

# Communicator

January 2022



## Author Kevin Lovegreen Shares Passion for Writing

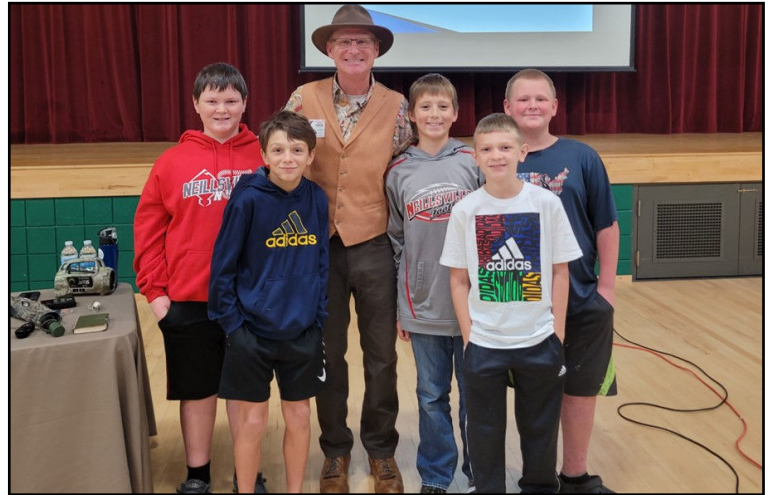
Author Kevin Lovegreen spoke to students in grades 2 through 8 about the writing process and then spent time with small groups to help students edit their own short stories. Lovegreen, who lives in Minnesota, has authored many books about outdoor adventures.

### SCHEDULE CHANGE

↓ The two dates in red below are now "No School" dates for students ↓

### Important Dates

FRI	<b>21</b>	No School
JAN		Teacher In-Service
<b>MON</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>No School</b>
<b>JAN</b>		<b>Teacher In-Service</b>
MON	<b>31</b>	Academic & Career Planning
JAN		Night - 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
WED	<b>9</b>	Late Start: 10:05 AM
FEB		No AM 4K
<b>FRI</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>No School</b>
<b>FEB</b>		<b>Teacher In-Service</b>
THU	<b>24</b>	Parent-Teacher Conferences
FEB		4:30 to 8:30 p.m.
FRI	<b>25</b>	No School - Parent-Teacher
FEB		Conferences - 8 to 11:30 a.m.
WED	<b>9</b>	Late Start: 10:05 AM
MAR		No AM 4K
FRI	<b>25</b>	No School
MAR		Teacher In-Service



## Superintendent's Message



### Covid Update:

We continue to struggle with the spread of Covid everywhere in the world, but we continue to do everything we can to keep our schools open for our children. On the next page we have included the new set of guidelines for quarantining from the health department. The School District of Neillsville will allow students who are close contacts, but not experiencing any symptoms, to attend school as long as they wear a mask. Please know that we are doing all we can to keep our kids both mentally and physically healthy during this challenging time.

### Facilities Update:

Federal funds have been provided to districts across the nation to help schools reopen safely; support student academic growth and mental health; and support building upgrades that help

to provide a healthy learning environment for students. The School District of Neillsville is working with outside agencies to develop a plan for an upgrade of our current facilities. Due to supply chain problems, our timelines do change at times, but we have a goal of doing all we can to upgrade our facility with little to no tax impact.

### School Closings:

Please be aware that we are in the season of possible school closings. The district does contact all area media outlets and use all of our social media platforms to inform families of any closing situations. Please note that if you feel it is unsafe to send your child, but school is in session, please feel free to contact us and that absence will be excused.

Thanks to all of you for your support of the children in the School District of Neillsville now and always.

John Gaier  
Superintendent

## Third Graders Craft Imaginative Stories

In reading, we continue to work on improving our reading skills and strategies, as well as independent reading levels. Students need to be able to read and comprehend 98% of the words and concepts within a text to be successful readers. **More than ever, it is important that your child spend at least 20 minutes reading every day.** We have written step-by-step directions in writing and are now working on imaginative stories. We have some pretty creative third graders!



In math, third graders are gaining a better understanding of how to use math strategies every day. They have also been working very hard learning their multiplication and division facts. They have quickly discovered that it is faster to multiply than to add again and again! **Please continue to support your child at home by practicing the multiplication and division facts every day.**

This spring, students will be administered the state assessment called the Wisconsin Forward Exam. Third graders will be preparing for this in the coming weeks. You should be seeing more information regarding specific testing dates and times soon. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. It really makes a difference when your child knows we are all in this together! Keep up the good work!

Updated: 1/13/22

**NEW**

# Isolation & Quarantine

## Isolation Period

(Tested Positive for COVID-19)



**Isolate for 5 Days\***  
(Released on Day 6)\*\*



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### Shortened Isolation\*

- \*Does not apply to:
- Those under the age of 2.
  - Those who are immunocompromised.
  - Those who are hospitalized for COVID-19.
  - Those who are unable to wear a mask.
  - Those who live/work in correctional or detention facilities.
  - Those who live/work in homeless shelters.
  - Those who are on cruise ships.

**These individuals must isolate for the full 10 Days (released on Day 11).**

\*Healthcare workers/staff should contact their employer for workplace guidance.

**Must Mask at All Times for 5 Days**  
(Days 6-10)

\*Day 0 = Start of symptoms or day you were tested if no symptoms.

