



CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Announced



Daniel VanWingerden

The Valedictorian for the class of 2009 is **Daniel VanWingerden**. He is the son of Dennis and Julie VanWingerden. While attending NBHS, Daniel was very active in the National Honor Society and Link Crew and the New Hope Missionary Youth. His academic achievements include an Advanced Placement Scholar Award, the Michigan Promise Grant, and a University of Michigan Grant. In the fall, Daniel will be attending the University of Michigan where he will major in Chemistry and minor in Biology. After graduating from college, Daniel would like to continue on to Medical School and eventually specialize in Anesthesiology.

This year's Salutatorians are **Kayla Beach** and **Olivia Kohler**. Kayla is the daughter of Tammy Vincent and Anthony Ryan. While attending NBHS, Kayla was active in the National Honor Society; Soccer, 4-H, Link



Kayla Beach

Crew and Students Against Destructive Decisions. Kayla's academic achievements include the Michigan Promise Grant, a Board of Trustees Scholarship at Central Michigan University and a Superior Scholar Award at Central Michigan University. Next fall, Kayla plans on attending Central Michigan University. She would like to eventually go to graduate school for Physical Therapy.

Olivia is the daughter of Mike and Karen Kohler. While attending NBHS, she was very active in the National Honor Society; Students Against Destructive Decisions; Link Crew; Student Council; Varsity Girls Club; Volleyball; Basketball; and Track & Field. Olivia's academic achievements include the Michigan Promise Grant; Academic All State; Academic All-American-First Team; Awards of Distinction at Grand Valley State University. Next fall, Olivia will attend Grand Valley



Olivia Kohler

State University where she has accepted an Athletic Scholarship to play Volleyball. She will be majoring in Business.

Graduating with Honors!

It is a tradition in many high schools across the country to identify the students who have graduated with honors. The students are designated as "Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude" graduates.

Cum Laude means "with praise" and these students have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 to 3.649. This year's *Cum Laude* graduates are Nicholas Letts; Caitlin McCormack; Valerie Leach, Ashley Addison, Kyle Butterfield, Meggan Lucas, Brittany Woodworth, Rachel Thibodeau, Lauren Strich, Daniel Urchick, Aaron Burger, Chelsea Horen.

Magna Cum Laude means "with Great Praise" and reflects a GPA of 3.65 – 3.79. Our *Magna Cum Laude* graduates this year are: Kacie Mihala, Jessica Vronch, Deane Baker, Roxanne Gayle, Felicia Bennett, Kyle Manthei, Cody Carter, Taylor Miner, Cody Stawecki, Marlana Curell, Maria Peplinski, Rose Durst, Alicia Sanford, Gina Guerrero.

Suma Cum Laude means "with Greatest Praise". These students have earned a GPA of 3.8 to 4.0. The *Suma Cum Laude* graduates for the class of 2009 are: Caryn Rogers, Rory Edwards, Sierra Horton, Carmen Koning, Erin Grandchamp, Caitlin Huff, Genaca Conley, Stephanie Hart, Brandi Moore, Stephanie Ruhstorfer, Carmen Stuart, Christina Skelton, Cherish Om, Scott Burger, Leah Yelland, William Orr, Meghan Petiprin, Johnathon Naracon, Spencer Dudley, Ashleigh Hile, Eric Eilersen, Michael Swoish, Taylor Kaiser, Amanda Beam, Sierra Voigt, Jena Laur, Olivia Kohler, Amanda Beam, Daniel VanWingerden.

TVC Academic All Conference

Each year, every school in the Tri-Valley Conference nominates 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.

The top three students, based on these scores are treated to a banquet in Curtis hall on the campus of Saginaw State University, where they are recognized for their academic accomplishments and receive a TVC All Conference medal.

NBHS's top three students this year are Kayla Beach, Olivia Kohler, and Sierra Voigt.

Senior Scholars Named

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: Kayla Beach, Olivia Kohler, Michael Swoish, Eric Eilersen, Daniel Van Wingerden, Spencer Dudley, William Orr, Jena Laur, Taylor Kaiser, John Naracon, Leah Yelland, Stephanie Ruhstorfer, Lindsey Hile, Chelsea Horen, Scott Burger, Brandi Moore, Sierra Horton, Cody Carter, Christina Skelton, Carmen Stuart, Gina Guerrero, Stephanie Hart, Genaca Conley.

Graduation Events for the Class of 2009!

The graduation events for North Branch High School's Class of 2009 are as follows:

The **Last day** for seniors who passed all four core academic areas of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) is Friday, May 15th. All other seniors will take exams on May 18th and 19th.

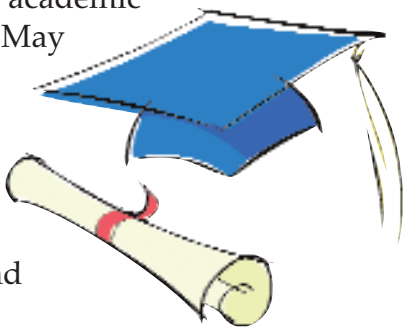
Baccalaureate is scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School auditorium.

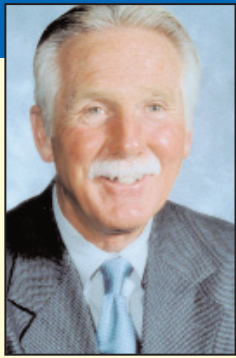
Senior Exams take place on Monday, May 18th and Tuesday, May 19th.

Commencement Rehearsal will be held on Wednesday, May 20th at 3:00 p.m. in the HS Gymnasium and SWING OUT will follow at 5:00 p.m.

Senior Class Night is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at 8:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Commencement Exercises will be held on Wednesday, May 27th at 8:00 p.m. in the HS Gymnasium. **Doors will open at 7:30 pm.**





“The End of an Era”

Some things just need to be said when an era comes to an end. Things changed a bit on Tuesday, May 5, 2009. For the first time in thirty-six years Mr. Ralph Deshetsky will no longer be a member of the North Branch Board of Education. When you see Mr. Deshetsky take a moment to thank him for all that he has done for the children and the community of North Branch.

As educators we talk a lot about community service and how our students need to give back to their community and learn to be good citizens. Just tell them to look at Ralph Deshetsky and model his behavior. Whether he's recognizing veterans, applauding children for their achievements, or standing before our employees on opening day, he exemplifies the pride he feels for all of us. Over the years I have observed him more than once with a tear in his eye unable to quite get the words out expressing his sincere pride in the children and adults of North Branch.

So Mr. Ralph Deshetsky, I thank you for all that you have done for all of us, you sir, will be missed.

Al Piwinski



The Summit had an awesome year! Although we had to cut back to once a month in January due to staff cuts, we had some big nights including “Battle of the Bands: Guitar Hero Style”, the all famous “Fear Factor” and we ended our season on May 15th with a live “Battle of the Bands”. We would not have been able to succeed this year with out the help of so many people.

We would like to first thank the North Branch School District for letting us speak at 7th grade orientation, hang posters in the halls and be mentioned during announcements. With out this partnership, The Summit would not be able to get the word out.

Secondly, we would like to thank the Four County Community Foundation for the grant we received to purchase a flat screen TV and Guitar Hero World Tour. We had some fun nights with the teens as they formed their own bands and rocked out. This is the third time that we have partnered with the foundation and it has been greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank the Lapeer Kiwanis Club for their donation that enabled us to purchase the Xbox 360. With out it, we would not have been able to play Guitar Hero.

The most important thank you goes out to all those wonderful volunteers that give up their time on Friday nights to come and hang out with the teens. Without you, The Summit would not be able to function.

So enjoy your summer vacation, and make sure to look for us next September, as we begin the start of our 8th season.



North Branch Area Schools is honored and pleased to announce that Mr. and Mrs. Tony Ostosh have graciously donated \$10,000 dollars to the Lapeer County Community Foundation to be added to the North Branch Area Schools Scholarship Fund. This donation is the first of four \$10,000 donations they intend to make over the next 4 years for a total of \$40,000 to be used for scholarships for North Branch High School students. They plan to offer 2 scholarships annually, one for a student interested in engineering and one for nursing. Mr. and Mrs. Ostosh sold North Branch Area Schools the property that now houses the new North Branch Elementary School. As Mr. and Mrs. Ostosh watched the construction of the new school from the ground up, they felt a great deal of pride in being part of our project. Upon completion they decided that they wanted to continue to support our students and our community. We are very grateful for their support. North Branch Area Schools thanks Tony and Patricia Ostosh.

2009 FRIEND OF YOUTH

The Thumb Track & Field Meet of Champions invites the North Branch Board of Education each year to select an individual who has made a significant contribution to youth over the years. The selected individual will be honored at the Thumb Meet of Champions on Tuesday, May 26, 2009.

