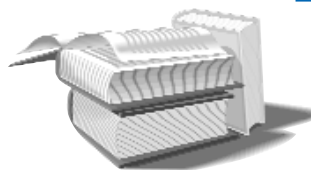


North Branch
Board of Education
6600 Brush Street
PO Box 3620
North Branch, MI 48461



DECEMBER 2008

SCHOOL TALK



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CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON



2008 Class B State Semi-Finalist



OLIVIA KOHLER
2008 Miss Volleyball, Detroit News Fall Athlete of the Year

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?

NEED HELP SOLVING A PROBLEM?

You are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals to assist you in answering your school-related questions, or to assist you in resolving problems. We are always open to your suggestions and ideas for improving North Branch Area Schools. Please feel free to clip this list of phone numbers and save it in the front of your telephone book for future reference.

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

HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, *Principal*.....810-688-3001
Shelly Cranick, *Asst. Principal* 810-688-3001
Jim Fish, *Asst.Principal/Athletic Director* 810-688-2518
Richard Stevens, *Counselor* 810-688-3564
Susan Strump, *Counselor* 810-688-3564
Georgette Aguilar, *Alt. Education* 810-688-3001

MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, *Principal* 810-688-3284
Tammy Siegler, *Counselor* 810-688-3284

NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

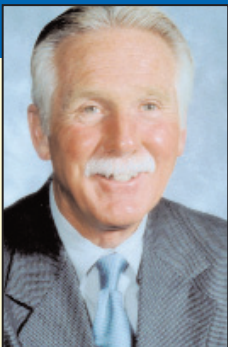
Merry Hosner, *Principal*.....810-688-3041
Wendy Spivy, *Principal* 810-688-3041
Brenda Jefferey, *Counselor*. 810-688-3041

NORTH BRANCH AREA SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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District Website: www.nbbroncos.net

Superintendent's Corner



As we approach this holiday season and 2008 draws to a close, I wanted to share with you some reflections on my career as an educator. I am proud to say that I have been involved in education throughout my adult life, thirty-nine years to be exact. Thirty-four of those years have been spent with North Branch Area Schools.

When I arrived in North Branch in 1972, I have to admit, I thought I would spend a few years working in this small town and then move on to bigger and better opportunities. Not so! North Branch is a special town, a special place to learn, work, and raise a family.

I believe it because of the people in this community. This past September our students at Ruth Fox Elementary and North Branch Middle School moved into their new and remodeled facility. November 3, 2008 over 1,000 Pre K-4 children, their parents and community members all walked to their new elementary school. It was a very special day. All of this was possible because you said YES to a 40 million dollar construction project demonstrating this community's commitment to our children. More importantly you support our children in the classroom, serve as role models and volunteer your time for many school needs and projects. You support our athletes, musicians, thespians, and children at all grade levels. This is what a community does.

I believe it because of our students. They are friendly, respectful, caring young people. They demonstrate it daily in their behavior. Whether it's assisting senior citizens, participating in blood or food drives, assisting families of need during the holidays, they are growing into good citizens. More important, they are inspired students and do their best in the classroom. They also support and care for each other. This has been exemplified by the support given by their fellow students to the girl's varsity volleyball team.

I believe it because of our teachers and support staff. They choose to work with children. They do it because they want to make a positive difference in students' lives. They do it to serve as positive role models. They do it because they care about children. Their dedication, enthusiasm and passion for making a positive difference are the tools every student needs. They know that each life they touch has the potential to grow into an awesome human being.

My Christmas wish for North Branch Area Schools is that we will work together to be the best we can be. Every day I read about the challenges our children will face in the future. Their competition is no longer students in the next town or state. Their competition is now the world and they must be prepared. Our school mission statement states, "North Branch Area Schools...a learning community dedicated to excellence!" Parents, students, and staff, our challenge is to continue being the best we can be.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

A season of Thanksgiving

By Adair W. Aumock, Director of Curriculum & Technology

The first trimester has ended, and the holiday season is upon us. In the midst of the hustle and bustle of parties and celebrations with friends and families, it is important not to overlook the giving of thanks. In these days of news filled with economic gloom and doom, it is easy to become overwhelmed by negativity and fear. However, it is a healthy practice to balance these realities with a realization of how blessed we truly are.

As I walk through our school buildings, all beautifully renovated and updated, I continue to be amazed by the support of this community for our children and the facilities where they receive an education. We have some of the best looking and best equipped schools around this area, if not the state. That is a reason to give thanks to everyone in our community who made this a reality for our district.

A school, no matter how nice, is just a building without the hard work and dedication of teachers and staff crafting lessons that challenge and develop the minds of our youth. I am thankful for the chance to work with some of the best educators, and best people in general, I have ever known. North Branch Area Schools' staff members truly care about kids and have embraced the challenge of being "dedicated to excellence," even in times of limited resources and increased government oversight. Our students continue to improve academically thanks to the continuous improvement efforts of teachers, administrators, support staff, and our board of education, a wonderful reason to be thankful.

Our students and families are incredible! We continually hear from other schools about the exemplary behavior of students at sporting events and field trips. Our kids tend to be respectful, responsible, and proud, a great tribute to themselves and their families. The level of involvement by parents in North Branch continues to astound me, whether they are attending Parent/Teacher conference, checking their student's progress through Family Access, or placing one of the many phone calls and e-mails we receive daily from parents who truly care about their kids. We are blessed and need to be thankful to have such involved and caring parents in our schools.

As you enjoy this holiday season, I hope that you can find a few moments to reflect on the blessings in your life and remember to give thanks. A positive outlook and thankful heart can be the best medicine for worry and despair, and in these times, we can all use that. Thank you for trusting us to educate your children.

The North Branch Lions Club and the North Branch 4th of July Committee will sponsor a Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, January 23, 2009 at the North Branch High School prior to the HS basketball game. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards the 2009 North Branch Days 4th of July Celebrations. Please join us for a hearty spaghetti dinner before the basketball game and help support our community.



NEW TEACHERS



Hello! My name is Dawn Dafoe.

I am very excited to be here at North Branch Elementary! I feel so fortunate to work with such great staff, amazing children, and in a beautiful building. Thank you! I grew up in Lake Orion, Michigan. I went to Michigan State University for my bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Then, I went to Western Michigan University for my master's degree in Special Education. I have experience teaching both general education and special education. I love my new position as the K-1 Resource Room teacher here!



Greetings! I am Tim Horenziak.

I am a new math and science teacher at North Branch High School. I graduated from Birch Run High in 1998 and earned my Bachelor's of Science from Saginaw Valley State University. I majored in Mathematics and minored in Psychology. After graduating in 2003, I earned a teaching certification in Physics. I continue my education today and expect to earn my Master's in a few years. Previous to North Branch High School, I taught math and science at the Sanilac County Science and Math Center. I enjoy reading, running, camping, and spending time with my family. I'm very excited to be a part of the team and look forward to a great year.



My name is Nicole Morley.

I am one of the new math teachers at North Branch High School. I live with my husband and three children in Vassar. This is my first teaching position. I have spent many years tutoring, substitute teaching, and working related jobs. I received my Bachelor of Art degree from the University of Michigan - Flint where I majored in mathematics and minored in physics. I am very excited to share my love of math with the students here in North Branch.



Hi, my name is Elizabeth Polly.

I graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint with a bachelor degree in Elementary Education, math and fine arts in 2006. I have been a substitute teacher at North Branch Area Schools for the past 2 years, work in the FABS program and this fall was hired as a music teacher at North Branch Elementary. I am committed to providing a positive experience in music for all students.

My husband James and I have 2 wonderful children, Emily who is in 2nd grade at North Branch Elementary and Gabrielle who is 2 years old. We are very thankful to live and work in such a wonderful community.



Hello, my name is Sara Davis.

I am the new Little Learners Preschool Teacher. I graduated last December from Central Michigan University earning a Bachelor of Science in Education. I completed a minor in Early Childhood, Language Arts and Geography. My husband, John, and I reside in Snover. I enjoy water sports, motorcycling, scrapbooking and spending time with my family. I am excited to have the opportunity to teach preschool here in North Branch. The first half of the year has been great, and I am thrilled to continue getting to know the community and families here.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

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

WMPC 1230 AM
WNEM (Channel 5)

WQUS 103.1
WJRT (Channel 12)

WCRZ 107.9
WDIV (Channel 4)

Other radio and television stations may pick up the announcements through the Michigan State Police Lien Network.

