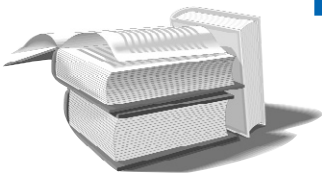




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CAR-RT SORT POSTAL PATRON

Meet The Class of 2013's Valedictorian and Salutatorian

The Valedictorian of North Branch High School's Class of 2013 is Karli Gormley. Karli is the daughter of Daniel and Teresa Gormley. Karli's academic achievements include being named an AP Scholar for her achievements in her Advanced Placement courses at NBHS, as well as being a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. Karli was a member of the NBHS Student Council during all four years of high school, and held the office of Student Council President during her senior year. She also served as the Senior Class Vice President. She was a member of the National Honor Society,



Karli Gormley



Link Crew, R.A.M.P., Friends of Rachel, Environmental Club as well as appearing in 4 NBHS school plays. Athletically, Karli played Soccer, Volleyball and Basketball (serving



Autumn Zender

become a Pediatrician and work in a Children's Hospital.

The Salutatorian for the Class of 2013 is Autumn Zender. Autumn is the daughter of Ron and Ann Zender. Autumn achieved being named an AP Scholar for her accomplishments in her Advanced Placement courses at NBHS. She was the Drum Major of the Marching Band, a member of the National Honor Society, and was recently selected to the TriValley Conference Academic All-Conference Team. Autumn was a member of the High School Band, the Environmental Science Club, the Quiz Bowl Team, the Band Letter Club, as well as serving as a Class representative. Autumn plans to attend Aquinas College in the fall to pursue a degree in Secondary Education with a major in Mathematics.

as a Captain her senior year). Karli also volunteered in numerous events outside of school. Karli will attend Grand Valley State University in the fall and will major in Bio-Medical Sciences with an emphasis in Microbiology and Biotechnology. Her ultimate goal is to

New Kindergarten Registration

If you missed the April Registration Day for new kindergarten, it's not too late. North Branch Elementary will be holding an additional screening/registration day on Friday, May 24th.

Children need to be five years old on or before November 1, 2013 to enroll. 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.

Families that live outside the school district need to fill out School of Choice applications between May 1 and September 6, 2013. Be sure to contact the administration office for more information.

North Branch offers full day kindergarten and begin-a-garten programs that meet five days a week.

For more information, please contact the North Branch Elementary School at 810-688-3041

North Branch Special Olympics

Friday, May 17th twenty six athletes participated in the Track and Field Meet for Special Olympics Area 13. Students ranged from 4th grade through high school, and were in events that included a 50 meter walk and 50 meter dash, 100 meter walk and 100 meter dash, 200 meter run, and a softball throw. All athletes gave their best and won many ribbons for North Branch Area Schools. We appreciate all the volunteers from the high school as well as all the support that our community provides for these athletes.

Property Tax Debt Levy Changes

The Michigan Legislature, through Public Act 437 of 2012, has changed the School Bond Loan Program. The new law will impact North Branch Area School's property tax levy on debt.

The new legislation requires an **annual recalculation** of the outstanding debt of the district. Prior to the legislation passing the millage rate was determined at the issue date of the bonds and was good through the paying off the bonds and associated debt. The legislative change will cause an increase in the debt tax levy for all property in the district. The district must show in the annual recalculation that all debt of the district will be repaid by the mandatory final loan repayment date (MFLR). For North Branch this date is May of 2041. The levy will be adjusted annually and will change based on changes to property values in the district.

The 2013 taxable values will be certified by the Michigan Department of Treasury sometime in May. The district must use this information in the annual calculation to determine the debt tax levy for the 2013 tax year. While all the guidelines were met for acquiring and paying debt, Public Act 437 changed the rules. The Legislature passed this new law which puts a greater burden North Branch taxpayers.

North Branch Area Schools Schools of Choice

Open Enrollment Now – September 7th
Applications are available at the administration or principal's office

105 SCHOOLS OF CHOICE – If you live in a school district within Lapeer County (Lapeer, Imlay City, Dryden & Almont)

105c SCHOOLS OF CHOICE – If you live in a school district where your Intermediate School District is contiguous to the Lapeer Intermediate School District (Genesee, Tuscola, Sanilac, St. Clair, Macomb and Oakland)

Superintendent's Corner



First and foremost, I want to express my thanks and deep appreciation for your continued support. It has been both a tremendous and challenging year. Our students continue to excel in academics, athletics and the arts. Staff continues to work tirelessly to create vibrant learning opportunities and eliminate achievement gaps. I am so proud to be able to work with such a fine staff whose passion for educational excellence remains a priority in North Branch.

Students from North Branch Area Schools consistently exhibit Bronco Pride.

Did you know...

- 79% percent of our graduating students are planning to attend college or a technical school in the fall. 11% are opting to serve our country in one of the branches of Armed Services. The remaining 10% are undecided or entering the workforce.
- Elementary students participated in a Disability Awareness program
- Students from have earned state honors in forensics.
- The bands continue to perform and earn high honors at MSBOA festivals.
- Six students will participate in Space Camp which was expanded this this year to include grades 5 – 8.
- Ruth Fox Elementary students participated in the Delta College Math Challenge.
- Middle school students took the ACT Test for advanced class qualification through MSU.
- Students are succeeding in the accelerated math course taught by an MSU professor.
- Athletic teams frequently earn the honor of All State Academic Excellence distinction.
- Athletes consistently are recognized as scholar athletes.
- Dozens of student's artwork has been displayed in local as well as State Galleries.
- Ed-Tech students remain competitive at State competitions.

As one of only 13 school districts in the State to participate in the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness (MCEE) Pilot study, you will be impressed to know that the work of our teachers and administrators this year will have a significant impact on State-wide policy in the area of teaching and learning. While piloting this year has added considerable work and often frustration, the end result for North Branch Area Schools couldn't be better. A district assessment program is established for the 13-14 year to include computer adaptive assessments in the areas of reading and math for all k – 11 grade students and a science assessment for students in grades 3 – 10. The assessment program is key to measuring student growth in that students will be assessed at the beginning of the year to establish a base from which to measure individual growth. A mid-year assessment will provide valuable information to insure students are at or above their learning trajectory. The year will wrap up with a third assessment to determine the actual student growth. Parent will receive results from all assessments to keep informed of their child's progress.

I also wish to express my appreciation for the diligence and focus of the Board of Education members who give their time and talent to ensure we are doing the best for our students. One of the district's greatest assets is the vital relationship between the school and the parents and community members who support it. Working together, I anticipate exploring additional educational opportunities for our students in the upcoming year such as a balanced school calendar where the school year is more evenly spread out, effective ways to utilize technology for learning and the possibility of students graduating with college credits and possibly even an associate's degree. Feel free to contact me any time to share your thoughts and ideas.

Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the school district and community and wish you a fun and relaxing summer. The staff and I are looking forward to the 13-14 school year with great hope and will be ready to welcome students back on September 3, 2013.

Sincerely,
Thomas A. English

What’s New In Food Service

6 Cent Reimbursement Validation Review: A Validation Review of the performance-based reimbursement certification was conducted by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). It is required by the United States Department of Agriculture as part of the Certification of Compliance with Meal Requirements for the National School Lunch Program under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010.

A Program Analyst from the State of Michigan was here on 4/18/13 for the Validation Review. We passed with all good marks. We will now receive the 6 Cent Grant money and are certified. We have the go ahead from MDE to provide a deli bar as long as it follows the new guidelines that have been incorporated with the new meal plan. This deli bar was suggested by the School Board. We will pilot a new deli bar at the Middle School starting April 22 and see how it is received, and then do the same soon at the High School.

New Breakfast Card System: Food Service is putting together a new card system for breakfast at the Elementary School. Right now our littlest eaters do not have a card that can be scanned at the cash register at breakfast time. The students just tell the cashier their name every morning. The cashiers have to write each name down and we do have several students with the same first and last name. This process is very ineffective and slows the breakfast line down and the children do not have very much time in the morning so we have to find a better method. We were able to have copies made thru Skyward so we made a breakfast card for our youngest eaters and we will have this system into place within the next two weeks. These cards will have our children’s name and picture on them. The cards will be stored in sleeves by teacher and they will be able to see their picture and pick them up before they go thru the line and then be scanned. This will be more efficient, more accurate accounting and additional time for the students to eat their breakfast.

NBAS Cross Country Day Camp

June 10 – 14, 2013

Times Modified Due to Snow Days as Follows:

Mon., Tues., Wed. (June 10 – 12) 2:45 – 5:45 (grades 6 – 12); Thurs. and Fri. (June 13, 14) 8:45 – 11:30 a.m. (grades 6 – 8), 8:45 – 4:30 p.m. (grades 9 – 12)

All upcoming 6th – 12th graders are welcome to attend.

No prior experience is necessary, only a commitment to sweat and improve.

Give your young person a solid introduction to safe and effective running or your Cross Country student-athlete a leg up on the competition. No prior running experience is necessary, only a desire and commitment to improve.

What to bring each day: A water bottle (filled with water), Comfortable, school-appropriate, exercise clothes (and a change of clothes if it’s raining), An extra pair of socks, A towel, Sun screen, A positive, can-do attitude, HIGH SCHOOL ONLY: a sack lunch on Thursday and Friday and money for Friday afternoon movie.

What will be provided by the camp:Camp T-shirt; classroom instruction on nutrition, proper running form, strength training, and cardiovascular training; practical exercises keyed to the participant’s ability; snacks.

How to apply: Complete a Camp Registration form. 2.Send all forms and your camp fee to: Coach Haney, North Branch High School, PO Box 3620, North Branch, MI 48461
2013 North Branch Area Schools Cross Country Day Camp Registration Form

Please register each child separately

Parent’s name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Participant’s name: _____

Date of birth: ____/ ____/ ____ Grade by September 2013 ____ Shirt Size ____

The cost for camp is \$25. Please make checks out to “North Branch Area Schools.”
Limited scholarships are available. Contact Coach Haney for details.

North Branch Instrumental Music Department Year in Review

Growing in Excellence and Spirit!!!

High School Band News

The High School Bands had another exciting and prosperous year.

The Marching Broncos began their season with the week-long Marching Band Camp during the final week of July. 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 Band also competed at the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Marching Festival, hosted by the Goodrich Band Department. Even though it cold and rainy throughout their performance, the Marching Broncos wowed the crowd and the three adjudicators with their ability to perform with great technique, tone, and marching/maneuvering techniques. The group received one A and two B+’s from all the adjudicators! Congratulations to the Marching Broncos, Drum Majors Autumn Zender & Cody Howe, thirteen seniors, and Mr. Ehardt on their great season.

