

Communicator

March 2022



STEM Club Advances to Interstate Competition

The STEM Club from Neillsville High School competed in the Regional Machine Competition at Augusta High School on March 11th. The team of Bridget Canfield, Dayne Loberg, and Mackenzie Hediger finished second in the competition and advanced to the interstate competition against the regional competitors from Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa. The state competition will take place in Mankato MN on April 22nd. The STEM Club advisor is Mr. Brommer.



Important Dates

FRI **25** No School
MAR Teacher In-Service

WED **13** Late Start: 10:05 AM
APR No AM 4K

THU **14** No School - Spring Break
APR April 14 - 18

MON **25** 4K Registration Day
APR for the 2022-23 School Year

WED **11** Late Start: 10:05 AM
MAY No AM 4K

MON **23** Elementary Spring Concert
MAY Grades 3-5 - 6 PM Fieldhouse

TUE **24** Elementary Spring Concert
MAY Grades 5K-2 - 6 PM Fieldhouse

SAT **28** Class of 2022 Graduation
MAY Ceremony - 2 PM

MON **30** No School
MAY Holiday Break

FRI **3** Last Day of School
JUN

Superintendent's Message



Covid Update:

At the time of this writing, I am happy to report that there are no positive cases of Covid amongst our staff or students. We are so thankful to have been able to provide in-person instruction all year while enduring a pandemic.

Although we know the pandemic is not over, everyone can remain confident that we will do all that we possibly can to keep our students and staff safe each and every day. A special thank you to everyone who has helped keep our kids and community safe; please continue to monitor for symptoms in the future.

Federal Funding Update:

The School District of Neillsville held a hearing during the Board of Education's February meeting to present a plan for the use of the special federal funding that was provided to districts to help maintain operations during the Covid pandemic. The district has used those funds to support a healthy environment during the pandemic, provide educational resources to students, and will be using those funds to complete school facilities repairs and improvements that support student health and

safety. Additional funding has also been used to provide emotional support for students.

Walter Wetzel:

Long-time school board member Walter Wetzel passed away recently. Walter served on the Neillsville Board of Education for 30 years. He also served on many other educational boards across the state representing the interests of the Neillsville community. His work and dedication are greatly appreciated and I would like to send my sincere sympathies to his family.

Community Outreach:

One of the goals of the district is to regularly engage with our community members and community organizations. If you are ever interested in getting more information about the district, or if you would like me to present information about the district programs, please contact me any time. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss any educational topics of interest to you.

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

Think Spring!

John Gaier
Superintendent

Third Graders Present Research to Classmates

The weather is finally warming up and we think spring is nearly here! In writing, we have finally finished our imaginative stories and have begun working on presentations. Students will be presenting research on a topic of their choosing to their class. In addition, we have also been practicing our fluent reading skills. **Even though the weather is warming up, it continues to be important that your child spend at least 20 minutes reading every day.**

In math, third graders have been focusing on fractions and telling time. Ask your student to help you in the kitchen at home so they can apply this knowledge in real life! Students continue to work hard on learning their multiplication and division facts. **Please continue to support your child at home by practicing their multiplication and division facts every day for about 10 minutes.**

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!

High School Principal's Message

• Small school success requires participation •



Finally, winter is coming to a close! Though the weather outside has been cold, things inside have been exactly the opposite. Neillsville High School has had a very successful winter season with our athletic teams and other school clubs. The success of any organization requires a lot of things, but without those willing to participate, nothing would ever be possible. I want to give a huge shout out to our students, coaches, parents, and fans for their time, effort, and dedication to the support of our Neillsville Warriors!

This winter season saw us have three state place winners at the individual state wrestling tournament in Madison. Luke Dux (2nd), Gunner Hoffmann (2nd), and Derek Zschernitz (4th) were all making another state tournament appearance and they did extremely well. Our young men on the hardwood had another great basketball season again this year advancing into the regional tournament. We saw junior, Drew Brown, score his 1000th point as well this year; quite an accomplishment. Our Lady Warriors earned another conference title in basketball on their way to a state tournament berth. Though they did not make it to the state title game, we are extremely proud of their accomplishments and hope that they will reflect upon what they accomplished together this year. The success of these student athletes is no mistake. Their hard work over many years, their coaches, support from friends and family, are all instrumental in helping shape their success.