\*\*Can **only** be released on Day 6 if:  
-No symptoms or symptoms are **improving** & fever free for 24 hours without medications to reduce a fever.

## Quarantine Period

(Exposed to COVID-19)

**Shortened quarantine does not apply if symptoms develop (even mild). Get tested if symptoms develop.**



Household close contacts who are unable to separate away from the positive case cannot start their quarantine period until the positive cases' isolation period is complete.



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### Shortened Quarantine\*

- \*Does not apply to:
- Those under the age of 2.
  - Those who are immunocompromised.
  - Those who are unable to wear a mask.
  - Those who live/work in correctional or detention facilities.
  - Those who live/work in homeless shelters.
  - Those who are on cruise ships.

**These individuals must quarantine for the full 10 Days (released on Day 11).**

\*Healthcare workers/staff should contact their employer for workplace guidance.

**Quarantine for 5 Days\***  
(Released on Day 6)

\*Day 0 = Last date of contact with a positive case while they are infectious/contagious.

**Must Mask at All Times for 5 Days**  
(Days 6-10)

*Recommended to Test on Day 5*

## Do Not Need to Quarantine<sup>^</sup> If No Symptoms and:

- Vaccinated with Pfizer:
  - Completion of the 2 dose primary series within the last 5 months.\*
  - Completion of the 2 dose primary series, and received a booster dose.
- Vaccinated with Moderna:
  - Completion of the 2 dose primary series within the last 5 months.\*
  - Completion of the 2 dose primary series, and received a booster dose.
- Vaccinated with Johnson & Johnson (Janssen):
  - Completion of the 1 dose primary series within the last 2 months.\*
  - Completion of the 1 dose primary series, and received a booster dose.

\*Completion of a primary series = 2 full weeks since receiving last primary series dose.



<sup>^</sup>Should wear a mask Days 1-10.

## High School Principal's Message



### We have the keys; do you want to ride with us?

There is an old saying that you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. Life is filled with daily decisions that build upon each other and, over the course of time, those daily decisions can change our lives. It's been quite some time since I discussed the topic of student engagement. There is a common belief that over time students are more likely to become "disengaged" academically. The questions and finger pointing that come from such a claim are aplenty. I would like to give you my own view on this matter and share with you how we as a high school building work to address the issue of student engagement, and really student academic success, here at Neillsville.

Student excitement in school at the elementary level is very obvious! Young children are eager to learn and they are like a sponge soaking up all that they see, hear, and experience on a daily basis both in and out of school. As our children grow they begin to figure out who they are and what direction they want to go with their lives; sometimes against the wishes and hopes of their parents or other adults. From a high school principal's viewpoint, I use the driver license test as a barometer. If you were to ask 100 teenagers, male or female, do they "want" their license to drive? The answer will be overwhelmingly "yes". Here's my point, when people want something bad enough they will take the steps to make it happen. Teenagers will sacrifice time with friends and family, take off of work, miss athletic practices, etc. in order to meet the requirements for their license. I am here to tell you that the same mentality is needed when it comes to "wanting" academic success. We have the keys to make academic success a reality for our students here in Neillsville.

I have only one request of each student in our building when it comes to academics – do your best! With that in mind, sometimes a best effort doesn't lead to immediate success and that's okay. Needing help is nothing to be ashamed of. For any student that needs academic help, here is what we can offer you as advice or programming:

- ◆ Use your time wisely in and out of the classroom when at school, especially 8<sup>th</sup> hour.
- ◆ Ask questions! It seems obvious but it's a huge barrier to understanding. Don't be embarrassed or ashamed to ask a question.
- ◆ Ask your teacher(s) for additional help. Ask any teacher when they may be available to meet with you.
- ◆ Stop into the office to see Mrs. Backaus, or myself, and we can troubleshoot ideas with you.
- ◆ Monitor your grades on Infinite Campus. Knowing what the problem(s) may be is the first step in identifying the solution(s).

I could go on and on with simple ideas and strategies regarding student academic success. My point is this, we have many keys that can help drive student academic success, and the question is, "Do you want to ride along?" At times the road may be bumpy along the way, but the final destination will be well worth the ride. I welcome you to contact me anytime with ideas, questions, or comments.

Respectfully,  
Mr. Anderson

## Middle School Principal's Message



Welcome to 2022! I hope this finds you excited and optimistic for another year. I don't know where the time goes, but as I type this, we are wrapping up the tail end of the first semester of the 2021-22 school year. The first half of this school year was eventful in the middle school with field trips, guest speakers, celebrations, service projects, kindness activities, club activities, sports, all in addition to continuous academic and social-emotional growth through daily coursework.

The middle school has a character trait of the month where students are recognized by staff and peers for demonstrating the monthly character trait. The submitted character cards are hung up on our "Character Board" in the middle school hallway. At the end of the month, the students get to keep the character card that was filled out for them along with a small token of appreciation. Some of the monthly character traits have been kindness, thankfulness, and joy.