Symphony Band opened their season with their thrilling annual Christmas Concert in December. Their music was well-received by the audience with a standing ovation.

January found Mr. Ehardt on Medical Leave to deal with reconstructive surgery on his foot. Mr. Jon YuhazsPratt stepped into the band program during Mr. Ehardt’s absence. Mr. YuhazsPratt is a 2012 graduate of Central Michigan University in Instrumental Music Education. Jon is also the son of North Branch Alumni, Mary Yuhasz-Pratt and Ron Pratt. Thank you Jon!!!

On February 12, 2013 they premiered their festival music. At the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Band and Orchestra Festival February 22, which was hosted by the North Branch Music Department, the band received an overall 2 in concert and a 1 in sight reading. Thank you to Mr. YuhazsPratt for all of your work with the students that helped with the success of the Symphony Band.

During the second week of April, the High School Symphony Tour Band took a three-day trip to Chicago! During their stay the students visited the Shedd Aquarium, had a performance clinic with Dr. Charles Menghini at VanderCook College of Music, saw Blue Man Group, visited the Museum of Natural History, went shopping on the “Magnificent Mile,” saw “Oliver,” went to the Navy Pier, and went on a cruise of Lake Michigan. The students and chaperones had an excellent time on this unforgettable trip! Special thanks goes out to Mr. and Mrs. Andersen, Mr. and Mrs. Yelland, Mrs. Sherrieb, and Mrs. Campbell for chaperoning.

On May 16th 2013 the Symphony Band culminates their exciting year with the Collage Concert at 7:30 p.m.

The *Symphony Band* had four band members in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Honors Band, which is comprised of about twenty-five different area schools’ instrumental music programs. This year’s participants were Cody Howe, Tuba; Madison Morgan, Flute; Ben Robinson, Bass Clarinet; and Autumn Zender, Alto Saxophone. Students are recommended by their school directors according to their Solo and Ensemble participation as well as their playing ability. A selection committee then reviews each school’s recommendations and selects students based on director recommendation. This year the band had 120 members.

District Solo and Ensemble was hosted by the Music Department of Imlay City Saturday, February 16th. North Branch had twenty-two students in twenty-four events. There were a total of twenty-seven medals awarded with twelve first division medals and fifteen second division medals. Congratulations to all students who participated! The band and Mr. Ehardt would like to extend a special thank you to Mrs. Ehardt and Mr. YuhaszPratt who spent hours helping to prepare the students for this festival. A big thank you to Mrs. Betty Smith and Mr. YuhaszPratt for their efforts in accompanying the soloist.

State Solo and Ensemble was hosted by the Lapeer East High School Music Department Saturday March 23rd.

First Division Ratings: Autumn Zender, Alto Saxophone Solo Proficiency 3 (score of 87); Autumn Zender and Amanda Morrison, Baritone Saxophone and Bassoon Duet; Cassidy Lane, Alto Saxophone Solo Proficiency 1 (score of 91); Cody Howe, Tuba Solo Proficiency 2 (score of 85); and Autumn Zender, Gary Chote, Claretta Walker, & Talon Sherrieb; Saxophone Quartet

Second Division Ratings: Ben Robinson, Bass Clarinet Solo Proficiency 2 (score of 70); and Amber Ondrajka, Baritone Solo Proficiency 2 (score of 79)

Congratulations to all who participated

Middle School Band News

The Middle School Bands have had a very successful year! In addition to the concerts performed throughout the school year, and their accomplishments at the District 3 Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association’s Solo and Ensemble Festival. The Middle School band students earned twelve first division medals and eight second division medals. Thank you to Mrs. Betty Smith accompanied the soloists. The 7th and 8th Grade Bands participated in the District Band and Orchestra Festival on February 23, 2013. The Middle School Bands earned an overall rating of a II. (The ratings are on a scale of I-V, with I being the highest possible score, and V the lowest.) Thank you Mr. YuhaszPratt. Congratulations band!

The Middle School had five band members in the *Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association District 3 Honors Band*, which is comprised of about twenty-five different area schools’ instrumental music programs. This year’s participants were Austin McIntosh, 8th grade Trumpet; Austin Pung, 7th grade Trombone; Darin Ronne, 8th grade Euphonium; Emily Sutton, 8th grade Alto Saxophone; and Kevin Zender, 8th grade Bass Clarinet. Students are recommended by their school directors according to their Solo and Ensemble participation as well as their playing ability. A selection committee then reviews each school’s recommendations and selects students based on director recommendation. This year the band had 100 members.

The 7th and 8th Grade Bands will culminate their performance season with a performance at the Grand Collage Concert on Monday, June 3rd at 7pm in the North Branch High School Gymnasium. The bands will be performing a fun-filled variety of music from motion pictures and few traditional pieces as well. The wide variety of music is sure to please everyone’s musical palate! Come out and support our bands!

Ruth Fox Band News

The Ruth Fox Bands have enjoyed a busy, performance-filled school year! Both the 5th and 6th Grade Bands have already had two concerts, with one more to come! They performed for parents and friends at the Winter Concert held in the North Branch High School Auditorium and for students and staff at the Winter Concert held during the school day in the Ruth Fox Gymnasium. All band members also participated in Band Olympics this year. Each band student was in a team of four with a country they chose as their team name. There were a total of four to five individual events ranging from “Tongue Twisters” to “Rhythmic Sight Reading” and three group events in which they could compete. For each event there was gold, silver, and bronze medals awarded to the individual students. The medal presentation will take place mid-May. Both bands have progressed rapidly over the course of the school year, and are proud to showcase their accomplishments during the Grand Collage Concert on June 3rd at 7pm in the North Branch High School Gymnasium. The 5th and 6th Grade Bands will be performing works that are popular in nature, including “Popcorn Prelude,” and “Mission: Impossible,” just to name a few. Come out for an evening of musical fun and to share in the accomplishments of our young musicians!

North Branch Model United Nations ends its season with Hope

The Model United Nations Team at North Branch High School just returned from Hope College with a great experience had by all. Over five hundred students from more than 25 schools traveled to Hope College to participate in a simulation experience. Students are assigned different countries and different parts of the organization. Various topics include best practices to ensure quality education throughout the globe, global economic crisis, North Pole territorial claims, Syrian crisis, and Ebola outbreaks in Africa. Seniors Jarred Buckner and Lee Stevens won 2nd in the Security Council simulation. Lee and Jarred are seen pictured with Representative Haveman. Other students involved included, Chelsie Vipperman, Eva Kasperowicz, Claretta Walker, Pablo Leon, Brenden Miller, Jason Russell, and Mack Marceau. The team placed 4th this year in the Tri-Valley League. Lee Stevens captured 9th and won league recognition. In addition to the 9 high school students in the league, middle school student Brenden Forster competed in the TVC’s.



SKILLSUSA and STATE HOSA COMPETITIONS

North Branch Students competed at the State SKILLSUSA and State HOSA in April from the Lapeer County Education and Technology Center (Ed Tech). The Ed Tech Center DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) attended national competition in April.

SkillsUSA programs include local, state and national competitions where students demonstrate occupational and leadership skills. During the annual national-level Championships, more than 5,000 students compete in 92 occupational and leadership skill areas. The programs also help to establish industry standards for job skill training in the classroom.

HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE. HOSA's two-fold mission is to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people. HOSA's goal is to encourage all health occupations instructors and students to join and be actively involved in the HSTE-HOSA Partnership. HOSA is about providing opportunities for students to learn and achieve. One unique way of providing opportunities for students to learn and achieve is by offering a number of competitive events that are curriculum based. The goal of the program is to get students to stretch their learning potential.

Congratulations to the following North Branch Area Schools students who placed in these competitions:

- Trisha Oberlee - DECA Business Finance
 Chris Bell - 2nd Architecture Drafting
 Corey Franks - 3rd Diesel Technology
 Ashley Gray, Katie Curell, and Paige Williams - 3rd Community Service - Careers in Education
 Eddie Johnson - 3rd 3D Animation
 Brianna McKenna - HOSA Physical Therapy

NHS Honors Exiting Seniors and Gets Ready for New Inductees

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 current sophomore or junior who has a 3.25 or higher grade point average are eligible to apply to this prestigious society. Students who are likely to apply for NHS will also need 10 community service hours to be accepted into NHS. Current 8th graders 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. To help you get a start on earning the community service hours, please see the explanation below:

- Community service** is defined as time that one gives to others without any monetary compensation that benefits the community. What counts as community service?
1. Babysitting at a daycare, Vacation Bible School, church, school (without pay)
 2. Lawn service for members of the community who need assistance as part of a community lawn care program or multiple lawns
 3. Tutoring (for non-family members)
 4. Walkathons
 5. Coaching at camps
 6. Volunteering at hospitals, senior centers, or elementary schools
 7. Church activities
 8. Working for local animal clinics or shelters
 9. Working at local soup kitchen or at the North Branch Thrift Shop
- Tutoring** is defined as assisting another student in gaining understanding of an academic subject. Students may tutor for 4 hours after school Monday-Thursday at the high school during Homework Lab in the Media Center or arrangements can be made with the middle or elementary schools.
- No Double Dipping.** Any activity students get credit for as part of another organization are not allowed to count a second time—like a Girl Scout badge, a Dance obligation, etc.

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: Autumn Zender, Ben Robinson, Amanda Hardwick, Nicholas Kreiner, Austen Waterman, Samantha Coulter, Karli Gormley, Taylor Allen, Chase Hatfield, Makayla Schank, Paige Brandt, Trisha Oberlee, Phillip Ankley, Ashley Sorensen, Alyson Light, Micayla Buike, Austin Bowman, Brendan Hurley, Kathryn Schwartz, Kaitlyn Curell, Cassidy Lane, Ashley Violet, Elisie Raymond, Tawny Eisele, Hannah Arman.

Academic All Conference

Each year, the 23 schools in the Tri-Valley Conference nominate the top three students to be named to the TVC All Academic Team. The students are nominated based upon a combination of their GPA and ACT scores.

On April 30th, the top three students, based on these scores were treated to a banquet in Curtis hall on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, where they were recognized for their academic accomplishments and received a TVC All Conference medal.

