA |
| Feb. 06 | TVC Conference Meet @ St. Louis | 6:00 |
| Feb. 10 | at Freeland | 6:00 |

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|----------------------|------|
| Nov. 12 | at Millington | 4:30 |
| Nov. 17 | vs. Caro | 4:30 |
| Nov. 24 | at Lakeville | 4:30 |
| Dec. 01 | at Chesaning | 4:30 |
| Dec. 05 | at Caro Invitational | TBA |
| Dec. 07 | vs. Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Dec. 15 | at Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Dec. 18 | TVC at Frankenmuth | TBD |

8TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|-----------------|------|
| Jan. 14 | vs. Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Jan. 20 | at Lakeville | 4:30 |
| Jan. 25 | at Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Jan. 27 | vs. Millington | 4:30 |
| Feb. 01 | vs. Caro | 4:30 |
| Feb. 03 | at Garber | 4:30 |
| Feb. 08 | at Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Feb. 10 | vs. Lakeville | 4:30 |
| Feb. 16 | vs. Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Feb. 17 | at Millington | 4:30 |
| Feb. 22 | at Caro | 4:30 |
| Feb. 24 | vs. Bridgeport | 4:30 |

7TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL

| DATE | OPPONENT | TIME |
|---------|-----------------|------|
| Jan. 14 | at Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Jan. 20 | vs. Lakeville | 4:30 |
| Jan. 25 | at Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Jan. 27 | at Millington | 4:30 |
| Feb. 01 | at Caro | 4:30 |
| Feb. 03 | at Garber | 4:30 |
| Feb. 08 | vs. Frankenmuth | 4:30 |
| Feb. 10 | at Lakeville | 4:30 |
| Feb. 16 | vs. Birch Run | 4:30 |
| Feb. 17 | vs. Millington | 4:30 |
| Feb. 22 | vs. Caro | 4:30 |
| Feb. 24 | vs. Bridgeport | 4:30 |

*All schedules are subject to change.