Or visit: www.cancellations.com

The decision to cancel the regular school day program is usually made about 5:30 am/no later than 6:00 a.m. **if possible.** Only in unusually severe weather conditions is a decision made the night before.

Occasionally school is dismissed early because of weather or afternoon kindergarten classes may be cancelled. These announcements will be made on the same stations indicated above.

It is very important that all parents talk with their children about the procedure to be followed in the event of early release. The school must be notified in advance of any special arrangements or transportation.

Planning in advance reduces stress and anxiety for your children and saves many last minute phone calls to the school.

In the event of a tornado or severe thunderstorm watches/warnings it may be necessary to extend the school day rather than send children home in threatening weather.

Generally, decisions or information about athletic events and other extracurricular activities on days when school is cancelled will be made after 10:30 a.m.

Elementary students are returned to the school if the bus driver determines they cannot be left at home.

Parents and students are also asked to avoid calling the bus garage on snowy mornings to inquire about school closings.

Decisions about school cancellation or early dismissal are made in the best interest of student safety.





A Final Farewell

November 3rd was a very special day for the community of North Branch, and especially for the staff and students of North Branch Elementary. This was the day that many have waited for as we have watched the new elementary building rise at the corner of Jefferson and Elm Creek Road for the past eighteen months. It was Move-in Day for the students of North Branch Elementary. This building was a gift given to "our children" and the future children of our great community and this was truly a day to celebrate.



The students arrived at the "old" building on their buses as they would any other day; they ate breakfast, and headed off to classrooms that were surprisingly very empty. In their classrooms the students packed up the contents of their desks and cubbies into their backpacks, the teachers read good-bye stories and prepared the children for the "Big Move", and the class shared fond memories of school days at 3960 Banker Street. After this they lined up with their belongings, turned off the lights, and closed the door for a final farewell. The students from the entire building gathered out front to begin the Walk-To-The-New-School-Day march headed up by the Bronco Marching Band. Proud smiles were abundant among the children and adults, but there were also a few tears

shed as a few teachers and staff members shut the lights off for the final time in classrooms or offices that they had served in for over twenty years.

Walk to School Day is a state initiative established by Governor Granholm to promote healthy communities, and get citizens to reinvest in the safety and upkeep of our city sidewalks and paths to schools and get children walking to school once again. This walk was to honor the initiative, but the ultimate goal was about so much more. The over 900 students of North Branch Elementary School were walking to begin their first day of classes at the "New" North Branch Elementary School at 4055 Jefferson Road. The new facility was built with the funds generated from the 2005 bond vote supported by the citizens of North Branch.

If you have never had the opportunity to catch the North Branch community "Bronco Spirit" you have truly missed out on a memorable moment. The "Bronco Spirit" was especially contagious on this day as the staff, students, and families of the North Branch Elementary School marched proudly behind the pep of the North Branch High School March Band from the old elementary school building down Jefferson Street to the "New" North Branch Elementary School.



Members of the community looked on and even caught the spirit and joined in the parade. Once the staff, students, and community arrived at the "new" school they gathered by the flag pole as the band played the Star Spangled Banner and the flag was raised by students for the first time at the school. The flag that was presented to the school at the ground breaking ceremonies by a representative of Candice Miller and was flown above the Capitol Building.

The students were then greeted by the building principals, Merry Hosner and Wendy Spivy as they entered the fantastic building with mouths open and eyes wide with amazement. They proceeded to their

classrooms, unpacked their backpacks and began to move about the business of learning new routines and procedures. The parents were invited to join staff members in the cafeteria for cookies and coffee, and were encouraged to ask questions that they may have regarding the new building. They were also treated to a guided tour of the new building. The day was exhausting for everyone involved, but there was an enormous amount of satisfaction as the students entered the building and made it a home for our community's future citizens.



AP Scholar Awards Announced

Five Students from North Branch High School have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams during the 2007-08 school year. The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program (AP) provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advance placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the 1.6 million students world-wide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board recognized several levels of achievement based on students’ performance on AP Exams. At North Branch four students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Spencer Dudley, Eric Eilersen, William Orr, and Sierra Voigt. One student, Taylor McKenzie, qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Bronco P.R.I.D.E. Recognizes Great Students Doing Good Deeds

North Branch High School students are getting caught daily doing good deeds. The High School staff implemented Bronco P.R.I.D.E. at the start of the 2008/09 school year to recognize the positive things that happen throughout the day by our student body. P. R.I.D.E. stands for (P)erformance through preparation, (R)espect, (I)ntegrity, (D)etermination, and (E)xcellence through effort. The goal of the Bronco P.R.I.D.E. program is to continue building the positive culture at North Branch High School by rewarding students who demonstrate the citizenship and integrity of young adults. In addition, it is a way for the staff at NBHS to create an environment that focuses on positive behavior and reinforces the great values that are exhibited by the young people in the building. Students “caught” demonstrating any of the qualifications in the acronym P.R.I.D.E. listed above are handed a coupon by a staff member. This staff member may be a teacher, custodian, cook, paraprofessional, support staff member, or administrator. The student then takes the coupon to lunch and places it into a container in the cafeteria. Every week, coupons are drawn for school awards or donated prizes from outside local businesses. After the weekly drawings are held, the coupons are placed in separate grade-level containers that are on display throughout the year in a citizenship showcase. The individual winners are also posted on our Bronco P.R.I.D.E. website. So far, nearly 20 winners have been chosen and these winners have received prizes that were donated by any of the following local businesses or individuals: Treve’s in Marlette, CC’s Cyber Café, Liang’s Garden in Marlette, Chase Bank, Moore’s Ice Cream, North Branch Health Care, North Branch Bar and Grill, Chumley’s, Harmon’s Oil, Dr. Albert Patterson, Self Serve Lumber, Dr. Brockriede, All Dolled Up, Bryan’s Market, Full Circle Physical Therapy, Tan Lines Unlimited, Hot-N-Now, Executan of Lapeer, Whistle Stop, Idle Spur Market Pizza, Sunny’s Tanning Salon, Apple Tree, Victor George Chevrolet, K & S Flowers, Polar Palace, Subway of North Branch, Mancino’s Pizza and Grinders, Hilltop Grocery Pizza, Kan Rock Tire, Midas Auto Service Experts in Lapeer, Lake Nepessing Golfland, Magpie Oil Change in Lapeer, Pleasant Soul Café, Gerlach’s Bowling Center in Lapeer, Advanced Auto Parts, Carrie Wenta, Jan Bechtel, Teresa Upleger, Matt Hess, and Katie Wagner. We want to recognize the businesses that are a part of the Bronco P.R.I.D.E. program and thank them for their ongoing support of the fantastic things that continually occur at North Branch High School. If there are any other businesses that would like to contribute, please contact Mr. Jim Fish or Mrs. Shelly Cranick at (810) 688-3001.

North Branch High School is Reconnecting with Volunteers

Parent volunteers can be found daily wandering the halls of elementary schools all over, but these adults are seldom seen in middle schools and high schools. Why is this true? North Branch High School wants to reconnect with the parent volunteers and have them be a continual, community connection with our students. There are currently eleven parents that are serving as High School volunteers and four others will be joining forces soon. The current volunteers include: Michelle Severns, Jodi Feierabend, Brenda Calvert, Samantha Skouson, Kim Griffin, Debbie Woodworth, Lorine Molosky, Lynn Pfromm, Denise Fink, Marsha Fielder, and Janet Dye. They have helped out tremendously in the office, helping with phones or running passes. They have also helped the teaching staff with making copies, helping with bulletin boards, organization, or giving support to students in the classrooms. People sometimes forget the impact that is made with some of the contacts that these adults make daily with our student body. Some days they just give a smile to a student in passing in the hall. That student may not have had a comforting greeting the entire day or may just need one at that given moment. When they help or give support to a student that struggles with their daily assignments, this is greatly appreciated by the teacher and that student, but every student’s parent, as well, as they want to make sure that their child is being given every opportunity at success daily in their studies. These are all things that parents volunteered for in their children’s earlier educational years, so where in our educational manuals or parenting manuals does it say that once a child reaches secondary education that these things need to just stop happening? I have never seen it, nor do I expect that it exists anywhere. Older students appreciate the community’s involvement with their educational process. Please consider volunteering any time that you may have. It is always a pleasure having community members in our building. There is a simple procedure that needs to be completed before any adult can volunteer for anything in all of the buildings, whether it is working with staff and students on given days, or going on a field trip. Adults that would like to be considered for volunteer work must complete the Central Registry available in all buildings. Once this form is completed yearly and the volunteer has been cleared, they may volunteer in any of the buildings, K-12. If you would like to become a secondary school volunteer, contact Shelly Cranick at the High School (688-3001; ext. 2104) or John Sherman at the Middle School (688-4431; ext. 2203).