The students earning the right to represent NBHS on this year’s TVC All Academic Team are Autumn Zender, Ben Robinson and Amanda Hardwick.



North Branch High School Class of 2014 Senior Picture / Class Composite Requirements

1. ABSOLUTE DEADLINE OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013 with a digital photo on CD or e-mailed (digital e-mailed preferred. E-mail to yearbook@nbbrncos.net) or TWO hardcopy photos (one for yearbook, one for composite)
 2. Overall size: 1 1/2” wide by 2” long
 3. Head Size: 1 1/4” (chin to top of head)
 4. Medium: JPEG preferred (300 dpi or greater) or Color Glossy (2)
 5. Composition: No props, hands, canes, hats, purses, gestures, etc.
 6. Plain Background: subdued blues, grays, etc. – NO OUTDOOR SHOTS.
 7. Your school ID picture will be used if no photo is submitted. Student responsibility to check the list of photos received on the yearbook bulletin board.
 8. Questions may be referred to Ms. Stover-Lange, (810) 688-3001 x 2156 or rstoverlange@nbbrncos.net.
 9. You may order a yearbook on-line with credit or debit card by using www.yearbookordercenter.com NBHS #12285
- PHOTOS NOT SUBMITTED IN THE ABOVE FORMAT WILL BE ASSESSED \$20 TO BE INCLUDED IN 2014 YEARBOOK.

Class of 2013 Baccalaureate Service

Parents, family and friends of the students of the Class of 2013 are cordially invited to Baccalaureate and Class Night. Baccalaureate is at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 19 in Gleeson Auditorium at the high school. Baccalaureate is a non-denominational service commemorating graduation. Attire and attitude is appropriate of a church service. Class Night is at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 23 also in the auditorium. Class night is a celebration of accomplishments of the class including scholarships, recognition and mock election revelation. Guest speakers include those giving the scholarships from various organizations and individuals, class officers and administration. Attire is school appropriate. All are welcome and seniors are encouraged to attend.

NBAS Summer School Offering

North Branch Area Schools will again be holding a summer school program for 7-12th grade students that need to recover lost credit. Students will use our on-line learning program, Education2020, with over 50 course offerings available. Orientation is required. Open times for orientation will be held on Thursday, June 20th from 4:30 to 7:30pm and Monday, June 24th from 8:00 am to noon. Orientations begin each hour on the hour and will last for approximately 1 hour. Preferred sessions fill up fast and are on a first come, first serve basis.

Summer school classes will begin June 25th and conclude in early August. It will operate in 3 hour sessions from Monday to Thursday (8am-11am or 11am-2pm). The fee for courses is \$80 per course. For more information please contact your student’s counselor. If you have specific questions, you may contact Summer School Coordinator, Corey Rosser, at crosser@nbbrncos.net or by phone at (810) 688-7581, ext. 2820.



Samantha Coulter pictured with Congresswoman Candice Miller was the recipient of the 2013 Lapeer County Republican Party \$1,000 Scholarship. Samantha’s essay “A Bitter Pill to Swallow” was her response to Patient Protection and Affordable Healthcare Act (commonly called Obamacare) and how it will affect her and her family.

QUEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Baker College Scholarship Winners

Quest High School is proud to announce this year's Baker College Scholarship winners, Chelsea Cline and Meaghan Crall. Each student will receive up \$3,500 a year toward tuition! Congratulations and best of luck ladies!



Chelsea Cline



Meaghan Crall

Quest Honor Roll for the 2nd trimester

Quest is proud to announce their 2nd 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 courses on E2020. Those students on the honor roll for the 2nd trimester were Austin Boisvert and Celena Whitney. Congratulations and great work to both of you!



Quest Seniors Celena Whitney and Austin Boisvert

Quest Visits the Holocaust Center in Farmington Hills



Quest students and staff pictured in front of the Railroad Car exhibit at the Holocaust Center

On Friday, March 1st, Quest took a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills. Students and faculty who attended the field trip were greeted by a knowledgeable staff that gave them a guided tour of many exhibits, including an introduction to Jewish heritage, causes of World War II, and atrocities of the Holocaust. The tour provided several experiential activities, most notably a replica of a boxcar similar to those that victims would have been transported to prison camps in. The tour ended with a 45 minute presentation given by a Holocaust Survivor. For more information about visiting the Holocaust Memorial Center you can visit their website at www.holocaustcenter.org.

On Friday, March 1st, Quest took a field trip to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills. Students and faculty who attended the field trip were greeted by a knowledgeable staff that gave them a guided tour of many exhibits, including an introduction to Jewish heritage, causes of World War II, and atrocities of the Holocaust. The tour provided several experiential



Buy Your Quest Yearbook Now!!!

Quest yearbooks are on sale! Yearbooks will be approximately 30 pages and will be in full color. Yearbooks make a great keepsake and graduation gift for seniors. Yearbooks can be purchased for \$20 from Quest Secretary, Sue Schneider, during the school day. The deadline to order your copy is Friday, May 17th.

Calling all Former Quest Graduates



Senior Isaac Potter leaving his mark!

As part of Quest's hallway projects, we are asking all former Quest graduates to come back to Quest (located in the Jefferson building) to place their handprint on the wall in paint. Quest will be doing handprints during the annual Quest Benefit Dinner on Thursday, May 2nd from 4:30 to 7:00pm. Those who can't attend should stop in at Quest between 1:30-2:25 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.

Quest Graduation Ceremony and Senior Information

Quest's 9th annual graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 30th, in the Quest Gym located at the Jefferson Educational Building, formerly the Jefferson Elementary building. The ceremony will begin at 6:00pm. Seating will fill up early so please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior so the ceremony can start on time.

For graduates: Graduation Rehearsal is Tuesday, May 21st at 2:00 pm. Practice is mandatory unless otherwise pre-arranged with Mr. Rosser. Swing-Out follows rehearsal at 5:00, weather permitting.

Quest Hosts 2012-13 MAAA Dodgeball Championship With Great Success!!!

On Friday, December 7th, Quest High School hosted the Michigan Alternative Athletic Association Dodgeball State Tournament. A total of twelve teams participated from seven schools that included: Lake Orion, Bad Axe, Taylor, Monroe, Saginaw, and Alma, in addition to Quest. The gym was absolutely electric most of the afternoon as over 200 participants, coaches, teachers, volunteers, and spectators watched the action.



2012-13 MAAA Dodgeball Champions
From Left to Right: Kristina Mardlin, Chelsea Brown, Celena Whitney, Kenzie Schodowski, Taylor Nalejwak-Darling, Meaghan Crall, Chelsey Fricke, Krissy Beardsley, and Chelsea Cline

In competition, Quest teams performed well. Quest entered two teams in the boys division. Both of Quest Red and Black teams went through the double-elimination tournament unscathed to face each other in the final of the winners' bracket. Quest's Red team bested the Black team in the best of 3 matches' game, 2-0, to advance to the championship round. The Black team fell to the losers' bracket where they faced Bad Axe Ascent High School. They again fell 2-0 as Ascent advanced to play the Quest Red team in the MAAA state dodgeball championship, leaving them with a very respectable 3rd place finish. Advancing to the championship, Quest's Red team came out on all cylinders winning the first match, before Ascent persevered to win the next two. Being Quest's first loss, the same two teams challenged each other again in a winner take all grudge match. Despite a valiant fight, Quest could not withstand the barrage of balls from Ascent and fell 2-1 to finish as the 2012-13 MAAA Dodgeball Runners-Up.

The Quest girls' team dominated most of the afternoon and advanced, as the boys team did, to the championship round. Like they boys team, they faced Bad Axe Ascent High School, who they had soundly defeated early in the tournament. The Ascent girls then stepped up to the challenge, beating Quest 2-1. With that being just Quest's first loss, they again went up against Bad Axe for a winner take all best of 3. Quest split the first two games.

In the final, sudden death game, Bad Axe came out quickly, skillfully picking off players on Quest's team, until they outnumbered Quest 4 to 1. The most intense and exciting action of the day was Quest Senior, Taylor Nalewajk-Darling, withstanding a barrage of dodgeballs, deflecting one after another with a single dodge ball in her possession. She then calculatingly eliminated each of the 4 remaining Ascent players. This was met with a rush of Quest players and students to the playing surface to celebrate the Quest Girls 2012-13 MAAA Dodgeball Championship. After the excitement, Taylor had this to say, "The whole day was really fun. It was cool to have all of the different schools here and have something of our own."

Quest Teacher/Coach Corey Rosser said this of the days' action, "It was a great event! We couldn't be prouder of the humility and hospitality our students showed in hosting the tournament. We are fortunate that our principal, Mr. Hiltunen shares our vision and believes enough in our program to attempt such an undertaking for the benefit of our students." MAAA Director Jeff Bigelow from Alma added, "It was such a well-run event. We can't wait to come back next year. Our kids were having so much fun that between games our kids were talking about wanting to start up a local tournament."

The event was also covered by County Press journalist Jacob Hunsanger. To read his article, search the archives for the event on Lapeer County Press's website.

Quest Junior Bethany Clark Wins Pats Award

There are a number of reasons that Quest nominated Bethany for a PATS award. Bethany consistently scores high marks in the top 10% of students in her teacher-led courses at Quest. In her first trimester in Careers in Education course, she received an A- with glowing reviews from her instructor at Ed-Tech. She has done so well at Ed-tech that she was approved for a 1-day a week co-op placement in a classroom working with young children. Overall, Bethany has achieved a 3.4 GPA since transferring to Quest.

Each year Quest challenges all of their students to step up and become leaders. Bethany has taken advantage of her second chance in school to do just that. She's been a shining example of what Quest is about and has been a leader in our positive building culture.

What has set Bethany apart from other students and contributed to her recognition with her PATS award was her willingness to go above and beyond what is asked of her. A focus of Quest every year is serving the community through such activities as: Make a Difference Day, free Senior citizen car washes, working with the children of our district on Survivor Night, National Reading Month, or other collaborative efforts with grade school classes. Bethany volunteers her lunch time every day to assist the Head Start Program that is located in our building, with whatever they may need. She has been an excellent role model for her peers and the children she works with. The value that she adds to the Quest family is tremendous! Perhaps the best testament to Bethany's is that recently her hard work in the classroom, valuable volunteer experience, and gushing recommendations from her teachers has earned her employment here in our school district in the FABS program!



