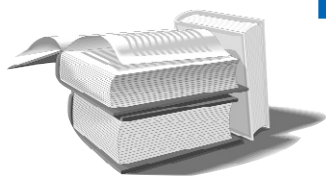


North Branch
Board of Education
6655 Jefferson Road
PO Box 3620
North Branch, MI 48461



December 2012

SCHOOL TALK



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Visit our website at
<http://www.nbbrncos.net>

CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON



Standing left to right:
Jerry Schlaud, Daniel Deshetsy,
Mike Snoblen and Cory Mabery

Seated left to right:
Ginger Russell, Rosann Clark
and Cathy Severance

Superintendent's Corner —



As the winter season is upon us bringing about the many natural changes to our community landscape, I would like to provide you with an update of our school district. Bronco pride is evident in all buildings which are full of student work. Fall parent conferences have taken place and North Branch Area Schools, like all other Michigan school districts, has concluded the required MEAP testing. In this edition of School Talk, you will have the opportunity to learn about the progress of our Marching Band, the results of the fall athletic season, as well as the many pre-holiday and winter activities that are planned. Visit the district website www.nbbrncos.net for additional information.

Recently, North Branch Area Schools was named by the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE) as one of 14 districts out of nearly 770 districts in the state to pilot a teacher and administrator evaluation system. This is no doubt due to the outstanding teachers and support personnel we are fortunate to have working with our children. This is significant because our teachers and administrators will have a tremendous amount of input in a new state-wide teacher evaluation system that is required by law to be implemented for the 13-14 school year. Another key part of the evaluation system is the measure of student growth. We will be administering several new student assessments this year in an attempt to determine the actual amount of growth each student has made. For kindergarten through 6th grade students, a computer adaptive test call the Measures of Academic Progress will be administered this year. Parents will receive the results and teachers will be able to identify students in need of more assistance.

North Branch Area Schools has maintained programs and services for students and will continue to do so. A recent financial Audit, performed by and Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, P.C. gave the district an unqualified opinion (the highest possible rating). Further, the Board of Education has authorized the refunding of the district's 2003 Bonds due to very favorable market conditions with the anticipated savings to total more than \$750,000 over the life of the bonds. The Board's focus is to keep the excellent educational programming in place that has kept the district's enrollment steady. This year, the district expanded to full day kindergarten and added five new teachers throughout the elementary grades. Advanced Placement courses are offered at the high school, a new County-wide advanced mathematics program conducted by Michigan State University for 8th and 9th graders is underway and seat time waiver options are expanding for students. We are also working to expand our online capabilities to better meet the needs of parents to make 24/7 online payments (credit card, e-check, PayPal) for most school related purchases.

The district is a direct reflection of the supportive parents and North Branch community. Thank you for your continued support as we continually seek ways to improve to best meet the needs of all students. On behalf of the Board of Education, staff and students, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,
Thomas A. English

An Opportunity to Provide... Providing Opportunity

Teachers all across America are being faced with an exciting opportunity and challenge. The Common Core State Standards Initiative has arrived. The standards provide a framework for helping students to know what they are expected to learn in order for them to be college and career ready. These standards also help teachers and parents know how to best prepare their children for a lifetime of learning and success. At North Branch High School teachers are committed to helping students reach these new national standards and YOU CAN HELP TOO. Donor's Choose is a revolutionary charity that provides anyone the opportunity to help fund unique and exciting classroom projects across the nation or across the street. Recently, Mr. Peplinski has received approval to have a math project funded through the generous donations that arrive through Donor's Choose. You can make your generous donation to this project or other worthy projects at North Branch Area Schools by logging on at www.donorschoose.org. There is also a link provided on our school website at www.nbbrncos.net. When you arrive at the Donor's Choose web page, just type in the school's zip code 48461; Donor's Choose will show you all of the amazing projects prepared by teachers for students in our area.

The Horace Mann Insurance Group will match any donation that you make at Donor's Choose for North Branch students. Just be sure to include the matching code HoraceMann12 when prompted. The process is simple and quick. Pledge \$5, \$50 or any amount...and remember to use the matching code HoraceMann12 to make your donation double through the generous giving of the Horace Mann Insurance Company.

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

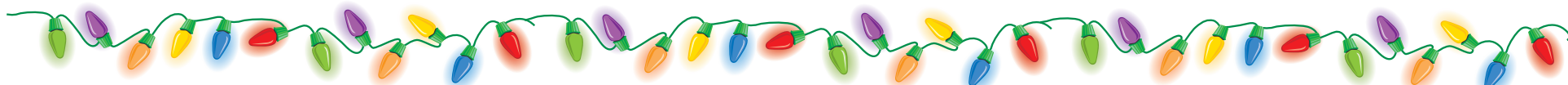


North Branch Area Schools' child care program is currently registering students for the 2012-13 school year. FABS is located in the North Branch Elementary School and is open weekdays from 6:00 AM-6:30 PM & on snow days*

The program is licensed by the State of Michigan and funded by user fees. The registration fee is \$15 per student and the hourly rate of \$2.50.

Registration packets are available at the center or by calling (810) 688-4634.

Check us out on the district website at www.nbbrncos.net!



2011-2012 Fiscal Year End General Fund Financial Report

By Cheryl Bruff Director of Finance & Business

The audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 was presented to the Board of Education at their regular meeting October 22, 2012. Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, P.C. gave the district an excellent evaluation regarding the financial review conducted by their firm. In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the district general fund had operating revenues of \$18,947,896. The district expenditures were \$19,230,268 resulting in a reduction of \$282,372 to the fund balance. The current fund balance is 9.85% of the budgeted operational expenditures for 2012-2013.

North Branch Area Schools employed 125 teachers, 116 support staff, 9 administrators and a number of substitute workers in 2011-2012. The school district is one of the largest employers in the area and the majority of our employees live within the boundaries of our school district. Since the school district's main resource is its personnel, this is the largest expense of the district, and approximately 86% of the total expenditures were for wages and benefits paid to district employees.

The student enrollment for the Fall count of 2011 was 2,440 pupils, which is down by 20 students from the February 2011 count. In June of 2012, we had 171 students graduate from the high school. Approximately 82% of these students have enrolled in college or the military.

The district's property base declined in 2011. Property values decreased from 302.9 million in 2010 to 298.1 million in 2011. This represents a 1.58% decrease over the previous year. The five-year average growth in property value is 2.3%.

Although the district is financially sound, the economic environment has caused considerable concern over future funding for schools. Our greatest concern is that the state provides over 90% of the operating revenue to the district so our resources are directly impacted by the issues affecting the state both economically and politically. This is not a unique problem for North Branch Area Schools it impacts all the public schools in Michigan.

You may visit the district website www.nbbrncos.net to view more detailed information.

North Branch Area Schools General Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Year Ended June 30, 2012

	General Fund
Revenues:	
Local Sources	\$1,057,073
State Sources	\$17,216,294
Federal Sources	\$565,989
Transfers In	\$62,860
Total Revenues	\$18,947,896
Expenses:	
Instruction	\$12,704,859
Support Services	\$6,359,099
Transfers out	\$66,689
Capital Outlay	\$99,621
Total Expenses	\$19,230,268
	Net Change in Fund Balance (\$282,372)
Beginning Fund Balance	\$2,127,087
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,844,715

SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

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

WMPC 1230 AM WQUS 103.1 WCRZ 107.9
WNEM (Channel 5) WJRT (Channel 12) 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

- Sign-up for e-Alert and receive a text message or e-mail every time school will be closed or delayed. Forms are available in "e-Alerts" on the district website at www.nbbrncos.net.
- 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 Busy Fall

By Emily Andersen, Student Council Corresponding Secretary

The students of North Branch High had a fun and eventful autumn. Student Council wrapped up the season with Make a Difference Week, October 29 through November 2, as well as the traditional Make a Difference Day on Saturday, November 3. Throughout the week, students brought in various goods to donate to the local thrift shop. Monday brought the accumulation of boxed goods; Tuesday hats, gloves and socks; Wednesday baby supplies; Thursday toiletries; and Friday canned goods. The sheer amount of products would warm even the heart of Ebenezer Scrooge. The successful week concluded with raking leaves at the homes of the elderly in North Branch, and over 80 students arrived to help in the endeavor. Many of the citizens were very vocal in their appreciation this year. The council extends hearty thanks to all those who loaned their time from 8a.m. to 12p.m.

Parents once again loaned their time to aid in the improvement of our school and its functions. They met Wednesday, October 24 from 6:30 to 7:30pm, and thought of ways for Make a Difference Week to run a bit more smoothly. Using the phone calling system to alert families of items needed by the thrift store was a result of their brainstorming. They also raised concerns about the math programs of the middle and high school. There have been reports of many middle schoolers that are unprepared for high school curriculum. Some require professional tutoring to understand the content they face in their high school math. When the parents reconvene, they invite anyone interested in joining to the next meeting January 23rd at 6:30pm.

President Debates



Students in Mr. Bone's American History class take time out from history to debate who the next best President will be.

After taking 2 days in the computer lab to research the candidates, students then took the floor of debate to try to influence the "undecided's" who sat in the middle of the room. After all the "finger pointing" was over the students voted on who they believed would be the next best President. In a close election Mitt Romney won with 77 votes, President Obama had 72, while Jill Stein of the Green Party brought in 11 votes. Students came away from the debates with a better understanding of what each Party Platforms are as well as what each candidate would like to accomplish.

Forensics Early Bird Tournament

Both North Branch High and Middle schools have begun their seasons in a winning way. An "early bird" tournament held at Anchor Bay High School had a mix of middle and high school students. The team won first place in team standings. Brenden Forster placed 6th in impromptu (left in pic). Dani Archer placed first in informative speaking. Her topic is neuro linguistics (reading body language). Lee Stevens won first place in persuasive speaking on a topic he chose "compromise", and also in extemporaneous speaking (middle of pic). The team will be in full swing by January. The team thanks the Lapeer Community Foundation for its grant money for students to attend summer forensics camp. Coaches Rick and Cindy Stevens attribute the great success at an early tournament, because team members got a jump start on their season by attending the camp.

