



School Talk

www.nbbroncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

December 2014



I encourage you to read this edition of School Talk for all the latest information about Holiday Concerts, athletic events and other activities. On behalf of the Board of Education, faculty and staff, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season!

January is Board of Education Recognition month

Too often we neglect to recognize the dedication and hard work of these men and women who represent us. This January I invite you to recognize and celebrate the work of our local school trustees. The staff and students of our district are asking all members of the community to take a moment and tell a school board member, "thanks for caring about our children." So, hats off to the dedicated men and women who make it possible for local citizens to have a say about education in our community. We salute the public servants of North Branch Area Schools, whose dedication and civic responsibility make local control of public schools in our community possible. We applaud them for their vision and voice to help shape a better tomorrow.

The men and women serving North Branch Area Schools and their years of service are:

Rosann Clark (4 years)
Cory Mabery (3 years)
Catherine Severance (6 years)
Daniel Deshetsy (3 years)
Michael Snoblen (3 years)
Doug Meiburg (2 years)
Melissa Schank (1 year)

In addition, the Board of Education will say good bye to Rosann Clark and Cathy Severance at the end of the year and welcome Cheryl Howell and Tom Nellenbach to the Board as recently elected trustees.



Superintendent's Corner

Where has the time gone? It seems like just yesterday was the first day of school and now, Christmas break is just around the corner. We've already had a taste of Old Man Winter in mid-November so check the District website and be sure your contact information is current for the automated calls for school closing infor-

mation as the winter weather approaches. Your child's safety is my number one priority. Just a reminder that if school is canceled multiple times due to weather related issues, chances are very good that school days may need to be added to school year to meet the required days and hours of instruction. If this is the case, updated calendars will be well publicized as much in advance as possible.

Survey Says...

The district is always interested to hear your opinion. Feel free to contact any administrator to share your thoughts about how we can do things better or even just to acknowledge what you appreciate. In Mid-October, the community, including parents, students and staff was asked to provide feedback on a simple electronic survey. A primary reason for the survey was to get an idea about what people think about a balanced calendar or Year Round Education because this Board of Education is interested to understand the impact such a calendar would have on student achievement. The district received 225 responses to the following questions with only 25% (57 people) of the respondents indicating interested in a balanced calendar:

- 1) What is going well in the District? Top three answers: Facilities (60%), Staff, Student, Parent communication (58%) and Academic Achievement tied with School safety and security (56%).
- 2) What areas need attention? Top three answers: Student access to a wide variety of technology (33%), Scholarship Opportunities (30%) and More diverse offerings of fine arts (29%).
- 3) What do we hope for our district in the next 3-5 years? Top three answers: High Academic Achievement (60%), Maintain financial stability (54%) and Maintain or Increase College access (47%).

School Closing Information

WJRT (TV 12) • WNEM (TV 5)

WEYI (TV 25) • WDIV (TV 4)

WJBK (FOX 2) WXYZ (TV 7)

WWJ-TV (CBS Detroit) • WKBD-TV (CW50)

WWJ News radio 950 • WJR-AM News/Talk 760

An Edulink will be sent to all parents so please make sure your phone number and emails are correct on your student file.

STEMM Academy

I am pleased to inform you that the district is offering an opportunity for qualifying students to earn free college credit starting with the 2015-2016 school year through the "STEMM Academy" which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medical—an Early College. It was formed as a partnership between Baker College of Flint and North Branch Area Schools as well as Almont, Dryden and Imlay City Schools. An Early College is a five-year high school program that provides the opportunity for students to earn a high school diploma along with substantial college credit through an additional fifth year of study. STEMM Academy is offered through North Branch Area Schools and prior to high school graduation, there is no cost to the student. There are no fees, and college tuition and books are free. For more information please contact Mrs. Lammers or Mrs. Strump, our high school counselors for a STEMM Academy application and for information about selection criteria or visit our website.



Annual Pesticide Notification

As part of the North Branch Area School District's pest management program, pesticides are occasionally applied. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and building. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application if you need prior notification, please complete the information below and submit to:

Director of Operations & Technology Department,
North Branch Area Schools, 6655 Jefferson Road, P.O.
Box 3620 North Branch 48461. (810) 688-3570

Pesticide prior notification request should include:

- Parent/Guardian Name
- Student's Name
- Home Address
- Telephone Numbers (Day & Night)
- School Building or Site
- Please indicate whether prior notification is requested for treatment inside the building, on outside grounds or both
 - Please sign and date the request
 - Requests must be filed annually

Food Service News

North Branch Area Schools continues to operate our own food service program for the 2014-15 school year and we promise to continue to deliver healthy, good, quality food and services to you and your children.

Breakfast is offered daily in all schools. Students who eat breakfast perform better in school. Research shows that students who eat a healthy breakfast show increased attention at school, visit the nurse less often, and have lower rates of tardiness and absenteeism. Students attending North Branch Elementary School (Pre K through 4th Grade) will receive the additional benefit of a universal breakfast. This means that all students, regardless of their income, receive a free breakfast.

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

All Applications for Free and Reduced Price School Meals submitted to the food service department have been processed. Those families qualifying for free or reduced meals have received their notification and code. As of October 1, 2014, if the school did not receive a new application for the 2014-2015 school year, the family has been adjusted to a paid/normal lunch. (PLEASE SEE THE CHART BELOW FOR THE HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR.) Applications are available in all school offices.

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly	Twice per Month	Every Two Weeks	Weekly
1	\$21,590	\$1,800	\$900	\$831	\$416
2	\$29,101	\$2,426	\$1,213	\$1,120	\$560
3	\$36,612	\$3,051	\$1,526	\$1,409	\$705
4	\$44,123	\$3,677	\$1,839	\$1,698	\$843
5	\$51,634	\$4,303	\$2,152	\$1,986	\$993
6	\$59,145	\$4,929	\$2,465	\$2,275	\$1,138
7	\$66,656	\$5,555	\$2,778	\$2,564	\$1,282
8	\$74,167	\$6,181	\$3,091	\$2,853	\$1,427
*Each additional household member add:	\$7,511	\$626	\$313	\$289	\$145

Qualifying For Free And Reduced Meals

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

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

2014-2015 Meal Pricing

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

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

Payment for meals is due at the time of purchase. No charging is allowed. Meals are deducted at the time of purchase and are on a debit system. Meals may be paid for with cash/check or on-line through PaySchools. If you would like more information on how to pay for school meals, please visit our website (see below).

