



# School Talk

www.nbbrncos.net

North Branch Area Schools

May 2015

## The Class of 2015 Announce Their Valedictorian and Salutatorian



Lauren Bickel

The Valedictorian of North Branch High School's Class of 2015 is Lauren Bickel. Lauren is the daughter of Nathan and Kristine Bickel. Lauren's has been very active in both the school and the North Branch Community. She is involved in 4-H, her church's youth group as well as its choir. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Lauren was also a member of the Girls'

Varsity Basketball team and the Girls' Varsity Track and Field team while attending NBHS. After graduation, Lauren plans to attend Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois to earn an associate degree in Agribusiness Management, while participating on their livestock judging team. She would then like to transfer to Purdue University to continue her

education in Agribusiness Management. While at Purdue, her goal is to also earn a teaching certificate to teach High School Math and Physics.

The Salutatorian for the Class of 2015 is Brianna Walters. Brianna is the daughter of Brian and Wendy Walters. Brianna's academic achievements include being a member of the Marching and Symphonic Band, the Varsity Quiz Bowl Team and participated in the Mentors for Kids Program at North Branch Elementary School. Brianna was a member of the National Honor Society, and was selected to the Tri-Valley Conference Academic All-Conference Team. Brianna earned the Presidential Scholarship from Oakland University where she plans to attend and earn a degree in Biology.



Brianna Walters

## Superintendent's Corner



I trust you will enjoy this edition of School Talk. It is packed full of great news and student accomplishments from a fantastic school year. It is especially nice to be able

to recognize our Senior Scholars along with the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the Class of 2015. These students represent our district very well and all have exciting future plans. Be sure to read the entire edition for all of the end of the year events and activities. As always visit [www.nbbrncos.net](http://www.nbbrncos.net) frequently for all the latest news and updates.

Perhaps the most significant point I hope to make with this brief article is to call attention to the consistently high achieving students of North Branch Area Schools. Notice all of the photos and news about the many great things the district offers for our students. We continue to be well represented by our Special Olympians, the bands, space campers, athletic teams and individual athletes, academic scholars as well as Education and Technology Center students. This year, 13 student athletes signed with college on scholarships. As great as this is, you will be pleased to know that 178 students from the class of 2015 plan to attend college purely on academic scholarship worth an estimated \$236,600. With 90% of the class of 2015 declaring future plans involving college, military or advanced technical training, I am pleased to share the Board of Education's vision "Preparing every learner for success" is a reality.

Hats off to the Class of 2015! Kudos to their families, our community and importantly, the 132 North Branch teachers who played a significant role in preparing them for college and career readiness. Our work continues as we expand options for the classes of 2015 and beyond. I am pleased to report that 14 underclassmen will be part of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math & Medicine) Early College, a partnership with Baker College and have the opportunity to earn an associate's degree at no cost and graduate from North Branch Area Schools.

I am grateful for another very productive and successful school year. Thank you for your continued support. Have a fun and relaxing summer. The staff and I eagerly anticipate the start of the 15-16 school year on September 8, 2015 to continue the successes!

## Graduation Events

### Friday, May 15th:

**Last day for ALL Seniors.** Seniors who need to take their exams in order to earn credit or make up for exceeding the attendance absence limit, will still do so on Monday, May 18th & Tuesday, May 19th.

### Sunday, May 17th:

**Baccalaureate Ceremony (7:00 p.m.)** in the High School Auditorium. This is a non-denominational, inspirational service honoring the achievement and future for the graduates. Attendance is optional and admission is free. This event is not sponsored by the school.

### Tuesday, May 19th:

**Graduation rehearsal (3:00 p.m.)** in the Gymnasium (required to participate in the commencement ceremony). Seniors who have met all of the graduation requirements will receive their caps & gowns immediately after rehearsal.

**Swing-Out (5:00 p.m.)** Students will line up at the front of the High School and will march through town. The parade will end at the corner of Main street and Jefferson. NOTE: If this event is canceled due to weather, it will not be rescheduled.

### Thursday, May 21st:

**Class Night (7:00 p.m.)** Students will be honored with local schol-

arships, awards, NHS stoles, athletic awards and honor cords, etc. Participation is not mandatory but it is nice to see all of the seniors celebrating their accomplishments together. Students should arrive at 6:30 p.m. Students should wear something a bit more dressy (no shorts, tank tops or flip flops).

### Wednesday, May 27th:

**COMMENCEMENT (8:00 p.m.)** Seniors "MUST" arrive in CAPS & GOWNS by 7:30 p.m. to line up in the south wing. Doors to the Gymnasium open at 7:15 pm.

**Project Graduation:** This fun filled, action packed, all you can eat, alcohol-free lock-in has been a tradition in the North Branch community for over 30 years. The celebration will begin immediately following commencement on Wednesday, May 27th and will conclude early Thursday morning, May 28th. All students attending are eligible for door prizes but they must be present to win. Only students participating in commencement will be allowed to attend the post grad celebration.

### Thursday, May 28th:

**Quest 2015 Graduation Ceremony.** Located in the Quest gymnasium. All public is welcome, and there is no limit on the number that can attend graduation. We invite everyone to come welcome the class of 2015 into the world!