Quest Junior Bethany Clark received her PATS award from Superintendent English

Local Author Helen Bigelow and Friend Christa Borrer Visit Quest

On Thursday, March 21st, Christa Borrer and Helen Bigelow served as Quest’s very special guests. Ms. Borrer spoke of her war time experiences as a young child in Germany and her escape from postwar East Germany. Mrs. Bigelow added to the conversation, telling stories from her many experiences interviewing dozens of people with war time experiences from many different European countries.

On March 25th, Mrs. Bigelow again visited Quest as a guest speaker. On this occasion, she spoke to the class about life on the home front in the United States during World War II. Mrs. Bigelow drew from personal experience, interviews, and hours of research to present how the war affected those here at home. She brought with her a number of albums with photos and newspaper cutouts, along with several other items the students could experience. “I loved coming to Quest. The students were so attentive and respectful!” Shawna Wiz thanked Mrs. Bigelow for her presentation, “It was so nice of her to take time out of her day to come talk to us.”

Recently, Mrs. Bigelow has been putting her energies and many experiences through her hours of interviews into a book that is set to be released this July. After the release, Helen plans to do book signings at our local North Branch Library, as well the Lapeer Library. The book carries the catchy title, “Coffee Grounds and Potato Peeling Pancakes”, based off one of the many interesting stories she tells in her book.



Seniors Stephanie Winslow and Meaghan Crall talk with Helen Bigelow and Christa Borrer about their life experiences!

Quest Merit Scholarship Winners

Quest High School is proud to announce this year’s Quest Merit Scholarship winners: Austin Boisvert, Jade Cremer, and Melanie Schumaker. Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward their education. Austin plans to attend the University of Northwestern Ohio, Jade has narrowed her decision to three schools to prepare for a career in nursing, and Melanie plans to attend school for photography. The Quest Merit Scholarship is founded and funded by Carolyn and Ron Bower who saw that while many scholarships existed for graduating students, few were available for students that were late bloomers, initially struggling academically, but then excelling as they became more focused on their studies. Congratulations to Austin, Jade, and Melanie! We look forward to writing your success stories next spring!



Melanie Schumaker



Jade Cremer

Quest Students Volunteer At Survivor Night

On Thursday, January 31, 2013, Links PALS hosted a survivor night event at the elementary school. Link PALS is a peer to peer mentoring program that is designed to link together students with special needs and their peers, whose goal is to empower students to act as mentors. Quest Juniors Tristen Zimmerman, Austin Neister, Chelsey Fricke, and Bethany Clark along with Quest Seniors Jordan Winterton and Janell Whitney volunteered several hours after school to assist in the event. Quest students comprised more than half of the student volunteers.

“I had a lot of fun! I more than appreciated the opportunity to volunteer. It was probably as much fun for us as it was the kids,” says Tristen Zimmerman. Chelsey Fricke followed that up by adding, “The kids loved the games. I enjoyed working with the kids as a team.”

Quest High School is always looking for more ways to participate in and serve the community. If you are in need of student volunteers, please contact Quest Teacher, Corey Rosser, at crosser@nbbrncos.net or by phone at (810) 688-7581 ext. 2820.



Quest Senior Jordan Winterton prepares elementary students for an upcoming game

Quest’s 1st annual MAAA State Dodge Ball Tournament well received by the Community

Last December, Quest hosted the Michigan Alternative Athletic Associations first state dodge ball tournament. The tournament was run with great success and Quest students showing well. An unexpected bonus was the letters, phone calls, e-mails, and passing comments from community members about the event. “I think the local media coverage of the event went a long way to show some of the positive attributes of our students and program. We weren’t really expecting people to take more than a passing notice. It was remarkable to see how many community members supported the event and the work our kids to at Quest in general”, said Quest Coach/Teacher Corey Rosser.

Quest Students and Staff would like to thank those who sent well wishes and congratulations to the Quest family! Your encouragement and support is very much appreciated!

National Reading Month

Quest students teamed up with Head Start students again this year in celebration of National Reading Month. On Tuesday, March 26th, Quest Sophomores Tyler Griffith, Daniel Nolan, Mathew Nolan; Juniors Jessica Armstrong, Beth Clark, Chelsea Fricke, Lane Schank, Chris Tody, Tristen Zimmerman; and Seniors Dominick Green, Russell Lombardo, Alisa Louk, Kenzie Schodowski, Stephanie Winslow, and Celena Whitney participated in the collaboration. While the Quest students’ time was brief, each thoroughly enjoyed the experience and look forward to volunteering with the head start program in the future.

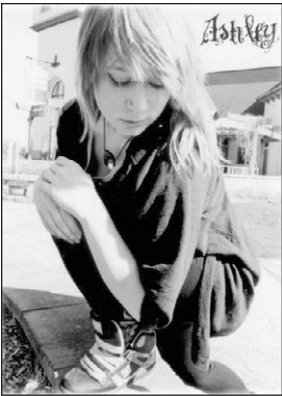


Quest student Cloey Bedford reads as her group listens attentively

Spotlight on Ashley Parent

Each year near graduation Quest likes to take a step back and follow-up with former graduates to celebrate their current successes. This year’s featured graduate is Ashley Parent. Ashley graduated from Quest in 2011. In her two years since graduation, Ashley has excelled at Mott Community College, landing on the Dean’s list each of the past two semesters. She is currently two courses away from an associate’s degree. After completing her associates, Ashley plans to transfer to Saginaw Valley State University to pursue a teaching degree in secondary education, majoring in History and minoring in Political Science. Ashley had this to say about her experience at Quest

“I’m very grateful for everything Quest has done for me; I wouldn’t have taken school so seriously and tried as hard as I have without Quest. Quest showed me how ambitious I can be! The education I got there has taken me far and it will continue to take me further in the future.”
-Ashley



Ashley's Senior photo from 2011

North Branch Masonic Lodge Puts on 8th annual Quest benefit dinner

Quest High School would like to thank the North Branch Masonic Lodge for hosting the 8th annual Quest High School Benefit Spaghetti Dinner. The benefit dinner was hosted at Quest High School in the Jefferson school building on Thursday, May 2nd. While a final tally was not available at print time, this year’s fundraiser was expected to bring their 8-year total contribution to the Quest program to over \$11,000! The event began in 2005 under the leadership of local Mason, Harold Joseph, whose grandson (2007 graduate, Garrett Jackson) transferred to Quest as a junior. “I saw the change in Garrett, and how valuable the program was, so I talked to the staff at Quest to learn more about what they were doing and see if I could do anything to help. The Masonic Lodge is always looking to help the youth of the community!”

In each of the fundraisers for Quest, the Masons’ have donated all food for the event, so that all monies raised goes directly to Quest’s activity account. During the past two years, the Masons have contributed an additional \$500 out of their own account, in addition to the money raised during the event. In 2011, the North Branch Masonic Lodge was awarded the “Outstanding Advocate” award by the Michigan Alternative Education Organization for their charity work benefitting Quest.

North Branch Days 2013 Schedule

July 3 (Wednesday)	
6:00 pm	North/South Games (Saginaw Street)
July 4 (Thursday)	
8:00 am – Noon	Oes Breakfast (Masonic Temple)
9:00 am - ?	NB Firemen Chinese Auction (American Legion)
11:00 am	Grand Parade (Oldies- 50’s And 60’s)
5:00 pm	Tractor Pull (Lion’s Field)
Dusk	Fireworks (High School)

July 6 (Saturday)	
7:00 – 7:30am	Freedom 5k Walk/Run Registration
8:00 am	Freedom Walk/Run Start
9:45 – 10:45 am	Children’s Parade Resistration
11:00 am	Children’s Parade (Christmas In July)
After Parade	Children’s Pedal Pull (Memorial Park)
After Parade	Horseshoe Tournament (Memorial Park)
7:00 pm	Bump & Run (Lion’s Field)

North Branch Broncos Sports News

Spring Up-Dates: The spring weather has been atrocious but our coaches and athletes have persevered and are having great seasons. As of early May, the varsity softball team was 7-1 on the season and coming off a Bay City Central Tournament victory. The varsity baseball team was 6-4 and looking forward to opening up conference play. The varsity girls' soccer team was 7-4-1 and 2-1-1 in the league. The boys' track team finished second in the County Meet and second at the Marlette Invitational while the girls' track team finished in 4th place at the County Meet. Finally, the golf team was just getting its season underway due to several cancellations.

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 participate in the varsity baseball and softball Div. II Districts at Croswell-Lexington High School. One pre-district game will be played on Tuesday, May 28 at 4:00 p.m. with the semi-finals and finals on Saturday, June 1 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Teams in the district are Croswell-Lexington, Imlay City, Lakeville, North Branch, and Yale. Admission to all district games will be \$5.00. Regionals will be held at Caro High School on Saturday, June 8 with the Croswell-Lexington winner vs. the Goodrich District winner.

- In girls' soccer, Lapeer West High School will host the Division II Soccer Districts. Teams in the district include Flint-Kearsley, Goodrich, Holly, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, North Branch, and Ortonville-Brandon. As of press time, the draw had not been held but all District Quarterfinal matches will be played on Tuesday, May 28 at a time decided by the host school. Admission to all games will be \$5.00. The winner of this District will play at a Regional Semi-Final game in East Lansing vs. the St. Johns District winner with the date and time to be determined.

- The varsity boys' and girls' track teams will participate in the Division II Regional at Algonac High School on Friday, May 17. Teams participating are Algonac, Armada, Birch Run, Caro, Clio, Croswell-Lexington, Imlay City, Marine City, Marysville, North Branch, Lakeville, Richmond, St. Clair, and Yale. Both the boys' and girls' teams are hopeful of qualifying multiple athletes for the state meet which will be held on Saturday, June 1 at Forest Hills Eastern High School in Grand Rapids. Also, the TVC East Division Meet will be held at Bridgeport High School on Wednesday, May 22. The prestigious "Thumb Meet of Champs" will be held at Caro High School on Tuesday, May 28. Cobb and Inez Harmon will be recognized as North Branch Area Schools "Friend of Youth" during the meet.

- The boys' golf team will participate in the Div. II Districts hosted by Lapeer West at the Lapeer Country Club on Thursday, May 30. Teams in the tournament include Clio, Corunna, Croswell-Lexington, Flint Northern, Flint Northwestern, Flint-Kearsley, Goodrich, Lapeer East, Lapeer West, Linden, North Branch, Owosso, and Yale. The Regionals are scheduled for Thursday, June 6 at Spring Meadows Golf Club in Linden.