In addition to athletics, we had several other areas where our students were excelling this winter season. Mrs. Short, again, has the forensics team achieving at a high level. Four of our high school students: Mackenzie Keller, Vickie Ratsch, Makendri Hericks, and Tehra Fausett all qualified for the state forensics tournament coming up in April. Good luck ladies! In the music department we have many students advancing onto the state solo & ensemble competition! Not to be outdone, our STEM Club students: Bridget Canfield, Dayne Loberg, and Mackenzie Hediger are advancing to the state competition in the Engineering Machine Design Contest! Every student involved in these clubs has worked hard to excel at what they do and we are proud of them! Good luck as you all advance on.

To support these students and athletes this winter, we did hold a couple of assemblies. At these assemblies were messages of hope, encouragement, and support. Those were the easy things to see. Another message I shared with all our district students was the need to be involved. Neillsville is a small school. Our success requires participation from people that likely have a lot on their plate already. Our success requires people to be a part of a team because they have a passion and excitement for challenging themselves and making people around them better. Not every student or athlete will be the star of their team or make it to a state competition, but without student participation nothing would ever be possible. I want to challenge our students to take the safe risk of getting involved in a school sport or club. Get out of your comfort zone. You don't have to be "the star" to have fun, to learn, and to grow yourself and others. Your success, and our success as a school, depends on you! If you take that chance, I can assure you that you will have the support of the Neillsville Warrior community behind you and encouraging you!

To support these students and athletes this winter, we did hold a couple of assemblies.

At these assemblies were messages of hope, encouragement, and support.

Best of luck to our spring student organizations and teams! It's a great day to be a Neillsville Warrior!

Respectfully,
Mr. Anderson

Middle School Principal's Message



Welcome to the final quarter of the 2021-22 school year! I can't believe I am already saying that and I don't know where the time goes. Third-quarter was again another eventful quarter 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 third quarter middle school character traits included "Hope" for February and "Determination" for March. There were mini-lessons focused on hope and determination in homerooms as well as students and staff continuing to fill out Character Awards for students they observed exhibiting the Character Trait of the

Month.

During the third quarter, we welcomed Miss Chloe VanDerLinden as a student teacher in Mrs. Arndt's 7th and 8th grade Social Studies classes. It is hard to believe that an entire quarter has already passed and she will be moving on to student teach students at the high school level in another district. For the 4th quarter, we are fortunate to welcome another student teacher. Miss Kaylee Esser will be joining Mrs. Brown to teach 7th and 8th grade Math. The students and staff all enjoy having student teachers in the Middle School!

The Middle School FOR Club (Friends of Rachel) went on a tour of Rachel's Closet for their February meeting. Rachel's Closet is a place where students in our school district can "shop" for needed items such as gently used clothes and hygiene products free of charge when needed. The High School FOR Club created Rachel's Closet to help students in need within our own district. Posters were hung up in the Middle School and an email went out to all middle schoolers announcing this opportunity and explaining the process. If you are interested in making a donation of gently used items to this cause, please drop them off in any of the offices.

*Forward State Testing
will be taking place in the
Middle School between
March 21st and April 7th,
depending on the
grade-level and subject
area.*

To wrap up, I want to mention a few things that are currently happening. Forward State Testing will be taking place in the Middle School between March 21st and April 7th, depending on the grade-level and subject area. It is important for your student to get a good night's sleep and eat breakfast to prepare for testing day. Please watch for email communication from your student's teachers regarding exact dates for their testing. In addition, summer school sign-ups are currently underway. There are many fun classes to choose from for middle schoolers. In addition, breakfast and lunch will be provided when summer school is in session to those who are interested. Finally, students currently in grades 6 and 7 should have brought home a half sheet of paper for your signature stating which of the following they wish to take for the 2021-22 school year; Band, Chorus, or Academic Elective. Students currently in 5th grade will soon be bringing home a packet explaining Band and Chorus options for next school year, please keep an eye out for these packets and return the completed form.

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

Elementary Principal's Message



Welcome to the year 2022! These are exciting times. With the new semester comes the beginnings of transitions to new grade levels, events, and weather. Our Neillsville Elementary staff can assist in making these transitions as smooth as possible.

What's New?

Our elementary school put on a well-attended Family Fun Night in March. This event is very similar to what the elementary school used to call, Cuddle Up and Read Night. However, reading is not all that happens. We served our students and families a dinner of hot dogs, fruit, vegetables, cookies, and chips. Then families went to our LMC (Library Media Center) to cuddle up and read and/or complete some fun crafts and games with their children. It was wonderful to have parents in our school again participating in their children's enjoyment of our school. We hope to continue this event in years to come.

Our elementary school student council members are feeling more and more comfortable showing the rest of the student body the definition of our character traits we present every month. They have acted out short skits to show perseverance and displayed different facial expressions and actions to start the children talking about empathy. We want students to recognize people's emotions and to put themselves in their shoes to show compassion. This was a great success.