## Dr. William & Sandy Starbird named 2015 Friend of Youth



## North Branch Area Schools ...a learning community dedicated to excellence!

6655 Jefferson St., North Branch, MI 48461  
Phone: 810-688-3570 • Fax: 810-688-7010

**Vision: Preparing Every Learner for Success**

### SCHOOLS OF CHOICE

Anyone interested in enrolling through the Schools of Choice program at North Branch Area School can obtain applications on [www.nbbroncos.net](http://www.nbbroncos.net) or from the superintendent's office.

The Schools of choice enrollment period is May 1, 2015 – September 11, 2015  
(Applications are due no later than 4:00 p.m. September 11, 2015)

*PLEASE NOTE an application must be completed for all students who have moved out of district while attending NBAS and plan to continue.*

**CONTACT: Rhoda Lucia 810-688-3570 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

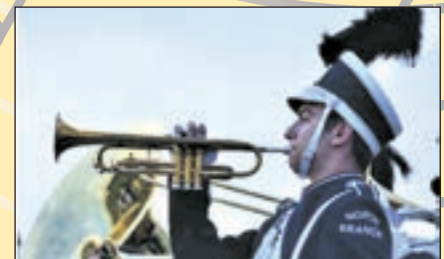
## North Branch Band - Year in Pictures



Independence Day Parade - July 4, 2014



Last Four Steps - October 2014



Homecoming Parade - October 2014



7th Grade Band Christmas Concert - December 2014



8th Grade Band Christmas Concert - December 2014



High School Band Christmas Concert - December 2014



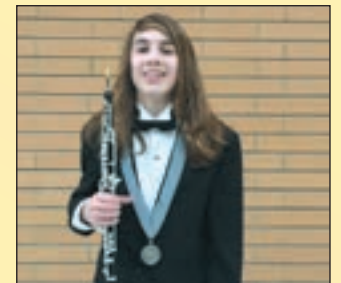
Middle School Honors Band District 3 Hunter Reinke - January 2015



High School Honors Band District 3- January 2015  
Left to right: Madison Morgan, Kevin Zender, Stephanie Krudsen and Jason Yelland



Middle School Honors Band District 3 - January 2015  
Left to right: Bruno Voigt, Destiny Robertson, Joshua Sutton, Sydney MacPherson and Abigail Wise



Bruno Voigt 4th chair Oboe in the entire State of Michigan - January 2015

# Art Show News ... March 2015



Ceramic bowl by NBHS senior Kourtney Franks

The High School Spring Art Show will be held at the North Branch Township Library again this year, with an opening reception on Tuesday, April 21. The show will run through Friday, April 24. Painting, Drawing, Ceramics and Sculpture from the high school art classes will be highlighted in what will be a terrific show. Please make time to stop in and see our student's work. The show will be open during regular library hours.

In addition, keep an eye out for the annual county-wide High School Art Show at Gallery 194 in Lapeer. Several North Branch artists will be showing their best work alongside other students from around the county. The Gallery 194 show runs from May 5th through the May 16th.



Teapot by NBHS senior Stephanie Eisele.

## Academic All Conference students



Each year, the 24 schools in the Tri-Valley Conference nominate the top three students to be named to the TVC All Academic Team.

The students are nominated based upon a combination of their GPA and ACT scores.

On April 28th, the top three students, based on these scores were treated to a banquet in Curtis hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, where they were recognized for their academic accomplishments and received a TVC All Conference medal.

The students earning the right to represent NBHS on this year's TVC All Academic Team are Kayla Belavek, Talon Sherrieb and Brianna Walters.



Kayla Belavek



Talon Sherrieb



Brianna Walters

## Senior Scholars



Each year, the top 25 students in the senior class, based on a combination of Grade Point Average and ACT test scores receive the title of Senior Scholar. During Class Night, these students will be awarded a gold cord to wear with their graduation gowns on the night of commencement.

This year's Senior Scholars are: Brianna Walters, Kayla Belavek, Talon Sherrieb, Heather Hunt, Connor Atkins, Zachary Fish, Niquole Caringi, Madelynn Ruhlman, McKenna VanWagoner, Lauren Bickel, Madison Morgan, Kelci Gormley, Landon Haight, Morgan Coulter, Fox Parton, Darius Kranz, Shane Skalski, Brittany Gray, Sydney Skalski, Hannah Sweeney, Jacob Huffaker, Madison Skovran, Sarah Johnson, Cade Baker, Sara Innes.

## Summer School/ Credit Recovery At North Branch Area Schools

### Required Orientation:

Monday, June 22 – 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m. or 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 23 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.,  
11 a.m., 12 p.m. or 1 p.m.

### Classes begin June 24 and end in early August

8 a.m. – 11 a.m. OR 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
\$80.00 per course

### For more information contact:

Grades 7 – 8 – Dale Parsons @ 688-4431  
dparsons@nbbronsos.net

Grades 9 – 12 – Deb Lammers @ 688-3001  
dlammers@nbbronsos.net

## Against All Odds

In February, Dan Nolan was nominated by his teachers for the prestigious Detroit News "Against All Odds" Scholarship. The scholarship awards \$1,000 each to twenty-four different students in twelve categories. The scholarship winners had not been announced by our press time. Winners will be featured in an upcoming edition of the Detroit News.

## Baker Scholarship Winners

This year 7 Quest graduates were awarded \$3,500 scholarships through Baker College. Those recipients are: Stephon Hodge, Dan Nolan, Matt Nolan, Tyler Griffith, Rachel Adamczak, Nick Kreiner, and Dan Schank.

