

North Branch
Board of Education
6600 Brush Street
PO Box 3620
North Branch, MI 48461



December 2007

SCHOOL TALK

US POSTAGE
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NORTH BRANCH
MICH. 48461

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<http://www.nbbroncos.net>

CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON

MICHIGAN'S BEST AWARD FOR SUPERIOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The faculty of Quest High School (current Program Coordinator Georgette Aguilar, and teachers Corey Rosser, and Todd Walker) accompanied by Superintendent Al Piwinski and High School Principal Mark Hiltunen, recently traveled to this year's annual Michigan Association of School Board's meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan to accept the SetSEG Michigan's Best award in for Superior Community Relations. Quest High School received an "Eddy" trophy along with a \$1,500 award for future educational endeavors. Quest's continued commitment to student success through building bridges with the community was one of just 9 statewide programs recognized for their excellence in education. Quest students have participated in various community projects throughout the past several years highlighted annually by the Quest benefit dinner put on by the North Branch Masonic Lodge with the help of Quest students. Quest also received an Excellence in Education award from SetSEG in the same category earlier this year.

Quest was created in 2004 through the joint efforts of founding program



coordinator Terese Jurgensen, North Branch High School Principal Mark Hiltunen, Superintendent Al Piwinski, and the North Branch School Board. Quest's opening enrollment was just 18 students. With its school-to-work learning philosophy, Quest has quickly grown to 60 students, and as recently as last year graduated 42 students. It has provided at-risk students from

North Branch High School and other surrounding districts an alternative option to meet their learning needs, and is just another example of how North Branch Area Schools is committed to meeting the needs of every niche of the community. The collaboration of Quest with the traditional High School has helped North Branch have one of the lowest drop-out rates in the Lapeer County Intermediate School District.

More importantly Quest is a place where students have to work hard to achieve success and begin to believe that they can achieve their greatest aspirations.



Sean McCormack Wins D.A R. Good Citizen Award

High School student, Sean McCormack was recently nominated and elected by the staff at North Branch High School to be the local recipient of the D.A.R. Good Citizen Award. This award, presented by the Daughter's of the American Revolution is given to a student who has been outstanding in demonstrating dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.

Sean's completed essay will be submitted and judged against other high school students who have qualified for this award. Sean has recently received all conference awards in soccer and is a member of the National Honor Society. He is active in the community and his church St. Peter and Paul in North Branch. Sean is the son of Patty and Jeff McCormack of North Branch. Sean plans on pursuing a career in the medical field.



Scholarships Greatly Appreciated

Ron and Carolyn Bower, longtime residents of North Branch Township are passionate about wanting to see young people succeed and they are doing something about it. Last year through generous donations they established the Quest Merit Scholarship Program; a program to provide scholarships to alternative education students. This year they have contributed to the Quest Merit Scholarship Program as well as donating a \$1,000 scholarship for a high school student to study engineering.

The Bower's have donated a total of \$10,000 over the past two years and hope to inspire others to assist students graduating from Quest High School. If you are interested in making a donation your check should be made out to the Quest Merit Award Scholarship Fund and may be sent to North Branch Area Schools, PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461.

QUESTIONS/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. Please feel free to clip this list of phone numbers and save it in the front of your telephone book for future reference.

Al Piwinski, Superintendent	810-688-3570
Adair Aumock, Director of Curriculum & Technology	810-688-3001
Cheryl Bruff, Director of Finance & Business.....	810-688-3570
Matt Hess, Director of Operations & Transportation.....	810-688-3660
Leann Gwinn, FABS Child Care.....	810-688-4634
Stacy Moyer, Director of Food Services.....	810-688-2226
Louis Dominick, Maintenance/Custodial Supervisor.....	810-688-4625

FITNESS CENTER HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, Principal.....	810-688-3001
Shelly Cranick, Asst. Principal.....	810-688-3001
Jim Fish, Asst.Principal/ Athletic Director	810-688-2518
Richard Stevens, Counselor.....	810-688-3564
Brenda Jeffery, Counselor	810-688-3564
Carolyn Medland, Counselor.....	810-688-3564
Georgette Aguilar, Quest High School.....	810-688-7581

MIDDLE SCHOOL

John Sherman, Principal	810-688-4431
Sue Shoemaker, Counselor	810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, Principal.....	810-688-3284
Tammy Siegler, Asst. Principal	810-688-3284
Melissa Radwick, Counselor.....	810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

Merry Hosner, Principal	810-688-3041
Wendy Spivy, Asst. Principal	810-688-3041
Ruth Lendt, Family Support Worker	810-688-3041

NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Gary Manthei, President	C. Jack Lewis, Trustee
Dale Brinker, Vice President	Ralph Deshetsy, Trustee
Ginger Russell, Treasurer	Kevin McCrory, Trustee
Lorrei Natke, Secretary	

Putting the Future in Perspective

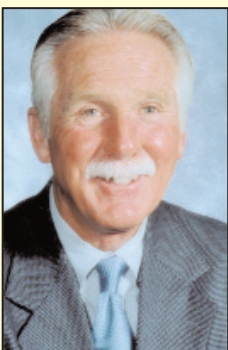
I know many of you have had an opportunity to read in the news lately that we will experience over a million dollar deficit during the 2008-09 school year. I want all parents and community members to understand that this is a projection or our best guess as we plan for next year.

This projection is based on the current state of the Michigan economy and not the condition of North Branch Area Schools. The problem is, as Michigan loses jobs and young families have to move, programs and services are severely impacted. Since 2004 Lapeer County Schools have lost 546 students. Our biggest loss came just this year; we lost 67 students from the fall of 2006 to the fall of 2007. This is the first year since 2000 that North Branch didn't see an increase in students.

The million dollar deficit reported in the news for 2008-09 is based on a projected loss of 47 students for next year. The loss of students coupled with increased costs in insurance, retirement, and operations are the reasons we are concerned. As we plan with the Board of Education for the opening of our new schools we are working to identify our priorities for the future. Keeping in mind what is in the best interest of our students.

I believe that we have been able to maintain students because of our reputation. While many schools have lost students we have experienced a significant increase in students attending North Branch as "School of Choice" students. These are students who reside in neighboring districts but who choose to attend North Branch as their school of choice.

So as we struggle through these difficult times we must keep a positive perspective and remember that North Branch Area Schools has been very fortunate. Because of your support we will have some of the best facilities in the Thumb of Michigan. These facilities along with our strong reputation will help us draw students to our district. As we make our decisions for next year we will do our very best not to impact the children.



Construction Update:
A Picture is Worth a thousand Words

The collage of pictures tells the story of the construction on the new elementary schools Jefferson Trail and Elm Creek, set to open in the fall of 2008. The project started a bit behind due to the state delay in approving the building permit. But our goal is to open as soon as we can next fall. We are hoping for a very mild winter to assist the workers in completing the project.

On the remaining projects we also plan to have the new cafetorium and remodeling completed on Ruth Fox and the Middle School when we open next September 2008. This project will go out for bid in January with a start date of March, 2008. As a result of all the new construction we anticipate some inconveniences but as you know

when you are remodeling or building a new home all the headaches are worth it in the end.

Once the students move into Jefferson Trail and Elm Creek Elementary Schools, we will begin the renovation of the Jefferson and 1980's wing of North Branch Elementary. Once remodeled, the old elementary will house the district's Central Offices, Quest High School, and FABS Child Care Program. Depending on enrollments and the need for additional space the building may also house the district pre-school programs. During this same time we will build a new transportation facility to replace the old bus garage on Banker Street. Our goal is to have all construction completed by the fall of 2009.



Old and New Alternative to Snow Days

Matthew Hess, Director of Operations

Statewide and Nationwide there are budget challenges to maintaining public assets weighed against maintaining public safety. The road commissions around our state are going to continue to plow and salt, but they are modifying their services to gain efficiencies wherever they can. Their efficiency can and will impact our decisions regarding cancelling school due to inclement weather.

As a district we have decided to try an old idea with some new twists, in order to try and maintain the school year as best as we are able. We are re-introducing a “**Main Roads Only**” busing alternative for those inclement weather days where main roads are very passable, but the side roads are not for buses with children on board. This will be in addition to, and possibly in combination with, the alternatives of school closure and two hour delays.