This year the North Branch Board of Education chose Kim Reed as the 2009 Thumb Meet of Champions Friend of Youth. Kim is a long time resident of North Branch with a great love for her community. She has 4 children; Katy, Ray (Kathleen), Molly (Derek), and Corry. She is also Grandma to Reed Turner who just turned 5. Three of her children are North Branch Area School graduates and her youngest son will graduate in 2010. Kim has been a member of an organization called “WINKS” that stands for **W**omen **I**n **N**etworking **K**ids **S**ports. This group worked together with school administration to build and improve baseball fields, adding bathrooms and a concession stand. Kim has been a member of the North Branch Athletic Booster for the past 17 years and has been instrumental in the success of the annual Reverse Raffle. On top of the many hours spent fundraising and organizing she also is a score and clock keeper for many sporting events played at North Branch, including football, basketball and baseball.



NORTH BRANCH LIONS 4TH OF JULY EVENTS

July 3rd – Auto Cross/Bump & Run at 7:00 p.m.

**July 4th – Demolition Derby/Figure 8 Races
at 4:00 p.m.**

Admission Adults \$7.00 – Children 6-12 \$4.00 - under 5 Free

July 5th - Tractor Pull at 4:00 p.m.

Admission: Adults \$10.00 – Children 6-12 \$6.00 – Under 5 Free

KIDS PARADE – JULY 5TH OUR FUTURE FARMERS

REGISTRATION:

11:00 A.M. – 12:45 P.M.

PARADE BEGINS AT 1:00 P.M.

LOCATION:

WASHINGTON ST. AT THE OLD LUMBER YARD LOT

PARADE ROUTE:

**WASHINGTON ST. TO HURON ST. THROUGH TOWN
TO JEFFERSON ST, LEFT ON JEFFERSON ST. TO
BANKER ST. LEFT TO THE HAIR CLUB PARKING LOT**

CONTACT:

KATHY WHITAKER AT 810-656-0020

Art News

The students in North Branch have done some incredible artwork this year. The end of the school year is always an exciting time, as students put their portfolios together and reflect on a year’s worth of artistic expression. In celebration of the creativity of our students there are two art shows taking place for grades 5-8 that parents need to be made aware.

There will be an art show in the Ruth Fox Elementary building for grades 5 and 6. It will take place on May 28th, from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This is the same night as Family Activity Night and the Math Awards Ceremony. While you are in the building check out the art show! The 5th and 6th graders have done a fantastic job this year, and it will be great to show off their work.

There will be an art show in the Middle School on June 1st from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This show will be taking place the same night as Honor’s Night for the middle school students, but all parents and students are invited to attend the show. The Middle School students have produced an impressive body of artwork this year. We are also looking forward to showing off the gallery section of the hallway as part of the art show. The fourteen pieces of artwork that are framed and displayed in the hall are a great point of pride for our students.

The art program has been recognized in many ways this past school year. Ten students 5-8 grade had artwork that was included in the Michigan Art Education Association Regional Show. The show was held at Gallery 194 in downtown Lapeer. This standout group consisted of: Mia Rinconino

(7), Jenny Cyrus (8), Sam Bourque (8), Mario Valle (8), Tiffany Boyne(8), Zoe Racine (5), Lauren Stratton (5), Connor Atkins (6), Sara Innes (6), and Madison Skovran (6). Out of the ten pieces that were submitted, Jenny Cyrus’s painting and Sam Bourque’s collage project were chosen as part of the top 100 in the state! Their work went on to be part of an additional art show in Lansing during the month of April.

Gallery 194 also hosted a county-wide art show this year for grades K-8. The following students had artwork on display for that show: 8th grade: Jenny Cyrus, Ashley Johnson, Tawny Eisele, Mariah Gribowskas, 7th grade: David Cunningham, RJ Waldorf, Tyler Cross, 6th grade: Jillian Duffort, Madison Skovran, Jeffery Armstrong, 5th grade: Caleb Reamer, Bailey Chambers, Katelyn Huffman, Simon English 4th grade: Joey Swope, Chanelle Jones, Hannah Hodgkinson, Tommy Onuskanich, Haley Putnam, 3rd grade: David Carter, Chelsey Dewitte, Brielle Mears, Sydney Turner, Brooke Charbeneau, Alexis Schank, 2nd Grade: Christopher James, Daniel Cunningham, Rebecca Verellen, Autumn Deshetsy, Olivia Brandt, Jacquelyn Ankley, 1st grade: Emma Bloss, Gracelyn Seeley, Sean Helme, Jason Hartwick, Jalen Lewis, and Shyanne Utey. Wow! What a great representation for North Branch art students.

WHAT I REALLY KNOW ABOUT DRIVING

I drive a school bus, and yes, I know a lot about driving. But it’s not all about steering 40 feet of yellow around tight corners and along rutted and icy back roads. It’s about the little and not-so-little people that I see in my passenger mirror every day. It’s about their open and easy lives and about their secret and complicated existences.

To the untrained eye, my passengers are the sweet, cute little girls and boys who like pink and camo. They are the defiant teenagers who wear black and listen to angry tunes on their I-pods. Sometimes it’s just that simple. Other times, a life story will twist your heart and make you want to adopt someone else’s child because you think you can do a better job. But in reality, that’s not how it goes. Sometimes it’s just enough to welcome them to your space every day with a smile and an acknowledgment of their presence.

When people ask a school bus driver, “Why would you want to do that job?” many drivers reply, “Because I like kids.” I even use that answer occasionally. But truth be told, it’s more complicated than that. I find I need the interaction that only emerging souls and personalities can offer. Because I’m in a non-judgmental position—one that doesn’t dispense grades and unwanted advice—I’m often on the receiving end of not only little nuggets of giggling charm but also smoldering angst. I have discovered that how I choose to react to the day’s offerings directly affects how I am developing me. Little do my passengers, my charges, my potential friends realize they are forcing me to grow as well.

At the end of my bus driving days, I intend to leave with a feeling of a job well done. I hope for a new career that will bring me just as much pleasure with much less weather-induced stress. But most of all, I wish for continuous successful life-long driving plans that I, and the many faces in my mirror, will use to keep all of us in the middle of the road and out of the ditches.

By Pam Peel, NBAS Bus Driver

Note: This article was publish on the front page of the AARP Bulletin’s website on March 27.

ACADEMY DRIVING SCHOOL

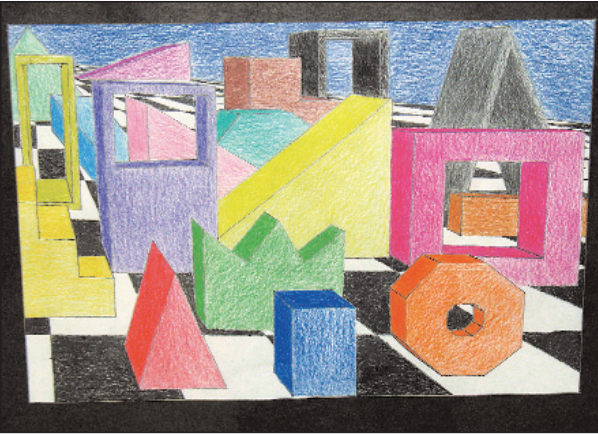
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SEGMENT 1 & 2 CLASSES ARE AVAILABLE

ALL CLASSES HELD AT NORTH BRANCH HIGH SCHOOL

ROAD TESTING TIMES ARE AVAILABLE

BY APPOINTMENT



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

NORTH BRANCH FORENSICS

The North Branch High School Forensic Team had an excellent season this year. This spring the high school team traveled to the Michigan Lutheran Seminary to compete in the forensics regionals. Six of the eight students who competed advanced to State finals at the University of Michigan – Flint where they ended the season with 2 semi-finalists and the rest of the team finishing among the top 20 in the state. Out of 42 schools overall in Class B, North Branch ranked 17th in the team events. The grand finale of the season was the opportunity to attend the Michigan Speech Coaches Association Conference on Mackinac Island.

Thanks to the benefit from a grant awarded by the Lapeer County Community Foundation, the North Branch High School and Middle School Forensic Teams were able to attend a Forensic Camp in Ohio last summer and hope to continue the camp tradition this summer.

High School Team:

- Kyle Manthei, Senior – Prose Interpretation-8th in the state
- Jason Armstrong, Junior & Mary Helzer, Sophomore – Duo Interpretation 15th Place in the state
- Eric Eilersen, Senior – Drama Interpretation-17th in the state
- Elizabeth Jones, Freshman – Sales Speaking-17th in the state



The State finalists in the back are Jason Armstrong (duo) Eric Eilersen (drama), Kyle Manthei (prose), front Mary Helzer (duo), Elizabeth Jones (sales), Elizabeth Goldthwaite (impromptu).