## Enroll At Award Winning Quest High School Today!

Students interested in enrolling at Quest High School for the 2015-16 school year or obtaining more information about the programs offered at Quest can contact Quest teacher Corey Rosser at [crosser@nbbbronsos.net](mailto:crosser@nbbbronsos.net). You can also contact Quest by phone at (810) 688-7581.

## Order your Quest Yearbook Now!

Orders for Quest yearbooks are still being taken. The cost for the Quest Yearbook is \$20.00 and can be ordered from Mrs. Schneider, Quest Secretary, during the school day. The deadline to order a yearbook is May 8th. Yearbooks are a great keepsake and make a wonderful gift for seniors!

## Quest 2nd Trimester Honor Roll

Quest proudly announces the 2nd trimester honor roll students. To qualify, students must receive a B- or better in all teacher-led classes, including programs at the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center, and must have completed at least two on-line E2020 courses during the trimester. The students on the honor roll for the 2nd trimester were Tiffani Archibald, Amber Ayers, Courtney Bliss, Robert Gravat, Tyler Griffith, Jacob Jarvis, Daniel Nolan, Matthew Nolan, Marissa Ortiz, Shelby Phillips, and Graham Slivensky. Congratulations on all your hard work!

# Autism Awareness

On April 2nd, Quest students took time to participate in Autism Awareness activities. Ms. Zwolensky started conversations surrounding spectrum disorders and led discussions with the groups of students. The objective was for students to continue to explore and really think upon the fact that each one of them, whether at work, in college, and/or in their community, will come in contact and collaborate to some extent with a person with ASD. "My goal is for our students to have the skills and awareness to be able to embrace people with ASD and better understand how to socially interact and engage - not to be afraid." Writing and research activities to expand learning will continue after Spring Break. "I am so proud of our students here for wanting to learn more and take part in this day," reported Ms. Zwolensky.



## Quest Merit Scholarships Awarded!

This year's Quest Merit Scholarship Winners are Stephon Hodge and Tyler Griffith, being awarded \$1,000 each, and Daniel Nolan and Matthew Nolan, being awarded \$500.00 each. The Quest Merit Scholarship is funded by Carolyn and Ron Bower, who have pledged over \$20,000 in award money over the past decade for Quest graduates.



Matt Nolan



Stephon Hodge



Tyler Griffith



Dan Nolan

## Quest Success at Ed-Tech

The Lapeer County Educational Technology Center has played a vital role for years in preparing Quest students for their future careers. During the 2nd trimester of this school year over half of Quest students enrolled at the tech center received a B- or better for the term. "We see so much change and growth here at Quest, it's nice to see that spill over to other areas of our students' lives." Mr. Rosser went on to say, "Most of our successful graduates that come back



Senior Ryan Duvall and Junior Robert Gravat practice different types of welds

to visit are using the skills that they learned in their tech program, it's great to see those hands on experiences directly correlating to their future success."



Junior Amber Lamoureux reads to the headstart program

## March is Reading Month

Quest celebrated reading month by visiting the preschool program located in the Jefferson building. Quest students had two opportunities to read to the youngsters. James Eckert said of his experience, "It was a cool opportunity, the kids seemed to really enjoy it!"



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science Models

Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science have been using models to help them learn more about earth science. Models are a good way to learn more about curricu-

lar concepts. Recently they constructed volcanoes and erupted them using a yeast and hydrogen peroxide recipe. Students have also made and compared

crystals, made a seafloor spreading model, and simulated plate tectonics using fruit Roll Ups and graham crackers.

## FTC Robotics Challenge

Throughout the months of September, October, November and December, a group of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from North Branch Middle School took on the 2014 FTC Robotics Challenge. This outstanding group of students, along with some incredibly dedicated team mentors, worked tirelessly in the evenings and on weekends building, programming and troubleshooting their robots. This year, the number of active participants almost doubled from our first year, and we were able to take 3 teams to competition.

The teams participated in a scrimmage in early December, and then had their competition on December 20<sup>th</sup> in Ortonville where they competed against 19 other teams. All three teams proudly represented North Branch Area Schools as they competed and gained valuable experiences in teamwork, troubleshooting, programming and mechanics. With the 2014 season under our belts, we are looking forward to the challenges that the 2015 season will bring!



## Middle School STEM



Students at the Middle School have a choice of classes to take during 6<sup>th</sup> block. There are several new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) classes offered. With Mrs. Mitchell students learn about STEM, focusing on engineering. Students build many structures using common items such as scrap paper, cups, pipe cleaners, marshmallows and spaghetti, and Popsicle sticks. One challenge was to build a catapult and another was to learn more about vehicle design using Hot Wheels cars and tracks. Students learn about design, engineering careers, and how to work together with others to complete a challenge.



The 2015 Middle School Spelling Bee was "buzzing" with a record-number of students trying for a chance to advance to the county-wide competition. In February 69 seventh and eighth graders competed over a two-day period until the top three spellers emerged. Eighth grader Evan Campbell earned the third place spot, Alyssa Bradley, a seventh grader, came in second, and fellow seventh grader, Sydney MacPherson, won the coveted first place honors. Our local bee was dedicated to the late Elliott Orr, an extraordinary young man and North Branch Alum who was also a three-time County Bee winner. The top three winners wore bracelets to commemorate and honor Elliott. In March all three students represented NBMS well at the county-wide competition, and Sydney went on to place in the top six overall! Well-done to all of our students who participated!