Neillsville Elementary's reading instruction continues to grow and change. We follow the Science of Reading. The Science of Reading follows the research that reading instruction must teach the following components: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency and reading comprehension strategies. Our elementary school's systems, structures, and strategies are built on a solid foundation of this research. We continue to grow by attaining professional development and modeling in reading interventions, scheduling and explicit instruction in small and large group settings. Also, one of our goals is to be transparent with parents on what we do in our reading instruction. This will assist parents in working with their children at home, too. Some very helpful resources for parents are the Florida Center for Reading Research (fcrr.org), Reading Rockets (readingrockets.org) and National Center on Improving Literacy (improvingliteracy.org). We also participated in the ACP night on January 31, 2022, to educate families on what the Science of Reading is and how it fits into what we do here at Neillsville Elementary. I have developed pamphlets with more information for parents. Therefore, if you are interested in more information, please contact the Neillsville Elementary School Office and we would be happy to send you a pamphlet.

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.

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 with our student body. The students are very receptive. 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. It continues to be a process of making adjustments based on student and school needs.

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For parents/guardians of students with disabilities or for others interested:

From time to time we receive information that may be of interest to families and/or community members who support students with disabilities. This information includes things like access to free training, competitions, events, supports, resources,

etc. We would like to communicate this information out to you monthly, or every other month, via email. To subscribe to these updates, please send an email to: Tonia Anderson Ruskin, Director of Special Education, tanderson@neillsvillek12.org

Tonia Anderson Ruskin, Ed.S., NCSP

Director of Special Education / 504 Coordinator - School District of Neillsville

Itinerant Services Coordinator - CESA 10

715-743-8716 office

Elementary School Principal *continued*

Happenings

Students will be recording their reading of Dr. Seuss stories this month of March. Our local radio station, WCCN, will be recording students reading these stories. We have around 30 students that have volunteered to read! This is wonderful! Thank you to Logan Grap and WCCN for giving our school this opportunity!

The Forward Exam will be administered to students in grade 3rd - 5th at the end of March. The Forward Exam is the "state test" that is usually given in the spring of the year. This school year, the test has all components. Third and fifth grade students complete a reading, writing and math Forward Assessment. The 4th grade students have to complete reading, writing, math, social studies and science. The grade level teachers will give families specific dates and times these assessments will be administered.

Summer School is just around the corner! It will be held from June 6th to July 1st from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Friday. We would like the registration forms returned by April 15th so that we can plan the courses and schedule the students. Please call the Elementary office if you have any questions. Remember, some courses may not be offered depending on student interest and teacher availability. We will inform parents if these cases occur.

Next school year our 4 year old kindergarten will go back to 4 half days per week. Monday through Friday there will be a morning session and an afternoon session. Please send in 4 year old kindergarten registration forms as soon as possible so we can plan the classes and schedule. Thank you! Please look to our school website and Facebook page for updates.

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



It's finally spring! Enjoy the warming temperatures and new life all around. Let's finish the end of the year on a positive note. Here are a few tips and pointers to do so. ☺

Seniors:

We are down to the final stretch! Congratulations! A few final points to keep in mind:

Scholarship Awards Day is Wednesday, May 18th at 2:00 PM in the Auditorium. Seniors who will be receiving scholarships will receive a letter in early May so parents and family can plan to attend, if desired.

Graduation is Saturday, May 28th at 2:00 PM. Mr. Anderson will be contacting you about practice/details in May.

If you are going onto further education next fall, you will need to request to have your final HS transcript sent after graduation as part of your enrollment process. You will do this as part of your Senior Exit Survey in May.

Additionally, if you have taken any college courses while in high school, you will need to send official transcripts from each school you took a course through to the post-secondary institution you are attending to receive credit for those courses. Again, this will be explained more in May as well; an email will be sent in April to start the process.

If you are attending a UW school next fall, in most cases, you will need to take a placement test for English and math; optional for Spanish. Regional placement tests are taking place now through June. More information, including online registration, should have been sent to you already from the UW you plan to attend, but it can also be found on their website at <https://exams.wisc.edu/placement/regionaltesting/information.php> Study information was also emailed out in March. If you need it sent again, please let me know.

Juniors:

Great job on completing the ACT! Results should be in soon; please check your MyACT account for your scores. If you choose to re-take your ACT, the following test dates/registration deadlines are available for the rest of the 21-22 test schedule:

- Test Date: June 11, 2022, Registration Deadline: May 6, 2022
- Test Date: July 16, 2022, Registration Deadline: June 17, 2022
- Registration for the ACT is online; the website is actstudent.org
- Test fees are as follows: \$63.00 w/out writing, \$88.00 w/writing; payment is due when you register.