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

It is the end of the year again, which also means that a new one is approaching. As we say farewell to the seniors in the National Honor Society (NHS), we are happy to welcome new members the next academic year. Any juniors who have a 3.25 or higher grade point average are eligible to apply to this prestigious society. Juniors who are likely to apply for NHS will also need 10 community service hours to be accepted into NHS. Sophomores and freshman are encouraged to maintain good grades and to get their community service hours early. The NHS members are recognized all over the United States as a hardworking and successful group of individuals. Their accomplishments in and out of the classroom give them opportunities to achieve their goals and future endeavors. Do not let your student pass up this important opportunity.



Devonshire retirement village holds a prom for its residents every year. North Branch’s National Honor Society students volunteered at Devonshire to make this event one to remember. They dance with the residents, and help put up decorations. We had 14 students go to the Hawaiian themed prom and our looking forward to more volunteering next year.





North Branch – ABC 12's Spirit Cup Challenge

On Friday, March 27, North Branch was invited to participate in ABC 12's Spirit Cup Challenge to show which area school district has the most spirit and to help raise food for our local food banks. North Branch Schools and the community exceeded all expectations and raised 46,265 pounds of food. Students in all grades purchased t-shirts and brought in non-perishable food items to donate for the Spirit Challenge. Local businesses brought in food and helped advertise the event. The contest is over on May 15 and if North Branch is still the school that donated the most food on that date, ABC 12 will present the Spirit Cup Trophy to North Branch Area Schools on Friday, May 22 during its morning program. A special thanks to everyone who helped make the Spirit Challenge a great event for the North Branch Schools and community.

Trimester Two Honor Roll

The following North Branch High School students earned a spot on the Honor Roll for Trimester Two by maintaining a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher.

SENIORS

Jarin Adamic; Ashley Addison; Deane Baker; Chelsea Barber; Kayla Beach; Amanda Beam; Felicia Bennett; Brittney Berlin; Nathan Blight; Lucas Bonner; Jadelyn Boyle; Aaron Burger; Scott Burger; Kyle Butterfield; Emily Carpenter; Cody Carter; Jordan Centofanti; Dion Cimini; Joseph Clemens; Shannon Cobb; Genaca Conley; Heather Cranick; Daniel Cronin; Marlana Curell; Krystina D'Arcy; Rodney Deering; Larissa Deshetsky; Ricky Douglas; Spencer Dudley; Rose Durst ; Jill Dzuris; Rory Edwards; Eric Eilersen; Evan Ellis; Philip Erickson; Andrea Evans; James Ferkowicz; Amanda Fink; Christopher Ford; Matthew Gawlas; Roxanne Gayle; Codi Gilkerson; Erin Grandchamp; Gina Guerrero; Molly Harmon; Stephanie Hart; Alexander Havermale; Alison Hawley; Ashleigh Hile; Chelsea Horen; Sierra Horton; Caitlin Huff ; Logan Hunt; Andrew Hussmann; Amy Jamison; Seth Johnson; Taylor Kaiser; Kyle Keeling; Olivia Kohler; Carmen Koning ; Michael Kramer; Tyler Kreiner; Crystal Kurek; Crystal Laakso; Amanda Lange; Jena Laur; Ryan Laurel; Valerie Leach; Brooke Leduc; Nicholas Letts; Jacob Light; Kearin Lockrey; Meggan Lucas; Kayla Lucik; Nickolas Ludwig; Kyle Manthei; Eric Marecki; Caitlin McCormack; Haylie Mears; Kayla Meyer; Kacie Mihala; Taylor Miner; Brandi Moore; Grace Morquecho; Andrew Murray; Johnathon Naracon; Adam O'Dell; Cherish Om; William Orr; Amber Overbay; Alexander Park; Maria Peplinski; Matthew Peter; Meghan Petiprin; Kristopher Potter; Adam Rinconeno; Amanda Ritchie; Leland Roach; Chelsea Rodriguez; Caryn Rogers; Russell Ruby; Matthew Ruhlman; Stephanie Ruhstorfer; Bradley Rundell; Hannah Samano; Alicia Sanford; Alison Schultz; Anna Schwartz; Christina Skelton; Cody Stawecki; Jenna Steenrod; Ashton Stevens; Lauren Strich; Carmen Stuart; Jerome Sullivan; Michael Swoish; Anna Tallman; Jerica Tedford; Rachel Thibodeau; Maygen Turner; Daniel Urchick; Daniel VanWingerden; Sierra Voigt; Jessica Vronch; Benjamin Wheatley; Emily Wickerham; Brooke Williams; Brittany Woodworth; Leah Yelland

JUNIORS

Patrick Ankley; Jason Armstrong; Rachel Avendt; Felicia Bader; Caitlynn Baker; Linsay Bartle; Adam Beckwith; Victoria Billig; Joshua Blay; Cody Bonner; Andrea Bridger; Lauren Brooks; Mitchell Brusie; David Burks; Tonya Calkins; Kyle Cline; Joseph Collins; Kirstyn Cordner; Brian Curell; Emily DesJardins; Claire Dudley; Brendan Dye ; Stephanie Erickson; Matthew Fantin; Sasha Ferrett; Jaymee Ferrier; Casey Franks; Chelsea Freeland; Julie Gagnon; Cody Galpin; Brittany Gardner; Pashko Gjelijaj; Elizabeth Goldthwaite; Ryan Good; Brittany Goodroe; Cassie Goss; Bryan Gray; Douglas Griffin; Kathryn Guyot; Adam Hamilton; Robert Hanna; Bryanna Harp; Brianna Harris; Cody Hart; Adam Hauxwell; Megan Hawk; Melissa Heikkinen; Brittany Hiltunen; Nathan Holmes; Krista Horton; Donald Huntley; Jody Jamison; Justine Johnson; Laura Johnson; Kevin Johnston;Shanel Johnstone; Ronald Jones JR.; Alexander June; Jessica Jurkiw; Michael Kaan; Courtney Keeling; Stephen Lafavor; Tiffany Lambson; Kasey Lane; Anna Lee; Anabel Leon; Chane'l Leverette; Keegan Martus; Ethan McNulty; Dillon Montgomery; Lauren Morrison; Dennis Natke II; Nickolas Niesluchowski; Elliott Orr; Theodore Orr; David Ottenbacher; Katie Owens; Jaclyn Park; Brandon Parmenter; Caroline Parrish; Debra Peardon; Andrew Peplinski; Charles Phelps; Alexandria Priebe; Morgan Pruden; Brooke Rancour; Mckenzie Rea;

Nickolas Richmond; Erin Russell; Christopher Schlaud; Destiny Schultz; Alison Severns; Kayli Shaver; Kevin Shepherd; Gabrielle Shook; Katherine Smillie; Amanda Snoblen; Kayla Snoblen; Emily Sohn; Taren St. Onge; Jodie Steenrod; Courtney Stephens; Heather Stiles; Kara Stuewer; Thomas Swoish; Amanda Taylor; Daniel Thompson; Morgaen Vauter; Kyle Ventura;

Nicolas Voigt; Samantha Waterman; Chelsey Wenta; Christopher White; Sarah White; Amanda Wilczak; Alicia Wilson; Timothy Woodworth; Benjamin Wright; Gregory Yacks

SOPHOMORES

Ryan Addison; Philip Ajlouni; Jacob Armstrong; Ryan Barrows; Andrew Beckwith; Cassandra Blay; Breanne Blitz; Gavin Bodnar; Marcus Bratcher; Catherine Brusie; Matthew Burger; Marina Byrd; Nathan Calvert; Jacob Carter; Leanna Conley; Kathleen Craig; Amanda Cranick; Jamie Cripps; Nathan Crook; Catie Cross; Paige Czarnowski Joshua D'Arcy; Olivia Delong; Ethan Deshetsky; Kurtis Dhooghe; Alexander Duran; Nathan Dye; Corey Dzielsky; Andrea Eaton ; Jenna Edwards; Briana Elizando; Jordan Fish; Meghan Ford; Kyle Fox; Kathryn Germaine; Kristina Gersky ; Stefanie Goedicke; Zachariah Goodnoe; Joshua Goriesky; Chelsea Griffin; Samantha Griffin; Kalyn Harbin; Mary Helzer; Linzy Hitchcock; Rebecca Hoffman; Uriah Horton; Kathryn Humphrys; Austin Incarnati; Daniel Jacobson; Rayenne Kaiser Justin Klimek; Melissa Kosinski; Andrea Kreiner; Brendan Lane; Evan Lane ; Mary Listwak; Lauren Lucas; Jacob Lucia; Ryan Lucia; Ellen Martin; Michelle McElroy; Kacee McKenna ; Jesica McKnight; Tiffany McMullin; Jordan McNish; Anthony Mindelli; Layne Molosky; Ashley Murray; Brandon Myers; Dakota Myers; Lauren Nebel; Matthew Newbegin; Jamie Niester; Ethan Oberlee; Cody Olmstead; Tyler Ormiston; Sara Payne; Katelyn Pfromm; Natalie Phelps; Melissa Pratt; Danika Racknor; Anthony Rinconeno; Amenda Roach; Lewis Robertson; Joseph Robinson; Alicia Roll; Kelsey Roloson; Angela Root; Jordan Rosseau; Kristina Rouse; Whitney Ruhlman; Olivia Saliga;