The High School Student Council, Working Devotedly

The 2012-13 high school Student Council has already begun working diligently to prepare for the school year. On May 9th and 16th, the group held their traditional orientation, which teaches what the high school council does for the student body, but with a slight twist. Before this year, the orientation was held in August, shortly before school returned to session. The group hoped that by holding it before school let out for summer break, more representatives would be able to attend with fewer complications and each class would have the entire summer to prepare for Homecoming in the fall.

The School Activities Committee locked onto an overall theme for Homecoming, and each grade selected its individual theme, as per usual for orientation. The high school and its students should prepare themselves for epic sci-fi/ fantasy adventures as seniors fly through the halls of Hogwarts with Harry Potter, the juniors prey that the odds are ever in their favor during the Hunger Games, the sophomores battle the empire alongside Luke Skywalker in Star Wars fashion, and the freshman are debating their theme.

The School Improvement Committee has also been thinking of ways to communicate with the entire student body and learn their thoughts. Beginning this year, the student council will once a month set up a table during all three lunches. Students can then come speak with the representatives to tell things they like, things they do not like, or things that could be changed or improved. Topics ranging from spirit days to food they would like to see in the cafeteria may be brought up and then taken back to the other members of student council.

The new representatives weren't the only ones being taught this past spring. Their parents were invited to a meeting in mid-June to learn what is expected of their student as a student council member and how to aid their students in achieving success. Another meeting was planned for October 24th at 7:00 pm in the High School, room 109. They hope to see additional faces from other student parents.

Annual High School Collegiate Breakfast

The annual NBHS Collegiate Breakfast will take place this year on Friday, December 21st starting at 7 a.m. Students who have graduated within the past two years and who are attending college or trade school or at actively serving in the military are especially encouraged to attend and participate. Alumni will be assigned to tables marked by their college, trade school, or military branch so that students considering or interested in those can join them for breakfast and ask question. After breakfast, juniors, seniors, and our guest alumni move the auditorium where the graduates respond to questions about life after high school and offer advice on ways to make the most of the remaining time to prepare for what comes next.

Interested graduates should email the NBHS Student Council at stuco@nbbrncos.net with their RSVP or to the NBHS Student Council Facebook Page by Monday, December 17.

National Honor Society Keeps Busy

November has been a busy month for the North Branch Chapter of the National Honor Society. On Monday, November 5th, a ceremony was held for 46 NBHS students as they were inducted into the local chapter of the National Honor Society. The new members from the Class of 2013 included: Taylor Atkins, Micaela Deshetsy, Chase Hatfield, Mikahila McKinney, Erika Risner and Ben Robinson. New members from the Class of 2014 include: Emily Andersen, Brian Ash, Jamie Barrows, Cheyanne Bennett, Kaleb Bonner, Paige Boone, Kenneth Boss, Jacob Burger, Jacquelyn Coppo, Jennifer Havermale, Cody Howe, Kaitlin Hubbell, Ethan Hunt, Kiplin Kaldahl, Jennifer Kaluk, Rachel

Kanaziz, Nickolas Knowles, Haileigh Laur, Elizabeth Lovasz, Brandon Martin, Kaitlyn Miklovich, Allison Newbegin, Amber Ondrajka, Jacob Pasek, Jodi Payne, Jessica Powell, Kelsey Reffey, Erin Ruhlman, Morgan sawgle, Allison Sawgle, Allison Schneider, Joey Schulte, Robert Skovran, Olivia Smith, Kednra Snoblen, Doug Stikeleather, Cassandra Truax, Chelsea Vipperman, Samantha White, Taylor Winslow, and Jacob Young. Criteria to be inducted included academics, character, leadership and service.

The November 7th, National Honor Society held one of their five Blood Drives. Their goal was 46 units and they ended up collecting 56 unit of blood. That included 76 people who attempted to donate and 1 double red cell donor. We thank all of the students and staff that donated blood to help save lives as well as all of the NHS students whose volunteer hours makes this event such a huge success.



Hallway Art

This year Quest has started an aggressive hallway campaign to liven up their learning environment. This effort began with a couple of small ideas like greetings for students as they arrive and leave for the school day, a legacy mural where former and future graduates will symbolically leave their handprint in paint, and will climax with a wall mural that truly captures the spirit of Quest. The mural is to be completed by Senior Nate Morse. Other students sharing their artistic talents with the school are Seniors Cassie Demates, Alisa Louk, Krissy Beardsley, Heather Kirklin, Shawn Sereno, Alyse Coville, and Junior Mike Paget.



Quest student Matthew Nolan is ready to "Learn Like a Champ"



Senior Krissy Beardsley completes a welcoming message in the Quest hallway

Quest Parent Teacher Conferences A Success!!!

Quest held its annual parent teacher conferences with great success. Quest's goal is always to have 100% participation. Overall 33% of parents attended parent teacher conferences (a high percentage for alternative schools), with many reporting that this was the first parent-teacher conference they had attended in years. Parents unable to attend during the scheduled conferences were encouraged to set up individual meetings with the teachers on their own schedule. Additionally, students who had parents unable to make time in their schedule were offered the opportunity to set up one-on-one meetings with their teachers, with another 45% of students taking advantage.

Quest to Host Alternative Ed. State Dodge Ball Tournament

On Friday, December 7th Quest High School will host the 1st Annual Michigan Alternative Education State Dodge Ball Tournament. In all, there are almost 20 teams slated for competition from numerous alternative high schools around the state, coming from as far away as Alma and Monroe. There will be a Boys and Girls division competing in the double elimination state tournament to determine who will be crowned champ. Tournament organizer Corey Rosser commented, "It's going to be a great opportunity for those participants and for Quest as a whole to pull together to put on this event and show why year in and year out we are one of the best alternative education schools in the state."

Quest Senior Meaghan Crall, Going the Extra Mile

Quest Senior Meaghan Crall, who is also a student in the Careers in Education program at the Lapeer County Ed-Tech center, has taken an extraordinary interest in helping one of her special needs students. As part of her program Meaghan and others in her class work with pre-school aged children, teaching them various skills like writing and early word recognition. One particular student that Meaghan has been blessed with uses sign language to communicate.

Meaghan has taken it upon herself to learn sign language. Using an Internet sign language dictionary, and with help from her cousin, in just three months Meaghan has learned enough basic sign language to communicate effectively with her new friend. Meaghan said, "I'm learning sign language because I just thought how frustrating it must be to want to do well in school and not have someone understand your simplest thoughts. I wanted to communicate with her, so I started with simple phrases and have kept working at it."

Overall Meaghan has performed well in her Careers in Education program, with her teacher Katie Josef saying, "Meaghan is a great student who works hard at learning what is needed to help our little people be successful!"



Left, Cassie Demates and right Meaghan Crall, at Ed-Tech

Quest Honor Roll

Quest is proud to announce their 1st trimester honor roll students. Students at Quest must receive a B or better in all teacher-led classes including their program at the Lapeer County Education Center, and must have completed at least 2 on-line learning courses on E2020. Those students on the honor roll this trimester were: Alyse Coville, Jessy Fendrick, and Melanie Schumaker.

Quest High School hosts Bad Axe and Vassar Alternative schools

On October 25th Ascent High School, Bad Axe's alternative school, brought their principal and 2 teachers, along with approximately 25 students to visit Quest High School. Ascent is in their second year of serving their community. Seeing the success Quest has had with their students, as well as the local, state, and national recognition Quest has received, Ascent has set out to emulate those things that make Quest great by incorporating them into their school. Ascent and Quest share very similar demographics in their student bodies and communities, and have worked closely over the past two years to the benefit of both schools. In fact, Quest teacher Corey Rosser served as their commencement speaker at their inaugural graduation ceremony last June.

Don Rudolph, Ascent High School Principal, had this to say of their partnership, "We visited last year with a smaller group. To meet and talk to the students here, and to see the difference that Quest is making in their attitude toward school and life in general was something that we knew we had to introduce our kids to. To bring our kids here and have them see first-hand the road map we are using was invaluable".

Todd Walker said, "I'm glad they are able to take something away from the experience. It was a learning experience for our students and us as staff as well. We've grown and evolved so much in trying to provide our students with the best academic experience. For us, it was great to have our kids take a step back and take stock of their accomplishments and how they feed into our school identity."

Vassar Wolverine Alternative High School visited Friday, November 8th for several hours as part of a collaborative professional development. Staff from both schools discussed strategies for student success in a rapidly changing educational environment. Chuck Fabro Principal, "It was as a productive 2 and half hours as our staff has had all year. We were very appreciative of their willingness to talk about their program, and especially their willingness to share resources and materials that we could take with us and make our own."

Quest teacher Corey Rosser said of the experience, "It's important for us to stay connected to other alternative schools. Each alternative ed. faces unique challenges that are very different than those of traditional high schools. Whenever we can find opportunities to work collaboratively, share what works for us, and maybe borrow things that can help us improve the services we provide our students we jump at the chance."

Quest Students and Mrs. Shifflett's 1st Grade Collaborate on "Make a Difference Day"

Students from Quest High School in North Branch teamed up with first grade students earlier in the month for a service learning project to celebrate "Make a Difference Day."

Quest's morning class raked leaves and cleaned a total of three local residents' lawns. That was followed by Quest's afternoon class who, placed in leadership positions, worked with teams of first graders raking and cleaning four more lawns. Quest senior, Cassy Demates, said, "It was fun working with the kids. It gave me a better appreciation of my teachers and how difficult it is to get everyone to work together."

Mrs. Shifflett's first grade class was learning about the importance of living and helping in the community. The Make a Difference Day project gave her class the perfect opportunity to put what they were learning into practice. The students felt great about helping others and making a difference, they said. One of the first grade students, Allison Weathers, said, "It made my heart feel really big and happy to help someone else. Let's do that again!"

Quest students, with the help of the first graders, cumulatively contributed over 200 hours of community service to North Branch senior citizens. Among those benefiting from Quest's and Mrs. Shifflett's classes' efforts were Peggy Finley and disabled Vietnam veteran, Jim King. Finley said, "It has been such a big help for me. The kids were hardworking, energetic, and very well-mannered. I would recommend to anyone needing help to have the kids from Quest help out." King added, "God works in mysterious ways. It has been a blessing to have those kids help me in the fall and spring."