College application season is right around the corner. If you are planning to attend a WI Technical College fall 2023, you can apply as early as this May 2022. We will have a CVTC application session in May; the \$30 application fee will be waived if you apply during that time. The date/time will be announced soon.

Additionally, the UW application will open on August 1, 2022. An email will be sent prior to the end of the year to help you get a jump on this process.

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High School Guidance *continued . . .*

Freshmen and Sophomores:

ASPIRE testing is right around the corner! Again, the ASPIRE test is the ACT "pre-test" as you will be given ACT predictor scores. Your scores will be part of our school report card. We thank you in advance for being in school and trying your best on test days. The test schedule is as follows:

FRESHMEN:

- Tuesday, April 19th: Reading test in English 9
- Wednesday, April 20th: Hours 1-2: Math test
- Thursday, April 21st: Hours 3-4: Science & Writing tests
- Friday, April 22nd: English test in English 9

SOPHOMORES:

- Tuesday, April 19th: Reading test in English 10
- Wednesday, April 20th: Hours 3-4: Math test
- Thursday, April 21st: Hours 1-2: Science & Writing tests
- Friday, April 22nd: English test in English 10

All make-up testing will be done the following week Monday, April 25-Friday, April 29.

Spring Field Trip Opportunities (Optional):

Freshmen: May 4, 2022: Clark County Business and Career Expo. Permission slips with more information were handed out in Guidance on 3/18/22. All freshmen are encouraged to attend to see the great job opportunities available right here in Clark County.

Sophomores: April 29, 2022: Marshfield Area Career Expo. Permission slips with more information were handed out in Guidance on 3/22/22. All sophomores are encouraged to attend to participate in hands on career activities and connect with area employers.

Sophomores Only: As part of our suicide prevention curriculum, sophomores will be trained in the "QPR Program" (Question. Persuade. Refer.) by the Clark County Community Service and Health Department team on Tuesday, April 26, 2022. An opt-out permission slip was sent home with students on 3/22/22 with more information regarding this training program.

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

We are currently in the master scheduling building stage. Individual schedules for next year will be finalized late this month (April) and in May; starting with juniors and working down. Please see Mrs. Backaus or your advisor with any questions you may have.

As always please feel free to contact Julia Backaus, MS/HS Counselor, if you have questions about any of the information provided at 715-743-8713 or jbackaus@neillvillek12.org

Studying the Digestive System in 5th Grade

In 5th grade we eagerly await warmer weather. In physical education we're wrapping up our roller skating unit and will start swimming soon. We've been staying busy with hands-on projects about our digestive system. We've been working hard to prepare for the state test in April. Barney the purple beta fish recently joined the 5th grade!

Elementary Guidance



Classroom Lessons:

Our topics third quarter have been:

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade:

We have spent most of February and March talking about safety. Students have learned the Never Never Rules; these are the rules you use to recognize if a situation is safe. They have also learned the 3 R's to keep them safe. The 3 R's are Recognize, Report, and Refuse. Students practice using the 3 R's in different scenarios read in class.

4th - 5th Grade:

Our fourth and fifth graders have been reviewing the 3 R's and how they can keep themselves safe using them. They RECOGNIZE if a situation is safe. If it is not safe, they REFUSE the situation. After they refuse the situation they REPORT to an adult they trust.

Deputy Dylan Baxter also visited their guidance lessons to talk about what it means to show people respect; the consequences of using inappropriate language at school and in life; as well as the potential dangers of watching/ consuming adult content.

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.

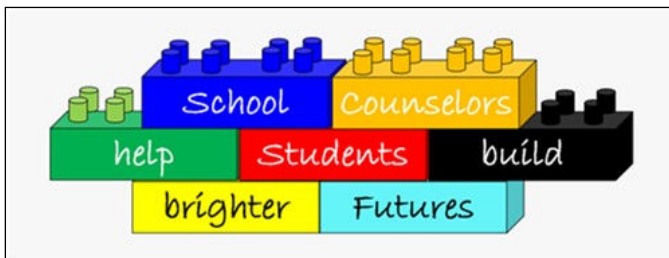
Thank you and have a great rest of your year,

Bri Anne Collins

Elementary School Counselor

bacollins@neillsville.k12.wi.us

715-743-8717



Middle School Social Emotional Learning



The NMS social emotional learning lessons during the third quarter, focused on the structure of the brain and how the adolescent brain reacts to certain situations. We learned about the parts of the brain: where emotions start; the part of the brain responsible for fight, flight or freeze; and the thinking part of the brain. We also began to talk about the signals that our body gives us to let us know that the emotional part of our brain is in control, and we need to engage the thought part. The more aware we are of these signals, the better we can be at regulating our thoughts and feelings.