Christopher Sanford; Emily Schlaud; Sophia Schoeneberg; Brooklyn Sexton; Hailey Smillie; Cameron Smith; Shawna Snoblen; Sabrina Sorensen; Savannah St. Pierre; Erica Steven; Sean Stevens; Taryn Streasick; Dennis Sullivan; Ethan Swain; Elizabeth Swoish; Nicole Swope; Samantha Taschner; Courtney Turner; Brandon Urchick; Ellen Verellen; Keir Veskivali; Alyssa Walker; Justin Walters; Teal Washington; Avery Weingartz; Taylor Wiegele; Korey Zarate; Kyle Zimmer

FRESHMEN

Shaina Alvesteffer; Patricia Andersen; Benjamin Ankley; Cody Bader; Ryan Bates; Jamie Becker; Michael Berlin; Jakab Bonner; Erica Boucher; Erica Bridger; Stachia Bryant; Jacob Bullen; Troy Burks; Robert Callahan; Megan Castle; Taylor Cheney; Alexandra Costa; Russell Cranick; Sean Crook; Stephen Dudley; Kimberly Eckert; Megan Elliott; Melissa Elliott; Rachel Emmons; Stuart Fielder; Katelyn Fink; Samantha Garza; Derrick Goodrich; Allison Gowan; Cody Graham; Iliana Guerrero; Codie Haynes; Adrienne Heeke ; Briana Heikkinen; Jessica Heikkinen; Brandon Hessler ; Angelica Hobson; Allicyn Hodges; Chad Holmes; Cody Hunt;Vannessa Hurd; Julie Jamison; Alex Jankowske; Nathan Jeffery; Rayne Johnson; Elizabeth Jones; Emily Judd; Austin Kipp; Troy LaCoursier; Katie Lambson; Kelli Lane; Hannah Laur; Samantha LaValley; Ashlynn Law; Kaitlyn Liniewski; Dillon Mathews; Ian McNulty; Justus Mead; Christopher Morgan; Kathryn Morley; Celina Nickel; Jade O'Brien; Landon Orr; Eli Parsch; Sarah Pasek; Larissa Petitt; Timothy Powell; Clayton Raska; Andrew Richmond; Quinn Robinson; Anthony Ross; Brandon Rowe; Megan Sanford; Riley Schank; Alissa Schlaud; Stephanie Schlaud; Jack Schulte; Victoria Seaman; Jordan Seremak; Kalee Sevon; Jorden Simmonds; Darcy Simpson; Anna Skelton; Chelsea Smith; Matthew Smith ; Paul Smith; Alexander Starbird; Jessica Stiles; Whitney Strich Lyndsey Suyama; Alicia Swoish; Tyler Terry; John Thurlow; Aaron Tribbey; Daniel Turcott; Daniel Valle ; Justine Vauter ; Margaret Verellen; Jeffry Versagli; Jessica Wells; Regina Wells; Jacob Wheatley; Heather Wirth; Joel Yelland; Carmen Zender

BMX BIKE RACE

Kids Bring Your Bikes!
Friday, July 3, 2009

During the Auto Cross Bump & Run Intermission
at the North Branch Lions Field
Participants must be 6 to 15 years old
There will be Prizes & Trophy's
A \$2.00 Entry Fee is required

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Parents Signature: _____

Remit Entry Form & \$2.00 fee to:
North Branch Lions Club
PO Box 283, North Branch, MI 48461

Contact Kathy Whitaker @ 656-0020 for more information

Bikes cannot be rode on the grounds before or after the BMX Race

Release Form must be signed prior to event

HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!



Middle School Forensic Team Attends States

On Saturday April 25th, 2009 *four* North Branch Middle School students traveled to Wayne State University to compete in their events for the 34th annual Forensic Spring State tournament. Our students were among the 34 middle schools, (primarily in Lower Michigan) that participated. The competition was very difficult, but our school was well represented by the following students. Three of the four students will become part of the high school team next year. Congratulations goes out to 7th grader *Troy Manthei* who wrote and performed an informative speech on the History of Guitars, 8th graders *Dani Archer* who recited a Storytelling piece and *Trisha Oberlee* and *Jade Topper* who performed a dramatic duo selection. Members of the Middle School Forensic team worked to fund raise and will be competing on the weekend of May 15th-18th on Mackinac Island at the Grand Hotel for the Michigan Speech Coaches Annual Spring Tournament.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TAKES ON “ABC 12 SCHOOL SPIRIT CHALLENGE”

The middle school took part in the “ABC12 School Spirit Challenge” during the week of March 23-27. A food drive challenge was declared between the 7th grade and 8th grade to see who could donate the most food and money. The winning class received an ice cream social during their respective SeminAR class. Over 1,350 items of food and \$330 were donated by a large number of students. The winning class was the 8th grade (Class of 2013). It was a huge success which would never have happened except for the efforts of the staff and students. Congratulations!



Amanda Hardwick Wins Lapeer County Spelling Bee!

On Thursday, March 17, 2009, at Lapeer East High School Auditorium, Amanda Hardwick won the county-wide spelling bee, sponsored by the “The County Press”. Amanda is an 8th grade student at North Branch Middle School. This is Amanda’s second time winning this competition. She will represent Lapeer County and North Branch Area Schools at the National Spelling Bee May 26-27, 2009 at Washington, D.C. where she’ll be given the chance to compete and make it to the finals, which will be broadcast live on ESPN. Good luck, Amanda!

The 7th Grade Visits the Water Tower & Lagoons of North Branch

The 7th grade science classes recently visited the North Branch Water Tower and Lagoons. Earl Diller (DPW worker for the village of North Branch) led the classes on a guided tour and explained the process of wastewater treatment. This field trip gave the students a deeper understanding of where their water comes from and where it goes when they flush the toilet, run a dishwasher, or take a shower. The students also have a better understanding of the complex process that water goes through before it can be returned safely back into the river. The students gained an appreciation for why it is important not to waste our freshwater resources and the importance of conserving our freshwater resources whenever possible. We want to send our thanks to the village of North Branch for giving us the opportunity of this wonderful learning experience.



RFE Guest Readers

As leaders and positive role models within our district and community, Ruth Fox Elementary would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the following people for donating their valuable time to read to Ruth Fox students during March Reading Awareness month:

- Adair Aumock
- Deanna Brusie
- Leann Gwinn
- Mark Hiltunen
- Gretchen Orr
- Vicki Rogers
- John Sherman

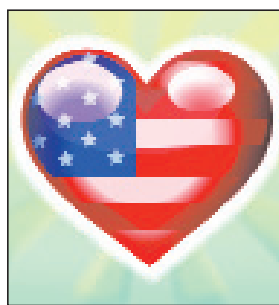


A Smashing Good Time for RFE Staff & Students

March is Reading Awareness month. It’s time to reinforce and shed light on the importance of leading a literate and productive life. The research on **beyond the school day reading** is clear...it’s important! To emphasize this point, all Ruth Fox students were provided an at home *March Reading Log*. Students were asked to record their beyond the school day reading for three weeks in March. All students who completed their log with a parent signature for the designated week earned one paper chain for each hour they read. The building goal: to create a chain of 2,400 links, equivalent to 100 days of reading! If students met this goal, RFE staff agreed to make “April Fools” of themselves at the *Hats Off to Reading* Celebration on April 3rd.

Not only did students meet this goal, they decimated it with over 4,272 links, equivalent to 178 days of reading! On April 3rd, RFE staff had to pay up! Teachers, support staff, and administration were divided into two teams for a friendly game of Pictionary. The catch...the losing team had to sit at the “Food Court” where they ran the risk of having food flying at them from the smash-o-matic (compliments of Kevin Withey). Students helped select which food went back to the Food Court by applauding for the item they wanted to be smashed. Some of their choices: pies, cake, melons, lettuce, macaroni, apples, oranges, grapes, or toothpaste. This event captured the spirit of March Reading Awareness month and was a lot of fun for everyone involved. Congratulations to Ruth Fox students for exceeding the reading goal set!

*Special thanks to RFE custodians, Denise Jensen and Nan Butterfield, for their remarkable clean up job!



Out of Our Hearts Come Some Valentines!

In honor of Valentine’s Day, Ruth Fox students held a fundraiser to raise money to send to the Lapeer Quartermaster Troop who were deployed to Iraq this past April. Students sold Little Debbie heart cakes for Valentine’s Day and raised just over \$300.00 that was donated to the Lapeer Quartermaster Troop in cooperation with the American Legion in North Branch.

Congratulations Andrew Murray!