Mrs. Rose is teaching a new class as an elective for middle school students called Creating Readers & Writers. During this class, students are learning to analyze children's literature, to use patterns in the text to create independent children's books, and to read with expression. Students celebrate each week by reading to Mrs. Friday's and Mrs. Ruhlman's first grade students. This is a wonderful opportunity for the middle schoolers to play with literature and share their love of reading with the younger students.



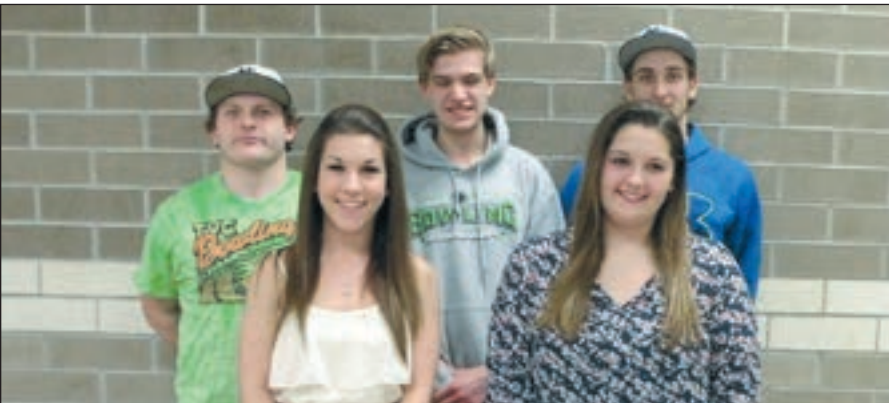
#### ALL CONFERENCE BOYS' BASKETBALL

(l-r): Quentin Andrews, Honorable Mention; Mike Stone, Honorable Mention; Curtis Garza, 1st Team; Zach Fish, Honorable Mention



#### ALL CONFERENCE COMPETITIVE CHEER

Front Row (l-r): Kierstin Rouse; Marina Robbins, Honorable Mention; Shawn Trombley. Back Row (l-r): Ellyn Howland; Dawn Beall; Marlo Stevens, Honorable Mention



#### ALL CONFERENCE BOWLING

Front Row (l-r): Valerie Sutter, 1st Team; Jillianne Dufort, 1st Team.  
Back Row (l-r): Brannon Roach, Honorable Mention; Travis Fike, 2nd Team; Brandon Berlin, 2nd Team



#### ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS' BASKETBALL

(l-r): Calla McNulty, Honorable Mention; Kyla Dutcher, Honorable Mention; Lauren Bickel, Honorable Mention; Aerial Skinner, 2nd Team

## 8th Grade Boys Basketball

The 8th grade basketball team wrapped up a successful season with the "A" team finishing the season 7-4 and the "B" team 5-2. The season was highlighted by the Broncos pulling out several close victories. In addition to their success on the court, the boys also performed well in the classroom, with a cumulative team GPA of 3.3, and over half of the athletes having a 3.5 GPA. Coach Rosser said of the group, "They practice and play hard and they're very coachable. They are a great group of kids and I look forward to seeing what they will do the next couple of years." Point guard Nathan Farnsworth won the Bronco Award, Gerrid Rutledge the Student-Athlete Award, Riley Bugg and Porter Fielder the Coaches' Awards, Nathan Martin the Hustle Award, Brandin Lilly the Defense Award, and Andrew Coulter won Most Improved.



## MHSAA Dodgeball Tournament

On Friday, February 6th Quest hosted Bad Axe Ascent, Imlay City Venture, and Caro Alternative for the 3rd annual dodgeball tournament with 8 total teams in the boys' division, and 4 in the girls. Quest entered 3 boys' teams and 1 girls' team to participate. The Quest Red team played with integrity and outstanding sportsmanship on their way to winning the toilet bowl consolation game. The girls had a great time as well, also displaying great sportsmanship while playing very tough against some very difficult teams.

The Black and Gold teams experienced a great deal of success on the day as well. Both teams worked their way through the bracket to meet in the winner's bracket final, with Gold topping the Black team 2-0. The Black team dropped to the loser's bracket, where they were defeated by Bad Axe Ascent 2-1, to settle for a very respectable 3rd place finish and a spot on the trophy. The Gold team worked hard to defend their championship from the prior year, but fell 2-1 to Bad Axe in the initial final round. Being Quest Gold's first loss they were again pitted against Bad Axe Ascent who once again defeated Quest 2-1, finishing as the 2014-15 Dodgeball Runner-Ups.



Quest Gold Team



Jilliann Dufort-3rd Team All State Bowling



**WRESTLING HONORS**  
(l-r): Adam Friend, TVC East Honorable Mention, Regional Qualifier; Hunter Hohman, 2nd Team, State Qualifier; Hunter Murphy, TVC East Honorable Mention; Jacob Huffaker, Regional Qualifier. Not Pictured: Jacob McNeil, TVC East Honorable Mention

## Get Your Sport Physicals For Next School Year!

North Branch Family Health Care is offering sport physicals for \$10.00 each on the following dates and times:

**Tuesday, June 23:**

9 a.m.-12 noon & 1-3 p.m.