Please see the detailed route lists for buses running on main roads only and

Barnes Road				Clear Lake Road				Lum Road				Otter Lake Road			
Slattery Rd N		7:03	8:18	Black Cor. N		7:02	8:10	Harrington N		6:54	8:08	Oliver N		6:50	8:00
Slattery Rd S		6:51	8:00	Summers N		7:05	8:14	Harrington S		7:03	8:13	Willitts N		6:52	8:03
Lk. Pleasant Rd N		7:09	8:21	Slattery Rd N		7:07	8:16	Long Lake		7:00	8:11	Oliver S		6:58	8:09
Lk. Pleasant Rd S		6:48	7:56	Cedar Creek N		7:10	8:20								
Silverwood		7:10	8:06					M-24				Other			
Brown School		6:56	8:04	Clifford Road				Castle E		7:02	8:12	Meadowbreeze &			
Merrill		6:48	8:04	Sharp Rd S		6:50	8:08	Castle W		7:07	8:18	Softwind		6:56	8:16
Heater N		6:51	8:07	Slattery Rd S		6:54	8:10	Squaw Creek		7:06	8:14	Windward &			
McTaggart		6:53	8:09	Merrill Rd S		6:56	7:54	Elmwood		7:08	8:16	Softwind		7:02	8:17
Binden		6:54	8:10	Hathaway Rd S		6:59	7:56	Park/Ride (5549)		6:53	8:07	Southwood &			
Mowatt		6:56	8:12					Opal Ln		7:08	8:20	Windmere		7:03	8:19
M24		6:59	8:15	Deerfield Pines		6:53	8:08	Pine Dr		6:50	8:05	Lawndale &			
Cargill		7:00	8:15									Windmere		7:06	8:20
				Fish Lake Road				M53				Silverwood Road			
W. Barnes Lake Road				Johnson Mill W		6:46	8:07	Stiles Rd		7:07	8:15	Millington E		6:46	7:43
Johnson Dr		6:56	8:08	Johnson Mill E		7:10	8:21					Murphy Lk E		6:50	7:46
Sweet School		7:08	8:10	Gravel Creek W		6:49	8:09	M-90				Swaffer		6:52	7:48
				Gravel Creek E		7:07	8:20	Brown School		7:12	8:20	Post Office		6:54	7:50
E. Barnes Lake Road				Oak Grove W		6:55		Slattery N		7:15	8:23				
Indian Trail		6:49	7:58	Oak Grove E		7:05	8:18	McKibbon N		6:46		Town			
Peninsula (east)		6:59	8:09					McKibbon S		7:08	7:57	Banker Street		8:05 to 8:13	
Lakeshore		7:04	8:14	Jefferson Road				Booth S		7:09	7:59	NB Meadows		8:15	
				Millington E		6:40		Gleaners Hall S		7:11	8:01	Mill Street		8:18 to 8:25	
Burnside Road				Castle W		7:16	8:25	Rogers		7:14	8:05				
Cedar Creek S		6:37	7:43	Markle		7:01	7:58	Jones S		7:15	8:06				
Slattery Rd S		6:38	7:47	Peck Rd E		6:45	7:52	Cedar Creek S		6:53	8:03				
Summers S		6:41	7:49	8038		6:37	7:56	Slattery S		6:54	8:05				
Old State N		6:53	7:32	Lake Pleasant Road				Patrick		6:56	8:07				
Jones N		6:56	7:35	Welch		6:46	8:01								
Booth		6:59	7:42	Stanton Lake		7:07	8:17								
East St		7:03	7:50	Curtis		7:10	8:20								
Simmons Trl		6:56	7:33	Ward		6:51	8:02								
Patrick Rd		7:08	8:19	Martus W		6:53	8:03								
Cedar Crk N		7:14	8:24	Martus E		7:15	8:25								
The Warrens		7:10	8:22	Oak Grove		6:55	8:06								
Falkenbury S		7:08	7:50	Snoblin		6:58	8:08								
Chapman S		7:10	7:53	Kings Mill		7:00	8:10								
Laur		7:12		Willis		7:07	8:18								
Falkenbury N		7:02	7:46	Hasslick		7:09	8:21								
				Swoish		7:13	8:23								

2006-2007 Fiscal Year End General Fund Financial Report

By Cheryl Bruff Director of Finance & Business

The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007 was presented to the Board of Education at their regular meeting November 12, 2007. Yeo & Yeo, P.C. gave the district an excellent evaluation regarding the financial review conducted by their firm. In the 2006-2007 fiscal year, the district had operating revenues of \$21,183,009. The district expenditures were \$21,059,638 resulting in an addition of \$123,371 to the fund balance. The current fund balance is 13.8% of the operational expenditures for 2006-2007. The daily operational cost of the district is approximately \$57,698.

North Branch Area Schools employed 145 teachers, 131 support staff, 14 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 85% of the total expenditures were for wages and benefits paid to district employees.

The student enrollment for the Fall count of 2006 was 2,768 pupils, which is up 77 students from the prior year. In May of 2007, we had 197 students graduate from the high school. Approximately 86% of these students have enrolled in college or the military.

The district’s property base continues to grow. Property values increased from 298.7 million in 2005 to 320.2 million in 2006. This represents a 7.2% increase over the previous year. The five-year average growth in property value is 6.7%.

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
Governmental Funds
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Year Ended June 30, 2007

	General Fund	Capital Project Fund	Non Major Governmental Fund	Total Governmental Fund
Revenues				
Local Sources	\$1,249,773	\$1,810,129	\$2,960,232	\$6,010,134
State Sources	\$19,194,131		\$47,448	\$19,241,579
Federal Sources	\$497,481		\$365,735	\$863,216
Transfers In	\$241,624		\$1,409,019	\$1,650,643
Total Revenues	\$21,183,009	\$1,810,129	\$4,772,434	\$27,765,572
Expenditures				
Instruction	\$13,161,439			\$12,904,927
Support Services	\$7,009,126			\$6,498,335
Food Service			\$873,774	\$882,064
Athletic			\$461,242	\$392,824
Community Service			\$134,354	\$150,944
Transfers out	\$367,749			\$329,021
Capital Outlay	\$373,488	\$5,027,531		\$972,419
Principal	\$133,500	\$315,000	\$1,070,000	\$887,502
Interest	\$14,336		\$2,226,644	\$1,401,159
Total Expenditures	\$21,059,638	\$5,342,531	\$4,766,014	\$24,419,165
Net Change in Fund Balance	\$123,371	(\$3,532,402)	\$6,420	(\$3,402,611)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$2,789,184	\$39,991,618	\$33,6233	\$43,117,035
Ending Fund Balance	\$2,912,555	\$36,459,216	\$34,2653	\$39,714,424

North Branch Area Schools School Calendar 2007-2008

12/3-3-7	SECOND TRIMESTER
Dec 24- Jan 2	Winter break
January 3	School resumes
January 21	No school Martin Luther King day
February 18	No school Presidents Day
March 6	End of second trimester 1/2 day for students
March 7	No school for students
3/10-6/5	THIRD TRIMESTER
March 21	No school Good Friday
March 24	No school
April 7 - 11	Spring break
May 26	No school Memorial Day
June 5*	Last Day of school 1/2 day for students
* Tentative based on snow days	

PRE-SCHOOL AND BGT./KDGT. REGISTRATION 2008-2009

If you have a child whose age on or before December 1, 2008 is five they would be eligible for our begin-a-garten and kindergarten programs. If they will be four, they would be eligible for our pre-school programs. Begin-a-garten/kindergarten registration day will be on April 24, 2008. Pre-School registration date has not been set at this time. Please call the Elementary School at 688-3041 after January 3, 2008 to have your child’s name placed on the informational mailing lists. Information will be mailed in early April.

Lapeer County Community Foundation

Since September of 2004, North Branch Area Schools has had an endowment fund and a scholarship fund within the Lapeer County Community Foundation. These funds were first established with a \$10,000 donation to the district from the estate of Maynard DeGrow. North Branch students may apply to receive scholarships through this foundation.

Contributions to the foundation are used only in Lapeer County and can be specifically donated to North Branch Area Schools. These contributions are deductible for Federal Tax purposes and individuals may receive a State income tax credit of 50% of the donation up to a maximum credit of \$200. Corporations may also receive a State income tax credit for donations up to \$10,000. These funds are professionally managed to optimized investment return for the foundation. Address inquiries or donations to:

**Lapeer County Community Fund
Lapeer County Community Foundation
220 West Nepessing Street Suite 202
Lapeer, MI 48446**

Thank you for your consideration and please designate North Branch Area Schools as the recipient of your donation.

PARENTS CAN NOW BE INSTANTLY NOTIFIED OF EMERGENCIES, SCHOOL CLOSINGS, DELAYS OR EARLY DISMISSALS

North Branch Area Schools, in cooperation with the Tuscola County Advertiser, Mix 92.1 and www.tuscolatoday.com, is initiating new procedures for contacting parents and staff in the event of an emergency or school closing – the North Branch Schools e-Alert.