"Getting students to understand that we are part of a bigger community is what Quest is all about. When we get opportunities like these to plug our students into our community we always see the carry over into the classroom," said Quest teacher, Todd Walker. Students reported that they enjoyed being able to do something outside and make a difference for someone else. They also said they enjoyed the cool weather and look forward to the next adventure.



Quest students and Mrs. Shifflett's 1st grade class



Senior Isaac Potter explains to an Ascent student how he is successful on E2020.

Quest competes in 2012 State Flag Football Tournament

Quest traveled to Alma, Republic High School, for the state flag football tournament. Coached by Todd Walker, this was Quest's first participation in a MAAA (Michigan Alternative Athletic Association) event since Quest gained membership this fall. Quest fell in their first game 57-6 with Russell Lombardo scoring the lone rushing touchdown. The second contest was much more competitive with Quest losing a nail biter 14-12. Russell added two more touchdowns, one rushing, and one on a pass from Senior Jalen Long. Phil Herhold and Nick Young had strong contributions defensively with an interception each. Students participating were: Russell Lombardo, Phillip Herhold, Jordan Winterton, Jesse Fendrick, Nick Young, Tyler Chase, Jalen Long, and Isaac Potter



Coach Todd Walker draws up a play for his offense.

Miss Bethany

Quest Junior Bethany Clark has been using her lunch period each day along with any other downtime after completing her academic work to volunteer at the Head Start program located in the Jefferson building. When asked why she gives up her lunch each day to volunteer Bethany had this to say, "I have friends with younger siblings, and I see how attached they are to their teachers, and how much they love school. I want to be a part of that, and being here at Quest with the Head Start downstairs gives me the opportunity to do that."

In addition to her academic endeavors at Quest Bethany is a student at the Lapeer County Ed-Tech. Center in the Careers in Education program. She helps in a variety of ways from reading stories to kids to helping with playground duty. Head Start teacher Lisa Farley added, "The kids love Miss Bethany! They look forward to seeing her every day. Her help has been tremendous. She will make a great teacher some day!"



Bethany Clark reads to Head Start students during her lunch period.

Lending Helping Hands

Quest is continuing their strong tradition of giving back to the community in any way possible. Recently, Quest has forged a partnership with the local thrift shop, sending students who are academically eligible to volunteer their help. In total, Quest is planning to give approximately 10 total hours of help each week. Community members wishing to make a difference by volunteering time can contact Linda or Lynn at the North Branch Thrift Shop at (810) 688-2920. Donations of gently used items in good condition or food can be donated to the thrift shop and can be dropped at the drop box or brought during open hours. Store hours are Wednesday through Saturday 10am to 3pm. The food pantry operates Thursdays 10am to 3pm. The North Branch Thrift Shop-Emergency Aid is located at 6727 Saginaw St. Monetary donations are always welcome and can be sent to North Branch Thrift Shop, P.O. Box 309, North Branch, MI 48461. All of those working at the thrift shop are a full volunteer staff, and 100% proceeds are offered back to the community through their food pantry and emergency aid.



Quest HS joins the MAAA

This year, under the initiative of teacher Todd Walker, Quest joined the MAAA or Michigan Alternative Athletic Association. Quest does not participate with the traditional high school on athletic teams. The MAAA, while not as highly sanctioned as the MHSAA, it is the premiere alternative education athletic organization in the state of Michigan. As part of their membership Quest is invited to numerous tournaments that are exclusive to alternative eds. in the state of Michigan. "We really feel that having teams or clubs is valuable. We view them as co-curricular, not extra-curricular. There are a lot of advantages for our students for these types of learning experiences, and the last couple of years we have felt like this was something we were missing," says Todd Walker

To participate, students have to have met E2020 (on-line learning) targets, be passing all teacher led courses including their Ed-Tech. classes, as well as be in good standing with their attendance.

Pink Out Day!

Sponsored by the NBMS Student Council, students and staff alike dressed in pink to raise money to support breast cancer research through the Susan G. Komen organization. Together we raised over three hundred dollars! Our students and staff are always ready and willing to step up to the plate to support a good cause and the search for a cure for cancer.



NBMS Scholastic Book Fair

We improved our sales this year by almost \$800.00! The book fair was open October 25th through November 1st. We would like to extend a special thank you to all of the volunteers who made it possible for the book fair to be open both during the school day and in the evening during parent teacher conferences. Those volunteers include: Linda Thibodeau, Trisha Colby, Jodi Myers, Janet Wassman, Rachel Lawson, Sue Garza, Christina Fitchett, Theresa Keeling, Cassandra Ramey, Kris Kriener, Shawn Mohr, Chris Shlaud, Beth Haynes, Dodi Schlaud, Robert Frye, Wendy Miller, Char Lange, Lee Ann Bower, Sheryl Bruman, Robin Vincent, Carrie Buckner, Sue Shoemaker, Linda Peters, and Elizabeth Francis.

2012-2013 North Branch Middle School Student Council Busy at Work Again

The 2012 school year started off "green" for the North Branch Middle School Student Council. On August 16th, many members of the group showed up in the heat to beatify the front of the building just in time for orientations and open houses. They battled weeds and thorns for hours but the final product



was a beautifully landscaped view to welcome students, parents, and visitors.

Throughout the school year, the student council has organized dances and spirit days. They had a "pink out" day to collect donations for the Susan G. Komen for the Cure foundation and have also collected many items to be given to the North Branch Emergency Aid center. These donations would not have been possible without the support of all the students and staff at North Branch Middle School. With everyone working together, we can make a difference in our community. The student council looks forward to serving the school and our community for the remainder of the school year.

Student council members include: 8th graders: Keegan Bonesteel, Brennan Bower, Ben Brace, Mackenzie Delong, Sydnee English, Brenden Forster, Kaila Gormley, MaryBeth Gormley, Haley Pingel, Mariah Ruhlman, and Samantha Tedesco. The 7th graders were: Jacqueline Armstrong, Caleigh Fromwiller, Brady Good, Montana Maher, Brielle Mears, Alex Miner, Gavin Mohr, Allyson Musiel, Savannah Orlando, Grace Pfromm, Hannah Robinette, Janel Ruhlman, Alexis Schank, Brenna Schlaud, Rachel Schwartz, Ashlynn Smith, Olivia Sweeney, Mikenzi Vauter, and Elaine Youngert.

2013 8th grade Washington D.C. trip update:

Two deluxe motorcoaches are full!! We still have 27 seats open on the third bus. We need to fill most of these to be able to take this bus. Right now there are 26 people on the waitlist. We want everyone to be able to join the trip. If you register, you will be placed on the waitlist. The computer will not let you put a deposit down so just save the money until we can open the bus. We are getting close to the second payment date so be prepared for that too if the third bus opens up.

To register please visit: brightsparktravel.com

Go to: register for a trip

Choose: North Branch Middle School

Click: Go

To create your account, use Tour Web Code: 5809572

A deposit of \$100 is required-This will not be accepted until the third bus is open. Brightspark will e-mail you when that happens.

Payment schedule: total trip cost is \$530* plus \$25 for t-shirts (send t-shirt money to Mrs. Ruhlman) *there is more cost if you get the insurance

\$100 due October 15, 2012

\$145 due December 01, 2012

\$145 due February 01, 2013 (fundraising will be applied after this payment, adjust your earlier payments if you know you have enough fundraising to cover the cost) contact Mrs. Ruhlman or Mrs. Musiel to find out your child's total

Final payment due April 01, 2013

Lapeer Homeless Connect

Middle School Student Council members had an incredible opportunity to help their community and learn about another way of life. The students volunteered at the Project Homeless Connect event held at the Lapeer Center Building on November 1st. This event is set up to give resources and help to the homeless, disabled, and less fortunate members of Lapeer County. Student council members helped people fill out applications and then helped them carry items that they received to their cars. Some students served food or sorted and folded clothing. A few lucky kids got to play with little children while their parents took advantage of the free resources. During the event, students commented on how much they appreciate what they have and that they should be thankful. They set a great example of how compassionate people can make a difference in the world.



The members that volunteered that day were 8th graders: Keegan Bonesteel, Brennan Bower, Ben Brace, Mackenzie Delong, Sydnee English, Brenden Forster, Kaila Gormley, MaryBeth Gormley, Haley Pingel, Mariah Ruhlman, and Samantha Tedesco. The 7th graders were: Jacqueline Armstrong, Caleigh Fromwiller, Montana Maher, Alex Miner, Gavin Mohr, Allyson Musiel, Grace Pfromm, Hannah Robinette, Janel Ruhlman, Alexis Schank, Rachel Schwartz, Ashlynn Smith, Olivia Sweeney, Mikenzi Vauter, and Elaine Youngert.

American Heart Association Dodgeball Tournament

On Tuesday November 20th NBMS staff and students participated in a fundraising dodgeball tournament to raise money for the American Heart Association and to support research and education regarding heart disease. The tournament was organized by Mr. Sippell, NBMS Physical Education Teacher. About 100 students and staff organized teams to compete in the tournament. We raised more than one hundred dollars to send to the American Heart Association. The remaining students and staff cheered the teams on! This was a great way to wrap up trimester one and a long week of exams!

University of Michigan versus Michigan State University

GO BLUE! GO GREEN! GO BLUE! GO GREEN! On Friday October 19th NBMS staff and students concluded a very spirited three day penny war to predict who would win one of the largest in state college football rivalries around. Pennies counted as positive toward the team of choice while silver and bills counted as negative toward the team of choice. Students were able to immediately connect the penny war event to adding and subtracting integers in math class! After all the to change was sorted, counted, and deposited . . . Michigan State University was the NBMS penny war champion. We raised approximately six hundred dollars in this event. A portion of the funds raised will be donated to the North Branch fireworks fund. Thanks to all who participated in this very successful, spirited event!



Homework Lab

Did you know that NBMS students who need extra help, time, or resources can stay after school on Tuesday's and Thursday's? Once again this year we are pleased to be able to offer our homework lab help sessions. These sessions take place on Tuesday's and Thursday's after school until 3:30 pm. Teachers supervise and assist students during these sessions. This is a great opportunity to work on group projects, get some extra help, or just to have a quiet place to work. Computers are also available for use during these sessions. Students who participate in homework lab need to make transportation arrangements to either be picked up at 3:30 pm or secure an elementary bus pass from the teacher supervisor of the day.