North Branch senior, Andrew Murray, was recognized by the Lapeer ISD Board of Education, as well as the North Branch Board of Education for his work on a collaborative project with the Michigan Reading Association. Andrew was responsible for creating the promotional DVD that was shown to conference attendees at the March 2009 *Bridges to Lifelong Literacy* Conference. Over the upcoming year, this DVD will be copied and circulated amongst teaching professionals as a way to advertise the keynote speakers and presenters for the 2010 MRA Detroit Conference- *Weaving a Tapestry of Readers & Writers*. Not only is the DVD symbolic of the Michigan Reading Association’s mission, but it showcases Andrew’s dedication, passion, and talent in this medium. We are extremely proud of Andrew’s work on this project. Way to go!



North Branch Broncos Sports News



ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Kelsey Roloson, Taylor Kaiser, Kayla Snoblen, Rayenne Kaiser (not pictured), Honorable Mention

Bronco Spring Sports:

Our spring athletic teams will be involved in state tournaments soon. Please go to mhsaa.com to follow the progress of the spring tournaments. As of press time, we have the following information about the tournaments:

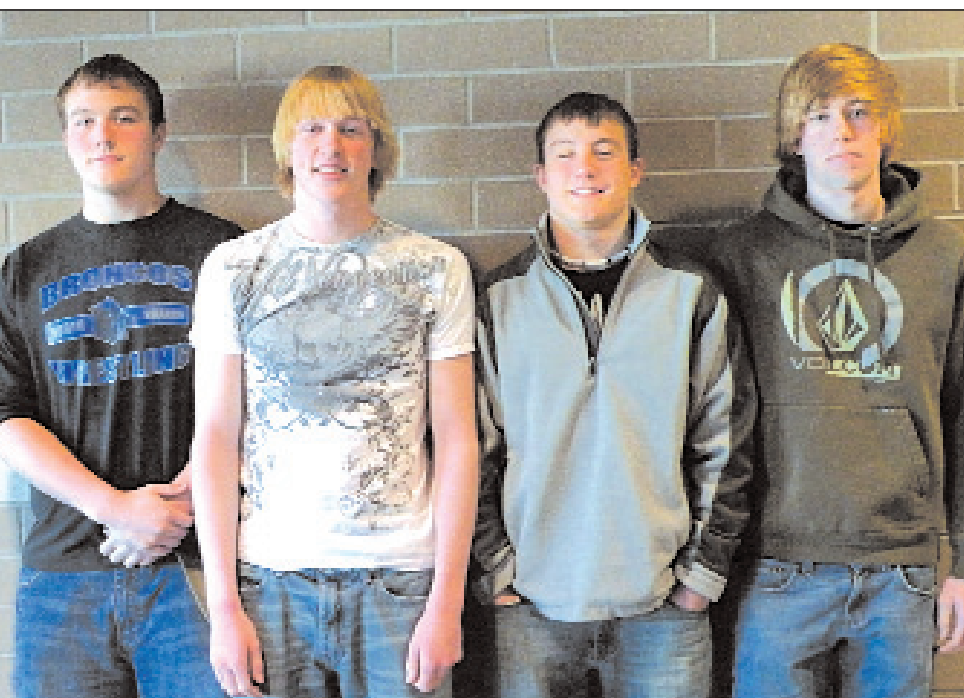
North Branch High School will host the varsity baseball and softball Div. II Districts. Two pre-district games will be played on Tuesday, May 26 at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. with the semi-finals and finals on Friday, May 29 beginning at 12:00 p.m. Teams in the district are Capac, Crosswell-Lexington, Imlay City, Lapeer West, North Branch, and Yale. Admission to all district games will be \$5.00. Regionals will be held at Midland Bullock Creek on Saturday, June 6.

In girls' soccer, North Branch High School will host the Division II Soccer Districts. Teams in the district include Clio, Flint Central, Flint Northern, Flint-Kearsley, Mt. Morris, North Branch, and Saginaw. North Branch will play a first round game at home on Wednesday, May 27 beginning at 4:00 p.m. The semi-finals will be played on Thursday, May 28 at 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. while the finals will be held on Saturday, May 30 at 12:00 p.m. The winner of this District will play at a Regional Semi-Final game at Fenton High School on Wednesday, June 3 at 5:30 p.m. Admission to all games will be \$5.00. The winner of this District will

play in the Regionals at Fenton High School the week of June 2-6.

The varsity boys' and girls' track teams will participate in the Division II Regional at Marysville High School on Friday, May 15. Teams participating are Armada, Caro, Clinton Township-Clintondale, Crosswell-Lexington, Flint-Kearsley, Goodrich, Imlay City, Lapeer West, Marine City, Marysville, Mt. Clemens, North Branch, Richmond, St. Clair, and Yale. Both the boys' and girls' teams have strong teams this year and should qualify multiple athletes for the state meet which will be held on Saturday, May 30 in Grand Rapids. Also, the TVC East Division Meet will be held at Garber High School on Tuesday, May 19 while the prestigious "Thumb Meet of Champs" will be held at Caro High School on Tuesday, May 26. Kim Reed will be recognized as North Branch Area Schools "Friend of Youth" during the meet.

The boys' golf team is off to a great start this year and is hoping to defend its TVC Championship won last year. North Branch will host its only home Jamboree on Friday, May 15 at Washakie Golf Course. The golf team will participate in the Div. II Districts hosted by Flint-Kearsley at the Flint Elks Club on Thursday, May 21 at 12:00 p.m. Teams in the tournament include Corunna,



ALL CONFERENCE WRESTLING

Brandon Urchick, 4th Team; Kyle Manthei, 3rd Team; Daniel Urchick, 3rd Team; Nick Bodnar, 2nd Team.



ALL CONFERENCE BOYS' BASKETBALL

Justin Calvert, Honorable Mention; Luc Bonner, Honorable Mention; Deane Baker, 2nd Team; Mike Keith, Honorable Mention



BOWLING

Joseph Clemens, Honorable Mention; Ashley Addison, Honorable Mention; Caitlyn McCormack, 1st Team

Fenton, Flint Central, Flint Northwestern, Flint-Kearsley, Goodrich, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, Linden, North Branch, Ortonville-Brandon, and Owosso. The Regionals are scheduled for Thursday, May 28 at The Nightmare Golf Course in Ogemaw Heights.

SENIORS HONORS NIGHT:

The Senior Honors Night will be held on Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. The athletic department will be presenting many awards including the following:

Five or more varsity letters
MHSAA Scholar Athlete Qualifiers
MIAAA Academic Achievement Award
United States Marine Corp. Distinguished Athlete Award
United States Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award
Detroit Free Press Scholar Athlete Award
Recognition of Athletic Scholarships
Female and Male Athlete of the Year

The most prestigious award is the Female and Male Athlete of the Year. Head Coaches nominate seniors for this award and vote on the most deserving recipients utilizing the following criteria:

Athlete must have demonstrated athletic excellence in more than one sport and received a letter in more than one sport.

Athlete must have demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom and have an above average G.P.A.

Athlete must have demonstrated a commitment to North Branch Schools and/or the community of North Branch in a leadership or volunteer capacity.

NOTES OF INTEREST:

The spring sports' banquet will be held on Tuesday, June 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The banquet will honor all of our athletes from baseball, boys' golf, softball, girls' soccer, boys' track, and girls' track. In addition, we will present scholar-athlete awards to all spring athletes with a grade point average of 3.2 or higher at the mid-term of the third trimester.

The MHSAA has mandated that schools designate 7 consecutive calendar days during the summer when school is not in session when open gyms, camps, and conditioning programs are not permitted to be conducted on school premises or sponsored by the school at other facilities. North Branch will observe the "dead period" from June 28-July 5, 2009.

All students in grades 7-12 next school year who plan on participating in athletics for the 2009-2010 school year will need an athletic physical. Dr. Starbird's office will once again be offering physicals for \$10.00 per athlete. Half of the fee will be donated back to the athletic department. Athletes can get physicals done on the following Tuesdays this summer: June 9, July 21, and August 11 from 9-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. No appointments are necessary and physical cards may be picked up in the athletic office at any time this spring.



**COMPETITIVE
CHEERLEADING**
Grace Morquecho,
Honorable Mention

SUMMER CAMPS
FOR NORTH
BRANCH AREA
STUDENTS

FOOTBALL:

Information on summer activities will be sent home with students before the end of the school year. Pat Forster, varsity football coach, has finalized the dates of two camps to be held at North Branch High School. A youth camp will be held July 21-22 for grades 3-7 from 9-11 a.m. with fundamental instruction at all positions. The camp for grades 8-10 will run

from 5-8 p.m. and will include advanced team instruction. The varsity team camp will be at Northwood University July 28-29. Specific information will be sent home with athletes interested in playing football next fall. North Branch will be hosting 7-7 scrimmages and information will be sent out in Coach Forster's newsletter.

BOYS' BASKETBALL:

June 9-11: Grades 9-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Intensive Skill Development. Coach Marshall and his staff will direct the camp. Information on this camp will be sent home before the end of the school year.