As part of our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) program, students are able to earn "Warrior Pride Tickets" for demonstrating safe, responsible, or respectful behavior. The homerooms have a collection container for students to deposit their tickets. Each homeroom works toward a common reward goal that they collectively set. This year we have started bi-monthly Restorative Circles during eighth hour non-movement Mondays. Restorative Circles are valuable tools for developing relationships and building classroom communities by giving each participant in the circle an equal opportunity to speak and be heard. In addition as part of our PBIS program, we have a Tier 2 Intervention called Check-in/Check-out implemented for students that have reached a determined behavioral threshold. Students in this program check-in and out with their staff greeter each day along with receiving increased feedback throughout the day from their teachers to increase positive interactions and relationships at school and therefore, improve behavior.

Our FOR Club (Friends of Rachel) consists of about forty student volunteers that continue to be busy selecting and implementing projects to promote the message of kindness and compassion. One of their projects this year has included a chain reaction of kindness where students and staff record intentional acts of kindness on paper links. You can see this hung up in our middle school hallway. The goal is to get a long enough paper chain where we can connect with the elementary and high school's kindness chain. Another project is compliment cards. The committee members set up a table during the lunch hour where they collected compliments to create a "take if you need" positive pick me up. The students recognized that sometimes we are having a bad day and hearing a compliment from a peer can be a pick-me-up. Compliment baskets are placed in common middle school areas for students to leave a compliment or take one if desired. Additionally, the club provided handmade thank you cards and treats for MS teachers to tell them how much they are appreciated. Their goal is to expand this to high school and elementary school teachers as the year progresses. Furthermore, the group has also collected items for students in need through a couple of projects.

This year again, the Teen Leadership Council (TLC) has been joining the 8th-grade monthly guidance lessons. The TLC is made up of high school juniors who give their time to make connections and relationships with 8th graders. The student-led activities during guidance lessons, under the direction of Mrs. Neville and Mrs. Backaus, help foster community, kindness, and relationships.

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## Middle School Principal *continued . . .*

With the start of second semester, as with the start of the New Year, we reflect back on what went well in the past year and set goals and hopes on what we would like to improve. During the second semester, we have much to look forward to. A couple of items are Middle School Week and ACP Night. Middle School Week will be February 14th-18th. Activities for Middle School Week are being organized by the Middle School Student Council. Activities include dress-up days, door decorating contest, penny war, daily riddles, game of Blooket, and wrapping up the week with a field trip to Bruce Mound.

On January 31st from 6-8 pm, students currently in grades eighth through eleventh, along with their parent(s)/guardian(s), are invited to Academic and Career Planning (ACP) night. On ACP night our current eighth graders will join the high school. This opportunity will allow them to meet their academic and career advisors and get a flavor for what to expect in high school, along with an assortment of presentations for the parents to attend. In addition to the high school portion of ACP night, parents/guardians district-wide are invited to attend an elementary reading presentation and stop past the variety of informational tables. Be watching for a mailing that has a further explanation of those evening activities.

I am enjoying watching each of the middle school students grow and change over the course of the school year and look forward to the academic, physical, and social-emotional growth the second semester will bring.

Have a wonderful day,  
Kory Poeschel  
Middle School Principal

*On January 31st from 6-8 pm, students currently in grades eighth through eleventh, along with their parent(s)/guardian(s), are invited to Academic and Career Planning night.*

## Hands-On States & Abbreviations in 6th Grade

This month our sixth graders have been practicing memorizing locations of the 50 states as well as their abbreviations and shapes. Mrs. Kunderer made a blank states map and had these two lovely ladies sort them by map location and then label them with the correct abbreviations. After Mr. Matson's class made several more sets, they've been practicing them diligently! Their favorite time to practice is during WIN time where they can work with a partner to sort based on shape and abbreviation.

BTW... What is the smartest state? Alabama! It has 4 As and 1 B! 😂



## Elementary Principal's Message



Welcome to the year 2022! With the new semester comes exciting events. Our Neillsville Elementary staff can assist in making these transitions as smooth as possible.

### **School Arrival Times**

I want to remind families that students can enter the school building at 7:40 a.m. The doors are not open for children to enter before this time. The school abides by this for security reasons. Therefore, please be sure that children are not dropped off too early for school and waiting to get into the building. We just want to make sure the students stay safe and warm.

### **Playground**

Recess is a time to socialize and have fun. We stress respectful speaking to recess teachers and other students. In addition, physical aggression will not be tolerated. I have reviewed playground/recess expectations for some elementary classrooms. The students are very receptive. In addition, these review sessions have brought about great discussions between teachers and students. Every day we are working at improving behaviors of students in unstructured settings. Discussions with staff bring great ideas, as well as discussions with students. This year we have limited the number of students at one time in areas on the playground. So far, this has been a success.

### **Happenings**

- During Dr. Seuss Week you may hear students read Dr. Seuss stories on the radio! Our local radio station, WCCN, will be recording students reading these stories. We have students that have volunteered to read! We will send out information as the event gets closer. This is wonderful! Thank you to Logan Grap and WCCN for giving our school this opportunity!
- Also, during Dr. Seuss Week we will have a family event at the school. This event will include parents reading with their children, arts and crafts, and games. Stay tuned for the details.
- The Forward Exam will be administered to students in grade 3rd - 5th in April. The Forward Exam is the "state test" that is usually given in the spring of the year. The grade-level teachers will inform parents of dates and times as the event gets closer.
- Summer School is just around the corner! It will be held from June 6th to July 1st, Monday through Friday. We will send home details very soon. Registration forms will likely be due in April.
- January 27, 2022, will be 3rd through 5th grades' quarter reward day. The students and teachers will be going to Bruce Mound for some sledding and skiing fun! Students in 5th grade will be allowed to ski. The students are excited about this fun opportunity!
- January 28, 2022, will be 5-year-old kindergarten through 2nd grades' quarter reward day. The students and teacher will be going to the movie theater in Marshfield to watch *Sing 2*. They are very excited to do something out of the ordinary!
- January 31, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. there will be a Neillsville Elementary School and the Science of Reading parent informational night. Parents will be informed about the strategies and materials Neillsville Elementary School is using to teach reading. It will also give parents ideas on how they can help their children at home.