Do We Have Spirit At NBMS? . . . Yes We Do!

Every Fall NBMS school students and staff alike look forward to participating in the homecoming spirit week. This year students and staff participated in superhero day, senior citizens day, neon/80's day, farmers day and bronco pride day. Check out the pictures below to see just how much spirit we have at NBMS!



North Branch Broncos Sports News

North Branch has completed its fall sports' season and has started contests in boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' bowling, competitive cheer, hockey, and wrestling. Before we preview the winter season, we would like to congratulate the varsity volleyball team on winning its 8th TVC East Title in 9 seasons, 8th consecutive District Championship, and advancing to the State Final Four for the 5th time in 7 seasons. The team advanced to the Class B State Finals before falling to #1 ranked Lake Odessa Lakewood in the Championship match. Also, congratulations to the boys' soccer team and the varsity football team for finishing the season with winning records and more importantly doing very well in the classroom. In fact, 136 of 197 student-athletes earned a 3.2 or higher grade point average through the mid-point of the first trimester for an impressive 69 % of our student-athletes. In addition, the following teams excelled in the classroom during trimester one:

- **Varsity Football:** 32 out of 40 athletes earning a 3.2 or higher for 80% of the team;
- **Freshman Volleyball:** 11 out of 13 athletes earning 3.2 or higher for 84.6% of the team;
- **Varsity Boys' Soccer:** 12 out of 14 athletes earning 3.2 or higher for 85.7% of the team;
- **JV Volleyball:** 11 out of 12 athletes earning 3.2 or higher for 91.6 % of the team;
- **Boys' and Girls' Cross Country:** 10 out of 10 athletes earning 3.2 or higher for 100% of the team.
- **Varsity Boys' Soccer Team:** Academic All-State for the first time in school history with a team grade point average of 3.474.
- **Varsity Volleyball Team:** Academic All-State for the 7th consecutive year with a team grade point average of 3.572.

When it comes to high school sports, it has always been our philosophy that educational athletics is much more than wins and losses as the vast majority of our student-athletes become successful leaders in their post-high school years.

Winter Sports' Preview

Boys' Basketball: Jim Marshall enters his eighth season as the varsity basketball coach with an overall record of 63-91 after guiding the team to a 4-18 record which included a monumental upset of Croswell-Lexington in the District Semi-Finals and a close loss to Caro in the District Finals. North Branch finished the season with a 3-3 record and hope to carry that success into this season. The Broncos will have seven letter winners returning from last year's team. Highlights on the schedule include playing in the Harry C. Moore Christmas Tournament on December 27 and 28 taking on Lapeer West in the opening round at Brown City High School. The Broncos will host



NORTH BRANCH EQUESTRIAN TEAM DISTRICT CHAMPS
Team members Samantha White, Rachel Kanaziz, Madison Ekstrom, Jessica Neff, Nicole Hawk, Brandy Wilcox and Kayla Yakes.



FOOTBALL ALL CONFERENCE
Corey Franks (SR) 2nd team offensive line, Travis Kukkola (Sr) 2nd team defensive back, Laben Woidan (Sr) 2nd team defensive line, Trevor Mindelli (Jr) 2nd team fullback, Jacob Pasek (Jr) 2nd team wide receiver, Doug Stikeleather (Jr) 2nd Team Linebacker, Nate Weingartz (Jr) 2nd team linebacker, Garrett Bradley (Sr) honorable mention wide receiver, Josh Lopez (Jr) honorable mention linebacker, Jacob Young (Jr) honorable mention quarterback, Michael McKee (Sr) honorable mention offensive line, Logan Woidan (Sr) honorable mention linebacker.

Millington on Friday, February 1 for Snow Coming. The Class B Districts will be played at Yale High School the week of March 4-8.

- **Girls' Basketball:** Willie Deshetsy begins his fifth season as the varsity girls' basketball coach with an overall record of 39-52 after guiding the team to a 1-20 record last year coming off of two consecutive winning seasons. North Branch closed out its regular season last year with a victory at Garber and played Croswell-Lexington tough in the Districts. The team will return seven players with varsity experience. Highlights on the schedule include hosting the Harry C. Moore Classic on December 27 and 28 with North Branch battling Lapeer West in the first round at 1:30 p.m. The Lady Broncos will participate in Class B Districts at Croswell-Lexington the week of February 25-March 1.
- **Boys' and Girls' Bowling:** Linda Berlin enters her second season as the boys' and girls' varsity bowling coach. The boys' team could return 7 letter winners and will look to improve its 5th place standing in the TVC East Division and 2-8 overall record. The girls' team could return 6 letter winners after a 3rd place finish in the TVC East Division last year and a 6-4 overall record. North Branch will host its only home meet on Saturday, February 2 at Mayville Lanes with the start time yet to be determined.
- **Competitive Cheerleading:** The competitive cheer program enters its first season under the direction of Jenn Watkins with assistance from Kelli Lovasz. A second place tie in the TVC East Division last year has the team excited for



CROSS COUNTRY ALL CONFERENCE
Morgan Sawgle, 2nd Team East Division, 3rd Team All Conference

its prospects this year. North Branch could have up to 10 returning letter winners. With that much experience, the Lady Broncos are looking to compete for a league championship and would like to improve on its 11th place District finish. North Branch will host a home competition on Wednesday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m. The TVC Conference Meet will be held at Ovid-Elsie High School on Wednesday, February 2 and the team will compete in Districts at Lapeer West on Saturday, February 16.

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VOLLEYBALL ALL CONFERENCE
Laura Willson (Sr) 2nd Team-AllState, All Region Team, 1st Team All-Conference; Rachel Fish (Sr) 1st Team, All Region Team, 1st Team All-Conference; Micaela Deshetsy (Sr) 1st Team-All State, All Region Team, 1st Team All-Conference; Ally Ruhlman (Sr) All Region Team, 2nd Team All-Conference; Jamie Barrows (Jr) Honorable Mention All-State, All Region Team, 2nd Team All Conference; Tiffany Walker (Jr) Honorable Mention All Conference; Mady Rulman (Sr) Honorable Mention All Conference; Alyson Light (Sr) Honorable Mention All Conference, Academic Individual All-State with GPA of 3.956



SOCCER ALL CONFERENCE
Brendan Hurley (Sr) All Conference, Phillip Ankley (Sr) Honorable Mention, Garrett Washington (Sr) honorable mention, Jeremy Sutton (Sr) Honorable Mention, Jacob Schlaud (Sr) Honorable Mention



2012 Class "B" State Runner Up

NORTH BRANCH WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULE 2012-13

Varsity Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 04	at IMLAY CITY	7:30
Dec. 07	vs. YALE	7:30
Dec. 14	vs. CROS-LEX	7:30
Dec. 18	at CARO	7:30
Dec. 20	at MILLINGTON	7:30
Dec. 27	HC MOORE @ BRN CITY	6:00
Dec. 28	HC MOORE @ BRN CITY	6/7:30
Jan. 08	at BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Jan. 10	at GARBER	7:30
Jan. 15	at FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Jan. 22	vs. CARO	7:30
Jan. 25	at TVC CENTRAL	7:30
Jan. 29	vs. TVC WEST	7:30
Feb. 01	vs. MILLINGTON (SNOWCOMING)	7:30
Feb. 05	vs. BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Feb. 08	at BIRCH RUN	7:30
Feb. 12	vs. FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Feb. 19	vs. BIRCH RUN	7:30
Feb. 22	vs. GARBER	7:30
Feb. 26	at LAKEVILLE	7:30
Mar.4,6,8	DISTRICTS at YALE	TBA
Mar.11, 13	REGIONALS at POWERS	TBA

JV Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 03	at LAPEER WEST	7:00
Dec. 04	at IMLAY CITY	6:00
Dec. 07	vs. YALE	6:00
Dec. 10	vs. BROWN CITY	7:00
Dec. 14	vs. CROS-LEX	6:00
Dec. 17	at CARO	7:30
Dec. 20	at MILLINGTON	6:00
Jan. 07	at BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Jan. 10	at GARBER	6:00
Jan. 14	at FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Jan. 21	vs. CARO	7:30
Jan. 25	at TVC CENTRAL	6:00
Jan. 29	vs. TVC WEST	6:00
Feb. 01	vs. MILLINGTON	6:00
Feb. 04	vs. BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Feb. 08	at BIRCH RUN	6:00
Feb. 11	vs. FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Feb. 19	vs. BIRCH RUN	6:00
Feb. 22	vs. GARBER	6:00
Feb. 26	at LAKEVILLE	5:30

Freshman Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 03	at LAPEER WEST	5:30
Dec. 04	at IMLAY CITY	4:30
Dec. 07	vs. YALE	4:30
Dec. 10	at CAPAC	5:30
Dec. 14	vs. CROS-LEX	4:30
Dec. 17	at CARO	6:00
Dec. 20	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Jan. 07	at BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Jan. 10	at GARBER	4:30
Jan. 14	at FRANKENMUTH	6:00

Freshman Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 21	vs. CARO	6:00
Jan. 25	at TVC CENTRAL	4:30
Jan. 29	vs TVC WEST	4:30
Feb. 01	vs. MILLINGTON	4:30
Feb. 04	vs. BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Feb. 08	at BIRCH RUN	4:30
Feb. 11	vs. FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Feb. 19	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30
Feb. 22	vs. GARBER	4:30
Feb. 26	at LAKEVILLE	4:00

Varsity Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 27	vs. IMLAY CITY	7:30
Nov. 30	vs. CROS-LEX	7:30
Dec. 06	at YALE	7:00
Dec. 18	at CARO	6:00
Dec. 21	vs. MILLINGTON	7:30
Dec. 27	vs. HC MOORE TOURN	1:30
Dec. 28	vs. HC MOORE TOURN	12 or 1:30
Jan. 04	at BIRCH RUN	7:30
Jan. 08	at BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Jan. 11	vs. GARBER	7:30
Jan. 15	at FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Jan. 22	vs. CARO	6:00
Jan. 24	at TVC CENTRAL	7:30
Jan. 28	vs. TVC WEST	7:30
Jan. 31	at MILLINGTON	7:30
Feb.05	vs. BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Feb. 07	vs. BIRCH RUN	7:30
Feb. 12	vs. FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Feb. 14	at LAKEVILLE	7:00
Feb. 19	at GARBER	7:30
02-25,27/03-01	DISTRICTS at CROS-LEX	TBA
03-05 & 07	REGIONALS at IMLAY	TBA