Thank you for your participation in the breakfast and lunch program at North Branch Area Schools. Please contact the Food Service Department at (810) 688-2226

with any questions or concerns. You may also visit our website under departments on the District Home Page (www.nbbrncos.net) for more information.

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

What Is Ala Carte?

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

A.H.E.R.A. Notification

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires that schools be inspected for asbestos at least once every three years. The inspection must identify, catalog, and provide directions for maintaining asbestos found in any school buildings. The inspection reports are on file in the principal's office at each building. Jeff Drayton, the Facility Supervisor is the designated person responsible for maintaining these

records and insuring that any necessary maintenance is properly completed. All of the school district's maintenance and custodial staff have received the required training in understanding and handling issues relating to asbestos containing materials. Questions concerning North Branch Area School's asbestos management plan should be directed to Jeff Drayton at (810) 688-3570.

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



The North Branch Area Schools operates a child care program called F.A.B.S. This is a licensed program funded by user fees. The year round program is located in the North Branch Elementary School and is open Weekdays from 6:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

We are open during the summer and on snow days (closed for Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring breaks, Memorial Day and 4th of July). There is a registration fee of \$15 per student for the school year (summer registration is separate).

Effective Jan.5, 2015 our hourly rate will be increasing to \$2.75 for the 1st child & \$2.25 each additional sibling.

For additional information contact Leann Gwinn at 810-688-4634.

North Branch Bands

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 9

Ruth Fox Bands Christmas Concert – HS Auditorium – 7pm

Thursday, December 11

Middle School Bands Christmas Concert – HS Auditorium – 7pm

Tuesday, December 16

High School Christmas Concert – HS Auditorium – 7pm

Saturday, January 31

District III MSBOA Honors Band – Ortonville/Brandon

Tuesday, February 17

Middle School Pre-Festival Concert – HS Auditorium – 7pm

Thursday, February 19

High School Pre-Festival Concert – HS Auditorium – 7pm

High School News

Cross country state finalists



North Branch Cross Country was proud to send two of its finest and fastest to State competition this year -- 10th grader Marybeth Gormley and 9th grader Austin Pung. Marybeth ran the course in 21:04 and Austin in 18:21. While not a personal best for either, the day gave them both a great experience, and gave our whole program something to shoot for next year. Austin and Marybeth were accompanied by many of their teammates and family members, making for a very exciting and enjoyable day. The running Broncos took a well-deserved week off and then started winter conditioning Monday, November 10. It has been a privilege and an honor to journey with these young people again this year, and I look forward to what the future holds for running in North Branch. Already we have over 50 high school and middle school students have signed up to take part in our next season!

National Honor Society

National Honor Society (NHS), recently inducted eight seniors and 42 juniors into its folds in November. Students that are inducted into NHS are required to excel in all areas of their life; scholarship, service, leadership and character.

This month, the NHS was honored to have 47 viable pints of blood donated to the American Red Cross. Seventy one students and staff tried to donate. The next blood drive is Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

At the high school, NHS students help tutor, help with blood drives and help make lunch bags for the homeless. They also help the community by providing volunteers for the community blood drive, help with senior citizen dinners and volunteer at Student Council's Rake a Difference day. NHS members assist with childcare at NB Elementary events, Mentors for Kids, book drives, and tutoring. A new project this year is volunteering helping make food for the homeless in Detroit. Students have also decorated several hundred lunch bags with positive messages that contain the lunches.

Students also choose one student a month from the high school. They do not have to be an NHS member, but they are honored for being a booster in the classroom, for a program or event.

Senior Austin Bennett was named Student of the Month for October. He was honored because Austin Bennett has taken many, many pictures for Yearbook even though he is not a member of the class. He goes to different events, uses his own equipment including a good camera and his own batteries and cards. He is not only helping yearbook, but all the student body, because



he is covering things that might not have been covered otherwise. I'm grateful to Austin for his dedication and his willingness to go the extra mile to help a program that has no intrinsic reward for him personally.

The Student of the Month for November is Sarah Johnson. She is always busy, always helpful to others. Sarah works hard to get things right and learn from that. She has volunteered to face paint at the elementary, she is in Student Council, and has offered to help prepare the Art show this coming spring. She has all the character attributes we like see in a young person, and she worked hard.

N.H.S. takes donations of the larger paper lunch sacks, peanut butter and jelly for use with the homeless. If you have a community event that could use some extra hands, please contact Mrs. McCormack or Ms. Stover-Lange at 810-688-3001.

Football Team helps out

The North Branch Football Team continued its tradition of helping out at the North Branch Thrift Shop back in October. Three times a year members of the team help unload items from the food bank truck. This time there was over one ton of items that needed to be unloaded. It is the responsibility of the team captains to organize a group of guys to help out each time they are called. This year's captains were Logan Woidan, Jared Freeland, Gabe Wells, and Brannon Roach.



Quiz Bowl

NBHS Quiz Bowl hosted 12 teams from around the Thumb in competition in November. NBHS Quiz Bowl has some returning faces, but also many new faces behind the buzzers. Some returning faces include Captains: Senior Brianna Walters and junior Stephanie Knudsen, as well as Kevin Zender, Erin Andersen, Alyssa Ventura, Kyle Beatley, Kayla Belavek, Stephanie Mruzek. New faces include Jacob Peralta, Faith Varner, Sarah Johnson, Britnay Peralta, Dennis Jones, Sofia Martinez-Mateos and Austin Pung.

Students answer trivia and academic questions in many different subjects including math, science, English and social studies. They also answer questions which require students to think on their feet. Some sample questions:

- Which U.S. national park is the oldest located east of the Mississippi River?
- Identify the noble gas, discovered in 1898 from the residue of liquid air, that has an atomic number of 54.
- Which war was the setting in Earnest Hemingway's



A Farewell to Arms?

- Identify the metric equivalent of the U.S. unit of horsepower.

Think you know the answers? Check yourself.