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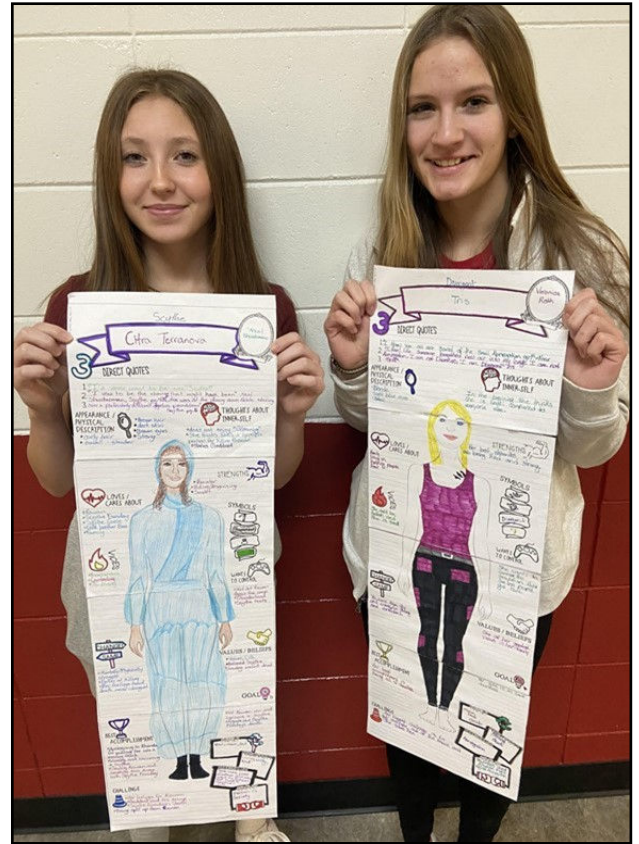
## 8th Graders Study Character Analysis

The 8th grade students have been working diligently throughout the second quarter to improve their math skills. Most recently, students learned how to create and analyze scatter plots and two-way tables. They also spent time mastering how to solve systems of linear equations. Up next we will introduce linear functions! Currently, they are working on some review of important skills they have learned so far this semester in 8th grade. These review days are used to help spiral the curriculum to ensure all material stays fresh in their brains for when we reach the state Forward Exam in the spring. We are working hard daily to keep our math brains active and engaged!

During American History, students have started exploring the original 13 colonies and how the US began. They are also learning about the American Revolution and will soon be talking about the important battles and events of the American Revolutionary War.

In ELA, the 8th graders completed a dystopian book club unit. There were eight book choices that the students got to choose from. Students analyzed the differences between the dystopian society in their novel and today's society. They also participated in group discussions where they talked about the importance of choices throughout the unit. To end the unit, they completed a character analysis project. Check out some of the cool projects the students created!

As we approach the month of February, there is much to look forward to in middle school! We will be celebrating Middle School Week the week of February 14th-18th. Dress up days will be announced to the 6th-8th grade students soon. Each day we will have fun trivia and will also be holding a penny war! We will end our week by going to Bruce Mound on Friday, February 18th, to have "snow" much fun with our friends and staff!



## Elementary Principal *continued* . . .

### In Closing

Thank you for supporting our elementary school. School is a very important part of a community. Neillsville Elementary School is very fortunate to have such a supportive and caring community. In addition, I'm extremely proud of our teachers and students for all of the hard work they do, and the willingness to adjust this school year. I'm looking forward to spring!

Marcy Kunze  
Elementary School Principal



## High School Guidance



Congratulations on a positive first semester; please keep the following points of information in mind to plan for a successful spring.

### Seniors:

Please continue to reference your **YELLOW senior year checklist** sheet to make sure you are on track. Please continue to work on **scholarships**; remember, most local scholarships are due **Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**, but some are due later in the month. For more information, please continue to routinely check your Gmail account for updates and additional scholarship opportunities. All scholarships and applications (or instructions on how to obtain applications) are located on the Neillsville High School scholarship page. This webpage is updated routinely as additional scholarships become available. **8<sup>th</sup> Hour Scholarship Help Sessions started on January 14<sup>th</sup> and will continue to run each week (THURSDAYS) through March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please consider coming if you would like assistance with your scholarships and a designated place/time to work.** Also, please remember to complete your **FAFSA** before the priority date for your college; most priority dates are coming up soon; some have already passed. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Backaus if you need help or assistance with either of these two items.

**\*\*March 8, 2022 NOTIFICATION:** On Junior ACT Day (Tuesday, March 8, 2022) seniors will get to choose from the following options:

- 1) Come to school during the AM to receive help (proofread, double checked, etc.) on local scholarships in the library. Students will be allowed to make copies if needed, as well, during this time. This option is HIGHLY ENCOURAGED for all students who plan to turn in local scholarships on March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Schedule college visits, look for job opportunities, post-high school planning, etc. on your own.
- 3) Attend school; all seniors choosing this option will be given a quiet day of study in the library.