JV Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 27	vs. IMLAY CITY	6:00
Nov. 30	vs. CROS-LEX	6:00
Dec. 03	vs. LAPEER WEST	7:00
Dec. 06	at YALE	5:30
Dec. 10	at BROWN CITY	7:30
Dec. 17	vs. CARO	7:30
Dec. 21	vs. MILLINGTON	6:00
Jan. 04	at BIRCH RUN	6:00
Jan. 07	vs BRIDGEPORT	7:30
Jan. 11	vs. GARBER	6:00
Jan. 14	vs. FRANKENMUTH	7:30
Jan. 21	at CARO	7:30
Jan. 24	at TVC CENTRAL	6:00
Jan. 28	vs TVC WEST	6:00
Jan. 31	at MILLINGTON	6:00
Feb. 04	at BRIDGEPORT	6:00
Feb. 07	vs BIRCH RUN	6:00
Feb. 11	at FRANKENMUTH	6:00
Feb. 14	at LAKEVILLE	5:30
Feb. 19	at GARBER	6:00

Freshman Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 27	vs. IMLAY CITY	4:30
Nov. 30	vs. CROS-LEX	4:30
Dec. 03	vs. LAPEER WEST	5:30
Dec.06	at YALE	4:00
Dec. 13	at CROS-LEX	5:30
Dec. 17	vs. CARO	6:00
Dec. 21	vs. MILLINGTON	4:30
Jan. 04	at BIRCH RUN	4:30
Jan. 07	vs. ARMADA	6:00
Jan. 11	vs. GARBER	4:30
Jan. 14	vs. USA	6:00
Jan. 21	at CARO	6:00
Jan. 24	at TVC CENTRAL	4:30
Jan. 28	vs. TVC WEST	4:30
Jan. 31	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Feb. 04	at ARMADA	5:30
Feb. 07	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30
Feb. 11	vs. YALE	4:00
Feb. 19	at GARBER	4:30

Varsity Wrestling

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 05	at YALE	JV 5PM/VAR 6PM
Dec. 08	at MARLETTE INVITE	8:00
Dec. 12	at FRANKENMUTH QUAD	6:00
Dec. 13	at LUTHERAN NORTH	6:00
Dec. 15	at GENESEE CTY TOURN	9:00
Dec. 19	at CARO QUAD	6:00
Dec. 22	at LAPEER WEST INV	TBA
Dec. 27	at MAYVILLE INVITE (JV)	9:00
Dec. 28	at MAYVILLE INVITE(VAR)	9:00
Jan. 05	NORTH BRANCH INV	9:00
Jan. 09	at CARO w/GARBER	6:00
Jan. 11	at DURAND JV TOURN	4:30
Jan. 12	at DURAND VAR TOURN	9:00
Jan. 16	vs. B'PORT/MTON/B'RUN	6:00
Jan. 19	at CARROLLTON "B" TEAM	9:00
Jan. 23	at F'MUTH w/B'RUN	6:00
Jan. 26	at MONTAGUE INVITE	9:00
Feb. 02	TVC at SHEPHERD	9:00
Feb. 07	TEAM DIST at NBHS	TBD
Feb. 09	IND. DIST. At GOODRICH	TBD
Feb. 13	TEAM REG. @ BRANDON	TBE
Feb. 16	IND. REG @ BAY CITY WESTERN	TBD

Varsity Bowling

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 08	at B'PORT vs ALMA & F'LAND	12&2
Dec. 15	at B'PORT vs. ST.LOU/VLY LU	12&2
Jan. 12	at CARO vs. CARO & B'RUN	1&3 PM
Jan. 19	at B'PORT vs GARBER/MUTH	12&2
Jan. 26	at GARBER vs. B'RUN & BPORT	1&3 PM
Feb. 02	at NB vs GARBER/MUTH	1&3 PM
Feb. 09	at B'PORT vs. B'PORT & CARO	1&3 PM
Feb. 15	TVC CONF at CARROLLTON	9:00
Feb. 22 & 23	REGIONALS TBA	TBA

Competitive Cheer

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Dec. 01	NOVI INVITATIONAL	TBD
Dec. 15	L'ANSE CREUSE	TBD
Jan. 09	TVC #1 at NBHS	6:00
Jan. 12	OXFORD	9:00
Jan. 19	at IMLAY CITY	11:00
Jan. 26	DURAND	TBD
Jan. 30	TVC #2 at CARROLLTON	6:00
Feb. 02	TVC CONF at OVID ELSIE	11:00
Feb. 06	TVC #3 at CHESANING	6:00
Feb. 16	DISTRICTS @ LAP WEST	10:00
Feb. 23	REGIONALS @ BRANDON	10:00

8th Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 05	vs GARBER "A" TEAM	5:30
Nov. 07	vs BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	5:30
Nov. 12	at BIRCH RUN	5:00
Nov. 14	vs. FRANKENMUTH	5:30
Nov. 19	vs. MILLINGTON	5:30
Nov. 20	vs. CARO	5:00
Nov. 28	at GARBER "A" TEAM	5:30
Dec. 03	at BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	5:30
Dec. 05	vs BIRCH RUN	5:00
Dec. 10	at FRANKENMUTH	5:30
Dec. 12	at MILLINGTON	5:30
Dec. 17	at CARO	5:00

7th Girls' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 05	vs. GARBER "A" TEAM	4:30
Nov. 07	vs BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	4:30
Nov. 12	at BIRCH RUN	4:00
Nov. 14	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Nov. 19	vs. MILLINGTON	4:30
Nov. 20	vs. CARO	4:00
Nov. 28	at GARBER "A" TEAM	4:30
Dec. 03	at BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	4:30
Dec. 05	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:00
Dec. 10	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Dec. 12	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Dec. 17	at CARO	4:00

Middle School Wrestling

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 08	vs. CARO/FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Nov. 10	at HOLLY INVITE	10:00
Nov. 13	at B'RUN w/FREELAND	4:30
Nov. 20	at CARROLLTON w/HEMLOCK	4:30
Nov. 27	vs. M'TON/BIRCH RUN	4:30
Dec. 01	at ZEMMER TOURN.	9:00
Dec. 04	at CARO w/CRAMER	4:30
Dec. 06	at MAYVILLE	5:30
Dec. 11	at SWN VLY w/SHEPHERD	4:30
Dec. 15	TVC AT GARBER	9:00

8th Grade Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 14	vs. GARBER "A" TEAM	5:30
Jan. 23	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30
Jan. 24	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Jan. 28	at CARO	4:30
Jan. 30	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Feb. 04	vs. BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	5:30
Feb. 06	at GARBER "A" TEAM	5:30
Feb. 13	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Feb. 19	at BIRCH RUN	4:30
Feb. 20	vs. CARO	4:30
Feb. 25	vs. MILLINGTON	4:30
Feb. 27	at BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	5:30

7th Grade Boys' Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Jan. 14	vs. GARBER "A" TEAM	4:30
Jan. 23	at BIRCH RUN	4:30
Jan. 24	vs. FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Jan. 28	vs. CARO	4:30
Jan. 30	vs. MILLINGTON	4:30
Feb. 04	vs. BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	4:30
Feb. 06	at GARBER "A" TEAM	4:30
Feb. 13	at FRANKENMUTH	4:30
Feb. 19	vs. BIRCH RUN	4:30
Feb. 20	at CARO	4:30
Feb. 25	at MILLINGTON	4:30
Feb. 27	at BRIDGEPORT "A" TEAM	4:30

Hockey

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Nov. 14	vs. BAY THUNDER	7:15
Nov. 21	vs. LAPEER	5:00
Nov. 24	vs. GRAND RAPIDS	3:30
Nov. 30	vs. BISHOP FOLEY	7:00
Dec. 01	vs. CRESTWOOD	8:00
Dec. 0	vs. DAVISON	7:15
Dec. 08	at FENTON	6:00
Dec. 12	at KEARSLEY	5:00
Dec. 15	CRESTWOOD	6:15
Dec. 21	at BAY THUNDER	7:00
Jan. 02	vs. ANCHOR BAY	7:15
Jan. 04	at TITAN TOURN	TBA
Jan. 05	at TITAN TOURN	TBA
Jan. 06	at TITAN TOURN	TBA
Jan. 09	at CRESTWOOD	7:30
Jan. 16	vs. PORT HURON	5:00
Jan. 19	at GRAND RAPIDS	9:00
Jan. 23	vs. KEARSLEY	5:00
Jan. 26	at MID-MI STORM	5:30
Jan. 30	vs GOODRICH	7:15
Feb. 01	at SHRINE CATHOLIC	8:00
Feb. 02	vs. SHRINE CATHOLIC	5:45
Feb. 06	vs. FENTON	7:15
Feb. 15	at GOODRICH	3:15
Feb. 16	vs. MID MI STORN	3:30
Feb. 23	at BISHOP FOLEY	TBA
Feb. 25	PLAYOFFS	TBA



Hockey: North Branch is excited about entering its second season into a cooperative agreement with Lakeville and Dryden to form the school’s first ever hockey program. The varsity hockey squad finished with an overall record of 5-19-1 for its inaugural season. The Broncos will have 7 players on the 14 man roster and will play its home games at the Polar Palace in Lapeer. Lakeville will be the host school for the program that will once again be under the leadership of Nathan Clemons. The team will play 12 home games this season with Pre-Regionals getting underway the week of February 25.

Wrestling: Dan Ranger has rebuilt the wrestling program and in his fourth season is ready to compete for league, district, and individual state berths. Coach Ranger is 61-51 and guided the team to its second consecutive winning season with an overall record of 24-10. The team finished 4-2 and in third place in the TVC East Division. The Broncos could have as many as 20 letter winners returning this season and the whole program is extremely optimistic about how it will do in the TVC and in the State Tournament. Lawrence Abbey, Jacob Luke, Zeke Shifflett, and state qualifier Ryan Garza all return for their fourth varsity season. Highlights on the schedule include the North Branch Invitational on Saturday, January 5 at 9:00 a.m. and an overnight trip to the Montague Tournament on January 26. Also, North Branch will host the Team District Tournament on Thursday, February 7 at 6:00 p.m. Teams entered into the District Tournament are Lapeer East, Marysville, North Branch, and St. Clair.