Within minutes, school officials can use e-Alert to deliver a single, clear message to students, parents, guardians and staff members by cell phone and/or email. This system will be used to announce emergencies, delayed openings and school closings.

If by chance your student(s) haven’t brought home your notice for our new e-Alert system please ask them to do so. With the support of the Tuscola County Advertiser we are now able to offer this service FREE OF CHARGE.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

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

WMPC 1230 AM	Wings 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

- 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.

NEW TEACHERS

SHERRI BONNER



Hello! My name is Sherri Bonner and I am thrilled to be the new MSRP preschool teacher. I began my teaching career fifteen years ago in East Lansing as a teacher for Hearing Impaired children. I was there for five years before leaving to become a full-time mom. I have worked here at North Branch for the past four years as a substitute teacher. It has been my dream to return full-time to teaching and I am so excited to have the opportunity to do so. I have been married to Rick for sixteen years and we have three boys; Jakab, Kaleb and Mitchell. All three of the boys attend school here in North Branch. They are very active in the athletic programs and you can find me most evenings watching one of their sporting events. They keep me quite busy and I love every minute of it. Aside from working with children, my passions are writing poetry and short stories, reading novels and spending time with my family. I look forward to a long career in North Branch and am excited about the direction our district is going. North Branch is a fantastic community. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to work and raise my children here.

JAMIE BUIKE



I can’t tell you how excited I am to start my teaching career here at North Branch Area Schools. I have lived here in North Branch for eight years with my husband Bryan and our three children. I have enjoyed being part of the community and am honored to be part of the North Branch teaching staff.

I graduated from the University of Michigan—Flint Campus in May of 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, I am highly qualified within my Integrated Science and Math concentrations. After graduation, I substitute taught in North Branch School district before accepting a position at Early Head Start in Tuscola County. At Early Head Start I was a Family Educator. As a Family educator I worked on child development and goal setting for early childhood children and their families. My time at Early Head Start educated me on family dynamics, giving me tools and insight that I will utilize with my future students.

I have always wanted to work with middle school students. Middle school was a very defining time for me; it took just one teacher to recognize my potential. That teacher sparked a confidence within me that has stayed with me today. I hope to be that teacher for my students. Thank you for this opportunity.

GERRY NOTHELTER



Gerry Nothelfer a graduate of Central Michigan University, has worked as a speech therapist for Swan Valley and St. Charles Public Schools. Gerry and her husband Greg have 2 grown children; a son and daughter. She and her husband retired to Arkansas for 7 years. During that time they were very involved with their church, community and charity work. When their two beautiful grandchildren came along, Grandma wanted to come home! She soon realized that she could not be with her grandchildren 24/7. This prompted Gerry to look for a part time job. Luckily NBAS provided the perfect opportunity! She can work 2 1/2 days a week and spend time with her grandchildren too. Besides enjoying grandchildren, she enjoys gardening, crafting and photography.

ANGELA MARTIN



First of all I would like to say that I am so happy to be working here in North Branch! It has been a wonderful experience so far and the people here have been so wonderful to work with. This is my fifth year teaching. I have taught middle school special education as well as third grade. I have lived in North Carolina until recently but I grew up in Port Sanilac and attended C.P.S. Schools. I am married to Craig Martin. He is the Executive Director at the Pix Theatre in Lapeer. I enjoy reading and traveling. I am looking forward to a long career here in North Branch! Thank you for the opportunity.

Visitor From South Korea

Young Hee Choi is visiting North Branch from South Korea this school year. She is here to observe how we teach art as well as to facilitate Korean art instructions to North Branch students.

She spent September and October at the Ruth Fox Elementary with Mrs Fiedor. She helped the students with the projects that they had and taught Korean Art to each grade level.

The 6th grade art students learned about Korean Painting. Miss Choi talked about the Symbols of Longevity. They had to pick more than 5 symbols to incorporate into their painting. They also had to learn to write their name in Korean calligraphy and had to paint with a brush with Korean Ink. Miss Choi checked them to make sure all their symbols were in the painting and that their name in Korean was on it. When she was satisfied she stamped it with a stamp she made that said Ruth Fox Elementary. The pictures were awesome and are on display in the hall.

The 5th grade art students learned to write their name and date in Korean Calligraphy using brush and ink. These were also stamped with the Ruth Fox stamp which is how Korean artists sign their work. Each Korean artist has their own stamp so nobody can steal their work.

The 4th graders learned about Do-Kae-Be a Korean goblin. Miss Choi explained how he punishes bad behavior and rewards good behavior. She taught the students how to make the goblin’s head by using Origami (the art of paper folding). They did well and even made them for their friends.

The advanced 8th grade art classes made their own stamp with their Korean name so they could stamp their artwork with an original stamp. They used carving tools to carve out a piece of linoleum. They did very well on this project.

This has been a great opportunity to have Miss Choi with us. She is now at the middle school and will be spending time at the high school. Hopefully she’ll be back to Mrs. Fiedor’s room to teach us more about the Korean culture.



North Branch Broncos Sports News



FOOTBALL ALL CONFERENCE

L-R: Mike Grammar, Honorable Mention Linebacker; Chris Wright, 2nd Team Defensive End; Jeremy Hanna, Honorable Mention Offensive Line; Tommy Howland, Honorable Mention Receiver; Jerome Sullivan, 1st Team Punter, All State Division 4 Honorable Mention.

Not Pictured: Zac Hueter, 1st Team Offensive Line, 1st Team Defensive Line, 1st Team All State Division 4; Dion Cimmini, 2nd Team Runningback; Casey Linck, 2nd Team Receiver.

The winter sports season is well under way with one major change from past years and that is the move of girls' basketball from the fall to the winter season. In addition, boys' basketball, boys' and girl's bowling, competitive cheerleading, and wrestling will be competing this winter. Before previewing the winter season, let's review our fall sports' season:

CHEERLEADING: These young ladies had an excellent season under the leadership of Amanda Howard. They work extremely hard in preparing for the season and did a great job with enhancing our school spirit. They are one of the most disciplined and organized programs in the Tri-Valley Conference and are very appreciated by our entire athletic department.

CROSS COUNTRY: The boys' team did not have enough runners to field a complete team this year. The girls' team finished in 5th place in the Tri-Valley Conference and in 12th place at the Regional Meet. Special congratulations to Meghan Petiprin for qualifying for the state meet for the second consecutive year where she finished 91st out of 247 runners.

BOYS' SOCCER: The boys' soccer team finished 9-11-3 on the season, but their conference record is where the varsity team made its mark. Just like last year, they finished with a fine 7-2-3 TVC record improving to a second place tie in the division with Frankenmuth. The team improved steadily during the season highlighted by a 1-0 victory over Division Champion Valley Lutheran in the last regular season game.



VOLLEYBALL ALL CONFERENCE

Front Row L-R: Olivia Kohler, 1st Team TVC East, All Region Team, 1st Team All State Class A; Catherine Brusie, Honorable Mention, TVC East, All Region Team

Back Row L-R: Lauren Strich, 1st Team TVC East, All Region Team; Jessica Curtis, 1st Team TVC East, All Region Team, 2nd Team All State Class A; Lisa Thompson, Honorable Mention TVC East; Taylor Miner, 2nd Team TVC East, All Region Team; Honorable Mention All State Class A; Jordan Fish, 2nd Team TVC East