June 9-12: Grades 3-8 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 1-3 p.m. Registration forms will be sent home with students for early registration though athletes may register the first day of the camp. Coach Marshall and his staff will direct the camp.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL:

Plans are being finalized for the girls' basketball summer program. Coach Deshetsky will be meeting with all girls interested in participating in the summer program and will provide them with a summer calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Coach Deshetsky at 810-441-0712.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL:

June 9-12: Grades 3-6 (next year) at North Branch Middle School Gym from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Camp cost is \$40.00 per person and includes a camp t-shirt. If more than one child from the same family attends the camp, each additional sibling will be \$25.00. Registration forms have been sent home with students for early registration though athletes may register the first day of camp. There is no guarantee of t-shirts for those not reg-

istering early. Checks may be made out to North Branch Volleyball and mailed to the athletic department. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend. Coaches June, McNulty, Stawecki, DuRussell, and Schlaud will direct the camp with members of the 2007 Class A State Runner-Up and 2008 State Semi-Finalist team helping with instruction.

July 13-16: Grades 9-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Coach Fish will direct this camp and college members of the 2007 Class A State Runner-Up team will be on hand to instruct players. Cost is \$60.00 per player and includes a camp t-shirt. Players may pre-register or sign up the day of the camp if spots are available. Information will be sent home with athletes in late May.

July 13-16: Grades 7-8 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 2-4 p.m. The North Branch coaching staff and college members of the 2007 Class A

State Runner-up North Branch team will instruct the athletes. Cost is \$30.00 per player and includes a camp t-shirt. Players may pre-register or sign up the day of the camp if spots are available. Enrollment is limited to 36 players.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' SOCCER:

July 20-24: Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach, Josh Spencer, will conduct a team camp for boys' going into grades 9-12 at the high school soccer field. He will also have a camp for boys' and girls' going into grades K-9. Information on the camp will be sent home with students before the end of the school year.

GIRLS' SOCCER:

July 13-17: Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach, Marc Krugielki, will conduct a camp for girls going into grades 6-9 next year at the high school soccer field from 9 a.m. to Noon. Information on the camp will be sent home with students before the end of school.

High School Soccer

North Branch Area Schools Girls Varsity Soccer team is currently 7-1-1 this season (7 wins, 1 tie and 1 loss). The team tied "state-ranked" Frankenmuth 1-1. They have scored 44 goals, giving up only 5 goals so far this season. The team is currently tied for 1st place in the TVC League.



Kayla Snoblen takes the offense at a Varsity Girls Soccer match



Sierra Voigt (forefront) and Katie Owens (left) take a breather during a Varsity Girls Soccer Match



Senior Sierra Voigt gives the team some encouragement after a goal.



NORTH BRANCH EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Brianna Heikkenen, Erin Grandchamp, Brandi Moore, Cheyenne Moore, Olivia Saliga, Melissa Heikkenen, Larissa Petitt, Jessica Heikkenen, Coach Marie Curell.

2008 NBHS Equestrian Team

Congratulations are in order for the North Branch High School Equestrian Team for their 2008 season accomplishments. After their season, the Equestrian Team brought home an 8th place state title for North Branch. The team was District 14, Division B Champions which led them to compete in the Regional Show. After taking the Reserve Championship at Regionals, the team qualified for the State Championship show which was held at Midland Fairgrounds during the week of October 9-12. The state show was where the team competed against the other top nine Division B Champion teams of Michigan. Compared to most of the schools North Branch competed against at the state show, they were very small in size. North Branch consisted of eight riders and ten horsed, where as other school teams had up to nine riders and seventeen horses. Still almost every rider was able to acquire points for the team at the state show. Two riders even brought home State Championship titles in two events. Senior, Erin Grandchamp brought home a state title in the Western Reining event and senior, Brandi Moore brought home a state title in the Cloverleaf speed event. Finishing the state show with 112 points, the team was able to bring home an 8th place state title. If anyone is interested in joining the Equestrian Team, or would like to know more information about the team, please contact Coach Marie Curell @ 810-688-4091. North Branch Equestrian Team Coaches: Marie Curell and Michelle Peel Seniors: Erin Grandchamp, Brandi Moore, and Cheyenne Moore Junior: Melissa Heikkinen Sophomore: Olivia Saliga Freshmen: Larissa Petitt, Brianna Heikkinen and Jessica Heikkinen

ABC 12 Spirit Challenge!

Students at the Ruth Fox Elementary did a fabulous job of raising money to help with the ABC Spirit Challenge! North Branch Area Schools was the only school in the challenge that actually had a live steer at the TV taping. Sixth grader Quentin Andrews brought his show steer to school for the taping. Quentin's steer represented the many pounds of meat that was donated to



the food bank! Pictured is Quentin and his family with his show steer! The Sherrieb, Sieh, Stevenson and Bower team collected the most food items by donating the money they had collected due to the weather) to buy food items for the Spirit Challenge. Also pictured below is Mrs. Vallie, Mrs. Luther, and Mrs. Bular who dressed up as clowns to surprise the team (since they didn't make it to the circus)!!!!



Computers Galore!!!

Megan Schank, a fifth grader on the Sherrieb, Stevenson, Sieh, and Bower team, enjoys the new computers at Ruth Fox Elementary School. As part of the construction, three new computer labs were installed for students to use. While one of the classrooms is used as a teaching lab, the other two labs are available for teachers to use with their classrooms. Students have been learning how to use a variety of different programs including powerpoint, Microsoft word, etc. Students also work on their typing skills.



Gormley Takes the Prize!

Kelci Gormley, a sixth grader at Ruth Fox Elementary School, recently won the big prize in the Kroger Black History Month Contest! Kelci was honored at an award celebration at The Henry Ford where she received a plaque and a brand new laptop computer!!! Her essay, titled "What Black History Month Means to Me" is printed in its entirety for your enjoyment! Way to go, Kelci!!!



What Does Black History Mean to Me?
Only a week ago, I watched as Barack Obama was sworn in as President of the United States, the first African American to do so. With Black History Month approaching, I was thinking about African Americans who paved the way for President Obama.

Who Am I?
I was a poor woman who worked hard. Even though I lived in Montgomery, Alabama, where many people with black skin lived, we were never treated as equals with the whites. I watched as our black children were not allowed to attend white schools, and cried when we could not even buy our lunch in a white restaurant. One day, I was told I had to give up my seat on the city bus because of my dark skin. I refused. Even though I was arrested, I held my ground. It does not matter to me the color of a persons' skin, it is their heart that really matters. I am Rosa Parks.

I am a black man who watched injustices around me. I went to college and got a degree yet I was told I was not important. I decided to take a stand and work to end segregation in our schools and workplaces. With the assistance of many people, I started to speak at rallies and churches and march in city streets to get the word out that we should not be judged on the color of our skin but on the character of the person. You see, I have a dream where all men are created equal and one day I will proclaim, "At last, at last! I am free at last!" I am Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am a young black man who graduated from college and earned a law degree. In my graduating class, there are people of many races. That is not uncommon. Talk among us often turns to if a person of color would ever become the President of the United States. Is that possible in my lifetime? My political dreams start to build and soon I'm elected to my state's Congress. Could I make a difference? After a while, my political party chose me to run as their candidate for President of the United States. Is the nation ready for someone like me? Yes, as I am elected the first African-American President of the United States of American. I am Barack Obama.

Our country is in a new age . . . one that it has struggled to find for hundreds of years where it is more important to judge a person on their character rather than the color of their skin. I head the following saying on the national news last week after President Obama's inauguration:

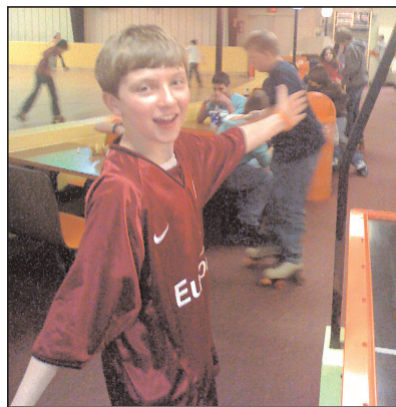
Rosa sat so Martin could walk;
Martin walked so Barack could run;
Barack ran so children could fly.

Maybe soon we can accept our ethnic differences and celebrate our own individual characters and be a nation of colors; a rainbow nation! Black History Month means to me . . . ACCEPTANCE!



Hartley Outdoor Education Center

All 6th grade students at Ruth Fox had the opportunity to attend Hartley Outdoor Education Center. The program is for 3 days and 2 nights, in St. Charles, Michigan. Students on the Mitchell/Murphy team spent time in the Schroeder House studying pioneer heritage, walking on the boardwalk for outdoor ecology, studying organisms from the wetlands lab, and challenging themselves on the confidence course. Parents Terry Honicutt, Roger Hunter, Heidi Dufort, and Aubrey Maxam attended as chaperones.



Ruth Fox Students Enjoy Roller Skating!