Notes of Interest:

- The Booster club will be holding its 13th annual Reverse Raffle on Saturday, March 2 at the Sweet Wedding Chapel and Fellowship Hall (Old Sweet School) with dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$50.00 per person which includes dinner and a chance to win over \$4,500.00 in cash prizes including the grand prize of \$2,000.00. In addition, there will be many other prizes given away during the evening including an I-Pad and flat screen television. Tickets may be purchased in the athletic office, from any booster member, or any head coach at North Branch. Please call 688-2518 for more information. This is an outstanding social event with all proceeds benefiting North Branch athletics.

- 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 FR/JV games. Middle School games are \$3.00. An all-sports pass is good for all home athletic contests excluding 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 everyone in the immediate family up through high school. Passes are priced as follows:

Basketball: Individual Pass for \$50.00 includes admission to all boys’ and girls’ Varsity, JV, Freshman, and Middle School games. Passes are good for both boys’ and girls’ events even if they are played on separate nights. (Savings of over a \$100) A Family Pass for \$80.00 is a significant savings for a family of four.

Wrestling: Individual Pass for \$7.00 includes admission to all wrestling games. The Family Pass for \$20.00 includes admission to all wrestling events with the exception of the MHSAA District Tournament.

ALL SPORTS PASS: Individual (\$75.00) *a huge savings!*
Family (\$135.00) *a major savings for any family*

Purchasing the All Sports Pass includes admission to all home events for all sports with the exception of MHSAA Tournaments. This pass is a terrific bargain even if you attend less than half of the home events. The Family All Sports Pass covers parents and all children still in school. Graduated family members will have to purchase their own passes. Our teams will be highly competitive and very entertaining this winter. High school sports are still the best bargain for quality and exciting family evenings. If you need more information or have questions or concerns, please contact the Athletic Office at 688-2518 during normal school hours. Please make plans to get involved and support our student-athletes as they continue to strive for excellence both academically and athletically.

- 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 \$2,600.00 has been raised to support athletics by those participating in this free program.

- A special thanks to Mr. Richard VanHaaften for continuing to organize the Mike Patrick Memorial Golf Outing which raised \$1001.00 for the athletic department this year. Thank you to all the area men and women who participate in this tournament as your generosity is greatly appreciated. The funds this year were used to purchase additional football helmets for the football program.

- Thank you to Dr. Starbird for continuing to offer physicals for our youth at a greatly reduced rate. Dr. Starbird donates half of the proceeds back to the

athletic department and this year presented Athletic Director Jim Fish with a check for \$1,370. Some of the proceeds have been used to purchase sod in repairing our athletic fields and sand to improve the crown on the football field. We have also used the money to help with the purchase of new uniforms for our cheerleading program. Again, we greatly appreciate all Dr. Starbird does for the athletic department.

- Community members are encouraged to visit the North Branch Athletic website for the most up-to-date athletic schedules. Also, most home varsity athletic events will be broadcast on mhsaa.tv and the link is on the athletic website. Please check out the new booster web-site that can be accessed through the athletic web-site. The Booster Club now has a Facebook page that will have all of the scores for every high school athletic contest as well as numerous pictures from those games.

Football Teams Raise Money for Local Wounded Warrior.



Travis Mills of Vassar along with the North Branch and Birch Run Football Team Captains and Head Coaches.

This year, the Bronco Football team continued their support of our injured soldiers as they once again participated in a “Wounded Warrior” contest with Birch Run. This year, instead of raising money for the Wounded Warrior Project, Head Coach Patrick Forster and Birch Run’s Head Coach, Chris Gilliam, decided to try to keep the money the two teams raised right here in Michigan.

So, with that goal in mind, both teams decided to dedicate their September 21st contest to Staff Sergeant Travis Mills. Travis was a standout football player for Vassar and competed against both schools when Vassar was still in the TVC-East. Back in April, Travis was in the middle of his third tour in Afghanistan when he was on patrol and an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) suddenly detonated next to him causing him to lose all four of his limbs. Travis is only the fourth quadruple amputee in the history of our armed forces to survive such an event.

Travis wasn’t able to attend the game, but he was able to watch the game live thanks to the MHSAA-TV. His family was also able to watch the highlights on Fox Sports Detroit as the game was featured on their midnight high school football recap show which is shown throughout Michigan. The captains of the North Branch football team, Travis Hill, Jacob Young, Corey Franks, and Travis Kukkola, as well as the captains of Birch Run, had the privilege of attending a luncheon with Travis a few weeks later and were able to learn exactly how he has been able to overcome such a devastating injury.

Fundraising for the September 21st contest began the Saturday prior to the game. Both teams had a combined goal of \$4,000 and attempted to meet that goal by selling t-shirts and by asking family, friends, and community members for simple donations. North Branch alone was able to raise well over \$7,000 dollars in less than a week, and both teams combined to raise over \$11,000 to help Travis and his family with the extreme costs that they will incur due to his injuries. A big thanks has to go out to everybody in the community for all of their support especially those involved with the American Legion as they helped raise close to \$1,000.



Varsity Record 68-8-1; TVC East Division Champions; TVC Conference Champions; Class B District Champions; Class B Regional Champions; Class B State Runner Up; Class B State Ranked #2; Team Academic All State GPA 3.572



2012 Varsity Boy’s Soccer Academic All State with a team grade point average of 3.474

Ruth Fox and North Branch Middle School Forensics

Students from Ruth Fox Elementary School and North Branch High School recently accepted a check from their Dodge and Drive fundraiser. Funds will be used for supplies, speech camp and overnight trips. Forensics is an academic, extra-curricular activity at North Branch Area Schools. Students in Forensics can compete in twelve different categories and become more confident in public speaking. The Ruth Fox/Middle School Team is always open to new recruits and competes along with high school students. Recently, North Branch hosted a middle school competition and the team captured third place. Many NB speakers also placed. Students will compete again in the State competition in Saginaw in December.



Pictured left to right are: Veronica Turner, Charlie Jones, and Julie Hagopian. Accepting the check are Dani Archer (high school co-captain), Brenden Forster, Noah June, and Michael Gormley.

Hat Day Fundraiser!

Anne Sherrieb shows off her school spirit by participating in Hat Day at Ruth Fox Elementary. The building held a hat day as a fundraiser for a North Branch Family who was experiencing a difficult time. Students at Ruth Fox Elementary are always very generous in their support of others!



Ruth Fox Hosts Local Veterans!



Ruth Fox Elementary School celebrated local Veterans in their 5th Annual "We're Thankful for Veterans" Celebration on November 20th. The celebration is held before Thanksgiving to show Veterans that we are thankful for their service to our country and for the freedoms that we enjoy. Students presented poems and essays on "What Freedom Means to Me." Many students also assisted with singing, escorting guests, holding flags, etc. Melody Horne played the piano while Jasmine Hoang sang the Star-Spangled Banner. Pictured is Bill Schlaud with a group of Ruth Fox students.

Yuck!!!

Students in Mr. Sweeney's science class had the opportunity to dissect chicken wings as a part of their unit on body systems. Students were able to see examples of muscles, cartilage, etc. The students were very excited about the dissection and learned a lot through the project!!!



Support Staff "Clowns" Around!!!



The Ruth Fox Elementary School is proud to have their own group of "professional" clowns! Joanne Bular, Rosanna Jolicoeur, and Debbie Vallie (pictured left to right) took their show on the road by participating in the annual Homecoming parade! Sheri Cloutier and Sheeran Letts (not pictured here) also donned their outfits and helped celebrate homecoming!!!

School Spirit Shines at Ruth Fox Elementary

Bryan Sorby, a sixth grader at Ruth Fox Elementary, shows off his school spirit by participating in "fake an injury" day. Students had a great time celebrating all of the spirit days! Bryan was the week's winner with the most creative outfits!!!



VSA Michigan Chooses Ruth Fox Elementary Student Artwork for Published Greeting Card

Jeremy Shaver, a sixth grader at Ruth Fox Elementary, had a beautiful landscape painting included in the VSA Michigan's Emerging Artists' Touring Exhibit. He created the painting while in the fifth grade. The artwork has been on display at various locations around the state since last spring. In addition to the opportunity to have his work in a state level exhibit, his landscape painting has been chosen to represent the organization on the front of their fall 2012 greeting card that is sent to 600 donors around the state! The cards are sent out each year to ask for continued support for VSA Michigan. Congratulations Jeremy!



"Little" Broncos Show "Big" Pride!

The students at Ruth Fox have a tremendous amount of Bronco Pride! Students love to show off their school spirit by participating in school events. Pictured are Todd Myers, Evan Campbell, Gerrid Rutledge, Andrew Coulter, Julian Chambers, and Brandon Lilly showing off their Bronco Pride during the Homecoming Parade!!!



Red Wings Visit Ruth Fox Elementary!

Ruth Fox Elementary School was chosen by Little Caesar's for a visit from the Red Wings Organization! This visit was a result of the building's participation with the Little Caesar's Fundraiser. The assembly promoted good nutrition, hard work, and academics! The Red Wings Organization also donated some hockey equipment to the school. Pictured is Ian Conley with two of the members of the Red Wings Organization. Ian got to try out the goalie equipment in a competition between teachers and students.

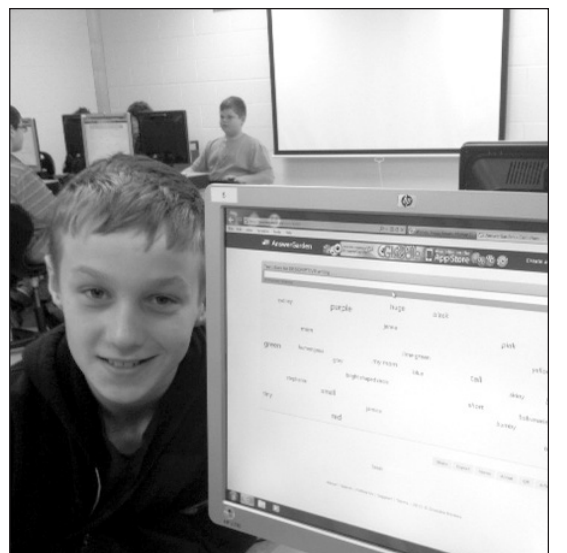


Students Experience Technology at Ruth Fox!