Talent Show Calling all NBHS students with talent! Tryouts for the annual Talent Show will be held December 1st and 2nd in the Gleeson Auditorium. Students must attend North Branch High School in order to win prizes. All acts must be school appropriate. Prizes range from a certificate for a Yearbook (\$50 value), \$30 and \$20. Students have shown their talent in dancing, comedy, music, singing, drama and animal training in the past, Ms. Stover-Lange said. “This is our biggest fundraiser to support the Yearbook,” Yearbook Advisor Ruth Stover-Lange said. The talent show itself is December 19. Cost for admission is \$4 on a first come-first served basis.



Make a Difference Day volunteers make a difference

“It’s about more than just statistics,” High School Student Council Co-Advisor Ruth Stover-Lange said. “It is about students giving back to the community that supports us in so many ways.” “It is a community thing because we got donations of doughnuts from the North Branch Bakery. Whistle Stop, the Brass Lamp, Chumleys and 4-Js all donated some pizzas and Sunrise donated a case of bottled water for students,” she said. “We are grateful for the businesses that donated or gave us a reduced rate on gloves, rakes, and tarps.” “Orr lumber donated a half a dozen tarps,” she said. “Those are crucial because the village cannot accept garbage bags of leaves anymore.” More than 130 students raked the lawns of 43 residents in the downtown North Branch



area Saturday, November 1st for the 11th annual Make a Difference Day, she said. The event has been an annual event for quite a while. High school 29-year teaching veteran Mrs. Nancy LeTourneau said, “We raked for seven years with Barb (the owner of the Thrift Store who passed away a few years ago). She and I were trying one day after school to create projects around town for NHS kids, and the idea just kind of ‘popped out’ in our brainstorming.” It has been a tradition ever since. Student Council Co-Advisor Leann Kerr said, “We had good weather and a great turn out of students.” Students are looking to earn National Honor Society volunteer hours. Some teachers at the high school offer extra credit points, but many students just do it for the fun, she said. Signs are posted early in October around town informing those who are physically unable to rake for themselves, to call. “Elderly downtown residents call and asked to be put on the list. We keep the list from year to year and then make adjustments for those whose situations have changed,” Stover-Lange explained. “Sometimes residents come out to encourage the students or to offer drinks and candy,” she said. “Parents Mary Jamison, Lori and Rick Shaver, and Rick and Luann Calkins worked hard at the event as well.” Downtown residents Mrs. Betty Lamiman, Mr. Bob and Mrs. Doris Solden and Mr. Don and Mrs. Chris Gould sent thank you letters to the students. “This is the best yet. Excellent job raking. Thank you so much,” Mrs. Lamiman wrote. The Gould’s wrote, “They did a splendid job and we appreciate it so very much.” Leaves are deposited behind Memorial Park during the four hour session. One student lost his set of keys while raking, if found, please call Ms. Stover-Lange at the high school at 810-688-3001 x 2156.

Giving Tree

“Students are encouraged to donate their change to make a change in someone else’s life,” Student Council Co-Advisor Ruth Stover-Lange said. “We take those donations and give them to the Thrift Shop in town. They use it to help people with a heating bill or a payment that they are having trouble meeting.” Ornaments will be sold for \$1, \$2 and \$3 and the star at the top of the tree is sold for \$10. Ornaments for the “Giving Tree” will be sold during lunches.

North Branch Broncos Sports News

victory over rival Imlay City. Also, North Branch came from behind to win Caro’s homecoming game. The final record of 2-7 was good for 7th place in the TVC East Division. While the seniors will be missed, the returning juniors along with an 8-1 JV team will help to provide plenty of talent to put the Broncos back contend-ing for a TVC Title next season. The 2008 Bronco Football team was nominated for Team Academic All-State recognition.

VOLLEYBALL: The varsity volleyball team had a memorable season culminating with a trip to the MHSAA Class B State Semi-Finals. Below are a few accom-plishments of this year’s team:

Thumb Area Team of the Year for the third consecutive season;
70-5 season record;
TVC Record of 6-0 winning the TVC East Division Title for the 5th consecutive season;

Class B District Champion winning Districts for the 4th consecutive season;
Class B Regional Champion;
Final State Ranking of #1 in Class B;
Class B State Semi-Finalist;
Recognition as Team Academic All-State with an overall team grade point average of 3.54.

Senior Olivia Kohler winning the Miss Volleyball award recognizing her as the best senior volleyball player in Michigan.

WINTER SPORTS’ PREVIEW

BOYS’ BASKETBALL: Jim Marshall enters his fourth season as the varsity bas-ketball coach with an overall record of 26-40 at North Branch after guiding the team to a 5-17 record last year with a very young squad. However, the team caught fire in the District Tournament advancing to the finals before dropping a heart-breaker to Millington 52-49. The team fin-ished 3-11 in the TVC East Division good for 7th place. This year’s team will have 7 retuning letter winners and is looking to compete for the TVC East Division Title. Highlights on the schedule include the Broncos playing Yale at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Tuesday, December 23 at 4:00 p.m. with the Pistons and Bulls play-ing at 8:00 p.m. The Harry C. Moore Christmas Tournament will be hosted by Brown City this year. The Broncos will play Capac in the 6:00 p.m. game on Monday, December 29. The champi-onship game on will be on Tuesday, December 30 at 7:30 p.m. with the consola-tion game at 6:00 p.m. Other highlights include the Snowcoming Game on Friday, February 6 vs. Caro. **North Branch is for-tunate to be able to host the Class B District Tournament on March 9, 11 and 13 with Caro, Croswell-Lexington, Millington, North Branch, Vassar, and Yale participating in the tournament.**

GIRLS’ BASKETBALL: Willie Deshetsky begins his first season as the girls’ varsity basketball coach after serving in various roles over the past few years as the JV coach and the varsity assistant. Last year, a very young varsity team fin-ished 3-18 overall and 2-12 in the TVC East Division good for a 7th place. This year’s team returns ten players with varsity experience and a lot of talent off of the 12-7 JV team. North Branch lost a very close District game to eventual champion Millington last year. This year the varsity girls will play 12 games with the varsity boys’ team. On those nights, the varsity girls’ games will begin at 6:00 p.m. fol-lowed by the varsity boys’ games at 7:30 p.m. Major highlights of the schedule will include the girls playing at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Tuesday, December 23 at 2:00 p.m. against Yale, followed by the boys’ game at 4:00 p.m. and the Pistons vs. Bulls at 8:00 p.m. Also, North Branch will



2008 CROSS COUNTRY
Meghan Petiprin, 1st Team TVC East Division, 2nd Team All Conference, 7th at Regionals, State Qualifier; Jesica McKnight, Honorable Mention TVC East, 3rd Team All Conference

participate in the Harry C. Moore Classic Christmas Tournament for the first time playing Capac at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, December 29 at Marlette High School with the finals the next afternoon at 1:30 p.m. The Snowcoming game will be on Friday, February 6 vs. Caro at 6:00 p.m. **North Branch is very fortunate to be able to host the Girls’ Class B Regional Tournament on Tuesday, March 10 and Thursday, March 12.**

BOYS’ AND GIRLS’ BOWLING: This is the fourth year that bowling will be re-cognized as a varsity sport at North Branch. Coach Jason Burack has an over-all record of 14-20 with the boys and 22-12 with the girls. The boys’ team finished 4-8 overall and in 6th place in the TVC East Division, while the girls’ team finished 7-5 and in 3rd place in the conference. The boys’ team will return four bowlers with varsity experience and the girls’ team will return 6 players who contributed to the team last year. The bowling season opens on January 3, but North Branch will host its only “home” meet on February 7 at Imlay City Lanes beginning at 12:30 p.m. The Broncos will participate in 7 meets and the TVC Championships on Feb. 21 hosted by Carrollton. Regionals will be held at the Monitor Lanes in Bay City on February 27 and 28.