Every year, Ruth Fox students have a chance to go Roller Skating at the Lapeer Skating Center. Teachers volunteer to chaperone the trips and students really enjoy the opportunity to have some physical and social activity! The teachers even have a chance to show off their skating ability also!! It is a nice chance for students and teachers to have a little fun!!!

Ruth Fox Space Camp Scholarship Winners

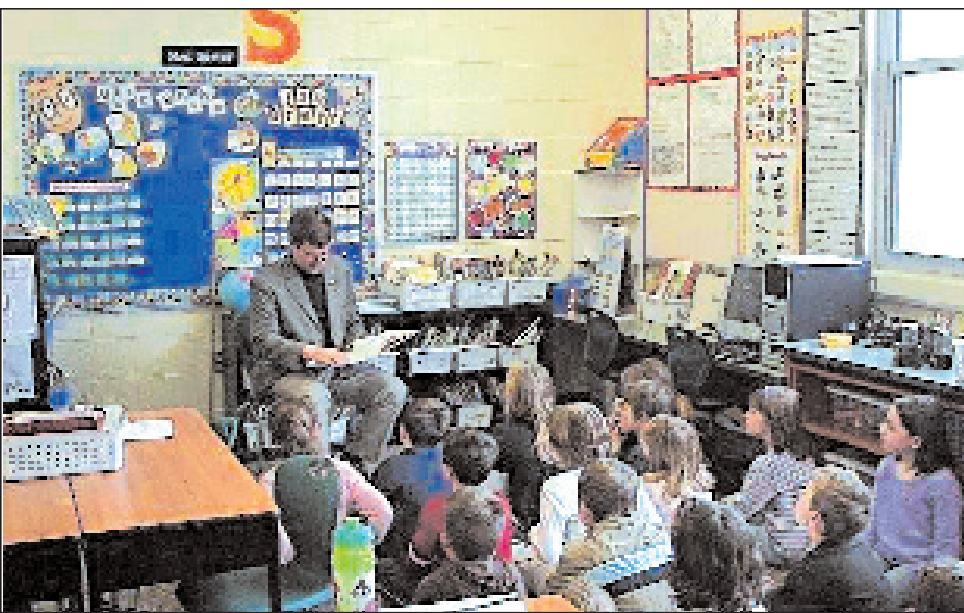
4 Ruth Fox Elementary students recently attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama. They spent 6 days at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center making and flying rockets, visiting the space museum, conducting mock missions, experiencing simulators, designing mission patches, and much more. 4 sixth-graders: Sara Innes, Gunner Skouson, Connor Atkins, and Shane Skalski, were awarded scholarships to attend. All of the scholarship money was obtained by fundraisers, most of it by the annual Old-Fashioned Family Christmas.



Art, Music and Talent Festival!

Each year, Ruth Fox Elementary hosts some festivals for students. Pictured are the students that were chosen to participate in the Talent Show! During the day, students had the opportunity to participate in several different activities and the got to watch the talent show which also included performances by the Ruth Fox Band students! These festivals give students a chance to try some new activities and experience things they may not normally have a chance to participate in.





Welcome Kevin Daley!

Reading month at North Branch Elementary School proved to be a special event. Aside from doing lots of reading and reading activities; we had a special guest reader. Our very own State Representative, Mr. Kevin Daley, made a guest appearance to read to our students on March 30th. After giving a short overview about his job in Lansing, Mr. Daley read, *The Dinosaur That Can't Dance* to our students. After the reading Mr. Daley presented students with book marks, reading certificates, and Michigan maps for the classrooms. To show our gratitude and thank Mr. Daley for his visit we presented him with a North Branch Elementary T-shirt of our new school. Classrooms that shared in his visit included these second grade classrooms: Mrs. Bower, Ms. Carter, Mrs. Krugielki, and special education class of Mrs. Pointkowski.

Mrs. Coppo's Third Graders...

Mrs. Coppo's third grade class has been busy, busy, busy reading during March, which is considered Reading Month throughout America. They read books in their

silly socks; they read books in their pajamas; and they read books in famous storybook characters outfits such as Junie B. Jones, Ready Freddy, Laura Ingalls and even Captain Underpants!!!

The class read for a whopping total of 12,991 minutes for the month of March. As a reward for all that reading, the entire third grade class

was treated with the movie *Horton Hears a Who*, by Dr. Seuss, which was shown in the auditorium at the High School. Good job third graders!!!

Not only have they been busy reading, but the class has spent time practicing the Core Democratic Value of Common Good. For the ABC 12 School Spirit Challenge Food Drive Mrs. Coppo's third graders collected 132 cans of food. The class did this in just 2 days! The thought of the entire class was that it felt great to help out those in need.



Dental Health Month

Kindergarten children at North Branch Elementary hosted special guest speakers and community helpers, dental hygienists, Caroline Ferguson and Shirley Cook from Dr. Brockriede's office during the month of February. Children learned proper tooth brushing techniques, the importance of eating good foods along with what to expect when you visit the dentist. We are very thankful for their generous gift of time for all of our kids.



Earth Day Clean-Up

In an effort to recognize the importance of Earth Day, third graders at North Branch Elementary donned rubber gloves and smiles as they helped to make our community a little nicer by picking up trash. For the past three years third graders

have participated in an Earth Day Clean Up project by collecting trash in and around the village of North Branch. This activity reinforces the core democratic value of Common Good, which is a social studies concept we focus on in third grade.

Our adventure began about mid morning on the 23rd of April, and the children worked diligently through until lunch. In the end, we collected a whopping fifty-two bags of trash! This experience proved to be very rewarding for all those involved. Good job third graders!



Second Graders' Night in the Spotlight

Miss Berridge and Mrs. Barrows' second grade classes celebrated March's Reading Month with an Author's Night celebration! Both classrooms reserved special nights to have their students read their published books aloud on stage. Families were invited to hear their children share their stories. The students have



been taking the journey as authors all year. They have been working hard learning the importance of taking a piece of writing through the writing process, publishing different pieces. Each student selected their personal favorites to share on the evening of their special "Author's Night."

The audience enjoyed listening to each author's book. Everyone was proud of how well each child spoke clearly to the audience as he/she read aloud their writing into the microphone. These second grade classes definitely shined in the "spotlight" when they shared their published work. What a wonderful group of fine authors we have!



Reading Detectives

The students from the Gormley /Eaton team are now Reading Detectives. During guided reading groups, students were divided into Detective Clubs to solve mysteries in a guided reading setting. Four different Detective Clubs were formed in our classroom. Each group of reading detectives solved a different mystery. Each reading detective was given a reading badge, detective hat, and a case file. Included in the case files were a detective's dictionary, a suspect list, and a clue clipboard. As students read the mystery, they kept track of possible suspects and important clues. Students met every couple of days to discuss the mystery chapters they were reading. They shared clues they had uncovered and possible suspects who seemed to have a motive for committing the crime. After the detectives completed the books and solved the mysteries, they completed a Detective Case report as a final assignment. When the students met in their detective clubs, they put on their detective hats and their reading detective badges. The student enjoyed being detectives and solved the mysteries. The hunt is on for further mysteries to solve.



In Kindergarten, We Play Our Way to Learning

In Kindergarten, our learning stations or centers provide students with playful activities that "trick" students into learning. Profound learning takes place when students practice new skills during creative and imaginative play.



Math

During 2nd trimester, students in Mrs. Bader's third grade class used games to learn the fundamentals of money. After the students could identify coins and their values, they put their knowledge to work playing a money



exchange game. The friendly competition was very enjoyable for the students and a nice change from paper pencil activities.



Elementary Music

The North Branch Elementary Music Department has been very busy this year. 2nd Graders had the opportunity to represent our school at the North Branch Elementary Dedication Ceremony on February 22. They sang an inspirational song about the importance of our greatest national resource, our children. 10 students from NBE also were chosen to sing the Star-Spangled Banner at the ceremony. These children auditioned in front of 7 teachers and administrators. They had a lot of courage and talent! The students chosen to sing were: Laura Osborne, TessAnn Keeling, Montana Maher, Mikayla Havermale, Lucca Kahldahl, Tyler Bowling, Josh Schmitt, Jazmyn Hoang, Julie Hagapian, and Payton St. Andrew. They all did an outstanding job!

The "Spirit of America" concert was presented to parents and family members by the third grade students on March 3rd. Each class had their own patriotic song to sing and also sang a few songs with the entire 3rd grade. A couple favorites were "This Land is Your Land" and "God Bless the USA". The students enthusiastically showed their American Patriotism that night!

Finally, North Branch Elementary 4th graders performed the musical, "I Need A Vacation", on May 7th. Each class sang a song about activities that we are all looking forward to on summer vacation such as "Hit the Beach" and "Way Out in Left Field". Some students had speaking parts that they had to audition for. The entire school had the wonderful opportunity of seeing the performance during the day on May 1st. The students were spectacular!