**Tuesday, July 14:**

9 a.m.-12 noon & 1-3 p.m.

**Tuesday, August 4:**

9 a.m.-12 noon & 1-3 p.m.

Obtain a sports physical form from either the school office, on-line or at Dr. Starbird's office. Completed form and fee of \$10.00 payable by cash or check will be required at time of service. \$5.00 of the cost of each physical is donated back to North Branch Area Schools' Athletic Program. Parents must accompany their child or send a "permission to treat" slip with the students. Questions? Call 810-688-3048.

## North Branch Bronco Signers



Kyla Dutcher signs with Muskegon Community College to play softball



Jackie Jones signs with Mott Community College to play softball



Brannon Roach and Austin Bowling sign to play football at Alma



Levi Deshetsy signs to play football with Mt. Olive College



Brianna Dean signs to play softball with Missouri Valley College



Laura Willson signs to play Volleyball at Central Michigan University

# MRA Young Authors' America and Me Essay Contest Celebration!

The Michigan Reading Association celebrated its 59th Annual Conference in March at the luxurious Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in beautiful Grand Rapids, Michigan. This was a weekend filled with inspirational speakers, educators, authors, and special events to excite teachers and those of a literary mind. This year's theme, United We Read, United We Write and Together We Strive so that Together We Thrive, was highlighted on Sunday with a "Celebration of Michigan's Young Authors". One of our own students, Lillian Ross, an 8th grader at North Branch Middle School, was among the 76 featured authors in the MRA's publication entitled Kaleidoscope. Lilly had written a profound piece of poetry for an assignment back in November 2014. The Kaleidoscope committee states that only one entry per school building is allowed. Lilly's teacher, Mrs. Annette Schulte, was so impressed with Lilly's writing style that she took the opportunity to submit her poem Five People. It wasn't until February when Lilly received a congratulatory letter from the committee



stating that her poem had been selected to be published! Lilly, her family, friends, and teacher were all delighted to share the day in Grand Rapids honoring Lilly and all the other recipients at a luncheon featuring Michigan author Lori Taylor. What a great way to encourage the creativity of our youth! Thanks to the MRA for offering this avenue for showcasing young authors in our state. Way to go Lilly!

Following tradition, our eighth grade students had the opportunity to enter their essays in the America and Me Essay contest, sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance. Once again, the topic for students to reflect and write on was My Personal Michigan Hero. Enticed by a chance to win money, a cruise on a riverboat, a pizza party, and the distinction of being not only a school, but maybe even a state finalist, lured many of our students to write.

With the plethora of excellent essay entries, it was indeed a daunting task to try to narrow our search to just 10, which is the maximum number of essay entries each school can submit for judging. The top 10 finalists were: Jacquie Ankley, Autumn Deshetsy, McKenna Forster, Michael Gormley, Ava Kee, Emily Knappen, Emily Murray, Grant Rose, Cora Smith, and Rebecca Verellen. These finalists' essays were sent to a panel for judging where our top three were chosen.

This spring we received the results



and our four finalists, along with others who wrote excellent essays, were treated to a pizza lunch provided by Steve Ellis's Farm Bureau Insurance office in Marlette. It was here that the winners were announced. They were, in order of ranking, McKenna Forster, Grant Rose, Emily Murray, and Michael Gormley. Our top four essay writers received cash prizes ranging from \$25.00 - \$100.00 and the privilege of laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier when our eighth graders travel to Washington, D.C. in May. Congratulations to all of our students who entered essays! We are very proud of you!

## Ruth Fox News



LRG Team students work together to solve a difficult Math problem.

## Learning through Discussion

The Ruth Fox has been working with Matt Copeland, author and expert on Socratic Circles. The students experience Socratic Circles to better understand how conversation plays an important role in the development of writing when responding to complex text. Students have been participating in Socratic Circles in Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts.



Ten sixth grade students from Ruth Fox spent the day at Delta College enjoying the Super Pi-Day Middle School Math Competition on March 14. Along with the competition, students had a fun-filled day participating in a scavenger hunt, pi recitation competition, pi throwing, pi-nata, and many other fun activities.

Students qualified to compete at Delta College by testing against other Ruth Fox sixth graders and receiving the highest scores in the school. These ten students along with parents, family members, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. VerBurg and Miss Shaller traveled to Delta to compete against other sixth graders from the Mid-Michigan area.

Awards are given to the top 25 students in each grade level. This year the following three students receive awards: Trenton Ludwig tied for 8th place, David Weaver tied for 13th place and Daniel Weaver tied for 23rd place. Also participating in the event were Michael Cary, Drake Deshetsy, Mitchell Frye, Gracie Gregory, Wyatt Howe, Noah Manthei and Breann June. Awesome job sixth graders!



## At Hartley, Almost Anything Goes!!

Recently, the Stradinger, VerBurg, Sherrieb, and Zwolenski team went on the annual sixth grade trip to Hartley Outdoor Education Center. It was a huge success! While at Hartley, the students participate in four outdoor classes. This year the classes focused on pioneer living in an original pioneer cabin, energy sources, CSI in the woods, and confidence building on their confidence course. Most of the class time was spent outside in the nice warm winter weather! We were very lucky to have beautiful weather instead of the bitter cold this winter has been known to have. In the evenings the students participate in more fun activities. The evening we were able to enjoy sledding on grand scale. The hill at Hartley offers students options of four different hills and stairs to help make the multiple trips to the top of the hill. During the second evening, students participate in Hartley's game show like competition, Almost Anything Goes. Students, and sometimes staff, complete crazy and wacky tasks, like throwing stuffed animals over the bar while trapped with a partner in an innertube, in order to earn points. At the end of the evening, all of the students are winners of a great trip with memories that will last a lifetime.