SENIORS HONORS NIGHT: The Senior Honors Night will be held on Thursday, May 23 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 at least one sport with preference given to athletes who have excelled in more than one sport. However, state or national recognition in one sport may be a determining factor vs. an athlete (with no state/national recognition) who has league recognition in two or more sports.
- Athlete should have demonstrated academic excellence in the classroom and have an above average grade point average.
- Athlete should have demonstrated a commitment to North Branch High School 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 4 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 July 1-July 7, 2013.

- All students in grades 7-12 next school year who plan on participating in athletics for the 2013-2014 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. This past year, Dr. Starbird donated \$1,370.00 back to the athletic department and in the past decade has donated over \$10,000 back to North Branch Area Schools in support of our athletic programs.

Athletes can get physicals completed on the following days this summer:

Friday, June 14 from 1-4 p.m.
Tuesday, June 25 from 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. and from 1-3 p.m.
Tuesday, July 16 from 9 a.m. -12 p.m. and from 1-3 p.m.
Friday, August 2 from 1-4 p.m.

No appointments are necessary and physical cards may be picked up in the athletic office at any time this spring. Also, Physical Forms are available on our website at www.nbbronzos.net or the MHSAA website. Thank you Dr. Starbird!



ALL CONFERENCE BOYS' BASKETBALL
(L-R) Keanan Hiltuen, Honorable Mention; Corey Franks, Honorable Mention; Joey Schulte, Honorable Mention; Curtis Garza, Honorable Mention



ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS' BASKETBALL
(L-R) Rachel Losey, Honorable Mention; Karli Gormley, Honorable Mention Not Pictured: Micaela Deshetsy, Honorable Mention; Tiffany Walker, Honorable Mention



ALL CONFERENCE COMPETITIVE CHEER
Front Row: Brianna Lewis, Honorable Mention; Trisha Byars, 2nd Team; Taylor Atkins, 1st Team. Back Row: Brianna McKenna, 1st Team; Madison Davis, 2nd Team; Amber Pfromm, Honorable Mention.



ALL CONFERENCE GIRLS' & BOYS' BOWLING
Front Row: Candace Sutter, 1st Team; Valerie Sutter, Honorable Mention; Jillian Dufort, 1st Team. Back Row: Travis Fike, 2nd Team; Terry Honicutt, Honorable Mention; Brandon Berlin, 1st Team.



ALL CONFERENCE WRESTLING
(L-R) Ruben Thomas, Honorable Mention, 2nd at Districts; Hunter Turner, Honorable Mention, Zeke Shifflett, Honorable Metion; Devon Pingel, 1st Team, 2nd at Districts, Regional Champion, State Champion 160# weight class.

North Branch Broncos Sports News

SUMMER CAMPS FOR NORTH BRANCH AREA STUDENTS

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY: June 10-14

Varsity Cross Country Coach, Wayne Haney, will conduct a camp for all 6-12 graders next year. Please contact Mr. Haney at the high school or the athletic office for more information. No prior experience is necessary:

June 10-12: 2:45-5:45 p.m.

June 13-14: 8:45 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (grades 6-8)
8:45 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. (grades 9-12)

BASEBALL SUMMER TOURNAMENTS:

June 21-23: 12U-16U Tournament at North Branch

June 28-30: 18U Tournament at North Branch

FOOTBALL: June 17-19

Pat Forster, varsity football coach, has finalized the dates of the football program's annual youth camp to be held at North Branch High School. The camp will be held June 17-19 for grades 2-6 from 9:30 a.m. -12 p.m. with fundamental instruction at all positions. The plan is to partner with the boys' basketball program and provide three days of football/basketball instruction. Specific information on the camps will be sent home, but parents may contact the athletic office at 688-2518 or Coach Forster if more information is needed. The tentative schedule is as follows:

9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Football Camp

12:30-2:30 p.m.: Basketball Camp

2:30 p.m.: Parent pick-up

Cost is \$30.00 per camper for one camp or \$50.00 for both camps. Cost includes t-shirt from each camp. The football camp will be held at the Ruth Fox Fields and the basketball camp at the high school gym.

GRADES 8-12 FOOTBALL: July 29-August 1

Football Camp for students entering grades 8-12 next year will be held July 29-August 1. Camp will begin at 9 a.m. each day and end at 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided for all participants. The cost of the camp will be \$100.00 for students entering grades 8-10 and \$130.00 for all varsity candidates. The cost includes lunch and shorts for all participants. More information will be on the football website.

BOYS' BASKETBALL: June 17-19

June 17-19: Grades 8-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for Intensive Skill Development. Luke Lloyd, Professional Basketball Player from Europe and Personal Basketball Trainer, will be directing the camp along with Coach Marshall and his staff. The camp will focus on proper shooting fundamentals. Information on this camp will be sent home before the end of the school year.

June 17-19: See above time schedule under FOOTBALL. Grades 2-7 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Registration forms will be sent home with students for early registration though athletes may register the first day of the camp. Luke Lloyd, Professional Basketball Player from Europe and Personal Basketball Trainer, will be directing the camp along with Coach Marshall and his staff.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL:

North Branch Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach Willie Deshetsy (810-441-0712) has announced the following dates for girls' basketball players:

June 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 27: Grades 9-12 next year will compete in scrimmages against other schools from 6-9 p.m. at the high school on the above dates.

BOYS' SOCCER: June 17-21

Boys' Soccer Camp 5-7 p.m. for grades 7-12 next year. Varsity Boys' Soccer Coach, Rick Skelton, will conduct the camp. Information will be sent home with students before the end of the school year.

GIRLS' SOCCER: June 24-28

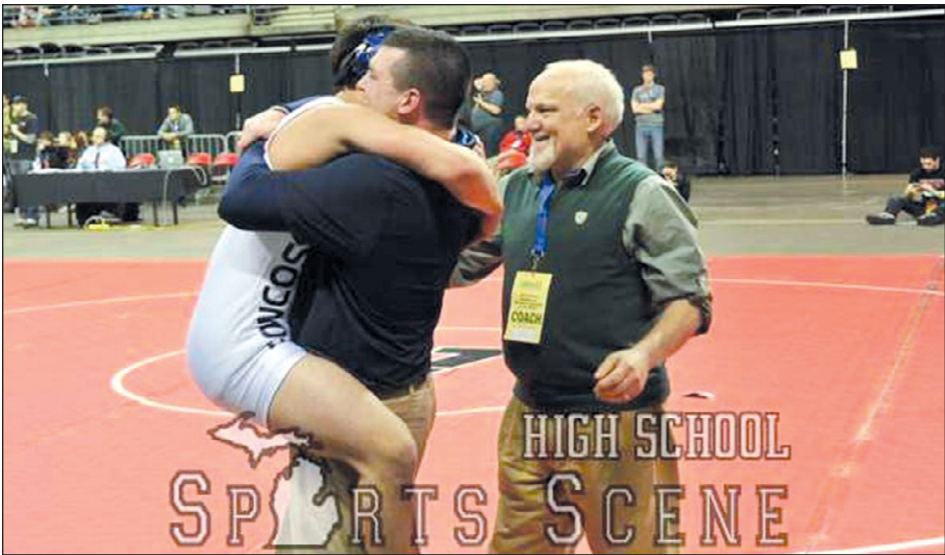
Varsity Girls' Camp 5-7 p.m. for grades 7-12 next year. Varsity Girls' Soccer Coach, Rick Skelton, will conduct the camp. Forms will be sent home with students before the end of school. Please contact Rick Skelton at 688-4009 for more information.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL:

June 18-20: Grades 2-6 (next year) at North Branch Middle School Gym from 8:30 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 registering early. Checks may be made out to North Branch Area Schools and mailed to the athletic department. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend. North Branch volleyball coaches will direct the camp with college players from the 2009 Class B State Championship team and the 2012 State Runner-Up team helping with instruction

July 8-11: Grades 9-12 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Coach Fish and Coach June will direct this camp with the possibility of guest coaches. 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. The camp will be limited to 36 players.

July 8-11: Grades 7-8 (next year) at North Branch High School Gym from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Coach Fish and Coach June will direct this camp with the possibility of guest coaches. 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. Forms will be sent home before the end of school.



Devon Pingel wins State Championship Class B Title



Micayla Buike signs with Siena Heights University



Brittney Turner signs with Rochester College



Rachel Fish signs with Central Connecticut University.



Micaela Deshetsy signs with Grand Rapids Community College



Eva Kasperowicz signs with Siena Heights University



Ally Ruhlman signs with Davenport University

Middle School Hosts a Student Talent Show

On April 19, North Branch Middle School students were treated by their peers to an awesome presentation of student talent. We had our own X-Factor, The Voice and American Idol all rolled into one presentation! Some of the featured acts included a classical piano solo by Brooke Charboneau, soloist Hunter Jordan sang Amarillo Skies, Laura Osborne played guitar and sang along with Chanelle Jones and Keegan Bonesteel. Shelby Honnicutt sang and played an original song accompanied by her brother Terry on guitar. Amanda Howell and Chelsea Hartman also sang a beautiful duet. Other acts include a quartet of girls singing and performing the cup song. What great talent was displayed by our students!



8th Grade Class Visits Washington DC



The Washington DC trip was for all 8th grade middle school students. We had 109 students from the 8th grade attend. Students left Tuesday evening May 7th and returned on Saturday morning May 11th. We slept in motor coaches the first night, waking up in Gettysburg to eat at the Dobbin house. A frontier pioneer built the house in 1776 for his family, this house served as a hideaway stop on the Underground Railroad path to the north for escaped slaves. We then saw a movie of the battle at Gettysburg and had an incredible tour of the battlefields. Later that evening we arrived at Myer-Henderson Hall for a military band performance. Students saw uniforms and military equipment from revolutionary times to the present.