CHEERLEADING: The cheerleading program continues to improve and will look to do well in competitive meets under the direction of first year varsity coach Krystal Gyomory. Last year, the squad finished in 15th place at the TVC Meet and in13th place at the Regional competition. This will be the third sea-son the varsity will compete in competi-tive cheerleading and with 8 returning cheerleaders is looking to do well in the competitions. North Branch will partici-pate in six meets beginning January 10 at Lapeer East High School. The TVC Championships will be held at Birch Run High School on Wednesday, February 4. The District Meet will be held at Fenton High School on Saturday, February 21.

WRESTLING: Josh Spencer begins his first season as the head coach of our wrestling program bringing experience as an assistant to former coach Jay Vesperman and as the former Frankenmuth varsity coach. Our wrestling program has been extremely successful over the past seven seasons, but with only one senior last year finished with a 14-30 overall record and 1-6 TVC mark good for a 6th place tie in the divi-sion. North Branch has won two of the last three TVC East Championships. The team could return up to 25 wrestlers with varsity experience who will be looking once again compete for the TVC East



2008 SOFTBALL
Front Row (l-r): Samantha Skovran, Honorable Mention; Tonya Calkins, 1st Team Infield; Shanel Johnstone, 2nd Team Infield; Kelsey Roloson, 1st Team Outfield At Large; Molly Harmon, Honorable Mention
Back Row (l-r): Emily Wickerham, 2nd Team Pitcher; Noel Byers, Honorable Mention; Karla Opperman, Honorable Mention; Stephanie Hart, Honorable Mention

Championship. Highlights on the schedule include the North Branch Invitational on January 10 followed by a huge match with state power Caro on January 14. **North Branch is fortunate to be able to host the Division II Individual Districts on Saturday, February 21. The Team Districts will be at Lapeer East High School and teams participating will be Lapeer East, Lapeer West, North Branch, and Marysville.**

NOTES OF INTEREST

Passes are now on sale at the high school athletic office for all winter athletic events. Individual game tickets are \$5.00 for all Varsity events and \$4.00 for all

Freshman/JV events. Middle School games are also \$3.00. An all-sports pass is good for all home athletic contests exclud-ing MHSAA tournaments. An individual or family may purchase a pass at a great savings over the price of an individual ticket. Family passes are good for every-one in the immediate family up through high school. Passes are priced as follows:

Boys and Girls Basketball: Individual \$35.00 and Family \$75.00 (good for all home games from middle school to Varsity.) It does not include the MHSAA Boys’ District Tournament or the MHSAA Girls’ Regional Tournament.

Wrestling: Individual \$20.00 and Family \$40.00 (good for all home matches

VARSITY BOYS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 09	at IMLAY CITY	7:30
Dec. 12	at CARO	7:30
Dec. 18	at ARMADA	7:30
Dec. 19	at GARBER	7:30
Dec. 23	at PALACE vs YALE	6:00
Dec. 29	HARRY MOORE CLASSIC	6:00
	vs. CAPAC at BROWN CITY	
Dec. 30	HARRY MOORE CLASSIC	TBD
	at BROWN CITY	
Jan. 09	at BIRCH RUN	7:30
Jan. 20	vs. BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Jan. 23	vs. MILLINGTON	7:30
Jan. 27	vs. FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Jan. 30	at TVC CENTRAL	7:30
Feb. 03	XOVEN	7:30
Feb. 08	vs. TVC WEST XOVEN	7:30
Feb. 08	vs. CARO-SNOWCOMING	7:30
Feb. 10	vs. GARBER	7:30
Feb. 16	vs. BIRCH RUN	7:30
Feb. 17	vs. BAD AXE	7:30
Feb. 24	at BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Feb. 27	at MILLINGTON	7:30
Mar. 05	at FRANKENMUTH	7:30

JV BOYS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 09	at IMLAY CITY	6:00
Dec. 11	vs. CARO	7:00
Dec. 18	at ARMADA	6:00
Dec. 19	vs. GARBER	7:00
Jan. 03	vs. CAPAC	11:20
Jan. 04	vs. BIRCH RUN	7:00
Jan. 15	vs. MARLETTE	7:00
Jan. 19	at BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Jan. 22	at MILLINGTON	7:30
Jan. 25	at FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Jan. 30	at TVC CENTRAL XOVEN	6:00
Feb. 03	vs. TVC WEST XOVEN	6:30
Feb. 08	at CARO	7:30
Feb. 09	at GARBER	7:30
Feb. 12	at BIRCH RUN	7:30
Feb. 17	vs. BAD AXE	6:00
Feb. 23	vs. BRIDGEPORT	7:00
Feb. 28	vs. MILLINGTON	7:00
Mar. 03	vs. YALE	6:00
Mar. 05	at FRANKENMUTH	6:00

FRESHMAN BOYS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 9	at IMLAY CITY	4:30
Dec. 11	vs. CARO	6:30
Dec. 18	at ARMADA	4:30
Dec. 19	vs. GARBER	6:30
Jan. 03	vs. CAPAC	10:00
Jan. 06	vs. BIRCH RUN	6:30
Jan. 12	vs. LAKEVILLE	6:30
Jan. 15	vs. MARLETTE	6:30
Jan. 19	at BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Jan. 23	at MILLINGTON	6:00
Jan. 26	at FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Jan. 28	at LAKEVILLE	5:30
Feb. 03	at CARO	6:00
Feb. 06	at GARBER	6:00
Feb. 12	at BIRCH RUN	6:00
Feb. 17	vs. BAD AXE	4:30
Feb. 23	vs. BRIDGEPORT	5:30
Feb. 28	vs. MILLINGTON	5:30
Mar. 03	vs. YALE	4:30
Mar. 05	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30

8TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 21	at CARO	4:30
Jan. 26	vs. BRIDGEPORT	5:30
Jan. 28	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Feb. 02	vs. CARO	4:30
Feb. 04	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Feb. 09	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30
Feb. 16	at CRAMER	4:30
Feb. 18	at BRIDGEPORT	5:30
Feb. 23	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Feb. 28	vs. CRAMER	4:30
Mar. 02	vs. MILLINGTON	5:00
Mar. 04	at BIRCH RUN	4:30

9TH GRADE BOYS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 21	vs. CARO	4:30
Jan. 26	vs. BRIDGEPORT	4:30
Jan. 28	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Feb. 02	at CARO	4:30
Feb. 04	vs. MILLINGTON	5:00
Feb. 09	at BIRCH RUN	4:30
Feb. 18	vs. CRAMER	4:30
Feb. 19	at BRIDGEPORT	4:30
Feb. 23	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Feb. 26	at CRAMER	4:30
Mar. 02	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Mar. 04	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30



2008 VARSITY BOYS' SOCCER

Front Row (l-r): Cody Kipp, 1st Team All Conference, All District; Keegan Martus, 2nd Team All Conference

Back Row (l-r): Mike Keith, All District; Zach Thibodeau, 2nd Team All Conference, All District; Keir Veskivali, Honorable Mention All Conference; Tyler Kreiner, 1st Team All Conference, all District; Guy Kreiner, 2nd Team All Conference; Elliott Orr, 1st Team All Conference, All District



2008 GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

Front Row (l-r): Teal Washington, 2nd Team 800M Relay, Honorable Mention 100M Dash, 2nd Team 400M Dash, 3rd Team, 200M Dash; Meghan Petiprin, 2nd Team 1600M Run, 2nd Team 3200M Run, 4th Team 3200M Relay; Olivia Kohler, 1st Team 100M Hurdles, State Qualifier 100M Hurdles, All State 100M Hurdles (7th place), 1st Team 300M Hurdles, State Qualifier, 300M Hurdles, All State 300M Hurdles (4th place), 2nd Team 800M Relay; Jerica Tedford, 2nd Team 800M Relay, Honorable Mention 400M Relay; Taylor Kaiser, Honorable Mention 400M Relay, 2nd Team 800M Relay; Shannon Cobb, 4th Team 1600M Relay, Honroable Mention 400M Relay

Back Row (l-r): Catherine Brusie, 4th Team 100M Hurdles, 4th Team 1600M Relay, Honorable Mention 400M Relay; Jordan Fish, 4th Team 1600M Relay; Elisabeth Morquecho, 1st Team Pole Vault, State Qualifer Pole Vault; Katelyn Pfromm, Honorable Mention Long Jump; Sam Griffin, 4th Team 3200M Relay; Amanda Cranick, 4th Team Discus, 4th Team Shot Put; Jessica McKnight, 4th Team 3200M Relay, 4th Team 1600M Relay

Not Pictured: Linsay Bartle, State Qualifier High Jump; Danika Racknor, 4th Team 3200M Relay, Sasha Ferrett, 4th Team Pole Vault.

VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 02	vs. IMLAY CITY	7:30
Dec. 05	at FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Dec. 06	at LAPEER WEST	7:00
Dec. 12	at CARO	6:00
Dec. 19	at GARBER	6:00
Dec. 23	at PALACE vs. YALE	2:00
Dec. 26	HARRY MOORE CLASSIC vs CAPAC at MARLETTE	12:00
Dec. 30	HARRY MOORE CLASSIC at MARLETTE	TBD
Jan. 09	at BIRCH RUN	6:00
Jan. 13	vs. CROS-LEX	7:30
Jan. 20	vs. BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Jan. 25	vs. MILLINGTON	6:00
Jan. 27	vs. FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Jan. 29	at TVC CENTRAL XOVER	7:30
Feb. 02	vs. TVC WEST XOVER	7:00
Feb. 05	vs. CARO	6:00
Feb. 10	vs. GARBER	6:00
Feb. 13	vs. BIRCH RUN	6:00
Feb. 24	at BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Feb. 27	at MILLINGTON	6:00
Mar. 2, 4, 5	DISTRICTS	TBD

JV GIRLS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 02	vs. IMLAY CITY	6:00
Dec. 05	at FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Dec. 06	at LAPEER WEST	5:30
Dec. 11	at CARO	7:30
Dec. 16	vs. YALE	6:00
Dec. 19	at GARBER	7:30
Jan. 05	at CAPAC	7:00
Jan. 08	at BIRCH RUN	7:30
Jan. 13	vs. CROS-LEX	6:00
Jan. 16	vs. BRIDGEPORT	7:00
Jan. 22	vs. MILLINGTON	7:00
Jan. 25	vs. FRANKENMUTH	7:00
Jan. 29	at TVC CENTRAL XOVER	6:00
Feb. 02	vs. TVC WEST XOVER	6:30
Feb. 05	vs. CARO	7:00
Feb. 08	vs. GARBER	7:00
Feb. 12	vs. BIRCH RUN	7:00
Feb. 17	at MARLETTE	6:00
Feb. 23	at BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Feb. 26	at MILLINGTON	7:30

FRESHMAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 02	vs. IMLAY CITY	4:30
Dec. 05	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Dec. 06	at LAPEER WEST	4:00
Dec. 11	at CARO	6:00
Dec. 16	vs. YALE	4:30
Dec. 19	at GARBER	6:00
Jan. 05	at CAPAC	6:30
Jan. 08	at BIRCH RUN	6:00
Jan. 13	vs. CROS-LEX	4:30
Jan. 21	vs. VARSAR	6:30
Jan. 22	vs. MILLINGTON	6:30
Jan. 25	vs. FRANKENMUTH	6:30
Jan. 27	at REESE	6:00
Feb. 05	vs. CARO	6:30
Feb. 08	vs. GARBER	6:30
Feb. 12	vs. BIRCH RUN	6:30
Feb. 16	at VARSAR	4:30
Feb. 24	vs. REESE	6:00
Feb. 26	at MILLINGTON	6:00

including the North Branch Varsity Invitational. It does not include the Individual Districts held at North Branch High School on February 21).

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

The eighth annual reverse raffle date has been set for Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Imlay City beginning at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from booster officers, any athletic coach, or the athletic office. Contact the athletic

COMPETITIVE CHIEF		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 10	LAPEER EAST INV.	6:00
Jan. 24	ST. CHARLES	10:00
Jan. 29	BAGINAW HERITAGE	6:00
Jan. 31	BRECKENRIDGE	11:00
Feb. 4	TVC at BIRCH RUN	6:00
Feb. 14	FERDALE	12:00
Feb. 21	DISTRICTS @ FENTON	TBD

VARSITY WRESTLING		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 03	at NB vs CROS-LEX, NOTRE DAME PREP	8:30
Dec. 06	at CAPAC INVITE	6:00
Dec. 10	at NB vs ALMONT, ARMADA & DURAND	6:30
Dec. 13	at MARLETTE INVITE	6:00
Dec. 17	vs. LAP WEST/MONTROSE	6:30
Dec. 20	at MAYVILLE INVITE	8:30
Jan. 07	at GARBER vs SPORT	8:00
Jan. 10	NORTH BRANCH INV	6:00
Jan. 14	at NB vs CAROMTON & MEMPHIS	6:00
Jan. 17	at DURAND INVITE	6:00
Jan. 21	at CARO vs BRUN & FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Jan. 24	at MARYSVILLE INV	9:00
Jan. 28	at NB vs MTN CARLTON & MERRILL	8:00
Feb. 04	at TVC WEST XOVER	6:00
Feb. 07	at YALE INVITE	6:00
Feb. 14	TVC at MILLINGTON	TBD

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 09	at MTN vs BRECKENRIDGE	4:30
Nov. 09	NORTH BRANCH INV.	6:00
Nov. 11	vs. GARBER/ST. CHARLTON	4:30
Nov. 18	at CARO vs FREELAND	4:30
Nov. 25	at FRANKENMUTH vs FREELAND	4:30
Dec. 02	at OVID/ELISE vs ALMA	4:30
Dec. 09	vs. FRANKENMUTH vs BIRCH RUN	4:30
Dec. 12	at TVC EAST/BRUN	8:30
Dec. 16	at SPORT vs CHEBANING	4:30

department for tickets or more information. Tickets cost \$50.00 and include dinner and a chance at 43 cash prizes including the top cash prize of \$2,000.00 All proceeds go to the North Branch Athletic Boosters in support of North Branch athletics.

The next booster meeting is schedule for Monday, December 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school media center. The majority of the booster meetings are held on the third Monday of the month. Please contact the athletic office for exact dates and times of future meetings.

Individuals or families are encouraged to sign up for the Meijer Rewards Program. This can be done on-line at Meijer.com/rewards and our athletic code is #303694. Over \$2,400.00 has been raised to support athletics by families participating in this free program.

Thanks to the 30 businesses that partici-

9TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 08	vs. CARO	4:30
Nov. 10	vs. BRIDGEPORT "B" Team	6:30
Nov. 12	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Nov. 17	at CRAMER	4:30
Nov. 19	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Nov. 24	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30
Dec. 01	at CARO	4:30
Dec. 03	at BRIDGEPORT "A" Team	6:30
Dec. 08	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Dec. 10	vs. CRAMER	4:30
Dec. 16	vs. MILLINGTON	6:30
Dec. 17	at BIRCH RUN	4:30

11TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 08	at CARO	4:30
Nov. 10	vs. BRIDGEPORT "B" TEAM	4:30
Nov. 12	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Nov. 17	vs. CRAMER	4:30
Nov. 18	vs. MILLINGTON	6:00
Nov. 24	at BIRCH RUN	4:30
Dec. 01	vs. CARO	4:30
Dec. 03	at BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	4:30
Dec. 08	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Dec. 10	at CRAMER	4:30
Dec. 16	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Dec. 17	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30

pated in the Community Advertising project this fall by purchasing banners to be hung at the football field in the fall. We appreciate your loyal support.

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

The athletic department would like to thank the 70+ golfers who played in the Mike Patrick/North Branch golf outing held on Monday, September 15. A check was donated to the Athletic Department in the amount of \$721.00 and represents the most ever raised at the annual golf outing. The donation is in memory of Mike Patrick, founder of this golf outing and long-time supporter of North Branch athletics.

Tickets for the boys' and girls' basketball games at the Palace of Auburn Hills on Tuesday, December 23 are on sale now at the athletic office. All tickets are \$40.00 each and include admission to the North Branch vs. Yale girls' game at 2:00 p.m., the North Branch vs. Yale boys' game at 4:00 p.m., and the Pistons vs. Bulls at 8:00 p.m. There are limited tickets available so please get yours today!