## Ruth Fox Investigates Moon Craters

The SSMB team at Ruth Fox has made a big impact on student learning as they dive deep into their unit on Space. The 5th grade students recently participated in an activity where they were able to create their own craters. They utilized two different objects of different masses (a golf ball and a marble), and dropped them from different heights, to observe and record the different size craters these objects would create depending on their mass and velocity. Students recorded data they gathered from the activity, and analyzed the data to answer questions related to the formation of craters on celestial bodies within our Solar System. The goal of the activity was to relate the craters that the students created, to those that they see in photos of the moon. Students now understand that craters that are large were created by objects with larger mass and greater velocity, than smaller craters that were created by objects with smaller mass and velocity.



## Ruth Fox Welcomes New Principal

Mr. Robert Jansen will serve as the new principal of Ruth Fox Elementary starting with the 2015-16 school year. He brings 14 years of administrative experience as well as a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Western Michigan University, Master's degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Alaska-Anchorage and an Education Specialist degree from Saginaw Valley State University. He and his wife, Meghan are the proud parents of three wonderful children, Caelan (13), Garrett (10) and Lia (8).

Mr. Jansen taught 3rd grade in the Taylor School District and 6th grade in Dillingham, Alaska. Upon returning to Michigan, he served as the assistant principal at Delton Kellogg Elementary on the west side of the state for three years before taking over as principal of Hampton Elementary in Bay City. During the 2009-2010 school year, he served as assistant principal at Norup International School, which is part of the Berkley School District. From Norup, he moved to Alcott Elementary for the School District of the City of Pontiac where he has provided educational leadership

to the present.

The district as well as the students and staff, are pleased to welcome Mr. Jansen and his family to our learning community! Mr. Jansen states, "It is an honor and a privilege to belong to a school community with such a great reputation as Ruth Fox Elementary School and the North Branch Area Schools. I'm committed to maintaining the high level of educational excellence at Ruth Fox Elementary School." Mr. Jansen emphasizes that he is dedicated to the fact that all students are special and have the right to the best possible education. He is committed to working collaboratively with staff members and parents to help maximize every child's educational experience. Mr. Jansen believes that by working together, we can help all students achieve their full potential.



Robert Jansen

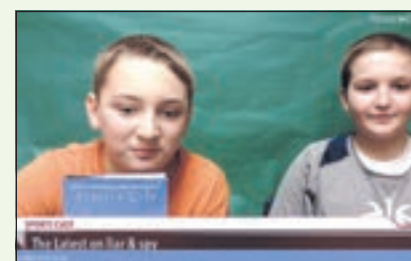
## North Branch CREW 12



The new crew of Ruth Fox/Middle School space campers was selected recently. All students from these two buildings were eligible to apply. The process included an application, persuasive essay, and letters of recommendation. Applicants were narrowed to 12. These top 12 completed an interview with members of the Space Camp Committee and community.

Students will attend Space Academy at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Students will attend for 6 days in June. Tuition and air far are included, thanks to a HUGE community fundraiser held annually in December, the Old Fashioned Family Christmas.

This year's space campers include(left to right): Kim Miklovich, Isaac Conley, Kirk Worrell, Noah Manthei, Kirk Worrell, Breanne June, Gabe Baksa, and (not pictured) Saffron Convery.



Jacob Stone and Ryan Ruhlman do their Liar and Spy TouchCast

## Welcome to Channel 111 News

Students in Mrs. VerBurg's class are getting the word out on the great books that they have been reading. Students used the books from their digital literacy groups to write, direct, and record their own newscast. These breaking news stories were created on the iPad with a free app called #touchcast. Sharing our broadcasts has created quite a buzz!

## 3rd Grade & The MAC March Is Reading Month

The students in third grade and the MAC team jumped right in to celebrating March Is Reading Month. The students participated in creating classroom doors that would inspire others to read.

Our building wide reading theme this year is "READ, GROW, GLOW!" Each classroom did a wonderful job designing creative and colorful works of art that motivate others to read more in their daily lives.

Other learning activities that will take place throughout the month of March are book swaps, guest readers, and special reading calendar events.

Students will track their daily reading outside of school with reading passports. Our school goal is to reach 400,000 minutes.



## 50 Days of Third Grade

Mrs. Gormley's 3rd grade class celebrated the 50th day of school with a 1950's day. Students enjoyed a sock hop, root beer floats, and learning about the 1950's by comparing and contrasting today to activities and events from the 1950's. They also dressed up and listened to the 50's music. A fun time was had by all! We 50 days SMARTER are!!!



Miss Richardson's second grade students and Mrs. Grask's first grade students enjoyed some yummy Friendship Fruit Salad together for a Thanksgiving celebration. Each student contributed one or two pieces of fruit for our salad. Our students regularly meet together once a week as reading buddies. They love to partner read with their buddy!!