**2007 THUMB AREA TEAM OF THE YEAR
ACADEMIC ALL-STATE—3.5692 AVERAGE GPA
CLASS A STATE RANKED #1
NATIONALLY RANKED #49**

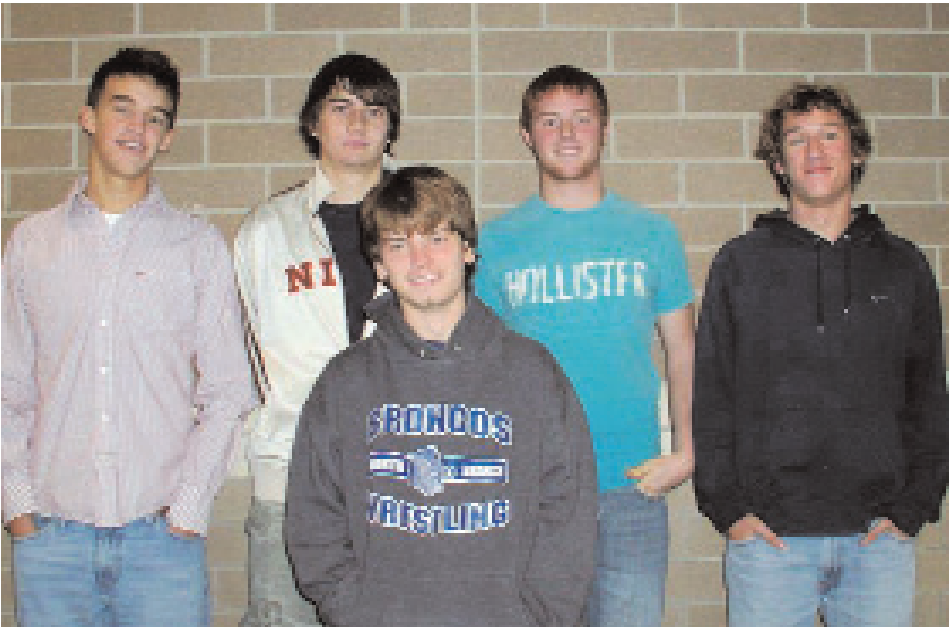
FOOTBALL: The football program started out the season with an impressive victory over rival Imlay City. Also, the team won the annual Light's Out game vs. Bridgeport and posted a quality win over Caro in the homecoming game. The final record of 3-6 was good for 6th place in the TVC East Division. While the seniors will be missed, the returning juniors along with a 7-2 JV team and 6-2-1 freshman team will help to provide plenty of talent to put the Broncos back contending for a TVC Title and playoff birth next year.

VOLLEYBALL: The varsity volleyball team had a banner season just four months after last year's team finished with 74 wins and as Class A State Runner-Up. Below are a few accomplishments of this year's team:
Thumb Area Team of the Year for the second consecutive season;
72-2 season record;
TVC Record of 7-0 winning the TVC East Division Title for the 4th consecutive season;



OLIVIA KOHLER—1ST TEAM ALL STATE CLASS A

Class A District Champion for the 3rd consecutive season;
Regional Finalist;
Final State Ranking of #1 in Class A;
Final National Ranking of #49 by Century Club who ranks the top 100 teams nationally;
Recognition as Team Academic All-State with an overall team grade point average of 3.56.



BOYS' SOCCER ALL CONFERENCE

Front Row: Richie Spain, Honorable Mention
Back Row: Sean McCormack, 1st Team TVC East, All District; David Brace, Honorable Mention; Kevin Orr, 2nd Team TVC East, All District; Elliott Orr, 1st Team TVC East, All District.

Not Pictured: Guy Kreiner, 2nd Team TVC East, All District; Tyler Kreiner, 2nd Team TVC East; Jared Sadler, Honorable Mention TVC East, All District.

WINTER
SPORTS'
PREVIEW

BOYS' BASKETBALL: Jim Marshall enters his third season as the varsity basketball coach with an overall record of 21-23 at North Branch after guiding the team to a 14-9 record last year and a spot in the District Finals. The team finished 8-6 in the TVC East Division good for 4th place. This year's team will have 4 retuning letter winners and is looking to finish in the upper half of the TVC East Division. Highlights on the schedule include the Harry C. Moore Christmas Tournament to be hosted by North Branch High School this year. The Broncos will play Marlette in the 7:30 p.m. game on Thursday, December 27 and Capac will play Brown City at 6:00 p.m. The winners will play in the



ZAC HUETER—1ST TEAM ALL STATE ASSOCIATED PRESS DIVISION 3-4, DETROIT FREE PRESS DIVISION 4 ALL STATE.

championship game on Friday, December 28 at 7:30 p.m. with the consolation game at 6:00 p.m. Other highlights include the Snowcoming Game on Friday, February 1 vs. Frankenmuth. North Branch is fortunate to be able to host a Class B Quarterfinal on Tuesday, March 11 with the Imlay City Regional winner taking on the Detroit Renaissance Regional winner.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: Mike Groce returns to North Branch basketball in a head coaching position, but this time as the varsity girls' basketball coach. Coach Groce has 11 years experience as the varsity boys' basketball coach at North Branch High School. Last year the varsity team finished 9-12 overall and 7-7 in the TVC East Division good for a 4th place tie. This



TAYLOR MINER—HONORABLE MENTION ALL STATE CLASS A



JESSICA CURTIS—2nd TEAM ALL STATE CLASS A

year's team returns just two players with varsity experience and will be very young with only 4 seniors on the team. However, the girls are off to a great start and are hopeful of finishing in the upper half of the TVC East Division. This year the varsity girls will play 13 games with the varsity boys' team. On Friday nights, the girls will play at 6:00 p.m. and the boys will play at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday nights, the boys will play at 6:00 p.m. and the girls will play at 7:30 p.m. A major highlight of the schedule will include the girls participating in Snow coming activities as league favorite Frankenmuth will be the opponent for the February 1st game tipping off at 6:00 p.m. Basketball fans have an excellent opportunity to see both our boys and girls in action on the same night many times this winter.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' BOWLING: This is the third year that bowling will be recognized as a varsity sport at



JEROME SULLIVAN—HONORABLE MENTION ALL STATE ASSOCIATED PRESS DIVISION 3-4, DETROIT FREE PRESS HONORABLE MENTION DIVISION 4 ALL STATE.

North Branch. Coach Jason Burack has an overall record of 10-12 with the boys and 15-7 with the girls including a TVC East Championship with the girls' team that finished 11-1 last year. The bowling season opens on December 15 with North Branch hosting the meet at the Imlay City Lanes. The Broncos will participate in 7 meets and the TVC Championships on Feb. 16 at a site still to be determined. The boys' team will have 5 letter winners returning while the girls' team will return 6 letter winners.

CHEERLEADING: The cheerleading program continues to prosper under the direction of Amanda Howard. This will be the second season the varsity will compete in competitive cheerleading. The TVC Championships will be held at Bullock Creek High School on Wednesday, January 30th. The Regional Meet will be held at Lake Orion High School on Saturday, March 1. Last year's team finished in 12th place at the Regional Meet.

WRESTLING: Jay Vesperman begins his seventh season as the head coach of our wrestling program and enters this season with an overall record of 158-84. Last year the team finished 25-12 and won its second consecutive TVC East Division Championship and also finished second in the TVC Conference Tournament. The program did lose three state qualifiers to graduation including state placers Nick Regan and Brandon Rumley. However, the team does return 16 wrestlers with varsity experience who will be looking to repeat as TVC East Champions. Highlights on the schedule include the North Branch Invitational on January 5, our only home dual meet against Bridgeport on Wednesday, January 30, and the TVC Tournament on February 9 at Garber High School. North Branch is fortunate to be able to host the Division II Team Districts on Wednesday, February 13.

Varsity Boys' Basketball schedule table with columns: DATE, OPPONENT, TIME. Rows include games against Imlay City, North Branch, Frankenmuth, Killington, Capac, Hargrave, and others.

Girls' Basketball schedule table with columns: DATE, OPPONENT, TIME. Rows include games against Imlay City, North Branch, Frankenmuth, Killington, Capac, Hargrave, and others.

NOTES OF INTEREST 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 Freshman/JV events. Middle School games are also \$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 \$25.00 and Family \$75.00 (good for all home games from middle

Freshman/ JV's Basketball schedule table with columns: DATE, OPPONENT, TIME. Rows include games against Imlay City, North Branch, Frankenmuth, Killington, Capac, Hargrave, and others.

11th Grade Boys' Basketball schedule table with columns: DATE, OPPONENT, TIME. Rows include games against Imlay City, North Branch, Frankenmuth, Killington, Capac, Hargrave, and others.

11th Grade Girls' Basketball schedule table with columns: DATE, OPPONENT, TIME. Rows include games against Imlay City, North Branch, Frankenmuth, Killington, Capac, Hargrave, and others.