VARSITY WRESTLING		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 03	at SWAN VLY vs CARO/BRUN	1:00
Jan. 10	at CARLTON vs FREELAND	1:00
Jan. 17	at FRANKENMUTH vs GARBER	12:00
Jan. 24	at BRUN vs FRANKENMUTH & CARO	1:00
Jan. 31	at BRUN vs FRANKENMUTH & CARO	1:00
Feb. 07	at NB vs MTN & GARBER	12:00
Feb. 14	at CARO vs BRUN & SWAN VLY	11:00
Feb. 21	at MT vs CRILTON	TBD
Feb 27 & 29	REGIONALS	TBD
Mar 6 & 7	FINALS	TBD



North Branch Middle School Student Council: Making the Main Thing the Main Thing

Each year the members of the North Branch Middle School student council create a slogan which is used as a framework for the decision making that takes place during the year. In 2007-2008, the council did a fantastic job living up to their slogan; NBMS student council: eNhancing Bodies Minds and School Spirit. The 2008-2009 slogan is unveiled for you here today...North Branch Middle School Student Council: Where the Main Thing is to Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing-Scholarship, Spirit, and Service. While we believe that it is important to enhance school spirit while serving our school and community, we also believe that our scholarship (education) is the #1 priority.

The school year began with the election of our class officers and classroom representatives. Dominic Turcott, Sam Coulter, Brianna McKenna, and Autumn Zender were elected



to the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer positions respectively. These four students ran energetic campaigns, reaching out to the student body for their votes in new and unique ways. Their wit and enthusiasm paid off on Election Day.

In October, the council sponsored a fall colors photography contest. Winners, recently announced, were Bryan Turner, Dani Archer and Rachel Kanaziz. On November 7, the council hosted their first dance, a virtually flawless evening of fun and entertainment. The membership showed that they have what it takes to throw a party.

The council members are currently working together in small committees for the first time with the hope that they have created a working model that will be emulated by council bodies of the future. The new committee model provides members of the council the opportunity to organize and plan events rather than to just put forth ideas. Thus, the membership takes on greater responsibilities in organization and in planning while the rewards will surely be greater too.

The 2008-09 edition of the student council has many great things in store for this school year. Above all, they will be remembering that *The Main Thing is to Keep The Main Thing The Main Thing.*

An Honorable Tribute
By: Jennifer Havermale 7th grade
Journalism 101

In case some of you didn't know, November 11th was Veteran's Day. Most of us don't even realize how hard they worked for our freedom. Not just their freedom, but *our* freedom as well. Some of them paid the ultimate price, with their lives, so that we could be free. So, to even try to pay them back for their sacrifice, an eighth grader at North Branch Middle school, Hannah Arman, wrote a poem about the Iwo Jima incident on Mt. Suribachi between the Japanese and the Americans. "I got the idea at JLS (Junior Leadership School). We were doing a class on the incident, and I was having all of the facts thrown at me all at once, and I thought to myself, 'I'm never going to remember all of this by memory!'" she says. "And all of the sudden, I had a brain spark, 'why don't I write a poem about it! That way, I'll remember all the facts.'"

She wrote the poem, not only to tell people about the massacre, and about all of the lives that were either shattered, or lost all together, but to persuade people to show more respect than what they do right now to the veterans and their families whose lives will never be the same ever again. It took her about 5 minutes to get the skeleton of the poem down, and about a month to critique it and get it to perfection. She got all of her additional facts in her "personal library," along with a quote from Admiral Nimitz.

Hannah submitted her poem to the "Thumb Area Senior News," and it was published just in time for Veteran's Day. She says that most of the credit belongs to her inspiration, her JLS instructor, Keegan Miller, and her Young Marine C.O, Butch Housington, who both are veterans.



The eight graders at North Branch Middle School competed in a "Name Our 50 States" competition within their history class to see who could complete a 50 state map the quickest, with zero mistakes. Pictured above are the eight classroom winners. When just the eight of them competed for a second time, Autumn Zender was declared the first place winner.

LEFT TO RIGHT Back row – Connor Emery – Mackenzy Marceau – Justin Mackenzie
Front Row – Kathryn Schwartz – Ashley Gray – Autumn Zender – Danielle Worden – Cassidy Lane



EXPERIENCING CSI

In Julie Tumblin's forensic science class, students are experiencing a little chemistry, physics, geometry, biology, and archeology all in twelve weeks. Thanks to the popularity of prime time crime shows like *Bones*, *Forensic Files*, and *CSI Miami*, previously uninterested science students are drawn to the activities and experiences of forensic science. Forensic science curriculum and lessons are typically geared toward high school students, but Mrs. Tumblin has designed and tweaked lessons that are more suited for middle school age students and appeal to their interests.

Students begin by learning basic crime scene terminology and protocol and then delve into areas of fingerprinting, handwriting analysis, blood spattering and typing, chromatography, hair and fiber analysis, and forensic archeology. Students use skills they have learned to problem solve, analyze and synthesize information, and evaluate clues and "evidence" to find out whodunit. Each day brings a new activity or investigation as students are introduced to just some of the jobs that forensic scientists might have to do. Local police officers and county detectives will also be sharing with students their occupational duties and training experiences this year. The great thing about the class is that sometimes students don't really know they're learning information or improving skills when they try to solve a make-shift crime. Students just know they're experiencing science and it's not all that bad.



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Journalism 101

By Mrs. Mary Parsons
A new elective class is being offered this year at North Branch Middle School. Journalism 101 is designed to strengthen students writing skills. Students learn strategies for improving their writing and practice writing various genres. Students finished the course by practicing their poetry writing skills. This is a sampling of some of our students' talent.

Campfire

By Ryan Garza
Grade 8
The firelight glows in the darkness like the eyes of a wolf.
Crackling, the wood in the fire pops and snaps.
I can hear the crickets and frogs singing together their melody.
Feeling the cool night air, I shiver.
The heat of the fire overcomes it.
The burning logs are glowing.
The warm chocolaty s'mores fill my tongue with joy.
The buttery popcorn melts into my mouth.
Popping an M&M into my mouth it tastes so sweet.
At the same time the smell of the breeze is all around me.
The dancing fire reflects off my eyes as I smile.

Nightmare

By Jacob Pasek
Grade 7
It creeps up inside you;
You try not to let it through.
You can't hide from it.
It blocks out all the light.
It usually attacks around midnight.
It's dark and unforgiving.
It hurts you even though it's not living.
It makes you sweat and makes you regret
Ever going to sleep.

Winter

By Mariah Fick
Grade 8
BRR! It's cold out!
Snowflakes fall from the sky in cold, white sheets.
Kids playing in the streets.
Lots of people everywhere
Spreading holiday cheer.
I love the times like these
Picking out a Christmas tree.
Kids play in forts made of sparkling snow.
Times like these are truly "gold."
Ode to Dirty Dishes
By Jennifer Havermale
Grade 7

-Oh how I hate to do dishes at night,
Seems like I have to scrub with all my might.
To get one single speck off a plate,
It causes me to stay up very late.

-Oh how I hate to do dishes all day,
Id's so'd rather go out and play.
Dishes are a nightmare to every teen alive,
We'll put them off until tomorrow, or better yet day five!

-Oh how I hate to do dishes at all,
I'd rather go with my people to the mall.
We'd shop till we drop, till they pull down the gates,
And then we'll go home and eat off paper plates.

Firelight

By Jamie Burrows
Grade 7
Snap, crackle, pop!
Heat from the glowing embers washed my face.
Just enough light silhouetted the menacing treetops.
Smoke swirled to the twinkling stars above.
A roasting stick twirled gracefully in my hand.

Snap, crackle, pop!
Sparks hurried away from the fireside
While crickets chirped and frogs sang out into the night,
Making nature's melody.
The gooey marshmallow slid down my throat as the last of the
Flame blew out.
Snap...crackle...pop!

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

Any North Branch Area School student from
Preschool to 6th grade is eligible to register.
The hours of operation are 6:00 AM – 6:30 PM every week day.
We are open on 1/2 days,
professional development days and snow days.
F.A.B.S. will be closed for winter break and spring break.
This program is funded by user fees
\$2.25 per hr. 1st child
\$1.75 per hr. each additional sibling
FABS is licensed by The State of Michigan.
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
FABS will be moving to the new school in December!
For further information, contact Leann Gwinn
(810) 688-4634 OR 688-3041 Ext.2881.

RUTH FOX NEWS



Welcome to the “New” Ruth Fox Elementary!