Technology is a very important part of learning and students at Ruth Fox Elementary get the opportunity to experience technology in many ways. Students at Ruth Fox Elementary are fortunate to have their own email accounts. The accounts are part of a closed system which allows students access to freeware, etc., but doesn't allow outsiders to email or contact students. This provides a very useful safety net while students are learning how to use email safely.

About four years ago, the staff at Ruth Fox Elementary began working with Michigan State University to incorporate technology into the everyday learning of students. Fortunately, during the bond issue which was passed several years ago, the Ruth Fox Elementary School was able to install three computer labs for student use. One of the labs is used by Mrs. Woodruff to teach the technology curriculum while the other two labs may be checked out by teachers for their classrooms to use. The building is also fortunate to have laptop carts (with 15 laptops) for each team. In addition, the building also has access to some iPads through the generous support of the Stebbins Family Foundation (as a part of a grant for a summer school program).

Pictured is Alex Light who is showing off his work with Answer Garden – a program that students were using to show their knowledge of language arts concepts.



RUTH FOX NEWS

Ruth Fox Staff Members Serve on Great Lakes Great Books Award Committee

Ruth Fox Elementary would like to congratulate Cindy Lewis and Carmen Woodruff for being chosen to serve on the Great Lakes Great Book Committee. This year's committee has the honor of selecting books, across various grade levels, to be placed on the 2013-2014 Great Lakes Great Book Award Ballot. Students in classrooms across the state are encouraged to read books on this list and vote for their favorite. Winners are announced each year at the Annual Michigan Reading Association Conference. For more information about the Great Lakes Great Books Award and a list of great reads, please visit Michigan Reading Association's website at www.michiganreading.org.



Ruth Fox Run Club

Over twenty students signed up for and participated in the Ruth Fox Elementary Running Club which met after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The students and staff took advantage of running trails by logging miles, listening to music, getting fresh air, and making new friends!

The club will continue to meet on Tuesdays throughout the winter.

New members are always welcome!



Ruth Fox Elementary and Michigan State University Continue Collaborative Partnership

Ruth Fox Elementary is in the third year of a collaborative learning partnership with Michigan State University. Under the guidance and expertise of Michelle Schira-Hagerman, Paul Morsink, and Doug Hartman, Ruth Fox staff continues to grow their understanding of high leverage digital practices that will help prepare students for the rigor and relevance of the College and Career Readiness Standards cited in the Common Core State Standards.

As a way to share some of this knowledge with other teaching professionals and administrators, Cindy Lewis, Anne Sherrieb, and Amber White will be teaming up with the Michigan State University cadre to present at the 57th Michigan Reading Association Conference, Lighting the Way for Literacy. Drawing from the work of Ruth Fox Elementary's intensive Summer Institute, the MSU/Ruth Fox team will present a formula for online inquiry and synthesis (based on the research of MSU Doctoral Student, Michelle Schira Hagerman). In an additional session, the team will facilitate a discussion, with examples, on how anchoring instruction around a web-based, multi-modal genre can cultivate a community of student creators, synthesizers, collaborators, readers, writers, and researchers.

Ruth Fox Student Wins Poster Contest!!!

The Lapeer Conservation District recently held its annual poster contest. Schools from all over Lapeer County entered posters that displayed the theme "Soil to Spoon."

Ruth Fox students have done very well in past contests. Usually we have at least one student place in the top three in the county. A couple of students have even gone on to place in the state level competition. This year's contest was no different. Well, actually, it was! Students from Ruth Fox swept the county awards. Taylor Miller received second place for his entry. Maeson Schlaud took third place, and McKenna Forster received honorable mention. The first place in Lapeer County this year was Jacquelyn Ankley. Jacquelyn's poster is now going on to the state level competition in Lansing. All winners received a certificate and ribbon. Jacquelyn also received a Lapeer Conservation District t-shirt. By the way, the logo for the Conservation District that appears on the shirt was also designed by another student while she was at Ruth Fox - Abby Brusie!



Ruth Fox "Soldier"

Ruth Fox Elementary participated in the local NBABA (North Branch Area Business Association) soldier decorating event. The soldiers were decorated by groups to be put in the downtown area. Ruth Fox Elementary showed off their spirit by decorating their soldier with pictures from the beginning of the school year.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Brendan Barkowska Masters Dolch Sight Words and Earns Black Belt

North Branch Elementary first grader Brendan Barkowska has been formally recognized for learning all 224 Dolch Sight Words and earning the first Sight Words Black Belt in Michigan by mastering all 28 levels within Sight Words with Samson, an online reading program used in schools to help young students learn to read.

Sight words are words such as "the," "you," and "it" and are the most commonly used words in the English language. In fact, these 224 words make up more than 50 percent of the words readers read every day. "What makes these words so important is the role they play in helping students become proficient readers," said Darrin Jahnel, president of Knowledge Wand, the Schenectady, N.Y. company that created Sight Words with Samson. "Students who fail to learn these words at an early age often fall behind for their entire academic career," he added.

By earning his Sight Words Black Belt, Brendan has taken the first step towards becoming an accomplished reader and has also laid the foundation for a lifetime of success, in academics and beyond!



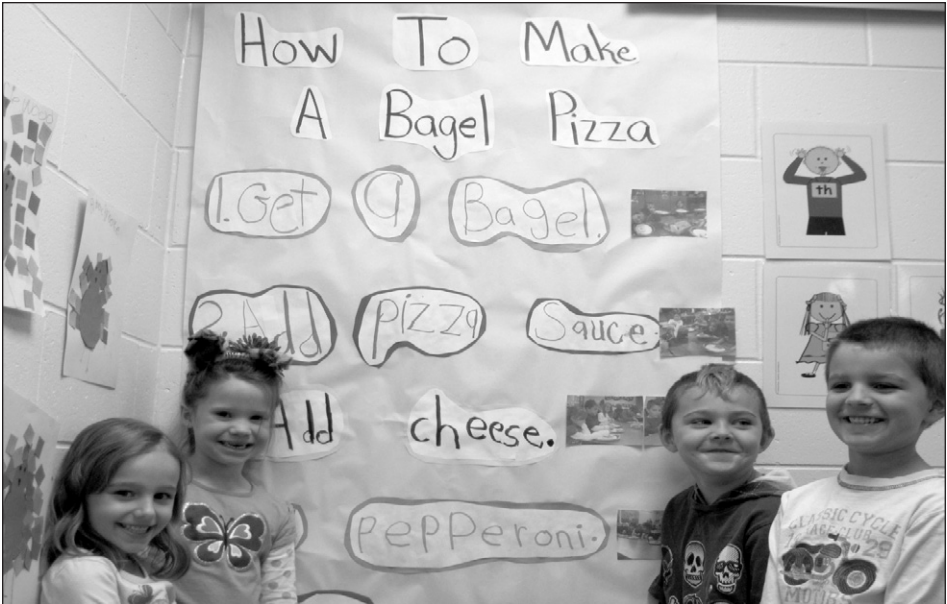
North Branch Elementary Run Club

This fall we were excited to offer an introduction to the sport of Cross Country for our Elementary students. This opportunity was available for 3rd-6th graders at North Branch Elementary and Ruth Fox Elementary on the paved pathway surrounding the playground and the cross country trail behind the schools. Families were encouraged to participate with their young runners. Students learned running form, stretching techniques, and pacing goals which prepared them to participate in the first Bronco Mile Fun Run held on Tuesday, October 9th, 2012 after North Branch Area Schools hosted the High School and Middle School Cross Country Meet. The North Branch Elementary Running Club with over 60 participants, developed a lot of interest in the sport of running! Thanks to our bronco families and our community for your support for this new program! The running club will resume in the spring, please contact Holly Berridge @ hberridge@nbbronzos.net if interested in attending.



Little Red Hen

Mrs. Racine’s Kindergarten class has been reading the classic story, The Little Red Hen. The students have enjoyed the many learning activities this book offers. They first learned a very important life lesson about being responsible and helping others out. The second thing they were able to do was compare the different versions of the story. They compared the characters, the setting, the problem, and the solution in three different versions of the story. The last story they read was, The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza. They then participated in writing a How To Make a Bagel Pizza. After writing the steps to making a bagel pizza, they worked together to make their own bagel pizza to enjoy!



Demonstrating Young Bronco Pride

Elementary students were very excited for a visit from the Bronco Varsity Volleyball Team. Bronco Varsity Volleyball players Calla McNulty and Jamie Barrows are pictured getting down low to receive well wishes from elementary students. Students and staff lined the hallways at North Branch Elementary to chant “Let’s Go Broncos” and high five the Varsity team before they headed to the state finals. We have many connections to the team and are very proud of their outstanding season!



Family Access To Student Information

Nothing is more critical than the communication link between teachers and parents. All parents and guardians will receive a login and password for our Skyward Family Access software which will provide the following information for your student. Only authorized guardians can be granted access.

Attendance

- View attendance entries, including reasons for absence
- Identify missed courses for make-up work & assignments

GradeBook

- Real-time progress reports to determine current grade
- Immediate access to assignment and term grades as they are released by the teacher

Food Service

- Make online payments to your student’s lunch account
- Shows current balance and past payments
- Display daily purchases by student

Subscribe to Automatic email notifications

- Receive daily attendance information
- Receive notifications regarding student grades (low /missing assignments)
- Receive notification when Food Service Balance is below \$5

Check our website for the Skyward Family & Student Access link at www.nbbronzos.net

Family Access Login & Password Information

Do we have your correct email address?

Password reminders can always be requested using the “Forgot Password?” link on the Skyward Family Access login page. We must have your correct email address on file or the reminder will not be sent. Contact a building secretary to confirm your email address or request a reminder to be sent by mail. Skyward Family Access allows guardians the ability to view important, confidential student information. Protect that information by using the following guidelines when choosing a password.

- Don’t share passwords with others
- Make passwords hard to guess
- Use an 8 character password that includes letters and numbers
- Change passwords frequently
- Use different passwords for different accounts
- Store passwords securely
- Don’t leave passwords where others can find them

Marching Broncos Receive Awards!