VARSITY GIRLIE BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 26	vs. CARAC.	7:30H
Nov. 27	vs. KILAY CITY	7:30H
Nov. 31	vs. BRIDGEPORT	7:30H
Dec. 05	vs. LAPEER WEST	7:30H
Dec. 07	vs. BRANCH RUN	4:30H
Dec. 11	vs. VALE	7:30H
Dec. 14	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Dec. 14	at KILLINGTON	7:30H
Dec. 21	vs. CARO.	4:30H
Jan. 04	vs. YAZZAR	4:30H
Jan. 11	vs. CRANKER	4:30H
Jan. 15	at MOUNTAIN	7:30H
Jan. 18	vs. BRANCH RUN	4:30H
Jan. 21	Host TVC. NOVER-CENTRAL	7:30H
Jan. 24	at TVC. NOVER-WEST	7:30H
Feb. 01	vs. FRANKENMUTH (2nd meeting)	4:30H
Feb. 05	vs. KILLINGTON	7:30H
Feb. 08	at CARO.	4:30H
Feb. 12	at YAZZAR	7:30H
Feb. 15	at KILLING	4:30H
Feb. 14-22	DISTRICTS	TBD

JV GIRLIE BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 26	vs. CARAC.	4:30H
Nov. 27	vs. KILAY CITY	4:30H
Nov. 31	vs. BRIDGEPORT	4:30H
Dec. 05	vs. LAPEER WEST	7:30H
Dec. 07	vs. BRANCH RUN	7:30H
Dec. 11	vs. VALE	4:30H
Dec. 15	at FRANKENMUTH	7:30H
Dec. 17	at KILLINGTON	4:30H
Dec. 21	vs. CARO.	7:30H
Jan. 04	vs. YAZZAR	7:30H
Jan. 11	vs. CRANKER	7:30H
Jan. 14	at BRIDGEPORT	4:30H
Jan. 17	at BRANCH RUN	4:30H
Jan. 21	Host TVC. NOVER-CENTRAL	4:30H
Jan. 24	at TVC. NOVER-WEST	4:30H
Jan. 31	vs. FRANKENMUTH	7:30H
Feb. 04	at KILLINGTON	7:30H
Feb. 07	at CARO.	7:30H
Feb. 11	at YAZZAR	7:30H
Feb. 14	at KILLING	7:30H

FRESHMAN GIRLIE BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 26	vs. CARAC.	4:30H
Nov. 27	at KILAY CITY	4:30H
Nov. 31	LUTHERAN NORTHWEST	4:30H
Dec. 05	vs. LAPEER WEST	4:30H
Dec. 08	vs. BRANCH RUN	4:30H
Dec. 11	at VALE	4:30H
Dec. 15	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Dec. 21	vs. CARO.	4:30H
Jan. 04	vs. YAZZAR	4:30H
Jan. 11	vs. KILLING	7:30H
Jan. 14	vs. CRANKER	4:30H
Jan. 17	at BROWN CITY	4:30H
Jan. 22	at BRANCH RUN	4:30H
Jan. 24	at KILLING	4:30H
Jan. 31	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Feb. 04	at CARO.	4:30H
Feb. 07	vs. BROWN CITY	4:30H
Feb. 11	at YAZZAR	4:30H
Feb. 14	at CRANKER	4:30H



**ALEX ROOT
1ST TEAM—TVC EAST
CROSS COUNTRY**

school to Varsity including the Varsity Christmas Tournament at North Branch. It does not include the MHSAA Quarterfinal held at North Branch High School on Tuesday, March 11.

Wrestling: Individual \$8.00 and Family \$40.00 (good for all home matches including the North Branch

COMPETITIVE SHEET

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 5	at LAPEER EAST INV.	11:00H
Jan. 31	TVC. BRULOCK CREEK	TBD
Feb. 14	CHESNUNG (PT. 4/5)	4:30H
Feb. 28	BRICKLEY	10:00H
Mar. 01	REGIONAL ELK RUSH	TBD

VARSITY WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 26	at CARO.	4:30H
Dec. 01	at CARAC. TOURN.	4:30H
Dec. 05	at CRACKER VALE & PHN	4:30H
Dec. 08	at KILLING INV.	4:30H
Dec. 21	at LAPEER WEST (PT. 4/5)	12:15
Jan. 04	Host NORTH BRANCH INV.	4:30H
Jan. 08	at YAZZAR w/ CARO.	4:30H
Jan. 12	at DURAND INVITE w/ PT	TBD
Jan. 14	at KILLINGTON w/ CRANKER	4:30H
Jan. 18	at PETOSKEY INV.	4:30H
Jan. 22	at CRANKER w/ BRANCH RUN & KUTH	4:30H
Jan. 24	at KIRBYVILLE INVITE	4:30H
Jan. 31	at MOUNTAIN	4:30H
Feb. 04	at GOODYER INVITE	4:30H
Feb. 08	at TVC. NOVER - CENTRAL	4:30H
Feb. 12	at TVC. MEET @ CRANKER	TBD
Feb. 15	Host TEAKI DISTRICTS @ ME	4:30H
Feb. 18	at IND. DISTRICTS @ GAYLORD	TBD
Feb. 21	at TEAKI REG. @ MT. PLEASANT	TBD
Feb. 28	IND. REG. @ LINDEN	TBD
Mar. 04-08	IND. FINALS	TBD

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 08	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Nov. 11	at YAZZAR	4:30H
Nov. 14	Host ME INVITE	4:30H
Nov. 18	at CARROLLTON	4:30H
Nov. 22	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Nov. 26	at CHESNUNG w/ CARO. & SHEPHERD	4:30H
Nov. 27	CRANKER w/ FREELAND	4:30H
Dec. 01	at ST. LOUIS INVITE	4:30H
Dec. 04	at BRANCH RUN w/ ST. LOUIS	4:30H
Dec. 08	at BRIDGEPORT w/ HENLOCK	4:30H
Dec. 14	TVC. YAZZAR	4:30H



GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY ALL CONFERENCE
L-R: Kayla Luck, Honorable Mention; Meghan Petiprin, 1st Team 1 East, 1st Team All Conference, Regional Qualifier, State Qualifier, Samantha Griffin, Honorable Mention TVC East

Varsity Invitational. It does not include the Team Districts held at North Branch High School on February 13).

VARSITY BOYS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 15	Host BRANCH RUN INVITE	TBD
Jan. 05	at CARO	1:00H
Jan. 12	CARROLLTON KILLING	1:00H
Jan. 18	at FREELAND	TBD
Jan. 24	at BROWN VALLEY	TBD
Feb. 04	at CRANKER w/ KILLINGTON	1:00H
Feb. 08	at BRANCH RUN	TBD
Feb. 14	at TVC. TOURN.	TBD

8TH GRADE VALLIEYS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 17	vs. YAZZAR	4:30H
Nov. 12	vs. CARO.	4:30H
Nov. 14	at BRIDGEPORT w/ TEAKI	4:30H
Nov. 18	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Nov. 24	vs. CRANKER	4:30H
Nov. 28	vs. KILLINGTON	4:30H
Dec. 05	at BRANCH RUN	4:30H
Dec. 08	at YAZZAR	4:30H
Dec. 14	at CARO.	4:30H
Dec. 12	vs. BRIDGEPORT w/ TEAKI	4:30H
Dec. 17	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Dec. 18	at CRANKER	4:30H

11TH GRADE VALLIEYS

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 17	at YAZZAR	4:30H
Nov. 12	at CARO.	4:30H
Nov. 14	at BRIDGEPORT w/ TEAKI	4:30H
Nov. 18	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Nov. 24	at CRANKER	4:30H
Nov. 28	at KILLINGTON	4:30H
Dec. 05	vs. BRANCH RUN	4:30H
Dec. 08	vs. YAZZAR	4:30H
Dec. 14	vs. CARO.	4:30H
Dec. 12	vs. BRIDGEPORT w/ TEAKI	4:30H
Dec. 17	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30H
Dec. 18	vs. CRANKER	4:30H

All-Sports Pass: Individual \$60.00 and Family \$125.00 (good for all winter events in all grades with the exception of MHSAA Tournaments).

The seventh annual reverse raffle date has been set for Saturday, March 1, 2007 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Imlay City beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from booster officers, any athletic coach, or the athletic office. Contact the athletic department for tickets or more information. Tickets cost \$50.00 and include dinner and a chance at 43 cash prizes including the top cash prize of \$2,000.00 All proceeds go to the North Branch Athletic Boosters in support of North Branch athletics.

The next booster meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school media center. The majority of the booster meetings are held on the third Monday of the month. Please contact the athletic office for exact dates and times of future meetings.

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 \$2,200.00 has been raised to support athletics by families participating in this free program.

Thanks to the 30 businesses that participated in the Community Advertising project this fall by purchasing banners to be hung at the football field in the fall. We appreciate your loyal support.

Community members are encouraged to visit Highschoolsports.net or the North Branch Schools web-site and click on the link for the most up-to-date North Branch athletic schedules and results. Practice times are now included on the web-site. It is updated daily and is a good way to keep track of how our athletic teams are doing during the season.