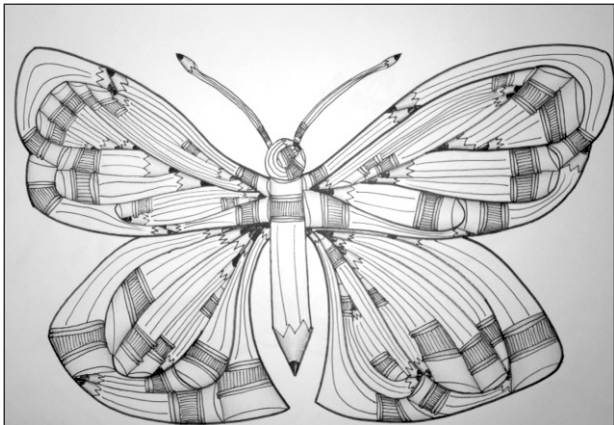
On our second day we arrived at Arlington National Cemetery. Our tour guides showed us the gravesites of famous Americans such as John and Robert Kennedy, Joe Louis and others. Michael Lilly, Laura Osborne, Brenden Forster, and Isaac Thibodeau (pictured) had the honor of joining the Honor Guard in laying a wreath on behalf of our school for those who have fallen in service to their country at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Later that day we toured the Memorials with our DC guides. Our evening was tremendously exciting with a Dinner Cruise on the Spirit of Washington up the Potomac River. We were able to see many of the stunning Memorials lit up for the evening as we cruised back into town.

On Friday, we enjoyed the Smithsonian’s on the Mall. Many students enjoyed the National Air and Space Museum, the Museum of American History as well as the Museum of Natural History. Of course we had our picture taken in front of the capital and were able to do some sightseeing and souvenir shopping. As we were heading home we had one more stop. Our last stop of the trip was the Luray Caverns. This is one of the most beautiful caverns in the world, with a mile-long walk that explores numerous formations. After that we collapsed on the bus for our final ride home.

Art News North Branch Middle School Ruth Fox Elementary

Many students from Ruth Fox Elementary and the North Branch Middle School have had the recent opportunity of showcasing their artistic talents outside of their own school buildings.

The Michigan Art Education Region 10 show was held in February at Gallery 194 in downtown Lapeer. MAEA members are allowed to submit 5 pieces of art for each level of students taught. From the Ruth Fox Elementary, Emily May, Regan Swoish, Gavin Burseson, Alyssa Smith, and Elissa Bicego each had a piece of artwork in the show. From the North Branch Middle School, Sydnee English, Michael Kaluk, Chanelle Jones, Sevanah Grossbauer, and Hannah Hodgkinson each had a piece of artwork in the show.



This was a juried show, and the artwork completed by Sydnee English and Michael Kaluk was chosen to be included in the Statewide Middle School Exhibit that was held at the Michigan Historical Museum and Library in Lansing. Chanelle Jones’ piece was chosen to be a part of the Michigan Department of Education Exhibit, for an entire year! This exhibit consists of 15 pieces, chosen from hundreds of entries. The art is displayed in the hallways leading to the State Superintendent’s office, located in the John A. Hannah Building in Lansing.

Students from the Ruth Fox Elementary and the North Branch Middle School also participated in the K8Art Exhibit that was held at Gallery 194 in Lapeer. This show featured the artwork of students in Lapeer County for grades K-8. From Ruth Fox Elementary, Marc Moraniec and Maeson Schlaud had artwork on display. From the North Branch Middle School, Hunter Oliver, Olivia Hurley, Candy Deaton, Sydnee English, Brenna Schlaud, Emily Ruhlman, Carson Kempa, Blake Hoeksema, Alexis Pettingill, Janel Ruhlman, Brielle Mears, Jennifer Hosner, and Hannah Hodgkinson had artwork in the show.

North Branch Middle School was also chosen to be included in an exhibit called “Celebrating Creative Growth Through Art Education”. It was held at U of M Flint, and showcased the artwork of several area art teachers and two of their students. Mrs. Rebecca Baksa, the art teacher for grades 5-8, had a large painting in the exhibit. Her students, Michael Lilly and Hannah Hodgkinson, both eighth graders at North Branch Middle School, each had two pieces of artwork in the exhibit.

The North Branch Middle School Art Show will be taking place on June 6th, from 4:30-8:30 pm. This show takes place the same night as Honor’s Night in the Middle School, which begins at 6:30. All students, parents, and community members are invited to view the show. The students have so many beautiful and meaningful pieces to share. It has been a great year for art!

Washington DC 2014 Current 7th Grade Class

Mark your calendars the 2014 8th grade class trip to Washington DC is set for May 13th- 17th 2014. There will be an informational meeting June 11, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the gymnasium of the Middle School. A representative from Brightspark Travel Company will be there to discuss the upcoming trip, registration, and payment plans. Please plan on attending if you have a current 7th grade student, there is no commitment necessary this is just an informational meeting. Contact Lori Musiel at the Middle School 688-4431 ext.2228 or Michelle Ruhlman ext. 2224 if you have any questions.

North Branch Ruth Fox Forensics Goes to States and Brings Back Champions!

On Saturday, April 27th, 2013, 6-sixth graders and 1-eighth grader traveled to Wayne State University to compete at the middle level State Forensic Finals. Forster (8thgrade), did a fantastic job with “Impromptu Speaking.” Jones, Julie Hagopian, Carlie Walker, and Veronica Turner (6th graders) entered a presentation from the musical “Annie” were semi finalists, earning thplace in the state. McKenna Forster (6th grade) outperformed 35 other students to win the State Championship in “Storytelling” with perfect scores all day!!! Gormley had prepared all season and was unable to perform on the day of competition due to an illness.

Forensics students have rehearsals after school once a week or more to prepare for their presentations. A big congratulations to these students and to Ruth Fox Elementary for having State Champions!

The forensic program is now recruiting for next year! For more information or to join forensics, please contact Cindy or Rick Stevens at North Branch High School.



Spelling Bee Winners!

The Ruth Fox Elementary is very proud of the 2013 Spelling Bee Winners! Allyson Severance, Rane Claypool, and Josh Schmidt represented Ruth Fox Elementary at the Lapeer County Spelling Bee!



2013 Space Camp Scholarship Winners



The 10th annual Space Camp Scholarship interviews were recently held. Things were a little different this year! Ruth Fox Elementary joined forces with the North Branch Middle School to include 7th and 8th graders in the scholarship application process.

After a record breaking December fundraiser at the 10th annual Old-Fashioned Family Christmas, the Space Camp Scholarship committee expanded

the number of scholarships from 4 students to 6. After looking over 30 applications, the committee narrowed down the applicants to 12. The top 12 students participated in an interview and the committee had the challenging task of selecting the 6 finalists that would be given an all-expense paid trip to Space Camp. This trip includes airfare, camp tuition, and flight suits for all 6 North Branch students. They will represent our school for 6 days at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, in Huntsville, Alabama.

Congratulations to the following students who will be representing North Branch Area Schools at space camp this June:

- Abigail Weaver – Ruth Fox Elementary 5th grade
- Gerrid Rutledge – Ruth Fox Elementary 6th grade
- Carlie Jones – Ruth Fox Elementary 6th grade
- Ben Parton – North Branch Middle School 7th grade
- Aleah Britt – North Branch Middle School 8th grade
- Brenden Forester – North Branch Middle School 8th grade

Earth Day

Students from the McCarty, Sieh, Sweeney, and Bower team celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up the playground! Pictured is fifth grader Melody Horne who shows that she certainly doesn't mind getting dirty to keep the earth clean!!!!



Poster Contest Winner

Jackie Ankley, a sixth grader at Ruth Fox Elementary School, earned 1st Place in the county in the Lapeer County Soil Conservation Poster Contest! Congratulations, Jackie!!!



Books, Books, and more Books?

Recently a group of motivated Ruth Fox Elementary Student Council students organized a book donation. The books they collected were donated to the Ruth Fox Library. This group of students organized the entire collection including collecting the books, labeling the books with the donor's name, and a drawing with a \$15 Meijer gift card. The drawing was used as an incentive to donate books, and it worked! The group collected 371 books to add to the school's library. A big thanks goes out to Hannah Bader, Jacob Knudsen, Izzy Hunt, Faith Russell, Charlie Buckel, Jesse Johnson, Rachel Clark, Alicia Hall, and Caitlyn Rogers for their time and organization skills. A bigger thanks goes out to Hannah Bader for coming up with the idea and leading the group! All current and future Ruth Fox students will benefit from the entire group's effort.



Students who worked on the book project are: (from left to right) Front Row: Caitlyn Rogers, Rachel Clark and Jesse Johnson. Back Row: Alicia Hall, Izzy Hunt, Faith Russell, Jacob Knudsen, and Charlie Buckel. Missing from the picture is Hannah Bader.

Students Attend Hartley Outdoor Education Center

Sixth grade students are very fortunate to be able to attend the Hartley Outdoor Education Center in St. Charles each year. The trip certainly is a highlight of the sixth grade year and the students and staff have a great time! They not only learn a lot while they are there, but they are also able to spend a lot of time outdoors. Many of the activities are designed to build their confidence and improve their teamwork skills as well. The experience is one that they continually talk about and remember as a part of sixth grade. Often, it will be the first time that many students have attended a camp or been away from home!



Students pose by one of the activities that challenges their teamwork skills.

Special Olympics "March Madness"

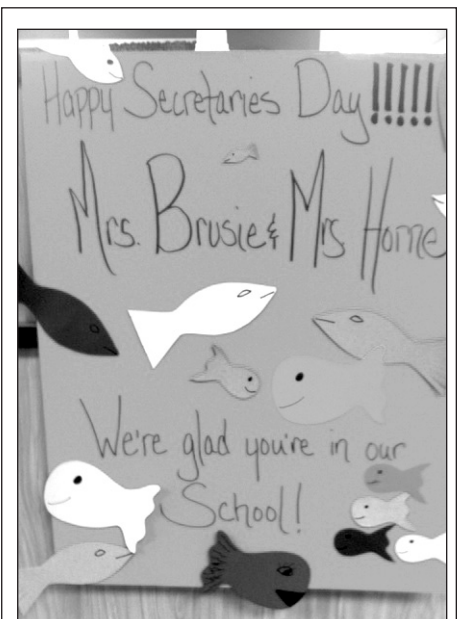
We had 165 athletes from Lapeer County take part in the 3rd Annual "March Madness" competition with an age range of school age to adults. The basketball skills competition included dribbling, passing and shooting stations.

The athletes are amazing to watch during the competition. They participate to the best of their ability during the entire event. We are very fortunate to be able to host such an exciting event at North Branch for Lapeer County Area 13 Athletes. We have a lot of sponsors that donate money to the March Madness events so each athlete that participates will receive a special t-shirt, snack and a bottle of water.