- ✓ Acadia National Park
- ✓ Xenon
- ✓ WWI
- ✓ Watt

Wish Quiz Bowl well as they conclude their fall season and enter winter season of the Thumb Area Quiz Bowl League. Coaches are Mrs. Wagner and Ms. Stover-Lange. All high school students are welcome to compete for the winter season.

Yearbooks

NBHS Yearbooks can still be ordered during all lunches through Dec. 8-12 with a special "gift certificate" for under the tree. Cost is \$70 for the all-color, whole-year coverage. (\$75 with engraved name plate.) These make a great gift from Grandma, Santa, Mom, Dad, whoever! Make checks payable to NBHS Yearbook. You can also order on-line via credit card at www.yearbookordercenter.com with the school

number of 12285 OR through with credit card/debit card through PaySchools on the NBAS homepage. If you want to mail a check, please do so to NBHS BRONCONIAN Yearbook; P.O. Box 3620; North Branch, MI 48461.

Please refer questions to advisor Ruth Stover-Lange 810-688-3001 x 2156 or yearbook@nbbroncos.net. The ties to North Branch are uNBreakable!

Bronco Sports News



North Branch School Spirit is alive and well! Our students gave our Varsity Volleyball team tremendous support at the MHSAA Volleyball District Championship game! The Lady Broncos defeated Mt. Morris in three and clinched the District Championship!



North Branch Lady Broncos Volleyball Team Academic All-State
With Team GPA Of 3.9413

President Clinton Visits Flint, Quest Students In Attendance

On Wednesday, October 22nd, six Quest students had the opportunity to see former President Bill Clinton speak at the Riverfront Banquet Center in Flint. President Clinton was accompanied by numerous speakers including gubernatorial candidate Mark Schauer and several senators. President Clinton spoke for about thirty minutes on the importance of setting aside political differences, and moving toward an environment of collaboration. Tickets for event were very hard to come by with only 1000 tickets being distributed.

The experience left a mark on the students that were selected to attend. Junior Chris Parent said, "Getting a chance to see the President was life changing. To listen to his views on our country and young people's role was inspirational." Senior Dan Schank added, "After the speeches we got a chance to shake President Clinton's hand. It was a once in a lifetime thing. It was an awesome experience, and I'm glad I had the chance to go."



Courtney Bliss, Rachel Adamczak, Teacher Corey Rosser, Dan Nolan, Lapeer Ed-Tech Asst. Principal Cathy Ambuoy, Matt Nolan, Dan Schank, and Chris Parent attended the speech.



Quest takes care of one of our favorite seniors Peggy Finley

Quest Serves Our Senior Community

A foundation of Quest is both belonging to a school community and participating in the broader community in which we live. Quest would like to thank the North Branch Senior Center members that allowed us the opportunity to give back in our immediate community. Quest Junior Carl Frazer said, "The satisfaction for helping comes from knowing that you're making some one's life a little easier and it brightens their day." Shaina Rowden added, "The senior citizens are always so nice to us, It feels good to be able to do something in return." In total, Quest students cleaned the lawns of 6 senior citizens, and gave a cumulative total of about 100 man hours in their efforts.

Quest Makes A Difference

On Friday, September 26, 2014, a dozen Quest students helped the Headstart spread mulch around their playground equipment. The community service activity helped provide a safer playground environment for the kids. Headstart teacher Vicki Tordai commented, "We really appreciated the extra help from the Quest students."



Left to Right: Lane Schank, Craig Darbee, Brandon Krajniak, and Isaiah Gabriel all volunteered time for the headstart program.

Quest Parent Teacher Conferences A Success!!!

Quest High School faculty enjoyed a high attendance rate for parent teacher conferences. A staple of Quest High School is that education is a family investment and communication with the family is essential. Quest's goal is always to have 100% participation. Overall, 87% of parents or students conferred with Quest faculty. Students with parents that were not able to attend were encouraged to meet with their teachers during lunch or after school, with a number of students taking advantage.

Nate Smith's mother Angie Michael had this to say of her son's experience at Quest so far, "Quest has been a blessing for my son. He is more motivated, he talks about what he learned in school for the first time in years, and his whole attitude at home and about his education has changed. This definitely has been the best thing that has ever happened to him!"

Quest celebrates with their newest college graduate

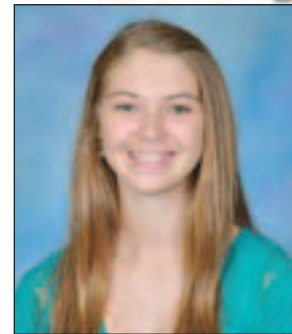
Amanda Steirwalt, a 2008 Quest graduate, recently graduated with honors as a registered nurse from Mott College and recently was hired by McLaren Hospital in Lapeer. We would like to congratulate her on her recent accomplishments and are proud to be call her one of our own!



Baker-Mott Field Trip

On Wednesday, October 15th Quest High School traveled to the Baker and Mott College campuses. At Baker the students met with admissions, toured the main campus, and then traveled to Baker's automotive campus. Mott also reviewed the admissions process and provided the students a tour of campus. Baker College has been a chosen destination for Quest students for its 1-2 year programs. Last year Baker provided Quest with six scholarships for the graduating class of 2014!

Volleyball Individual Academic All-State



Jazlyn Teichow
3.719 GPA



Calla McNulty
3.974 GPA



Abigail Brusie
3.752 GPA

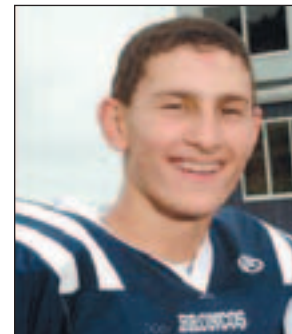


Lauren Greschow
3.843 GPA



Victoria Severance
4.004 GPA

All Conference Football



Curtis Garza
1st Team Wide Receiver



Trevor Burhans
1st Team Defensive Line



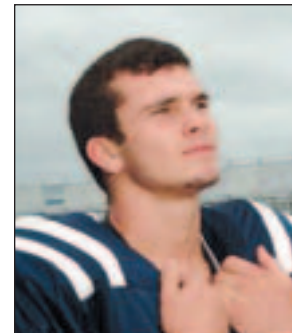
Levi Deshetsy
2nd Team Tight End



Mike McKee
2nd Team Offensive Line



Logan Woidan
2nd Team Linebacker



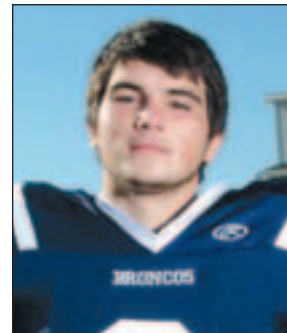
Mack McGough
Honorable Mention
Quarterback