The athletic department would like to thank the 70+ golfers who played in the Mike Patrick/North Branch golf outing held on Monday, September 17. A check was donated to the Athletic Department in the amount of \$605.00 and represents the most ever raised at the annual golf outing. The donation is in memory of Mike Patrick, founder of this golf outing and long-time supporter of North Branch athletics.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

H.S. STUDENTS TRAVEL TO STATE CAPITOL

In September, North Branch High School had a fine contingent of students who participated in mock government called Student Congress. They traveled to our Capitol in Lansing and worked for 3 days in the House of Representatives Chambers. The students focused on the issue of health aid to sub-Saharan countries in Africa. Approximately 200 students from 18 different schools discussed and formulated bills to be considered, amended or possibly passed by the entire House. This was an interesting and educational opportunity for North Branch High School students.



Left to Right: Back row – Anna Tallman, Jason Armstrong
Middle row – Sarah Herberger, Eric Eilerson, Ben Wheatley, Catie Cross, Kyle Manthei
Front row – Anna Lee, Caitlyn Baker, Alex Parton, Brittany Manthei, Tanna Sherrill

High School Drama Department Developments

The North Branch Players have had a busy but successful year so far. Our fall musical, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" was a huge success. With a cast and crew nearing 50 students, the production proved to be a crowd pleasing show. Special thanks goes out to Jeff Ehardt and all of the members of the student orchestra, for all of their extra effort and time to make this musical such a success. The drama department would also like to thank Renee Dudley (pianist), Pam Swope (vocal director), Wendy Miller (choreographer) and Sally Eilerson (costume designer), for all of their volunteer time and talent given to the students of North Branch.



Currently, the North Branch Players are rehearsing three one act productions. Senior Lacy Bond is directing "Love is a Hot Fudge Sundae," a dramatic piece about fitting in and life in a high school. Seniors Corey Patterson and Wade Kreiner are directing "Dragons" a show which deals with the dangers of drinking and driving. Mr. Sorensen is directing "A Thousand Words" a serious look at grief and loss surrounding a tragic event. "A Thousand Words" will represent the High School at the District Drama Competition on January 26th, 2008.

Performances of all three shows in one evening will take place on January 24, 25 at 7:30pm. Ticket prices are \$5.00 for Adults and \$4.00 for students with ID, Military with ID, Senior citizens and children under 12. There are no advanced sales. Tickets may only be bought the day of the show at the auditorium 1/2 hour before curtain time.



Model United Nations

Model United Nations has been out twice this year. This group has had the opportunity to appreciate the country they live in. Students have a topic to write resolutions on and argue with students from other countries/schools on principles surrounding the issue. Six students went to Wayne State for their competition in October. Not only did students participate in the mock experience, but also were able to learn about other nationalities both in study and in personal experience. Students had their first Tri-Valley meet December 5th in Ithaca and will return again for a second meet in January. The final Model UN experience will occur in March at Hope College. This experience helps our students to be better speakers, understand others points of view, and become more globally educated.

Join the Great CELL PHONE DRIVE



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North Branch Middle School

Bring your cell phone to:

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6600 Brush Street
North Branch

For more info call:
(810) 688-4431

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

CLASS OF 2008 SENIOR PICTURE / CLASS COMPOSITE REQUIREMENTS

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2008
with TWO photos (one for yearbook one for composite.)

Overall size: 1 2" wide by 2" long

Head Size 1 1/4" (chin to top of head)

MEDIUM: JPEG preferred (300 dpi or greater) or Color Glossy

Composition: No props, canes, hats, purses, gestures, hands, etc.

Plain background: subdued blues grays, etc.; no outdoor shots.

Questions: Ms. Stover-Lange, (810) 688-3001x 2154 or
rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net.

Collegiate Breakfast 2007

Who: Graduates of NBHS now attending college, recently graduated from college or enlisted in the military

What: Breakfast with current high school juniors and seniors interested in college or military life. Discussion forums will immediately follow breakfast.

When: 7 a.m., Friday, December 21, 2007

Where: High School Cafeteria

How: R.S.V.P. to rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net or call 810.688.3001 x 2154 so that we know food and seating arrangements.

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

North Branch High School will host a Financial Aid Workshop on Tuesday January 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Seniors seeking financial aid for college next fall should plan to attend this meeting. The Financial Aid process is internet based, entirely paperless this year. Students will soon begin attending workshops with the counselors to obtain a pin number. We strongly encourage that parents also attend the 2-hour financial workshop on January 8th.

Michigan Promise Scholarship

The Michigan Promise scholarship provides up to \$4,000 to high school graduates after successfully completing two years of postsecondary education. Students who receive qualifying scores (Level II or above) in each of the required components on the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), are eligible to receive half of their Michigan Promise scholarship during the first two years of post secondary education (\$1,000 in the first year and \$1,000 in the second year). The Michigan Merit Examination (MME) is the state assessment administered to all students enrolled in Grade 11 in March of each year. The MME consists of three major components: the ACT college entrance examination, the WorkKeys job skills assessments in reading and mathematics, and Michigan assessments in mathematics, science, social studies, and persuasive writing. The combined MME assessment measures student learning in the Michigan high school standards, benchmarks, and core content expectations. All NBHS 11th grade students will take the MME on March 11th through the 13th. Seniors, who did not retake the MME this past fall, can retake the test in March with the Juniors. All NBHS Seniors who receive qualifying scores (Level II or above) in each of the required components on the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), will be exempt from taking their final exams at the end of the third trimester in May.



2008 Yearbook Orders

If you would like to order a 2008 yearbook, please use the coupon below. Early bird prices of \$45 and \$50 (with a name) expire Dec. 21, 2007.

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____ Date: _____

_____ 2008 yearbook \$45 (Early Bird)

_____ 2008 yearbook \$50 with name

Please print as you want your name on book

_____ Cash

_____ Check # _____

2008 SENIORS ONLY Home phone: _____

I authorize _____

to pick up my book in the fall of 2008.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

John R. Sherman, North Branch Middle School Principal

As the second trimester begins, the middle school office staff has found itself very busy. The most welcoming change has been the addition of Jamie Buike to our professional staff. Jamie, a resident of North Branch Area School District, was hired last month to teach 7th and 8th grade math. The reason for this addition was simple: more students enrolled at the middle school than expected. She will begin her teaching assignments at the beginning of the second trimester. Up until then, other teachers had to take on an extra teaching assignment during their regularly scheduled planning period.

Adding a teacher has caused many student schedules to change. A student who had Mr. Mitchell for English may now have Mrs. Schulte. A student who had Mr. Peplinski for math may now have Mrs. Buike. Students will see smaller class sizes in their core classes, and some staff will inherit back their planning period.

The benefits of adding a teacher outweigh the concerns of changing teachers mid-year. It is true that for some of our students they will receive a new teacher for a certain number of core classes. Many educational leaders would comment that it is important for teachers to create a relationship with their students on the first day of school. In his book, The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher, Harry Wong says, "What you do on the first days of school will determine your success or failure for the rest of the school year." Connecting and forming relationships with students on the first day of school and on is important in getting them receptive to their teacher's classroom instruction. Adding a new teacher to the staff and rescheduling some of your student population with different teachers does not lend itself to Harry Wong's insightful message. However, I believe Mr. Wong would agree, as does the Board of Education, that class sizes should be maintained at optimum numbers. As to Mr. Wong's quote, the middle school is treating the first day of the second trimester as that new chance (or second chance, for some) to connect and make meaningful relationships with their students.

Our mission has always been to create the best learning environment to prepare our students for their transition to the high school. Smaller class sizes and, periodically, changing teachers fulfills that mission.

WOODEN CHRISTMAS TREES

Fourth graders from Ruth Fox came to the high school to make wooden trees this week as part of a joint effort between the two buildings.

"Ruth Fox students are coming to prepare their trees, then ornaments will be made, sanded and painted at the high school and sent over so the middle school students can write their names on them and glue them to their trees," Woodworking teacher Curt June said.

High school students are the "teachers" that are leading them through the process of sanding, staining the base and painting the tree for the upcoming holidays. Students made more than 229 trees for the Ruth Fox students.

"It's a great time for the older ones to take the lead and show the younger ones what they have learned," Mr. June said.



ANGEL KIDS

Fifty nine Angel Kids have been adopted through NBHS Student Council. "We had the help of many elves, mostly in the high school with the Spanish Club, Mrs. Howe's AP classes, VGC, SWIFT, boys basketball and many teachers that are taking on the responsibility," Student Council Co-Advisor Ruth Stover-Lange explained.

"We couldn't do it without the help of Miss Hunt who gets names and needs from the North Branch Thrift Shop and distributes them throughout the community," Stover-Lange said.