MAP Testing and Intervention

This year, Ruth Fox students were involved in testing with the Measures of Academic Progress in both reading and mathematics. The staff used the test results to provide additional assistance to students during the course of the school year. The fall results were used to place students in various groups for reading and mathematics. Winter testing helped the staff monitor the progress of the students in meeting their goals and allowed them to rearrange their groups if necessary. Finally, the spring testing helps both teachers and students see if the learning goals for the grade level have been achieved. The data is very important in providing insight into how students are performing as well as making certain that interventions are in place for both the students who are struggling and those who are excelling.



The staff and students at Ruth Fox Elementary would like to thank our awesome secretaries for all they do! We're glad they are in our "school!"

Ruth Fox Elementary Receives Second Foundations Literacy Grant

Ruth Fox Elementary is the proud recipient of a second tech-literacy grant from the Foundations Literacy Project (a partnership between Literacy and Beyond—formerly HIS Life Foundation—the Stebbins Family Foundation). This grant focuses on "twens" with the aim of closing the achievement gap in literacy skills through innovative summer learning experiences and technology. Ruth Fox Elementary will receive \$10,000 this summer. A significant portion of this grant will be used to purchase iPads (adding to the eleven iPads purchased last year from the previous grant) and support a two-week long Summer Institute that will help students gain proficiency with various digital tools—screencasting, Citelighter, ScreenChomp, and more—through interdisciplinary inquiry based research. learn more about Ruth Fox Elementary's summer work with these grant monies from last year, please visit www.rfsummerinstitute.weebly.com or scan the QR.



Ecology Camp

Elissa Bicego and Conner Mitchell make pizza during the fifth grade "Prairies and Ponds" field trip. Students study ecology topics such as predator-prey relationships, food chains, etc. while on the field trip. They also talk about many other things such as animal habitats, Native Americans, and swamp life. Students get the opportunity to try Native American games, make a fire using flint, and even cook pizza in a mud oven!



RUTH FOX NEWS

MSU Doctoral Student Working with Ruth Fox Students this Summer

Several sixth grade Ruth Fox students have been randomly chosen to participate in a unique summer learning experience with MSU Educational Psychology and Educational Technology doctoral student, Paul Morsink. Paul has been part of an ongoing collaboration with Ruth Fox Elementary over the past four years (for more information about Ruth Fox’s work with MSU, please checkout <https://sites.google.com/site/ruthfoxmsupdcollab>). This literacy collaboration has helped Ruth Fox teachers gain confidence and skills with digital literacies through sustained professional development over time.

- For two-weeks this summer, Paul will be facilitating a two-week summer reading camp at Ruth Fox that focuses on:
- developing reading skills and strategies through activities that encourage awareness and on what we know and do as readers
 - developing awareness & knowledge & skills regarding the new literacies of online reading and new media creation & consumption
 - “giving back” to Ruth Fox and the North Branch community by contributing to the creation of a resource for students, teachers, and parents
 - having fun playing with words and ideas and with free online tools to create cool stuff
 - creating a concrete “product” that students will be able to share with others and point to and say, “I did/made that!”
- North Branch Area Schools is honored to have Paul working with students in our district!

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. 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 habits for three weeks in March. Students who completed their log with a parent signature for the designated week, earned one paper chain for each hour they read. Our building goal: to create a chain of 2,400 links, which is equivalent to 100 days of reading! If students met this goal, Ruth Fox staff and district administration agreed to make early “April Fools” of themselves at the *Get Connected and Read Celebration*.

Not only did students meet this goal, they decimated it with over 3,555 links, equivalent to 148 days of reading! On March 28th, staff had to pay up. Teachers, support staff, and administration were divided into two teams (one team dressed in garbage bag fashion attire while the other team dressed as zombies) for a friendly game of Win! Lose! Draw! The catch...the losing team had to sit in the “Food Court” where they ran the risk of having food flying at them from the smash-o-matic (compliments of Kevin Withey). By applause, students selected which mystery box would be selected—revealing such things as chocolate cream pies, jello, and more! 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 for their remarkable clean up job!



Ruth Fox Elementary Guest Readers for March Reading Awareness Month

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:

- Deanna Brusie, Ruth Fox Elementary Secretary
- Thomas English, North Branch Area Schools Superintendent
- Jim Fish, North Branch Athletic Director & Assistant Principal
- Mark Hiltunen, North Branch High School Principal
- Silinia Horne, Ruth Fox Elementary Secretary
- Vicki Rogers, Retired North Branch Teacher
- Jeanie Stevenson, Retired North Branch Teacher



Student Involvement In Extra-Curricular Activities Builds Confidence

Many students at Ruth Fox Elementary participate in a variety of sports and other activities outside of school such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H. These activities are great for students as they learn how to be part of a team, figure out how to work together, and to win or lose with grace. The activities also allow them to have important social interactions with their peers outside of the classroom.

In addition to learning how to be a part of a team and working together, the activities help students to remain fit and provide them with much needed exercise. Their involvement helps them build confidence as they are placed in new situations that they have to learn to deal with.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

Reading 4th grade

Many years ago in a North Branch classroom (1988-1989) not so far away were two girls that strived to read the most pages in Mrs. Bodnar’s 4th grade classroom. The girls were Arica Heald (18,000 pages) and Dana Miller (14,500 pages). The 18,000 page record has never been broken until this year in Mrs. Bodnar’s 3rd grade class. Evan Curtis officially read over 25,000 pages this school year, beat Arica’s record and is still has the rest of the year to read even more! Evan is the daughter of Dana Curtis (Miller). Evan’s goal from the beginning of the year was to beat her Mom’s record. Also Ally Gipson has beaten Dana Curtis (Miller) reading record and is in second place. (Over 24,000 pages)



Back in the olden days children had to prove they read and comprehended a book by completing book reports. Now students simply have to take an AR test on a computer at school. This system makes it so much easier to read many more books.

The goal in Mrs. Bodnar’s room is to read 6,000 pages by the end of the year. Any child (or grownup) who had Mrs. Bodnar a teacher could tell you about the magical reading chart that he/she moved up throughout the year and probably could tell you how many pages they have read. There are different prizes for every 500 pages they read. Other students whom have read over 6,000 pages this year are: Megan Foster, Emma Senko, Joshua Helm, Jacob Tierney, Reilly Wright, Grace Russell, Memphis Rogers, Makayla Pasternak, Ashlyn Sylvester, Liberty Romain, Alison Robbins, Ean Taylor, Alex Freiburger, Simon Stack and Owen Hebbard.

4th Graders Get Beginner Tennis Lessons

March was an exciting month for 42 fourth graders that took advantage of free beginning tennis lessons taught by Mr. White, North Branch Elementary School’s Physical Education Teacher. The students attended a one-hour lesson after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. Mr. White had received a grant from the United States Tennis Association that provided equipment and training. Many parents also attended, watched and a few even participated with the lessons inside the elementary gym. Students learned basic fundamental skills such as grip, forehand and backhand strokes, and how to score the game. By the end, kids were sustaining rally’s and scoring their own game. Thanks to all who helped and especially the USTA for their support!

Preschool Registration

There will be an open enrollment window for 2013-14 Preschool Registration on Friday, May 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Parents are asked to bring the following:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- A \$20.00 Non-Refundable Registration Fee

For more information, please contact the North Branch Elementary School at 810-688-3041

Hundreds Day

February 25th was a very special day at North Branch Elementary. It was the 100th day of school!! To celebrate this special event each child was asked to wear or bring in something with 100 objects. The students accepted the challenge and came in with many unique creations. We had 100....baseballs, stickers, polka dots, smiley faces, eyeballs, circles butterflies, hair ties, pop tabs, jellybeans and even 100 mustaches just to name a few things. Mrs. Coppo’s class did some writing including a Hundreds Day Poem about things they wanted 100 of. To end the day, 100 pieces of bubble gum were passed out and we had a bubble blowing contest. A lot of fun was had by all!!



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



North Branch Area Schools’ child care program is currently registering students for summer 2013.

Registration packets for fall 2013/14 will be available at the center August 12th. FABS is located in the North Branch Elementary School. FABS is open week days 6 AM-6:30 PM The program is funded by user fees and is licensed by the State of Michigan. Registration is separate for summer FABS the hourly rate \$2.50 for 1st child & \$2 per hr. for each sibling Check us out on the NB website or call (810)688-4634.

A Few Reflections

by Wayne Haney, President, North Branch Education Association

May dawns, and once again I'm stunned at how quickly this school year seems to have gone. For me personally and professionally, this has been a year of firsts. My son is finishing his first year of college, which means my wife and I are finishing our first year of the empty nest. This has been my first year of teaching AP World History, which like other new courses has been an exhilarating, challenging, frustrating, exciting, and exhausting experience. This has also been my first year as president of the North Branch Education Association, and like parenting, marriage, and teaching, it too has had its moments of real joy and times of extreme difficulty.

Several years ago, when I was a much young(er) educator, I served on the teacher's bargaining team. My hope then was to see if the negotiation process could be a way at improving what I saw as some of the educational challenges facing our district. I quickly learned that the bargaining table, even one with educators around it, did not lend itself to talking about education. That was years ago. Now it's 2013, and the teachers and our Board of Education are bargaining a new contract, and once again I find myself seated at that table. While it would be unseemly for me to discuss everything that's gone on in this particular round of negotiations since as I write this they are still ongoing, I am actually very pleased to realize that we've spent a great deal of time talking about three things that are close to my and most of our teachers' hearts: teaching, learning, and kids. That's North Branch for you! We sometimes do things our own way, but in the end, we have an uncanny ability to get it right more times than not.

I've been involved in education in some way for 26 years now. And while I've been fortunate to be a part of several terrific institutions over those

years, none ever got under my skin the way North Branch has. Indeed, when I first came here in 1998, I thought then that I'd be here for a couple of years, gain some experience and move on. But along the way, I fell in love with this community. North Branch has its issues to be sure, and I would do us a disservice to pretend otherwise. We've had our share of disappointing test scores, tragic deaths, financial woes, and interpersonal struggles. Yet here we are. It's 2013. The Michigan legislature continues to tamper with school funding. Teacher morale nationally continues to slide. Our own students' test scores in some areas are stubbornly flat. In the midst of all sorts of sound reasons for us to throw up our hands and give up, I hear teachers chatting about lesson plans, promising students, and ways they might work together and with their principals to make our schools even better.

America's first African American female member of Congress, Shirley Chisholm taught, "You don't make progress by standing on the sidelines, whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas." In our day, it would be easy for us to stand on the sideline, whimper, and complain. Instead I can barely recall a conversation I've had in North Branch this year that didn't come down to ideas and energy people have about teaching, and learning, and kids. That gives me great hope. I want that hope to become contagious. If we stay the course, I believe it can and it will.