Brannon Roach
Honorable Mention Offensive
and Defensive Line



Austin Bowling
Honorable Mention
Linebacker



Jared Freeland
Honorable Mention
Linebacker

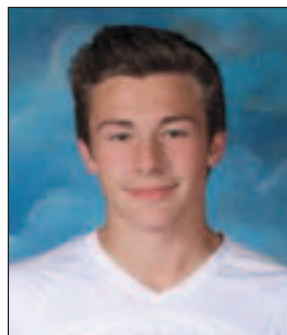


Gabe Wells
Honorable Mention
Running Back

All Conference Boys' Soccer



Bobby Schaudt
All Conference



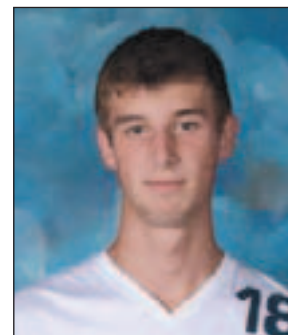
Ethan Amore
All Conference



Zach Van Wormer
Honorable Mention



Shane Skalski
All Conference



Mitchell Curtis
Honorable Mention



Ryan Opperman
All Conference

Welcome Back!



North Branch Alumni Cheerleaders joined forces with our Varsity Cheerleaders at our Homecoming Game on October 10 to cheer on om- Broncos!



Alyssa DeMeyers signs to play Softball at Saginaw Valley State University



Brandon Berlin Signs With Rochester College (Baseball)

Boys' Soccer Individual Academic All State



Shane Skalski
GPA of 4.001

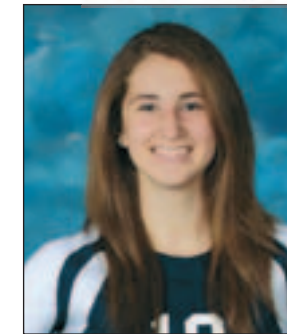


Gunner Skouson
GPA of 3.778



Kolen Snoblen
GPA of 3.634

All-Conference Volleyball



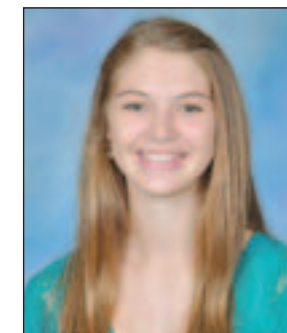
Laura Willson
1st Team



Mady Ruhlman
1st Team



Madee Miner
1st Team



Jazlyn Teichow
2nd Team



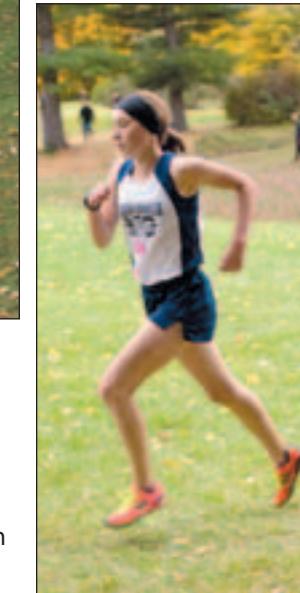
Calla McNulty
2nd Team



Alexas Hernandez
Honorable Mention



Austin Pung - Division II State Qualifier, State Finish: 221, Time: 18:20.8, Freshman Ranking in State: 20th Fastest Time for a Freshman, Male in Division II



Marybeth Gormley - Division II State Qualifier, State Finish: 161, Time: 21:03.1, Sophomore Ranking in State: 37th Fastest Time for a Female, Sophomore in Division II

All-State Volleyball



L-R: Madison Miner, 2nd Team All-State; Laura Willson, 1st Team All-State; Mady Ruhlman, 1st Team All-State

All Conference Cross Country



Austin Pung
1st Team



Marybeth Gormley
1st Team



Brandon Seeley
2nd Team



Olivia Fike
Honorable Mention



Abigail Brusie
Honorable Mention



Victoria Severance
Honorable Mention

7th Grade Cross-Curricular Time Travel Project

The seventh graders in Mrs. Schulte's English classes, Mrs. Parsons' Social Studies classes, and Mrs. Baksa's art classes are taking part in a cross-curricular project that focuses on Ancient Egypt. Students have been working in groups to complete a time travel narrative that takes them back to Ancient Egypt. Students were presented with several technology based options for presenting their project to the class. The cultural characteristics of Ancient Egypt

are required to be infused into the narrative. Students explored the artwork of Ancient Egypt, the mummification process, and the use of Hieroglyphics as a writing form. They used Hieroglyphics to create 18 X 24 inch paintings of the symbols that represent their names. Digital images of the paintings are being used in their final presentations. This experience has been a great way for the students to see the connections between disciplines.



Breanna Barden's Artwork



Alex Curtis's Artwork

Student Council Volunteers At Lapeer Homeless Connect

On Thursday, November 6 North Branch Middle School Student Council members volunteered at the 7th annual Project Homeless Connect. Lapeer Homeless Connect is a once a year "one stop shop" where City, County, State, and Non-Profits are found under the same roof to assist the homeless in our county. This year there were over 150 citizens of Lapeer County that participated in this event. North Branch Middle School sent 27 student and 3 adult volunteers that helped with set-up, sorted and folded clothing, served food, carried items for clients, but mostly students greeted and escorted clients to vender booths. These students did an outstanding job assisting citizens in our community. For information about Lapeer Homeless Connect go to <http://www.homelessinlapeermi.com/>



Middle School Wrestling Team



Our North Branch Middle School Wrestlers were at Mayville on November 8th. They took home 8 medals and 2 were declared Champions.