Students are excited as they arrive at Ruth Fox Elementary on the first day of school! They are amazed at all of the changes that occurred over the summer. Not only did Ruth Fox Elementary get a new cafeteria, but it also received: a new heating and air conditioning system, new flooring in the classrooms, new carpet in the library, a new office at the front of the building, a new teacher workroom and staff lounge, three new computer labs, a new fire alarm system, a new sound system, new security doors, new bathroom partitions, new lighting, etc. WOW! What a fabulous makeover for Ruth Fox Elementary! A very special thanks for the support of a wonderful community in making this happen!

Ruth Fox Elementary Takes on Reading!

A statewide trend in reading concerns the staff at Ruth Fox Elementary. Students between the ages of 11-13 show a decline in reading scores. This is true across the entire State of Michigan according to the MEAP data collected from last year (as well as previous years). Even though this is a Statewide trend, teachers at Ruth Fox Elementary don't want it to be happening here. After studying the data, teachers adopted a goal to work on improving reading scores. In order to accomplish this goal, guided reading groups have been implemented in sixth grade classrooms, a new accelerated reader on-line program has been purchased, and literacy aides have been put into sixth grade classrooms.

Students also participated in a reading survey which showed that not only are they not reading outside of the classroom, but they also have difficulty finding things they are interested in reading. In an effort to fix this problem, teachers have implemented a “Reading Choice Time” which will take place two times per week. Teachers chose a theme or book that interested them and then made a poster to advertise it. At a recent assembly, teachers did small skits to demonstrate what the reading choice time would be about. Students signed up for a choice time based on their interest. The

reading choice time will run for around 12 weeks. Depending on the outcome of that twelve week block, teachers may also do a second group during the last trimester of the year. Both staff and students are excited about the opportunity. Hopefully, based on the data that will be collected, students will find a new interest in reading. Through reading research, we know that students gain comprehension skills by reading books that they not only enjoy, but that are at their reading level.

For more information regarding this Reading Choice Time project or your child's reading level, please contact your child's teacher. Children should be reading for approximately 30 minutes per night!

Pictured is 6th Grade Teacher Cindy Lewis advertising for a Choice Time about horses.

Halloween at Ruth Fox Elementary

Students enjoyed a large Halloween block party at Ruth Fox Elementary! The event included many different activities – even a haunted locker room! Pictured is 6th grade student Blake Schlaud.





Ruth Fox Students Have Out-Of-This-World Experiences!

All sixth grade students at Ruth Fox have had the opportunity to learn about space during the first trimester. One activity was to spend time in the Star Lab, a portable plan-



etarium, learning about the stars and constellations. A project that the Solar Powered Pencil Pushers (students of Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Murphy) participated in was Build the Adventure. Using plastic sheeting and plastic pipe, the entire team worked together to build models of the shuttle and space station. After construction every team member played a role in helping to conduct a simulated mission inside the structures. They performed the play several times for both Ruth Fox students and then for friends and family.



Obama and McCain Visit Ruth Fox Elementary!

It's true! Not long before Barack Obama became the President of the United States, he paid a visit to the students at Ruth Fox Elementary! Okay – maybe it wasn't the real Obama – it might have been fifth grade teacher Kevin Withey in a mask! The visit was all part of a Constitution Day Celebration planned by Ruth Fox Elementary. Each year, schools are required by law to participate in Constitution Day activities. This year, since it was an election year, students got a chance to meet the candidates (Obama – Kevin Withey, McCain – Ryan Sieh, Liberman – Paul Lewis, Palin – Anne Sherrieb). Students also heard a speech from Bill Clinton (played by Adair Aumock). Fifth grade teacher Jeanie Stevenson gave a speech on the responsibilities of American citizens in the election process. Students then received a chance to cast their own ballots for president.



A Sweet Reward!

The staff at Ruth Fox Elementary is concerned about student attendance! When students are absent from school, it is very difficult for them to make up what they've missed. Much of what they learn cannot be put into a packet of worksheets. The rich discussions and hands-on activities and demonstrations that are provided in the classrooms are the root of much of the learning that takes place each day.

One of the school improvement goals that the staff adopted for this year is to work on attendance. Along with the consequences for not coming to school, staff has also implemented some rewards for good attendance. On a daily basis, teams that have a 98% attendance rate are entered into a monthly drawing for their choice of prizes. As a building, students will also earn a special prize when they reach 100 days of 98% attendance. Students were also rewarded for good attendance during MEAP testing. Pictured are Josh Coster, Austin Carpenter, and Lance Thomas who are enjoying some cotton candy!!!



Sixth Graders Find Fun in Learning!

Sixth grade students recently completed a mapping project where they were able to create maps using paper mache. They did an excellent job on the project and learned a lot about geography and the locations of mountains, rivers, lakes, etc. The project was part of their social studies unit on the Western Hemisphere developed by the sixth grade teaching staff! Special thanks to Bryan's Market for helping with the pizza boxes for the project!

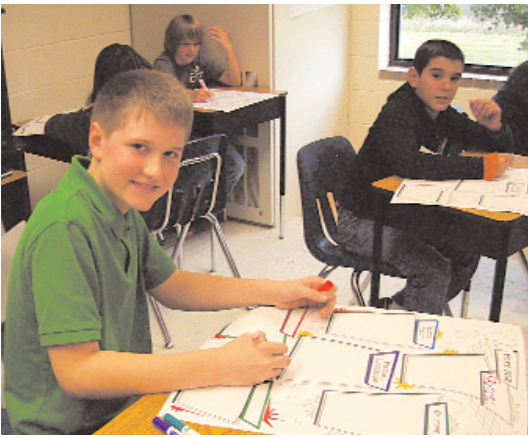
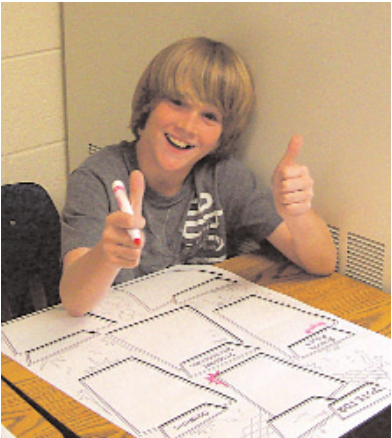


Hemisphere developed by the sixth grade teaching staff! Special thanks to Bryan's Market for helping with the pizza boxes for the project!



Ruth Fox Students Show Their Pride!

Pictured are Emily Miller, Laura Willson, Aerial Skinner, and Hannah Sweeney at the Homecoming parade.



Don't Forget to Vote!

Students in Jill Murphy's sixth grade classroom got into the election spirit by creating their own campaign poster as part of a mock Presidential Election. They had to create a poster that told what their positions were on different issues, would they would do if elected, etc. Students not only had a great time campaigning, but also learned about the election process.

Teressa Markham Wins Big!

Teressa Markham won first place in the Lapeer County Soil Conservation Poster Contest! Teressa is a fifth grade student on the Buchanan/Goldstein team! Pat Wright, representing the Lapeer County Soil Conservation District, presented the award to Teressa during a special assembly!

Pictured is Pat Wright (Soil Conservation District, Michelle Goldstein (5th Grade Teacher), Teressa Markham (winner), and Danielle Buchanan (5th Grade Teacher).



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

All Dressed Up

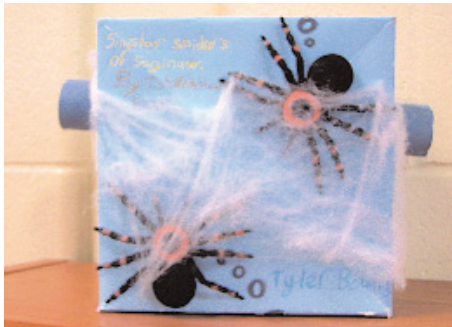
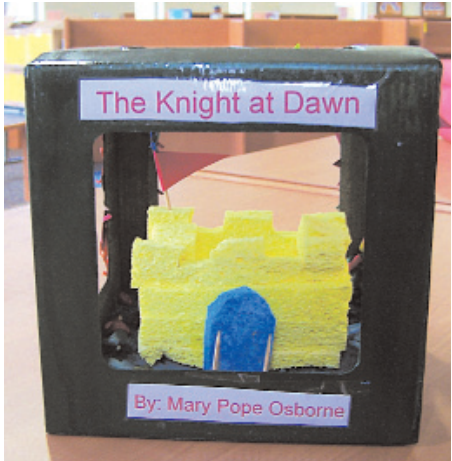
October 30th was the day of the annual North Branch Elementary Halloween Parade. The staff and students traveled through town as parents, grandparents, and community members looked on. There was a festive air prevailing in the streets as the small ninjas, clowns, fairies, hunters, princesses and story book characters traipsed through the streets. The teachers had a common theme in their dress-up gear as well. Boxes, carts, and moving



jumpsuits were a foreshadow of the coming days move to the new building, and added to the celebration of the final school day at the “old” North Branch Elementary. The Halloween parade was followed by classroom parties and other fall fun.