Angel Kids are students of families that need a little extra help this holiday season. Most Angels receive an outfit, some outerwear and a toy.

"Our staff, groups and students get into the spirit by helping someone else," she said. Angel Kids range in age from newborn through the age of 18.

To adopt next year, contact Ms. Stover-Lange at the high school rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net .

S.W.I.F.T. (Service with Impact from Teens) is selling glass ornaments to raise money for families in need this holiday season. Ornaments are \$1 and are hand painted to the specifications of the buyer. Contact Mrs. Upleger or Mrs. Medland at the high school at tupleger@nbbrncos.net or cmedland@nbbrncos.net .

S.A.D.D. (Students Against Destructive Decisions) is having a candy sale to raise money for Project Graduation for the Class of 2008. Please contact Mrs. Finley or Mrs. Carl at the high school if you are a parent willing to help with fundraising, chaperoning the May event or just want to help seniors have a great all-night party. SADD has to raise money for rec center rental, inflatables, prizes, a DJ etc. The party happens right after graduation and is open to all graduating 2008 seniors.

Many students are seniors, but any NBHS student can be a part of SADD and has a opportunity to wear the SADD shirt reminding students to make thoughtful decisions. Contact the co-advisors at sfinley@nbbrncos.net or kcarl@nbbrncos.net.

The Giving Tree is in full swing. Students and staff at the high school are signing a paper ornaments as a fundraiser. "All the proceeds go to help people with their heating bills this winter through the North Branch Thrift Shop. Contact Ms. Stover-Lange to make a \$1, \$5 or \$10 donation at rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net. An auction for the star on top of the tree will be held later this month among teachers.





Lee McDowell and Amari Bryant work together to fold the flag during the Constitution Day celebration held by the flagpole in front of Ruth Fox Elementary.



Several people came to speak at the Ruth Fox Elementary Constitution Day celebration including (from left to right) Deanna Brusie, Jeanie Stevenson, Ralph Deshetsy, Dr. Jennifer Parker-Moore, Chief Bob DeTavernier, Lee McDowell, and Gary Howell. Also pictured is Caitlin Baker (far right) who sang the National Anthem. Speakers talked about what the flag and freedom meant to them. They also shared some history about the flag, the Constitution, Veterans, and the importance of Constitution Day.



Students at the Ruth Fox Elementary kicked off their annual fundraiser with a pizza making contest. The students had a great time and enjoyed the contest! The annual fundraiser (Little Caesar's Pizza Kits) allows Ruth Fox Elementary to purchase classroom supplies, playground equipment, assemblies, etc. Pictured above are Connor Atkins and Shaianne Clemens who won the competition.

Students Attend Skinner Lake

Fourth grade students at Ruth Fox Elementary have the opportunity to attend Skinner Lake as part of their fourth grade experience. Skinner Lake provides an experience for students that they are not able to get during a regular school day. Not only is the trip fun for students, but they learn a lot and get to try many new experiences!



Katie Thomas, Ansley Orr, and Tyler Putnam work together to keep their canoe afloat!



Trevor Kile, Marie Musiel, Stephanie Knudsen, and Ashley Walker learn how people used to transport heavy objects.

RUTH FOX SELECTED FOR NAEP!

We are pleased to tell you that our school has been selected to represent schools across the Nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is given by the U.S. Department of Education and tells us what American students know and can do in key subject areas. It is the only ongoing nationally representative assessment that provides this valuable information.

NAEP has been given in schools nationwide for more than 30 years. You may have taken the assessment yourself when you were in school. The results are published in a report called The Nation's Report Card which provides reliable student achievement information to educators, parents, and other citizens.

In our school, the NAEP assessment will be given on February 5th for fourth graders. The test may not be given to all fourth graders but will be given to a representative sample. More information will be coming in January as the test date gets closer!

Students at Ruth Fox Learn Archery Skills

Students at Ruth Fox Elementary have been learning archery skills during gym class. Last year, teachers Paul Lewis (Ruth Fox) and Curt June (High School) worked together to begin an Archery Club for students after school. In order to promote the sport, Tammy Siegler has taken the training and has been working with students during the school day as well. Students have been very excited about what they are learning and it gives students another chance to be involved in sports and after school activities if they are interested. Pictured below is Alex Bell, a fourth grader, taking a shot at the target.



RUTH FOX NEWS

Ruth Fox Elementary's Old-Fashioned Family Christmas

On Tuesday, December 18th, Ruth Fox Elementary will be hosting our 5th annual *Old-Fashioned Family Christmas*. All proceeds from this event will be used to send four Ruth Fox Elementary students to Huntsville, Alabama Space Camp next summer (2008).

Activities will be taking place from 6:00pm-8:00pm, with an auction immediately following in the gym-8:00pm sharp. There will be food, as well as many games, crafts, and activities for your entire family (all children must be accompanied by an adult). Students of all ages will enjoy an old-fashioned hay wagon ride, pictures with Santa, cookie walk, fleece pillow making, and much, much more! Up for auction there will be "themed" baskets (\$1.00 per ticket), as well as miscellaneous items in the Chinese Auction for .25 a ticket.

Thanks to charitable donations, we already have: NASCAR, Scrapbooking, TV, iPod, Coca Cola, John Deere, Pirates, Family Fun Night, Travel, Construction Toys, and Hunting "themed" baskets. These baskets will be on display in front of the Ruth Fox Elementary Office during the week of December 10th and placed in the gym the evening of the big event.

Old-Fashioned Family Christmas would not be possible without the generous donations and involvement of others. Please contact Cindy Lewis if you have any items to be donated for the auction (new or unused) or Cindy Mitchell if you are available to volunteer at this event.



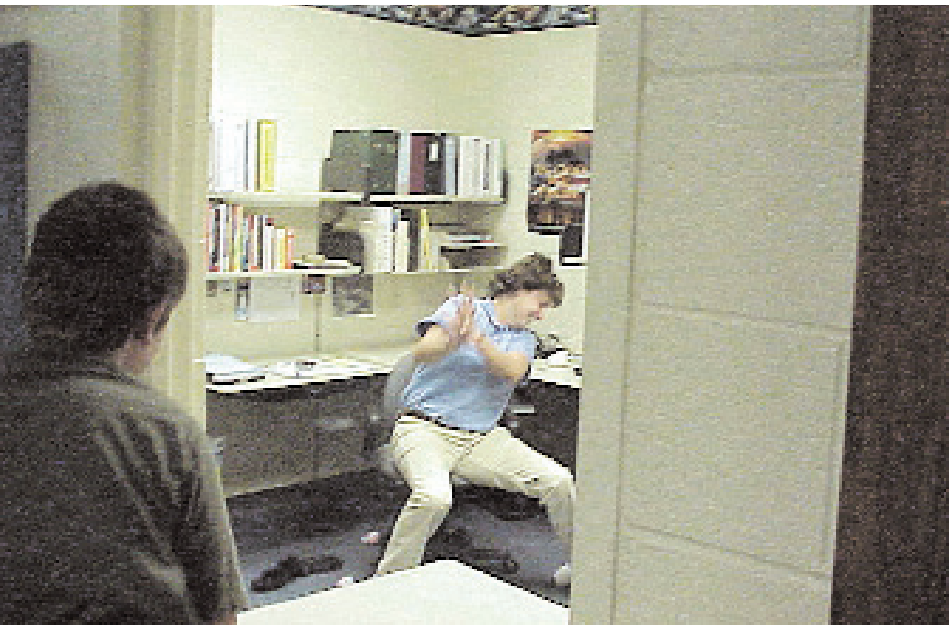
Ruth Fox Students Write to Local Area Veterans

Ruth Fox Elementary Choice Time students enjoyed creating Christmas Cards for local area veterans. Choice Time students worked collaboratively with the Ruth Fox Student Council, who helped address more than forty envelopes for this project. As writers, students were excited to know their cards would be mailed to veterans within the North Branch community. Not only did this activity increase the quality of writing, it also raised the level of engagement for our Ruth Fox writers. We wish all veterans and those actively serving, our best wishes for this holiday season.



CHRISTMAS CHEER SPREADS AT RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY!!!

Students have a wonderful time trying to "hit" Mrs. Siegler during the annual "Sock it to Siegler" Christmas collection at Ruth Fox Elementary. Students bring in socks, hats, mittens, and gloves to donate to the North Branch Thrift Shop for the Community Christmas baskets. Mrs. Siegler dodged items for two hours on December 4th! Students tried all kinds of "tricks" to get her! The collection resulted in hundreds of items for the donation!!!!