Pictured from left: Kristopher Lewis, Nick Balch, Selena Nellenbach, Joseph McNeil, Evan Caudill, Blake Bartnik, Spencer Murphy, Brendan Redman, Bryce Lopucki.

Bully Prevention Month

During October we have been participating in Bullying Prevention Month Activities. In the "Words to Build On" segment of the morning announcements we have been teaching the importance of standing together as a student body to make North Branch Middle School a "Bullying Free Zone."

All of our students were given an opportunity to put their name on a card indicating their support. Over two-hundred students signed cards which are displayed in the hallway.

A Bullying Prevention Month poster contest was announced, offering \$10.00 iTunes gift cards for 1st place

and Subway gift cards for 2nd and 3rd. Students could also write an essay if they chose not to draw a poster. Three students participated by writing. Nine students created beautiful posters. Teachers were asked to vote to find the winners in each category.



Backpacks for Lapeer County Homeless

The Middle School Student Council collected items for Lapeer Homeless Connect. Every class was given a list of items needed to fill a backpack. Classes collected from Wednesday, September 24th and ending October 20th. Mr. Mitchell's class filled their back pack first earning a pizza party, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Griffiths, and Mrs. Tumblin classes filled their backpacks next, all earning free popcorn. Thank you Middle School Students for supporting Lapeer County Homeless. "Neighbors helping Neighbors!"



Stradinger Hunt



Students at Ruth Fox Elementary braved the chilly weather and enjoyed a "Stradinger Hunt" on Friday. Mrs. Stradinger's 6th grade social studies students used handheld GPS devices to locate up to ten items hidden around the school property. This was an opportunity for them to show off their knowledge of latitude and longitude lines as well as relative and absolute location.



iPads and Investigations

6th grade students on team SVSZ (Mrs. Stradinger, Mrs. VerBurg, Mrs. Sherrieb, Ms. Zwolensky) at Ruth Fox have been using iPads as part of their daily math lab investigations. During a recent lab, students

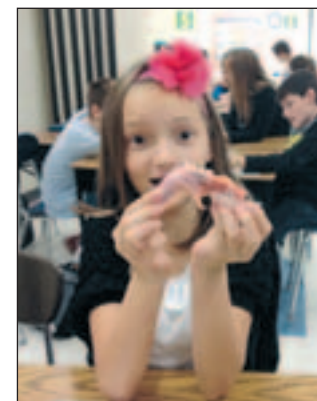


scanned QR codes which directed them to a link containing a real world math problem involving ratios. Students worked with their partner to solve the problem that was presented. After working through the problem and answering it, each group would then move on to the next QR code. After all QR codes were scanned and all problems answered, students then discussed their findings as a class.



Body Systems

The Sieh, Sweeney, McCarty and Bower team have been busy studying the Body Systems in science class. All of the students had the opportunity to participate in the dissection of a chicken wing. They were able to observe how the muscles, bones, cartilage and tendons work together to make the wing operate in a very similar way to the human arm. The team enjoyed this hands-on activity and gained a great deal of knowledge. That is what learning is all about!!



iPads in the Math Classrooms

Last Spring the North Branch Board of Education agreed to purchase iPads to go along with the new math series purchased for grades 5 through 9. The iPads are a huge hit. Students are able to view their math book online as well as use a variety of apps to deepen their understanding of math concepts. You can view your sixth grade child's book at home by going to mymathuniverse.com and having your child login. Sixth graders at the Ruth Fox have been creating Number Projects with Prezi and Haiku Deck. They have also been using Video toolbox to create a science news report on invasive species and they are using Croc-o-docs to experiment with reciprocal teaching strategies while reading informational articles. If you have a child in the Ruth Fox, ask them to show you what they have been doing. They can sign in to their accounts on any computer using their username and password.



What Are Teachers Doing on Professional Development Days?

Have you ever wondered what teachers are doing on "Professional Development" (PD) days? Many students have visions of teachers sitting in their seats and becoming the learner for the day, while many parents and community members are often unsure about what these days entail. No matter what building you were to visit on district PD days, the common thread you would find are teachers working together in service of student learning.

For the past five years, teachers at Ruth Fox Elementary have been involved in a digital literacy collaboration with Michigan State University (visit the MSU/Ruth Fox site at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/ruthfoxmsupdcollab/>). This PD opportunity has positively transformed teacher understanding about the thoughtful integration of technology and how various digital tools can be used to deepen student understanding of concepts and skills, as well as shape teachers own practices and learnings.

With the advancement of technology, Ruth Fox Elementary teachers have taken PD a step further this year by using Google Hangouts on Air (HOA). HOA is a live broadcast tool that allows the party hosting the Hangout to have their computer screen and audio recorded and uploaded to a public or private channel on YouTube. Over the summer, well known author and literacy consultant, Matt Copeland, agreed to host three HOA learning workshops on Socratic Circles for Ruth Fox staff during the 14-15 school year.

Matt Copeland is a former high school English teacher, a 2005 Milken National Educator, 2003 Kansas Master Teacher, 2002 Judith C. Gilbert Outstanding Writing Teacher, past President of the Kansas Association of Teachers of English, and has published several books, essays, and poems. Matt's willingness to use HOA allowed Ruth Fox staff to learn from a nationally recognized speaker that traditionally would have been out of financial reach. The live recording of the workshop has allowed teachers to go back and revisit key information and steps of the Socratic Circle strategy. Of equal importance, the workshop video is a wonderful contribution from Matt Copeland and Ruth Fox teachers to the global pool of knowledge on the World Wide Web.

To visit Ruth Fox Elementary's first Hangout On Air with Matt Copeland, please visit:



Ruth Fox LOVES Veterans

We are very excited to honor our Veterans again this year during our "We're Thankful for Veteran's" celebration! Each year, Ruth Fox hosts a special morning where students and staff honor the contributions that the proud men and women who serve our country have made for us! Students write essays, draw posters, sing patriotic songs, and play their band instruments during this special ceremony. Ruth Fox students and staff spend the months prior, raising money to donate for Veteran's in need. This year, we are having three Wednesdays during the month where we will sell popcorn and the proceeds will be donated to the Veterans.