Eighth grade students focused on learning about the registration process and completing online course registration for next year. Next, we will learn about leadership and what it takes to be a good role model.

Each Monday, during 8th hour, students take some time to focus on academic and career planning. Once monthly, your child is asked to send you an email which will share his or her academic progress. This email should let you know how he or she is doing in school, and should have a list of his or her current grades. If you are not receiving these emails, please reach out to your child's homeroom teacher, or to me.

The NMS FOR Club (Friends of Rachel), toured Rachel's Closet last month. This resource is available to all students and can provide clothing, shoes and other personal items.. Rachel's closet was created and organized by the Neillsville High School FOR Club. More information is available upon request.

Kindergartners Becoming Quite The Mathematicians

Onto the last quarter of the school year; wow, how fast it goes! In February we celebrated our 100th day of school with lots of activities and snacks centered around "100". 100 days of kindergarten - what a fun celebration! We also celebrated Read Across America last month with Dr. Seuss books and activities.

At the end of 3rd quarter it was St. Patrick's Day, which of course meant we celebrated by making and setting leprechaun traps around the rooms in hopes to catch that sneaky gold-hunting leprechaun! We also made a graph using the charms out of Lucky Charms cereal before enjoying some for a snack!

We continue to build our phonemic awareness skills to become good readers and we do a variety of letter recognition, word work, and reading activities in small groups. The students enjoy building words and writing now that they are getting more confident sounding out their own words. The list of fiction and nonfiction books we've read is getting longer and longer as we continue to explore different authors and various subjects. When spring arrives, the classes will dive into our insect unit and also learn more about plants!

The kindergartners are becoming quite the mathematicians as they practice number partners, adding, subtracting, and breaking numbers into tens and ones. It is so great to see them working hard and expanding the skills they can do!





CHECK IT OUT!

Happy Spring from the Library Crew! 🐣

The LMC celebrated Read Across America the first week of March with stories, Cat in the Hat photo booth, and Family Fun Night. Students are enjoying STEAM Fridays where they can create art, Lego creations, magnet buildings, and much more.

The Tundra Tales Reading Program is in its last quarter. Elementary students have been reading like crazy; the total after third quarter is 53,502 minutes!! I am so proud of all of the reading the students are doing!! 🏈 Touchdown Neillsville Elementary 🏈!!

The High School Library has been bustling with students working on scholarships and other research projects for college courses. New titles will be arriving soon!!

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
715-743-8835

Mrs. Deb Brey
LMC Library Staff

Ms. Christina Mazzuca
LMC/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.





Choir & Band Accomplishments & Entertainment

DISTRICT SOLO AND ENSEMBLE RESULTS

Neillsville High School Band

Kaden Sheikh - Class A Drum Set Solo - *1st; Sydney Magnuson - Class B Alto Saxophone Solo - 1st; Kaden Sheikh, Amelia Warren, Marie Jorgensen, Mark Jorgensen, William Drinka, and Mason Klein - Class B Percussion Ensemble - 1st; Arianna Mottle - Class C Clarinet Solo - 1st; Marie Jorgensen - Class A Piano Solo - 2nd; Amelia Warren - Class A Piano Solo - 2nd.

Neillsville Middle School Band

Ryan Kuester - Class B Alto Saxophone Solo - 1st; Natalie Burkhalter - Class C Snare Drum Solo - 1st; Eve Seeley - Class C Alto Saxophone Solo - 1st.



HONORS CHOIR

Five Neillsville High School seniors recently participated in an honors choir at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The event was cancelled in January due to a Covid spike in the area, and was rescheduled for March 13-15. The students rehearsed, selected music with students from six area states, and ended the event with a performance. They were also treated to performances by the Luther College choirs. Students pictured are (L. to R.): Rylee Courtney, Malana Gurney, MacKenzie Keller, Kattie Roidt, and Skyler Hart. Morgan Gurney was also selected but was unable to attend.