A permission slip will be required for **all seniors** indicating which option you will choose on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Permission slips will be given out the week of February 14<sup>th</sup> and need to be returned by February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Save the Tentative Date: Scholarship Awards Day, Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

### Juniors:

Spring testing is right around the corner! Please remember these important dates and do your best to come to school well rested and prepared to do your best on these exams.

- a) **ACT:** Test Date: **Tuesday, March 8, 2022: 10:05-3:15** at Neillsville High School. We are running a "late-start" time for the ACT test to give students more rest prior to taking it. Busses will run on the normal schedule only; students choosing to come in late will need to provide their own transportation. Juniors coming to school at the regular time will be given study time prior to the test. Permission slips, with all the details, will be given out the week of February 14<sup>th</sup> and need to be returned by February 25<sup>th</sup>. **A special lunch will be provided for all juniors as well!** 😊

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## High School Guidance *continued . . .*

- b) The ACT make up day will be two weeks following on March 22, 2022.
- c) ACT Prep Sessions will be during 8<sup>th</sup> hour; dates and times TBD. Stay tuned!
- d) Please remember, all juniors (unless taking a different assessment under an IEP) are *required* to take the ACT under Wisconsin's state assessment program *unless*, opted out by written parent request. <https://dpi.wi.gov/assessment/faq>

### Sophomores:

Great job on the Jan 12<sup>th</sup> ASVAB; I hope you found the career seminar helpful as well and are well informed about some new strengths you perhaps didn't know you had. This is one more resource to help you explore and plan for future career options. Additionally, 28 (about 45% of your class) of you chose to have an *optional* individual sophomore planning conference over the past couple of months. Again, great job taking the initiative to plan for your junior year!

### Freshmen and Sophomores:

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, is scheduled to be a fun day for you! While the juniors and seniors are hard at work, you will be on a field trip. Freshmen will be heading to Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids to visit UWSP-Marshfield and Mid-State Technical College. Sophomores will be heading to Eau Claire to visit Chippewa Valley Technical College and UW-Eau Claire. Permission slips, with specific details regarding lunch, will be given out the week of February 14<sup>th</sup> and need to be returned by February 25<sup>th</sup>.

### 22-23 Scheduling: All students in grades 8-11

Provided the weather cooperates, we are looking forward to hosting our annual **ACP Night** to kick off the 22-23 scheduling process on **Monday, January 31, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 PM!** We will continue with the registration process throughout the month of February; students will enter their class requests the week of February 14-18. The schedule-building process will take place in March. We will do our best to keep you updated as we get further into this process. Schedules for next year will be finalized later this spring. Please see Mrs. Backaus or your advisor with any questions you may have.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Graders:

As we head into the spring semester, I want to encourage you to focus on the quick approaching transition into high school. Some self-reflective thoughts/questions to ask oneself might include: *Am I taking my 8<sup>th</sup> grade courses seriously, so I am academically prepared for the challenges of high school work? Am I maturing in my words and actions toward my fellow classmates, so the Class of 2026 enters high school as a respectful and unified class? Am I pursuing other talents and interests, so I am a well-rounded person who has many potential career and/or post-secondary options in front of him/her?* These questions, and many others, are meant to challenge you to become the best version of yourself (to quote Mr. Swita. ☺) If you answered "yes" to all or most of them, great, keep up the good work. If you answered "no" to all or most of them, please consider how you might change your thoughts, words, and actions so you can answer "yes" to more of them by the end of the year. To the TLC students - Mrs. Neville and I look forward to finishing the last part of your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year together in a fun and positive way!

**As always, please feel free to contact Julia Backaus, HS Counselor, if you have questions about any of the information provided at 715-743-8713 or [jbackaus@neillsvillek12.org](mailto:jbackaus@neillsvillek12.org)**

## Elementary Guidance



### Classroom Lessons

Our topics second quarter have been:

#### November- Gratitude

Gratitude was our character trait of the month, so it only seemed appropriate that it be our guidance topic too. Everyone got to watch Kid President talk about the 25 things he was thankful for. And each grade had a follow up activity that allowed them time to think about the many things they have to be thankful for. Our 4th and 5th graders got to make their very own gratitude turkeys while 5K through 3rd each made a page to put in their class book of gratitude.

#### December- Careers

December was packed full of career exploration. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade got to read several books on careers and then got to spend time thinking about what they wanted to be. The 2nd graders even developed their own career plan. Third graders are spending time in their interactive notebooks. They got to take their first interest inventory and then learn about six different career clusters, while 4th and 5th grade are exploring the careers in each cluster and learning how their interests and skills relate to jobs.