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza

Students in Kindergarten have been learning about food groups and reading the story, *The Little Red Hen*. A different version of the folk tale is called, *The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza*, by Philemon Sturges. Students completed many activities with the book like story mapping, comparing and contrasting the two books, practicing our sight words, and retelling the tale. We ended both units by making pizzas in class, complete with chef hats. Students had a lot of fun with this hands-on, minds-on, learning opportunity.



Attendance

Each morning we await the arrival of the buses to deliver the students of North Branch Elementary. It would be an unusual day not to see Mrs. Hosner, and Mrs. Spivy greeting the students on the front sidewalks with a hug, a hand shake, or a high five. It is just part of the morning routine to see the bright smiles, sooth the tears, and laugh at the humorous anecdotes of the students as they enter the building. Our focus for the year is to "Build a Learning Community," and one way that we are promoting this is to recognize the staff and students who value education enough to come to school every day.



Every month the students and staff will receive recognition for their perfect attendance. They will receive certificates, ribbons, bracelets, pins, and even water bottles for each month that they have perfect attendance. In the month of September we had 484 students with perfect attendance, and 46 staff members. In October there were 147 students with perfect attendance and 195 students who haven't missed a day of school in September or October. There were 26 staff members with perfect attendance in October, and 18 staff members that have not missed a day of work all year. Great job staff and students!!

Curriculum Night

On September 25th, North Branch Elementary hosted their first "Curriculum Night." This evening was a perfect foundation for our annual theme, "Building a Learning Community." Besides the obvious construction of the new North Branch Elementary Schools, our mission for the 2007-2008 school year is to not only educate our students, but also our staff and families. Curriculum Night was a night dedicated to our parents. The teachers prepared informational presentations outlining grade level skills by trimester, demonstrated instructional strategies they teach, and provided materials and practices that parents can use at home to support their child's progress. The evening was attended by 257 parents, and was a big success that will become an annual practice for our families.



An Educational Voyage

The second grade students in Mrs. Krugielki's class learned about the pilgrims, and the adventures and traditions of their voyage to new lands. The 2nd grade students practiced, practiced, and practiced some more to prepare their reading for parents. The Mayflower was constructed with the help of students to use as a backdrop. The parents were impressed with the show, and the students' efforts. Awesome work 2nd Graders!!



Roller Skating

November 13th was "Skate Night" for the students at North Branch Elementary School. The event was hosted by the Lapeer Skating Center. A lot of fun was had by over 80 skaters and many others participating as spectators. The students skated the night away, with a break for a game of "Hot Potato" and a round of "The Hokey Pokey." With a few bumps and bruises, and a lot of sore muscles the crowd left with big smiles and a promise to return on March 20th for the next



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Let the Building Begin!!

The dirt is moving at the corner of Elm Creek Road and Jefferson Road for the future home of two new North Branch Elementary Schools: Elm Creek Elementary School and Jefferson Trail Elementary School. We are very thankful to be a part of a community that values education, and it is our focus this year to give this back to our youngest citizens, "our children". So... the natural choice for our theme for the 2007-2008 school-year is "Building a Learning Community."

The theme is readily visible as you walk into the lobby of the elementary. There are photographs of the students spelling out the word "BUILD" with the infamous yellow construction t-shirts, and an interactive display case with a variety of building tools, vehicles, and other thematic items for students to locate.

All children are born as a blank slate. It is "our" responsibility as educators, parents, and community members to fill it wisely. What will our blue print look like? A strong foundation is the most important component. A love of learning, a thirst for knowledge, an ability to form and maintain strong friendships, and an appreciation and respect for the making of responsible citizens are essential ingredients.

Our goal for the 2007-2008 school year is to provide many opportunities for students, teachers, and parents to expand their knowledge and build strong successful relationships. This goal will continue as we open the doors to the new building. Many questions have come up about the new building. Yes it is one "physical" building, but inside are two independent learning communities that we have named Jefferson Trail and Elm Creek Elementary. Both of these communities will house Begin-a-garten-4th grade classes to provide a smaller learning environment for our students. Students will be assigned to these separate communities based on their geographical locations that will be determined this spring.



Constitution Day

September 17th was the celebration of Constitution Day at the elementary school. We dedicated this day to building a strong foundation for a successful school year. We started the day with a school wide assembly in the gymnasium. On this day, there was no entertainment brought in, no special guest speakers, and no props or special scenery. The purpose was to introduce the entire elementary staff of teachers, para-professionals, aides, custodians, nurses, and lunchroom staff to the students. The students were amazed at the number of people at the school every day available to help them succeed.



We also introduced The Universal Rights to the students. These are the rules that we use to represent the school constitution. The Universal Rights that we practice at North Branch Elementary are as follows: We have the right to learn, We have the right to be respected, We have the right to be safe, We have the right to hear and to be heard, and We have the right to have our property respected. These Rights were generated from the traits that are observed and modeled by productive citizens. The teachers created and lead the students in a cheer for the Universal Rights. Principal, Mrs. Hosner, and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Spivy spoke about the purpose of school rules and compared their importance to the rules of the United States Constitution.

In classrooms throughout the day you could see lessons being taught about proper behavior. Stories were read and discussions held about making good choices, and how to walk away from difficult situations. The final affirmation was to sign the giant Universal Rights Constitution posted in the main hallway. By signing, students were acknowledging their understanding of the school rules, and agreeing to abide by them.

M.E.A.P. Madness

During the month of October the elementary school had over 165 third grade students take the M.E.A.P. test. The third graders worked hard to complete the mathematics and the English/Language Arts portion of the State test. Prior to taking the test the third graders had a visit from "M.E.A.P. Man."

M.E.A.P. Man came prepared in his thinking cap and cape of bravery. The third grade teachers also pumped up the students with a "Beat the M.E.A.P." cheer, and a skit to remind the students of the "Golden Rule." The Golden Rule was to: 1) Get a good night sleep, 2) Eat a Healthy breakfast, and 3) Have a positive attitude. After completing all of the tests the students were rewarded with ice cream treats to celebrate their hard work. Great Job 3rd Graders!!



Holiday Wishes from North Branch Elementary

The Staff at North Branch Elementary wants to wish our families, students, and community partners a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy the time to spend with your family and friends, and reminisce about joyful memories. Please join us in sending out the holiday cheer on our website, nbbrncos.net. If you click on the Elementary page and go to the "Holiday Greetings Page" you can view and share your holiday wishes, memories, and traditions. We hope to hear from you soon.

Parental Pride

The families and staff at North Branch Elementary School will be counting their lucky stars this year. The merging of Sweet School families with the NBE families enabled us to make a fresh start for the Parent and Teacher Club. We recognize that it is next to impossible to successfully educate children without the support of our families. Our mission was to create a positive force of willing parents to promote educational opportunities for our students.



Last spring we gathered parents together to establish a vision for this group. The vision that we agreed on holds many key components: enhance curriculum, goal oriented fund raising, dedicated to student learning, supportive, friendly, welcoming, active, and well organized. In the three months since the school year started the vision is beginning to take shape. The group has come up with events that are a mix of the old familiar and a taste of something new. The events also mix family fun with educationally sound creativity. The name was changed from "Partners in Pride" to "NBE Parent & Teacher Club" for quicker identification of the groups function. Last, but not least, new officers were elected. This years President is Ronada LaFond, Vice President is Jennifer Dahn, Treasurer is Joy Hofert, and Secretary is Jennifer Page along with the co-secretary Christi Law. The group brings a lot of excitement, dedication and enthusiasm to the building. The families at NBE can keep track of upcoming events and needs by watching for the Parent & Teacher Club Newsletter that will come home each month. We also want to thank the 183 families that signed a two hour commitment to support the school. If each of these families completes their two hour commitment we will have 366 hours of dedicated support and commitment to improving the opportunities for our students.

The Parent & Teacher Group meets the second Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the elementary library. New members are always welcome. Even if you cannot attend the meetings, your help and support is always appreciated, so please call the school today to get in touch with a Parent & Teacher Club member.



F.A.B.S.

Fun After & Before School

Any North Branch Area School student from Preschool to 6th grade is eligible to register. The hours of operation are 6:00 AM – 6:30 PM every week day.

We are open on ? days,
In-service days and snow days.

F.A.B.S. will be closed for
winter break and spring break.

This program is funded by user fees
\$2.25 per hr. 1st child

\$1.75 per hr. each additional sibling

FABS is licensed by The State of Michigan.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

For further information, contact Leann Gwinn
(810) 688-4634 OR 688-3041 Ext.2881.0