SPRING CHOIR CONCERT

The Spring Choir Concert was held on Thursday, March 17 in the fieldhouse. The Middle School choirs, show choir, and band performed the show that they are performing on their Florida trip. The high school choirs, show choir, and band performed the show that they are performing on their Florida trip. The high school groups will be gone for Florida from March 20-27, and will perform at Universal Studios and Ron Jon's Surf Shop in Cocoa Beach! The choir will also participate in a workshop at Disney. (Photo credit: Sandy Schmidt)



4-Year-Old Kindergarten Registration

The School District of Neillsville is encouraging parents of next year's 4-year-old Kindergarten students to stop in the Elementary Office between 8:00-3:00 Monday-Friday to start the registration process for the 2022-2023 school year. Registration packets can also be found on the school's website.

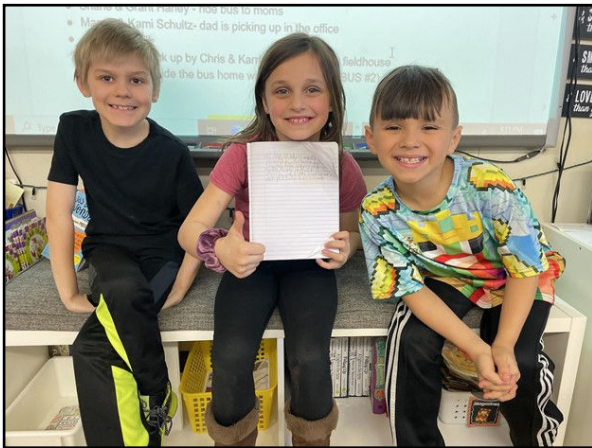
Screening of all 4K students will take place during the first few weeks of the school year. All students will be screened to determine strengths and needs as they begin their educational journey.

Enrollment packets are due back to the Elementary office by April 29th.



Animals, Habitats, & Life Cycles, Oh My!

Second graders get wild about animals and are enjoying March Mammal Madness!!



The Second Grade has been busy in both science and language arts; researching and learning about animals and their habitats. Integrating some pretty amazing language arts units about animal habitats and nature with further exploration of animals during their science block, students in grade two have very much enjoyed starting and ending their day with lots of engaging activities to make their learning come alive. From classifying animals into their family groups, to comparing and contrasting animals using Venn diagrams, to researching and writing down their favorite animal facts using the district's instructional media web page, these seven and eight-year-olds are getting pretty serious about their studies in animal science.

We have explored subtraction and story problems. We are now going to be moving into telling time and graphing. In reading we are continuing to learn new spelling rules and will begin a unit on poetry. Fluency and comprehension strategies continue to be a main focus in language arts.

Following parent-teacher conferences, all four sections of second grade decided to wrap up winter and take to Mt. Moldy for a fun half-day field trip of sledding, tubing, and outdoor fun on the morning of Friday, March 4th. After enjoying the phenomenal recreational right of passage, each class headed over to Pizza Hut to warm up where General Manager Suzanne Roehl then gave each class a personal tour of the facility, taught the students how to prepare their own personal pan pizza, and fielded the great many questions our kiddos had for her. Special thanks to Mr. Dean Glaze (Harrison's grandpa) for grooming the hill for us and Mrs. Loberg's sister, Suzanne Roehl, for lending her time and talents to make this field trip the "best day of school EVER" according to our students. We have also enjoyed roller skating in phy ed and are looking forward to starting swimming!

More photos on the next page . . .



Second Grade Adventures



.....
MT. MOLDY
.....

.....
PIZZA HUT
.....



Bruce Mound Adventure

On March 2nd, 2022, Neillsville Middle School, grades 6th, 7th, and 8th went to Bruce Mound just outside of Merrillan. The students left the school at 8:10 am with the sun out and warm temperature of 30 degrees. The 20 minute drive went well with the students. The 147 students spread through 4 buses. They arrived at 8:30am and had 15 minutes of introduction. Then students began to start the 6 hour day of a great adventure at Bruce Mound. Half of the students were brave and took on the challenge of skiing and snowboarding. The rest of the students took on a less dangerous challenge of tubing down the hill. One student had broken his arm learning to snowboard. But all is well and he is doing great now, he over came the great quest and left with a new scar to show his bravery.



Fifty student took a ride on the lift chair gliding through the sky. By 11am some of the students where starting to work up an appetite. Most students chose a school lunch which was a sub or bought a pizza for lunch. The rest of the students brought a lunch from home. By 1pm the students where back to flying down the hill with laughter in the air. After hours of fun the students got on the bus at 2:30pm for the journey home. By the end of the day no items where lost and the students did an amazing job of showing the respect of the school. They left Bruce Mound making sure to clean up after themselves. These young students got to experience the outdoors with their peers and teachers. It was a great trip.

Submitted by Sierra Sims

The article above was composed and formatted by Sierra Sims in Mr. Swita's Microsoft Publisher class. Great job, Sierra!