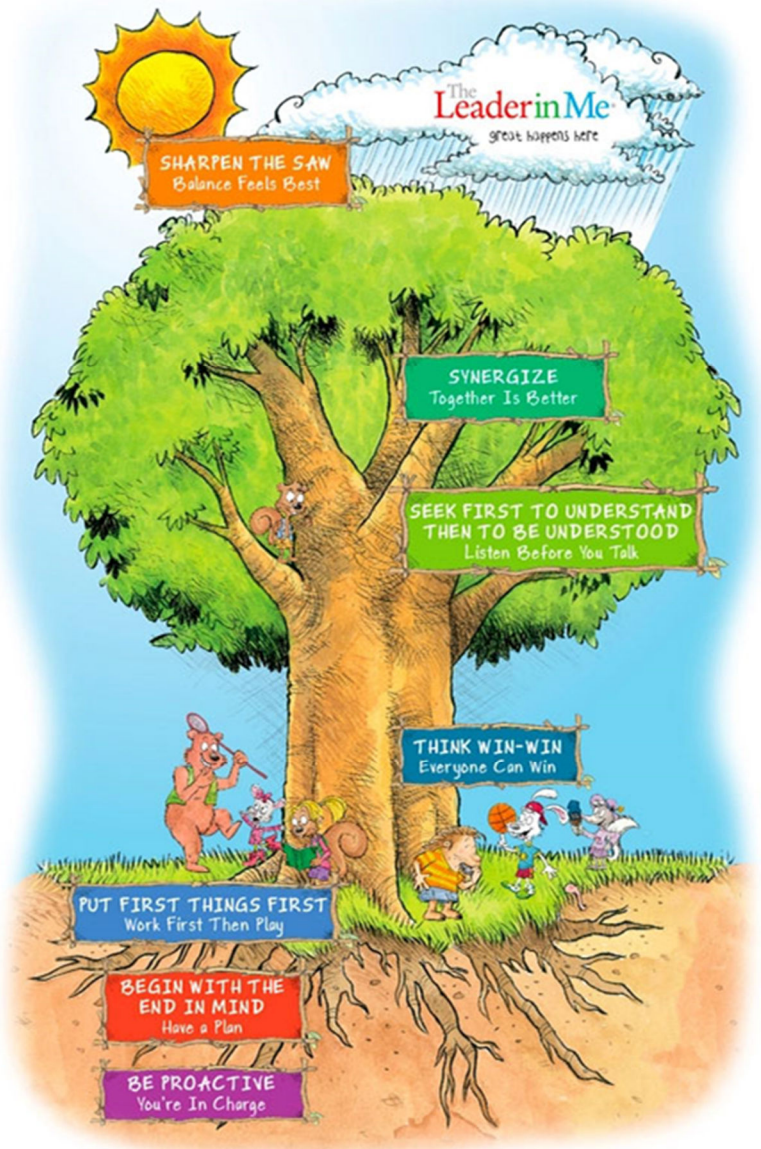
#### 7 Habits of Happy Kids

Our kindergarten and first grade have been learning about the 7 Habits of Happy Kids. The 7 Habits use the metaphor of a healthy tree, Habits 1–3 focus on developing a strong “personal root system”, building character and becoming more independent. Habits 4–6 teach skills of working well with others and becoming more interdependent. Habit 7 is about taking care of oneself in order to ensure great leadership can continue into the future.

#### Questions and Concerns

If you ever have any questions about the guidance program please feel free to contact me. Also, if you are interested in getting your son or daughter in a small group or individual | counseling with me please reach out.

Thank you and have a great rest of your year,  
 Bri Anne Collins  
 Elementary School Counselor  
[bacollins@neilsville.k12.wi.us](mailto:bacollins@neilsville.k12.wi.us)  
 715-743-8717



## Middle School Social Emotional Learning



Students at Neillsville Middle School have been participating in guidance presentations aimed at improving strategies to deal with some of the challenges of middle school, such as self regulation and internet safety. Next we will be focusing on Academic and Career Planning (ACP) activities to prepare students as they move forward to the next school year.

Eighth grade students will be focusing on scheduling and other ACP activities. On January 12th, the 8th graders were able to experience a day in the high school during "Mix it Up Day". They were able to meet all of the high school teachers and visit each classroom. At the end of January, Mrs. Backaus will join the eighth grade guidance lessons, along with the Teen Leadership Council, to help the students as they transition into high school. The students will be given the opportunity to evaluate different pathways through high school and will be guided through the process of choosing classes and registration.

Sixth and seventh grade students have continued to work through the ACT Tessera Turbo Action Program with lessons that focus on identifying and using their strengths and growing their brains.

Neillsville Middle School students were also lucky enough to have Deputy Dylan Baxter, our school resource officer, join Mrs. Neville in guidance class for a presentation on internet safety. The presentation included information on how to keep your information safe and how to be smart when using social media. We are excited to have Deputy Dylan in our classrooms and look forward to more opportunities for him to join us!

The NMS FOR Club (Friends of Rachel) participated in a food and clothing drive during the month of December. Students collected several hundred items that were donated to the Neillsville Food Pantry. The club also created Christmas cards that were donated to the veterans' home in Tomah.

## Kindergartners Focus on Reading Skills

We are having a great time in kindergarten as we near the third quarter! The students have learned so much so far! Our reading skills are greatly improving and we're enjoying being able to read our own books as we learn to sound out and blend words. We are practicing many phonemic awareness skills and the repetition helps us get comfortable and confident in each area as we become readers. Each week we continue to add to the sight words that we know.



In math, we have been working on writing our numbers, number partners in addition, and finding 10-groups in larger numbers. We are working on adding and soon we will add subtraction to the list of things we can do! We have learned two fun math games this year; we like to play Yahtzee on Fridays to practice our adding skills!