The Ruth Fox Elementary School hosted Student led conferences the week of November 3rd through the 7th. Conferences were held on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:00pm – 7:00pm. Ruth Fox schedules appointments with every parent and our goal is 100% attendance. Students had the opportunity to share information from their data portfolios which allow parents to see exactly where they are in their progress. Ruth Fox utilized a student-led conference format where students share information with their parents and the teachers. It is amazing to see the ownership and pride that student's exhibit while taking their parents through the conference.

Google Apps for Education

Students at Ruth Fox are emailing and collaborating in Google Drive! Along with email, students have access to Google Suite tools. This includes Google documents, spreadsheets, presentations and more. These tools are FREE and available at home with online

access. This is a fabulous collaboration tool that students will be utilizing in classrooms throughout the year. Ask your child what Google project he/she has had an opportunity to work on this year.

Growing Digital Writers

Thanks to a grant secured by Mrs. White, the building Reading Specialist, teachers on the LRG team (Lewis, Rogers, and Goldstein) will be enhancing the grade level animal book project (view a past example here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Md50_DEDjJA). Grant monies created a unique learning opportunity for the LRG team to apply and participate in a Summer Institute to work on an integrated digital project. Dr. Troy Hicks, professor at CMU, conducted the summer seminar showing North Branch teachers how technology can be used to enhance the curriculum.

Beginning in September, students are immersed into the process of researching, note taking, and writing to create their animal book with many informational facts and text features (table of contents, charts, graphs, bold words, and glossary). The animal book culminates into an informational keepsake where each 5th grade student displays a hybrid book of informative facts and a heartfelt persuasive letter to their parents that a rhino (or some other animal) would make a wonderful pet.

Over the past decade, the development and improvement of the animal books have been ongoing. The grant training has enabled teachers on the LRG team to expand lessons that focus on incorporating technology



into the research and creation of the students' animal books. Students will be using Google Docs to gather and write about their animal. Also, a digital tool called Glogster will provide a presentation format for students to display their animal book information and letter into an interactive digital format for readers.

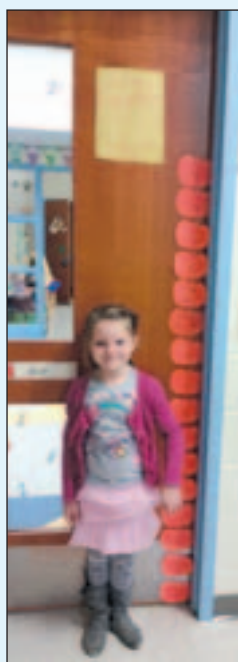
The LRG team is very excited about the work students are doing and are looking forward to sharing their digital book projects as digital technology transforms student learning.

Pumpkin Day

Mrs. Bailey's and Mrs. Thompson's kindergarten classrooms celebrated the Fall season with a pumpkin theme day full of fun learning activities.

We used pumpkins to graph how tall students were, counted seeds, tasted seeds, counted the lines on our pumpkin, measured how tall our pumpkins were with cubes, conducted an experiment to see if a pumpkin would sink or float, observed a pumpkin volcano, painted our pumpkins, and ended our special day with eating some pumpkin pie.

This was a great, hands-on learning experience for our kindergarten students.



Bronco Mile Fun Run

Students in North Branch had the opportunity to participate in the third annual Bronco Mile Fun Run held on Thursday, October 9th at the North Branch Elementary on the paved pathway surrounding the playground and the cross country trails on the district's campus. The running club prepared runners in grades 2nd- 6th for a one mile race. The North Branch Elementary Running Club of over 50 participants, developed a lot of interest and enthusiasm in the sport of running while learning good running form, stretching techniques, and pacing goals to prepare them for this event. Special thanks to our bronco families and our community for their support for this program. The running club is led by Holly Berridge @ hberridge@nbbrncos.net if interested in learning more about the program.

Making Meaning

By: Tracy Anderson and Kim Friday

(With support from: Amber White and Paul Morsink)

Drop by a first-grade classroom this fall during the literacy block, and you will see many of the traditional literacy activities you're used to seeing in first grade: students sitting crisscross-apple sauce and listening to teachers read aloud stories, students working in guided reading groups or reading independently and of course a lot of writing.

But this fall, you will also see something new: during read-alouds, first-grade teachers are pausing now and then to talk with the children about strategies good readers use to deepen their comprehension of what they read. As well, teachers are giving their first graders time to turn and talk with a classmate. Students talk about a time they felt what a character in the story is feeling, or about why something happened, or about what could happen next. And all of this talking, listening, and discussing is making reading more interactive and interesting.

These new activities are part of a new approach to reading instruction called Making Meaning that all first-grade teachers are implementing this fall. The Making Meaning approach ensures that students are exposed to rich stories from a variety of genres: fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. The main learning goal is to have all our young readers be as active as possible (with their minds!) while they read. "Being active" means making connections, making predictions, visualizing, retelling, making inferences, asking questions,



and summarizing. These strategies are modeled by the teacher, then discussed, and then practiced by the students in their guided reading books and their independent reading books.

Over time, the goal is to have students become active readers on their own. Everything we know from classroom experience and reading research indicates that good readers are extremely active—they are constantly making connections, asking questions, and so on. So the sooner our children start using these comprehension strategies while they read, the better they'll understand the content of the texts they read—and the more fun and engaging reading will be.

Feedback from students and teachers about the new Making Meaning activities has been very positive. First grader Aubree expressed, "I like the books! The authors want you to make connections with their stories." First grader Lawson stated, "Making Meaning

time is fun!" One thing all first-grade students seem to appreciate is the time they get to discuss what they are reading and hear what their classmates are thinking. All kids like to talk about experiences from their own life, and with Making Meaning, students are invited to use their personal experiences to reach a deeper understanding of what they are reading.

As well, students benefit from discussing the week's "focus strategy" with a peer. Doing this helps them remember the strategy and reflect on how it helped them gain a deeper understanding of the text. Overall, the regular experience of sitting and talking with a peer is teaching students how to think at a higher level about the text, to be a good listener, and to respond appropriately.