Be watching for these performers as they get into the other schools. We have a lot of talented children in our district. Performing in front of an audience is an important life lesson that builds confidence and self-esteem. Michelle Ruhlman and Elizabeth Polly are the Elementary music teachers but they couldn't have pulled all of this off without the help of their teaching peers, administrators, and the awesome children at North Branch Elementary.

Michigan Native American Meal

At the beginning of the year, 3rd grade students were learning about Michigan Native Americans. After much research and investigating, Mrs. Bader's class decided that they would like to try some of the foods that Native Americans ate in the past. We fired up the modern stove to make wild rice and corn bread. The students had fun measuring ingredients and estimating how much would be needed for the whole class to have equal portions. Overall, the students enjoyed the delicious lesson.



Hand History

Fourth grade students are leaving a bit of their own history behind as they prepare to move to Ruth Fox Elementary next year. Students are using their hands to create a mural. The handprints represent leaves, trails, and grass on a tree landscape created by art teacher Dave Watson. Student's names are written under each print. This year's mural is displayed in the Jefferson Trail side of the elementary. All 2010 fourth grade students will leave a handprint for the Elm Creek mural. As fourth graders graduate from the North Branch Elementary, the scenic view of Jefferson Trail and Elm Creek will grow and spread down the hallways.



North Branch Elementary School Parent & Teacher Club Rocks!!

The Parent and Teacher Club at North Branch Elementary is one of the best groups around! Each year this dedicated group of volunteers amazes us with their commitment to bring exciting activities and fun to the building for our families. This year they put on events such as the Snowflake Ball, Frog Hop, and Math and Science Night. With the help of many volunteers, along with the dedication of the elementary staff, and the hard work and determination of the committee chairs for these events, the PTC has been able to provide some low cost or free nights out for our North Branch Elementary families.

The Snowflake Ball was a father/daughter event held in February. There were over 400 guests that came to the feast catered by Bryan's Market and dance was D.J.ed by a parent, Mike Allard. The girls got all dressed up and were escorted to the elementary school which was transformed into a winter wonderland by their fathers, grandfathers, or other special guests! Formal pictures of the girls and their guests were provided by Sheryl Bruman.

In late March, the PTC hosted a mother/son night called The Frog Hop. This event was a dinner, comedy/magic show with a little dancing. The comedian/magician, The Amazing Clark, was very interactive and kept the boys entertained and made the moms laugh! Pictures of the boys and their dates were taken by parent photographer Laura Sutton and Mrs. Hosner. The boys were given a tadpole habitat to take home and the moms took home flower seeds to plant in the garden to provide fond memories of the evening.



Math and Science night was held in mid-April and was such a success with many teachers and volunteers developing and running different stations with math activities or science experiments for the children and their parents to explore. There were 14 different stations that included such things as planting seeds, estimation, graphing, flink (not floating, not sinking) and an obstacle course! Ruth Stover-Lange and her students from the high school even came down and sponsored two rooms where the kids could make slime or silly putty! The Family Literacy Center also sponsored a room with different math games as well. Pizza and prizes were given away and Best of all the fun was FREE!

The Parent and Teacher Club pride themselves on these events and are grateful for all the volunteers that make the events possible. The PTC holds meetings once a month during the school year and is always looking for new members! Contact the elementary school office to learn more.

Time to Plant a Tree!!

Mrs. Bower's Second Grade Class from Jefferson Trail celebrated **Earth Day** in spring fashion. By selling gum balls in our classroom for 25 cents, our class earned enough money to purchase a tree for our new school. On April 22nd, Oldani Landscaping and Tree Farm helped choose the right tree for the soil, and dug the hole to hold our tree. Now all we have to do is watch our Red Maple grow! What a great learning experience.



March's Reading Month Freedom to Read

During the month of March second graders celebrated reading wonderful books. The students have been active readers all year and during March's reading month they had the opportunity to log their minutes in a special passport to keep track of the time they spent reading each week. As the children completed a book, they wrote their book title on a red, white, or blue hand so that we were able to build an American flag to represent our reading.



Second graders enjoyed selecting a variety of books from different genres and sharing about their favorites with each other through book discussions. It was a pleasure to see the number of hands that represented the books that the children had read during the month of March.

Perfect Attendance Incentive

Getting down to the wire! These students at North Branch Elementary, in grades begin-a-garten through fourth, have had perfect attendance since January 26th which is when we received a donation of four bicycles by Horace Mann Insurance Company.

David Mohn is a representative of the company and is pictured to the far left with the students. We are thankful to Mr. Mohn for helping to make this possible. It is wonderful to have such partnerships with community businesses to help us promote the value of education. During the last week of school, two boy bicycles and two girl bicycles will be awarded to four students who have had perfect attendance from January 26 to the end of the year. All the names of those who qualify to win will be placed in a drawing and announced before school is released for the summer. Two of the bicycles are on display in a showcase located in the Jefferson Trail lobby. It really has served as a great incentive for students to do their best to be here every day at school.



Second Grade Reading Buddies

The students in Mrs. Bower's and Miss Berridge's second grade classes have been reading and writing buddies this year. Each week the two classes get together to read books and write letters to each other. Being reading and writing buddies is a fun way to learn and make friends.

Fourth Grade Sick Day

On February 12, 2009, the fourth grade classes had a "Sick Day". Their "Sick Day" included a number of events. The students were to create an imaginary illness that would afflict them on this day. The illnesses included giggletitis, puppyitis, lamblitis, and springbreak fever. The students were all very creative. Throughout the day, they were QUARANTINED in their classrooms. This meant that they could not gain entrance into the cafeteria or the playground for fear of contaminating others. Students enjoyed some "chicken soup" and crackers to help their ailments. The students also participated in a "read in" while enjoying this snack. Other events that took place on their sick day included listening to presentations of their creative illnesses, a movie about "those unseen germs", a read in with the other fourth grade classes and a little R&R (reading, taking a nap or listening to some soft music). To help set the mood for this day, the students wore their pajamas or a robe and slippers. The students were also given hospital slippers, caps, and surgeon masks.



These were donated to the classrooms from McKenzie Hospital in Sandusky. The fourth graders enjoyed and appreciated these additions to their wardrobe. It proved to be an interesting, creative and fun day of learning!



SLOAN MUSEUM

All second graders took a field trip to Flint's Sloan Museum to follow up on their study of landforms and communities. This trip provided a hands-on approach to reinforce their studies. Upon reviewing landforms, students created their own displays of the main landforms using clay. The children were creative in making their own mountains, lakes, volcanoes, etc. with the materials at hand. In addition, important aspects of communities were reinforced as small groups of children built their own communities. These smaller communities were then put together to make a larger region. Afterwards, children enjoyed experiencing the hands-on science activities inside the museum. Much fun and learning took place!

2009 Water Quality Report

Village of North Branch

This report covers the drinking water quality for the Village of North Branch, for the calendar year 2008. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2008. 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, #1 is located at 4291 Huron Street which is a standby for emergency only, and wells #3 and #4 located at 6700 Bernie Kohler Drive .These wells are about 225’ deep. The State performed an assessment of our source water in 2003 to determine the susceptibility or the relative potential of contamination. The susceptibility rating is a six-tiered scale from “very-low” to “high” based primarily on geologic sensitivity, water chemistry and contaminant sources. The susceptibility of our source is not known at this time, as the assessment has not been preformed on wells #3 & #4, which are the new production wells we use for the villages potable water system.

- **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. Immune-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 storm water 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 are 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 storm water 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 2008 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, 2008. 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.
- **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 radiation).
- **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	Our Water	Sample Date	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
BARIUM	2	2	0.1	2006	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic (ppb)	10	N/A	6 NA	7/15/08	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.73	7/17/06	NO	Erosion of natural deposits Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Radioactive Contaminant						
Beta emitters (pCi/L)	50 *	0	1.70	9/4/03	NO	Decay of natural and man made deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	< 3	9/4/03	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	4	9/4/03	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Unregulated Contaminant **	MCL-MCLG not yet set by EPA					
sodium (ppm)	Not regulated		62	8/12/08	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level		90% of Samples ≤ This Level		Number of Samples Above AL	
Lead (ppb)	15		0	6/20/06	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3		0.21	6/20/06	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 contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BRANCH INSTALLED 1300 FEET OF NEW 8” WATERMAIN IN 2008.

A COPY OF THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE AT 2018 HURON STREET MONDAY – THURSDAY FROM 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM. We are committed to providing you safe, reliable, and healthy water. We are pleased to provide you with this information to keep you fully informed about your water. We will be updating this report annually, and will also keep you informed of any problems that may occur throughout the year, as they happen. We invite public participation in decisions that affect drinking water quality. Village hall is located at 4018 Huron Street, monthly meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

For more information about your water, or the contents of this report, contact RONALD SEAMAN at 810-688-3410. For more information about safe drinking water, visit the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/safewater/.

Sincerely
Ronald J. Seaman