We love the snow we have gotten recently as it means more fun to be had when we play outside! Sooner than it seems, the end of winter will bring busy times as we will celebrate and enjoy activities for Valentine's Day, Dr. Suess, our 100th day of school, and St. Patrick's Day.



# CHECK IT OUT!

Happy Winter from the Library Crew!

The LMC was bustling with activity this fall. Author Kevin Lovegreen spoke to grades 2-8 about the writing process and then spent some time with small groups to help edit the students own short stories. It was an exciting day for all in the district!!

The Middle School ELA classes come in and read picture books to a majority of the lower elementary students.



Upcoming is the Tundra Tales Reading Program that any student K4 to grade 8 can participate in. The official start day is January 24 for logging minutes of reading. There are 4 quarters and students need to read based on grade level:

- ▶ 4K - 5th grade: Average 60 minutes/week
- ▶ 6th - 8th grade: Average 90 minutes/week

Teachers will be sending reading logs and a letter explaining the program home with students around January 20.

If you want to log minutes digitally, please use one of the following:

Pk4-2: <https://bit.ly/3tpG4Mp>

Gr 3-5: <https://bit.ly/3ntcAt3>

Gr 6-8: <https://bit.ly/3trleMH>

Watch the district SM for more information and photos.

The High School Library is starting second semester courses with distance learning (DL) the end of January. Students will use their time between semesters to work on puzzles, build Lego communities, create marble runs, and read books.

**Reminder:** please keep wet items away from books: snow clothes, water bottles, and swimsuits.

You can find the Library Website at: <https://sites.google.com/student.neillsville.k12.wi.us/nsd-libraries/home> or School Home Page, Students, Library Media.



## Library Staff

Mrs. Melissa Strangfeld  
Library Media Specialist  
[mstrangfeld@neillsville.k12.wi.us](mailto:mstrangfeld@neillsville.k12.wi.us)  
715-743-8835

Mrs. Deb Brey  
LMC Library Staff

Mrs. Laurie Klieforth  
High School Library Staff



**Our goal is to  
get a book  
in every  
students' hands!**

## Guidelines for borrowing a book:

- ⇒ Check out is for 2 weeks
- ⇒ If a student has an overdue book, we remind the student or send a sheet home & let the student check out 1 new book.
- ⇒ If a student has 2 or more overdue books, the library will remind the student and send a sheet home, while the student will still be allowed to check 1 book to keep in the classroom
- ⇒ We do not charge a fine for overdue books, **however**, we do charge a replacement fee for lost or damaged books. This includes water damage from snow, swimming, or water bottles.

**Find a book with a school library barcode,  
just return it to any office.**

## Second Graders Deliver Kindness

The second graders started 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with a walking field trip to the neighborhood streets. We delivered kindness cards and a treat. The students and staff were hoping that a chain of kindness could go throughout the community. The students were excited to give away their cards and see the happiness that it brought to some people.

In reading, we have been continuing to read the decodables, learn about different long vowel patterns, and always work on our comprehension skills. We are currently studying a unit that is teaching us about our earth. We have learned about magnets, gravity, the sky, different types of weather, and ways that people help each other.

Math class has been fun! We just finished a unit on measuring. We studied both centimeters and inches. We even measured how tall everyone was in the class. We learned regrouping with addition along with money this quarter. We will soon be learning how to ungroup for subtraction.

December started off our Christmas around the world unit in social studies. We learned about traditions and customs in several different countries. Did you know that some children in Europe don't get presents until January 6<sup>th</sup>?

The second graders are looking forward to the end of the semester reward of going to the movie theater to watch *Sing 2*. We have been working hard and like the idea of a big movie screen!



Delivering  
Kindness  
to the  
Community



## Fourth Graders Pick Student Council Reps

The second quarter of the school year was an exciting time for the fourth grade students and teachers. One highlight was watching a presentation on Fur Trapping and Trading by a local trapper, Skye Goode. Our second quarter student council representatives were Jakayla R., Lexi O., and Lexi B. They worked together with the 5th grade student council representatives to plan fun rewards each month.

Students have been working hard and have earned a field trip to Bruce Mound as an end of Quarter 2 reward. They are excited to spend time outside enjoying the fresh air and time with friends. The fourth graders at Neillsville Elementary had a successful first semester. The fourth grade teachers are proud of the students' achievements. We look forward to what the second semester has in store!



## Crafting Works of Fiction in 7th Grade

At the beginning of 2nd quarter, 7th graders were eager to spread thankfulness and gratitude to residents in a local assisted living facility. Students colored and wrote messages on postcards to the residents and staff at Riverside Assisted Living, wishing them all a happy Thanksgiving.

In addition to showing gratitude, 7th grade students have been working hard at academics. In English Language Arts, the students recently wrote realistic fiction stories. The students worked diligently to craft the plot of their stories. During the drafting stage, the students learned how to write an engaging lead, how to include dialogue into their story, and how to make their story come to life. When they finished writing their drafts, the students were eager to share their stories. Author Kevin Lovegreen visited the school district during this unit and he talked about how important it is to edit and revise once a writing piece is completed. He shared with students that it takes him several months to fully revise and edit his books! When Kevin Lovegreen shared this, the 7th grade writers realized how important the editing phase of writing is. Lovegreen advised students to first read their writing through in their head to catch any errors. Next, he said to read the piece out loud to catch any errors and mistakes. Finally, he instructed a peer or adult to read their writing to catch any mistakes. The students worked tediously with a partner prior to submitting their final draft to edit and revise their work.