First Grade teachers are equally enthusiastic about the new activities. "We are seeing an increase in their ability to think at a higher level about the story and then talk about it as well," says Mrs. Anderson. Mrs. Friday states, "I like the consistency of having the same materials and language in each classroom." An added benefit of the new program is that all first-grade teachers are implementing it at the same time and sharing ideas with each other. "It's really helpful to hear from a colleague about how the lesson went in her room and reflect together," said Mrs. Anderson.

First-grade teachers Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Bareither, Ms. Curtis, Mrs. Friday, Mrs. Grask, Mrs. Ruhlman, Ms. Wierbicki, and Mrs. Yens are all looking forward to continuing with the lessons and watching the children grow.

North Branch Winter Sports Schedule

VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 09	at Imlay City	7:30
Dec. 12	vs. Yale	7:30
Dec. 17	at Frankenmuth	7:30
Dec. 19	vs. Birch Run	7:30
Dec. 29	vs. HC Moore-TBD	7:30
Dec. 30	vs. HC Moore-TBD	6/7:30
Jan. 07	at Caro	8:00
Jan. 09	at Lakeville	7:30
Jan. 14	vs. Millington	7:30
Jan. 16	vs. Bridgeport	7:30
Jan. 23	at Garber	7:30
Jan. 27	at TVC Central Xover	7:30
Jan. 30	vs. Frankenmuth	7:30
Feb. 06	vs. TVC West Xover (Snowcoming)	7:30
Feb. 11	at Birch Run	7:30
Feb. 13	vs. Caro	7:30
Feb. 20	vs. Lakeville (Senior Night)	7:30
Feb. 25	at Millington	7:30
Feb. 27	at Bridgeport	7:30
Mar. 05	vs. Garber	7:30
Mar. 09, 11, 13	DISTRICTS at Caro	TBD
Mar. 16, 18	REGIONALS	

JV BOYS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 08	at Capac	7:30
Dec. 09	at Imlay City	6:00
Dec. 12	vs. Yale	6:00
Dec. 17	at Frankenmuth	6:00
Dec. 19	vs. Birch Run	6:00
Jan. 07	at Caro	6:30
Jan. 09	at Lakeville	6:00
Jan. 14	vs. Millington	6:00
Jan. 16	vs. Bridgeport	6:00
Jan. 21	vs. Kingston	7:30
Jan. 23	at Garber	6:00
Jan. 27	at TVC Central Xover	6:00
Jan. 30	vs. Frankenmuth	6:00
Feb. 06	vs. TVC West Xover (Snowcoming)	6:00
Feb. 11	at Birch Run	6:00
Feb. 13	vs. Caro	6:00
Feb. 20	vs. Lakeville	6:00
Feb. 25	at Millington	6:00
Feb. 27	at Bridgeport	6:00
Mar. 05	vs. Garber	6:00

FRESHMAN BOYS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 08	at Capac	6:00
Dec. 09	at Imlay City	4:30
Dec. 12	vs. Yale	4:30
Dec. 17	at Frankenmuth	4:30
Jan. 07	at Caro	5:00
Jan. 09	at Lakeville	4:30
Jan. 16	vs. Bridgeport	4:30
Jan. 22"	vs. Durand	4:00
Jan. 23	at Garber	4:30
Jan. 27	at TVC Central Xover	4:30
Jan. 30	vs. Frankenmuth	4:30
Feb. 02	at Cros-Lex	4:30
Feb. 06	vs. TVC West Xover	4:30
Feb. 13	vs. Caro	4:30
Feb. 17	at Durand	5:30
Feb. 20	vs. Lakeville	4:30
Feb. 27	at Bridgeport	4:30
Mar. 05	vs. Garber	4:30

VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 02	at Yale	7:30
Dec. 05	vs. Imlay City	7:30
Dec. 11	at Garber	7:30
Dec. 16	vs. Frankenmuth	7:30
Dec. 18	at Birch Run	7:30
Dec. 29	at Brown City-HC Moore	12/1:30
Dec. 30	at Brown City-HC Moore	12/1:30
Jan. 06	vs. Caro	7:30
Jan. 08	vs. Lakeville	7:30
Jan. 13	at Millington	7:30
Jan. 15	at Bridgeport	7:30
Jan. 22	vs. Garber	7:30
Jan. 26	at TVC Central Xover	7:30
Jan. 29	at Frankenmuth	7:30
Feb. 05	vs. TVC West Xover	7:30
Feb. 10	vs. Birch Run	7:30
Feb. 12	at Caro	7:30
Feb. 19	at Lakeville	7:30
Feb. 24	vs. Millington	7:30
Feb. 26	vs. Bridgeport (Senior Night)	7:30
Mar. 2, 4, 6	DISTRICTS @ NBHS	TBA

JV GIRLS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 02	at Yale	6:00
Dec. 05	vs. Imlay City	6:00
Dec. 08	at Capac	4:30
Dec. 11	at Garber	6:00
Dec. 16	vs. Frankenmuth	6:00
Dec. 18	at Birch Run	6:00
Jan. 06	vs. Caro	6:00
Jan. 08	vs. Lakeville	6:00
Jan. 13	at Millington	6:00
Jan. 15	at Bridgeport	6:00
Jan. 21	vs. Kingston	6:00
Jan. 22	vs. Garber	6:00
Jan. 26	at TVC Central Xover	6:00
Jan. 29	at Frankenmuth	6:00
Feb. 05	vs. TVC West Xover	6:00
Feb. 10	vs. Birch Run	6:00
Feb. 12	at Caro	6:00
Feb. 19	at Lakeville	6:00
Feb. 24	vs. Millington	6:00
Feb. 26	vs. Bridgeport	6:00

VARSITY WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 10	at M'ton vs. Cass City & Bad Axe	6:00
Dec. 13	at Marlette Invite	8:00
Dec. 17	at Fenton w/Yale & Trenton	5:00
Dec. 20	at Caro Invitational	8:30
Dec. 27	at Mayville Tournament	TBA
Jan. 03	North Branch Invite	9:00
Jan. 07	at NB vs. F'Muth, M'ton, Lkvl	6:00
Jan. 10	at MI Duals- Bay City Western	8:30
Jan. 14	at Lkvl vs. Lkvl & Birch Run	6:00
Jan. 21	at Caro w/Garber	6:00
Jan. 24	at Mt. Morris Invite	8:00
Jan. 28	at Bridgeport	6:00
Jan. 31	at Lapeer Tournament	TBA
Feb. 07	at TVC Tourn-Ithaca	9:00
Feb. 12	Team Districts @ NBHS	TBA
Feb. 14	Individual Districts @ Gaylord	TBA
Feb. 21	Individual Regionals	TBA
Mar 5 - 7	Individual States at Palace	TBA