Elementary Concerts

3rd through 5th Grade
Monday, May 23 • 6 pm • Fieldhouse

5K through 2nd Grade
Tuesday, May 24 • 6 pm • Fieldhouse

FCCLA Members Give Back to Community

FCCLA members Sophia Kell and Alexis Markaris worked hard raising money for the Polar Bear Plunge. Pictured is Alexis Markaris jumping in the frigid cold water. Great job!

The Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield was excited to receive two pans of lasagna, two pans of chicken alfredo, and a pot of chicken wild rice soup made with love from the FCCLA members. Thank you to Lilly Opelt, Paige Voigt, Kati Mayer, Abby Koepp, Paris Opelt, Elianna Subke, Alexis Markaris, Lainey Horn, Sophia Kell, Amelia Trunkel, Arianna Rochester, and Callee Mohr for taking time out of your busy schedule to give back to others!



Our Sunshine Group within FCCLA personalized Valentine mugs for each of our members filled with chocolate dipped marshmallows and hot chocolate. What a nice way to bring sunshine into one's day! Thanks Amelia Trunkel, Alexis Markaris, and Avrey McFarlane for the hard work put into these gifts.

Tackling Long Vowels in First Grade

March rolled in with roller skating in phy ed. This is a life skill that many students will be able to enjoy throughout their lives. We learned how to put on our safety equipment, the T-stop, step and glide, and had fun doing it!

We had a weeklong celebration to commemorate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday. Our week included fun dress up days, special Dr. Seuss lunches, and reading with our families at Family Fun Night!

Along with all of these enrichment activities, we continue to strengthen our reading and math skills. We have tackled long vowels, contractions, punctuation, and many strategies to help us become better readers. In math, we have begun adding and subtracting teen numbers, adding and subtracting multiples of ten, place value and problem-solving strategies. In "addition", we have added with three addends.

We are looking forward to our last quarter as we are preparing our first graders for second grade.

Please return summer school enrollment forms as soon as possible.



Hands-On Activities Are Eighth Graders' Favorites

The 8th grade students recently started reviewing and refining their math skills to help ensure they are ready for the WI Forward Exam coming up in early April. Students have been using various games, activities, and extra practice tools to help them recall the important skills they will need to succeed on the test. This content practice also helps them perform their best in the classroom on their daily assignments due to the spiral design of our curriculum. The students really love the various workshop stations and hands-on activities vs the traditional textbook work in class!

In American history, students have been learning about the timeline of the American Revolution. Recently, students have put together one-pager projects to show their understanding of the events that took place during this time period. In ELA, students finished reading the novel *Night*. To conclude their novel study, students wrote essays to analyze the two main characters' relationship changes throughout the story. They also put their creative talents to use by designing tombstones to recognize those who didn't have a proper burial during the Holocaust. In science, students are currently studying genetics and learning about how genes are passed from parents to offspring on chromosomes.

7th and 8th Grade FORWARD Testing

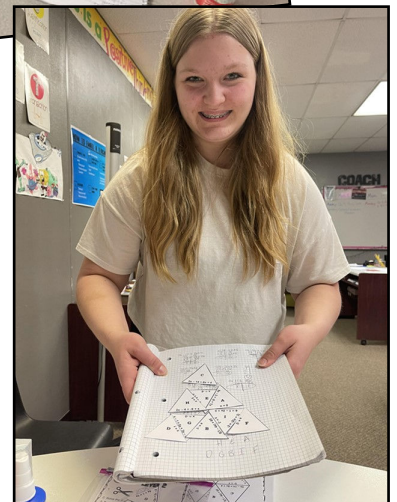
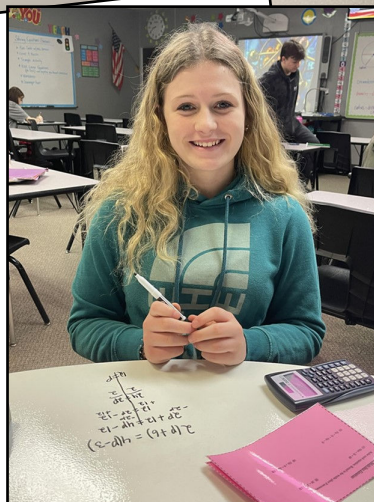
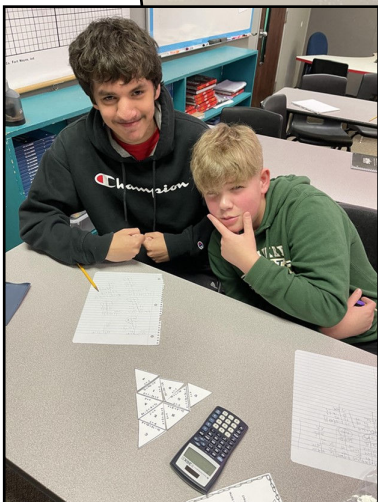
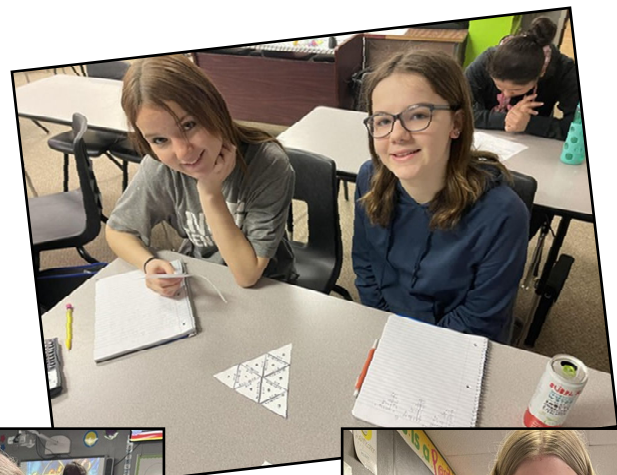
The WI Forward Exam is coming up soon! Please be sure your child gets some much needed rest in the nights leading up to the test sessions. Breakfast each day is also highly recommended to be sure the students are ready for the test. Remember, breakfast at school is free for all students!