It has been a privilege serving North Branch this year. I fully expect the best is yet to be.

*Wayne S. Haney
North Branch Education Association President NBHS
Social Studies Department Chair NBHS Student Council Faculty Advisor*

North Branch Cross Country Hosts First Spring Fitness 5k

On Saturday, April 27, the North Branch Cross Country program hosted what it hopes will become its first annual Spring Fitness 5k fun run / walk.

Over 60 people from all around Lapeer County and mid-Michigan traveled to North Branch to run and walk the newly redesigned Cross Country course. The route starts behind Ruth Fox, travels across and behind the High School, comes back and winds through the beautiful trails just north of Ruth Fox, cuts across and to the north of the Elementary and then loops back to finish up behind Ruth Fox again. It offered runners and walkers a fine glimpse of the entire North Branch schools complex all packaged into a pleasant 3.1 mile course.

The goal of Spring Fitness was to promote fitness in Lapeer County by encouraging people to come out and exercise a bit in these early weeks of Spring. The event also served as a fund raiser for the Cross Country program. Thanks to generous donors, volunteers, and participants, the event raised over \$1500 for the program! Sponsors included Butterscotch Castle Child Care of North Branch; the Imlay City law firm of Morrice, Lengemann, and Miller; Chris Barrios State Farm Agency of Caro; Independent Bank and Whistle Stop of North Branch. A number of faculty, staff and students also volunteered time and talent to make the morning fun and successful. Of special note were Tim and Gwen Harbaugh who helped with timing; Ellen Haney and Amy Peters who helped with registration; Cross Country captains Morgan Sawgle and Brandon Seeley, and several of last year's Cross Country team who ran and helped with set up; and Mary Campbell who helped with virtually every aspect of the event.

Hearty thanks to one and all for a terrific first effort!

Generations of Scholarship Giving

"This is the best time of year when seniors receive the news that that have been awarded scholarships, High School Counselor Sue Strump said. "There are many local and other scholarships that will be awarded on Class Night (editor's note: Class Night is 7 p.m., May 23 in the high school auditorium)," she explained. "There are many different types of scholarships available for high school students, they just have to be willing to put in the time to investigate them and then apply."

One organization that manages many of those scholarships is Lapeer County Community Foundation. The director is Ms. Ashley White. "We manage money so that scholarships keep on giving and the money stays local in most cases."

That is one reason that Jack and Carolyn Griffin established a scholarship for North Branch students in honor of Jack's parents Fern and Walter Griffin. They want the scholarship monies to be available for a long time.

"I traveled extensively and I have seen education systems that are not adequate and I give back to the community that reared me because I've learned to respect the North Branch education system," Mr. Griffin said. "I am in a financial position to be able to do this, so I do it and it honors my parents." Mr. Griffin's mother, Fern Griffin, was a third grade teacher who taught with Vivian Crawford (her sister) and Ruth Fox.

"I came to the 50th reunion of the Class of 1956 and got talking with Virgil Horton. He told me about the DeGrow Scholarship, so I said, 'If DeGrow can do it, so can I,' " Griffin said. Mr. DeGrow and Mr. Griffin's father, Walter Griffin worked together.

"DeGrow sent me some information and I read up on it and I can use it as a charitable contribution. I asked Ralph Deshetsky to help with selecting students, because he is local, seems like a fair man and is the same age as my brother."

The Griffin Scholarship helps students with solid grades, a sense of community responsibility and maybe some financial need.

"Part of my heart is in North Branch. I was fortunate enough to play sports and keep up my academics," he said. Mr. Griffin's family homestead is north of town on Jefferson Rd. "Our homestead was founded in 1853 and my brother, Charles, still lives in North Branch as well as many other relatives."

For the students that receive the Griffin Scholarship Mr. Griffin wants to see someone who tries hard and gives back to the community as best they can. "The students that receive it should con-

sider it an honor," he said "because I respect the community and hard working students."

Mr. Griffin served in the Army after graduation from North Branch High School, then worked in mobile home manufacturing first in Marlette, Michigan and then in Florida and Georgia. He eventually began to own manufacturing plants and has since retired from that line of work.

"I'm 74, not quite retired, yet," he said. He now has a small loan business and he and his wife, Carolyn, live outside of Jacksonville, Florida.

"I never wanted to live my life saying, 'I wish I would have' and I want students to have an opportunity to go to school if they want to," he said. He said he only has one regret and that is turning down playing in a tournament with pro-golfer Jack Nicklaus.

"I just didn't think I was good enough at the time, but now I wish I would have played," he said.

"I want to help students with what I can," he said. "I want to give back to the community in which I respect and grew up."

The Griffin Scholarship is just one scholarship for which students have the opportunity to apply.

Another scholarship that is part of the Lapeer County Community Foundation is the Daley Acres Scholarship. The Daley Acres Scholarship was awarded last year to North Branch senior Rusty Cranick for the first time. The Daley Acres Scholarship was founded by the Daley family in honor and memory of Debbie and Kevin Daley's son, Thomas and Kevin's father, J. Clifford Daley. Thomas Daley died January 31, 2011 as a result of a farming accident on the family farm.

"We wanted to do something lasting for the community to honor him and my father," State of Michigan House Representative Kevin Daley said. Thomas Daley was 23 years old when he died.

"People started donating at Thomas' funeral and we wanted to do something meaningful with the money. We had a dance, an auction and a golf outing to raise money to form a foundation for the scholarship," he said. Currently, a golf outing is held in Lansing every year that helps to add to the scholarship.

The scholarship is \$5000 every year to a Lapeer County senior including parts of Lakeville, Oxford and Almont. It is also renewable.

"We want it to go to a student in Lapeer County that is going into the field of agriculture," he said. One of the reasons that agriculture in the county is so meaningful to the Daleys is because they are a fifth generation farming family.

"Our family has been in the farming business in

Lapeer County for 131 years. Our family farm dates back to 1881," Rep. Daley said.

Representative Daley's other son, Mike designed the plaque that is on display at North Branch High School with the recipient's name on it. It will move from school to school as the recipient changes for that year.

Mike is in plastics manufacturing but wanted to do this plaque to honor the Daley family, the Daley Acres Scholarship and the recipient.

The scholarship committee for the Daley Acres Scholarship consists of an attorney, a principal, a farmer and part of the family.

Before there are selection committee decisions, students need to follow the guidelines of each scholarship and apply.

School counselor Sue Strump said that sometimes there are many steps involved in seeking scholarship monies, but seniors can begin in the school counseling office, networking, on-line and even through the colleges that they will be attending.

"Students should never pay a fee for a scholarship. There are companies out there that will take your money and string you along, but rarely find scholarships for students," she said.

Students should also make the effort to follow the guidelines of each scholarship.

"It is like applying for a job," she said. "Take the time and make the effort to read the scholarship application and then complete it in a timely and professional fashion. Follow the rules and you will have a much better chance than simply sending in a form letter."

Each one of the scholarships and grants offered by the Lapeer County Community Foundation is different.

The mission statement for the Foundation is: "The Lapeer County Community Foundation builds and manages permanent endowment funds from a wide variety of donors to provide grants that enhance the quality of life in Lapeer County, now and for future generations."

"Our board makes wise decisions to perpetuate the efforts of those who donate," Ms. White said.

To find out how to donate or more about the Lapeer County Community Foundation go on-line at www.lapeercountycommunityfoundation.org.

~R. Stover

2013 Water Quality Report for THE VILLAGE OF NORTH BRANCH

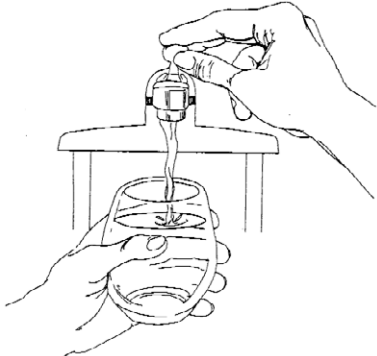
This report covers the drinking water quality for the Village of North Branch for the 2012 calendar year. This information is a snapshot of the quality of the water that we provided to you in 2012. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards.

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

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

If you would like to know more about the report please contact Ron Seaman, DPW supervisor at.

Village of North Branch
PO Box 704
North Branch, MI 48461
Phone 810-688-3410.



• **Contaminants and their presence in water:** Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

• **Vulnerability of sub-populations:** Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV / AIDS or other immune systems disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

• **Sources of drinking water:** The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. Our water comes from wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

• Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- * **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- * **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- * **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- * **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.
- * **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

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

Water Quality Data

The table below lists all the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the 2012 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, 2012. The State allows us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year. All of the data is representative of the water quality, but some are more than one year old.

Terms and abbreviations used below:

- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** means the highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

- **Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** means the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **N/A:** Not applicable **ND:** not detectable at testing limit **ppb:** parts per billion or micrograms per liter **ppm:** parts per million or milligrams per liter **pCi/l:** picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity).
- **Action Level:** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Regulated Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Arsenic (ppb)	10	0	4	4	2012	no	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.12	0.1-0.12	2006	no	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge of metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium (ppb)	100	100	nd		2006	no	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.73	0.73	2012	no	Erosion of natural deposits. Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
TTHM – Total Trihalomethanes (ppb)	80	N/A	6	4.4-6.0	2011	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids (ppb)	60	N/A	nd		2011	no	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine (ppm)	MRDL	MRDLG	1.1	.8 – 1.1	2012	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
	4	4					
Radioactive Contaminant	MCL	MCLG	Highest Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Violation Yes / No	Typical Source of Contaminant
Beta emitters (pCi/L)	50 *	0	1.70	1.70	2003	no	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	15	0	<3	<3	2003	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Combined radium (pCi/L)	5	0	2.34	.9-1.44	2010	no	Erosion of natural deposits
Special Monitoring and Unregulated Contaminant **			Average Level Detected	Range	Year Sampled	Typical Source of Contaminant	
Sodium (ppm)			51	51	2012	Erosion of natural deposits	
Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	MCLG	90% of Samples ≤ This Level		Year Sampled	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead (ppb)	15	0	0		2012	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.31		2012	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives

* EPA considers 50 pCi/l to be the level of concern for beta particles.

** Unregulated contaminants are those for which EPA has not established drinking water standards. Monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether it needs to regulate those contaminants.

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

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

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

We met all the monitoring and reporting requirements for 2012.

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

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