Fired Up for Learning

Science teachers braved the snow and cold to heat up student learning in fourth grade. Fourth Graders had a camp fire to learn about heat produced from burning wood. Students also had to gather air temperatures close to and away from the fire and be able to discuss and diagram the difference in temperature. Students had a grand time roasting marshmallows after recording all their measurements. Learning about science in a hands-on way and applying previously taught skills is a goal of fourth grade teachers. We were thrilled about the scientists we are creating at North Branch Elementary!



Books in a Box

Mrs. Gormley’s and Mrs. Eaton’s 4th grade students have been very busy readers this trimester. The students have taken part in their first 6 week book project. Every 6 weeks, their students will be asked to read a book at home from a different genre and then complete a project based on the story elements and comprehension strategies that have been taught at school. The students will complete projects like a Book in a Box, a book sandwich, and a story skeleton. The students will also present their book projects to their class. The first book project was a huge success and the students proved to live up to the challenge. They were creative, interesting, and the projects sparked many students to

try new books. The book in a box project was displayed in our new library. Keep watching for the next book project to come from these talented and hardworking students. It is already in progress.

Students Get All Wet for Science

Students in Mrs. Eaton’s and Mrs. Gormley’s fourth grade classes got all wet to learn about the scientific method. In science class students were studying measurement and focusing on volume. As a way to introduce the scientific method to the classes Mrs. Eaton



had students make a prediction (hypothesis) about which group of students in their class, the boys or the girls, had a greater volume. Students took their time to observe their classmates to make an educated guess. Once all predictions were made, the experiment continued with students climbing into a large barrel full of water and going under while the displacement of water was recorded for each student. The data was then collected and brought back to the class to graph and complete the next steps of the scientific method. Students were engaged in learning about volume and the scientific method while having a great experience.

Mix-It Up Day

On November 13th the elementary students got to participate in “Mix-It Up Day.” This day was organized to encourage students to recognize the good in everyone, and to appreciate one another’s differences. The theme for Mix-It Up Day follows the adage “Together we stand- Divided we fall!” As the children entered the lunchroom they received a special symbol that identified the table that they would sit at for the day. The students at each table were assigned randomly and were mixed among classrooms. The students were encouraged to strike up conversations with other children that they do not have direct contact with everyday and get to know something new about the person that they were sitting by.

The day was organized by the school counselor, Ms. Jeffery, and was coordinated with the help of specials teachers and cafeteria aides. The specials teachers prepared students by teaching them lessons about diversity and respecting one another’s differences and sameness. Doug Sheer offered some fun antics and entertainment for the staff and students of North Branch Elementary. His assembly titled “Diversity Circus” was a perfect complement to reinforce the school wide Core Democratic Value of Diversity, and the prelude to Mix-It Up Day. His message was a repetition of the Mix-It Up Day theme to appreciate one another for what we have to offer.

The students thought that the day was a very “Cool” experience. They enjoyed getting to spend time with students that they hadn’t had time to talk to since they were in Kindergarten together, which for a second grader may seem like a lifetime ago. It was a special day that we would like to develop more for next year.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



Fourth Grade is Fantastic Camp Lael

Students in fourth grade were once again given the incredible opportunity to go to Camp Lael. This was a three day adventure where students learned about many different topics from animal adaptations to edible plants. This experience was one that will not be forgotten. Students experienced so many different concepts that exposed them to their natural world and the world of Native American people from the past. Students learned and played Native American games and learned how to square dance. Capturing lake insects and animals was a thrill for students as they investigated the type of ecology next to the lake shore. Canoeing was a grand adventure as students headed off from shore with only another classmate and a paddle to rely on. Every event was a teachable moment, even lunch, where students got to see how much food was wasted each day and reducing waste became a challenge for everyone. Students made memories that will be with them forever when they think of fourth grade.



Gear Up For Kindergarten

Coming to kindergarten can be an anxious time for students and families. We have found that by getting students and parents acclimated to the school building, the teachers, and the elementary routines the transition can be more successful. The elementary school will be offering for a second year a series of sessions for parents and students of upcoming kindergarten students called "Gearing Up For Kindergarten." The elementary staff would like to invite families to come to the elementary building during a normal school day to experience the school setting. The students and their families are invited to join us for stories, songs, tours, and even breakfast. The school staff has geared up to teach students how to follow some of the school routines, and allow the students to see that school is a fun and safe place to be. Our goal is to make them comfortable here before that all important "First Day."

Please mark your calendars for the following important upcoming dates:
January 23, 2009- Gear Up for Kindergarten
March 13, 2009- Gear Up for Kindergarten
April 23, 2009- Kindergarten Round-Up

If you have a child that will be 5 years old before December 1st of 2009 and ready to enter the Begin-a-Garten or Kindergarten program at North Branch Elementary we encourage you to call the school to get on our information list. Getting on the information list will provide you with the opportunity to receive reminder notices for our Gear Up For Kindergarten programs, as well as information about Kindergarten Round-Up. Please call the office at 810-688-3042.

Pumpkin Pandemonium

Pumpkins were used in fourth grade classes as a way to culminate a unit of study on measurement. Students had to estimate the length, width, mass, and capacity of a pumpkin. They also had to guess how many seeds they thought their pumpkin would have. Students enjoyed being scientists while applying the skills they learned to measure.



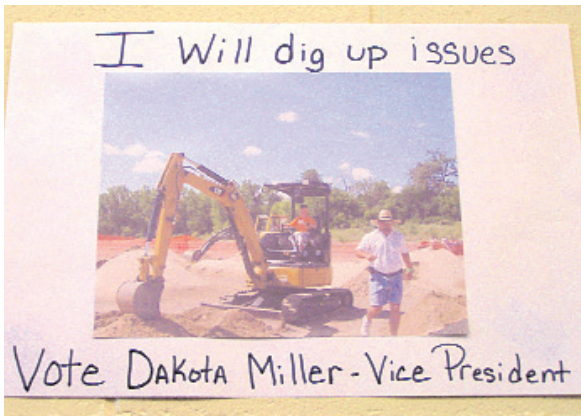
"READY, SET, RECYCLE"

Third graders at North Branch Elementary have been studying how natural resources can be preserved by reusing, reducing and recycling their garbage. High school students came over to discuss the kinds of materials that can be recycled and how students can go about helping our environment through the three R's. Students will also be keeping track of all of the trash that they produce just during their snack time! They will be revisiting our theme of advocacy for the earth all through the school year.



Classroom Elections

Fourth graders are learning about the election process as well as the process of appointing a cabinet. Because this year is an election year, the fourth grade teachers decided to make the most of this opportunity and to enhance our fourth grade classroom learning communities by holding monthly elections for our classroom jobs. How will it work you ask? Children will nominate candidates for both classroom President and Vice-President. Once the students are nominated, they can accept or deny the nomination. After the nomination is made, the students will create posters, have speeches, discuss current issues, and then voting will take place.



As Classroom President, the students will have to appoint their Cabinet. Cabinet members and elected officials will have classroom responsibilities similar to their real-life counterparts. Some of the classroom jobs include Department of Agriculture which will take care of the lunch basket, Department of Commerce will take care of the lunch count each morning, Department of Homeland Security will be responsible for the classroom windows, doors, and white boards, and our Press Secretary will be in charge of taking messages to the office. These are just a few of the many jobs that the students will take part in. A student may be elected for up to 2 terms (8 weeks-4 weeks per term) for the whole school year. This is meant to inform the students on the election process and educate them in a meaningful way on the various jobs that the government officials take part in on daily basis. The students were very excited about this activity and it has become a great learning experience for everyone.

Super Citizen Wanted

Students in fourth grade were searching for Super Citizens this month. The classes have been discussing qualities and behaviors of good citizens in their social studies unit on government. The students discussed that good citizen's vote; obey the law, and are respectful to others and their property. They also learned that good citizens participate in their government and community as well as be informed on current issues. The students then demonstrated their understanding of what a good citizen is by creating a wanted poster. The students were creative with this project and enjoyed looking for their super citizens in their community.