7th Grade:

ELA: March 28th, 29th, and 30th
Math: April 5th and 6th

8th Grade:

ELA: March 28th, 29th, and 30th
Math: April 5th, 6th, and 7th
Science & Social Studies tests have already been completed.



4th Graders Choose Student Council Reps

This quarter the 4th graders celebrated the 100th day of school, "2's Day (2/22/22)", and Read Across America Week. Students celebrated by having fun dress up days --such as twin day shown in the pictures -- and having treats during Read Across America Week.

New student council members were also chosen for the third quarter. Our new student council representatives are Izzy B., Emma R., and Kenzie E. These students helped Mrs. Kunze teach their fellow elementary students a lesson on empathy, which is the character trait we are learning about for the month of March.

Fourth grade students are also working hard preparing for the Forward Exam that will be taken at the beginning of April. This state test requires a lot of focus and grit--two characteristics these fourth grade students have excelled at all year!



6th Grade Completes Book Clubs

In 6th grade ELA, we have just finished up our book clubs. For this book club, the theme was "Understanding Differences". The books talked about many differences and the obstacles that the characters faced and had to overcome. When they finished their books, they had to create a cereal box that represented their book. They had to create a new cover as well as talk about the "ingredients" that were in their book.



Library Activities

*Learning is fun
at the library!*



25 POSITIVE COPING SKILLS FOR STRESS AND ANXIETY











1. Write your thoughts/feelings in a **journal** 
2. **Play an instrument** 
3. **Listen to music**- lay back or sit down and focus on the music
4. **Write a story** 
5. **Write a letter** to the person you are stressing over (you don't have to actually send it) 
6. Eat a **healthy and nutritious** meal or snack 
7. Go for a **walk**
8. Go to the **gym**  
9. **Exercise** at home 
10. Do **yoga** 
11. **Meditate** 
12. Take some **deep breaths**

Consider getting healthy foods at the Neillsville farmer's market this next summer and fall!

<https://neillsville-wi.com/farmers-market/>

Consider uplifting your spirits by attending a local worship service; see website below for local places of worship:

<https://neillsville-wi.com/churches/>

13. **Stretch** 
14. Watch a **feel-good movie or TV show**
15. **Read** 
16. Take a **social media detox**
17. **Paint/draw/color** 
18. **Crochet/knit/sew** 
19. **De-clutter or clean** your living space 
20. Go for a **bike ride** 
21. Go to the **park**
22. Have a **picnic** 
23. Listen to a **podcast** 
24. Spend time **playing with a pet** 
25. Spend time **with family** 

Visit the Neillsville Public Library;

<https://neillsville-wi.com/public-library/>

Consider reading "Building Resilience in Children and Teens" ISBN: 978-1-58110-866-8 by Dr. Ginsburg for a great book jam-packed with helpful, practical tips.

Consider visiting some of our great Neillsville Parks or other Outdoor Recreation sites; visit the websites below for more information.

<https://neillsville-wi.com/parks-department/>

<https://neillsville-wi.com/outdoor-recreation/>