## Changing Lives through Agriculture



In the fall, Mrs. Jodi Conley, second grade teacher, applied for and received a \$500.00 educational grant from Michigan Foundation for Agriculture for her project idea titled "Changing Lives Through Agriculture: The Life Cycle of a Chicken." She purchased supplies for hatching eggs in the classroom with the funds. Her students engaged in math, reading, speaking, listening, social studies, and science activities while the students observed eggs in the incubator, watched them hatch, recorded purposeful observations, and shared the project with the entire student body at North Branch Elementary during their Farmer Day Celebration. As part of this special day, students in grades BK through 4th grade learned about the process of how our food is produced from farm to fork. Students in her class, along with Mrs. Gormley's third grade class, as part of receiving the grant, were invited by the Lapeer County Office of the Michigan Farm Bureau to attend a special field trip to IQHub's Agricultural Museum in St. Johns, Michigan. The birds hatched and raised in Mrs. Conley's class will be exhibited by 4-H members at the Eastern Michigan Fair in Imlay City this summer.



# 2014 Water Quality Report for THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BRANCH

This report covers the drinking water quality for the village of north branch for the 2014 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2014. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

Your water comes from three groundwater wells, each over 200 feet deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is on a seven-tiered scale from "very-low" to "very-high" based on geologic sensitivity, well construction, water chemistry and contamination sources. The susceptibility of our source is moderate.

There are no significant sources of contamination in our water supply. We are making efforts to protect our sources by doing annual testing.

If you would like to know more about the report please contact Don Ihrke, DPW Supervisor at.

Village of North Branch, 4018 Huron St., P.O. Box 704, North Branch, MI 48461  
Phone 810-688-3410.

- Contaminants and their presence in water:** Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the **EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)**.
- Vulnerability of sub-populations:** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).
- Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.
- Contaminants that may be present in source water include:
  - Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
  - Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
  - Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
  - Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
  - Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which provide the same protection for public health.



## Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2014 calendar year. The presence of these contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in this table is from testing done January 1 – December 31, 2014. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- N/A:** Not applicable **ND:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

| Regulated Contaminant                             | MCL          | MCLG  | Highest Level Detected      | Range        | Year Sampled               | Violation Yes / No                                                                                     | Typical Source of Contaminant                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arsenic (ppb)                                     | 10           | 0     | 4                           | 4            | 2012                       | No                                                                                                     | Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes |
| Barium (ppm)                                      | 2            | 2     | 0.12                        | 0.1-0.12     | 2006                       | No                                                                                                     | Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits               |
| Chromium (ppb)                                    | 100          | 100   | ND                          |              | 2006                       | No                                                                                                     | Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits                                       |
| Fluoride (ppm)                                    | 4            | 4     | 0.64                        | 0.64         | 2014                       | No                                                                                                     | Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories                          |
| THM - Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)                 | 80           | N/A   | 4.1                         | 4.1          | 2014                       | No                                                                                                     | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                                                               |
| HAAS Halocetic Acids (ppb)                        | 60           | N/A   | ND                          |              | 2014                       | No                                                                                                     | Byproduct of drinking water disinfection                                                               |
| Chlorine (ppm)                                    | MRDL         | MRDLG | 1.1                         | 0.8 - 1.1    | 2014                       | No                                                                                                     | Water additive used to control microbes                                                                |
|                                                   | 4            | 4     |                             |              |                            |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                        |
| Radioactive Contaminant                           | MCL          | MCLG  | Highest Level Detected      | Range        | Year Sampled               | Violation Yes / No                                                                                     | Typical Source of Contaminant                                                                          |
| Alpha emitters (pCi/L)                            | 15           | 0     | <3                          | <3           | 2003                       | No                                                                                                     | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                            |
| Combined radium (pCi/L)                           | 5            | 0     | 2.34                        | 0.9-1.44     | 2010                       | No                                                                                                     | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                            |
| Special Monitoring and Unregulated Contaminant ** |              |       | Average Level Detected      | Range        | Year Sampled               | Typical Source of Contaminant                                                                          |                                                                                                        |
| Sodium (ppm)                                      |              |       | 54                          | 54           | 2014                       | Erosion of natural deposits                                                                            |                                                                                                        |
| Contaminant Subject to AL                         | Action Level | MCLG  | 90% of Samples ≤ This Level | Year Sampled | Number of Samples Above AL | Typical Source of Contaminant                                                                          |                                                                                                        |
| Lead (ppb)                                        | 15           | 0     | 0                           | 2012         | 0                          | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits                                   |                                                                                                        |
| Copper (ppm)                                      | 1.3          | 1.3   | 0.21                        | 2012         | 0                          | Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives |                                                                                                        |

\* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.  
\*\* Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

# North Branch 4th of July Events

## June 21st – Car Show

Banker St. by the old bus garage – watch for flyers

## July 3rd

Demolition Derby 7:00 p.m.

## July 4th

Bump & Run 5:00 p.m.

### Admission to July 3rd & 4th events:

\$10.00 (ages 13 & up)

\$5.00 (ages 6 – 12)

Under 5 is FREE

PIT Passes – Additional \$5.00

## Water Report From Page 11

**Information about lead:** If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The village of north branch is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at <http://water.epa.gov/drink/info/lead>.

| Microbial Contaminants     | MCL                                                                                          | MCLG | Number Detected | Violation Yes / No | Typical Source of Contaminant        |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Total Coliform Bacteria    | >1 positive monthly sample (>5.0% of monthly samples positive)                               | 0    | 0               | NO                 | Naturally present in the environment |
| Fecal Coliform and E. coli | Routine and repeat sample total coliform positive, and one is also fecal or E. coli positive | 0    | 0               | NO                 | Human and animal fecal waste         |

While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.