VARSITY BOWLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 06	Frankenmuth/Candlelite	12:00
Dec. 13	Garber/Bay Lanes	1:00
Jan. 10	Lakeville/Richfield Bowl	12:00
Jan. 17	Bridgeport/Candlelite	12:00
Jan. 31	Caro/Brentwood Bowling	TBA
Feb. 07	Birch Run/Candlelite	12:00
Feb. 14"	North Branch/Gerlach	10:00
Feb. 21	TVC @ Ithaca/ Town & Country	TBA

COMPETITIVE CHEER

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 13	at Chesaning XMas Cheer	9:00
Jan. 07	at Freeland	6:00
Jan. 10	at Oxford Tournament	9:00
Jan. 21	at Frankenmuth	6:00
Jan. 24,	at Durand Invite	9:00
Feb. 04	North Branch Meet	6:00
Feb. 14	TVC Meet at Freeland	6:00

FRESHMAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL

NO FRESHMAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM THIS SEASON

8TH GIRLS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 10	at Lakeville	5:30
Nov. 12	vs. Bridgeport	5:30
Nov. 17	vs. Caro	5:30
Nov. 19	at Millington	5:30
Nov. 24	at Frankenmuth	5:30
Nov. 25	vs. Birch Run	5:30
Dec. 01	vs. Lakeville	5:30
Dec. 03	at Bridgeport	5:30
Dec. 08	at Caro	5:30
Dec. 10	vs. Millington	5:30
Dec. 15	vs. Garber	5:30
Dec. 17	at Birch Run	5:30

7TH GIRLS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 10	at Lakeville	4:30
Nov. 12	vs. Bridgeport	4:30
Nov. 17	vs. Caro	4:30
Nov. 19	at Millington	4:30
Nov. 24	at Frankenmuth	4:30
Nov. 25	vs. Birch Run	4:30
Dec. 01	vs. Lakeville	4:30
Dec. 03	at Bridgeport	4:30
Dec. 08	at Caro	4:30
Dec. 10	vs. Millington	4:30
Dec. 15	vs. Garber	4:30
Dec. 17	at Birch Run	4:30

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 06	North Branch Quad	4:30
Nov. 08	at Mayville Invite	9:00
Nov. 11	at B'Run vs. B'Run & Blk Crk	4:30
Nov. 18	at Caro w/Garber	4:30
Nov. 20	at F'Muth w/ St. Chas & F'Muth	4:30
Dec. 02	at M'ton w/Carrollton	4:30
Dec. 06	at Caro Invite	9:00
Dec. 09	NB Dual w/ Lkvl & Mayville	4:30
Dec. 12	TVC E Div Meet @ M'ton	TBA

8TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 19	at Lakeville/A Team	5:30
Jan. 21	vs. Bridgeport/A Team	5:30
Jan. 26	vs. Caro/A & B Teams	4:30
Jan. 28	at Millington/A & B Teams	4:30
Feb. 02	at Frankenmuth/ A & B Teams	4:30
Feb. 04	vs. Birch Run/A Team Only	5:30
Feb. 09	vs. Lakeville/A & Be Teams	4:30
Feb. 11	at Bridgeport/A Team	4:30
Feb. 16	at Caro/A & B Team	5:30
Feb. 18	vs. Millington/A & B Team	4:30
Feb. 23	vs. Garber/A Team Only	5:30
Feb. 25	at Birch Run/A Team Only	5:30

7TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 19	at Lakeville/A Team	4:30
Jan. 21	vs. Bridgeport/A Team	4:30
Jan. 26	at Caro/A & B Team	4:30
Jan. 28	vs. Millington/A & B Team	4:30
Feb. 02	vs. Frankenmuth/ A & B Teams	4:30
Feb. 04	vs. Birch Run/A Team	4:30
Feb. 09	vs. Lakeville/A Team	4:30
Feb. 11	at Bridgeport/A Team	4:30
Feb. 16	vs. Caro/A & B Teams	4:30
Feb. 18	at Millington/A & B Teams	4:30
Feb. 23	vs. Garber/A Team	4:30
Feb. 25"	at Birch Run/A Team	4:30

HOCKEY

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 19	at Swartz Crk/ Iceland Arena	TBA
Nov. 22	vs. Lapeer/Polar Palace	3:30
Nov. 29	at Bishop Foley/Troy Sports	7:15
Dec. 03"	at Lapeer/Polar Palace	7:15
Dec. 06	vs. Crestwood /Polar Palace	5:45
Dec. 10	vs. Fenton/Polar Palace	7:15
Dec. 12	at KBH/Perani Arena	4:00
Dec. 13	vs. Dewitt/Polar Palace	5:45
Dec. 17	at Flushing/Iceland Arena	TBA
Dec. 19	vs. Bishop Foley/Polar	7:00
Jan. 03	at FNV Griffins/Saginaw Ice	TBA
Jan. 16	vs. Gaylord/Polar Palace	7:00
Jan. 17	vs. Gaylord/Polar Palace	3:30
Jan. 21	vs. Swartz Crk/Polar Palace	5:00
Jan. 23	at GR Flames/Griff's Ice	6:00
Jan. 24	at GR Flames-Griff's Ice	TBD
Jan. 28	at Fenton/Hartland	TBD
Jan. 31	at Mid-MI Storm/Gladwin	3:00
Feb. 06	at Dewitt/Suburban Lansing	TBD
Feb. 07	at Crestwood/Canfield Ice	3:00
Feb. 11	vs. FNV Griffins/Polar Palace	7:15
Feb. 21	vs. Mid-MI Storm/Polar Palace	3:30
Feb. 25	vs. Flushing/Polar Palace	7:15
Feb. 28	vs. KBH/Polar Palace	5:45

All schedules subject to change