During the month of December, the 7th grade students analyzed different versions of Charles Dickens' story, *A Christmas Carol*. Students read portions of the original story, a student adapted story, a reader's theater, and a play. The 7th graders enjoyed the reader's theater the most! At the end of the unit, students wrote a character analysis essay describing how the main character, Ebenezer Scrooge changed throughout the story. The students were filled with hope at the end of the story when they realized the theme - people can change.

## First Graders Focus on Problem Solving

The first graders have been busy reading many different genres. Our students have been introduced to nonfiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, plays, and poetry as we explore our reading series: *Wonders*. Our writing is included within our series. We practice using capital letters, punctuation, and correct grammar daily. Our stories have included fantasies, poems, opinions, and personal narratives.

In math the first graders are becoming quite the problem solvers. The students are solving word problems, almost daily, where they must solve story problems with unknown partners or unknown totals. We wrote our own gingerbread story problems for other first graders in our classrooms to solve. This was a culminating project for our cross-curricular unit on gingerbread kids and houses. We are also building on the children's understanding of tens and extra ones. Our activities will provide experience and understanding of multi-digit numbers that will help them master the concept of place value.



The cold has kept us in for many recesses in January. We had fun playing board games and doing other activities. We are hoping that more mild weather is to come so we can enjoy the snow hills and running around outside.

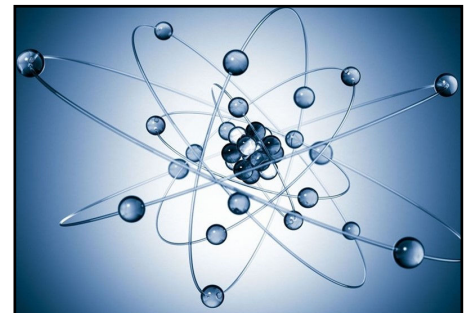
At the end of January, PBIS arranged for us to attend *Sing 2* at Roger's Cinema in Marshfield to celebrate our hard work in the first half of the year. Thank you families, and the PBIS Committee, for funding this awesome experience.

In February, we will enjoy our Valentine's Day parties in our classrooms. We will also be using dental health experiments from a dental clinic to learn how to take better care of our teeth and practice good oral health habits. Our second round of Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences will also be in February.

## Investigating Atoms in Fifth Grade

We are jumping into the new year in 5th grade! We have been investigating elements and atoms in science. Each student has their own element and they research and make an atom model of their element. In math, we are working hard at mastering long division! Soon we will begin working on division with decimals.

Our students are very excited to celebrate the end of the semester with sledding at Bruce Mound!







# Cloverbelt All-Conference Band & Choir Festival

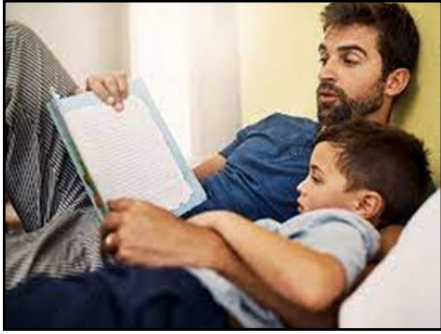
Saturday, January 15th, 2022, four Neillsville Band students, along with seven Neillsville Choir students, traveled to Fall Creek for the 2022 Cloverbelt All-Conference Band and Choir Festival. Both groups spent the day perfecting and rehearsing their songs; the band under the direction of 33-year veteran Joan Draxler-Ruff from Alma, WI; and choir under the direction of Kate Larson. Larson is from the Eau Claire area and was the 2014 Outstanding Young Choral Director of the Year in Minnesota. These two groups came together at the end of the show to perform a combined band and choir piece. Congratulations to all of these fine musicians!



Neillsville All-Conference Choir students (left to right): Victoria Ratsch, Ella King, Rylee Courtney, Kylie Boyer, MacKenzie Keller, Kati Mayer, and Malana Gurney,



Neillsville All-Conference Band students (left to right): Kaden Sheikh, Dayne Loberg, Evan Gilbert, and Jacob Kopp.



# Reading Tips for Parents of Preschoolers

Read early and read often. The early years are critical to developing a lifelong love of reading. It's never too early to begin reading to your child! The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

**-Read together every day.**

Read to your child every day. Make this a warm and loving time when the two of you can cuddle close.

**-Give everything a name.**

Build your child's vocabulary by talking about interesting words and objects.

**-Say how much you enjoy reading.**

Tell your child how much you enjoy reading with him or her.

**-Read fun in your voice.**

Read to your child with humor and expression. Use different voices.

**-Know when to stop.**

Put the book away for awhile if your child loses interest or is having trouble paying attention.

**-Be interactive.**

Discuss what's happening in the book, point out things on the page, and ask questions.

**-Read it again and again.**

Go ahead and read your child's favorite book for the 100<sup>th</sup> time!

**-Talk about writing, too.**

Mention to your child how we read from left to right and how words are separated by spaces.

**-Point out print everywhere.**

Talk about the written words you see in the world around you.

Visit [www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org) for more information