We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2014.

We will update this report annually and will keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. Copies are available at the village office at 4018 Huron Street, This report will not be sent to you.

We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. The monthly council meeting are the first Thursday of the month at village hall, meetings start at 7:00 pm. For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact Don Ihrke (810-688-3410). For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at [www.epa.gov/safewater/](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/).

# Remaining 2015 Spring Sports Schedule

## VARSITY BASEBALL

| DATE      | OPPONENT                | PLACE | TIME |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|------|
| May 08    | Garber                  | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 12    | Birch Run               | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 13    | Almont                  | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 15    | Bridgeport              | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 18    | Reese                   | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 20    | Clio                    | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 22    | Yale                    | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 26-30 | Districts at Imlay City | Away  | TBD  |
| Jun 6     | Regionals at Armada     | Away  | TBD  |

## VARSITY SOFTBALL

| DATE      | OPPONENT                | PLACE | TIME  |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| May 08    | Garber                  | Away  | 4:00  |
| May 12    | Birch Run               | Home  | 4:00  |
| May 15    | Bridgeport              | Away  | 4:00  |
| May 16    | Swartz Creek Tournament | Away  | 10:00 |
| May 20    | Clio                    | Home  | 4:00  |
| May 21    | Goodrich                | Home  | 4:00  |
| May 26-30 | Districts at Imlay City | Away  | TBD   |
| Jun 6     | Regionals at Armada     | Away  | TBD   |

## J.V. BASEBALL

| DATE   | OPPONENT  | PLACE | TIME |
|--------|-----------|-------|------|
| May 08 | Garber    | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 12 | Birch Run | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 13 | Almont    | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 15 | Open      | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 18 | Reese     | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 20 | Clio      | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 22 | Yale      | Home  | 4:00 |

## J.V. SOFTBALL

| DATE   | OPPONENT             | PLACE | TIME  |
|--------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| May 07 | Mayville             | Away  | 4:00  |
| May 08 | Garber               | Home  | 4:00  |
| May 09 | Bullock Creek Invite | Away  | 10:00 |
| May 15 | Open                 | Home  | 4:00  |
| May 20 | Clio                 | Away  | 4:00  |
| May 22 | Yale                 | Home  | 4:00  |

## FRESHMAN BASEBALL

| DATE   | OPPONENT     | PLACE | TIME |
|--------|--------------|-------|------|
| May 07 | Mayville     | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 08 | Swartz Creek | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 11 | Frankenmuth  | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 13 | Richmond     | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 15 | Almont       | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 18 | Clio         | Home  | 4:00 |
| May 20 | Goodrich     | Away  | 4:00 |

## VARSITY GIRLS' SOCCER

| DATE      | OPPONENT                   | PLACE | TIME |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------|------|
| May 08    | Clio                       | Home  | 4:30 |
| May 11    | Lakeville                  | Away  | 4:30 |
| May 13    | Birch Run                  | Home  | 4:30 |
| May 15    | Imlay City (at FB field)   | Away  | 4:30 |
| May 18    | Caro                       | Home  | 4:30 |
| May 20    | Garber                     | Home  | 4:30 |
| May 26-30 | Districts @ Flint Kearsley | Away  | TBD  |

## JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS' SOCCER

| DATE   | OPPONENT             | PLACE | TIME  |
|--------|----------------------|-------|-------|
| May 08 | Clio                 | Home  | 4:30  |
| May 11 | Almont               | Away  | 6:00  |
| May 13 | Birch Run            | Home  | 6:00  |
| May 16 | Bullock Creek Invite | Away  | 10:00 |
| May 18 | Almont               | Home  | 6:00  |
| May 20 | Garber               | Home  | 6:00  |

## VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

| DATE      | OPPONENT                   | PLACE | TIME |
|-----------|----------------------------|-------|------|
| May 08    | Bad Axe Invite             | Away  | 3:30 |
| May 16/17 | Regionals - TBD            | Away  | TBD  |
| May 20    | TVC Meet at Birch Run      | Away  | 2:30 |
| May 22    | Blue Water Meet-Port Huron | Away  | TBD  |
| May 26    | Thumb Meet of Champs-Caro  | Away  | TBD  |
| May 30    | State Finals at Zeeland HS | Away  | TBD  |

## GOLF

| DATE      | HOST SCHOOL                       | PLACE | TIME |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------|------|
| May 08    | Millington Quad (Willow Springs)  | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 11    | Birch Run (Green Acres Golf)      | Away  | 1:00 |
| May 13    | Brown City Invite (Holly Meadows) | Away  | 8:30 |
| May 15    | Vassar Invitational (Vassar CC)   | Away  | 9:00 |
| May 20-23 | Districts @ Goodrich CC           | Away  | TBD  |

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD

| DATE   | OPPONENT                              | PLACE | TIME |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-------|------|
| May 12 | Bridgeport w/Chesaning & Breckenridge | Away  | 4:00 |
| May 19 | TVC Meet at Birch Run                 | Away  | 2:30 |