The Marching Broncos began their season with the week-long marching band camp during the first week of August. The week resounded with success with the performance for parents, friends, and alumni on Friday afternoon. The group worked intently on their festival show, Motown Review. The Broncos performed at all of the home football games, including their famous “LIGHTS OUT SHOW.” The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Marching Festival, hosted by the Goodrich Band Department. This was during one of the rainiest and coldest days of the fall, but the band performed an excellent program! Even though they marched in the pouring rain and cold, the Marching Broncos wowed the crowd and the three adjudicators with their ability to perform with excellent technique, tone, and marching/maneuvering techniques. The group received an overall second division rating from the three adjudicators! Congratulations to the Marching Broncos, Drum Majors Autumn Zender and Cody Howe, and Mr. Ehardt on their awesome season.

Middle School Band Students Receive High Ratings

On December 1st our middle school band students competed at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra District 3 Jr. High Solo and Ensemble Festival that was hosted at the North Branch High School. With the assistance of Mrs. Ehardt and Mrs. Smith (accompanist) the students worked since the end of September to prepare their music for this event. Each student performance is graded in the following categories; Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique (fluency, articulation, and fingering), and Interpretation. The student ratings are listed accordingly,

First Division (equivalent to a A)

- Brooke Charbeneau 7th Grade Piano Solo
- Zach Helm 7th Grade Alto Saxophone Solo
- Caleb House 7th Grade Trumpet Solo
- Austin Pung 7th Grade Trombone Solo
- Marybeth Gormley 8th Grade Trumpet Solo
- Austin McIntosh 8th Grade Trumpet Solo
- Darin Ronne 8th Grade Euphonium Solo
- Kevin Zender 8th Grade Bass Clarinet Solo

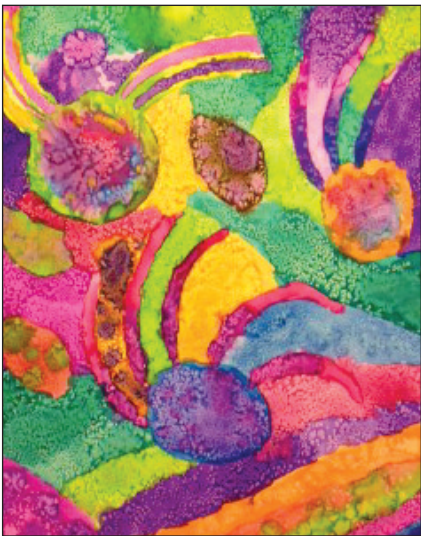
Second Division (equivalent to a B)

- Marisol Clemens Flute, Jillian Fike French Horn, Cyreese Jackson Flute, Tharon Klutts Flute, 7th Grade Mixed Quartet
- Lupita Guerrero 7th Grade Trumpet Solo
- Brittany Peralta and Sara Ronne - 7th Grade Clarinet Duet
- Trevor Brandt 8th Grade Trombone Solo

Congratulations on an outstanding job!

Art News
North Branch Middle School
& Ruth Fox Elementary

The VSA Michigan’s Emerging Artists’ Touring Exhibit is coming to North Branch! The offer has been made available to us due to the high number of student artwork from the North Branch Middle School and Ruth Fox Elementary. The exhibit has been on display at various locations around the state since the spring. The exhibit has been divided into two groups, the Main Exhibit, and the Alternative Exhibit. The Main Exhibit will be on display in the gallery space at North Branch Middle School starting January 24, 2013 through February 14, 2013. The following North Branch Students will have work on display: Nate Collins, Porter Fielder, Emilie Hunter, Victoria Kirkwood, Dameon Knox, Brady Lawson,* Shay Pollard, Robert Pollick, Anna Richards, *Logan Richmond, *Tessa Schlaud, Jeremy Shaver, Garrett Simpson, Whitney Whitis, and Tristan Woodliff. *Indicates students who have moved on from 8th grade.



In addition to the VSA Michigan exhibit, students from North Branch will also have work on display at Gallery 194 in downtown Lapeer for the K8ART 2013 Exhibit that showcases the amazing student artists from around the county. The show will run from Tuesday, March 5 – Saturday, March 30. The student artwork has yet to be chosen for this show.

The students in the art classes have had a fantastic beginning to the school year. They are excited, ambitious, and determined to produce the best artwork possible. We are looking forward to sharing the results of their hard work with the public. There will be additional art shows and dates to come!

Alumni Association Dinner

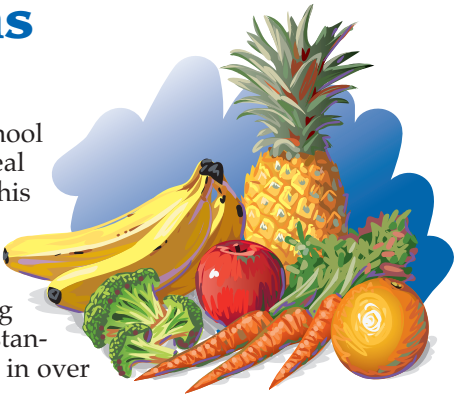
The Alumni Association of North Branch High School held their 27th Annual Alumni Association Dinner on Sunday, September 9, 2012 in the high school cafeteria. The class of 1962 was honored for being out of school for 50 years. The Alumni Association also honored the “Super Seniors”, those who have been out of school for 70 years or more. Mrs. Maureen Ford of North Branch was honored for this being her 80th year since her high school graduation. Mrs. Ford who passed away October 28, 2012 at 97 years old worked with teenage first time offenders as part of a diversion program for the Lapeer County Probation Department. Non-Violent teens that admit their guilt were referred to work with Maureen in a 16 week program. Mrs. Ford was an amazing lady and a proud graduate of North Branch High School. The next Annual Alumni Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, September 8, 2013. Please contact Wilson Marsh or Leonard Bruman for more information.



Mrs. Maureen Ford

New Meal Patterns
For 2012-2013

Students in the North Branch Area School District will find a few changes in the meal program for the 2012-2013 school year. This year all students taking a breakfast and/or a lunch, MUST TAKE EITHER A FRUIT OR A VEGETABLE, BUT CAN GET BOTH. The District will be following the newly mandated federal nutritional standards which are continuing to be phased in over the next few years.



School meals will continue to offer the following:

- Milk
- Fruits and Vegetables
- Proteins and Grains

The school district must now meet nutritional limits and portion sizes for each of the following categories:

- Age-Appropriate Calorie Limits
- Larger Servings of Fruits and Vegetables and a Wider Variety of Vegetables
- 1% White Milk or Fat Free Flavored Milk
- More Whole Grains
- Less Sodium

If you have any questions regarding the changes, please feel free to contact the NBAS Food Service Department at (810) 688-2226.

Attention All Former
Quest Graduates

As part of our hallway project we are asking all former Quest graduates to visit Quest in the Jefferson building to place their handprint on the wall in paint. Those wishing to participate should stop in at Quest between 1:30-2:15 on any school day to put their handprint on the wall. Please feel free to pass this message along to any and all of your former classmates through social media.



NBHS Students
Named AP Scholars

Ten North Branch High School students recently earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams.

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement or both for successful performance on the AP exams. Only about 18 percent of more than one million high school students worldwide who took the AP exams, performed well enough to earn AP Scholar recognition.

Six NBHS students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Examinations, with grades of 3 or higher on a 5-point scale on all AP Exams taken. These students are: Austin Bowman, Robert Emert, Amanda Hardwick, Landon Orr, Eli Parsch, and Autumn Zender.

Three students 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. These students are: Alexandra Costa, Iliana Guerrero, Christopher Morgan.

One student qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. This student is: Patty Andersen.

Kindergarten 2013-2014

Do you have or know of a child that will be five on or before November 1, 2013? We are now compiling a list of children who will begin their school career next fall.

Beginning in the 2013-14 school year, Michigan law will be changing the entry age for children to enter kindergarten. Over the next three years, entry age dates will gradually move up as follows: November 1, 2013 for students beginning in 2013-14, October 1, 2014 and September 1, 2015 for the remaining two years. For this year’s age change, a waiver is available to parents of a child who will be five between November 2nd and December 1st.

Please call the Elementary School at (810) 688-3041 to help us identify our new students and to be included in all future mailings of information. If your child attends the NBAS Little Learners Pre-School or the Head Start programs in North Branch, you do not need to call; your child has already been identified.

If you live outside of the North Branch Area School District and plan to enroll your child in our kindergarten program you will need to apply for Schools of Choice. Schools of Choice applications for the 2013 – 2014 school year will be available Wednesday, May 1 – Friday, May 31, 2013 by contacting the Superintendent’s Office 810-688-3570.

Thank You

On Sunday, November 18th, North Branch Wesleyan Church took 10 minutes away from their worship ceremony to extend their continued support to the teachers and school faculty that attend there regularly. This included over 20 faculty members from North Branch Area Schools. North Branch teachers and other faculty would like to thank North Branch Wesleyan for their support, blessings, prayers, and continued encouragement.

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.

Thomas A. English, <i>Superintendent</i>	810-688-3570
Nancy Robertson, <i>Special Education Coordinator</i>	810-688-3042
Cheryl Bruff, <i>Director of Finance & Business</i>	810-688-3570
Mark Britton, <i>Transportation Supervisor</i>	810-688-3660
Louise Nellenbach, <i>Food Services</i>	810-688-2226
Leann Gwinn, <i>FABS Child Care</i>	810-688-4634
District Website.....	www.nbbrncos.net

HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Hiltunen, <i>Principal</i>	810-688-3001
John Sherman, <i>Asst. Principal</i>	810-688-3001
Jim Fish, <i>Asst. Principal/Athletic Director</i>	810-688-2518
Susan Strump, <i>Counselor</i>	810-688-3564
Brenda Weingartz, <i>Counselor</i>	
Mark Hiltunen, <i>Quest High School</i>	810-688-7581

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Merideth Collins, <i>Principal</i>	810-688-4431
Tammy Siegler, <i>Counselor</i>	810-688-4431

RUTH FOX ELEMENTARY

Ann Wood, <i>Principal</i>	810-688-3284
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NORTH BRANCH ELEMENTARY

Greg Matheson, <i>Principal</i>	810-688-3041
Angela Martin, <i>Asst. Principal</i>	810-688-3041